

## Donating

Woodmen Life Apopka donate student holiday boxes to food pantry. See page 12A.



## Sports

A year in review, looking ahead See page 1B.



Subscribe online today for 52 editions a year! \$30 in Orange County

(\$35 out of county) Price Includes E-Edition

# The Apopka Chief

Your trusted local news source

©2025 The Apopka Chief

Volume 103 Number 1

Friday, January 3, 2025 / 50 cents

## City approves new \$4.1M contract for police equipment

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council voted 5-0 to authorize the execution of a new, five-year piggyback contract worth \$4.1 million for police equipment that includes 150 body-worn cameras.

At the December 18, 2024, City Council meeting, Police Chief Michael McKinley presented a proposal to renew the city's contract with Axon Inc., the company that provides the Apopka Police Department's (APD) body-worn cameras and tasers.

At the time of the presentation, the city was two and a half years into a \$1.3 million five-year contract. That contract covered 124 body-worn cameras and tasers, yet the department has authorized 142 positions.

"Though it represents a notable increase Axon's average annual increas-

es, or 5 percent or more in our department's growth, renewing the current contract later would exceed approximately \$5 million," McKinley said.

Since that contract's inception, Axon acquired Fusus, the software that powers the APD's live crime center, and partnered with drone manufacturer Skydio to store video and flight data. Over the past three years, the APD had entered into several additional agreements with Axon due to the department's personnel growth and the corresponding need for more equipment.

"As you know, we've been swearing in quite a few people lately, and so we are just about over that 124 number, and we're in need to buy more body cameras and tasers as well as some of the licenses that go with them," McKinley said. "Consequently,

See CITY Page 7A

## Agreement approved by City and OCPS

On December 18, the Apopka City Council voted 5-0 to approve the sewer credit meter agreement with Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) regarding Piedmont Lakes Middle School, and the city of Apopka.

In December 2022, the city of Apopka entered into a sewer credit agreement with OCPS on behalf of Apopka High School.

The sewer credit agreement allows the customer to receive a credit for the amount of liquid included in their sewer consumption.

The city staff report in the December 18 City Council agenda packet states that "this program has been a success for OCPS, and therefore they are requesting to implement the cooling system at Piedmont Lakes Middle School."

## New Year's Eve Ball Drop



Photos courtesy of Hurricane Grill and Wings Apopka/Facebook.

The community rang in 2025 with its own New Year's Eve Ball Drop on December 31, 2024, at Hurricane Grill and Wings Apopka on Semoran Boulevard. The Apopka High School Engineering Class, with funding provided by The Rotary Club of Apopka, dropped this year's ball at the Party in the Plaza. See more photos on page 12A.

## Motorcyclist dies in vehicular crash

On Monday December 30, 2024 at around 6:20 a.m., there was a fatal motor vehicle collision on Sadler Road approaching Laughlin Road resulting in the death of a motorcyclist.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol official press release, a 2019 Ford E-450 truck was stopped on Sadler Road waiting to make a left-hand turn onto Laughlin Road.

As the truck was waiting, a 2017 Suzuki GSX-R750 motorcycle traveling west on Sadler Road began passing traffic that was stopped behind the Ford. The Ford began making the left turn onto Laughlin Road and the motorcyclist was unable to stop in time. The motorcycle struck the left side of the Ford truck.

Unfortunately, the 34-year-old

motorcyclist, from Deltona, was pronounced deceased on-scene.

The 53-year-old driver of the Ford E-450, from DeLand, was uninjured and remained on-scene.

This crash remains under investigation, according to the FHP press release.

## City Council will have first 2025 meeting Jan. 15

Normally, the City Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, with the first one beginning at 1:30 p.m., and the second one of the month beginning at 7 p.m.

Since 2025 began on a Wednesday, that meeting was obviously cancelled because of the offices being closed for the holiday. Therefore, the first meeting of 2025 will be on Wednesday, January 15, at 7 p.m., in the Apopka City Hall Council Chambers, 120 E. Main Street.

## Historical society celebrates county's 200th year



Maribel Brinkle, Apopka Historical Society president, stands with Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings at the Sunday, December 29, 2024, county bicentennial celebration at the Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando.

By Maribel Brinkle  
Special to the Chief

The Apopka Historical Society was honored to participate in the 200th year of Orange County Celebration and Two Centuries of Progress! alongside Mayor of Orange County Jerry L. Demings and his administration. As the President of The Apopka Historical Society and on behalf of all who hold a deep appreciation for the rich history and vibrant community of Orange County, especially the Northwest area, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the momentous occasion of the county's

200th anniversary.

This bicentennial celebration stands as a testament to the vision, resilience, and determination of those who have shaped Orange County over the past two centuries. It is a time to honor the legacy of the past, recognize the achievements of the present, and embrace the promise of a bright future.

In the northwest part of the county, we look forward to expanding the reach of our museum, growing the arts, and creating opportunities for cultural engagement.

See COUNTY Page 6A

### This week

Section A  
Opinion..... 2A  
Public Notices.... 4,7A  
Business Rev. .... 8A  
Worship ..... 9A  
Kapers .....11A  
Dining & Ent..... 12A

Section B  
Sports ..... 1B  
Legal ads .....8-9B  
Classified..... 10-12B  
Service Dir. .... 12B

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



Apopka Event of the Week

Cybersecurity Basics class will be held in the Computer Lab of the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E Semoran Blvd., on Thurs., Jan. 9, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. for ages 13-adult. Cybersecurity is about safety of information when you are online. Creates basic confidence as you visit websites, create passwords, and respond to email. This class is presented in collaboration with AT&T and the Public Library Association.

Quotable

The law requires these notices to run in the paper so that you, the citizens, will see them and engage with your local government accordingly.

The editorial reflects on the importance of community development knowledge.

Opinion

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

Community development knowledge is important

Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

This year, New Year's Day arrived on the same week that our county celebrated its 200th anniversary. As Commissioner Moore writes in her column, what was originally Mosquito County was founded Dec. 29, 1824, and while the name was appropriate, it was thankfully changed to the more pleasant name of Orange County in 1845.

It was around that same time that the state's first commercial orange groves were established right here in our county, paving the way for the appropriate name change. Of course, many of those orange groves have now disappeared—some from freezes and disease; others from development—making Orange County's name more a reminder of our roots than a present-day reality.

Have you noticed as you drive through and around the Apopka area that so many acres of land have changed? In many cases, woods full of trees are no longer visible. In its place is the rubble and/or the flat land that remains after the rubble disappears.

The old construction on those pieces of land has been torn down, piled up, and then removed.

But, we do need to be aware of the fact that when trees are torn down and removed, new construction must also contain replacement of the demolished trees and greenery with new trees and shrubs along with the necessary irrigation to speed its growth.

Apopka has long been at the forefront of much of the recent development explosion in Orange County, but we've noticed the pace seems to have picked up even more since the Nov. 6 election. We've seen this particularly in the number of legal notices the city has published in recent weeks.

For example, in the Dec. 20 issue, the city ran seven development-related notices. Three of

those included the following:

\*Ordinances 3067 and 3068 that affect property located on the Southwest Corner of Ondich Road and Effie Drive, comprising 54.85 acres;

\*A special exception request to increase the number of students allowed from 600 to 720 in a planned development zoning district; and

\*Variance from land development code to allow owner to work with the City to provide a bond for their proportionate share to construct the right turn lane at the time the right-of-way becomes available.

Other notices published concerned a large-scale Future Land Use amendment and more changes of zoning.

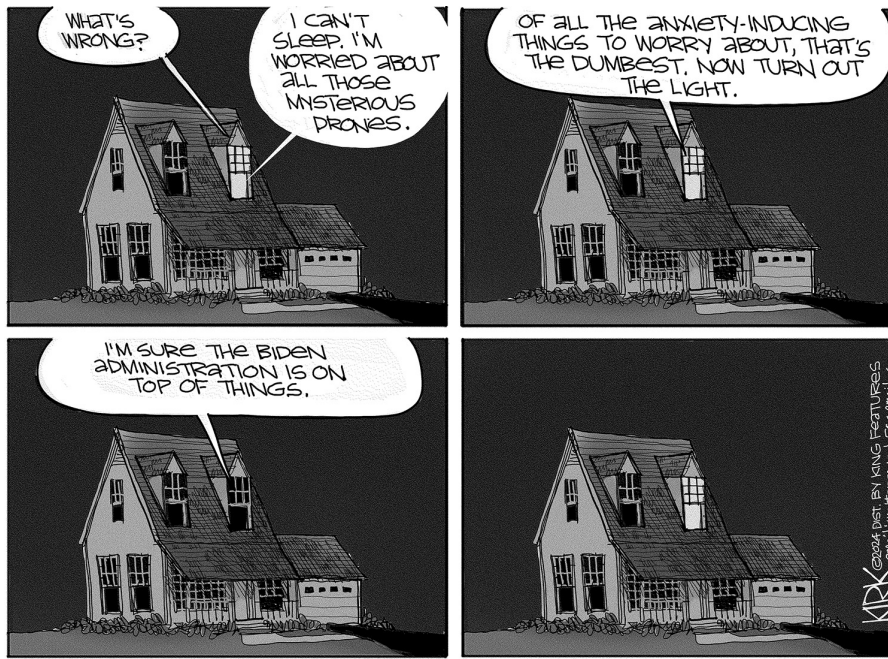
Public notices are essential to government transparency. Publishing them in newspapers ensures they reach a broad audience, including those without reliable internet access. While digital media is growing, many still depend on newspapers for trusted local news and information. And the law requires that these notices are also placed on our website as well as that of the state-wide Florida Press Association.

We are not against progress and development, but we do think it should be done thoughtfully and with plenty of public input. Thus, it's important that Apopka residents be aware of the changes rapidly taking place in the community.

The law requires these notices to run in the newspaper so that you, the citizens, will see them and engage with your local government accordingly.

If you have questions, concerns or input, let your elected officials know your thoughts. Write to them, set up an office visit, or comment at a public meeting.

As we look forward to the exciting possibilities of 2025, we hope all parts of the community will continue to come together to shape the future of our city.



President-to-be Carter visited Apopka

Editorial note: Early in his campaign in 1976, President-to-be Jimmy Carter was in Apopka and visited with then Publisher John Ricketson in his office of The Apopka Chief when it was housed in a building owned by former publisher "Mac" McGuffin at 130 S. Park Avenue where Synovus Bank is now located. Florida went on to play a key role in propelling Carter to the presidency.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

It is my solemn duty to announce officially the death of James Earl Carter, Jr., the thirty-ninth President of the United States, on December 29, 2024. President Carter was a man of character, courage, and compassion, whose lifetime of service defined him as one of the most influential statesmen in our history. He embodied the very best of America: A humble servant of God and the people. A heroic champion of global peace and human rights, and an honorable leader whose mor-

al clarity and hopeful vision lifted our Nation and changed our world.

The son of a farmer and a nurse, President Carter's remarkable career in public service began in 1943 as a cadet at the United States Naval Academy. He later served in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets before becoming a decorated lieutenant and being selected to join the elite nuclear submarine program.

After his father died, he shifted from active duty to the Navy Reserve and returned home to Plains,

See CARTER Page 4A

Orange County's history is shared

Happy 200th Birthday to Orange County!

