

## Festival fun

The Fall Family Festival loaded last weekend with fun, food, and more. See page 7A.



## Sports

APK men's and women's teams head to bowling championships See page 1B.



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# The Apopka Chief

Your trusted local news source

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Volume 102 Number 43

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## Rising flood waters continue to be problem to homeowners, businesses

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

Temporary solutions such as installing barriers to keep rising floodwater out of homes and pumping it into trucks may have alleviated the flooding, following Hurricane Milton. However, residents at Wekiva Village, a subdivision of about 60 units located on Piedmont Wekiwa Road, demand long-term solutions for rising floodwaters.

At the Wednesday, October 16, Apopka City Council meeting, Weki-

va Village residents painted a picture of the nightmare they had experienced in dealing with the flooding and the risks it posed to them, their families, and their homes, including the electricity shutoff, fear of sewage backup into homes, and the stagnant air in homes that could present the ideal environment for bacteria and mold to grow.

Lakes and ponds located within the S.R. 436/ Piedmont-Wekiwa Road area have flooded following several hurricanes for years.

Yet Wekiva Village



The entrance sign to Wekiva Village, with Piedmont-Wekiwa Road to the right.

residents insisted that the most recent flooding was a manmade issue, not one caused by Hurricane Milton.

Massive flooding in the Piedmont Wekiwa Road

area begins when an overflow happens in the headwater Border Lake, the highest of the lakes and is located alongside East Semoran Boulevard (S.R. 436) next to Walmart

Neighborhood Market.

When Border Lake overflows, the water flows into other nearby lakes such as Lake Ruden, which is in front of Hobby Lobby at Piedmont Plaza; Lake

Cortez, located behind Brookdale Wekiwa Springs on North Wekiwa Springs Road; and Lake Piedmont, located one-half mile south

See FLOOD Page 11A

## Webster visits Foliage Sertoma Club



Photo courtesy of Bev Winesburgh

Congressman Daniel Webster (r) presents a special club recognition to President Wes Dumey and the Foliage Sertoma Club members on Tuesday, October 15, at the Back Room Steakhouse in Apopka.

The Tuesday, October 15, Foliage Sertoma Luncheon meeting held at the Back Room Steakhouse was a special one with the visit of United States Congressman Daniel Webster in attendance.

Congressman Webster and his community relations representative, Pam Jones, presented club president Wes Dumey and the entire group with an official Congressional recognition in honor of the club's 50th golden anniversary celebration, which is ongoing this year.

The Congressman took the time to share a brief review of his important appointed oversight positions and his work chairing the committee administering the United States Coast Guard. He shared a number of inside stories on the heroic lifesaving activities conducted by that branch of our Armed Forces as well as supportive efforts for other branches of the military.

The Sertoma Club's 50th Golden Anniversary is the theme of the upcoming Apopka Christmas Parade, scheduled for December 14. Congressman Webster plans to ride in the parade again this year along with other national, state and local elected officials and dignitaries.

## Orange County starts early voting

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

Early voting began in Orange County this week on Monday, October 21, and will continue through Sunday, November 3, at all 22 locations in Or-

ange County including the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka. All early voting locations are open to all Orange County voters

See EARLY Page 5A

## North Orange Branch to reopen October 28

After three months of closure over the summer and early fall, the North Orange Branch Library will reopen on Monday, Oc-

tober 28, at its regularly scheduled time of 10 a.m., according to Orange Coun-

See OCLS Page 8A

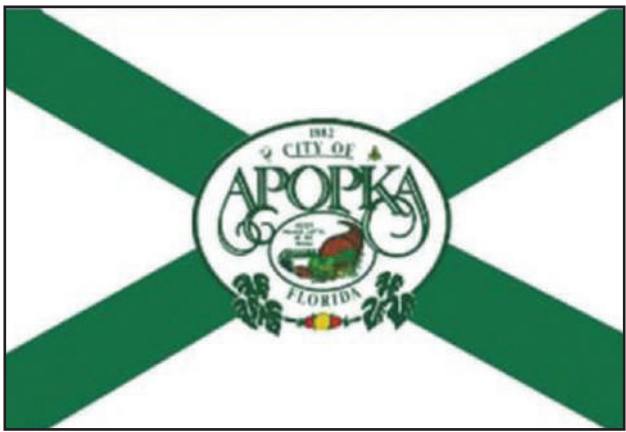
## Local art teacher wins city flag redesign contest

Local art teacher Faith Lee was announced as the winner of the city of Apopka flag redesign contest at the October 16 Apopka City Council meeting.

A lifelong Apopka resident, Lee teaches art and music at Apopka Christian Academy, where she is blessed to share her passion for the arts with students in grades K-8.

Lee is married to her Apopka High School sweetheart and are raising their children in the community where they grew up.

Lee's flag design concept is as follows: green – life, prosperity, growth; yellow – sun, prosperity, op-



Pictured left is the previous design of the city of Apopka flag. Pictured right is the newly redesigned city flag by Faith Lee. The new flag will be unveiled on Friday, October 25, at the Happy Birthday Apopka celebration.

timism; blue – tranquility, harmony, sky, water.

"My design includes a philodendron leaf that is commonly grown in green-

houses," Lee was quoted as saying in a news release.

"The lines in my design are more organic in movement to represent the wild-



life and plant components of our city. The two blue wavy stripes are to represent Rock and Wekiwa Springs. The yellow stripe

is to represent the sun and our greenhouses' dependence on the sun; also, to represent that we are part of the Sunshine state. The

philodendron leaf lines create an A shape to represent A for Apopka. The bottom white half of the flag, represents peaceful living in our community."

The Lee family has called Apopka home since the early 1960s. Collectively, they have contributed to the local plant and foliage economy and have served as pastors and ministers at a local church for the past 30 years.

In recognition of the city of Apopka's 142nd birthday, last month, the Apopka Serves Foundation set out to create a fun

See FLAG Page 6A

## City swears in two new police officers



Photo courtesy of city of Apopka

Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley swears in two new officers, Samantha Moraes (l) and Katherine Almazan (c).

Two new police officers, Katherine Almazan and Samantha Moraes, took oaths on Friday, October 18, in the Apopka City Hall Council Chamber.

### Katherine Almazan

Officer Katherine Almazan was born and raised in Miami. Officer Almazan graduated from Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School in 2018 and attended the police academy at Seminole State College earlier this year. She has a bachelor's de-

gree in criminal justice from Florida Atlantic University. Her hobbies include Crossfit and cooking.

### Samantha Moraes

Officer Samantha Moraes was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Brazil. Officer Moraes graduated from high school in Brazil and attended the police academy at Seminole State College. Her hobbies include traveling, spending quality time with her kids, and hanging with friends and family.

