

Roundabouts are better

Editor:

I hear about the expense of installing traffic signals and was commenting to my daughter about it who was visiting from Georgia over Christmas. As we passed the new

signal by Apopka High School, she asked why we don't use roundabouts instead of traffic lights. I then read about roundabouts and learned that they are safer than traffic lights and certainly less expensive. They offer a 37-percent re-

duction in collisions as opposed to traffic lights. In many instances, they are a better option. So, why don't we use roundabouts?

Nancy C. Thomas
Apopka

Stop criticizing Joe Biden

Editor:

Even in the Christmas edition, Mr. Corbeil still had to write disgusting criticisms about President-elect Biden. He didn't "steal" the election. Unemployment numbers would be Trump's problem, since

"he's still our president," words that begin every Trumpers sentence. Stop being hypocritical and remember your words in 2016, when Trump didn't even win the popular vote. Finally, "personal enrichment" would be the calling card of our current and

soon-to-be-gone POTUS Trump. Additionally, your headline mentions Hunter Biden, who is not mentioned on the article. Disingenuous much?

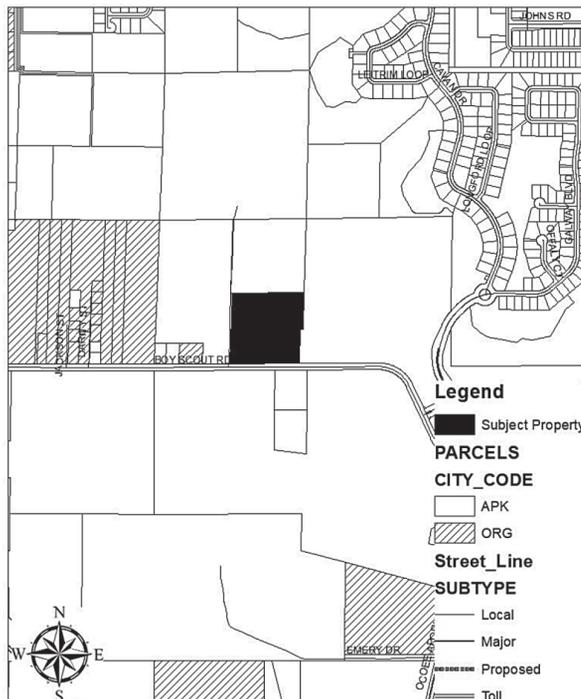
Loral Hahn
Apopka

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the property owner(s) noted below and shown in the attached vicinity map have made application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, to the City of Apopka City Council, for ANNEXATION of the property shown in the following map:

ORDINANCE NO. 2812
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY APOPKA CENTERLINE DEVELOPMENT, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF BOY SCOUT ROAD AND EAST OF S BINION ROAD; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vicinity Map



Parcel I.D. Number: 17-21-28-0000-00-006
 Contains: 9.487 +/- acres

The proposed annexation, as indicated in the map of this advertisement, may be inspected by the public in the City of Apopka Community Development Department, and/or the office of the City Clerk, at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida (Apopka City Hall).

NOTICE is hereby given that the public hearings to consider the future adoption of Ordinance Number 2812 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 East Main Street, on **Wednesday, January 6, 2021 beginning at 1:30 P.M. and on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 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. 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

January 1, 2021
 Publish: The Apopka Chief

167870

Guidelines slow down virus

Editor:

A letter previously published in *The Apopka Chief* touted an article regarding the "Great Barrington Declaration (GBD)." The letter writer stated that doing the simple things recommended by the Center for Disease Control and in the "John Snow Memorandum (JSM)" (masks, social distancing, and hand washing, etc.) would not "stop" the spread of COVID-19. That is correct, but what those recommendations would do is "slow" the infection rate and thereby reduce illness and deaths. In turn, this would reduce stress on the healthcare system so that other needed medical procedures could proceed.

I personally benefited from early COVID restrictions in Florida that lowered COVID-related hospitalizations, so I was finally able to get surgery seven months later than needed. Buying time by prevention also allows more time for health care and other essential personnel, followed by the highly vulnerable and then the general population, to be inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccines now becoming available.

