

Fight the flu

AdventHealth gives advice on how to protect oneself against flu season. See page 6A.



Sports

Wekiva is now 3-5 after win over Lake Howell Silverhawks See page 1B.



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City to take on subdivision's road maintenance

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council approved 5-0 on October 16 to move forward with an assessment project that will help the Emerson Park subdivision with its roadways, curbs, gutters, and street signs transferred from private to public ownership and to create a Municipal Service Business Unit (MSBU) funding source to bring this infrastructure up to city standards.

Blanche Sherman, city finance director, gave the City Council an overview of the Emerson Park Assessment Project.

The estimated cost to upgrade the Emerson Park infrastructure would

\$3,778,342 if the project does not start by September 2025; this amount includes the main roads, sidewalks, curbs, signs and alleyways. The estimated cost for the alleyways is \$730,330, and therefore the assessment will be based on \$3,048,012, total cost, less the cost of the alleyways.

If the project does commence before September 2025, the cost would be around \$2.5 million with the use of the current active paving contract the city has, according to Sherman.

"Based on the amount of funds that I've heard that Emerson Park is willing to contribute, we're looking at approximately a million-dollar gap there," Sherman said.

See CITY Page 3A



Photo courtesy of Ralo Flores

Rotary Club of Apopka members recognized World Polio Day on Thursday, October 24, at Apopka City Hall. Pictured (l to r) are John DeClue, Mary Krueger, Cindi Ciosi, Christie Riddell, Christine Horvay, Rebecca Sims, Joe Washington, and Chris DeClue. Rotary International has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years.

Local Rotary Club honors World Polio Day

Rotary members in Apopka took action in honor of World Polio Day, on Thursday, October 24, to raise awareness, funds, and support to end polio, a vaccine-preventable

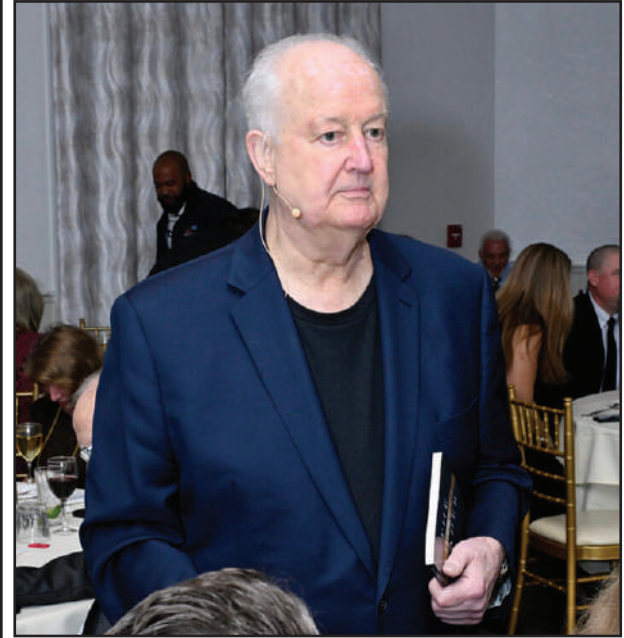
disease that still threatens children in parts of the world today.

Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a paralyzing and potentially deadly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5. The virus spreads from person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can then attack the nervous system.

Rotary International has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. As a founding

See POLIO Page 5A

Gala will forgo keynote speaker, highlight contributions instead



File photo courtesy of John Land Apopka Community Trust

Pat Williams (pictured) who was senior vice president of the Orlando Magic, was the keynote speaker at the fifth annual John Land Apopka Community Trust Legacy Gala in November 2023. This year's gala will not have a keynote speaker but instead show a video highlighting the Trust's contributions to the community.

Forgoing a keynote speaker this year, the John Land Apopka Community Trust will host its sixth annual John Land Apopka Community Trust Legacy Gala.

The gala will take place on Thursday, November 7, at Highland Manor, located at 604 E. Main Street, Apopka. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and a social hour will take place from 6-7 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. A silent auction to raise funds for the Trust will be held during the social hour.

This year's annual gala will showcase the Trust's charitable contributions to the greater Apopka community since the nonprofit's inception in 2013.

In place of a keynote

speaker – a break from the gala's traditional format of years past – the Trust will unveil a professionally produced video themed "Together We Thrive" which will feature the Trust's history, purpose, and works.

In one email, Trust President Misty Taylor said, "The Board is very excited to share the video with the public."

"The Trust Board collectively decided that this year we wanted to invest in the production of this video, as opposed to hiring a keynote speaker. We hope that the video will provide greater enlightenment of the Trust's mission and provide greater outreach to potential donors," she said

See GALA Page 3A

Daylight saving time ends this Sunday

Daylight saving time will officially end on Sunday, November 3, when clocks will fall back by one hour.

In most of Europe, daylight saving time, or British Summer Time as the U.K. calls it, ended on the last Sunday in October (October 27).

Daylight saving time (sometimes erroneously called daylight SAVINGS time) begins again on March 9, 2025 in the U.S., and on March 30, 2025 in most of Europe and

the U.K., when clocks will move forward by an hour.

These spring and fall time changes continue a tradition started during World War I.

In 2022, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly voted to make daylight saving time permanent, but the legislation stalled in the U.S. House. On March 2, 2023, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) reintroduced the Sunshine Protection Act of 2023 to the 118th Congress, but it has idled since then.

— LiveScience.com

Six firefighters to get training scholarships

The Apopka Fire Department, in partnership with the 2650 Foundation, will host a special ceremony at Apopka Fire Station One on Friday, November 1, at 6 p.m., to award six

Apopka firefighters with scholarships to attend a certification course in Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (VMR).

See FIRE Page 7A

Early Halloween fun at Kit Land Nelson Park



Halloween in the Park took place on Saturday, October 26, at Kit Land Nelson Park in downtown Apopka. Hosted by the city of Apopka, the event was a family-friendly trick-or-treating event with activities, vendors, and more. Children got to trick or treat around the park, stopping at various vendor booths. Photos courtesy of Apopka Police Department/Facebook.

This week

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Find Public Notices
Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/
public-notice OR
FloridaPublicNotices.com



Apopka Event of the Week

Mayor Nelson will give the State of City address on Friday, November 8, from 10-11 a.m. at the VFW Building, 510 S. Central Ave., Apopka. There is no cost to attend in general seating area. For those planning to attend for breakfast, register by November 6 at ApopkaChamber.org.

Quotable

He also said certain things don't belong in the constitution, such as marijuana legalization, and should be done through the legislative process.

Governor's opinion for a 'no' vote on State Amendment 3

Opinion

The Apopka Chief
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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John Ricketson

Mar. 5, 1940 - July 16, 2024

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Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Legalization of marijuana does not belong in state constitution

By Steve Wilson
The Center Square

Governor Ron DeSantis cautioned Florida voters against passage of Amendment 3 that would make recreational marijuana legal in the Sunshine State.

DeSantis made his remarks at a news conference in Fort Myers on Thursday (October 24) as he continues a campaign against two well-funded ballot initiatives.