**This week**  
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Service Dir..... 12B

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public-notices](http://TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices) OR  
[FloridaPublicNotices.com](http://FloridaPublicNotices.com)

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Apopka Event of the Week

Join the FREE Lake Apopka Bike Ride in celebration of Mobility Week 2024! The event will take place on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive and Loop Trail located at 2850 Lust Rd, Apopka, FL 32703

Quotable

Our businesses, our livelihoods, and our children's futures will be shaped by the decisions made by those in power, and right now, we, the people, have the power!

Opinion given on the importance of voting in November 5, 2024 election

The Apopka Chief  
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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

**Publisher**  
T. Jerrod Ricketson

**Marketing Director**  
Jackie Trefcer

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

**Reporters**  
Teresa Sargeant  
Marshall Tempest  
Neal Fisher

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

Our position

You must show up and vote in the upcoming national election

By Krystal Parker  
President

uschristianchamber.com

As we approach another critical election, I want to speak to something that's been heavy on my heart: the importance of showing up and voting. Now, I know some of us feel disillusioned by the political process or frustrated by the choices we have before us, but I'm here to remind you of a few important truths.

According to a recent study conducted by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, 104 million people of faith including 32 million Christians who regularly attend church services are projected to sit out this November's election. Those numbers are staggering, and the consequences are profound. The Bible calls us to be stewards of all we've been entrusted with, and that includes our role as citizens. Scripture is clear that government is established by God, and our responsibility is to influence it for good. As Christians, it is not just our civic duty, but our biblical imperative to participate in the political process. And yet, millions of Christians, including business leaders like us, say they will not be voting in November. That should alarm every one of us.

The candidates for all offices are imperfect human beings, just as we are. The impact they will have on our lives is profound. They are telling us what their plans are for the world we're going to live in, and the differences are stark.

Let me be blunt: If you won't vote for the preservation of moral and ethical values in our nation, then vote for the future of your business. This election will directly impact the business community's tax policies, regulations, economic strategies, and even religious freedoms are all on the line.

Our businesses, our livelihoods, and our children's futures will be shaped by the decisions made by those in power, and right now, we, the people, have the power!

Schedule the time now to vote on November 5 or take advantage of early voting. Don't leave your future to chance! your voice matters, and we need you on the team.

I don't care what reason gets you to the polls. Whether it's the preservation of life, protecting our religious freedoms, securing a future for our businesses, or the desire for a more just and prosperous nation! just VOTE.

Your silence has consequences for all of us.

Opinions are offered on the 6 state constitutional amendments

There are six proposed state constitutional amendments on the ballot and the following thoughts are opinions to consider when voting on these proposals.

# 1: Partisan election of school board members: No. This means you are voting for the quality of the person, not the party. A yes vote would require that the candidate run on his/her party affiliation with only party members voting for

the person running in school board primaries.

#2: Right to fish and hunt: No. This acknowledges that the right already exists and is protected under 2022 current laws. A yes vote means that this amendment would forever protect fishing and hunting as humane and effective ways to manage Florida's wildlife.

#3: Legalizing recreational Marijuana: No. As written, it

opens the door to recreational Marijuana legalization, including production, distribution and possession. No clear guidelines for law enforcement are provided. No restrictions are given for time and place and smoked Marijuana does have an odor.

#4 Legalize abortion until birth: No. As written, this amendment does not define its use of key words,

See ELECTION Page 4A



Three programs have been re-started

As we regroup after Hurricane Milton, just a brief reminder that in unincorporated Orange County, it is against county code to burn vegetative debris and therefore prohibited. This question comes up a lot after storms. I know we are all tired of viewing the debris in the front of our property (if yours hasn't been retrieved by FEMA contractors yet). The bottom line is that burning vegetative debris which includes shrubs, palm fronds, tree trimmings, limbs, grass, leaves, and twigs will cause objectionable odors and smoke emissions in excess of 20 percent opacity. Burning of storm debris vi-

County Commissioner  
District 2



Christine Moore

olates section 15-96 of Orange County's Code.

Please read more here: Open Burning Rules

If your home suffered Milton-related damage, please register with FEMA online at www.Disaster-Assistance.gov or by calling 1.800.621.3362. You can also apply in person at Apopka City Hall, but only

until 5 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 25th, the day you are likely reading this! If the time frame is extended I will let you know on my Facebook page at Christine Moore Orange County District 2 Commissioner.

On another note, we've re-started three beneficial programs under the Citizen Resource and Outreach Division in Orange County. This is important because each of the following helps District 2 residents in different ways.

Crisis Assistance Program (CAP) - This program provides one month of financial assistance for past

See MOORE Page 4A

Clarification given on words in article

Editor's Note:

The article referred to was published in the September 29th issue of The Apopka Chief and the comments in question were clarified in the October 4th issue by the writer. The original article was written generically about the United States as a whole, not specifically about local schools in the state.

A few weeks ago, I read statements published in this newspaper that concerned me. They concerned me because they were completely false and written as truth about our public schools.

The statements surrounded the Bible in schools and religious freedom. It was stated that schools allow "the book of

Orange County School  
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

Witchcraft in its library" but that the Bible is not allowed.

This is false and I feel the need to correct this misinformation and ensure that our community is always informed of the truth.

All school libraries are required to allow their catalogs to be searched online by the public. A simple library catalog search on Apopka High School's website shows two differ-

ent versions of the Holy Bible and no books on practicing witchcraft unless you consider Harry Potter or The Crucible books on witchcraft.

No, the Bible is not outlawed in our public schools.

In fact, Florida law specifically mentions the Bible and the fact that public schools can teach an unbiased view of the Bible. Florida Statute 1003.45 titled Permitting study of the Bible and religion; requiring a moment of silence, clearly states "The district school board may install in the public schools in the district a secular program of education including, but not limited to, an objective

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'  
Luke 10:9

ema Says

Stop the "what ifs" and be who you are.

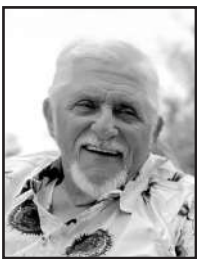
The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 23, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 N. Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County, Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, PO Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.



Stimulation of tree roots was the answer to the growing of fruit

"Why did GOD do this to me?" I've heard that question asked over and over again by someone who has just experienced a traumatic, sometimes life-changing circumstance that cannot be foreseen. One thing we can be sure of, if it was GOD allowing that trial in your life, then there is a lesson to be learned.

I read a story about a 70-year old grandmother that was noted and recognized for her "Green Thumb" and her ability to care for and foster her floral



Ike Hayden

gardens around her home. Unfortunately, there came a time when her children decided she should move to a new home closer to them for her sake, and for the sake of her grandchildren. Although despon-

dent over leaving her garden, she was encouraged because her new home included a large garden with a fruit tree in the center. The problem was, although the tree was old enough and big enough, it would not yield fruit. Despite all her nurturing, and all of the studying (She loved reading) on fruit trees, there was no hint of any kind she could use to persuade the tree to bear fruit. She spoke to the tree, sang to the tree, reasoned with this tree all to no avail.

At her wit's end, she called the State Agricultural Department and asked to speak to the manager. After explaining the reason for her call, the man started giving her advice, of which she made notes and determined she would follow his advice completely.

