

Donation

Sertoma donates scooters to Rock Springs Elementary safety project
See page 12A.



Sports

Davison dominates with 330 total yards
See page 1B.



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A rendering of the new all-inclusive playground that will get built at the Northwest Recreation Complex in early 2025. The existing playground closed on Monday, November 18.

New all-inclusive playground will be built at Northwest Recreation Complex

The city of Apopka has announced the next steps in bringing a brand-new all-inclusive playground to the Northwest Recreation Complex.

The existing playground was closed Monday, November 18, with construction of the new playground beginning late January 2025. The new parking areas and exit roadway are planned to begin construction

soon thereafter.

The all-inclusive playground project will include installation of new play structures, swings, slides, We-Go-Rounds, ZipKrooz, a children's play area, accessible pathways, a sensory garden, and additional enhancements, including new parking areas and a new exit roadway to Jason Dwelley Parkway.

The city of Apopka created the

project scope with support from Unlimited Capabilities and the Halliday Foundation, who have donated funding and expertise to develop an inclusive playground in which the Apopka community can take pride.

Unlimited Capabilities' mission is, "...to provide members of our community with special needs

See PLAYGROUND Page 3A

School veteran memorial stone is rededicated

The community held a rededication ceremony on Friday, November 15, on the grounds of Apopka Memorial Middle School for the veteran stone memorial honoring four veterans who were alumni.

The Apopka Middle School has served the residents of the Apopka area since the 1950's, first as a high school, then as a junior high, before becoming a middle school in

See STONE Page 6A



The veteran memorial stone, pictured above, was rededicated at a Friday, November 15, ceremony at Apopka Memorial Middle School. The stone is in memory of four veterans who were also school alumni.

Velazquez appointed to gas district board

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

On Wednesday, November 20, the Apopka City Council unanimously confirmed Commissioner Diane Velazquez to represent the city on the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District (LANGD) Board of Directors.

Velazquez will replace Bill Arrowsmith, who had resigned from the seat. A former city commissioner and vice mayor, Arrowsmith was appointed to serve on the board of directors in 2018. Before that, he served on the board from 2012-2016.

At the November 20 City Council meet-



Velazquez

ing, Mayor Bryan Nelson said Arrowsmith "made a recommendation for Bill Spiegel to be on the board, but had also then heard that maybe some-

See GAS Page 11A

New roadway improvement project to begin December 2 at three subdivisions

Beginning December 2 and continuing until January 10, 2025, roadway resurfacing will take place at three different subdivisions, Meadows of Maudehelen, Pines of Wekiva, and Spring Ridge.

This year, the city will use the following methods in this year's resurfacing program: mill and overlay, and cape/micro seal in this year's resurfacing program.

Maintenance of transportation will be set up with

one lane closures. Drivers are advised to plan accordingly for any traffic delays.

Homeowners are asked to remove any vehicles on the road, trash bins, and any other debris that can hinder the paving process. Delays on the start time may occur due to weather or storm events.

The Apopka City Council voted 5-0 on November 6 to approve a \$1.7 million budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 roadway

resurfacing program pavement improvements to cover about 9.4 miles of roadway in the three subdivisions.

The \$1.7-million budget, which will come from this fiscal year's street improvement fund, is a decrease from the fiscal year 2023-2024 roadway budget of an allocated \$2 million. That fiscal year's program encompassed 218 miles of roadway.

A strategy was imple-

mented to select roads for inclusion on the fiscal year 2024-2025 rehabilitation list. The list included consideration of the October 2021 Pavement Condition Assessment Report, city staff field-verifying each roadway with respect to severity of distress and deficiencies, evaluating citizen inquiries and including them when applicable, and allocated funding.

See STREETS Page 5A

18-year old dies from car crash into pole

An 18-year-old Apopka man died following a car collision into a utility pole on Rock Springs Road, Florida Highway Patrol reports.

On Monday, November 18, at approximately 10:21 p.m., the man was driving a 2014 Infiniti Q50 southbound on Rock Springs Road south of

Ponkan Road in the inside lane. For unknown reasons, he failed to maintain his lane, according to an FHP news release.

The driver over-corrected right and began to travel clockwise in a southwesterly direction across the southbound travel lanes and onto the

sidewalk. As a result, the left side of the Infiniti collided with a utility pole. This impact caused the Infiniti to go back into the travel lanes.

The driver was transported to AdventHealth Apopka and pronounced deceased. This crash remains under investigation.

Byrd takes oath as school board member

Four Orange County School Board members – two new and two re-elected including District 7 School Board Member Melissa Byrd – took their Oath of Office. Each member will serve four-year terms.

Circuit Judge Denise Beamer conducted the installation ceremony at the Tuesday, November 19, Orange County School Board reorganization board meeting at the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center in Orlando.

Besides Byrd, other school board members who took their oath were re-elected member Vicki-

Elaine Felder for District 5, and newly elected members Anne Douglas for District 4 and Stephanie Vanos for District 6. Byrd was also elected vice chair.

Byrd was elected to represent District 7 on the Orange County School Board in 2018, was re-elected in 2020 and most recently re-elected again in this year's election.

In 2019, Byrd was named an Emerging Leader from the Florida School Boards Association and in 2020, she earned the distinction of certified board member. She attended the University of Central Flor-



Byrd

ida, where she received her degree in elementary education in 1997 and started her career at Forest City Elementary, the school she attended as a child. Byrd later

left the classroom to raise her daughters while still volunteering and serving as a substitute teacher.

Byrd is a graduate of Orlando Business Force's Central Florida Political Leadership Institute as well as Leadership Apopka.

Byrd serves on numerous committees and action boards throughout Orange County and Apopka.

School board meeting schedule

Historically, the school board has been conducting regular board meetings

See BOARD Page 3A

City offices closed for Thanksgiving weekend

Apopka city offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving. Normal operations will resume on Monday, December 2 at 8 a.m.

There will be no trash collection on Thursday, November 28. Trash will be collected on your next regularly scheduled collection day. Police, medical, and fire services will operate as normal.