Mosquito County is the historic name of our county that once comprised most of the eastern part of Florida. The land included, in all, present-day Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Marion, Martin, Seminole Osceola, Orange, Lake, Polk, and Palm Beach counties. We were renamed Orange County in 1845, and I suspect we will be able to celebrate 200 years of history again in 2045.

Quite frankly, few wanted to live here with the heat and mosquitoes in 1824. Additionally, native Americans still were in control of the interior of Florida and several wars

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

ensued. The first settlers after the native Americans were the Delks at Rock Springs and the Clay family at Wekiva Springs in the 1850s.

Remember, transportation and technology drive progress in civilization. Water travel was the only suitable means prior to roads being built and train lines being constructed. Most of the influx of set-

tlers came in the 1970s after the Civil War and the federal government offered land grants.

Other notable historical events in the earliest years of Orange County include the establishment of Fort Gatlin in 1838. Aaron Jernigan was elected the county's first representative to the Florida Legislature in 1843.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office was needed early in our history. Our first sheriff was William Henry Williams, who was selected in 1845. In 1847, the Orange County Clerk of the Court was selected and the office opened.

School history is

See MOORE Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. — Ecclesiastes 3:11

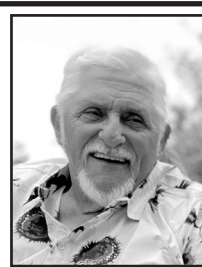
Mema Says

The path of least resistance makes rivers and people crooked.

Your demeanor can be first source of encouragement for a solution

Well, here it is. The days after, we're feeling deflated, worn out, and just plain beat up! Our energy meter is reading low to none. We need to rest for the next great holiday, New Year's Eve! Our batteries should be sufficiently charged by the 31st of December to make a mad dash for the celebration parties planned for the coming new year!

Doesn't it seem this is the way the world moves today? Not recognizing the significance of why the cel-



Ike Hayden

bration, or the true theme of the holiday? Just moving from one party to another for a time of revelry, and when one is over, we look forward to the next one, and so on, and so on.

I'm thankful to those

who take time to share the true spirit of the holidays. Their joy isn't in celebrating the day, but in celebrating the reason for the day! That spirit is everlasting and not dependent on "what's in it for me" attitude.

We label this season as a "season for giving," but should not every day be a "season for giving?" As I fixed breakfast this morning, I contemplated all the Christmas dinner leftovers, all the opened gifts under the tree, and the sheer

abundance of "things," that we take so much for granted, and it broke my heart to think that it has become routine for me.

I see so much violence going on even in this time of rejoicing over what we consider the birth of the Savior and the Prince of peace, and what is there that we can do about it? It would be easy to close my mind and say, "nothing I can do, so, I'll go my way and forget it." But there is something we can do! We can start where we are. Our

workplaces ought to see our smiles, laughter, and concern for those times we need to be there for someone.

We have become people who pay more attention to the entertainment channels on our phones than to the cries of those who have crossed our paths and have desperate needs. I've heard the excuses, "they never said anything, they acted normal to me, I didn't want to stick my nose into someone else's business." So, when does it become our

business? Is it after someone gets hurt or worse, killed? The feeling that no one cares and the loneliness that comes with that feeling will not go away unless someone notices it and steps in to intervene. It doesn't take a psychiatric genius to go to that person, slip an arm around them and let them know they are not alone.

It takes time away from a hectic schedule, and sometimes you will feel

See HAYDEN Page 4A

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.



# Orange County elections office gives 2024 snapshot by the numbers

As 2024 ends, the Orange County Supervisor of Elections office gave a look-back on a historic year featuring a record-breaking number of elections and a record-breaking ballot.

\*613,491 voters: 73.3 percent of all Orange County voters voted in the 2024 November general election. Because the ballot in November was two pages, front and back, the team at the Orange County Supervisor of Elections office processed more than 1.2 million pieces of paper and scanned 2.4 million images.

\*99.999 percent accuracy: After scanning the 2.4 million images the office's audit of the November general election returned an accuracy rating of 99.999 percent

\*100 events: Throughout the summer and into the fall, the Elections Outreach department held more than

100 events, providing voter education and registration across Orange County.

\*70 Gen Z poll workers: For the first time, the office actively recruited and trained 70 Gen Z students to serve as poll workers and greeters on Election Day. This innovative initiative advances two of the office's core goals: recruiting new poll workers and engaging new voters. All Gen Z poll workers were required to register or pre-register to vote and work at one of the county's polling locations.

\*42 supervised voting sites: Due to the interest in the 2024 General Election, Orange County had 42 locations request supervised voting. Supervised voting is required by state law and helps bring the election to voters at facilities who otherwise would have trouble casting their vote.

\*12 veterans: For the

2024 General Election the Orange County Supervisor of Elections office hired 12 US military veterans to assist in supervised voting, providing voting assistance at VA facilities across the county including the VA Community Living Center at Lake Nona.

\*7 elections: In 2024, Orange County voters participated in seven elections from the House 35 Special Election in January to the city of Orlando special

election in the spring, to the primary election and general election to close out the year. Most supervisors of elections offices conduct two or three major elections in a year, this year our office conducted seven, tying the previous record set by the office in 2017.

\*2 new locations: The Orange County Supervisor of Elections office added two new locations for early voting (Eatonville Town Hall and Heart of West

Lakes). Additionally, the office added four new "express sites" in the middle of early voting during the November general election to help reduce lines.

\*2 more law enforcement officers: Election security means protecting citizens' vote for the entire process. In 2024 the Orange County Supervisor of Elections office added extra law enforcement to the transportation of ballots, ensuring there was an offi-

cer or deputy at each supervised voting location to escort the voted ballots back to the office for processing.

\*1 new live stream: To boost transparency and trust in the electoral process, the office unveiled a new way for voters to watch in real-time the processing of ballots. By logging onto OCFElections.gov voters can watch a live stream of ballots being processed during the election.

**Send Us Your News**  
 Visit [www.TheApopkaChief.com](http://www.TheApopkaChief.com)  
 Phone: 407-886-2777  
 Fax: 407-889-4121  
 Email: [news@theapokkachief.com](mailto:news@theapokkachief.com)

**community health centers**

**OB/GYN**  
**Dental**  
**Pharmacy**  
**Internal Medicine**  
**Family Medicine**  
**Pediatrics**

**AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**  
**407-905-8827**  
 225 E 7TH ST, APOPKA, FL 32703  
[WWW.CHCFL.ORG](http://WWW.CHCFL.ORG)  
 CENTERS THROUGHOUT CENTRAL FLORIDA!

**IT'S THE Season OF Saving Money**

**GEICO LOCAL OFFICE**

Zachary Ingram | 407-551-4350  
[geico.com/apopka-ingram](http://geico.com/apopka-ingram)  
 ¡Hablamos Español!

Temperatures are dropping. Your insurance rate could drop, too! See how much you could save with your local GEICO agent in Apopka.

Limitations apply. See geico.com for more details. GEICO & affiliates. Washington, DC 20076. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2024. © 2024 GEICO

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY**

**\$1000 OFF**  
 OR  
**\$1500 OFF**  
 when financing with remodelingloans.com™  
 OR  
**0% Interest** for 18 Months\*  
 OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/2025  
 Military & Senior Discounts Available

- Tub-to-Shower Conversions
- Replacement Tubs
- Replacement Showers
- Walk-in Tubs
- Low-Barrier Showers
- Soaker Tubs
- Accessories and more!

**BATH CONCEPTS INC**  
**CALL NOW!**  
**(855) 729-3984**

\*Includes labor and product. Bath, shower or walk-in tub and well surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/31/2025. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI.

**It's more than just cremation; it's a tribute to a life well-lived.**

Explore our compassionate cremation options at Highland Memory Gardens and Funeral Home.

**HIGHLAND FUNERAL HOME**  
**HIGHLAND MEMORY GARDENS**  
 We Make It Personal.®

3329 East Semoran Blvd.  
 Apopka, FL 32703  
 407-869-1188  
[highlandfh.com](http://highlandfh.com)

**LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION**

**LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!**

**THE LEAFILTER ADVANTAGE**

1. WE CLEAN CLOGGED GUTTERS
2. WE SEAL + ALIGN GUTTERS
3. WE INSTALL LEAFILTER

**20% OFF** + **10% OFF**  
 Your Entire Purchase\* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

**Promo: 285**

**CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!**  
**1-866-549-6518**

**BEFORE AFTER**

**FULL SERVICE GUTTER PROTECTION - SCHEDULE YOUR FREE INSPECTION NOW! 1-866-549-6518**

\*See Representative for full warranty details. \*One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. †Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 366929923, AZ ROC 344227, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671520, FL CBC056678, IA C127220, ID REC-51604, LA 55554, MA 175447, MD MABC11225, MI 262300173, 262300116, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN IR731804, MT 226192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13VH0995390, NM 408693, NY 86990, NV H-19114, H-52229, OR 218234, PA 179643, 069983, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 1078668-5501, VA 270316446, WA LEAF7NWE02Z, WV WV006912.

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

*Honest. Reliable. Affordable.*

**NICK'S AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING**  
 LIC. #CAC1817219

**EMERGENCY HOUR SERVICES AVAILABLE**

**A/C INSTALLATION • AIR DUCT CLEANING • AIR DUCT INSTALLATION**  
**GAS/ELECTRIC FURNACE INSTALLATION AND REPAIR**  
**BLOWN-IN INSULATION • HEATER REPAIR • A/C REPAIR**  
**AIR DUCT REPAIR • DUCTLESS A/C SERVICES**  
**HEATER INSTALLATION • SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

**407-489-5060**

174 Semoran Commerce PL #B124 Apopka, FL

**Rheem**  
**RUUD**  
**FUJITSU**  
**DURASTAR**

# Carter: To honor President's Carter death, flags will be flown at half-staff

Continued from page 2A

Georgia, to help manage his family's peanut farm. He worked hard stewarding the land while leading his community as a church deacon, Sunday school teacher, and board member of a hospital and library. His deep faith inspired a passion for pub-

lic service that led him to be elected State Senator, Georgia's 76th Governor, and ultimately President of the United States. As President, he understood that Government must be as good as its people — and his faith in the people was boundless just as his belief in America was limitless and his hope

for our common future was perennial. With President Carter's leadership, the modern Department of Education and the Department of Energy were created. He championed conservation, and his commitment to a more just world was at the heart of his foreign policy, leading on nuclear nonpro-

liferation, signing the Panama Canal treaties, and mediating the historic 1978 Camp David Accords. His partnership with Vice President Walter Mondale is one that future administrations strived to achieve.

Following his Presidency, President Carter advanced an agenda that elevated the least among us. Guided by an unwavering belief in the power of human goodness and the God-given dignity of every human being, he worked tirelessly around the globe to broker peace; eradicate disease; house the homeless; and protect human rights, freedom, and democracy.

Through his extraordinary moral leadership, President Carter lived a noble life full of meaning and purpose. And as a trusted spiritual leader, he shepherded people through seasons of pain and joy, inspiring them through the power of his example and healing them through the power of his guidance.

As we mourn the loss of President Carter, we hold the memory of his beloved Rosalynn, his wife of over 77 years, close in our hearts. Exemplifying hope, warmth, and service, she

and her husband inspired the Nation. The love Rosalynn and President Carter shared is the definition of partnership, and their devotion to public service is the definition of patriotism.

