

# Time to change bid policy

Dear Editor,

For 110 years, the Apopka Chamber has encouraged the community and businesses to patronize chamber members. This includes our local banks.

On December 6, 2023, Apopka City Commissioners passed a policy to move city investment funds out of local banks to use Zephyr Group | Morgan Stanley of Denver, Colorado for investment advisory (\$40,000), and has touted an increase in the city income at 1 million dollars in revenue, with an added increase in transparency.

Please note the timeline: Federal fund rates were 0.09% on August 31, 2021, 2.33% on August 31, 2022, and August 31, 2023, it was up to 5.37% with our local banks. The increase in interest rates, and

the city's administration of the budget is the reason for any increase in revenue thus far, as funds haven't been moved yet.

Based on the Morgan Stanley investment program presentation that was accepted by council, the current investment account holdings are \$147,138,796.77. The portfolio plan reflects a money market allocation at 10% of the funds, which is nearly 15 million dollars. It is not a defined number, leaves room for adjusting the portfolio and doesn't specify the notification process for doing so. It also states that they will quantify risks in the banking system, specifically Florida regional and community banks. The disclaimer page states there is no guarantee that this investment strategy will work.

We know numbers hold NO bias or reframe history. Adopting a bid policy change increase from 3% to 10% for local bid preference and adopting a minority small business bid preference policy would go a long way for the business community and citizens of Apopka.

Upcoming: Commissioners Debate on January 16 at 6 PM at the VFW, tickets are on sale now!

January 18, 9:30-11 AM, VFW, "Business Contracting Opportunities - Central Florida Tourism Oversight District, Glen Gilzean, JR-District Administrator, Free, Must Register! Apopkachamber.org

Sincerely,  
Cate Manley, President,  
Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce

# Cartels: Must combat fentanyl traffic

Continued from page 2A

exponentially within just a few years, and it is not expected that final figures for 2023 will show any significant decrease.

Despite these challenges in U.S.-Mexico relations regarding drug cartels and illicit fentanyl, there are indications of progress. For instance, in 2023, the presidents of Canada, Mexico, and the

United States established the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee. This group brings together officials from all three countries to collaborate on combating fentanyl.

In November, President Joe Biden and López Obrador held a meeting to reaffirm their commitment to addressing the fentanyl crisis, as reported by In-Sight Crime.

Furthermore, Ovidio

Guzmán López, one of the leaders of Los Chapitos, was extradited from Mexico to the United States in September to face trial for fentanyl trafficking.

As reported in a previous article by Federal Newswire, his expedited extradition is seen as a potential sign that law enforcement agencies in both countries are intensifying their efforts against fentanyl trafficking.

# Hayden: Experience solves problem

Continued from page 2A

matter.

It has become unacceptable to discuss a hotly debated issue with older folks, "because they do not understand," when, in all reality, they have the history to defuse the situation quietly and effectively without all the hullabaloo. We have stopped up the fountain of common sensical learning and turned to "knee jerk" reactions by following well defined, planned methods of socialism and communism taught by people that have a stake in the formation of such.

A nineteen-year-old college student raised her hand to object to the professor's ranting against Christianity in a history class. The professor sent her to the Dean's office for disrupting the class.

When she was questioned as to why she was disruptive, she responded

with the fact it was a history class and the professor was nowhere near the historical era they were studying. She told the Dean she was there for an education, not indoctrination. The Dean of the college floored her when he told her that for nineteen years she had been indoctrinated by her parents, now they were educating her!

In today's world, you (parents) have been indoctrinating your children. Now that they are out of your house and have become the children of the world, they will be taught the "true" meaning of life and with the insistence and assistance of the government they will be turned into globalists that believe the only answer for all the chaos is a one-world government where everyone will be equal.

It has been said, "people will choose an ordered society over a chaotic free

one." I feel we older folks have stuck our heads in the sand, believing that if we cannot see it, it will go away and not affect us. I have news for you: if you have not already been affected, hold on. You are next!

Unfortunately, it took me growing older to see the lessons I have been taught by my many associates in my earlier years. I still believe there are young people that are preparing for the turmoil to come in the form of socialist domination.

I want to share the responsibility of teaching: whenever, wherever, to whomever that I am privileged to encourage *everyone* to be a fighter for the United States of America, and our constitutional government.

There are still some wonderful people in the United States. If you cannot find one, BE ONE!

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CHANGE OF FUTURE LAND USE 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 **Mark Gilman and Kamoltip Norrasing** have made application relating to the following described property.

### ORDINANCE NO. 3036

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM IN PROGRESS TO RVLS (RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW SUBURBAN), FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1240 USTLER ROAD; OWNED BY MARK GILMAN AND KAMOLTIP NORRASING, COMPRISING 5.068 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### ORDINANCE NO. 3037

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO RCE (RESIDENTIAL COUNTY ESTATE), FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1240 USTLER ROAD; OWNED BY MARK GILMAN AND KAMOLTIP NORRASING, LLC COMPRISING 5.068 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 34-20-28-9550-00-200  
Contains: 5.068 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3036 & 3037 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, January 17, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Small-Scale 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

January 5, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

175548

# Moore: Feedback given is positive

Continued from page 2A

the opening of the Wekiwa Parkway at I-4 in January. This roadway has been in the pipeline for nearly 20 years. The construction project has earned numerous awards and has already posted 19 million transactions on the portion completed.

