

Aftermath

After a severe storm, Orange County employees spring into action. See page 8A.



Sports

Shekinah Leonce looks back on her time at the Paris Olympics See page 1B.



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# The Apopka Chief

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Volume 102 Number 32

Friday, August 9, 2024 / 50 cents

## City Council public comments not livestreamed

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The Wednesday, August 7, City Council meeting livestream ended without having public comment, after city officials had discussion about whether public comment should take place at the beginning of the meeting.

The city of Apopka YouTube livestream of the meeting ended after Mayor Bryan Nelson gave the mayor's report. According to the August 7 agenda, public comment was scheduled after the mayor's report.

Before that, public comment usually took place after presentations, more toward the beginning of the meeting.

After discussion early in the meeting, City Commissioner Nick Nesta made the motion to do public comment immediately after the presentations. City Commissioner Diane Velazquez seconded. The motion was rejected 3-2, thus keeping public comment at the end of the meeting.

Nesta mentioned Resolution 2016-16, stating that the City Council has to make the decision of when during the meeting public comment should take place.

The City Council last discussed the public comment schedule was on February 1, 2023, and February 15, 2023, when both times City Council approved and agreed to have public comment just after presentations, according to Nesta.

"Again, not sure why this was moved I don't see why it was moved," he said. "It doesn't seem like any reasonable efficiency. It seemed like it was to attack the residents, and if we spent more time serving the residents, then these attacks would be able to get the union contract done, we'd be able to take care of our infrastructure, maybe have a balanced budget without going into reserves."

City attorney Cliff Shepard confirmed that meetings minutes showed

See CITY Page 14A

## Early voting to run until August 18



A March 2024 file photo of the Apopka Community Center when it served as a precinct for early voting.

Early voting for the August 20th Primary election in Orange County began on August 5 and will last through August 18 daily from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. The Apopka early voting location is the Apopka Community Center/VFW building, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka.

Secure ballot intake stations will be available outside of all locations during early voting hours.

Early voting begins 10-15 days before an election. Note the locations, dates, and hours of operation. Please bring photo and signature identification.

See VOTING Page 3A

## Chamber releases results of the Political Hob Nob straw poll

### Results of the 2024 Political Hob Nob Straw Poll

The Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Tuesday, July 30, Political Hob Nob, at the Apopka City Center's Highland Manor Apopka.

The event was a special opportunity to speak with the candidates personally and ask

about their positions on the issues. Voters participated in a straw poll that was taken to see which candidates the attendees preferred.

Here are the results of the straw poll.

**PARTISAN COUNTY OFFICES**  
**Tax Collector**  
DEM David Nelson Freeman 10

DEM Scott Randolph 71

**Supervisor of Elections**  
DEM Karen Castor Dentel 25  
DEM Sunshine Linda-Marie Grund 5  
DEM Dan Helm 18  
DEM Wes Hodge 15  
NPA Cynthia Harris 17

**PARTY OFFICES**  
**State Committeeman**

REP Nathan Cassidy 24  
REP Pete Crotty 23  
REP Randy Ross 19

**State Committeewoman**  
REP Debbie Galvin 37  
REP Bonnie Jackson 28

**NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL OFFICES**  
**Circuit Judge, 9th Ju-**

See POLL Page 7A

## City conducts Back to School safety program



Photo courtesy of city of Apopka/Facebook

Apopka Police Sgt. Steve Harmon (l) went undercover to test the crosswalk at Jason Dwelley Parkway and Brush Drive intersection as part of the Bike/Walk Central Florida's Operation Best Food Forward: Back to School pedestrian safety program.

Last week, the city of Apopka carried out the Bike/Walk Central Florida's Operation Best Food Forward: Back to School pedestrian safety program, which brings awareness and education to drivers to keep the youngest pedestrians safe as they walk to and from school.

On Wednesday, July 31, at the intersection of Jason Dwelley Parkway and Brush Drive, the Apopka Police Department's Sergeant Steve Harmon went undercover to test the crosswalk for potential yield violations as a part of the program. Additional Apopka

See SAFETY Page 3A

## City to hold 9/11 service

The Apopka Fire Department and Apopka Police Department invite the community to attend this year's 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, where the city will honor and remember those who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

On Wednesday, September 11, service will start at 8:30 a.m. on the front steps of Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. The flag will be lowered to half-staff.

## Apopka Police Department swears in new officer

The Apopka Police Department added a new officer to its police force on Monday, August 5, at Apopka City Hall.

This new officer took an oath to serve and protect, while being sworn-in by Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley. As a tradition, all new officers select family members to pin their police badges to their uniforms.

Officer James Ramsey, 20, was born in Orlando and raised in Longwood, where he graduated from Lyman High School in 2022. Officer Ramsey attended the police academy at Seminole State College in 2024. He is currently assigned to the Army Reserves, 196th Transportation CO where he holds the rank of specialist.

When asked why he chose law enforcement as a career, Officer Ramsey said that law enforcement is a career he can be proud of and the benefits the city of Apopka provides.



Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley (r) swears in James Ramsey as the newest officer on the police force on Monday, August 5, at Apopka City Hall.

**This week**  
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8 08805 93104 4



Apopka Event of the Week

Early voting in Apopka for the Primary Election continues through August 18 at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Avenue. Time is from 9 a.m. through 7 p.m. daily.

Quotable

About 300 jammed into the sanctuary to hear representatives from the community give heartfelt tributes to “JR,” as he was affectionately called by most people.

Community honors memory of long-time publisher

Opinion

The Apopka Chief  
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

**Publisher Emeritus**  
John Ricketson  
Mar. 5, 1940 - July 16, 2024

**Publisher**  
T. Jerrod Ricketson

**Marketing Director**  
Jackie Trefcer

**Consultant Emeritus**  
John Peery  
Mar. 28 1956 - Oct. 12, 2023

**Reporters**  
Teresa Sargeant  
Marshall Tempest  
Neal Fisher

**General Mgr Emeritus**  
Neoma Knox  
Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

The Chief’s long-time chief will be missed

Apopkans from all walks of life said their goodbye to John Ricketson, publisher and co-owner of *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter* newspapers at a community-wide memorial service August 3. John and Eileen Ricketson have faithfully served this community for 45 years, and helped shepherd Apopka through its amazing growth and success. John was 84.

Probably members from every civic club, many governmental officials, regular citizens, business leaders, educational leaders and so many other people came to show their respects to a man who cared for an entire city. Every race, many cultures, and those young and old all gathered at Victory Church across from City Hall, to remember and celebrate the publisher of these local newspapers.

VFW Post 10147 set the tone of the gathering with its presentation of colors, and Jim Neshit played “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes as the memorial and remembrances kicked off.

About 300 jammed into the sanctuary to hear representatives from the community give heartfelt tributes to “JR,” as he was affectionately called by most people. Dozens and dozens of JR funny and serious stories were swapped by those gathered both before and after the ceremony.

Mayor Bryan Nelson gave some insights and a proclamation from the city of Apopka, officially honoring the life and achievements of the iconic publisher. David Rankin, long-time local banker, reflected on years of service that John spent serving the citizens, students, and businesses of our region. For those who know Rankin, several humorous stories punctuated his remembrances of JR, which brought some needed laughter to such a serious event.

Pastor Pat McGuffin, shared

how his dad, WR “Mac” McGuffin, chose the Ricketsons from a number of companies that wanted to buy the papers in 1979, because of Ricketson’s integrity, values, and heart for a community. JR originally moved to Apopka as a youngster in 1958, before he enlisted in the army as a paratrooper. (That paratrooper comment probably gives you an idea of how courageous and committed he was to whatever he took on.)

Mike Manley read comments from Cate Manely who was out of town. Cate was the former president of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, who worked for years with Ricketson to help build the businesses in the city.

The Apopka Chief is 101 years old, having been established on January 2, 1923. For decades, it was the only mass media to serve local interests in Northwest Orange County. Even today, as an award-winning publication, noted by the Florida Press Association, The Apopka Chief continues to do whatever it takes to build the community, cover the events, and encourage our city to move in the best direction.

JR was an avid fisherman when he wasn’t newspapering. His long-time fishing partner Chip Dover introduced the gathering to that side of John, if they weren’t aware of his hundreds of bass-fishing awards.

But it was Pastor Doug Bankson who tied the laughter and tears together by bringing the truth of eternity to the forefront of the memorial service. Pastor Bankson reminded those gathered of John Ricketson’s unbending, and passionate belief in Jesus Christ as his Lord.

“For those who embrace John’s Lord Jesus, there will be a reunion again someday. So this is not goodbye for them, it is only, until we meet again.”



Mental health, homeless services listed

I’ve long sung the praises of how many programs are offered through Orange County Government, and when it comes to Mental Health Services and Adult and Family Homelessness, the county again steps up to the plate.

Consider this column as a tutorial on where you can find services or how to assist others in finding aid. Let’s start with adult mental health services. Aspire Health Partners provides a contractual partnership with the county for various facets of mental health care. The first place to search for services is: [www.aspire-healthpartners.com](http://www.aspire-healthpartners.com)

Housing for people

County Commissioner  
District 2



Christine Moore

challenged with mental health or substance abuse concerns can often pose a large issue. Aspire operates several programs that provide housing. One is ANCHOR which offers a stable living environment for patients to recover from their symptoms. Adults can remain in the program for up to one year. College Place Apartments (CPA) offer

support for adults with a mental illness who require community assistance and a secure living environment. Participants can stay for up to two years.

