

Preserve

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the site from the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) as part of a larger necessary effort to construct the Wekiva Parkway. At that time, this effort included protecting over 300 acres in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

“These acres complement and strengthen a network of nearby public lands, including the Sandhill Preserve, the Lake Lucy conservation area, Rock Springs Run State Reserve and Wekiwa Springs State Park,” Moore said. “By opening this wildlife preserve today, we’re making a promise to preserve our natural heritage and ensure that all of our Orange County citizens today, future that they really can understand what this community was, how important it is to preserve nature and the environment.”

The greeneyes wildflower, which is found at the preserve, is characterized by bright yellow petals and a green center disk. The flower emits what Orange County Environmental Protection Division manager Renee Parker described as a chocolatey scent.

To that end, the county gave away free chocolate bars to recipients at the grand opening. Whoever discovers a golden ticket in the bar — in keeping with the “Willy Wonka” theme — will receive a greeneyes flower to take home.

As part of the Green PLACE initiative, in 2021, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners committed to doubling the number of acres of environmentally sensitive lands under



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

Following the ribbon cutting, grand opening attendees were invited go on a hiking tour through Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve. The preserve features a hiking trail and interpretive walks such as “What’s under your feet?” that spotlights the sand hill landscape and wildlife.

protection by 2030 and thus, earmarked \$100 million for preserving wildlife habitats, wetlands and forests.

In 2024, the county added 23 new parcels, protecting an additional 1,357 acres and bringing the county’s total protected lands to about 25,000 acres.

In 2024, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognized Orange County government’s efforts through Green PLACE with the Executive Award of Regional Significance.

While awards are nice, that’s not the county’s motivation for land preservation,

said Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings. Rather, he the goal is to produce a healthier environment, safeguard air and water and give residents and visitors areas to connect with the outdoors.

“People want to live in places with access to nature. Companies want to invest in communities that prioritize sustainability. Our families want parks, trails and open spaces where they can unwind and enjoy the outdoors,” Demings said. “That’s why this preserve and others like it are an essential part of Orange County’s future. Every investment we make in con-

servation strengthens our local economy and enhances our resilience as we continue to grow.”

Orange County District 1 Nicole Wilson noted Orange County’s determination to land preservation.

“I just want to say how thankful I am for Orange County’s dedication to these types of places and spaces, and how every time I ever drive through an area like this, I look at the evolution of agriculture to suburban and I think if we don’t tuck away whatever we can, we’re not going to have anything left,” she said.

Police Beat

If a law enforcement agency charges you with a crime and this paper reports that information, please notify us within 90 days if the charge is dropped, or if you are found not guilty by the court. After verifying the information, we will be happy to publish it. Please send notification to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, 32704–0880.

In the period from February 23-March 1, 2025, the Apopka Police Department received 1,339 calls for service, responded to 31 crashes, issued 38 citations, and made 16 arrests. No Juveniles were charged.

The following adults were arrested and charged: Brian Lynn Brogan, 50, 2845 Grace St., Apopka, Apopka city ordinance-panhandling from vehicle on street.

Orvelin Diaz, 44, 547 Moon Rocker Ct., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Angela Marie Hefner, 38, 1616 Mabbette St., Kissimmee, resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Omari Rashaud Johnson, 26, 4019 Brinell Ave., Orlando, other agency warrant.

Sophie M Lippert, 30, Altamonte Springs, battery on person 65 years of age or older.

Yeyson Perez-Roblero, 22, 3816 Caledonia Ave., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Manuel Dejesus Rodriguez, 47, Apopka, assault-aggravated with intent to commit a felony; resist of-ficer-obstruct without vio-

lence; possession of weapon or ammo by convicted Florida felon.

Anthony Steven Rodriguez, 28, Apopka, kidnap-false imprisonment of person.

Hugo Javier Roza Lopez, 38, 1653 Hogue Ave., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-damage to property or person of another.

Anthony Michael Shaw, 35, general delivery, Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Joshua Matthew Sutton, 38, Apopka, battery-touch or strike; battery-commit domestic battery by strangulation; cruelty toward child-abuse child without great bodily harm.

Mark Edward Sutton, 64, general delivery, Apopka, municipal ordinance-violation section 42–151. — camping prohibited; excep-tions.

Maximo Manuel Velasquez-Gabriel, 29, 1405 Duval St. NE #25, Live Oak, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license 1st conviction.

Gilberto Villaseñor Curiel, 28, 603 Herb Hudson Ct., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle.

Bryant Tonard Williams, 48, 444 S. Hawthorne Ave., Apopka, other agency warrant; resist of-ficer-obstruct without violence; out-of-county war-rant.

