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# The Apopka Chief

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Friday, January 19, 2024 / 50 cents



The city and its partners held a groundbreaking for Miller's Ale House, a sports and entertainment casual dining restaurant, on the corner of South McGee Avenue and U.S. Highway 441/ Main Street at the Apopka City Center, on Monday, January 15.

## Miller's Ale House breaks ground at Apopka City Center

The Apopka City Center hit the ground running this year with a groundbreaking for Miller's Ale House, a sports and entertainment casual dining restaurant that, along with Winn-Dixie, will anchor the mixed-use development.

The city and its partners turned dirt at the restaurant site on the corner of South McGee Avenue and U.S. Highway 441/ Main Street. The restaurant will be 7,202 square feet and have a large outdoor dining area.

Wisdom Development Group, of Peoria, Ill., will develop Miller's Ale House. The

developer has built several centers, commercial parks, and free-standing restaurants including multiple Miller's Ale House locations across Central Florida.

"As soon as I saw the site proposed for Miller's Ale House in Apopka, I fell in love with it," said Mike Wisdom, Wisdom Development Group president/owner, in a statement. "The visibility, central location, easy access and position in Apopka City Center are perfect for the image and attractiveness we look for in a site. I know this will be a magnificent location for Miller's Ale House, and I am thrilled to have

the opportunity to bring this extremely popular restaurant to Apopka. We are positive this restaurant will be an excellent addition to the Apopka community, and that the residents will enjoy it immensely.

"Personally, I'd like to thank Mayor (Bryan) Nelson for his help in making this project possible. In my decades of development in the State of Florida, this is the only time a Mayor has gotten individually involved to make sure a project happens. I

See CENTER Page 5A

## City hires director of economic development

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council voted, 5-0, for the ratification of a new city economic development director, who will manage policies and direction and thus spearhead the city's economic growth and influx of businesses into the community.

The vote took place at the Wednesday, January 17, City Council meeting, in the council chamber of Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka.

According to the agenda, Joseph Patton, Human Resources Director, will present the ratification of Michelle Boylan as the economic development director. She begins her position on February 5.

According to the resume in the agenda packet, Boylan is currently the vice president for strategic initiatives for Enterprise Florida, Inc. She has held this position since January 2018.

She began at Enterprise Florida as the contracts and grants manager, reporting to the chief operating officer.

As vice president of strategic initiatives and compliance, Boylan

See CITY Page 3A

## City council seats 3 and 4 candidates report their 4th quarter contributions

The following list is of contributions received by the candidates for the Apopka municipal election that will be held Tuesday, March 19.

The list covers contributions made during the last quarter of 2023 to the candidates.

Two of the five seats on the City Council will be on the bal-

lot as Seat 3 Commissioner Kyle Becker has announced that he will not be running for re-election, and Nick Nesta will be running for re-election for Seat 4.

City election contributions  
October 1-December 31, 2023

See CONTRIBUTIONS Page 8A

## Fire Station 6 breaks ground across street from hospital

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The city and its partners broke ground on the permanent Fire Station 6, an 8,065 square-foot building that will get built on northeast corner of Harmon Road and Ocoee Apopka Road, on Friday, January 12.

Fire Station 6 will take about one year to complete, and will go up within the vicinity of AdventHealth Apopka at the S.R. 414/S.R. 429 interchange.

Constructing the permanent Fire Station 6 will reduce response times in the city's southwest region, according to Apopka Fire Chief Sean Wylam.

"Response times and outcomes are directly re-



The city and its partners broke ground on the permanent Fire Station 6, an 8,065 square-foot building that will get built on northeast corner of Harmon Road and Ocoee Apopka Road, on Friday, January 12.

lated in all aspects of fire emergency services. This reduction in response times increases the survivability period. It provides overall better outcomes for the aforementioned stakeholders involved in emergent events, as well as provid-

ing a sense of security for the southwest region of our city."

The city's southwestern hub includes: AdventHealth Apopka and the Northwest Distribution Center; the communities of Emerson Park, Breck-

enridge, Apopka Woods, Magnolia Park Estates and Marden Ridge Apartments; and toll roads 429, 414 and 451.

The southwest region is what the current Fire Station 6 temporary facility has been responding to

since it first opened in December 2017, in correlation with the opening of the then-new AdventHealth Apopka campus at the S.R. 414/S.R. 429 interchange. The December 2017 opening of the temporary Fire Station 6 coincided with

the opening of the then-new campus of the AdventHealth campus, which had relocated from its Park Avenue, Apopka, facility.

"We opened this campus across the street in 2017, and when we did that, we became roommates with Station 6," said Parker Pridgen, AdventHealth Apopka CEO. "They have been fantastic roommates. And while we are sad to see them go, we find peace and joy in the fact that they're not going far. They're staying right across the street. This marks a milestone in the development of this corridor. AdventHealth is excited to continue to support the health, the wellbeing,

See FIRE Page 9A

## City hires attorney for 1 year contract

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

*Note: This is the third of a four-part series reviewing the news in Apopka in 2023 as written in the pages of The Apopka Chief. This week covers July, August and September.*

The City Council rehired an attorney as the city's legal representation at his firm's proposed retainer fee for a one-year contract for a \$15,000 per month retainer at a maximum of 65 hours per month. ... Announced on Monday, July 3, five volunteers at Weki-

wa Springs State Park have received national recognition for their volunteer service. ... Fireworks filled the sky at the Apopka amphitheater to cap the city's July Fourth Celebration on Tuesday, July 4.

Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and Orange County District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore cut the ribbon of Orange County Parks and Recreation's \$2 million newly covered ring at Clarcona Horse Park on Monday, July 10. ... The Apopka City Council vot-

See 2023 Page 7A

## In praise of Dr. King



The 15th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade marched on Monday, January 15, beginning at the Apopka Community Center and ending at the John H. Bridges Community Center, where a program was performed to honor the civil rights leader. Pictured is Temple of Faith, which won Best Church Float Award in the parade. See more pictures on page 12A.

### This week

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Apopka Event of the Week

Bilingual Fun Time Para Niños, Wednesday, January 24, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., at the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., meeting room. Learn and practice Spanish with us de una manera divertida (in a fun way)! Celebrate Valentine's Day by learning vocabulary about friendship and creating a gift for a friend. Recommended for ages 5-9

Quotable

The regulated parties who stand to be harmed by the new regulation challenge the agency's interpretation in court.

Guest editorialist on reasons for changing court's previous interpretation

Opinion

The Apopka Chief  
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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**Reporters**  
Teresa Sargeant  
Marshall Tempest, Neal Fisher

**General Mgr Emeritus**  
Neoma Knox

Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Time to throw Chevron overboard:  
Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo

by John A. Sparks  
Institute for Faith and Freedom

Suppose that you owned a manufacturing business for which the government prescribed certain production regulations, and suppose, further, that the government demanded that you provide office space for a federal observer to monitor your operation. Finally, suppose that the government now claimed that you had to pay that observer's salary. This is essentially what a group of commercial Atlantic herring fisheries are now facing and what led them to bring legal action asking the courts to rein in this regulatory overreach. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear their case and others that are related.

Here are the facts: In 1976, Congress passed, and President Gerald Ford signed, the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), which targeted what is commonly called "overfishing." The stated purpose was to promote recreational and commercial fishing "under sound conservation and management principles." The Secretary of Commerce was to be the chief overseer, but he delegated the task of regulation to an administrative agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In only three specific instances in the MSA did Congress expressly require the fishing industry to cover the cost of compliance observers. One was the North Pacific region, mostly fished by large enterprises. Another was on foreign vessels fishing in our waters. The last was a complex arrangement called the "limited access program" which established fishing quotas for certain fishing companies. The remainder of commercial fishing businesses could be required to have observers on board, but the government appropriated funds to pay them, not the businesses.

In summary then, the MSA did not mandate industry-funded inspectors in other fishing areas besides the three just mentioned. Nevertheless, the NMFS issued new regulations which would impose just such a plan on a major but completely different fishing local - namely, the New England area (Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut).

The plaintiffs in this case are owners of small enterprises fishing in the New England waters. They strenuously object to the additional financial burden that this will impose on what are largely family-owned and operated

businesses. These fishing firms have already lived through losing some of the limited crew space on their boats in order to accommodate the compliance observers. But paying the salaries of these regulatory agents exceeds the limits of their endurance. They have said, in effect, this far and no farther. Even using the NMFS's own estimates, these small family ventures will have to pay \$710 per day to compensate the at-sea monitor, thus reducing the profit return to the owner by approximately 20 percent. Failure to pay the monitoring inspector is not an option because such a refusal would mean completely losing the right to fish in the New England area.

One would expect that without new, express congressional authorization for this costly and intrusive requirement, the judicial determination of their cases would be a simple one. Silence on the part of Congress in this case means that the regulatory agency is foreclosed from acting until Congress legislates to include the New England area in the funding requirement.

Nevertheless, the lower courts ruled against the private fishing companies. Why? Both courts that heard the case - the Federal District Court and the DC. Circuit Court of Appeals - relied upon a 1984 Supreme Court case titled, *Chevron USA, Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.* The opinion created a legal doctrine called "judicial deference."