Medication costs can be addressed through Aspire’s uninsured and underinsured medication management program. Either reach out through [www.aspirehealthpartners.com](http://www.aspirehealthpartners.com) or email questions to: [AskMHH@ocfl.net](mailto:AskMHH@ocfl.net)

For young people, Wraparound Orange is the program families can turn to in managing mental health challenges. Wraparound Or-

See MOORE Page 6A

OC Clerk of Courts may have money for you

You may not be aware, but the Orange County Clerk’s Office may have some unclaimed money for you. Look at our unclaimed checks list at [www.myorangeclerk.com](http://www.myorangeclerk.com). If you see your name on the list, you have until Sept. 1, 2024, to claim the money.

The checks listed are those that were mailed, but never cashed; perhaps because the intended recipient moved away and did not leave a forwarding address or put the check away and forgot about it.

The list of more than 7,000 checks includes uncashed vendor payments, refunds, restitution, and

cash bonds from as low as 8 cents up to \$0,000. Whether you are an individual, business, or an organization, make sure to view the unclaimed checks list.

“Our customers deserve to receive the money that is rightly theirs,” said Clerk of Courts Tiffany Moore Russell. “That is why every year we go above and beyond to spread the word about our unclaimed checks list.”

The Clerk’s Office reminds customers who have restitution owed to them on a case in Orange County to make sure they keep our office updated on any address

changes to ensure they receive any payments due to them.

Please keep in mind, if you do not collect your money by Sept. 1, Section 116.21 of Florida Statutes says it will be forfeited and deposited into the Clerk’s Fine and Forfeiture Fund.

To search the unclaimed checks list, go to <https://myorangeclerk.com/Misc-Pages/Unclaimed-checks/search>. If you have searched the list and believe the Clerk’s Office is holding a check for which you have a claim, follow the instructions on our website to submit your claim.

This Week In God’s Word

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.  
— 1 John 5:5

Mema Says

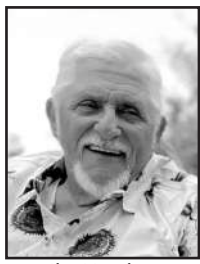
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Send a letter to the Editor online: [TheApopkaChief.com](http://TheApopkaChief.com)

The U.S. is a country with many race-based organizations

In a nation that is denounced as being a racist nation where bigotry runs rampant, and DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) is necessary to keep us on an even keel, how is it we have so many race-based organizations?

I read an article about how Donald Trump ruined the NABJ (National Association of Black Journalists) annual meeting by his presence, after being invited to attend. At his appearance on stage, he was greeted with less than a cool recep-



Ike Hayden

tion. None the less, Donald Trump took questions and answered them according to what he knew and thought. The sour attitude of the questioner had been decided even before Trump was introduced as a guest, and

it did not get better as the meeting progressed.

Trump’s answers were not racist, they were factual when he spoke of Kamala’s claim to black heritage. She was born to an East Indian mother, born in Thulasendrapuram, India and a Jamaican father from Brown’s Town, Jamaica, and all Trump was trying to say is that Kamala claims to be anything that will please her audience. He was merely pointing out her inconsistencies when presenting herself. When he was asked

if he thought Kamala Harris was a DEI hire, he could have reminded the journalist that Joe Biden was the one who told us he was going to choose a black woman as his running mate, appealing to the DEI nut-jobs.

Our nation has black schools of higher learning, we have Black Awareness month, NABJ, Black Lives Matter, Congressional Black Caucus, and on and on we go, and we’re called a racist nation! In the 60s, we had a Civil Rights movement for equality,

NOT equity. Martin Luther King Jr. was looking for a day where men would be judged by their character, and not by the color of their skin! It seems the party screaming the loudest about racism in America is made up of the people that are truly racist! What follows DEI is the erosion of meritocracy and competence. And that reality is starting to explain the great unraveling: why our bridges take decades to build rather than a few years, why train tracks are not laid even af-

ter a decade of “planning,” and why the drive down a once brilliantly engineered, but now crammed and dangerous road, is to revisit the “Road Warrior” of film.

America is rapidly resembling something like wide-open fifth-century A.D. Rome when its traditional inviolable northern borders on the Rhine and Danube rivers vanished. Thousands of unassimilated tribes crisscrossed as they pleased on the prem-

See HAYDEN Page 6A



# Voting: Voters must have ID; many types are accepted

Continued from page 1A

Acceptable forms of photo identification include:

- \*Florida driver license
- \*Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- \*United States passport
- \*Debit or credit card
- \*Military identification
- \*Student identification
- \*Retirement center

identification

\*Neighborhood association identification

\*Public assistance identification

\*State of Florida concealed weapon or firearm license

\*Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the federal government, state, a county, or a municipality.

\*Veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department

of Veterans Affairs

If the picture identification does not contain a signature, voters will be asked to show an additional identification with their signature.

Voters who need help reading or marking your ballot may bring someone with them, or poll workers are available to assist.

Spanish language assistance and ADA-compliant voting equipment are available at all early voting locations.

# Safety: Program helps APD

Continued from page 1A

traffic unit officers were on standby to enforce any traffic violations that occurred during the operation.

Best Foot Forward was created to reverse the conflict between pedestrians and drivers by focusing on one specific behav-

ior change – getting more drivers to yield for pedestrians at marked crosswalks as Florida law requires.

This operation helps the Apopka Police Department identify areas where safety improvements can be made to ensure the safety and wellbeing of city residents and visitors.

**REGAL**

**Fri., Aug. 9, 2024 thru Sun., Aug. 11, 2024**

**3D SHOWINGS**

**DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE** (R) 10:20A; 1:20; 4:30; 7:30; 10:30

**BORDERLANDS** (PG-13) 10:00A; 1:10; 4:00; 7:00; 9:50

**IT ENDS WITH US** (PG-13) 10:10A; 12:40; 3:50; 6:40; 7:10; 9:40; 10:20

**DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE** (R) 11:00A; 12:00; 3:20; 6:50; 10:00

**DESPICABLE ME 4** (PG) 10:30A; 2:00; 3:40; 6:30; 9:30

**TWISTERS** (PG-13) 10:40A; 12:50; 4:20; 7:20; 10:10

**TRAP** (PG-13) 10:50A; 1:50; 4:40; 7:40; 10:40

**HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYONS** (PG) 1:40; 4:10

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The Apopka Chief, The Planter & AOS (Apopka Office Supply) would like to thank the generous Apopka area for continuing to donate the gift of sight or hearing for so MANY.



# Orange County's June TDT collections was \$30.5 million

Orange County Comptroller Phil Diamond announced on Tuesday, August 6, that Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections received by Orange County for the June 2024 TDT collection month were \$30,547,500. June 2024 collections were higher than June 2023 collections by \$519,200 or 1.7 percent.

Compared to last month, June collections were higher than May collections by \$2.2 million or 7.6 percent. On a fiscal year to date basis, collections are down by \$475,700 or 0.2 percent. The chart below shows the monthly year-over-year dollar amount change in TDT collections since October 2021.

On the TDT reserve side, Renewal & Replacement Reserves ("R&RR") increased by \$12.7 million in June.

The Other Authorized Uses Reserves, which is a component of the R&RR, is currently at \$108.2 million. This reserve will help offset

See TDT Page 5A

## BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide to Local Businesses



### Essential Eye Care & Optical

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## Central Florida Audiology - Hearing Loss Is Not Just an Ear Problem

Hearing loss can be challenging enough with its profound effect on communication and quality of life, but did you know it can accompany other chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and dementia? Such comorbidities, or coexisting diseases, make regular hearing checkups even more important to catch potential problems early and address them for overall wellness.

**Cognitive Decline**  
Research has long pointed to links between hearing loss and decreased brain functioning over time. Some of the statistics may surprise you:

- On average, seniors with hearing loss experience significantly reduced cognitive function 3.2 years before their normal-hearing counterparts.
- Hearing-impaired seniors experience thinking and memory problems 30 to 40 percent faster than their normal-hearing counterparts.
- Those with hearing loss are two, three, or nearly five times as likely to develop dementia, depending on the severity of their hearing impairment.

The causal relationship between hearing loss and cognitive decline isn't completely clear, but some research suggests that addressing hearing loss could cut dementia cases by a third. Additionally, struggling to hear conversations in crowded places, asking friends and family to repeat themselves, and feeling exhausted by the effort to understand what others are saying can inspire a voluntary withdrawal from socializing, which can lead to isolation and depression.

**Dual Sensory Impairment**  
It's probably easy to see that the eyes and ears work together as a team. Both help you perceive the world around you, with hearing even enhancing the sense of sight. They both also help you — in conjunction with your joints, muscles, and brain — stay balanced and steady on your feet. Some researchers have discovered links between vision and hearing impairment. One study found that even after accounting for age, the two conditions (which are together known as "dual sensory impairment" or DSI) are somehow associated and significantly affect both physical and mental function.