After listening and noting his advice, she told him that she had already done most of the things he had advised. He then suggested hitting the base of the tree with a broomstick to stimulate its roots. At

first, she thought he was kidding, but he assured her he was not. Thinking about what her neighbors might assume, seeing a woman beating a tree with a broomstick, she waited until no one was around then worked that fruit tree over with her stick.

She understood the tree roots would be stimulated, but she doubted that the unorthodox manner would result in fruit. The next spring the tree produced fruit abundantly, and she and her grandchildren

enjoyed the tree's fruit for years, and had a great time talking about how silly it must have looked, to anyone watching to see this beautiful elderly woman beating a defenseless fruit tree. That tree produced a more plentiful and healthy bounty every year.

The story of that fruit tree has been a source of enjoyment, encouragement, and peace when it comes to difficult times that arise in my life. Many

See HAYDEN Page 4A





# TOP **ER** DOCS within blocks

## #1 TRUSTED ER IN APOPKA

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## Election: Make a yes or no decision

and abortion is the killing of a living baby.

#5 Homestead adjustments: No. It helps a small group, but may increase ad-valorem taxes (adjustments may not be reductions); However, a yes vote would supposedly keep up with inflation since it would be tied to the Consumer Price

Index. When inflation increases property values, the homestead exemption would also increase.

#6 Repeal of public campaign funds: A no vote would keep restrictions in place so candidates should reveal where additional funds came from, but no telling where

they would come from if there are no guidelines.

The original intent was to reduce candidates' dependence on dark money and that of special interests; however, it has become a program that simply funnels taxpayers' dollars to political campaigns.

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

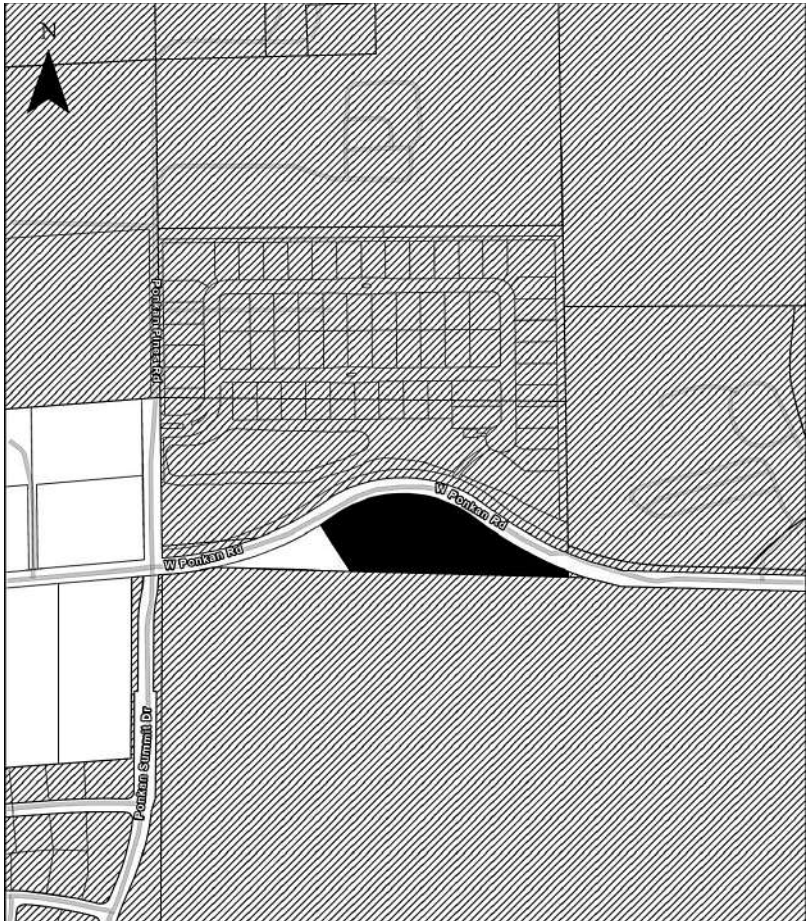
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Jason Lee** has made application relating to the following described property.

### ORDINANCE NO. 3078

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 POKKAN 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.

### ORDINANCE NO. 3079

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 POKKAN 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 6, 2024 beginning at 1:30 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

October 25, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177508

Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?  
Send a letter to the Editor online: [www.theapokkachief.com](http://www.theapokkachief.com)

## 2024 numbers lower than 2016

By Steve Wilson

The Center Square □

Vote by mail numbers are down in Florida compared to the 2016 election when former President Donald Trump won his first term in office.

Florida county elections officials have mailed 2.03 million ballots to those who requested them, down from 2016, when there were 3.35 million ballots sent to voters, a 65 percent drop.

The Florida secretary of state's office will be updating both vote by mail and early voting numbers on its website daily. Early voting in Florida started on Tuesday.

So far this election season, 477,778 Republican ballots have been mailed to county election offices (36.6 percent of the total), 555,450

Democratic (42.5 percent), 26,375 other (2 percent) and 247,038 nonaffiliated (18.9 percent) for a total of nearly 1.31 million votes or 64.5 percent of ballots mailed.

In early voting, there have been 202,036 ballots cast by registered Republicans, 108,832 by registered Democrats, 7,794 by other party registration and 58,373 nonaffiliated.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, 4.48 million voted by mail. There were 1.14 million ballots that were not submitted or 20.3 percent of the 5.62 million mailed to voters.

There were 4.33 million that cast ballots early, with 32.9 percent by registered Republicans and 32.3 percent by Democrats.

Republicans had 1.5

million mail-in ballots (31 percent), along with nearly 2.19 million by Democrats (45 percent), 1.09 million unaffiliated (22.5 percent) and 66,345 by others (1.37 percent).

There were 615,885 ballots that were not submitted in 2016, or 18.4 percent of all ballots mailed that year.

According to state data, in 2016, there were 3.35 million who voted by mail, with 1.1 million Republicans (40.6 percent), 1.05 million Democrats (38.4 percent), 69,318 listed as other (2.5 percent) and 504,895 with no party affiliation (18.5 percent). Those voting early numbered 3.87 million, split 1.43 million Republicans, 1.58 million Democrats, 779,627 unaffiliated, and 89,990 others.

## Moore: Assistance can be provided

*Continued from page 2A*

due rent, mortgage and/or utilities, to residents who are experiencing a temporary unexpected event that affects their ability to pay their bills.

You must have lived in Orange County for ninety days. All appointments for assistance will be scheduled through the appointment line at 407.836.6500, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Appointments will be scheduled for the very next day and you will be seen in person. No walk-in appointments will

be accepted.

Family Resource Program (FRP) - This program provides case management services and financial assistance to residents who have significant medical issues that affect their ability to pay their bills.

This program assists permanently disabled persons who plan to return to work or seek Social Security or other long-term benefits. Residents can call 407.836.8466 for more information.

