

Your trusted local news source

Volume 102 Number 38

©2024 The Apopka Chief Friday, September 20, 2024 / 50 cents

## Former golf course at Errol Estate is on market for \$7.5M

**By Teresa Sargeant** Apopka Chief Staff

After years of struggling with what to do with it, 5th Hole Investments LLC put the former golf course at Errol Estate on the nity of various product types." market for \$7.5 million.

Comprised of 380 gross acres and 170 net usable acres, the former golf course is located west of Wekiwa Springs State Park and north of U.S. 441 in the city of Apopka, as listed by the Orlando commercial real estate firm Foundry Commercial.

"As a former golf course, the property presents a unique development opportunity in the rapidly growing market of Apopka and west Orange County," states the Foundry Commercial marketing brochure about the property.

"With its close proximity to major road networks, including US 441 and the 429 Expressway, the property is well suited for developers and users seeking the next location for a residential commu-

5th Hole Investments, controlled by the family of golf course owner Julian (Larry) Klein, who died in 2018, put the property up a "few weeks ago," said Andrew Klein, Julian Klein's grandson. A Foundry Commercial marketing brochure shows drone photos of the former golf course taken on August 27.

"We just want to be done with it and move on," Andrew Klein said.

The prospect of the former

See ERROL Page 3A



Image courtesy of Foundry Commercial

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A screenshot of a drone photo taken on August 27 shows a view of the old clubhouse site facing north. The image is featured in the Foundry Commercial marketing brochure about the Errol Estate former golf course, which recently went on the market for \$7.5 million.



## **City Council ratifies fire** union contract, 5-0

**By Teresa Sargeant** Apopka Chief Staff

On Wednesday, September 18, the Apopka City Council approved gaining agreement be-

and ratified a collective tween the city and the bargaining agreement between the city and the Apopka firefighters union. The collective bar-

Apopka Professional Firefighters Association, Local 5293 union, was rati-

See UNION Page 5A

## Horticulture expert honored



Bill Weinaug (center), a local engineer and owner of Wekiva Island in Longwood, speaks about the significance of protecting the Florida springs outside the St. Johns River Water Management District Apopka Service Center on South Binion Road, Apopka, on Thursday, September 12.

## Public says state committed 'dereliction of duty' in protecting state's springs

**By Teresa Sargeant** Apopka Chief Staff

The public called out the DeSantis administration for its "dereliction of duty" from protecting the the Florida Department of state's springs.

On Thursday, September 12, people gath- da Springs Harm Rule pub-

Environmental Protection (FDEP) Outstanding Flori-

ered outside the St. Johns lic workshop.

River Water Management According to a no-District Apopka Service tice of meeting/workshop Center, on South Binion hearing, the general sub-Road in Apopka. Afterject matter of the workshop ward, the public attended was 'Section 373.219, F.S., requires the Department, for Outstanding Florida

See SPRINGS Page 11 A



Photo courtesy of UF/IFAS (Facebook)

Liz Felter was awarded the 2024 Gene A. Batson Award on Tuesday, September 10, at Highland Manor in Apopka at the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association (FNGLA) Action Chapter Action Chapter's 29th Gene A. Batson Award luncheon. Pictured are Felter (center) with Barbara and Gene Batson, the very man the award is named after. See story, photos on page 11 A.

## Event raises awareness of rare medical condition

In honor of September as Chiari Malformation Awareness Month, an event took place at Apopka City Hall on Friday, September 13, when the building was lit purple.

Mayor Bryan Nelson met with several patients and their families on the steps to present a signed proclamation declaring September to be Chiari Malformation Awareness Month in Apopka.

"We are grateful that we were able to at least get together for the lighting of City Hall," said event organizer Jeni Adair in an email to The Apopka Chief. "We are especially grateful that Mayor Nelson took time

out of his busy schedule to meet us there to present us with the Proclamation declaring September to officially be Chiari Malformation Awareness Month in Apopka."

According to the Mayo Clinic, "Chiari malformation is a condition in which brain tissue extends into the spinal canal. It occurs when part of the skull is misshapen or smaller than is typical. The skull presses on the brain and forces it downward. Chiari malformation is not common, but increased use of imaging tests has led to more diagnoses."

The Central Florida Pictured (I to r) are Olivia Engel, Jeni Adair, Sean Adair, Mayor Bryan Nelson, Paige

See CHIARI Page 5A



Ridley, and Jayden Adair, at the Friday, September 13, Chiari Malformation Aware-

ness Month event on the front steps of City Hall.

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Online at The Anenka	01:1-1

nline at: TheApopkaChief.com public-notices OR FloridaPublicNotices.com



## The Apopka Chief

September 20, 2024, Page 2A

#### Apopka Event of the Week

4th annual 11 5 Memorial run benefitting the Armando Borjas Jr. Foundation begins 7:15 a.m. on Sat., September. 28, at the amphitheater, NW Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelley Pkwy. Race begins at 8 a.m. Info: runpositivepvusa@gmail.com

# Opinion

#### □uotable

The governor said he does not believe it is "in the best interest" of the state to have "the same federal agencies that are seeking to prosecute Donald Trump leading this investigation.3

> Executive order is signed by Gov. DeSantis to investigate assassination attempt

#### The Apopka Chief A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

**Publisher Emeritus** John Ricketson Mar. 5, 1940 - July 16, 2024 **Consultant Emeritus** John Peery Mar. 28 1956 - Oct. 12, 2023

Publisher **Marketing Director** T. Jerrod Ricketson Jackie Trefcer Reporters

**General Mgr Emeritus** Teresa Sargeant Marshall Tempest Neoma Knox Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021



Neal Fisher

## Florida should be investigating the assassination attempt

#### **By Amber Jo Cooper**

West Palm Beach, Fla. –

Gov. Ron DeSantis announced he has signed an executive order assigning the case involving the attempted assassination of President Donald Trump to the Office of Statewide prosecutor, under the supervision of Attorney General Ashley Moody.

"The suspect Ryan Routh, is believed to have committed state law violations across multiple judicial circuits in the state: Palm Beach Judicial Circuit, the Judicial Circuit, including Martin County, as well as perhaps the Judicial Circuit represented by Broward County," DeSantis said.

Fifty-eight-year-old Ryan Wesley Routh appeared in federal court on Monday and is being charged with possession of a firearm by a prohibited person (convicted felon) and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, according to the initial complaint. More charges are rewas "recruiting people" to go fight in Ukraine.

"This guy was in Ukraine. This guy was giving interviews to the New York Times. This guy was doing a lot of stuff – he's got a rap sheet, he's recruiting people to go fight there, he's talking about Taiwan,," DeSantis explained.

"Man, we need answers on this," DeSantis said.

DeSantis went back and forth with a reporter over Florida seeking to file attempted murder charges against Trump assassination suspect versus the federal government.

He noted the federal government does "not have jurisdiction to bring an attempted murder charge."

"We have the ability to pursue potentially life in prison under state law. They cannot pursue charges to the extent we can," De-Santis said.

The governor said he spoke with President Trump, and he was in "good spirits."

those things happen. But there are far more positive things happening on a daily basis, and those deserve to be recognized This week I would

like to share what some of our amazing community members have done for our schools.

as well.

