

## New coach faces daunting challenges with optimism

By Roger Williams

Correspondent

Apopka Blue Darter football enters a new season with a multitude of hurdles never experienced concurrently by an Apopka football program: the defection of a reported 28 players, a new first-year head coach, and a schedule that is loaded with elite Florida high school powers.

Despite these unprecedented obstacles, new head coach Marcus Neeson enters the season with a spirit of optimism. That positive spirit was evident in an interview with Neeson during high school football media days on July 19.

"We have a lot of guys who stuck around, we have a lot of guys who are stepping in," he said. "I'm excited for the season to start."

Neeson is the central figure in any pre-season discussion of Apopka football. He points out that Blue Darter football began preseason workouts with over 100 players, and the players who remain in the program want to be here—they are passionate in their desire to be Apopka Blue Darter football players

Still, the reality is that the overwhelming majority of these players are sophomores and freshmen—players that in more normal circumstances would be on the JV or freshman teams. These dedicated young Blue Darters will face a brutal schedule.

Apopka has games with three-time defending state 2A champion Cocoa High School, seven-time state champion Madison County, and a Kickoff Classic matchup with Tampa powerhouse Tam-



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Neeson observes his team during the Kickoff Classic on Aug. 15.

pa Bay Tech. The gauntlet also includes Kissimmee Osceola, which played in the Class 6A state championship game last year, always tough Dr. Phillips, a final four team in 2024, and perennial power Edgewater. Apopka will also play challenging games against rivals West Orange, Evans, Ocoee and Wekiva.

Needless to say, our 25-year streak of consecutive playoff appearances is in serious jeopardy.

Despite these seemingly huge difficulties, there is still much for Blue Darter fans and alumni to feel good about, especially Neeson's positive leadership and commitment.

Neeson single-handedly held the program together over the summer after Jeff Rolson's resignation and while the search for a new coach was taking place. There was no guarantee that he would get the job, but Neeson diligently continued to organize summer workouts, build bridges in the Apopka youth football community, and rally the remaining players to stay in the program with his positive energy and vision for a bright future.

Neeson was also a central figure when former Blue Darter great Jalen Carter returned home for his football camp. Youngsters had the opportunity to meet Carter and other Blue Darter football greats, wear Blue Darter jerseys, and interact with current players—creating lifelong memories for those youngsters.

In addition to all of that, Neeson persuaded longtime defensive line coach Matt Anderson, one of the most talented and most respected high school football coaches in the nation, to continue with the program.

From this observer's perspective, a clear-eyed preview of the 2025 season—the good, the bad and the ugly—yields the observation that success in 2025 should be evaluated more in terms of the passion, commitment, dedication and opportunity for growth of these young players and Coach Marcus Neeson, than by wins and losses.

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# Apopka football enters most unpredictable season yet

New coach, new team, brutal schedule

**By Marshall Tempest**Reporter

It will come as no surprise to anyone who has been paying attention that this will not be the average Apopka football season. After losing its head coach, 43 players in eight months and facing one of the toughest schedules in Central Florida, can Apopka make it to year 26 of its playoff streak?

For the last three years, Tyson Davison has led the offense as quarterback, but he was part of the mass exodus ahead of his senior year. After a 31–14 loss to Jones High School in Apopka's spring game, Davison and 19 other players stepped away from the team, joining eight transfers and 15 graduating seniors who departed after the 2024 season

Without Davison, it's unclear who will be the leader of the Blue Darters. New head coach Marcus Neeson has been hard at work trying to figure out who was up to the challenge.

Davison was a run-first quarter-back, tagged as a dual-threat, who was instrumental in the success of the Apop-ka football team over the past three seasons. While Davison may not have been the strongest passer — as seen in his 1,968 passing yards, 13/11 touchdown/interception ratio, and 45% completion percentage — he was perfect for Apop-ka's run-heavy scheme. Davison collected 2,003 rushing yards, seven rushing touchdowns, and averaged 7.1 yards per carry.