May President Carter's memory continue to be a light pointing us forward. May we continue to be guided by his spirit in our Nation and in our world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, in honor and tribute to the memory of President James Earl Carter, Jr., and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff at the White House and on all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions for a period of 30 days from the day of his death. I also direct that, for the same length of

time, the representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall make similar arrangements for the display of the flag at half-staff over their embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

I hereby order that suitable honors be rendered by units of the Armed Forces under orders of the Secretary of Defense.

I do further appoint January 9, 2025, as a National Day of Mourning throughout the United States. I call on the American people to assemble on that day in their respective places of worship, there to pay homage to the memory of President James Earl Carter, Jr.

I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

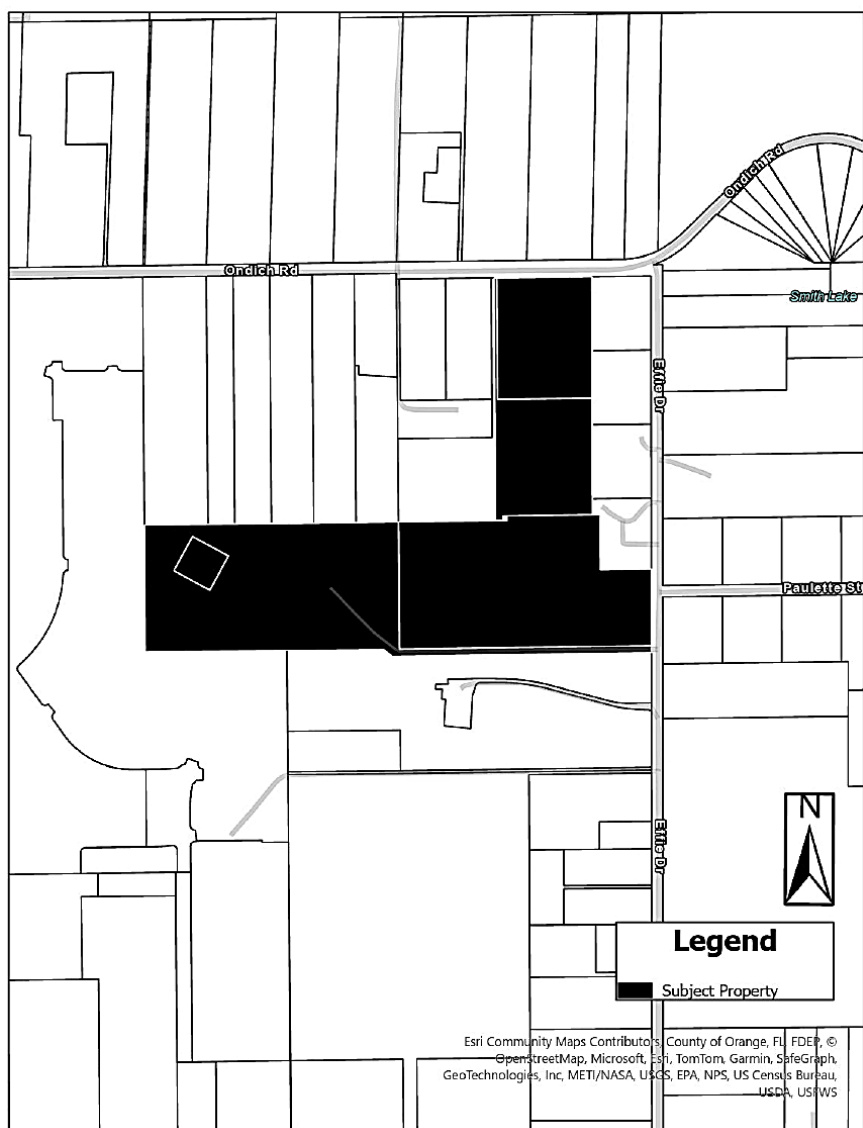
JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LARGE-SCALE 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 **Applan Engineering, LLC c/o Luke Classon, P.E.** has made application relating to the following described property.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3067**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COUNTY RURAL TO MIXED-USE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ONDICH ROAD AND EFFIE DRIVE; COMPRISING 54.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; OWNED BY PM S-1 REO, LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3068**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) DISTRICT TO KPI-MU (KELLY PARK INTERCHANGE - MIXED-USE) DISTRICT, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ONDICH ROAD AND EFFIE DRIVE; COMPRISING 54.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; OWNED BY PM S-1 REO, LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 11-20-27-0000-00-037, 11-20-27-0000-00-069, 12-20-27-0000-00-001, 12-20-27-0000-00-012, 12-20-27-0000-00-046, 12-20-27-0000-00-048  
Contains: 54.85 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3067 and 3068 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.**

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

Apopka City Council  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

January 3, 2025  
Publish: The Apopka Chief

177789

# Moore: Apopka incorporated 1882

Continued from page 2A

something I am quite familiar with, serving as a school board member from 2008 – 2018. Orange County Public Schools was organized in December 1869 with William Lovell of Apopka chosen as the county's first superintendent. It is said he was selected due to having 13 children. However, he was a successful businessman with a dry goods business on Lake Apopka. There is a historical marker located in Magnolia Park commemorating "Lovell's Landing." For more information on District 2 school

history, please refer to my book, *Apopka, The History of Apopka and its Schools*.

The next two decades demonstrate the early pioneer's determination to organize town governments. Orlando was incorporated in 1875, Apopka in 1882, Windermere and Maitland in 1885, Oakland in 1891, Winter Garden in 1908, and Ocoee in 1923. We also know people settled the Tangerine and Zellwood communities during this same period, however, they never incorporated. Lockhart, which recently celebrated 150 years of history,

also never incorporated.

Notable events after this founding "town" period is the creation of the original county parks. Warren Park was created in 1924 as a gift from Wilbur and Rose Warren. Dr. Kelly donated and dedicated to Orange County, Rock Springs Park in 1926, and Sadie Connor Trimble donated land for Trimble Park in 1927. Dr. Kelly was an acclaimed physician from Johns Hopkins University who valued saving Rock Springs for public use. Sadie is notable as a wealthy

See MOORE Page 7A

# Hayden: Preserve liberty, freedom

Continued from page 2A

torn between your "to do" list and what your heart tells you what path to take. The business world will condemn you as a failure for not making that extra dollar, but the person you showed love, compassion, and concern for may have just been brought from the brink of suicide, and what is that worth? All of us feel unqualified to give advice reserved for a professional with a doctorate in the field of psychiatry, but it does not take a degree to be filled with empathy enough to show someone they are surrounded by the love of Christ, working through you. A smile and a kind, friendly greeting as you pass someone on the street, or in the hallway may stay

with that person all day, and it will encourage them to pass it on.

Want to make a difference? Be different! Want to change the world? Change yourself! Do something! We have a new year and what we do with it is our responsibility. I may never be able to influence the whole world, but I can influence the world I live in, starting here!

I've known failures in my past, and I have scars to prove them, but they are nowhere near as telling as the path to happiness I'm planning to leave as I enter this brand-new year! There is nothing that can separate us that is as strong as our resolve to be united as we stand together as Americans! We owe no apologies for the stupid mistakes of

our past, because our people have been strengthened and humbled by them. We hold no grudges for wrongs committed against us, but we trust justice to work and take her own vengeance by the laws of our land.

Our last four years have been weighed in the balances and found wanting, as the hand wrote on the walls of Darius' palace found in the book of Esther. His was a final pronouncement, but ours is meant to enliven and encourage action and unity as one people, in love with one another, preserving Liberty and Freedom for our babies, their babies, and on and on, as Americans riding the Horse of Democracy through the entry curtains of 2025!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## 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.theapokchief.com, news@theapokchief.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. <a href="http://www.apopka.net">www.apopka.net</a>	

#### 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
<a href="http://www.orangecountyfl.net">www.orangecountyfl.net</a>	

#### Other Area Numbers of Note

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)	352-241-9220
<b>State Representatives</b>	
Doug Bankson	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)	unknown
<b>State Senators</b>	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11)	407-297-2045
<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Christine Moore	407-836-7350
<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Pupil assignment	407-317-3233
Bus routes	407-317-3800
Superintendent	407-317-3200
School Board	407-317-3200
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce	407-886-1441

# State unemployment rate rose slightly in November

By Steve Wilson  
The Center Square

According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the seasonally-adjusted jobless rate in Florida was 3.4 percent in November, 0.1 percentage points higher than last month.

That's still lower than the national rate of 4.2 percentage. Out of a labor force of more than 11 million, there were 376,000 Floridians without jobs. The state's workforce participation rate was 57.7 percent, down from October when it was 58.3 percent. The national rate is

62.5 percent.

This rate is a measure of the number of adults either working or actively seeking work.

The number of non-farm positions increased by 61,500 jobs in November compared to the month prior. For the year to date, Florida gained 163,900 jobs over the year, an increase of 1.7 percent.

According to the data, eight of the 10 largest industries in Florida saw employment gains compared to the same time last year. The education and health care sectors grew by 34,300 jobs (2.3 percent). Leisure and hospitality added 31,400

jobs (2.4 percent), while construction added 28,700 jobs (4.5 percent gain) and government added 26,500 jobs (2.3 percent). The trade, transportation and utilities sector grew by 23,800 positions (1.2 percent).

Monroe County in far southern Florida had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.3 percent, followed by Miami-Dade (2.4 percent) and Gulf counties (3.2 percent).

Citrus County had the highest unemployment rate statewide at (5.5 percent) in Florida in November, followed by Hamilton

and Hendry (5.2 percent each) and Highlands and Sumter counties (5.1 percent apiece).

All 24 metro areas had job gains, with the largest being the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, which added 24,800 jobs for an increase of 1.9 percent. Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford's workforce grew by 18,500 jobs or a gain of 1.2 percent. The Tampa Bay metro added 16,900 new positions, a gain of 1.1 percent.

The report also says 19 of 24 metro areas have recovered to pre-hurricane levels of employment.

# Toy drive helps 135 families including one from Apopka

Due to inflation and the state of the economy, Apopka mother Lauren Westfall needed help buying toys this Christmas. This was her first year participating in the Orange County Mayor's Holiday Toy Drive.

"It means everything. It means making Christmas this year. Unfortunately, with the state of the economy, it's hard right now to afford things that aren't necessities. Toys for Christmas helped to start that right now for our family," said Westfall, whose four

children range in ages 13 years, 12 years, 5 years, and 7 months. "But with stuff like this, we were able to provide Christmas for our kids and that means everything."

Westfall said her daughter wants "anything Paw Patrol but my sons, it's harder to buy for them now. They're getting to be teenagers and they don't want just anything. They want the most expensive things. So sometimes it's just nice to be able to get stuff that they'll like, that you probably couldn't normally af-

ford." Westfall was one of the 135 families who picked up their toys at the 14th annual Orange County Mayor's Holiday Toy Drive on Wednesday, December 18, at Barnett Park in Orlando.

Families lined up in their cars and made three stops. The first stop was for free Starbucks, the second was for their bag of toys from the toy drive, which were pre-selected according to the information the family provided, and finally,

they picked up a box of food and a turkey.

This year's toy drive collected 10,677 donated toys for 250 Orange County families with 800 kids. Since the toy drive kicked off 14 years ago, it has collected over 96,000 donated toys.

