

Wreaths can be purchased throughout year

Editor:

The article on Wreaths Across America in the June 23 *The Apopka Chief* was very informative and timely.

VFW Post 10147 Apopka/Altamonte Springs and the City of Apopka participate in the Wreaths Across America (WAA) Program annually. Wreaths Across America Day Program is December 16, 2023. The ceremony is held at the City of Apopka Edgewood/Greenwood Cemetery at 12 noon. This

will be the eighth year of amazing support from the Apopka community that has ensured a Wreath for each veteran buried in the City of Apopka Edgewood/Greenwood Cemetery.

Funds are raised throughout the year to provide a wreath for each veteran in the City of Apopka Edgewood/Greenwood Cemetery. Each wreath costs \$15. We also take orders for individual wreaths for veterans in other cemeteries. The individual Wreaths are available

on December 15 and 16. Times will be available in the first week of December for the pick-up of individual wreaths. Please email Lforlaw39@gmail.com

A fundraising sale of gently used artificial Christmas trees and other Christmas items is scheduled for August 19 to support the purchase of wreaths. We will have a special area for raising funds for purchasing wreaths during the VFW Post Auxiliary Annual Yard Sale at the Apopka Com-

munity Center/VFW Post 10147. Additional information/updates are provided at VFWPost10147.org.

You can purchase wreaths at any time online at wreathsacrossamerica.org//FLEDGR. You must use the site for Wreaths to

be assigned to Edgewood/Greenwood Cemetery in Apopka, Florida.

“We are not here to ‘decorate graves.’ We are here to remember not their deaths, but their lives.” Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths

Across America.

Loretta Forlaw, PhD, RN, FACHE
Col (Ret) ANC
Director of Community Relations(Volunteer)
VFW Post 10147
Apopka/Altamonte Springs

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

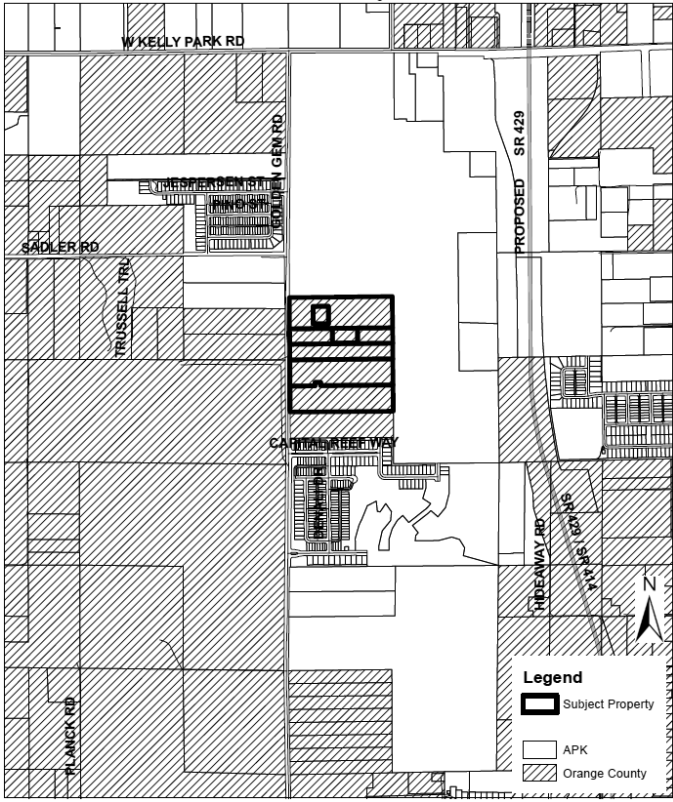
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **TARA TEDROW, ESQ.** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3014

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 TO MIXED-USE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF SR 429, EAST OF GOLDEN GEM ROAD AND NORTH OF CAPITAL REEF WAY; OWNED BY HARDY-HOLT BRENEDETTE, HOFFMAN DANNA L, HOFFMAN CAROL A, HECK JOYCE A, AND BRENEY FRANCOIS P, COMPRISING 44.74 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3015