This week Section A Opinion..... 2A Public Notices...4,11A Business Rev. ..8,10A Worship 9A Section B Sports 1B Kapers 5B Dining & Ent..... 6B Legal ads.....8-10B Classified..... 10-12B Service Dir..... 12B Find Public Notices Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices OR FloridaPublicNotices.com



Apopka Event of the Week

Wed., Nov. 27, 10:15-10:40 a.m., Storybook Fun at the North Orange Branch Library, 1121 E. Semoran Blvd., in the meeting room. The use of picture books, songs and told stories will encourage your child to read, talk, sing, write and play. Recommended for children ages 3 to 5. Designed especially for preschoolers, it is approximately 25 minutes.

Quotable

We know that there are so many things in our lives that could be so much better, but we also know that we must never forget that, as a nation, we have the ability to work together to make everyone's life better.

Writer of editorial gives us reason to be thankful

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

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Reporters

Teresa Sargeant
Marshall Tempest
Neal Fisher

Marketing Director

Jackie Trefcer

General Mgr Emeritus

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

Our position

Writer of editorial gives us reasons to be thankful

Editorial Note: The following article was originally written by John Peery for the 2021 Thanks-giving issue. JP was editor of the Apopka Chief for many years. In retrospect, we are as thankful to be in the US today as we were back then, and we recognize that our environment is pretty much the same as it has been in the past. Yes, we have gotten through the pandemic and are now seemingly working on mental health issues. And, in 2024, we witnessed the election of Pres. Donald Trump being the winner and who will again take the presidential office on January 20, 2025. He was the 45th president and will be the 47th president. And, we are thankful that he will be entering the president's office having learned many things from his first term as president.

As Thanksgiving approaches on Thursday, November 28, it may sound trite to encourage everyone to be thankful, especially these days with inflation rearing its ugly head in a way that we haven't seen in many years, or with many industries having troubles keeping enough employees or supplies to do their jobs. Even with those issues affecting our everyday lives, it's always good to look on the bright side of things.

We do, after all, live in the United States of America. Of course, we know that there are issues here that have divided us for too long, but, to us, even a U.S. that is not performing at its best is still so much better than many alternatives around the world.

We know that there are so many things in our lives that could be so much better, but we also know that we must never forget that, as a nation, we have the ability to work together to make everyone's life better.

We also must never forget that Thanksgiving comes out of the humble beginnings of the United States when the Pilgrims were seeking the freedom of a new land where they could worship God as they chose instead of being forced by the government to pay homage to its version of religion.

These people braved a long, hard two-month voyage across the Atlantic Ocean and then faced a brutal winter in an area that became Massachusetts.

But even with all the problems and only half of the original 102 passengers on board the Mayflower surviving, those survivors knew it was right to give thanks to God for his blessings.

Throughout the many decades since that first thankful Thanksgiving, the holiday has certainly evolved and now, most of us have the opportunity to spend time with family and friends enjoying the fruits of our labor with plenty of food.

Of course, we must not only enjoy those wonderful Thanksgiving meals ourselves, but we need to make sure that others who might not be able to have a big meal due to their economic situation have access to food that will feed their families.

We can do that through such organizations as Loaves & Fishes here in Apopka. Of course, we know there are many other groups and individuals who also help others, not only during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, but throughout the year.

If you have a group that you support with either food, monetary, or time donations, that is great, but if you don't, we certainly recommend Loaves & Fishes as a place where you can donate your money and/or your time and you can be assured that it will be used in a manner that will help others in our community.

You can visit <https://loaves-andfishesapopka.com/> for details about the organization and practical ways that you can help others especially at this time of year, but also during the rest of the year when some people face the same issues of putting food on the table.

When you give to Loaves & Fishes in Apopka, you know that your donations will go to help those who need it most.

Senior Director Karen Valiente and Director Lory Reeves have been running a great organization for many years, literally doing the Lord's work.

The Thanksgiving season continues to be such a special time of year. While we face many issues as a people and as a country in 2024, please take time to recognize your blessings and the opportunity to help others during this time.

May God bless you and yours this Thanksgiving.



We are thankful for new animal shelter

I was just briefed on the new Orange County Animal Shelter which is expected to open in late 2027. The project is at the 60-percent point in the design phase and we commissioners requested an update at this time frame.

The new animal shelter is projected to be 123,419 square feet in size, with 265 dog kennels (225 new kennels and 40 from the existing isolation/quarantine building), and housing for nearly 200 cats. The building will be on the same plot of land as the current facility, adjacent to the Mall at Millenia. Back in March of 2022, the Board of County Commissioners selected

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

Beacon Group, Inc. to design the new structure.

Why a new shelter? Orange County Animal Services (OCAS) is the only open-admission pet shelter in Orange County, meaning no stray domestic animal in need is turned away, regardless of any behavior or medical challenges. The health and wellbe-

ing of these pets is of the utmost importance to Orange County.

The current shelter that houses these pets was built in 1987. At that point in time, the facility was considered state-of-the-art, featuring open air kennels for the primary dog building. The building has gone through a number of renovations over the past decade, aimed at improving the comfort of the shelter pets, but, to best meet current and future needs of the community's homeless animal population, a new shelter is needed, commissioners decided.

See MOORE Page 4A

Student interaction is rewarding

Another great week in the books!

This week I finished up my Student Advisory group meetings at Apopka and Ocoee high schools. The students were wonderful yet again and I left both meetings feeling renewed and inspired by these young leaders.

Both groups shared their enthusiasm for the positive culture at their schools including the great school spirit each school embodies. They told me that school is fun and there is so much to be involved in that it's really a positive experience.

This warmed my heart because this has been a big focus in the past few years since the pandemic. We have tried to encourage

Orange County School
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

schools to bring the "fun" back to school by increasing activities that encourage involvement and engagement. The extra effort seems to be paying off!

The students told me they appreciated the work around mental health that the schools have done. Apopka High School for example had a mental health forum in the media center where students and staff could come to talk

about struggles or stressors and look for support.

These students again expressed the need for more guidance and mentorship around college and career planning, just as Wekiva students had told me. This continues to be a focus of mine in discussions with the superintendent. Students in their junior and senior years feel overwhelmed by all the requirements and opportunities.

Overall, the students felt positive about their experiences in our schools and enjoyed being a part of their school community. This is the goal, if kids enjoy their schools, they are more engaged and are more successful.

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
2 Corinthians 12:10

Mema Says

Your day will go the way the corners of your mouth turn.

