

# Discussion at meeting will be on how Florida can reduce gun violence

The League of Women Voters of Orange County will present Patti Brigham, former president of the League of Women Voters of Florida and a co-founder of the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, as she moderates "Hot Topics: How Florida Can Reduce Gun Violence," focusing on grassroots programs that can make communities safer, November 13, at 11:30 a.m., at the Winter Park Events Center, presented by The panel includes Abraham Mor-

ris, who directs Orlando's Community Violence Intervention model to reduce gun violence and criminal justice involvement and My Brother's Keeper Initiative to reduce school suspensions and expulsions; Ruben Saldaña, who has been nominated as Central Floridian of the Year and a former gang member who now runs mixed martial arts and boxing programs designed to steer kids away from street violence; and Dr. Shanta Barton-Stubbs, who founded and directs

the New Image Youth Center, a safe place for at-risk children to participate in fitness and mentoring programs. The discussion will explore programs run by police, local governments, businesses, nonprofits and League of Women Voters local chapters to make the public more aware of how to store firearms safely and mentoring young people to understand that street violence is the wrong path for them. Public service announcement campaigns and

distributing free gun locks have proven to be popular ways to get out the message that responsible gun owners should keep firearms safely stored in their vehicles and in their homes. Statistics show that keeping loaded and unlocked guns in vehicles and homes often results in tragic deaths and leads to an increase in violent crime. Hot Topics is streamed live on the League's Facebook page Facebook and an edited version will be available on the League's

YouTube channel, League of Women Voters Orange County - YouTube. The League of Women Voters of Orange County, Florida, is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Doors open at 11 a.m. for a buffet lunch. The discussion starts at

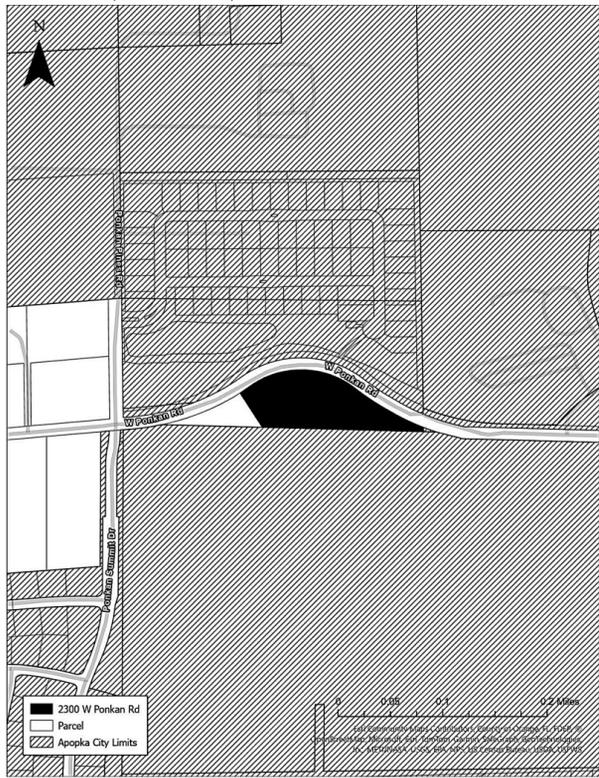
11:45 a.m. at the Center at 1050 W. Morse Blvd. in Winter Park and ends at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for League members, \$37 non-members. Register at [www.LWVOC.org/HotTopics](http://www.LWVOC.org/HotTopics) for the last Hot Topics of the year. Visionary sponsors: Phil and Jennifer Anderson. Silver sponsors: Lyn and David Berelsman and Voting Voices — Michele Levy, Charley Williams, and Laurie and Richard Wack. Bronze sponsors: Alex and the Hon. Cynthia Mackinnon.

