

Menagerie: Lifestyle is changing, but country is worth fighting for

Continued from page 2A

tion GOD ever created on Earth, the United States of America, become a slur on the tongues of those illegal... and legal aliens? To call them "immigrants" is a slap in the face of those who came over to the United States to prosper through their challenging work, and the building up of the country they now call home.

Even those who came over as slaves, given the opportunity, bet-tered the United States, and raised

men and women who were willing to give their lives to increase the awareness of their plight.

When George Washington Carver was born, his momma ran away from the plantation owned by Mr. Carver, and Mr. Carver sent a "slaver" (bounty hunter) after them. The slaver came back after three days, dropped the little baby in Mr. Carver's arms, and said, "his momma didn't make it, but I brought you the baby, even though he will never amount to much." That baby

became one of the most illustrious scientists in the world.

Men, like Martin Luther King, brilliantly used the vocabulary and the verve and energy of each message to move millions to new heights of expectations, and hope.

Why are we allowing ourselves to be lulled into such a sedentary lifestyle?

My United States of America is worth fighting for. I was taught from infancy to love her and cherish her... with my *life*.

If, during WWII, someone would have stood in public and shouted "death to America," another citizen would have done away with him or her and been given a medal for doing it. We had a love for our nation!

We had a love for one another. Not because we were all the *same*, but because we were all *Americans*.

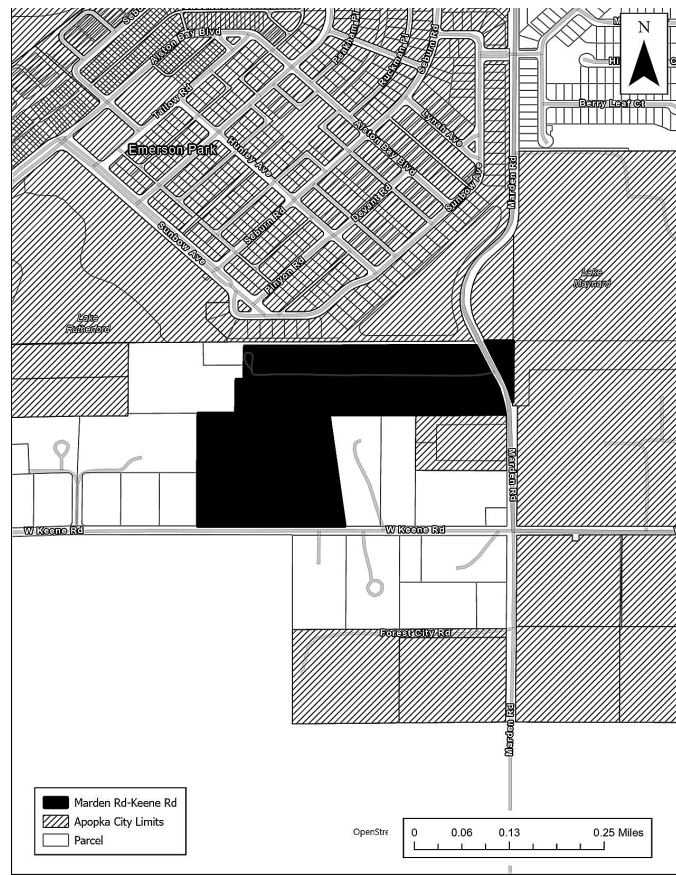
Want to know how to get back to loving America? Come over to my house one day and study my wife's menagerie!

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **JIM HALL** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of properties located at west of Marden Road and north of W. Keene Road. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3049

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY THE JAMES H. PAGE LIFE ESTATE AND THE ANNETTE H. PAGE TRUST; LOCATED NORTH OF W. KEENE ROAD, AND WEST AND EAST OF MARDEN ROAD, COMPRISING 32.0 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 20-21-28-0000-00-016, 20-21-28-0000-00-004, 20-21-28-0000-00-032, 20-21-28-0000-00-029, 20-21-28-0000-00-033, 20-21-28-0000-00-014, 20-21-28-0000-00-012, 20-21-28-0000-00-018
Contains: 32.0 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 3049 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M. and Wednesday, May 15, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Annexation 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
April 26, 2024
Publish: The Apopka Chief 176326

Insurance: Program is for homeowners

Continued from page 2A

pleted the process, 1,928 said they experienced an insurance premium discount.