"We're a proud state with immigration, we've got the lowest per capita debt in the country, we've got low taxes, we're No. 1 in education," DeSantis said. "Why would you want to set a precedent where one company can come spend \$110 million and ensconce itself in our state's constitution?"

"If you put the money out, craft the language, then you too can have a spot in Florida's constitution. This is such an obvious power grab motivated by corporate greed."

Amendment 3 would legalize the possession and purchase of up to 3 ounces of marijuana and 5 grams of concentrates, while Amendment 4 would enshrine abortion rights. Amendments require 60 percent of the vote to become part of the state's constitution.

"When these special interest amendments get on, they're trying to write it in a way that will trick as many people as possible to vote for it," DeSantis said. "That's by design and they spend millions of dollars to poll test this."

"This amendment was written by the CEO and this is a weed company traded on the Canadian stock exchange. This amendment is written to benefit this one, big weed company."

He was referring to Trulieve CEO Kim Rivers.

The second-term Republican governor said the amendment would create a "big weed cartel" and would prohibit citizens from growing their own product once the established dispensaries started lobbying law-

makers for greater penalties on homegrown marijuana.

He also said certain things don't belong in the constitution, such as marijuana legalization, and should be done through the legislative process.

He also said the amendment is more liberal on public prohibitions than Colorado, which was the first state to legalize recreational cannabis and will "forever change the culture of Florida."

Proponents of Amendment 3 have raised more than \$110 million, with \$103 million coming from the Trulieve Cannabis Corp, a Quincy-based marijuana retailer that is the largest in the U.S.

According to the company's investor relations page, Trulieve had \$2.9 billion in revenues for the year to date ending on June 30, compared to \$2.79 billion during the same time last year. Trulieve has dispensaries in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

"It is not meant to benefit you. It's not meant to benefit the state," DeSantis said. "They are not spending \$100 million because they want to benefit you or to benefit the state of Florida."

Dr. Joseph Ladapo, Florida's surgeon general, said the right way to handle the issue would be for lawmakers to pass a recreational program and that the amendment was designed and crafted for the benefit of a single entity.

Hardee County Sheriff Vent Crawford said passage of the amendment would lead to children using more marijuana and that would lead to more traffic fatalities.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition of Marijuana – Marijuana: the psychoactive dried resinous flower buds and leaves of the female hemp or cannabis plant (Cannabis sativa or C. indica) that contain high levels of THC and are smoked, vaped, or ingested (as in baked goods) especially for their intoxicating effect.



NW Rec Complex to receive upgrades

This week the Orange County Board of County Commissioners at our regular meeting approved a \$13.1-million dollar grant application to enhance and renew the Northwest Recreational Complex on Jason Dweley Parkway. I urged the City of Apopka to submit a grant application to Orange County to receive dollars from the Tourist Development Tax Fund for upgrades that will bring an economic boost to District 2. My thanks to Bev Winesburgh who is my appointee to the Tourist Development Tax Grant Application Review Committee for working with the city on their

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

application.

Now for the details ... before Dec. 31, 2026, the city is to use the more than \$13-million grant to bring a new quad of softball fields to the Northwest Recreation Complex and upgrade the Apopka Amphitheater to make the venue more appealing for event

organizers and promoters to bring in name acts, thereby increasing tourism. With more softball/baseball fields, the greater the opportunity to host larger tournaments. Also, improving the amphitheater means there could be more concerts because of a greater appeal to promoters.

Here's what's planned so far. With four more fields, the Northwest Recreation Complex will have 16 fields in total. The proposed expansion is planned for a 150-acre parcel of city-owned property adjacent to the current Northwest Recreation Complex.

See MOORE Page 4A

Laws allow books to be challenged

Once again, I feel the need for some clarity.

Last week I submitted a piece expressing my concern over another opinion piece published in this paper back in September claiming that our schools ban the Bible but allow books on Witchcraft and the like.

The editor felt the need to clarify and defend the original piece while publishing my piece last week by saying that the original piece was talking about books in general, not our local schools.

Let me be clear, when you say "our schools" or "public schools" in a local paper, any reasonable person would read that to mean their local public schools, including our

Orange County School
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

schools here in Apopka or in this state.

I wrote last week how these kinds of statements are damaging to our local schools, especially when they are blatantly false.

The original author of the piece in question did clarify his statements later to say that he wasn't talking about our local schools but in other schools around the nation, specifically citing a ban on the Bible in Utah.

Let's look at the ban in Utah. That book challenge in one school district in June 2023 came about after lawmakers in the state passed legislation requiring a process to challenge books for inappropriate content, much like states across the nation (including Florida) did after conservative groups encouraged them to.

These laws allow parents or any citizen to submit a book challenge if they believe the book contains material that is inappropriate for certain age groups, and the school districts are required to put together review committees made up of parents, community members, librarians, etc. to

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber.
Psalm 121:3

Mema Says

Even random seeds
will fall on good soil.

Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

Send a letter to the Editor online www.theapopkachief.com

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Yesterdays' handshake more reliable than today's contracts

Humor has left the building! Our nation's ability to laugh at ourselves and enjoy a good joke has fallen down, and we can't get up.

The time that we used to spend putting a smile on someone's face has now turned to sour grapes-in-your-face. We have turned into a nation of "namby-pambys." We have become what we as kids called "sis-sies."

On TV, the men have started shaving their chests, private areas, and even



Ike Hayden

their legs. The old timers that lived around us when we were kids, are turning over in their graves.

What has happened to masculinity? There was a time that the definition of a man was someone

who took care of his wife and kids, loved the United States of America, her ensign "Old Glory," and taught his kids to love them also. A man didn't have to make a show of hunting, fishing, or anything else to prove his masculinity. He did that as a matter of keeping his family fed. It was part of being a man, it wasn't done to prove anything.

As an eight-year-old, I was taught the basics of caring for, safety of, and use of firearms. Everybody

in our surrounding area had firearms and knew how to use them. But more than that, we knew when and where to use them!

Having a physique like "the Rock" (wouldn't be bad) would not be evidence of your being a man. Being a man meant having respect for others, the humility to know you are not the best, the empathy and compassion to give to those in need, the strength to assist your neighbors by being a good neighbor, and the ability to fulfill the Golden

Rule, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

The true test of a man is what does it take to make you quit the list of responsibilities GOD has placed in your hands? The men that I have been privileged to hob-nob with would answer by saying, "nothing short of death." And some of them proved that point!

Whatever happened to that solid handshake, which then was many times more reliable than what we call a contract today.

Ayn Rand, in her book titled "Atlas Shrugged," made this statement:

"When you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing - When you see money is flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favors - When you see men that get richer by graft and pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you - When you see

See HAYDEN Page 4A

City: A town center was planned but never built

Continued from page 1A

As for the terms of financing and debt obligation, the city will see what will work once it issues a request for proposal on the project, Sherman explained.

More than 500 homeowners live in Emerson Park, which is located near the S.R. 414/429 interchange and along Harmon Road and Ocoee-Apopka Road, across the street from AdventHealth Apopka.

Emerson Park homeowners paying for the infrastructure upkeep has been a struggle. Built in 2007, the

subdivision was originally planned as a mixed-use development of townhomes, single-family homes, and a public town center with public access roads. The infrastructure was built for the town center, but the town center itself was never constructed.