**Cardiovascular Disease**  
Like hearing loss, which affects an estimated 466 million people according to the World Health Organization (WHO), cardiovascular disease is a global public health challenge. Exactly how heart disease and hearing loss are connected isn't yet conclusive in all cases, but researchers have found that:

- Hearing loss is more prevalent among those who have a history of circulatory disorders, such as cardiovascular disease, than among those who don't.
- Cardiovascular disease can cause decreased hearing sensitivity by restricting blood flow to the structures of the inner ear.
- People with heart disease are 54 percent more likely to experience a hearing loss, according to one study — even more so if they've suffered a heart attack.

**Balance and Falls**  
Many people don't realize that hearing and balance are linked, but in fact, research has shown that falls are much more common among those with hearing loss. If that doesn't sound particularly serious, keep in mind that falls are leading cause of injury-related death for seniors over the age of 65, and the second leading cause of unintentional deaths among all age groups worldwide. Balance and equilibrium are controlled by the body's vestibular system, involving parts of the brain, eyes, inner ear, and sensory systems, including skin, joints, and muscles. Keeping your hearing in the best shape possible can help reduce the risk of balance issues.

**Diabetes**  
Hearing loss is twice as common among people living with diabetes. Much like presbycusis, or age-related hearing loss, diabetes-connected hearing issues commonly take a toll on higher-frequency hearing, which impairs the ability to understand speech in noisy settings. Diabetes-associated hearing loss could affect one or both ears, may occur suddenly or gradually, and could appear with or without balance problems.

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Have you been impacted by hearing loss? Whether your hearing difficulties are a new development or a lifelong issue, the experts at **Central Florida Audiology** can help. Please call (407) 358-7045 to schedule a free hearing consultation or visit [www.central-floridaaudiology.com](http://www.central-floridaaudiology.com). Pictured above is Amy Davis, founder of **Central Florida Audiology**.



### community health centers

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**Evening service: Sunday/Wednesday @ 6:00pm**

**Worship music and message from GOD's word**

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The average person waits **SEVEN YEARS** to get their hearing checked.

That's **seven years** of missed laughs.  
**Seven years** of missed conversations.  
**Seven years** of missed moments.

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1108 W Dixie Ave  
[CentralFloridaAudiology.com](http://CentralFloridaAudiology.com)





Amy Davis, Au.D.  
Cynthia Quintana, Au.D.



# TDT: July report will be released in Sept.

Continued from page 4A

some of the future expenses associated with recently approved projects and programs such as the Convention Center 5A expansion project, Camping World Stadium renovations, additional Arts and Application Review Committee (ARC) funding, and the UCF football stadium tower project.

“For the second month in a row, we received outstanding news from Comp-

troller Diamond regarding Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections. For June 2024, we received more than \$30.5 million, which is a 1.7 percent increase over June 2023 and a 7.6 percent increase over the May 2024 collections. In fact, June 2024 is the second highest June since the beginning of the TDT, bested only by June 2022 when travel bounced back following COVID,” Orange County Mayor Jerry

L. Demings said in a statement about the June Tourist Development Tax numbers.

“At the Orange County Convention Center, AAU Volleyball numbers were strong throughout June and into July, which helped strengthen the totals,” Demings continued. “So far, this trend suggests that TDT will be at a similar place as last year when yearly collections set a record of \$359 million. On the TDT reserves side,

there was an increase of \$12.7 million in June, and currently totals more than \$408 million. Reserves funding is what helps us reinvest in community projects and programs to benefit residents and visitors such as community venues, cultural arts, and the Convention Center.”

Diamond will release the July TDT collections report in early September.

Best of Apopka

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## BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide to Local Business

### Natural Gas and 811 Day: Lake Apopka Natural Gas District offers Key Tips for Safe Digging

As we reach peak summertime activities, many of us are often scrambling to complete home projects while we can, from installing new mailboxes to planting trees or building a new patio, and while these activities can enhance our properties, they also pose a risk to underground utilities, including natural gas lines.

**Lake Apopka Natural Gas District (LANGD)** is here to share important tips for how you can dig safely and remain proactive when it comes to natural gas safety.

Every year on National 811 Day (August 11), our partners at Sunshine 811 remind us to be mindful of underground utilities before digging. Sunshine 811 is a free service that notifies utility companies when and where someone is digging so they can mark the necessary utility lines, helping to avoid potentially dangerous interruptions to service.

Contacting Sunshine 811 is free and legally required before starting any digging project in Florida. Upon calling, they work with you to ensure nearby utility lines are located and marked accordingly so you can begin your project safely. In addition to calling 8-1-1, here are five tips to help you dig safely:

**1. Call Early:** Florida residents should call 811 at least two (2) full business days before any digging project. For example, if you plan to begin work over

the weekend, reach out by Tuesday or Wednesday to ensure you're able to hit the ground running come Saturday.

**2. Respect the Tolerance Zone:** Always treat locator flags and paint markers as approximate and leave a “tolerance zone” of 24 inches from the outer edges of a buried line.

**3. Keep Marks Visible:** Ensure locator marks remain visible. Never place dump piles or building materials over marks; call 811 again if the marks fade.

**4. Manual Digging:** Do not use mechanized equipment near the utility lines. The safest thing to do is manually dig to expose the utility line and avoid damaging it.

**5. Know the Colors:** Here's a quick breakdown (right) of what the different color locator flags mean:

At LANGD, your safety is our top priority, and this commitment is backed up by national industry recognition. The District is proud to have been awarded the American Public Gas Association (APGA) Safety Award for the 14<sup>th</sup> straight year in 2023 while also being found 100% compliant with state and federal natural gas pipeline safety rules.

Natural gas is extremely resilient as it is delivered through underground pipelines. By following these guidelines and being proactive about natural gas safety, we can ensure the safe and reliable enjoyment



Make this National 811 Day a reminder to always call before you dig! For more information about switching to natural gas, contact our marketing team at (407) 656-2734 x307, email [marketing@langd.org](mailto:marketing@langd.org), or visit [www.langd.org](http://www.langd.org).

- White - Proposed Excavation
- Pink - Temporary Survey Markings
- Red - Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
- Yellow - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
- Orange - Communication, Alarm, or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit and Traffic Loops
- Blue - Potable Water
- Purple - Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
- Green - Sewer and Drain Lines

of natural gas for everyone.

Together, let's make this National 811 Day a reminder to always call before you dig! For more information about switching to natural gas,

contact our marketing team at (407) 656-2734 x307, email [marketing@langd.org](mailto:marketing@langd.org), or visit [www.langd.org](http://www.langd.org).

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**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.

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State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

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**Would You Like Extra Copies?**

**You may purchase The Apopka Chief at the following locations in and around Apopka**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7-11, Highway 436 &amp; Thompson Rd.</li><li>• 7-11, Highway 441 &amp; Piedmont-Wekiva Rd.</li><li>• 7-11 (Mobil), Highway 441 (Errol Pkwy Errol Estate entrance)</li><li>• Ace Meat &amp; Grocery, 439 S. Central Ave. &amp; 5th St.</li><li>• Apopka Chief rack, 400 N. Park Ave.</li><li>• Apopka High School</li><li>• Apopka Quick Mart (BP), Hwy 436 &amp; Lake Cortez Dr.</li><li>• Apopka Vape, N. Park Ave. (across from the old Fla. Hosp. location)</li><li>• CenturyLink headquarters, SR 436</li><li>• Chevron Diamond Gas – Hwy 441 &amp; Plymouth-Sorrento Rds</li><li>• Chevron Market, Hwy 441 &amp; Roger Williams Rd.</li><li>• Chuck's Wagon, Main St., (Hwy 441)</li><li>• Circle K &amp; BP, Hwy 441 S. of Walmart</li><li>• Circle K, Keene Rd / Clarcona</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Citgo, 441 &amp; Boy Scout Blvd (Plymouth)</li><li>• Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail boxes)</li><li>• CVS #3748 - corner of Park Av &amp; Hwy 441</li><li>• Discount Beverage &amp; Smoke (Across from Checkers, Highway 441)</li><li>• Circle K (Shell) #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.</li><li>• Circle K (Marathon) #6157, S. Park Avenue</li><li>• Circle K (Shell) #2334, Rock Springs Rd &amp; Kelly Park Rd</li><li>• Circle K #1288, Welch Rd &amp; Wekiva Springs Rd.</li><li>• Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441</li><li>• Compare Fresh Market, 436 behind Aaron's</li><li>• Crosby's Motor Inn, Hwy 441 &amp; Errol Parkway (Errol Estate)</li><li>• Lula Mae's Eatery, Central Ave S.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marathon, Main St. (midland downtown)</li><li>• McDonald's, Highway 441 (downtown)</li><li>• Mobil, (Citgo) Hwy 441 (next to Burger K)</li><li>• Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.</li><li>• Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)</li><li>• Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd</li><li>• Porkies BBQ, Highway 441 (downtown)</li><li>• Post Office, N. Park Ave. (Martin St)</li><li>• Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. &amp; Welch Rd.</li><li>• Sam's Discount, Overland &amp; Apopka Blvd.</li><li>• Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.</li><li>• Sunoco Happy Foods, Hwy 441 &amp; Plymouth-Sorrento Rd.</li><li>• Trader Mae's, Rock Springs Rd</li><li>• UPS Store (The), Rock Springs &amp; Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walgreens, corner of Park Ave and Hwy 441</li><li>• Walgreens, N. Park Ave/Welch Rd.</li><li>• Wawa Store, 449 W. Main St. - corner of Hwy 441 and Bradshaw</li><li>• Wawa Store, 441 &amp; Piedmont Wekiva across from Walmart</li><li>• Wekiva High School, Hiawassee Rd.</li><li>• Winn Dixie #2246 – Hwy 441 (beside Lowe's)</li><li>• Zellwood Station (inside MHP)</li><li>• Zellwood Truck Stop Diner, Hwy 441</li><li>• Zellwood Water Users, Inc., 3262 Robinson St.</li></ul>
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**Office Location: 400 N. Park Avenue, Apopka**