When I can share

that happen every day

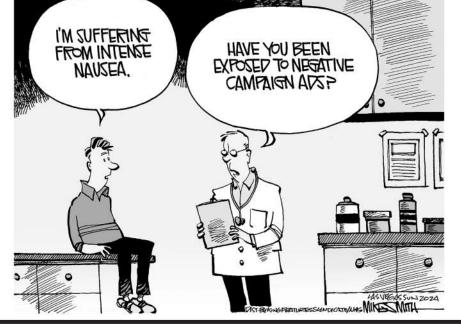
in our schools, I jump

at the opportunity. Of-

ten, we only see nega-

tive things in the news or

In October, the School Board has a special recognition meeting where each school board member can recognize a community member who



## Volunteers are being recognized

Orange County School Board, District 7 some of the good things



has had a positive impact on a local school.

This year, I decided to ask my schools to share with me names of any special volunteer or partner who deserves this recognition. Well, it's no surprise that I received several great nominations, and, while I cannot recognize all of them at the meeting, I wanted to take this time to recognize them here.

First up, Apopka High School principal Lyle Heinz jumped on the opportunity to recognize two very special gentlemen who dedicate a huge amount of time to the the Blue Darter Band despite their own children graduating from the school years ago.

Carl Reda and Joe Chandler are vital to the band program and "embody all that is right with the world of educational support," the school told me.

These two men helped secure Big Blue, the beautiful semi-truck that hauls our band equipment all over the

See BYRD Page 4A

## **OCFL** Atlas will provide answers

Christine Moore

las especially useful is

you can access real-time

development data, board

meeting details about the

project, and project lo-

cations. Let me give you

an example. If you want

to see what's happening

What makes the At-

I often promote the varied functions performed by Orange Coun**County Commissioner** District 2

construction-wise near your home, the Atlas will detail the type of project Let's say you've seen workers on a road near your house and wonder exactly what's happening. The OCFL Atlas will tell you if it's road paving, pedestrian safety upgrades, etc. Another highlighted feature□ if a project on the OCFL Atlas is under our Development and Planning Department, you will find the name of

on social media and yes,

portedly expected.

DeSantis said the state of Florida has jurisdiction "over the most serious, straightforward offense, which is attempted murder."

The governor said he does not believe it is "in the best interest" of the state to have "the same federal agencies that are seeking to prosecute Donald Trump leading this investigation."

DeSantis said the public deserves to know the "truth." He said the results of the investigation will be made public.

The governor said as soon as he heard the news of the assassination attempt, he ordered FDLE to immediately "save the social media" accounts before the accounts were taken down.

DeSantis noted the suspect

"He did remark that on that sixth hole, he was in pretty good shape for a potential birdie, and if you know the former president, that matters a lot to him," DeSantis said.

DeSantis said there will be more information "as the investigation unfolds."

Moody called out President Joe Biden at the press conference.

"It was really disappointing to hear the President [Joe Biden] say that President Trump should be put in a bulls eye just days before we saw the first assassination attempt, and then weeks later, at the DNC, say that that threat was still very much alive, and now, again, in under 30 days, another assassination attempt," Moody said.

ty Government. This column is yet another chance to share how vital the OCFL Atlas can be to you. The OCFL Atlas is a mobile and web application that encourages citizens to become more

engaged in the growth of their community by pinpointing new construction projects whether they're on the road or you see site work being done on a piece of property.

#### This Week In God's Word

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24

See Moore Page 4A

Mema Says Give yourself permission to fail trying.

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## Colors are blended together to create a masterpiece of teamwork

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box. They do not argue about differences in colors, the usage of one more than the other, which color is used more than others, they get along in the box named Crayons.

There is a saying

that goes, "It's amaz-



**EVERYBODY HAS AN OPINION. WHY NOT SHARE YOURS?** 

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ing how much can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit." When you use crayons, you use them for the end result, i.e., a complete and beautiful picture, using all the colors at your disposal, all that are in the box!

Thinking on these things, we need to realize we also have a grand Artist that uses each one of us in His creation of our daily life, hour by hour. When we recognize we are all from the same box, and our desire is to be a part of a larger picture by taking part, we will be more receptive to the other colors being used. Then we can join in

the effort to present the masterpiece as a teamparticipation work-of-art!

The United States of America is still in the process of being completed, and my prayer is: I hope the process for completion never ends. We are still a nation of growth, and as crayons in the Master's hand, He chooses which color works best in His masterpiece, and in what place.

I know the argument about how different look-

ing we are, and yet the Bible says we are all created in His image. If we were talking about a mirror image, it would be impossible to explain, but let's look for an answer in GOD's Word. We recognize GOD as being three Persons in one: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Bible speaks of men and women also being three in one: Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

How does this match GOD's image? We know the flesh of GOD, it is Jesus Christ. We know the Spirit of GOD (the Holy Spirit), and we know the

## Errol: Golf course was one of more than 1,000 to have closed

#### Continued from page 1A

golf course getting sold is "very likely. Land is scarce and a good portion of this property is suitable for development," Klein said.

The impact the former golf course sale would have on Errol Estate as a whole would depend on the buyer and whatever the buyer may intend to do, according to Klein.

The future land use for certain parcels on the golf course was amended in 2018, according to the Foundry Commercial listing, allowing for a mixeduse of residential and commercial uses.

Over the years, the former golf course has faced challenges in maintaining viability and undergone much public discussion about its fate. Developers such as Signature H, a Celebration real estate develcourse owner with revitalization proposals. In 2018, Signature H

proposed to transform the v former golf course into ti New Errol, complete with for a revitalized golf course, a large-scale community water park, a boutique hotellodge, a community recreation trail, a fitness center, and several parks with playgrounds and pavilions. However, Signature H and 5th Hole Investments had a falling-out. Since then, the

falling-out. Since then, the golf course, clubhouse, and tennis courts have closed. Later, the clubhouse was razed.

The process of forming a recreational district began in October 2019, when the Klein family first reached the city and also a few homeowner associations in Errol Estate.

In 2020, the Errol Estate Recreation District Advisory Committee met to

research options for possibly forming the Errol Recreational District. The committee's task included reviewing acquisition options, selecting amenities for pricing and rebuilding, and electing recreational district board members.

oper, approached the golf research options for possi- gotiate with 5th Hole Incourse owner with revital- bly forming the Errol Rec- vestments.

Over the last several years, golf courses all over Florida shuttered, though the state once had more of them – at over 1,250 – than any other state. "I am disappointed that

The committee was to ne- the Klein family walked

away from a pretty good proposal that had been vetted by a core group of Errol residents," Mayor Bryan Nelson said in an emailed September 18 statement. "I think the family will find it hard to sell the property without community buy-in. The Errol folks have been

away from a pretty good burned once and will need proposal that had been vetted by a core group of Errol new buyer before they supresidents," Mayor Bryan port the sale."

> *The Apopka Chief* reached out to Foundry Commercial for comment but have not received one as of press time.



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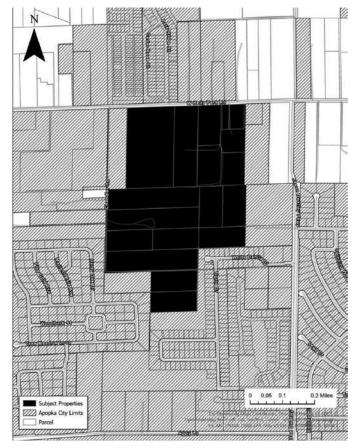
Scan the QR Code or visit www.Apopka.gov/ApopkaProudConcert to learn more and to purchase your tickets!

