



A message from Mayor Don Cabrera

As we look toward the 2020 year, you will see many new initiatives starting to take shape. You will see work starting soon at Sunrise Park at Rambler Road, along the bike path from Lotus Road to Rambler Road. New parking, playground, water play structure, and fitness equipment will be added, thanks in part to support from the Cape May County Open Space program.

Street work along Pacific Avenue from Jefferson Avenue to Rambler Road will be under way soon. This work is being done in conjunction with Cape May County. This two-year project will consist of new roadways, curbs and gutters, storm water outfall lines, bike lanes, sanitary sewer and utilities and five new side streets reconstructed to improve storm water drainage and to remove the standing water from ADA curbs.

Ongoing planning for the new business district on New Jersey Avenue and street reconstruction will also be in the works, with ongoing stakeholder meetings. This project is also being planned in conjunction with Cape May County and is about two to three years away from commencing. It is in this business district zone, along New Jersey Avenue from Heather Road to Columbine Road, where the potential of ONE alcohol consumption license with a restaurant could come to fruition with the passage of a referendum vote.



The Borough has also applied for FEMA grants to pay for the storm water master plan work on the west side of the borough from Cresse Avenue to Rambler Road. This project could include new piping, roadways and valves; higher bulkheads; and a pump station to alleviate the nuisance flooding during tide and rain events.

The borough has received a grant for ADA-compliant restrooms at the old library building on Ocean Avenue at Wisteria Road. That work is being planned for 2020. While that work commences, the final design and plans for the building are expected to be finalized.

Lastly, an extension of the Heather Road Fishing Pier is in the works in conjunction with a planned dune project through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

These projects will be partially funded through grants, county/private partnerships and long-term funding but all planned in a manner that keeps taxes stable and the borough progressing forward in a financially healthy manner.

On behalf of Commissioners Gould and Thompson, I wish you a very Happy 2020 and thank you for your ongoing trust and support. Good things are happening in our community. It's progressing through open and transparent governing in a fiscally stable and responsible manner.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Commissioners Gould and Thompson or any of our awesome municipal staff for any help you need.

Wildwood Crest 2020 Beach Box rental program information

WILDWOOD CREST – The Borough of Wildwood Crest will offer a beach box rental program for its residents and visitors again for the summer of 2020.

Beginning this year, the program will be run through the Borough of Wildwood Crest Recreation Department.

The price of \$400 for a summer rental of a Wildwood Crest Beach Box will remain the same for 2020.



Wildwood Crest is currently developing a website page for the program on the wildwoodcrest.org website and expects to have it up and running on or before Feb. 1. The public will be able to access that website for informational purposes at that time.

Reservations for those who rented beach boxes in 2019 will be available beginning March 1, following the passage of a fee ordinance for this purpose.

All 2019 beach box holders will have the exclusive opportunity to renew for 2020 by reserving and submitting full payment through the website from March 2 through March 14.

Beginning shortly after March 14 (specific date TBA), beach boxes will be made available to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis. All previous beach box holders should reserve their box for 2020 by March 14.

Reservations for previous beach box holders will be made for the same location as in 2019 unless those reserving indicate otherwise, although requests are not guaranteed to be fulfilled.

For further information on the 2020 Wildwood Crest Beach Box rental program, call the Wildwood Crest Recreation Department at (609) 523-0202.

Wildwood Crest offering volunteer-based snow removal program

WILDWOOD CREST – The Borough of Wildwood Crest Public Works Department is now offering a volunteer-based snow removal program aimed to assist physically disabled and senior citizen residents of the borough.

In order to receive assistance with snow removal, recipients must be a resident of the Borough of Wildwood Crest and have a physical disability or be a senior citizen without access to help from friends or family. In addition, the home must be owner occupied and must serve as the owner's primary residence.

Volunteers will be dispatched after snowfall ends and when accumulation

is at least two inches or more. Volunteers will assist in removing snow from sidewalks and car access areas.

Residents wishing to receive assistance with snow removal are required to fill out an application, which is available on the Public Works page of the borough website at wildwoodcrest.org.