After a builder buyout in 2009, a different developer resumed the Emerson Park construction, but no records show how the developmental rights were officially transferred. Neither builder involved in the buyout told homeowners that the roads were private, and the neighborhood's layout,

city street signs, and undated entrances implied that the roads were public, according to Emerson Park HOA President Jennifer Hay.

Yet Emerson Park residents were left to maintain the entrance roadway and vacant street parking where the town center was planned, as well as five miles of roads, over 10 medians, a retention pond, and green spaces where no homes were built, Hay said.

"Since 2008, Emerson Park residents have paid the same taxes as public road communities without receiving any tax ben-

efit," Hay, explained to the council. Hay was an original Emerson Park homeowner. "Our roads have always functioned as public, and we've suffered due to decisions made without our input.

In December (2023), we as a community voted for this project. It was an exhaustive 45-day effort to capture the community's votes, and we prevailed with more than 95 percent of the votes received in favor of public roads. We urge you ... to vote yes on this project while you weren't part of the problem. You have an opportu-

nity to be part of the solution and stand with our residents."

On June 5, Deodat Budhu, city public service director, presented to the City Council the concept of the Emerson Park Assessment Project. At the same meeting, the City Council asked City Attorney Cliff Shepard to gather information to determine if it is legally possible to propose an assessment on property the

city doesn't own.

On August 21, Shepard presented to the City Council an outline of imposing a special property assessment for Emerson Park.

From there until the October 16 City Council meeting, city staff figured out updated cost estimates, a methodology or process to move the Emerson Park Assessment Project forward, and researched potential financing options.

Gala: Table sponsorships are still available for purchase

Continued from page 1A

in another email.


The John Land Apopka Community Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was founded in 2013, in honor of Mayor John H. Land, to carry John H. Land's legacy forward by serving the community of Apopka.

The mission of the John Land

Apopka Community Trust is to promote community development and betterment by serving the greater Apopka community and its citizens through philanthropic funding and encouragement with a focus on support of activities and programs benefiting the youth of our community and lending support to various other worthwhile charitable and civic organizations.

Sponsorships tables are available for the gala, which will help the Trust with raising funds, so that it can continue with its philanthropic efforts in supporting the greater Apopka community.

For more information on sponsoring the gala, contact Taylor via telephone at 407-286-8021, or via email at jlactrust@gmail.com.



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Discussion at meeting will be on how Florida can reduce gun violence

The League of Women Voters of Orange County will present Patti Brigham, former president of the League of Women Voters of Florida and a co-founder of the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, as she moderates “Hot Topics: How Florida Can Reduce Gun Violence,” focusing on grassroots programs that can make communities safer, November 13, at 11:30 a.m., at the Winter Park Events Center, presented by The panel includes Abraham Mor-

ris, who directs Orlando’s Community Violence Intervention model to reduce gun violence and criminal justice involvement and My Brother’s Keeper Initiative to reduce school suspensions and expulsions; Ruben Saldaña, who has been nominated as Central Floridian of the Year and a former gang member who now runs mixed martial arts and boxing programs designed to steer kids away from street violence; and Dr. Shanta Barton-Stubbs, who founded and directs

the New Image Youth Center, a safe place for at-risk children to participate in fitness and mentoring programs.

The discussion will explore programs run by police, local governments, businesses, nonprofits and League of Women Voters local chapters to make the public more aware of how to store firearms safely and mentoring young people to understand that street violence is the wrong path for them. Public service announcement campaigns and

distributing free gun locks have proven to be popular ways to get out the message that responsible gun owners should keep firearms safely stored in their vehicles and in their homes. Statistics show that keeping loaded and unlocked guns in vehicles and homes often results in tragic deaths and leads to an increase in violent crime.

Hot Topics is streamed live on the League’s Facebook page Facebook and an edited version will be available on the League’s

YouTube channel, League of Women Voters Orange County - YouTube.

The League of Women Voters of Orange County, Florida, is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Doors open at 11 a.m. for a buffet lunch. The discussion starts at

11:45 a.m. at the Center at 1050 W. Morse Blvd. in Winter Park and ends at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for League members, \$37 non-members. Register at www.LWVOC.org/HotTopics for the last Hot Topics of the year. Visionary sponsors: Phil and Jennifer Anderson. Silver sponsors: Lyn and David Berelsman and Voting Voices — Michele Levy, Charley Williams, and Laurie and Richard Wack. Bronze sponsors: Alex and the Hon. Cynthia Mackinnon.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

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

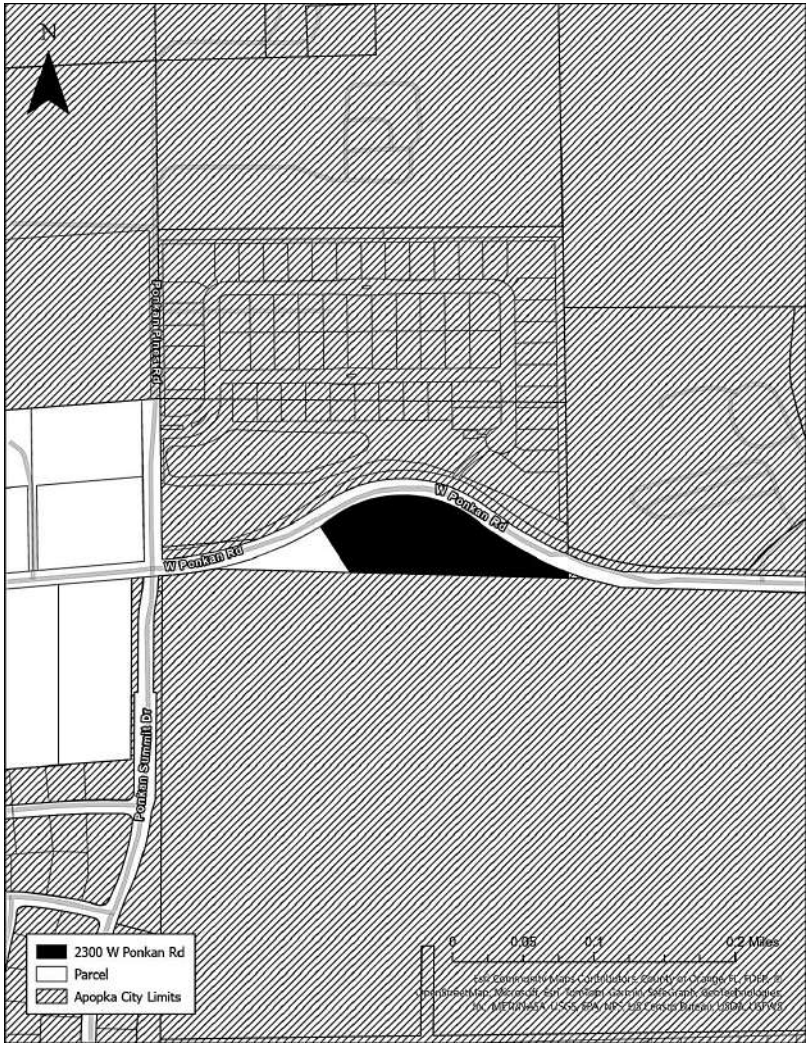
ORDINANCE NO. 3079

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM IN-PROGRESS TO RESIDENTIAL LOW SUBURBAN, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 2300 W PONKAN ROAD; OWNED BY LEE JASON MONROE AND LEE CARA DAWN, COMPRISING 3.56 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

and

ORDINANCE NO. 3080

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO RSF-1B (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY-LARGE LOT), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 2300 W PONKAN ROAD; OWNED BY LEE JASON MONROE AND LEE CARA DAWN, COMPRISING 3.56 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 19-20-28-0000-00-007
Contains: 3.56 +/- Acres