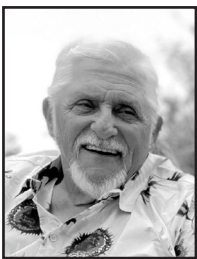
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We are grateful and thankful that we can be tolerant of others

As a child, I learned early on to say, "thank you" and "please," but it was called common courtesy, and all the kids in my rural area were held to the same standard. We didn't have anywhere near the material things we have today, but we were taught to be thankful for what we had and not concentrate on things we didn't have.

I read a book, "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff, and It Is All Small Stuff," by Richard Carlson, PhD and the advice he gives is es-



Ike Hayden

sential for living without the extra stress so many of us cling to.

If you are like me, I would worry about having nothing to worry about. I've come to understand that if we accepted life as

a gift, and treated it with the same respect and gratitude that we would if it were from our most loved relative, we would no longer worry over the "small things." Being thankful isn't just a one-time deal, it's a lifestyle that has to be fostered, and nourished.

You have heard the old saying, "use it or lose it?" Gratitude needs to be used time and time again to stay fresh and be exhibited for other people to be mindful of the things in their lives for which to be grateful.

Every once in a while, my wife, myself, and our three kids will get the opportunity to go out for dinner (Golden Corral, last of the big spenders!) and before we get up to fill our plates, we join hands and give GOD thanks for His provision in our lives. To our family it is just a part of our lifestyle, but you would be surprised at the number of people that stop by on their way out, and comment on how encouraged they were by that action!

Thankfulness humbles

us when we recognize we are a small cog in the gearing of life itself, but by recognizing that our small cog is a major, intricate part that keeps the big gears of life steady and continuous in its movement, we should be extremely grateful! To be such an important part of a much greater plan, and knowing it was so ordained even before we were born, is mind-boggling.

Our lives of thankfulness will make us so much more tolerant with things that are going on in

the world. When rain ruins your planned day at the beach, or your vehicle quits for no apparent reason, or your best friend must move two thousand miles away following his, or her career, try giving thanks for the episode, trusting GOD for the why, and the result.

Then, "Don't sweat the small stuff!" Remember the song from Mary Poppins - "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down."

That also works with grati-

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Board: Meeting dates are announced

Continued from page 1A

on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This practice will continue with the following modifications:

*one meeting in December 2024 due to winter break

*one meeting in March 2025 due to spring break

*one meeting in May 2025 due to graduations

*one meeting in July 2025 due to summer shut down

The tentative budget public hearing meeting on July 29, 2025 meets requirements for the Truth In Millage (TRIM).

Below is the 2024-2025 Orange County School Board 2024-2025 meeting schedule:

- *December 10, 2024
- *January 14, 2025
- *January 28, 2025
- *February 11, 2025
- *February 25, 2025
- *March 11, 2025
- *April 1, 2025
- *April 22, 2025
- *May 13, 2025
- *June 10, 2025
- *June 24, 2025
- *July 8, 2025 (tentative/optional school board meeting if needed)
- *July 29, 2025 (budget public hearing)
- *August 12, 2025
- *August 26, 2025
- *September 9, 2025 (budget public hearing)
- *September 30, 2025
- *October 14, 2025
- *October 28, 2025
- *November 11, 2025
- *November 18, 2025 (reorganization)

Playground: Group commits \$110K

Continued from page 1A

or disabilities opportunities that foster independence and community connection by offering recreational activities, scholarships, and

sponsorships,” according to the nonprofit’s website.

According to a press release from the city of Apopka, Unlimited Capabilities’ mission aligns with the inclusive playground

project, as it will bring a new play space to the community for all to enjoy.

Unlimited Capabilities has committed \$110,000 toward the project, with \$100,000 of that donation

coming from one of their long-time funding partners, the Halliday Foundation, and the other \$10,000 coming from Unlimited Capabilities directly.

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Apopka Tree Lighting

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6 PM to 8 PM




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Being thankful – are you acting thankful or are you *really* thankful?

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Which day of Thanksgiving week do you like the most, Thursday or Friday? Are you happier feeling gratitude or shopping?

Thanksgiving is not a one-day holiday or a time of year but a continuing action and attitude of our incomparable gratitude for a Savior and the blessings He has given us.

Ephesians 2: 8 “For by

grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Faith is a belief system but it is also a feeling. It is an emotional belief that requires greater strength than simply possessing knowledge.

The Bible states in John 3: 16 “Whosoever believes in Him.” That is a complete statement to insure eternal life. But is that belief with the mind or is it an emotional belief? And, is there a difference that can be separated outside the individual heart and mind?

“Whosoever” includes every living soul on the face of the earth! Jesus stated in John 3: 17 “For God sent not his Son into the world

to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

The words “the world” in that verse from the Book of John appears to leave out no one willing to believe, repent and confess that Jesus is Lord and through Him and only Him can we be saved (Philippians 2: 10-11).

Romans 10: 9-10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Notice in the last line

of verse ten above that man believes with the heart but salvation is acquired through confession. Confession includes both confession of our sins (Romans 3: 23) and also belief in the Lord Jesus as crucified for the remission of sin and resurrected.

To confess/admit/state we believe is a requirement for salvation. Romans 1: 16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

It is only by His spilt blood we have remission of sin. Hebrews 9: 22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.”

Books have been written and sermons preached on the horrors of the process of scourging and crucifixion. For an American (and most in the free world) that has quick access to emergency rooms and pain killing drugs, the pain is unimaginable inflicted by crucifixion.

John 15: 13 “Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends.” We mere mortals think of our friends as being a select few. Jesus on the other hand, regarded all the world as His friends because He created

us. (John 1: 3, Colossians 1: 16).

God Jesus even created the non-believer. That is why He commanded us to “preach this Gospel to all nations.” The connection that exists between Jesus and His creation is not within the comprehension of the human mind.

James 2: 18 “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.” We are not commanded to do good works. We know (Ephesians 2: 8) we are saved by grace through faith. Works demonstrate our faith and it also demonstrates our gratitude for what God Jesus has done for us.

To serve the Lord is an honor and a privilege. He has been so good to us. How can we not show our thankfulness through our actions? Acts of service will not buy us a one way ticket to Heaven and we do not expect them to.

