

Grad degree

The granddaughter of an Apopka woman receives her master's degree. See page 3A.



God Bless America

School mural

Volunteers helped paint a mural in a hallway at Rock Springs Elementary School. See page 6A.



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City auditor says staff has improved practices

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

A report from the city of Apopka's auditor for the 2018-2019 fiscal year shows what the auditor says are repeated findings of weaknesses in the city's financial practices, but he also said that he saw improvement in those practices as the 2019 fiscal year progressed.

At the City Council meeting of Wednesday, July 1, Joel Knopp, of MSL CPAs and Advisors, went over the various findings from the audit, which is required annually by state law, and found weaknesses in the recording of fixed assets, utility billing not being reconciled, internal controls over financial accounting due to a change in software and a lack of training when the software was changed in 2016, and bank reconciliation.

Knopp said a majority of the weaknesses were repeated from the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, but that improvement during the 2019 fiscal year was seen as the Finance Department staff was able to catch up. The 2019 fiscal year began October 1, 2018, and ended September 30, 2019.

"We did see significant action taken by the city to address these findings but, unfortunately, they couldn't be made retroactive to the first half of the year, so that's why the majority of these are repeated," Knopp said. "We expect the majority of these findings will no longer be repeated in the fiscal year '20 audit."

"There was significant improvement noted even though the findings were repeated and they've made great efforts in resolving them."

Jamie Roberson, the city's finance director for the past two years, said her staff was continuing to do its job while also working with MSL on the audit.



Roberson

See AUDIT Page 9A

New Publix supermarket clears city hurdles, expected to open in '21

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

All governmental hurdles have been cleared for the commercial development that will house a Publix supermarket just down the road from the State Road 429 interchange at Kelly Park Road.

At its meeting on Wednesday, July 1, the Apopka City Council unanimously approved the final development plan for the 18-acre site that is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Kelly Park Road and Plymouth-Sorrento Road. Developers said plans call for the land to be cleared later this year and for the store to open in 2021.



This rendering shows what the front of the Publix supermarket will look like when it opens in 2021. Its design will be the first of its type in Central Florida.

The final development plan calls for an even bigger Publix than was preliminarily approved earlier as the new store will be 52,847 square feet, more than 6,800 square feet bigger than the supermarket chain originally planned.

City documents state that the proposed grocery store is a new proto-

type that calls for the larger footprint, and it will be the first of its kind in Central Florida.

Two smaller buildings near the Publix will be part of the first phase of the development, one being 3,750 square feet and the other 3,000 square

See STORE Page 5A

A lazy afternoon swim



An alligator swims in a canal along the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive recently likely looking for a snack. The free 11-mile, one-way drive is open Friday through Saturday each week plus on federal holidays. The gate at 2850 Lust Road, Apopka, opens at 7 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. All traffic must exit the drive by 5 p.m.

City budget shortfall due to COVID-19 could range to \$3 million

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

The financial fallout from the coronavirus pandemic is expected to cause a shortfall of at least \$1.1 million and it could be up to \$3 million or even higher, depending on how the revenue-sharing numbers from the state government shake out over the

next three months.

Edward Bass, Apopka city administrator, said sales tax revenue from the state for April, the last month reported, was down more than \$627,000 than what city officials had budgeted about a year ago during preparations for the city's 2019-2020 fiscal year that began on October 1, 2019. April's budgeted shortfall combined with \$515,000 few-

er-than-expected dollars collected in March gives the city a revenue shortfall of more than \$1.1 million with three months left in the fiscal year that ends on September 30. The dollars the city receives from the state are two months delayed, meaning that the revenue collected from the state in June are from the funds that the state collected in April.

Expected shortfalls paid

over July, August, and September could easily double that deficit to \$2.2 million, Bass said. If the dollars received from the state sales tax are lower than projected – depending on the extent of COVID-19's effect on the economy – that total shortfall in revenue could approach \$3 million, Mayor Bryan Nelson said.

Recent increases in the number of COVID-19 cases in

Orange County and across the state make projecting the revenue numbers that much more difficult, Bass said. "Now with the spike are we going to start slowing down again? Are people going to stay in?"

The money that the city receives from the state's sales tax revenue is used for the city's

See BUDGET Page 9A

New Clay Springs Elem. principal likes 'family environment'

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Clay Springs Elementary School is getting a new principal beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

Rebecca McDaid, the assistant principal at Winegard Elementary School this past school year, will succeed Patricia Weisbach, who retired on Tuesday, June 30, after almost five years as Clay Springs Elementary School principal, having started in January 2015. She was with OCPS for about eight years.

Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins announced McDaid as the new assistant principal at the June 9 school board meeting.

"I'm excited to be at Clay Springs because of the family environment," McDaid said in a tele-



Rebecca McDaid
... new principal

phone interview. "I'm excited to be at a school where the students are the number one priority, where staff and community advocate for students, and I'm excited to be at Clay Springs to ensure that stu-

dents are engaged in their lessons and help them develop a love of learning."

According to OCPS's 2020-2021 school calendar, July 31 through August 7 is pre-planning in OCPS, with August 5 being Professional Development Day and August 10 being the first day of school for students.

"I have a few goals as the new principal," McDaid said. "First of all, to build strong relationships with the students, staff, and community, to ensure students receive a high-quality education, to ensure student needs are met, and to develop systems and structures to make sure students are supported academically, and socially and emotionally."

McDaid has been employed with OCPS for seven years. Before Winegard Elementary School, she

was acting principal at Laureate Park Elementary School from September to December 2018, and assistant principal at Moss Park Elementary School from 2016 to 2019. Before Moss Park, she was a curriculum resource teacher/Multi-Tiered System of Supports coach, and taught grades 2-8.

Growing up in Ormond Beach, McDaid received bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Dayton in Ohio, as well as completing a principal licensure program at the same institution. She taught in Dayton, for nine years before moving back to Florida about 13 years ago. She currently lives in the Hunter's Creek area with her husband and two children, ages 13 and 15.

"I believe in shared leader-

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Apopka Event of the Week

Celebrate the 244th birthday of the United States, Saturday, July 4, in a safe way as thought is given to the preamble of the Declaration of Independence and what it means to each of us to be able to live in such a young and successful country.

Quotable

But, despite all the issues and disagreements within our country, we still are privileged to live in a land that has goodness at its core.

The Apopka Chief on celebrating America this Independence Day

Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher John Ricketson	Reporters Richard Corbeil Teresa Sargeant Neal Fisher	Marketing Director Jackie Trefcer
Editor John Peery	Photographer Tammy Keaton	Advertising Kayla Leon
General Manager Emeritus Neoma Knox		

Our position

Nation's 244th birthday is celebrated differently

This weekend, as normal, we will celebrate our nation's Independence Day. Except it will be anything but normal.

Between the social distancing caused by COVID-19 and the social unrest in our streets, Saturday, July 4, will feel anything but the usual.

With pretty much all July 4 celebrations that are normally put on by various entities canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, it will be odd to not see the large, professional fireworks displays across this nation.

We know there will still be plenty of neighborhood fireworks going off and, hopefully, people will use some common sense and celebrate safely. We're afraid, however, that common sense is in short supply these days. Just remember that alcohol and fireworks don't go together. Let the sober ones light the fireworks.

We also know that freedom and independence mean different things to different people.