Neeson said three guys are still fighting for that starting quarterback position.

"I don't think Apopka has ever been in this type of situation," Neeson said. "Each QB gives you a little something different in their play style."

Neeson has said all summer that his approach to the offense will be to keep and get the ball into his playmaker's hands. If he has three great quarterbacks that could offer the team solutions to different problems they may









Photos by Dana O'Connor

The Blue Darters lost the Kickoff Classic to Tampa Bay Tech, 44-10, on Aug. 15

face, he might use all three.

When asked about the possibility of a multi-quarterback system, Neeson answered, "Only time will tell!"

#### A BRUTAL ROAD AHEAD

There will be no easy Friday nights for the Blue Darters this season. Even for a team not facing the problems Apopka has over the offseason, this is one of the most challenging schedules in Central Florida. The Blue Darters' schedule includes five teams that finished in the top 50 in the state last year, two state champions, one state runner-up, one regional runner-up, and one state semifinalist.

Mind you, the opponents are only half the reason Apopka's schedule is so

troubling this season. The real problem the Blue Darters will face is not having a home game until week five against Edgewater, one of the best teams in Central Florida, which finished the 2024 season with a 10–2 record.

Apopka will play its first four games of the season against Ocoee, Evans, Dr. Phillips and West Port on the road. Ocoee and Evans are programs on the rise, and Dr. Phillips is coming off its second-best season in the last decade, behind a Class 8A state title in 2017. These strong programs could put the Blue Darters in a challenging position to start the season.

According to MaxPreps, as of Aug. 5, Ocoee sits at 92 in the preseason rank-

ings, while Evans sits at 110, and Dr. Phillips sits at 79. Apopka sits at 56. Ocoee finished the 2024 season with a 5–5 record and did not make the postseason. Evans finished 6–5, falling 42–21 to Buchholz High School (Gainesville) in the 6A Region One Quarterfinal. Dr. Phillips finished 12–2, falling 24–13 to Lake Mary in the 7A state semifinals.

West Port might be the closest thing Apopka has to an easy win all season, as the team ranked 356th in the state. Last year, the Blue Darters made quick work of West Port in a 49–0 victory.

After facing West Port, the Blue Darters prepare for their first home

See **DARTERS** Page **4** 

## 2025 Apopka Blue Darters freshmen and junior varsity team



#### **DARTERS**

Continued from page 3

game. Unfortunately for the Blue Darters, it's against Edgewater, which is ranked 21st and coming off a 5A Region 2 Semifinal loss to Tampa Bay Tech.

After hosting Edgewater in week five, Apopka will host rival West Orange before another gauntlet of away games.

West Orange is ranked 54th heading into the season, having finished 2024 as Class 7A Region 2 runner-up. The Warriors also knocked the Blue Darters out in the first round of the playoffs last season.

After those two home games, Apopka has two home games against a defending state champion and a state runner-up.

In week seven, the Blue Darters will face the defending 2A state champions, the Cocoa High School Tigers. The

Tigers are ranked 12th in the state and 80th nationally. In week eight, Apopka travels to Osceola to face the 20246A State Champion runner-up. The Kowboys finished the 2024 season with a 12–3 record, falling in the 6A state championship game 26–7 to West Boca Raton High School.

After taking on the Herculean task of facing those two programs back-to-back, Apopka is back home for the rest of the regular season. But the tough schedule doesn't stop there. Apopka will face another set of cowboys, these coming off a state title.

For week nine, Apopka hosts the defending 2024 Rural state champions, the Madison County Cowboys. The Cowboys head into the 2025 season ranked 65th in the state after finishing their state championship season with a



Photo by Marshall Tempest

The Blue Darters have a lot of new faces in 2025.

10–3 record.

