

New Year's Eve

The community has its own ball drop on New Year's Eve. See page 3A.



Sports

WHS player finalist for Central Florida girls basketball player of the week See page 1B.



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Volume 102 Number 1

New plan introduced to rid traffic fatalities from city

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

An initiative was introduced, intended to eliminate fatalities and several injury crashes from the Apopka area's roadways.

Pamela Richmond, city traffic coordinator, explained the plan at the Wednesday, January 3, City Council meeting in City Hall.

"I'm a little passionate about this because I've been here seven years now. We've had quite a few fatalities - pedestrian, bicycle, and a few auto-related," Richmond said when introducing the plan.

Under Vision Zero, MetroPlan Orlando awarded funds through U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program. There are \$5 billion in appropriated funds over five years, from 2022 to 2026.

Apopka's Vision Zero

Plan will detail specific strategies and projects that will eliminate fatal and severe injury crashes for roadways in Apopka.

"Most of our pedestrian and bicycle fatalities, for example, occur on state roads and are not the fault of the driver of a vehicle, but are caused by the pedestrian or cyclists," Richmond explained.

According to Richmond, Vision Zero is an idea that has been embraced by the U.S. DOT and Florida DOT metropolitan planning organizations and local governments that envisions a safe and connected transportation network where people, regardless of age, race, ability, and chosen mode of transportation can travel safely.

The primary tenet of Vision Zero is that all traffic deaths are preventable by changing the traditional approach to what is called the Safe System approach, a data-driven, holistic, and equitable method to roadway safety, Richmond explained.

"It's based on an ethical position where it can never be acceptable that people are seriously injured or killed on the roadway network," Richmond said. "So, we have a scope with a consultant that's been furnished to us by MetroPlan Orlando, and these are the key tests. There are seven primary tests that will be followed to develop the city's plan."

The safety action plan's development and elements include an agency adoption of a Vision Zero resolution, public engagement, policy assessment, identification of projects and strategies, and a plan to measure progress.

Apopka's Vision Plan launched last month with a kickoff meeting on December 11, 2023, comprised of city staff, city partners, and a member of the public, Richmond said. Held in the Edward Bass Conference Room at Apopka City Hall, the meeting was not open to the public but intended for the working group that would guide the plan.

The city will start public engagement later this month, in which the city

See CITY Page 5A



Apopka Fire Department/Facebook

On December 19, 2023, AdventHealth recognized three Apopka firefighters, Josh Baker, Tim Sundvall, and Josh Roell (l to r) with certificates of excellence for their level of care and service provided during a recent call for a medical emergency.

Three firefighters recognized for helping deliver baby

On December 19, 2023, AdventHealth recognized three Apopka firefighters with certificates of excellence for their level of care and service provided during a recent call for a medical emergency.

Apopka firefighter/paramedic Tim Sundvall, firefighter/EMT Josh Roell, and firefighter/EMT Josh Baker were dispatched to a call regarding a patient experiencing a medical emergency. The crew played a key role in recognizing that the patient was going through the imminent stages of labor.

While transporting the patient, the crew saw that the patient's condition had progressed. They jumped into action to

prepare the patient for delivery. Under the firefighters' care, the mother welcomed a baby boy into the world.

Shortly after the delivery and assessment of baby was performed, the ambulance crew, mother and baby arrived at AdventHealth Orlando labor and delivery unit. Mother and baby were released from the hospital without any complications.

On the Apopka Fire Department's December 30, 2023, Facebook post about the firefighters' recognition, the department thanked Larry Marshall of Advent Health and Orange County Medical Director Dr. Christian Zuver for personally recognizing the firefighters.



Zillow



Amanda Brochu/GoFundMe

These screenshots show Amanda Brochu's house at 1438 Bethesda St., Apopka, with the driveway (l) and after contractors ripped out the driveway, leaving dirt in its wake (r).

Scam leaves woman without driveway

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

A scam left an Apopka woman without a driveway, and now she has finished raising money for a new driveway.

On December 26, 2023, Amanda Brochu reported to the Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO)

that her concrete driveway had been removed without consent from her home at 1438 Bethesda St., according to OCSO.

Listed for \$289,990,

the 1,090-square foot, four-bedroom, two-bathroom house has been on the market for 31 days as of Thursday.

See DRIVEWAY Page 7A

City to plant live oak

Apopka Foliage Garden Club members, the Apopka Department of Parks and Recreation, Mayor Bryan Nelson and city officials will plant a live oak—a tree native to Florida — on Friday, January 19, at Alonzo Williams Park/Billie Dean Community Center, 225 M A Board Street at 10 a.m.

A more than six-foot-tall live oak has been chosen from County Line Ornamental & Trees, Inc.

The Duke Energy Foundation is supporting this project with a \$20,000 grant to the Florida Federation of Garden



Clubs. The grant will help garden clubs buy sizable native trees. To be reimbursed, a club needs only to plant a native tree. Priority is given to large, hurricane-resistant, shade trees in keystone genera, which means the tree feeds more caterpillars and baby

See TREE Page 8A

2023: began with new murals, old controversies

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

Note: This is the first of a four-part series reviewing the news in Apopka in 2023 as written in the pages of The Apopka Chief. This week covers January, February and March.

January

January 6, 2023

A firefighter union representative said the reason he and one other member resigned from the safety committee was because of what the union rep said was a "shell game" the city

administration was playing in taking responsibility for firefighter Austin Duran's line of duty death in summer 2022.

Dream Lake Elementary School has unveiled its newest mural created over winter break: a mural welcoming students, families, and visitors to Dream Lake Elementary as a reflection of the school's growing diverse student body.

January 13, 2023

At its Wednesday, January 4, Apopka City Council meeting at City Hall, the Council received an up-

date of the city's bicycle and pedestrian safety program that was launched two years ago and has since seen success in improving the community's bicycle and pedestrian safety.

The city's second Winn-Dixie location, pictured, is coming to fruition at the Apopka City Center, a 34-acre mixed-use development at the U.S. Highway 441/State Road 436 interchange. To be located at 611 E. Main St. in Apopka, the new Winn-Dixie is set to open early this year and create more than 100 jobs.

A teenage male was

shot at Wekiva High School and was transported to the hospital in stable condition, according to Orange County Sheriff's Office. Deputies responded to Wekiva High for the shooting on Friday, January 6, at 9:08 p.m. When deputies arrived, they found the one teenage male who had been shot.

January 20, 2023

The 14th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Apopka encapsulated the legacy of King on Monday, January 16, beginning at the Apopka Community

Center/VFW Building on South Central Avenue and traveling to the John Bridges Community Center on 13th Street. The parade's theme this year is "Together, we can make a difference."