#### **CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE** FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT

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

#### ORDINANCE NO. 3078

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COUNTY RURAL, CITY FLU-IN PROGRESS, AND CITY RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW SUBURBAN TO MIXED-USE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF W. KELLY PARK ROAD, AND EAST OF CHANDLER ROAD, OWNED BY ORCHID ESTATE HOA COMMUNITY, MEGA GNG, LLC, JACOB SNAVELY, 4625 CHANDLER ROAD, LLC, MATTHEW & DEBORAH SHAW, DAPHNE MARTIN, WALTER H. ROBINSON III, YOO SHIK UM IRREVOCABLE TRUST, PM-S1 REO, LLC COMPRISING 116.94 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 18-20-28-0000-00-132, 18-20-28-0000-00-052, 18-20-28-0000-00-106, 18-20-28-0000-00-035, 18-20-28-0000-00-034, 18-20-28-0000-00-032, 18-20-28-0000-00-033, 18-20-28-0000-00-037, 18-20-28-0000-00-051, 18-20-28-0000-00-080, 18-20-28-0000-00-119, 18-20-28-0000-00-046, 18-20-28-00000-00-047 Contains: 116.94 +/- acres

Notice is given that the City of Apopka Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M., or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing 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, October 16, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use Application can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In ordance 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.

### Byrd: Volunteers are positive influences

#### Continued from page 2A

state so that our 200-plus band members can effectively travel to events.

They also give up their time to **III** the semi for the band when they travel. To top it off, they also dedicate countless hours setting up Roger Williams Field each and every Friday for our band and the visiting bands for the games!

At Wolf Lake Middle School, Jacquelin Alexander, from a suspension alternative site called Keeping Up Apopka, is an amazing community partner. When students go there as an alternative to suspension, she not only ensures they are receiving instruction, she counsels

and mentors them. Alexander is often found on campus following up with students she has seen to continue her mentorship and she also

mentors some young parents in the community, as well.

John Dempsey of Journey Christian Church has brought more than 60 volunteers to Piedmont Lakes Middle School two separate times to do beautification projects including bringing new plants, mulch, painting and cleaning projects. They have stocked the school's food pantry and donated and organized the clothing closet for families in need as well.

Dempsey and his volunteers have also worked on projects to bring a positive environment to students and staff.

The school told me "The love that they have brought each time can be felt, not only in those actual days, but also as students come to school and see the changes made." These incredible

volunteers are just some of the examples of community members making a real difference in the lives of our students each and every day in our local schools.

Last year, OCPS had more than 76,000 volunteers working in our schools district-wide and over 5,000 partnerships helping our schools. Our community is incredibly supportive of our local schools, and we are so thankful for the support.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or partner, there are always numerous opportunities available. Our schools are always looking for help in many different ways.

Feel free to reach out directly to a school or visit the Community Outreach page on ocps. net.

It's a great way to share your talent and time!

## Moore: Register to use the Atlas

Continued from page 2A

the county Planner assigned to the project, and you can email him or her with questions. Consider this your "one stop shop" for those questions you have when you see changes occurring in your community. Finally, you can be-

come a registered user of the Atlas, and this will enable you to receive emails about all upcoming development in unincorporated Orange County.

How to get to there? Download OCFL Atlas on the App Store on Google Play. The desk-

top version can be found at: https://www.ocfl. net/Home/NewslettersAlerts/OCFLAtlas.aspx

I use mine on my cell phone and find it works very easily. I hope you do, too. If any questions, contact: gis@ocfl. net or 407.836.0066.

### Hayden: Study, then be sure to VOTE

about the ramifications

your vote could produce.

#### Continued from page 2A

soul of GOD. The soul is where our emotions, commitments and love are manifest, as in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." So, we know how GOD created all of us in His image, but He also gave each one of us a free will, both to either accept His Gift of Jesus, or reject Him. Whichever way you choose, GOD's going to use you in His masterpiece called the United States of America by allowing you, with wisdom and understanding, to use

Amendment #1 gives us a choice of knowing the political party of each candidate for school board membership. The way I see it now is that the candidates  $\square$   $\square$ □ *do* which political party platform they stand for. At least by naming

Amendment #3 touts

for serious crime (do they

know how to prioritize?).

and how it will be regu-

think our police don't

the party they support, we would have a better idea of their ideology and what their goals are for our kids. all the benefits of legalizing marijuana - which are mostly lies. They talk about how it will cut down on street dealers, provide billions of dollars for our schools, free up our local police force

would give the opportunity to those who profit from murder (abortion) to live "high on the hog" and keep the population down. When I see the live birth of a baby, I consider it a miracle. From the time a baby is conceived until he or she is welcomed into the outside world by birth, or C-sec-

Apopka City Council Apopka Planning Commission Community Development Department

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lated take time to study the what we need ... another candidates, and their platform and then use your God-given wisdom to fill in the oval spaces. When voting for

stupefying drug that will end up by giving us more DUI's, and young and old will know exactly who to go to for their daily high. the amendments, think Amendment #4

tion, they are completely at the mother's mercy.

The baby knows his or her mom, can hear her singing, is comforted when mom lies down for a rest, and at all times depends on his or her mom to  $p\Box e \Box e$ . The amendment they are trying to get passed does away with parent notification ("no law shall interfere"), does away with when the baby may be murdered by having no restrictions, and can be decided by a "Healthcare Provider," not even a physician.

Let's use our Godgiven common sense when we go to vote. Remember, we all are in the same box! Get out and VOTE.

#### ALL ABOUT APOPKA

## The Apopka Chief

Established 1923 (USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com





#### **City of Apopka Telephone Numbers**

177395

	City Hall407-703-1700	1
	Mayor's Office	A
	City Administrator	E
2	City Clerk	0
	Community Devel	0
	Code Enforcement	
	Finance Dept	
	Fire (non-emerg.)	F
	Parks and Rec. Dept	
	Police Chief	
e		
3,	Police (non-emerg.)	(
d	Job Line407-703-1743	
1-	Solid Waste Collect407-703-1731	H
	Street Maintenance	F
	Utility Billing407-703-1727	F
	Medical, fire emergency	
	The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is	N
	located at 28'30 north latitude and is 150 feet	l
	above sea level. Its population is about 48,000	ļ
	and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. <b>www.</b>	Ń
	apopka.net	
	apopranier	

#### **Orange County Telephone Numbers** Animal Services. .407-836-3 Auto/Boat Tags. .850-617-2 Building Dept. .407-836-8 **County Mayor** .407-836-7 County Commission. ..407-836-7 County Attorney. .407-836-7 Clerk of the Court. .407-836-2 **Elections Supervisor.** .407-836-2 Fire/Rescue .407-836-3 Solid Waste .. .407-836-6 Garbage Collection. .407-703-1 .407-836-2 Health Dept. Hunting/Fishing Lic. .888-347-4 Parks and Rec. Dept... .. 407-836-6 Property Appraiser. .. 407-836-5 Sheriff Administrative ... .. 407-254-7 Non-Emerg. Complaint...... 407-836-4 Utilities. .407-836-5 All other departments ...... 407-836-3 Medical, fire emergency. www.orangecountyfl.net

Other	Ar	ea
Numbers	of	Note

3111	U.S. Senators
2000	Rick Scott (Rep.) 202-224-5274
8550	Marco Rubio (Rep.) 407-254-2573
7370	U.S. Representative
7350	Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)
7320	State Representatives
2065	Doug Bankson 407-476-6787
2070	Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)unknown
3111	State Senators
5601	Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) 407-297-2045
1731	Orange County Commissioner
2600	Christine Moore 407-836-7350
4356	Orange County Public Schools
5200	Pupil assignment
5044	Bus routes
7000	Superintendent
4357	School Board 407-317-3200
5515	Miscellaneous
3111	The Apopka Chief 407-886-2777
. 911	Museum of the Apopkans 407-703-1707
	Chamber of Commerce

Marching for Jesus Parade 2024

on Saturday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m.

