

Lifestyle

Retired colonel Dr. Sanford L. Graves of Apopka celebrated his 97th birthday See page 1C.



Sports

Apopka and Wekiva high school football teams began practice this week. See page 1B.



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City leaders skeptical about good financial news from state

By John Peery Apopka Chief Staff

When the state released its latest projections for the revenue that it sends to city and county governments across Florida, the numbers came in about \$1.3 million higher than previously projected for the city of Apopka.



Bass

Originally, state revenue forecasts for the 2020-2021 fiscal year that starts on October 1 called for Apopka to receive a total of nearly \$8.7 million in revenue-sharing funds, and half-cent sales tax dollars. The new projection released in late August now calls for Apopka to get just over \$10 million. The difference is \$1.342 million.

But, as nice as it was to see those higher numbers, Mayor Bryan Nelson and City Administrator Edward Bass are somewhat skeptical that the city will actually see the higher dollar amount.

"I'm shocked because I don't think it's going to hit those numbers, but they're the ones who give us those numbers and that's what we have to work with. We'll

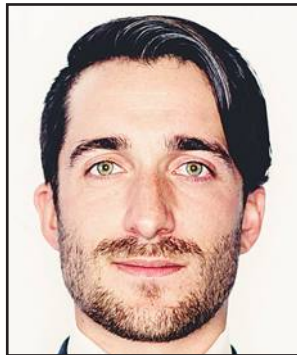
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Yesinia "Jesi" Baron



Gene Knight



Nick Nesta



Diane Velazquez

Four to run for City Council seat

By John Peery Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council special election for Seat 2 has drawn four candidates, one a former city commissioner, another who was a candidate two years ago, and two newcomers to Apopka political races.

All four filed their paperwork on Thursday, August 27, to run for the spot on the City Council that was created when Alice Nolan resigned on August 4 about four months past the midway point of her first term. Earlier this summer, Nolan announced that she is being treated for lung cancer.

In running for Seat 2, Diane Velazquez will be seeking her old seat back. She served from 2014-2018 in the slot before losing to Nolan. In 2018, Gene Knight was one of four candidates who ran for Seat 1 now held by Commissioner Alexander Smith.

Also qualifying to run for Seat 2 are Nick Nesta and Yesinia "Jesi" Baron. Both are new to Apopka political races.

The special election for Seat 2 will be on the November 3 general election ballot, which will also include the presidential election between Democrat Joe Biden and Presi-

dent Donald Trump, the Republican.

Each of the City Council candidates paid \$636 to qualify, which is based on the commissioner's salary of \$15,900.

Because the city election will follow the same parameters as the general election, voters will be able to cast their ballots in their usual precincts on November 3, but if one person does not get a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election will be held December 8 and that election will be held at the two city precincts, one at the Apopka Community Center/VFW and one at

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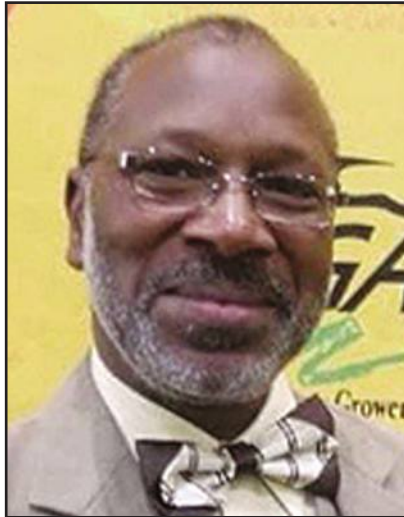
Retired teacher named to FFA Hall of Fame

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

In his four-decade career as an agriculture teacher before retiring, Apopka City Commissioner Alexander H. Smith constantly strove to help students understand that agriculture plays a role in everyday life outside of farming, specifically, "That agriculture is important and that it's a part of their lives each and every day, regardless of what resource they choose. It's life-long skills that they'll be able to use the rest of their life," he said in a telephone interview.

Smith will be one of three individuals to be inducted into the FFA Hall of Fame on September 21 at the Florida FFA Leadership Conference Center in Haines City. The other two inductees will be Lunie "L.O." Baldwin, and William Riley "W.R." Fewox.

Smith said he was "excited" and



Alexander Smith ... Hall of Famer

"a little surprised" at the news of his induction into the FFA Hall of Fame when the foundation's secretary called him.

During his 40-year career, Smith served as an agriculture teacher and

FFA adviser at five high schools and middle schools in Central Florida. He taught at Dr. Phillips High School for the last 29 years before retiring from Orange County Public Schools in 2016.

"The thing that I loved (about my career) was to see young people get inspired and get excited about agriculture when they learn that it wasn't what they really thought it was, and that they were willing and open to new experiences," he said.

The challenge of teaching agriculture lies in getting students to think outside the box regarding various career paths beyond farming such as agriculture lawyer, forest ranger, wildlife officer, and corporate jobs.

"I think the challenge is even more so now because in a lot of our neighborhoods, agriculture is not as visible as it used to be when individu-

See HALL Page 5A

Looking good



A little blue heron takes time to groom itself along the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. The free, one-way, 11-mile drive is open each Friday through Saturday and on most federal holidays. The gate, located at 2850 Lust Road, Apopka, opens at 7 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. All drivers must be off the wildlife drive by 5 p.m.

School board chair speaks to Chamber members online

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

Orange County Public Schools' accomplishments such as its nationally recognized academic programs and its obstacles such as dealing with positive cases that have popped up in schools was the topic of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce's most recent event.

The Chamber hosted Chair Teresa Jacobs of the Orange County School Board for its monthly Breakfast and Learn on Tuesday, September 1, on Zoom. For Breakfast and Learn, the Chamber invites local leaders to discuss various economic, political, and social issues impacting local communities.

Jacobs became the chair of the Orange County School Board in November 2018. She previously served two terms as Orange County

mayor and two terms as an Orange County commissioner. She and her husband, Bruce, have four children, all of whom attended OCPS and graduated from Olympia High School.

When the pandemic hit in March and students had to stay at home since spring break, they had to pivot to distance learning until the end of the 2019-2020 school year. After a summertime of reviewing how to improve its distance learning platform, OCPS launched its new instructional model LaunchED@Home in August, which enables students to follow the traditional bell schedule and for the teachers to deliver lessons at home, as they would in the classroom.