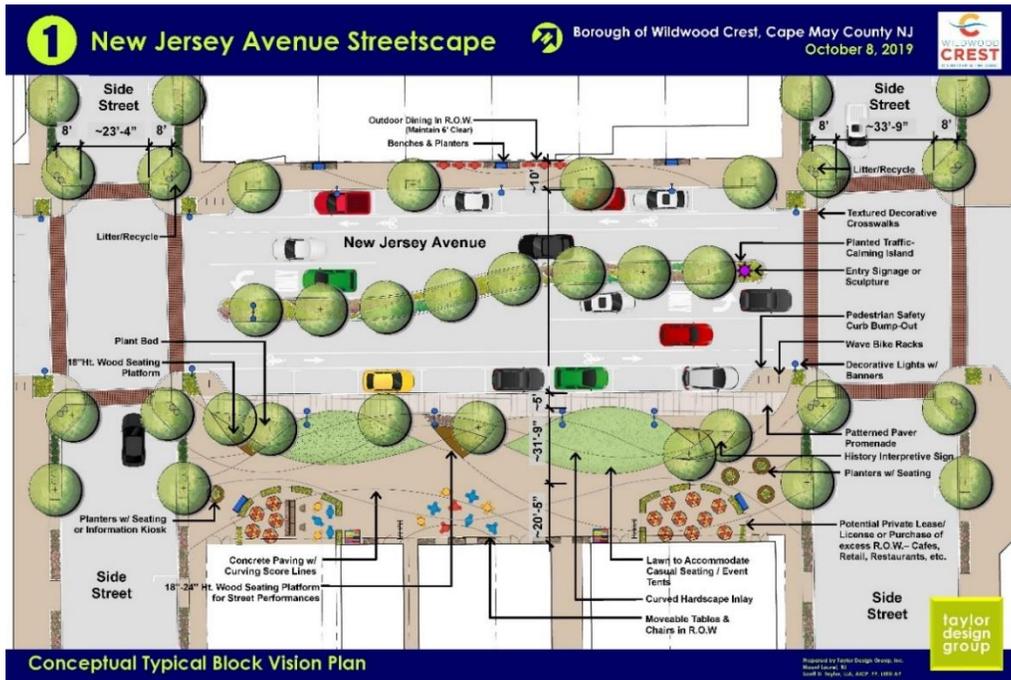
The borough is currently seeking volunteers and ambassadors ages 16 and older interested in aiding local residents in need.

All volunteers will be required to complete a short training session. Safety gear, equipment and salt will be provided by the Department of Public Works.

Those wishing to volunteer can download an application from the Public Works page of the borough website at wildwoodcrest.org. All applications for volunteers will be reviewed to determine eligibility.

For more information, contact Sarah Steiner at the Department of Public Works via email at ssteiner@wildwoodcrest.org or via phone at (609) 522-7446.





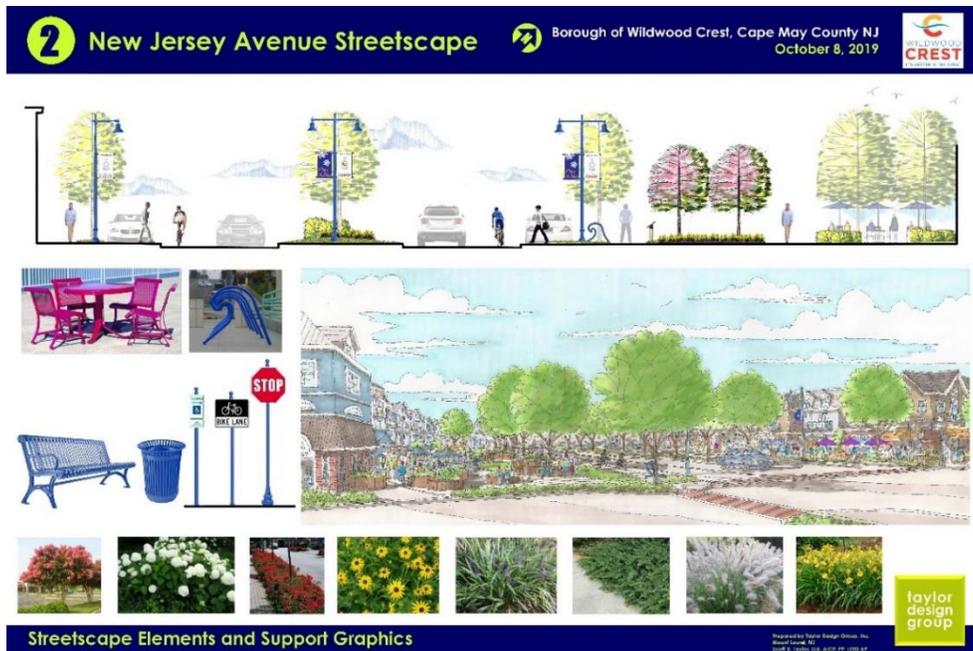
Redevelopment of New Jersey Avenue Business District

