

Meaning of columns confusing Moore: Changes do bring rewards

Editor:

Ike Hayden's column, "Monuments are reminders of our history – do not tear them down," (The Apopka Chief, January 14) left me in a state of confusion. On the one hand, he praises the brave patriots, both men and women, who signed up for military service to protect our American republic in response to the 9/11 attack against the country. On the other hand, he seeks to rally support for the preservation of monuments of traitors who attacked the United States of America by referring to those 9/11 patriots.

To be clear, "traitor" is my word not his. But we know what he means by "historical monuments." As for their historical value, the majority of these monuments were erected by white majority committees and organizations many years after the war of succession during the Jim Crow era of white supremacy when Black citizens lost many of their rights. Hardly a coincidence.

So, I remain confused. Mr. Hayden has the right to urge for the preservation of monuments in honor of the Confederate cause if that is where his loyalties are. But please stop using the

patriotism of loyal American citizens after 9/11 to argue for the preservation of dominating statues of secessionist leaders and generals.

Stunning – the absolute silence from regular columnist Patti Bankson, The Way I See It, on the January 6 invasion of Congress by those who believed Donald Trump had been cheated. Not clear from what is discussed: Are social security a 40-hour workweek and child labor laws part of an "all-powerful socialist state?"

Ernie Burse
Apopka

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gardens are also good for club meetings and neighborhood events.

In Lockhart, the most beautiful feature in the area currently is the iron bridge over the Little Wekiva River in Riverside Acres Park off Calloway Drive. The first thing I did was improve this park for my senior citizens. We installed trees, benches, canopies, barbecue spits, and fresh bases for the playground equipment. I mailed pictures and invited my senior citizens to come back. By their mere daily presence, the wrong element left. The homes have been turning over and the new owners are young families. It's working!

I wish I had more examples in northern Apopka. This work takes partnerships with the folks who attend my Neighborhood Leaders Meetings. The next meeting is Monday, January 31, at 6 p.m. at Wekiva High School. I simply need more participants from within these neighborhoods. We can make progress together.

I have a terrific group in the Wekiwa Springs area. Look at the difference they have made. I will endeavor to discuss the im-

provements in chronological order. I rewarded active neighborhoods with great looking frontage with my HOA of the Month Awards. The county upgraded the sidewalks to ADA standards. There is nothing better than clean, white sidewalks for motivation. The county completed missing sections of sidewalk along Thompson Road and Duke Energy retrofitted street lighting with LED technology near the library. I asked the library staff to paint their retaining wall.

Eventually, 40 leaders from two dozen neighborhoods were meeting for dinner. They completed a petition asking Sprouts to locate in the Wekiva Riverwalk Shopping Center. They voted on a design and paid for nearly 50 pole banners. The banners created a sense of unity and identification within the springshed area.

Then, the HOAs and neighborhoods with voluntary leadership competed for Corridor of the Year. Landscaped beds were freshened up, sidewalks pressure washed, and new mulch laid. Individual home sites were freshened up, as were the school and gas stations. Finally, groups of volunteers regularly pick up trash along the corridor.

Wekiwa Springs Road won much more than a beautification contest. Residents came together in concerted action. The crime rates are decreasing, and their shopping centers are excellent. The state park is getting an entranceway improvement and a historic marker will be installed by Robert Brooks, park manager, and Don Philpott, Wekiwa historian.

And as a reward for winning Corridor of the Year, Wekiwa Springs Road received two new park benches to encourage pedestrian activity and 104 new LED lights making the area safer at night.

Neighborhood design in many of these communities is not conducive for meet-ups. I anticipate our upcoming dinner meetings to focus on the best practices to increase neighborhood socialization.