Notice is given that a public hearing for **Ordinance Number 3079 and 3080** 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, November 20, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

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

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

November 1, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177569

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Moore: Grant approval spreads joy

Continued from page 2A

- These proposed upgrades include:
- * Four new 230-foot softball fields, with fencing/lighting/dugouts
- * New concessions and restrooms building
- * New maintenance building
- * New walkways, bleachers, and water fountains
- * New grass parking lot

- At the Apopka Amphitheater, proposed upgrades include:
- * New ticket booth/restroom building at the west amphitheater entrance
- * New ADA parking at the west entrance
- * Expanded loading dock to allow for additional backstage vehicles
- * New upper walkway ring and connecting walkways to provide ADA access to the top of the amphitheater lawn

- * New dedicated food truck areas with electrical hook-ups and vendor space at the top of the amphitheater lawn
 - * New restroom and concession building at the top of the amphitheater lawn
 - * New access road from the south to the top of the amphitheater lawn
- I’m so happy the grant was awarded and grateful for the collaboration.

Byrd: Reader has different opinion

Continued from page 2A

review every challenge.

In Utah, after a parent was frustrated by the number of book bans happening in his district, he submitted a challenge for the Bible stating that the Bible was not appropriate for young children because of the numerous sexual references throughout the text.

After the district committee reviewed the Bible, they agreed and removed it only from elementary and middle school shelves. After public outcry, the district reversed its decision and returned the Bible to the shelves. In 2022, there was only one instance of the Bible being challenged and that was in Texas.

So again, research and facts matter. The instance in Utah is a direct result of

the book challenges and bans across the nation that have inundated school districts with book challenges all having to undergo intense review processes.

In Orange County alone, after our state legislature made it easier for anyone to challenge books in 2022, the district had over 600 books going through review processes at a cost of over \$400,000 to pay for the extra staffing over that summer.

To be clear, those costs were not paid for by the state, they were paid for from the school district’s operating budget. Money that could have gone to salary raises.

The original law was so broad and open-ended and has caused so much extra work and costs to school districts that the state

signed a new bill this past April limiting book challenge parameters.

Again, my point to follow up on last week’s piece is to emphasize that when statements are made about “our schools” regardless of the intent of the writer, it clearly also includes our local Apopka schools or our local Florida schools. Even if the intent of the writer is not to include our local schools, the negative effects are felt by our local schools.

Of course, in this instance, even a broad “our American schools” is not accurate since schools across the nation are not banning the Bible as the author would have liked you to believe.

Truth matters. Words matter.

Hayden: Smiles lighten up attitude

Continued from page 2A

corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice - You may know your society is doomed.”

That was written in 1957. Because of Donald Trump and his war on the sewer pits of Washington, D.C., we have seen the depths of depravity, greed, and total corruption of the politicians that make up the “Dark State.”

What makes Donald Trump so appealing to me is his willingness to say what is on his mind. We used to do that in America, when common sense reigned, and people could take or leave what was being said without getting their feelings hurt.

There is too much

emphasis today on emotion first, without deciding if it is even relevant. As an analogy, in the United States a history teacher teaching American History should not be involved in students using proper pronouns. It is not relevant!

The older I get, the more prone I am to say what I think. Using common sense keeps me from screaming “Fire” in a crowded meeting (unless there actually was a fire). If we can’t take a little name-calling, a little banter about our differences, or a little teasing about our physical appearance, then maybe we need to take a long walk on a short pier.

Life is too short to spend it finding fault with everything that upsets you. Emotions are wonderful,

but only if they are tempered with self-control. I look in the mirror each morning and what I see sets me off with an attitude of humor, and humility. Humor because I know I’m not getting any younger and my scars bring back memories I can laugh about now. Besides, I would rather be happy, and if my life should end today, I want a smile on my face.

Lighten up America! We have a lot to laugh about.

This should tickle your “funny bone.” This administration said, “putting the illegal aliens up in hotel rooms saved the hotel industry.” So, let us save the airline industry by flying them all back home!! Ha, ha, ha ...

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

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City Administrator	407-703-1649
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement	407-703-1738
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Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-703-1741
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Medical, fire emergency	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

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Doug Bankson	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)	unknown
State Senators	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11)	407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner	
Christine Moore	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment	407-317-3233
Bus routes	407-317-3800
Superintendent	407-317-3200
School Board	407-317-3200
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
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Chamber of Commerce	407-886-1441

Polio: Disease remains endemic in only two countries

Continued from page 1A

partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary International has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since its first project to vaccinate children in

the Philippines in 1979.

Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advo-

cacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. However,

if all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

Visit Rotary.org and EndPolio.org for more about Rotary and its efforts to eradicate polio.

Teens can now register for defensive driving course

The Apopka Police Department's free Teen Driving Challenge is a 9-hour course taught 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and trains teen drivers how to prevent crashes through defensive driving techniques and evasive maneuvers. The next class is November 16.

Teens between the ages of 15 and 19 are eligible and must have a valid learner's permit or Florida operator's license. Participants

must provide their own car. The Apopka Police Department does not provide cars for this program.

The class will take place at Leroy F. Gilliam Training Center, located at 321 E. Cleveland St., Apopka. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

Visit Apopka.gov/TeenDrivingChallenge to register.

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The Way I See It

Patti Bankson

Why Your Vote Matters

With the presidential election coming up next week, you'd think the people asking for our vote would be out there on the campaign trail telling the truth about how they plan to "serve" us. Or not. Clever slogans are not what I'm looking for. Apparently, others want something else, too. They're breaking their silence and breaking with their decades-long party. And, no surprise, when even our Freedom of Speech is being treated as criminal behavior, with people being taken away in handcuffs for it. It's time we pushed back and asked Questions: Do we want to be "afraid" that our paychecks may not cover our groceries, gas, or other necessities every time we need them? Do we want to know we're safe when we leave home to take care of those things? Do we really believe that social workers can/should replace police?

Here are some reasons politics and voting are so often my favorite topics. America was never meant to even vaguely resemble today's America. Those who've been behind their desks since forever have created what we're experiencing. They either don't want to do their jobs or are too incompetent to do them. So many are only concerned with keeping their hands in the national till, hanging onto the power the jobs bring, keeping We the People under their thumbs and out of "their business".

