

Retirement

‘Mr. Bob’ retires after 65 yrs. of furniture store ownership See page 3A.



Sports

The Blue Darter football team prepares for the Kowboys See page 1B.



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Volume 102 Number 42

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State officials warn about post-disaster insurance fraud

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

In light of having faced hurricanes within the last several weeks, state officials are warning constituents against people attempting to commit fraud, and have established insurance villages for policy holders to seek help face-to-face.

Although people can meet their local insurance office or try to discuss their insurance matters by phone or going online, insurance villages are solely focused on helping policy holders

with their claims following a hurricane

“Basically, the insurance village serves as an opportunity for policy holders to meet with their insurance carriers in person and work together to file insurance claims,” said Rep. Doug Bankson for Florida House District 39, which includes the Apopka area. “So there will be adjusters, they’ll be there with checkbooks, they’ll be there ready to help. And so people can go directly to their agent, of

See FRAUD Page 6A



Photo by Tammy Keaton

Last week, Hurricane Milton caused flooding at Piedmont Plaza, on the corner of East Semoran Boulevard and Piedmont Wekiwa Road in Apopka.

Resources are available to help with recovery from Milton

Several resources are available to assist people in recovering from the effects of Hurricane Milton.

County and city assistance

Orange County Visit ocfl.net/Milton and ocfl.net/storm for resources and information on storm recovery

Disaster recovery assistance resources: OrangeCountyFL.net/EmergencySafety/StormRecoveryAssistance.aspx

Connect with local government services by calling 311 or (407) 836-3111, or visiting OrangeCountyFL.net/Home/311HelpInfo.aspx

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) Updates: OCPS.net/departments/public_relations/milton

City of Apopka storm updates and information: Apopka.gov/647/Hurricane-Preparedness/Hurricanes

Other Resources

2-1-1 is a simple number to dial for information about health and human service organizations in your community.

Specialists at 2-1-1 can help callers with problem-solving and refer them to the appropriate government programs, community-based organizations, and other local resources.

2-1-1- has a free and confidential information and referral service that connects Florida residents to human and social services, including free and confidential crisis and emergency counseling and disaster assistance. For more information visit 211.org/VolunteerFlorida

Volunteer Florida is the state’s lead agency for volunteers and donations before, during, and after disasters. To volunteer, visit VolunteerFlorida.org/FEMA

FEMA has compiled a list of helpful national organizations through the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters association. To learn more, donate, or volunteer, visit nvoad.org/nvoad-members/national-members/

American Red Cross The American Red Cross has volunteer positions. Visit RedCross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.

Those who need assistance being reunited with a loved one can visit tinyurl.com/797tps8n

The main hotline is See HELP Page 6A



Photo by Tammy Keaton

Flooding on S.R. 436 in Apopka after Hurricane Milton last week.

Fall Family Festival returns this weekend

By Neal Fisher Apopka Chief Staff

Organized by the Rotary Club of Apopka and supported by the city of Apopka, the Apopka Fall Family Festival has taken its place among the “institutions” of Apopka.

The fair opened last night, Thursday, October 17, and will continue until Sunday, October 20, at Kit Land Nelson Park.

“Events held with the intention of reflecting an area for a substan-

tial amount of time is exciting and a blessing to the particular area,” Rotary Club of Apopka. Rotarian, Chris DeClue said. “The Apopka Fair is a source of pride for the Rotary Club. The bigger pride is for bettering the community through the fair. Twenty-plus years of the fair is not only good for the Rotary Club, but even more so for the city of Apopka and residents.

Proceeds raised di-

See FESTIVAL Page 7A

Birding park may open summer 2025

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

The 70-acre Apopka Birding Park planned for development at the entrance to Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive may open in summer 2025, the project architect said.

In an update on the Apopka Birding Park’s progress at the Wednesday, October 16, Apopka City Council meeting, the project architect said that the park may be ready for visitors after next Independence Day.

“We hope that this

building, it’s anticipated to be open just after the Fourth of July holiday of next year. So, we’re wrapping up construction documents the beginning of next month, and then we’ll move into permitting and then into construction. So it’s moving right along and it should be a great holiday celebration in the summer next year,” Philip Donovan of Orlando-based Little Diversified Architectural Consulting told the City Council.

The Apopka Birding Park is envisioned as including a habitat restoration and a visitors’ educa-

tion facility.

Part of transforming the former Hickerson property into the Apopka Birding Park is to renovate the cement block building at the Wildlife Drive entrance into the education center. The building was once used as a truck shop where a nurseryman would let farmers fix their trucks.

“We determined it would be better to renovate it than try to start anew,” said Deborah Green, president of the Orange Audubon Society. “It’s more ecological to renovate.”

One of several chal-

lenges the Apopka Birding Park project faces is removing concrete pads left from Lake Apopka’s days as a farming area, Green said.

Earlier this year, in March, the city finalized a ground lease with the Orange Audubon Society. This past May, Orange Audubon contracted Little Diversified Architectural Consulting for its background of designing several net-zero energy buildings, with the goal of creating the Apopka Birding Park as a eco-friendly facility.

Rotary Club wants to build community center

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council approved 5-0 at its October 2 meeting to declare part of a city-owned property as surplus at the request of Rotary Club of Apopka for the purpose of building a community center there.