In 2023, residents of Orange County donated 11,566 toys and served nearly 1,900 children, which was the toy drive's biggest impact yet.

"Every toy donated

to our toy drive goes directly to an Orange County family that needs support this holiday season," Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings said in a news release. "By contributing, you're not just giving a gift; you're creating hope and spreading kindness. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most."

Donations support Or-

See TOY Page 7A



**The Way I See It**  
Patti Bankson

## How Sausage Is Made

A University of Miami (FI) study published this month has revealed that between 2016 and 2023, luxury beachfront condos and hotels in Miami have sunk by as much as three inches. A total of 35 buildings have been identified, with nearly 70 percent located in northern and central Sunny Isles including Trump Tower III, Trump International Beach Resorts, The Ritz-Carlton Residences, as well as, Surf Club Towers, Faena Hotel, and the Porsche Design Tower. These high rises, some with more than 300 units, include penthouses that cost millions of dollars and provide accommodations for tens of thousands of residents and tourists. Preliminary information also showed that some buildings along the Broward and Palm Beach coasts are sinking as well. (Miami Herald). The article went on to discuss cause and effect and, of course, the part that climate change may be playing.

Reading that article caused my imagination to kick in ... or my view of what the future effect on those buildings, worth multiple millions, I'm sure, could be on Florida's insurance industry. What's left of homeowners/property insurance, specifically. As one who has sustained significant damage from Hurricane Milton and is still sitting in a "damaged" house with a bright blue tarp on the roof, I feel like I'm learning how sausage is made by insurance companies, and it ain't pretty!

Here's where it started getting ugly ... In the last three years, as part of a broader trend, reflecting the growing challenges and financial risks associated with insuring homes in Florida, over 30 home insurance providers have either stopped offering new policies, limited their risk, become insolvent or have completely exited the market, among them - AAA. As of July, 2023, AAA an-

nounced it's not renewing policies that bundle auto, home and umbrella coverage ... to limit their risk. It will continue to write new business in areas with lower exposure.

**Farmers Insurance:** Also in July 2023, Farmers ceased offering or renewing any auto, home, and umbrella policies in Florida. **Bankers Insurance:** Mid-2022, Bankers Insurance also reported its exit from Florida, following substantial losses and market instability.

The ongoing exodus of home insurance companies from Florida highlights the critical need for robust and effective legislative measures to stabilize the market and ensure that homeowners can access affordable and comprehensive insurance coverage. Without such interventions, the state's insurance market may continue to contract, leaving homeowners vulnerable and financially exposed.

**NEW LAWS IN 2023.** Several important legislative measures were introduced to address core issues in the ongoing Florida home insurance market crisis. **House Bill 799** made significant adjustments to property insurance, such as modifying rating factors and setting specific flood coverage requirements, which directly affects the financial planning of homeowners. **House Bill 881** extended the **My Safe Florida Home Program**, increasing the insured value eligibility to \$700,000 and raising the grant amount for low-income homeowners to \$10,000, thus broadening the support for making homes safer and more resilient. **Senate Bill 1102** revamped the claims process for motor vehicle glass damage, which, although specific, shows a trend towards refining claim protocols to prevent abuse. (Oyer, Macoviak & Associates)

Whether that's enough to meet the needs of those who have been thrown out in the cold by "their" insurance companies, remains to be seen, but I'm glad to see that someone who can do something about it actually is trying to do something about it.

We'd like to know What YOU think?  
barefootwahine1@yahoo.com  
©2024 Patti Bankson

**The Best Compliment You Can Give Is A Referral.**  
Please support these local businesses and organizations.

Specializing in Damage-Free Towing  
Car Carrier Service

**BJ's Towing Service, Inc.**

407-886-0568  
670 E. Mason Avenue | Apopka, FL 32703  
bjstowing@centurylink.net

**WORKPLACE SCREENING INTELLIGENCE**  
Helping Employers and Employees  
Get Back to Work Safely and Stay COVID Free

**LABORATORY TESTING**

- ✓ Drug Screening Nationally
- ✓ Covid Screens
- ✓ Titer Testing
- ✓ New Transferrin Gold TB Test

Call: 800-338-5515 or Email: info@workplacescreening.com  
www.workplacescreening.com

**BOUNCE & SLIDE RENTALS**

TURN ANY DAY INTO A JUMP-FOR-TOY OCCASION!

Are You Looking to Throw the Ultimate Party?

- NOW Available: INFLATABLE PICTURE SCREEN
- Bounce houses and slide combos available
- Different Sizes available Wet & Dry
- Tables and chairs for up to 30 guests.
- Clean, Commercial Grade Quality Units

For Availability and Rates Call 407-457-2934 visit www.bounceliderentals.com or Email bounceliderental@outlook.com Licensed, insured, and S.I.O.T.O. certified.

**Shelley's Septic Tanks**

FREE ESTIMATES 407-889-8042

Hours: Monday - Friday 7AM - 5PM

Environmentally Friendly Company!  
Licensed & Insured  
State Certified

**Emergency Services Available After Hours**

6505 W. Jones Ave., Zellwood, FL 32798

**Trendy Kids**

**We Buy Kid's Things**

3030 E. Semoran Blvd., Ste 202, Apopka  
407-788-8010

**RSR Rock Springs Realty, LLC**  
Residential & Investment Real Estate

- Selling: What's your home worth in the current market?
- Buying: Search "ALL" homes for sale in Apopka

www.RockSpringsRealty.com

CALL Joe Bornstein, Broker: (407) 252-8092  
VOTED "BEST OF APOPKA" REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL

**Please Support These Businesses & Service Organizations.**  
They Care About You & Are Investing in the Community.

**OLD GLASSES & HEARING AIDS WANTED**

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

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

**The Apopka Chief and The Planter Newspapers**  
or **Apopka Office Supply** at  
400 N. Park Ave., Apopka  
407-886-2777

The Apopka Chief, The Planter & AOS (Apopka Office Supply) would like to thank the generous Apopka area for continuing to donate the gift of sight or hearing for so MANY.

**GIVE A LITTLE, GET A LOT**  
with Just A Taste!

REG. \$34.99  
**NOW \$24.99**  
+ \$5.99 SHIPPING  
#PROGB - Just A Taste Gift Box

**SAVE 38%**

Affordable, Delicious & Ready to Ship

4 Fruit Varieties & Snacks to Share!  
Treat a special friend, teacher, neighbor or co-worker to a personal-sized sampling of Pittman & Davis's most loved fruits and sweets. This affordable gift box introduces your recipient to our famous premium fruit.

- 1 Navel Orange
- 1 King Comice Pear
- 1 Rio Ruby™ Red Grapefruit
- 1 Fuji Apple
- 2.5 oz. Gourmet Chocolate Chip Cookies
- 5 oz. Honey Roasted Peanuts

Satisfaction completely guaranteed. Order by Dec. 15, 2024 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. Limited time offer, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

**Pittman & Davis**  
Farm Fresh Gifts Since 1926

**CALL 1-844-881-7096**  
OR VISIT [PITTMANDAVIS.COM/PSYF84](http://PITTMANDAVIS.COM/PSYF84)  
Order Item #PROGB, mention Code PSYF84  
PITTMAN & DAVIS • HARLINGEN, TX 78552 IC: PSYF84

**SEND US YOUR NEWS**  
Visit [www.TheApopkaChief.com](http://www.TheApopkaChief.com)  
Phone: 407-886-2777  
Fax: 407-889-4121  
Email: [news@theapokkachief.com](mailto:news@theapokkachief.com)

**REGAL**

Fri., Jan. 3, 2025 thru Sun., Jan. 5, 2025

3D SHOWINGS

MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG) 12:40

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (R) 12:00; 3:10; 6:20; 10:10  
MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG) 12:10; 3:40; 4:20; 6:40; 7:20; 9:50  
WICKED (PG) 12:20; 3:00; 6:30; 9:30  
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG) 12:30; 1:10; 3:30; 4:10; 6:50; 7:30; 9:40; 10:20  
NOSFERATU (R) 1:00; 4:00; 7:10; 10:10  
MOANA 2 (PG) 12:50; 3:50; 7:00; 10:40  
THE FIRE INSIDE (PG-13) 10:30

TUES. VALUE DAYS  
NOW ONLY \$6.99 + TAX with Regal Crown Club card. (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)

**WEKIVA RIVERWALK**  
WEKIVA SPRINGS RD, APOPKA  
[www.regmovies.com](http://www.regmovies.com)



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

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

**811** Know what's below. Call before you dig.

**Lake Apopka Natural Gas District**

[www.langd.org](http://www.langd.org) 407-656-2734 ext. 307

**Ho, Ho, Vroom!**  
Turn your car into cash today!



**No Hassle | Best Appraisal | Offer good for 7 days**

Sell Your Car At  
**mullinax Ford**

See salesperson for details.

1551 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL • [www.MullinaxFordFL.com](http://www.MullinaxFordFL.com) • 407-972-1678

## County: Historical Society's mission ...

Continued from page 1A

The Apopka Historical Society mission remains committed to preserving the stories, landmarks, and artifacts that define our past while fostering a deep appreciation for the arts and cultures that enrich our lives today. We are firm to continuing this work with passion and dedication, ensuring that the stories of the past play a vital role in connecting us to our roots and inspiring future generations to treasure our shared heritage and the history that shape Orange County. As I reflect on the rich history and vibrant culture in our community, let us look to the future with optimism and ambition. Together we have the power to shape the next chapter of our history, one that prioritizes arts,

culture, and the expansion of our museum as a cornerstone of our shared legacy.

By working together, we can ensure that the museum becomes a beacon of creativity! Let's turn our shared vision into action, making 2025 a defining moment for arts and culture in our city.

May this milestone inspire continued collaboration and steadfast progress for all who call Orange County home.

Congratulations once again on this historic achievement!

*Maribel Brinkle is the president of the Apopka Historical Society. The Apopka Museum is located at 122 E. Fifth St., Apopka. For more information about the museum, visit theapokkasmuseum.com.*

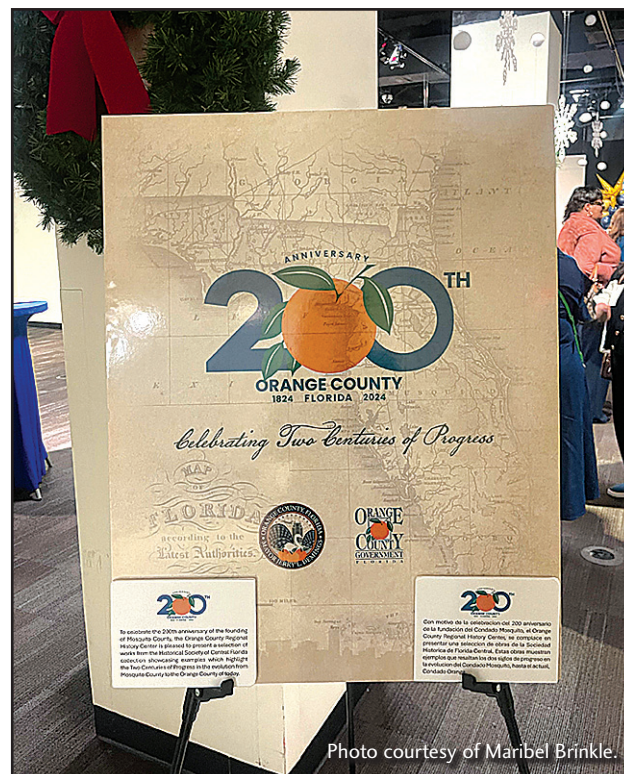


Photo courtesy of Maribel Brinkle.