The Apopka City Council voted 3-2 to use \$200,000 from the city's coronavirus funds to establish an economic development department so it could push the city's economic development forward.

In an effort to continue beautifying the Wekiwa

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This week

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Find Public Notices Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices OR FloridaPublicNotices.com



Apopka Event of the Week

Your Library, Your Voice: A Library Focus Group, will meet at the North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., on Wednesday, January 10, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Join members of your community in this focus group discussion and be a part of the library's strategic planning effort. Food will be provided.

Quotable

Across the state, 35.82 percent of Florida's 67 counties have fewer than 10 physicians for every 10,000 people.

Guest article on the need for more physicians.

Opinion

The Apopka Chief A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher John Ricketson, Consultant Emeritus John Peery, Marketing Director Jackie Trefcer, Reporters Teresa Sargeant, Marshall Tempest, Neal Fisher, General Mgr Emeritus Neoma Knox, Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Florida needs more physicians, entertainment tax changed

(The Center Square) —

A report by the Florida Legislature's research arm says Florida will need more physicians to deal with an aging population despite massive increases in tax dollars going to graduate medical education.

According to a report from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability released in December, recent studies have estimated that Florida will have the second largest physician shortage by 2030 among all states. This comes despite Florida investing heavily into graduate medical education — using Medicaid funds — which have increased by 1,205 percent since 2013.

The report states that while there has been an increase in practicing physicians thanks to the state's investment into graduate medical education, demand is outstripping supply as Florida is one of the fastest-growing states in the U.S. and third largest by population, behind Texas and California.

State funding for graduate medical education has increased from \$80 million in fiscal year 2013-14 to \$718.4 million by fiscal year 2021-22, increasing the number of positions from 4,686 to 8,065. Researchers stated that physicians would often stay in the state where they completed their training, so increasing the number of available positions could increase the number of physicians in Florida's workforce.

The report recommended that strategies be implemented to increase physician retention rates. Florida lacks state-level planning that includes clear objectives and policy priorities, hindering the state's ability to track progress. It was further recommended that lawmakers direct the research agency to conduct periodic assessments of the graduate medical education system to enhance data collection and reliability.

A policy document from the Florida Hospital Association issued in August stated similar findings in its summary, projecting that the physician shortage could be 18,000 by 2035 and recommending that funding be increased for graduate medical education to address this growing issue.

The 2023 Florida Physician Workforce Annual Report states that most physicians are located in the more populous counties and within larger urban areas. Across the state, 35.82 percent of Florida's 67 counties have fewer than 10 physicians for every 10,000 people.

According to the report, there are approximately 98.11 percent of all physicians working in urban counties, while only 1.89 percent work within Florida's 31 rural counties. The report further states that 34.17 percent or 19,396 physicians are 60 or older.

(The Center Square) —

The Florida Legislature's research arm released a report documenting issues with some of the Sunshine State's economic development incentives and programs.

A review of Florida's entertainment industry incentives by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability showed that 1,409 production companies had reported spending an estimated \$1.3 billion on average. Companies also saved around \$22 million in sales tax, and 57 percent of production companies said the incentives affected their decision to work in Florida.

However, the passage of House Bill 5 in June repealed the Entertainment Industry Tax Credit. It was reported in February that the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentives program only returned approximately seven cents for every dollar spent.

VISIT FLORIDA, the official state-funded tourism marketing corporation reported that Florida's tourism employment grew by 21 percent or 278,540 employees between 2013 and 2022. Visitor numbers broke the previous 2019 record of 131.4 million visitors in 2022 by 5 percent, totaling 137.6 million international and domestic visitors.

The watchdog agency noted that improvements could be made to enhance its evaluations of marketing activities, recommending the revision of internal measures to improve the organization's performance rather than maintaining already achieved targets and improving consumer awareness.

A review of the Florida Sports Foundation found that it had met its contractual performance obligations and reported that sporting events that had received foundation grants had generated more than \$1.8 billion in economic activity and attracted more than 2.5 million domestic visitors from out of state.

Between 2019 and 2021, Florida's sports industry was estimated to be worth around \$71 billion, supporting

See SHORTAGE Page 4A



"HOW'S BIDEN EXPECT TO STOP THE WAR IN THE MIDEAST WHEN HE CAN'T STOP THE ONE HERE?"

MetroPLAN wants to reduce fatalities

Serving as an Orange County Commissioner on the three-county metropolitan area transportation planning agency is vital. As a board member, we receive reports from numerous transportation agencies including FDOT, Bike Walk Central Florida, and others.

A news conference was recently held on the Vision Zero Initiative with the purpose of reducing traffic fatalities to zero. It was a terrible thing to learn that 5 people die and 35 are seriously injured every week in Central Florida. The Metro Plan organization is committed to reducing these

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

human tragedies through greater enforcement, engineering improvements, and great driver education.

Dr. John Tyler, the District 5 Director, routinely delivers informative reports on the accomplishments of his agency. FDOT utilizes state and federal funding for completion of

local transportation projects. Governor DeSantis' Moving Florida Forward program has focused funding on expanding capacity along I-4 through Osceola County. I'm sure many of you have been delayed through the Champion's Gate area south of Disney. The design/build project has 2 billion dollars committed for I-4 improvements. Dr. Tyler also reported that FDOT is currently improving three interchanges at Sand Lake Road, Daryl Carter Parkway, and SR 535.

Dr. Tyler announced

See MOORE Page 4A

Border experts highlight tension

By Federal Newswire Jan 2, 2024

As the year 2023 draws to a close, border threat experts highlight the ongoing tension between the United States and Mexico as a significant issue. This tension, they argue, is adversely affecting the fight against fentanyl. While there have been instances of collaboration between the two countries in combating drug cartels, there have also been moments of strain that could potentially exacerbate both the border situation and the fentanyl crisis.

According to Insight Crime, a notable incident occurred in April when U.S. officials announced charges against two dozen suspected members of

the Sinaloa Cartel's Los Chapitos faction. However, shortly after these charges were announced, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador accused the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of overstepping its jurisdiction with regard to Mexican affairs.

López Obrador has largely downplayed Mexico's role in the U.S. fentanyl crisis. As recently as March, he stated that Mexico neither consumes nor produces fentanyl, according to AP News. Despite substantial evidence contradicting this claim at the time, it has since been disproven and Mexican officials have revised their stance.

Drug trafficking has

long been a contentious issue between Mexico and the United States, particularly concerning anti-narcotics cooperation. According to InSight Crime, some individuals in the United States - including politicians - believe that direct military action is required to combat Mexican drug cartels.