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) TO KPI-MU (KELLY PARK INTERCHANGE - MIXED-USE, ASSIGNMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT DISTRICT OVERLAYS, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF SR 429, EAST OF GOLDEN GEM ROAD AND NORTH OF CAPITAL REEF WAY; OWNED BY HARDY-HOLT BRENEDETTE, HOFFMAN DANNA L, HOFFMAN CAROL A, HECK JOYCE A, AND BRENEY FRANCOIS P, COMPRISING 44.74 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 13-20-27-0000-00-072, 13-20-27-0000-00-037, 13-20-27-0000-00-059, 13-20-27-0000-00-036, 13-20-27-0000-00-038, 13-20-27-0000-00-056, 13-20-27-0000-00-024
Contains: 44.74 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3014 and 3015 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, July 5, 2023 beginning at 1:30 P.M. AND Wednesday, July 19, 2023 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, Florida 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

June 30, 2023

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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Veterans: Express your gratitude

Continued from page 2A

the freedoms we hold dear. Their dedication and sacrifice have shaped our nation’s history and continue to inspire future generations.

As we gather to enjoy the parades, fireworks, and barbecues, let us not forget those who have borne the burden of defending our freedoms.

It is my hope that you take a moment as you celebrate, to express gratitude to a Veteran, listen to their stories, and understand the challenges they may have faced or are still currently

facing.

Small gestures of appreciation can make a significant impact on their well-being.

Additionally, I encourage Veterans who have not yet explored their VA benefits to consider taking advantage of the services available at the Orlando VA Healthcare System.

Our dedicated team of healthcare professionals stand ready to provide personalized care, tailored to each Veteran’s specific needs. Whether it’s accessing healthcare services, mental health support, or connecting with fellow

Veterans, we are here to assist and support you on your journey.

Together, let us foster a society that truly honors and supports our Veterans, not just on the Fourth of July, but every day. By recognizing their sacrifices, we ensure that their legacy lives on, and their service remains a guiding light for our nation’s future.

As the Director of the Orlando VA Healthcare System, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all Veterans for their service and wish everyone a safe and memorable Fourth of July celebration.

Moore: Unincorporated needs more

Continued from page 2A

the bright, white, new sidewalks and driveway aprons. Sometimes the sidewalks cost more than \$400,000 for an entire neighborhood. Besides the obvious benefit of improved pedestrian safety, I have seen homeowners landscape and paint homes after the construction is completed.

The neighborhood gets a makeover. Additionally, with increased pedestrian activity, crime is reduced. Interestingly, the increased pedestrian traffic is from the community just improved.

Occasionally, the sidewalks are not preferred by homeowners. Unfortunately, with the county adopting the national safe-

ty standards known as Vision Zero, there is not much I can do to stop a sidewalk installation project.

There is a plan to increase street lighting on 36.8 miles of county roadways in District 2. Interestingly, most of my Lockhart and Pine Hills areas have already been lit and generally with LED fixtures. Here is the list of streets the county proposes to erect new LED lighting over the next five years – East Votaw Road, East Welch Road, Sheeler Avenue, A.D. Mims Road, North Park Avenue, Ponkan Road, West Michael Glad-den Boulevard, McCormick Road, Old Highway 441, Wurst Road, North Lakewood Avenue, Ocoee-Apopka Road, West High-

land Avenue, Round Lake Road, Sadler Road, Old Dixie Highway, Plymouth-Sorrento Road, Binion Road, Jones Avenue, North Rock Springs Road.

I’m a bit concerned about the county’s communication with Duke Energy on such a substantial list of projects throughout the entire unincorporated portions of the county. I will certainly keep you apprised of their progress.

Additionally, if you see workmen on a stretch of roadway erecting lights, please do not hesitate to take a picture and send it to my office at District2@ocfl.net.

My next column will address the Orange County LYNX Bus Shelter Program.

Hayden: Get to know each other

Continued from page 2A

you started a conversation with someone in line at the grocery store?

Most people are looking for someone else to make the first move because they want to show their willingness to be friendly. We need to take time to *see* people, not just *look* at them.

When I look back at the opportunities I have missed – no, ignored, I feel a loss because that person I chose to ignore had a gem of wisdom to share with me and I will never be able to know it. There are so many things that I do not know and so many people out there who have the information I need to fill my curiosity. I will never find the answers until I am willing to tap the fountain of wisdom that rests in other

people.

I believe being a part of any community carries with it a responsibility to contribute to the good of that community, and everyone has a contribution. The young people today have the exuberance of youth and many times a new approach to solving some of the problems we see around us.

