

No orders means more than 50% of spring crop will be lost

Editor:

To all – this does concern you!

Long & Scott Farms is a medium-sized, 57-year-old family farm in Central Florida. We were already struggling to survive even before the coronavirus. Because of recent hurricanes,

disease pressures, over-production, and very low seasonal markets, Long & Scott needed an excellent spring season to recover and get back on track. And we were prepared with probably the very best pickle cucumber crop in our history. We were sure to break all the yield re-

cords, as evident by our early harvest yields.

We saw the issues with the coronavirus coming and had hoped to minimize the effects, knowing that people have to eat to survive. With every part of our daily lives shut down, things have continued to get worse. We have already lost 50 percent of our spring crop and in danger of losing more, if not all of it, because we have no or-

ders coming in.

We need to get this country back to work, back to as close to normal as possible – ASAP!

While I agree to taking steps to avoid spreading the virus is necessary, I believe panic has pushed it all too far, over the top! Just like everything else, the media has to sensationalize and actively look for and report only the bad. They never

balance it with the good. In doing this disservice to the citizens of this country, it puts the government in a tough position. They are pushed into a corner to react and overreact. The government has done this with the help of so-called experts, graphs, charts, and models based on incorrect and misleading information. This has caused even more panic and unnecessary actions to shut down

businesses that need not be shut down. This domino effect has devastated our economy. No other pandemic in history or recent outbreaks such as swine flu or H1N1, that have actually killed as many, if not more people, have ever warranted a shutdown like this or the media's attention to this degree.

Now, this raises flags

See LETTER Page 5A

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CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TEXT AMENDMENT TO APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3187 and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B) that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Element, Policy 3.1.h to create a new High Density Residential Future Land Use Designation that allows a minimum of fifteen residential units per acre and a maximum of twenty-five residential units per acre. The proposed amendment affects only those properties situated within defined geographical areas delineated within maps appearing in proposed Ordinance No. 2747.

ORDINANCE NO. 2747

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 POLICY 3.1.h OF THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that a public hearing for the transmittal of the proposed amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity 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, May 6, 2020, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Future Land Use Text amendment 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
Community Development Department

April 17, 2020

Publish: The Apopka Chief

166265

Moore: Northcrest is getting new sidewalks

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about the science, state laws, and available grant funding for sewer conversion projects.

Receiving notification of grant funding from St. Johns River Water Management District this week was the most important piece of the needed funding. Yet to come is Governor DeSantis' signing the budget and residents approving their costs through a 10-year MSBU (Municipal Services Benefit Unit). Additionally, utilities and I will present the project to the Orange County Board of Commissioners at our April 21 virtual meeting.

More good news for the Wekiwa Alliance area

includes coming traffic improvements at Wekiwa Springs State Park by FDEP and sidewalk improvements on Wekiwa Springs Road itself and throughout all the unincorporated areas located directly of this road by the county. The Wekiwa Alliance area is a large unincorporated area in the northeast portion of Apopka. I believe sidewalk improvements and missing ADA features are quite pertinent now as many residents are taking daily strolls during the stay-at-home order. It is great to see all the walkways, in good repair, clean, and mold free. The county began with sidewalk repairs in the Wekiwa Manor sub-

division to the south and is working its way northward toward Welch Road.

On another note, new sidewalks are being installed in the Northcrest subdivision off U.S. Highway 441 near Roger Williams Road. This large community was built in the 1960s and was never outfitted with sidewalks, street lights, or sewer. Students attending Lovell Elementary School and area residents have risked life and limb to walk along the curvy, tree-lined Suncrest Drive. Accidents along this entranceway are numerous, and with so many people out walking, I thought it imperative to construct safe walkways. I have to laugh when the residents

exclaim about the sidewalks, "Finally" or "It's about time." I gently remind them there are numerous other communities without sidewalks and they were selected due to my safety concerns. My staff and I have personally advocated and closely followed all the steps in getting this project off the ground. I will be regularly posting videos on my Facebook page: Orange County Commissioner District 2.

Keeping Orange County residents safe and our water supply adequate, clean, and healthy will always be a top priority while I serve you on the Board of County Commissioners.

Byrd: OCPS asks DeSantis for local control

Continued from page 2A

expectations.

Our deputy superintendent reminded us that parents should reach out to teachers and principals if they are struggling. The district also offers resources to help during this time. Those resources can be found at ocps.net or by contacting me.

