

# U.S. Constitution is the law of the land and should be followed

By Bob Hilliard  
Constitution Minutes

What would happen if we turned over a new leaf and voted only for “what”, not “who”?

The “what” is the Constitution. It should be the standard by which we measure our candidates for votes. It’s the Supreme Law of the Land (Article VI). If candidates for public office do not campaign on issues that are consistent with the Supreme Law of the Land, then why should they get the vote?

For starters, if we required Congress to stay within the enumerated powers, two things would

happen:  
Firstly, the job of US Senaor or Representative would be so boring, few would want to be reelected.

After all, how many times can you revise the bankruptcy code (authorized by Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 4); fix the Standard of Weights and Measures (authorized by Art. I, Sec. 8, cl.5); and organize the Patent and Copyright Office (authorized by Art. I, Sec. 8, cl.8)?

Secondly, there would be no opportunity to get rich while in Congress, build a power base, and have “prestige.” So the office would no longer attract those who go into politics

for the sake of their own egos, pocketbooks, and depraved lust for power.

And if we also stopped pouring out the blood of our young people and incurring ever more debt to pay for our constant military meddling all over the world, there would be very little for Congress to do.

After the cleanup period, the job of US Senator or Representative would become so boring – and so financially unrewarding – it would be seen as a civic duty to be stoically endured for a short time – instead of a cushy ticket to personal wealth, power, prestige, and a luxurious taxpayer funded retirement for life.

# Byrd: Graduation dates announced

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with awards ceremonies, musical productions, prom, and most of all – graduations!

Graduation dates have been announced and we could not be more excited and proud of our 2023 graduates! Graduations are my favorite event of the year because I get to see the

culmination of all the work we do every day come to fruition as I congratulate thousands of smiling faces as they cross the stage. It’s quite a thrill!

Our Apopka Blue Darters will be graduating on May 22 at 2 p.m. at the Amway Arena and our Wekiva Mustangs will graduate on May 30 at 8:30 a.m. at the UCF Arena.

Both will be a great celebration!

So, as we approach the final leg of our journey this school year, let’s stay focused on the finish line and keep up the great work. We have faced a lot of challenges, but our students, staff and parents continue to push forward with great success. Let’s keep it going for a little longer!

# Moore: Enjoy wildlife corridors

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properties, increase awareness regarding the importance of the preservation and management of our natural resources and exposes the public to a variety of nature-based recreational opportunities. The types of events include guided hikes, planting native vegetation, education outreach regarding invasive special and debris removed. Through the efforts of volunteers, the county ensures a quality experience for visitors. Participants may also become ambassadors with Green PLACE Program as they share their experience with their family, friends, and colleagues.

## Funding

The program utilizes several funding sources to accomplish its goals The Conservation Trust Fund is used to pay for the program’s annual land management activities and has an annual budget of approximately \$1 Million.

There are three means to generating revenue which include the purchase of mitigation credits, payment from penalties to resolve enforcement for natural resources code violations, payment of mitigation associated with natural resource permits. The Green PLACE Program utilized Capital Improvement Program funding for the design and construction of support amenities.

## Achievements

Some highlights from 2023 include obtaining financial support in the amount of \$100 million from the Board for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands. Staff amended the administrative codes to delineate the criteria for the evaluation of lands. They developed an evaluation matrix and guide of resources. These tools were utilized to evaluate 372 parcels. Lastly, the Green PLACE Program outreach activities included a collaboration to film

to virtual hikes, partnering with *Ideas For Us* in the planting of 70 trees on Johns Lake Conservation Area, as well as hosting the 2023 National Public Lands Day event.

The BCC approved a resolution for the reestablishment of the Green PLACE Advisory Board. The program managed properties and meets the goal of burning 980 acres, maintained over 70 miles of fire lines, and more than 30 miles of trails. The program also managed the invasive species on its properties and collaborated with Capital Programs on the design and construction of amenities.

The county manages four properties in northwest Orange County. They are known as Sandhill Preserve, Lake Lucie Conservation Area, Neighborhood Lakes, and Pine Plantation. I hope you get a chance to go for a visit and enjoy lands managed by Orange County Government.

# Hayden: Rights and wrongs differ

Continued from page 2A

fill the “Plenty.” We expect to be taken care of from cradle to grave. Too many of us are willing to erase the past to set up a different society that desires to steal, kill, and take from a people of all cultures those things that were so diligently planned and worked for.

You have no excuse if you are one of them! I don’t care what culture you have in your past (you notice I said “culture” not nationality. If you are here legally, your nationality is as a citizen of the United States of America). If you are using your culture or race as a reason for your failures, you are a coward and not brave enough to

face everyday challenges that are overcome daily by those of like cultures that have not only prospered, but made changes in our new and exciting world.