Our service to God is a blessing to ourselves and those we serve. The question of “callings” in the Christian faith has been one of intrigue to many. All I can offer is my own thoughts and I’ve had the belief for many years; if God provides an opportunity, that’s a calling. Yes, giving thanks is definitely an

action but it is also an attitude. Just as Romans 10: 10 states “with the heart man believeth unto righteousness,” with the heart man also gives thanks.

1 Chronicles 16:34 “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” God is never going to stop loving you. Once you believe and His spirit enters in to you (Matthew 3: 11), you are His for all eternity (John 10: 28-29).

Our greatest action of thanksgiving after our own confession and repentance is to tell someone about the saving power of our Lord Jesus. The scriptures have proven themselves true over and over. There is no room for doubt; there is only acceptance and sharing.

A life of humility and thanksgiving is essential. God does not want an arrogant, dogmatic Christian sharing Him with the world. 1 Peter 3: 15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email: vmy2121@outlook.com

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL-SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinance, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **STEVEN ANDERSEN** has made an application to the City of Apopka Planning Commission and the City Council for a **CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COMMERCIAL TO INDUSTRIAL FOR 2.28 +/- ACRES.** This application relates to the following described properties:

**ORDINANCE NO. 3085
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 COMMERCIAL TO INDUSTRIAL FOR STEVEN ANDERSEN GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF MARSHALL LAKE ROAD, OWNED BY ANDERSEN APOPKA LLC, COMPRISING 2.28 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



Parcel Identification Numbers: 09-21-28-5451-01-000
Contains: 2.28 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 3085 at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, December 10, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3085 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, January 15, 2025 beginning at 7:00 P.M.** or soon thereafter.

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

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department
November 22, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177642

Continued from page 2A

Some improvements made to the current facility include:
Temporary Portable Air Conditioning for the Summer in the Kennels:
*Installation of a temporary portable air conditioning unit and associated ductwork for the dog kennels.
*Temporary air conditioning was provided for the Summer of 2022 and Summer of 2023 and will be utilized for the summer

months until the new shelter is finished.
Interaction Yard Shade Sail Infill:
*Additional shade sails were added to infill the shade sails over the west interaction yards.
*The approximate cost was \$60,000 and the work was completed in May 2023.
Roof Coating for Heat Relief:
*Roof of Building 300, used for dog housing, coated in white sealant, completed in August 2019.

*Upper windows closed and painted to block sunlight.
*Surface temperature on roof dropped from 120 – 135 degrees to 88 – 92 degrees.
*The approximate cost was \$50,000 and the work was completed in August 2019.
The shelter is always looking for volunteers in many capacities: Please take a look here: Volunteer, Orange County Animal Services

Byrd: Challenges make job important

Continued from page 2A

Thank you to all the students in all three schools who spent time chatting with me.
Also this week, I was sworn into office again at the Investiture ceremony

Tuesday night along with the other three newly elected board members who took the oath of office. I am honored to once again be trusted to represent my community on the school board for another four years.

This work, while challenging at times, is so important and I truly feel like this is exactly where I am supposed to be - serving my community, our students and our schools.
Thank you for trusting me!

Hayden: Be grateful for everything

Continued from page 2A

tude. When you wake up grateful for everything your day will provide, it is almost impossible to find fault in situations you may encounter when you just expressed your thankfulness for it. I believe it will cause us to wait for the opportunity to find good in it, and trust GOD that He will

make it all work out.
Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
Melody Beattie once wrote, “Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order,

confusion into clarity, a meal into a feast, a house into a home, and a stranger into a friend.”
Are you willing to try it? I promise it will work if you start off with a heart of gratitude. Try the extra “thank you,” or “please,” and see if your day is rewarded with more smiles and pleasantries.
THANK YOU!!!

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall407-703-1700
Mayor's Office407-703-1701
City Administrator407-703-1649
City Clerk407-703-1704
Community Devel.407-703-1712
Code Enforcement407-703-1738
Finance Dept.407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-703-1741
Police Chief407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.).....407-703-1771
Job Line407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....407-703-1731
Street Maintenance407-703-1731
Utility Billing407-703-1727
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 Mayor407-836-7370
County Commission.....407-836-7350
County Attorney407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue407-836-3111
Solid Waste407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....407-703-1731
Health Dept.407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-836-6200
Property Appraiser.....407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....407-836-4357
Utilities407-836-5515
All other departments407-836-3111
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 Bankson407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....unknown
State Senators
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) 407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner
Christine Moore407-836-7350
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 Chief407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....407-886-1441

Streets: Project expected to end January 10, 2025

Continued from page 1A

Selection of a pavement treatment methodology was based on the severity of pavement distress, potholes, and various types of cracking, as well as funding.

Mill and Overlay
Meadows of Maudehelen Subdivision

- Blue Meadows Court (Johns Road to end)
- Johns Road (Beardsley Drive to end)
- Beardsley Drive (from South Binion Road to Scrub Jay Road)
- Sanderline Point Loop (from Beardsley Drive to Maudehelen Street)
- Maudehelen Street (from Sanderline Point Loop to Blackbird Drive)
- Scrub Jay Road (from Maudehelen Street to end)

- Willet Ave (from Maudehelen Street to end)
- Chickadee Drive (from Willet Ave to Maudehelen Street)
- Clapper Trail (from Willet Ave to Maudehelen Street)
- Scrub Jay Road (from Willet Ave to Maudehelen Street)
- Blackbird Drive (from Willet Ave to end)
- White Bird Way (from Willet Ave to Blackbird Drive)
- Pine Forest Place (from Wekiva Pines Boulevard to end)
- Pineview Place (from Pineforest Place to end)
- Wyndham Pine Drive

- (from Wekiva Pines Boulevard to Foxforrest Circle)
- Foxforrest Circle (from Wyndham Pine Drive to Wyndham Pine Drive)
- Osprey Way (from Wekiva Pines Boulevard to Loop)
- Cape/Micro Seal**
Spring Ridge Subdivision
- Spring Ridge Boulevard (from Mt Rainier Court to W Lester Road)
- Mount McKinley Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Mount Ranier Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Mount Logan Drive (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end of old)
- Mount Baker Court