Finally, the end of the regular season ends how it always does, with the city of Apopka's hometown programs competing for the Mayor's Cup. After two wins in a row, Apopka looks to add another as it aims to create a winning streak over the Wekiva Mustangs. The Mustangs enter the 2025 season ranked 124th in the state after finishing the 2024 season 3–7.

### THE LEGENDARY PLAYOFF STREAK

With 25 consecutive seasons in the playoffs, the Blue Darters have become a staple of the Florida high school football postseason. But after the last eight months that included losing a head coach, a senior starting quarterback,

and 42 other players due to transfers or graduation, can Apopka keep that record alive?

The key for this season is starting strong. With the tough schedule, this young team needs confidence and results immediately. What better way is there to gain confidence than taking down a rival program in week one, Ocoee, and in one fell swoop beating your former starting quarterback?

If Apopka can win at least two of its first three games and then take an easy win against West Port, this season has great potential. But if Apopka is down 1–2 or even 0–3 before facing West Port, this young team may become discouraged before they even get a chance to find their footing on their home field.



**Photo by Marshall Tempest** 

Marcus Neeson instructs one of his players during practice.

## 2025 Apopka Blue Darters varsity football team



## COACHING STAFF

#### **MARCUS NEESON**

HEAD COACH

#### **KELVIN JOYNER**

OFFENSIVE LINE COACH

#### DAWSON SHREINER

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

#### LARVEZ MARS

LINEBACKERS COACH

#### **MATT ANDERSON**

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR** 

#### **DEON WILLIAMS**

9TH GRADE HEAD COACH



## 2025 Apopka Blue Darters varsity football team roster

No.	Name	Grade	Pos.	23	David Wimberly	So.	DB
1	Jamarcus Tanner	Jr.	DL	24	Tyderion Powell	Sr.	RB
2	Ma'Carri Gainous	Jr.	DB/LB	25	Joshua Taylor	Jr.	RB
3	Jakendall Kemp	Jr.	RB	26	Preston Coleman	Sr.	DB
4	Ceon Cotton	So.	WR	27	Marvansly Jerome	Jr.	DB
5	Kaden Lovett	So.	DB	28	Brian Jean	Sr.	RB
6	Jaquan Walker	Jr.	WR/DB	31	Kesan McDuffie	Jr.	DB
7	Sevenn Edwards	Jr.	DB/LB	32	Alvin Hagins	Sr.	LB
8	Le'Melle Griffin	Jr.	LB	33	Teagan Roberts	So.	LB
9	Nyzier Collington	So.	WR	34	Xavier Cruz	Jr.	WR
10	Blake Childs	Jr.	WR	36	Jayden Caban	Jr.	LB
12	Cody Owens	Sr.	QB	38	Ezra Dady	So.	DB
13	Aiden Bolden	Jr.	WR	39	Robert Hewlett	Jr.	DB
14	TJ Frazier	Jr.	QB/WR	42	Julian Cox	So.	DL
15	Hudson Lambert	Jr.	WR	43	Kentral Baker	So.	DL
16	Jaylen Laster	Fr.	WR	50	Louis Fr.ancois	Jr.	DL
17	Nicholas RobinSo.n	Jr.	WR	51	Jaime Escobedo	So.	OL
18	Hunter McNenney	So.	QB	52	Rasjulian Athill	So.	DL
19	Jeremiaha O'Hara	Sr.	DB	53	Jacobo Erazo	Sr.	K
21	Anthony Booker	Sr.	WR	54	Colton Ritz	So.	OL
22	Jakyvion Kemp	So.	DL	55	Brandon Roberts	Jr.	OL

