

Trafficking: Strike Team is necessary Byrd: K8 school is great example

Continued from page 2A

of sex trafficking was to enhance criminal penalties “against people who are buying and forcing sex on and raping women.” Another is to create a civil penalty to enable victims “to easily sue” their abusers, he said. “If we take away the livelihoods of the people buying and forcing sex on victims, take their houses, cars, ... it will set a tone. Just like everything else we do in Florida, we will protect people.”

AG Moody said, “Biden’s bor-

der crisis is emboldening transnational criminal organizations, and as a result, we are seeing horrific human trafficking cases right here in Florida. The disturbing facts of this case highlight the need for our new statewide Strike Team, and demonstrate how this expert team of investigators, prosecutors, analysts, and victims’ advocates can help coordinate efforts to take down trafficking operations and rescue victims.”

See TRAFFICKING Page 7A

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schools were planned and built within the district. I asked community members to write letters and worked with the city council to also advocate with me.

In 2019, six months after my election, I was happy to announce that there would be a relief school opening in 2022, not 2026. Best of all, I asked the district to make it a K8 school so it could relieve both schools.

In 2022, Kelly Park School opened well under capacity and has been a crown jewel of our community since its opening, even earning an “A” grade from the state its first year. I am very pleased to say that all the portables have now been moved off of the Wolf Lake campuses.

Then the pandemic hit. I can honestly say that is not something I ever ex-

pected to experience as a school board member, nor do I ever want to again. It was an extremely challenging time made more difficult by the high level of emotions of everyone involved. Our meetings went on for hours as the public shared their thoughts over re-opening, masks, online learning and testing requirements.

Making those decisions during that time was among the most difficult things I had to do in my life as I had so many things to consider. Not just education decisions, but I had to worry about the health and safety of our students, staff and the larger community as a whole.

We made it through and have spent the past few years continuing to recuperate from that time. Our students and schools are finally starting to bounce back. Our recent gradu-

ates started high school in a half-virtual, half-in-person setting. Next year’s graduates will be the first class since before the pandemic to have a normal high school experience.

There were other positives like fulfilling a promise to the community to see the adult education center open across from Wheatley Elementary School. That project took several hits during my first few years in office, but I’m pleased to say the Orange Technical College-Apopka Campus opened this past year. The campus is currently offering English classes and GED classes and is serving a large number of students.

I’m also very proud to have assisted Wekiva High School in attaining magnet status of the Wekiva Culinary Magnet Program. In the three short years that

See BYRD Page 7A

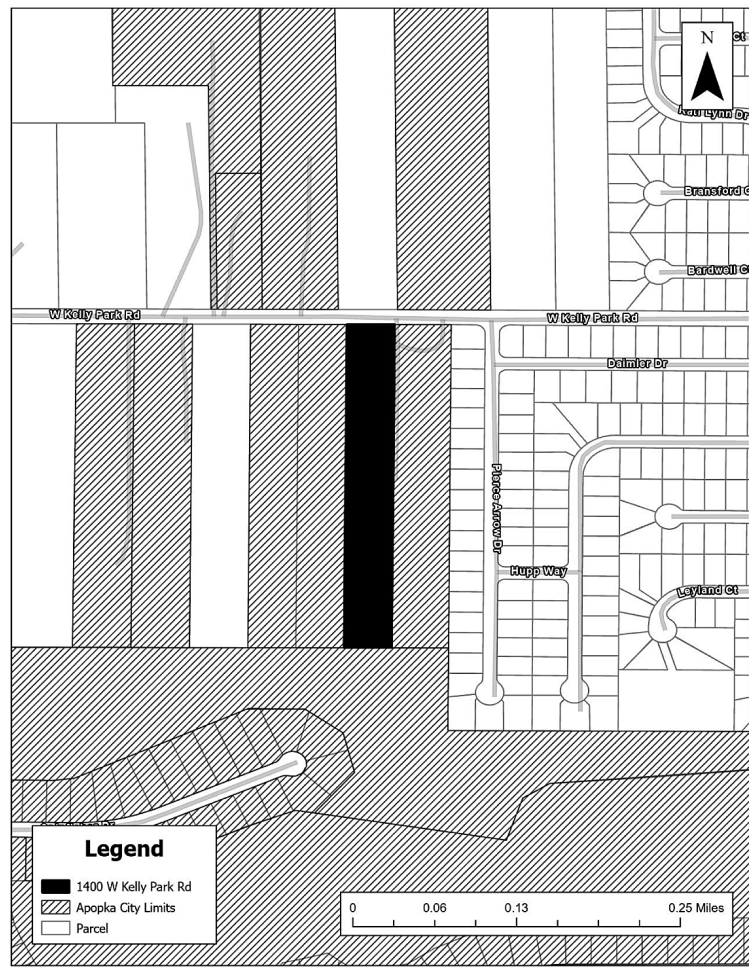
CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