Eviction Prevention in the Community (EPIC) - This program as-

sists households with minor children who have received an eviction notice from the court system and are in imminent risk of homelessness. Residents can call 407.836.6514 to be screened.

Leave a message with your full name, phone number, and your court case number (for example: 2024-CC-001234-O). Program staff will contact you for an eligibility screening within two business days.

As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at District2@ocfl.net.

## Byrd: Bible and prayer are allowed

*Continued from page 2A*

study of the Bible and of religion."

It was also mentioned that "we can't even pray in our schools." This is also false. Florida Statute 1002.206 titled "Religious expression in public schools," guarantees a student's religious freedom in school stating that a "school district may not discriminate against a student, parent, or school personnel on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression."

Furthermore, the statute states that "a student may pray or engage in religious activities or religious expression before, during, and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that a student may engage in secular activities or expression."

For example, Weki-

va High School just had a "meet at the pole" before school prayer meeting at the flag pole on the school campus before school.

Most of our high schools have a chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes as well, where all students are welcome.

Opinion columns and freedom of speech are important, but blatant disregard for the truth or publishing outright lies about our public schools is damaging to the hard work and reputation of our educators and the public education system that our country was founded on.\*

The Founding Fathers believed that public education was essential to the success of American democracy. Thomas Jefferson, who proposed a system of free, public education that was radical for his time, believed that the most

effective way to protect the nation from tyranny was to create a general education system that was available to all Americans.

Our schools and teachers need our support and a community that rallies behind them to help our children - our future - be successful. It is my hope that this kind of misinformation would not continue without fact checking first.

If the public has questions or concerns about our public schools, they are always welcome and encouraged to direct their questions to school administration or to their elected school board member for clarification.

My email is melissa.byrd@ocps.net. Let's work together to support our local public schools.

*Previous article did not mention local city, county or state.*

## Hayden: We learn from adversity

*Continued from page 2A*

times, I try all the things within my capabilities to smooth things over. I want to get rid of the discomfort and pain caused by those difficulties. I want "smooth sailing" and then I remember the fruit tree.

I am reminded that the tree's greatest strength and value came after the adver-

sity caused by the broomstick wielded by someone willing to go to any extreme to wake up the roots and put them back on the track they were meant for.

Adversities in our lives are meant to stimulate us to produce healthy, meaningful choices that lead each one of us to become a more fruitful "tree."

Someone in your soci-

etal group needs your help and you may be the only one that has the answers.

Because your roots, have been stimulated by the broomstick wielded by GOD, who knew precisely where the broomstick should have been applied, and for what purpose, you can be of assistance□

## 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](http://www.theapokkachief.com), [news@theapokkachief.com](mailto:news@theapokkachief.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



# Early: Eatonville chosen as new polling place for town's historical significance

Continued from page 1A

from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

A new record was set on the first day of early voting in Orange County; over 18,150 Orange County voters cast their ballot. This surpassed the county's previous record that was set in the 2020 November general election, when 16,781 Orange County voters cast their ballot on the first day of early voting, according to a Supervisor of Elections news release.

On Friday, October 18, the staff of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office gave a preview of the polling location set-up in Eatonville, at the Historic Town of Eatonville Town Hall, one of county's two new early voting locations. The other new location is Lift Orlando (Heart of West Lakes), just south of Camping World Stadium.

"The significance of early voting is just giving more access to individuals

here in Orange County, because right now in other places, the day of voting is one of three options," said Glen Gilzean, Supervisor of Elections. "But in a county like this, we're the fourth largest county in the state of Florida. We have 1.4 million residents here. It's important that we give as much opportunities to let people let their voice be heard in this process. So, early voting is one way. Vote by mail is another and then you can vote on the day of (November 5)."

On Monday, October 12, Orange County conducted Logic and Accuracy Testing, in which the Orange County Canvassing Board met to see that all of the equipment and ballots used to tabulate the voting results were functioning properly.

"We were able to go through all of the machines and verify that they actually are calibrated correctly and that they tabulate the results," Gilzean said. "So once that was certified by

the Canvassing Board, now it gives us the opportunity to go out and deliver said machines to the early voting sites. That's the way that the public can know that there's confidence in these systems because they were tested in the public, in the sunshine, and people were able to come and see that these machines work."

Eatonville was chosen as one of the two new early voting precincts for two reasons: its historical significance and the approaching anniversary of its founding, and that some areas are considered "voting deserts."

"One (reason) is that the town of Eatonville is celebrating 137 years of existence. The motto of the town is 'The town that freedom built.' What better way to, with this very historic election, to have an early voting site here, so that way anyone can come and cast a ballot in this historic town of Eatonville?" Gilzean said.

"The second reason is

because we had community

See EARLY Page 8A

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**TRANSFORMERS ONE** (PG) 12:10  
**WE LIVE IN TIME** (R) 12:30; 3:40; 6:40; 9:40  
**THE WILD ROBOT** (PG) 12:50; 3:50; 6:50; 9:50  
**SMILE 2** (R) 1:10; 4:10; 7:10; 10:10  
**TERRIFIER 3** (NR) 1:20; 4:20; 7:20; 10:20

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## 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?  
barefootwahine1@yahoo.com  
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# Jump: New flag will be unveiled Oct. 25

Continued from page 1A

community-wide experience for all ages.

Inspired by the city of Orlando's 142nd birthday flag redesign in 2017, the Apopka Serves Foundation reached out to the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA) to learn how to get the project started.

On August 7, the contest was presented at the Apopka City Council meeting. The contest launched to accept hand drawn mail and drop off submissions on August 8.

Word about the contest

got out quickly with thanks to Apopka Serve Foundation's local partners: AdventHealth Apopka, ReImagine Communities, The Apopka Chief/The Planter, local K-12 schools, Propagate Social House, Century 21 Commercial, Florida Growth Alliance, and the city of Apopka.

The flag contest received 151 design submissions from children and adults of all ages from around the globe including five U.S. states (Florida, North Carolina, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas) and three submissions from St. Andrews, U.K.

All eligible designs were presented to the judging panel and the top ten designs were identified for the public vote online, September 20-October 4. Faith Lee's flag design was chosen by overwhelming community vote and a unanimous vote by Apopka City Council.

The judging panel was comprised of seven members: Delia Miller, local artist/muralist; Michael Keith, director of graduate placement for the DAVE School; Brandon Guarro, senior marketing specialist for AdventHealth; Kelly Robertson, city of Apopka

content administrator; Joe Pugliese, NAVA custom department manager and graphic designer for Gates Flag and Banner Company; Brian Cham, NAVA flag design consultant, NAVA; and Alan Hardy, NAVA vexillologist.

The new flag will be unveiled at the 142nd Happy Birthday Apopka Celebration on Fifth Street, Friday, October 25, 4-8 p.m.

To learn more about the upcoming Happy Birthday Apopka celebration, visit [HappyBirthdayApopka.com](http://HappyBirthdayApopka.com).