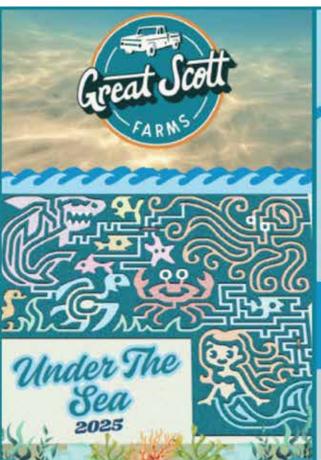


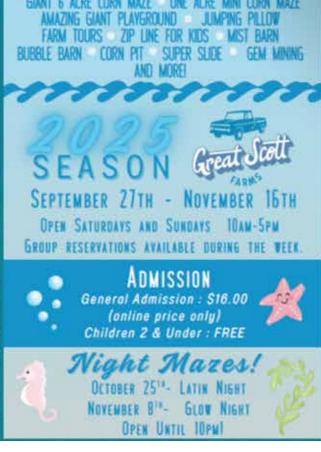


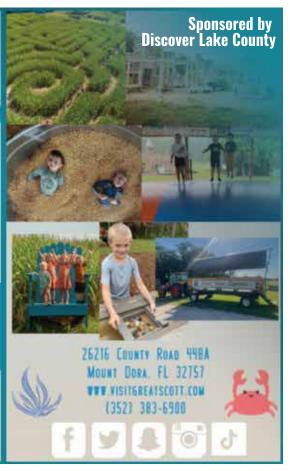


Photo by Dana O'Connor

57	Grant Ward	Sr.	K
59	Jamari Waddy	Sr.	OL
60	Gamaliel Williams	Sr.	OL
66	Jayden McDonald	Sr.	OL
67	Champ Terrell	So.	OL
68	Jay Rodriguez	So.	OL
70	Wilgains Vaval	Jr.	OL
72	Demarco Shaw	Sr.	OL
77	Josiah Dennis	Sr.	OL
78	Nandi Lake	Sr.	OL
84	Brayden Cheek	Jr.	WR
88	Xavier Perez	Jr.	WR
92	Marcus Young	Jr.	DL/H
95	Titus Martinez	Sr.	DL
96	Jordan Tarpley	So.	DL
97	Richard Sewell	Sr.	DL
98	Jarod ThompSo.n	Jr.	DL
99	Demetri Tarpley	So.	DL









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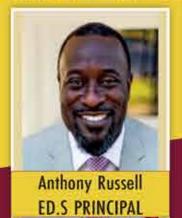
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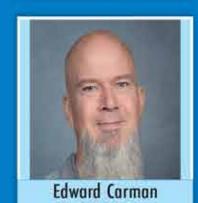




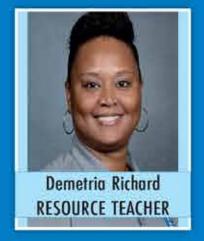






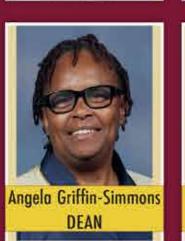


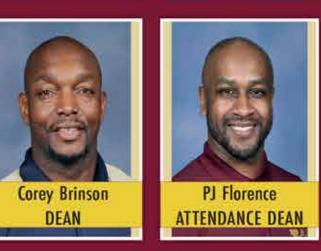
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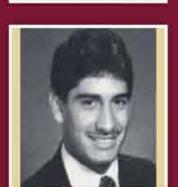
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## Gabriel, Mustangs look to future in second season

Mustangs will face similar challenges to Blue Darters this season

By Marshall Tempest Reporter

Doug Gabriel and the Wekiva Mustangs football team are entering the 2025 football season young and inexperienced, but hopeful for the future.

"We're really young, but I think it's a good thing, because we have time to literally mentor these young men and just pour into them," head coach Doug Gabriel said before the Kickoff Classic.

Gabriel and the Mustangs will face many of the same problems that Marcus Neeson and Apopka will this season. Gabriel told The Apopka Chief that he has lost over 30 players since the 2024 season, due to the graduation of seniors and players transferring.

Gabriel said the kids who are still with the team are 110% invested in the program, and he's excited to see their growth. He said the biggest challenge right now is getting the younger and less experienced players to be more physical.