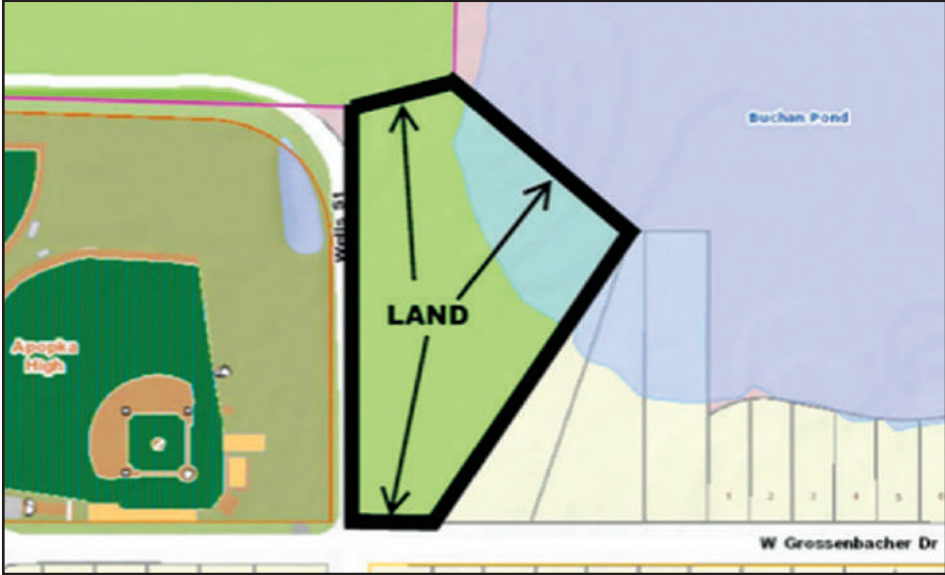
On October 2, Bill Spiegel, Rotary service project chair, gave a presentation about the club’s proposed community center, and, for this purpose, asked the city to declare portions of the 797 N. Wells St. property, known as the Apopka Athletic Complex, as surplus. He had present-

ed the same topic to the City Council earlier this year.

By building a community center, Rotary hopes to provide a venue that can host 100 to 125 people as a needed community resource, Spiegel explained.

“Our (Rotary) motto is ‘Service Above Self,’ and we’re interested in making a sizable investment in the Apopka community. We are looking for a legacy project, something that will outlast us,” Spiegel told the City Council. “This is an endeavor that we’ve been undertaking and considering for quite a few years prior to Covid.”

See ROTARY Page 8A



This image, obtained from the October 2 City Council meeting agenda packet, shows the portion of North Wells Street that the Apopka City Council voted 5-0 to declare a surplus property. This is where the Rotary Club of Apopka would like to build a new community center.

This week Section A Opinion..... 2A Public Notice..... 4A Bus. Rev.8A Worship 9A Dining & Ent..... 10A Section B Sports 1B Public Notices..... 2B Kapers 5B Bus. Rev.6B Legal ads.....7-8B Classified.....8-10B Service Dir..... 10B Find Public Notices Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices OR FloridaPublicNotices.com

Apopka Event of the Week

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the third Saturday, **October 19**, from 8:00 a.m. at 510 S. Central Avenue. Cost is only \$7 for a breakfast with scrambled eggs, sausage links, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, Orange Juice, coffee and water.

Quotable

This radical Amendment 4 is deceptive and would allow unlimited abortion~~elimination~~ of babies from conception *until birth* in our State Constitution as a *fundamental right*.

Amendment 4 should be voted down, not approved for the State Constitution

Opinion

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

T. Jerrod Ricketson

Reporters

Teresa Sargeant
Marshall Tempest
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Marketing Director

Jackie Trefcer

General Mgr Emeritus

Neoma Knox
Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Amendment 4 must be turned down, it is inappropriate for our Constitution

In this critical election, you voters will be asked to accept or vote against the proposed state constitutional abortion Amendment 4. This is such an important and disastrous attack on human life, that this flawed state Amendment MUST be voted down!

It is one thing to have a state law that is voted on by legislators and approved even if you find it wrong or offensive; but it is quite another thing to put into our State Constitution an amendment legalizing the murder of babies that are capable of surviving outside their mother’s womb if allowed to simply be born and take a breath!

If we were voting to amend the constitution to kill baby dogs or cats anytime we wanted to while they were in the womb, people would go nuts.

But somehow we live in a society that killing baby girls and boys in the womb is acceptable because these baby humans are “inconvenient” at a point in someone’s life.

This radical Amendment 4 is deceptive and would allow unlimited abortion/elimination of babies from conception *until birth* in our State Constitution as a *fundamental right*.

A critical component of this proposed amendment is that NONE of Amendment 4’s key terms are defined. This includes key words like “government interference”, “healthcare provider,” “viability,” or “patient’s health.”

Although Amendment 4 *claims to protect* “parental notification,” it deceptively fails to mention that “parental consent” laws in Florida *could be conveniently repealed*, making abortion the ONLY medical procedure *a minor in Florida could receive without parental consent*.

By the way, “patient’s health” is not defined either, creating a huge loophole so that mental anguish, stress, or even morning sickness could be used to justify late-term abortions. And all of this could happen, even though the baby they are carrying, and wanting to abort, can feel pain.

Because “viability” is not de-

fined, Amendment 4 has no clear limits on late-term abortion.

As written, Amendment 4 allows doctors to be removed from the abortion decision-making process by not requiring an actual medical doctor to determine if an abortion is medically necessary to protect the mother’s health or if the baby is viable to live.

Instead, it allows any labeled “healthcare provider” to make these decisions.

The Florida Family Voice points out that under Florida law, “healthcare provider” isn’t limited to doctors, *so can employees of abortion clinics who are not licensed medical doctors could be able to approve late-term abortions*.

And by the way, the radical activists who authored this amendment to the Florida constitution will use the deceptively broad language to file lawsuits to force *Florida taxpayers to pay for abortions exactly as they have done in other states* that have passed these radical proposals.

The United States constitution has been amended only 27 times in 230 years. The first 10 are called the Bill of Rights, and those were added in 1791. Then five more were added between 1795 and 1870, involving key issues like slavery, civil rights, and presidential elections.

Four more were added between 1909-1920 concerning income tax, elections, and women’s rights to vote. Seven more were added between 1933-1971, and the last one was added in 1992, which was 32 years ago. The point: *constitutional amendments should be rare and critical to our nation’s existence and life*.

Please *vote against* State Constitutional Amendment 4. Babies’ lives in the womb matter to God, and they *should* matter to us.

Voting is not just a privilege, but a duty, so please get out and vote on this critical issue.