- (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end of old)
- Carpathian Drive (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Stanvoy Street (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to Carpathian Drive)
- Kilamanjaro Court (from Stanvoy Street to end)
- Koryak Court (from Stanvoy Street to end)
- Grand Sayan Loop (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to Spring Ridge Boulevard)
- Khingan Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Grand Hughey Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Kamchatka Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end of old)

- Adirondack Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Olympic Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Himalayan Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Ozark Court (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to end)
- Spring Ridge Boulevard (from West Lester Road to Olympic Court)
- Pelinion Street (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to Cerberus Drive)
- Caraket Drive (from Pelinion Street to Cerberus Drive)
- Cerberus Drive (from Spring Ridge Boulevard to Cerberus Drive)

REGAL
Fri., Nov. 22, 2024 thru Sun., Nov. 24, 2024
3D SHOWINGS
WICKED(PG) 10:20A; 2:10; 6:00; 9:40
RED ONE (PG-13) 10:10A; 1:10; 4:30; 7:10; 10:00
WICKED(PG) 11:20A; 12:20; 3:10; 4:10; 7:00; 8:00; 10:10; 10:40
THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER (PG) 10:30A; 1:20; 4:00; 6:50
GLADIATOR II(R) 10:40A; 11:40A 2:30; 3:30; 6:20; 7:20; 9:50; 10:50
VENOM: THE LAST DANCE (PG-13) 10:50A; 1:40; 4:20; 7:30; 10:20
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Getting 'er Done

It looks like President-elect Trump learned a very important lesson in his previous term as president and his desire to drain the DC swamp. I think most observers think that the first thing he should have done after his inauguration then was to get rid of all the crocodiles and sharks left over from the previous administrations. Coming from a business background, I think his expectations were very different from the reality of politics, that is, if you can put "reality" and "politics" in the same sentence. It appears that once someone is elected to political office, they get sucked into some kind of rarified atmosphere, and for the most part, never recover from the effects of it. Obviously, Trump is determined not to make that mistake again. Instead, he seems to be surrounding himself with people with common sense and a sense of loyalty. Of course, he's being criticized. And, of course, he's ignoring the criticism. Good for him. Especially since those criticizing have done the same thing when they held an office, and/or, would be doing the same thing if they'd been elected to "serve" now. What else would anyone do in that position... put themselves in the middle of a snarling crowd of people who don't agree with their policies? That would be pretty stupid. And, whatever else people may think about him, he's not stupid. There's no denying his street-smarts, common sense, and his business acumen have gotten him to where he is today. There's also no denying that those he's choosing to work alongside him are definitely not your usual suspects, as you can see ...

Environmental attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., is Trump's nominee to be the head of HHS, the Department of Health and Human Services,

which oversees 13 separate agencies which regulate nutrition, food, medicine, research and prevention of disease. Kennedy has been involved in public health activism for years and agrees with Trump on a number of serious health issues we face in our country, such as autism, chronic diseases, and obesity. Secretary Xavier Becerra, a former member of the House of Representatives and Attorney General for California currently leads the HHS. North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum has been named to lead the Department of the Interior, while the Department of Veterans Affairs is to be led by former Rep. Doug Collins. For the Department of Justice, Trump's lawyer, Todd Blanche will be Attorney General, and Dean John Sauer, Solicitor General.

Other Cabinet picks: Chief of Staff, Susie Wiles; Secretary of State, Marco Rubio; Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth; DOT, Sean Duffy; Energy, Chris Wright; Department of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem; EPA, Lee Zeldin; CIA, John Ratcliffe; UN Ambassador, Elise Stefanik; and Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard.

Last, but certainly not least, we have Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy in the long overdue, Department of Government Efficiency. What a concept!

Who knows what another week will bring? I heard someone say that Donald Trump has been referred to as "The Energizer Bunny," and I believe it. I'll tell you what, I wish I had a fraction of the energy he has! It's obvious that he doesn't let any grass grow under his feet. It's also obvious that when he sets his mind to something, sets a goal of some kind, he doesn't let anything stand in his way.

Whether you're a fan or not, I think you'd have to recognize the difference between Donald Trump, who needs only a few hours sleep, and gets things done, and others, who, for whatever reason, lie on a sunny beach and nap a lot.

We'd like to know What YOU think?
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The Apopka Chief, The Planter & AOS (Apopka Office Supply) would like to thank the generous Apopka area for continuing to donate the gift of sight or hearing for so MANY.



Posing with the veterans memorial stone at the Apopka Memorial Middle School on Park Avenue on November 15 are (l to r) Nick Nesta, city commissioner; Diane Velazquez, city commissioner; John Cloran, a retired AMMS FFA advisor and agriculture teacher who helped relocate the memorial stone to outside the school building; Alice Boria, member of VFW Post 10147 Ladies Auxiliary; Lou Boria, Alice Boria's husband and VFW Post 10147 member; Loretta Forlaw, VFW Post 10147 Ladies Auxiliary member; Bryan Nelson, city mayor; Melissa Byrd, Orange County School Board District 7 member; and Nadia Anderson, city commissioner.

Stone: Memorial's former location made it inaccessible to public

Continued from page 1A

1987. Throughout the years, students and staff have been able to pay their respects to fellow alumni Albert Martin, Richard "Dick" Wells, Jack Grossenbacher and Harold Caldwell. These four men served their country bravely, while paying the ultimate sacrifice.

As the campus layout has changed over the years, most recently the memorial was located outside of an art classroom. In an effort to make the stone accessible to the public and the family of the fallen heroes, it was relocated to the front entrance and was rededicated by members of the Apopka community last Friday.

Reading Heroes Book Fair is Dec. 7

The Apopka Fire Department and Apopka Police Department, in partnership with Re-Imagine Communities, are hosting the Apopka Reading Heroes Scholastic Book Fair on December 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Apopka Fire Station

No. 5, located at 1685 Firehouse Lane, Apopka. Can't make it in person? The online shop will be open from December 1 through December 8. Visit [Apopka.gov/BookFair2024](https://www.apopka.gov/BookFair2024) to learn more and shop online.

Food bank needs volunteer drivers

Southeastern Food Bank needs volunteer drivers to help deliver food boxes to neediest families in Central Florida for its annual holiday food distribution

events: ***Thanksgiving Morning:** Wednesday, November 28, 8-11 a.m. ***December Distribution:** Saturday, December 14, 8-11 a.m. Both events will begin at West Orlando Baptist Church, located at 1006 W. Crown Point Road, Ocoee.