Now, 60 percent of more than 212,000 OCPS students are enrolled in LaunchED@Home. How-



Teresa Jacobs ... School board chair

ever, students "are not supposed to be glued to the computer for six hours a day," Jacobs said.

Baptiste Orthodontics, the sponsor of the Tuesday, September 1 Breakfast and Learn event, opened its third office in the region in fall 2018.

Over the last 10 years, Baptiste Orthodontics has been a partner in

education with over 40 schools of the 180 in OCPS including those in Apopka.

"For a skeptic, they would look at this and say that this is just an easy way to market to potential clients. That would be the case if we supported specific key schools," said Dr. Andre Baptiste, owner of Baptiste Orthodontics and Chamber member. "But as a team, we decided to support the schools not by the ZIP codes that we're in, but by the relationships that we build with each school."

Positive cases in OCPS

As of Monday, August 31, OCPS had a total of 164 teachers staff or students combined that received quarantine letters from the Florida Department of Health, Ja-

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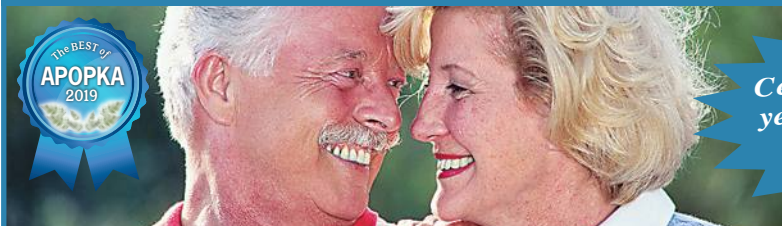
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Apopka Event of the Week

AFD and APD will hold a 9/11 service on Friday, September 11, at 8:30 a.m. on the front steps of City Hall, 120 E. Main Street. During the 30-minute service, the flag will be lowered to half-staff in remembrance of the terrorist attacks in 2001. The event will be live-streamed on the city's YouTube channel.

Quotable

However, the latest projections from the state call for Apopka to receive about \$1.3 million more than the previous projection for the 2020-2021 fiscal year that begins October 1.

*The Apopka Chief on the upcoming budget for Apopka*

Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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Our position

City is cautious about the upcoming fiscal budget

It's number-crunching time for the financial folks at the city of Apopka as the City Council will have a pair of budget votes over the next two weeks.

In a normal year, balancing all the needs and wants of the various city departments with the revenues the city receives is a tough chore, but in 2020, the job becomes nearly impossible as no one can predict with anything close to certainty what the future holds, especially when it comes to the economy.

Of course, here in Orange County, our economy is closely tied to the tourism industry, meaning that many people are suffering from loss of their jobs and are likely having trouble just putting food on the table.

For the Apopka city government, there are plenty of questions from a budgetary standpoint.

Two of the biggest revenue sources for the city budget come from sales tax paid to the state and then returned to local governments. The half-cent sales tax fund is the larger of those two revenue sources, while the state revenue-sharing program is about one-third of that amount. What each local government receives from the state is based on a formula that only state economists understand.

It's those two funds that have caused the most havoc for Apopka City Administrator Edward Bass. However, the latest projections from the state call for Apopka to receive about \$1.3 million more than the previous projection for the 2020-2021 fiscal year that begins October 1.

Bass and Mayor Bryan Nelson, however, aren't fully convinced that the state's normally reliable projections will be on-point for the next fiscal year. The iffy-ness of the state's economy that is so dependent upon tourism gives anyone pause when thinking about sales tax revenue that the state will receive and then dole out to cities

and counties across Florida.

We certainly hope that the state's economists are either right on the mark with their estimations or even a little low, meaning more money to cities and counties across the state.

We also hope that they're remaining apolitical when it comes to their economic forecasts. In changing their forecasts from July to August, the state revenue economists took a giant leap reducing their forecasts from 27-percent fewer dollars to a reduction of a little under 15 percent.

That's a pretty big jump in just a month when there is little economic improvement to suggest that the new numbers are accurate. We're hopeful that the forecasters aren't listening to members of the Florida Legislature, who might be telling them to keep the forecasts as high as possible. It would not be a good look for members of the legislature if they have to come back for a special session to look at the budget numbers again in either September or October, just prior to the November 3 general election.

We certainly hope that wouldn't be the case, but politics being politics, we wouldn't be surprised if the legislature were whispering in the ears of the state's economists to make sure that they create revenue forecasts that will make the state legislature and the governor look like they know what they are talking about when it comes to funding the state budget as well as those of local governments.

Apopka's leaders are being cautious about the upcoming fiscal year's budget and rightly so as they navigate the financial waters that are not calm at all this year.

Hopefully, the projected funds will actually show up so that all the city's budget needs are met from paying its employees a good wage to keep our streets paved and our police department funded.



Driving tours are being created

In this environment knowing senior adults and families are suffering from isolation, lost activities, and even fear of attending church, I wanted to create meaningful activities. Thus, the idea of *Driving Tours* was born.

My staff and I created a driving tour for Lockhart the first two weeks of the COVID-19 when everything was shut down. This past three weeks we have been creating four more: Eastern Apopka, North-western Orange County, Southern Apopka and Central Apopka. Very few know a district as thoroughly as an elected official. After walking to homes after multiple elections, building eighteen schools, and now hearing numerous development cases, I have learned a thing or two about cool places throughout District 2. I want to be the cham-

County Commissioner  
District 2



Christine Moore

about the historical marker *Piedmont Community*, erected by the wonderful volunteers at the Museum of the Apokans.

It is a valuable companion to the several exhibits which portray the lifestyle and artifacts of these early pioneers in the museum.

Do you know where this marker is located? It is in the parking lot of the Super Walmart at Piedmont Wekiwa Road and US 441. It is in the northwestern corner closest to the Sam's Club which is across the street.

As I mentioned earlier, one of my goals of the *Driving Tours* is to boast about all the great places in northwestern Orange County. So when I visited the marker area the other day, I quickly recognized the surroundings

pion or cheerleader for this part of Orange County. I also believe it is good to show our best side to prospective investors, entrepreneurs, and new businesses.

We put together 90-minute tours and corresponding activities which could potentially fill up an entire day. We are blessed with so many top-rated county parks, environmental treasures, historic homes and markers, and new and exciting development.

My funniest story, is

See MOORE Page 6A

A crazy time needs our patience

Another week of our blended learning model has gone by in this most unusual school year. We are continuing to work out issues as they arise.

