

Moore: Honoring concessions of environmentalists very important

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proved";
 2000- "The Wekiva River was designated a 'national wild and scenic river' by U.S. Congress"
 2003- "Gov. Jeb Bush created the Wekiva River Basin Commission to determine alignment"
 2004- "The Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act was passed by the Florida Legislature"
 2005- "Wekiva Parkway Planning, Design, and Engineering Study began"
 2012- "The Federal Highway Administration

approved Wekiva Parkway alignment and design"
 2014- "Florida Legislature created the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) and expanded jurisdiction"
 2015- "CFX began construction on its Wekiva Parkway segments"
 2018- "CFX completed construction of its Wekiva Parkway segments 18 months early"
 2024- "Wekiva Parkway completed as the final link of the Central Florida beltway"
 I'm not sure many of you realize that SR 417 is

the eastern portion of the beltway around Orlando. Many of you take this roadway to reach the University of Central Florida or perhaps, Orlando, or MCO Airport.
 I remember when the western portion of SR 429 was opened. I remember this portion of the beltway being named after my friend and our current congressman, Daniel Webster. Congressman Webster, while he was Speaker of the Florida House, was responsible for securing the state funding. In fact, I packed up my two young children and their bi-

cycles to ride on the roadway at the dedication. Seeing that these two are now both parents themselves, you know this was about two decades ago.
 The final segment, about 25 miles through the environmentally sensitive areas of the Wekiva River, was incredibly challenging. The Wekiva Basin is fed by 19 springs and connects with the Floridan Aquifer. Additionally, the Wekiva River was designated in 1988 to be a "natural resource of state and regional importance."
 The roadway designers and engineers had to create a complex construction plan that minimized potential development and any impacts. The bridge had no pillars in the water and required temporary berms to keep construction runoff from running into the river.

Environmental activists were right to be concerned about any possible damage the highway could create. The bridge over the river is elevated without piers to allow unfettered access to wildlife and recreational users. It was constructed from the top down to further protect the river.
 The book, "The River and the Road", states the inspiration for the Wekiva Parkway was the Blue Ridge Parkway which is in North Carolina and Virginia. That roadway is considered a national treasure. The Wekiva Parkway also "conforms to the contours of the land. It has lush landscaping and the overpasses and bridges are custom designed, and display... warm earth tones."
 Lessons learned from providing this much-needed roadway and protecting the

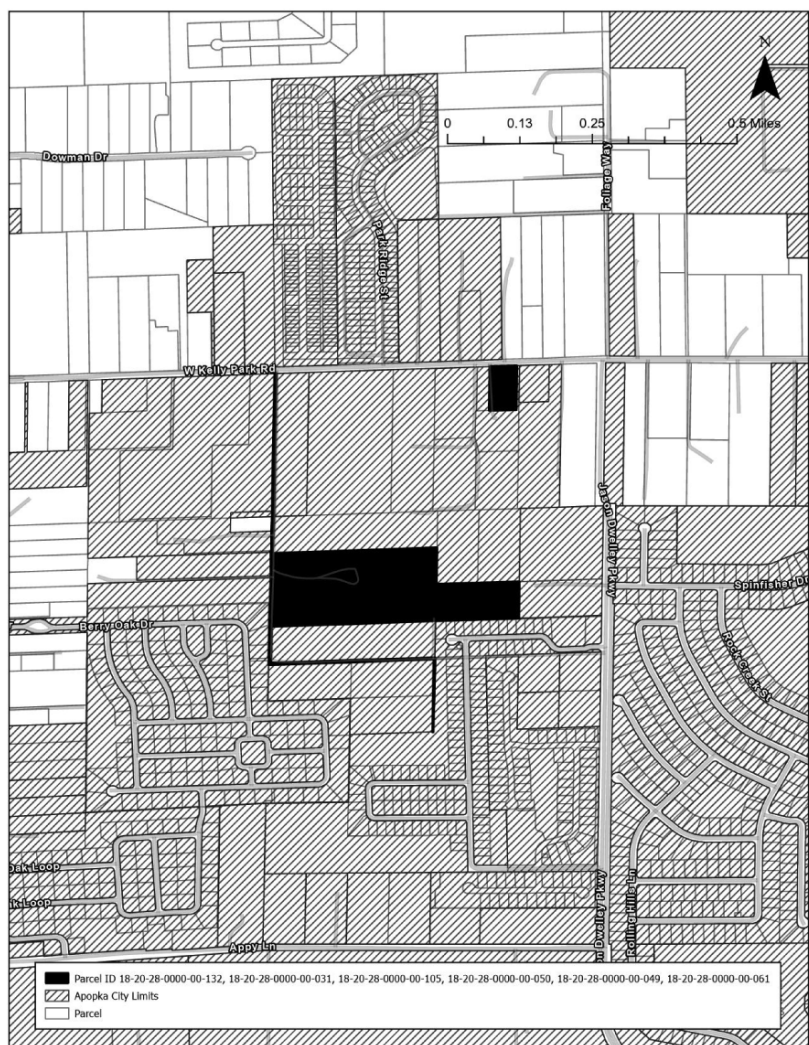
environment include: making the natural environment the top consideration, working closely with residents and all stakeholders, and pioneering uses of design with materials that enhance the road and blend into the natural environment.
 One final note, I believe it is important to honor the concessions of these environmentalists by restricting any new high-density areas other than Kelly Park Crossings. This promise was part of the Wekiva River Protection Act dating back to 2004.
 Additionally, downtown Apopka has suffered enough blight and neglect. We must continue to strike the right balance between serving a burgeoning population and protecting our natural resources.