Can we not discuss those solutions? Our elderly generation have had experiences and many times lived through tough times that have given them a special insight as to how to overcome different situations.

Our middle-aged people of today are working in everyday jobs that sharpen their skills in getting along with co-workers and bosses. Small business owners learn how to listen for ideas

on keeping employees safe and happy in their jobs.

The point being is if we want to feel that we are back in Kansas again, it is going to take more than clicking our ruby red shoes together, and repeating, “There’s no place like home.” We need to start recognizing the people who surround us daily, knowing race or culture has nothing to do with their ability to give us something to help us grow.

Our growth as human beings and our ability to cope with daily opportunities are only hindered by our unwillingness to see others as teachers or instructors for our benefit in living fuller lives and contributing to our community.

Love, learn, and live with laughter in your heart to share with all! Are we back in Kansas yet?

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 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	
Maxwell Frost (Dist. 10)	202-225-2176
State Representatives	
Doug Bankson	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)	unknown
State Senators	
Geraldine Thompson (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

PEP: King suffered second ACL injury just before season season at Iona

Continued from page 1B

thing was really cool.

“I remember on my senior night of basketball, Steve Schwarze gave me an old hat of my grandpa’s. Walking through the school hallway and seeing my Uncle Brett’s baseball jersey displayed – those are all super cool things. Going to the baseball field and seeing his number retired. There are so many cool things.

“Apopka is such a big place in my family’s heart with my grandma and my grandpa, my dad, and Uncle Brett, so to be able to go back and play was cool.”

As many athletes have done at Apopka High, Hannah used her athletic ability to continue her education, starting out at the College of Central Florida in Ocala. But, after suffering nothing more than an ankle sprain while playing for the Blue Darters, Hannah soon found herself suffering the first of two ACL tears in her knee and then shortly thereafter, injured her ankle.

“The ACL (injuries) were tough. The first one was my first major injury during my freshman year (in college), but I had such a drive to play college basketball that I thought that one (rehabilitation time) went by really fast. It’s never fun and it’s never enjoyable and it’s always hard, but because I hadn’t yet touched the court (in college), I had this massive desire to get back despite (rehabilitation) every single day,” she said.

“When I came back to play and messed up my ankle, I constantly felt like I had something to prove. I got my ankle surgery and spent my whole summer at school. I didn’t go back to Apopka or home. I spent the whole summer doing classes and rehabbing.”

The time away from the court following her ankle injury, however, changed her view.

“I realized after that year, that, all along, me just being here on the court and getting my playing time, I felt I didn’t have anything to prove to anybody. That’s a testament as it is. I remember being disappointed with my performance on the court and, finally, about my sophomore year, my third year at Central Florida. I thought, ‘I have nothing to prove. Just being here is huge for me. Just being in this moment,’” Hannah said.

After receiving her bachelor’s degree from College of Central Florida after majoring in applied science in business and organizational management, Hannah still had two years of college basketball eligibility left, so she found a home at Iona University just outside New York City, and went to play for the Gaels.

However, before what would be her first season at Iona, the pandemic struck and New York had some of the toughest restrictions in the nation.

“By no means would I say it was negative, but it was an incredibly rough year.” Hannah said. “They were very, very strict

on the rules and regulations. I believe we quarantined nine times that year for two weeks (each quarantine). It was start-stop, start-stop, start-stop. I was in a dorm room so even though I had my own room, because we were in a dorm, we could not leave the building because we had common elevators and common stairs.

“We were in the rooms for two weeks at a time. The (basketball) program did what they could. They brought us workout equipment and bikes to our dorms, but it sucks being locked in a room for two weeks regardless, and we did that nine times.”

Because of those quarantine times, the Gaels played less than half of their scheduled games.

“We played only 13 games and we weren’t allowed to go out to restaurants to eat because every time that would expose everyone on our team to be shut down again. We weren’t allowed to go into the city. We weren’t allowed to go into restaurants. We weren’t allowed to have people come visit us. It sucked for everybody, but that was definitely one of the worst places to be,” Hannah said.

There was, however, a silver lining to the black clouds of the pandemic.

“Overall, we got to bond with each other because we were all we had. We didn’t have any family who was allowed to come, so I got really, really close with my teammates,” she said.

As things begin to open up and she was set to begin her second



A young Hannah King eats some watermelon while sitting with her father, Brian.

season at Iona, the dreaded second ACL tear happened just four days before the first game.