They should have to trade lives for a while with those of us forced to live with their decisions - which they *aren't*. They want us to believe turning our country around and back onto a path that actually helps American citizens is impossibly difficult and complicated. I disagree. There are at least a couple of things those same people could do that would change

things for the better for Americans. Nothing practical, or filled with common sense, gets done because those wielding all the power aren't even *trying* to bring about good changes for the people ... instead they're focusing on what benefits them.

Here's a thought: How about Term Limits? Being a Representative or Senator was never intended to be a life-long career. Going back to the Founders, those in government had other jobs. They actually earned a living outside of politics and served reasonable terms before riding off into the sunset, so to speak. They would be shocked, I'm sure, to hear of today's politicians "serving" for 30 or 40 plus years, getting rich in the process, before retiring with obscene retirement packages. I say they shouldn't be paid more than the people they're "representing" make. A few years ago, I had read that the average person in federal office made three times what the average tax-paying citizen made. Who knows what it is today?

Going back to term limits, I've heard reasons for going beyond serving a minimum term, the following being what proponents offer as proof of it's importance. Those who've been around "since Hector was a pup," argue that newbies need the hangers-on to show them the ropes. Well, they certainly do that, don't they? Maybe that's why people with good intentions get into office and then end up as lacking in character as their so-called mentors.

I know this election is very hard for many because the choices are ... well, hard. Hard they may be, but, maybe what I saw last week on a vehicle next to me in traffic may help make clear *why* your vote matters:

"You don't have to love him. Your Vote is NOT a Valentine; it is a chess move to determine the kind of world in which your children will live."

We'd like to know What YOU think?
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HITPIG (PG) 12:50, 3:40, 6:40

VENOM: THE LAST DANCE (PG-13) 12:40, 1:40, 3:50, 4:40, 4:50**, 7:00, 7:10**, 7:30***, 7:40

SMILE 2 (R) 1:00, 4:20, 7:20*, 7:30**

TERRIFIER 3 (NR) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30-, 7:40***

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THE WILD ROBOT (PG) 1:10, 4:00*, 4:30**, 6:50*, 7:20**

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Doctor gives tips on how to protect oneself from the flu

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

As flu season begins, Dr. Tim Hendrix, medical director of AdventHealth Centra Care, discussed this time of the year, and offered tips on who should get vaccinated, and how the community can stay safe from influenza and other upper respiratory infections.

Speaking to Tom Johnson from AdventHealth

Communications, Hendrix gave advice during the AdventHealth News Briefing on Facebook Live Tuesday, October 29.

There are many people with upper respiratory infections, known by several words such as the common cold, a head cold, congestion, and so forth. However, the flu is different.

“Flu is very distinct because it’s more severe. So, if you have that sudden on-

set of a high fever, body aches, chills, sore throat or cough, it’s a pretty good chance it’s probably influenza because we’re starting influenza season here in the next few weeks,” Hendrix said.

Anyone who thinks they have the flu should get tested, ideally within 48 hours because the medications Centra Care prescribes and uses must start within the 48 hours to be the most effective, Hendrix said.

Nationwide, about 40,000-50,000 people die of influenza each year in the United States, Hendrix said.

The best course of treatment for the flu is, once diagnosed, the person should stay at home, drink plenty of fluids, and take Tylenol or Advil to keep the fever down. To prevent complications, the individual must get on an antiviral as soon as possible if there’s an underlying health condition, especially if one is older, Hendrix explained.

The flu vaccine can’t give the recipient the flu because the vaccine is an inactivated virus. To create the vaccine, the virus is grown in egg cultures and then inactivated, essentially killing it. Yet the vaccine will stim-



Tom Johnson (l) of AdventHealth Communications, speaks with Dr. Tim Hendrix, medical director of AdventHealth Centra Care, about the upcoming flu season in an AdventHealth News Briefing on Facebook Live, Tuesday, October 29.

ulate an immune response, said Hendrix.

“It’s impossible for that virus to cause an infection, but the virus particles are there, so to speak, to stimulate that immune response, to create antibodies to prevent when you’re exposed to the virus later on in the season,” he said.

The flu shot is safe for people with preexisting conditions: “Those are the people that really need the flu shot,” Hendrix said, recommending they should speak to their doctor. People with diabetes, asthma,

heart disease, lung disease, and anything similar are at highest risk of complications including hospitalization, pneumonia, and death.

Hendrix said getting a COVID shot and a flu shot together is safe, and recommends doing that. It’s also possible but rare for one to contract the flu and COVID at the same time, something that happened during the pandemic.

Flu and COVID-19 symptoms are similar and therefore difficult to tell between the two infections, with the exception of loss of sensation of smell, which is a COVID-19 symptom, according to Hendrix. People can get tested for both COVID and the flu.

“If you lose the sensa-

tion of smell, if you can’t smell something and you’re sick with an upper respiratory virus, that’s one classic symptom for COVID-19. But other than that, the symptoms are very similar,” Hendrix said.

A pattern that Centra Care observed over the last few years from data has been two yearly waves of COVID: summer and wintertime, which means there would be another COVID wave this winter, Hendrix said.

Flu and COVID are not the only upper respiratory infections to watch out for this flu season. In the last few weeks, Centra Care has seen an increase in Respira-

See FLU Page 8A



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Fire: Fallen firefighter’s family will give remarks at scholarship ceremony

Continued from page 1A

The award recipients are engineer Stephen DeMatties, engineer Sean Potter, firefighter EMT Racquel Lopez, firefighter paramedic Juan Millan, firefighter EMT Danio Perez, and firefighter EMT Tomas Rodriguez.

These scholarships have been made possible through the continued efforts and support of the 2650 Foundation, an organization dedicated to honoring the life and legacy of fallen Apopka Firefighter Austin Duran.

This event will include remarks from members of the Duran family and Apopka Interim Fire Chief Wil Sanchez, who will recognize the six scholarship recipients and highlight the

importance of continuing education for firefighters while honoring the legacy of Austin Duran and celebrating the impact these scholarships will have on the Apopka Fire Department and our community.

Austin Duran joined the Apopka Fire Department family as a Fire Explorer during high school and started working with the Apopka Fire Department in July 2020. In June 2022, he became injured in line of duty; he died from his injuries in July 2022.

“Austin Duran’s legacy extends far beyond the firehouse walls in Apopka and has brought together a community and fire service,” a news release from the Apopka Fire Department states. “Austin embodied the spirit of a true

firefighter and did so without hesitation. His commitment to the Apopka community and his fellow firefighters was unwavering, and his bravery and strength inspire us all. As we gather to award these scholarships to members of our Apopka Fire Department family, we will also take this as an opportunity to honor Austin by recommitting ourselves to our calling. Carrying forward his legacy by embodying the same selflessness, dedication, and passion for learning new and vital skills needed to keep our community safe, that he displayed day in and day out.”

VMR certification is an advanced rescue training program that equips firefighters with the critical skills to respond to com-

plex vehicle and machinery rescue scenarios. This training not only enhances the skills of the scholarship recipients but also strengthens the overall safety and preparedness of the Apopka community.

Apopka Fire Department Station 1 is located at 175 E. Fifth St., Apopka.