As most of you know, the completion of the Wekiwa Parkway is leading to the dense developments in the city of Apopka at Kelly Park Road and the SR 429.

Dr. Tyler also reported on SunRail. SunRail is recovering ridership after the pandemic with over 1 million annual riders. The latest new phase to Deland is promised to open in the summer of 2024.

SunRail is also im-

proving their ticketing vending and adding a mobile app. I wish I could ride the SunRail every day to work. Maybe that will happen some day when the Orange Blossom Express is constructed through Lockhart, Apopka, and on up to Zellwood.

The Sunshine Corridor, the route connecting the Convention Center/Epic Universe to the airport, has an active and effective group of advocates working towards the project becoming a reality. Three community meetings were held recently and there was positive feedback received from the public.

Dr. Tyler mentioned FDOT's interest in road safety projects, in which I am keenly interested. He shared FDOT utilized rum-

ble strips on Hwy 60 to slow traffic and constructed raised crosswalks along South Orange Blossom Trail protecting pedestrians. FDOT is in the process of lighting up intersection crosswalks and more than a hundred have been completed.

Finally, I was elected secretary/treasurer of the Metro Plan organization. Leadership is shared between leaders from Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties. Thus, in 2025, I will be installed as the president of Metro Plan. I am extremely excited about this leadership opportunity. I plan to represent District 2 well. As is my practice, I will share information on transportation improvements with you in future columns.

# Shortage: Franchises must comply

Continued from page 2A

over 978,000 jobs and attracting more than 28 million visitors. The watchdog agency noted, however, that there is a lack of an oversight entity to ensure franchises comply with some statutory requirements.

The report states that Space Florida met its contractual obligations by collaborating with both private and public entities to grow the state's aerospace industry. This includes establish-

ing 40 documented partnerships with nonprofit, public, and private entities.

Some stakeholders reported to the watchdog agency that the organization needed improvement regarding transparency and efficiency.

It was recommended that Space Florida consider working with the Department of Commerce to go beyond what has already been achieved and set more ambitious goals, and to work closely with stakeholders to enhance transparency in its operations.

## 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](http://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](http://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**  
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11) 352-241-9220  
**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

# 2023: Community honored Black History Month with book unveiling

Continued from page 11A

tangs' history.

## March

March 3, 2023

The Apopka Professional Firefighters Association members voted 85 percent of no confidence in Fire Chief Sean Wylam's leadership regarding the July 15, 2022, line-of-duty death of firefighter Austin Duran and the subsequent way Wylam handled the tragedy.

The Apopka Historical Society intends to continue telling the story of the Groveland Four and their defense attorney Alexander Akerman Jr. beyond Black History Month by presenting Akerman's desk as the focal point of a traveling exhibit.

The University of Central Florida (UCF) will hold a public workshop to get feedback on Apopka's downtown vision plan, which a team of UCF students will create for the city.

The community honored Black History Month with an event unveiling the book "Celebrating Legends of Apopka in Honor of Black History Month," which highlights the lives of 28 of Apopka's Black trailblazers.

The Wekiva Mustangs won three contests during the 2019-2020 season. Fast forward to the end of the 2023 FHSAA playoffs' regional final round four seasons later. A berth in the Class 6A State Final-Four was being celebrated at Mustang Arena.

March 10, 2023

Students from the Universi-

ty of Central Florida (UCF) conducted a public workshop to get feedback on Apopka's downtown vision plan, which a team of UCF students created for the city for their capstone project. The public workshop took place on Wednesday, March 8, at the Apopka Community Center.

Propagate Social House co-owners announced at a Friday, March 3, press conference that it will transform the former Hall's Feed Store site into another restaurant and meeting place in the center of Apopka. The feed store, which first opened in 1928, had closed; its insides have been demolished.

The Apopka Youth Council (AYC) addressed the issue of mental health among teens in a bid to destigmatize the topic in its Teen Mental Health Town Hall, which featured a panel of experts and a moderator.

For 23 years, when spring comes, the feeling of "that time of the year" pervades the Apopka area as the Apopka Fair draws near. And the arrival is finally here. Organizers completed the final touches this week after planning for the last year.

The most successful season ever for the Apopka Blue Darters girls wrestling team has concluded. It was successful as the Darters placed third at the state championship meet and realized the goal of moving into the top five in Florida. However, efficiency remained the calling card of Apopka as third place was earned with five entries qualifying for the state championship meet.

The Wekiva Mustangs base-

ball team moved to 7-0 on the season after downing Windermere Prep 4-3 on Tuesday, March 7.

The Wekiva Mustangs boys basketball team won the opening tip of the Class 6A state semifinal Thursday, March 2, against the Ponte Vedra Sharks at RP Funding Center in Lakeland.