The fentanyl crisis in the United States has only heightened these tensions. InSight Crime reports that over 110,000 Americans died from overdose deaths in 2022 alone; approximately 75% of these deaths were attributed by the CDC to fentanyl. The number of synthetic opioid-related deaths in America has risen

See CARTELS Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

"Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever." Psalm 112:6

Mema Says

The path of least resistance make rivers and people crooked.

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Usable information can be gained from everyone we chance to meet

The wonder of it all! I cannot get over how our lives are so enmeshed with other lives.

I look back on my own life and I can see the many people that have effectively changed my attitude, my way of thinking, and sometimes, my way of living. We never stop learning and everyone we meet has something to offer that we can turn into usable information.

Unfortunately, our young people of today are being taught to react to



Ike Hayden

emotions rather than learn the facts and act accordingly. A majority of our professors in colleges today are the by-products of the "hippy" movements of yester-year and have been

steeped in the teaching of Socialist/Communist ideology. Their goal for America is to throw out the United States Constitution and replace it with a global government that will be beneficial only to those with wealth and the power of the government behind them. There will be no middle class, just the rulers, and the ruled.

I cannot ever recall in my lifetime when there has been so much confusion and chaos about who we are and what we stand for.

As I have previously stated, education should never be limited to one avenue of learning, but should be drawn from all of life's circumstances, and the testimonies of those who have "been there, done that." I have told my children that college is an expensive choice, and the school of hard knocks costs more than money, (sometimes flesh), but the lessons taught, if applied, will be lifetime contributors to a happy, substantial life.

Our colleges today are

becoming a quagmire of indoctrination, not education. Those who can afford or to borrow the money to attend one of today's institutions of higher learning leaves there with a distorted sense of morality, and ethical behavior. Our colleges of yesteryear would never have allowed students to use riotous behavior, walk-outs, or any other disruptive actions to further their questionable social retaliation against opposing views.

Years ago, the Debate Teams would be in full

force and common sense would rule the actions that were called for, (if any). Ask many of our college students today why they are protesting whatever, and you will find a multitude of different answers, some that have no foundation of truth or understanding. They pick up a hint of what everyone else is chanting and become a part of politicized ignorance, not even taking the time to investigate the truth of the

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Having a ball on New Year's Eve

Community members, elected officials and local leaders celebrated New Year's Eve at the Plaza Ball Drop at Wekiva Riverwalk's Hurricane Grill and Wings Restaurant on Sunday, December 31. The Apopka High School Engineering Class, with funding provided by The Rotary Club of Apopka, presented the ball drop. The party included musical guest, the Groove Slayers.



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Time to change bid policy

Dear Editor,

For 110 years, the Apopka Chamber has encouraged the community and businesses to patronize chamber members. This includes our local banks.

On December 6, 2023, Apopka City Commissioners passed a policy to move city investment funds out of local banks to use Zephyr Group | Morgan Stanley of Denver, Colorado for investment advisory (\$40,000), and has touted an increase in the city income at 1 million dollars in revenue, with an added increase in transparency.

Please note the timeline: Federal fund rates were 0.09% on August 31, 2021, 2.33% on August 31, 2022, and August 31, 2023, it was up to 5.37% with our local banks. The increase in interest rates, and

the city's administration of the budget is the reason for any increase in revenue thus far, as funds haven't been moved yet.

Based on the Morgan Stanley investment program presentation that was accepted by council, the current investment account holdings are \$147,138,796.77. The portfolio plan reflects a money market allocation at 10% of the funds, which is nearly 15 million dollars. It is not a defined number, leaves room for adjusting the portfolio and doesn't specify the notification process for doing so. It also states that they will quantify risks in the banking system, specifically Florida regional and community banks. The disclaimer page states there is no guarantee that this investment strategy will work.

We know numbers hold NO bias or reframe history. Adopting a bid policy change increase from 3% to 10% for local bid preference and adopting a minority small business bid preference policy would go a long way for the business community and citizens of Apopka.

Upcoming: Commissioners Debate on January 16 at 6 PM at the VFW, tickets are on sale now!

January 18, 9:30-11 AM, VFW, "Business Contracting Opportunities - Central Florida Tourism Oversight District, Glen Gilzean, JR-District Administrator, Free, Must Register! Apopkachamber.org

Sincerely,
Cate Manley, President,
Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce

Cartels: Must combat fentanyl traffic

Continued from page 2A

exponentially within just a few years, and it is not expected that final figures for 2023 will show any significant decrease.

Despite these challenges in U.S.-Mexico relations regarding drug cartels and illicit fentanyl, there are indications of progress. For instance, in 2023, the presidents of Canada, Mexico, and the

United States established the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee. This group brings together officials from all three countries to collaborate on combating fentanyl.

In November, President Joe Biden and López Obrador held a meeting to reaffirm their commitment to addressing the fentanyl crisis, as reported by In-Sight Crime.

Furthermore, Ovidio

Guzmán López, one of the leaders of Los Chapitos, was extradited from Mexico to the United States in September to face trial for fentanyl trafficking.

As reported in a previous article by Federal Newswire, his expedited extradition is seen as a potential sign that law enforcement agencies in both countries are intensifying their efforts against fentanyl trafficking.

Hayden: Experience solves problem

Continued from page 2A

matter.

It has become unacceptable to discuss a hotly debated issue with older folks, "because they do not understand," when, in all reality, they have the history to defuse the situation quietly and effectively without all the hullabaloo. We have stopped up the fountain of common sensical learning and turned to "knee jerk" reactions by following well defined, planned methods of socialism and communism taught by people that have a stake in the formation of such.

A nineteen-year-old college student raised her hand to object to the professor's ranting against Christianity in a history class. The professor sent her to the Dean's office for disrupting the class.

When she was questioned as to why she was disruptive, she responded

with the fact it was a history class and the professor was nowhere near the historical era they were studying. She told the Dean she was there for an education, not indoctrination. The Dean of the college floored her when he told her that for nineteen years she had been indoctrinated by her parents, now they were educating her!

In today's world, you (parents) have been indoctrinating your children. Now that they are out of your house and have become the children of the world, they will be taught the "true" meaning of life and with the insistence and assistance of the government they will be turned into globalists that believe the only answer for all the chaos is a one-world government where everyone will be equal.

It has been said, "people will choose an ordered society over a chaotic free

one." I feel we older folks have stuck our heads in the sand, believing that if we cannot see it, it will go away and not affect us. I have news for you: if you have not already been affected, hold on. You are next!

Unfortunately, it took me growing older to see the lessons I have been taught by my many associates in my earlier years. I still believe there are young people that are preparing for the turmoil to come in the form of socialist domination.