“This last ACL was definitely the hardest I think because there was a lot more damage than the first time. This time, I had to have a meniscus repaired and I was non-weight bearing for two months, which slows everything

down tremendously. The first time, I was walking within 10 days. That second one was really hard,” Hannah said.

“When I had the surgery, I (rehabilitated like I) had the intentions of going back to play whether I did or didn’t because at

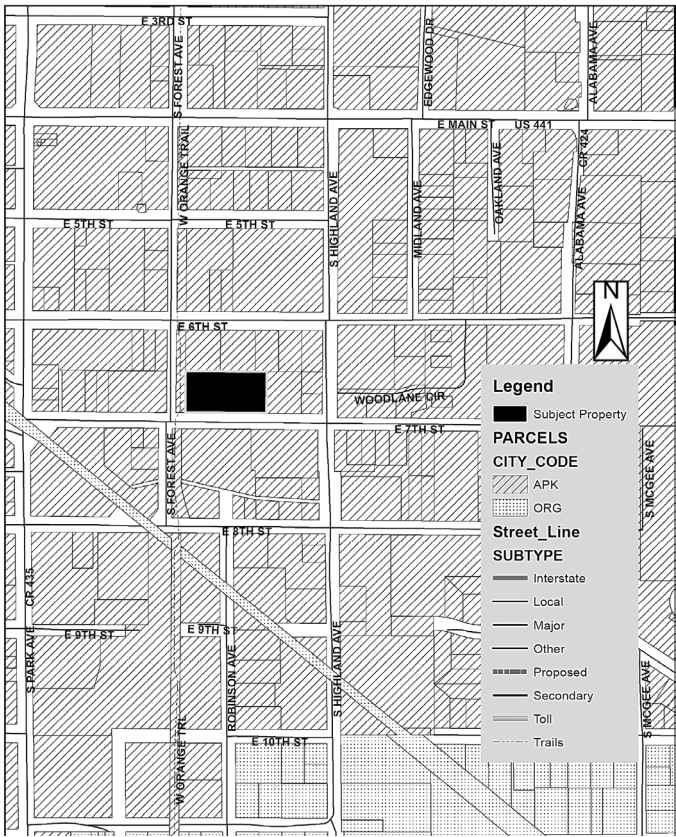
See PEP Page 6B

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 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 **Erika Hughes, VHB** has made an application to the City of Apopka Planning Commission and the City Council for a **Small-Scale Future Land Use Amendment for 1.5 +/- ACRES**. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3017
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 OFFICE TO MIXED-USE FOR A PORTION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 225 E 7TH STREET, OWNED BY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, INC., COMPRISING 1.5 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Location Map



Parcel ID Number(s) : 09-21-28-0196-61-100
Contains: 1.5 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 3017 at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, July 11, 2023 beginning at 5:30 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3017 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, August 2, 2023 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**, and **Wednesday, August 16, 2023 beginning at 7:00 P.M.** or soon thereafter.

