

Citizen honored by appointment

Editor:

To: Mayor, Commissioners and City Administrator:

I have the honor to serve as the District 2 Representative on TransMAC (Transportation Mobility Advisory Commission). We had our organizational meeting last Thursday, January 30, 2025. I am making my way

through all the policies, procedures, handbook, ethics, and Sunshine materials in hand at this time as well as Orange County proposed 2025-2026 transportation expenditures. It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve Orange County. My focus is to ensure that we have the proper infrastructure in place to meet the current and ever-growing needs

to support our growth and the diverse transportation needs of our community. Please, if there is anything that I can do to better serve the City of Apopka as part of Orange County, please let me know. Thank you for what you do for the City. Stay safe and God's Speed.

Rod Olsen
Apopka

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3) (a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Geoff Summitt** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3091
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM RSF-1A (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY ESTATE DISTRICT) TO RSF-1B (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY-LARGE LOT), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 2260 PLYMOUTH SORRENTO ROAD; OWNED BY PARMANI FARMS LLC; AND 2244 SORRENTO AVENUE; OWNED BY MACAULAY GEORGE, COMPRISING 9.51 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 30-20-28-0484-00-085, 25-20-27-0000-00-022
Contains: 9.51 +/- Acres

Notice is given that a public hearing for **Ordinance Number 3091** will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 19, 2025 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Rezoning Application can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

February 7, 2025

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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EVERYBODY HAS AN OPINION. WHY NOT SHARE YOURS?
Send a letter to the Editor online: TheApopkaChief.com

Algae: Contact information given

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Current Water Status Information?

Current information about Florida's water quality status and public health notifications for harmful algae blooms and beach conditions is available at Protecting Florida Together. You can subscribe to receive notifications when water quality changes in your area.

Where Can I Report Issues Related to Algae Blooms?

* Algae Blooms: DEP monitors algae blooms and collects samples for analysis. Blooms can be reported to DEP online or by calling toll-free at 1-855-305-3903.

* Human Health: Report symptoms from exposure to a harmful algae bloom or any aquatic toxin

to the Florida Poison Information Center by calling 800-222-1222 to speak to a poison specialist.

* Animal Health: Contact your veterinarian if you believe your pet has become ill after consuming or having contact with blue-green algae contaminated water.

* Fish Kills: Dead, diseased, or abnormally behaving fish or wildlife should be reported to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission online or at 800-636-0511.

If you have other health questions or concerns about blue-green algae, please call DOH-Orange at 407-723-5004.

kent.donahue@flhealth.gov
407-858-1418 Orlando, Fla.

Byrd: Your minutes will add up

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the community and adults, as well. Anyone could log their minutes and donate their minutes to the school of their choice. Not only was this a great community builder, but it sent the message to the students that everyone enjoys reading - even the adults in their lives.

Well, the program last year was a huge success. Our goal was for the entire district to read one million minutes in the two months of the challenge. We surpassed that goal and read over two million minutes! But more importantly, the schools had a great time.

I was particularly pleased that the winning school out of all 26 schools in District 7 was a middle school! Our own Wolf Lake Middle School. Any time you can get middle school-

aged children to read, I consider that a win for sure.

The reason I give the background of the reading challenge is that this year we have big news! Our little reading challenge that started right here in Apopka has now been adopted by OCPS to run district-wide!

Every school in OCPS is participating currently in Let's Read OCPS. The district was so impressed with our success last year in my district that they enthusiastically wanted to expand the program for everyone in Orange County.

Let's Read OCPS kicked off on January 27 and will run through April 30. Everyone in Orange County is invited and encouraged to participate. Anyone can download the Beanstack app and join the challenge, then read and log your minutes each day.

We have the City of Or-

lando and Orange County Government participating as well, with Mayors Buddy Dyer and Jerry Demmings providing video encouragement!

The goal is 20 million minutes, and I think we will do it! The competition is already getting exciting what with the different school board member districts as well as between the schools. This is going to be fun, and I'm so proud of our school district for embracing this initiative as we find creative ways to encourage reading and community.

I encourage all *The Apopka Chief* readers to join in the challenge! You can log your minutes reading this column! Go to your app store and download the Beanstack app, then join the Let's Read OCPS challenge. It's very easy to set up an account. Join in the fun!

Moore: Plant information is shared

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teering takes place at free plant clinics, during which people receive help with their plant problems at the Extension facility at 6021 S. Conway Rd., Orlando. Master Gardener Volunteers also engage in free consultations by phone or email for those who cannot make it in person, as well as in "pop ups" at local Orange County libraries.

"Everyone wants a beautiful landscape, but some people buy plants that don't survive in this region, so they're wasting money on flora that aren't going to survive," asserted Chairez. "In this regard, Master Gardener Volunteers help residents save money and also save plants that need treatment against bacteria and fungi."

A citizen-driven initia-

tive, the program relies on dedicated volunteers passionate about gardening and committed to serving their communities... and the title is most certainly earned.

"Master Gardener Volunteers do this out of passion and the goodness of their hearts, which is nice to see in any community," said Chairez. "They're here to educate the community on sustainable gardening methods, so take advantage of their extensive knowledge."

You can meet our county Master Gardeners at the 2025 Garden Festival and Plant Sale on Sat., Mar. 1, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Extension Orange County, 6021 Conway Rd., 32812.

Key festival highlights include:

· Vendor Marketplace:

Discover a wide variety of plant species and unique gardening crafts from our diverse group of vendors.

· Educational Speakers: Gain insights from experts who will share tips and techniques on gardening and plant care, with a focus on embracing diversity in your garden.

· Food Trucks: Enjoy delicious offerings from local food trucks, with a selection of dishes that celebrate the culinary diversity of our community.

· Youth Activities: Hosted by both our Master Gardener Volunteers and Orange County 4-H, we will have a series of youth garden crafts and activities - fun for the whole family!

This is the place to speak with experienced gardeners and get fresh, Florida-friendly inspiration for your yard!

Hayden: Share your love with others

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hoods, cities, and our state. The only way to have good

neighbors, is to be a good neighbor!

Let's not waste the opportunity this new ad-

ministration is providing. As the Bible says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-40).

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group's award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall407-703-1700
Mayor's Office407-703-1701
City Administrator407-703-1649
City Clerk407-703-1704
Community Devel.407-703-1712
Code Enforcement407-703-1738
Finance Dept.407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-703-1741
Police Chief407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.).....407-703-1771
Job Line407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....407-703-1731
Street Maintenance407-703-1731
Utility Billing407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency..... 911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. **www.apopka.net**

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services.....407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags.....850-617-2000
Building Dept.....407-836-8550
County Mayor407-836-7370
County Commission.....407-836-7350
County Attorney407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue407-836-3111
Solid Waste407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....407-703-1731
Health Dept.407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-836-6200
Property Appraiser407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....407-836-4357
Utilities407-836-5515
All other departments407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency..... 911
www.orangecountyfl.net

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators
Rick Scott (Rep.) 202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....407-254-2573
U.S. Representative
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)..... 352-241-9220
State Representatives
Doug Bankson407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....unknown
State Senators
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) 407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner
Christine Moore407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools
Pupil assignment.....407-317-3233
Bus routes.....407-317-3800
Superintendent.....407-317-3200
School Board.....407-317-3200
Miscellaneous
The Apopka Chief407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....407-886-1441