**www.theapopkachief.com • Ph: 407-886-2777 • Fax: 407-889-4121 • email: [news@theapopkachief.com](mailto:news@theapopkachief.com) • [ads@theapopkachief.com](mailto:ads@theapopkachief.com)**

04/24



## Correction: The Apopka Serves Foundation created scholarship fund

The Apopka Serves Foundation created the John Ricketson Educational Scholarship Fund, but the media incorrectly stated that the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce established the scholarship fund.

This correction is made to update any media to reflect the accurate information as these two organizations have different EIN numbers and the foundation is the only 501 (C)(3) (tax exempt) to take tax deductible donation funds.

The scholarship aims to support local students with a focus on budding leaders in business, entrepreneurship and technical careers.

Through the generosity and support of the community, the Apopka Serves Foundation is dedicated to keeping John (JR) Ricketson's legacy of service and community alive for years to come.

To learn more or to donate online, go to [ApopkaFoundation.org](http://ApopkaFoundation.org).

## Hayden: We need to work together

ise that no one among their overripe, soft hosts could or would dare stop them.

Our “American Dream” is becoming an “American Nightmare.” We are afraid to let our children on playgrounds without strict supervision because of people with perverted intentions who have honed their skills of persuasion, taking children unaware. Young ladies are afraid of jogging alone, and on and on.

Young couples that can’t afford to buy a home because grocery costs are through the roof.

On top of all that, our government is spending billions of taxpayer’s dollars to give *illegal aliens* free medical care, free housing, free credit cards, and free transportation. All the while there are a multitude

of military veterans who are homeless and sleeping on the streets.

We ought to be ashamed of ourselves for letting this charade go on! Our Constitution is being shredded by the very people that use it to commit their vitriol against it, and we remain silent. In California, you can shoplift up to \$950 worth of items without being held accountable, but the IRS is considering (and they may have already) hiring 80,000 new, *armed agents* to make sure you give an account for expenditures of \$600 or more from your bank account, and we remain silent. Our Armed Forces are being decimated by DEI indoctrination instead of military combat training, and we remain silent.

Our children are being taught about transgen-

der living, and sexual mutilation in our public school system, yet we remain silent.

In the past, We the People would have been writing letters, making phone calls to remind our politicians the United States of America belongs to We the People, and it is what we want done that is to be done. Not some ideological bubblehead that thinks his or her Socialism over Capitalism is the door to success. If that were so, the caravans would be southbound for Venezuela!

Why is it we choke on gnats and swallow camels? Let us join together as Americans and show the world a force that cannot be defeated by racism, woke fallacies, border invasions, corrupt politicians, or anything else that is detrimental to our Constitutional, GOD-given rights and freedoms!

Dear Rusty:

I try to read your article in the Carmichael Times each week and appreciate the information you provide. I am 62 and considering my retirement options and when I should do that to get the most benefit. I understand my full retirement age is 67, but what I don't understand, and I hope you can answer, is why there is such a thing as the Social Security earnings limit? I know that if I was to retire before 67, my benefits would be reduced. But since I have been paying into SS for 45+ years, and that money is technically money I have earned, why does SS care if I make more than the earnings limit? It doesn't affect them or my benefits. Can you tell me about the reasoning behind the earnings limit? I will be working for many years after "retiring," continue working in my field.

Signed: Working American

earnings. It is, after all, SS taxes from the earnings of working Americans which largely pays for the benefits provided to Social Security beneficiaries. Eliminating the restriction would tend to improve Social Security revenue and help ease Social Security's current financial stress.

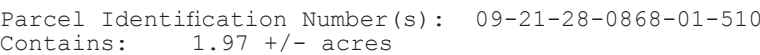
The reasoning behind the earnings test? Well, when Social Security was first enacted in the 1930s, the intent was that Social Security was for retired workers, meant to keep them from poverty in old age. The logic back then was that if a person worked they didn't need Social Security to sustain them, so those who worked could not collect Social Security at all. The current rule, after many adjustments over the years, says that annual earnings for those who collect early SS benefits are limited. If each year's earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024) is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (FYI, the penalty is less severe in the year FRA is attained).

tal thought that if someone worked they didn't need Social Security. Over the ensuing decades the rule has been softened to provide that only those who collect benefits before their full retirement age (FRA) would have a portion of their SS benefits offset by their work earnings. In any case, the earnings test, in its mitigated form, still persists today. FYI, H.R. 5193 – The Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act was recently introduced in Congress proposing to repeal the SS earnings test but has not advanced in the legislative process since introduced in August 2023.

In any case, under current rules, if you continue working after your FRA, the earnings test will not apply to you. And, if you lose any benefits before your FRA due to the earnings test, when you reach your FRA you'll get time credit for any months that benefits were withheld, resulting in a somewhat higher monthly payment after your full retirement age.

One final point: if you continue to work after starting your Social Security benefits and your recent earnings are higher than any of those in the inflation-adjusted 35 years used to originally calculate your benefit, your entitlement will be recalculated to give you credit for those higher recent earnings.

ORDINANCE NO. 3059  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE  
ZONING FROM COUNTY R-2 (RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO I-L (LIGHT  
INDUSTRIAL), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY SFL PARTNERS  
LLC AND JFJ REAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF FOURTH  
STREET, EAST OF BRADSHAW ROAD AND WEST OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE;  
COMPRISING 1.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS  
TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE  
DATE.



NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3058 and 3059 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M. AND Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 1:30 P.M.**

affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications 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, Florida 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

August 9, 2024

**Publish: The Apopka Chief**

Apopka City Council  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

177201

# The Apopka Chief

**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.



**Other Area  
Numbers of Note**

City Hall.....	407-703-1700	Animal Services.....	407-836-3111	<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Mayor's Office.....	407-703-1701	Auto/Boat Tags.....	850-617-2000	Rick Scott (Rep.) .....	202-224-5274
City Administrator.....	407-703-1649	Building Dept.....	407-836-8550	Marco Rubio (Rep.) .....	407-254-2573
City Clerk.....	407-703-1704	County Mayor.....	407-836-7370	<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Community Devl.....	407-703-1712	County Commission.....	407-836-7350	Daniel Webster (Dist. 11).....	352-241-9220
Code Enforcement.....	407-703-1738	County Attorney.....	407-836-7320	<b>State Representatives</b>	
Finance Dept.....	407-703-1725	Clerk of the Court.....	407-836-2065	Doug Bankson.....	407-476-6787
Fire (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1756	Elections Supervisor.....	407-836-2070	Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....	unknown
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-703-1741	Fire/Rescue.....	407-836-3111	<b>State Senators</b>	
Police Chief.....	407-703-1769	Solid Waste.....	407-836-6601	Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11).....	407-297-2045
Police (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1771	Garbage Collection.....	407-703-1731	<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Job Line.....	407-703-1743	Health Dept.....	407-836-2600	Christine Moore.....	407-836-7350
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1731	Hunting/Fishing Lic.....	888-347-4356	<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Street Maintenance.....	407-703-1731	Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-836-6200	Pupil assignment.....	407-317-3233
Utility Billing.....	407-703-1727	Property Appraiser.....	407-836-5044	Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Medical, fire emergency.....	911	Sheriff Administrative.....	407-254-7000	Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
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. <b>www.apopka.net</b>		Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357	School Board.....	407-317-3200
		Utilities.....	407-836-5515	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
		All other departments.....	407-836-3111	<i>The Apopka Chief</i> .....	407-886-2777
		Medical, fire emergency.....	911	Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
		<b>www.orangecountyfl.net</b>		Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1421