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Traffic diverted for Arbor Ridge sidewalk repair, replacement

The city will set up a maintenance of transportation and divert traffic in certain areas to one lane at the Arbor Ridge subdivision from Monday, November 18, to December 6, for the subdivision's sidewalk repair and replacement, according to a city of Apopka alert.

The work will take place on Devon Oak Parkway from the west entrance all the way to the east entrance off of West Lester Road.

Traffic delays are expected so drivers are advised to plan accordingly. Delays on the start time may occur due to weather or storm events.

Museum to host Breakfast with Santa

The Museum of Apopkans invites the community to Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 7, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the museum, 122 E. 5th St., Apopka.

Breakfast with Santa is a fun family event with a pancake and sausage breakfast. Drinks will include juice, coffee and even a hot cocoa bar for the kids.

There will also be Christmas crafts, Santa's scavenger hunt, and an opportunity to win one of two children's bike.

Guests are advised to bring their phone or camera to capture their annual picture with Santa.

Space is limited so call to reserve a spot today. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult and \$3 per child. Children under 3 eat free.

For more information, contact the museum via phone at 407-703-1707 or email theapokkamuseum@gmail.com.

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Hunt Club Medical Care is open seven days a week and offer urgent care and same-day appointments. Pictured above are, (l-r), Whitney Dailey PA-C, Elisabeth Duer PA-C, Michael Gordon MD, Pinida Toochinda MD, Kristen Consiglio PA-C, and Roshani Levister PA-C.

Often voted #1 Best in Apopka, their goal is to deliver the highest quality primary care and urgent care to their community. They strive to be distinctive. It's the combination of their passion for their patients and a depth of knowledge of the human body that often sets them apart.

Selecting a primary care physician is one of the most pivotal healthcare decisions you can make. **Hunt Club Medical Care** combines traditional primary care services with preventive care to ensure your overall wellness is being taken care of. Whether you're in for a sick visit or routine care appointment, they're here to keep you on the path to great health.

For over 45 years, **Hunt Club Medical Care** has been caring for people and improving the quality of life in the community they serve. Their aim is to deliver the highest quality health care available in the area, and they've

cared for many of those for decades. Their doctors are board-certified physicians in Internal Medicine and Family Practice.

Hunt Club Medical Care offers family care, urgent care, same day appointments, well-woman exams, chronic disease management, preventative medicine, annual physicals, and on-site lab and x-rays.

The **Hunt Club Medical Care** facility is privately owned and operated by Dr. Michael Gordon. The goal of this medical facility is to provide comprehensive care to their patients. On staff are Michael Gordon M.D., Pinida Toochinda M.D., Kristen Consiglio PA-C, Whitney Dailey PA-C, Elisabeth Duer PA-C, and Roshani Levister PA-C.

The staff at **Hunt Club Medical Care** assures that every patient has access to the highest quality care, and they genuinely care for the comfort and well being of their patients by

treating them with courtesy, dignity, and respect. They're comprehensive in the response to the needs of their patients and consider themselves to be partners with their patients in their health care.

Hunt Club Medical Care is a family practice medical office and urgent care facility. Staff consists of long-term employees who are highly skilled at providing patients with personalized, concerned care.

Their award-winning electronic medical records (EMR) system allows the clinicians to quickly locate and maintain each patient's most up-to-date health and examination records through a laptop computer station in every room. They also have in-house digital x-ray and EKG testing on-site. In addition to the medical care, the clinicians perform school sports physicals. They are pleased to have a team of female clinicians who perform well-wom-

an exams, including pap testing. A number of local businesses have selected **Hunt Club Medical Care** to provide care for their employees, including pre-employment exams and treatment for work-related injuries.

For your convenience, they operate on a walk-in basis; no appointment is necessary. Or you can schedule appointments when needed. **Hunt Club Medical Care** is staffed with two or three clinicians on duty to minimize the waiting time for patients.

They're open every day: Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are conveniently located at 3191 E. Semoran Boulevard, across from Colonial Shoppes of Bear Lake. Call **Hunt Club Medical Care** at 407-788-6500 for more information and to ensure of your medical needs.

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

CAROLYN DRIGGERS FARMER, 92, passed away on November 10, 2024. She was born on December 23, 1931. Carolyn was preceded in death by: husband, John Farmer; parents, Green and Dora Strawn; sister, Gloria Strawn; son, Darrell Driggers; grandson, Brian Driggers. Carolyn is survived by: children, Andrew "David" Driggers (Gloria), Dany Driggers (Kathy), Lucinda Walker (Ernest), Lorrell Bush (Gary), Durwood "Woody" Driggers (Tina), Charlotte Federline; sisters, Frances Durham and Theresa Smith; 15 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren.

See Obituary on page 11A

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A Plea for Tolerance

Tolerant persons respect and accept persons who are different from themselves. Tolerant persons not only learn more about others—and other cultures—but they also tend to have more friends and promote peace and understanding in their lives. We live in an era where many people are leaving their home countries in search of better lives for themselves and their families. It is unfortunate that so many countries are so poorly governed that people feel compelled to leave, but that is the state of today's world. Those of us who live in more affluent, better-run countries may be inclined to feel that the immigrants who come here drag us down, but that is usually not the case. Most immigrants desire to work and contribute to the common good, which they usually do after being here for a short time. Statistics show that first-generation immigrants commit fewer crimes than native born citizens, are more likely to start their own businesses, and they usually bring with them a sense of gratitude for all that their new country offers. We are incredibly fortunate to live in a country which is sought by so many throughout the world. We should be tolerant of those who come here seeking a better life. They may need some extra help at first, but eventually they will add much to the common good. And finally, remember that all of us ultimately came from somewhere else.

—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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(See message above.)

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Matthew 5:16

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Dogs **can** have carrots, celery, corn (no cob), sweet potatoes, green beans, apples with no core or seeds, pumpkin, rice, quinoa, a little cheese, and, of course, turkey with no skin or bones.

Dogs **can't** have ham, chocolate, garlic, leeks, onions, grapes, raisins, raw potatoes, mashed potatoes, raw dough, canned cranberries, pre-made desserts, pie filling or dressing. In case of an emergency, be sure to have the Pet Poison Helpline available: 1-855-764-7661.