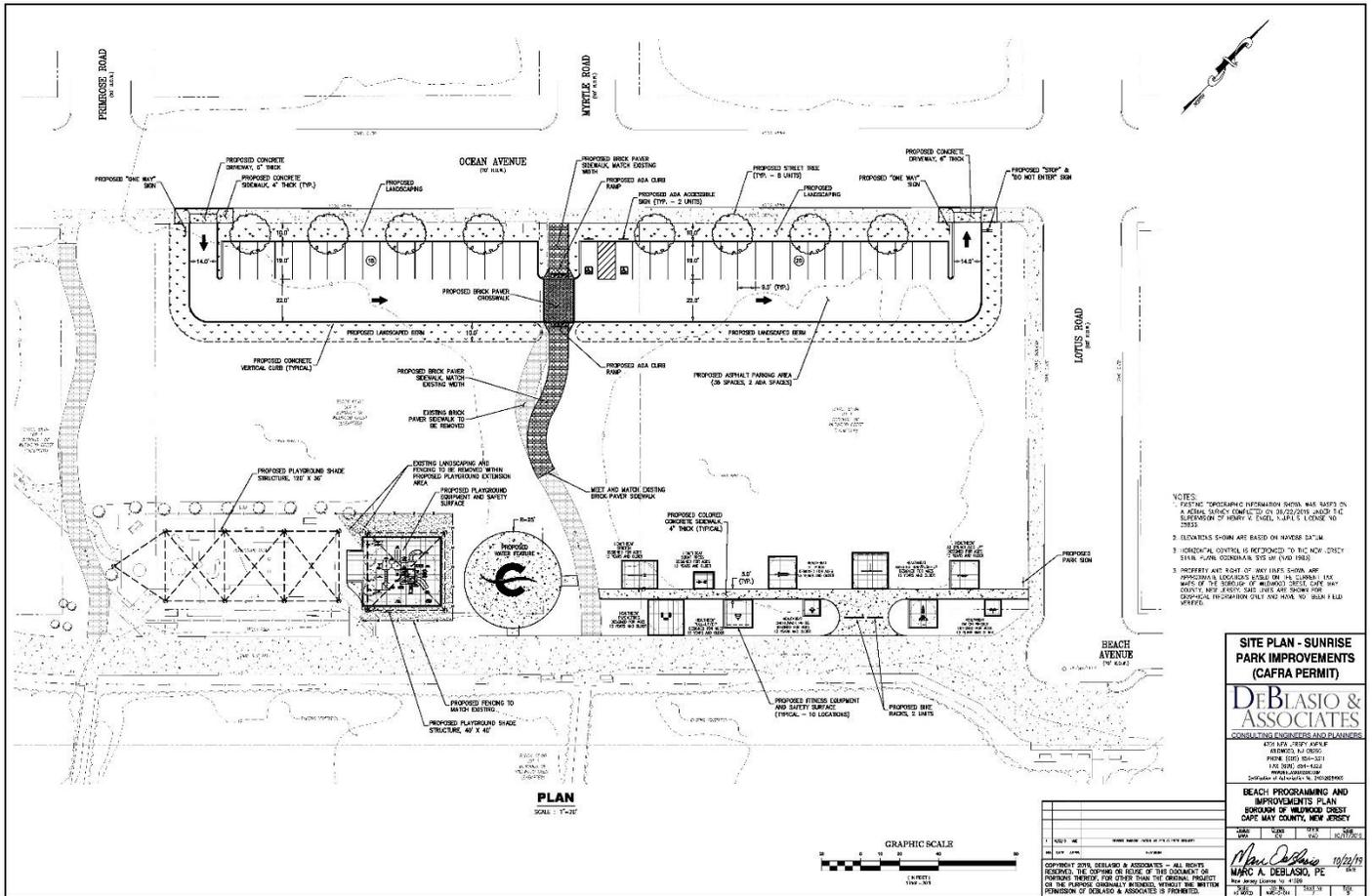
The Borough of Wildwood Crest continues to work with the County of Cape May and the Taylor Design Group on plans for the redevelopment of the New Jersey Avenue Business District that coincide with the county's plan to reconstruct New Jersey Avenue.