PIFF encourages homeowners to participate in the state's home hardening program, which includes an initial home inspection, application through grant approval, construction, final inspection and reim-

bursement. For additional information and resources, please visit mysafehome.com.

About PIFF: The Personal Insurance Federation of Florida, Inc. (PIFF), is a leading voice for the personal lines property and casualty insurance industry in Florida.

PIFF represents national insurance carriers and their subsidiaries, in-

cluding many of the state's top writers of private passenger auto and homeowners multiperil insurance. Together, PIFF members write more than \$13 billion in premium in the state.

PIFF advocates for a healthy and competitive insurance marketplace for the benefit of Florida consumers. Follow us @PIFF-News. Visit PIFF.net to learn more.

Byrd: Culinary leader is the best

Continued from page 2A

pher Bates, the program director for the Magnet Academy of Culinary Arts at Wekiva High School, won the National Teacher of the Year Award from the Center for the Advancement of Foodservice Education.

This is a tremendous honor and is the second national award for Chef Bates. He was also honored with the James H Maynard National Award for Classroom Innovation last year.

Chef Bates is a visionary leader who designed and created the Culinary Arts Magnet program and has developed it into a na-

tional and state-recognized program in a few short years. This is the only culinary magnet in Orange County and is growing by leaps and bounds every year and continues to gain impressive industry partnerships.

Most importantly is that Chef Bates inspires numerous students each year to continue their culinary experience.

He ignites a passion for culinary arts in these young people. You see it when you walk into the kitchen where they are working.

These kids are on fire for this work and the pas-

sion they have is a direct result of the passion that Chef Bates has for teaching them.

Chef Bates will represent Orange County and Apopka in San Antonio in June when he receives his national award. We are so incredibly proud of him for this great honor.

I've said it once and I'll say it again, incredible things are happening in our schools every day and we have some of the most dedicated and spectacular professionals working in our local schools. Congratulations to all of you who make a difference every day!

Best Foot: Pedestrian safety is a must

Continued from page 2A

The Best Foot Forward for Pedestrian Safety (BFF) program is administered by the local non-profit Bike/Walk Central Florida (BWCF). BFF was created to reverse the conflict between pedestrians and drivers by focusing on one specific behavior change – getting more drivers to yield for pedestrians at marked crosswalks as Florida law requires. More than a campaign, Best Foot Forward is a behavior change-based program designed to improve road safety through consistent and persistent education, high-visibility

crosswalk enforcement, and low-cost engineering countermeasures at marked crosswalks. Best Foot Forward operates in six Central Florida counties and is the largest pedestrian-focused grassroots coalition in the nation, working with more than 40 local and regional partners. Since launching in 2012, the percentage of drivers yielding to people in marked crosswalks has increased from 17 percent to more than 50 percent on roads with a speed limit of 35 mph and lower and 2 percent to 45 percent on roads 40 mph and higher. To learn more, visit iyield4ped.org.

About Bike/Walk Central Florida:

Bike Walk Central Florida (BWCF) is a regional advocacy organization for bicyclists and pedestrians. Since 2010, the organization has worked on behalf of local pedestrians and bicyclists to advocate for safe and convenient places for people to bike and walk, regardless of where they live or where they need to go. Focusing on their four pillars of policy, perception, practice, and sustainability, BWCF works tirelessly to advocate for policies, programs and infrastructure that is fair and accessible to all.

Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief

Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

Send a letter to the Editor online www.theapopkachief.com

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall.....	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office.....	407-703-1701
City Administrator.....	407-703-1649
City Clerk.....	407-703-1704
Community Devel.....	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement.....	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.....	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-703-1741
Police Chief.....	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1771
Job Line.....	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance.....	407-703-1731
Utility Billing.....	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services.....	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags.....	850-617-2000
Building Dept.....	407-836-8550
County Mayor.....	407-836-7370
County Commission.....	407-836-7350
County Attorney.....	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue.....	407-836-3111
Solid Waste.....	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....	407-703-1731
Health Dept.....	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.....	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser.....	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative.....	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities.....	407-836-5515
All other departments.....	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Rick Scott (Rep.).....	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
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

April 24th was Denim Day



The city of Apopka participated in Denim Day on Wednesday, April 24, joining millions worldwide, standing in solidarity with sexual assault survivors and one another. The city of Apopka supports the Victim Service Center of Central Florida and their efforts to prevent the traumatizing effects of sexual violence and help heal those that have been impacted.

