

**WINTER 2019
NEWSLETTER**

BOROUGH CONTACTS (Area code 609)

Police: (non-emergency) 522-2456
Ambulance Corps: (non-emergency) 522-0844
Public Works: 522-7446
Recreation: 523-0202 (Crest Pier) / 522-0084 (Von Savage Pool)
Administrator: 729-8041
Clerk: 729-8040
Tax Collector: 729-8032
Tax Assessor: 729-8037
Finance Office: 729-8036
Municipal Court: 729-3818
Fire Prevention: 729-8098
Code Enforcement: 729-8091
Construction/Zoning: 729-8090
Mayor Don Cabrera: 729-8043
Commissioner Joyce Gould: 729-8042
Commissioner David Thompson: 729-8033

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 facebook.com/WildwoodCrestNJ
 @Wildwood_Crest  @visit_wildwood_crest

RECREATION PROGRAMS

ADULT FITNESS CLASS: An exercise class for the "Baby Boomer" generation that incorporates a blend of low-impact aerobic dance steps and light weight sculpting held each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 10 am at the Crest Pier Recreation Center. Workout is easily modified to accommodate all fitness levels. Fee is \$5 per class. Punch cards good for 20 classes can be purchased for \$80. No pre-registration necessary.

WEIGHT TRAIN CLASS: A workout for adults designed to teach the fundamentals of set weight training with a blend of low-impact cardio held each Wednesday at 10 am at the Crest Pier Recreation Center. Beginners to advanced welcome. Fee is \$5 per class. Punch cards good for 20 classes can be purchased for \$80. No pre-registration necessary.

ZUMBA DANCE CLASS: Zumba dance classes for ages 15 and older are held each Saturday at 9 am and each Thursday at 5:30 pm at the Crest Pier Recreation Center. Fee is \$5 per class. Punch cards good for 20 classes can be purchased for \$80. No pre-registration necessary.

AQUA FLOW WORKOUT: An instructed water aerobics class held at the Joseph Von Savage Memorial Pool each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 am. Fee is \$5 per class. Punch cards good for 20 classes can be purchased for \$80. No pre-registration necessary. No class on Monday, Feb. 18, due to Presidents Day holiday.

TUMBLING/GYMNASTICS: The recreation department holds weekly tumbling/gymnastics classes for children age 3 through grade 1 each Monday. The winter session began in early January and runs through early March. A spring session will begin in late March.

GRADES K-2 SOCCER: Registration is now open for Crest Recreation's grades K-2 indoor soccer league, which will be played Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings from early March through early April. Registration deadline is Feb. 27.

CREST PIER FITNESS ROOM: The Wildwood Crest Pier Recreation Center offers FREE access to its fitness room for borough residents and second homeowners. Fitness room includes aerobic machines (ellipticals, exercise bikes, treadmills), weight equipment and more. Fitness room is open 9:30 am to 8 pm Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm Saturday and noon to 4 pm Sunday. All patrons must register in the Crest Pier main office.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL BASKETBALL ISLAND TOURNAMENT: The Wildwood Crest Pier Recreation Center will host the annual grammar school basketball Island Tournament and Skills Competition from Wednesday, Feb. 20, through Sunday, Feb. 24. Boys and girls grades 5-6 and 7-8 basketball teams from Crest Memorial, Cape Trinity Catholic, Wildwood and Margaret Mace will compete in the tournament and Skills Competition. The event is open to the public. Daily admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and children. The specific schedule will be available on the Recreation page of the borough website when released in mid February. Call the Crest Pier at 609-523-0202 for more information.

NOTE: For a full list of activities and programs at the Crest Pier Recreation Center and the Von Savage Memorial Pool, log on to the Recreation page at wildwoodcrest.org.

VON SAVAGE POOL (8800 New Jersey Avenue) 609-522-0084 | CREST PIER (5800 Ocean Avenue) 609-523-0202

SIGN UP FOR TEXT AND/OR EMAIL ALERTS

For updated information on events, road closures, traffic and transportation issues, weather alerts and more, register online on the home page of the borough website at wildwoodcrest.org for text and/or email alerts.