What is judicial deference? It often surfaces when a regulatory agency proposes a new policy or action which it claims is within its administrative discretion because Congress has not spoken directly on the issue, or, if it has, it has spoken "ambiguously." The regulated parties who stand to be harmed by the new regulation challenge the agency's interpretation in court. The Chevron opinion, however, favors the administrative agency. It maintains that a court, hearing such a case, should defer to the agency's interpretation if that interpretation is not unreasonable. The court should not substitute its own interpretation of what the statute says or does not say for the regulatory agency's interpretation.

Back to the fishing case. The complaining fishing companies say that Chevron should not apply at the



CFX works to solve traffic problems

Serving on local transportation boards is consequential to moving projects forward that benefit District 2 residents. One noteworthy project for CFX is the new Orange/Lake County Expressway connecting SR 429 south of District 2 with Hwy 27 in Lake County.

In case your sense of geography cannot place this connector, called SR 516, it is near the back entrance to Disney World off SR 429. If you have ever been stuck in traffic on I-4 in Osceola County, south of the attractions, this road will benefit you. This alternative will improve your travel time by taking US

County Commissioner  
District 2



Christine Moore

27 near Haines City north to the connector or SR 516 and then crossing eastwards along the one-mile new expressway to reach SR 429.

An additional benefit of this new roadway will be Valencia State College. If you weren't aware, a future Horizon West Campus

of Valencia State College will be located off this connector.

The Notice to Proceed for construction is anticipated to be issued in April of this year with the project completed in the fourth quarter of 2027. We will be celebrating the start of the \$219-million-dollar segment with a groundbreaking ceremony in March.

I love new roadway groundbreakings. Twenty years ago, when SR 429 first opened, I took my then elementary school children with their bikes to ride on the pavement prior to the

See MOORE Page 4A

Government regulations are costly

Once again, the Florida Legislature has convened for its annual Legislative Session. While many people believe schools are locally run, much of what we do at Orange County Public Schools is built based on legislation and regulations handed down from our state government.

This includes much of our budget, our curriculum and more. Oftentimes, the legislation and regulation from Tallahassee have significant costs to implement and can change how we serve our students and parents.

For instance, Orange County Public Schools has spent \$400,000 implementing the new laws from last session requiring cataloging what books are in our

Orange County School  
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

classroom libraries.

That's why every year, I travel to Tallahassee to talk with our state legislators. I enjoy going to the Capitol to share helpful information with legislators as they begin to tackle the new laws and legislation that will affect our public schools.

It seems each year the list of education bills that get introduced grows, and this session appears to be

no different.

In total, over 200 bills have been filed this session that could affect your local community school.

Ironically, three of the bills deal with the deregulation of education in our state.

"Every year, more and more regulations are put on our school districts. Telling districts what to do and how to do it was supposed to ensure quality and demand accountability, but it can also stifle innovation," Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) said recently. "Reducing bureaucratic red tape will give public schools that have served our communities for generations a meaning-

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

"You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine."  
Titus 2:1

Mema Says

Sometimes you can get so busy saving others, that you don't realize you are drowning.

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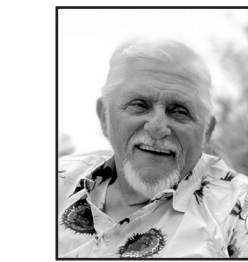


The war against it continues to be a problem for tiny nation of Israel

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain.

One thing I learned from being a truck driver for thirty-five years is that you never stop and wait for the storm to pass, but you keep on driving until you drive out of it.

When you have a deadline to meet, there are many obstacles to overcome and if your attention is drawn to the problem instead of being directed to the solution, you will be



Ike Hayden

stymied in your efforts. We see the tiny nation of Israel trying to finish their mission by driving on to their objective of ridding the world of a group of terrorists dedicated to wiping the

Israeli nation and all Jewish populace from off the face of the Earth.

Those living in Gaza were under extreme hardship because they chose Hamas to govern their community. For the last twenty years, Israel has left Gaza to her own devices, and they chose to be ruled, rather than governed. After choosing Hamas as their ruling body, they suffered harsh conditions because Hamas spent time and the inhabitants of Gaza's money in preparation of war

against Israel.

Palestine is not a nation. It is a parcel of land that was inhabited by Arabs. If you think otherwise, let me ask what are her borders and when were they created? What form of currency did they create? What foreign policy did they embrace? All these questions can be answered by secured nations and there are no answers from those living in the Palestine area.

In 1967, Yasser Arafat joined the Palestine Libera-

tion Organization (PLO) and coined the name Palestinian for the people living in that area. The Israelis have never begrudged the Arabs having a place to work, raise children, and have dwelling places they could call home. Israel's occupation was not for intimidation, but for protection from radical extremists that never recognized Israel, and wreaked havoc against them wherever and whenever they could, many times killing innocent Arabs living in the area.

Even though the schools were teaching children to hate all Jews, and to kill them if the possibility arose, the Israeli military's presence kept the Palestine area a safer, and a more prosperous place for daily living. Today, Israel has been at the forefront of medical innovations, and rather than keep the processes to themselves, they share them with the world for good.

During WWII, they

See HAYDEN Page 4A



# City: Rotary Club eyes land to build community center

*Continued from page 1A*

serves as second in command to the senior vice president of business development, according to her resume.

Prior to her time at Florida Enterprise, Boylan was director of Business and operations for Florida's Heartland Redi, Inc., and Florida Rural Broadband Alliance.

In January 2023, the City

Council voted 3-2 to use \$200,000 from the city's coronavirus funds to establish an economic development department so it could push the city's economic development forward.

## Rotary Community Center

As the Rotary Club of Apopka approaches its 100-year anniversary, the Rotary Club of Apopka is moving forward with an initiative to create a community center in Apopka.

ter in Apopka.

Bill Spiegel of the Rotary Club addressed the City Council during the public comment section to request being placed on the agenda for consideration. He asked the Council to consider granting the club a long-term land lease for approximately three acres of undeveloped land near Wells Street and Grossenbacher Drive where Buchan's Pond is. This area is part of the

Apopka Athletic Complex property next to Apopka High School. The property is approximately 13.5 acres, but the Rotary Club is only interested in the three acres, Spiegel said.

The Rotary Club has been working on a capital campaign for this project for a few years and has employed an architect for site renderings and elevations.

The Rotary Club also received a generous donation from

Richard and Shirley Risser, the metal buildings that were on their Kelly Park Road property, Spiegel said.

The two buildings for the proposed community center are approximately 3,700 square feet and 2,500 square feet, with also 2,000 square feet of coverage area.

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**THE BEEKEEPER (R)** 1:10; 4:10; 7:10; 10:10  
**NIGHT SWIM (PG-13)** 1:50; 4:50; 7:50; 10:40  
**ANYONE BUT YOU (R)** 1:40; 4:40; 7:40; 10:30  
**AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM (PG-13)** 12:50; 3:50; 6:50; 9:40  
**MIGRATION (PG)** 1:00; 4:00; 6:40; 9:00  
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## 50th Anniversary Celebration

**Join us**  
**Sunday, January 21**  
**TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Celebration begins at 10:15 a.m.

The celebration will include the TCS Band and Chorus,  
Guest Speaker Jeff Keaton with RenewaNation, and  
Recognition/Fellowship Luncheon to follow.

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# AHS band director seeking community support for trip

**Dear Editor:**  
The Apopka High School Marching Band has been specially selected to march in the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington DC mid-April, and we are looking for local sponsors to support our band as we

send them to represent our school and Apopka community.  
Over 180 students and chaperones will be taking the trip and as you can imagine there are a million parts and pieces that must be included, such as instruments, uni-

forms, and transportations just to name a few.  
How can you support us? We are welcoming all contributions from food to funding.  
Individual students are paying \$1500 to attend, but we would like your help with some of

the additional expenses:  
\*Event t-shirts and sweatshirts  
\*Snacks and water  
\*Instrument transport fees  
\*Student scholarships.  
Checks can be made payable to Apopka High

School – Marching Band.  
If you are donating items, please contact lara.brennan@ocps.net and arrangements will be made for pick-up.  
As a special thank you for your kindness, we will be sure to include you as a contributor on

our t-shirt, so the community can see you were a sponsor of this prestigious event.  
Thank you for your support.  
**Jeremy Langford**  
Apopka High School  
Band Director