We also had a big conversation about our expectations moving forward and when we might be opening schools. We obviously are waiting on further direction from the state and we talked about expecting an update later this week.

We decided to have

our chair, Teresa Jacobs, draft a letter to Governor Ron DeSantis expressing our desire to have local control over the opening of our schools.

Being located in the tourist capital of the world, as well as being the second largest employer in Central Florida, we believe puts us in a different category than the more rural counties in the state.

Our needs are different and therefore we feel, while it might be OK for some districts to open early, it might not be for us. We need to have control over when we open back up.

We know that it is frustrating not knowing

when we will open, and if and how graduations will take place. We would love to be able to let parents and the community know these answers, but we just don't know yet.

We have hesitated to make graduation plans because we don't want to put a date out there, then have to go back and change it. The superintendent is meeting with her student advisory council and getting input from principals for graduations.

There are several ideas on the table including virtual graduations or moving the ceremonies to the football fields with limited guests. Our own mayor, Bryan Nelson, has suggest-

ed using the amphitheater and doing graduation parades in our vehicles.

All these ideas are being considered, but no plans are being made just yet.

As I have said before, this whole crisis is fluid and changing every day. Just as it changes for all of us, it changes for our schools. Patience is our best friend as we work through this each day.

Please continue to reach out to me if you have concerns at [melissa.byrd@ocps.net](mailto:byrd@ocps.net) and make sure you are following OCPS on social media for updates. We will all get through this together!

Corbeil: Children are First Lady's concern

Continued from page 2A

never happened before – 9 percent. Record stock market surges under Trump's leadership and rising gross domestic product (GDP) of the fourth quarter 2019, point to a healthy and robust economy."

Unfortunately, a worldwide strike of coronavirus has attacked economies viciously, but there is little doubt that if any national leader can restore an economy, President Trump leads that pack.

Melania Trump is only the second foreign-born first lady in American history. The only other one was back in 1825 when

London-born Louise Adams, wife of John Quincy Adams, served in the role of first lady.

Melania Knavs was born in Novo Mesto, modern day Slovenia, in 1970, and moved to New York after a successful career in Milan and Paris. It was in New York that she met Donald Trump in 1998, and they were married January 2005 at his estate in Palm Beach.

She continued in businesses, founded as Melania Timepieces and Jewelry, and also served as chairwoman of the American Heart Association, which raised \$1.7 million for research.

"Children are at the center of the First Lady's agenda, and not just in America but also abroad. She escorted the Queen of Jordan to Excel Academy, Washington, D.C.'s first public school for girls. She also visited the American International School in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and participated with children at Kyohashu Elementary School in Japan.

"Mrs. Trump launched BE BEST in May 2019, an awareness campaign focused on the well-being of children, providing them with the tools and skills necessary for emotional, social, and physical health. "Mrs. Trump believes

that we have a responsibility to help children cope with the myriad issues facing them today, and remains committed to her purpose of protecting, teaching, and empowering them."

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the "trump" of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 1:17.

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

| | |
|---|--------------|
| City Hall..... | 407-703-1700 |
| Mayor's Office | 407-703-1703 |
| City Administrator..... | 407-703-1750 |
| 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 | 407-703-1789 |
| 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..... | 911 |
| The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net | |

Orange County Telephone Numbers

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Animal Services..... | 407-254-9140 |
| 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..... | 911 |
| www.orangecountyfl.net | |

Other Area Numbers of Note

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| U.S. Senators | |
| Rick Scott (Rep.) | 202-224-5274 |
| Marco Rubio (Rep.)..... | 407-254-2573 |
| U.S. Representative | |
| Val Demings (Dist. 10)..... | 321-388-9810 |
| State Representatives | |
| Jennifer Sullivan (Dist. 31) | 352-742-6275 |
| Kamia Brown (Dist. 45) | 407-905-3807 |
| State Senators | |
| Randolph Bracy (Dist. 11) | 407-656-6716 |
| Orange County Commissioner | |
| Christine Moore | 407-836-7350 |
| Orange County Public Schools | |
| Pupil assignment..... | 407-317-3233 |
| Bus routes..... | 407-317-3800 |
| Superintendent..... | 407-317-3202 |
| School Board..... | 407-317-3236 |
| Miscellaneous | |
| The Apopka Chief..... | 407-886-2777 |
| Museum of the Apopkans..... | 407-703-1707 |
| Chamber of Commerce..... | 407-886-1441 |