Some people are strongly convinced that wearing a face covering due to COVID-19 is an affront to freedom or even unconstitutional. Others believe it's a civic duty to help slow the spread of the virus. We just find it hard to believe that face-masks, which have long been worn by medical personnel as they do their jobs, have become a political issue.

A much deeper issue, that of racial equality, also surrounds our Independence Day holiday. Some people will argue that, as a nation, we've not truly been free because this is a nation that, at one time, had slavery. And while no one is now a slave in the United States, there is no doubt that we still have a long way to go when it comes to racial relations in our country.

But, despite all the issues and disagreements within our country, we still are privileged to live in a land that has goodness at its core.

No matter how many viral videos of outrageous people hit social media, we still believe that most Americans are good people who want nothing more than to live their lives in peace, provide for their families, and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

This is not a naïve view of America, but one of reality. But we, as a

people, also want to be involved in our communities in order to make them a better place to live, and sometimes, that requires us to be active in causes we support or even run for political office, as unappreciated as that can be.

One thing we do know is that while we can disagree on how to get things done, we also know that we must be able to discuss those disagreements and hash out our differences so that everyone is able to take advantage of the freedoms and liberties we enjoy as Americans.

Each one of us has certain rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States. Our rights, however, are not absolutes as others have rights, too. We also have responsibilities not only to each other, but to our communities to do what is best for the common good.

Our nation's independence was declared in 1776, but it wasn't until 1781 that it was actually won on the battlefield. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Before some feel the need to point out that we're not all equal and never have been in this country, we're very aware of that and touched on it earlier. But the fact that these words were written in 1776 is proof enough that our goal for this country is true equality and the right for each one of us to be able to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The man who wrote these words and those who signed it were not perfect men. Some of them probably did some despicable things in their day. But we do know that they were willing to give of their lives to begin a new nation, one that tries to reach toward the goal of where every person has the chance to live a life of peace.

Each one of us should always strive to treat each other with kindness instead of contempt so that we can truly all live as free men and women.

May God bless America as we celebrate her 244th birthday!



Depth, breadth of work is huge

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

I hope you and your family are able to celebrate and ponder the great ideas behind the founding of our nation this 4th of July.

With the fiscal year over, I thought it would be a good time to also reflect on the depth and breadth of the work done this year by the Orange County Commission and the District 2

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

office.

When I ran for office, I discovered most folks really didn't know what the responsibilities of the county were or what a county commissioner did as local government seems to have an ever-increasing amount of responsibility. Responsibilities include: emergency management, utilities, new development, permitting, roads

and drainage, parks and recreation, environmental issues, jail management, code enforcement, neighborhood services, convention center, and now distribution of CARES Act business and individual grants. And yes, animal and mosquito control.

The mayor's side of the responsibility, due to a charter-driven, strong mayoral form of government, oversees all the emergency operations. The mayor meets with other municipal mayors, county executives, hospital executives and is responsible for hiring all of the county staff. Thus, most of the COVID-19 activities are commenced from the mayor and his

See MOORE Page 4A

How do we provide education?

What is our next move? How do we move forward with a plan when everything keeps changing? How do we keep providing a quality education and keep our kids and staff safe?

These are some of the questions that are running through my head all day, every day. Even in the middle of the night.

As this virus continues to spread and we see a spike like we are seeing now, it's easy to say that we should just keep schools closed. That's the safest thing to do. Is it though?

Orange County School
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

That is the question I have been asking. Is it really safer for our children to keep schools closed?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) just released new information and recommendations that confirmed what I

have been concerned with since we closed schools in March. Let me share an excerpt with you:

The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated inter-

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

"Verily, verily, I say unto you. The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If you know these things, happy are ye if you do them." John 13:16 and 17.

Mema Says

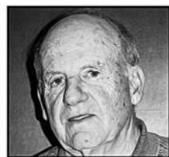
Hurrying always causes mistakes.

U.S. Jewish community will celebrate July 4th with enthusiasm

JULY 3 – The July 2020 edition of the *Levitt Letter* featured an article headlined "U.S. Jews Proudly Celebrate the 4th of July." It was written by Rabbi Davorah Marcus, Temple Emmanu-El, San Diego, California.

Actually, the news in this article was no surprise to me, as most of my friends and roommates in college were Jewish, including one who was a sol-

Corbeil's Corner



Richard Corbeil

id golf buddy for decades before he passed on. He and his wife also topped out our social life.

Getting back to the

Levitt Letter, Rabbi Marcus wrote:

"Happy 4th of July! Jews consider the commemoration of America's Declaration of Independence extremely important, and the U.S. Jewish community tends to celebrate it with enthusiasm and abandon.

"This is because, as Jews, we have been blessed to call America home for 366 years. True,

not all our families have been here that whole time but, as a people, Jews have been on this continent since its earliest colonial days. Some of our family trees trace back to this original group.

"Others of our trees trace back to refugee admittance after internment in Nazi camps. This year, I'd especially like to direct our attention to the nature of Jewish immigration

to this country, because our history is important to frame and understand our present.

"The first group of Jews who came to America was comprised of 23 Jewish refugee women and children who arrived after fleeing Brazil. After facing rejection at most ports of entry up the eastern seaboard, they were allowed to disembark by an unhappy Dutch official, Gover-

nor Peter Stuyvesant, who complained to the governing Dutch West India Company that the Jews were 'a deceitful race, hateful enemies and blasphemers of the name of Christ.'

"Only financial reasons persuaded the Dutch West India Company to overrule Governor Stuyvesant and allow the Jews to stay. They did not want to alienate and anger

See CORBEIL Page 4A

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Sales tax holiday for schools is Aug. 7-9

The annual Back-to-School sales tax holiday in Florida is scheduled for August 7-9.

During that time, no sales tax or local option tax will be collected on purchases of clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less per item, purchases of certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item, and the first \$1,000 of the sales price of personal computers and certain computer-related accessories, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use.

This sales tax holiday does not apply to any item of clothing selling for more than \$60, any school supply item selling for more than \$15, books that are not otherwise exempt, computers and computer-related accessories purchased for commercial purposes, rentals or leases of any eligible items, repairs or alterations of any eligible items, or sales of any eligible items in a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment, or airport.

For more information, visit floridarevenue.com/backtoschool.

Receives degree



Sara Trapp, granddaughter of Linda Trapp of Apopka, graduated May 9 with a master's degree in social work from the University of Kentucky. Sara Trapp is from Fruitland Park in Lake County.

Chamber plans political hob nob for July 25

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

A political meet-and-greet will take place in conjunction with the grand opening of a new hotel, a development that marks the completion of phase 1 of the city center, a public-private mixed-use development.

The annual Apopka Area Political Hob Nob and Straw Poll will take place on Saturday, July 25, at 9 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn at the Apopka City Center, 580 E. Main St., Apopka. The event is free and open to the public, and will be held outside rain or shine under the shade of trees.

The hob nob and straw poll will follow all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines that include the proper social distancing required for hosting the community event.

Organized by the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, the event is an opportunity for community members to meet local, state, and national candidates while discussing important campaign issues and vote in a straw poll.

Many offices are up for

grabs this year. A key local race is the Florida Legislature representative for District 31, of which much of northern Apopka is a part. State Rep. Jennifer Sullivan is retiring from office, so candidates are lining up to replace her.