I want to share the responsibility of teaching: whenever, wherever, to whomever that I am privileged to encourage *everyone* to be a fighter for the United States of America, and our constitutional government.

There are still some wonderful people in the United States. If you cannot find one, BE ONE!

Moore: Feedback given is positive

Continued from page 2A

the opening of the Wekiwa Parkway at I-4 in January. This roadway has been in the pipeline for nearly 20 years. The construction project has earned numerous awards and has already posted 19 million transactions on the portion completed.

As most of you know, the completion of the Wekiwa Parkway is leading to the dense developments in the city of Apopka at Kelly Park Road and the SR 429.

Dr. Tyler also reported on SunRail. SunRail is recovering ridership after the pandemic with over 1 million annual riders. The latest new phase to Deland is promised to open in the summer of 2024.

SunRail is also im-

proving their ticketing vending and adding a mobile app. I wish I could ride the SunRail every day to work. Maybe that will happen some day when the Orange Blossom Express is constructed through Lockhart, Apopka, and on up to Zellwood.

The Sunshine Corridor, the route connecting the Convention Center/Epic Universe to the airport, has an active and effective group of advocates working towards the project becoming a reality. Three community meetings were held recently and there was positive feedback received from the public.

Dr. Tyler mentioned FDOT's interest in road safety projects, in which I am keenly interested. He shared FDOT utilized rum-

ble strips on Hwy 60 to slow traffic and constructed raised crosswalks along South Orange Blossom Trail protecting pedestrians. FDOT is in the process of lighting up intersection crosswalks and more than a hundred have been completed.

Finally, I was elected secretary/treasurer of the Metro Plan organization. Leadership is shared between leaders from Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties. Thus, in 2025, I will be installed as the president of Metro Plan. I am extremely excited about this leadership opportunity. I plan to represent District 2 well. As is my practice, I will share information on transportation improvements with you in future columns.

Shortage: Franchises must comply

Continued from page 2A

over 978,000 jobs and attracting more than 28 million visitors. The watchdog agency noted, however, that there is a lack of an oversight entity to ensure franchises comply with some statutory requirements.

The report states that Space Florida met its contractual obligations by collaborating with both private and public entities to grow the state's aerospace industry. This includes establish-

ing 40 documented partnerships with nonprofit, public, and private entities.

Some stakeholders reported to the watchdog agency that the organization needed improvement regarding transparency and efficiency.

It was recommended that Space Florida consider working with the Department of Commerce to go beyond what has already been achieved and set more ambitious goals, and to work closely with stakeholders to enhance transparency in its operations.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CHANGE OF FUTURE LAND USE AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Mark Gilman and Kamoltip Norrasing** have made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3036

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM IN PROGRESS TO RVLS (RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW SUBURBAN), FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1240 USTLER ROAD; OWNED BY MARK GILMAN AND KAMOLTIP NORRASING, COMPRISING 5.068 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3037

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO RCE (RESIDENTIAL COUNTY ESTATE), FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1240 USTLER ROAD; OWNED BY MARK GILMAN AND KAMOLTIP NORRASING, LLC COMPRISING 5.068 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 34-20-28-9550-00-200
Contains: 5.068 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3036 & 3037 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, January 17, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Small-Scale Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

January 5, 2024

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(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



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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
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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

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County Commission 407-836-7350
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Doug Bankson 407-476-6787
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The Apopka Chief 407-886-2777
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Chamber of Commerce 407-886-1441

City: Council approved Gray Robinson law firm for consultation in obtaining federal funds

Continued from page 1A

will conduct pop-ups at local events. A Vision Zero plan will be drafted this late spring, according to Richmond.

Once the plan is completed, the city will aim to get grants and get on MetroPlan's prioritized list for federal dollars to do some safety improvements.

Even before Vision Zero, the city of Apopka made some traffic safety improvements. The city had medians installed on U.S. 441 to address a pedestrian safety issue there, and establishing street lights wherever possible.

Commissioner Diane Velazquez and Commissioner Nick Nesta asked Richmond to send council members the Vision Zero meeting dates, especially since the council wants the public to attend these meetings, too.

"I was at the New Year's Eve party here on Fifth Street, and somebody had said it'd be great if we had a crosswalk over (U.S.) 441 to get back to our houses on the north side there

at 441," Nesta said. "That may not happen, but it is good to hear direction from the public that we'll be using these day in and day out. So, it helps us be able to market those dates as well so that we have as much feedback as possible."

For more information on Vision Zero Central Florida, visit visionzero.org.

Governmental consulting services

The City Council approved the engagement of

Gray Robinson, P.A. to provide governmental consulting services for federal appropriations for a one-time fee of \$15,000 during the current Congressional session.

The agreement will automatically renew on August 1 and annually afterward unless either party cancels this with at least 30 days' written notice.

"The City would like to follow up on any remnant funding through the American Rescue Plan Act as well as pursue new federal funding opportunities

available from the federal government," according to a city staff report in the January 5 City Council meeting agenda packet. "Due to the complexities of the requirements for these funding opportunities, staff believes it is in the best interest of the City to obtain the services of Gray Robinson, P.A. Gray Robinson, P.A. has agreed to provide the City with Federal consulting/lobbying services on issues related to appropriations, funds, and grants that may be available.

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thru
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1:10; 3:30; 4:40; 6:50; 7:30; 10:00; 10:30

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CenturyLink also participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides eligible households with a discount on broadband service. The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

For both programs, a household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



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2023: City hosted South Apopka annexation workshops

Continued from page 1A
Springs area, a local group asked a freelance artist to paint a mural reflecting the local wildlife. The mural

was created as part of the beautification movement of the People of Wekiwa Springs, a neighborhood beautification group that formed in October 2022

and meets every first Tuesday of the month. Costing around \$3.3 million, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is overhauling a one-mile stretch on U.S. 441 from CR-437A/Central Avenue to Bradshaw Road in Apopka to improve safety along the corridor and to extend the existing road-

way's life. *January 27, 2023*
The city of Apopka conducted a second community workshop in two months to discuss the mass annexation of unincorporated South Apopka into the city, with residents expressing frustrations at the city for several reasons.

The workshop took place Tuesday, January 24, at the John H. Bridges Community Center on West 13th Street. Up to around 75 attended the meeting that lasted about 2-1/2 hours. The city held an annexation workshop on November 29 at Apopka City Hall. After a nearly 90-minute discussion that includ-

ed input from homeowners, the Apopka City Council voted, at residents' request, to withdraw plans for a \$600,000 alternative water supply project for alleviating flooding of Clear Lake. With a succulent offering of more than 200 feet of seafood including a 40-foot

See 2023 Page 10A



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- Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
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- McDonald's, Highway 441 (downtown)
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- Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)
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- Trader Mae's, Rock Springs Rd
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- Wekiwa High School, Hiwassee Rd.
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Driveway: Woman raised over \$13,000 on GoFundMe for a new driveway

Continued from page 1A
day, January 4, according to Zillow and Realtor listings.