A sign announcing Orange County's bicentennial celebration on Sunday, December 29, 2024, at the Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando.

## Report: Florida's pension system is on solid financial ground

By Steve Wilson  
The Center Square

Florida's pension system improved its financial position in the past fiscal year according to its annual comprehensive financial report.

The Florida Retirement

System for state, county and municipal employees enjoyed investment returns of 10.52 percent, which increased the plan's net position to \$199.7 billion, a 6.6 percent increase compared to the year before (\$187.4 billion). The plan's funding ratio improved from 82.4

percent to 83.7 percent this year.

The plan has liabilities of \$6.06 billion, up from last year when those added up to \$3.49 billion.

Last year, the plan's investments had a return of 7.5 percent, which is still better than the plan's expected 6.7 percent rate of return.

The funding ratio is defined as the share of future obligations covered by current assets and is a solid measure for determining the fiscal health of a pension fund.

According to the report, contributions from employers (taxpayers) totaled \$6.5 billion, a 15.6 percent increase from the previous year (\$5.58 billion), while employee contributions added up to \$923 million, up from the \$904 million collected last year.

The report said the increase was due to a "high-

er payroll base, primarily in local government employers and higher employer contribution rates."

Benefits paid to retirees and beneficiaries were up 0.9 percent for a total of \$12.36 billion.

The plan has 659,333 contributing members (state and local employees), with 489,438 of them vested. They support 459,428 retirees and beneficiaries.

Members can choose at hiring between the standard defined-benefit pension plan and a plan akin to a 401-K called the investment plan. Employees have eight months to opt into a plan or they will be sent by default into the investment plan.

According to a report by Fitch Ratings, Tennessee had the lowest pension liabilities, followed by Nebraska, South Dakota, Florida and Arizona.


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

Both Websites have searchable capabilities.

**The Apopka Chief,**  
400 N. Park Ave., Apopka FL 32712  
[legals@theapokkachief.com](mailto:legals@theapokkachief.com) - 407-886-2777

Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief

**JOB NOW HIRING**



**community health centers**

- Pediatrics
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- OB/GYN
- Dental
- Pharmacy

**AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**

**407-905-8827**

225 E 7TH ST, APOPKA, FL 32703

[WWW.CHCFL.ORG](http://WWW.CHCFL.ORG)

CENTERS THROUGHOUT CENTRAL FLORIDA!



**Get Your E-edition today!**  
Read page by page. Anywhere, Anytime, and on Any Device

**In Print. Online. On the Go.**

Your Local News. Your Way!

Staying connected is easier than ever...



Complete Local News Coverage  
Social & Political Changes  
Dining & Entertainment  
Lifestyle & Local Events  
Business & Economic News  
Youth Sports & School News  
Weather & Traffic  
Church News  
Classifieds  
and so much more



**Get Your E-edition Call or Subscribe Online!**  
**The Apopka Chief**

Your Trusted Local News Source  
E-mail: [News@TheApopkaChief.com](mailto:News@TheApopkaChief.com)  
[Ads@TheApopkaChief.com](mailto:Ads@TheApopkaChief.com)  
[www.TheApopkaChief.com](http://www.TheApopkaChief.com)

Like us on Facebook. Get important news when it happens.  
400 N. Park Ave., Apopka, FL 32712  
Phone: 407-886-2777 • Fax: 407-889-4121

# City: New contract includes virtual reality tech for training

Continued from page 1A

we have been purchasing new equipment in today's prices rather than the originally contracted rates as our current contract did not account for growth."

"After discussion with Axon, we identified the need to consolidate our contracts into a new agreement that incorporates all existing products, locks in today's pricing and accounts for future growth. Additionally, we explored new Axon products that could enhance the level of service we provide to our community," McKinley added.

The new piggyback agreement includes not only purchasing 150 body-worn cameras, but also anticipates growth by including five additional cameras and tasers per year for the remaining four years of the contract, locking in the pricing for up to 20 additional units at the current price.

Some of the new features and improvements of the latest equipment include the ability for officers to signal their supervi-

sors for real-time monitoring, an enhanced 13-hour battery life to accommodate the APD's new 12-hour shifts, bidirectional communications for hands-free interaction with dispatch supervisors, translators, or mental health professionals so they can use the camera to do two-way communication; and a language line to translate whatever language needs to be spoken on the scene.

The proposed contract also locks in the pricing for Fusus in the APD drone platform. At the time of the December 18, meeting, Fusus cost the APD \$65,000 annually and will set the increase at a hundred to \$110,000 next year. Through negotiations, the APD secured a \$70,000-per-year rate for the contract's duration, including additional data cores at no additional cost, McKinley explained.

Additional benefits of the contract are that the APD will receive six virtual-reality headsets and tablets for advanced training and de-escalation crisis intervention and use-of-force scenarios. The headsets will

allow the APD to do virtual reality training with scenarios that are created by Axon for the life of the contract.

The agreement also includes Draft One, Axon's AI-powered report writing tool that generates draft report narratives from body camera recordings. This feature is offered at a discount and can be canceled at any time without penalty.

The APD also continues to use Axon's Evidence.com to manage all of the department's cases.

Commissioner Nick Nesta said he liked that virtual reality technology is being incorporated into police's use.

"I really like that we're implementing virtual reality VR. I think that's going to be huge for us," Nesta said. "Staying on the cutting edge of technology for our department, I think is going to help with recruiting and retaining as well as it's going to increase our safety for our officers and, and our residents. So, it is an increase, a pretty sizable increase, but it's needed. I think,

again, it helps us compete with other municipalities as well to make sure that we're recruiting, getting the best of the best. And it does."

McKinley agreed with Nesta. The police chief then credited the police department's "very good" fleet of patrol cars as one of the recruiting tools for new officers. What's more, the chief credited the city with helping the APD sponsor police academy recruits, contributing to the department's growth. However, the APD is seeing two officers retire in January and one in February, McKinley said.

Resident Leroy Bell pointed out that the money the city is paying for the body cameras aren't coming from a grant, but taxpayer dollars, therefore, the taxpayers should see the products.

"It's not only just for the police to wear around that he can get real time, this, that, this, that, and another. It should be where that the citizen can see what they're paying for," Bell said.

# Toy: In 2023, Orange County residents donated 11,566 toys

Continued from page 5A

Orange County youth and family agencies, including the Orange County Neighborhood Centers for

Families, Wraparound Orange, Orange County Public Schools Kids' Closet, and local nonprofit organizations.

Residents could ei-

ther donate online or drop new, unwrapped items at one of 37 locations around the county. The toy drive serves youth from infants through teens.

Westfall praised the job the Orange County Mayor's Holiday Toy Drive did: "I think this was amazing. You guys did a great job here. I've been in line

for hours at Toys for Tots before in Volusia County, so this was amazing."

She also acknowledged that the toys from the Orange County toy drive

will make her children happy: "This means Christmas under the tree. It means a good Christmas morning."

# Moore: Rock Springs Park was donated and dedicated in 1926

Continued from page 4A

female pioneer in the Tangerine area of northwest Orange County.

Martin Lockheed, the aircraft and aerospace manufacturer, first opened its Orlando office in 1956. Pine Hills residential areas exist due to the company's engineers needing quality housing. Subsequently, land has been bought from the company to build the Orange County Convention Center and Universal Studios' Epic Universe.

In 1958 McCoy Air Force Base was renamed in honor of Col. Michael McCoy from the former name of Pine Castle Air Force Base. The base had been utilized as a training facility for B-17 bombers and chemical munitions testing. McCoy Airport now is the 4th busiest airport in the entire country, known as Orlando International Airport.

Another milestone was the construction of Interstate

4 in 1959. Spanning across the state from Tampa to Daytona Beach, Interstate 4 connects many of Florida's most visited destinations. The very first section of the highway opened to motorists in 1959.

Florida Technological University (FTU) opened in 1968 out of a growing interest in space travel throughout the 1960s. The initial majors offered focused on science, technology, and engineering to benefit the nearby Kennedy Space Center. In 1978, the university changed its name to the University of Central Florida.

Then comes the years of the expansion of our major industry in Orange County - tourism. In 1971 after years of anticipation, the Walt Disney World Resort officially opened to the public. On the opening day, 10,000 people entered the park. Today, Orange County annually entertains 74 million visitors. Seaworld quickly followed suit in 1973 making Central Florida a multi-park destination. In

1990 Universal Studios Florida opened, tracing its history back to the innovation of film production. We will be celebrating the opening of Epic Universe this coming May.

In 1976, the Board of County Commissioners established a historical commission to carry on the work which led to the 1976 opening of the Orange County Historical Museum in Loch Haven Park. This facility was the precursor to the History Center, which opened its door in 2000 to critical acclaim and national awards in the county's 1927 courthouse.

Today, Orange County is the fifth-largest county, by population, in Florida, with world-famous attractions, one of the nation's largest convention centers, excellent education institutions, a robust economy, vibrant arts and culture. It is a diverse and thriving community.

I hope you are a vibrant citizen, participating in the community, and making it better for future generations.

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **John Ryan Adams** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of property generally located East of Plymouth Sorrento Road and North of W. Ponkan Road. This application relates to the following described property:

### ORDINANCE NO. 3089

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY GLOBAL INVESTMENTS VAULT LLC; GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF PLYMOUTH SORRENTO ROAD AND NORTH OF W. PONKAN ROAD; COMPRISING 11.12 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



Parcel Identification Number(s): 19-20-28-0000-00-006  
Contains: 11.12 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3089 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M and Wednesday, February 19, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Annexation 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.

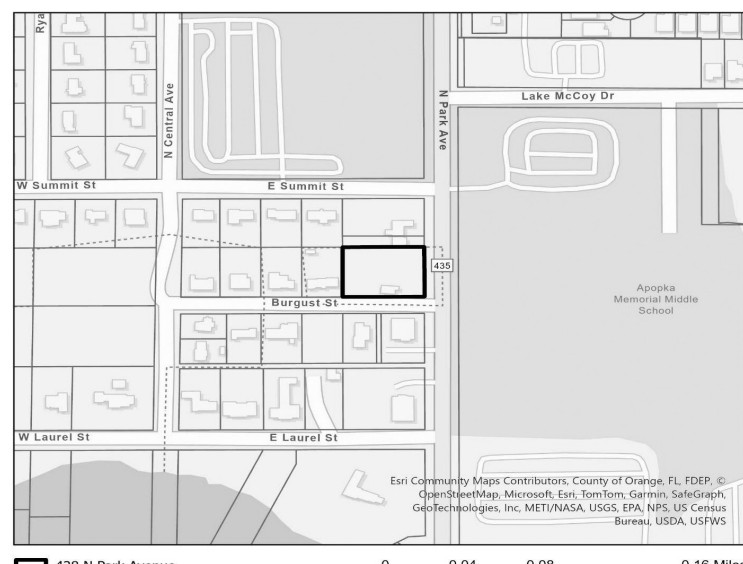
January 3, 2025  
Apopka City Council  
Community Development Department  
Publish: The Apopka Chief 177778

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **Nick Diangelis** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of property generally located on the Northwest corner of N. Park Avenue and Burgust Street. This application relates to the following described property:

### ORDINANCE NO. 3090

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY NICHOLAS DIANGELIS AND STEPHANIE DIANGELIS; LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF N. PARK AVENUE AND BURGUST STREET; COMPRISING 0.66 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



Parcel Identification Number(s): 04-21-28-2204-01-110  
Contains: 0.66 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3090 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M and Wednesday, February 19, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Annexation 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.