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 **Jonathan P. Huels, Esq.** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of properties generally located south of W. Kelly Park Road and west of Jason Dwellley Parkway. This application relates to the following described properties:

ORDINANCE NO. 3071

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 ORCHID ESTATES COMMUNITY HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, MEGA GNG, LLC, JACOB SNAVELY, 4625 CHANDLER ROAD, LLC, MATTHEW AND DEBORAH SHAW, DAPHNE MARTIN; GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF W. KELLY PARK ROAD AND WEST OF JASON DWELLEY PARKWAY; COMPRISING 28.54 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 18-20-28-0000-00-132, 18-20-28-0000-00-031, 18-20-28-0000-00-105, 18-20-28-0000-00-050, 18-20-28-0000-00-049, 18-20-28-0000-00-061
 Contains: 28.54 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 3071 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, August 21, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M. and Wednesday, September 4, 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.

August 16, 2024
 Publish: The Apopka Chief

Apopka City Council
 Community Development Department
 177251

Byrd: Reach out and help schools

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have in the beginning of their days.
 A good bus driver becomes a person of comfort for our children and can lift spirits in a way that many children need in order to enter school with a positive mindset for the day of learning ahead.
 I remember meeting a bus driver when I was campaigning for the school board after I knocked on her door. She had been a driver for over 30 years and considered the children on her route her own children. She knew about their lives and watched out for them and they looked forward to seeing her everyday.
 The drivers are truly a blessing and our education system couldn't work without them so I am always thrilled to spend the morning with them.

After coming home and getting my own high schooler off for her first day, I headed over to Wheatley Elementary to cheer on our youngest learners and welcome them into the school building.
 This event is organized every year by a fantastic community partner, Shaunte Jemison of the non-profit, Re-Imagine Communities with the help of numerous community members, including Apopka City Commissioners.
 We lined the sidewalks holding signs and bells, while a DJ played fun music and we cheered and welcomed each child as they walked up to start the new school year.
 The most favorite part of my job is when I get to spend time with our beautiful children because they are filled with such joy. Monday was no different.

The children were so excited and smiling and waving at us as they walked up.
 It was such a good feeling to show them that this community cares about them and is happy to see them. Sometimes, that is all a child needs to know to be successful.
 Remember to reach out to our community children and schools if you have the time. Spend some time volunteering, mentoring, or call your local school and ask if they need any supplies. Reach out to a teacher you know and see what they need.
 Our communities can be a great resource for our schools, children, and staff. Even in the face of challenges, our schools and employees do amazing work every day.
 Thank you for all you do and I hope everyone has a great year!

Hayden: Common sense says "Vote"

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ed States of America and want to do away with the American way of life, the American dream, and our God-given rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America. They use the freedoms given by the Constitution to undermine and destroy our very culture.
 We need to protect our family, putting one foot in front of the other, going forward, presenting a formidable front that will *not* back down.
 Our schools of higher learning are filled with educated idiots that teach Socialism, Communism, and world views that have decimated other nations, and left them in ruins, and yet, we still send our kids to be brainwashed into believing the United States of America is undeserving of the title, "Exceptional."
 Our nation needs an enema to cleanse our gov-

ernment and Washington, D.C., is the place to gain entrance for the procedure! We need to show the courage and strength of those who stood tall when faced with overwhelming odds. Some, even though their lives were threatened with intimidation, persecution, rejection, and, yes, even death, promoted a better way for our nation. If we cannot change our nation's ruling ideology, we are headed for WWII, and because of the weaponry that will be used, the next war after that will be fought with sticks and stones.
 I believe that there are people all over our great nation that are simply worn out with all the turmoil on our streets, in our government, and between people who ought to be rejoicing over "life in America!" After Rodney King was brutally beaten by four Los Angeles policemen following a high-speed chase on March 3, 1991, eventually

the four L.A.P.D. officers were charged with multiple charges, and stood trial for the malicious, and uncalled for beating. In April 1992, the officers involved were acquitted, and that set off riots that resulted in 50 deaths, 2000 injured, 9500 arrested for looting and arson, and \$1 billion dollars in damages.
 When Rodney King saw all the destruction and mayhem on the third day of the riots, he made a public appearance, making his now-famous plea: "People, I just want to say, can't we all get along? Can't we all get along?"
 Let us turn our nation upright again. You and I have the upper hand.
 We can fire the employees who believe they are in charge, and we can hire true employees that will work for us, and our protection.
 My advice is to use COMMON sense - get out and VOTE!!!

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