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From Thursday, October 17, through Sunday, October 20, the Fall Family Festival was held at Kit Land Nelson Park. There was everything you could want in a fair; beautiful weather, good food, fun rides, live music, and family fun.



Photos contributed by Ralo Flores



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## Early: Supervisor of Elections launched two voting initiatives

Continued from page 5A

groups come forward and sit down with me and share some data that there's areas in Orange County that are considered voting deserts," Gilzean continued, "and I wanted to make sure that every Orange County resident had access to voting by being able to, in a relatively short distance that they can go and drop, like cast their vote and let their voice be heard."

To assist voters in getting to the polls, there are

many community groups and churches that volunteer to provide free transportation to polling sites.

"So, there's a lot of community groups that do things like that. For us it's all about making sure that we provide the number of spaces, the maximum amount of time so that way Orange County residents have the ability to let their voice be heard," Gilzean said.

The Supervisor of Elections Office recently kicked off two new initia-

tives. The first is the Gen Z poll worker training program, in which high school seniors have an opportunity to come and volunteer during this election.

The second initiative is Serving Those Who Serve, which hired about two dozen veteran employees to assist disabled veterans in casting their ballots in assisted living facilities.

Visit [OCFelections.com/early-voting](https://OCFelections.com/early-voting) to view a full list of the 2024 general election early voting locations.

## OCLS: Branch was closed for three months

Continued from page 1A

ty Library System (OCLS) spokeswoman Erin Sullivan.

Located at 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, the North Orange Branch Library closed on July 16 due to the building's high humidity and water intrusion, which caused a musty smell at the building. OCLS brought in a consultant to remedy the problem in the building.

All public/legal notices printed in *The Apopka Chief* are also loaded to our website: [www.theapopkachief.com](http://www.theapopkachief.com) as well as to the state-wide Florida Press Association's website: [www.floridapublicnotices.com](http://www.floridapublicnotices.com)

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## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **SULYQUEY MATEOS** has made an application, in accordance with Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 4.2.2.C to the City of Apopka Planning Commission for a **SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW AN ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) IN THE MIXED-USE DOWNTOWN (MU-D) ZONING DISTRICT.**

This application relates to the following described property located at 49 E Orange Street:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 09-21-28-1972-02-460  
Contains: 0.42 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the Special Exception request at its scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703; Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

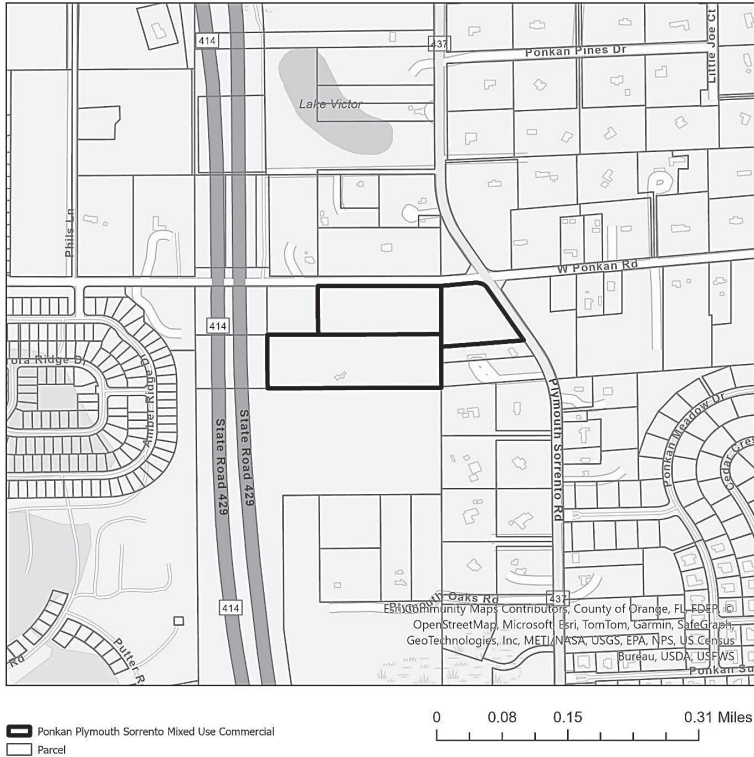
October 25, 2024  
Publish: The Apopka Chief

177515

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **JOHN C VICK III** has made an application, in accordance with Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 4.2.2.C to the City of Apopka Planning Commission for a **SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW A GAS STATION IN THE COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL (C-C) ZONING DISTRICT.**

This application relates to the following described property located at 2920 Plymouth Sorrento Road:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 30-20-28-0000-00-005, 25-20-27-0000-00-030, 25-20-27-0000-00-003  
Contains: 14.997 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the Special Exception request at its scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703; Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

October 25, 2024  
Publish: The Apopka Chief

177514



# Obituaries

**JEFFERY ALLEN BOYER**, 57, of Apopka, Florida passed away on October 10, 2024. Jeff was the owner of Maters and Taters Market and Creamery, Jeff's mother and father Marilyn and Sherman Boyer were previous owners until they passed. Jeff took over and was very passionate about the business and helping others in the community. He is survived by his wife Diane Boyer, daughter Ashley Boyer, brother Jason Boyer, two grandchildren and step children Andy Ray and Candice Ray.

...

**JACQUELYN DENISE MOTT KELLY**, 62, passed away on Thursday, October 17, 2024, in Davenport. She was born on November 17, 1961, in Apopka, to Lillian and Earl Mott. Family: siblings, Lee Edward and Ethel Pearl; husband, Jesse Kelly; children, Jeanelle, Porscha and Justin.

...

**LINDA ANN LAURENDEAU**, 81, of Apopka, passed away on October 8, 2024. She was born on June 22, 1943 in Melrose, Massachusetts. She was preceded in death by: parents, Joseph E. and Eileen M. (McDonough) Laurendeau. Linda is survived by: brother, Eugene Laurendeau; sister, Phyllis Minehan. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends.

...

See Obituaries on page 10A



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# Trust

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In the social and political realm trust is likewise crucial to maintaining the institutions of society and government and ensuring they function effectively.

The current lack of trust between the major political parties and between people and their elected representatives is one of the factors responsible for government not working as well as it should.

On a spiritual level, trusting in God that things are working out as they should, that virtue will be rewarded, and vice punished is one of the things that allows us to feel at home in the world. Trust sometimes requires a leap of faith. Accepting a personal check from someone requires us to trust them and believing that God loves and cares about us likewise requires us to trust in God.

We do well to remember that if we want others to trust us, we must be true to our word, do what we say we will do, and be good stewards of the trust that others place in us by not betraying their confidence.

—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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## FEMA helps with assistance registration, might open disaster recovery center

Since Tuesday, October 22, FEMA has been helping applicants register for assistance at two locations in Orange County, one of them being at Apopka City Hall.

Both sites operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the following locations:

- \*Bithlo Community Center, 18501 Washington Ave., Orlando
- \*Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka

The two locations serve as sites for Disaster Survivor Assistance pop-ups, according to Sara Zuckerman, a spokeswoman for FEMA.