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

June 30, 2023

Publish: The Apopka Chief

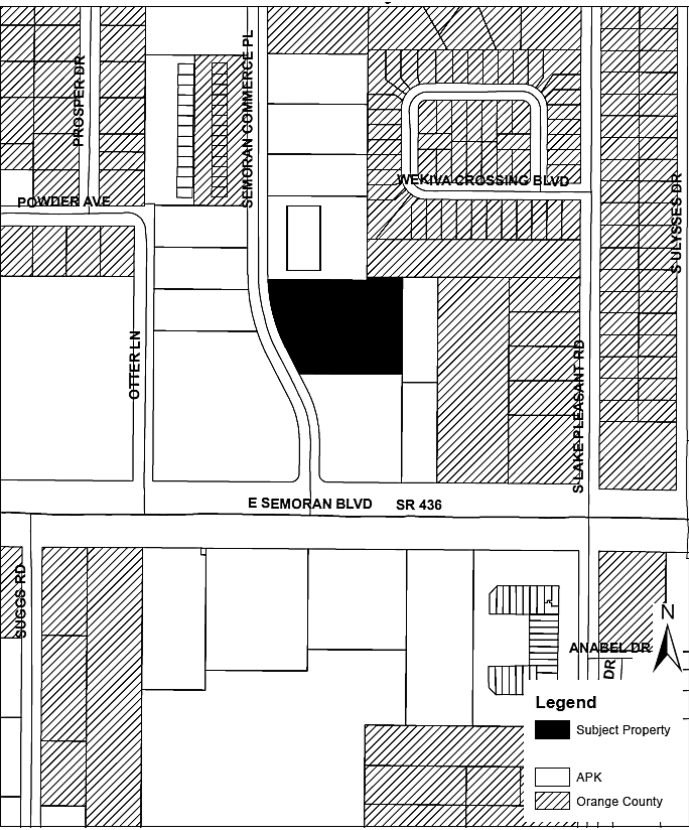
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CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **JONATHAN HUELS, ESQ.** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3010
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 INDUSTRIAL TO COMMERCIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF SEMORAN COMMERCE PLACE, WEST OF LAKE PLEASANT ROAD AND NORTH OF SR 436; OWNED BY SHAKE THE NATIONS MINISTRIES, INC., COMPRISING 2.4 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3011
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) TO C-COR (COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF SEMORAN COMMERCE PLACE, WEST OF LAKE PLEASANT ROAD AND NORTH OF SR 436; OWNED BY SHAKE THE NATIONS MINISTRIES, INC., COMPRISING 2.4 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s) : 11-21-28-7900-00-210
Contains: 2.40 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3010 and 3011 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, July 5, 2023 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** and July 19, 2023 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, Florida 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

June 30, 2023

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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Bowl: There were 54 teams that participated in the national tourney

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left, we consistently converted above 90 percent. Converting spares is the difference between advancing during the postseason. Improve the percentage (of making spares), improve the overall averages.”

The Blue Darters also claimed the first ever national high school championship in 2016. Wisconsin Sun Prairie is the only other program to claim two national championships. However, the Blue Darters are the only boys program to place inside the top six four times.

“An opportunity for winning state and national championships while also adding to the list of Apopka achievements was certainly not lost on this team all season,” Campbell said. “The ready to go for the state championship and then national championship meet

conviction existed all season. After winning the state championship and only the national championship stood in the way of realizing the thought process and mindset, the intensity of the ready-to-go jumped several levels. The bowlers were like racehorses waiting in the gate, chomping at the bit. The team never gave up and accepted we couldn’t win the national championship. The hunger never left.

“We have never failed to raise the level of play when necessary. The team once again found a way to do what isn’t supposed to happen and make those incredible throws.”

The national championship meet consisted of six rounds. Bowling lineups are made up of five bowlers. Other than the qualifying round, three games of Baker Rules was exclusively used. Three games of 10-pin were thrown by

each bowler in addition to the three games of Baker Rules during the qualifying round.

Baker Rules format is similar to an offensive lineup in baseball. Each bowler throws one frame at a time. The first bowler throws the first frame, second bowler throws the second frame and so on.

Both formats of competition are used during the two meets making up the FHSAA postseason.

The first elimination is the same at the national and state levels. A certain number of teams or percentage of the field is eliminated after the 10-pin competition.

However, means determining elimination at the end of the rounds following the qualifying round is different. A certain number of teams or percentage of the field is eliminated upon the completion of each round continues during the na-

tional championship meet. During the FHSAA postseason meets, with outcome of each match determined by a best-of-five series, a head-to-head tournament is held.

Size of the field at the national championship meet was reduced from 54 to 24, 16, 8, 4, 2, and 1.

Scores of each round are cumulative and carried into the next round until the final four.

The Blue Darters posted scores of 1,091, 1,049, and 1,021 during the 10-pin portion of qualifying round. An average of 1,056 pins as a team and 211 individually were posted per game. During Baker competition, in order, another 257, 196, and 210 pins were added.

Results posted during the qualifying round were business as usual for Apopka and met the expectations of how good the play is expected to be. Overall total score of 3,831 pins pushed the Blue Darters into first place at the end of the qualifying round. Apopka never relinquish first place as the Blue Darters were in command of the standings without interruption. Perhaps the most impressive achievement within the context of producing a championship performance, the lead was steadily increased after each round.

Qualifying round-3,831 total pins/33-pin lead; round 1-4605 pins/124-pin lead; round 2-5208 pins/164-pin lead; and round 3-5858 pins/203-pin lead

Apopka earned a bye for round five and an auto-

matic berth into the championship series as the team holding first place after round four. Total points from the previous rounds do not carry into the championship final series though. Most pins scored after three games win the series and national championship.