"You know, we just trying to get them to be more physical, teach them how to be leaders, but they're young and



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Wekiva kicks off the season with a young team full of new faces.



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Adrian Jackson (#54) assists Rayshard Brinson (#11) with a tackle in the Kickoff Classic on Aug. 15.

not understanding that stuff," Gabriel said. "I think that's going to be a great thing once they come into their own — they're going to be awesome."

Another challenge the Mustangs have in common with Apopka is their schedule. While not nearly as harrowing as Apopka's, the Mustangs always keep a tough schedule to give themselves a chance at the playoffs. Wekiva's schedule includes three teams that ranked in the top 50 in the state last year (Edgewater, Dr. Phillips, and Jones) after finishing as a state runner-up (Jones), a final

four team (Dr. Phillips), and a regional runner-up (Edgewater).

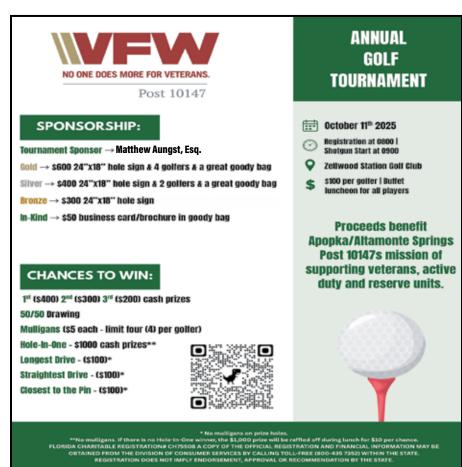
Defense has rarely been what the Mustangs are known for, as they have relied on their offensive prowess to win in the past, but last season was uncharacteristically poor. Wekiva gave up 311 points in the 2024 season for an average of 31.1 points per game. Wekiva has not given up that many points since the 2012 season, when they gave up 326 points and finished the season 1–9.

Typically, the Mustang offensive onslaught is enough to compensate

for their defensive weaknesses, but in 2024, the Mustangs had their least efficient season in over a decade offensively. That's the least amount of points the Mustangs have scored since the same 1–9 season in 2012. They scored 119 points, averaging 11.9 points per game, in the 2012 season.

In 2024, Wekiva scored 202 points and allowed 311, resulting in a negative scoring differential of 109, effectively losing by 10.9 points per game.

See MUSTANGS Page 11







#### **MUSTANGS**

Continued from page 10



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Coach Doug Gabriel instructs his players at the end of the practice.

Gabriel said that with the talent the Mustangs had last year, they should've gone far, but instead they had one of their worst seasons to date, finishing 3–7. He said this year has a whole different feel.

"We had awesome talent last year. I think we should have made a whole lot of noise, but I just feel like they were playing for themselves," he said. "This year, you can see the kids trying to play for each other. You see kids trying to work and still trying to get stuff done.

That's what I like."

Gabriel says he has a few standout players who may make a difference this season. One of them is defensive lineman Isaiah McNish, who is committed to play at the University of Central Florida next year. Another is quarterback Justin Sessler, who transferred to Wekiva from Edgewater High School over the summer.

He did say that there are still a few positions up for grabs. Gabriel said he is



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Wekiva has a young team in the second year of Gabriel's rebuild.

still working on finding a starting running back, defensive backs and slot receivers.

Heading into his second year as head coach, Gabriel said he sees a difference in the trust his players have in his vision. He believes his players have reached the point where they understand his coaching philosophy and how he wants his program to operate.

With the young team he has, Gabriel said he is keeping focus on effort and

the process, not so much on wins and losses.

"I don't have any goals, but I just want to make sure we give 110%," Gabriel said. "I don't want them to get in the game, and it becomes a dog fight, and they give up. I want them to give it 110%. Because, again, you're going to have winners, you're going to have losers. My thing is, don't give up. If we don't give up, we should be way better than last year."