A misstatement in that letter was that "This virus is no worse than influenza." First, it is too early to tell, especially as there are a number of new strains of COVID-19 that have already developed around the world, one that is re-

ported to be 50 percent to 70 percent more infectious than the original one. Second, since people have not been inoculated with a COVID-19 vaccine like many have for influenza, U.S. deaths from COVID have been much worse - 320,000+ to date versus 34,200 in the last flu season. Presumably, inoculations will significantly reduce deaths.

Finally, this is not to say that either GBD or JSM have THE answer, but rather that both sides should pool their knowledge and ideas and work together to do what is best for public health and the economy.

Bob Stamps
Apopka

Corbeil: Soapy hygiene micro-stations can stop spread of virus

Continued from page 2A

- but the other diseases or infections that might complicate the treatment of patients," Simonovsky said. "We want to make sure that someone going into the department with another disease will not spread it

around. "Since COVID-19, business has grown," Simonovsky said. "The company website includes a section dedicated to the virus with a note that 'Soapy hygiene micro-stations can help halt the spread of CO-

VID-19 and literally save lives.'" "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you received, freely give." Matthew 10:5a and 8.

Moore: Always amazed how well budgets are controlled, managed

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noon meeting dealing with new projects. Her staff completes development reviews, rights-of-way permitting, etc., for all new development.

Ralphetta Aker, J.D., leads the Fiscal and Administrative Division with records management, information technology, budget and revenue tracking, geographic information, etc. I'm always amazed how well the budgets are controlled and managed. We never have an issue determining when a certain piece of infrastructure was last maintained and who is responsible for the upkeep. I have a wonderful map in my office and just today when I wanted to add a four-way stop at Sheeler Road and Cleveland Street, this department quickly and accurately confirmed that Sheeler Road is under the county jurisdiction and I quickly ordered a traffic study to determine if the intersection would qualify for a four-way stop sign. On a side note, the number one complaint I receive is speeding and Sheriff Mina's office does not have the funding to operate speed traps all over the county. Thus, we look at potential infrastructure changes to accomplish safer, slower speeds. Tree canopies, speed humps, and stop signs are often good

alternatives. Raymond Williams heads up the Engineering Division. His areas of responsibility include: surveying, right-of-way acquisition, roadway capital improvement program, sidewalks, and street lighting. I'm disappointed, however, with the poor economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our street lighting program is temporarily eliminated.

Maricella Torres is temporarily leading the Roads and Drainage area due to a recent retirement. This department handles right-of-way maintenance. I must say this is an area where we have relatively few complaints. Most of our complaints come from areas run by other jurisdictions or neighborhoods without homeowner's associations. Maricella does a superb job of keeping up with routine repaving of neighborhood communities. My senior aide, Kathy Marsh, has been working well with FDOT on the strip of U.S. Highway 441 from Piedmont-Wekiwa Road down to Rose Avenue in Lockhart. We have had to insist on a few changes, most notably trimming the ditches better. I had to stop the repaving of a subdivision because of the imminent septic-to-sewer conversion. During this process, the contractor must rebuild roadways. I was

pleased to see so many of my neighbors jumping in to alert the county, so that tax dollars would not be wasted.

Humberto Castellero leads the Traffic Engineering Division which deals with traffic studies, signals, pavement markings, and traffic signs. I have personally turned in several hundred requests for street signage replacement. We have asked for traffic studies all over the district to determine the need for new signals.

There are three coming to the Ocoee area, one in Pine Hills, and, of course, the stop sign at the corner of Mt. Plymouth and Kelly Park roads. And I must brag about how roads regularly get their striping refreshed up.

Again, a superb job done by this Public Works division.

I haven't had as much interaction with Julie Nadtitz, in Highway Construction. However, she did work with me on one small project in conjunction with a large erosion issue on the Little Wekiva in the Lockhart area. She was extremely helpful and responsive.

I'm meeting with a budgeting administrator shortly and that will be the subject of my follow-up column on how the Public Works Department thoroughly maintains Orange County infrastructure.

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	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags	850-617-2000
Building Dept.	407-836-8550
County Mayor	407-836-7370
County Commission	407-836-7350
County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue	407-836-3111
Solid Waste	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection	407-703-1731
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency	911
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)	321-388-9808
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