Don’t be silent at a time when your voice is most needed especially for those who can’t speak *until after they are born*.



School district workers are amazing

As we reopened schools this week after the storm, my mind was also on all our families and staff as I hoped that everyone made it through the storm with minimal damage.

Once again, I am amazed at the work of the school district and the staff at the schools as they prepared for the storm and then handled the assessment of buildings and preparation for the reopening.

Preparation for events like this for a school district as large as ours takes a lot of coordination and teamwork. Our school district oversees the management of more than 220 different facilities across Orange County. It is quite a monumental task managing a

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

storm in the district.

The Superintendent, her cabinet and the emergency management department at the school district meet in advance to plan and coordinate how the district will handle all of this. They usually meet every day during these situations and sometimes more than once, often in coordination with Orange County Government, as well.

Many of our schools are used as emergency shelters during the storms. You may not know it, but when a school is a shelter, the staff at that school is asked to be at the shelter and work the entire time the shelter is open. This includes the principal and other administrators, custodians and lunchroom staff. These school staff members leave their own families during the storm to stay at the shelters for days to make sure that evacuees are taken care of during the storm. What a blessing they are to our community!

Over 330 evacuees took shelter at Apopka High School last week,

See BYRD Page 4A

Water overflow presents problems

It has been a tough week for residents in District 2. It is apparent that there will be more storms coming, if not this year, then in the future. We can learn many things from Hurricane Milton.

Here are details of the worst problems people faced in District 2. A few are listed about how the county is handling the situation.

Monroe Ct pumping out water at low idle.

Piedmont Wekiwa at SR 436 water is receding. Two lanes are now drivable.

Reata Way Gauchoway sections are barri-

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

caded. Pumping started on Tuesday.

Mustang Way portions of the road are closed and waiting for water to recede.

Radiant Circle a sinkhole was remediated.

Virginia Drive contractors are pumping to reduce flooding on private

property.

Earlwood the road is now open.

Holly Creek pumping is ongoing to reduce flooding.

I gladly worked 18 hour days to assuage fears, report flooding, and address other concerns. At any time, you may report problems to 311 or through the 311 app. However, I kept my phone charged up and answered texts, phone calls, and messages through Facebook.

The county’s first task after the storm passed was to place generators on lift

See MOORE Page 4A

This Week In God’s Word

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.
2 Corinthians 8:12

Dema Says

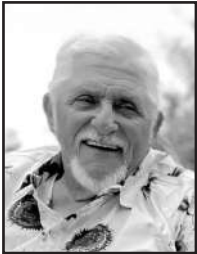
Giving is the most important way to honor the Lord.

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Parents of a minor having an abortion are to be notified, but when?

“AMENDMENT TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH ABORTION: No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient’s health, as determined by the patient’s healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature’s constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.” According to this amend-



Ike Hayden

ment, you can be determined to need an abortion by a mid-wife, nurse, or even a physician’s assistant (“healthcare provider”), and in some cases holistic healers.

The second point in

the amendment is that parents must be notified, but their approval is not necessary for a child to have an abortion. Also, it does not stipulate when parents or guardians need to be notified before, during or after, so it could be at the point of the actual abortion (murder).

The people who practice, and promote abortions relate the procedure of killing a baby to something akin to having an appendectomy, or having tonsils

removed. From the point of conception, life begins, and the cells begin to multiply on their own. A few of these murderers even compare a growing baby to cancer cells but the difference is that cancer cells are rogue cells of the host and baby cells are brand-new cell growths separate from the host.

Where do we go for moral acceptance of this barbarism? We spend so much time talking about human rights, and hardly

any at all about the right to be a human. The abortion group is spending millions of dollars trying to convince women they will be turned away from having abortions, no matter the cause of pregnancies but, that is not so. There are safeguards to keep abortions being used as prophylactics. (People often associate the word “prophylactics” with condoms.) The most important prophylactics are common sense and self-control. This amend-

ment tries to end-round all responsibility for the lack of these.

As of now, two doctors must agree that an abortion is necessary for whatever reason, and I cannot see the problem in that, seeing it takes a twelve-person jury to condemn someone to the death penalty. At least with the jury setting, the defendant can plead his or her case. Not so as a baby is issued a death warrant with

See HAYDEN Page 4A

'Mr. Bob' retires after 65 yrs. of furniture store ownership

By Carrie Wiercioch
Special to the Chief

Apopka Furniture has been a staple in the community on Central Avenue for more than 65 years. Its owner, Bob Bratton, is now 90 and has decided to retire.

Known as "Mr. Bob" to friends and family as well as those who became customers, they were the reason he worked six days a week for all those years.

Mr. Bob was in both the Navy and the Air Force, as well as the Auxiliary Florida Highway Patrol. He was a volunteer for the Apopka Fire Department and the owner of Apopka Furniture Inc. for close to 65 years. The customers became family, and he wouldn't have had it any other way.

The family's approach to business truly reflects Mr. Bob's deep compassion and commitment to the community, offering in-house financing, check cashing, and even allowing customers to borrow money without extra charges. But if they didn't pay it back, they couldn't borrow until it was caught up and the furniture bill was paid.

His understanding of the struggles many faced, especially during tough economic times, and his willingness to help without adding financial burdens is remarkable.

He became known as Mr. Bob through the many years and to countless generations of families as they began to move out and have their own families. He will always be Mr. Bob to us, and he tells us that even in retirement, "it's been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of Apopka and Orange County."

It's clear that his business practices were not just about making a profit but about genuinely supporting and uplifting the community. Allowing customers to skip December payments to ensure they could enjoy the holidays and providing essential items like hot water heaters or laptops

without additional interest shows his empathetic nature and dedication to treating people with dignity and respect.

When asking past customers about Mr. Bob, they remember him as patient and understanding. Tammy Perkins still visits him weekly, and he looks forward to seeing all of his family of customers.