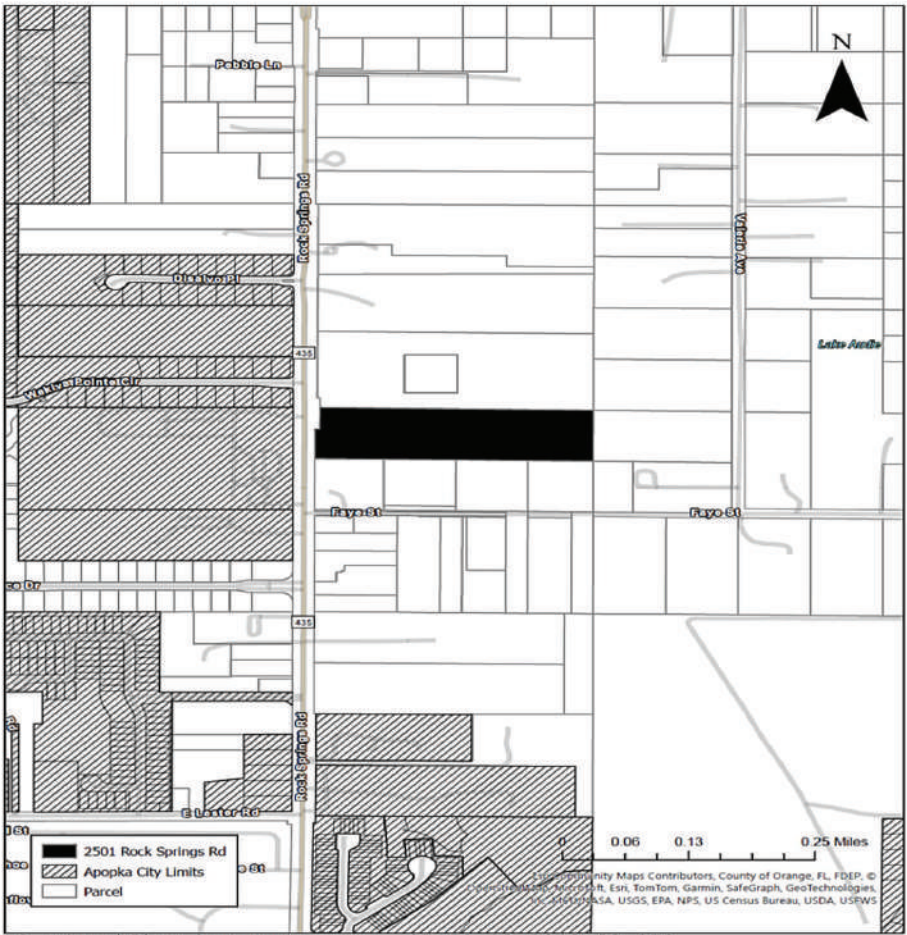
Jacob Ross Wilson, 23, Apopka, battery-touch of strike.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
ANNEXATION
CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **Elisabeth Crane** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of a property located at 2501 Rock Springs Road. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3094

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY BDT IRREVOCABLE INCOME ONLY TRUST; LOCATED AT 2501 ROCK SPRINGS ROAD, COMERISING 9.63 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 27-20-28-0000-00-072
Contains: 9.63 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for **Ordinance No. 3094** will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, March 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M** AND **Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Annexation 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

March 7, 2025

In Loving Memory of
Soraine B. Johnson-Fredricksen
Longtime Apopka resident Soraine B. Johnson-Fredricksen, 91, died on Feb. 17, 2025.
Soraine was born in 1933 to Soren and Winifred Fredricksen in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. She moved to the United States in the late 1950s and later settled in Apopka, where she lived for some 50 years. A vibrant soul with a boundless love for people and life, Soraine touched the hearts of everyone who knew her. A wonderful mother, cherished friend, and beloved family member, she lived each day with joy and creativity. Her love for nature and her family was evident in everything she did.
Known affectionately as “Great Grandma Smalls,” Soraine was the heart of her family, the masterful cook, the imaginative creator, and above all, the kindest spirit. She leaves behind a legacy of warmth, laughter, and unconditional love that will forever be treasured by those who had the privilege of knowing her.
Soraine is survived by children Mervin Johnson (Florida), Darryl Johnson (Florida) and Sharon Evans (California). She was predeceased by daughter Ruth Fialkiewicz.
Soraine will be buried on April 10 in Casselberry with her parents.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ADELBERT DOUGLAS RAULERSON
ADELBERT DOUGLAS RAULERSON KNOWN BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS AS DAD, PAPA, POPS, DEL AND DELBERT, PASSED AWAY **FEBRUARY 25, 2025** AT THE AGE OF 91. BORN ON **SEPTEMBER 29, 1933**. HE WAS A LIFELONG RESIDENT OF APOPKA WHO LIVED AND PASSED AWAY ON THE PROPERTY HE WAS BORN ON. HE WAS PREDECEASED BY HIS PARENTS, WESLEY B. RAULERSON AND MABEL STARBIRD RAULERSON, FOUNDING RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF APOPKA. HE IS SURVIVED BY CHILDREN DIANNE RAULERSON SPEGAL OF APOPKA AND DOUG RAULERSON OF APOPKA; GRANDCHILDREN ADAM SPEGAL OF APOPKA, DOUGLAS RAULERSON OF ODUM, GA, BRIAN SPEGAL OF APOPKA, STACY SUMMERLIN OF EUSTIS, JENNIFER RAULERSON OF APOPKA, VICTORIA RAULERSON OF KNOXVILLE, TN AND 10 GREAT GRANDCHILDREN.
TO ORDER MEMORIAL TREES OR SEND FLOWERS TO THE FAMILY IN MEMORY OF ADELBERT DOUGLAS GO TO
(<https://store.condolences.com/loomis-family-funeral-home/AA793182-F9B5-4231-99B6-6A860FBB6FAF/TREES>)
FOR FLOWERS (<https://store.condolences.com/loomis-family-funeral-home/AA793182-F9B5-4231-99B6-6A860FBB6FAF/FLOWERS>)

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