Have you ever read the book “Kindred” or “Parable of the Sower”? The author was a child born in 1947 to a widowed mom in Pasadena. Because of the racial norms of the day, Octavia E. Butler had to learn, through self-teaching, how to write.

Most of her writings, which were many, explored such issues as race and gender. She greatly influenced Afrofuturism, in which Black people are empowered, not by right of race, but by right of hard work and willingness to

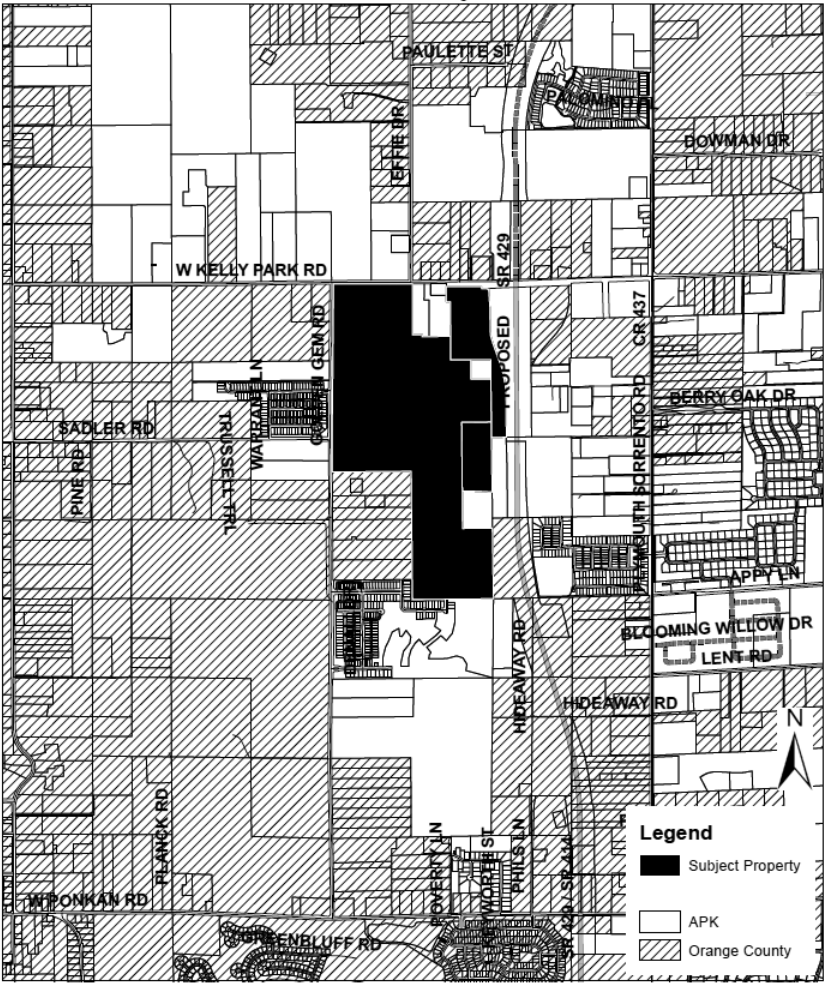
use the lessons of the past. We could go on and on, for her awards, grants, and lauds are many, but the thing I would like to share is the one thing she was awarded for because of her “keeping on, keeping on.” In March of 2021, the Perseverance Mars Rover landing site that is in the Jezero crater, was named “Octavia E. Butler” after her determination and inventiveness. Katie Stack Morgan, Perseverance deputy project scientist at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, said she was a perfect fit for the Perseverance rover mission and its theme of overcoming challenges.

Now, what are our excuses?

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **LOWNDES LAW FIRM C/O TARA TEDROW, ESQ.** has made an application, in accordance with Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 4.2.2.C to the City of Apopka Planning Commission for a **SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPMENT IN THE INTERCHANGE OVERLAY DISTRICT OF THE WYLD OAKS DEVELOPMENT (FORMERLY KNOWN AS KELLY PARK CROSSING).**

This application relates to the following described property located on the southwest corner of SR 429 and Kelly Park Road:



Parcel Identification Numbers: 13-20-27-0000-00-005, 13-20-27-0000-00-023 (Portion of), and 13-20-27-0000-00-061  
Contains: 68.77 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the special exception request at its scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall on **Tuesday, April 11, 2023, beginning at 5:30 P.M.,** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing 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, Florida 32703; Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

March 24, 2023

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173451

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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 23, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Folio 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. <b>www.apopka.net</b>	

### 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
<b>www.orangecountyfl.net</b>	

### Other Area Numbers of Note

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Rick Scott (Rep.) .....	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.) .....	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Maxwell Frost (Dist. 10) .....	202-225-2176
<b>State Representatives</b>	
Doug Bankson .....	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45) .....	unknown
<b>State Senators</b>	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) .....	407-297-2045
<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Christine Moore .....	407-836-7350
<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Pupil assignment .....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
The Apopka Chief .....	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441



# Universal school choice is two steps away in Florida

**By Andrew Powell**  
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – All Florida K-12 students' opportunity for \$8,000 education savings accounts is two steps away from

House Bill 1 next goes to the Republican-majority Senate. The House of Representatives on Friday, March 17, approved the legislation that has the support of Gov. Ron

DeSantis and former Gov. Jeb Bush.