## 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 **Jason Lee** has made application relating to the following described property.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3079**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM IN-PROGRESS TO RESIDENTIAL LOW SUBURBAN, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 2300 W PONKAN ROAD; OWNED BY LEE JASON MONROE AND LEE CARA DAWN, COMPRISING 3.56 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

and  
**ORDINANCE NO. 3080**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO RSF-1B (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY-LARGE LOT), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 2300 W PONKAN ROAD; OWNED BY LEE JASON MONROE AND LEE CARA DAWN, COMPRISING 3.56 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 19-20-28-0000-00-007  
Contains: 3.56 +/- Acres

Notice is given that a public hearing for **Ordinance Number 3079 and 3080** 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, November 20, 2024 beginning at 7:00 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

November 1, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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## Moore: Grant approval spreads joy

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These proposed upgrades include:  
\* Four new 230-foot softball fields, with fencing/lighting/dugouts  
\* New concessions and restrooms building  
\* New maintenance building  
\* New walkways, bleachers, and water fountains  
\* New grass parking lot

At the Apopka Amphitheater, proposed upgrades include:  
\* New ticket booth/restroom building at the west amphitheater entrance  
\* New ADA parking at the west entrance  
\* Expanded loading dock to allow for additional backstage vehicles  
\* New upper walkway ring and connecting walkways to provide ADA access to the top of the amphitheater lawn

\* New dedicated food truck areas with electrical hook-ups and vendor space at the top of the amphitheater lawn  
\* New restroom and concession building at the top of the amphitheater lawn  
\* New access road from the south to the top of the amphitheater lawn  
I'm so happy the grant was awarded and grateful for the collaboration.

## Byrd: Reader has different opinion

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review every challenge. In Utah, after a parent was frustrated by the number of book bans happening in his district, he submitted a challenge for the Bible stating that the Bible was not appropriate for young children because of the numerous sexual references throughout the text. After the district committee reviewed the Bible, they agreed and removed it only from elementary and middle school shelves. After public outcry, the district reversed its decision and returned the Bible to the shelves. In 2022, there was only one instance of the Bible being challenged and that was in Texas. So again, research and facts matter. The instance in Utah is a direct result of

the book challenges and bans across the nation that have inundated school districts with book challenges all having to undergo intense review processes. In Orange County alone, after our state legislature made it easier for anyone to challenge books in 2022, the district had over 600 books going through review processes at a cost of over \$400,000 to pay for the extra staffing over that summer. To be clear, those costs were not paid for by the state, they were paid for from the school district's operating budget. Money that could have gone to salary raises. The original law was so broad and open-ended and has caused so much extra work and costs to school districts that the state

signed a new bill this past April limiting book challenge parameters. Again, my point to follow up on last week's piece is to emphasize that when statements are made about "our schools" regardless of the intent of the writer, it clearly also includes our local Apopka schools or our local Florida schools. Even if the intent of the writer is not to include our local schools, the negative effects are felt by our local schools. Of course, in this instance, even a broad "our American schools" is not accurate since schools across the nation are not banning the Bible as the author would have liked you to believe. Truth matters. Words matter.

## Hayden: Smiles lighten up attitude

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corruption being rewarding and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice - You may know your society is doomed." That was written in 1957. Because of Donald Trump and his war on the sewer pits of Washington, D.C., we have seen the depths of depravity, greed, and total corruption of the politicians that make up the "Dark State." What makes Donald Trump so appealing to me is his willingness to say what is on his mind. We used to do that in America, when common sense reigned, and people could take or leave what was being said without getting their feelings hurt. There is too much

emphasis today on emotion first, without deciding if it is even relevant. As an analogy, in the United States a history teacher teaching American History should not be involved in students using proper pronouns. It is not relevant! The older I get, the more prone I am to say what I think. Using common sense keeps me from screaming "Fire" in a crowded meeting (unless there actually was a fire). If we can't take a little name-calling, a little banter about our differences, or a little teasing about our physical appearance, then maybe we need to take a long walk on a short pier. Life is too short to spend it finding fault with everything that upsets you. Emotions are wonderful,

but only if they are tempered with self-control. I look in the mirror each morning and what I see sets me off with an attitude of humor, and humility. Humor because I know I'm not getting any younger and my scars bring back memories I can laugh about now. Besides, I would rather be happy, and if my life should end today, I want a smile on my face. Lighten up America! We have a lot to laugh about. This should tickle your "funny bone." This administration said, "putting the illegal aliens up in hotel rooms saved the hotel industry." So, let us save the airline industry by flying them all back home!! Ha, ha, ha ...

### 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](http://www.theapokchief.com), [news@theapokchief.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.orangecountyfl.net)

#### 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
Museum of the Apopkans	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce	407-886-1441