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 Jose Chaves has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3052
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM “COUNTY” RURAL TO RVLS (RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW SUBURBAN), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 1400 W KELLY PARK ROAD; OWNED BY MICHAEL GENTLES COMPRISING 5.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

and

ORDINANCE NO. 3053
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITION) TO RSF-1A (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY ESTATE), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 1400 W KELLY PARK ROAD; OWNED BY MICHAEL GENTLES COMPRISING 5.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 17-20-28-0000-00-008
Contains: 5.06 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the City of Apopka Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, July 9, 2024 beginning at 5:00 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3052 and 3053 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 7, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Rezoning 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 28, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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Moore: 3 choices for homeless camps

Continued from page 2A

camp. This “book report” will discuss this method of dealing with homeless persons and make recommendations for more productive strategies.

“Local governments have essentially three choices in responding to the presence of homeless encampments.”

1. They can adopt a law enforcement approach forcing individuals to move their camps on pain of arrest for trespassing.

This method does not solve the problem of people without homes, and a recent court decision limits the ability of government to pursue it unless there is adequate space in a shelter. We have read about this in the case of Altamonte Springs.

2. A municipality can adopt an “out of sight, out of mind” approach designating a specified area where homeless individuals are permitted to camp.

The article delineates several examples of this from Gainesville. The camps can be a petri dish for crime, drug abuse, sexual abuse, and more.

The cost of law enforcement daily trips to referee are also substantial. This is the process the legislature is currently proposing.

3. The third approach is a housing engagement approach designed to get people out of homelessness and into housing. It substantially reduces the hidden costs of tent cities, encampments, and promotes a pro-social, well-regulated environment. However, it takes a truly organized commitment from local government.

If I can find the time to write more about the Gainesville camps examples, I will. I currently believe we need to fund the capital costs for a shelter replete with the HSN management systems, and require the three new ap-

proved affordable housing projects in northwest Orange County to take a number of these homeless individuals into rentals. If we begin to take in more than our fair share of these families from nearby counties and jurisdictions, we can always resort to choice number one: the police or sheriff taking them back to their jurisdiction.

I do believe we can manage to find some affordable housing options. Most of the homeless have some sort of funding, albeit Medicaid, Medicare, or Disability.

I’m terribly concerned when we see one-third of the homeless in our area being women with young children. The cost of doing nothing is too great and with the state legislature knocking at our door of establishing “camps,” building a shelter and finding housing options sure seems superior.

I would love to hear your thoughts.

Hayden: Do not legalize marijuana

Continued from page 2A

and say, “STOP.” Why do we need to offer more and more ways to stupefy ourselves and become slaves to whatever the next high is? Remember the restrictions placed on alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and other forms of adult usage drugs? How well did those restrictions work out? Those restrictions are as useless as teats on a boar hog! We have multitudes of young people using all those so-called “adults only” forms of detachment from “life’s burdens.” Those “life’s burdens” are not a life sentence, but a guide into the future by learning from them.

We (sounds more like me than you) need to stop

this idiotic notion that allowing more freedom to enslave ourselves only makes the government bolder, and more capable to bring us to our knees and cry out “Master, save us!” I have seen a lot of pot-induced actions that have turned out terrible. I have seen people that could not function without a shot of booze to bolster their ego. I have known people who are not ready for a social conversation until that first long drag on a cigarette, or a vape to calm their nerves. All of these are life-altering substances, and they should *not* be allowed to be promoted by others by calling it “freedom”.

These drugs do not set you free; they encapsulate you into subservience, and

isolate you from the rest of the world.