NOTE: The quarterly Wildwood Crest newsletter will no longer be mailed to all residents. The newsletter will only be available online at wildwoodcrest.org and through blasts to registered email addresses. **REGISTER TODAY!!!**

SUNSET LAKE SHORELINE STABILIZATION, RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENT WORK COMMENCES

Work on the shoreline stabilization project and various recreational improvements at Sunset Lake from Rambler Road to approximately Miami Avenue commenced in early January.

The shoreline stabilization project is being funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The various recreational improvements include the addition of an ADA-compliant kayak/ paddleboard launch area, a fishing and observation pier and the replacement of the current gazebo/pavilion. Other amenities in the plan include drinking/filling stations, low-level lighting, concrete improvements and bike racks. These



recreational improvements are being significantly funded through a more than \$300,000 award from the Cape May County open space program.

The work is tentatively scheduled for completion in the spring of 2019.

WILDWOOD CREST TO JOIN COUNTY DISPATCH SYSTEM

The Borough of Wildwood Crest has authorized a shared services agreement with the County of Cape May to provide public safety call answering and dispatch services for emergency calls relating to police, fire and emergency medical services on behalf of the borough through the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management.

The measure was passed by resolution at the regular meeting of the Wildwood Crest Board of Commissioners on Dec. 27, 2018.

This shared services agreement is tentatively scheduled to take effect on or about March 1.

Wildwood Crest is latest to enroll in the countywide dispatch system, joining the Township of Lower, Avalon-Stone Harbor (fire and EMS only) and the Cape May County Sheriff's Office. According to Cape May County OEM coordinator Marty Pagliughi, two other municipalities are set to join the county dispatch system before the end of the calendar year.

Pagliughi said the county dispatch system allows Wildwood Crest to cut costs while also increasing public safety through the streamlining of the dispatch communication system and the use of the latest dispatching technology that is currently not available in Wildwood Crest. It is anticipated that the level of services provided by the county dispatch system will improve over what is currently in place in Wildwood Crest.

"Time is of the essence in the event of an emergency and the county dispatch system improves the time of response significantly," Pagliughi said.

The county dispatch system is also expected to provide an increased level of service with respect to response to non-emergent matters, Life Alert and other medical alert systems.

Wildwood Crest is expected to save between \$90,000 and \$150,000 per year by entering into this shared services agreement. All interested current dispatchers with the Borough of Wildwood Crest have been offered the opportunity to apply for employment in dispatching with the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management through an inter-governmental transfer.

The county's system includes some of the latest dispatching technology, such as Next-Generation 9-1-1 and Emergency CallWorks. Next-Generation 9-1-1 allows cellular users in Wildwood Crest to text to 9-1-1 and receive a text response from a dispatcher, while Emergency CallWorks allows dispatchers to pinpoint the location of a cellular call to 9-1-1 to within 150 feet. None of this technology is currently available under the current local dispatching system in Wildwood Crest.

PHASE I DESIGNS COMPLETE FOR OLD LIBRARY BUILDING

Phase I designs for renovations to the old library facility located at Wisteria and Ocean avenues can be viewed on the new Special Projects page of the borough website. These designs include ADA compliant access and the addition of restrooms located just off the bike path that can be used by patrons of the beach. The plans also include the development of a conference center, senior center, public common room and retail shop.

The borough is actively and aggressively seeking grant monies to help reduce the cost of any renovations of the facility.

STATE OF THE CREST 2019

(written by Mayor Don Cabrera)

Happy New Year !

It was just a little over a year ago, fellow Commissioners Joyce Gould and Dave Thompson and I took office.



As Mayor, and with the support of the governing body and administrative team of Wildwood Crest, I hope you have found that we are doing our best to be open and transparent. This newsletter, social media updates, revamped web site and email and text alert tools have helped in this endeavor. Our meetings are very informative with lots of updates and presentations.