According to Zuckerman, FEMA is hoping to open a disaster recovery center soon in Orange County, and

FEMA will announce this if and when it's ready.

Homeowners and renters in Orange County who sustained damage or loss from Hurricanes Milton, Helene or Debby, may qualify for help from FEMA.

Individuals may be eligible for financial assistance for displacement, serious needs, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured disaster-related expenses.

### Application requirements

Individuals seeking to apply for FEMA assistance will need to provide:

\*A current phone number where you can be contacted

\*Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying

\*Your Social Security number

\*A general list of damage and losses

\*Banking information if you choose to direct deposit

\*If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name

Individuals can also apply online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), by using the FEMA mobile app, or by calling FEMA's helpline toll-free at 800-621-3362.





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*Jacquelyn Denise Mott Kelly*

Mrs. Jacquelyn Denise Mott Kelly, 62, passed away on Thursday, October 17, 2024, in Davenport, FL. She was born on November 17, 1961, in Apopka, FL and was the youngest child of Lillian and Earl Mott. Jackie grew up in a loving home with her two siblings, Lee Edward and Ethel Pearl.



Jackie received her education in the Florida public school system, graduating from Apopka High School in 1979. She later attended Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and graduated from Miami Dade College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

Jackie married Jesse Kelly in 1983. To this union three children were born, Jeanelle, Porscha and Justin.

Jackie taught in Orange and Seminole County Public School Systems for more than 15 years as an elementary school educator.

Public visitation will be held on Friday, October 25, 2024, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Marvin C. Zanders Funeral Home, 232 W. Michael Gladden Blvd, Apopka, FL 32703. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Apopka, FL.



# Linda Ann Laurendeau

June 22, 1943 - October 8, 2024



Linda Ann Laurendeau, 81, of Apopka, Florida passed away peacefully on October 8, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of service, dedication, and commitment to her beloved community.

Linda is survived by her loving brother, Eugene Laurendeau, of Brunswick, Georgia, and sister, Phyllis Minehan, of Kings Ranch, Florida. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph E. and Eileen M. (McDonough) Laurendeau, of Wakefield, Massachusetts.

Far from family for most of her adulthood, Linda cultivated a close circle of friends turned family that enjoyed laugh-filled lunches, wine tastings, and drinks on her patio.

Born on June 22, 1943 in Melrose, Massachusetts, she earned her Master's degree in Human Resources and Development from Webster University in 2000, following her undergraduate studies at Our Lady of the Lake University in 1997. Linda's professional career spanned thirty two years with "Ma Bell," working as a sales representative, technical design engineer, and eventually, design specialist. In 2007, after a brief retirement, Linda drew on her knowledge and experiences as a registered parliamentarian in the state of Florida and founded the Laurendeau Consulting Group, Inc., which provided parliamentary law consulting services, training development and delivery services, and project management.

Linda was a long time and devoted parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, where she served

not only as a faithful member, but also as an avid volunteer with the Parish Bereavement Ministry. Her passion for service extended far beyond the church walls, impacting numerous organizations throughout her life.

Linda was a vibrant presence in her local community, giving her time to the Sertoma Club, Apopka Woman's Club, Apopka Historical Society, Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, and as an original charter member of the Northwest Orange Republican Women's Club. She also served as President of the Apopka Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, chairman of the Apopka Charter Review Committee, and for eight years on the Apopka Planning Commission, showcasing her exceptional commitment to her community. Linda was also a dedicated board member of the Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program, working with first time juvenile offenders in the Orange County Juvenile Court system, ensuring that her impact reaches future generations.

Linda also found deep fulfillment in her work with veterans. As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10147 Auxiliary, she devoted significant time to honoring and preserving the memory of those who served through her work with the Wreaths Across America program, which she was instrumental in bringing to Apopka. She was recognized with the prestigious Service to Mankind Award for

her role in the Veterans' Graves Identification Project.

Her remarkable life was one of compassion, dedication, and relentless service to others. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

Visitation will be held at Loomis Funeral Home in Apopka on Monday, October 28 from 5-7pm.

A funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, October 29 at 10:00am at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Apopka.

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Wreaths Across America at [www.wreathsassamerica.org/FLEDGR](http://www.wreathsassamerica.org/FLEDGR) (please use this specific link for Apopka). Wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves in Apopka's Edgewood-Greenwood Ceremony in Linda's honor on December 14, 2024. May she rest in eternal peace.*



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# Recipe for Hot German Potato Salad for Two Can Easily Be Doubled

From *The Jones-Morris Family Treasury*, Sandra Johansen's Sweet 'N Sour Meatballs is a winner. This recipe came from a dear friend of ours who was a great contributor in the authoring of their family history.



Nita Collins' Shrimp Newburg from *Cooking with Foliage La Sertoma of Apopka* looks wonderful. Be mindful when adding the cooked sauce into the beaten egg yolks; you don't want to cook the yolks, you just want to quickly meld the sauce and the yolks together. Forgive me if I don't use toast points; I will most certainly have rice under my Shrimp Newburg!

We have Marvin Woods' Rutabaga Carrot Mash from *The New Low-Country Cooking*. Rutabagas are an excellent source of vitamin C, potassium, and phosphorous and have a low glycemic load of 7, according to the USDA. Marvin says, "Rutabagas are believed to be a hybrid of turnips and cabbage and to have originated in Russia only about 250 years ago. They are also known as Swedes or Swedish turnips. They are available year-round, but their peak is in the fall. Rutabagas are frequently coated with wax before they are shipped so they will hold up better. As with other root vegetables, when cooked, the rutabaga has a slightly sweet taste. It pairs beautifully with other vegetables. Look for rutabagas that are smooth, firm, and heavy for their size. And if they are coated with wax, make sure to use a very sharp knife and cut carefully."

Beth Walters contributed Evie's Garlic Cheese Grits to *First Presbyterian's Treasures and Pleasures*, one of our very favorite cookbooks.

For all of you folks looking for a Hot German Potato Salad recipe, here is one for just two people. It comes from Roberta Kluhsmeier in *Pot-Pourri of Zellwood*. It makes me want to try it!

Old-timers could make mouth-watering dishes for their family with scant ingredients. Maple Apples from *The Original Country Cookbook* has just three ingredients: apples, sugar, water. Bake for an hour to an hour and a half.

Ummm-ummm!

*Charleston Receipts* shares Coffee Punch from Mrs. Louis Y. Dawson, Jr. It looks like a dessert for coffee lovers!

## SANDRA JOHANSEN'S SWEET 'N SOUR MEATBALLS

Recipe from *The Jones-Morris Family Treasury*  
**2 pounds hamburger**  
**Salt and pepper**  
**Two beaten eggs**  
**1/2 cup breadcrumbs**  
**Boiling water**  
**1 jar chili sauce (8-10 ounces)**  
**1 jar currant jelly (8 ounces)**

Mix bread crumbs with boiling water small amount at a time until crumbs absorb water. Add to meat. Mix in egg and salt and pepper. In large size frying pan, melt jelly and heat through with chili sauce. Make small meatballs with meat mixture and drop into sauce. Cook about 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. Serve with toothpicks as a finger food or hors d'oeuvres.