January 3, 2025  
Apopka City Council  
Community Development Department  
Publish: The Apopka Chief 177779

**SMILE WITH Confidence!**

**Schroeder Dental Group**  
**Katrina M. Schroeder, DMD**  
 COSMETIC & GENERAL DENTISTRY  
 Call Now For An Appointment **407-886-1611**

**\$100 OFF**  
**Tooth Whitening**  
 (Reg. \$395 • Now \$295)  
 Get the sensational smile you deserve!  
Transferable. Please share with your family, friends and co-workers! Offer good for 30 days. Expires 1/31/25.

New Patients Welcome!

MyApopkaDentist.net Emergency Appointments Available  
 527 Wekiva Commons Cir., Apopka, FL **Invisalign/ZOOM!**

# BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide to Local Businesses

**Whether you're looking to improve your smile or maintain your dental health, the Schroeder Dental Group can help**

**GraceWorx Community Church**

**SATURDAY SERVICES**

**Bible Study 10:00 AM**  
**Worship 11:30 AM**  
**Livestream:**  
**tinyurl.com/4ak7933j**

9913 Bear Lake Rd., Apopka, FL  
 graceworxcc@gmail.com  
 321-228-4599

**MALTBY'S**  
 Tree Service & Landscaping

Do you have trees that need attention before a storm hits? If so, call us today!  
**LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED**  
**CELEBRATING OVER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Landscape Installation
- Stump Grinding
- Grapple Truck Services

**321-689-5866**  
 Call us today for a free consultation and estimate.

**JAMES MALTBY** Owner  
 Licensed & Insured

**JAN. 18**

**VFW POST 10147**  
 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka  
 invites you to its 3rd Saturday  
**FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST**  
**SAT., JAN. 18**  
**8 a.m.-10 a.m.**

- Scrambled Eggs
- Sausage Links • Pancakes
- Biscuits and Gravy
- Orange Juice • Coffee • Water

**ALL FOR \$7.00!**  
 Children under 5 free with paid adult  
 • Door Prizes • Drawings •

**VFW MISSION:**  
 Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

Your smile is one of the first things, if not the first thing that someone notices about you. Whether you're meeting up with friends for a night out, or visiting with family, you want your smile to dazzle and shine.

However, for many, this isn't the case. Between chips, cracks, misalignment, discoloration, and missing teeth, your smile might not have the appearance you wish it could be. The good news is that you're not alone – many people experience some form of cosmetic or functional issue with their smiles throughout their lives. There's no need to worry. There are plenty of ways to achieve a more beautiful smile, and that can start with a visit to the **Schroeder Dental Group**.

In 2006, Dr. Schroeder graduated from the University of Florida's College of Dentistry with a Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry (DMD) and began her private practice that same year. For 14 years now, she has faithfully served the needs of Apopka residents by providing exceptional oral health care for patients of all ages. Entire families come to the **Schroeder Dental Group** for their dental care needs. Her number one calling card is that she treats patients like people, not numbers. She delivers personalized treatment plans that are in the best interest of you, the patient, each and every time. You'll never feel rushed or overlooked.

**Dr. Schroeder** offers everything from routine cleaning and fillings to complex dental work, such as root ca-

nals. Her patients have come to appreciate her kind, compassionate manner and her emphasis on patient education. She even writes books on dentistry in her spare time, two of which you can find on Amazon. She is committed to repairing and enhancing your smile by utilizing state-of-the-art techniques with long lasting results. Her and her staff's mission is to ensure that all of their patients are comfortable while they work on their great smile!

**Dr. Schroeder** emphasizes the need for regular dental visits. This will help keep your teeth and gums in good shape. Besides brushing and flossing, a biannual checkup might be the best thing you can do for your oral health. But, what you might not know is that there's a strong relationship between your oral health and your overall health.

Bacteria from untreated gum disease can actually spread infection to other parts of your body. Also, some non-dental conditions have symptoms that appear in the mouth. Dental examinations can reveal signs of vitamin deficiencies, osteoporosis, or more serious conditions such as diabetes or oral cancer.

**Dr. Katrina Schroeder** is Invisalign® certified. Invisalign® (braceless braces) is the latest offering for orthodontics. This is the ideal solution for patients who have their permanent teeth. The product is virtually invisible and removable for meals, brushing, and flossing. **Dr. Schroeder** also offers Zoom! Whitening.



Once you meet Dr. Katrina Schroeder, you'll know why she's so respected by her patients. The office is located at 527 Wekiva Commons Circle in Apopka. Schedule your appointment by calling 407-886-1611.

**Dr. Schroeder** uses the Waterlase MD Laser for both hard and soft tissues, such as teeth and bone. The Waterlase MD Laser can be used to treat cavities, in many cases without the patient having to receive the shots to be numb. Most patients only feel the cool water spray of the laser.

The Waterlase MD Laser can also be used for soft tissue procedures, such as reshaping the gum tissue for a more aesthetic appearance and periodontal procedures. One benefit of utilizing the laser for soft tissue procedures is minimizing post-operative discomfort.

The Diagnodent is a laser that can detect cavities at their very smallest size. By using this technology, **Dr. Schroeder** is able to target and treat all of your small problem areas before they turn into larger issues that require more complicated procedures.

**Dr. Schroeder's** office provides digital im-

aging with minimal radiation and immediate results. The digital images can be seen from every patient room and be immediately available to the patient.

You can rest assured in knowing **Dr. Katrina Schroeder's** dental practice offers you a comprehensive approach to you and your families entire dental care needs. Whether it's a routine check-up or an advanced procedure, her staff is trained in the newest dental techniques, and ensures your visit is a comfortable one. They have the most up-to-date dental technology and treatments and gladly accept most insurance plans. Plus, they offer a payment plan that allows patients without dental insurance to afford the best possible dental care.

Call the **Schroeder Dental Group** at 407-886-1611 and schedule your appointment today.

Advertisement

**LET US TELL YOUR BUSINESS STORY!**

E-mail [ads@TheApopkaChief.com](mailto:ads@TheApopkaChief.com) or call **407-886-2777** to find out about our Business Profile program. Visit [www.theapopkachief.com](http://www.theapopkachief.com) **Helping you is our business!**

**Would You Like Extra Copies?**

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

- 7-11, Highway 436 & Thompson Rd.
- 7-11, Highway 441 & Piedmont-Wekiva Rd.
- 7-11 (Mobil), Highway 441 (Errol Pkwy Errol Estate entrance)
- Ace Meat & Grocery, 439 S. Central Ave. & 5th St.
- Apopka Chief rack, 400 N. Park Ave.
- Apopka High School
- Apopka Quick Mart (BP), Hwy 436 & Lake Cortez Dr.
- Apopka Vape, N. Park Ave. (across from the old Fla. Hosp. location)
- CenturyLink headquarters, SR 436
- Chevron Diamond Gas – Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rds
- Chevron Market, Hwy 441 & Roger Williams Rd.
- 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
- Compare Fresh Market, 436 behind Aaron's
- Crosby's Motor Inn, Hwy 441 & Errol Parkway (Errol Estate)
- Lula Mae's Eatery, Central Ave S.
- Marathon, Main St. (midland downtown)
- McDonald's, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Mobil, (Citgo) Hwy 441 (next to Burger K)
- Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.
- Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot
- Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd
- Porkies BBQ, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Post Office, N. Park Ave. (Martin St)
- Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. & Welch Rd.
- Sam's Discount, Overland & Apopka Blvd.
- Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.
- Sunoco Happy Foods, Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rd.
- Trader Mae's, Rock Springs Rd
- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
- Walgreens, corner of Park Ave and Hwy 441
- Walgreens, N. Park Ave/Welch Rd.
- Wawa Store, 449 W. Main St. - corner of Hwy 441 and Bradshaw
- Wawa Store, 441 & Piedmont Wekiva across from Walmart
- Wekiva High School, Hiawasee Rd.
- Winn Dixie #2246 – Hwy 441 (beside Lowe's)
- Zellwood Station (inside MHP)
- Zellwood Truck Stop Diner, Hwy 441
- Zellwood Water Users, Inc., 3262 Robinson St.

**Office Location: 400 N. Park Avenue, Apopka**

[www.theapopkachief.com](http://www.theapopkachief.com) • Ph: 407-886-2777 • Fax: 407-889-4121 • email: [news@theapopkachief.com](mailto:news@theapopkachief.com) • [ads@theapopkachief.com](mailto:ads@theapopkachief.com)



# The Lord declares plans to prosper you, give you hope, and a future

1. For possible new year's resolutions, Proverbs 16:3 (KJV) says, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be \_\_\_\_\_." Resolved, Established, Directed, Bountiful  
 2. Likewise, Psalm 37:5 (KJV) instructs us to, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to \_\_\_\_\_." Nurture, Pass, Action, Light  
 3. From which book's 29:11 does the Lord declare plans to prosper you, thoughts of peace to give



you hope and a future? Leviticus, Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah  
 4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 are among the verses to focus on what in a new year? Blessings, Moving forward, Grace, Church attendance  
 5. In which month of the religious calendar did the

new year begin in the Bible? 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th  
 6. From James 1:5, what may one lack, and if they ask God, it shall be given? Love, Wisdom, Truth, Goals  
 ANSWERS: 1) Established, 2) Pass, 3) Jeremiah, 4) Moving forward, 5) 7th, 6) Wisdom  
 Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy). FREE TRIAL!  
 (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



Do you have church news you would like us to publicize?

Use Our Online Forms: [www.theapokkachief.com](http://www.theapokkachief.com)

Call **The Apopka Chief & The Planter** at 407-886-2777, fax 407-889-4121, or email [news@theapokkachief.com](mailto:news@theapokkachief.com)

## Plans for the New Year?

Time is clearly cyclical in the way that the sun rises and sets at its appointed time each day, just as the phases of the moon keep repeating and the seasons return predictably every year. But no day is like the one that came before it and every year brings new and unexpected surprises.  
 As we celebrate the New Year it's always wise to look both forward and backwards, as the two-faced god Janus advises, after whom January is named. If history does indeed rhyme, and this includes not just world history but also our own personal history, we should realize that we are often prone to repeating the same mistakes.  
 The value of looking backwards is at least in part

to avoid those previous mistakes. And as far as looking forward, this is where it really helps to ask yourself what you value.  
 If God is to be first in your life you need to live in a way that reflects this, and if you love and value your family, you need to show this in the day-to-day aspects of your life, as well as your plans for the future.  
 As with all planning, there is wisdom in reflecting carefully on what you want to do, seeking the advice of others who can help you formulate and carry out your plans, and writing them down.  
 This year can be the best year of your life, but you must actively plan to make that happen.  
 -Christopher Simon

**Honor Your Loved Ones**  
 Call 407-886-2777 to find out about our designed Obituaries and Memorials or visit [www.TheApopkaChief.com/obituaries](http://www.TheApopkaChief.com/obituaries)

**LFH LOOMIS FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES**  
 VISIT OUR ONLINE OBITUARY  
[LOOMISFUNERALHOMES.COM](http://LOOMISFUNERALHOMES.COM)

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

**Add Your Church To Our List. Call (407) 886-2777**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Holy Tabernacle Church**  
 2501 Apopka Blvd.  
 Call for more info: 407-928-8617

407-886-3388  
*"Attend your place of worship this week"*  
**MARVIN C. ZANDERS FUNERAL HOME**  
 232 W. Michael Gladden Blvd. Apopka, Florida 32703

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.  
 Proverbs 14:26

**State Farm**  
 Shren Yeager  
 49A East 3rd Street, Apopka 407-880-3167  
 Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14*

What is the shortest verse in the Bible?