## Moore: Benefits of limited access roadways include less driving time

*Continued from page 2A*

roadway opening. How fitting that a young mom so interested in roadway projects is now serving on two major transportation boards.  
At my last meeting, I was also presented with an economic impact and benefits study for the CFX Five-Year Work Plan by Dr. Concas, Ph.D., a USF professor, on Autonomous and Connected Mobility Evaluations.  
As an amateur historian, I previously recognized the economic impact for a community on receiving cutting-edge transportation

improvements. Imagine the time when our world went from water travel to trains, to automobiles, to airplanes, to the internet. The world changes and to be forward-thinking is to be more prosperous.  
Dr. Concas lists the economic impact of the new CFX roadways to include: \$3.8 billion in GDP, 7,157 new jobs, \$2.4 billion in wages and income, and an additional \$214 million in local and state tax revenue. If this isn't enough, read about the annual travel benefits.  
The CFX Five-year work plan results in \$1.4 billion in travel-time sav-

ings – or \$1,044 per household. I joked with Dr. Concas that perhaps idling in a Chick-fil-A drive-through was not a financial or environmental benefit.  
How about this one in reducing the economic impact of reduced crash costs by \$106.1 million? Also consider \$18.7 million in reduced environmental impacts (tailpipe emissions) and improvements, saving each household an avoidance of congested travel. These commuters gain more than 69 additional hours per year.  
The professor evaluated the impacts of these new limited access roadways in

three buckets; project expenditures based on employment and business output, travel improvements and results based on travel time savings, crash reductions, out-of-pocket cost saving to drivers; emission reductions; the economic benefits for employment, business output, household savings, and new local tax revenues.  
It is worth repeating that the travel-time savings of the new CFX roadways are 69 hours annually. Again, this is realized by reducing wasted travel time. Out-of-pocket cost savings include \$78.9 million in gasoline which

translates to \$68 per household. And, then, \$10.6 million in savings on medical expenses from crash avoidance. Limited access roadways are safer than those arterials near your home. This is due to reduced points of conflict.  
On a limited access roadway, you are going in one direction with fewer cars entering and leaving the highway.  
Finally, the indirect and induced effect of household cost savings includes \$64.7 million in GDP and additional support jobs of 548.  
Next time you drive along major highways,

think about all the benefits of this improved form of travel.  
I know SR 429 gets blamed for the planned growth in northwest Orange County. I had not considered all these other benefits of SR 429.  
I know the proposed second deck along SR 414 through Lockhart will create an alternate quicker route for me to drive back and forth to my home in Apopka.  
I will now think more fondly of I-4 in reducing the time and money with my long commute.

## Byrd: 3 public education deregulation bills passed 39-0 by Senate

*Continued from page 2A*

ful chance to compete right alongside other school choice options that are now available to every child, in every family across our state.”  
I couldn't agree more.  
As your school board member, it's been disheartening to see how little your locally elected school board can change how we educate our children. After all, should Orange County, the 9th largest school district in the country, run its schools like rural Levy

County?  
Last week, the Senate convened in a floor session and all three public education deregulation bills (SB 7000, SB 7002 and SB 7004) were passed by unanimous votes of 39-0.  
SB (Senate Bill) 7000 provides school districts additional authority related to teacher certification and training, instructor contracts and salary schedules, personnel evaluations, and collective bargaining.  
Two highlights include expanding eligibility requirements for the teach-

er apprenticeship program and establishing a 10-year renewable professional certificate for applicants rated highly effective. Both would be helpful tools in teacher retention and recruitment efforts, something we have been struggling with in Florida.  
SB 7002 primarily removes unnecessary regulations on school districts to advance efficient administrative processes, enhance facilities management, and simplify financial requirements.  
This bill simplifies

the process for rulemaking for school districts as well as advertising requirements for meetings, reduces financial reporting for districts in good standing, and most importantly allows for more flexibility in spending so local districts have more control.  
Finally, SB 7004 provides school districts additional authority related to prekindergarten programs, retention and graduation, assessments, school improvement, instructional materials, and reporting. This bill addresses a lot in-

cluding VPK, and third-grade retention, and most notably, removes the requirement to pass the Algebra 1 and 10th grade ELA (English Language Arts) exam from graduation requirements.  
On the surface, most of these sound good. There is certainly enough red tape in the work of public schools that frequently makes it difficult to always do what is right for our children and community. We welcome the thought. We just have to be sure that we continue to keep the high standard that

we expect from our local schools.  
It is only the first week of the 60-day session. Most of the 200 bills won't make it to law and many will change considerably over the next two months, but there is sure to be a lot of discussion about these bills.  
When I visit with legislators, they always want to know how these bills will help or hurt our local school district.  
I hope to have some great discussions with them.

## Hayden: Hitler’s WWII hatred of Jews is once again rearing its ugly head

*Continued from page 2A*

were one of the greatest champions of freedom through Democratic living. Adolf Hitler was absolutely indwelt with an ungodly hatred for the Jewish race, but he also hated blacks, Christians, and all other races except the Aryan race (white, blue eyed, blond haired). He focused on removing the Jewish popula-

tions, but if Hitler's forces would have won WWII, every one would have been affected by his delusions of a "super" race, and his elimination of all "inferior" races.  
During WWII, the Israeli Intelligence Corps and their underground activities were one of the deciding factors that allowed the United States and all our allies to be triumphant in

the end. When anti-Semitic rhetoric becomes popular in our colleges and schools of higher learning, you can be sure evil is lurking and enticing those willing to listen to promote hate, discrimination, and segregation.  
I cannot help but think that the evil that was manifest in Adolf Hitler and inspired him to start with the elimination of Jews is once

again rearing its ugly head. Remember, the Jews were just the beginning.  
Who will be next? Perhaps Christians around the world. Even now, they are being persecuted in many places.  
Even the United States of America is becoming anti-Christian in our educational system. No more prayer in schools, no Judeo-Christian Bibles (even

though the earliest reading primers were scripture-related).  
Our governmental system was founded on Judea-Christian principles, and much of our Constitution was designed after our Creator's revealings in His precious love letter, the Bible.  
In retrospect, I believe what John F. Kennedy (our 35th President) said about Israel:

"Israel was not created to disappear. Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope, and the home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity, nor demoralized by success.  
"It carries the shield of democracy, and it honors the sword of freedom."  
I believe the same can be said of Christianity.  
So, let us learn to dance!

## Chevron: Decision was constitutionally wrong by taking away authority

*Continued from page 2A*

very least. Congress' intention is clear. It authorized industry-funded observers in just three cases. Congress has spoken and it has spoken without ambiguity. Until it speaks otherwise, NMFS cannot override that congressional clarity.  
To further buttress their case, the plaintiff fisheries rightfully point out that during the four decades since Chevron, whenever there have been legislative attempts to expand the authority for industry-funded monitors/observers, the legislation *has failed*. Furthermore, NMFS argues that it is required to act with new regulations because Congress has not fully

funded more observers. That argument, say the fishing companies, is glaring proof of the restraint of the "power of the purse" to curb overly zealous regulatory agencies.  
This case and others being heard this term have to do with what is often referred to as the growth of the administrative or regulatory sector. Chevron has been a large part of the reason for that growth. After Chevron, reliance of the courts upon this doctrine of judicial deference naturally has encouraged greater regulatory boldness. In many cases, administrative agencies have claimed power well beyond what Congress intended. At the same time, the Chevron doctrine has diminished

the courts' power to curb such expansion.  
More fundamentally, as law Professor *Philip Hamburger* has pointed out, the Chevron decision was *constitutionally wrong* because it took away the rightful authority of the courts to engage in the interpretation of statutes, arguably one of their most important functions as appellate courts. Though the Supreme Court has declined to use Chevron in recent cases where litigants raised it, what is needed now is for Chevron to be overruled.  
Otherwise, lower courts will feel bound to apply it. The regulatory state will continue to gradually take more and more of the liberty of American

citizens.  
As Professor Hamburger puts it forcefully when referring to the administrative/regulatory sector, "*It now has become a feral, brazenly overrunning constitutional limits and threatening our civil liberties.*"  
  
—Dr. John A. Sparks is the retired Dean of Arts & Letters, Grove City College and a Fellow in the Institute for Faith and Freedom. He is a member of the state bar of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Grove City College and the University of Michigan Law School. Sparks writes regularly for the Institute on Supreme Court developments.

### 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.

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City Clerk 407-703-1704  
Community Devel. 407-703-1712  
Code Enforcement 407-703-1738  
Finance Dept. 407-703-1725  
Fire (non-emerg.) 407-703-1756  
Parks and Rec. Dept. 407-703-1741  
Police Chief 407-703-1769  
Police (non-emerg.) 407-703-1771  
Job Line 407-703-1743  
Solid Waste Collect. 407-703-1731  
Street Maintenance 407-703-1731  
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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**

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Marco Rubio (Rep.) 407-254-2573  
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Daniel Webster (Dist. 11) 352-241-9220  
**State Representatives**  
Doug Bankson 407-476-6787  
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45) unknown  
**State Senators**  
Geraldine Thompson (Dist. 11) 407-297-2045  
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Christine Moore 407-836-7350  
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# Center: City rejected many offers before Miller's

*Continued from page 1A*

know that one of the Mayor's priorities has been to bring more high-quality, sit-down restaurants to the community. Miller's Ale House will be excellent progress toward achieving that goal."

Located at the U.S. Highway 441/S.R. 436 interchange, the Apopka City Center is a 35-acre mixed-use development that now consists of the Highland Manor as an event and wedding venue, the 118-room Hilton Garden Inn, and boutique

photography studio Rinat Halon Photography.

In August 2023, Winn-Dixie opened at the Apopka City Center. Also coming to the City Center are a food hall and brewery, as well as a 13-acre, 195-unit residential complex.