These plans are designed to improve the visual and functional character of the downtown business district. The borough is evaluating streetscape improvements, placemaking, land use strategies and more in an effort to stimulate reinvestment. Plans include the creation of a "Crest Station" theme, in recognition of the train station that previously stood in the current New Jersey Avenue Business District decades ago.

Renderings are located above and below. Full tentative plans for this redevelopment project are available on the Special Projects page of the borough website at wildwoodcrest.org.

For further information about this project, contact borough hall at 609-522-5176.





Significant improvements planned for Sunrise Park

The Borough of Wildwood Crest has announced a variety of improvements planned for Sunrise Park at Rambler Road.

Improvements include an additional children's playground designed for ages 5-12; a state-of-the-art, unique



water spray area; an additional pedestrian path; shade structures; fitness stations; bicycle racks; benches; lighting upgrades; and a water-filling station. In addition, the borough will construct a parking lot on the west side of the park near Ocean Avenue that will include approximately 38 parking spaces.

The borough has received funding from the Cape May County Open Space program in the amount of more than \$283,000. The total cost of the project, including construction of the new parking lot, is estimated at approximately \$500,000.

Work is scheduled to commence in the early part of

the spring, with completion slated for ahead of the main summer season.

Full plans for the work are available on the Special Projects page of the borough website at wildwoodcrest.org. For further information about this project, contact borough hall at 609-522-5176.

Stay connected with Wildwood Crest

The Borough of Wildwood Crest offers many ways to stay connected with events, news, issues and other information regarding the borough. The borough's website, wildwoodcrest.org, is updated on a regular basis to contain the most recent information. Residents and visitors can also register to receive news alerts via text and/or email through the borough website. In addition, residents and visitors are urged to follow the Wildwood Crest Facebook and Twitter pages for breaking news and updated information on borough events, news, activities and more.

For further information, call 609-523-0202 or email Brian Cunniff, the borough's public information officer, at bcunniff@wildwoodcrest.org.

Roadway improvements being made to four borough streets

The Borough of Wildwood Crest continues to make improvements to its roadways. This fall, winter and spring, the borough is reconstructing roadways along Crocus Road, Stockton Road, Denver Avenue and Trenton Avenue. Work includes the installation of new sanitary sewer lines, curbs, gutters and ADA-accessible sidewalk ramps, along with the complete repaving of the roadways.

Work on these streets is expected to be fully complete no later than early May.

For further information, call 609-522-5176.



Town Hall Meeting scheduled for March 28

The Borough of Wildwood Crest Board of Commissioners will host a Town hall Meeting on Saturday, March 28, at 11 a.m. at the Wildwood Crest Fire Company No. 1, located at Rambler Road and Pacific Avenue. The borough commissioners will continue to discuss proposed improvements to the New Jersey Avenue Business District and the possibility of allowing for one alcohol consumption license (which would be voted upon by residents via referendum) in the district.