We have just begun to touch the surface and tap into the potential of Wildwood Crest. You will see many new upgrades and changes in 2019 to parks, streets, lakefront, events and signage. There are many long-term plans in the works regarding street and sewer reconstruction, including Pacific Avenue with cooperation from Cape May County, and along Park Boulevard and addressing flood prone areas such as southern New Jersey Avenue and Seaview Avenue. You will find the "master plans" for these on the borough's web site. The plans will serve as a tool to help the administration plot a plan for scheduling and funding. Upgrading our infrastructure is important. There are also plans to improve our recreational parks and buildings as well. It's a delicate balance but also necessary to keep the Crest inviting and refreshing.

Many new projects, such as what to do with the old library and the Crest downtown business district, are in the early discussion stages on how best to accomplish and fund these projects. The administration and planning board are reviewing a four- to six-block area on New Jersey Avenue as an area to create the new downtown in conjunction with Cape May County. This potential project was also the subject of a presentation by renowned planning expert Roger Brooks last May. Selfishly, it is clear that Wildwood Crest has the best beach, parks, lodging and more. What we lack is a district for food, drink and retail. It doesn't have to be big but must be accessible to pedestrians and bikes.

Our governing body and our staff stand ready to assist our residents whenever possible. If there is anything you would like to share, please email me at dcabrera@wildwoodcrest.org or call me at 609-729-8043.

Thank you and best wishes for a great 2019!

NEW SPECIAL PROJECTS PAGE ON BOROUGH WEBSITE

A new "Special Projects" page has been added to the Borough of Wildwood Crest's website. The page contains information pertaining to any projects that are currently underway or are planned or proposed for near future. The page includes projects related to parks and recreation, streets and infrastructure, the beach and bay, public buildings and signs and designs.

This web page can be found under the "Information" tab on the front page of the website at wildwoodcrest.org.

EXTERIOR OF WATER TOWER REFURBISHED, CREST LOGO ADDED

The exterior of the Wildwood Crest water tower located near Myrtle Road and Park Boulevard underwent renovation in the fall. Remington & Vernick Engineers performed this work on behalf of Wildwood Water, which consulted with Wildwood Crest for input on design. The water tower has been freshly painted and now includes the borough logo near the top on both the north and south sides.



This work was paid for by Wildwood Water at no additional cost to the taxpayers of Wildwood Crest.

NEW BEACH, PARKS SIGNAGE APPROVED

Draft versions of the new beach rules, street side sign designs near beach entrances and new signage for parks have been approved by the borough. The borough is in the process of producing bid specifications and expects to go out to bid for the manufacturer of the new signs, with completion expected prior to the start of the 2019 summer season.

SOUTH END STREET RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETED; FINAL STREET REPAVING SOON

All work on the Newark Avenue street reconstruction project is now complete, with the exception of final surface course paving. This project was partially funded through 2016 and 2018 Department of Transportation grants.

This project included complete reconstruction of sanitary sewer and stormwater lines, as well as milling and paving of all affected roadways. All roads in the area were reopened in early October. Final road paving is expected to be completed as soon as possible, as weather permits. Upon recommendation from the borough engineer, final surface course paving will take place no later than early spring.

CREST TO CREATE DESIGNATED SMOKING AREAS ON BEACH

The State of New Jersey recently enacted into law a revision on the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act that bans smoking on public beaches beginning in 2019. The new law does allow for municipalities to establish specific smoking areas on up to 15 percent of the beach.

Through ordinance measures, the borough plans to create 21 designated smoking areas along its beaches. These smoking areas will be located at essentially every other street in back beach areas. They will be marked accordingly and will include disposal receptacles for used cigarettes.

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

TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX LAW NOW IN EFFECT

A new state law that went into effect Oct. 1, 2018, imposes sales tax, the state occupancy fee and applicable local taxes on transient accommodations rentals in Wildwood Crest. "Transient accommodation" is defined as a room, group of rooms or other living or sleeping space for the lodging of occupants, including but not limited to residences or buildings used as residences. It includes rentals made through transient space marketplaces, as well as rentals made directly by the homeowner through classified listing sites, local newspaper ads, referrals from friends and family or by placing a sign on the home, etc. Transient space marketplaces are defined as an online marketplace, such as Airbnb, through which a person may offer transient accommodations or rooms to individuals. A transient space marketplace allows transient accommodations or hotel rooms to be advertised or listed through an online marketplace in exchange for consideration or provides a means for a customer to arrange for the occupancy of the transient accommodation in exchange for consideration.