Park Avenue Animal Hospital is your partner in keeping your pet healthy. Since 2008, Park Avenue Animal Hospital has been providing a wide variety of services to keep your furry, four-legged friends in the best of health. Their experienced team treats each pet that

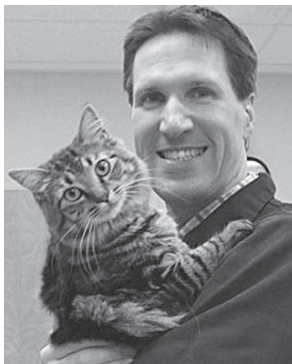
comes into their facility with the utmost care. With cutting edge technology and the bedside manner of a small-town doctor, they're equipped to handle almost any ailment your pet may face.

Voted Best of Apopka Pet Care Facility since 2010, it's obvious that their personal commitment to you is grounded in assuring your pet receives the finest in veterinary care by providing them with the best technology and diagnostic tools.

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

tic and surgical tools to meet practically any situation. **Park Avenue Animal Hospital** provides reasonably priced medical and surgical care without sacrificing quality care.

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

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provide consistent, reliable information for pet owners in helping them make the best health decisions for all their pets'.

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

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Virtual Magnet Fair promotes specialized learning programs

To promote its specialized learning programs, known as magnets, Orange County Public Schools is hosting a virtual Magnet Fair. All parents and students are invited to learn more about the 41 magnet programs offered in 29 sites across elementary, middle and high schools. These award-winning, focused programs encourage academic excellence in highly specialized areas of study and often pave a road into post-secondary schools and colleges.

All OCPS magnet programs offered at the elementary, middle and high school level are outlined in the magnet brochure. Parents must complete an application for their students to apply for a magnet program. For more information, visit SchoolChoice.OCPS.net. The window to apply is November 1 through February 17, 2025.

Spotlight programs include:
Dr. Phillips High School's Center for International Studies

This program provides a strong academic curriculum with an international dimension. Students develop the skills, attain the knowledge, and cultivate an attitude of cross-cultural awareness that will assist them in whatever direction they pursue in their future. Students are exposed to major concepts and issues in international affairs, politics, history, world religions and humanities. As part of their commitment to international studies, students become proficient in a foreign language. This is a Magnet School of Distinction, a national merit award from Magnet Schools of America.

Liberty Middle School's Cambridge Middle School Academy

The Cambridge curriculum prepares students for life, helping them to develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. The focus of the program is to provide an opportunity for middle school students to explore rigorous high school level course-

work requiring knowledge, understanding, application and skills through research projects, investigation, and written response, as well as practical oral labs relying on student-supported perspectives. This is a Magnet School of Distinction, a national merit award from Magnet Schools of America.

Sally Ride Elementary School's Aviation and Aerospace

This magnet program provides an enhanced curriculum focusing on science with connections to the worlds of aviation and aerospace. Students will have the opportunity to learn science content through hands-on, minds-on experiments in a science lab and in the regular classroom. For the applicable science units, teachers extend the concepts to include any aviation or aerospace links, creating a web of understanding between the state standards and the magnet topic.

The Office of School Choice Services in Orange

County Public Schools works to increase awareness among parents and community members about voluntary public-school

choice options in Florida. School choice means providing parents the opportunity to be involved in selecting the school their

child will attend. It also means providing services and assistance to help children receive the instruction that best meets their needs.

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Carolyn Driggers Farmer

December 23, 1931 • November 10, 2024

Carolyn Driggers Farmer, born December 23, 1931, was called to her heavenly home on November 10, 2024. From the moment you met Carolyn, it was clear to anyone that she had two great loves: her deep, unwavering faith in the Lord and her immense pride in her family. She had a way of making everyone feel loved and valued, and her warmth and kindness drew people to her. Carolyn was a gifted cook, and until recent years, she could always be counted on to prepare a meal for someone in need or simply to brighten someone's day.

Her friendships were a treasure to her, and she was surrounded by many dear friends who loved her as much as she loved them. Above all, her children were her greatest joy. She poured her heart into raising her six children, and in doing so, many others came to know the love of a second mother. Her home was a place

where not only her own children found support and care, but where countless others were welcomed and embraced as part of her family.

It is hard to fully express the impact Carolyn had on the world, but to all who knew her, she was truly a gift. Her legacy of love, faith, and generosity will continue to live on in the hearts of those she touched.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her husband John Farmer, parents, Green and

Dora Strawn, her sister Gloria Strawn, her son Darrell Driggers and her grandson Brian Driggers. She is survived by her children Andrew "David" Driggers (Gloria), Danny Driggers (Kathy), Lucinda Walker (Ernest), Lorrell Bush (Gary), Durwood "Woody" Driggers (Tina), Charlotte Federline, her sisters Frances Durham and Theresa Smith, 15 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Carolyn's life will be held on November 30, 2024, 11:00 AM at Reallife Christian Church 31205 Round Lake Rd, Mt Dora, FL

Carolyn Farmer loved her little church, so in lieu of flowers please make a donation in her honor to the building fund at Golden Triangle Church of Christ, PO Box 509, Eustis FL 32726 or you can donate electronically via ZELLE using her cell phone # 352-552-1703 in her name.

Gas: Velazquez will serve alongside Smith on board

Continued from page 1A

body on the board might want to serve in that position."

Velazquez said she learned that Arrowsmith resigned from the board when she attended a recent LANGD grant presentation.

"When I attended the grant presentation I had learned that our former vice mayor, Bill Arrowsmith

had resigned, but they had said they were looking for another elected official. That is why I followed up and asked to return to the board because I had sat on the board before," Velazquez explained at the City Council meeting.

"I was unaware of Mr. Bill Spiegel (wanting) to serve. That wasn't mentioned at Lake Apopka (grant presentation," Velazquez later said.

Velazquez previously served on the board of directors in 2016, also representing Apopka.

She will now serve alongside fellow City Commissioner Alexander H. Smith, who was appointed to his first board term in May 2022.

Each LANGD Board member serves a two-year term.

