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# Planning Commission gives OK to changes

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval on a

request for a future land use amendment and a change of zoning on an estimated 4.42-acre property, located at 904 Schopke-Lester Road, from "county" A-1

(ZIP) to "city" AG-E (agriculture estate). The property owners want to use the land to accommodate an existing single-family residential home and an aquaponics garden for hobby use.

Property owners Huy Tran and Hai Anh Nguyen put in their requests for change of zoning on their Schopke-Lester property, which was annexed into the city on December 2, 2015. Tran and Nguyen want the city to assign a future land use designation of residential low, which goes from zero to five dwelling units per acre, to the property. The owners also want the zoning classification of AG-E assigned to the property.

When addressing the Planning Commission, Tran said he wants to use the tract as a "demonstration facility" to prove some aquaponics theories that have been in practice for many years as well as to test new theories. Tran lives at 904 Schopke-Lester Road and consults clients around the world, including NASA, on aquaponics, he said.

Aquaponics is a form of hydroponics in which waste is taken from fish or some other marine creatures to fertilize plants grown under hydroponics, which uses nutrient materials in water without soil. The plant then purifies the water.

Tran said he would be

open to give tours of his demonstration facility. He also is collaborating with Wekiva High School on establishing its aquaponics lab, for which the school is applying for grant money and is hoping to launch the program if the grant is won.

"Apopka has a lot of opportunity to get into agriculture again," Tran said. "This is a good way of doing it."

The City Council's first reading of the future land use amendment and change of zoning is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The second reading is slated for Wednesday, February 3 at 1:30 p.m., also at City Hall.

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\* Based on 8 week program



## Birdapalooza set for February 6 on Lake Apopka North Shore

The fourth annual Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza will be held Saturday, February 6, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Orange County's Magnolia Park at 2929 S. Binion Rd., Apopka.

Birdapalooza is a free event that will showcase the 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore and its unique habitat for hundreds of bird species and other wildlife.

"This will be a day of fun and learning for the whole family," a spokes-

man said. There will be guided nature photography hikes (one leaving at 7:30 a.m.), guided bus tours (limited first-come seating), guided walking and biking nature tours for children and adults on the Lake Apopka Loop Trail, entertainment by IBEX Puppetry, bounce houses, face painting, live animal demonstrations, tree giveaways, music, airboat rides (for a fee), exhibitors, merchandise vendors and food trucks.

This year, in addition to the free Saturday festival, Birdapalooza has added a Friday Birding Festival with guided field trips throughout the Lake Apopka North Shore by well-known birding trip leaders, for a donation toward Orange Audubon Society's Nature Education Center Fund.

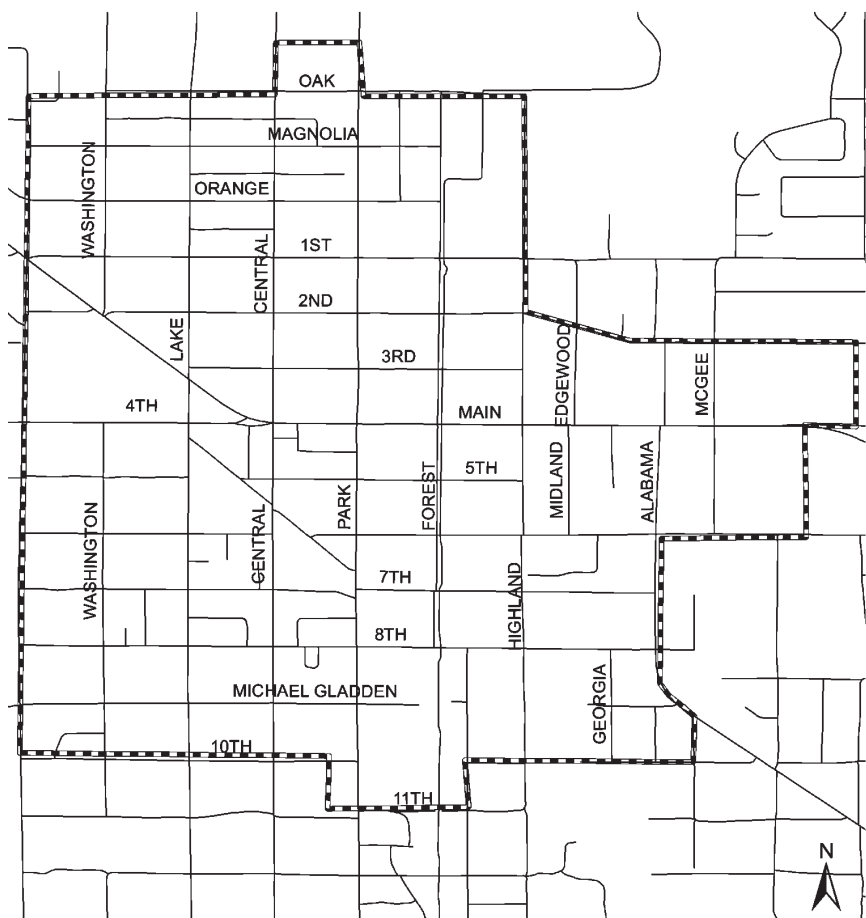
For more information, visit [www.birdapalooza.com](http://www.birdapalooza.com). There is also a Birdapalooza page on Facebook.

### CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR CREATION OF ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT DISTRICT FOR BROWNFIELD DESIGNATION

The following resolution will be read and considered for approval at the City Council meeting in the Apopka City Hall Council Chambers on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible. Further, notice is given that the following resolution will be read a second time and considered for approval on **Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-3

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING THE APOPKA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA AS AN ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT DISTRICT (FOR BROWNFIELD DESIGNATION); ESTABLISHING THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD; AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING MANAGER TO NOTIFY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF SAID DESIGNATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



Affected parties may appear at this meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed resolution. The proposed resolution is available in the City Clerk's office or the Community Development Department for inspection. All interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to these hearings. 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 15, 2015  
Publish: The Apopka Chief

City of Apopka City Council  
Community Development Department

154790

## Property appraiser has satellite offices

Orange County property owners who have not already done so may file for homestead exemption at any of the satellite offices of the Orange County Property Appraiser's Office is bringing to locals all over the county, including the Apopka area, in January and February.

The Florida homestead exemption deadline is March 1.

A homestead exemption is a legal protection of a home's value from creditors, property taxes and sit-

uations that may come from the death of a homeowner's spouse.

There are three Apopka locations hosting satellite offices: Bravo supermarket at the Apopka Plaza, Fran Carlton Recreation Center, and the North Orange Branch Library.

The first Apopka satellite office will be at Bravo supermarket on Tuesday, January 19, from 1-7 p.m. The address is 519 S. Orange Blossom Trail.

The second one will be at the Fran Carlton Recre-

ation Center on Thursday, January 21, and Friday, January 22, from 1-7 p.m. on both days. The address is 11 N. Forest Ave.

The third Apopka satellite office location is at the North Orange Branch Library, which will be held on Friday, February 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The address is 1211 E. Semoran Blvd.

To find out more locations and times throughout Orange County, visit [www.ocpaf.org](http://www.ocpaf.org) and click on the pop-up on the front page.

## School board will broadcast meetings

Beginning Tuesday, January 12, Orange County Public Schools began live-streaming all school board meetings. The school board typically meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 5:30 p.m.

"The board is excited about this new way for the public to be informed about what's happening at OCPS," said School Board Chairman Bill Sublette. "With their busy schedules, we realize it can be difficult for the public to participate in our meetings and work sessions. We hope this will make it easier."

Previously, board meetings were recorded and replayed at a later date on OrangeTV and posted on the district's website. In addition to board meetings, an audio stream of all school board work sessions will also be available.

The live stream of meetings can be found on the School Board's YouTube page and will be accessible from web browsers

on computers or mobile devices. To find the live stream, visit [www.boardmeetings.ocps.net](http://www.boardmeetings.ocps.net).

The live stream will also be aired on VisionTV on the following television outlets: Bright House Networks Channel 492, Comcast Networks Channel 98, CenturyLink Channels 1082 (HD) and 82 (SD), AT&T U-verse Channel 99 and Over the Air Digital Broadcast Channel 29.3.

OrangeTV will continue to air replays of school board meetings at 9 a.m. on the Fridays of the same week they are aired live and the following Wednesday at 7 p.m. OrangeTV can be viewed on the following television outlets: Bright House Networks Channel 488, Comcast Networks Channel 9, CenturyLink Channels 1081 (HD) and 81 (SD), AT&T U-verse Channel 99 and Over the Air Digital Broadcast Channel 29.2.

For a full list of meeting dates and topics, visit [www.ocps.net](http://www.ocps.net).

# 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 \$18 in Orange County and \$23 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.theapokachief.com](http://www.theapokachief.com), [news@theapokachief.com](mailto:news@theapokachief.com)



## City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1703
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Development	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.	407-703-1725
Fire Chief	407-703-1750
Fire (non-emerg.)	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-703-1741
Police Chief	407-703-1789
Police (non-emerg.)	407-703-1771
Job Line	407-703-1721
Solid Waste Collect.	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance	407-703-1731
Utility Billing	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency	407-703-9111
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 44,000 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	407-254-9140
Auto/Boat Tags	407-836-4145
Building Dept.	407-836-5760
County Chairman	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	407-836-9111
Garbage Collecting	407-836-6601
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.	407-836-4143
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6280
Property Appraiser	407-836-5000
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency	407-836-9111

[www.orangecountyfl.net](http://www.orangecountyfl.net)

## Other Area Numbers of Note

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Bill Nelson (Dem.)	407-872-7161
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representatives</b>	
Corrine Brown (Dist. 5)	407-872-2208
John Mica (Dist. 7)	407-657-8080
Daniel Webster (Dist. 10)	407-654-5705
<b>State Representatives</b>	
Jennifer Sullivan (Dist. 31)	352-742-6275
Randolph Bracy (Dist. 45)	407-660-6672
<b>State Senators</b>	
Alan Hays (Dist. 11)	1-352-742-6441
Geri Thompson (Dist. 12)	407-245-1511
<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Bryan Nelson (Dist. 2)	407-836-7350
<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Pupil assignment	407-317-3233
Bus routes	407-317-3800
Superintendent	407-317-3202
School Board	407-317-3236
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkians	407-703-1707