**Corners of** 

977 S. Central Ave & 10th St.

Walk the streets of Apopka preaching the

gospel, singing, handing out gospel tracts,

waving signs proclaiming the Lordship of

Christ, and that He alone is the answer

for the lost and dying.

Young and old are invited!!

We need your help!

Contact Pastors: Keith Bridge 407-760-4746.

End Time Word Ministry and

Sarah Ballard, 407-463-9132,

Living Waters Community Fellowship Ministries for more information.

## **Union:** Agreement to remain in effect until September 2026

Continued from page 1A

fied by a vote of bargaining unit members, which took place on Wednesday, September 11, and Thursday, September 12. Upon approval and ratification, this agreement is to remain in effect until September 30, 2026.

The funding source is the city general fund.

"Today marks a historic milestone in the long history of the Apopka Fire

Continued from page 1A

Chapter of The American

Syringomyelia and Chi-

ari Alliance Project, Inc.

(ASAP) recognizes the

people within the commu-

nity who live with these

conditions every day, as

well as helping to highlight

the need for more attention,

Chiari: Fundraiser

to return in 2025

Department. Over the past two days, your Apopka Firefighters have cast their votes and officially fulfilled their part in ratifying the first-ever Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Apopka Fire Department since its founding in 1882," states a September 12 Facebook post from the Apopka Professional Firefighters Association, Local 5293.

According to the union's post, "If ratified by the City Council on Sep-

funding, and research to

find better treatments and,

looking forward to starting

preparations for our Walk

& Roll's Triumphant return

in September of 2025!" said

Adair, adding that mon-

ey raised from the Walk &

widow out there. I know

Roll events go to ASAP.

"We are excitedly

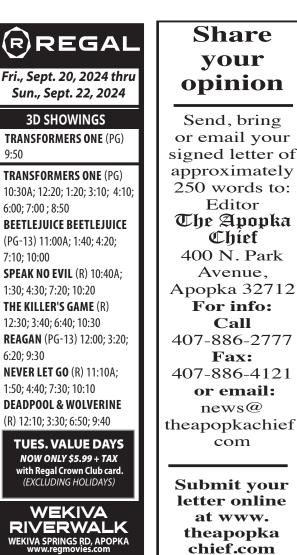
ideally, a cure.

tember 18th, this agreement will bring our firefighters' wages and benefits up to competitive levels with those of surrounding communities. Before this, our base wages had remained stagnant for five years, and our paramedic incentive had not been improved in over 20 years. Our firefighters have faced challenges, watching other departments make steady progress, and we have, un-

firefighters to those municipalities. We aim to reverse this trend, ensuring we retain our best and attract the highest quality personnel to serve our City.'

The union board expressed gratitude to several people including their firefighting colleagues, contract committee members, the family of Austin Duran (the Apopka firefighter who died in July 2022 from sustained line-of-duty injufortunately, lost excellent ries), interim Fire Chief Wil

Sanchez, the leadership of Union, attorney Rich Siwithe State and International ca, and local union leaders.



## Send us Your News • Email: news@theapopkachief.com



## there are many who know As Time Goes By

Last August I wrote an article entitled, "Love is", explaining why I felt, at that time, I needed to stop writing this column. My husband was the reason.

He had been in and out of the hospital for the prior eleven months and was, at that time, at home again, I wanted and needed to be there ... to take care of him. the best I could. More than that, to *BE* with him. For us to spend more alone-witheach-other time, which hospitalization doesn't allow much of... something we were used to and really enjoved.

I've often heard discussions questioning whether Love at First Sight is a real thing. My answer is a definite "Yes!" I first met Denny in a radio station in Honolulu, Hawaii, where I was born and raised. He was stationed there with the Marine Corps and had arrived in the islands just a few months before. He was at the radio station auditioning for a band I sang in, and I knew the moment I saw him that he was The One I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. Even during the less-than-Fairy-Tale times that happen in real life, I never changed my heart or mind. Just nine days before our anniversary last year, he went to be with The Lord, and today, September 20, 2024, would have been our 66 Wedding What YOU think? Anniversary. barefootwahine1@yahoo.com I know I'm not the only ©2024 Patti Bankson

what I mean when I say his leaving left a huge hole in my heart, but those are only words, and they're a completely inadequate description. Someone asked me months ago what "it's" like. If asked today, I'd have to say the same thing I thought then... I don't know. I've nev-

er been here before. My question, even after almost a full year, is... how long does this pain last? Maybe, I think, as long as the memories? If that's the answer, then I know I'll survive because I've got a lifetime of wonderful memories

incredible man. We met and fell in love as teenagers, and, on the last days of his life, we still loved each other the way we did then. In fact, this is the note that came, with beautiful roses, from him on that last anniversary: "Happy Anniversary, Sweetheart. Circumstances are not what New Transferrin Gold TB Test either one of us would like Call: 800-338-5515 or Email: info@workplacescreening.com www.workplacescreening.com them to be, but you are the only circumstance I need. I love you more today than ever!! Love, Denny". You may be wondering why I'd share something so personal in such a public way, and my answer would be that maybe it will help another woman who finds herself alone, suddenly... a woman who lives in a house she had been sharing with someone she loved deeply, who finds herself left with only his echo ... that she'll feel that someone out there understands, and she'll feel a little less alone. We'd like to know

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J



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## **OLD GLASSES & HEARING AIDS WANTED**

The Mt. Dora Lions Club will use your recyclable eye glasses for the program "Project Right to Sight."

Foliage Sertoma SERTOMA Club of Apopka (407) 832-2627 FOLIAGE SERTOMA CLUB OF APOPKA

Foliage Sertoma Club, working with Dr. Amy Davis at Central Florida Audiology, will collect and recycle hearing aids for Apopka citizens with hearing needs.

If you have old glasses or hearing aids you no longer need, please take them to

The Apopka Chief and The Planter Newspapers or **Apopka Office Supply** at

400 N. Park Ave., Apopka 407-886-2777

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.



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## Growers association awards horticulture expert at luncheon

Photos courtesy of UF/IFAS (Facebook) Liz Felter with fellow UF/IFAS colleagues, including Kirsten Pelz-Stelinski, Lance Osborne, Jianjun Chen and Hayk Khachatryan from the center, celebrating her award.



**Recovery At The Hope, Oct. 5, 8:30-12 Noon** 

a.m.-12 noon, at 927 South Central listening ear or who may be ex-

to prevent, identify, deal with and Holmes, Ph.D., RN, Mental Health

not always centered on drugs and 579-1339 for more information

Church, is presenting Recovery At relationship with God.

The Hope (R.A.T.H.) Conference

on Saturday, October 5, from 8:30

Avenue. There will be a free break-

(youth, teens and adults) to come

to hear information and testimo-

nies from special guests as to how

resolve addictions. An addiction is

The community is invited bullying.

alcohol. It can be anything keeping and assistance.

fast at this free event.

New Hope Missionary Baptist someone from developing a closer

# FARM CREDIT SFARM CREDIT

**By Stella Canfield** UF/IFAS

Liz Felter has been awarded the 2024 Gene A. Batson Award by the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association (FNGLA) Action Chapter.

Felter was honored with the award on Tuesday, September 10, at Highland Manor in Apopka during

If you are not able to attend,

send someone that may need a

periencing anxiety, depression,

domestic violence, child abuse, or

Alexander H. Smith, RATH Pas-

tor at 407-721-4759 or Dr. Yvonne

and Christian Counseling, 407-

Hope is available. Call Rev.

the FNGLA Action Chapter's 29th Gene A. Batson Award luncheon, where industry leaders and professionals celebrated her work and achievements.