"That's a very important race for our community because they do represent our voice in Tallahassee in the state House," said Apopka Chamber President Robert Agrusa.

Other elections this year include: Orange County sheriff, for which incumbent John W. Mina is running again; Orange County property appraiser, for which incumbent Rick Singh is campaigning; circuit and county judges; and state attorney.

Agrusa believes there will be "a lot of interest" in the judges' races.

"I think in light of the last month or so, talking about changes and that many voices are being heard, this is a great opportunity to have an input in our criminal justice system," Agrusa said.

The Hilton Garden Inn's development marks the end of phase 1 for the Apopka City Center, a 34-acre mixed-use establishment for restaur-

rants, retail, office space, hotel, and multi-family apartment units on the intersection of U.S. Highway 441 and State Road 436 in Apopka.

The project is a public-private partnership between the city of Apopka and Taurus Investment Holdings.

Public roadway improvements included 3/4-mile of Florida Department of Transportation roadway widening, turn-lane improvements, and two new traffic signals. Nearly 1/2-mile of city street improvements, including a new roundabout, were also finished.

The Hilton Garden Inn has 118 rooms, four stories, and was designed with the option to create up to four two-room bridal or executive suites. The hotel was due for a grand opening this past spring, but the pandemic caused its delay.

"That's kind of what we envisioned with this hob nob, so it's very unique for any hob nob quite frankly in our communities across Central Florida because we kind of tie

in that private sector development component of Apopka and its growth, and the constant change we're seeing in the last several years and bringing together with our elected officials or those that are hoping to serve in public office as well," Agrusa said.

Orange County Supervisor of Elections Bill Cowles will administer the straw poll, where people will give input about who they think is best prepared for each race and candidates will get feedback. Everyone will be eligible to vote in all races. Results will be announced at the close of the event.

For the first time, the event will be free to help the community be as educated as possible on political issues and candidates, and to better abide by the coronavirus health and safety guidelines. There will be mask distribution at the event and to encourage social distancing, tables will be spaced out and lines will form and flow in one direction for guest to meet candidates.

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Editor:

Christopher Bedford, senior editor at *The Federalist*, wrote an article published at thefederalist.com titled, "Everywhere Statues are Torn Down by the Mob, History Promises People are Next!"

Sacred religious statues depicting Christ as light-skinned "are a form of white supremacy. All murals and stained-glass windows of white Jesus and his Euro-

pean mother, and their white friends should also come down."

Bedford writes, "A relief of heroic black Union soldiers was vandalized, the hero of the Union Army was torn from his slab, and a monument to three black victims of racial violence was defiled. A statue of Saint Junipero Serra was pulled down days later, with one supporter calling for his bones to be

dug up and desecrated.

"Policemen and reporters have been attacked. When an historic church across from the White House was set ablaze, its leader welcomed the mob and decried the president. The mayor named the street after the mob and they have declared the street their 'autonomous zone.' (This is Washington, D.C., our nation's capital that we are talking about.)

Bedford is not the only one sounding the alarm to us. Venezuelan activist Elizabeth Rogliani Otaola warns Americans: "Defend your country or it will be destroyed."

Otaola, born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, has witnessed the destruction of her country first-hand.

A Wikipedia article states that the Venezuelan crisis is marked by hyperinflation, escalating starvation,

disease, crime, and mortality rates, resulting in massive emigration from the country.

According to economists, the situation is the worst economic crisis in Venezuela's history and is more severe than that of the United States during the Great Depression.

Aspects of the crisis are unemployment and GDP contraction as compared to post-war Bosnia and Russia,

Cuba, and Albania following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

If we Americans are still in love with our country, we had better gird our loins for the fight of our lives. Vote Republican! Our only hope is putting Republicans in power this November.

Nancy C. Thomas
Apopka

Moore: My biggest project was creation of Lockhart History Mural

Continued from page 2A

staff. So, while I have been actively engaged in distributing masks and information about the CARES Act, it has been led by the mayor.

So, with that, my office mainly addresses constituent issues, development projects, district infrastructure, and special projects as needed. The bulk of our time is reporting your concerns with roadways, speed limits, illegal truck parking, need for traffic control, etc. In this area, so much has been done all over the district. I will only mention a few: a new turn lane on

Sadler Road in Tangerine, stop sign on Sandpiper, research and submittal of requests for either safety improvements or road widening for Kelly Park and Mt. Plymouth, Powers Drive and Silver Star, and traffic lights for three intersections.

We have requested sidewalk repairs and new sidewalks throughout the district with the most notable examples for readers of *The Apopka Chief* in the Wekiwa Springs area and the neighborhood of Northcrest off U.S. Highway 441 near Roger Williams Road and Trinity Baptist Church.

Believe it or not, we

also get into the beautification of roadway medians with the largest project to date a \$400,000 irrigation improvement on Clarcona-Ocoee Road in Ocoee, Clarcona, and Pine Hills. I have recently contacted FDEP to add some landscaping on State Road 436 at the Seminole County line. As you can imagine, with three or four jurisdictions there, I have additional work to do before I can announce success.

One of my special initiatives has been the HOA of the Month awards. We have been making the awards for longer than a year and it was wonderful to meet all of the dedicat-

ed community leaders, but in the COVID-19 environment, we stopped meeting up with the residents. We will restart this valuable practice in August – and I'm confident we can stand six feet apart for the picture taking. I have seen a tremendous improvement, particularly in the pressure washing of walls, sidewalks, and curbs.

As for Parks and Recreation, I have fielded numerous requests for the parks to fully reopen. I wish I had better news on this, but that decision is on hold with the increasing numbers of young people testing positive for the COVID-19. Nevertheless, I'm

completing \$100,000 of improvements at Riverside Acres Park and in the beginning stages of acquiring land for a skate park and the beginning of renovations to Magnolia Park.

My biggest special project was the creation of the Lockhart Community History Mural and corresponding teaching materials. This project took nine months of cleaning up the area, preparing the wall for painting, painting the wall, collaborating with the entire community and producing a large dedication ceremony. I'll always be grateful the dedication was held on February 29..

The second special

project was and is working with 20 neighborhoods, numerous civic groups and three grant or appropriation processes to secure funding for sewer retrofit projects in the Wekiwa Basin. As we are awaiting notification on several of the grants, I cannot declare anything completed, but suffice it to say, this has been a tremendous effort by many people.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy column with so much information. Again, I hope you are able to celebrate a safe 4th of July with your family.

Byrd: Job on school board is about protecting rights of all children

Continued from page 2A

ruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation. This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality. Beyond the educational im-

pact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families.

What some of us forget is that schools provide so much more than just an education to many children. They provide stability, nutrition, counseling, and safety. For some children, school is their safe haven. The only place they feel taken care of.

The emotional rami-

fications to schools being closed is substantial for some children and adolescents but the physical ramifications can be just as serious which is my greatest fear.

With the effects of job loss and financial insecurity weighing heavily on the minds of many families, the rate of abuse increases. Without the daily check-in that school provides, this could be very serious for some children.

Another aspect to con-

sider is that schools are critical to addressing racial and social inequity. School closure and virtual education have had a great impact at both the individual and population level for diverse racial, ethnic, and vulnerable groups, according to the guidance from the AAP.

Education is the great equalizer, right? Well, what happens if that goes away? How do we close socioeconomic gaps in lower income areas or provide equal education to our children with unique abilities?