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## Wekiva Mustangs varsity football team roster

No.	Name	Grade	_ 30	Guy Hyppolite	So.
3	Jaden Saint George	Jr.	31	Preston Cruz-Toran	Sr.
4	Charles Chukes	So.	32	Tyler Carty	Sr.
5	Jakarri Bellamy	Sr.	33	Craig White	So.
6	Dominique Walker	Jr.	34	Zayvion Laster	Fr.
7	Justin Sessler	Jr.	35	Isaiah Hollie	Fr.
8	Ameir Prince	Sr.	36	Aiden Carmichael	Sr.
9	Matthew Beacham	Sr.	44	Ja'Codi Parker	Sr.
10	Josiah Arrington	Jr.	50	Jerone Hill	Sr.
11	Rayshard Brinson	Sr.	51	Amari Lyman	
12	Bakery Manley	Jr.	54	Adrian Jackson	Jr.
13	Avantae Scott	Jr.	55	Josiah Greer	Sr.
14	Jereiah Caison	Jr.	56	Adrian Torres	So.
15	Jaiden Robinson	So.	58	Braylen Bouie	Jr.
16	Robert Hollis	Fr.	59	Deandre Payen	Fr.
17	Landon Jerome	Jr.	60	Nathan Eugene	Jr.
18	Daniel Christian	So.	65	Jeamar Gilles	
19	Deandre Adams	So.	68	Dash Parker-Trautsch	Fr.
20	Shamyin Brown	Jr.	70	Josiah Watson-Greer	Sr.
21	Ty'Jzon Miller	Sr.	73	Lukenson Morancy	Sr.
22	Tanarius Weston	Fr.	74	Kyle Sylvester	Jr.
23	Marlon Perkins	Sr.	75	Yeremiah Allen	Fr.
24	Jaren Ruthledge		81	Landon Roger	
25	Jenson Simon	Jr.	82	Kennson Collin	Fr.
26	Jaylan Arnold	Sr.	91	Dieudson Riche	Fr.
27	Anthony Bello	Jr.	99	Yassiel Bernacet	Jr.
28	Jochrist Exantus	Fr.			



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Wekiva players run sprints during practice.



# Wekiva High School Athletic Department

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The Apopka Chief



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# City of Apopka Recreation Division offers myriad opportunities

The following was written by the Apopka Recreation Division

It's time to dust off the cleats as the City of Apopka Recreation Division welcomes you and your family back for another exciting fall season of athletic programming. However, the action does not stop at the fields alone! The Recreation Division is dedicated to providing the residents of Apopka with a variety of wholesome, innovative and environmentally diverse recreational programs, activities and facilities.

The City of Apopka truly is "Where the Fun Begins," and we look forward to seeing you. For further information regarding any of the programs or special events listed below, please call 407-703-1784 or visit us online at www.apopka.gov and look for the recreation link.

#### **Online registration**

Avoid long registration lines by registering online! Online registration is available for many of the programs offered by the City of Apopka Recreation Division. To register, please visit www.apopka.net, click on the "Register for a Recreation Programs button." You will then be taken to the CivicRec site. Once you create your Username and family profile (please make certain to enter your birth dates) you will be able to "shop" for activities and pay online.

#### **ATHLETICS**

The City of Apopka's Athletic Division offers youth and adult programs and leagues for all ages. Whether you are trying to re-kindle that athletic spirit from your high school days or introducing your youngster to a new sport, we have you covered! Sports teach life lessons such as teamwork, leadership, and hard work along with promoting a healthy lifestyle.

#### Youth Soccer (Spring, Fall)

Youth soccer is offered for boys and girls ages 4-14.

The fees for these programs are currently \$125 for city residents per season and \$150 for non-city residents

The following was written by the per season and includes a uniform.

Registration for the spring 2026 season will begin Dec. 1, 2025. Participants may register online by visiting www.apopka.gov or in person at the Northwest Recreation Complex (3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### **Youth Flag Football**

Youth flag football is offered for boys and girls ages 6-14. The fees for this program are \$125 for city residents per season and \$150 for non-city residents. Registration fee includes NFL team-branded reversible jersey and one NFL flag belt and flags.