**Maximize your marketing dollars by FOCUSING your advertising campaign on a concentrated market!**

**Visit us online at TheApopkaChief.com**

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

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

**When you advertise in this section, you get the best of both worlds: low-cost ads AND targeted advertising!**

**Newspaper readers are ACTIVE CONSUMERS!**  
 As a group, they have tremendous buying power!

**Plans for the New Year?**  
 (See message above.)  
  
**"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."**  
 Proverbs 15:22 NIV

**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

**Maximize your marketing dollars by FOCUSING your advertising campaign on a concentrated market!**

- |  |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>AME</b><br/>                 St. Paul AME<br/>                 407-889-4464</p> <p><b>Anglican</b><br/>                 Anglican Community Fellowship<br/>                 Find us at: theacf.net</p> <p><b>Apostolic</b><br/>                 Apostolic Church of Jesus<br/>                 407-886-2556</p> <p><b>Assembly of God</b><br/>                 Apopka Assembly of God<br/>                 407-886-2806<br/>                 One Church<br/>                 Markham Woods<br/>                 407-774-0777</p> <p><b>Baptist</b><br/>                 Apopka First Baptist<br/>                 407-886-2628<br/>                 First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church<br/>                 407-963-5398<br/>                 First Baptist Church of Mount Dora<br/>                 352-385-2222<br/>                 First Baptist Church of Sanlando Springs<br/>                 407-788-6801<br/>                 First Baptist Sorrento<br/>                 352-383-2241<br/>                 First Baptist Church of Sweetwater<br/>                 407-862-3893<br/>                 First Baptist Church of Tangerine<br/>                 352-383-7920<br/>                 First Baptist Church of Zellwood<br/>                 407-889-0509<br/>                 Forest Avenue Baptist Church<br/>                 407-886-4374<br/>                 Fountain of Life Baptist Church of Apopka, Inc.<br/>                 407-814-8322<br/>                 Gospel Centered Church<br/>                 800-924-6850<br/>                 Hope Baptist Church<br/>                 407-886-6980<br/>                 Lockhart Baptist Church<br/>                 407-295-1133<br/>                 Northside Baptist Church<br/>                 407-884-4443<br/>                 One Way Christian Church<br/> <a href="http://www.onewaychristianchurch.com">www.onewaychristianchurch.com</a><br/>                 The Church at Oak Level<br/>                 407-656-1523<br/>                 Pleasant View Baptist Church<br/>                 407-886-6717<br/>                 Riverside Baptist Church<br/>                 407-295-3850<br/>                 Springs Community Baptist Church<br/>                 407-889-2240<br/>                 St. Luke's Full Gospel Baptist Church<br/>                 352-735-9199</p> | <p>Trinity Baptist Church<br/>                 407-886-2966<br/>                 Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church<br/>                 407-886-7864</p> <p><b>Bible</b><br/>                 Bear Lake Bible Chapel<br/>                 407-563-3931</p> <p><b>Biblical Science</b><br/>                 IDMR<br/>                 321-948-3298</p> <p><b>Catholic</b><br/>                 St. Francis of Assisi<br/>                 407-886-4602</p> <p><b>Charismatic Episcopal</b><br/>                 Ascension Church, CEC<br/>                 407-880-9555</p> <p><b>Christian</b><br/>                 Christ Centered Christian Church<br/>                 321-331-0036<br/>                 Journey Christian Church<br/>                 407-884-7223<br/>                 Real Life Christian Church<br/>                 352-735-LOVE</p> <p><b>Christian Science</b><br/>                 Christian Science Church<br/>                 407-389-4200</p> <p><b>Church of Christ</b><br/>                 Apopka Church of Christ now with Plymouth*<br/>                 Central Church of Christ<br/>                 407-869-1419<br/>                 Plymouth (and Apopka) Church of Christ*<br/>                 407-886-1466<br/>                 Church of Christ of West Orange<br/>                 407-656-2770<br/>                 Tri-City Church of Christ<br/>                 407-920-1757<br/>                 10th Street Church of Christ<br/>                 407-884-4835</p> <p><b>Church of God</b><br/>                 Church of God of Zellwood<br/>                 407-886-3074<br/>                 Grace Street Church of God<br/>                 407-298-9188<br/>                 Healing Waters Church of God<br/>                 407-886-3780<br/>                 Park Avenue Worship Center<br/>                 407-886-2696<br/>                 Sorrento Church of God<br/>                 352-735-4245</p> <p><b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</b><br/>                 Apopka Ward<br/>                 407-880-9877</p> <p><b>Episcopal</b><br/>                 Church of the Holy Spirit<br/>                 407-886-1740</p> <p><b>Faith and Word</b><br/>                 Word of Life<br/>                 407-886-7427</p> <p><b>Full Gospel</b><br/>                 Millenium of Glory<br/>                 407-814-0041</p> | <p>New Covenant Perfecting Ministries<br/>                 407-880-8898</p> <p><b>Holiness</b><br/>                 End Time Word Ministry<br/>                 407-369-0148<br/>                 St. Elizabeth Church of God by Faith<br/>                 407-886-6290<br/>                 St. Matthew Holiness<br/>                 407-889-2274<br/>                 Temple of Faith Church<br/>                 407-884-6960</p> <p><b>Independent</b><br/>                 True Temple of God<br/>                 407-880-8181</p> <p><b>Interdenominational</b><br/>                 New Vision Community Church<br/>                 407-886-3619<br/>                 Northwest Community Church<br/>                 407-578-2088<br/>                 One Accord Christian Fellowship Church<br/>                 407-523-3002</p> <p><b>Jewish</b><br/>                 Congregation Beth Am<br/>                 407-862-3505<br/>                 Congregation of Reform Judaism<br/>                 407-645-0444</p> <p><b>Lutheran</b><br/>                 St. Paul Lutheran<br/>                 407-889-2634</p> <p><b>Methodist</b><br/>                 First United Methodist<br/>                 407-886-3421<br/>                 Bear Lake United Methodist<br/>                 407-862-1531<br/>                 Zellwood United Methodist<br/>                 407-889-4426</p> <p><b>Moravian</b><br/>                 Rolling Hills Moravian Church<br/>                 407-332-8380</p> <p><b>Nazarene</b><br/>                 Calvary Church of the Nazarene<br/>                 407-889-2148<br/>                 Apopka Springhill Church of the Nazarene<br/>                 407-884-8322</p> <p><b>Non-Denominational</b><br/>                 Anointed Word Family Worship Center<br/>                 407-886-4989<br/>                 Casa De Oración Internacional<br/>                 321-239-7680<br/>                 Center of Faith Church for All People<br/>                 407-464-9375<br/>                 Church on the Edge<br/>                 407-869-1133<br/>                 City of Destiny (The)<br/>                 407-884-6322</p> | <p>Compass Community Church<br/>                 407-880-6110<br/>                 Dayspring Community Church<br/>                 407-814-4996<br/>                 Everlasting Covenant Christian Center<br/>                 407-884-8598<br/>                 Faithworks Church<br/>                 302-293-1391<br/>                 Freedom Fellowship<br/>                 407-299-6311<br/>                 Freedom Ministries<br/>                 407-886-6006<br/>                 Grace Gospel Church<br/>                 321-438-4554<br/>                 Grace Pointe Church<br/>                 407-889-3383<br/>                 Graceworx Community Church<br/>                 321-228-4599<br/>                 Happy Hill Ministries<br/>                 407-889-0583<br/>                 Holy Tabernacle Church<br/>                 407-928-8617<br/>                 Hosanna To The Highest<br/>                 407-491-4266<br/>                 Inspire<br/>                 407-415-6218<br/>                 Ministries of Good Life<br/>                 407-703-7464<br/>                 New Life Praise Worship Center<br/>                 407-880-3421<br/>                 New Beginning Worship Center<br/>                 352-455-9173<br/>                 New Life Word of Faith<br/>                 321-460-8205<br/>                 Orlando Church of Christ<br/>                 407-823-7370<br/>                 Philemon Ministries<br/>                 407-718-7179<br/>                 Rejoice in the Lord Ministries<br/>                 407-814-7643<br/>                 Remnant Christian Center<br/>                 407-703-7346<br/>                 Renewal Church<br/>                 407-410-5378<br/>                 Servants of God Ministries<br/>                 407-814-8255<br/>                 Sorrento Christian Center<br/>                 352-735-4447<br/>                 Spirit of Life Christian Church<br/>                 407-886-4570<br/>                 Tangerine Community Church<br/>                 352-383-4173<br/>                 The Shabach Church<br/>                 407-445-1230<br/>                 True Words of God<br/>                 Tabernacle of Meeting<br/>                 407-227-8829<br/>                 Victory Church World Outreach Center</p> | <p>407-889-7288</p> <p><b>Pentecostal</b><br/>                 Church in the Son<br/>                 407-246-0001<br/>                 Faith Fellowship Church<br/>                 407-741-3750<br/>                 Ministerios Getsemani<br/>                 407-310-8672<br/>                 Prince of Peace Pentecostal Missionary Church, Inc.<br/>                 407-889-9269<br/>                 Pentecostals of Apopka<br/>                 407-889-3802<br/>                 Way of Grace Ministries<br/>                 407-292-9998</p> <p><b>Presbyterian</b><br/>                 First Presbyterian of Apopka<br/>                 407-886-5943<br/>                 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church<br/>                 407-293-6802</p> <p><b>Reformed Church in America</b><br/>                 Rolling Hills Community Church<br/>                 407-886-7664</p> <p><b>Seventh-day Adventists</b><br/>                 Apopka Seventh-day Adventist<br/>                 407-889-2812<br/>                 Florida Living SDA Church<br/>                 407-284-7472<br/>                 Forest Lake<br/>                 407-869-0680<br/>                 Franco-Haitian<br/>                 407-296-4368<br/>                 Genesis Spanish<br/>                 509-264-4873<br/>                 Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist<br/>                 407-290-1800<br/>                 Mount Olive<br/>                 407-886-0430<br/>                 Orlando Filipino Seventh-day Adventist<br/>                 407-292-9210<br/>                 Orlando Vietnamese Seventh-day Adventist<br/>                 407-339-4974<br/>                 Patmos Chapel SDA<br/>                 321-870-8583<br/>                 Pine Hills<br/>                 407-291-4816<br/>                 Plymouth-Sorrento<br/>                 407-884-0595</p> <p><b>Templo Bíblico</b><br/>                 Templo Asamblea Bíblica Lake Howell Branch Chapel<br/>                 407-814-4465</p> <p><b>Unity</b><br/>                 Unity Church of Christianity<br/>                 407-295-9181</p> <p><b>Ukrainian</b><br/>                 St. Mary's (Protectress) Ukrainian<br/>                 386-848-9888</p> |
|--|--|---|---|---|