Felter is the regional specialized extension agent for The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/ IFAS).

As the chapter's highest honor, the Gene A. Batson Award recognizes members who show outstanding leadership and service within the chapter and industry. Felter was selected based on her exceptional

contributions to Florida's horticultural community and dedication to advancing industry practices. "I'm honored to receive the Gene A. Batson Award," said Felter. "It is

humbling to be recognized by the stakeholders you serve for doing a job that you love."

With a career spanning decades, Felter has become a key figure in both the FNGLA Action Chap-

ter and Florida's horticultural sector. Felter has significantly impacted the field through her extensive work in Extension education, in-

with Liz Felter.

tegrated pest management (IPM) scout training, plant clinic diagnostics, water re-

search and the new Introduction to Working in the Horticulture Industry class.

From her work setting up the first in-house landscape maintenance depart-

See FNGLA Page 11 A

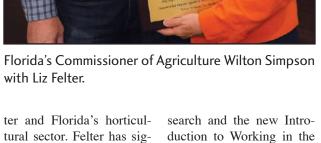






Welcome to Caffé Positanos,

**SUDOKU ANSWERS** 



RM CREDIT

OFNGLA





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## Lake Apopka Natural Gas District Continues to Lend a Helping Hand

As inflation and rising costs continue to strain budgets, energy disconnections have become an unfortunate reality for many Americans, but there's hope! At Lake Apopka Natural Gas District (LANGD), we are committed to ensuring our customers in Apopka, Clermont, Winter Garden, and surrounding areas do not have to face these challenges alone. In 2021, the employees of LANGD were hearing and seeing the need to help those dealing with financial hardship and we launched LANGD's Helping Hand, a customer assistance program designed to support residential customers struggling to keep up with their bills.

In partnership with Heart of Florida United Way, LANGD's Helping Hand has proven to be a vital resource for our community. The program was initiated after a \$5,000 investment by LANGD's board of directors, and thanks to the generosity of community members, vendors, LANGD employees and even fellow customers, it has continued to grow. In just over three years, the program has provided thousands of dollars in assistance, helping dozens of families keep their showers hot, and meals cooked.

The success of the Helping Hand reflects on LANGD's deep-rooted commitment to our community. We are your neighbors, we live in the communities that we serve and when the COVID-19 pandemic surfaced in 2020, nobody could have imagined how it would affect so many families trying to make ends meet. The Helping Hand program was founded a year into the pandemic to provide critical financial assistance to families facing unprecedented economic challenges at the time, and its impact today is as strong as ever.

In addition to our Helping Hand program, the District also encourages customers to explore the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP) and how it can also help low-income households with their energy bills. As a federally funded initiative, LIHEAP provides crucial support that ensures that more families have access to consistent, safe, and reliable natural gas, especially during challenging economic times. Learn more at https:// acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap.

LANGD's Helping Hand is more than just a financial assistance program; it is a testament to our belief in the power of community. We understand that everyone needs someone to lean on from time to time, and we are proud to offer that Helping Hand.

If you or someone you know is a LANGD residential customer facing financial hardship, you may qualify for assistance. Applicants must be a custom-



Learn about switching to resilient, affordable and reliable natural gas by contacting the District's marketing team at (407) 656-2734, x307, marketing@langd.org or visit www.langd.org for more information.

#### LANGD ACHIEVES 100% COMPLIANCE IN SAFETY EVALUATION FOR EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Lake Apopka Natural Gas District is proud to announce that, for the eighth consecutive year, its natural gas systems were found in 100% satisfactory compliance with state and federal natural gas pipeline safety regulations, as notified by the Florida Public Service Commission.

The safe delivery of natural gas is the No. 1 priority for every LANGD employee, and



#### INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME WITH NATURAL GAS AND SAVE MONEY.

At Lake Apopka Natural Gas, we're helping families connect to affordable, reliable, and efficient natural gas, with appliances that pay dividends for years to come. Studies show a home with natural gas has a **6% greater resale** value than an all-electric home.





er of record or authorized on the account, have a past-due balance, and are not involved in tampering-related criminal activity. Assistance is available up to twice a year or up to \$350 per household within a 12-month period. If you want to donate to the Helping Hand fund, check out www.langd.org to learn more or contact us at (407) 656-2734. We are grateful for the generosity of our customers, employ-



Know what's **below. Call** before you dig. this achievement further underscores LANGD's unwavering commitment to safety and reliability for the communities it serves.

ees, our vendors, and other community members who

have donated to Helping Hand, and we believe the best is yet to come.

At LANGD, we will always work hard to ensure families in need have access to natural gas. Learn about switching to resilient, affordable and reliable natural gas by contacting the District's marketing team at (407) 656-2734, x307, marketing@ langd.org or visit www.langd.org for more information.



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## Park Avenue Animal Hospital is dedicated to offering the finest in veterinary care

Animal companions give so much to humans, and part of the responsibility to care for them is helping them to stay healthy. The staff at Park Avenue Animal Hospital offers some helpful hints on ways to focus on your pet's well-being.

**REMOVE DAN-**GEROUS HOUSE-HOLD ITEMS - Protect your animal friends by learning and thinking about common household items that can poison pets. Items that seem ordinary to you but that are harmful to pets include: Plants, medi- ULAR WELLNESS cations, chemicals, human food, and household cleaners. And, if your pet eats everyday items lying around the house, a neglected sock or small toy can require emergency surgery if it doesn't pass.

SPEND TIME WITH YOUR COMPANIONS - If you are rushing around without seemingly any time to even breathe, it's important to stop and sit down with your animal friends. You can sit quietly and listen to the world around you, gently stroking and loving on your pet, even if your friend has feathers or scales. Time spent together can benefit them and you. They'll know they're loved and can be prevented from becoming bored and feeling neglected, and your life will become so much richer

and more meaningful.



Park Avenue Animal Hospital is a full-service veterinary clinic providing a variety of services for dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, reptiles, and other exotic small animals. Call today at 407-880-9446 to schedule an appointment or visit them online at www.parkavenuevets.com. Pictured above are Dr. Rubinstein, Dr. Turgai, Dr. Nelson, and Dr. Munoz.

providing them with the

best technology and di-

cats are by far the most

popular choice for most

pet owners, the doctors

at Park Avenue Animal

Hospital have a special

place in their hearts for

all animals, furry, feath-

years of combined qual-

ity veterinary experi-

ence, the doctors have

gone well beyond stan-

dard veterinary educa-

tion and practice to fur-

ther their knowledge of

animal care to include:

reptiles, rabbits, ferrets,

birds, guinea pigs, and

more. Whether it's an

annual checkup or a crit-

ical emergency, they are

prepared to handle any

diagnostic and surgical

tools to meet practically

situation.

With more than 60

While dogs and

agnostic tools.

ery, or scaly.

part of helping your ani- ous that their personal mal friends stay healthy is by offering quality food. Learn to read labels.

SCHEDULE REG-CHECKS - Take your pet for regular wellness appointments. Scheduled veterinary care can spot potential health problems so you can manage any concern early. This includes dental issues and problems with kidneys and joints.

Park Avenue Animal Hospital is your partner in keeping your pet healthy. Since 2008, Park Avenue Animal Hospital has been providing a wide variety of services to keep your furry, four-legged friends in the best of health. Their experienced team treats each pet that comes into their facilitv with the utmost care. With cutting edge technology and the bedside manner of a small-town doctor, they're equipped to handle almost any ailment your pet may face.