March 17, 2023

For the first time at a public meeting, details of an evaluation report about ways the Apopka Fire Department could better its health and safety compliance have been presented, which includes the department's blind spots and recommendations for improvement.

The Rock Springs Ridge Homeowners Association Board voted to prepare and submit a mitigation proposal to the state requesting an easement release for the gopher tortoise easement on West Kelly Park Road, the road that is the northern boundary of Rock Springs Ridge.

An eight-year member of the Planning Commission is stepping down citing health reasons, with the Tuesday, March 14, meeting being her last one. Linda Laurendeau was presented a proclamation and flowers by Mayor Bryan Nelson at the meeting honoring her hard work and volunteering efforts to the community.

The Apopka Fire Department voted Austin Duran as the 2022 Firefighter of the Year, the AFD announced in a Monday, March 13, Facebook post.

Wekiva High School culi-

nary arts students participated in the 22nd annual ProStart Culinary Team Competition at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando on Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5. Sixty-five of the 224 recognized culinary programs in the state met the requirements to participate and sent teams of students to compete for scholarships, prizes and bragging rights.

March 24, 2023

Apopka city attorney Michael Rodriguez was cleared on Tuesday, March 10, by the Florida Bar when the organization dismissed a complaint filed against Rodriguez by Kelley Butcher, who claimed, among other issues, that the city attorney "has blocked the city of Apopka's fire union from doing their job regarding the death of firefighter Austin Duran."

The recent failures of major U.S. banks earlier this month have not impacted the city of Apopka's estimated \$122 million funds, according to city Finance Director Blanche Sherman.

The Apopka City Council voted 3-1 with one refusal to deny adopting an ordinance amending the future land use of a one-acre city-owned vacant land, which would have supported the development of seven single-family homes across the street from Alonzo Williams Park.

On Tuesday, March 21, the Apopka High beach volleyball team had its first match following spring break, hosting the Lake Highland Prep Highlanders at the city of Apopka's Northwest Recreation Complex.

March 31, 2023

The Development Review Committee (DRC) evaluated the major development plan for the Miller's Ale House that's coming to the Apopka City Center.

The Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored the Loomis family at the Apopka Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner on Wednesday, March 29, at Highland Manor. Cate Manley, president and CEO of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, chaired the event.

The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive will be closed to vehicular traffic until further notice due to ongoing construction on the property. The Lake Apopka North Shore Loop Trail will remain open for pedestrian traffic.

The city of Apopka conducted its third community meeting in four months, this time in a town hall format, to discuss the mass annexation of unincorporated South Apopka into the city on Tuesday, March 28, at the John H. Bridges Community Center on West 13th Street.

Scoring an average of 7.5 runs while giving up 3.6, the Wekiva Mustangs baseball team has been dominant far more often than not. The state of the program has turned from the best start ever with eight consecutive victories to facing the most important stretch of contests. The two losses suffered recently were to the Umatilla Bulldogs and Liberty Chargers.

## 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 **Bryan Potts, P.E.** has made application relating to the following described property.

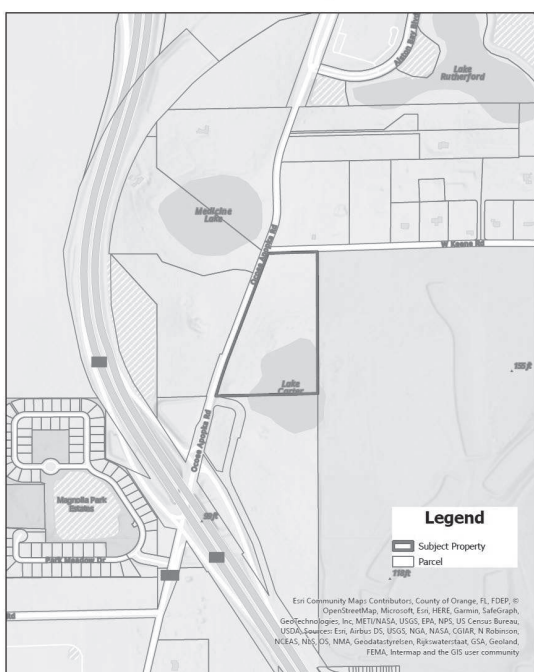
### ORDINANCE NO. 3034

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 COMMERCIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 WEST KEENE ROAD, OWNED BY M.L. CARTER SERVICES, INC., TRUSTEE OF THE CARTER-KEENE ROAD LAND TRUST, COMPRISING 18.8 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### ORDINANCE NO. 3035

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM O (OFFICE) TO C-C (COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 WEST KEENE ROAD, OWNED BY M.L. CARTER SERVICES, INC., TRUSTEE OF THE CARTER-KEENE ROAD LAND TRUST COMPRISING 18.8 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### Location Map



Parcel Identification Number(s): 29-21-28-0000-00-003  
Contains: 18.8 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3034 and 3035 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, January 17, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing 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.

January 5, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

Apopka City Council  
Community Development Department

175547

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