Mr. Bob's legacy is truly heartwarming. Most of all, he will be remembered as patient and honest. His daughter Carrie Bratton Wiercioch said she will never forget when he became a licensed pilot and flew her over Disney World at night, at a time when they could, as it was prior to 9/11.

His dedication to the community and his compassionate business practices have undoubtedly made a significant impact on many lives. The evolution of furniture and appliances over the years has been fascinating to witness, and Mr. Bob's adaptability and commitment to customer care are commendable.

His hope to have made a difference in someone's life is surely realized, as his actions and generosity have left a lasting impression on the community.

A journey

Robert R. Bratton's journey began in Texas, where he hopped on a train to California for the Navy. He ended up in Orlando for the Air Force for instructor training. At 24 years old, he had no idea what life lay before him and that he would be retiring from the little furniture store on Central Avenue after 65 years.

After meeting Eloise Rawls, he was given a front row seat to the commerce and business side of Apopka and became so integrated into the community that he decided to stay.

It shows in his dedication to the community and the longevity of his business. He became the president of the local Junior Chamber of Commerce

(Jaycees) for young business owners from 18-40 years of age.

Through the years, Eloise and Bob had many locations that were both Rawls Variety Store and what would become the longest-running furniture store in Apopka, Apopka Furniture. The first location was in the Witherington building in the old Henry's Meat Market area.

After a few years, they moved to where the alleyway now sits at Central Avenue, between the Blackwelder's Department Store and Dominos and the TV repair shop that had a two-story building on it but has since been removed, next to the alleyway off U.S. High-

way 441, what is now the vacant lot next to Dominos.

The shape of the two buildings was in an "L," and they would travel back and forth from each store. Eventually they rented out the downstairs to the city of Apopka for water billing and moved to the two locations on Park Avenue (with Farm City and a church next door) and bought them and a portion of the parking lot. He had new furniture in one building and used furniture in the other.

Eloise and Bob also ventured into the hospitality business: a hotel that had a popular bar/restaurant in Cocoa named the

See STORE Page 5A



Photo courtesy of Carrie Wiercioch

Robert Bratton, here in his Apopka Furniture store, is retiring after 65 years. He has been known to his customers for his understanding of their financial struggles and willingness to help.



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**City Ordinance Prohibits
Animals On Property.**



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SPECIAL EVENTS

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November 15th

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1551 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL • www.MullinaxFordFL.com • 407-972-1678

Moore: It is important for all trouble spots in District 2 to be reported

Continued from page 2A

stations. No one wants sewage to back up into homes.

Then it is important to work with Duke Energy to remove trees tangled in power lines. Never try to remove trees near power lines yourself. In fact, Duke is called even before the public works team can start cutting tree limbs. We lost a precious man in the Pine Hills area who touched a live wire.

A special shout-out to our manager of ponds, Jeff

Charles. He answered myriad calls about breached ponds, swollen drain wells, and the like. All his team’s hard work matters in an instant, during severe flooding. He makes sure ponds are well-maintained. This means more than just cutting grass. They manage soil conditions, excess debris, and pond wall integrity.

As to having the stamina to prepare for a hurricane, I found more and more elderly people without family or friends to assist in this process. It is vi-

tal we understand the limitations of our neighbors and show some concern. The most successful neighborhoods are well acquainted with and offer to meet specific needs like filling sandbags, moving outside furniture, providing generators, etc.

For many of you that have flooding in low-lying areas, some of these areas were built prior to codes which limit construction adjacent to wetlands. Have you checked the 100-year flood zone map? Flooding occurred in many flood

zones and areas next to wetlands.

Then there are those areas with long, systemic flooding issues. Again, roadways that are in low-lying areas will always fill up with water and will naturally recede after a storm. Cbs, in some cases expensive fixes would be preferable. However, it is challenging to find the millions of dollars necessary for remediation.

A few special cases, I would like to mention. Remember, either I or the county staff have visited trouble spots in District 2 by now. I welcome you reporting problems when you first view them. This morning, I visited a sink hole off Beggs Road. I found the contractor and county staff had just remedied the sink hole.

As for the major flooding, that is simply difficult. The ground is saturated and in the case of the Pinto Road area, the water cannot drain due to a lack of capacity in Lake Gandy.

When Pine Hills Road was built, they left homes lower than the road. I wish I had been on the BCC at the time. Staff is working on short-term pumping in this area of Lockhart. I will follow up with discussions of any long-term solutions.

If you haven’t studied how water drains in northwest Orange County, I will give you a short primer. We drain to the St. John’s River and out to the Atlantic Ocean through Jacksonville. Pine Hills drains to Lockhart and then up the Little Wekiva River. Apopka drains either towards the Wekiva River or to Lake

Apopka.

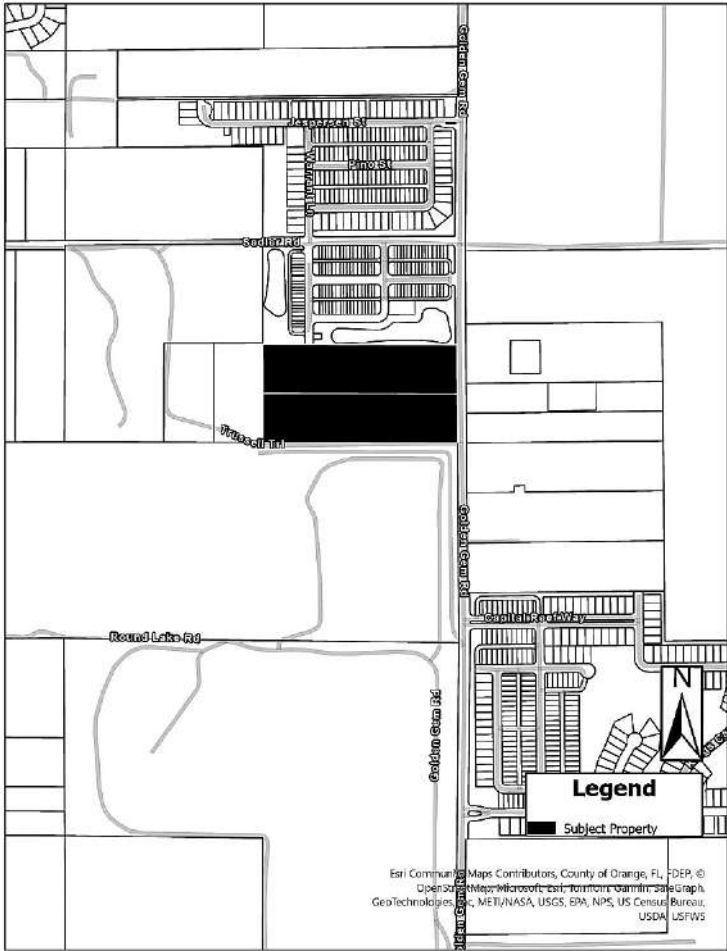
On a personal note, during the hurricane I had too much water draining into my home’s foundation. I have a compost pile which I can repurpose to raise up these few areas. I also experienced water intrusion through a few window seals. So, I will be recaulking the windows. And sorry to say, I have a broken window I never fixed from when my then teenage daughter sneaked in. It leaked and I had to put towels in that windowsill. She is now the mother of three of my grandchildren. Cbs, a lack of maintenance and repairs can haunt any of us.

