

EVERYBODY HAS AN OPINION. WHY NOT SHARE YOURS?
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 380.06(11) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B) that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Land Development Code to define Tobacco Shop.

ORDINANCE NO. 2904

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF APOPKA BY AMENDING PART III – LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; ARTICLE 10, SECTION 10.3 USE CLASSIFICATIONS AND INTERPRETATION OF UNLISTED USES AND ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES; SUBSECTION 10.3.1 PRINCIPLE USE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM TO DEFINE TOBACCO SHOP; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed ordinance at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, February 8, 2022 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Further notice is given that a public hearing for the proposed ordinance 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, March 2, 2022, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, and **Wednesday, March 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 ordinance 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

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170453

Training for emergency volunteers to begin soon

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The city of Apopka has hoped to initiate its volunteer emergency management program by the end of 2021, but the latest COVID restrictions have pushed the launch date until the start of February.

The decision to delay launching the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program was based on the Apopka Fire Department's (AFD) color-coded guide that Fire Chief Sean Wylam implemented in 2021. The guide is based on COVID posi-

tivity rates and number per 100,000 to help the department determine what activities the firefighters could participate in outside of responding to calls.

Currently, the guide shows Dark Red Zone, indicating a very high transmission rate.

"The (CERT) program normally requires 24 hours of in-person instruction. However due to the significant rise in the COVID numbers, we have not been able to move forward with the process," Wylam wrote in an email. "Good news is we have been working with Volunteer Florida to develop a hybrid training program to al-

low us to move forward. This will include a 12-hour online component, with a 12-hour practical with safer practices in place. We are looking to open the applications the first of February. We will update you ASAP of any further progress or changes. We are very excited to get this program up and running."

CERT is a FEMA-sponsored training program that trains volunteer residents in their local communities by giving immediate assistance to victims before emergency first re-

See TRAIN Page 14A

Moore: Pictures can be submitted with 311 app

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ly in this case, but 311 will report it for you. Just know that by contacting the company first, you will be able to get a status update. With 311, they can't provide a status update because they are acting as a third party. To that end, Duke Energy does have a great street-light outage reporting tool on their website at: www.duke-energy.com. My office staff uses it all the time.

Water and trash round out the list of most-asked

topics. Your water meter is read every 28 to 35 days.

311 refers customers to the Orange County Utilities Department for questions, so keep in mind, if it is water service or high water bills you're calling about, go directly to Utilities at 407-836-5515.

Another important concern is trash pickup. As I've discussed in recent columns, we know there's been a challenge for some customers lately due to delays caused by a shortage of trained staff, both locally and nationwide, due to

COVID-19. Orange County Utilities is working fast and furiously to get service back up to par. Let me share that the Solid Waste Hotline is your best place to start to let them know if trash or recyclables haven't been picked up. That number is 407-836-6601. You can also send an email to: Solid.Waste@ocfl.net and we do field questions in my office at 407-836-5850. I want to add that when it comes to yard waste, please make sure you're following the rule of putting out front three cubic yards or less

each week. That's about the size of what would fit in a small pick-up truck's bed.

Finally, to download the 311 app, go to Google Play or the App Store on Apple devices. You can submit pictures with the app! This really helps tell the story when the employee responding at 311 needs to route your complaint to the correct department.

Remember to reach out to me at the office number I've provided in this column, or at District2@ocfl.net for any questions or concerns.

Byrd: New principal Steinke is a great choice

Continued from page 2A

mentary, Apopka Memorial Middle School, and graduated from Apopka High School in 1993.

Yes, she is a Blue Darter through and through!

This is not the only reason that makes Principal Steinke a great choice for our new school; it's her stellar professional background as well. She earned her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida. In addition, she earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Principal Steinke has served OCPs students for 25 years. For the past eight years, she has served as principal at Killarney Elementary and Pinewood Elementary. Previously, she served as assistant principal of instruction at Piedmont Lakes Mid-

dle School and assistant principal at Maynard Evans High School.

She began her career as a classroom teacher in 1997 and taught at Lakeville Elementary and Piedmont Lakes Middle School. During her tenure, she also served as a Curriculum Resource Teacher at Zellwood Elementary and Lakeville Elementary.

Principal Steinke was named Teacher of the Year in 2009. She also was a district finalist for Principal of the Year in 2017 and most recently was named 2021 North Learning Community Principal of the Year.

When I tell you all that we got the best of the best to lead our new school, I'm not exaggerating! Principal Steinke will foster and develop a thriving community within the walls of this school and will create a learning environment that will allow all children to succeed and make this new addition to our community one that we can be proud of.

Now that Principal Steinke is in place, she will begin the process of staffing the school. The process will begin at the end of this month at our feeder schools and then move on to interviews and offers to teachers district-wide in February.

Soon after this period, Principal Steinke will begin working with the community for input on the school name, mascot, etc. Typically, surveys go out to stakeholders and the top three choices are presented to the school board for a vote. I will keep everyone informed as we approach those decisions.

Then there will be a community sneak peek to allow for the school to be toured before the school year starts.

As I've said many times before, it's an exciting time for us here in Apopka. We look forward to what the future holds for our community and welcome back to Apopka Principal Steinke!

Hayden: Parents worked to instill goodness

Continued from page 2A

Little Jimmy Dickens, "Out Behind the Barn" and I learned a lot of life's lessons out behind the barn! It never crossed my dad's mind that he may be ruining my self-esteem or that I was losing my dignity. What really mattered to Dad was my attitude, my respect for others, my love and care for Mom, and how I presented our family name to the world.

While my dad oversaw discipline, Mom oversaw etiquette and all the social manners. We were taught how to set a table, with the spoon and knife on the right, the fork on the left side of the plate, and you always serve from the left. As we walked down the street (can you imagine walking?) Mom taught me the gentleman always walked on the street side of the lady to protect her from any splashes that passing vehicles might cause. A gentleman would always let ladies and the young ones go in before him and he would open the door and hold it open until he would

go in last. I was always aware that I was the gentleman Mom was talking about and it made me feel 10 feet tall to have her consider me so.

Mom taught me to dance. She would put me on her feet and count steps to teach me the different steps. One of our favorite dances was the polka. After I came home from the Navy, Mom and I won a couple of polka contests and placed in a few. My sister learned dancing from Dad and she made the comment she was afraid he might step on his toes. Dad called her by name and said, "Sis, as pretty and smart as you are, no one will ever take offense by you stepping on their toes." My sister always thought of herself as pretty and smart because the gentleman of the house told her so.

Another lesson taught to us by our parents was that a man never strikes a lady! Never!

Both of our parents made sure we understood that rule without exception. So many of life's barriers could have been avoided if I would

have just followed the guidance given by my mom and dad. Dad used to say, "You know how you learn to ride a horse?" and then he would go on, "Just fall off a few times!"

We need to encourage our kids by teaching them manners, politeness, humor, respect for others, and most of all, when they fall off the horse, to get back on. Too many kids are learning from the social media and what they are learning comes from un-American teachers who hate our nation knowing the only way to defeat our democratic republic is through our children.

Abraham Lincon said, "What is taught in the classrooms today becomes the government of tomorrow."

Remember this: The difference between democracy and our democratic republic is: Democracy is mob rules and democratic republic is we choose, through democratic voting, people to represent us in what we want from our government.

C'mon, let's spend a day on the farm!

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1701
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