It most certainly is not perfect, but I do believe everyone is doing the very best they can in these unusual circumstances.

As many of you know, we have had positive cases reported in our Apopka schools. This was of course expected as we have spread

Orange County School  
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

in the community.

When a positive case is reported to the school either by a staff member or

a student's family, the administration has a very detailed procedure they must follow for each case. The important thing to know is that we are working with the Orange County Department of Health for all contact tracing.

Therefore, the school contacts the DOH and gives them the information surrounding the case. The DOH handles it from there

See BYRD Page 6A

This Week In God's Word

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments. For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee." Proverbs 3:1 and 2.

Mema Says

We don't have to agree on anything to be kind to one another.

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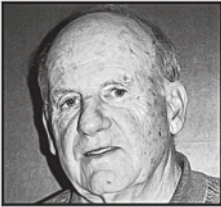


Trump's accomplishments make Biden's campaign act of treason

SEPTEMBER 4 – My research assistant (wife Marilyn) came up with a White House release listing President Trump's administration accomplishments as of September 2018, which totaled 50.

There have been many more since then, but I'll start with these 50 from September 2018, that make most previous presidents look like a White House butler.

Corbeil's Corner



Richard Corbeil

1. Almost 4 million jobs created since election from these 50.

2. More Americans are now employed than ever recorded before in our history.

3. We have created more than 400,000 manufacturing jobs since his election.

4. Manufacturing jobs growing at the fastest rate in more than three decades.

5. Economic growth last quarter hit 4.2 percent.

6. New unemployment claims recently hit a 49-

year low.

7. Median household income has hit highest level ever recorded.

8. African-American unemployment recently achieved the lowest rate ever recorded.

9. Hispanic-American unemployment is at lowest rate ever recorded.

10. Asian-American unemployment recently achieved the lowest rate ever recorded.

11. Women's unemployment recently reached the lowest rate in 65 years.

12. Youth unemployment has recently hit the lowest rate in nearly half a century.

13. Lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for Americans without a high school diploma.

14. Under his administration, veterans' unemployment recently reached its lowest rate in nearly 20

years.

15. Almost 3.9 million Americans have been lifted off food stamps since the election.

16. The pledge of American workers had resulted in employers committing to train more than 4 million Americans.

We are committed to vocational education.

17. 95 percent of U.S.

See CORBEIL Page 6A



# School: No OCPS schools have been closed due to COVID-19 issues

*Continued from page 1A*

cobs said. That means it was suspected they've come in contact with somebody on a school campus that tested positive for COVID-19. Therefore, the FDOH asked that the individuals are quarantined for 14 days.

In Apopka, the confirmed COVID-19 cases were in Apopka Memorial Middle School, Lakeview Middle School, Piedmont Lakes Middle School, Clay Springs Elementary School, and Rock Springs Elementary School.

All such cases were community-based incidents and not school-based transmissions.

"One hundred-sixty four might sound like a lot, but I do want to remind everybody that when we look at the number of students that are in our schools – not the total number of students, but the ones that are actually in classrooms right now, it's over 57,000 stu-

dents," Jacobs said. "One hundred-sixty four out of 57,000 is an incredibly low rate, but we are only into the first week-and-a-half of school, so I think we all need to be realistic. In Orange County Public Schools, we know COVID is present in our community and we know it's going to be present in our schools. The goal that we have is to make sure that we contain it as quickly as we can. We do that through quarantines."

Jacobs said the existence of all of OCPS' positive cases were communicated to all parents on the day the district was aware of it. If the case involves a student or a teacher that a family's student has come in contact with, the Department of Health will do the notifying so families can take protective measures usually consisting of the two-week quarantine, Jacobs said.

When the district resumed face-to-face instruction on Friday, August 21,

four Apopka-area schools were among the 19 Orange County Public Schools that had confirmed cases of COVID-19.

At that time, OCPS officials said there were 21 confirmed cases across the county out of the approximately 70,000 students who showed up for in-class instruction.

Piedmont Lakes Middle School and Rock Springs Elementary School each had a student who tested positive for COVID-19, while Lakeville Elementary and Clay Springs Elementary each had an employee who tested positive.

Jacobs addressed what would prompt OCPS to close a school or close a classroom, as was seen in Osceola County.

"That really is a question we work with Dr. (Raul) Pino of the Department of Health (in Orange County) to determine when we have a spread and at what level does that spread rise to the level of closing

the classroom and closing the school, so I can't answer it definitively," Jacobs said. "I just can tell you that it is something that we will work very diligently with the state to make that decision."

## Fall sports

Based on a recommendation from the Florida High School Athletic Association, OCPS is moving forward with fall sports. Practice for high school athletics began on Monday, August 31, competitions will begin as early as Monday, September 14, for most sports and varsity football will return on Thursday, September 17.

Under OCPS Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins's direction however, cheer, dance, band, and other non-athletic groups cannot attend games because of stadiums' limited space capacity of 312 people, which is 25 percent of the smallest stadiums in the county.

To make up for that, Jacobs said the district recommended that individual high schools host a pep rally before a sporting event for music, cheer, and dance groups with the same number of attendees in the stadium. The event could be live streamed and then aired on game day for students to watch.

Another concern is athletes in contact sports possibly contracting the coronavirus during games, especially football, then transferring the virus to other people in schools. With many parents' approval, football players can either do LaunchED@Home or LaunchED at school, isolating themselves in one area of the campus during instructional time for the season.

## OCPS achievements

Jacobs discussed some of the achievements OCPS has received in 2019-2020, such as being recognized as one of the nation's best

communities for music education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation and 10 of the 44 magnet programs being nationally recognized by the Magnet Schools of America.

Last year, 126 high school seniors were honored as Super Scholars by the U.S. News and World Reports' top 20 ranked universities, liberal arts colleges, and military academies.

The district's graduation rate has continued to increase over the last two decades, reaching 95.9 percent in 2018-2019 among its 20 traditional high schools. That's compared to the numbers that U.S. News and World Report reports, which is that both the national average graduation rate and Florida's are 88 percent. At the turn of the 21st century, OCPS' graduate rate was under 50 percent.

# Council: Deadline to register for general election is Oct. 5

*Continued from page 1A*

the Northwest Recreation Complex.