So, I encourage you to evaluate what went well and what didn’t. Now is the best time to make the necessary repairs and complete needed maintenance.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ON ALL-SCALE 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 **G L Summitt Engineering, Inc. c/o Geoffrey L. Summitt, P.E.** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3074
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 TO MIXED-USE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY; OWNED BY TIMOTHY BURCHFIELD, ROBERT AND STACY MOSS; LOCATED WEST OF GOLDEN GEM ROAD, SOUTH OF NIGHTSHADE GROVE LANE AND SADLER ROAD; COMPRISING 19.76 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 14-20-27-0000-00-025 and 14-20-27-0000-00-083
Contains: 19.76 +/- 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, November 12, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3074 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, December 4, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**

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

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

October 18, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177486

and they were cared for by the wonderful staff including principal Lyle Heinz. Thank you to those who helped make that shelter available to the community.

After a storm passes, the district staff immediately assesses all the properties to check for damage. Sometimes, schools are not able to open right away depending on damage, power outages, and other factors. This time, we were quite lucky as there didn’t appear to be any significant damage to any of the buildings.

We did have several schools without power, but those schools were back online by Monday. Quite remarkable considering the massive power outages in our area.

Roads and routes to schools also have to be checked and cleared as well to be sure that buses can safely get our children to school. All bus drivers drive the routes a couple of times before schools are back in session to make sure bus stops and routes are cleared of debris.

There is tremendous teamwork and coordination

as well as extra hours of work from the district level to the school level to get our schools through these storms.

I want to personally thank everyone who had a hand in getting us through this storm. Thank you for your time, effort and efficiency in ensuring our public school buildings are kept as safe as possible and that our students can return as quickly as possible.

Let’s hope this is the last storm we have to deal with this hurricane season!

Hayden: Vote NO on abortion

Continued from page 2A

no ability to respond.

During the Nuremberg Trials the defense argued that the accused murderers of over six million Jews, Christians, Blacks, and other races whom they judged as inferior, were just following the laws of their nation. One of the prosecutors silenced that argument with the comment, “Are we not under a much higher law than that of men?” Rudolf Hess, and the rest of the hierarchy of the Nazi movement were sentenced to hang because of that higher law.

Whether the abortionist wins the vote or not, there is coming a day when we all will be judged by that higher law.

When I was a child, the norm was for parents to have at least three children. The formula was to replace the parents and then have one more for unforeseen loss of one to sickness, accident, or other factors. In an interview the other day, former President Bill Clinton postulated that since the

birth rate in America is not sufficient to keep up with job demands for workers, immigration is imperative!

Here we are in America talking about murdering babies in the womb as if it is absolutely necessary for a woman’s health but, in reality, most abortions are chosen for selfish reasons. Around 40 percent of people in a 2013 study mentioned a financial reason for needing an abortion.

Most of them had general financial concerns or said they could not afford to support a child. Almost one-third (31percent) of study respondents gave reasons relating to their partner.

I wonder why would you choose someone for sexual gratification, knowing your partner would not be suitable as a responsible parent, and not use prophylactics? The answer is, abortion is available and if a baby would inconvenience you, just get rid of it!

Former President Bill Clinton stated *our birth rate is too low*, so we need

immigration; and, out of the other side of the Democratic Party’s mouth comes the call for *freedom for abortion for all*, without any restrictions as to age, reason, use of taxpayer funds, or any governmental or parental intervention.

When Roe vs Wade was overturned, there was so much ruckus about how women were going to suffer because of that Supreme Court decision, and the truth be told, all they did was follow the Constitutional guidelines and returned control of that legislation back to the individual states, where the Constitution says it belongs.

Before you vote on Amendment Four, do your own research. Don’t listen to all the rhetorical garbage used for promoting abortion.

And, by the way, what happens to the aborted baby. Who or what benefits from that whole baby or its pieces?

Make up your own mind, then 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 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.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor’s Office	407-703-1701
City Administrator	407-703-1649
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.)	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-703-1741
Police Chief	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.)	407-703-1771
Job Line	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance	407-703-1731
Utility Billing	407-703-1727
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	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags	850-617-2000
Building Dept.	407-836-8550
County Mayor	407-836-7370
County Commission	407-836-7350
County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue	407-836-3111
Solid Waste	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection	407-703-1731
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)	352-241-9220
State Representatives	
Doug Bankson	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)	unknown
State Senators	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11)	407-297-2045
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
Museum of the Apopkans	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce	407-886-1441

Store: Owner raised family in Apopka

Continued from page 3A

Gulfstream. They would work apart during the week and Bob would drive to see her on the weekends. When this was too hard on the relationship, they part-

ed ways and he decided to sell the locations on Park Avenue and rented from her family at 426 S. Central Ave., the location he was at until the end. He eventually purchased the building for \$25,000 and the rest was

history.