According to Brochu in an interview with *The Apopka Chief*, one quote out of several given to her for a new driveway would be \$10,000. Even Cox Media Group volunteered to get the driveway done for free.

Last week, Brochu set up a GoFundMe fundraiser to raise money for a new driveway. Within days of the launch, the fundraiser raised \$13,543. Brochu closed the fundraiser to new donations.

Right now, Brochu said that she intends to get permits from the county for the company to install her driveway so she could proceed with selling her home.

"I would really like for the contractors who came to my house, who took out the concrete to just reach

out to me so that way we can help them too, because they're also a victim of the scam because they lost out on money, so it would be nice if they would reach out and say who they are," Brochu said in the interview.

Brochu put her house on the market with the contingency on a new house that she would sell her current one.

About a week after she listed her house, strangers flocked to Brochu's house to measure her driveway, explaining that someone named Andre sent them at the request of his wife, the homeowner. Brochu was the homeowner and therefore never asked anyone to replace her driveway, so she contacted the OCSO on December 13, 2023. An OCSO deputy contacted Andre, who advised he mistakenly provided the wrong address and would correct it.

"The homeowner did the right thing in this case by reporting the suspicious activity to law enforcement," an OCSO spokesperson said in an email to *The Apopka Chief*. "We advise all residents to report anyone who comes onto their property without their permission or attempts to perform work they have not requested to call their local law enforcement agency."

While preparing to leave town for her birthday and Christmas with her children, Brochu received a Ring doorbell notification that someone was outside her house, "ripping up my driveway before my eyes," Brochu explained on her GoFundMe page.

By the time police arrived at her house, the company that tore up her driveway already finished the job and left only dirt in its wake.

When police called the individual who requested the driveway job, the person at first denied it and hung up, but then texted police saying the incident was a mistake along with the number of a supposed contractor. The number turned out to belong to the Orlando Airport, Brochu explained on her GoFundMe page.

At this time, the OCSO's investigations unit is still trying to determine whether there was a criminal violation.



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Tree: Apopka has been a Tree City since 1990

Continued from page 1A

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The Apopka Foliage Garden Club is part of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., which is celebrating its 100th year in 2024. Celebrations are planned throughout the

state including Arbor Day plantings. The Florida Federation prides itself on its service to the communities and the state through conservation, beautification, education and advocacy for sustainable environmental practices. Apopka's club has been part of the federation for more than 30 years.

The Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework

necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. More than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to becoming a Tree City USA.

They have achieved Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

Apopka has been a Tree City since 1990 and continues to celebrate that designation.

Arbor Day, the nation's tree planting holiday, was first celebrated in 1872. The Arbor Day Foundation was created 100 years later to carry out its mission on a year-round basis. For more than 50 years, the foundation has helped plant more than 500 million trees in neighborhoods and forests across more than 50 countries.

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Park Avenue Animal Hospital is dedicated to offering the finest in veterinary care

Animal companions give so much to humans, and part of the responsibility to care for them is helping them to stay healthy. The staff at Park Avenue Animal Hospital offers some helpful hints on ways to focus on your pet's well-being.

Remove dangerous household items - Protect your animal friends by learning and thinking about common household items that can poison pets. Items that seem ordinary to you but that are harmful to pets include: Plants, medications, chemicals, human food, and household cleaners. And, if your pet eats everyday items lying around the house, a neglected sock or small toy can require emergency surgery if it doesn't pass.

Spend time with your companions - If you are rushing around without seemingly any time to even breathe, it's important to stop and sit down with your animal friends. You can sit quietly and listen to the world around you, gently stroking and loving on your pet, even if your friend has feathers or scales. Time spent together can benefit them and you. They'll know they're loved and can be prevented from becoming bored and feeling neglected, and your life will become so much richer and more meaningful.



Park Avenue Animal Hospital is a full-service veterinary clinic providing a variety of services for dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, reptiles, and other exotic small animals. Ready to care for your beloved pet are Dr. Rubinstein, Dr. Turgai, Dr. Nelson, and Dr. Hinton. Not pictured are Dr. Dworek and Dr. Patty.

Offer quality food - An important part of helping your animal friends stay healthy is by offering quality food. Learn to read labels.

Schedule regular wellness checks - Take your pet for regular wellness appointments. Scheduled veterinary care can spot potential health problems so you can manage any concern early. This includes dental issues and problems with kidneys and joints.

Park Avenue Animal Hospital is your partner in keeping your pet healthy. Since 2008, Park Avenue Animal Hospital has been providing a wide variety of services to keep your furry, four-legged friends in the best of health. Their experienced team treats each pet that comes into their facility with the utmost care. With cutting edge technology and the bedside manner of a small-town doctor, they're equipped to handle almost any ailment your pet may face.

Voted Best of Apopka Pet Care Facility since 2010, it's obvious that their personal commitment to you is grounded in assuring your pet receives the finest in veterinary care by providing them with the best technology and diagnostic tools.

While dogs and cats are by far the most popular choice for most pet owners, the doctors at Park Avenue Animal Hospital have a special place in their hearts for all animals, furry, feathery, or scaly.

With more than 60 years of combined quality veterinary experience, the doctors have gone well beyond standard veterinary education and practice to further their knowledge of animal care to include: reptiles, rabbits, ferrets, birds, guinea pigs, and more. Whether it's an annual checkup or a critical emergency, they are prepared to handle any situation.

Fully equipped with diagnostic and surgical tools to meet practically any situation, Park Avenue Animal Hospital provides reasonably

priced medical and surgical care without sacrificing quality, in a setting designed to take the stress out of visiting your vet.

Routine examinations, vaccines, dentistry, and nutritional and behavioral advice are just some of the services provided by the doctors and staff in a beautiful office that is as comfortable as your own home.

With Park Avenue Animal Hospital's convenient location at 847 N. Park Avenue (Rock Springs Road) in Apopka, affordable help for all your pets is now right in your own community!

You'll find that the staff at Park Avenue Animal Hospital think of their clients and the people of Apopka as part of their family. They are proud of their community and strive to make sure that everyone feels welcome in their clinic.

Call today at 407-880-9446 to schedule an appointment or visit them online at www.parkavenuevets.com.

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If you have old glasses or hearing aids you no longer need, please take them to

The Apopka Chief and The Planter Newspapers
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The Apopka Chief, The Planter & AOS (Apopka Office Supply) would like to thank the generous Apopka area for continuing to donate the gift of sight or hearing for so MANY.