The public is welcome to attend. No pre-registration is necessary. Light refreshments will be served. Call 609-522-5176 for more information.

Upcoming Pacific Avenue storm sewer and borough street improvements

The Borough of Wildwood Crest is currently involved in a joint street construction project with the County of Cape May to make road improvements along Pacific Avenue and five side streets south of Rambler Road. The side streets include Farragut Road, Miami Avenue, Hollywood Avenue, St. Louis Avenue and Washington Avenue.

The project also includes some improvements along New Jersey Avenue at the same side streets.

Scope of work includes improvements to all piping, inlets, manholes, curbing, paving and milling.

Preliminary designs for the storm sewer installation have been delivered to the Cape May County engineer. The borough was awaiting comments on those plans as of mid January.

The borough had proposed to advertise the project for public bidding in late January.

The project is expected to take two years to complete, with work suspended during the summer seasons.

For further information, contact DeBlasio and Associates, the borough's engineering firm, at (609) 854-3311 or borough hall at (609) 522-5176.

Crest seeks CAFRA approval for various additional improvements

The Borough of Wildwood Crest has recently submitted a Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) application through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for various improvements throughout the borough.

In addition to the potential improvement of the Wildwood Crest Fishing Pier and the planned upgrades at Sunrise Park at Rambler Road, the borough is also seeking permitting for the following planned future projects:

Beach bike path and playgrounds:

Beach bike path/playgrounds: In conjunction with the plan by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to realign existing dunes, the borough has proposed the construction of a 16-foot wide multi-use bike and pedestrian path from Heather Road to Jefferson Avenue. This ADA-compliant path would be located on the western side of the beach between the new dune line and the street-end bulkhead. It would also link the public access ramps from the street ends to the ADA-compliant public access dune crossovers created through the Army Corps of Engineers/ NJ DEP dune project. Intermittent beach playgrounds would also be available for public use between multi-use path and bulkhead



Beach Avenue bike path widening: The Borough has proposed a widening of six feet in an easterly direction along the entire length of the Beach Avenue bike path from Cresse Avenue to Rambler Road. This project aims to alleviate traffic and congestion on the bike path. The additional width would not interfere with the existing path, ADA-compliant ramps or street ends.

Beach street end improvements (Orchid Road to Jefferson Avenue): The borough seeks to extend street ends from Orchid Road to Jefferson Avenue. This proposed 15-foot extension would eliminate ramps that conflict with adjacent hotel parking

lots at some street ends. In addition, ADA-compliant benches and ramps will be installed at each street end. Public access ramps to the beach will be eight feet wide to comply with ADA standards and will have minimum five-foot wide landing before connecting to a proposed multi-use beach bike path. Bike racks and wash stations would also be installed at the street end extensions.

Beachside stormwater outfall extensions: Due to sand accretion, the borough's six gravity stormwater outfalls at intermittent locations on the beach have become inoperable, poses threats of flooding and could create septic water issues. The borough is proposing a project that would extend each outfall 200 feet in an easterly direction into the ocean to alleviate sand accretion and provide appropriate drainage from neighboring street areas. These extensions would ensure the outfalls reach the ocean for years to come.

For further information on any of the above proposed projects, contact DeBlasio and Associates, the borough's engineering firm, at (609) 854-3311 or borough hall at (609) 522-5176.

Borough police chief retires

Joseph McGrath, the police chief for the Borough of Wildwood Crest, retired from his position effective Jan. 1, 2020 after a 25-year career in law enforcement.

McGrath, then a captain, was appointed officer-in-charge of the department in April 2014 and was eventually promoted to chief in October 2016.

The Borough of Wildwood Crest thanks Chief McGrath for his many contributions to all aspects of public safety in the borough and wishes him and his family nothing but the best moving forward.

Captain Robert Lloyd is currently serving as officer-in-charge of the department.