I know what I am talking about. I am an alcoholic, and I went through the DTs (Delirium Tremens) on what the doctors and nurses thought was my death bed after a terrible industrial accident. I know we will never be able to eradicate all the things that are detrimental to our lives and our children’s lives.

I find no fault in someone having a glass of wine, or a highball, if they can handle it. They have that freedom to indulge. Same goes for smoking, or vaping outside, preferably downwind. That is their free choice, but with Marijuana, do we really want to throw another log on the fire!??

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

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

Police Beat

If a law enforcement agency charges you with a crime and this paper reports that information, please notify us within 90 days if the charge is dropped, or if you are found not guilty by the court. After verifying the information, we will be happy to publish it. Please send notification to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, 32704-0880.

In the period from June 16-22, the Apopka Police Department received 1,717 calls for service, responded to 40 crashes, issued 30 citations, and made 18 arrests. Juveniles were charged with battery-touch or strike; burglary -unoccupied conveyance unarmed; larceny-grand theft \$10,000 less than \$20,000; damage property-criminal mischief \$200 and under; larceny-other theft; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

The following adults were arrested and charged:
 Michael Justin Aldridge, 33, 344 Winding Cove Ave., Apopka, resist officer-obstruct without violence.
 Nikyta Amber Barber, 36, confidential, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.
 Master Muhammad Na'im Bilal, 70, 3512 Marsell Rd., Zellwood, drugs-possession with intent to sell/manu-

facture/deliver controlled substance (methamphetamine); drugs-possession with intent to sell/manufacture/deliver controlled substance (cocaine); drug equipment-possession use, possible manufacturer paraphernalia to transport drugs.
 Diane Ann Bledsoe, 51, 45 E. 13th St., Apopka, other agency warrant.
 Sakeinah Alisha Burgess, 33, transient, Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription.
 Edelmiro Castillo, 47, confidential, Apopka, aggravated battery on pregnant victim; battery-commit domestic battery by strangulation.
 Aric Barnard Cooksey, 47, 1843 Daffodil Ave., Apopka, out-of-county warrant (X2).
 Adrian Delgado-Reyes, 27, 1737 Palmerston Cir., Ocoee, drug equipment-possession drug paraphernalia advertise; drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription.
 Jerry Eugene Fraley, 52, 4027 Lenox Blvd., Orlando, other agency warrant.
 Norman Gregory Gable, 62, 128 Shorthorn Dr., Apopka, municipal ordinance violation
 Alexander Paul Goodrum, 31, confidential, Apopka,

battery-touch or strike (domestic violence).
 Joseph Etienne Guillite, 42, confidential, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.
 Felix Lisboa, 51, PO Box 164126, Altamonte Springs, battery-touch or strike.
 Herbert Leegregory Neal, 43, 402 Campus View Dr., Orlando, resist officer-obstruct without violence; moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended, revocation equivalent status.
 Cyd Chetram Paul, 67, confidential, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.
 Jaime Alejandro Rivera-Hernandez, 26, 2313 Rock Springs Rd., Apopka, other agency warrant (X3); cocaine-possession of cocaine; drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription.
 Jay Andrew Rodriguez-Garcia, 20, 208 E. 11th St., Apopka, damage property-criminal mischief \$1,000 or more; larceny-grand theft \$5,000 less than \$10,000; burglary-unoccupied structure unarmed.
 Tabbitha Lynn Sanders, 40, 3160 Council Oak Way #108, Apopka, battery on law enforcement officer; resist officer with violence.

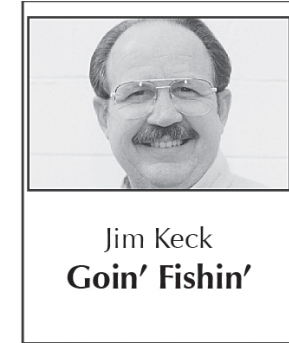
Hebb & Kraine catch five bass weighing in at 23.05 pounds