# Poll: Results of Chamber’s July 30 Hob Nob straw poll

Continued from page 1A

**Judicial, Group 5**  
Joy Goodyear 37  
LaShawnda K. Jackson 52

**Circuit Judge, 9th Judicial, Group 15**  
Jeffrey Ashton 15  
Chris Mack 15  
Alicia Peyton 54

**Circuit Judge, 9th Judicial, Group 37**  
Jason Willis 20  
Tanya Davis Wilson 59

**Circuit Judge, 9th Judicial, Group 43**  
Stephen Brown 26  
Craig McCarthy 54

**County Judge, Group 11**  
Lisa Gong Guerrero 44  
Adam McGinnis 43

**NONPARTISAN COUNTY OFFICES**  
**County Commissioner, District 1**  
Austin Arthur 42  
Nicole H. Wilson 37

**County Commissioner, District 3**  
Gus Martinez 10  
Linda Stewart 38  
Mayra Uribe 25

**School Board Member, District 4**  
Anne Douglas 26

Kyle Roger Goudy 19  
Jake Petroski 19

**School Board Member, District 6**  
Jeni Grieger 26  
Stephanie Vanos 44

**Soil and Water Conservation, District Supervisor, Seat 2**  
Matthew Grocholske 13  
Jimm Middleton 4  
Jim Moyer 16  
Vicki Vargo 30

**Soil & Water Conservation, District Supervisor, Seat 4**  
Karolyn C. Campbell 29  
Dena Krueger 24

**PARTISAN FEDERAL OFFICES**  
**United States Senator**  
REP John S Columbus 1  
REP Keith Gross 4  
REP Rick Scott 37  
DEM Stanley Campbell 16  
DEM Rod Joseph 2  
DEM Debbie Mucarsel-Powell 11  
DEM Brian Rush 6  
LPF Feena Bonoan 0  
NPA Ben Everidge 2  
NPA Tuan TQ Nguyen 17

**Rep in Congress, District 10**  
REP Tuan Le 28  
REP Willie J Montague 20

DEM Wade Darius 9  
DEM Maxwell Alejandro Frost 31  
DEM V. Issa White 5

**REP in Congress, District 11**  
REP John McCloy 4  
REP Daniel Webster 55  
DEM Barbie Harden Hall 39

**PARTISAN STATE OFFICES**  
**State Attorney, 9th Judicial Circuit**  
REP Thomas Feiter 7  
REP Seth Hyman 22  
DEM Monique Worrell 33  
NPA Andrew Bain 34

**Public Defender, 9th Judicial Circuit**  
DEM Lenora Easter 20

DEM Melissa Vickers 61

**State Senator, District 13**  
REP “CJ” Blancett 9  
REP Bowen Kou 7  
REP Keith Truenow 29  
DEM Stephanie L Dukes 40

**State Senator, District 15**  
DEM Randolph Bracy 36  
DEM Geraldine F. Thompson 49

**State Senator, District 25**  
REP Jon H. Arguello 16  
REP Jose Martinez 22  
DEM Kristen Arrington 14  
DEM Alan Grayson 14  
DEM Carmen Torres 21

**State Representative, District 37**  
REP Susan Plasencia 54  
DEM Nate Douglas 41

**District 39**  
REP Doug Bankson 58  
DEM Marsha Summersill 41

State Representatives, See POLL Page 12A

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## Gracework

### Community Church

#### SATURDAY SERVICES

**Bible Study 10:00 AM**  
**Worship 11:30 AM**  
**Livestream:**  
**tinyurl.com/4ak7933j**

**9913 Bear Lake Rd., Apopka, FL**  
**graceworxccc@gmail.com**  
**321-228-4599**

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### 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 **Jonathan P. Huels, Esq.** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of properties generally located south of W. Kelly Park Road and west of Jason Dwelley Parkway. This application relates to the following described properties:

ORDINANCE NO. 3071

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 ORCHID ESTATES COMMUNITY HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, MEGA GNG, LLC, JACOB SNAVELY, 4625 CHANDLER ROAD, LLC, MATTHEW AND DEBORAH SHAW, DAPHNE MARTIN; GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF W. KELLY PARK ROAD AND WEST OF JASON DWELLEY PARKWAY; COMPRISING 28.54 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 18-20-28-0000-00-132, 18-20-28-0000-00-031, 18-20-28-0000-00-105, 18-20-28-0000-00-050, 18-20-28-0000-00-049, 18-20-28-0000-00-061  
Contains: 28.54 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 3071 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, August 21, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M. and Wednesday, September 4, 2024** beginning at 1:30 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible.

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  
Community Development Department

August 9, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177227



# Orange County employees ready to help after a storm

In the aftermath of a severe storm, a special team of Orange County employees spring into action for a crucial mission. Their task is to assess damage to the homes of its most vulnerable residents forced to vacate to special needs shelters.

“Our number one priority is the safety of our residents, before, during and after a storm,” said Amanda Freeman, manager

for Orange County Disaster Health Medical. “We don’t want to send anyone home to an unsafe situation.”

You may ask who are these superheroes? Members of Orange County’s Mosquito Control Division pivot to take on this lesser-known, yet essential service. It makes sense to leverage this crew, already familiar with navigating neighborhoods in company vehicles and demonstrat-

ing unwavering community commitment.

Freeman is grateful for the help. “It’s one team, one fight. When it’s time to go, they go.”

The team collaborates with shelters to identify addresses of those sheltering, divide the tasks and conduct what they loosely call “windshield safety checks.” (Most times employees can

See STORM Page 9A



Photo courtesy of Orange County government

Pictured is Brett Elliott, foreman for Orange County Health Services Department and Mosquito Control Division



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# Storm: Employees do safety checks, deliver supplies, assist with logistics

Continued from page 8A

assess the situation by looking out their windshield.)

They are on the lookout for three things: roadway accessibility for safe passage, power outages (look for signs of electricity, or check the meter), and property damage from fallen trees, wind or water.

“We don’t want to send anyone home that doesn’t have electricity or water, or if they have wind or water damage,” said Steve Harrison, manager for the Orange County Mosquito Control Division.

Safety checks are swiftly implemented — usually within about four hours, he said. “We want to get these

done as quickly as possible so our clients can get back to their homes.”

These county employees radio special needs shelters with real-time updates of damages, or all-clear.

Harrison said that though his team often flies under the radar, he’s especially proud of their team spirit during and after a storm. Along with safety checks, employees deliver supplies to shelters and assist with logistics during a storm.

“We have to do whatever it takes to fulfill the mission to protect people from public health threats,” he said. “There are fragile individuals within our population who need extra care, and we’re eager to provide the care and ensure they can get back home

safely.”

While Orange County residents are not required to register to use these shelters, they must meet certain criteria. For more details about the PSN shelter program call 311.

The People with Special Needs Program (PSN) is designed for any Orange County resident or visitor who during times of disaster evacuation has no other alternative and/or requires transportation assistance to evacuate their home and/or has a health/medical condition that requires medical attention by a skilled medical professional in a shelter environment. Each special needs shelter houses up to 100 clients.

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**SUDOKU ANSWERS**  
**PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B**

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

**Puzzle Solution**

	C	Y	P	R	U	S		D	A	I	S	E	S			
	O	U	T	L	I	N	E		A	N	T	I	B	E	S	
	S	D		A	T	H	L	E	T	I	C	S		M	P	
	A	G	A	T	E		L	E	I		H	A	B	E	R	
	G	E	L	S		S	E	G	N	O		L	O	S	E	
	E	L	I		F	A	R		G	A	S		U	T	A	
			P	R	A	T										
	T	C	H	A	D					L	E	E	R	S		
	R	O	A	M	E	D				K	I	E	V			
	A	P	T		D	A	H		T	I	C		A	A	R	
	F	L	I	C		M	A	S	A	N		A	R	E	A	
	F	A	C	E	S		R	I	P		I	N	D	R	I	
	I	N		C	A	P	A	R	I	S	O	N		I	D	
	C	A	R	I	T	A	S			R	E	N	A	M	E	S
		R	E	L	I	C	S			S	W	A	M	I	S	

**The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B**

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# Oops!

I say “oops” a lot. And even when I don’t say it out loud, I think “oops” a lot.

Every slip of the tongue, every misstep and every misplaced item is an oops. I must say it a hundred times every day, probably more, and it’s partly a way of saying “pardon me,” I stepped in front of you and should have let you go first.

Some people say “my bad” instead of oops, and my Spanish-speaking friends say “disculpe” which has similar roots with exculpate, the legal term for relieving someone of blame.

These are such frequent things to say and there are so many ways to say them because we are so often mistaken, or to blame, or just plain wrong. It’s why pencils have erasers and oops is always on the tips of our tongues. And not to be too harsh about it. Oops is

sometimes “oopsy daisy,” the more playful rendition of “oops” when we mean that we’ve made a mistake but it doesn’t amount to much, or when we’re trying to help the child who just tripped and we think they’re on the verge of tears.

When we have really messed up it requires more than saying “oops” or “my bad.” When we have really made a mess of things or done something horrible which hurts someone deeply we need to beg their forgiveness, and this may require sincere words of apology and a fair amount of groveling.

Oops isn’t so much an apology as trying to erase the errant mark on the page. Oops!

– Christopher Simon



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# Obituaries

**ROBERT “BOB” ALAN HALSEY**, 63, of Apopka, passed away on July 18, 2024. Bob was born on May 16, 1961 in Norfolk, VA to Epirosa Fiatoa and Lynn Halsey. He is preceded in death by: mother, Epirosa Fiatoa; son, Robert Halsey II. Bob is survived by: his father; children, Kia, Holly, and Wayne; sisters Linda, Lynne, and Laura; 8 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild.

...