Then the lone stretch of time the Blue Darters were presented with a challenge arrived. Illinois Machesney Park Harlem held on for a 246-244 game one victory. Apopka erased the setback and deficit immediately, leading from start to finish during game two. The final score of 217-205 propelled the Blue Darters back into the lead by 10 pins.

However, as dominating and impressive as Apopka had been, the most had been saved for the absolute last and combined with produced during the weightiest of situations, or at least what was supposed to feel like the weightiest of situations, the outcome of one game deciding the national championship.

By producing a fifth score among the top eight and the highest of the championship final series, any doubt about the outcome never existed. Nor did the score from the first ball thrown indicate the Blue Darters were competing during the weightiest of situations. In fact, the only question remaining as the game progressed into the last third was the final margin of victory. The answer was 255-194.

“Earning the number one seed certainly had a role in winning the championship final series and the

third game in particular,” Campbell said. “Higher seed chooses the lane competing on for game one and three. Competing on the right lane doesn’t necessarily mean we lose. However, scores on the left lane were clearly better than the right. Again, in particular, on the left lane, we put up a top-six highest score during game three and when one game deciding the national championship.”

Apopka compiled an average of 227 pins over 15 Baker Rules games. Seven of the scores were more than 215 pins.

Scores of 287 (highest), 268 (third), 257 (twice-sixth) and the 255 (eighth) were generated by the Blue Darters. Performance was at such a high level, the 244 pins knocked down during the first game of the championship series was only the sixth best for Apopka.

“The ride to the state and national championships was a lot of fun but again, not without the necessary work,” Campbell said. “The work which wins championships was put in during the practices and behind the scenes. Some of the comments are repeated over and over, but what wins championships doesn’t change and starts with practices having an impact. We knew what was possible and the commitment only steadily increased since last season ended.

“On a personal note, coaching a team to state and national champions in the same season is really cool.”

Florida’s population is getting older and also more diverse

By Andrew Powell
The Center Square

According to recently-released data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Florida is becoming even more diverse as its population gets older.

Florida is currently the third largest state, population-wise, in the U.S., behind California and Texas and has become the fastest-growing state.

U.S. Census Bureau’s annual estimates of the resident population by race, sex, and Hispanic origin for Florida between April 1, 2020, and June 1, 2022, shows the racial makeup of Florida has increased in most demographics – non-Hispanic White, Black, or African American, Hispanic, Native American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and Asian.

The vast majority of the 2022 population in Florida was non-Hispanic White with 11.6 million residents, with Hispanics the second-largest group with 6.035 million, an increase of over 300,000 in two years.

According to the Vintage 2022 Population Estimates, the Sunshine State is also aging.

In April 2020, Florida had an estimated population total of 21.5 million, with 10.6 million males and 10.9 million females. The median age for males in 2020 was 41, while the median for females was 43.9.

By July 2022, Florida’s total population had grown to 22.2 million people, with 10.95 million males and 11.3 million females, while the median age for the total population had grown from 42.4 years to 42.7 years. The male median age had increased 0.3 years to 41.3, while the female median age increased to 44.2 years.

Among counties with populations over 100,000, Florida is also home to some of the oldest counties in the U.S.

Sumter County has a median age of 68.1 and has been the nation’s oldest county year after year due to the large retirement community, the Villages, located there. Citrus County is also above the state’s median age at 57, Sarasota County on the Gulf Coast has a median age of 57.5 and Charlotte County has a median of 60.2.

The nation’s median age is also increasing as the U.S. Census data shows that the average age of Americans was 38.9 years as of 2022.

Area drug trafficking ring shut down by state officials

By Bethany Blankley
The Center Square

Florida law enforcement officers and Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Office of Statewide Prosecution have shut down a trafficking ring in the Orlando area. The group is responsible for pushing large quantities of narcotics, including fentanyl laced with xylazine, into the area.

Moody’s prosecution team is scheduled to prosecute 12 people on drug trafficking charges who are accused of trafficking cocaine, fentanyl, xylazine and amphetamine in the Orlando area.

In April, Moody launched a public safety alert warning about the dangers of Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, referred to as “Tranq” on the streets. Tranq has been found to be laced in fentanyl and other drugs that have led to overdoses and deaths. In two years, the frequency with which the drug has been identified in FDLE crime labs has doubled, The Center Square previously reported.