The AAP goes on to provide recommendations on how to open in a way to mitigate or reduce the risk. They very clearly state that nothing can eliminate the

risk, the best we can do is to reduce risk.

They cite the mounting evidence that children and adolescents don't play a major role in amplifying transmission of COVID like they do with the flu.

I want to share all this because I want to be sure it is understood that the directive "just keep schools closed" is not that simple. I want to share what goes running through my head when I'm faced with this decision.

My job on the school board is about protecting ALL children. Our most fragile and marginalized children weigh heavy on my heart and have been since I knew that their safe place was taken away from

them in March. These children often don't have parents to advocate for them, but I make sure that I'm that advocate.

As we prepare to have our school board work session about our plans for the upcoming school year on July 7, I will, as I always do, take all sides into consideration. This is not an easy decision and we will most certainly have to be nimble as things can change quickly with this virus.

But as we move forward, however that may look, please know that I am doing what I think is best for all our children and our community.

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Corbeil: May God bless America

Continued from page 2A

their Jewish financial investors. And thus, was the first Jewish community in America: refugees without a penny to their name, allowed to stay so as not to negatively impact international trade, and only on the condition that they support their own poor not to burden the broader community.

"With this small group of refugees, America demonstrated both her greatest potential and her greatest challenge – to welcome refugees from all corners of the world, understanding that those who struggle to flee and survive are profoundly motivated people, driven by a desire to secure

safety, liberty, and freedom, and opportunity for themselves and their children. Compare this to the tendency to fear those we do not know, to assume terrible things about them, and to confront poverty with a fear of becoming impoverished ourselves.

"These same struggles, opportunities, and challenges present themselves today. So, in this month of celebrating American independence, American integrity, and American pride, I ask us Jews to consider how we will meet those demands today. I ask us to consider what we ourselves will do with our freedom, security, power, and autonomy now that we are solidly on the inside. I ask us to

consider what it means for each of us to be Americans and hope we can best express our gratitude for the incredible safety, security, freedom, and opportunity that this great country has shown us,

"Happy Birthday, America! May our country continue to be a place of safety and security, freedom and liberty. May we have the courage to live up to our greatest potential. May God bless America, and may America remain a nation worthy of God's blessings."

"The firing pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts." Proverbs 17:3

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com




City of Apopka Telephone Numbers	
City Hall.....	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1701
City Administrator.....	407-703-1649
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.....	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement.....	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.....	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-703-1741
Police Chief.....	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1771
Job Line.....	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance.....	407-703-1731
Utility Billing.....	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

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County Mayor.....	407-836-7370
County Commission.....	407-836-7350
County Attorney.....	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue.....	407-836-3111
Solid Waste.....	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....	407-703-1731
Health Dept.....	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.....	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser.....	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative.....	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities.....	407-836-5515
All other departments... ..	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note	
U.S. Senators	
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Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Val Demings (Dist. 10).....	321-388-9808
State Representatives	
Jennifer Sullivan (Dist. 31).....	352-742-6275
Kamia Brown (Dist. 45).....	850-717-5045
State Senators	
Randolph Bracy (Dist. 11).....	407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner	
Christine Moore.....	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment.....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief.....	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441

Store: 80-seat eatery is planned for development

Continued from page 1A

feet, which will be an 80-seat restaurant, plans say. Developers told the City Council there are no firm plans for what businesses will go in the two nearby buildings. There will be a total of 293 parking places for the Publix and the two buildings.

The plan also calls for the future development of outparcels that will be located elsewhere on the property, including one of 0.9 acres immediately at the corner of the intersection of Kelly Park Road and Plymouth-Sorrento Road. The other two buildings planned for the future include buildings of 7,200 square feet and 6,000 square feet.

About seven acres of the site is set aside for future development.

Consent agenda

As part of the consent agenda, the City Council unanimously approved the renewal of an annual lease agreement with Aunt Gingbread's, an Apopka bakery located in a city-owned building in the same block as City Hall.

Aunt Gingbread's has leased space at 409 S. Park Avenue from the city since 2016. According to the lease agreement, the rent will remain at \$600 per month. The bakery has "demonstrated themselves to be a good and reliable tenant," city documents stated.

The City Council also approved the city spending \$26,202 to continue its membership of MetroPlan Orlando, a federally mandated transportation planning organization. Metro-

Plan is responsible for implementing the planning process for transportation for Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties.

Apopka is one of the five cities in the tri-county area that is a voting member of the board that has 20 total members and five non-voting advisers comprised of elected officials from the three counties.

According to city documents, the revenue from the city and the seven other governmental entities on MetroPlan's board is used primarily for general operations and staff salaries for MetroPlan.

The amount paid by Apopka and the other cities and counties is calculated on population.

The \$26,202 must be paid in two installments, half by October 1 and half by April 1, 2021.

Four purchase orders for various ongoing needed supplies totaling \$122,000 were approved by the City Council.

While the largest dollar item was \$60,000 for a gravity sewer lining for Public Services, the fire department had the other three purchase orders that totaled \$62,000.

The sewer lining will be purchased from Granite Inliner, LLC, through piggybacking off a contract the company has with the city of Orlando.

The fire department's three purchase orders include \$22,000 with Municipal Emergency Services for gear and supplies; \$20,000 with Bound Tree for medications and supplies; and \$20,000 with Municipal Equipment Company for a fire training system.

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The Way I See It
Patti Bankson

FIELD DAY

Evangelism for our family meant traveling a lot. But, besides ministry, there was definitely an upside. Perks, if you will. Seeing the diverse beauty that's America, meeting and getting to know wonderful people, who helped us do fun things: snowmobiling, whitewater rafting, introduction to pig farms ...! The upside for me was not having to cook; the upside for everyone was not having to clean the house and yard. But, when a tour ended, our doggie, house and yard awaited our attention. My husband is a Marine - no longer active duty - but "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" - so every Saturday at home was Field Day. Translation: Give the house, yard, and dog the cleaning they deserved!

What we see today is an America in dire need of a Field Day! Looters, rioters and thugs have been allowed to decide whatever cities and their goods they want and help themselves. Unaccounted and unaccountable, because their leaders are too afraid or too far Left to do anything.

They all need Wisconsin's Sheriff Clarke: "It's not the police who need to be retrained, it's the public. We have grown into a mouthy, mobile phone wielding, vulgar, uncivil society with no personal responsibility and the attitude of 'it's the other person's fault', 'you owe me'. A society where children grow up with no boundaries or knowledge or concern for civil society and personal responsibility. When an officer says "Put your hands up," then put your hands up! Don't reach for something in your pocket, your lap, your seat. There's plenty of reason for a police officer to feel threatened, there have

been multiple assaults and ambushes on police officers lately. Comply with requests from the officer, have your day in court. Don't mouth off, or fight, or refuse to comply... that escalates the situation.

Police officers are our sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters. They're black, white, brown, all colors, all ethnicities, all faiths, male and female, they are us. They see the worst side of humanity... the raped children, the bloody mangled bodies of traffic victims, the bruised and battered victims of domestic violence, homicide victims, body parts... day after day. They work holidays while we have festive meals with our families. They miss school events with their kids, birthdays, anniversaries, all those special occasions that we take for granted. They work in all types of weather, under dangerous conditions, for relatively low pay. They have extensive training, but they are human. When there are numerous attacks on them, they become hyper-vigilant for a reason, they have become targets. When a police officer encounters any person... any person, whether at a traffic stop, a street confrontation, an arrest, whatever... that situation has the potential to become life-threatening. You, Mr & Mrs/Miss Civilian, also have the responsibility of keeping the situation from getting out of control.