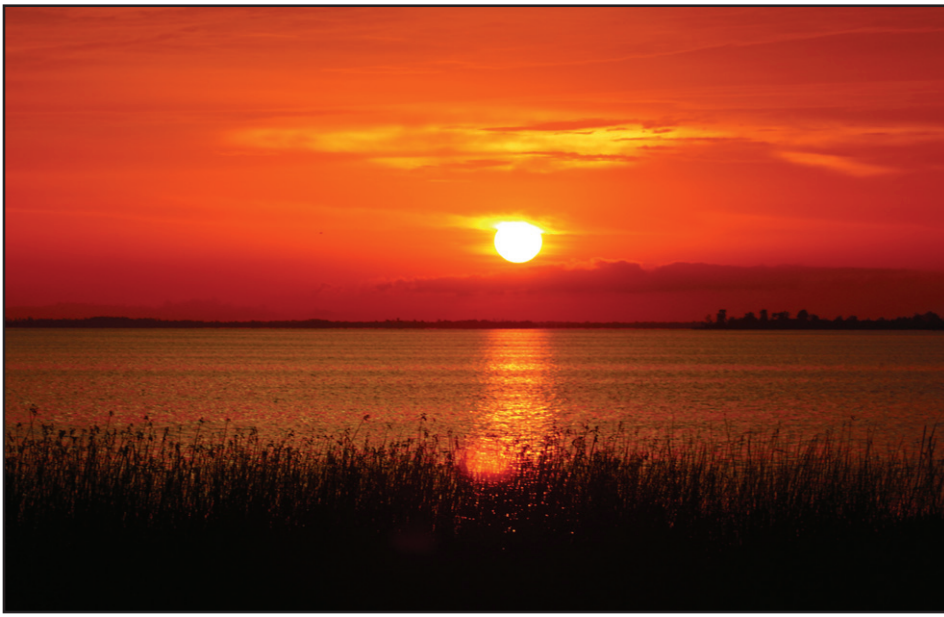
## FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

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

[www.TheApopkaChief.com](http://www.TheApopkaChief.com) | [news@theapokkachief.com](mailto:news@theapokkachief.com) | 407-886-2777

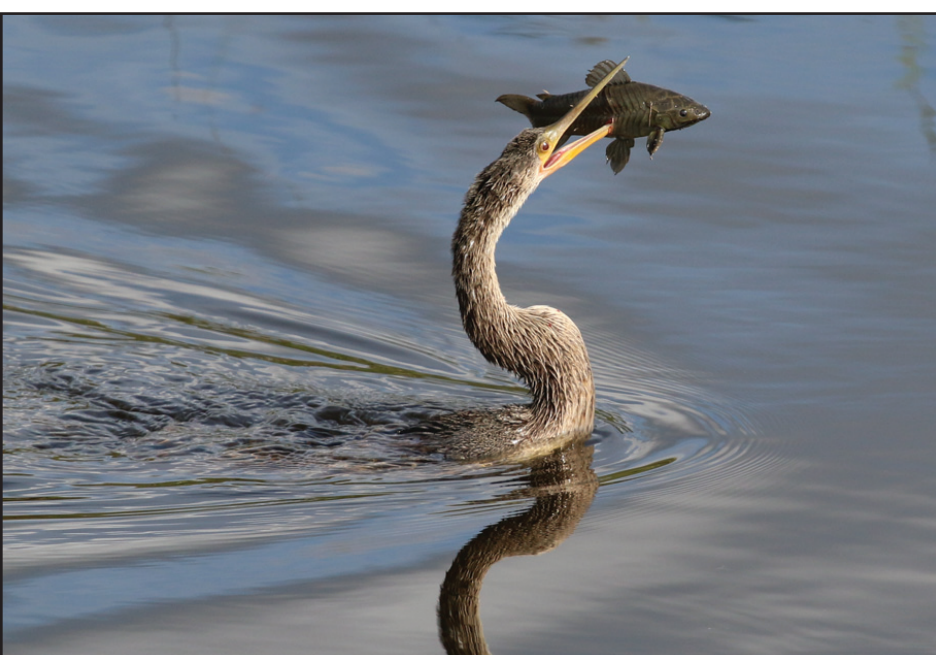
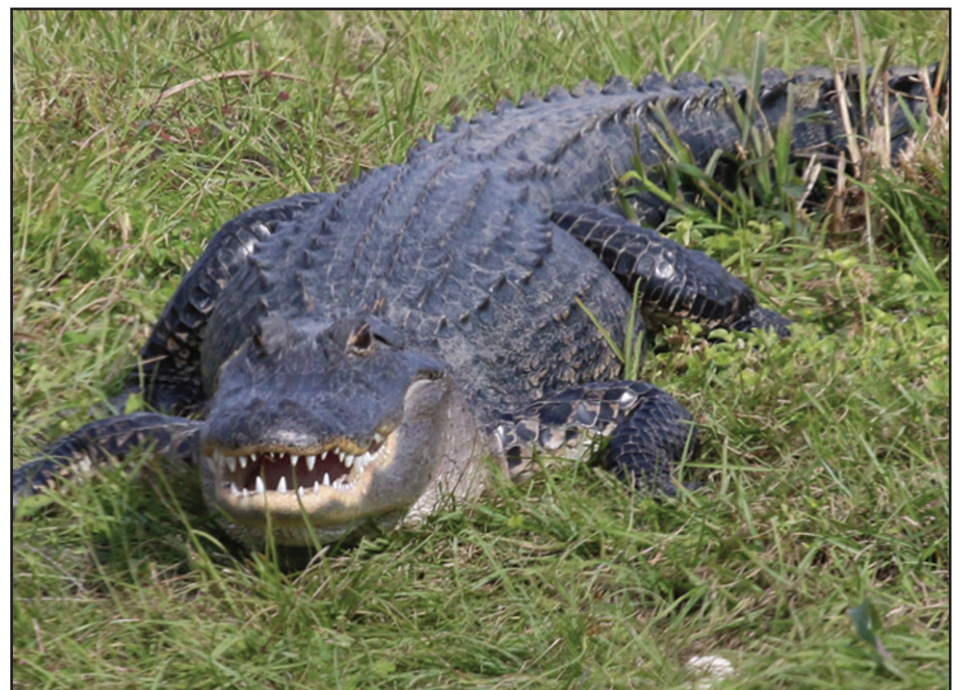
Please support these advertisers that support your freedom to worship.

# Critters found on the Apopka Wildlife Drive



These photographs were taken a few years ago by John Perry at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive located at 2803 Lust Road, Apopka. The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive is a one-way 11-mile drive that begins at Lust Road and ends on Jones Road in Orange County.

The drive is open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays. The entrance gate opens at 7 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m.. Vehicles must exit the drive by 5 p.m..





### Got EVENTS? PUBLICIZE THEM...

Use Our Online Forms:  
[www.theapokkachief.com](http://www.theapokkachief.com)  
Call The Apopka Chief at 407-886-2777,  
or email [news@theapokkachief.com](mailto:news@theapokkachief.com)

### HUNT CLUB MEDICAL

Family Practice & Internal Medicine

- On-Site X-Ray Lab
- Most Insurance Accepted
- Serving the community for over 30 years

**CONVENIENT WALK-IN**  
We Take Walk-In Patients 7 Days a Week!

Improving quality of life in the community

Michael Gordon MD  
Pinida Toochinda MD  
Samantha Buhler PA-C  
Casey Seltzer PA-C  
Ashka Patel PA-C

3191 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka | 407-788-6500  
Enter at McDonald's Hunt Club  
Hours: Mon. thru Thurs. 8-7PM • Fri. 8-6PM • Sat. thru Sun. 8-4PM

### Woodmen Life Apopka donates

In December, Woodmen Life Apopka Chapter 825 donated student holiday boxes to the Christian ministry Loaves & Fishes for distribution. Through this ongoing partnership for 20-plus years, Woodmen Life Apopka helps to make a difference in the community. Pictured (l to r) are Wendla Denise Oldaker and Randall Keith Oldaker. Photo courtesy of Wendla Denise Oldaker.




**COMPASS HEALTH**  
YOUR PLAN. YOUR CHOICE.

### LET US GUIDE YOU

- HEALTH
- MEDICARE
- CREMATION
- ACCIDENT
- DENTAL
- LIFE
- CRITICAL ILLNESS

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Compass Health Insurance.com  
3030 East Semoran Blvd., #184  
Apopka, FL 32703 407-758-9487  
Next to Gators Dockside (in Colonial Shoppes at Bear Lake)  
Your Local Agency for **Florida Blue**

### Party at the Plaza on New Year's Eve




On December 31, 2024, attendees celebrated the coming new year at Party at the Plaza at Hurricane Grill and Wings Apopka on Semoran Boulevard. Photos courtesy of Hurricane Grill and Wings Apopka/Facebook.

# Dining AND Entertainment

Please support our local businesses.

### Welcome to Caffé Positanos, where food is our passion

- Our sauces are made fresh daily
- The house salad dressing is made from scratch
- Only the finest ingredients are used



## Caffé Positano

Call us for take out orders!

We are located at  
**3030 E. Semoran Blvd,  
Apopka, FL 32703 • 407-774-8080**  
1665 WP Ball Blvd, Sanford, FL 32771 • 407-531-1151  
Visit us at [www.caffepositanos.com](http://www.caffepositanos.com)

### Stephie's Pub & IRISH EATERY

Full-Service Restaurant & Irish Pub  
Traditional Irish Food served at its BEST.  
We only use air fryers & convection ovens.

**SPECIAL Entertainer: January 10**  
Adele Impersonation by local star Andrea 6-8 pm.  
Reservations are required  
Lunch Specials Every Day, \$8, \$10, \$12.

#### Events & Entertainment

Every Monday: Trivia, prizes for best team 7pm  
Every Tuesday: Karaoke with Crazy James 7pm  
Friday: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT with Safia Valines, Singer Extraordinaire 7pm  
Saturday: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT with Jess Farmsworth 7pm  
Sunday: Sunday Afternoon Sports. Come & Enjoy!

Check out our Full Menu at [WWW.STEPHIESPUB.COM](http://WWW.STEPHIESPUB.COM)  
1061 W Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka  
407-703-8195

### SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

### WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST

YOU WANT OMAHA STEAKS

When you want to experience a steak that delivers rich, juicy, exquisite flavor and unparalleled quality in every bite, you don't want just any steak. You want Omaha Steaks.



**Butcher's Deluxe Package**  
4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)  
4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)  
4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)  
4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)  
4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)  
1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)  
**8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)**

77318MQW separately \$221.94  
**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$99.99**

**8 FREE BURGERS (A \$37 VALUE)**

Order Now! » [OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe9417](http://OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe9417) | 1.877.694.0131  
Ask for your 8 FREE burgers with offer 77318MQW

THE BEST STEAKS OF YOUR LIFE OR YOUR MONEY BACK  
AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER  
**OMAHA STEAKS**  
SINCE 1917

### Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B