Every person who charges for the rental of a transient accommodation is a seller and must register with the State for the collection and remittance of all applicable taxes, fees, or assessments by filing a business registration application (Form NJ-REG).

The new transient accommodations tax law does not apply to rentals made through licensed real estate brokers.

2019 WILDWOOD CREST BUDGET INFORMATION FROM THE CFO

The Borough of Wildwood Crest is currently finalizing the 2019 budget. The borough will be embarking on various capital projects, which include improvements to roads, street ends, signage and borough parks. New equipment and improvements to borough buildings are slated in this budget as well. The borough has been working hard to secure grants so that these projects are funded and will not be a burden to the taxpayers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (at Borough Hall): Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 5:30 pm; Wednesday, March 6, at 9:30 am; Wednesday, March 20, at 5:30 pm; Wednesday, April 3, at 9:30 am.

TOURISM COMMISSION (at Crest Pier): Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 4 pm; Wednesday, March 13, at 4 pm.

RECREATION COMMISSION (at Crest Pier): Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 5 pm; Wednesday, March 13, at 5 pm.

PLANNING BOARD (at Borough Hall): Wednesday, March 6, at 5 pm; Wednesday, April 3, at 5 pm.

ZONING BOARD (at Borough Hall): Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 5 pm; Tuesday, March 19, at 5 pm.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE (at Borough Hall): Tuesday, March 5, at 3:30 pm; Tuesday, April 2, at 3:30 pm.

GREEN TEAM (at Borough Hall): Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 2 pm; Wednesday, March 27, at 2 pm.

CREST NEWS TIDBITS

CREST NAMES NEW OEM COORDINATOR:

The Borough of Wildwood Crest has appointed Ron Harwood as its new Office of Emergency Management Coordinator. Harwood, who also serves as Wildwood Crest Fire Chief, is replacing current Wildwood Crest Police Chief Joseph McGrath as OEM Coordinator for Wildwood Crest. Harwood's duties as Wildwood Crest OEM Coordinator will include but are not limited to planning and directing disaster response and crisis management activities; providing disaster preparedness training and emergency plans and procedures for natural disasters such as hurricanes, tropical storms, snowstorms and flooding; working in concert with the Wildwood Crest Police Department and the Offices of Emergency Management of the Cape May County and the State of New Jersey regarding emergency management issues; and planning and directing any of the borough's potential dealings with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

TRASH/RECYCLING WINTER SCHEDULE:

Trash and recycling pickup for all zones will continue on the winter schedule through May 31. All zones receive trash and recycling collection once per week. Winter hours for drop-off of household trash and recyclables at the Department of Public Works recycling center are as follows: 7 am-2 pm Monday through Friday; 3-5 pm Saturday and Sunday. All residents and second homeowners must have the official Recycling Center tag at time of drop-off. Tags, which are good through April 2019, can be picked up from 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday at borough hall. Tags good for May 2019 through April 2020 will be available for pickup beginning April 1. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, tags can be picked up at the seven days a week at the Nesbitt Information Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For bulk trash items, contact DPW at 609-522-7446 to schedule a pickup day and time.

BEACH BOXES: The Borough of Wildwood Crest is currently exploring the possibility of making beach storage boxes available for rent for the summer months for residents and visitors. More information is expected to be available this spring.

2019 MUNICIPAL CALENDARS AVAILABLE:

The official 2019 Wildwood Crest Municipal Calendar is currently available. FREE copies of the calendar can be obtained at Borough Hall, the Crest Pier Recreation Center, the Joseph Von Savage Memorial Pool and the Wildwood Crest branch of the Cape May County library.

NEW STATE LAW CREATES RATE INCREASES AT VON SAVAGE POOL:

Membership and daily fees have increased at the Joseph Von Savage Memorial Pool due to a new law passed by the State of New Jersey that now requires the facility to staff two lifeguards during most open swim times. Information on memberships and daily rates can be obtained by calling the Von Savage Pool at 609-522-0084.