**DEVIN ASHFORD WILLOUGHBY**, 17, passed away on July 27, 2024. Born to Denise Blair and Brent Willoughby Sr on May 8, 2007, in Apopka. Devin is survived by: grandparents, Robert and Patricia Noeske, William and Dorene Willoughby; parents, Denise Blair (James Blair) and Brent Willoughby Sr. (Becki Willoughby); brothers, Brenton Willoughby Jr, and Nathan Willoughby; step sisters, Hailey Price, and Hannah Price; and aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

...

See Obituary on page 12A

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Ministerios Getsemani  
407-310-8672  
Prince of Peace Pentecostal Missionary Church, Inc.  
407-889-9269  
Pentecostals of Apopka  
407-889-3802  
Way of Grace Ministries  
407-292-9998

## Presbyterian

First Presbyterian of Apopka  
407-886-5943  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
407-293-6802

## Reformed Church in America

Rolling Hills Community Church  
407-886-7664

## Seventh-day Adventists

Apopka Seventh-day Adventist  
407-889-2812  
Florida Living SDA Church  
407-284-7472  
Forest Lake  
407-869-0680  
Franco-Haitian  
407-296-4368  
Genesis Spanish  
509-264-4873  
Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist  
407-290-1800  
Mount Olive  
407-886-0430  
Orlando Filipino Seventh-day Adventist  
407-292-9210  
Orlando Vietnamese Seventh-day Adventist  
407-339-4974  
Patmos Chapel SDA  
321-870-8583  
Pine Hills  
407-291-4816  
Plymouth-Sorrento  
407-884-0595

## Templo Bíblico

Templo Asamblea Bíblica  
Lake Howell Branch Chapel  
407-814-4465

## Unity

Unity Church of Christianity  
407-295-9181

## Ukrainian

St. Mary’s (Protectress) Ukrainian  
407-880-1640 • 386-848-9888

## FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

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.

[www.TheApopkaChief.com](http://www.TheApopkaChief.com) | [news@theapopkachief.com](mailto:news@theapopkachief.com) | 407-886-2777

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# Cheese biscuits recipe has 4 ingredients, makes enough to freeze

How about Baby Back Ribs (or Chicken) done in the slow cooker?

In his book *Hearty Country Cooking*, Mark Sohn says, “With this slow-cooker barbecue, you combine opposites: old and new, fast and slow. The combination of slow cooking and fast grilling makes these ribs tender and crisp. When you add a few grilled vegetables, you have another opposite that brings balance: light vegetables and rich pork (or chicken) barbecue. “Slow cooking results in tender ribs, and fast cooking yields flavor. I cook the ribs indoors in a slow-cooker, and outdoors on a grill. The result is a tender, succulent serving, soft meat inside and crisp with burned edges outside.”

From *Hearty Country Cooking*, we also have Mark Sohn’s Fried Green Tomatoes, with step-by-step instructions for a successful fry! He even gives a healthy choice alternative. Mark says, “In the movie *Fried Green Tomatoes*, the characters eat fried tomatoes for breakfast, a birthday celebration, an afternoon snack, and fresh out of the skillet at the Whistle Stop Café. I suggest serving fried green tomatoes for breakfast with bacon, eggs, and corn bread, or for dinner as a side-dish vegetable.”

Mark’s Peach Cobbler recipe from *Hearty Country Cooking* has only seven ingredients, two steps, and 45 minutes of baking. He says this recipe is moderate in difficulty. You can find peaches in your market now, but if you have another fruit you would like to use, say apples or berries, they would certainly work, as well. If berries, you may want to hold the cinnamon, but add a little lemon juice or lemon zest.

Mark says, “From the Alleghenies to the Smokies and from the Blue Ridge west to the Highland Rim, this shortcake-style or biscuit-type cobbler is a favorite.” And, I say, right here in Central Florida, where we love all sorts of fruit, we are sure to love this recipe!

Mrs. Hilda Vincent contributed her recipe for Lurvada’s Bread Pudding, to *Stew-Pot Favorites of Zellwood*. There is a note at the bottom that declares, “This is a Plymouth Citrus Produce Co-operation recipe.”

From *Stew Pot Favorites of Zellwood*, we have Cheese Biscuits from Mrs. Ruth McGowan. She says they

will keep indefinitely in your freezer! They look quite “Cheesy!”

## MARK SOHN’S BABY BACK RIBS

Recipe from  
Hearty Country Cooking

**Ingredients:**  
**2 sides baby back ribs (racks weigh 1-3/4 pounds, and are to 24 inches long)**  
**2 cups Texas-Style Barbecue Sauce or commercial sauce such as Kraft Thick ‘n Spicy or Mesquite Smoke)**  
**Yield: 6 servings**

Cut each side of ribs so that it will fit into your slow-cooker. Cut the side of ribs into as few pieces as possible. Place the ribs in the slow-cooker and cook at medium for 10 hours. The temperature in the crock pot should stay at about 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fifteen minutes before serving time, heat a gas grill. When the grill is hot, move the ribs from the slow-cooker to the grill. Watch the ribs carefully or you may burn them. After you grill the ribs for 2 minutes on each side, use a pastry brush to brush the top (tips down, convex side up) side of the ribs with barbecue sauce. To keep the sauce from burning, I don’t put it on the bottom. Put the ribs back on the grill, sauce side up, and grill for another 1 to 2 minutes. Add more sauce and grill 1 more minute.

Tip: to grill soft vegetables such as eggplant, summer squash, bell peppers, and mushrooms, cut them up, put them on a skewer and grill for 10 minutes. For hard vegetables such as onions, celery, carrots, and beets, boil until tender and then grill 10 minutes.

While you can serve grilled foods immediately, there is no need to rush your vegetables or ribs to the table. They’ll be just as good after they have cooled some. Do not cover them or they will lose their crispiness. For a complete summer meal, serve with salad, grilled vegetables, a baked potato, and dessert.

## MARK SOHN’S BARBECUED CHICKEN

Recipe from  
*Hearty Country Cooking*

Using chicken quarters, follow the same procedure as the Baby Back Ribs, above, reducing the slow-cooking time to 3 hours.

For my family, I fix 1 rack of ribs and about 2 pounds of chicken quarters.

## MARK SOHN’S FRIED GREEN TOMATOES

Hearty Country Cooking  
Fried green tomatoes are prepared in three steps: slice the tomatoes, coat them with cornmeal, and fry. But if you have never seen fried green tomatoes, you’ll have many questions: What kind of shortening do you use? Do the tomatoes need to be peeled? Do you coat the tomatoes with a batter, flour, or cornmeal? Do you flavor the batter with sugar, black pepper, cayenne, or hot sauce? Be sure to select firm tomatoes that do not show any signs of ripening.

Steps: In a 10-inch cast-iron skillet over medium heat, melt the lard until it starts to smoke, or until it reaches 325 to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. If you are smoking up the kitchen, the lard is too hot. Reduce the heat.

1) Cut the tomatoes into 3/8-inch slices. If you want batter to stick to the edge of the slices, peel the tomatoes. (I skip that step.)

2) In a mixing bowl, combine self-rising cornmeal mix, salt, and pepper, and coat the tomato slices with the mixture. Fry about 2 minutes on each side, or until golden brown. The tomatoes will be cooked through, but not overly crusty on the outside.

3) Drain on a wire rack and serve. If you let the fried tomatoes sit, what was crisp will be soggy!

4) Healthy Choice Alternative: In this recipe, the light coating of cornmeal does not absorb a lot of lard. For a light oven-fried tomato, after dipping the tomatoes in the cornmeal, place them on a cooling rack over a cookie sheet, and bake 20 minutes at 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Broil to brown.

## MARK SOHN’S PEACH COBBLER

*Hearty Country Cooking*

**FOR THE FILLING:**  
**3 cups sliced fresh peaches**  
**3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar**  
**1 tablespoon cornstarch**  
**1/4 teaspoon cinnamon**  
**FOR THE CRUST:**  
**3/4 cup all-purpose flour**  
**1 teaspoon baking powder**  
**1/4 cup heavy cream**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Arrange the sliced peaches in an 8 x 8 x 2-inch baking pan. 2) In a small mixing bowl, combine the 3/4 cup sugar, cornstarch, and cinnamon. Whisk until the lumps of cornstarch are gone. Pour over the fruit, and place the

pan in the oven to warm.

3) Prepare the crust: In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, and baking powder. Stir in the cream. Pat the crust into a flat 8 x 8-inch shape, cut into quarters (for ease of moving it to the pan), and lay it over the peaches. With a knife, slash four steam vents. Return the pan to the oven, and bake for 45 minutes, or until the fruit mixture bubbles up through the center. Healthy Choice Alternative: Replace the heavy cream with skim milk, making the crust less tender. Then, without salt, eggs, or fat, this dessert should fit into a variety of diets. To cut calories, reduce the sugar in the filling to 1/2 cup. Serve warm from the oven, topped with ice cream, heavy cream, or whipped cream. Serve in bowls with a hard sauce or Butter-milk Glaze. Yield: 8 servings.

