

## A message from the borough commissioners

First and foremost, we hope our residents, visitors and businesses are safe and excited to get back to normalcy.

Looking back (and forward), we have done our best to keep you safe throughout the Covid pandemic and will continue to do so going forward.

It has not been easy balancing the many demands, issues and requests from so many people and agencies. It is a difficult time being an elected local official, for sure, but we're not complaining.

Despite the pandemic we are sure you have seen the many positive projects the borough has undertaken over the past few years. Above all, we are able to keep our tax rate stable and surplus very healthy, putting the Crest in a very strong financial position.

Wildwood Crest is a highly desirable community. We have seen countless home renovations and new construction projects. Property values are now at an all-time high. All of this leads to a new-found excitement. As we hopefully move closer to normal with respect to the pandemic, we anticipate that our great community will continue to thrive and grow.

As always, we thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Please feel free to contact us or any of our staff with anything you may need.

Commissioner/Mayor Don Cabrera – [dcabrera@wildwoodcrest.org](mailto:dcabrera@wildwoodcrest.org)

Commissioner/Deputy Mayor Joyce Gould – [jgould@wildwoodcrest.org](mailto:jgould@wildwoodcrest.org)

Commissioner David Thompson – [dthompson@wildwoodcrest.org](mailto:dthompson@wildwoodcrest.org)



## Wildwood Crest earns top-tier status in statewide Mayors Wellness Campaign



The Borough of Wildwood Crest is one of just eight municipalities across the state to earn top-tier status through its participation in the statewide Mayors Wellness Campaign for the 2020 calendar year.

Wildwood Crest has been designated as a “Healthy Town” by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, in partnership with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

A total of 22 municipalities were recognized by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. Wildwood Crest and seven others were awarded the top “Healthy Town” designation. A further nine municipalities were designated as a “Healthy Town to Watch.” Another five municipalities were recognized as 2018 “Healthy Town in the Making.”

Wildwood Crest and Evesham Township are the only two South Jersey municipalities to earn the top-tier “Healthy Town” status. The others from across the state include Asbury Park, Montclair, Paterson, Plainfield, Scotch Plains and Woodbridge Township.

“I would like to thank the Quality Institute for recognizing the Borough of Wildwood Crest as a New Jersey Healthy Town,” Wildwood Crest Mayor Don Cabrera said. “Since starting our program in 2019, our Mayors Wellness Campaign has received overwhelming participation and support from our residents, municipal staff, vacationers, and partners. I extend a heartfelt thank you to our wellness committee and recreation staff for helping to carry out the mission of wellness throughout our community, especially during a pandemic. We are just getting started.”

## Improvements to street-end beach access areas continue



The Borough of Wildwood Crest has completed construction on two street-end beach public access areas at Newark and Trenton avenues.

Five others are slated for construction this fall at St. Louis Avenue, Charleston Avenue, Topeka Avenue, Hollywood Avenue and Syracuse Avenue. Work began in September and is expected to be complete by Wednesday, Dec. 1.

Improvements and added amenities include wider and longer timber platforms with ADA access, cable railings, bike racks and additional benches. Foot-washing stations/showers are due to be installed shortly.

The borough was awarded a \$400,000 DCA Small Cities Grant for this project for 2021.

Beach entrances at all street ends south of Rambler Road will feature these new amenities once the four-phase project is complete in late 2022 or early 2023. Beach entrances at street ends north of Rambler Road will follow.

A second \$400,000 DCA Small Cities Grant for this project has been awarded for 2022. The borough also expects to obtain special recreational funding from the Cape May County Open Space program to help fund this project for the rest of the street ends south of Rambler Road.

More details are available on the Special Projects page of the [wildwoodcrest.org](http://wildwoodcrest.org) website.

## Wildwood Crest reacts to the COVID-19 pandemic

Like most municipalities, counties and states across the country, the Borough of Wildwood Crest has been tasked with guiding its residents, business owners and visitors through the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020.

The borough briefly closed all of its buildings to the general public at the start of the pandemic, before reopening with various measures designed to promote health and safety for all visitors and borough staff.