Hello Folks,
 We are still gettin' a few drops here and there, so I'm very thankful we are gettin' some rain. I hope you had a great weekend and hopefully you got a chance to do some fishin'.
 Kyle at Bitter's Bait & Tackle reports that the bluegill and shellcracker season has completed. Folks took advantage of last week's full moon to get in on the last of the bluegills. I'm sure there may be a few stragglers around,

but most of the panfish are through beddin' for this year.
 The bass fishin' on the Harris Chain hasn't been too bad lately. The X-treme Bass Series held a tournament on the chain last weekend and the team of Kim Hebb and John Kraine brought 5 bass to the scales that weighed in at 23.05 pounds. They also had a big bass in their sack that weighed in at 8.50 pounds. The team of Eric Krause and James Kend-

rick had the biggest bass that weighed 8.51 pounds. Can you imagine losin' the big bass pot by .01 tenth of an ounce? The big bass pot was worth \$240 dollars.
 Kyle also reports that the bass fishin' on the Mait land Chain has been pretty good. Folks are fishin' the chain early mornin' or late evenin'. Most of the bass are bein' caught around the submerged hydrilla and eel-grass beds. You can rip a lipless crank-bait through the grass for some good re-

sults, or fish plastic worms in the grass as well.
 The Butler Chain has been good for catchin' keeper-size bass. You can also catch some schoolers when they come up around the boat. Try usin' a noisy top-water bait or a chatter-bait when they come up. With these hot days, you may need to fish a little deeper around the submerged pepper grass beds. The grass provides some shade for the bass and the water is a little cooler. It's that time of year when you need to slow down your retrieve, especially if you are fishin' plastic worms or slow-sinkin' Senko type baits. The bass need time to make up their mind if they are goin' to bite, or



Jim Keck
Goin' Fishin'

not.
 My fishin' buddy Rick is probably the best at this as anyone. Rick picks a spot, and casts to it. Then he lets his worm just lay there until he moves it, or a bass picks it up and starts to swim off with his worm. Back in the day, we called it "Dead Stickin'".
 Kyle also reports that the bass fishin' on West

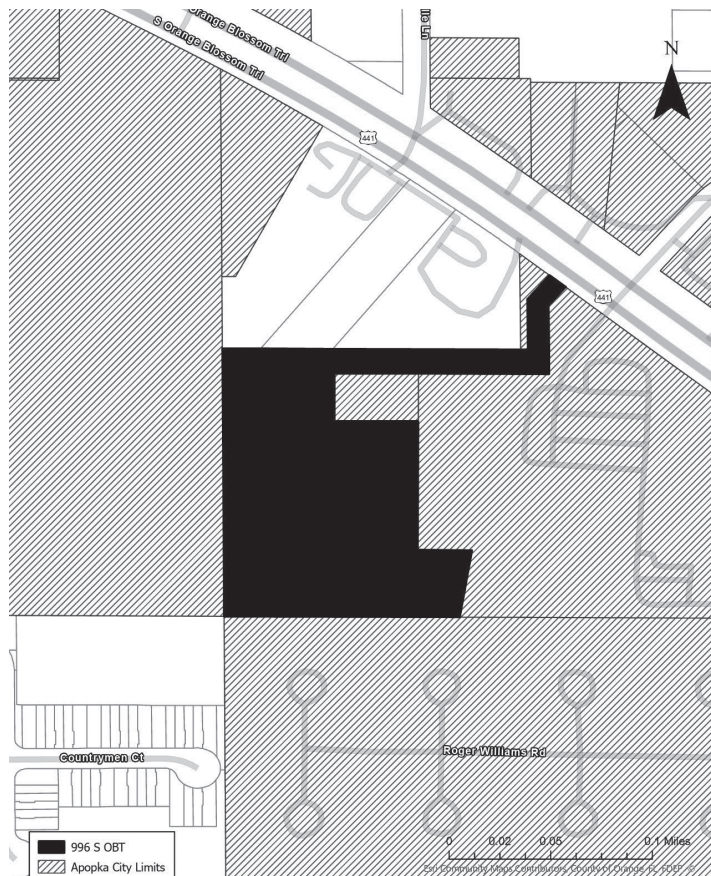
Lake Toho has been pretty good even after the spray-in' they did last week. Like I mentioned last week, I hope they didn't kill all the grass on the South end of the lake. They have been gettin' some rain down on Toho but they are lettin' water out to go south through the locks. The water is still low on Toho, so don't get your boat bot-tomed out, or you might have to get out and push it off the bottom.
 Well folks, that's it for this week.
 I hope you have a great week, and I'll see ya on the water real soon.
 Tip of the week: Early or late
 Save a few and good luck!