Photo courtesy of city of Apopka/Facebook

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Amy Davis, Au.D.

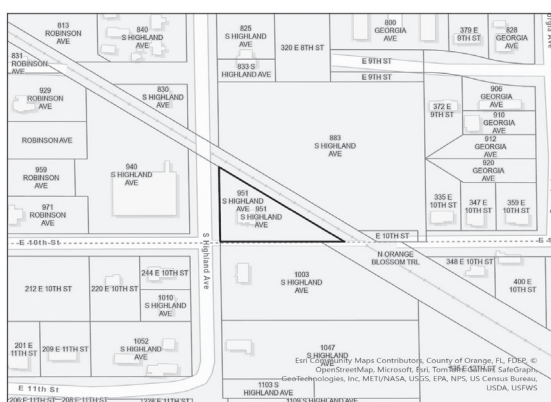


CentralFloridaAudiology.com

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL-SCALE FUTURE LAND USE 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 **JOSEPH LEWIS** 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 RESIDENTIAL LOW TO INDUSTRIAL FOR 0.57 +/- ACRES**. This application relates to the following described properties:

ORDINANCE NO. 3051
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 RESIDENTIAL LOW TO INDUSTRIAL FOR PAVE A LOT ASPHALT MAINTAINANCE INC GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF S HIGHLAND AVENUE, AND NORTH OF E 10TH STREET, OWNED BY JOSEPH LEWIS, COMPRISING 0.57 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Legend
S 11th St
Parcel

Parcel Identification Numbers: 15-21-28-0000-00-106
Contains: 0.57 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 3051 at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3051 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, June 5, 2024 beginning at 1:30 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

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ApopkaArtandFoliageFestival.org

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trinity

Audit: Nelson asks that more items be added to audit

Continued from page 1A

port our opinion. However, we're not issuing an opinion on the effectiveness of those internal control generally accepted auditing standards, as well as government auditing standards to provide reasonable not absolute assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The financial statements are the responsibility of city's management. I'm happy to report that we've issued an unmodified opinion, which is the highest form of assurance that we can provide."

"I'm happy to report that there are no current year findings, which again, is the first time in at least six years or potentially beyond that. I only went back six years," Anderson continued. "That your auditors can stand up here and say that we had no findings in performing the audit. I spoke previously about the single audit. The city did receive and

spend approximately \$3.8 million in federal awards, which required Maulden and Jenkins to perform an audit over two major programs covering \$3.2 million of the \$3.8 million of those expenditures. We had no issues in regard to compliance or internal controls over compliance with respect to those grants that we tested."

Mayor Bryan Nelson asked Anderson two questions. The first was when was the last time Anderson spoke with the mayor or about the audit. Anderson said it was when his firm began the planning phase around last August-September. Nelson's second question was if Anderson ever donated money to campaigns with anybody sitting on the dais. Anderson replied no.

Before Anderson's presentation, City Finance Director Blanche Sherman provided an overview of the city's check processing, which includes a lot of checks and balances between de-

partments, Sherman said.

"So, it's kind of simple, but it's not simple," Sherman said. "There's a lot of checks and balances, a lot of steps that we go through. A lot of review and oversight."

Commissioner Nick Nesta gave his thoughts regarding the forensic audit: "I know you're asking for scope, things like that, you want very specific items labeled and things like that. I know we had the discussion and I wrote emails back and forth and I stated it in the minutes that we also approved earlier today that my presentation was as granular as I want to get. I think it needs to be a very wide-cast net was the whole point of this, that the 5-0 vote agreed to. So, if you want, I don't know to what extent you need my assistance on that level, but I don't know if there, it doesn't need to get more granular than that."

"It needs to be a wide net.

