

Moore: Many improvements made to accommodate visitor’s comfort

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cans and early pioneers. It later became a sport fishing paradise until years of nutrient build-up from sewage or farming chemicals killed the lake. More to the story of Lake Apopka involves the state of Florida purchasing the north shore farms, and the St. Johns River Water Management District pursuing decades-long restoration efforts.

Today, many of us enjoy the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. The Friends of Lake Apopka have a timeline of key events in the life of the lake on the southwest side closest to the boat launch area at a large kiosk. The camping facilities at Magnolia Park are first-rate. The county even purchased an additional 20 acres to the south of the park along Binion Road to extend the trail system,

reaching the West Orange Trail in the Clarcona area. It is my hope that the county will additionally operate primitive camping experiences here. In 2015, Orange County government realized a surge of revenue and offered \$5 million to each commissioner to spend as they saw fit. Then-Commissioner Bryan Nelson chose to put most of his discretionary dollars

at Magnolia Park for new bathrooms and a bike rental facility. He worked closely with architect George Borrelli. As nothing in government is quick, I came along three years later, and the architectural work was not completed. Thus, I had the opportunity to make some low-cost or no-cost improvements to the original plan. I added more benches, canopies, and fencing to keep children at the inclusive playground safe. I also added additional benches to better serve our elderly population. The biggest change I advocated for was using the bike garage additionally as a multi-purpose eco-education room.

I have no illusions that most people will come to Magnolia Park just to learn the history of Lake Apopka or the story about water sustainability. They will come to bike, hike, recreate, and photograph the lake. Yet the history and ecological story of Lake Apopka can be told to guests while they are visiting. It is important our citizens better understand their role in keeping the water supply and lakes healthy

and pristine. Thus, we are adding educational signage and computer screens with Wi-Fi throughout the multi-purpose room. Additionally, we will partner with the Orange Audubon folks to provide educational materials and a part-time docent. We plan to continue to work closely with the Friends of Lake Apopka. The opportunities for eco-education are great.

Just wait until mothers and grandmothers see the beautiful inclusive, fenced playground nestled next to Lake Apopka. It is situated high above the lake with sun sails blocking the sun. Adjacent to the playground will be a picnic area and a brand-new pavilion for shade. In front of the bike rental and eco-education room will be beds of pollinator flowers.

The new bathrooms were about one-third of the total cost of the project. Previously, there was only one stall available in each of the men’s and women’s restrooms. This made it functionally impossible for successful weddings at the pavilion or any other large-scale events. Plus,

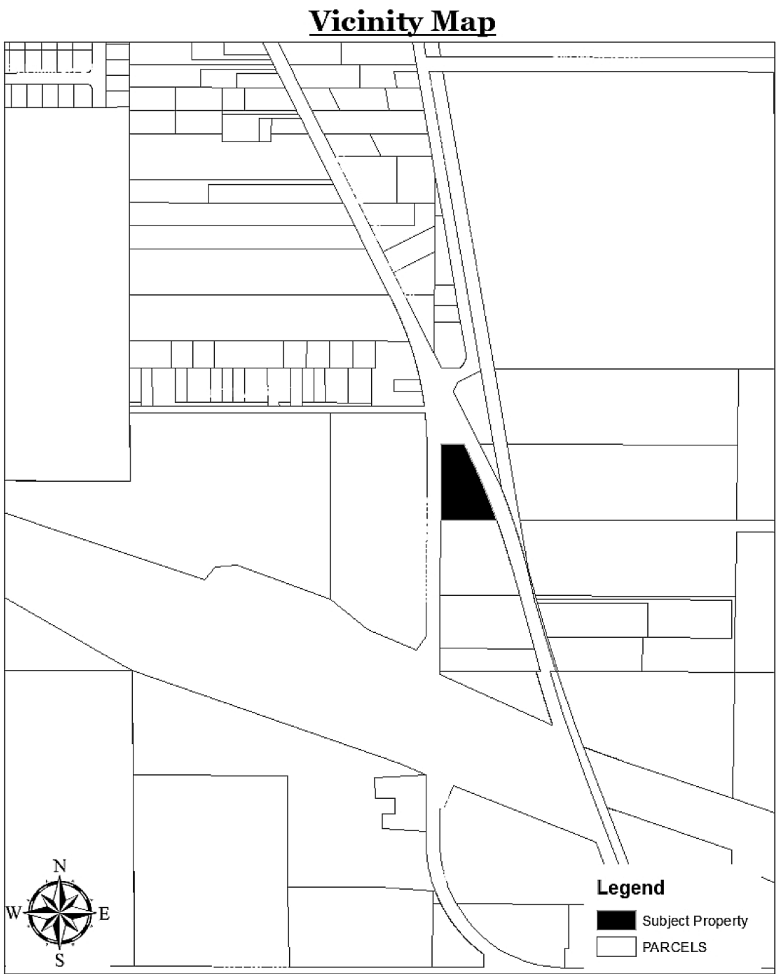
we wanted to make sure the bathrooms were on sewer. Most of you know the challenge of keeping nutrients out of our water bodies from nearby septic systems.

Finally, the docks are simply splendid. I am not sure if they were changed from Mayor Nelson’s original vision of airboats utilizing the slips. While the community rejected the idea of airboats, I am sure they will be used by the cottage industry of sunset photographers as well as dads teaching their little children to fish for the first time.