Voted Best of enue Animal Hospital OFFER QUALITY Apopka Pet Care Facil- provides reasonably FOOD - An important ity since 2010, it's obvi- priced medical and sur-

gical care without saccommitment to you is rificing quality, in a setgrounded in assuring ting designed to take the your pet receives the finstress out of visiting your est in veterinary care by vet.

> Routine examinations, vaccines, dentistry, and nutritional and behavioral advice are just some of the services provided by the doctors and staff in a beautiful office that is as comfortable as your own home.

> With Park Avenue Animal Hospital's convenient location at 847 N. Park Avenue (Rock Springs Road) in Apopka, affordable help for all your pets is now right in your own community!

You'll find that the staff at Park Avenue Animal Hospital think of their clients and the people of Apopka as part of their family. They are proud of their community and strive to make sure that everyone feels welcome in their clinic.

Call today at 407-Fully equipped with 880-9446 to schedule an appointment or visit them online at www.parany situation, Park Avkavenuevets.com.

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Apopka, Florida 32703 In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

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Proverbs 14:26 Sweetwater 🍮 State Farm 407-862-3893 Shren Yeager of Tangerine 49A East 3rd Street, Apopka 352-383-7920 407-880-3167 Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there. of Zellwood "If my people, which are called by m 407-889-0509 name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and Church 407-886-4374 will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 Fountain of Life **Baptist Church** Apopka Auto Upholstery of Apopka, Inc. 48 W. 4th Street, Apopka 407-814-8322

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Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

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

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## Try the two potato recipes – Apopka is the 'potato eating place'

Rachel Pfaender's Cuban Chicken is from First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda in their own publication, A Taste of Heav-



en. This is a one-dish meal, and it is a far cry from "the same old chicken!" You probably don't have to wash the rice anymore, though!

According to Robert, the contributor to AllRecipes.com, "This crab cake recipe is the true crab cake with no fillers and no heavy spices, all crab meat. It has been in my family for generations." A reviewer observed, "I used Old Bay seasoning instead of parsley and didn't use mayo and it still came out great!"

Here is a recipe titled Fried Raw Potatoes as well as Allegheny Home Fries (Country-Fried Potatoes) which is a larger recipe. The recipes comes from *Hearty Country Cooking* by Mark Sohn. He says, "To make Fried Raw Potatoes, we use peeled, diced potatoes. I like to fry them in a little oil over low heat. You can make fried raw potatoes with finely diced (1/4-inch cubes), medium-diced (1/2-inch cubes, or coarsely diced (3/4-inch cubes) potatoes. With larger cubes, more potatoes will fit in a single layer in the skillet, but they will need to cook longer. Allow 1/3-teaspoon salt and 1/3-cup diced onions for each cup of diced potatoes, but do not crowd the pan – these are not hashed browns.

Miz Emily Meggett's Collard Greens looks like a winner. She says collard greens have a special place in African American culture. I have some news for that fine lady: they have a special place in MY OWN culture, as well! I love collard greens and fix a potful for myself just about every couple of weeks. But if I don't have collards, I use turnip greens. I season my greens with smoked ham, onion, garlic, salt, and a little bit of cayenne pepper. I use a tablespoon of unfiltered apple cider vinegar at the end of cooking. I don't use any sugar or sweetener. I must confess, though, I cheat: I usually use frozen collards. But I do like fresh if I can find them.

Verlina's Calamondin Pie recipe came from one of our readers a while

said, "This is in response to your encouraging Apopkans to send in their traditional family recipes." She adds, "The Calamondin is a small citrus fruit that is a cross between a lime and mandarin orange. It is grown in Southeast Asia and the Philippines. They were imported from China and have been grown throughout Florida since the early 1900s. Growing season is in the early spring and summer months. I get mine from my father's tree or the Asian supermarket (Dong Ah Supermarket on Mills Avenue). I am part Filipino and make this traditional pie for my family."

#### **RACHEL PFAENDER'S CUBAN CHICKEN**

Recipe from First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda, A Taste of Heaven

1 cup Uncle Ben's converted rice, uncooked

#### 1/4 cup salad oil

- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 tablespoons minced onion
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 chicken, boiled, cut from bones 1 cup cooked ham, slivered 1/2 cup stuffed olives, sliced Asparagus tips & peas, cooked
- **Pimento strips** Wash rice; heat salad oil and pep-

per in large fry pan; add onion, garlic and rice. Cook over low heat until yellow. Add stock, salt and paprika. Cook tightly over low heat until rice is cooked. Add chicken, ham and olives. Heat thoroughly and place in center of large platter. Surround with cooked asparagus tips and peas and garnish with strips of pimento.

#### **TRUE MARYLAND CRAB CAKES**

- By Robert on AllRecipes.com Ingredients:
- 3 tablespoons pancake mix
- 1 tablespoon prepared yellow
- mustard 3 tablespoons mayonnaise,
  - or to taste
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 pound cooked crabmeat, flaked 3 cups vegetable oil for frying Directions:
  - 1) In a medium bowl, stir togeth-

back. Our contributor, Verlina Keener er the pancake mix, mustard, may- al. Cut the potatoes in half and then onnaise, egg and parsley until well blended. Fold in the crabmeat. Form into 3-inch patties. 2) Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium to medium high heat. There should be enough oil to reach halfway up the sides of the crab cakes.When the oil is hot, carefully place the patties in the pan. Fry until golden brown on each side, about 8 minutes per side. If patties are browning too fast, reduce the heat. Drain on paper towels, and serve immediately. Yield 8 crab cakes, about 4 servings.

#### MARK SOHN'S **FRIED RAW POTATOES**

Hearty Country Cooking 1 tablespoon butter, olive oil, or bacon grease (just enough to barely cover the bottom of the pan)

- 3 cups medium-diced firm new potatoes
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1 cup diced onions (optional)

1) Wash the potatoes and remove any brown spots. If you dice the potatoes ahead, store them in the refrigerator in a bowl of water. 2) In a heavybottomed frying pan over low-medium heat, melt the butter and add the potatoes. Cover and fry 10 to 15 minutes. 3) Turn the potatoes, and if they are cooked through to the center, remove the lid, add the onions, and increase the heat to medium. 4) Cook another 10 to 15 minutes, turning them every 5 minutes, or until they have browned on all sides. Serve. Yield: 3 servings.

Note: Healthy choice alternative: You can fry potatoes in little or even no oil. In this recipe, I have already reduced the butter to one quarter tablespoon per serving, but you can further reduce it by using nonstick cooking spray. Omit the salt and offer it at the table. Serve these potatoes with green beans, corn bread, and pork chops, or for breakfast with fresh fruit, Buttermilk Biscuits, Country Ham and Red-Eye Gravy, White Sausage Gravy, or Potato Gravy.

#### MARK SOHN'S **ALLEGHENY HOME FRIES** (COUNTRY-FRIED POTATOES) Hearty Country Cooking

Home Fries are not fried potatoes. To make home fries, double the above recipe. The onions are NOT optionslice them. Slice the onions. Layer the sliced potatoes and onions in a frying pan. Cook, covered, over low heat for 30 minutes, turning after 15 minutes. Cook uncovered an additional 15 minutes. With low heat and so many potatoes in the pan, these fries will be steamed and soft, but tasty. Yield 6 servings.