Obituaries

THOMAS ROBERT (T.R.) HENSON SR., 85, of Apopka, went home to be with the Lord on December 31, 2023. T.R. was born on March 5, 1938, in Cashiers, NC, to Frank Henson Sr and Edith Henson. T.R. was preceded in death by his wife, Fannie "Jane" Henson; father, Frank Henson Sr; mother, Edith Norton Henson; brothers, Frank Henson Jr, Charles Henson, Marshall Henson; and bonus son, David Bray. T.R. is survived by children, Thomas Robert (Rob) Henson Jr (Patsy), Theresa Ann (Teesie) Crebs (Billy), and bonus son, David Walker Bray (Jennifer); 4 grandchildren, 2 bonus grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren.

See Obituary on page 10A

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Commit thy works unto the Lord

1. For possible new year's resolutions, Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be _____." Resolved, Established, Directed, Bountiful
 2. Likewise, Psalm 37:5 instructs us to, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to _____." Nurture, Pass, Action, Light
 3. Which book proclaims the first day of the new year is for resting and a memorial sounding the trumpet? Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers
 4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 are among



the verses to focus on what in a new year? Blessings, Moving forward, Grace, Church attendance
 5. In which month of the religious calendar did the new year begin in the Bible? 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th
 6. From James 1:5, what may one lack and if they ask God it shall be given? Love, Wisdom, Truth, Goals

ANSWERS: 1) Established, 2) Pass, 3) Leviticus, 4) Moving forward, 5) 7th, 6) Wisdom

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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Robustness and Resiliency

There are two ways to enhance our chances of survival: robustness and resiliency. Robustness is a measure of how much damage can be done to an organism and it will still function. Plants are robust because they can lose their leaves and the majority of their limbs and yet survive. Resiliency refers to the ability of an organism to adapt to changing circumstances. A tropical plant may be robust, but it won't survive in a harsh environment such as a desert. Human beings are hardy because we combine robustness with resiliency. We are robust insofar as we can survive without our teeth, could lose a few limbs, and some of our vital organs are paired, such as the kidneys and lungs, allowing us to survive with just one of them. Though not as

robust as plants, we are more resilient, since we adapt well to change, as evidenced by our living in virtually every environment on the planet. Religion is one of the tools that help us to adapt. The Bible is full of advice on how to get along under trying circumstances. The early Israelites were enslaved in Egypt and then had to survive in the desert, and even once they were established as a nation, they were surrounded by hostile neighbors. This remains true for them today, and there is a lesson here on the value of resiliency and robustness. Increase your robustness by staying healthy and increase your resiliency by being adaptive.

- Christopher Simon

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
 Matthew 5:16

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In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.
 Proverbs 14:26

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"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

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Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

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Robustness and Resiliency

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 Exodus 18:20



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2023: Council approved development plan

Continued from page 6A

raw bar as well as games and musical headliners, the inaugural Apopka Seafood Festival will entertain thousands of guests at the Apopka amphitheater on the first weekend of February.

The Wekiva Mustangs boys basketball team defeated Metro Conference foe Evans High 76-66 on Tuesday, January 24, at the Evans gym. The victory raised Wekiva's record to 19-3 with just three games

left in the regular season.

February

February 3, 2023

The Apopka City Council unanimously approved, 5-0 the major development plan for the Crossroads at Kelly Park, Phase 3, which proposes the development of 95 single-family residences and future development of 350 multi-family units and commercial uses.

The Apopka Fire Department (AFD) won the

Sonny's BBQ Challenge among community first responders on Saturday, January 28, at Sonny's BBQ on East Semoran Boulevard in Apopka.

In an effort to boost the current three-percent local participation preference, the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce introduced minority- and women-owned businesses to the various development projects in the community for this year including for the city, commercial, and af-

fordable housing.

Deputies are searching for suspects involved in the fatal shooting of a man in Apopka, according to the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

The first of three films uncovering the ugliness of human trafficking in Central Florida, "Not for Sale: Florida," had its world premiere on Thursday, January 26, at the City of Destiny Church in Apopka. Hosted

See 2023 Page 11A

Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief

Thomas Robert (T.R.) Henson Sr



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our dear father, Thomas Robert (T.R.) Henson Sr, of Apopka, Florida, who went home to be with the Lord on December 31st, 2023, at 85 years of age. T.R. was born on March 5, 1938, in Cashiers, NC, to Frank Sr and Edith Henson. At 16 years of age, TR hitchhiked to Florida. It was there that he met the love of his life, Fannie "Jane" Crawford, from Highlands, NC. The two were married at the courthouse on their lunch break on February 3rd, 1960. They were married for 52 years and had two children: Thomas Robert (Rob) Henson Jr (Patsy), of Apopka, Florida, Theresa Ann (Teesie) Crebs (Billy), of Tangerine, Florida, and one bonus son, David Walker Bray (Jennifer), of Apopka, Florida.

T.R. had 4 grandchildren: William Crebs (Amanda), Cole Henson, Jordan Crebs (Destinee), and Luke Henson (Alyssa), 2 bonus grandchildren: Garret Bray and Amber Bray, 3 great grandchildren: Rhylan Crebs, Karsyn Crebs, and Millie Crebs (expected in February).

T.R. was a 3rd generation master carpenter and home builder. He worked with Amantha Musselwhite Construction for 30 plus years and built many homes in the Apopka area. He was known for his vast knowledge of every aspect of the construction process and he was highly respected for his integrity in business. He later helped establish Henson Homes, Inc. and

continued his home building legacy for several more years. He enjoyed going to yard sales and antique shops. He loved to work on small engines and could take them apart and put them back together in perfect working order. T.R. enjoyed attending Sunday School and church services and was a long time member of Trinity Baptist Church in Apopka, Florida. But most of all, he enjoyed being with his family. He adored his grandchildren and was so proud of them and his great grandchildren were the absolute light of his life. He will be greatly missed.

T.R. was preceded in death by his wife, Fannie Jane Henson, his father, Frank Henson Sr, his mother, Edith Norton Henson, his brother, Frank Henson Jr, his brother, Charles Henson, his brother, Marshall Henson, and his bonus son, David Bray.

A Visitation will be held on Fri. Jan. 5 from 5-8pm and a Celebration of Life will be held in T.R.'s honor on Sat. Jan. 6 at 11am at Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home, 601 N. Park Avenue, Apopka, FL 32712. Interment will follow at Highland Memory Gardens.

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The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

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OMAHA STEAKS
SINCE 1917

Easy Bread recipe calls for 1-1/2 cups of any beverage – your choice

From the 1997 edition of *Southern Living Annual Recipes*, how about Peppercorn Pork Roast for a really lovely dish?