All in all, I cannot wait to reactivate the western shore of Magnolia Park. However, we have one big barrier to the reopening. The power meter is unavailable, and the construction team is looking for some accommodations from Duke Energy. Let’s keep our fingers crossed they can work this out. Magnolia Park will then become one of the best amenities in all of Northwest Orange County.

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

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinance, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **E&H Clarcona, LLC.** has made an application to the City of Apopka Planning Commission and the City Council for a **CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COUNTY RURAL TO INDUSTRIAL (.60 FAR) AND A CHANGE IN ZONING FROM COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) DISTRICT TO CITY I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) DISTRICT FOR 1.34 +/- ACRES.** This application relates to the following described property located east of Coral Hills Road and west of Clarcona Road.



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

Parcel Identification Number: 22-21-28-0000-00-210
Contains: 1.34 +/- acres

ORDINANCE NO. 2900
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 (1 DU/AC) TO CITY INDUSTRIAL (.60 FAR) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF CORAL HILLS ROAD AND WEST OF CLARCONA ROAD; OWNED BY E&H CLARCONA, LLC., COMPRISING 1.34 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2901
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) DISTRICT TO CITY I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) DISTRICT FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF EAST OF CORAL HILLS ROAD AND WEST OF CLARCONA ROAD; OWNED BY E&H CLARCONA, LLC., COMPRISING 1.34 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOTICE is given that a public hearing 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 16, 2022, beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

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

March 4, 2022

Publish: The Apopka Chief

170686

Byrd: Help options are available

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interactions, not wanting to go to school, grades dropping or getting in fights while at school.

Almost every parent I know is dealing with some form of emotional or mental distress with their child.

So, I started thinking, what would be the best advice I can give a parent that is concerned with their child’s emotional and mental health? The answer is communication.

Start by letting your child’s school know that your child is struggling. Kids are really good at keeping their issues to themselves or maintaining control while at school. Teachers may have no idea your child is struggling with something beyond the classroom.

Send an email or call your child’s teacher or teachers and fill them in on your concerns. They will appreciate knowing and will be able to better help your child be successful.

Set up a meeting with the guidance counselor, SAFE coordinator, and so-

cial worker, if appropriate, at your child’s school. Let them know what you are seeing and ask for suggestions on resources to help your child. If a child does end up with a mental health diagnosis, accommodations can be made at school to help.

If your child is struggling with school work, too, you might want to explore educational testing. A child with a learning disability can present with behavior problems or become depressed or anxious when they are in school. Sometimes, ruling this out may be a good option.

Educational testing can be requested through the school and done by a school psychologist that works for the district for free, but this can sometimes take a long time. It can also be done privately but it can be expensive. Insurance can cover some of the costs.

These are all things you can discuss with your child’s school counselor.

Talk to your child’s pediatrician as well. Sometimes an underlying medi-

cal issue can have an effect on a child’s emotions. Something like anemia, thyroid function, blood sugar issues for example can all cause your child to not feel like themselves or to not have the energy to tackle the day.

If there is something more that needs to be addressed, the pediatrician can also help make referrals to other doctors or specialists to help. Doctors are very accustomed to hearing about and assisting with mental health issues in children, use their expertise.

There are numerous resources available to help you and your child. Finding them may seem overwhelming so go to the people who can help you and ask for help. You don’t have to navigate this on your own.

If you need more information, go to ocps.net and click on “Departments” on the home page, then “Student Services” to find great information or contact information for the district’s Student Services department who can help as well.

Hayden: Memory is of work, play

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drag line operator. We loaded up with dynamite, caps, and fuses and headed out. After an enjoyable ride through the farmland of lower Michigan, we arrived at a small 10-acre lake.

The owner met us there and showed us where the springs were and showed us the rowboat we could use to get out to the shoals he wanted pulverized. I was in hog heaven with no dirty work, no dig-

ging ditches. All I had to do was row out to the shoal, tape a cap to the stick of dynamite, hand it to John and he would fasten a weight to it, light the fuse, and drop it over the side. I would then row back toward the shore for about 100 yards and wait for the explosion. After the dynamite would go off, I would row back out, and do the same thing again. And I was getting paid for it!

After sending down

a stick of dynamite, we rowed back out of the way and waited. No explosion! John mused that it must have been a bad cap and did not go off. Every time we had dropped the charge before, there would be a steady stream of small bubbles that would rise to the surface and then one big bubble would go “bloop” and then the explosion would follow.

See HAYDEN Page 11A

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 Hall407-703-1700
Mayor’s Office407-703-1701
City Administrator407-703-1649
City Clerk407-703-1704
Community Devel407-703-1712
Code Enforcement407-703-1738
Finance Dept407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.)407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-703-1741
Police Chief407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.)407-703-1771
Job Line407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....407-703-1731
Street Maintenance407-703-1731
Utility Billing407-703-1727
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 Tags850-617-2000
Building Dept.407-836-8550
County Mayor407-836-7370
County Commission407-836-7350
County Attorney407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue407-836-3111
Solid Waste407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....407-703-1731
Health Dept.407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-836-6200
Property Appraiser.....407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative.....407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....407-836-4357
Utilities407-836-5515
All other departments407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency911
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 Moore407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools
Pupil assignment407-317-3233
Bus routes.....407-317-3800
Superintendent.....407-317-3200
School Board.....407-317-3200
Miscellaneous
The Apopka Chief407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....407-886-1441