Borough CFO: Wildwood Crest remains in strong financial position

As the budget for 2020 is being finalized, the Borough of Wildwood Crest remains fiscally sound while also maintaining a strong fund balance, according to the borough’s chief financial officer.



The 2019 revenues have been met and, in fact, the borough has seen increases specifically with interest on investments where interest rates saw a rise in 2019. The borough has been fortunate that expenses have remained consistent with health benefit rates remaining static in 2019. These factors enabled Moody’s Rating Agency to reaffirm the borough’s Aa3 rating, which in turn allows the borough to secure funding at excellent rates.

Just this fall, the borough restructured debt and saved more than \$700,000 in interest payments over the next 10 years by securing a very low interest rate and reducing the length of the bonds.

Due to good fiscal responsibility and the ability to secure grant funding through various agencies, the current borough administration has been able to maintain a stable tax rate while still embarking on improvements to roads and parks throughout the borough, with more improvement projects on the horizon.

The list below summarizes the larger projects and identifies the funding sources that have offset taxation. A large percentage of the project costs listed have been funded by the Cape May County Open Space program, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Small Cities funding, New Jersey Department of Transportation grants or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding.

WILDWOOD CREST RECENT PAST, PRESENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE CAPITAL PROJECTS			
2018	FUNDING	2019	FUNDING
Newark Avenue	DOT	Reconstruction of Trenton, Denver & Stockton avenues	DOT
Sunset Lake Shoreline Stabilization	OS/FEMA	Improvements to Borough Hall	
		Rambler Road Project	SCBG
		Beach Backfill Project	
		Beach Improvement IP Permit	
		Crest Pier Improvements	
2020	FUNDING	2021	FUNDING
Sunrise Park	OS	Scoop Taylor Park	SCBG
Bike Path/Street End Improvements		NJ Avenue Business District	
Pacific Avenue Roadway Project	CMC	Beach Avenue Roadway	DOT
Beach Patrol Headquarters		Triangle Flooding Issues	FEMA
Von Savage Pool ADA Restrooms	SCBG	Fishing Pier Extension	OS/USAC
“Old” Library Renovations	SCBG		

Legend: DOT (New Jersey Department of Transportation), OS (Cape May County Open Space Program), FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), CMC (Cape May County), SCGB (New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Small Cities Block Grant), USAC (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Crest Green Team continues to collect plastic bags for recycling initiative

The Borough of Wildwood Crest's Green Team has been taking part in an initiative through the Trex company to collect and recycle plastic bags and similar materials since August 2019.



The borough has collected well in excess of the required 500 pounds worth of plastic refuse in a six-month span, which will result in the Trex company donating a composite bench to the Borough of Wildwood Crest.

The Green Team is continuing to collect plastic bags. Collection sites are available at Borough Hall, the Wildwood Crest Pier Recreation Center and the Joseph Von Savage Memorial Pool for members of the community to drop off plastic bags and other similar materials. Plastic materials can include but are not limited to grocery shopping bags, produce and bread bags, cereal box liners, ice bags, resealable food bags, case

overwrap, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags and bubble wrap. All materials should be clean, dry and free of any and all food residue.

For more information about this plastic bag collection and recycling initiative, contact Deborah Rogers at (609) 729-8089.

Crest to join North Wildwood and Wildwood in seeking state grant for feasibility study for shared EMS services

The City of North Wildwood, the City of Wildwood and the Borough of Wildwood Crest have announced jointly that the three municipalities will join forces to apply for a state grant for the purpose of conducting a study to discuss the feasibility of the three communities sharing paid fire and emergency medical services (EMS).

The three communities plan to apply for a Challenge Grant through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP), which incentivizes the sharing of services with the goal of reducing cost, delivering municipal services in a more efficient manner and generates increased value for each dollar spent while ensuring the local units remain responsible stewards of the public trust. LEAP provides counties, municipalities, school districts, authorities and fire districts assistance for the study or implementation of promising shared services projects undertaken pursuant to the Uniform Shared Service and Consolidation Act, according to information from the NJ DCA website.