## LURVADA’S BREAD PUDDING

This is a Plymouth Citrus Produce Co-operation recipe

Recipe from

Hilda Vincent compliments of  
*STEW-POT FAVORITES OF ZELLWOOD*

Woman’s Society of Christian Service, Zellwood, Florida

**1 cup raisins**  
**2 eggs, beaten**  
**1/2 loaf white bread and**  
**1/2 loaf brown bread, broken**  
**1-2/3 cup sugar**  
**1-1/2 sticks melted oleo margarine**  
**Vanilla**  
**Nutmeg**

Moisten bread with milk. Mix well together and bake in moderate oven until firm. Serve warm with milk or cream.

## MRS. RUTH MCGOWAN’S CHEESE BISCUITS

Recipe from

*Stew Pot Favorites of Zellwood*

**1 pound cheese**  
**1 pound oleo margarine**  
**4 cups flour**  
**1 teaspoon salt**

Cut oleo margarine into flour until crumbly or the size of a pea. Add salt and grated cheese. Divide dough and roll to 1/4-inch thick. Cut with small biscuit cutter. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet about 10 minutes at 425 degrees. These will keep in your freezer indefinitely.

**View Kitchen Kapers by Nancy online at  
[www.theapokkachief.com/recipes](http://www.theapokkachief.com/recipes)**

## AUGUST 2024



## EVENTS

## WEEKLY

## UPCOMING

## ONGOING



**SCHOOL BEGINS AUGUST 12** – Traffic patterns will change. Stormy weather comes and goes! Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those school children! ... and ducks. DON’T TEXT WHILE DRIVING - Please! YOU WILL PAY A FINE.

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.

UNLESS CHANGED: School Start Times for Elementary School & K-8: 8:45 a.m., Middle School: 9:30 a.m., High school: 7:20 a.m.

City of Apopka’s Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwellie 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, **Walking Trail**, Amphitheater, Playground, Concession Stands.

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.

**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 Wekiva River.

Address: 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka 32712, open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call 407-884-4311

**FRAN CARLTON CENTER OPEN**, for seniors - senior activities at Fran Carlton Center. CALL 407-703-1642 FOR INFORMATION .

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

**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. .

**CENTRAL FL CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**, 1806 S Bay St., Eustis, has Fellowship Friday meetings. For complete details of all chamber events, visit [cchristianchamber.com/events-chamber](http://cchristianchamber.com/events-chamber). Contact: [latrondra@cfchristianchamber.com](mailto:latrondra@cfchristianchamber.com)

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

**VFW POST 10147** continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the the third Saturday of the month (AUG. 17) from 8-10 a.m. at 519 S. Central Avenue. Cost is only \$7.

**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.

**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.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 MONDAY, AUGUST 12

**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.

**CRAFTS & CHATTER**: 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave.Masks required. Temperature taken. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

**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](http://OA.org) or call Carrie 781-867-1071.

**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

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

THE SERTOMA CLUB meets the

first 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.

**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

**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.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

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@vfwpost10147.com](mailto:info@vfwpost10147.com) for information. The VFW Auxiliary has been formed and is active as well. Don’t forget to visit its excellent Military Museum.

**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..

**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

**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.

**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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**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](http://www.Apopkatoastmasters.com).

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

**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.

**ROTARY CLUB OF APOPKA** - For information, call 407-415-6588. Call for updated information on meetings and location.

**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.

**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.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Deadline is September 6 for applications to be received from students who are interested in becoming a member on the Apopka Youth Council. Visit [apopka.gov](http://apopka.gov) Apopka Youth Council

### ONGOING EVENTS

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.

**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 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

**FOLIAGE GARDEN CLUB OF APOPKA**, meets the first Thursday of each month, September through May, at 9:45 a.m. at the Alonza William Park / Billie Dean Community Center, 225 M.A. Board St., Apopka. Contact: [apopkafgca@gmail.com](mailto:apopkafgca@gmail.com). **NO MEETINGS JUNE-AUGUST**.

**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 can be emailed to [orangecomgv@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto: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.

**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

**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.

**APOPKA FOLIAGE TOASTMASTER’S CLUB**, Monday, 7 p.m., on Zoom, Apopka. 407-765-2629.

**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)

**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.theapopka-museum.com](http://www.theapopka-museum.com).

THE APOPKA ELKS LODGE 2422 meets first and third Tuesdays of month, 201 W. Orange. For more information, call 407-886-1600 or email [apopkaelks@aol.com](mailto:apopkaelks@aol.com) Bar Bingo every Monday night at 7 p.m. promptly.

**GFWC APOPKA WOMAN’S CLUB**, meets at First Methodist Church, 201 N. Park Avenue. Call 407-880-2111 for more information.

**CITY OF APOPKA PLANNING & 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.

**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](http://lakeduplicate.com).

**TEMPORARILY CANCELLED: 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, Power Point, Internet, Open Lab, How to use a mouse and keyboard, etc. Call OCLS North Orange Branch\* for more details.**BUILDING CLOSED**.

**HABITAT VOLUNTEERS**: Go to [www.habitatseminoleapopka.org](http://www.habitatseminoleapopka.org), 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.

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(OCLS) Orange County Public Library North Orange Branch Address: 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. [www.ocls.info](http://www.ocls.info). **This branch library has been temporarily closed (beginning July 2024) due to inclement weather damage.**

\*Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, 180 E. Main St., Apopka. For more info, call 407-886-1441

**COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR INFORMATION** Events, fund raisers, and non-profit organizations Info: fax 407-889-4121, or email [ads@theapokkachief.com](mailto:ads@theapokkachief.com) Subscribe to The Apopka Chief E-Edition or Home Delivery Call 407-886-2777 or Visit [www.theapokkachief.com](http://www.theapokkachief.com) In County: \$30 with E-edition, or \$25 for just postal delivery. Out-of-County: \$35 with E-Edition or \$30 for postal delivery



Poll: Results of Chamber’s July 30 Hob Nob straw poll

Continued from page 7A

State Representative,  
District 40  
REP Belinda Ford 46  
DEM LaVon Bracy Davis 46

State Representative,  
District 42  
REP Gregory Pull 40  
DEM Anna V. Eskamani 54

CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENTS  
No. 3 Constitutional  
Amendment, Adult Personal Use of Marijuana  
Yes 44  
No 44  
  
No. 4 Constitutional  
Amendment, Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion  
Yes 44

No 41  
  
COUNTY QUESTIONS  
County Charter Question #1, Amendments to the Orange County Charter  
Yes 28  
No 35  
  
County Charter Question #2, Orange County Charter Amendment Requiring Continued Existence of Affordable Housing Trusting Fund  
Yes 42  
No 29  
  
County Charter Question #3, Write-In Candidate Effect on Timing of Charter Officer Elections  
Yes 33  
No 30  
  
County Charter Question #4, Orange Coun-

ty Charter Amendment Requiring Adoption of a Fiscal Sustainability Analysis Tool  
Yes 38  
No 24  
  
County Charter Question #5, Orange County Charter Amendment Establishing Charter Office of County Attorney  
Yes 39  
No 24  
  
County Charter Question 6, Orange County Charter Amendment Increasing Number of County Commission Districts  
Yes 28  
No 34  
  
County Charter Question #7, Charter Amendment Creating Transportation Mobility Advisory Committee

Yes 30  
No 30  
  
County Charter Question #8, Supermajority County Commission Vote to Dispose of or Change Use of ‘County Protected Lands’  
Yes 37  
No 28  
  
School Sales Surtax Referendum, One-Half Cent Sales Surtax for School Facilities Construction, Improvement, Land Acquisition, and Technology Implementation  
For the one-half cent tax 44  
Against the one-half cent tax 28  
  
APOPKA HOB NOB QUESTIONS  
Are you in favor of Apopka annexation to include South Apopka

residents in the city of Apopka?  
Yes 36  
No 31  
  
Would you like to start your own business in Apopka?  
Yes 25  
No 44  
  
Do you frequent the downtown weekly farmers market, restaurants, cocktail bar, brewery and fitness establishments in the CRA area?  
Yes 32  
No 42  
  
Are you in favor of the current strong mayor form of government in Apopka?  
Yes 57  
No 14

**Honor Your Loved Ones**  
  
Call 407-886-2777 to find out about our designed Obituaries and Memorials or visit [www.TheApopkaChief.com/obituaries](http://www.TheApopkaChief.com/obituaries)

*Devin Ashford Willoughby*

Devin Ashford Willoughby passed away on July 27, 2024, in his hometown of Apopka, Florida, at the young age of 17. Born on May 8, 2007, in Apopka, he was the youngest of three sons of Denise Blair and Brent Willoughby Sr. Devin attended Apopka High School, where he was starting his senior year, expected to graduate in 2025. Devin enjoyed playing video games, loved animals of all kinds and was looking forward to learning a trade to pursue after high school.

Devin was a shy, kind hearted soul, with an infectious smile. Growing up Devin enjoyed being active in Cub Scouts, fishing, beach trips, and taking care of animals. He liked to help with projects, enjoyed getting to work in construction and assist with his brother Nathan's online business. Devin is

survived and deeply missed by his loving parents, Denise Blair (James Blair) and Brent Willoughby Sr. (Becki Willoughby), brothers, Brenton Willoughby Jr, and Nathan Willoughby, and step sisters Haley Price, and Hannah Price. He also leaves behind his maternal grandparents, Robert and Patricia Noeske, his paternal grandparents, William and Dorene Willoughby, and a loving family of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. A service to celebrate Devin's life will be held on August 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Loomis Funeral Home, located at 420 W Main St, Apopka, Florida.