The 2650 Foundation was formed in honor of fallen firefighter Austin Duran by his family, friends, and fellow firefighters. Its mission is to provide support for firefighter education, training, and safety initiatives, ensuring that Austin’s legacy of service and dedication will continue to inspire and protect firefighters and the communities they serve.

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Tell them you saw it in
The Apopka Chief

Flu: Best precaution is to get a flu shot

Continued from page 6A

tory Syncytial Virus (RSV), which could lead to complications such as hospitalization for the very young and older population, said Hendrix.

The number one precaution families should take to protect themselves from upper respiratory infections is to get a flu shot, a safe vaccine that should be taken not only for oneself, but also to protect the

people around them from getting sick.

"I always get asked, what's the best way to prevent the flu? A flu shot. Very effective at reducing your chances of getting infected with influenza. It also pre-

vents complications from influenza," Hendrix said.

For more information
or to schedule an appoint-
ment at the AdventHealth
Centra Care, visit FluAn-
swers.com.

Saturday event motivates early voting

As the general election quickly approaches, Hope CommUnity Center (HCC) in Apopka is making a final push this Saturday, November 2, to encourage Hispanics to vote early. The event is 2-4 p.m. at the HCC South Campus, 800 S. Hawthorne Ave., Apopka.

“Votemos Temprano” (Let’s Vote Early) merges the *Dia de los Muer-*

tos (Day of the Dead) tradition of remembering loved ones who have passed on with early voting, to honor the sacrifices many of them made to deliver the American dream to their children.

The event will feature a traditional *Día de los Muertos* altar or *ofrendas* for the deceased (food, drinks, flowers), as well as a Maria-

chi band. Attendees will gather to pay respect to lost loved ones before being transported by van to an early voting center.

This event is part of the HCC's *Vota por Mi* (Vote for Me) initiative, a phone, canvassing, and text campaign designed to encourage eligible voters to participate in the upcoming general election.

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Obituaries

WARREN (GENE) EUGENE SIKES JR., 80, of Zellwood passed away on Saturday, October 19, 2024. He was born on May 28, 1944 in Jacksonville Florida. He is preceded in death by: wife, Margaret Sikes; sister, Judy Hudson; parents, Warren and Dorothy Sikes. He is survived by: brother, Jerry Sikes; daughter, Deanie (Bruce) Halverson; two grandsons; three great grandchildren.

...

ROBERT (BOB) EARL STEFFY, 78, passed away on October 26, 2024. He was born on August 3, 1946 to the late Catherine and Robert Steffy in Detroit, Michigan. Bob is survived by: wife, Janice; sons, Robert Steffy (Theresa), Steven Steffy (Tamara); four brothers; 1 sister; four grandchildren; and many dear friends.

...

See Obituaries on page 10A

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An Open Heart

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One of the ironies of forgiving others is that we are quicker to notice flaws in others than in ourselves, and often the things we dislike the most about others are the very flaws which we ourselves have.

For instance, people who are fastidious and like everything done a particular way are often critical of this character trait in others. The other person has his or her own way of doing things and we simply cannot abide it

because it is not the way we like to do it.

The person who is stingy or materialistic will often be quick to criticize this trait in others. And often the person who criticizes others for being selfish is really just saying that others should be giving more to them.

Once we realize how flawed we are ourselves, we are a bit less likely to criticize others. Take time to examine your own flaws, but then accept them and forgive yourself for being imperfect. Just open your heart and mind to who you are, and then open your mind and heart to the true nature of others.

— Christopher Simon

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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Warren (Gene) Eugene Sikes Jr
Warren (Gene) Eugene Sikes Jr., 80, of Zellwood, Florida, passed away on Saturday, October 19, 2024. He was born on May 28, 1944, in Jacksonville, Florida. He married the love of his life Margaret Brockenbrough on June 8, 1965. He served in the Army and became a sergeant before being honorably discharged. He worked at and retired from Harper Mechanical. He was a great husband, father, and wonderful Pa to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom he loved so much! He is survived by his daughter Deanie (Bruce) Halverson, his grandsons Michael (Angela) Halverson, Brandon (Amber) Halverson, 3 great grandchildren, Henry and Hudson Halverson, little girl Halverson due next year and his brother, Jerry Sikes. He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Margaret Sikes, sister, Judy Hudson, and his parents Warren and Dorothy Sikes. The funeral will be at Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home-West Altamonte, 90 Weathersfield Avenue, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714, on November 8, 2024. The visitation will be from 1pm to 2pm and the service will begin at 2:00 pm, followed by the interment with military honors at 3pm at Highland Memory Gardens.

Robert Bob Earl Steffy
Robert (Bob) Earl Steffy was born on August 3, 1946, and lived his wonderful life until October 26, 2024, at the age of 78. He was born to the late Catherine and Robert Steffy in Detroit, Michigan, where he was raised and was the oldest of seven children. Detroit is also where he met his lifelong love, Janice Naturkas. They were married for 58 wonderful years and had two sons, Robert and Steven. Bob served 6 years in the Navy, serving on the submarine USS Francis Scott Key, before starting a career in engineering. He travelled the country helping the company he worked for build many engineering marvels, including a major part of the Big Dig in Boston. Bob was more than an engineer: he was a caring and loving husband; he was a mentor and teacher to his sons; and he made the community around him better. He was a part of the United States Submarine Veteran's group in Casselberry, Florida, where he volunteered with Kaps for Kids visiting Pediatric Centers, while also fighting cancer himself. But to his family, he was the live version of Bob the Builder. His grandkids have so many original gifts built by his hands. Building was his passion. Bob is survived by his wife Janice and his two sons: Robert Steffy, and his wife, Theresa of Rapid City, South Dakota; Steven Steffy, and his wife, Tamara of Apopka. "Pops" leaves behind four grandchildren: Julia, Alicia, Benjamin, and Robert. He also leaves behind 4 brothers and 1 sister as well as many dear friends.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS
PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

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Puzzle Solution

A	D	P	S		S	A	T	Y	R	S		
C	A	L	I		A	C	I	D	U	L	O	U
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The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

Venison Pot Roast is a good recipe for deer hunting season

Baked Chicken Mary Jane by Marilyn Martin is from New Vision Community Church's *Feeding the Flock* and calls for six chicken breasts, herb-seasoned stuffing crumbs, and sour cream along with other ingredients.



From *The Original Country Cookbook*, we have a recipe for all you folks who like to cook venison. The recipe is adaptable to other types of meat also, so feel free to adapt. If nothing else, we Apopka folks are great at "adapting" to suit the ingredients we have on hand. However, I would find it almost impossible to leave out onions, garlic, and herbs from this recipe. But that's just me.

Baked mashed potatoes is a terrific recipe from Frances McHale that we found in the Apopka Historical Society's *Preserving the Big Potato*.

Weight lifter Bryan Jacob of Alpharetta, Georgia, opts for this sweet-and-savory pizza based on his favorite selection at Everybody's Pizza, near Emory University in Atlanta. Sliced into thin wedges, it's a crowd-pleasing appetizer. He submitted this tasty recipe to *Southern Living's 1996 Annual Recipes*.