Many law enforcement officers are Veterans. They've been in service to this nation most of their lives, whether on the battlefield or protecting us here at home. They are the only thing that stands between us and anarchy in the streets. If you want to protect your child, teach them respect."

Some may think Clarke is extreme, but, desperate times call for desperate measures. Welcome to **DesperateTimes**.

Comments Welcome
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Mural painted at school



Rock Springs Elementary School paraprofessionals and Notre Dame AmeriCorps volunteers recently entered a partnership to create a mural about autism that runs the length of a school hallway. Shown are NDA members (l-r) Salvador Rosas, Luis Ruiz, Matt Tuthill, and Chryso Tsoumpelis; NDA alumni and current RSE faculty member, Bianca Gardon, (center); and RSE Principal Nathan Hay (far right). Other RSE paraprofessionals who worked on the mural but aren't pictured are Kailie Brumbaugh, Anne Hoffstead, Shannon King, Alicia Caldwell, Holly Evans, and Kristopher Philips.

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At Associates in Dermatology we are doing our share. The situation is being very closely monitored and we, along with other health providers are following the advice of the Center for Disease and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health Services (DHS). We will make any updates that we may need to assure the safety of our patients.

Our hours remain normal at most of our offices to serve our patients. Please be assured, we are taking additional precautions for infection control. For instance, we have increased our staff's routine of disinfecting high-touch areas as well as our patient rooms several times throughout the day. Per the CDC and DHS, we have also restated and enforced the importance of hand hygiene with our entire team of medical assistants, providers and other staff members.

Associates in Dermatology's president and medical director, Dr. Michael Steppie, a board-certified dermatologist and Mohs micrographic surgeon, is one of the few elite members of the Skin Cancer Foundation's Amonette Circle and his expert opinions have been quoted in numerous publications, including Men's Health Magazine.

His role as an ardent supporter of the Central

Florida community goes far beyond the routine practice of dermatology. "I feel my most important goal is to help educate the public about the risks of skin cancer and encourage them to adopt simple practices to help protect their skin!" says Dr. Michael Steppie.

Services & Awareness
"Our mission statement is 'high-quality care,' so we work diligently to ensure unparalleled patient care and excellent customer service. We treat our patients just as we would members of our own family," said Dr. Steppie.

At any of Associates in Dermatology's locations, patients will find various services to support whatever skin issue they may have, all with a service-before-self mentality.

"From our experienced physicians to our highly trained dermatology providers, including physician assistants and nurse practitioners, every member of my team takes pride in providing outstanding results," Dr. Steppie says.

"Whether treating skin cancer or any other general dermatology condition, each one puts the patient first."

Michael Steppie, M.D. continues by saying: "The latest skin cancer foundation statistics show that one in five Americans will get skin cancer in their lifetime. However, our year-round sunny climate means local residents

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Pictured above is Dr. Michael Steppie. Associates in Dermatology is located at 531 Wekiva Commons Circle, Apopka. Make an appointment today - call 800-827-7546 or visit DermOrlando.com.

spend more time than normal enjoying the outdoors as well as higher levels of exposure to the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Unfortunately, it also might explain why Florida's rates of new skin cancer diagnoses are higher."

"Make sun protection part of your daily ritual and seek shade. Avoid the sun as much as possible when the sun's rays are the strongest, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.!" says Dr. Steppie. Then he continues, using the famous axiom from Benjamin Franklin: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

Associates in Dermatology accepts most health plans and also sees patients in 15 Central Florida locations. Their Apopka office is located at 531 Wekiva Commons Circle. Eric Michaelis-Woodard, PAC, MPAS, an Apopkan himself, is a skilled

and very personable physician assistant, who has been part of the Apopka team of providers for the last four years.

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Attorney Patrick Smith, a partner at The Law Offices of Joseph F. Phippen Jr. & Associates, is here to help individuals, families, and corporations plan and prepare for the many changes that life brings.

Attorney Smith combines his knowledge in the fields of estate planning, corporations, and charitable giving with true care and concern for his clients. He finds creative solutions for clients in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust dispute resolution, planning for special needs beneficiaries, and charitable gift planning.

Attorney Smith's work is differentiated by his level of service and attention to detail. His technical and analytical capabilities and problem-solving approach are unique among many attorneys.

Attorney Smith's approach to estate planning is to charge flat fees for any estate planning documents instead of using a "billable hours" system. For example, a will costs \$75, a durable power of attorney \$95, a living will \$50, and a Non-Tax Trust Package \$695. He is also willing to review estate planning legal documents and provide a consulta-

tion free of charge. Attorney Smith also hosts seminars for the elderly to inform them of their legal rights, and donates large portions of his time to do legal work for churches and non-governmental organizations. And, he is a frequent speaker on estate planning and charitable gift planning.

His concern for people extends beyond his current client base. He hosts a weekly radio show called "Ask an Attorney," where he answers any and all legal questions for free, frequently inviting guests such as other attorneys, financial planners, CPAs, and other professions to add their expertise to the show. The show airs at 8 a.m. Saturday mornings on 90.3 FM and 1520 AM.

Even further beyond the legal world, Attorney Smith is contributing to his community. He is currently on the regional board of directors for the American Red Cross, and his personal donations to other organizations include Covenant House and the South Lake High school baseball team.

Attorney Smith is also the author of a book, **The Florida Estate Planning Handbook**, which strives to



Attorney Patrick Smith will review your current estate planning legal documents and provide a consultation free of charge.

explain estate planning simply and intelligently for everyone. He prides himself on bringing peace of mind to those concerned about their future by helping them prepare for significant life events. In addition, Attorney Smith also practices in charitable giving.

If you'd like to see how you might protect your estate and your rights, call Attorney Patrick Smith at 407-464-0881 to schedule your complimentary initial consultation today.

More information about Attorney Smith can be found at Phippen & Associates' website at www.attypip.com. His office is conveniently located at 515 N. Park Avenue, Suite 103, Apopka.

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Governor vetoes city projects, leaves county funds in budget

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

This week when Gov. Ron DeSantis slashed more than \$1 billion from the state budget as passed by the Florida Legislature, his

pen took out two projects that city of Apopka leaders were hoping might escape the governor's line-item veto power.

One other local project – a septic-to-sewer conversion program led by Or-

ange County Commissioner Christine Moore – survived the cutting in a year where revenue is down due to the economic downturn because of COVID-19.

Apopka was seeking to get \$750,000 for a permanent fire station 6 and \$500,000 for the extension of Harmon Road. City firefighters at station 6 are currently housed in trailers on the campus of AdventHealth Apopka hospital. The Harmon Road extension would help create a shortcut and, thusly, shorter transportation times from some areas of Apopka to the hospital. The project would extend Harmon Road from its end at Ocoee-Apopka Road near the hospital

about 2,000 feet to Marden Road, just south of State Road 414, paralleling SR 414 for about 1,000 feet before moving southwest and then looping back slightly to the northwest to meet up with the existing Harmon Road.