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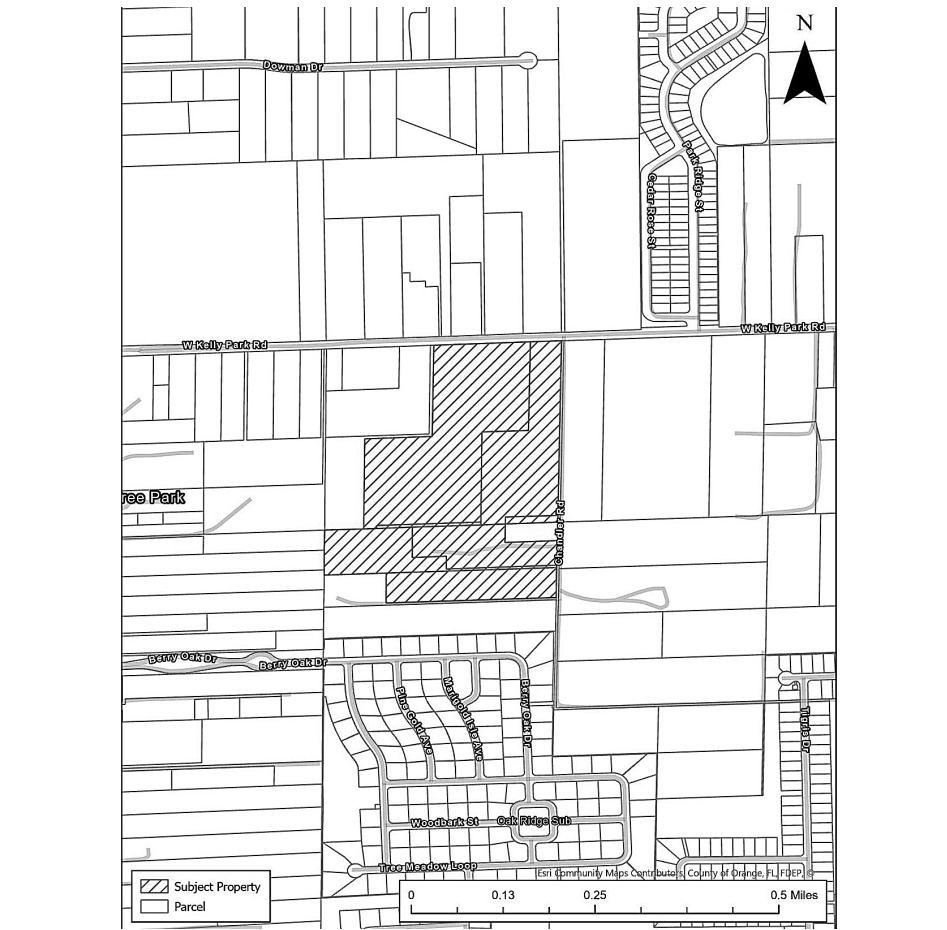
CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

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

ORDINANCE NO. 3076
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 RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW SUBURBAN TO MIXED-USE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF W. KELLY PARK ROAD, AND WEST OF CHANDLER ROAD, OWNED BY KELLY PARK ROAD PROPERTY, LLC COMPRISING 45.37 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

and

ORDINANCE NO. 3077
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY ESTATE (RSE-1A) TO KPI-MU WITH AN ASSIGNMENT OF TRANSITION OVERLAY, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF W. KELLY PARK ROAD AND WEST OF CHANDLER ROAD; OWNED BY KELLY PARK ROAD PROPERTY, LLC; COMPRISING 45.37 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 18-20-25-0000-00-058, 18-20-28-0000-00-102, 18-20-28-0000-00-122, 18-20-28-0000-00-123, 18-20-28-0000-00-027, 18-20-28-0000-00-138, 18-20-28-0000-00-001
Contains: 45.37 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 1:30 P.M.**

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

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Sertoma donates scooters to Rock Springs Elementary safety project

The Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka donated nine scooters to the Rock Springs Elementary Kids Transportation Safety Project at the club luncheon on Monday, November 18, at the Back Room Steakhouse on Rock Springs Road.

The program was created and conducted by School Resource Officer Justin LeMieux.

The scooters are part of a safety program for students who walk to school or need transportation.

The Sertoma Club learned about the program when club members John Cloran and City Commissioner Alexander Smith's agricultural educational foundation, Two Peas in a Pod, donated scooters earlier this month. The safety program is ongoing and donations are coordinated by calling the Rock Springs Elementary School Office and leaving a message.



Pictured with the donated scooters on November 18 at the club luncheon are (l to r) Club President Wes Dumey, Sertoma Vice President of Sponsorship John Cloran, Officer LeMieux, and Rock Springs Elementary School Assistant Principal Melanie Humphreys.

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Boy Scouts deliver over two tons of food

The Boy Scouts of America collected and delivered total of 4,176 pounds from their annual food drive to Loaves & Fishes, located on East Eighth Street in Apopka, on Saturday, November 9. All the local Boy Scout troops bring all of their collected food to Loaves & Fishes to stay in the community.

Photo courtesy of Loaves & Fishes

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Operation conducted to improve pedestrian safety

Operation Best Foot Forward and the Apopka Police Department conducted a high-visibility crosswalk enforcement operation to promote pedestrian safety at West Lester Road and Devon Oak Parkway, where six crosswalk warnings were given, one crosswalk citation was given, one other warning was given, and one other citation was given. The speed limit at this crosswalk is 35 mph.

In honor of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on Sunday, November 17, the Best Foot Forward pedestrian safety program is conducting Operation Best Foot Forward, a two-week campaign across Central Florida that aims to reduce pedestrian injuries and deaths through awareness about Florida's driver yield laws, which provide pedestrians the right-of-way at crosswalks.

World Day of Remembrance recognizes the lives lost and forever changed due to traffic collisions. From January through August 2024, FDOT District 5 reported 394 pedestrians and cyclists severely injured or killed, with nearly 20 percent of these victims aged 65 and over.

Over the past decade, 709 pedestrian and cyclist crashes occurred within one-quarter mile of crosswalks selected for evaluation by the Best Foot Forward program, informing the selection of enforcement locations during this operation.

Between November 12—22, this high-visibility operation spans six Central Florida counties: Brevard, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia. The initiative, aligned with FDOT's Target Zero campaign and MetroPlan Orlando's Vision Zero Action Plan, aims to reduce traffic-related serious injuries and fatalities to zero.

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