He remarried in 1968, and Robert and Vera Bratton incorporated the business in 1977. Their daughter, Carrie R. Bratton, was born in 1970 in Apopka and graduated a Blue Dart-

er in 1989. She raised her kids Peyton R. Menegat (born in 1996) and Dumas M. Wiercioch III (born in 2004) in Apopka. They are also graduates of Apopka High School.

High school class to hold golden reunion

The Apopka Memorial High School Class of 1974 is celebrating its Golden (50th) Class Reunion this Friday and Saturday, October 18 and 19. The Class of '74 has graciously invited a few surrounding classes to their reunion also this weekend.

Festivities start at the AHS football game tonight Friday, October 18 at Roger Williams Field, and con-

tinue with their dinner celebration on Saturday at Zellwood Station Golf and Country Club.

Former editor of *The Apopka Chief* John Peery was a member of Class of '74, along with other class members who put their own stamp on history. The organizing committee noted a strong showing of classmates, along with other classes for the big event.

Tell them you saw it in
The Apopka Chief



The Way I See It
Patti Bankson

Elections Have Consequences

The election is less than two weeks away, and, as usual, the chattering and attempts to persuade have come at us from all directions and from all types of people, so many of them nothing more than shills for the candidate they support. I could say the candidate that they like, but not everyone likes their party's candidate. Nothing unusual there. Especially since people started choosing their favored candidate for reasons other than qualifications, like how cool one is, or what color the other is, or what sex another is. Isn't it time for us to elect someone who actually cares about America and Americans? One who wants a strong, secure, and economically thriving country, where its citizens are free to choose the life they want and are willing to work for it ... whose leaders believe The Constitution and its principles have gotten us to where we are/were, and, if allowed and followed, will carry us into a future worth having. The outcome of this election, one of our most important ever, may determine whether we even have a future – at least, one we'll tolerate, much less be happy with, is questionable.

The tricky thing about elections is that issues are presented to us in such a way that carefully chosen words say one thing, but can, and often do, mean something completely different, carrying the possibility of an outcome we don't expect and may not be happy with after all.

For instance, **Amendment 1** could sound like a political party is what's most important, but that's not what it means to me. Based on what school boards have turned into, this is about being able to have more information, to help

understand, at least a little bit, what a person believes...telling us how we might expect someone to educate – influence – our children; whether their values line up with ours.

Pay attention to this in **Amendment 2**: *"So far, there haven't been any bans or restrictions on hunting and fishing in Florida, although other states have such measures. (The James Madison Institute). Unfortunately, once a freedom-limiting bill passes in even one other state, it becomes the small beginning of a large snowball which usually ends up running right over us. As it is, other – even bigger – freedoms are already in jeopardy ... in a recent speech John Kerry said that Free Speech "is a problem. It's messy." And, Hillary Clinton said, "We cannot let the 1st Amendment over-ride anything else."* May seem like a silly comparison, and you may not hunt or fish, but ...

Amendment 3 would make it legal for adults 21 and older to have up to 3 ounces of marijuana and up to 5 grams of cannabis concentrate. It would also enable them to possess, purchase and use marijuana products and accessories without needing a medical marijuana card, as is the case now. *If Marijuana is a "Gateway Drug," perhaps this is potentially a "Gateway Amendment". That aside, do we really need any more impaired drivers on the road?*

Amendment 4: NO.

Amendment 5: Yes.

Amendment 6: Repeal of public campaign financing. *Public Financing?? You mean, our tax money? Count me out!*

These are MY opinions. I'm not asking you to agree or disagree with them... but I am asking you consider that elections aren't just something you think about in between TV programs. They're your life and future; Your loved ones lives and futures. Take it seriously, because as one past president said, *elections have consequences!*

We'd like to know
What YOU think?
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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.

Fraud: Insurance villages let policy holders meet their carriers

Continued from page 1A

course, but any place where there's a village, it's really focused on insurance-related issues. There won't be staff from other agencies present, such as FEMA, for those different issues, but specifically for the insurances themselves to be able to try and get the quickest help to the people."

Bankson said he was contacted by a local insurance agent interested in organizing insurance villages in the area. In turn, Bankson contacted the Chief Financial Office of Florida and spoke with CFO Jimmy Patronis about hosting an insurance village in the area.

However, because the

Apopka area wasn't as hard hit by Milton or even Helene or Debby, no insurance village has been set up in the region.

"He (Patronis) said that it would be related, based upon the level of damage (caused in the area). So the good news is we weren't as hard-hit as other areas. The unfortunate part is we don't have an insurance village close to us, but there are four insurance villages in the state," Bankson said.

Those four insurance villages are located at Bradenton City Hall, Bradenton; the Long Center, Clearwater; Lakeland RP Funding Center, Lakeland; and the Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City. All of the insurance villages

are open and operational, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. seven days a week until there's no more need.

Insurance villages are "an opportunity for people to be able to talk directly to their insurance agencies, and because there's a concern about them that we're trying to scam people, the CFO wanted to make sure that people got direct information and also to help them get the quickest help," Bankson said.

Bankson discussed briefly Activate Hope, which serves as the emergency response arm for the Hope Florida initiative, Activate Hope pulls together the private sector, nonprofits, and government resources to help Florid-

ians get back on their feet following a natural disaster. Gov. Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis announced Activate Hope's launch last August.

"I'm really excited about all the different things. There are eight key areas that the state itself is doing and they have a lot of information for FEMA, but Activate Hope is just a wonderful program. We have the state programs, but Activate Hope is trying to pull together all of the nonprofits, current resources, private sectors, everything together for just real practical help, as well. I'm really excited about that. That's really coming together," Bankson said.