In recreation, the borough reopened its Crest Pier Recreation Center and Joseph Von Savage Memorial Pool, with restrictions, as quickly as possible. Access to the Crest Pier was limited to Wildwood Crest residents only through April 2021. The building recently opened its doors for all while also adhering to various restrictions set by the New Jersey Department of Health. Von Savage Pool has been placed under capacity limits and various measures to promote safe social distancing that also adhered to guidelines set by the New Jersey Department of Health. Some of those restrictions were eased during the summer of 2021.

The borough also enacted a series of measures designed to help its business community first in 2020 and later extended through December 2021. They include the allowance of temporary outdoor site plans for existing restaurant and retail businesses; the temporary usage of back beach areas for placement of or hotel or motel deck and lounge chairs; and the relaxation of the application process for special events, allowing those seeking to host a special event in the borough to submit applications less than 60 days ahead of the event as previously required.

In addition, borough administrator Connie Mahon has been participating in weekly COVID-19 Task Force meetings hosted by officials from Cape May County administration. These task force meetings regularly include the latest information on COVID-19 cases throughout the county, vaccination availability and much more.

The borough has done its best to update its residents and visitors by setting up a link on the front page of the [wildwoodcrest.org](http://wildwoodcrest.org) website dedicated to providing all of the latest information about the COVID-19 pandemic. The borough has also distributed information through social media postings and press releases to local media. For the latest information, log on to [wildwoodcrest.org](http://wildwoodcrest.org).

## Wildwood Crest hosts 9/11 Memorial Service

The Borough of Wildwood Crest held its annual 9/11 memorial service on Saturday, Sept. 11, at Turtle Gut Park, adjacent to Sunset Lake.

Various community and religious leaders, including Commissioners Don Cabrera, Joyce Gould and David Thompson, spoke at the event. First responders from Wildwood Crest were also on hand at the service. Carmen Alamenno, the brother of Andrew Alamenno, a Wildwood Crest native who was killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, was also one of the featured speakers. Other members of the Alamenno family were also in attendance.

Approximately 250 people attended the service.



## Borough CFO: Wildwood Crest remains fiscally sound

Despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Borough of Wildwood Crest has remained fiscally sound in 2021, according to the borough's chief financial officer.

The local purpose tax increased less than \$150,000 and resulted in a 3/10<sup>th</sup> of a penny tax increase for the 2021 fiscal year.

Ratables have grown once again in the borough, with approximately \$8 million in new construction added to the base.

The borough continues to offer its residents all of the services to which they are accustomed. In addition, the borough has added such amenities as beach storage box rentals, a beach concierge service and new and improved wooden beach walkways for every street-end beach entrance. The development of new beach street-end bump outs is underway.

Infrastructure improvements also continue throughout the borough, such as stormwater and sanitary sewer improvements and ADA-accessible street-end pavements along Pacific Avenue south of Rambler Road. In addition, upgrades have been completed or are set to commence at Sunrise Park at Rambler Road and Scoop Taylor Park.

For more information, contact the Wildwood Crest finance office at (609) 729-8036.

## Stay connected with Wildwood Crest

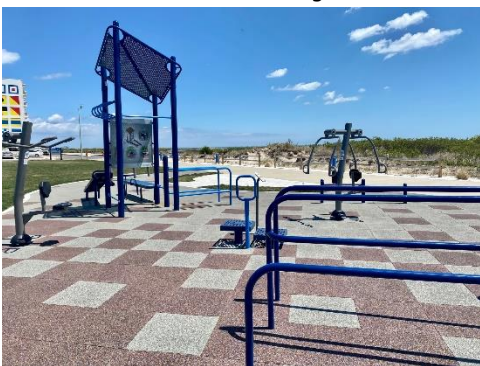
The Borough of Wildwood Crest offers many ways to stay connected with events, news, issues and other information regarding the borough. The borough's website, [wildwoodcrest.org](http://wildwoodcrest.org), is updated on a regular basis to contain the most recent information. Residents and visitors can 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](mailto:bcunniff@wildwoodcrest.org).