"It's been a little while coming," Apopka Mayor Bryan Nelson said. "I know that folks have thought, 'Well, maybe it's never going to happen,' but you can see we've got equipment ready to go. We just got to get the permits ready to get them out here and moving dirt around."

Wisdom Development Group is the restaurant's preferred developer.

"Any project we work for Mike, he delivers the site on time. It's just smooth and easy. Once we get the site, it's about 160 days for the building construction," said John Leonard, head of development for Miller's Ale House.

"The city has been absolutely welcoming to us and has shepherded us through the entire process," said Ginger Simoons, Miller's Ale House senior manager of construction and development. "We, just a year

ago, started talking about this and here we are. We're actually going to turn some dirt today, and you can see it's right here in front of us. So, in no time we'll be announcing what our opening date is, and then we would love for you to all come and join us."

Over the years, many offers had come in to set up on the site where Miller's Ale House will get built, but the city and its City Center partner Taurus had to pass on them, according to Craig Govan, development partner for Taurus. That was not the case with

Miller's Ale House.

"When Miller's Ale House came, it was an easy decision and with the full commission's support and the mayor, this was the perfect fit," Govan said. "I'll tell you, the first day it was announced that Miller was coming a few days ago, they actually closed on the land. I've already been approached by other restaurants to occupy other parcels. So, this is a huge catalyst, and we're very excited that they're coming and it's going to lead to picking the right partners for the rest of the site."

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## Voter registration deadline for upcoming Apopka election is Monday, February 19, 5 p.m.

The city of Apopka will a general election on Tuesday, March 19, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., at assigned precincts, for two council seats: Council Seat 3, currently held by Kyle Becker, and Council Seat 4, currently held by Nick Nesta.

Candidates running for Seat 3 are Nadia Anderson and Darryl Richardson to replace Becker, who announced late last year that he won't seek re-election.

Candidates running for Seat 4 are incumbent Nesta and Eric Mock, challenger.

If necessary, there will be a runoff election at a date yet to be determined by the Orange County Supervisor of Election. (OC-

SOE) Early voting will be held at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Post 10147, located at 519 S. Central Ave.

Voters may also go to the OCSOE office, located at 119 W. Kaley St., Orlando.

If you are not a registered voter at this time, the registration books will be open until Monday, February 19, at 5 p.m.

Please note that the OCSOE office will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., on Saturday, February 17, to allow people to come in and register for the first time or to make necessary changes to their information prior to the book close.

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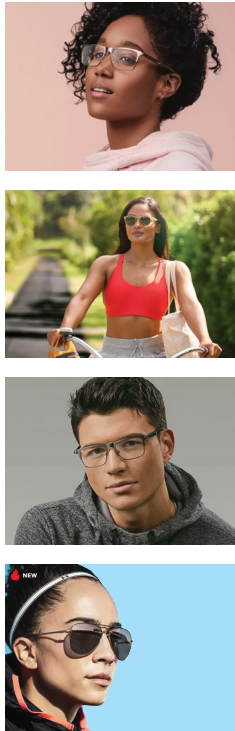
According to the American Optometric Association, struggling to see clearly can be the beginning of many downstream problems for children, such as low grades, misdiagnosed attention deficit disorders, or lack of self-confidence. The organization notes that 1 in 4 children in the U.S. has a vision disorder that needs to be diagnosed and treated.

"Undiagnosed vision problems at any age can affect one's quality of life. In children it can hinder reading skills, but also with their social interaction and confidence with their peers. Close to 80% of learning takes place through a child's eyes. Since a child's eyesight changes frequently, regular eye and vision care is crucial to a student's classroom performance," stated Dr. David Dada, owner, and operator of **Essential Eyecare & Optical**.

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*Pictured above is Dr. Dada, OD/BS, owner of Essential Eye Care & Optical. He takes pride in catering to all vision needs with high quality eye exams, optical goods, and a quick turn-around on your eyewear. Call (407) 893-2733 to make an appointment.*



rected vision problem, it may affect their ability to learn and reach their highest potential. If you notice your child squinting, rubbing their eyes, having trouble concentrating, or complaining of headaches after doing schoolwork, make an appointment with an eye doctor. An eye doctor can check your child for these conditions and other vision problems and provide treatment when needed, stated Dr. Dada.

The staff at **Essential Eyecare & Optical** knows that good eye health is a critical element of total well-being for people of all ages. They specialize in understanding how the human eye really works, as well as diseases and conditions that affect your vision, many of which do not have obvious symptoms. They know how age and risk factors affect vision over time for the young and old.

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range of eye health service to clients of all ages, from children to older adults, providing routine eye exams and vision tests, eye disease diagnosis and management, immediate attention for eye emergencies, and complete eye health management. And they offer corrective laser eye surgery co-management as well.

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An Apopka native, Dr. David Dada attended high school at Forest Lake Academy. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from

Gainesville's University of Florida, and a Bachelor's of Vision Science and Doctor of Optometry at NOVA Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

Dr. Dada's comprehensive professional training has taken him to various state-of-the-art clinics, such as the VA Clinic, specialty OMD clinics, and various OD-OMD practices. These experiences have shaped him into an exceptionally skilled optometrist. His passion for outreach has led him to participate in different mission trips, including the National Optometric Student Associate and One Sight.

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# 2023: Planning Commission approves major development plan

Continued from page 1A

ed 4-1 to put on its August 2 agenda a resolution to censure Mayor Bryan Nelson “for misleading the City Council and, by the same, the people of Apopka through untruthful public comments regarding the employment status of the city attorney” Michael Rodriguez, according to that Commissioner Kyle Becker read from the resolution. ... The Apopka Planning Commission voted and recommended approval for the major development plan for a 144-bed behavioral health hospital that may bring the city an estimated \$21 million annual economic impact. ... Orange County government will make new grants available for small businesses, home-based businesses, and gig workers through a \$26-million grant program that will launch Tuesday, July 18.

Many reasons caused the City Council to table a resolution that would have two Apopka roads bear the name of one of the city’s longest serving commissioners, Bill Arrowsmith. ... Hannibal Square Community Land Trust, its partners and elected officials broke ground on an \$8,080,000, 24-townhome development in downtown Apopka on Friday July 14, with the hopes of bringing more affordable housing to the city and Orange County to address the growing population. ... The city is advising families to begin removing unpermitted items from their gravesites in the city-owned cemetery by July 31, before cemetery caretakers start doing so on August 1.

On Wednesday, July 26, The Apopka City Council unanimously approved to set the tentative millage rate for fiscal year 2024 at 4.1876 mills. The proposed millage rate is for the proposed 2024 city budget

has not been revealed as of press time. The FY23 budget is \$146,298,297. ... The Apopka City Council recognized the Apopka High School boys bowling team at the July 19 council meeting for winning its second national championship, a feat the team achieved this past June. ... The Community Redevelopment Area Board reviewed its fiscal year 2024 budget worth \$4,163,599 on July 19 at City Hall, one hour before the regularly scheduled Apopka City Council meeting. Of the \$4.16 million budget, about 60 percent of that – \$2,515,629 – has been earmarked for the Downtown Apopka Trail’s development.

## August

The Apopka City Council voted 3-1 on a resolution to censure the mayor “for misleading the City Council, and by the same actions, the people of Apopka through untruthful public comments regarding the employment status of the former City Attorney” Michael Rodriguez at the Wednesday, August 2, council meeting. ... The Lake Apopka Natural Gas District Board of Directors voted unanimously, 4-0, to accept the developer agreement for the district to expand its natural gas system throughout the new Apopka subdivision Wolf Lake Ranch at the estimated cost of \$56,489. ... For the 13th year in a row, AdventHealth Orlando has been named the No. 1 hospital in Metro Orlando by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2023-2024 Best Hospitals listing. ... The Florida Economic Consortium welcomed the Wekiva Youth Sports Association (also known as the Wekiva Jr. Mustangs Pop Warner) into the FEC’s Orange County Youth Violence Prevention Initiative that, through a six-month performance-

based contract, could be awarded \$12,000.

Within the last few months, the Apopka Historical Society has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for a three-part project that will focus on commemorating the area known as Mead’s Bottom, where the Apopka City Center and Martin’s Pond are located. ... Prior to students returning to school on Thursday, August 10, Orange County Public Schools leaders and law enforcement officials delivered important safety messages for students, family and the community at a Tuesday, August 8, press conference at Riverdale Elementary School in Orlando. ... Raising a total of \$5,684 for Second Chance Animal Rescue and Sanctuary, Asher, a 10-year-old border collie, was elected the first Honorary Apopka Dog Mayor. ... The Apopka Police Department released a Friday, August 4, news statement about last month’s vandalism of several vehicles in the Overlook at Parkside community by four individuals.

