

# Parks: Projects include inclusive playground and sensory garden

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phase one of the \$1.1 million tennis and pickleball facility at the NWRC is complete. The city is planning a neighborhood meeting at the complex about the project, and final design approval is needed.

Construction is tentatively scheduled for late 2024 for an estimated six to nine-week window. Hellas Construction is working on the design build project.

The tennis and pickle-

ball facility has been divided into three phases in the city recreation impact fee capital budget.

### Inclusive playground/sensory garden

The NWRC inclusive playground and sensory garden has a final design with "a few last little tweaks," Williams said.

Budgeted at \$1.06 million, the funds are coming from the parks and recreation capital budget. REP Services is doing the design build project.

The next steps are final design approval and the tentative late 2024 construction. Expectation to build and install would take about 24 weeks.

"It's a nice, large upgrade to what we currently have out there. The playground equipment is dated," Williams said.

### Exit road and parking

The NWRC exit road and parking – which will be located next to the inclusive playground and sensory garden, according to

Williams – is a \$1.13 million project funded by the recreation impact fee capital project.

The exit road will run along the fence line to a nearby school and include two new grass parking areas with asphalt-paved loops to access them. This will provide additional parking for the playground and for events held at the amphitheater, and give more parking lot egress for vehicles, Williams said.

The design is complete with a pending permit from

the St. Johns River Water Management District. The next steps are to solicit construction bids; construction is tentative for late 2024.

Newkirk Engineering Inc. designed the project.

### Multipurpose/soccer fields

The city is soliciting design bids for phase one of the new multipurpose/soccer fields at the NWRC. Phase one is budgeted for \$500,000, with funding to come from recreation impact fee capital.

On June 16, the city released an active bid to solicit contractors for these fields. The bids will close on July 18, Williams said.

"From there we'll come back to you at the next Council meeting (on Wednesday, July 17) to award a vendor, hopefully," he added.

### LED field lights

The city budgeted \$550,000 for LED light upgrades at pads four, five

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## 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 **APIAN ENGINEERING, INC. C/O LUKE M. CLASSON, P.E.** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of a property located on the southwest corner of Ondich Road and Effie Drive. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3066

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 PM S-1 REO, LLC; LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ONDICH ROAD AND EFFIE DRIVE; COMPRISING 54.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 11-20-27-0000-00-037, 11-20-27-0000-00-069, 12-20-27-0000-00-001, 12-20-27-0000-00-012, 12-20-27-0000-00-046, 12-20-27-0000-00-048  
Contains: 54.85 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 3066 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, July 17, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.** and **Wednesday, August 7, 2024 beginning at 1:30 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  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

# Byrd: Promotions are important

Continued from page 2A

ations this year and have several new administrators district-wide and many in the Apopka area about whom I would like to share.

First, I would like to tell you the exciting news that Dr. Fred Ray, the proud principal at Pied-

mont Lakes Middle School, was selected to become the new principal at Ocoee High School. While this is of course sad for our Piedmont community, I am very happy for Ray who is excited about this new challenge in his career to lead one of the top high schools in Orange County, and I'm

excited that he is staying in District 7.

The wildly successful principal of Ocoee High School was hired by Osceola County as the Chief Academic Officer, a tremendous promotion that recognized her talent and

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# Moore: Change requires waiting time

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(federal dollars which pass through FDOT) to prioritize funding for the Welch Road/Rock Springs Road intersection. While I have celebrated this achievement multiple times, I have come to find out it is also a long wait. I might even add it is quite painful. I'm often asked why municipalities don't save money and get ahead of growth. Well, developers don't pay impact fees until late in the development process. And guess what, it is never enough. No, growth does not pay for itself. Both the city and county have tripled impact fees to get at this problem – but remember, it is our sons and daughters who still must afford homes in these new neighborhoods.

While it is customary for roadways to be transferred to a municipality once annexations exceed 50 percent of the roadway, if the road is of countywide significance, responsibility for pavement is retained by the county. This is the case on Park Avenue. The pavement belongs to the county while the lighting and sidewalk right-of-way belongs to the city (south of Welch Road). It is vital that we foster good relationships between transportation staff and elected officials in the two jurisdictions.

Thus, my field review with Castillero resulted in some exciting news. Potential safety improvements include reducing the number of conflicts in the two-way left turn medians. I call this the "suicide lane". The idea is if there are too many turning options in the middle lane, the potential for head-on collisions increases.

Once a few reductions are tried and suitable with the community, then longer term improvements could be installed. These longer-term improvements include tree-lined sections of the median.

The areas of greatest safety concerns are always near elementary schools. If roadways were safer and drivers more cautious, more children could ride or walk to school. It is a shame parents must sit in long pick-up lines idling their engines and impacting the environment so negatively.

At Clay Springs Elementary School it has been requested by the President of the People of Wekiwa Springs, Sue Hensy that "delineators" to separate the exclusive right turn lane from through lane at the intersection be installed. Too many drivers speed through traffic from the right-hand lane causing accidents.

On Park Avenue, Cas-

tilero suggested raised intersections to slow traffic down with three schools in the immediate area. This could occur at Summit and Park Avenue and Votaw and Park Avenue. Additionally, access management adjustments to limit head-on collisions in the "suicide lane" could also occur throughout the length of the roadway.

Hopefully, folks have noticed the new stop signs at 8th and Park. This has allowed traffic to merge onto the roadway more safely.

The goal is to study these safety improvements for Wekiwa Springs and Park Avenue and implement the recommendations prior to the 2025/2026 roadway resurfacing. I must add one more comment, as many of you reach out about all the potholes that get filled on Park Avenue.