## NITA COLLINS' SHRIMP NEWBURG

Recipe from *Cooking with Foliage La Sertoma of Apopka*  
**3/4 pound cooked shrimp**  
**1/4 cup margarine or butter**  
**2 tablespoons all-purpose flour**  
**3/4 teaspoon salt**  
**1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper**  
**1/8 teaspoon nutmeg**  
**1-1/2 cup Half and Half**  
**2 egg yolks, beaten**  
**2 tablespoons sherry**  
**Toast points**

Cut large shrimp in half. Melt margarine or butter, and blend in flour and seasonings. Add Half and Half gradually and cook until thick and smooth, stirring constantly. Stir a little of the heated sauce into the beaten egg yolks; add to sauce, stirring constantly. Add shrimp; heat. Remove from heat and slowly stir in sherry. Serve immediately on toast points. Makes 6 servings.

## RUTABAGA CARROT MASH

Recipe from *The New Low-Country Cooking* by Marvin Woods  
**3 to 4 rutabagas, peeled and coarsely chopped**  
**1 Vidalia onion, cut in half**  
**Salt to taste**

**4 carrots, coarsely chopped**  
**1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter**  
**Freshly ground black pepper to taste**

Place the rutabagas and one of the onion halves in a large saucepan. Add water to cover and salt the water. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat and simmer until the rutabagas are tender when pierced with the point of a sharp knife, about 35 minutes. Drain.

Meanwhile, place the carrots and remaining onion half in another large saucepan. Add water to cover and salt the water. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat and simmer until the carrots are tender when pierced with the point of a sharp knife, about 20 minutes. Drain.

Place the rutabagas, carrots, and onions in a food processor fitted with the metal chopping blade, or in a blender. Process just until the mixture is smooth. Add the butter and process to combine. Taste and check the seasoning, adding salt and pepper if needed.

## BETH WALTERS' EVIE'S GARLIC CHEESE GRITS

Recipe from First Presbyterian Church of Apopka, *Treasures and Pleasures*  
**1 cup fine grits (cook according to package directions)**  
**1 stick butter**  
**1 roll garlic cheese**  
**2 eggs, beaten**  
**1/4 cup milk**  
**Salt to taste**  
**Tabasco sauce to taste**  
**1/2 pound sharp cheese, shredded**  
**Paprika**

Melt garlic cheese in butter. Mix and season to taste with salt and Tabasco sauce. Mix eggs and milk together and stir in grits. Stir in melted garlic cheese mixture. Pour into casserole. Top with shredded cheese and sprinkle with paprika. Bake at 300 degrees for 40 minutes. Serves six.

## HOT GERMAN POTATO SALAD FOR TWO

Recipe from *POT-POURRI OF ZELLWOOD*  
**2 medium potatoes**  
**3 slices bacon**  
**1/3 chopped onion**

**1 tablespoon flour**  
**1 tablespoon sugar**  
**3/4 teaspoon salt**  
**1/4 teaspoon celery seeds**  
**Dash of pepper**  
**1/3 cup water**  
**3 tablespoons vinegar**

Boil potatoes in their jackets. Peel and slice thinly; set aside. Fry bacon until crispy; drain on absorbent paper and crumble. Saute onion in bacon fat until golden brown. Blend in flour and seasonings. Cook over low heat, stirring until smooth and bubbly. Remove from heat. Stir in the water and vinegar. Bring to boil, stirring constantly. Boil 1 minute. Stir in potatoes and crumbled bacon carefully. Remove from heat, cover and let stand until ready to serve. It makes two generous servings.

## MAPLE APPLES

Recipe from *The Original Country Cookbook*  
Published by Paragon Products, Inc., Pompano Beach

**8 tart apples**  
**1 cup soft maple sugar**  
**1-1/2 cups boiling water**

Pare and core apples and place in a shallow baking dish. Fill the center of the apples with soft maple sugar allowing 2 tablespoons of sugar for each apple. Put water in bottom of dish and bake in moderate 325-degree oven for 60-90 minutes until apples are soft, basting frequently with syrup made by melting sugar and the water. Serve warm with thin cream poured over the top.

## MRS. LOUIS Y. DAWSON, JR.'S COFFEE PUNCH

Recipe from *Charleston Receipts*, America's Oldest Junior League Cookbook in Print, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Charleston, Inc.

**1 gallon strong coffee**  
**1 quart cream**  
**2 quarts vanilla ice cream**  
**5 teaspoons vanilla**  
**5 tablespoons sugar**

Chill coffee. Whip cream; add sugar and vanilla. Place ice cream and whipped cream in punch bowl and pour coffee over it. Mix well before serving. (If using block ice cream, slice it into thin slices before placing in the punch bowl.) 50-60 servings.

# Flood: Residents had no electricity for one week until Oct. 19

*Continued from page 1A*

of Wekiva Village along Piedmont Wekiwa Road. Overflow run into neighborhoods in the low-lying areas such as Wekiva Village, Mayor Bryan Nelson explained to residents at the October 16 meeting.

Government officials including city commissioners, Orange County officials, Nelson, and Orange County District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore visited Wekiva Village to see the damages caused by the flooding, it was revealed at the meeting.

"We just kind of inserted ourselves into the meeting. There was a section on hurricane preparedness," Wekiva Village resident Amber Barrick said in a Wednesday, October 23, interview with *The Apopka Chief*. "So we just got up there and I looked at the mayor and the commissioners because apparently only one of the commissioners had been briefed on this by Mayor Nelson. (City Commissioner) Diane Velazquez found out from the news the night before; no one was really taking ownership. I just said, 'If this was your neighborhood or your backyard, this would've been taken care of.' I said, but I feel like I live in a third world country because you're telling me you don't know what to do about the situation, and you can't tell me when my power's going to be back on. Some of us work from home. I have a toddler. You know, it was just very, it was honestly degrading. I'm a tax paying citizen, and you can't help me. These are the people that should be able to help me."

"So long term, we need solutions. This isn't going away anytime soon. I mean, it's a mess. It's day by day because one of the pumps gave out last night (Tuesday, October 22) that the city was using to keep water out of the street, and so it started to slowly cover those power boxes again," Barrick said. "Thankfully, they got out here in time and our neighborhood. We're so grateful to the city employees. They're fantastic, they're on the ball.

"But their leader, our mayor (Bryan Nelson) is just here for photo ops. He would not listen. Orange County allegedly gave him an emergency plan last Wednesday. When we asked him about it at the (October 16) Council meeting, he said he didn't have answers for us, but then wants to come out here for a photo op when everybody else is saving the day. So unfortunately, it's become a political issue."