“I have been warning about the presence and proliferation of the zombie drug xylazine being mixed with already deadly fentanyl for months now,” Moody said. “This extremely dangerous and flesh-eating drug is outlawed in Florida, and we will aggressively prosecute any criminal organization trafficking this poison across judicial circuits in our state. I am grateful for our dedicated law enforcement partners for shutting down this ring and cutting off this lethal supply chain.”

Moody’s office is prosecuting individuals arrested by Florida law enforcement officers. The Orange County Sheriff’s Office began an investigation after it received information from various informants about a drug trafficking organization operating

throughout the Oak Ridge area of Orange County. Members of the sheriff’s narcotics unit conducted multiple controlled purchases from several members of the alleged trafficking group of fentanyl laced with xylazine, and cocaine.

Their investigation also uncovered that the drugs were being transported to Florida from a supplier in New Jersey. The Florida Highway Patrol then began to intercept members of the group in Volusia County. In one stop, they seized over 400 grams of fentanyl and xylazine in the trunk of a vehicle.

Throughout the multi-agency investigation, the alleged drug traffickers “committed several other crimes, including conspiracy to traffic fentanyl greater than 28 grams, trafficking amphetamine greater than 28 grams, money laundering, multiple sales and deliveries, conspiracies to sell and deliver,” according to a statement from Moody’s office.

Twelve people were arrested, a majority of whom are men. They were charged with a combined 52 felony counts ranging from money laundering and possession of cocaine to conspiracy to traffic fentanyl, which carries a 25-year mandatory minimum prison sentence.

Moody’s Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Ashley Wright is prosecuting the cases.

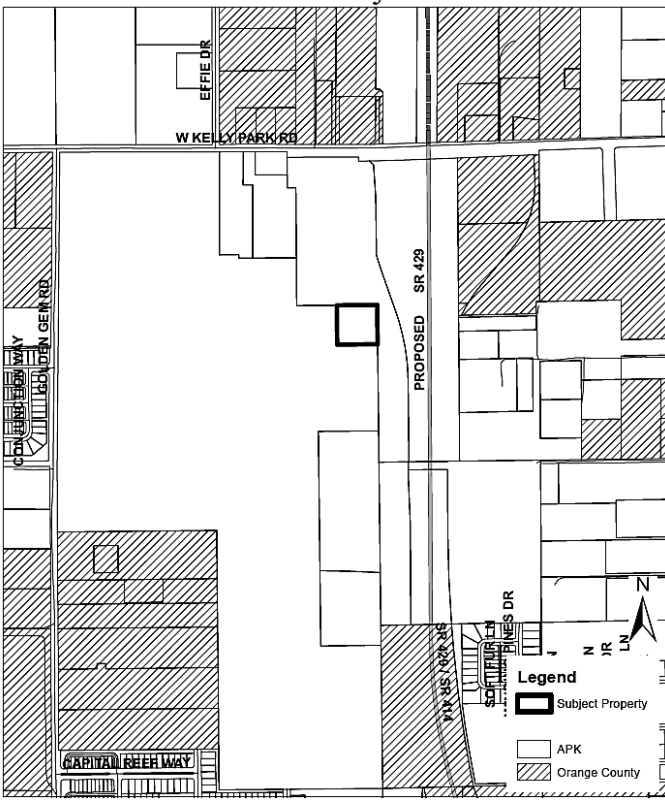
Moody and Florida law enforcement officials are still warning about the dangers of fentanyl, xylazine and other illicit drugs. Xylazine is now the sixth-most identifiable illicit drug in Florida, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Moody also sent a letter to DEA Administrator Anne Milgram calling on her to add Xylazine to the list of controlled substances. Xylazine is already a Schedule I substance in Florida.

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

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **TARA TEDROW, ESQ.** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3016
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO KPI-MU (KELLY PARK INTERCHANGE - MIXED-USE, ASSIGNMENT OF INTERCHANGE DISTRICT OVERLAY, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF SR 429, EAST OF GOLDEN GEM ROAD AND SOUTH OF KELLY PARK ROAD; OWNED BY FREEPORT RAPIDS PARTNERS G P, COMPRISING 2.5 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 13-20-27-0000-00-064
Contains: 2.5 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3016 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, July 5, 2023 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** AND **Wednesday, July 19, 2023 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, Florida 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

June 30, 2023

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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