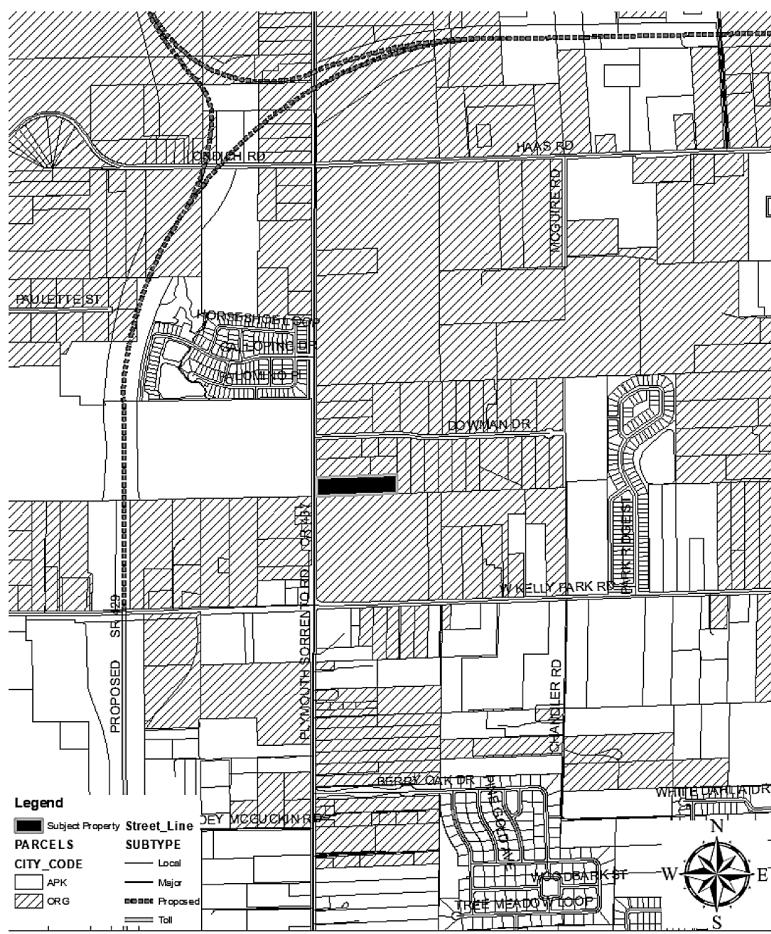
You can see that I am proud of these two areas. I want to replicate success in other parts of District 2. If you do not currently receive our Area Neighborhood Leader newsletters, please email me at District2@ocfl.net.

I hope you will join us for our meeting on January 31, at 6 p.m. at Wekiva High School, 2501 Hiwassee Rd., Apopka.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given that the property owner noted below and shown in the attached vicinity map has made an 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. 2899
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 G&B SORRENTO LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF W. KELLY PARK ROAD AND EAST OF PLYMOUTH SORRENTO ROAD; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



(THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO SCALE)

Parcel Identification Number: 07-20-28-0000-00-031
Contains: 5.00 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 2899 will be held by the City of Apopka City Council at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 2, 2022 beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, AND on **Wednesday, February 16, 2022 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 Annexation can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

January 14, 2022

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?
Send a letter to the Editor online: www.theapokkachief.com

Byrd: Salary impasse was created

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very strict. The rules stated that 80 percent had to be used on increasing or maintaining all minimum salaries to \$47,500. The rest had to be split evenly among all other teachers. Last year, that left a small 1.27 percent increase to our veteran teachers.

This year, that left the measly \$25 cost-of-living increase that was widely negatively talked about on social media. Needless to say, the union and teachers were not happy. It should be noted, neither was I or any board member.

It was because of this that the district decided to go into reserves and offer a one-time supplement of \$2,500 in the hopes of trying to make up for the state's shortsightedness.

Since the \$2,500 was not a recurring raise, the union decided to reject our offer. Since the district did not have any other recurring funds to draw from due to the overall decrease in funding, we were at a stalemate.

After many more unsuccessful attempts at bargaining, the union declared impasse and the case went before a magistrate.

When the magistrate's decision came in, it was partially rejected by both sides so the final decision in this case was made by the school board as prescribed by law.

So, both sides came before the board and shared their arguments in two long sessions with more than 14 hours of testimony and evidence.

Many people have

asked why this is happening since the governor made such a big investment in education two years ago.

While this bump in beginning teachers salaries was one of the largest investments made in education in the state in a long time, it caused a different problem that the legislature refused to address: compression of our veteran teachers salaries.

For example, teachers who have been teaching with the district for 15-20 years are making very little more than a new teacher. As you can imagine, this is quite demoralizing to teachers who are already facing challenges in a profession like they have never experienced.

This has a lot to do

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Hayden: Stand up for your rights

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have stood and proclaimed their faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ. We need to put the Bible back into the classroom and teach our children that the Judeo-Christian world view is the only one able to set up and keep our free society.

I believe in the freedom of religion because I know that without the freedom of choice man becomes a robot, doing only what he is programmed to do. That is why we need to have Christ put back into

our schools, to give our kids the choice. They teach Islam, Buddhism, even Wicca (Witchcraft) in some schools across our nation but, do not you mention the precious name of Jesus or you will be sat down and reprimanded, if not sent home.

If Dr. Martin Luther King would have had the attitude of most Americans today, the progressive stride we see in our Black American lives would not have happened. He gave his life to right a wrong, and for us to allow the "Noth-

ingness" to steal the thunder from all of us and our forward gaze to the future for our children would be a travesty.

We need to stand up for our God-given freedoms, our rights, and our liberty. I said *stand*, not sit idly by doing nothing. That same professor stated that democracy could stand only until the electorate found out they could gain benefits and freedoms by electing those who promised to give them ev-

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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	
	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