Devin's kindness, laughter, and love for life will continue to inspire all who knew him. As we bid farewell to this young man, let us carry forward the light he brought into our lives.

**Apopka Area Voting Precincts.**  
**Will you vote in the primary election on August 19, 2024?**

<b>205</b> Dayspring Community Church, 2434 Old Dixie Hwy	<b>232</b> Grace Pointe Church, 2051 W Lester Rd.
<b>209</b> Word of Life Church, 1853 Vick Rd.	<b>233</b> Word of Life, 1852 Vick Rd.
<b>224</b> Clarcona Horsemans Park, 3535 Damon Rd.	<b>234</b> Orange County Apopka Service Center, 1111 Rock Springs Rd.
<b>225</b> John H Bridges Community Center, 445 W. 13th St.	<b>235</b> Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church, 584 N Wekiwa Springs Rd.
<b>226</b> Apopka Community Center, 519 S Central Av.	<b>236</b> Gospel Centered Church, 4490 Rock Springs Rd.
<b>227</b> Trinity Baptist Church, 1022 S Orange Blossom Trail	<b>237</b> NW Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwellley Pkwy.
<b>228</b> Hope Baptist Church, 129 S Wekiwa Springs Rd.	<b>238</b> NOCIA, 4253 W Ponkan Rd.
<b>229</b> Clay Springs Elementary School (555 N Wekiwa Springs Rd) (NEW)	<b>239</b> Zellwood United Methodist Church, 5538 W Jones Av., Zellwood
<b>230</b> First Methodist Church of Apopka, 201 S Park Av.	<b>242</b> One Way Christian Church, 2100 W. McCormick Rd. (NEW)
<b>231</b> First Methodist Church of Apopka, 201 S Park Av.	<b>FIND YOUR PRECINCT:</b> <a href="http://ocfelections.gov/voters/findmypollingplace">ocfelections.gov/voters/findmypollingplace</a>



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Mom, I'm bored. There's *nothing* to do!

## Beat Summertime Blues!

Is summer starting to drag a little? Is it making you feel a little antsy?

We *could* repaint your room! What color of blue do you like?

Well, you could help me sift some salt or pick more seaweed to fill this bucket or...

Uh-oh, better think up your own fun and keep busy!

The middle of the summer is here and many kids start to get bored. Well, let's beat those summertime blues with ideas for things to do!

**Can you circle the ideas below in the word search?**

farmers market  
nature center  
train station  
art gallery  
hatchery  
airport  
library  
beach

park  
movies  
gardens  
petting zoo  
playground  
planetarium  
town water park  
science museum

We love our town's water park!

**Shades of Blue!**

1. the color of one of the few true "blue" flowers; others are a dark blue-purple  
2. bluish-gray used in uniforms  
3. a dark blue, almost black  
4. a light-bluish green  
5. a lighter, pastel color

**Word Search:**

A	A	Z	P	L	A	N	E	T	A	R	I	U	M	G	I	H	M	R	V
P	V	F	S	V	K	S	X	T	R	A	I	N	S	T	A	T	I	O	N
J	M	T	U	I	C	D	H	G	A	X	N	R	Q	D	A	P	H	G	
P	O	O	P	A	R	K	E	R	U	P	L	A	Y	G	R	O	U	N	
K	V	W	Y	P	L	S	C	I	E	N	C	E	M	U	S	E	U	M	
P	I	N	A	T	U	R	E	C	E	N	T	E	R	Y	Z	Y	Z	T	
E	E	W	P	Y	A	I	R	S	N	G	L	S	D	C	U	W	E	A	
T	S	A	J	F	A	R	M	E	R	S	M	A	R	K	E	T	Q	U	
T	L	T	W	F	P	N	T	M	F	K	X	I	R	F	H	B	I	R	
I	D	E	*	T	D	E	G	G	A	R	D	E	N	S	I	O	Q	R	
N	V	R	X	M	*	A	H	A	M	X	E	X	T	G	P	U	A	I	
G	B	P	X	N	*	V	L	J	X	V	U	R	X	B	L	Z			
Z	E	A	*	V	C	R	I	L	C	Z	I	Y	G	Q	N	D			
O	A	R	G	H	A	T	C	H	E	R	Y	E	A	V	A	O	P	V	
O	C	K	F	P	L	O	J	O	Y	A	E	U	R	R	G	G	K	R	
X	H	V	L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	J	M	W	D	Y	W	Z	R	K	

### Fun in Your Own Backyard

Boredom Blasters!

Here are some ideas to blast away boredom. These can be done right in your own backyard or neighborhood. Each idea below has one vowel or consonant missing from its spelling. **Can you fill in the blanks?**

1. learn how to make  
sn\_w c\_nes

2. exercise with  
\_ula \_oops

3. cool off with a  
\_ool \_arty

4. borrow books to learn a new  
craf\_ or ar\_

5. build a  
\_andca\_tle

6. set up  
l\_wn g\_mes

7. make  
ic\_ cr\_am sunda\_s

8. run  
ball\_\_n or sp\_\_n races

9. set up a  
tele\_ope and \_targaze

10. wave wands to make  
\_u\_\_les

### Blue Ribbon Items!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

1. children eat these as fast as they can pick them  
2. a form of country music  
3. small North American feathered friend  
4. enlisted person in the Navy  
5. drawing – with light colored lines on blue background – that shows the design for a building or a machine

**Can you match these "blue" expressions to their meanings?**

1. She talks a blue streak.  
2. He ordered the blue plate special.  
3. That pie is a blue ribbon winner.  
4. She visits town once in a blue moon.  
5. She always talks about the blue blood in her family tree.

A. first place, best  
B. rarely  
C. royal or special, well-known family  
D. steady stream of words  
E. main dish offered at a special price

### Camp-out!

Yaaaa-hoo! Your family can camp out by renting a campsite in a local park or forest. You can also have a blast by putting up a tent right in your own yard.

- Invite 3 or 4 friends to sleep overnight: remember to tell them the place, date and time (arrange rides, ask adults to help)
- Have them bring sleeping bags, pillows, flashlights, clothes, etc.
- Ask everyone to bring equipment for one activity or game: flying disc, bat and wiffle ball, comic books, etc.
- Friends can bring their own dinners and snacks in a bag, or your folks could set up a supper of hot dogs and beans using foil pie plates
- Later on – maybe a campfire with guitar playing, singing and spooky stories

### Help the ant find his way through the maze to your tent where he's hoping to find crumbs from your snacks:

### The ants go marching one by one.

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Tell them you saw it in  
The Apopka Chief

# City: Commisioners want public comment moved back to the beginning of the meetings

Continued from page 1A

the public comment topic was last raised on February 1 and February 15, 2023; however, on February 15, City Council made no motion.

According to the City Council reports of the February 15, 2023, minutes, “Commissioner Velazquez stated that she’d like to see public comment be moved back to where it was on the agenda as opposed to being at the end. She also stated that she discussed with the mayor that before public comment starts, he can read his expectations of flow before it starts. Commissioner [Kyle] Becker stated that he gets why the changes were made, but he agrees with moving it back to the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Nesta also supports public comment being at the beginning. Mayor said okay.”

Velazquez said she told the city administrator on Tuesday, August 6, that “there has been a backlash” over moving public comment to the end of the meeting. She recommended that the City Council holds a workshop to address the topic rather than only Nelson deciding.

Nelson pointed out that of eight local municipalities, Ocoee is the only one that holds public comment at the beginning of the agenda. In comparison, the other seven cities hold their public comment at the agenda’s end: Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Edgewood, Maitland, Sanford, Winter Garden, and Winter Park.

Nelson also referenced a *Tampa Bay Times* newspaper article that was published last month, “Clearwater council suspends open public comment to quell YouTube ‘circus’”.

Velazquez noted that in the previous administration, the City Council tried to streamline public comment to three minutes and move the period.

“At that time, we had a lot of pushback,” Velazquez said. “I do remember that you [Nelson] were the county commissioner at that time and you sat in our audience during that administration. Part of that was you supported to keep the public comment where it was at and also to keep it at four minutes. I mean, I have a lot of that documentation from the previous administration.”

Nelson wanted to read a state-

ment from city economic director Michelle Boylan, but Velazquez refused to accept the statement unless Boylan was at the meeting herself to read it. Velazquez clarified that over a year ago, the City Council determined no individual’s comment would be presented if that person wasn’t present at the meeting.

According to Nelson, Boylan attended an economic development conference, where she sat on a panel that talked about site selectors, who search social media for happenings in cities when deciding whether to invest into that city.

“When they [site selectors] see things that are very controversial over issues and that, [the investors think] is that a city they really want to be a part of?” Nelson said. “So, her thought was putting it [public comment] at the end and still we’re giving plenty of access to the people here at the dais, and yet we’re not bogging down people that are trying to do business here, the city of Apopka. Her thought was, we ought to look at putting it at the end.”



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