#### **EMILY MEGGETT'S COLLARD GREENS**

Recipe from Gullah Geechee Home Cooking by Emily Meggett

- 1 bunch collard greens (1/2 pound) 1 (14-ounce) smoked ham hock
- 2-1/2 to 3 quarts water
- Crushed red pepper
- 1-1/2 tablespoon cider vinegar 1 teaspoon sugar, or 2 packages
- sweetener
- Nature's Seasons, to taste

1) Wash the collard greens in cold water three or four times to remove any sand or dirt. Pat dry using a paper towel. 2) Strip the collard greens, removing the center stem. Cut the collard greens lengthwise into small, bite-sized pieces. 3) Wash the ham hock. In a large pot, combine the ham hock and water, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, then add the greens, covering them in the water. 4) Add crushed red pepper to taste, the vinegar, sugar, and Nature's Seasons to taste. Increase the heat and bring back to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium and cook the greens for at least 2-1/2 hours. After 2-1/2 hours, taste the greens to test flavor and tenderness. Add more Nature's Seasons and cook longer if necessary.

#### **VERLINA'S CALAMONDIN PIE**

Recipe from Reader of

The Apopka Chief and The Planter 5 egg yolks, beaten

- 1 can of condensed milk
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed
- Calamondin juice
- 1 pre-made graham cracker crust

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

and then refrigerate until chilled. Our contributor, Verlina Keener says, "This is in response to your issue encouraging Apopkans to send in their traditional family recipes."

p.m. promptly

#### UPCOMING SEPTEMBER 2024 ONGOING EVENTS ★ WEEKLY ★ $\rightarrow$

SCHOOL BEGAN AUGUST call 407-884-4311 12 - Traffic patterns will change Stormy weather comes and goes! Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those school

FRAN CARLTON CENTER OPEN, for seniors - senior activities at Fran Carlton Center.

THE SERTOMA CLUB meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 11:30-noon,

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24** minded goal to lose weight. No products, no specific diet to follow. no meds. Call 407-580-0897 for more information.

May, at 9:45 a.m. at the Alonza William Park / Billie Dean Com-MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open munity Center, 225 M.A. Board St., on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Apopka. Contact: apopkafgca@ Fridays, 12 noon-5 p.m. and Saturgmail.comNO MEETINGS JUNE- tion. ĂUGUST day 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E Fifth St. 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. to be answered by Master Gardeners.

GFWC APOPKA WOMAN'S CLUB, meets at First Methodist 201 N ark Avenue. Ca 407-880-2111 for more informa-

Bingo every Monday night at 7

FOLIAGE GARDEN CLUB OF AP-OPKA, meets the first Thursday of

each month, September through

aucks. DON 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). Im-

munizations 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 Dwelley 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 in-

clude: 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 mation. 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 info 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 Weki-

wa Circle, Apopka 32712, open

from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information,

и вее FOR INFORMATION

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, FRI-DAYS at 9:00 a.m. at 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center.. Call 407-703-1642 for information. CENTRAL FL CHRISTIAN CHAM-

BER OF COMMERCE, 1806 S Bay St., Eustis, has Fellowship Friday meetings. For complete details of all chamber events, visit cfchristianchamber.com/events-chamber.Contact: latrondra@cfchristianchamber.com

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the third Saturday on September 21 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 CEN-TER, 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 infor-

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 DID FALL COME WITH **COOLER WEATHER?**

FITNESS CLASS, MONDAYS 9-10 a.m. 11 N. Forest Ave at Fran Carlton Center. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

CRAFTS & CHATTER: 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks not required. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for

ANONYMOUS OVEREATERS meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 601 S. Highland Avenue. If you have a problem with food - overeating, anorexia, bulimia – there is a solution

for you. For more information, visit OA.org or call Carrie 781-867-1071.

TOASTMASTERS: Apopka Foliage Toastmasters #840, meets Wednesdays promptly at 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., in person and zoom at the Museum of Apopkans, 122 E. 5th St., Apopka, 32703. Call 407-765-2629 for information

Brady's in The Back Room, 1410 Rock Springs Rd., Apopka. Interested communitiy members are encouraged to attend and get acquainted. Meetings 407-703-1642 for info. 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 no longer required. 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, SEPTEMBER 25

,The Altamonte Springs / Apopka VFW POST 10147. is NOW OPEN Wednesday and Saturday Morn-ings 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 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 no longer required. 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 are no longer required/ 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. 10:15 a.m.-1 p.m. (approximately) at Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks are no longer required. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

TOPS CHAPTER #646. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), TOPS, a nonprofit 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 check for any revisions by Tuesday meet with others who have a likeat 5 p.m. before the meeting

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 infor-

mation, call 407-765-2629 or visit www.Apopkatoastmasters.com. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks are no longer required. 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 are no longer required. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 'Apopka Proud' concert set for October 5 at the amphitheater beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Sawver Brown and John Anderson performing. Tickets available at eventbrite at shorturl.at/Ex4Ci

#### 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,

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 É Main Street, Apopka. Contact 407-464-4606 for informa-

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 TOASTMAS-TER'S CLUB, Wednesdays, 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: Wednesay 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.theapopkamuseum.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 Bar

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.

#### TEMPORARILY CANCELLED:

COMPUTER CLASSES in both English and Spanish: Available daily or weekly at OCLS North Or-ange 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. PERHAPS IT WILL OPEN IN OCT.

HABITAT VOLUNTEERS: Go to 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. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

(OCLS) Orange County Public Library North Orange Branch Ad-dress: 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. 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@theapopkachief.com Subscribe to The Apopka Chief E-Edition or Home Delivery Call 407-886-2777 or Visit www.theapopkachief.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

## **Springs:** 'DEP must follow law whether they like it or not'

#### Continued from page 1A

Springs, to adopt uniform rules for issuing permits which prevent groundwater withdrawals that are harmful to the water resources and to adopt a uniform definition of the term 'harmful to the water resources' to provide water management districts with minimum standards necessary to be consistent with the overall water policy of the state for Outstanding Florida Springs. The rule may affect consumptive use applicants in all five water management districts."

2018, his FDEP has flagrantly disregarded that law," according to a media advisory from the Sier-

ra Club. As of press time, the FDEP had not responded to a request from The Apopka *Chief* for a comment.

Bill Weinaug, a local engineer and owner of Wekiva Island in Longwood, described the decades of passed state legislation to protect the Florida Springs, including the 2004 Wekiva Parkway Protection Act, which identified the basin as a very high priority for protection; and the 2016 Florida Springs and

Aquifer Protection Act that

signed into law.

Weinaug even described how in 2008, his family "purchased Wekiva Island to hopefully try to figure out a special, unique way we could change that trajectory" following a 2007 study that found that the Wekiva River was "significantly impaired by declining spring flows 15 years after minimum flows were established and were well known," he said.

"Making our springs healthy is still one of the most important environmental issues in the state of Florida today," Weinaug said. "There is a very

then-Governor Rick Scott important part of a positive path forward for all of the springs and FDEP has it in their control.'

> Jane Hepting, president of Lake County Conservation Council, commended the Florida Springs Council for speaking out about about the FDEP's failure to protect the springs.