Early voting for the special election and general election will be held from October 19 through November 1 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day. In Apopka,

the early-voting site will be the Apopka Community Center/VFW, 519 S. Central Avenue.

There will be nearly 20 other sites for early voting across Orange County, including Amway Arena.

If there is a runoff in the Seat 2 race, the only

early-voting site will be at the Orange County supervisor of elections office at 119 W. Kaley St., Orlando.

The winner of the election will take office at the first City Council meeting following certification of the election results. That could mean at the Novem-

ber 18 City Council meeting if a winner emerges from the November 3 general election or December 16 if a runoff election is held on December 8.

The final date to register for the city election and general election will be October 5 at 5 p.m. All

vote-by-mail ballot requests should be directed to the Orange County supervisor of elections office. The telephone number for the office is 407-836-2070. The website is [www.ocf-elections.com](http://www.ocf-elections.com).

The term for Seat 2 will end on April 26, 2022.

# 9/11 service scheduled

The city of Apopka's fire and police departments will host a 9/11 memorial service on Friday, September 11, at 8:30 a.m. on the front steps of City Hall, 120 E. Main Street.

During the 30-min-

ute service, the flag will be lowered to half-staff in remembrance of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon. The event will be live streamed on the city's YouTube channel.



**The Way I See It**  
**Patti Bankson**

## IT'S ONLY MAKE-BELIEVE

Portland riots. August 25, day 90: President Trump tweeted renewed calls to have Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Portland Mayor Wheeler call in the state's National Guard "... like should have been done 3 months ago..." "They must stop calling these anarchists and agitators 'peaceful protesters'. Come back into the real world! The Federal Government is ready to end this problem immediately upon your request."

Wheeler responded by letter to the president's offer of aid: "Dear President Trump: Yet again, you said you offered to aid Portland by sending in federal law enforcement to our city. On behalf of the City of Portland: No thanks. We don't need your politics of division and demagoguery. Portlanders are onto you. We have already seen your reckless disregard for human life in your bumbling response to the COVID pandemic. And we know you've reached the conclusion that images of violence or vandalism are your only ticket to reelection. There is no place for looting, arson, or vandalism in our city. There is no room here for racist violence or those who wish to bring their ideology of hate into our community. Those who commit criminal acts will be apprehended and prosecuted under the law. Tens of thousands of Portlanders have peacefully protested and marched for the noble cause of fixing our broken criminal justice system. They are part of the proud progressive tradition of Portlanders fighting for justice – from racial justice to economic justice to environmental justice. When you sent the Feds to Portland last month, you made the situation far worse. Your offer to repeat that disaster is a

cynical attempt to stoke fear and distract us from the real work of our city. In Portland, we are focused on coming together as a community to solve the serious challenges we face due to systemic racism, a global pandemic and an economic recession. Stay away, please." The letter was signed, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland. Gov. Brown's Twitter response was to call Trump's plea "political theater" suggesting Oregon has other more important matters to focus on. (More important than your city being destroyed?) Wednesday, August 27, day 92: KOMO News reported that Portland's FBI Chief was shifting the agency's resources to focus more heavily on the nightly protests in that city. Demonstrators have repeatedly vandalized police buildings, police union buildings, city and county offices and federal buildings ... setting fires, spraying graffiti and smashing windows and security cameras. (Lawenforcementtoday.com)

Thursday, August 28, day 93: Journalist Andy Ngo who's been covering the riots for three months, reported that for the first time, there was no rioting Thursday night, speculating the reports that the FBI has begun actively investigating the BLM and Antifa extremists responsible for the riots may be behind the "cease-fire."

Friday, August 29, Day 94: Trump supporter, Jay Bishop, was shot in the chest and died.

Candidate Joe Biden has defended "peaceful protesters," saying justice must be done. He did call violence unacceptable ... after Jay Bishop's death. Regardless, the left condones the violence and destruction by their silence.

The president continues to be blamed for everything from the virus to the hurricanes to the riots, while the left continues to pretend their hands are clean. Obviously, they don't know that pretending doesn't make it so.

Comments Welcome  
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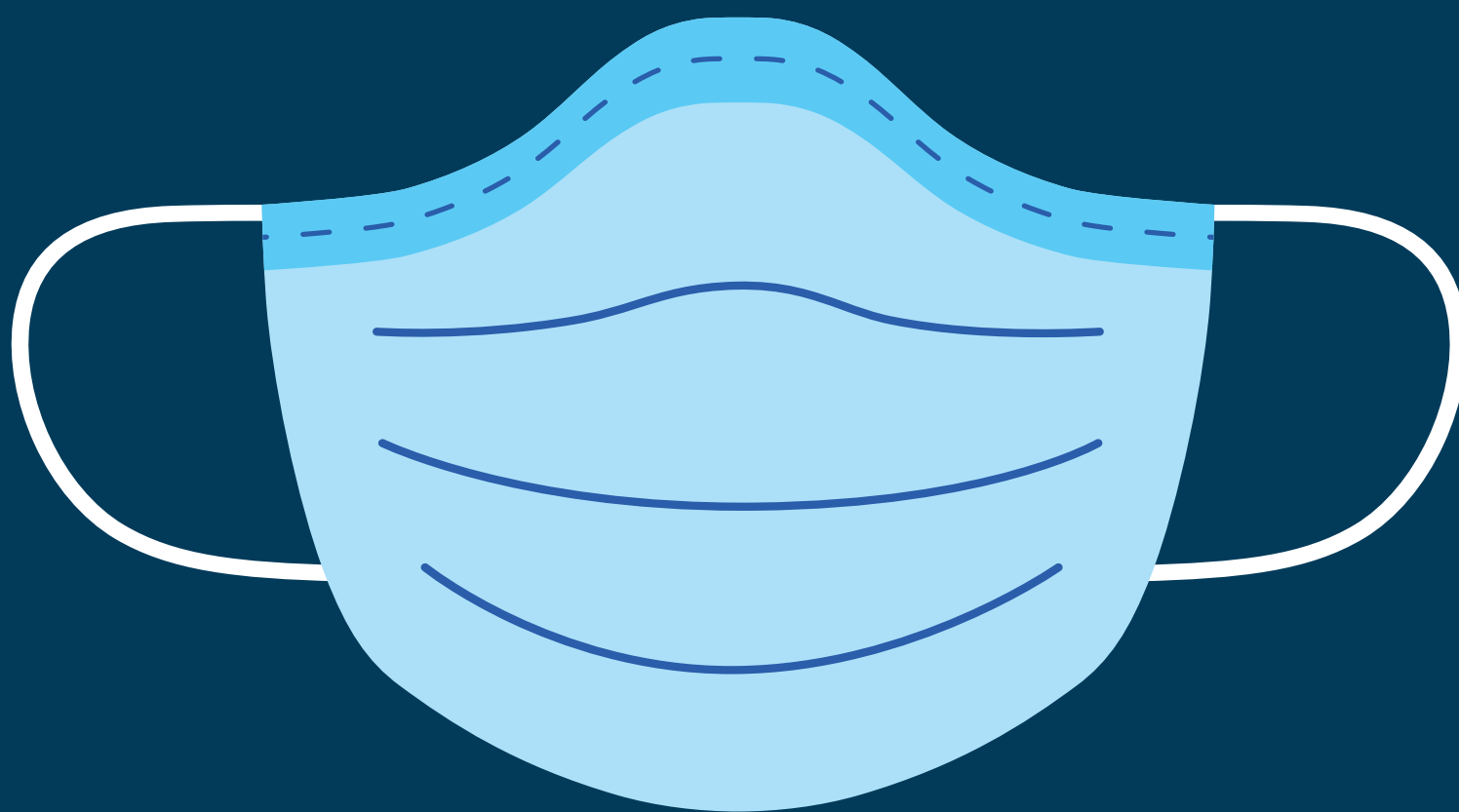
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# Hall: Smith served as Orange County FFA president for 21 years