That's the whole point of it. I don't know what else to, it doesn't need to get more specific, I guess is my concern is that the more specific we get, the more things we're going to miss," Nesta said.

Sherman said she'll make a draft based on the information she has, then send it to each City Council member for a final review.

During his mayor's report, Nelson asked for six items to add to the forensic audit.

*To verify the business tax receipt payments from 2013 to current for Nester Real Estate Consultants, BRPC consulting and Nelson's Insurance Services;

*Qualify checks for all candidates for the 2022 and 2024 elections;

*The number of late campaign reports for Nesta, Commissioners Alexander H. Smith and Diane Velazquez, former Commissioner Kyle Becker, and Nelson for all the elections, and es-

pecially look at all seven of Nelson's elections;

*Verify or discredit the excess income of interest income of One Florida Bank over Synovus Bank from June 2021 to June 2023 when One Florida decided not to take on any city of Apopka deposits.

*Verify the extra earning that Nesta secured and continue to generate. Nelson referenced a Promises Made, Promises Kept postcard from Nesta's latest reelection campaign, which stated, No. 2, fiscally responsible spending: I successfully advocated and secured a solid investment option earning approximately \$1 million more per year in interest for the residents' funds, meaning lower taxes and the ability to invest back into the community.

*To know the excess spending on attorney fees since the city's inside counsel Michael Rodriguez resigned in May 2023.

Board: Other highlights include a strategic plan update

Continued from page 1A

decade to maintain and update current schools and build new schools in high-growth areas of the county. In addition, this funding will help to enhance student security and provide updated technology in schools.

The next step is to send the referendum to the Board of County Commissioners for approval to place on the November 5 ballot.

Strategic Plan update

The Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) Safety and Emergency Management Office presented on the purpose of OCPS having a Family Reunifi-

cation Plan to safely reunite students and employees with their families if a school or facility is closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to a natural or manmade disaster.

This plan provides a framework to establish, manage, and demobilize a Family Reunification Center. It defines the roles and responsibilities of staff, ensures the safety and accountability of students, and establishes procedures to expeditiously reunite students with a parent, guardians or other authorized individual under controlled circumstances.

The development of the reunification plan is in coordination

with OCPS' public safety partners.

Check presentation

Addition Financial presented the school board with a check for \$57,898. The funds were made possible through their Affinity Debit Card Program. The program donates three cents to the school district every time an OCPS branded debit card is used in a transaction. Addition Financial is a credit union that has partnered with OCPS for 87 years.

School Board recognitions

West Orange High Student Advisory Council member, Brady Beahler, presented on the WOHS

culture and introduced the school's Unified Cheer in a performance. In addition, theatre students sang "S'Wonderful" from the musical "Nice To Work if You Can Get It."

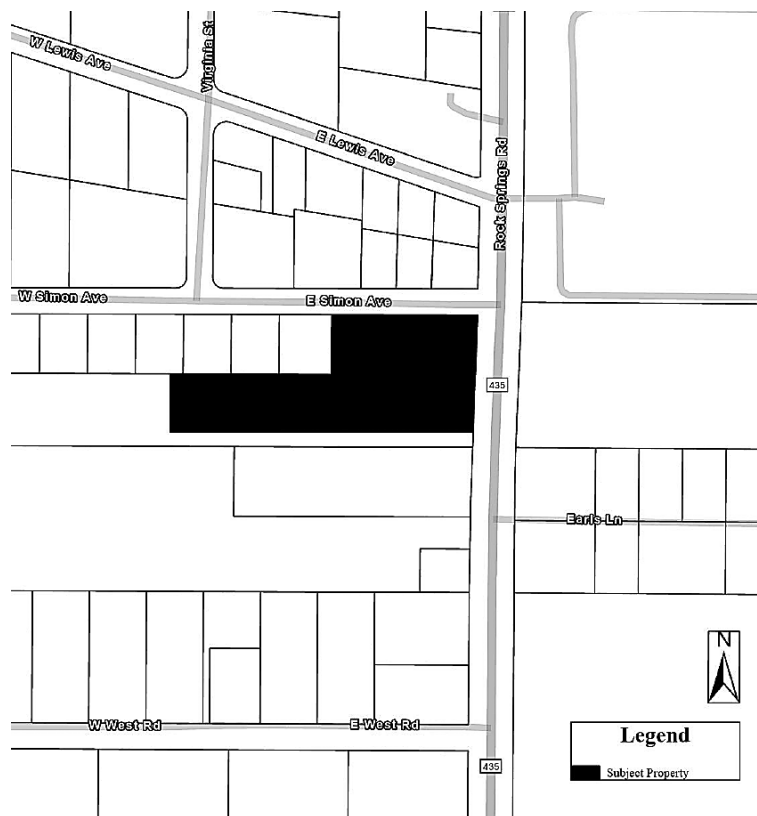
UCF and Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Air Quality Management (AQM) program air-quality slogan winner: Evans High sophomore Myron Divers for coming up with the motto, "Breathe Life into our Future. Act Now for Cleaner Air!"