Following over a year of construction, the long-awaited Winn-Dixie has opened its doors at the Apopka City Center as the supermarket chain’s second Apopka location. ... City commissioners disagreed with how some of the city’s investment transactions – such as three bank transfers amounting to \$29 million, \$32 million, and \$20 million each – were done without City Council review. ... The Apopka Run Club presented VFW Post 10147 with a \$500-donation Thursday, August 10, to be used for a meaningful impact on the lives of local veterans. The Run Club participated in the Advent Health July 4 Watermelon 5K in Winter Park earlier this year. ... Despite hitting some road bumps in the last

two years that include losing potential funding to establish a comprehensive resource center, the Next Step Foundation and the faith-based community is pushing ahead with mounting its efforts to assist the homeless.

The Apopka Community Redevelopment Area Board approved two resolutions for its fiscal year 2024 budget totaling \$4.16 million at the Wednesday, August 16, meeting at City Hall. ... Congressman Daniel Webster of the 11th Congressional District visited Apopka on Thursday, August 17, during his August recess. He spoke with the Apopka Rotary Club about his goals in Washington, D.C., and his commitment to his constituents. ... A missing elderly man who was declared missing since Tuesday of last week, when he was discharged from a hospital, was “returned to his group home in good condition” on Wednesday, August 23, according to police. ... Last month’s three-day trip to Washington D.C., for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation 2023 Children’s Congress, has changed young Nathaniel Plummer’s life. The Apopka resident and Lake Brantley High School freshman joined more than 160 other youth from across the nation July 9-11 to meet face-to-face with members of Congress and top decision-makers in the U.S. government about Type 1 diabetes.

## September

The city of Apopka and its partners cut the ribbon to open the new \$4.1-million Harmon Road extension that will give better access to vehicles and the location of permanent Fire Station 6, to be constructed. ... Due to Hurricane Idalia, the city of Apopka closed its offices and park and recreation facilities this

past Wednesday. It also announced the solid waste collection schedule. ... This week, Orange County fared well during Hurricane Idalia, with no reported flooded roadways, no reported storm related deaths or major injuries. ... Leaders

and community members attended the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce’s monthly Gather and Grow event on Monday, August 28 at the Apopka City Center Hilton Garden Inn, fea-

See 2023 Page 8A

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# Apopka Involved Voters' candidate forum is set for Thursday, January 25 at 7 p.m.

Apopka Involved Votes announces its 2024 Apopka City Commission Forum to be held on January 25, 2024 at Victory Church, 509 S. Park Ave., Apopka, beginning at 7 p.m.

Since 2020, this forum has been sponsored by Apopka Involved Voters, a community group that seeks to inform voters on current and emerging issues that can directly affect their quality of life in the community.

The forum is designed to allow voters to better distinguish among the candidates based on their answers, who best can serve them in a representative form of government. The forum also lets Apopka voters determine which candidate's platform tells their vision for Apopka that best aligns with the voter's view of a community based on a sustainable quality of life.

Dr. Hank Dunn is again moderating the forum, which is held before a live audience and broadcasted simultaneously with the cooperation of *The Apopka Chief* through its live streaming channel. Voters are encouraged to attend.

Any questions concerning the forum should be directed to John Drago at 407-889-9495.

## Contributions: All are from city unless noted

Continued from page 1A

Note: All contributors are from Apopka unless otherwise noted.

### SEAT 3

**Darryl P. Richardson**  
Note: C-cash, check, online; I-In-kind; L-loan  
Darryl Richardson-100.-L  
Darryl Richardson-1250.-L  
Darryl Richardson-1000.-L  
Johnnie Richardson, Longwood-\$200-C  
**Report: loan total-\$2,350**  
**Report: cash total-\$200**

**Nadia Latoya Anderson**  
Note: C-cash, check, online; I-In-kind; L-loan

Richard E. King-\$100-C  
Executive Spot, LLC-500-In-kind  
Nadia Anderson-\$1,900-In-kind  
**Report: cash total-\$100**  
**Report: In-Kind total-\$2,400**

**Ryan Tucker - withdrew from race January 9**  
Note: C-cash, check, online; I-In-kind; L-loan  
Ryan Tucker-\$250-C  
William Hodgkins-\$250-C  
Jerome and Becky Hulbert-\$150-C  
Lucinda Tucker, Zellwood-\$100-C  
William Hodgkins-\$250-C  
Ryan Tucker-\$150-C

William Hodgkins-\$10-C  
Tim Snider, Minooka, IL-\$300-C  
Wayne Plotkin-\$100-C  
Sue Beechum-\$100-C  
**Report: cash total-\$1,660**

### SEAT 4

**Eric Mock**  
Note: C-cash, check, online; I-In-kind; L-loan  
Tony Constantino, Longwood-\$250-C  
Michelle Lily, Windermere-\$150-C  
Jason Myrick-\$100-C  
Randy Burden, Orlando-\$100-C  
Fredrick Pullum, Orlando-\$100-C  
Richard Anderson, Jr., Or-

lando-\$100-C  
Cary Berman, Sanford-\$100-C  
Arnold Graco-\$100-C  
Standard Investments and Holdings, Orlando-\$1,000-C  
Benge Development Corp., Orlando-\$500-C  
Jill Eastlake Fabric Arts-\$100-C  
Eric Mock-\$2,000-C  
**Report: cash total-\$5,000**

**Nick Nesta**  
Nick Nesta-\$1,000-C  
Valerie Hawes-\$1,000-C  
**Report: cash total-\$2,000**

## 2023: Budget talks, 9/11 remembrance

Continued from page 7A

turing guest speaker Andrew Bain, state attorney for Orange and Osceola counties.

The Apopka City Council voted unanimously, 5-0, on the tentative millage rate of 4.1876 mills for the city's fiscal year 2024 budget, which represents a 13.21 percent increase over the rollback rate of 3.6991. A mill is the tax rate for each \$1,000 of taxable property value. ... The Rock Springs Ridge Homeowners Association is getting closer to finalizing the land acquisition deal regarding the subdivision's closed golf course that, if all goes well, would come with many benefits including a new 18-hole golf course, a new fine-dining restaurant, and the preservation of the area's gopher tortoise conservation area. ... Apopka police are investigating the vandalism of headstones at the city cemetery that happened over the Labor Day weekend. ... Orange County government will close the application portal for a small-business grant program on Friday, September 15, at 11:59 p.m., Orange County has announced. ... Among the highlights illustrated at last week's community meeting for the establishment of the Apopka Resource Center (ARC) and Apopka Shelter was the consideration of purchasing a \$27,000 city-owned vacant tract to build the resource center on.

After having sample tests run at

its five water treatment plants, the city of Apopka discovered that the presence of the contaminant 1,4-Dioxane is non-detectable at any of them. ... The community recognized the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks at the front steps of Apopka City Hall on Main Street Monday, September 11, with the community being reminded not to let younger generations forget that day in history. ... Apopka police arrested a suspect in connection with the Labor Day weekend theft of a headstone from the city cemetery and also recovered the missing headstone, only for the suspect to get out of jail after posting bond a few days later. ... The Orange County Charter Review Commission will have a public meeting on Monday, September 18, at 6 p.m. at Wekiva High School located at 2501 N. Hiawassee Road, Media Center, Apopka.

The Armando Borjas Jr. Scholarship, along with the city of Apopka and the Apopka Fire and Police Departments, will be hosting the second annual Together as One Festival and third annual 9-11 Memorial 5K in downtown Apopka. ... Debating the best method for reviewing the city charter before voting unanimously, 5-0, on the council-led charter review committee for the city charter. ... The Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation held a fundraising dinner Monday, September 18. ... The City Council approved 5-0 the final fiscal year 2024 millage rate of 4.1876,

which is a 13.21 percent increase over the rolled back rate of 3.6991. As well, the City Council finalized the total FY24 tentative city budget totaling \$168,828,988, an \$18.3 million increase or 12.4 percent increase over the FY23 budget.

On Sunday, September 24, Apopka Fire Lieutenant Justin Joseph, engineer Antonio Batista, and firefighter Xavier Tulli-Miller participated in the annual Tunnel to Towers Foundation 5K Run and Walk in New York City, New York. ... The Lake Apopka Natural Gas District will spend 18 months upgrading and replacing natural gas distribution pipeline systems and acquire new equipment in the Apopka area using a \$3.1 million grant as a financing source. ... United States District Judge Paul G. Byron has sentenced four individuals, all from Orlando, in connection with their robbery spree of businesses in Florida including two Apopka convenience stores. ... Beginning this past Wednesday, September 20, and ending May 10, 2024, Apopka police are conducting high visibility enforcement details to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. ... Orange County is conducting a series of public meetings to determine the use of \$219 million in federal funding for hurricane recovery. The first meeting took place in Orange County District 2 yesterday, Thursday, September 28 at the John Bridges Community Center in Apopka, past press time.