We have Roasted Potato Wedges from Eddie Jackson at From FoodNetwork.com. This recipe was rated 5 out of 5.

Crab Meat Salad from *Charleston Receipts* calls for a pound of fresh crab meat. You can substitute shrimp for the crab meat. This recipe was contributed by Miss Elizabeth Williams.

Susie Sams' Mexican Black Bean Salad, is one of the recipes we have from of a *Taste of Heaven*; this publication courtesy of our friends over at First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda.

Martha Wetteroft's Baked Vegetable Risotto is another recipe shared with us by First Presbyterian of Punta Gorda's *A Taste of Heaven*. It looks like a good dish with the chicken stock adding to the flavor.

Easy Bread is a recipe that Bonnie Milliken shares in *Northside Baptist Church's cookbook*. It calls for any beverage on which you care to base your bread.

Violet Schoening's fresh apple cake from the in-house recipe book given us by Northside Baptist Church is wonderful. Ms. Schoening's advice is to use a glass baking dish and says it is good even with no frosting. Also, it can be frozen for use later.

PEPPERCORN PORK ROAST Recipe from *Southern Living All-Time Favorites*

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 (4-1/2 pound) rolled boneless pork loin roast

1. Heat oil in a heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Add roast; brown on all sides. Place roast in a roasting pan, and cool slightly.

1 tablespoon mustard seeds
3 tablespoons cracked black peppercorns or multicolored peppercorns

2. Combine mustard seeds and peppercorns in a heavy-duty, zip-top plastic freezer bag; seal. Crush spices with a meat mallet or rolling pin.

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon dry mustard
2 teaspoons dried thyme
1 teaspoon brown sugar
1/4 cup butter, softened
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

3. Combine crushed spices, 2 tablespoons flour, and next 3 ingredients; stir in 1/4 cup softened butter and 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard. Spread mixture on top and sides of roast.

4. Bake at 475 degrees for 20 minutes; reduce heat to 325 degrees. Loosely cover with aluminum foil; bake 1 hour and 10 minutes or until a meat thermometer inserted into thickest portion registers 160 degrees. Remove roast from pan, reserving 2 tablespoons drippings; keep roast warm.

2 tablespoons reserved drippings
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1-1/2 cups apple cider, divided
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

5. Combine reserved drippings, 1 tablespoon flour, 2 tablespoons of the apple cider, 1 tablespoon cider vinegar, and 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard. Set aside this flour mixture for step 7.

3 tablespoons apple brandy
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

6. Bring remaining apple cider to a boil in a saucepan over medium-high heat; boil 8 minutes or until reduced to (almost half) 3/4 cup. Stir in brandy; boil 1 minute.

7. Whisk in flour mixture, salt, and pepper; cook over medium-high heat until thickened. Serve with roast. Makes 10 servings.

EDDIE JACKSON'S ROASTED POTATO WEDGES RECIPE COURTESY OF FOODNETWORK.COM

2 large russet potatoes
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter
1 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley
1 clove garlic, finely minced
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper (or use a nonstick baking sheet).

2. Cut the potatoes into 8 wedges each and arrange on the prepared baking sheet. Melt the butter over low heat, add the parsley and garlic and give the mixture a quick whisk. Brush the butter mixture over all sides of the potato wedges. Reserve the remaining butter mixture. Season all sides of the potato wedges with salt and pepper.

3. Bake until the potatoes are golden brown and easily pricked with a fork, 40 to 50 minutes. About halfway through the cooking time, be sure to flip the potatoes over.

4. Drizzle the remaining butter

mixture over the cooked potatoes and serve.

MISS ELIZABETH R. WILLIAMS' CRAB MEAT SALAD Recipe from *Charleston Receipts, America's Oldest Junior League Cookbook in Print, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Charleston, Inc.*

1 pound crab meat
1 cup celery, diced
1/8 teaspoon pepper
Lettuce
1 green pepper, chopped
2 hard-cooked eggs, diced
1/2 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
1/2 teaspoon salt

Remove any shell from the crab meat. Combine all the ingredients and serve on lettuce. Shrimp may be used instead of crab meat. Serves 6.

SUSIE SAMS' MEXICAN BLACK BEAN SALAD Recipe from *First Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda, Florida A Taste of Heaven*

1 (8-ounce) carton sour cream
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
1 tablespoon taco seasoning
1 large head green leaf lettuce, torn (about 10 cups)
2 cups (8-ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 cup chopped purple onion
2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, drained
2 large tomatoes, chopped
Corn chips, crushed

Combine sour cream, cilantro, and taco seasoning in a large bowl, stirring well. Add lettuce, then cheese, onion, black beans, and chopped tomatoes. Toss well. Sprinkle with crushed corn chips and serve immediately. Yield: 6 servings.

MARTHA WETTEROFT'S BAKED VEGETABLE RISOTTO Recipe from *First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda, A Taste of Heaven*

2 tablespoons olive oil
Chopped onion
1 clove garlic, minced
1 cup Arborio Rice
2 cups chicken broth (14-ounce can plus water to make 16 ounces)
1 package frozen chopped spinach, zapped in microwave
2/3 cup shredded carrot (1 medium)
3 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped

Salt to taste and 1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese

Heat oil in heavy pan. Add onion and garlic and cook until tender. Stir in rice just to coat. Add chicken broth, spinach, carrots, parsley, salt and pepper. Pour into 1-quart casserole. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Cover. Place in 400-degree oven and bake 25 minutes or until moisture is absorbed. Serve hot. Makes six servings.

BONNIE MILLIKEN'S EASY BREAD Recipe from *Northside Baptist Church's cookbook*

1 package yeast
1/2 teaspoon salt
1-1/2 cups any beverage
3-plus cups flour
1 tablespoon honey, depending on how sweet the beverage
1 tablespoon oil

Enough oil to coat inside of bowl
Mix all ingredients. Knead on slightly floured surface, using enough extra flour to make not sticky. Allow dough to rise in oiled bowl. Punch down. Put into greased bread baking pan. Raise until bread reaches the top of pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Yield: 1 loaf

VIOLET SCHOENING'S FRESH APPLE CAKE Recipe from *Northside Baptist Church cookbook*

1-1/4 cup oil
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla
2-1/2 cups flour
1 cup pecans
3 cups raw apples

Mix in order. Pour batter into 9- x 13-inch baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 55-60 minutes. Cool, slice and serve from pan. Best if pan is glass.

Frosting:
1 stick butter, soft
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons evaporated milk
1 cup dark brown sugar
Powdered sugar, as needed.