In an email to *The Apopka Chief*, Nelson said that Milton brought 12 inches of rain, which makes it a 100-year flood event. A 100-year flood is a flood so serious it has a one percent chance of happening in any year.

## A timeline of events

Hurricane Milton was the first hurricane that Wekiva Village knew of in which the flooding happened the way it did.

"After the hurricane, we never lost power; it was just minor damage, yard cleanup. We thought everything was normal. Then on the evening of the 10th (of October), we noticed the water was starting to rise from the pond, which

is, has never happened before. In the five years I've lived here, it's never flooded the street. It was starting to flood our street and submerge our power boxes," Barrick said.

On October 11 at sunrise, Barrick discovered how much the water had increased in the front yard to the point where "I noticed that our backyard was kind of like starting to become one with the retention pond behind us."

Although she and her neighbors didn't know what was happening yet, they gathered sandbags and tarp to and laid down tarp in everyone's backyard and around sections like air conditioning units.

Wekiva Village residents gained an inch of water per hour on Friday, October 11. That evening, the state emergency response team showed up and they had Duke Energy turn the residents' power off.

Many Wekiva Village residents were without power from October 11 through Saturday, October 19, when Duke Energy turned it back on. In the meantime, residents contacted Orange County and city of Apopka officials for solutions. When residents weren't getting any answers, Barrick decided to reach out to news outlets to drum up attention.

"We really didn't start getting answers until the county called me back Wednesday morning the 16th," Barrick said. "But that's because Channel Nine had aired a special and reached out to them the night before. So more news agencies started picking it up, but we really didn't see action until our neighbor-

hood, about 20 of us went to the city council meeting on the 16th and demanded answers."

City crew began pumping floodwater into trucks on October 17.

"There were some scares a couple of times when the generator stopped working for the lift station and things like that," Barrick said.

Neighbors thought the sewage would back up into their homes, but that didn't happen, Barrick added.

Barrick mentioned concerns about the floodwater could be sitting under the homes' foundations, which could not only impact their homes but also their property values.

Barrick and her family had to stay with her parents from October 11 to 19 because of the flooding and no electricity. Her neighbors stayed with their family too. The neighbors that didn't have family had to stay at home.

Wekiva Village residents tried to apply for FEMA assistance. FEMA agents spoke with them this past Tuesday. Barrick said nobody may qualify for FEMA assistance because there wasn't much damage to their homes, only the outside, which belongs to the homeowners association.

## County emergency proposal

Orange County sent an emergency proposal to the city of Apopka on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 16, before that evening's City Council meeting.

Michael Drozeck, Orange County Public Works stormwater man-

ager, emailed the proposal, which recommended a short-term solution of setting up what's called a Tiger Dam. This consists of flexible tubes that can be connected, stacked, and filled with water. This is created as a barrier to hold the water back.

According to an email from Jen Gilliam, city of Apopka Public Services MS4 administrator, "The temporary measures taken to address the flooding in this area began with the immediate source of water at Lake Piedmont that was overflowing into Piedmont Wekiwa Rd. The Orange County stormwater system that was intaking Lake Piedmont's overflow was blocked up by the City and County. Orange County also implemented a berm above the stormwater inlet to block Lake Piedmont from further discharges. The Orange County pond that received Lake Piedmont's water was overflowing into the Wetland to the Northwest of Wekiva Village, which eventually rose into the Wekiva Village Community. The Orange County pond berm was built up by City staff to reduce the water discharges into the Wetland. The Tiger Dam was then installed via contractor on the West side of the Wekiva Village Community to hold back the water off the roadway and away from residences. The community's pond is also under water and backing up into the community on the dry side of the dam. Their stormwater structures were temporarily blocked up but are going to be plugged at the pond to reduce any further backflow into the community."

According to Moore in a Tuesday, October 22 interview, the proposal doesn't state the cost of the Tiger Dam, but the city of Apopka will have to pay for it because it's within the city, but it should get reimbursed from the federal government, Moore said. What's more, the application must go through Orange County Emergency Management, she added.

The Tiger Dam was set up on Friday and Saturday, October 18-19.

City crew members have been pumping water overflow multiple times daily, according to Barrick.

"We emphasize with the situation that the Wekiva Village residents are going through but this is a natural occurrence, which impacted a gated community. Following the advisement of senior leadership, staff is doing all we can to alleviate the situation," Deodat Budhu, city of Apopka Public Services director, said in an email to The Apopka Chief.

The Tiger Dam has been keeping water out of Barrick's house, but other than that, the city could do nothing with the floodwater unless the levels of the area's larger bodies of water go down and the excess water could be moved somewhere else, Barrick said.

## Electricity restored

The shut-off electricity at Wekiva Village, which impacted about 10 customers, was restored on Saturday, October 19.

One transformer was impacted by the rising waters, hence its shut off. Duke Energy worked with customers and local offi-

See FLOOD Page 12A



# Flood: Lakes in S.R. 436/ Piedmont area have overflowed for years

Continued from page 11A

cers to deenergize the transformer. Duke Energy waited for the water to recede by doing daily checks.

On October 19, Duke Energy found the water had receded enough to re-

energize the transformer, according to Duke Energy spokeswoman Ana Gibbs on Tuesday, October 22.

Moore said she contacted Duke Energy on October 22 for a quote for moving their electrical boxes to a permanent spot lo-

cated on higher ground, saying she has yet to get this information from them.

### Long-term solutions

As for long-term solutions to minimize or prevent the Piedmont-Wekiwa Road flooding from happening again, there are a few options.

"The permanent solution is to take excess water off Border Lake, Piedmont Lake, Lake Page and Lake Ruden, I guess," said Nelson in an October 23 interview.

As for installing extra retention ponds in the area to catch the overflow,

"there would be way more water than an extra pond could handle," the mayor said.

As for a permanent solution to prevent or at least lessen flooding in the Piedmont-Wekiwa Road area, "The City of Apopka is evaluating a regional solution to the high-water elevations in the area," Gilliam's email said.

Commissioner Moore favors approaching St. Johns River Water Management about Border Lake and asking them to reconsider how local agencies treat the water and having a drain into the Border Lake

aquifer.

"None of this is cheap, but Border Lake is clearly the biggest problem because you saw how it flooded (U.S.) 436. It was flooding Cortez and my neighborhood over there. It's flooded out Lumen, and a lot of this water into the shopping center was also from Border," she said. "And then you could see how far this water traveled, you know? So, I favor that solution, but we're at the mercy of St. Johns River Water Management."

Another permanent solution may have to be to create another pond at

Piedmont Plaza to alleviate Lake Ruden of the overflow.

"Of course, I'm not the engineer, but either the back of the shopping center or potentially there's some property across the street. They'd have to do an inlet and a pipe under the road and let the engineers fix it all, which is the cheapest and easiest. But the answer would be they need more storage in the shopping center.

"It's a big problem," Moore said. "I don't think we can keep kicking that can down the road."

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## SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 10B

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

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## Puzzle Solution

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

## The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 10B