Remember, residents have rejected a transportation sales tax which all the neighboring counties enjoy. With this additional money, the time between resurfacing could have been reduced to 10 years. Unfortunately, we are stuck with 15 years cycles for resurfacing.

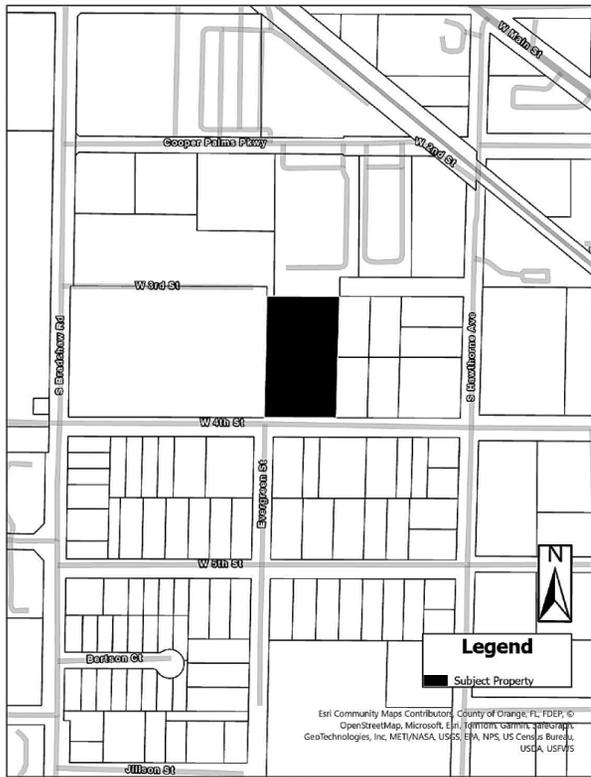
But, as you can see, I plan to make it count for improved safety along Wekiwa Springs and Park Avenue.

## 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 **Albert Iglesias** has made application relating to the following described property.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3058**  
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 LOW MEDIUM TO INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY SFL PARTNERS LLC AND JFJ REAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF FOURTH STREET, EAST OF BRADSHAW ROAD AND WEST OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE; COMPRISING 1.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3059**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM COUNTY R-2 (RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY SFL PARTNERS LLC AND JFJ REAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF FOURTH STREET, EAST OF BRADSHAW ROAD AND WEST OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE; COMPRISING 1.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 09-21-28-0868-01-510  
Contains: 1.97 +/- 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 Numbers 3058 and 3059 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. AND Wednesday, August 21, 2024 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

July 5, 2024  
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# Hayden: Courage made our history

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more. Why would they give up their lives for something that did not affect them? They willingly fought and died to free the slaves and preserve the Union.

It took courage for the United States to stand up against Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan. Six hundred thousand young men gave up their lives to overcome the threat of world domination by tyrants and totalitarianism. Over one hundred thousand young men stormed the beaches of Normandy, knowing ahead of time that the casualty forecast was the highest in history, but when the ramps dropped on the landing crafts, the men left the safety and charged the beach under extremely heavy gunfire.

We did not have to be there. We could have appeased Hitler and allowed him to take more and more control of Europe the same way Neville Chamberland did, but courage of our convictions freed Europe and Asia from the onslaught that threatened. It took courage for the civil rights leaders, in the 50s and 60s to step out of conformity and make headway for civil

rights to be equally distributed to all men and women.

Rosa Parks showed courage in refusing to give up her bus seat; Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain, and Joseph McNeil, conducting a sit-in at the Greensboro Woolworth's lunch counter, showed courage, regardless of the consequences.

Dr. Martin Luther King and his march on Selma and Washington for racial rights for all eventually cost him his life. Pure courage! He saw a wrong and set out to make it right regardless of the consequences.

Today, I think of how little courage is demonstrated in America today. We see multitudes of people making apologies, and groveling at the feet of those "woke" promoters who consider themselves to be the elite among and above all others? Elon Musk, the world's richest man, did not have to get involved in free speech or the censoring thereof by the different social platforms. He could have followed the example of Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and Jeff Bezos and used the corruption to enrich himself. But he saw something wrong

and set out to correct it, regardless of the cost.

There are many others, I just do not have the room to name them all. The last I want to profile is Donald J. Trump. For years he grew his business by rubbing shoulders with politicians and other businessmen. In all his dealings, he saw the corruption and greed that was prevalent in every involvement with the government. He could have kept on allowing the government to run roughshod over the common people's rights and freedoms, but he courageously made the decision to do something about it.

So, he ran for the presidency of the United States of America. That decision has cost him billions of dollars, his persona has been tattered, but he battles on for We the People.

All the forces of the Deep State have tried to render him invalid, but his courageous convictions for right, and his love for the United States of America have been a driving force for the courage we see in Donald J. Trump.

Wake up America! We need to saddle up, regardless of our fears, and make courage an everyday word in America!

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## ALL ABOUT APOPKA

### The Apopka Chief

Established 1923  
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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.

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#### City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
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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
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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. <a href="http://www.apopka.net">www.apopka.net</a>	

#### 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
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<a href="http://www.orangecountyfl.net">www.orangecountyfl.net</a>	

#### Other Area Numbers of Note

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)	352-241-9220
<b>State Representatives</b>	
Doug Bankson	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)	unknown
<b>State Senators</b>	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11)	407-297-2045
<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Christine Moore	407-836-7350
<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Pupil assignment	407-317-3233
Bus routes	407-317-3800
Superintendent	407-317-3200
School Board	407-317-3200
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
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Chamber of Commerce	407-886-1441