Continued from page 1A

als had home gardens, community gardens, and things of that nature,” he said. “So, a lot of the young people don’t really understand the significance of agriculture. When they think of it, they think of large farms and animals and not all the different careers that go with agriculture.”

Born on June 28, 1955, in Thomasville, Ga., as the oldest of five children, Alexander H. Smith moved to Florida in 1965 and graduated from Apopka High School in 1973. He received a bachelor’s degree in agricultural education, with a minor in horticultural sciences, from Florida A&M University.

Smith attended 37 National FFA Conventions over his career, bringing students with him each year and many times sponsoring them himself. He supported FFA members by purchasing livestock animals at the local fair, a practice he continues to this day.

For 21 years, he served as president of the Orange County Association of Agricultural Educators. He is a past president of the Florida Association of Agricultural Educators and of the Florida FFA Board of Directors.

“Alexander’s positive influence and impact stretched beyond his own students in Orange County,” the news release from the Florida FFA Founda-

tion states. “He supported the FFA at the state and national levels in many ways. Alexander took his students to what became the location of the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center to clear a path to the site and for the initial cabins. He sponsors the State FFA Floriculture Career Development Event award. At the national level, Alexander has been instrumental in recruiting minorities into agricultural education by involving himself and his students in national publications and videos.”

He’s a graduate of the first class of the Agriculture Education Leadership Program, sponsored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Con-

sumer Services.

In 2018, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Association of Agricultural Educators.

In 2018, he was elected to the Apopka City Council. He’s a graduate of Apopka’s Citizens Police

Academy and the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership program, and currently serves on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce.

Coming full circle in his educational journey,

Smith launched agriculture scholarships at Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando and at his alma mater, Apopka High School.

Smith and his wife Linda live in Apopka and have five children, 12 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



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## Meet the Doctor, from the comfort of home!

**\* Time of meetings: 4pm - 6pm \***

- Apopka Office: Wednesday, September 9, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 916 1579 5081 > Passcode: RTv656
- Leesburg Office: Thursday, September 10, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 938 4517 0255 > Passcode: 480889
- Eustis Office: Monday, September 14, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 938 3920 5460 > Passcode: 026274
- Lady Lake Office: Wednesday, September 16, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 996 0367 0379 > Passcode: 332675
- Kissimmee Office: Thursday, September 17, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 920 7684 6085 > Passcode: 245602
- Clermont Office: Friday, September 18, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 919 6182 6923 > Passcode: 102090
- Mt. Dora Office: Wednesday, September 23, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 951 6138 4523 > Passcode: 610895
- Holiday Office: Thursday, September 24, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 912 4217 0932 > Passcode: 462840
- Orlando Office: Wednesday October 7, 2020**  
Meeting ID: 973 3213 2125 > Passcode: 515162



Please join us for a series of **Virtual Open Houses** from our **9 Aegis Medical Group Offices.** For your participation, we will be giving out a **\$10 Publix gift card** to anyone who attends the open house and completes the survey on the **ZOOM chat.**

**https://zoom.us/ > Join A Meeting > Enter Meeting ID > Enter Passcode**

If you have any issues logging on, please contact:  
**Nina: 352-901-7954**



# Moore: There are four Apopka area tours that have been planned

Continued from page 2A

needed some attention. I determined the next time I shopped at Walmart I would talk to the manager. Well, he walked out to the area with me to see the marker. He never knew one existed on the property. He has worked there for thirteen years. He was thrilled to

know about the marker and is now more than willing to step up maintenance around the walkway, bench and marker. He was just glad I care about Walmart and the surroundings. My second interesting story is I needed more information about Sadie Trimble. She is the wealthy benefactor of Trimble Park in the Mt. Dora portion of

Orange County. I found little on Sadie. Well, I was meeting Sonny Connor for breakfast on another issue up in Tangerine, and happened to ask him if he could help me on finding information about Sadie Trimble. And guess what? He is Sadie's grandson and his memory is impeccable. More about her later,

but suffice it to say, I have lots of fun ideas for the 100th anniversary of Trimble Park. The four Apopka-area tours are called: Eastern (Piedmont, Wekiwa Springs, Rock Springs); Northwestern (Plymouth, Zellwood, Tangerine), Southern (Lakeville, Clarcona, Paradise Heights); Central (South Apopka

and Downtown). Stops include county, state and city parks, historical markers, special older homes, history murals, antique educational facility, city hall, museum, church, funeral home, cemetery, and much more. I'm working on sharing these tours – displaying a few hard copies in the North Orange Library

and Canon Coffee, digital versions at www.ocfl.net/District2 and photos of the brochure pages on FB: Orange County District 2 Commissioner; and Ah-apopka. It has been a fair amount of work. I wanted to bring a bit of happiness and learning through local history to my constituents during these difficult days.