### **Major additions to Sunrise Park at Rambler Road**



The Borough of Wildwood Crest recently completed upgrades at Sunrise Park at Rambler Road. Improvements include the additions of a children's play structure, water spray pad and an outdoor adult fitness area. Other enhancements include new bike racks, additional seating areas, improved landscaping, new signage, installation of new fencing and realignment of current fencing.

An official grand opening ceremony for the park was held Friday, June 25.

The improved park was a major hit for residents and visitors, with hundreds of children enjoying the spray pad each day this summer.

Sunrise Park is open daily from dawn to dusk. The spray pad was open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Oct 11.

Total cost of the project was approximately \$500,000, with approximately \$285,000 funded through the Cape May County Open Space Program.

Full site plans are available on the Special Projects page of the [wildwoodcrest.org](http://wildwoodcrest.org) website.

## Upgrades to Scoop Taylor Park close to completion

Overall and ADA improvements to Scoop Taylor Park, located at Crocus Road and Ocean Avenue, have continued into the fall. New playground equipment, concrete and safety surfacing were installed over the summer months. In addition, the park's two basketball courts were resurfaced and additional benches have been installed near both basketball courts.

Old, decaying trees were removed from the park in September. A shade structure/shelter, additional hardscaping and landscaping work has continued into the fall. All work is set to be complete by late October.

Most of this project has been funded by a 2020 DCA Small Cities ADA Grant.



## Improvements continue at Higbee Field



Additional improvements to Higbee Field at Aster Road and Atlantic Avenue are due to commence this fall.

Earlier this year, the borough replaced the dugout along the first-base side of the field and the concession stand, which were damaged during a storm that occurred in July 2020.

Additional work includes the installation of a new dugout along the third-base side of the field and improvements to the press box, restroom and batting cages.

All work, which is being performed by Rapid Recovery, is scheduled to be complete prior to the new Little League season in the spring of 2022.

## Pacific Avenue sewer improvements complete, road paving to commence

The Borough of Wildwood Crest has completed stormwater and sanitary sewer improvements along Pacific Avenue south of Rambler Road, which is a Cape May County roadway.

Litigation between a contractor and the County of Cape May prevented immediate road reconstruction work from commencing. The borough received word in late August that this litigation has been brought to a conclusion and that road reconstruction work is scheduled to begin in late October. The first larger phase of this work is due to be complete prior to Memorial Day weekend 2022, with all work suspended for the 2022 summer season. The second smaller phase of this work would then commence in the fall of 2022 with completion due prior to Memorial Day weekend 2023.

For more information on this important borough infrastructure work, contact the borough's engineer, DeBlasio and Associates, at (609) 854-3311 or the borough administrator at (609) 729-8041.

## Wildwood Crest Trash/Recycling Information

**RECYCLING CENTER TAGS AVAILABLE:** The Wildwood Crest Recycling Center located along Bayview Drive between Newark and Jefferson avenues will accept 2021 tags through April 2022. Tags can be picked up Monday-Friday from 9 am to 4:30 pm at Borough Hall at 6101 Pacific Avenue. Proof of residency/ownership is required when picking up a recycling center tag.

**TRASH/RECYCLING INFORMATION:** Trash and recycling collection in Wildwood Crest returned to the winter schedule on Friday, Oct. 1. All zones receive trash and recycling pickup once per week through May 31, 2022. Sept. 30. Trash/recycling WILL NOT be collected on borough holidays during the non-summer months. Borough holidays remaining in 2021 include Columbus Day (Monday, Oct. 11), Election Day (Tuesday, Nov.

2), Veterans Day (Thursday, Nov. 11), Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, Nov. 25), the day after Thanksgiving (Friday, Nov. 26), Christmas Eve (observed Dec. 23) and Christmas Day (observed Dec. 24). Zones with pickup on a borough holiday will receive trash/recycling collection on the next weekday after the holiday. The specific trash/recycling collection schedule is available online on the Public Works page of the wildwoodcrest.org website. Call 609-522-7446 for more information.

