

Hope Card program is launched to help assist people affected by domestic violence

In support of recent Florida Legislation, the Orange County Clerk of Courts along with Court Clerks statewide have implemented a "Hope Card" Program to assist people affected by domestic violence and abuse.

This new program offers individuals who have been issued a final injunction for protection the opportunity to apply for a free, standardized "Hope Card" that can be used to verify with law enforcement that they are covered by a protective court order.

Through the Hope Card Program, a person who has been issued a final

injunction for protection against domestic violence, stalking, repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence, or abuse or exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult can apply for a free digital or wallet-sized Hope Card with the Clerk of Court where the petition was originally filed.

"With the launch of the Hope Card Program, we are able to provide further peace of mind for those in our communities who have secured final injunctions for protection against various forms of violence and abuse," said Orange County Clerk of Courts Tiffany Moore Russell.

"This initiative ensures that individuals with protective court orders can easily and effectively communicate their status to law enforcement, ensuring immediate verification and enhanced safety."

During the 2024 session, the Florida Legislature passed CS/CS/CS/SB 86 - Hope Cards for Persons Issued Orders of Protection, sponsored by Senator Lauren Book and Representative Mike Gottlieb, which required Clerks of Court to develop and implement a Hope Card Program in Florida, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General.

Hope Cards will identify the name and birth date of the person protected by the court order, the name and birth date of the respondent, and certain information relating to the protective order such as the type and date the order expires.

Issued Hope Cards will be valid for two years or until the injunction expires, whichever occurs first, but may be renewed if the injunction remains in effect.

If you have a final injunction for protection, go to www.myorangeclerk.com for details on how to obtain a free Hope Card.

Recovery At The Hope Conference on Saturday, October 12, is a free event

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, is presenting Recovery At The Hope (R.A.T.H.) Conference on Saturday, October 12, from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, at 927 South Central Avenue. There will be a free breakfast at this free event.

The community is invited (youth, teens and adults) to come to hear information and testimonies from special guests as to how to prevent, identify, deal with and resolve addictions.

An addiction is not always centered on drugs and alcohol. It can be anything

keeping someone from developing a closer relationship with God.

If you are not able to attend, send someone that may need a listening ear or who may be experiencing anxiety, depression, domestic violence, child abuse, or bullying.

Hope is available. Call Rev. Alexander H. Smith, RATH Pastor at 407-721-4759 or Dr. Yvonne Holmes, Ph.D., RN, Mental Health and Christian Counseling, 407-579-1339 for more information and assistance.

Moore: Citizens will be informed and involved in planning process

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cent of the cost of a transportation study. I'm happy to say after significant advocacy, scoping the project, and a lengthy procurement process to hire a vendor, Orange County Government has hired VHB, Inc. They will conduct a thorough, area-wide long-range transportation study.

The study is the first step to determine needs and assess which entity is responsible for costs. Please

be aware, we will still be searching for various sources of funding to complete any recommended projects.

The planning process will include a significant public involvement plan which will inform and involve the citizens of the county and city. Appropriate state and local agencies, elected officials, and all community stakeholders will be invited to participate. The agency will conduct up to 10 small group

meetings with interested organizations.

My office will provide an initial list of potential attendees and participants. We will also notify the public of these meetings.

The consultant will also prepare and distribute five editions of project newsletters. These newsletters will be prepared in English and Spanish.

They will also create an internet website for the transportation study. The final documents and plans

will be presented for approval to the full Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing. Public hearings also allow for input from community residents.

The deliverables are quite technical, so I won't report on these characteristics.

Nevertheless, the analysis of future traffic conditions will provide "no-build scenarios" and "build scenarios" which include all available cost feasible roadway improvement

projects. It will also recommend any transit improvements such as bus service expansion and more transit-friendly development. The study will recommend new roadways or roadway extensions, roadway widening, parallel facilities, and potential realignments.

Based on the assessment of future conditions among the different scenarios, the consultant will identify capacity problems, deficiencies, and issues to determine the transporta-

tion-related changes and needs within the study area. And lastly, the consultant will develop a methodology to determine the roles and responsibilities by jurisdiction for future infrastructure capacity improvements for all roadway segments and intersections within the study area.

I'm happy this process has finally begun. I hope you will join me at one of the facilitated community meetings.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE AMENDMENT TO APOPKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Land Development Code of the City of Apopka, Florida in accordance with Florida Statutes 166.0413(3)(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B), to revise sections of said Land Development Code as specified within the Ordinance title and within Ordinance Number 3075.

ORDINANCE NO. 3075
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF APOPKA BY AMENDING PART III - LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; ARTICLE 4 - USE REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.2 PRINCIPAL USES, TABLE 4.2.2.C. PRINCIPAL USE TABLE TO PERMIT RECREATION FACILITY, OUTDOOR AS A PERMITTED USE IN THE C-COR (CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL DISTRICT) AND MU-D (MIXED-USE DOWNTOWN) ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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, October 8, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3075 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, October 16, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M. AND Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 1:30 P.M.**

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

October 4, 2024
 Publish: The Apopka Chief

177435

Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief

Byrd: Vote for the half-cent sales tax

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date. Without continuation of the half-cent sales tax, the district will be short \$4 billion for construction and maintenance needs.

More than 50 percent of our sales tax revenue is paid by tourists and non-residents, not by Orange County residents.

Additionally, for every dollar invested in our building program, the impact to the Central Florida economy is nearly double.

Since 2010, OCPS has spent \$2.6 billion on school construction, but the total

impact to the economy has been \$4.1 billion. On average these projects have created or maintained 1,850 jobs per year.

It is also important for citizens to know that sales tax referendums by school districts are required to be used for capital needs only. These funds *cannot* be used for operational costs, like salaries.

This important issue is the last item on the November ballot. The November ballot will be a long one with several questions for voters at the end. Please don't forget to answer this

important question at the very end of your ballot!

A 'for' vote would continue an existing, crucial source of funding for school construction, renovation, and technology, including improvements for safety and security.

A vote 'against' would delay needed new campuses, put off necessary repairs to existing schools and return OCPS to a greater reliance on portable classrooms.

For additional information, I encourage you to visit youdecide.ocps.net.

Hayden: US needs a protector

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and committed.

Even RFK (Robert F. Kennedy, Dem.) endorsed President Trump. The Democratic Party is not the same party of his late uncle, President John F. Kennedy. Somewhere that party was high jacked by a liberal, socialist group of people looking to dominate rather than serve.

We have been given the privilege, and the responsibility to choose the people who will do what is necessary to right our nation and protect our populace according to the vows they take when entering office.

Vote your choice, BUT

VOTE!!

I would like to address an unintentional lack of clarity on my part for which I apologize.

While writing about schools that have banned Bibles and have allowed other things to go on, one of our readers made valid arguments about Florida's Legislative Amendments that have supported the Bible, a time of reverence, and other religious activities.

When I write of those things, I am speaking about our nation in general terms, not specifically Florida.

When I use the term "our" schools, I am speaking of American schools. Utah is a good example of

Bible banning.

As far as our Constitution goes, this administration has no problem with ignoring it when it gets in their way.

Our Supreme Court stated it was unconstitutional to expect taxpayers to pay for student loans, but the administration went ahead. Amendments to our Constitution are wonderful, but only to those that recognize them and follow the law. To the lawbreakers, rules are made to be broken.

Thank you for allowing me to "eat crow," and making me more aware of my failure to communicate clearly.

What a conundrum!!

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.theapokchief.com, news@theapokchief.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