# Byrd: You are always encouraged to reach out to your principals

Continued from page 2A

and questions the school. They determine who needs to quarantine and test. The DOH is currently using the CDC guidelines that indicate that persons

within six feet for more than 15 minutes indicates significant enough exposure to warrant testing. So, if a positive case is in a classroom but no one was within close contact with that person for an extended time period, they will

not be contacted for testing and quarantine. So, a positive case does not necessarily mean an entire class will be sent home. As with everything surrounding this virus, this could change at any time. As the CDC learns more about this virus, the guidelines change and so do ours. It's frustrating, but it is the situation when dealing with a new virus. On the positive side, I am hearing great things from parents and teachers that procedures are working well in most cases. I've had a few issues shared with me where cleaning needed to be increased and it was handled quickly. I always encourage you to reach out to your principals if issues need to be addressed first. Then, I welcome you to reach out to me so we can help get

problems solved if needed. Managing just our 30 percent of students who have returned to face-to-face learning within the confines of safety from the virus is challenging for everyone involved. Our schools are working so hard to do everything right in an effort to prevent spread in the schools. I still encourage everyone to be patient as everyone navigates this crazy time. In the past couple weeks, the superintendent made decisions surrounding fall sports that some parents are not happy about. I understand the frustration that some sports like freshman and JV football have been delayed. I understand the disappointment that spirit activities like cheer, band, and dance won't be participat-

ing in varsity games at this point. I know it is difficult to understand these decisions, but I do want people to understand that managing the safety of our students and staff is very challenging to manage district wide and the superintendent has real concerns with starting a contact sport like football. Her concern is that if a large number of students are at the games, it greatly increases the pool of students that would need to be involved in contact tracing and it could very easily shut down a high school. That is what she is trying to avoid by limiting attendance at these games. With that being said, she has said that if the games go well in the beginning, they will look at expanding the participation by other groups. The schools have been

working closely with the district to figure out other ways for the other groups like band and cheer to participate in spirit activities for the schools like pre-recorded pep rallies, etc. Again, none of this is ideal or normal. I know this. We all know this. Everyone is affected. Even groups that my daughter is involved in are affected like drama and debate. All debate tournaments are going to be online this year which is not ideal for delivering speeches or debating. As we continue to move through this, please remember that. We are all affected and doing the best we can to get through this so remain patient and most of all, help your children to understand this is not forever. This is just what we have to do for now.

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TEXT AMENDMENT TO POLICY 3.1.i, APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Sec. 163.3187 and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B) that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Element, Policy 3.1.i to amend the Commercial Future Land Use Designation to allow a nursing home, assisted living facility and independent care facility uses to have a maximum floor area ratio of 2.0 where located at a Planned Development Zoning Category.

ORDINANCE NO. 2770  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, BY AMENDING POLICY 3.1.i OF THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that a public hearing for the adoption of the proposed amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity 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, September 16, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Future Land Use 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, via email at cityclerk@apopka.net or by U.S. Mail to City of Apopka, Attn: City Clerk's Office, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, FL 32703, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council  
September 4, 2020  
Publish: The Apopka Chief 167087

# Corbeil: Republicans want strong borders

Continued from page 2A

manufacturers are optimistic about the future – the highest ever. 18. Retail sales surged last month, up another 6 percent over last year. 19. Signed the biggest package of tax cuts and reforms in history. After tax cuts, more than \$300 billion poured back into the U.S. in the first quarter alone. 20. As a result of our tax bill, small businesses will have the lowest top marginal tax rate in more than 50 years. 21. Helped win U.S. bid for 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. 22. Helped win U.S.-Mexico-Canada united bid for 2026 World Cup. 23. Opened ANWR and approved Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines. 24. Record number of regulations eliminated. 25. Enacted regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions, 26. Obamacare individual mandate penalty GONE. 27. His administration is providing more af-

fordable healthcare options for Americans through association health plans and short-term duration plans. 28. Last month, the FDA approved more affordable generic drugs than ever before in history. And, thanks to our efforts, many drug companies are freezing or reversing planned price increases. 29. He reformed the Medicare program to stop hospitals from overcharging low-income seniors on their drugs, saving seniors hundreds of millions of dollars this year alone. 30. Secured \$6 billion in NEW funds to fight the opioid epidemic. 31. Reduced high-dose opioid prescriptions by 16 percent during his first year in office. 32. Signed VA Choice Act and VA Accountability Act, expanded VA telehealth services, walk-in clinics, and same day urgent primary and mental health care. 33. Increased our coal exports by 60 percent; U.S. oil production recently reached all-time high. 34. U.S. is a net natural gas exporter for the first

time since 1957. 35. Withdrew the U.S. from the job-killing Paris Climate Accord. 36. Cancelled the illegal, anti-coal, so-called Clean Power Plan. 37. Secured record \$700 billion in military funding: \$717 billion next year. 38. NATO allies are spending \$69 billion more on defense since 2016. 39. Process has begun to make the Space Force the sixth branch of the Armed Services. 40. Confirmed more court judges than any other new administration. 41. Confirmed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh. 42. Withdrew from the horrible, one-sided Iran Deal. 43. Moved U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. 44. Protecting Americans from terrorists with the travel ban, upheld by Supreme Court. 45. Issued executive order to keep open Guantanamo Bay. 46. Concluded a historic U.S.-Mexico Trade Deal to replace NAFTA.

And, began negotiations with Canada. 47. Reached a breakthrough agreement with E.U. to increase U.S. exports. 48. Imposed tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum to protect our national security. 49. Imposed tariffs on China in response to China's forced technology transfer, intellectual property theft, and their chronically abusive trade practices. 50. Net exports are on track to increase by \$59 billion this year. We have BE-GUN BUILDING THE WALL. Republicans want STRONG BORDERS and NO CRIME. Democrats want OPEN BORDERS which equals MASSIVE CRIME. "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged." Proverbs 28:1 and 2.

## 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**  
Val Demings (Dist. 10).....321-388-9808  
**State Representatives**  
Jennifer Sullivan (Dist. 31) ....352-742-6275  
Kamia Brown (Dist. 45) .....850-717-5045  
**State Senators**  
Randolph Bracy (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



# Voting still ongoing in Best of Apopka awards

Voting continues for the annual Best of Apopka Readers' Choice Awards.