**RECYCLING CENTER HOURS:** The trash/recycling drop-off at the Wildwood Crest Recycling Center located along Bayview Drive between Newark and Jefferson avenues is currently operating on winter hours through May 31. 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. Those using the facility must have a current recycling center tag.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to use the recycling center for trash drop-off instead of dropping household trash into public trash and recycling cans.

Call 609-522-7446 for more information.

## Upcoming Public Meetings in Wildwood Crest



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:** Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 29, at 9:30 a.m. All meetings held at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall. All meetings are also available to view live on the Wildwood Crest Facebook page.

**PLANNING BOARD:** Wednesday, Nov. 3; Wednesday, Dec. 1. All meetings held at 5 p.m. at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.

**ZONING BOARD:** Tuesday, Oct. 19; Tuesday, Nov. 16; Tuesday, Dec. 21. All meetings held at 5 p.m. at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.

**GREEN TEAM:** Wednesday, Oct. 27; Wednesday, Nov. 24; Wednesday, Dec. 22. All meetings held at

1 p.m. at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.

**WELLNESS COMMITTEE:** Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 3:30 p.m. at Borough Hall.

**CREATIVE ARTS COUNCIL:** Tuesday, Nov. 9; Tuesday, Dec. 7. All meetings held at 4 p.m. at Wildwood Crest Borough Hall.

**Note:** All meetings are open to the public. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Crest bans smoking on beach, limits recreational cannabis use

The Borough of Wildwood Crest Board of Commissioners has passed ordinances that ban smoking on the beach and impose some restrictions on recreational marijuana use.

Wildwood Crest previously offered designated smoking areas on its beach. Those areas have now been eliminated, making the entire beach smoke-free.

In addition, borough commissioners moved to prohibit anyone from using marijuana/cannabis products in a public place such as borough parks and recreational areas.

In a related measure, borough commissioners also passed an ordinance that prohibits the operation of all classes of cannabis establishments, cannabis distributors and cannabis delivery services within borough limits. The ordinances were approved after second reading at the May 12 meeting of the Board of Commissioners and became effective 20 days after advertisement as required by law, meaning the new measures were in place as of June 7. For more information, contact the borough clerk's office at (609) 729-8040.

## Wildwood Crest Fall Beach Sweep, Paper Shredding Service Oct. 23



The Wildwood Crest Department of Public Works, in conjunction with Clean Ocean Action/NJ Clean Communities, will host a Fall Beach Sweep event on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Wildwood Crest Department of Public Works will also offer a paper shredding service at the Beach Sweep. An industrial-sized paper shredder will be available for borough residents at Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to noon. A current Wildwood Crest recycling permit is required to use the paper shredder.

The Fall Beach Sweep event will be held rain or shine and will adhere to all current state and local CDC guidelines with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteers must register in advance. Volunteers will be required to sign a waiver and agree to follow all safety guidelines. Please follow the link below to register:

<http://www.cleanoceanaction.org/index.php?id=334>

Volunteers of all ages are needed for the Fall Beach Sweep. Participants collect, remove and record valuable data about debris, which is presented in annual reports and used to advance federal, state and local programs to reduce litter on New Jersey beaches and waterways.

Registered volunteers should check in at Centennial Park, located at Fern Road and Ocean Avenue, on the day of the event. Volunteers should wear weather appropriate clothing and are asked to bring their own gloves, water, hand sanitizer and snacks. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring their own buckets to reduce plastic bag use.

Participants who are members of the Wildwood Crest Adopt-A-Beach program will receive credit for one clean. This Beach Sweep will be extremely helpful to the borough's already intensive efforts to keep its vast expanse of beaches clean.

For further information about the Beach Sweep or the paper shredding service, contact Sarah Steiner at the Wildwood Crest Department of Public Works at (609) 522-7446 or via email at [ssteiner@wildwoodcrest.org](mailto:ssteiner@wildwoodcrest.org).

## Election for Board of Commissioners set for Nov. 2

Registered voters in the Borough of Wildwood Crest will have the opportunity to vote for candidates running for each of the three seats on the borough's Board of Commissioners during the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Candidates include Don Cabrera, Darleen Devlin, Joseph Franco Jr., Joyce Gould, Joseph Schiff and David Thompson.