To request help, fill out

the form at [HopeFlorida.com/get-help/hurricanerecovery.html](https://www.hopeflorida.com/get-help/hurricanerecovery.html)

Protect yourself from fraud

The following are tips from the state of Florida on how to protect yourself from fraud.

*Don't give cash to door-to-door repair offers.

*Call your insurance agent, insurance carrier or CFO Office at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (693-5236).

*Avoid contracts without total costs and steer clear of high pressure sales tactics and vague contract terms.

*Get multiple estimates, read carefully, and check your policy coverage before signing anything.

*Report post-storm fraud to the Insurance Fraud Hotline at 1-800-378-0445 or [FraudFree-Florida.com](https://www.FraudFree-Florida.com).

*Up to \$25,000 rewards may be paid to citizens for information leading to fraud arrests and convictions.

*Visit [PrepareFL.com](https://www.PrepareFL.com) for storm recovery tips and resources Florida Attorney General's Office (AG).

*The Florida AG Office is taking complaints regarding price gouging, fraudulent charities, and home repair scams.

*Consumers can call 1-866-966-7226 or visit [MyFloridaLegal.com/](https://www.MyFloridaLegal.com/) to file a complaint.

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Email: news@theapopkachief.com

Help: Insurance villages let policy holders meet their carriers

Continued from page 1A

1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) and is available 24 hours a day to assist people with financial, sheltering, reunification, and transitional support.

Samaritan's Purse

The Samaritan's Purse provides free assistance for homeowners, including personal property removal, flood cleanup, sanitizing, chainsaw work and debris clean-up, as well as temporary roof tarping. The hotline is 1-833-747-1234.

Florida Baptists Disaster Relief

Florida Baptists Disaster Relief provides free assistance for homeowners, including storm debris cleanup, temporary roof tarping, chainsaw work, and muckouts. The public assistance line is 904-253-0502.

Crisis Cleanup Hotline

Crisis Cleanup Hotline helps survivors request cleanup assistance including debris removal, tree removal, muck and gut, and mold remediation. 1-844-965-1386



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Orange County residents may now apply for FEMA disaster assistance

Orange County residents may now apply for federal disaster assistance for losses resulting from Hurricane Milton.

To be eligible for federal aid under FEMA's Individual Assistance Program, storm damage and losses from the hurricane and flooding must have occurred as a result of Hurricane Milton.

If you have insurance,

you must file a claim with your insurance company first. If you do not have insurance or insurance does not cover your claim, you may apply for FEMA assistance.

Residents who suffered Milton-related damages are encouraged to register with FEMA online at DisasterAssistance.gov, on the FEMA mobile app, or by calling 800-621-3362

(FEMA).

Orange County individuals and households should have the following information ready when applying:

*Contact information (Telephone number, Mailing address, Social Security number)

*Household income

*Address of damaged home or apartment

*Description of dam-

age/lost items

*Photos of your damaged home and belongings

*Information about insurance coverage

*Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

The toll-free number 800-621-3362 (FEMA) is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week.



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- 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
- Citgo, 441 & Boy Scout Blvd (Plymouth)
- Citgo, 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. (Marin 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, Hiwassee 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

Festival: Parking location has been moved due to flooding from Milton

Continued from page 1A

rectly benefit the Apopka Rotary Club and Apopka Rotary Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization supporting over 40 local and international charities. Youth-oriented clubs are included.

“The Apopka Fairs are the Rotary Club’s signature event and primary fundraiser,” DeClue said. “Organization of such an event is a part of what we consider serving Apopka and the area. In general, this is a family-oriented area and there is an opportunity to give back to those responsible through the fair. Supporting community and giving back as well as providing for that family-oriented theme to continue to grow is a labor of love for us.”

The success of the springtime annual Apopka Fair was the impetus for adding a second one in the fall.

Originally organized as a part of the 150th anniversary celebration, both fairs continue to bring appeal to and spotlight the city of Apopka each year. However, during years of operation, the fairs have matured within the context of the area’s uniqueness while also presenting the theme of family first.

Specifically, the area’s ever-growing population has brought diversity to the maturity’s dichotomy.

“What has always made the fair successful though has been the focus on the family,” DeClue said. “The conduciveness to raising children and growing family themes makes

this area unique. Apopka’s way of life is centered on the family and the values are family-based. If the fair represents Apopka and the area, then the family themes should be the driving force. We try to put on a better fair within the context of Apopka’s uniqueness driven by those family themes every year.”

Fostering those family themes representing Apopka’s uniqueness will once again be through a healthy dose of the tried and true.

Consisting of about 50 combined rides and games, Paradise Amusements will run the midway.

Another stalwart making the fair special is the assortment of food vendors. However, the focus remains on a variety of choices. Other miscellaneous vendors will be present as well.

The Beer and Wine Garden offers a selection of beers, cider and wine.

Musical artists Christina Adinolfi will perform on Friday night and Casey Brents on Saturday. Stage time is 7 p.m. at The Beer and Wine Garden.

Assisting local charities and showcasing the city of Apopka is important to the Rotary Club, DeClue said.

One example is that multiple organizations volunteer as parking lot attendants and receive a portion of the fees.

Schedule and prices

Hours for the fair are 5-10 p.m. on Thursday. On Friday, the fair opens at 5 p.m. and closes at 11 p.m. Saturday hours are 2-11 p.m. Noon until 8 pm are the hours of operation on

Sunday.

Admission into the fair is free. However, parking is \$5 for an entire day. Parking has been moved to Highland Avenue due to flooding from Hurricane Milton. Several other changes as far as the regular locations have also been made too.

Animals are not allowed on the property unless service.

Armbands for the carnival rides are available on Thursday and Sunday. By purchasing an armband for \$25, attendees can ride the rides an unlimited amount. A \$2-off coupon, for armbands purchased 5-9 p.m.

on Thursday and noon-2 p.m. on Sunday, can be found in the Apopka Fair flyer.

However, armbands are valid until 9 p.m. on Thursday and 4 p.m. on Sunday. Family ticket packages of 24 are also available for \$20 throughout the event. Individual tickets cost \$1 and vary per ride. Prices for and numbers of tickets for each ride are set by Paradise Amusement as well as subject to change at any time before the fair.