The fact that Gov. DeSantis vetoed the two requested appropriations that had passed the legislature was not a surprise to Mayor Bryan Nelson.

"When you think that the state's general revenue is down – 70 percent of that is based on sales tax at the state level – you knew they had to gut it. When he did the teacher raises, which, I know, was a big priority for the governor, that takes up a half-billion dollars and you know we're going to be shy (of tax dollars)," Nelson said.

Apopka is paying AdventHealth nearly \$2,000 a month to rent the space for station 6 so the city may look at borrowing \$500,000

to build the fire station.

"You could almost borrow a half-million dollars and – as far as from a cash-flow standpoint – be about the same, so we've got to look at it from that perspective, but it would be nice for them (the state) to help us with it because as soon as you start building it, you can't go next year and ask (the state) for money for something that's already started. You've either got to get it (state money) before it starts (to be built) or do it on your own," the mayor said.

Nelson said the state government may still face a budget shortfall despite the governor's vetoes as there is still a state budget of \$92 billion.

"I still don't know how the numbers work even with the billion dollars in cuts. I know they're going to have to dip into reserves pretty heavily, but I think we're in for a couple of challenging years. I still don't know how he balanc-

es the budget," Nelson said.

As expected, Orange County Commissioner Moore was more upbeat after the governor left the \$500,000 for her desired project in the state budget.

"On behalf of the residents of Sweetwater West and the Highlands, I am incredibly grateful to Gov. Ron DeSantis for recognizing the importance of funding septic-to-sewer conversions in the Wekiva Basin Management Area," Moore said.

"This success is due to the work of many including (state) Senator David Simmons, (Orange County) Mayor Jerry L. Demings, Wekiva Springs Alliance HOA board members and residents, Orange County Utilities, Bob and Andrea Samson, Friends of the Wekiva, county lobbying team, and my staff Daniel Vanegas and Kathy Marsh. It took a village, and when the village comes together, great things happen."

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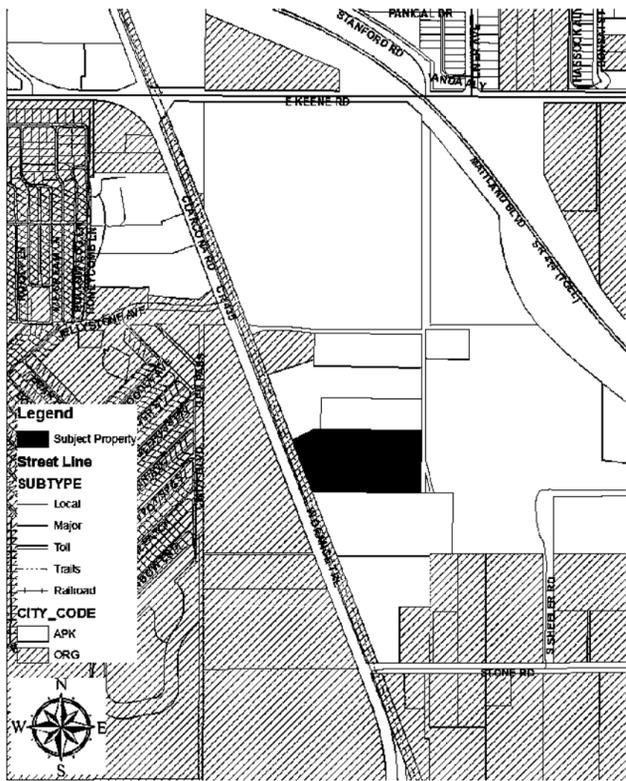
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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3187 and 166.041(3)(c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B), that **Sidney L. Vihlen, III - Vihlen and Associates, P.A.** has made an application, to the City of Apopka City Council, and Apopka Planning Commission for a **change in the Future Land Use Designation for approximately 5.85 +/- acres from Agriculture to Industrial and a change in Zoning from AG (Agriculture District) to I-L (Light Industrial District).** This application relates to the following described property located North of Stone Road and East of Clarcona Road.



Parcel I.D.: 27-21-28-0000-00-038
Contains: 5.85 +/- Acres

ORDINANCE NO. 2776
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 AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED EAST OF CLARCONA ROAD AND NORTH OF STONE ROAD, COMPRISING 5.85 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY 3307 S CLARCONA LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2777
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM AG (AGRICULTURE DISTRICT) TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED EAST OF CLARCONA ROAD AND NORTH OF STONE ROAD, COMPRISING 5.85 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY 3307 S CLARCONA LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that the City of Apopka Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the change of Future Land Use Designation and change of zoning requests at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, July 21, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Further, notice is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 2771 and Ordinance No. 2772 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, August 5, 2020, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible AND on **Wednesday, August 19, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Zoning 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

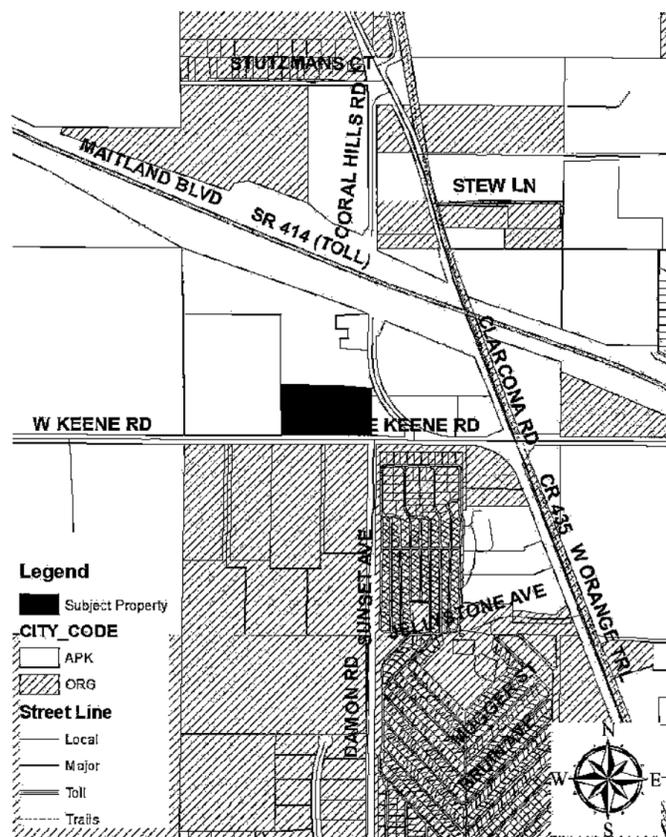
July 3, 2020

Publish: The Apopka Chief

166706

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3187 and 166.041(3)(c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B), that **Tara Tedrow** has made an application, to the City of Apopka City Council, and Apopka Planning Commission for a **change in the Future Land Use Designation for approximately 4.94 +/- acres from "County" Rural to "City" Industrial and a change in Zoning from T (Transitional District) to I-L (Light Industrial District).** This application relates to the following described property located North of E. Keene Road and West of Clarcona Road.