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- Chuck's Wagon, Main St., (Hwy 441)

- Circle K & BP, Hwy 441 S. of Walmart
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- Citgo, 441 & Boy Scout Blvd
- Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail boxes)
- CVS #3748 - corner of Park Av & Hwy 441
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- Circle K (Shell) #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.
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- Circle K (Shell) #2334, Rock Springs Rd & Kelly Park Rd
- Circle K #1288, Welch Rd & Wekiva Springs Rd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
- Compare Fresh Market, 436 behind Aaron's
- Crosby's Motor Inn,

- Hwy 441 & Errol Parkway (Errol Estate)
- Marathon, Main St. (midland downtown)
- McDonald's, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Mobil, (Citgo) Hwy 441 (next to Burger K)
- Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.
- Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)
- Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd
- Porkies BBQ, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Post Office, N. Park Ave. (Martin St)
- Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. & Welch Rd.
- Sam's Discount, Overland & Apopka Blvd.
- Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.
- Sunoco Happy Foods, Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rd.
- Trader Mae's, Rock Springs Rd
- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs

- & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
- Walgreens, corner of Park Ave and Hwy 441
- Walgreens, N. Park Ave/Welch Rd.
- Wawa Store, 449 W. Main St. - corner of Hwy 441 and Bradshaw
- Wawa Store, 441 & Piedmont Wekiva across from Walmart
- Wekiva High School, Hiawassee Rd.
- Winn Dixie #2246 – Hwy 441 (beside Lowe's)
- Zellwood Station (inside MHP)
- Zellwood Truck Stop Diner, Hwy 441
- Zellwood Water Users, Inc., 3262 Robinson St.

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6/23



# Fire: Road extension grants better access

Continued from page 1A

and the growth of our community for this resident.”

The \$4.1-million Harmon Road extension opened in August 2023 to grant better access to AdventHealth Apopka from the east as well as to fire and ambulance vehicles.

Before leading ceremony attendees in a blessing for the permanent Fire Station 6, House District 39 Representative Doug Bankson said that, to him, safety has been a priority and he recalled when AdventHealth “was just a field over there, and it’s just exciting that we’ve been able to work together as a community

with the hospital and with this property.”

“To stand together to make sure that Apopka, as we expand, that we’re covering all of these services that are so vital for our citizens and keeping those standards high as we’ve always had it,” Bankson said. “I’ve always been so proud of our Apopka, of our first responders, our fire department, and thank you for all that you do as you continue to serve.”

On January 3, the Apopka City Council approved 5-0 to award Miller Construction Management a construction manager at risk (CMAR) contract for Fire Station 6 with the guaranteed maximum price of \$3,677,800 and an

added 10-percent contingency for a total of \$4,310,580.

Lunz Group and Miller Construction Management, respectively, designed and built Fire Station 5 that is located off of Firehouse Lane and Jason Dwelley Parkway at the Northwest Recreation Complex.

In 2021, Florida Senator Randolph Bracy and State Rep. Kamia Brown secured government funding for the fire station. The money was earmarked in the \$101.5-billion state budget that Governor Ron DeSantis signed in June 2021. The city of Apopka was required to match this with \$1 million.

## The Widow's Mite

Someone recently remarked, in jest, that he was going to Hell after telling a joke that was a bit indelicate, even if it wasn't exactly blasphemous. His remark got me thinking about the ultimate destination of our souls, and what we ought to think and profess about that. There are some who say we should profess a high degree of certainty about going to heaven, perhaps in the hope that believing it strongly enough might make it true, or perhaps just in the hope that we can raise the bar a bit on our morals by professing that we are future saints. St. Paul tells us that we are saved by faith rather than by works, but he is quick to add that we shouldn't boast.

(Romans 3: 26-27) Who is so sure of their own faith, after all? Isn't it God's job to examine our hearts and decide whether we are going to heaven or not, and isn't the more humble approach to say that we just don't know, and should not presume to decide for God? It certainly isn't obvious that any of us deserves eternal bliss, or that our professions of faith will grant us instant entry into heaven. Since all have sinned and fallen short, perhaps the more honest and humble approach would be to say that we just don't know where we're going, but that we certainly hope we're going to heaven.

— Christopher Simon



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**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Matthew 5:16

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## The Widow's Mite

(See message above.)

*“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had.”*

Luke 21:3-4



**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Matthew 5:16

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Congress cannot make a law that favors the establishment of one particular religion; that prohibits the free exercise of religion; or that restricts freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people to gather and engage in peaceful demonstration and to petition the government for redress of their grievances.

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## School celebrating its 50th year

Trinity Christian School is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout the year. Alumni are invited to a kick-off event on Sunday, January 21, at 10:15 a.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 1022 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka. Recognition/fellowship luncheon will follow. For more information, visit [tesapopka.org/alumni](https://tesapopka.org/alumni).

## AdventHealth's \$26.3-M expansion sees 75 percent completion of fifth floor

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The \$26.3 million expansion of AdventHealth Apopka, which will bring the campus's licensed bed count to 158 and result in the creation of over 20 high-paying jobs, is still expected to be completed by May of this year.

As of Wednesday, January 17, the expansion on the fifth floor is nearly 75 percent complete, according to Jose Luis Dieppa, spokesperson for AdventHealth Central Florida Division. Construction on the fifth floor will offer 38 new inpatient beds and four dialysis bays.

As well, most of the headwall wiring has been completed, the window fixtures outside patient rooms

are installed, and counter space installation has begun, Dieppa added.

The parking lot construction, which will be built with 800 new parking spaces for guests and team members, began in September 2023.

Last October, AdventHealth Apopka announced its \$26.3-million expansion to better serve the growing population in Orange County.

Expanding service offerings and rapid population growth has contributed to the need for additional capacity at the campus. In 2022, AdventHealth Apopka had more than 6,900 admissions – a 20 percent increase since 2019.

Batson-Cook is the general contractor on the project.



The \$26.3 million expansion of AdventHealth Apopka is still expected to be completed by May of this year.

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### Downtown Self-Help Center is available Monday-Friday

The Ninth Circuit Court's Self Help Center provides low-cost legal assistance in family law, small claims and residential eviction cases.

Named in honor of the late Orange County Clerk of Courts Lydia Gardner, the Self Help Center was created to provide customers with limited legal guidance and low-cost attorney consultations.

The Center is the first of its kind in the Orange County Community to help citizens who either don't have a lawyer or cannot afford one. The services provided are not based on income.

The Self Help Center will assist only with the following case types: \* **Family Law** (excluding restraining orders); Child Custody/Child Support; Divorce; Paternity \* **Small Claims** \* **Residential Evictions** \* **Location** of the Orange County Courthouse is 425 North Orange Ave., Suite 340 (3rd floor), Orlando, FL 32801

\* **Hours of Operation:** Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Services include: Form completion assistance, and Notary and copy services

\* **Virtual Attorney Consultations**

Attorney consultations are available and may be scheduled in 15-minute sessions, for up to 1 hour per day, per person. The cost for an attorney consultation is \$1 per minute.

The Self Help Center is a collaborative partnership between the Orange County Bar Association and the Clerk's Office. All attorneys are referred by the Orange County Bar Association. Note, the attorneys that provide legal assistance at the Self Help Center cannot represent you in court.

Attorney consultation fees must be paid at the time the appointment is scheduled. Refunds will not be issued for cancelled or missed appointments – no exceptions. Once set, appointment times may not be changed. Attorney consultation appointments cannot be made nor conducted by telephone.

\* **Contact Information:** 425 North Orange Ave., Suite 340 (3rd floor), Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 836-6300, Hours of operation: Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\* **Busy Times:** Please sign in by 3 p.m. to allow for adequate time to review, notarize and file a new case.

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### SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE  
FOUND ON PAGE 2B

8	9	1	6	3	4	7	2	5
7	2	3	8	1	5	6	9	4
5	4	6	2	9	7	3	1	8
2	1	9	4	8	3	5	6	7
6	7	4	1	5	2	8	3	9
3	5	8	7	6	9	1	4	2
9	3	7	5	4	1	2	8	6
4	8	5	3	2	6	9	7	1
1	6	2	9	7	8	4	5	3



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### Puzzle Solution

A	B	M		P	A	C	E	D		C	A	M	P	O			
Z	E	E		A	B	A	T	E		A	N	A	S	A			
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### The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

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Mix 3 ingredients together, pour into crust, bake 15 minutes, Verlina’s pie... sound easy?

S u s a n Nielsen’s recipe for venison looks delicious. We thank New Vision Community Church for sharing their cookbook, *Feeding the Flock*.



From *Cooking with Foliage La Sertoma of Apopka*, we have Mary Deme-tree’s Chicken Cacciatora, which (ac-cording to Wikipedia) refers to a meal prepared “hunter-style” with onions, herbs, usually tomatoes, often bell peppers, and sometimes wine.

Mrs. Emily Meggett has a recipe for Pork Loin Roast that serves 8 to 10 people. She said, “This pork loin roast creates its own gravy during the cooking process. The Kitchen Bouquet adds a bit more seasoning and gives color to the gravy, making it a deeper brown after it’s done cooking.”

*Field to Feast* has recipes from all over our peerless state of Florida. This one for Minorcan Black Beans comes from “Old St. Augustine.” Small yellow, and fiery hot datil peppers are deep-ly rooted in both St. Augustine culture and the culture of the local Minorcans, descendants of immigrants from the Spanish island of Minorca, who have been in St. Augustine since the 1700s. It’s believed that the peppers most likely came from the Caribbean, but they grow only in Florida today. Datils, which are in the same family as super-spicy habaneros but with a sweeter fla-vor, are heavily used in Minorcan cook-ing.