"One third of Lake County is wet with springs, wetlands, lakes, and rivers. Our waterways are very important to our economy and our way of life. Lake County residents worry that our waterways are under threat from urban sprawl, pollution and wasteful use. The

Department of Environmental Protection needs to do more to protect our environment from all harm," Hepting said

According to Ryan Smart, executive director of Florida Springs Council, "after eight years, DEP has made zero progress in adopting a valid rule. Instead, for the third time, DEP is once again proposing the same permitting rules that were already in place more than a year before the law was amended. The same rules that have already proven to cause significant harm to outstanding Florida Springs, the very idea that the same

rules that cause significant harm could prevent any harm, would be laughable if it wasn't so tragic. We get it. DEP doesn't want

to follow the law. They don't want to tell developers, utilities and intensive corporate agriculture that they can't bleed our springs dry, and they don't want to protect outstanding Florida springs from harm. But it simply doesn't matter what DEP wants. The law is clear and just like everyone else in Florida and everyone else here, DEP must follow the law whether they like it or not."

## **FNGLA:** Felter helped progress of horticulture practice in state

#### Continued from page 6A

ment for the Marriott's Orlando World Center to co-founding the IPM Nursery Scout Training

"Since Governor Ron

DeSantis was elected in

class, which has run for 28 years straight and earned two National Search for Excellence in Extension Education awards, Felter's leadership has been key to the progress of horticultural practices

around the state. Her dedication goes bevond education, as she actively connects growers and producers throughout the state with vital resources to improve their op-

erations, enhance plant health gest-continuously running extenand adopt best practices. This includes her longstanding involvement with the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center's plant clinic, one of the state's lon-

sion programs, which was established in 1974.

## **City Council appoints new** member to planning board

**By Teresa Sargeant** Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council voted unanimously, 5-0, to appoint Kirk Dickson to a three-year term on the Apopka Planning Commission. The appointment was done under Consent agenda of the Council's Wednesday, September 18, regularly scheduled meeting.

Dickson was appointed to replace Planning Commission Member Benjamin "Butch" Stanley, who resigned from the board on August 25, thus leaving only six members before the appointment, according to information in the

Office: 407-836-2070 They set up voting booths and put out election agenda packet. ning Commission serves as ing on the subject or volsignage at the polls. The Poll Deputy needs Fax: 407-254-6596 To ensure there are the City's "Local Planning ume of applications. **BUY Something! SELL Something! Perhaps you may want to TRADE something!** As always, a good deal can be yours when you use the Classification: # **Classified Section of** The Apopka Chief & The Planter **Place your Ad Today!** VISIT US ONLINE: www.theapopkachief.com **Or EMAIL us at** classifieds@theapopkachief.com (15) Or CALL 407-886-2777 or FAX to 407-889-4121. 15 Words are only \$9.50 when you prepay, or \$11.50 when billed. You can run your ad 4 weeks for the price of 3. That's only \$28.50 for the 3/4 special. Ad Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's paper. Name: If using this form, mail to P. O. Box 880, Apopka, FL 32704-0880, or bring it by 400 N. Park Ave., Apopka Address: *32712. Cash, check or credit cards are ok for payment.* \_\_\_\_\_Email: \_\_\_\_ Phone:

seven members, a new member is due for appointment.

Dickson submitted an application and expressed that he would like to be appointed to the Planning Commission for a threeyear term.

The city of Apopka's Planning Commission was established as a citizen board to review and recommend to the City Council, approval or denial of development plans, amendments to the zoning map, amendments to the land development code, proposed subdivision plats, proposed site plans, and future land use map amendments.

In accordance with ings are scheduled depend-September 18 City Council Florida Statutes, the Plan-

Agency" when reviewing and recommending to the City Council, any future land use amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map, according to information in the Wednesday, September 18, City Council agenda packet.

There are seven members that are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. Members are appointed to three-year terms and must reside within the city limits.

The Planning Commission normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Apopka City Hall Council Chamber. Additional meet-

#### Become involved -**Be a Poll Worker on Election Day**

Each poll worker has specific duties to perform on Election Day. The following is a list of the positions and a brief description of their duties. All positions, except the Poll Deputy, use some type of computer or electronic device to perform their assigned duties.

Poll Clerk: Supervises the other poll workers and must attend a lengthy training to gain an understanding of all positions' duties. Along with many other duties, the Poll Clerk coordinates access to the polling place, handles picking up the election supplies before Election Day, and returns them to a designated drop-off site on election night.

Assistant Poll Clerk: Responsible for helping the Poll Clerk open and close the polls. During voting hours, this person uses an iPad mini and walks the line to verify voters are at the correct polling place. If there are no voters in line, they assist the Poll Clerk wherever needed.

Poll Deputy: This poll worker is stationed outside the voting room on Election Day to maintain order at the polling place.

to pass a background clearance conducted by the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

Help Desk Oath Person: This poll worker is a sworn deputy of the Supervisor of Elections office for Election Day. They help voters who present exceptions to the normal voting pattern by checking voter records using the elections office-issued tablet and/or contacting the Supervisor of Elections office.

ePoll Book Inspector: Locates voters' names in the ePoll tablets to determine their eligibility to vote in that precinct. They also issue ballots to voters.

Voting Systems Inspector: Responsible for the set-up, operation, and closing of the tabulator (voting machine) and the ADA equipment available to voters with a disability.

Contact: Glen Gilzean, Orange County Supervisor of Elections

Street Address: 119 West Kaley Street, Orlando, FL 32806

Mailing Address: PO Box 562001,

Orlando, FL 32856-2001 Phoone Numbers:



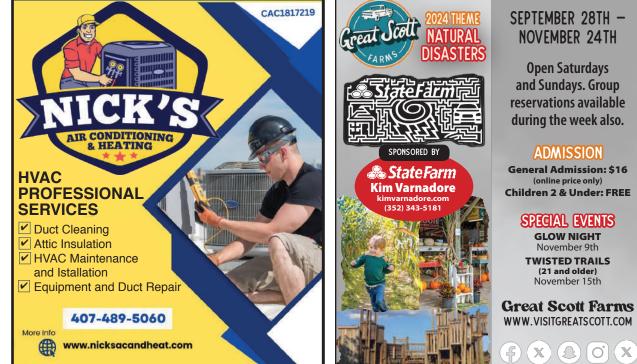
## **Commissioner hosts town hall**



Commissioner City Nick Nesta hosted a town hall meeting on Thursday, September 12, in the Apopka City Hall Council Chambers. Residents discussed their concerns ranging from government transparency and water issues to infrastructure and the handling of City Council public comment.



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**Apopka Area Voting Precincts.** Plan now to cast your vote on November 5.

205 Dayspring Community Church, 2434 Old Dixie Hwy

- 209 Word of Life Church,
- 1853 Vick Rd.
- 224 Clarcona Horsemans Park, 3535 Damon Rd.
- 225 John H Bridges Community Center, 445 W. 13th St.
- **226** Apopka Community Center, 519 S Central Av.
- 227 Trinity Baptist Church, 1022 S Orange Blossom Trail
- 228 Hope Baptist Church, 129 S Wekiwa Springs Rd.
- 229 Clay Springs Elementary School (555 N Wekiwa Springs Rd) (NEW)
- 230 First Methodist Church of Apopka, 201 S Park Av.

- 232 Grace Pointe Church,
  - 2051 W Lester Rd.
- 233 Word of Life, 1852 Vick Rd.
- 234 Orange County Apopka Service Center, 1111 Rock Springs Rd.
- 235 Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church, 584 N Wekiwa Springs Rd.
- 236 Gospel Centered Church, 4490 Rock Springs Rd.
- 237 NW Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelley Pkwy.
- 238 NOCIA,
- 4253 W Ponkan Rd. 239 Zellwood United Methodist Church, 5538 W Jones Av., Zellwood
- 242 One Way Christian Church,
- 2100 W. McCormick Rd. (NEW)

231 First Methodist Church of Apopka, 201 S Park Av.

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