The three municipalities have agreed that volunteer operations would not be part of this study, thus meaning that Wildwood Crest would only be a part of a study involving EMS. The study would be used to determine the feasibility of North Wildwood and Wildwood to share services for paid fire services and the feasibility of North Wildwood, Wildwood and Wildwood Crest to share EMS.

The three participating municipalities have agreed to hire an independent firm to study these types of shared services while taking advantage of the NJ DCA LEAP grant. This will enable the elected officials and taxpayers in all three municipalities to take an honest look at the possibility of sharing these services in an effort plan for the future.

The state has set aside a total of \$3.15 million in LEAP Challenge Grant funds, with up to \$150,000 set aside for each county for up to three municipal grants of \$50,000 each. If no other entity in a county applies, one application could qualify for the entire \$150,000. Funds can be used to support a variety of costs relating to investigating, developing and undertaking a shared services project.

Decisions pertaining to the sharing of these services will not be made in the near future, according to all three municipalities. Any discussions on the sharing of these services will be contingent upon the results of this independent study.

For more information, contact borough administrator Connie Mahon via email at cmahon@wildwoodcrest.org or by phone at 609-729-8041.

President of the United States visits The Wildwoods

United States President Donald J. Trump paid a visit to The Wildwoods on Tuesday, Jan. 28, for a rally held at the Wildwoods Convention Center.

Many Wildwood Crest residents took advantage of the opportunity to attend the rally. Approximately 7,400 people were in attendance at the convention center, with thousands more outside the building watching the event on large-screen televisions. Some people waited in line for more than 48 hours in order to secure an opportunity for admittance to the rally.

Protesters were also on hand, holding demonstrations near the convention center on the day of the event.

According to local law enforcement officials, the event passed off very peacefully with little public safety issues, other than a large increase in traffic in the days around the event.

The event brought thousands of people to the island during what would otherwise be a rather quiet time in The Wildwoods, bringing a welcome boost to dozens of local businesses.



Wildwood Crest News Tidbits

TRASH/RECYCLING INFORMATION: Trash and recycling collection in Wildwood Crest will continue on the winter schedule through Sunday, May 31. All zones will receive trash and recycling pickup once per week. There will be no trash collection on Monday, Feb. 17 (Presidents Day) and Friday, April 10 (Good Friday). Zones not collected on those holidays will have trash and recycling collection on the next regular working day after each holiday. Call 609-522-7446 for more information.

RECYCLING CENTER HOURS: Trash/recycling drop-off at the Wildwood Crest Recycling Center remains on winter hours through the month of April. Trash and recycling can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. Call 609-522-7446 for more information.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL BASKETBALL ISLAND TOURNAMENT: The Wildwood Crest Recreation Department will host the annual grammar school basketball Island Tournament from Wednesday, Feb. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Crest Pier Recreation Center. The event includes four-team tournaments for the grades 5-6 and 7-8 boys and girls basketball teams from Cape Trinity Catholic, Crest Memorial School, Margaret Mace Elementary and Wildwood Junior High/Glenwood Avenue School. Also included is the popular Skills Competition. Specific schedule TBA. Call (609) 523-0202 for more information.

Upcoming Borough Public Meetings

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 8, at 9:30 a.m. All meetings held at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.

PLANNING BOARD: First Wednesday of each month. All meetings held at 5 p.m. at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.

ZONING BOARD: Third Tuesday of each month. All meetings held at 5 p.m. at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.

TOURISM COMMISSION: Wednesday, Feb. 12; Wednesday, March 18; Wednesday, April 8. All meetings held at 4 p.m. at the Crest Pier Recreation Center.

RECREATION COMMISSION: Wednesday, Feb. 12; Wednesday, March 18; Wednesday, April 8. All meetings held at 5 p.m. at the Crest Pier Recreation Center.

GREEN TEAM: Wednesday, Feb. 26; Wednesday, March 25; Wednesday, April 22. All meetings held at 2 p.m. at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE: Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 3:30 p.m. at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.