Sponsored by *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter*, the 2020 Best of Apopka Readers' Choice Awards honors the achievements of businesses, entrepreneurs, and individuals in the Apopka area.

"We know this is an incredibly challenging time right now for businesses, service organizations, and for families," said Jackie Trefcer, marketing director for the newspapers. "This year, the Best of Apopka Readers' Choice Awards are a way for the greater Apopka community to give a formal thank-you and encouragement to the places frequented regularly. These are the businesses and the people that have made the Apopka area a place that we can be proud to call home."

Trefcer said the annual vote is a tradition where the newspapers hope to find and honor the best of the city.

"As Apopka continues to grow and change, the Best of Apopka has become even more exciting, with new places opening and old favorites being revisited. We ask people to choose this year's Best of Apopka winners by voting for your favorites throughout as many categories as possible.

"This is a roadmap to the finest and top-notch businesses chosen by voters, the residents, and patrons who rely on them. Winning an award like this raises a business profile and ultimately can grow business by promoting their win. The results each year clearly shows that many area businesses are doing the right thing by their customers and clients."

Publisher John Ricketson said nothing has changed for the program that is now a decade old.

"After 10 years, our mission for the Best of Apopka is no different. We still strive to unveil what's up-and-coming, give credit where it's due to those who deserve recognition and provide useful information to our loyal readers," he said.

Last year, more than 75,000 votes came through the voting system.

"This year promises to be more exciting as more readers and local businesses participate. Many have invested a lot of time, money, and many hours to set the highest standards to achieve the greatest goals for their businesses. In return, they've become an inspiration to our community, but most importantly, they have earned the respect and trust of their patrons," Ricketson said.

Every year in August and September, the voting process is opened for the Best of Apopka Readers' Choice Awards. During this five-and-a-half-week window, everyone can vote for whatever local store, restaurant, business, or person he or she feels should hold a Best of Apopka title.

People are allowed one ballot per email address and can vote for as many businesses as they want. A minimum of 10 votes must be placed per ballot to be validated. Voting can be done at [www.theapokkachief.com](http://www.theapokkachief.com).

Once the voting period ends, results are added up and the top three businesses in each category will be notified. The winners will be announced in the 2020 Best of Apopka Reader's Choice Awards publication that is scheduled to be published October 23 in *The Apopka Chief*, and October 29 in *The Planter*.

To help businesses promote their participation in this annual event, there are promotional and marketing tools available to use or download at [www.theapokkachief.com](http://www.theapokkachief.com).

The deadline for online voting is Wednesday, September 16, at noon.

For more information, call *The Apopka Chief* at 407-886-2777.

**STAY CURRENT WITH APOPKA**  
*Subscribe, Renew or Pay Online Today At*  
**TheApopkaChief.com**

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by the City of Apopka, Florida, that the City Council will hold a public hearing at **Apopka City Hall, Council Chambers, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida**, at the **City Council** meeting of **Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider the adoption of the following ordinance:

### ORDINANCE NO. 2790

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SOUTH APOPKA AREA 11/2018 MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT ON LAND RECENTLY ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Interested parties may appear at this meeting and be heard with to the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance is available for inspection in the City Clerk's Office located at 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, FL 32703.

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, via email at [cityclerk@apopka.net](mailto:cityclerk@apopka.net) or by U.S. Mail to City of Apopka, Attn: City Clerk's Office, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, FL 32703, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council

September 4, 2020

Publish: The Apopka Chief

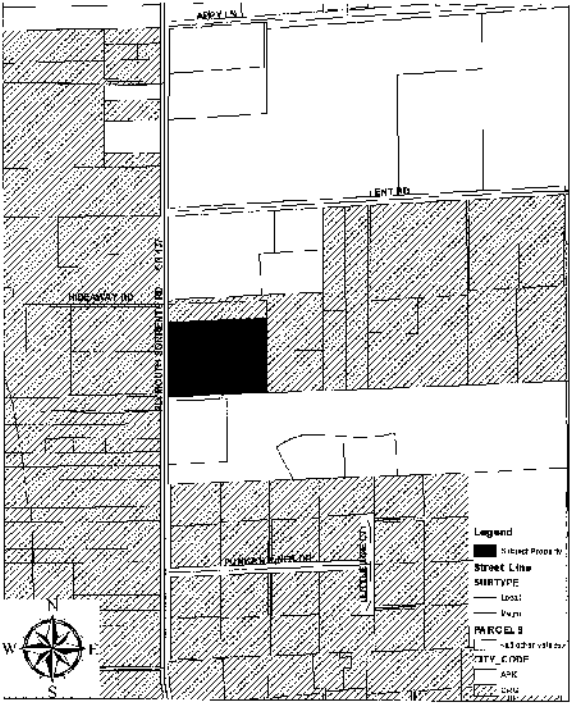
167042

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the property owner(s) noted below and shown in the attached vicinity map have made application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, to the City of Apopka City Council, for ANNEXATION of the property shown in the following map:

### ORDINANCE NO. 2789

**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 CHS MANAGEMENT CORP; LOCATED SOUTH OF LENT ROAD AND EAST OF PLYMOUTH SORRENTO ROAD; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



(THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO SCALE)

Parcel I.D. Number: 19-20-28-0000-00-016  
Contains: 8.85 +/- acres

The proposed annexation, as indicated in the map of this advertisement, may be inspected by the public in the City of Apopka Community Development Department, and/or the office of the City Clerk, at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida (Apopka City Hall).

NOTICE is hereby given that the public hearings to consider the future adoption of **Ordinance Number 2789** 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 East Main Street, on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 beginning at 7:00 P.M. and on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 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. 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