From The New York Times *New Natural Foods Cookbook*, we have Ratatouille. If it sounds fancy, you need to know that it is simply made from eggplant and zucchini.

Verlina’s Calamondin Pie recipe came from one of our readers a while back. Our contributor, Verlina Keener, said, “This is in response to your en-couraging Apopkans to send in their traditional family recipes.” She adds, “The Calamondin is a small citrus fruit that is a cross between a lime and mandarin orange. It is grown in South-east Asia and the Philippines. They were imported from China and have been grown throughout Florida since the early 1900s. Growing season is in

the early spring and summer months. I get mine from my father’s tree or the Asian supermarket (Dong Ah Super-market on Mills Avenue). I am part Fil-ipino and make this traditional pie for my family.”

SUSAN NIELSEN’S DEER ROAST Recipe from *Feeding The Flock*, New Vision Community Church

- 1 (3 to 4 pound) deer roast
  - 1 cup sliced celery
  - 1 cup chopped onion
  - 1 can condensed tomato soup
  - 1 tablespoon vinegar
  - 2 teaspoons beef bouillon granules or two cubes crumbled)
  - 2 teaspoons sage
  - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- Place roast in crock-pot. Add cel-ery and onion. In separate bowl, stir soup, vinegar, bouillon, sage and pep-per. Pour in slow cooker. Cook on high 4-1/2 to 5 hours or low 9 to 10 hours. (Also makes gravy.)

MARY DEMETREE’S CHICKEN CACCIATORA Recipe from *Cooking with Foliage La Sertoma of Apopka*

- 3-1/2 pound broiler/fryer cut into serving pieces
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 carrot, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1 bay leaf, crushed
- 3 cans canned Italian tomatoes Pepper
- 3 anchovies, mashed
- 1 cup Chianti wine

Dredge chicken in flour and brown in olive oil in a skillet. Remove the chicken and, in the remaining oil, sauté onion, garlic, carrot, parsley, and bay leaf until the onion is golden. Strain the tomatoes and add the tomato pulp to the skillet. Add pepper and ancho-vies. Bring the sauce to a boil. Add the chicken and Chianti and simmer for 45 minutes, or until the chicken is tender. Serves 4.

EMILY MEGGETT’S PORK LOIN ROAST Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett

- 6 to 8 pounds pork loin roast
  - Seasoning salt
  - Self-rising flour, preferably White Lily
  - 1 large onion, sliced
  - 1/2 bell pepper, sliced
  - 1 (0.7-ounce) package dry Italian dressing mix
  - 1 teaspoon Kitchen Bouquet (optional)
- 1) Preheat the pork loin and pat it dry with a paper towel. This will allow the seasoning to adhere. Sprinkle with seasoning salt to taste. Dust with flour. 2) Place the loin in a 10 by 14-inch roasting pan. Top with the onion and bell pepper. Sprinkle with the Italian dressing mix. Add 4 cups water and Kitchen Bouquet, if using, to the pan. Cover. 4) Bake for 2-1/2 hours. Add more water during the cooking time, if needed.

MINORCAN BLACK BEANS Recipe from *FIELD TO FEAST*

- 1 pound dried black beans
- 1 ham hock
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 red or green bell peppers, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 onions, diced
- 1/4 pound Spanish chorizo sausage, sliced
- 1/4 cup sherry vinegar or red-wine vinegar
- 4 bay leaves
- 1/2 fresh datil pepper, minced, or 1 teaspoon datil hot sauce
- Coarse salt and freshly black pepper, to taste
- Cooked white rice, for serving
- Chopped raw onion, for garnish
- Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish
- Datil hot sauce, for garnish

1) Soak beans in cold water to cover overnight. In the morning, drain beans and place in a large stockpot with ham hock and enough water to cover by 2 inches. Do not add salt (yet). 2) Simmer, partially covered, over low heat for 3 to 4 hours until beans are tender, adding water as necessary to keep beans submerged. 3) Meanwhile, heat oil in a large saute pan over medi-um heat. Add bell peppers, garlic, and onions and saute until softened, for 4 to 5 minutes. 4) When beans are ten-der, add cooked vegetables, chorizo, vinegar, bay leaves, and fresh datil or

datil hot sauce. Add salt and pepper to taste. 5) Simmer, covered, for 1 hour to blend flavors. Add water, if necessary, so beans do not become too thick or dry. 6) Serve beans over cooked white rice and garnish with onion, parsley, and extra datil hot sauce on the side. Six servings.

RATATOUILLE Recipe from *The New York Times New Natural Foods Cookbook*

- 1 medium-sized eggplant, peeled and sliced into 1/4-inch-thick slices
- Salt
- 1/3 cup olive or vegetable oil
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 medium-sized onion, finely chopped
- 3 zucchini, washed and sliced
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 green peppers, seeded and diced
- 4 tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1/3 cup sliced pitted black olives

1) Sprinkle the eggplant slices with salt and set aside. 2) Heat the oil in a skillet and saute the garlic and onion until tender but not browned. 3) Toss the zucchini with 1 tablespoon of the flour and add to the skillet. 4) Rinse the eggplant slices, quarter each slice, pat dry, and dust with the remaining flour. Add to the skillet. 5) Add the green pepper and tomatoes and cook, uncov-ered, until the vegetables are tender and any excess liquid has evaporated. 6) Serve warm or cold, garnished with olives. Yield: Six servings.

VERLINA’S PIE Recipe from Reader of *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter*

- 5 egg yolks, beaten
- 1 can of condensed milk
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed Calamondin juice
- 1 pre-made graham cracker crust

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix first three ingredients together. Pour into graham cracker crust. Bake for 15 minutes. Cool to room temperature and then refrigerate until chilled.

Our contributor, Verlina Keener says, “This is in response to your latest issue encouraging Apopkans to send in their traditional family recipes.