This recipe comes from the book titled *Savannah Style*. If you can find freshly-shucked oysters, they are the best. If not, look for shucked oysters packed in water in your grocery store's seafood section. You can actually freeze oysters and they'll keep for about six weeks. Make sure you get your fresh oysters in a month with an "R" in the month's name. Be careful not to let the milk scorch on the bottom or even get to the boiling point, and do not overcook the oysters. You can cook your oyster stew in a double boiler if you have the patience.

We found a great recipe for Spinach Salad from Allison Chase in New Vision Community Church's *Feeding the Flock*.

How about Sour Dough Starter from *The Original Country Cookbook*? Many of us have visions of using starter to make our own sour-dough bread.

If you don't have a friend who has starter for you to get a bit in order to get started, the following instructions will get you going. I believe the flour needs to be plain all-purpose flour, not self-rising flour.

Mountain Vinegar Pie from *The Original Country Cookbook* needs few ingredients aside from the ones you probably already have in your pantry.

MARYLIN MARTIN'S BAKED CHICKEN MARY JANE

Recipe from *FEEDING THE FLOCK*
NEW VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH

- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic sauce
- 1 teaspoon celery salt
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- Dash of pepper
- 6 chicken breasts, skinless and boneless
- 1 small package herb-seasoned stuffing crumbs
- Melted butter

Mix first six ingredients together. Dip chicken in mixture and roll in crumbs (be generous with the sour cream mixture). Arrange in slightly greased baking dish. Drizzle with butter. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for one hour.

VENISON POT ROAST WITH VEGETABLES

Recipe from Paragon Products, Inc.,
The Original Country Cookbook

- 4 or 5 pounds venison roast (or other meat)
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1 chopped apple
- 1 diced carrot
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix salt and pepper with the flour and rub into meat. Brown in hot fat in a Dutch oven pot. Fasten a strip of bacon or salt pork over top with toothpicks, add one half cup of water and the vinegar. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 2 hours, then add the vegetables and continue cooking until they are tender. Add more water if necessary.

FRANCES MCHALE'S BAKED MASHED POTATOES

Recipe from Apopka Historical

Society, Apopka, Florida
Preserving the Big Potato – A Collection of Potato Recipes

- 6 to 8 potatoes, cooked until tender
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 1/4 pound butter
- 2 medium size onions (chopped)

Mash potatoes, adding salt and pepper to taste, cream cheese and sour cream. Mix together well and set aside. Using a skillet, sauté onions in butter until clear but not browned. Mix this into the potatoes and put in baking dish. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes or until top is golden brown.

SOUTHERN LIVING'S HAM-AND-PINEAPPLE PIZZA

Recipe from *SOUTHERN LIVING'S 1996 ANNUAL RECIPES*

- 1 (12-inch) refrigerated baked pizza crust
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 cup pizza sauce
- 2 cups chopped smoked ham
- 1 (20-ounce) can pineapple tidbits, well-drained
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded provolone cheese

Brush pizza crust with olive oil and spread pizza sauce evenly over crust. Top sauce evenly with ham and pineapple; sprinkle with cheeses. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes or until cheese melts and crust is lightly browned. Yield: 1 (12-inch) pizza.

NOTE: For pizza crust, we used Mama Mary's, available in the refrigerator section of your local supermarket.

OYSTER STEW

Recipe from
Savannah Style, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.

- 1/2 cup water
- 1 small white onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup celery, chopped
- 1 pint stewing size oysters
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 pint Half-and-Half

Pour 1/2 cup water into medium size saucepan. Add onions and celery and boil until slightly tender. Add oys-

ters and cook until oysters curl. Add 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Reduce heat and add butter. Pour in 1 pint of Half-and-Half.

ALLISON CHASE'S SPECIAL SPINACH SALAD

Recipe from New Vision Community Church's *Feeding the Flock*

- 1 bunch spinach, washed and torn
- 1 can bean sprouts, drained
- 1 can water chestnuts, sliced
- 3 or 4 hard-boiled eggs, sliced
- 6 to 8 slices bacon, cooked, drained and cut in pieces
- 1 cup light olive oil
- 3/4 cup sugar (less, if desired)
- 1/3 cup catsup
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 grated onion
- Mix and serve.

SOUR DOUGH STARTER

Recipe from
Paragon Products, Inc.,
The Original Country Cookbook

- 2 cups flour
- 1-3/4 cups warm (not hot) water
- 6 teaspoons dry yeast
- 2 tablespoons honey

Combine flour and dry yeast in a bowl. Mix honey in warm water and gradually add to dry ingredients. Store in earthenware pot at room temperature for two days to one week.

MOUNTAIN VINEGAR PIE

Recipe from
Paragon Products, Inc.,
The Original Country Cookbook

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2-1/2 tablespoons vinegar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon extract
- Chopped nuts
- Baked pie shell

Combine sugar, eggs, vinegar, flour, and water and cook until it is thick and smooth, stirring constantly. While hot, stir in butter and lemon extract. Pour into a baked pie shell and sprinkle chopped nuts over the top. Cool before serving.

OCT. / NOV. 2024 ★ ★ EVENTS ★ WEEKLY ★ UPCOMING ★ ONGOING ★ ★

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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 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, NOVEMBER 1

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 cfchristianchamber.com/events-chamber.Contact: latrondra@cfchristianchamber.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

SATURDAY SOUNDS CONCERT Nov 2, 5-7 p.m., Apopka Amphitheater, 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, featuring The After Five Band.

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the **third Saturday each month**. Next one is Nov. 16 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, NOVEMBER 3 2 A.M. TURN BACK THE CLOCK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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 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 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.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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 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, NOVEMBER 6

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 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 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.Apopkatostmasters.com.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

Mayor's State of the City address to be given on Friday, November 8, 7-9 a.m., Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Avenue.

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: apopkatgca@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 orangecmgv@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, 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: 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.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 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.

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. 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 Address: 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. www.ocls.info. **10-28-24: LIBRARY HAS RE-OPENED.**

*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

Proclamation honors medical transport program’s 40th year

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

In honor of the Orlando Health Air Care program’s 40th anniversary, which includes the one-year anniversary since the program’s implementation in the city of Apopka, Mayor Bryan Nelson read a proclamation at the October 16 Apopka City Council meeting.

The Orlando Health Air Care team is an airborne emergency transport unit that provides life-saving care to the pediatric and adult population and provides advanced medical and critical care on scene or in flight.

The Air Care team was first established on October 13, 1984, with a single aircraft program located on the downtown Orlando campus, the Air Care team has

since grown to four aircraft programs positioned around the region at the following locations: Kissimmee Airport, South Lake Hospital, South Seminole Hospital, and at Apopka Fire Department No. 4.

Since the program’s early days, the Air Care team has flown more than 37,000 patients over 2 million accident-free miles, according to the Orlando Health

website. The Air Care team has an average of 20-years’ experience.

The Air Care team consists of over 90 team members, nurses, paramedics, pilots, mechanics, emergency medical technicians, and communication specialists, ensuring services are available when called upon.

Orlando Health opened an Air Care base in Apopka next to

the Apopka Fire Department No. 4, on December 20, 2023, at 2720 West Orange Avenue, Apopka, according to the proclamation.