For more information and to get the Apopka Fair flyer and coupons, visit FallFamilyFestival.com.

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Halloween in the Park is Oct. 26


The city will host Halloween in the Park 2024 on Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to noon at Kit Land Nelson Park, 10 N. Forest Ave., Apopka.

This is a free family-friendly trick-or-treating event with activities, vendors, and more. Children will get to trick or treat around the park, stopping at various vendor booths.

Attendees should bring their own bags for trick-or-treating.

Visit Apopka.gov/Halloween to learn more about Halloween in the Park.

Anyone interested in becoming a vendor may fill out the city’s vendor inquiry form at Apopka.gov/Halloween.

**REGAL**

Fri., Oct. 18, 2024 thru
Sun., Oct. 20, 2024

SMILE 2(R) 12:20; 3:40; 7:00; 10:00
MY HERO ACADEMIA: YOU'RE NEXT(SUB) (PG-13) 12:40; 7:30
JOKER: FOLIE À DEUX (R) 1:10; 3:20; 6:30; 9:40
THE WILD ROBOT (PG) 1:20; 4:10; 6:50; 9:20
BEETLEJUICE
BEETLEJUICE (PG-13) 1:00; 4:00; 7:10; 9:50
TRANSFORMERS ONE (PG) 12:50; 3:50; 6:40; 9:30
TERRIFIER 3(NR) 1:30; 4:30; 7:20; 10:10
MY HERO ACADEMIA: YOU'RE NEXT(DUB) (PG-13) 4:20; 10:20

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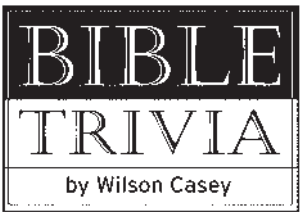
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Rahab hides Israelite spies

1. Is the book of Leviticus (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who found an Ethiopian eunuch sitting in a chariot reading the words of Esaias (Isaiah)? Ahaz, Philip, Jotham, Uzziah
3. In John 3, what does Jesus say that everyone practicing evil hates? The light, Truth, The Lord, Believers
4. From Joshua 2, where



did Rahab hide Israelite spies? Under table, In cave, On roof, With oxen

5. What did Jesus send into a herd of swine? Unclean spirits, Justice, Breath of life, Mighty wind

6. Who was the father of Solomon? Nathan, Uriah, Judas, David
- ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Philip, 3) The light, 4) On roof, 5) Unclean spirits, 6) David
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Our Fathers, Who Art in Heaven

The first line of the Lord's Prayer has a different sense for me now that my earthly father has passed away. I now sometimes say "Our Fathers, who art in heaven...." And I am not meaning to put my father on a pedestal or equating him with God, but rather I'm thinking and praying that my father and grandfather are now part of the heavenly team that is working for good in the world.

Our heavenly family consists of all God's children, past and present, and our faith and hope is that we will one day be reunited with parents, grandparents, and perhaps even with ancestors who we've never even known. It is a spiritual wish that connects us to those who have gone before us. It is

consoling to think that a recently deceased loved one has been welcomed into heaven by his or her loving family.

One of my aunts who passed away a few years ago was "visited" by her sister who had predeceased her at her nursing home a few days before her death. My aunt's children were convinced that their mother's sister (their aunt) had come to accompany her dear sister to heaven. It's a beautiful thought, and it just might be true.

We should love life and get the most out of our lives here on earth, but when it's time to leave this earthly realm we should look forward to a heavenly reunion.

— 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

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

Matthew 5:16

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

Proverbs 14:26

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"If my people, which are called by my 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 will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

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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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Our Fathers, Who Art in Heaven

(See message above.)

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-Billy Graham



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City, Propagate Social House partner in expanding weekly farmers market

The city of Apopka has announced a new partnership with Propagate Social House to bring the Fifth Street Market “streetside” every Friday night.

Following a unanimous vote by the City Council at its Wednesday, October 2, meeting, part of Fifth Street will be closed every Friday evening to accommodate the weekly farmers market from 5-10 p.m.

Starting October 25, Fifth Street will be closed every Friday at 2 p.m. to prepare for the market, re-opening an hour after it concludes. Market-goers can expect an evening filled with shopping, dining, and entertainment.

“We are incredibly excited to enter this new chapter for Apopka’s Farmers Market,” Ella Duke, Propagate Social House co-owner, said in a news release. “This partnership exemplifies the power of community support and collaboration, and we look forward to seeing the market flourish in its new location.”

The Fifth Street Market showcases an array of local vendors offering fresh produce, artisan breads, farm-fresh eggs, gourmet cheeses, and much more. This event not only highlights the best of local agriculture but also provides a platform for artists and makers to share their unique creations with the

community. Food trucks add to the excitement and feature selections of dishes that cater to every palate.

In addition to the food and local goods, attendees enjoy live music and entertainment creating a festive atmosphere throughout downtown Apopka. The market is a perfect opportunity for residents and visitors alike to explore the various businesses and restaurants located along Fifth and Main Streets.

The journey to establish a thriving farmers market in Apopka has been one of determination and community collaboration. Propagate Social House began this venture nearly three years ago with just 12 ven-

dors.

Initially met with skepticism, the Propagate team launched a pilot market on their own property and operated it successfully for a year. After demonstrating strong community support, the city of Apopka allowed them to use the parking lot by Fifth Street for an eight-month trial, which ultimately led to the recent street closure approval.

Anyone interested in becoming a vendor may visit PropagateSocialHouse.com for information on vendor types accepted at the market.

Apopka Serves Foundation is the nonprofit partner for 2024-2025.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 4B

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

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Puzzle Solution

O	C	T	A	V	O	S			S	U	M	B	A		
C	A	R	M	I	N	E			O	K	R	A	S		
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E	R	N	E	S					S	U	M	M	E	R	S

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 4B