Voters can vote for up to three candidates. All in-person voting will take place at the Crest Pier Recreation Center on Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For information on new voter registration, early voting and vote-by-mail procedures, log on to the official website of the Cape May County Election Department at [capemaycountyvotes.com](http://capemaycountyvotes.com).

## Wildwood Crest News Tidbits

**GRANT AWARDS:** The Borough of Wildwood Crest was recently notified of a pair of grant awards for 2021. The borough has been awarded a New Jersey Urban Community Forestry Stewardship Grant that totals nearly

\$50,000. This grant will allow the borough to conduct a tree survey that will make the borough eligible to apply for a 2022 grant of up to \$150,000 to purchase and plant trees across the borough in accordance with its Community Forestry Management Plan. The borough has also received a 2021 Atlantic City Electric Environmental Stewardship Grant in the amount of \$5,000 to construct a small diamondback terrapin educational area in the Preston Avenue Park. The borough's Green Team is currently working with the borough engineer on designs for upgrades to this park.

**NEW JERSEY AVENUE PROJECT UPDATE:** Officials from Wildwood Crest continue to meet and work with the Cape May County engineer and other professionals on design elements and improvements related to the New Jersey Avenue project, specifically within the Wildwood Crest Business District from Heather to Wisteria roads, as they relate to the county's plans for improvements to the roadway from Cresse Avenue to Rambler Road. The borough plans to hold another stakeholders' meeting in the near future to update the public. Changes have been proposed to the original plan's parking areas. Proposed designs for this project can be found on the Special Projects page of the [wildwoodcrest.org](http://wildwoodcrest.org) website.



**MAYOR'S WELLNESS CAMPAIGN BIKE RIDE 10/16:** Mayor Don Cabrera and members of the Wildwood Crest Wellness Committee will host a bicycle ride on Saturday, Oct. 16, at 9 am. The event will begin and end at the Crest Pier Recreation Center. The Wildwood Crest Police Department will provide bicycle safety tips ahead of the 30- to 45-minute ride through the borough. Refreshments and small gifts will be provided. The event is free. No pre-registration is necessary. Call the Wildwood Crest Recreation Department at 609-523-0202.

**TRICK OR TREAT HOURS SET:** The Borough of Wildwood Crest Board of Commissioners has set the official trick-or-treat times for Halloween in the borough for Sunday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. Children and adults are encouraged to take caution when traveling through the borough to trick-or-treat. Motorists are advised to take extra caution as well.

**CREATIVE ARTS COUNCIL ESTABLISHED:** Through resolution, the Borough of Wildwood Crest has established a new Creative Arts Council to help advise the governing body on the cultivation and celebration of the creative and performing arts as part of the sustained quality of life for its citizens. The five-member Creative Arts Council consists of two members of the Green Team (Joseph Franco Jr., Patricia MacQueen) and three other residents of the borough (Christine Casiello, Linda Ennis, Colleen Ferraro). The committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the court room at Borough Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

**RECREATION FITNESS PROGRAMS:** The Wildwood Crest Recreation Department is offering a variety of fitness programs this fall at the Crest Pier Recreation Center: Adult Fitness – low impact aerobics and body fitness class designed for older adults held Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am; Hip Hop Choreography – contemporary adult dance class held Mondays at 5 pm; Zumba – dance party workout class held Saturdays at 8:30 am. No pre-registration necessary. All classes are \$5 each or a punch card good for 20 classes can be purchased for \$80. Call 609-523-0202 for more information.

**PINK T-SHIRT SALES FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS:** The Wildwood Crest Recreation Department is selling pink T-shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness Month through October. T-shirts are \$10, with all proceeds from the sales going to Love of Linda, a local charity that has been assisting Cape May County cancer patients and their families since its inception in 1994. T-shirts can be purchased at the Crest Pier Recreation Center during the facility's regular operating hours. Call (609) 523-0202 for more information.

#### **BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST**

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