August 28, 2020  
September 4, 2020

Publish: The Apopka Chief

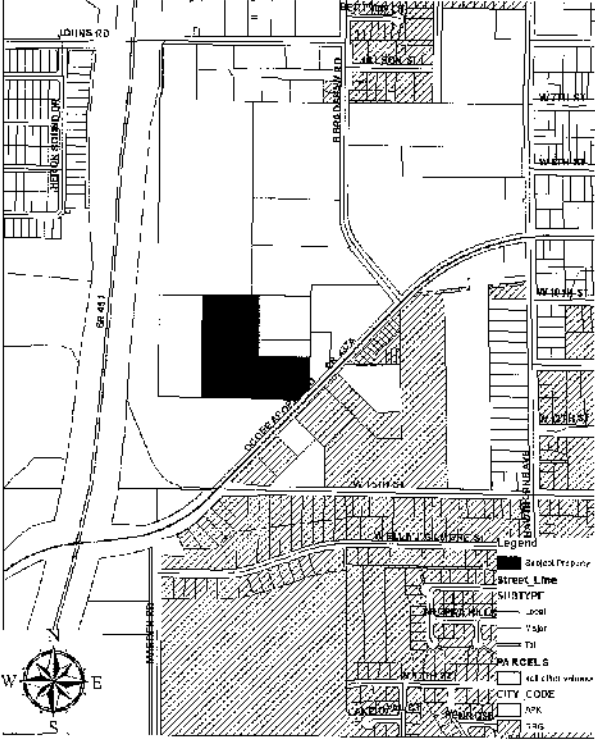
167004

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the property owner(s) noted below and shown in the attached vicinity map have made application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, to the City of Apopka City Council, for ANNEXATION of the property shown in the following map:

### ORDINANCE NO. 2788

**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 JOSEPH L SANDRONI ESTATE; LOCATED NORTH OF OCOEE APOPKA ROAD AND WEST OF S. BRADSHAW ROAD; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



(THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO SCALE)

Parcel I.D. Number: 16-21-28-0000-00-238  
Contains: 8.76 +/- acres

The proposed annexation, as indicated in the map of this advertisement, may be inspected by the public in the City of Apopka Community Development Department, and/or the office of the City Clerk, at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida (Apopka City Hall).

NOTICE is hereby given that the public hearings to consider the future adoption of **Ordinance Number 2788** 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 East Main Street, on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 beginning at 7:00 P.M. and on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 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. 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

August 28, 2020  
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## Historical society to give presentation, open museum

Members of board of directors of the Apopka Historical Society will give a presentation about Apopka's war heroes to the Apopka City Council at the council's meeting on Wednesday, September 9, and then will re-open the Museum of the Apopkans to the public on Thursday, September 10.

The war heroes' presentation will

be a part of the 1:30 p.m. City Council meeting on Wednesday, September 9, while the reopening of the museum at 122 E. Fifth St., Apopka, will take place at noon on Thursday, September 10.

The museum will reopen under the leadership of historical society Vice President Maribel Brinkle. The hours will be from noon to 4 p.m.

each Wednesday and Thursday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Masks will be mandatory and social distancing will be enforced.

Volunteers are needed to help the historical society in preserving the history of the Apopka area. Those wishing to help may email [museum@usa.com](mailto:museum@usa.com) or submit a contact form at [www.apokkamuseum.com](http://www.apokkamuseum.com).

## Apopka Farmers Market will open back up on Oct. 1

Apopka Farmers Market, suspended earlier because of COVID-19, has now been set to reopen on October 1 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

When it opens, CDC coronavirus

guidelines will be in place – social distancing, face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. Visitors must wear face masks.

Located in Kit Land Nelson

Park, a five-acre facility located off of Park Avenue between First Street and Orange Street, the farmers market may have some pumpkins to talk about.

## News: City is still down about \$1.8 million

*Continued from page 1A*

be monitoring them closely just like we're doing now," Bass said.

Mayor Nelson said the projections for Apopka are based on sales tax revenue that is closely tied to the tourism industry in Orange County and because the industry has not rebounded from being closed due to COVID-19, the state's revenue projects could be a bit high.

"We're nervous because over 50 percent of our sales tax revenue comes from tourists. We're nervous because in order to meet those projections, it's (tourism tax revenue) got to come back to almost within pre-COVID numbers to get to those projections," Nelson said.

The state projections call for 16.5 percent fewer dollars from the half-cent sales tax fund for the 2020-2021 fiscal year vs. 2019-2020, and 11.4 percent less money from the state revenue sharing from the current fiscal year when compared to the next fiscal year.

"If you're 100 percent

(normal in local sales tax) and the tourists are only down 50 percent, you're still at a 25-percent reduction (overall in sales tax revenue)," Nelson said, explaining that tourism accounts for 51 percent of sales tax revenue in Orange County.

The mayor said the state economists are expecting the economy to rebound in a big way from April 2021 through September 2021.

"They say the third and fourth quarter are when it's going to go like this (hand pointing up), but if you're so far down, you can't make it up," he said. "You can't get to 120 percent hotel occupancy to get to where you need to be to make those numbers work. I hope I'm wrong."

Even if the state's projections are correct, Apopka will still receive a lot fewer dollars from the state as compared to the past years.

"There is still a \$1.8-million hit here. Usually, there's an increase of about \$800,000 or \$900,000 but we're going

the other way," Bass said.

### Effects to budget

The City Council will vote on Wednesday, September 9, to give tentative approval to the budget and will finalize that with another vote on September 16.

Bass said he would use the state's revenue projections in the budget he presents to the City Council, but will also let them know that, more than usual, the projections could be off-base.

"This is what they give you as a projection for what they're going to give you for the year," Bass said about the revenue projections. "I'm not an economist. I can't project that any better than they can, so everybody uses this. I've always used the estimate that they give us because they're the experts in this area."

"I'm going to use those numbers and monitor those numbers."

How the city uses the additional revenue will be decided by the City Council, although Bass said staff will make recommendations.

"What we're putting together now for next week (Sept. 9 budget meeting), we talked about putting some money back into it for (raises for) the employees and we're looking at the millage rate to see what we can do with that with this additional (funds), and

we had talked about using some reserves," Bass said. "We're still putting together a whole package of that and how we're going to lay that out. This will help make up some of that."

"We're putting it all together because the council had some concerns, too, when it comes to employees' wages, so we're looking at everything. I'm looking at reserves. I'm looking at the wages. I'm looking at the millage to see if we can work with the millage rate or whatever. We're looking at all the pieces so maybe we can do something for each piece."

Mayor Nelson echoed Bass' statement.

"You've got the millage rate that will be discussed. Employee raises will be discussed and reserves. That's really the three areas. They (City Council) could change anything they wanted to change, but that's the three big buckets we've got to get from one bucket and put it in another bucket," the mayor said.

The City Council's September 9 budget meeting will begin at 5:15 p.m., while the September 16 budget meeting will start at 6 p.m.

Regular City Council meetings that will not deal with the budget will be held on September 9 at 1:30 p.m. and on September 16 at 7 p.m. All the meetings are held at City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka.

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