



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

May 2023

Volume 17 Issue 1

**LWV VILLAGES/TRI-COUNTY
GENERAL MEETING**



**May 22nd – 10am
Manatee Recreation Center
1512 Hillsborough Trail**

You've probably heard the buzz about the upcoming changes scheduled for Wildwood's downtown district, but probably aren't aware of what will be happening or when. Now's your chance to get the scoop from Wildwood's City Manager, Jason McHugh. Mr. McHugh will be the guest speaker at our May General Membership meeting .

Once heavily reliant on rail and transportation, the City's economy is now centered on retail. Therefore, the City wants to spur investment and redevelopment within its downtown district. A Downtown Master Plan to facilitate redevelopment was adopted by the City Commission in November 2021 after multiple public participation events that engaged residents and business owners in the planning process. Projects are now underway with more scheduled to start in the near future.

Jason McHugh, City Manager, will give an overview of the community-driven vision for the future development of Wildwood.

NOTE: Due to community interest in this topic, a larger than normal audience is expected for this meeting. Since our meeting room has limited seating, we will open doors to members at 9:45 am and to the general public at 9:55.



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50/50 DRAWINGS Now at our General Meetings

Patricia Mees was the winner of the 50/50 drawing at our General Meeting in April. Feeling lucky? Join us at our next General Meeting on May 22nd for a chance to win!



Co President's Column



Tri-County Partners: Stronger Together

Our League is spearheading an effort to form a partnership with other non-partisan organizations in the Tri-County area who share common goals centered around voter empowerment. Our hope is we will be stronger together, which will allow us to better empower the voters in the Tri-County area. Our kick-off meeting was April 25. [READ MORE.](#)



April General Meeting Follow Up

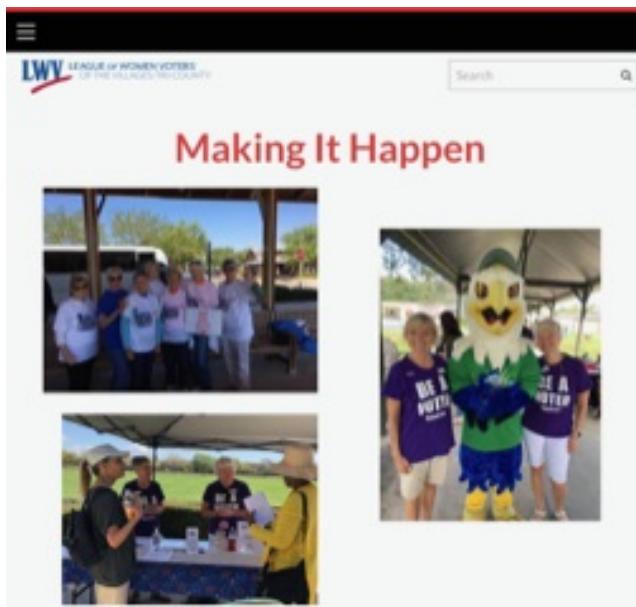
Wesley Wilcox, Supervisor of Elections for Marion County, was our speaker at the League's April General Meeting. The information he shared was so interesting that members didn't want him to leave! A few highlights from his presentation [READ MORE](#)

Summary of May Board Meeting

A summary of the April Board meeting can be found [HERE](#)

Voter Services

Trust that your vote counts! Track the status of your mail-in ballot, from printed to accepted. That is the statement listed on the sign-up page for BallotTrax. The Marion County Supervisor of Elections, Wesley Wilcox, introduced us to BallotTrax, when he spoke at our April 24, 2023 General Meeting. What is BallotTrax? Who can use BallotTrax? [READ MORE HERE](#)



Recognizing our Volunteers!

We have a new page on the website: [Making It Happen](#). It gives belated recognition to all our volunteers who have been making a difference in the Tri-County area since the 2022 elections. Please check it out and thank these hard-working members for their contributions.

This list of people who have worked on our projects is downright impressive. They represent a substantial percent of our membership.

If you haven't volunteered, consider raising your hand the next time we are looking for help. Being part of League projects is a great way to feel empowered. It's also a great way to meet some truly awesome members and truly feel a part of our organization.

So a big "thank you" to all of our volunteers. (And if your name was omitted by mistake, accept our apologies and let the [webmaster](#) know.)

Speaking of Volunteering

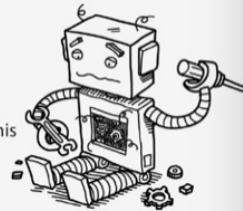
If you have an hour each

month to do a work-from-home project, contact our [webmaster](#). We have a simple task that ensures the links on our website are not broken. Broken links annoy our visitors and makes us look unprofessional. You can make a big difference with little effort. We give you a document with the links to external websites. You click each one. If you get the dreaded 404 Error, you let the webmaster know. That simple! Please help us out.



404. That's an error.

The requested URL/a_cool_website was not found on this server. That's all we know.



Membership News

For renewal information [CLICK HERE](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 22 - Jason McHugh Wildwood City Manager, Wildwood Master Plan

SUMMER BREAK

September 18 - Member input regarding our League's focus

October 23 - Kathy Compton, National Popular Vote

November 27 - General Meeting

December 11 - Holiday Luncheon Manatee Recreation Center

Book Corner with Kathy Porter

Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships
by Nina Totenberg

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and NPR Legal Affairs Correspondent Nina Totenberg first met in 1971, long before each attained superstar status. One of the main reasons their friendship took hold was because they both recognized how hard each had worked to climb the ladder of success. [READ MORE](#)



After 5 years as our Treasurer, Bernadette has stepped down. She has spent hours working for our League, managing the budget, handling donations, paying bills, and on and on. And during her time as Treasurer, she had implemented the use of Quicken and Square for money management. We thank her for all her hard work and are thrilled she will continue in a leadership position as Program Director. Thank you, Bernadette!

Editor Musings

Time for a summer break! Our next newsletter will be out mid September. Enjoy the summer, but be on the lookout for any notices of any events the League will be working with speaking, voter registration or anything else!

Beth