Registration for the winter 2025/2026 season will begin Sept. 22, 2025. The season will begin in early December and run through early February. Participants may register online by visiting www.apopka.gov or in person at the Northwest Recreation Complex.

#### Youth Baskethall

Youth co-ed basketball is available during the summer months for children ages 6-14. The fees for these programs are currently \$125 for city residents per season and \$150 for non-city residents per season and includes a uniform. Registration for the summer 2026 league will begin April 6, 2026. The program is held at a local school gym.

Participants may register at www. apopka.gov or at the Northwest Recreation Complex.

#### Adult Softball and Kickball

We offer several adult softball leagues throughout the year, including men's and co-ed. All leagues are sanctioned by the USSSA. First place teams will receive a trophy and a T-shirt; second place teams will receive a trophy. On Tuesday nights, we will also offer our adult co-ed kickball league. Softball and kickball teams are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Your team must have a completed registration form and have paid all necessary fees to be considered registered. There must be at least four registered teams for kickball in order to host the league. There will be no summer or winter seasons for kickball.

Games are held at the Northwest Recreation Complex. Please call 407-703-1784 for registration information and league dates.

Adult softball program fee: \$405/ team

Adult kickball program fee: \$250/ team

#### Racquetball Court

The racquetball court at Kit Land Nelson Park, 10 South Forest Avenue, is available for play by permit only. Apopka residents can purchase a sixmonth permit for \$100 and an annual permit for \$195, slightly higher fees apply for non-residents. For further information, please call 407-703-1642.

#### **TENNIS COURTS**

#### **Northwest Recreation Complex**

The city has four tennis courts at the Northwest Recreation Complex (3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway). Use of the tennis courts for walk-ups is free. Court hours Monday through Friday are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Weekend hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Courts can be reserved for a maximum of two hours per person per day,72 hours in advance of the desired date of play at Apopka.gov for a cost of \$5 per hour.

#### **OTHER EVENTS**

#### Facility and field rental

The Fran Carlton Center, the Apopka Community Center, and the picnic pavilions and athletic fields at the Northwest Recreation Complex are available for rental. Call us before you book your corporate seminar, wedding, family reunion, birthday party, or other special occasion. To rent the Fran Carlton Center or the Apopka Community Center, please call 407-703-1642. To reserve a picnic pavilion or athletic field at the Northwest Recreation Complex, please call 407-703-1784.

All rentals are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. A security deposit is required at some locations. Please call the numbers listed above for more detailed information.

#### **SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMMING**

The City of Apopka Recreation Division believes that leisure time and physical activity help to promote a healthier lifestyle within our senior adult community. With that in mind, the Fran Carlton Center, located at 11 North Forest Avenue, is proud to offer a variety of mid-morning activities, programs, and day trips designed especially for our senior adult members. Please call 407-703-1642 for further details.

#### **Senior memberships**

In order to participate in the various senior adult programs offered by the Apopka Recreation Department, you must first obtain a recreation membership. Membership fees are due each January and are good for a full calendar year. To purchase a membership, stop by the Fran Carlton Center or the Northwest Recreation Complex between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### Senior chair exercise class

Chair exercise classes meet 9-10 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at the Fran Carlton Center. These free classes are led by certified instructor, Kathryn Duncan.

#### Senior Zumba gold

Zumba especially for senior adults is offered 9-10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Fran Carlton Center. Certified Zumba instructor Rosemary Zaldana will guide you through a series of fun, easy dances such as merengue, cha cha, flamenco, belly dance, reggae, salsa, and more. This "exercise in disguise" will leave you wondering whether it was a workout or a party. Prior dance experience is not required. There is no set class fee, but the instructor accepts donations. Call 407-703-1642 for more information.