“... Orlando Health Air Care 3 Apopka has been instrumental in serving the city of Apopka and the surrounding communities,” the proclamation states.

Apopka City Hall to light up in teal for Alzheimer’s awareness

Landmarks across the Orlando area including Apopka City Hall, together with more than 1,300 buildings and landmarks around the world, will be lighting up teal on Friday, November 1 to raise Alzheimer’s awareness as part of the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America’s (AFA) Light the World in Teal program.

The annual program, held in November as part

of Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, aims to literally shine a spotlight on Alzheimer’s disease and show support for the millions of people affected by it. Teal is AFA’s Alzheimer’s awareness color.

Besides Apopka City Hall, participating Orlando-area landmarks include CNL Center, Kia Center Spire, Exploria Stadium, City of Orlando – Public

Art Display, 200 South Orange Avenue, Orlando Museum of Art, Lake Eola Park, Lake Lorna Doone Park, and the Aloft Hotel.

“It’s wonderful to see some of the Orlando area’s most well-known and iconic sites raising Alzheimer’s awareness and showing support for the millions of Americans impacted by the disease,” Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA president

and CEO, was quoted as saying in a press release. “AFA thanks each of them for ‘going teal’ and literally shining a light on the issue of Alzheimer’s disease.”

The Orlando-area landmarks are among more than 1,300 sites in all 50 states and 16 other countries “going teal” for Alzheimer’s awareness on November 1, the first day of Alzheimer’s Awareness Month. This is the 11th year of AFA’s Light the World in

Teal campaign.

Individuals can also participate in raising Alzheimer’s awareness by “going teal” on their own November 1. You can wear teal or even use social media to raise awareness.

Nearly seven million Americans, including 580,000 Floridians, are currently living with Alzheimer’s disease. The number of people with Alzheimer’s is projected to double by 2060, according to the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information about AFA’s Light the World in Teal program, including a list of participating landmarks, visit LighttheWorldinTeal.com.

Families looking for additional information about Alzheimer’s disease or support services can contact AFA at 866-232-8484 or alzfdn.org.

Electoral College - Distribution of Electoral Votes

Electoral votes are allocated among the States based on the Census. Every State is allocated a number of votes equal to the number of Senators and Representatives in its U.S. Congressional delegation—two votes for its Senators in the U.S. Senate plus a number of votes equal to the number of its Congressional districts.

Under the 23rd Amendment of the Constitution, the District of Columbia is allocated 3 electors and treated like a State for purposes of the Electoral College.

Each State (which includes the District of Columbia for the Electoral College) decides how to appoint its electors; however, they must do so according to law enacted before Election Day. Currently all States use the popular vote results from the November general election to decide which political party chooses the individuals who are appointed.

Allocation within each State

All States, except for Maine and Nebraska, have a winner-take-all policy where the State looks only at the overall winner of the state-wide popular vote. Maine and Nebraska, however, appoint individual electors based on the winner of the popular vote within each Congressional district and then 2 “at-large” electors based on the winner of the overall state-wide popular vote.

While it is rare for Maine or Nebraska to have a split vote, each has done so twice: Nebraska in 2008, Maine in 2016, and both Maine and Nebraska in 2020.

Current allocations

The allocations are based on the 2020 Census.

They are effective for the 2024 and 2028 presidential elections.

Total Electoral Votes: 538; Majority Needed to Elect: 270

Go to: <https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/allocation> to see allocation among the states

Sertoma taking applications for Apopka Christmas Parade

The Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka is currently accepting applications for entries in the 48th annual Apopka Christmas Parade.

The parade will take place on Saturday, December 14, at 10 a.m. The parade theme is “A Golden Christmas in Apopka! Celebrating 50 Years of Sertoma.”

The Foliage Sertoma Club would like to encourage any youth groups, businesses, clubs, and other organizations to participate in this community event. Applications are available at Seacoast Bank, Apopka City Hall, and the Apopka recreation offices.

Interested parties can also request a copy by

emailing Foliage Sertoma club at info@foliagesertoma.org or by visiting the website FoliageSertoma.org

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, email info@foliagesertoma.org or contact Lorena Potter at forevrbzy60@gmail.com or 407-583-7349.

Map available for debris pickup

To assist Orange County residents in keeping track of neighborhood debris removal, Orange County Public Works has developed an interactive map to help answer residents’ questions concerning debris from Hurricane

Milton.

The map allows users to see where Orange County’s debris removal contractors are currently working and the status of the clean-up in their area.

Residents can also zoom in on their street or

enter their home address to see whether debris removal on their street has been completed, is in progress, is scheduled, or will be up next.

Go to bit.ly/ocdebris-status for the interactive map.

Apopka Area Voting Precincts. Plan now to cast your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 5, at your precinct.

- 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.
- 231** First Methodist Church of Apopka, 201 S Park Av.
- 232** Grace Pointe Church, 2051 W Lester Rd.

- 233** Word of Life Church, 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 Dwellley 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)
- FIND YOUR PRECINCT:** ocflections.gov/voters/findmy-pollingplace



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

- 7-11, Highway 436 & Thompson Rd.
- 7-11, Highway 441 & Piedmont-Wekiva Rd.
- 7-11 (Mobil), Highway 441 (Errol Pkwy Errol Estate entrance)
- Ace Meat & Grocery, 439 S. Central Ave. & 5th St.
- Apopka Chief rack, 400 N. Park Ave.
- Apopka High School
- Apopka Quick Mart (BP), Hwy 436 & Lake Cortez Dr.
- Apopka Vape, N. Park Ave. (across from the old Fla. Hosp. location)
- CenturyLink headquarters, SR 436
- Chevron Diamond Gas – Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rds

- Chevron Market, Hwy 441 & Roger Williams Rd.
- Circle K, Ocoee-Apopka Blvd.
- Circle K & BP, Hwy 441 S. of Walmart
- Circle K, Keene Rd / Clarcona
- Cigo, 441 & Boy Scout Blvd (Plymouth)
- Cigo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail boxes)
- CVS #3748 - corner of Park Av & Hwy 441
- Discount Beverage & Smoke (Across from Checkers, Highway 441
- Circle K (Shell) #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #6157, S. Park Avenue

- Circle K (Shell) #2334, Rock Springs Rd & Kelly Park Rd
- Circle K #1288, Welch Rd & Wekiva Springs Rd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
- Compare Fresh Market, 436 behind Aaron's
- Crosby's Motor Inn, Hwy 441 & Errol Parkway (Errol Estate)
- Lula Mae's Eatery, Central Ave S.
- Marathon, Main St. (midland downtown)
- McDonald's, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Mobil, (Citgo) Hwy 441 (next to Burger K)
- Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.
- Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)

- Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd
- Porkies BBQ, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Post Office, N. Park Ave. (Martin St)
- Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. & Welch Rd.
- Sam's Discount, Overland & Apopka Blvd.
- Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.
- Sunoco Happy Foods, Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rd.
- Trader Mac's, Rock Springs Rd
- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
- Walgreens, corner of Park Ave and Hwy 441
- Walgreens, N. Park Ave/Welch Rd.

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

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04/24