

## *We're Making Progress*

I am near the end of my first year as your Mayor, and I am pleased to report we have made much progress in reaching my goals for you and our City.

My four goals for our City are: efficient government, preserving our surroundings, responsible development and promoting community. From those, I listed these top priorities in my last *Gazette* message to you:



1. Adherence to the Master Plan, particularly in the area of rules relating to minimum lot sizes.
2. Achieving optimal efficiency and predictability in our business and development approval process.
3. Implementing our economic development plan through new programs that market and utilize Wildwood's many opportunities.
4. Obtaining the best resolution possible for the Ellisville Superfund Site, and bringing the matter to final conclusion.
5. Enhancing our relationships with state and federal legislators who are key to our goals.

Here's what we've done:

- ✓ We rejected several proposed developments that would have reduced minimum lot sizes, and would have altered the rules in the affected residential zoning areas.
- ✓ We obtained a comprehensive review from our City Attorney as to all of our key hearing and appeals procedures, and are reviewing it to eliminate any redundancies and unnecessary processes.
- ✓ Our City now has a new standing Committee – the Economic Development Committee. Its focus will be on ways we can improve our economic position.
- ✓ We engaged in extensive discussions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as to EPA's plan to delist the Callahan subsite from its Superfund status. We obtained the EPA's agreement to continue to work on the site as part of its Targeted Brownfield Assessment program, and will continue to vigorously oppose the delisting of the subsite.
- ✓ Our lobbyist selection process is well underway, and will finalize a decision in the near future. We have also forged new and solid relationships with key state and federal legislators who are important to our goals.

In closing, I would like to mention an important point concerning economic development. Our goal is not to follow the approach taken by many of our neighboring cities, or to alter our Wildwood way of life that we all value so much. Rather, the focus is to find ways to keep the good businesses that we have, and explore options to attract only those businesses that are consistent with our commitment to sound planning and our unique and beautiful surroundings that make us uniquely Wildwood.

None of this would be possible without your continued support. Thank you for that, and for the honor to serve you as Mayor.

I also want to acknowledge your Council Members listed in this *Gazette*. They are key team members who deserve credit for our many achievements.

Please always feel free to reach out to me to discuss any question or issue you may have. You can reach me at [jbowlin@cityofwildwood.com](mailto:jbowlin@cityofwildwood.com), on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mayorbowlin/>, or contact me on Twitter [@mayorbowlin](https://twitter.com/mayorbowlin).

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