OCPS' 10th Annual Green School Recognition Program Award winners were Dommerich, Sally Ride and Zellwood elementary schools

Mental Health First Aid Summit Award winners: Mental Health Services team received awards for providing more than 17,000 OCPS employees with Youth Mental Health First Aid training. Mental Health Services winners include Coordinator of the Year: Honorable Mention - National: Maryann Anderson; Top Florida Mental Health First Aid Trainer and Top Mental Health First Aid Instructor - National: Elvira Medina-Pekofsky; Top Mental Health First Aid Instructor - National: Stephanie Panas, Tajuana Rushin, Lisa Diamond, Beverly Tuit; Top 10 New Instructor at the National Level: Sheena Montgomery.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **JOEL R BREIDENBAUGH C/O MARCI CHANDLER, P.E.** 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 A PLACE OF WORSHIP IN THE RCE (RESIDENTIAL COUNTRY ESTATES) ZONING DISTRICT.** This application relates to the following described property located on the southwest corner of Rock Springs Road and Simon Avenue:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 16-20-28-0000-00-022
Contains: 3.16 +/- 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, May 14, 2024, 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

April 26, 2024

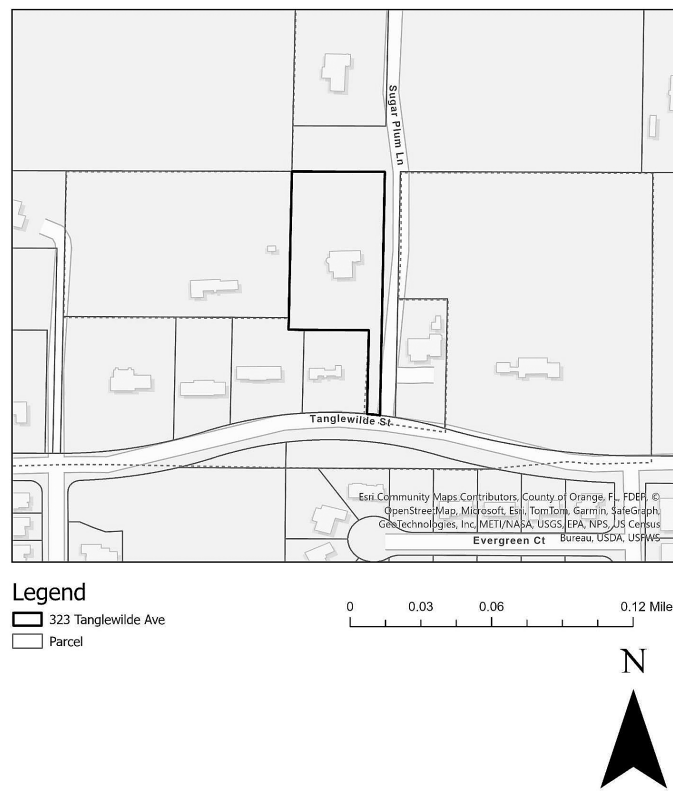
Publish: The Apopka Chief

176324

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **MARGARET BRONSON-SEWELL** 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 AN ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) IN THE RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY ESTATE (RSF-1A) ZONING DISTRICT.**

This application relates to the following described property located at 323 Tanglewilde Street:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 03-21-28-0000-00-089
Contains: 1.54 +/- 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, May 14, 2024 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.

April 26, 2024

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