Parcel I.D.: 22-21-28-0000-00-137
Contains: 4.94 +/- Acres

ORDINANCE NO. 2771
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 "CITY" INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF E. KEENE ROAD AND WEST OF CLARCONA ROAD, COMPRISING 4.94 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY AED DEWAR NURSERY 2019 TRUST; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2772
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL DISTRICT) TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF E. KEENE ROAD AND WEST OF CLARCONA ROAD, COMPRISING 4.94 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY AED DEWAR NURSERY 2019 TRUST; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 2771 and Ordinance No. 2772 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, July 15, 2020, beginning at 7:00 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 and Zoning 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

July 3, 2020

Publish: The Apopka Chief

166702

Budget: City has \$12M in reserves

Continued from page 1A

General Fund, which doles out dollars for police, fire, administration, community development, and other functions at City Hall.

The current General Fund budget is \$50.4 million for 2019-2020, meaning the \$1.1 million shortfall in state sales tax revenue would mean about 2-percent fewer dollars than expected. If it's up to \$3 million short of budget, it would mean a more serious 6-percent shortfall.

Nelson and Bass said there are three basic ways for the city to deal with the shortfall and keep the budget balanced as is required by state law. "We have to either raise taxes or dip into reserves," Nelson said. "Or make cuts," Bass said, finishing the mayor's statement.

The latest city audit, presented at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, July 1, showed that the city has an unrestricted General Fund reserve of \$12.4 million.

"It's a good number. It's almost 26 percent of General Fund expenditures. We're at a healthy level, but what we've got facing us," Bass said, his voice trailing off about what the city must deal with financially.

"Depending on how this finishes out, it may eat up some of that reserve. So, then, we have even less (reserves) in the next year," Bass said. "We are watching the capital (expenses) and are only doing what we have to do, so that we can see, when we get to the end of the fiscal year, where we are, and then we'll know how to budget."

The city, Bass said, has put on hold the replacement of roofs at various city-owned buildings, as well as lighting and irrigation improvements. There are also open positions for general employees that won't be filled for a while, he said, but no additional personnel cuts are planned at this time.

Budget workshops

The City Council has three budget workshops set for July 13-15 at 5 p.m. each day at City Hall and while the city commissioners and Mayor Nelson will get a look-see at what each city department wants to

spend during the 2020-2021 fiscal year that begins October 1, Bass said the revenue numbers won't be anywhere near complete thanks to COVID-19.

"We'll have some things put together, but until we have the state (revenue-sharing) numbers, I can't really say (what the city's revenue is)," Bass said. "I don't want to project that state number because this is a shot in the dark."

"We'll go over expenditures. We'll have some revenues, but we won't have all of them."

In addition, there are plenty of other funds that are up in the air, including the city's Recreation Department.

"With recreation now, we're going to have to figure out how we're going to project those because we don't have any programs. Will we have programs next year? That's the type of question we have to look at, too," Bass said.

State law requires that cities pass a tentative property tax rate in July before finalizing it in September and without better revenue projections, Bass said that will be a tougher job than it is in a normal year.

"We'll have to set the millage rate before the end of July. I was hoping we'd have some revenue numbers for next year. We don't have revenue numbers," he said.

"We have all the expenditures so the departments can go through all of their expenditures of the things that they need or the things they're asking for in the new budget, but we're not going to have all of the revenue numbers in time unless they get it to us before the work sessions. It's going to be one of those situations where we'll have something they can look at, but it won't be enough to make a decision yet."

"It's hard to make recommendations when you don't know what that number's going to be."

Because of the issues with getting the revenue projections, Bass said that additional budget workshops may have to be held in August so the final budget can be tweaked, if necessary.

The City Council must approve the final budget and property tax rate in September.

Clay: Pandemic changes methods

Continued from page 1A

ship, working with the community, working with parents, families, and staff to help make the best decisions for my students, so that's certainly what I've gotten in my experience in my other positions, and also working with students with various academic abilities, so I'm very good at supporting teachers and meeting the needs of those students," McDaid said. "I also believe in a team-effort approach, that we work with families because, together, families and school can help students be successful."

In the pandemic, McDaid said she sees the role as school administrator as "not necessarily changing, just expanding."

"Because there was no precedented experience like this before, we never really had a blueprint, so I think it's made administrators better because we're constantly coming up with new ways to support our students, staff and families," she said. "We are finding new and different ways to make

connections with our students, and also to support our staff as they make connections. We want to make sure we're meeting the needs of all of our students whether it's virtually or in person and, again, it's expanded to be socially, emotionally as well as academically."

Despite the circumstances, the school must keep connecting with families.

"It's crucial during this time for us to make sure that we continue to reach out and connect and engage with our families through Facebook Live, through social media, the (Clay Springs Elementary) website, popping into those virtual lessons," McDaid said. "As administrators, we did a lot of that during the last marking period popping into those meetings so we can still see our students and work with them and support them. I think we also are always working to make sure we have new strategies and new ideas in supporting teachers to come up with new and different ways to engage their students whether it's within a classroom, virtually or face to face."

Audit: Staffing is issue for finance

Continued from page 1A

She said her department is seeking to remedy the deficiencies shown by the audit that began before she started her employment with the city in June 2018, two months after the current administration took office.

Part of the issue in terms of catchup up, Roberson said, is staffing. Last year, she requested an additional position for her office, but that was not included in this year's budget. During her presentation, she said she will again be asking for the position to be included in the 2020-2021 budget but that due to revenue reductions because of COVID-19 she isn't expecting the position to be funded.

In response to a question from Commissioner Doug Bankson about staffing in the Finance Department, Roberson said that the city budget doesn't take a hit from overtime because most of the employees there are salaried personnel.

"We're all wearing various hats," Roberson said. "For many of the professional level positions, we won't see a huge increase in overtime for the Finance Department because the majority of my staff is exempt. Even though we're putting in additional hours beyond our 40-hour work week, you're not fiscally seeing it in the financial numbers."

The long hours, however, are taking a toll, Roberson said.

"I'm still working six to seven days a week, and it's been two years. There is a huge issue associated with the staffing levels within the Finance Department. I just don't know personally how long we can sustain what we're working on now. I know that I am struggling personally. I cannot continue this six or seven days a week. My family's suffering. My health could be suffering. It's not sustainable. It's been two years."

Normally, preparing the city budget for the up-

coming fiscal year is handled by the Finance Department, but that's not possible right now, Roberson said, because of all the other items that she and the employees there are having to handle.

Preparing the budget is falling to City Administrator Edward Bass, who served as the city's finance director for a decade.

"Edward is doing the budget, too. Finance is not even doing the budget. That is another issue in itself. Truly and honestly, the budget should be being done by the Finance Department so that Edward can focus on additional items that he can be managing as city administrator," Roberson said.

Despite the issues, Roberson said her department is seeking to continue to clean up the issues.

"Your Finance Department's commitment is to provide leadership and guidance, and the staff is always committed to continually improving the city's financial stability and well-being."