#### **Artist's studio**

Come join the fun with our adult painting club. Learn techniques in traditional watercolor and acrylic and find your hidden artistic talent! This group meets on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.-1

p.m. There is no set fee for this class; however, there are occasionally guest instructors that will charge a fee. You will be given a supply list at the first class you attend.

#### Social bridge

Every Wednesday we offer a social bridge group. The bridge is mid-level and new players are asked to sign up in advance to be sure the tables are even. The card group always welcomes new members; there is no need to sign up in advance for this group. Just show up! The bridge group meets at 10 a.m. at the Fran Carlton Center.

#### Crafts and chatter

Stop by for a morning of creativity at the Fran Carlton Center. Every Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to noon, our craft group meets to work on their projects, share ideas, and share conversation. If you are currently working on a project and can't seem to find the time to finish it, or just want to get some new ideas, stop by and join in the fun.

#### Senior trips and movies

Each month, we offer our senior members exciting day trip opportunities to several local attractions and events. To name a few, we have visited DeLeon Springs, the Orlando Museum of Art, and have seen many Broadway productions at the Bob Carr Auditorium. In addition, we host a free movie every month at the Fran Carlton Center. Refreshments are provided so come join in the fun!

#### Senior potluck lunch

Every month (usually on the last Thursday) we host a potluck lunch just for our senior adult members, where we draw for door prizes, host guest speakers, and share in each other's good cooking! This is a great way to acquaint yourself with our program, so why not join today? The cost is \$1 plus a covered dish to share.

#### **OTHER FACILITIES**

#### **Doctors' Dog Park**

Hey, don't bark up the wrong tree! The city of Apopka invites you and your four-legged friends to join us for a "howling" good time at Doctors' Dog Park located off Highland Avenue behind Edwards Field. This 750 ft. by 300 ft. dog park features water fountains, a pet shower, benches and, most importantly, plenty of space for "man's best friend" to frolic and play. For further information regarding the dog park, please call 407-703-1642 or www.apopka.gov.

The amphitheater is encircled with a wide, paved, and well-lit walk-way, which provides an excellent location for vendor/display booths on ei-

ther side. Close by, there is a large, waterfront open-air pavilion that is also available for vendor or private rentals. The park has more than 1,500 paved parking spaces, and unpaved parking for overflow parking during high-volume events that provides around 3,000 additional spaces.

The amphitheater stage is equipped with two 400-amp hook ups or lighting and one 200 amp for audio systems. There are two private dressing rooms with handicap accessible restrooms and showers.

Please contact Carolyn Ray at 407-703-1809 for further details.

#### **FACILITY LOCATIONS**

#### **Northwest Recreation Complex**

3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway Apopka, 32712 407-703-1784 (Phone) 407-703-1783 (Fax)

#### Fran Carlton Center

11 North Forest Avenue Apopka, 32703 407-703-1741 (Phone) 407-703-1740 (Fax)

#### **Billie Dean Community Center**

225 M A Board St. Apopka, 32703 407-703-1742 (Phone) 407-703-1740 (Fax)

#### **Apopka Athletic Complex**

797 Wells Avenue Apopka, 32712 407-703-1784 (Phone) 407-703-1740 (Fax)

#### **Apopka Community Center**

519 S. Central Avenue Apopka, 32703 407-703-1809 (Phone) 407-703-1740 (Fax)

#### Kit Land Nelson Park

10 South Forest Avenue Apopka, 32703 407-703-1741 (Phone) 407-703-1740 (Fax)

#### **Doctors' Dog Park**

21 North Highland Avenue Apopka, 32703 407-703-1741 (Phone) 407-703-1740 (Fax)

#### **Dream Lake Park**

364 North Park Avenue Apopka, 32712 407-703-1741 (Phone) 407-703-1740 (Fax)

#### Lake Avenue Park

439 North Lake Avenue Apopka, 32712 407-703-1741 (Phone) 407-703-1740 (Fax)

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