The legislation will make education savings accounts accessible to all eligible kindergarten through 12th grade students regardless of the student's

family circumstances. It removes the \$111,000 income cap for a four-person family.

The funds can be spent on private school tuition, learning materials and other

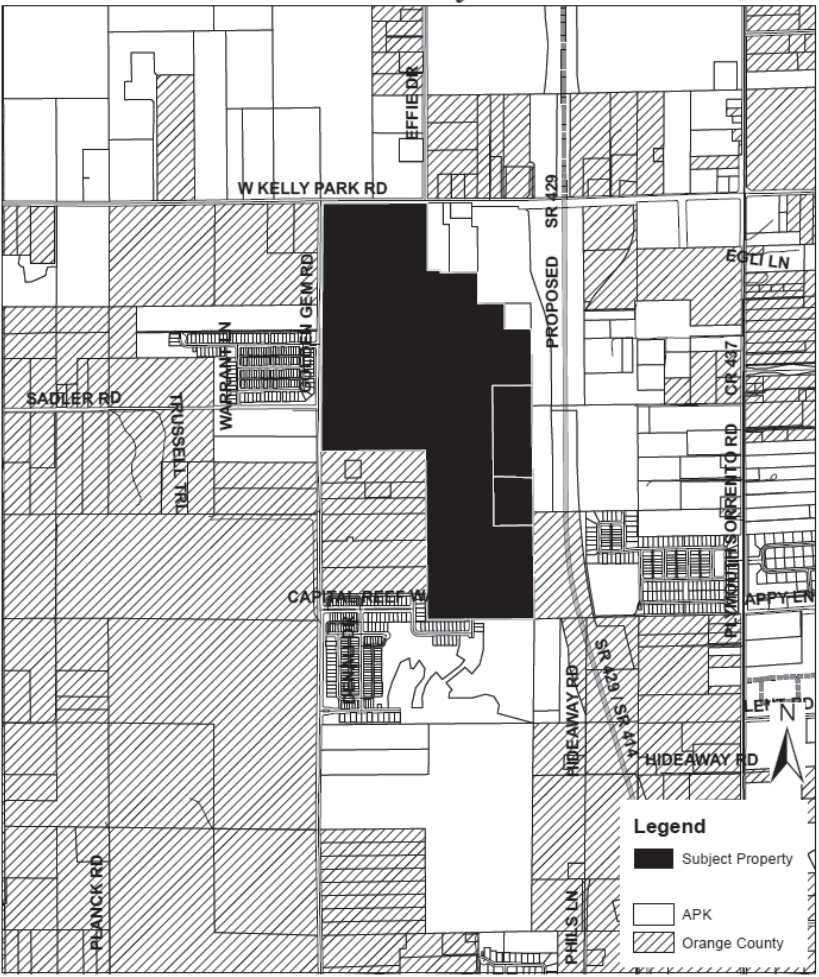
resources. Homeschool students will also be able to access the scholarships.

Prior to passage, House Minority Leader Fentress Driskell, D-Tampa, held a video conference with

Arizona Senate Minority Leader Denise “Mitzi” Epstein, D-District 12, about the effects that have been seen since Arizona implemented similar legislation.

# PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE VARIANCE REQUEST CITY OF APOPKA

The City of Apopka Planning Commission, in accordance with Article III, Section 2.5.5.A of the City's Land Development Code (LDC), herein advises you that CADENCE PARTNERS, LLC C/O TODD WATSON, requests a VARIANCE from LDC, Appendix A, Section J, Table 6, to allow a maximum building setback of 94 feet in lieu of 20 feet from Sadler Road; and a maximum building setback 203 feet in lieu of 20 feet from Golden Gem Road. This application relates to the following described property:



Parcel Identification Numbers: 13-20-27-0000-00-023 (Portion of),  
13-20-27-0000-00-026 and 13-20-27-0000-00-061  
Total Acreage: 104.18 +/- acres

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held in the City of Apopka Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 beginning at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. The variance application is available for review at the Community Development Department at Apopka City Hall, 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing 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 Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

March 24, 2023

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