Land cleared for townhomes



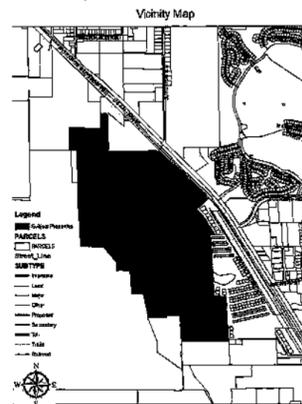
Land was cleared this week for a 92-unit townhome development on 15-1/2 acres on the north side of Old Dixie Highway east of Apopka Elementary School. Hidden Lake Reserve will be built off the shores of a pond. The gated community will have 10 buildings with each townhome having a one-car garage. The minimum living area in the townhomes will be 1,350 sq. ft. There will be a community pool with a cabana.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CHANGE OF ZONING CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given that **Poulos & Bennett, LLC** has made an application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 163.3187(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B) to the City of Apopka Planning Commission, and City Council for a **REZONING OF PROPERTY AND MASTER PLAN**. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 2780

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM TRANSITIONAL (T) TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF NORTH ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL AND NORTH OF HOGSHEAD ROAD, COMPRISING 349.37 ACRES MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY AMERICAN SANFORD FOUR, LLC, STEVEN R. RUBRIGHT, JP HOLDINGS, INC., RUBRIGHT PROPERTIES, LLC, RUBRIGHT FAMILY LP, JAMES SCOTT PRIDGEN, DOUGLAS & LISA SURRETT & JAMES P. PURDY; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Numbers:

Parcel ID	Property Owner	Acres
26-20-27-0000-00-027	American Sanford Four, LLC	0.72
26-20-27-0000-00-028	Steven R. Rubright	9.24
26-20-27-0000-00-042	Steven R. Rubright	1.65
26-20-27-0000-00-029	Steven R. Rubright	2.48
26-20-27-0000-00-032	Steven R. Rubright	1.49
26-20-27-0000-00-030	JP Holdings, Inc.	26.11
26-20-27-5220-00-060	Rubright Properties, LLC	226.35
26-20-27-0000-00-007	Rubright Family, LP	7.02
27-20-27-0000-00-053	JP Holdings, Inc. & James Scott Pridgen	29.76
26-20-27-0000-00-005	JP Holdings, Inc. & James Scott Pridgen	14.94
27-20-27-0000-00-052	Douglas and Lisa Surrett and James P. Purdy	29.61

Contains: 349.37 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 2780 at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, July 21, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearings for Ordinance No. 2780 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, August 5, 2020, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, AND on **Wednesday, August 19, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed zoning ordinance and Master Plan 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

July 3, 2020

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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Looking to buy or sell your home? Denny Shiver Realty can help you through the real estate journey

Spring and summer are typically a busy time for buying and selling homes, but the coronavirus pandemic has pushed homeowners and shoppers into new, uncharted territory.

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Licensed since 2001, Denny Shiver's sole mission has been to establish long lasting relationships with his clients, built on the foundations of reliability and experience. His adage, managing your property so you can manage your life, is a standard to which he sternly holds. "From beginning to closing, I can make the process of your home buying or selling your home or property hassle-free", stated Shiver.

With many years of real estate experience, Denny Shiver knows how important communication is for all buyers or sellers. He makes sure phone calls, emails and text messages are returned in a timely manner. He is happy to answer questions and happy to stay on the phone with uneasy clients. He is a frontrunner regarding open communication throughout the whole transaction.

Denny was awarded Orange County District 2 Citizen of the Year in 2012. That commitment to people and community is what drives him to



Denny Shiver Realty, LLC was founded by Estate Broker Denny Shiver, (pictured above). His goal is to provide the region's homebuyers and sellers with a more personal, client-centered level of service. Call Denny Shiver at 407-625-1503 or email him at Denny@DennyShiver.com.

provide the highest level of one-on-one service. He knows the neighborhoods very well and explains everything he's doing in a clear, precise and simple manner. He explains the process, potential roadblocks and even the possibility of a few scenarios that could occur. He informs his clients about negotiating and keeps regular communication open and will adjust their strategy if needed. He is there to guide you, but ultimately the decisions are always in your hands.

Denny Shiver Realty, LLC has always looked out for the client's interests during their real estate journey, and now protecting your health as well. They've adopted a set of best practices for the process, from listing to viewing to closing that ensures all parties stay safe and comfortable with the process. They're encouraged to adhere to these best practices to help their customers engage in homebuying and selling with more confidence.

Buyers can be

confident that Denny Shiver Realty, LLC will guide you in your home search, assess your buying power, help you negotiate, provide due diligence during property evaluations, lay out financing options, and guide you through the closing process. They have resources to assist you in your home search. They lead in accessing a variety of information resources, such as local community information on utilities, zoning, schools, etc.

You, as a seller can be confident that you will always be provided with: up-to-date information on marketplace conditions and assessment of competing properties, marketing your property effectively to other realtors and the public, expert advice on advertising your property, evaluation of every buyer's proposal, and to close the sale.

Denny Shiver is the professional to help you negotiate. There are myriad negotiating factors, including, but not limited to, price, financing, terms, date of pos-

session and perhaps the inclusion or exclusion of repairs and furnishings or equipment. They can advise you as to which investigations and inspections are recommended or required.

Denny Shiver Realty, LLC has been delivering exceptional results for property owners, investors and residents alike, and has emerged as a market leader. Their commitment to staying in front of the rapidly changing market conditions and broad range of expertise has earned superior results for their clients.

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GIFT CARD: \$100 Visa Gift Card fulfilled by Protect Your Home through third-party provider, Mopel, upon installation of a security system and execution of monitoring contract. \$4.95 shipping and handling fee. Gift cards can take up to 8 weeks to arrive after following the Mopel redemption process. BASIC SYSTEM: \$99 Parts and Install. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.92). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,071.78) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty, ADT Pulse, ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family health, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Pulse services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse equipment. ADT Pulse services are not available with the services levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charge to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse features you desire. ADT PULSE + VIDEO: ADT Pulse + Video installation is an additional \$299. 36-month monitoring contract required from ADT Pulse + Video. \$59.99 per month, (\$2,159.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). Doorbell camera may not be available in all areas. GENERAC: For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Local permits may be required. Certain restrictions may apply. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example, Burglar, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglar, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert services and an additional charge. Additional equipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on homeowner's insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact production actually provided. Licenses: AL: 21-00104, AR: CFP1001722, AZ: C0217517, CA: A026220, CT: ELC 078944, DC: 045062653, DE: 0023000016, HI: 071212, IL: C110004241, ILL: 00000001, IN: 04-02006, IA: 015-013919, IA: 0107000402, MI: C301, MO: 011-180808, City of Indianapolis: IAC-0019156, KY: CFP of Louisville: 021, LA: 191915, LA: 191915, LA: 191915, MA: 191915, MD: 107-1626, ME: LMS0017382, MN: 801-0207371, MN: 15018002, MO: City of St. Louis: CC0554, St. Louis County: 100934, MS: 150019580, MS: PSE-LS-UC-247, NC: 2510-SP-FALU, NC: 2512, OK: 04-14451, NJ: 10-BUR-00021800, NM: 553826, NY: 008618, City of Las Vegas: 200000296, NY: Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State LIC#12000217891, NV: N1200028645 (DN-53811446), City of Cincinnati: AL06, OK: 0K-1048, OR: 170991, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA02200919, RI: 3562, RI: 7048, SC: SAC0509, SD: 15-1514-ET, TN: 1520, TN: 03374, TN: 03362, UT: 642296-6501, VA: 115100, VT: 05-2380712, WA: 60258869-062907069383, WI: City of Milwaukee: PMS-0002966, WV: 04-04323, WY: 01-6-21499, 3750 Priority Way South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46240 ©2017 DEFENDERS, Inc. dba Protect Your Home DF-CD-NP-Q220-FL