JANUARY 2024 ★ ★ EVENTS ★ WEEKLY ★ UPCOMING ★ ONGOING ★ ★					
<p><b>SCHOOL STARTS UP: JANUARY 8, 2024</b> Traffic patterns changed. Stormy weather comes and goes! Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those pedestrians... and ducks. DON'T TEXT WHILE DRIVING - Please! YOU WILL PAY A FINE.</p> <p>Children must be five years old on or before September 1 to start kindergarten. To enter first grade, a child must be six years old on or before September 1 and must have successfully completed kindergarten (Florida Statute 1003.21). Immunizations must be current.</p> <p>UNLESS CHANGED: School Start Times for Elementary School &amp; K-8: 8 a.m., Middle School: 9:30 a.m., High school: 7:10 a.m.</p> <p>City of Apopka's Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwellley Parkway, Apopka 32712, 407-703-1784. On any given weekend, you can see many, many families in attendance at the beautiful complex setting participating in various organized sport programs. Amenities at the complex include: Soccer Fields, Softball Fields, Baseball Fields, Multi-Purpose Fields, Sand Volleyball Courts, Outdoor Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, <b>Walking Trail</b>, Amphitheater, Playground, Concession Stands.</p> <p>11-mile wildlife drive (complete with directional signs) (opened in 2015) on Lake Apopka shores, by entering from Lust Road off Binion Road, about a mile south of Camp Wewa in the Plymouth area, for one-way drive, 10 miles per hour, with possible wildlife spotting stops. DO NOT FEED THE GATORS - IT MAY CAUSE CLOSING OF THE TRAIL If you are stopping, drive will take more than 1 hour. Drive runs by canals used in muck-farming days. The one-way drive exits on Jones Road in Zellwood. You will see a freshwater marsh system and wildlife dependent on that type of system. The drive is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and federal holidays and is controlled by the county. Open during daylight hours only (one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset). Official sunrise and sunset hours can be found online. The road is closed on other days due to ongoing restoration work. The trail is 11 miles long.</p> <p>WEKIWA SPRINGS STATE PARK is a 7,000-acre Florida State Park in Apopka, Florida. It is located 20 minutes north of Orlando, off Interstate 4 at exit 94, near Altamonte Springs and Longwood. The park also contains the head water of the Wekiwa River. Address: 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka 32712, open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call 407-884-4311</p>	<p>for seniors - senior activities at Fran Carlton Center. CALL 407-703-1642 FOR INFORMATION .</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 19</b></p> <p>ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, FRIDAYS at 9:00 a.m. at 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center.. Call 407-703-1642 for information. .</p> <p>CENTRAL FL CHRISIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 1806 S Bay St., Eustis, has Fellowship Friday meetings. For complete details of all chamber events, visit cfchristianchamber.com/ events-chamber.Contact: latrondra@cfchristianchamber.com</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 20</b></p> <p>VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the the third Saturday of the month on JANUARY 20, from 8-10 a.m. at 19 S. Central Avenue. Cost is only \$7.</p> <p>MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E. FIFTH STREET, APOPKA. Managed by Apopka Historical Society. Call 407-703-1624 for info.</p> <p>AVIAN RECONDITIONING CENTER, for birds of prey, 323 Lester Rd., Apopka, hours: 9:30-1:30 p.m., The center is open on Saturdays to the public, weather permitting. Call 407-461-1056 for information.</p> <p><b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 21</b></p> <p><b>MONDAY, JANUARY 22</b></p> <p>FITNESS CLASS, MONDAYS 9-10 a.m. 11 N. Forest Ave at Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.</p> <p>CRAFTS &amp; CHATTER: 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks required. Temperature taken. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.</p> <p>OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 601 S. Highland Avenue. If you have a problem with food – overeating, anorexia, bulimia – there is a solution for you. For more information, visit OA.org or call Carrie 781-867-1071. .</p> <p>TOASTMASTERS: Forest Lake Church by Zoom. Time: 7 p.m., Open to everyone interested. For information, call 407-761-2943. Club Number: 4899556, District 84, Area D42. Orators of Excellence</p> <p><b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 23</b></p> <p>FRAN CARLTON CENTER OPEN, THE SERTOMA CLUB meets the first</p>	<p>and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 11:30-noon, at Beef O' Brady's in The Back Room, 1410 Rock Springs Rd., Apopka. Interested community members are encouraged to attend and get acquainted. Meetings have resumed on first and third Tuesdays. Masks are encouraged.</p> <p>SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave. at Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info</p> <p>ART CLASS. 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks required. Temperature taken. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24</b></p> <p>The Altamonte Springs / Apopka VFW POST 10147. is NOW OPEN Wednesday and Saturday Mornings from (TIME CHANGE) 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. (other hours by appointment only). 3rd Saturday of the month is VFW's fundraising breakfast. Also, evenings of Tribute music are planned. Call 407-889-8266, or email info@vfw-post10147.com for information. The VFW Auxiliary has been formed and is active as well. Don't forget to visit its excellent Military Museum.</p> <p>ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info..</p> <p>SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 10-11 a.m., Billie Dean Community Center, 225 M.A. Board St., . Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info</p> <p>CITY OF APOPKA DRC (Development Review Committee) meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (or as long as necessary) at City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka. Check for the online version.</p> <p>BRIDGE CLASS. 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks required. Temperatures taken. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.</p> <p>TOPS CHAPTER #646. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), TOPS, a non-profit organization, will help you reach a weight goal with support from friendly, caring members, education, and rewards. Each Thursday weigh-in begins at 9:00 a.m. – meeting ends at 10:15 a.m.. Come to its NEW location</p>	<p>220 W. Horatio Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751 to meet with others who have a like-minded goal to lose weight. No products, no specific diet to follow, no meds. Call 407-580-0897 for more information.</p> <p>MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 12 noon-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E Fifth St. 407-703-1642 for info.</p> <p>EARLY BIRD BINGO at Bahia Shrine Center, 3101 E. Semoran Blvd.. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the early bird game starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call 407-660-8811.</p> <p>TOASTMASTERS: still meeting every WEDNESDAY, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., by zoom. For more information, call 407-765-2629 or visit www.Apopkatoastmasters.com.</p> <p><b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 25</b></p> <p>SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.</p> <p>ROTARY CLUB OF APOPKA - For information, call 407-415-6588. Call for updated information on meetings and location.</p> <p>MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon. 120 E Fifth St. Call 407-703-1624 for info.</p> <p>ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.</p> <p><b>CHIEFUPCOMING EVENTS</b></p> <p>Saturday nights Saturday Sounds at Apopka Amphitheater, 3710 Jason Dewlley Parkway, 5-7 p.m. Free.</p> <p>VFW Post 10147 has fund raising breakfast Saturday, <b>January 20, 2024</b> 8-10 a.m., 519 S. Central Avenue. Cost is \$7.</p> <p><b>ONGOING EVENTS</b></p> <p>Florida Railroad Museum, 101 S. Boyd Street, Winter Garden, is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11-3 each week excluding holidays. For info, call 407-656-0559. . Must see.</p> <p>CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS are public and will also be broadcast on this shortened link: https://bit.ly/2ABrmsb, and are normally held the first Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and</p>	<p>third Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. Subject to change with notice. For info., call City Clerk 407-703-1704. Agenda and minutes of meeting can be found online. Once posted, check for any revisions by Tuesday at 5 p.m. before the meeting</p> <p>FOLIAGE GARDEN CLUB OF APOPKA, meets the first Thursday of each month, September through May, at 10 a.m. at the Billy Dean Community Center at Alonzo Williams Park, 225 M.A. Board St., Apopka. Contact: apopkafga@gmail.com</p> <p>FREE PLANT CLINIC in Apopka is open on Tuesdays. Do you have problems with your plants or lawn? Let a Master Gardener help. Orange County residents can bring their questions and samples to UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers at the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research Education Center (MREC), 2725 Binion Road, Apopka, 32703; 9 a.m.-12 Tuesdays; 407-254-9200. Questions and photos to can be emailed to orangecomgv@ifas.ufl.edu. to be answered by Master Gardeners. A free plant clinic for commercial growers is open Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. at the same location.</p> <p>KIWANIS CLUB OF APOPKA IS now meeting MONTHLY on the 3rd Tuesday at 8 a.m. at Seacoast Bank, 345 E Main Street, Apopka. Contact 407-464-4606 for information</p> <p>BROWN BAG LUNCH - Third Saturday of each month, Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit at the corner of Highland and 6th St., Apopka, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., offer to all who come a brown bag lunch. In addition, men's socks, flip flops, stuffed animals, some clothing, children's books and pet food which is donated by My Pet World, Apopka, may be available. If interested in volunteering, call Debbie at 407-620-5081 for information.</p> <p>APOPKA FOLIAGE TOASTMASTER'S CLUB, Monday, 7 p.m., on Zoom, Apopka. 407-765-2629.</p> <p>NWOC FFA Alumni – Monthly meetings (usually the 4th Monday evening in a month during the school year) are open to anyone. (Looking for more information)</p> <p>MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, 122 E 5th Street, Hours open: Wednesday to Friday, from noon-5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.... Admission is free. Contains displays and information about Apopka's history, and has history books for sale. Monthly meetings of Apopka Historical Society are normally held on a Sunday afternoon. For more information, go to www.the-apopkamuseum.com.</p> <p>THE APOPKA ELKS LODGE 2422 meets first and third Tuesdays of</p>	<p>month, 201 W. Orange. For more information, call 407-886-1600 or email apopkaelks@aol.com Bar Bingo every Monday night at 7 p.m. promptly. GFWC APOPKA WOMAN'S CLUB, meets at First United Methodist Church, 201 N. Park Avenue. Call 407-880-2111 for more information.</p> <p>APOPKA GARDEN CLUB - meets the first Tuesday each month at First United Methodist Church, 201 S. Park Ave., September through May. For information, call Kathy 407-886-6970.</p> <p>CITY OF APOPKA PLANNING &amp; ZONING - usually the second Tuesday of the month. 5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. All meetings open to the public. Subject to change with notice. For info., call David Moon, 407-703-1739.</p> <p>BRIDGE GAMES AND CLASSES: Every Monday and Friday morning at 9:15 a.m., at the Lake County Duplicate Bridge Club, 510 W. Key Ave., Eustis. For more information, call 352-315-9934 or visit lakeduplicate.com.</p> <p>COMPUTER CLASSES in both English and Spanish: Available daily or weekly at OCLS North Orange Branch.* Classes are: Computer Basics, Excel, Word Resume Writing, Email for Seniors, ELLIS English Lab, Word, Online Job Searches, PowerPoint, Internet, Open Lab, How to use a mouse and keyboard, etc. Call OCLS North Orange Branch* for more details.</p> <p>HABITAT VOLUNTEERS: Go to www.habitatseminoleapopka.org, or click on volunteers. There are a number of opportunities available at the Restores. Call 407-696-5855 or 407-880-8881 to sign up for information. *****</p> <p>(OCLS) Orange County Public Library North Orange Branch Address: 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. www.ocls.info. To reserve a space, call 407-835-7323. The library is now open again Mon-Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Sunday afternoons</p> <p>*Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, 180 E. Main St., Apopka. For more info, call 407-886-1441</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Community events, fund raisers, and non-profit organizations Send info: fax 407-889-4121, or email ads@theapopkachief.com Subscribe to The Apopka Chief E-Editon or Home Delivery Call 407-886-2777 or Visit www.theapopkachief.com In County: \$30 with E-editon, or \$25 for just postal delivery. Out-of-County: \$35 with E-Editon or \$30 for postal delivery</p>



# MLK Parade had huge turnout from Apopka and surrounding area



The 15th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade held in Apopka on Monday, January 15, was a great display of diversity and togetherness for the community.

The parade started at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building on South Central Avenue and ended at the John H. Bridges Community Center on 13th Street. The theme for this year's parade was "Remember the Dreamer".

Orange County schools like Apopka High School, Evans High School, Ocoee High School, Wekiva High School, and more brought their bands and marched in the parade while providing a soundtrack for those attending.

The winners of the judged parade are as follows:  
Best Band Performance -- Evans High School  
Best Church Float -- Temple of Faith Church  
Best Performance Group -- Phillis Wheatley Step Team  
Most Creative Float -- Apopka Farmworkers Association