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 **Thomas Skelton** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3064
 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM AND COMMERCIAL TO INSTITUTIONAL/PUBLIC USE, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED 996 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL AND 1000 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL; OWNED BY TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF APOPKA, INC COMPRISING 6.99 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

and
ORDINANCE NO. 3065
 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM RSF-1B (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY-LARGE LOT) AND C-C (COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL) TO O (OFFICE), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED 996 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL AND 1000 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL; OWNED BY TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF APOPKA, INC COMPRISING 6.99 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 14-21-28-0000-00-044, 14-21-28-0000-00-054, 14-21-28-0000-00-116
 Contains: 6.99 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, July 9, 2024 beginning at 5:00 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for **Ordinance Number 3064 and 3065** 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 7, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**

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

Forwards: Angervil has the same goals as the rest of the seniors

Continued from page 1B

most important qualities in a leader are patience and the ability to be calm in any situation.

Angervil and all of the other seniors really have the same goal as a team - make it to Lakeland and be in the fight for the FHSAA State Championship. But each one of them has separate personal goals for the next few months.

"Our team goal is to make it to Lakeland and have a great record. My personal goal is to get my name and Apopka's name out there and bring excitement to Apopka," said Angervil.

Right now, Angervil is focused on improving his conditioning and his athleticism as he says those are the parts of his game that are lacking but he's also focused on his finesse and finishing at the rim. I also asked him if he prefers to shoot from the field or finish at the rim to which he gave a funny response that coach Scott Williams probably doesn't want to hear.

"Finish at the rim... Nah I mean honestly; I want to shoot the ball. I just want to shoot the ball," Angervil said while he and Jer-michael Johnson laughed.

He then told me his go-to move to get a bucket right now is a hop-step to the other side of where his opponent's feet are facing.

On defense, Angervil is always and only thinking about staying between his man and the basket but he still needs to work on his discipline in the paint. This ties into what Angervil said is the best advice he's gotten about basketball which is to be patient.

"The game becomes easier when you slow it down for yourself."

Angervil says he sees his role as the leader and the energy guy. He said as a senior that he wants to be a leader on and off the court.

We took a second to talk about last season's highs and lows where he and a lot of his teammates shared the same sentiments. He said the high was making it to playoffs through the adversity the team faced last year with their less-than-spectacular record. But the lows were losing games that he and the team feel like they shouldn't have lost.

I asked him why he thinks the team lost those games last year and he said that the team didn't care enough but that that was going to change this year.

"We just didn't care enough. This year we want to care more and leave everything on the court every game. Last year we left stuff on the court that we should've never left."

Angervil said he's learned a lot over his years on the team and that he will bring that with him as a leader.

"I learned to always stay calm no matter that situation and to never give up until the clock hits zero."

One of my last questions was a fun one to see what kind of players each of the seniors was. It was, "What is more important, defense or offense?" Angervil laughing again said offense is more important than defense.

Before our interview was over Angervil had one last thing to say about his game. It was that he likes to be flashy and exciting with his play.

"I hate a boring play style. I would rather do something flashy than sit there and do box drills. I could score 10 and I still

wouldn't be happy playing like that."

So, if you come out to watch the boys play look for number 4 trying to do something flashy and then look for coach Williams, who will probably have a hand over his face.

Larson Taylor: #5 Forward

Taylor told me he started playing ball when he was in sixth grade and stuck with it because it came to him easily.

"Uhhh... I don't know. It really just came to me. I just tried out one year and I made it - so I kept going."

Taylor told me he has really come into his own this summer because of constantly working with and being around all of his teammates.

"Summer has really helped us come together as a team for the upcoming season. It's been great to build that chemistry between us by being around each other more," Taylor said.

I asked how he felt about his new role on the team as a leader and not just a player and Taylor was a bit hesitant but ready for the challenge and the opportunity.

"I mean I don't know. It does feel kind of different. There's a lot of responsibility that comes with it and you have to really be on the same page because this is us, it's our time. We got to be on point because our teammates follow our lead."

Larson told me the most important qualities in a leader are a voice that others will listen to and respect, but most of all their actions on and off the court.

When talking about personal and team goals,

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