Cream butter, salt, milk and brown sugar. Stir in powdered sugar until it takes form and spread over cooled cake. This cake may be frozen. And it is good even without the frosting.

2023: City hosted South Apopka annexation workshops

Continued from page 10A

by actor Dean Cain during Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the film premiere included introductions by Dean himself; Jason Campbell, president of JC Films Studios; and Jill Bolander Cohen, The Lifeboat Project CEO/ founder.

A boys basketball battle between hometown rivals ended as expected with the favored Wekiva Mustangs downing the host Apopka Blue Darters 67-52 on Friday, January 27, but not without a solid effort from both teams as the regular season winds down.

February 10, 2023

The sports-themed casual dining restaurant Miller's Ale House will come to the Apopka City Center, it was announced at a Thursday, February 2, press conference at the Apopka City

Center Hilton Garden Inn. The Apopka City Council voted 5-1 at its Wednesday, February 1, meeting for the \$600,000 alternative water supply project meant to mitigate flooding at Clear Water Lake, but approved 4-1 the \$200,000 emergency pumping of Clear Water Lake to reduce high-lake-water levels.

Arlen "Cosmo" Mizell, a devoted community service volunteer for 57 years who founded multiple clubs and earned a humanitarian award for his efforts, died on Wednesday, February 1. He was 81 years of age.

The Apopka Blue Darters girls soccer team defeated East Ridge twice in five days, downing the Knights 4-3 for the District 7A-3 championship on Thursday, February 2, and then 3-2 in a Region 7A-1

quarterfinal contest.

The season ended Friday February 3, for the Apopka Blue Darters girls basketball team in a 43-40 loss to Ocoee in the Dist. 7A-3 championship game. The Blue Darters finished the season with a 17-9 record, just barely missing the Region 7A-1 playoffs.

February 17, 2023

In recognition of Black History Month, the Museum of the Apopkans unveiled its latest book project "Celebrating Legends of Apopka in Honor of Black History Month," which honors the city's 28 Black historical trailblazers, at the Wednesday, February 15, Apopka City Council meeting at City Hall.

The Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce invited its members and non-members to organize the

Chamber's Hispanic Leadership Committee at San Miguel Mexican Grill at 1442 W. Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka, on Tuesday, February 14. This was the committee's first meeting. Thirteen business owners and professionals attended.

To address the issue of mental health among teens, the Apopka Youth Council (AYC) will host Teen Mental Health Townhall featuring a panel of experts and a moderator in a bid to destigmatize the topic.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Apopka Foundation, Inc. and supported by the city of Apopka, the Apopka Fair has taken its place among the institutions of Apopka. Scheduled for March 9-12 at Kit Land Nelson Park, the institution continues to bring appeal and spotlight to Apopka with the 2023 edition.

Six members of the

Apopka Blue Darters girls wrestling team claimed district titles Friday, February 10, in leading the team to District 1A-5 runner-up finish out of 17 teams.

February 24, 2023

Throughout Black History Month, the Museum of the Apopkans is displaying the desk of Alexander Akerman Jr., a defense attorney to "The Groveland Four," four Black men ranging in age from 16 to 26 who were falsely accused of raping a white teenage girl in 1949.

During the 2023 Legislative Preview Luncheon, constituents got a glimpse into state lawmakers' agendas and what may be top statewide issues at this year's Legislative Session, such as education and school choice.

On Friday, February 17, the city of Apopka installed a pump system at

Clearwater Lake, which has had flooding issues and caused problems for nearby residents for years. Last week, the pump showed 71.24 feet above sea level. On Thursday, February 23, the sea level is 70.878 feet, which is almost 4.5-inches lower than last week, according to Richard Earp, city engineer. The pumps will be in place for up to 90 days to get the water level down to a satisfactory level to protect Clearwater Lake residents.

A 66-32 dominant victory over the Viera Hawks in a Region 6A-2 semifinal contest on Tuesday, February 21, has advanced the Wekiva Mustangs boys basketball team to the Region 6A-2 final. The appearance in a region final during the 2023 FHSAA playoffs is the third in Mus-

See 2023 Page 12A

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2023: Community honored Black History Month with book unveiling

Continued from page 11A

tangs' history.

March

March 3, 2023

The Apopka Professional Firefighters Association members voted 85 percent of no confidence in Fire Chief Sean Wylam's leadership regarding the July 15, 2022, line-of-duty death of firefighter Austin Duran and the subsequent way Wylam handled the tragedy.

The Apopka Historical Society intends to continue telling the story of the Groveland Four and their defense attorney Alexander Akerman Jr. beyond Black History Month by presenting Akerman's desk as the focal point of a traveling exhibit.

The University of Central Florida (UCF) will hold a public workshop to get feedback on Apopka's downtown vision plan, which a team of UCF students will create for the city.

The community honored Black History Month with an event unveiling the book "Celebrating Legends of Apopka in Honor of Black History Month," which highlights the lives of 28 of Apopka's Black trailblazers.

The Wekiva Mustangs won three contests during the 2019-2020 season. Fast forward to the end of the 2023 FHSAA playoffs' regional final round four seasons later. A berth in the Class 6A State Final-Four was being celebrated at Mustang Arena.

March 10, 2023

Students from the Universi-

ty of Central Florida (UCF) conducted a public workshop to get feedback on Apopka's downtown vision plan, which a team of UCF students created for the city for their capstone project. The public workshop took place on Wednesday, March 8, at the Apopka Community Center.

Propagate Social House co-owners announced at a Friday, March 3, press conference that it will transform the former Hall's Feed Store site into another restaurant and meeting place in the center of Apopka. The feed store, which first opened in 1928, had closed; its insides have been demolished.

The Apopka Youth Council (AYC) addressed the issue of mental health among teens in a bid to destigmatize the topic in its Teen Mental Health Town Hall, which featured a panel of experts and a moderator.

For 23 years, when spring comes, the feeling of "that time of the year" pervades the Apopka area as the Apopka Fair draws near. And the arrival is finally here. Organizers completed the final touches this week after planning for the last year.

The most successful season ever for the Apopka Blue Darters girls wrestling team has concluded. It was successful as the Darters placed third at the state championship meet and realized the goal of moving into the top five in Florida. However, efficiency remained the calling card of Apopka as third place was earned with five entries qualifying for the state championship meet.

The Wekiva Mustangs base-

ball team moved to 7-0 on the season after downing Windermere Prep 4-3 on Tuesday, March 7.

The Wekiva Mustangs boys basketball team won the opening tip of the Class 6A state semifinal Thursday, March 2, against the Ponte Vedra Sharks at RP Funding Center in Lakeland.

March 17, 2023

For the first time at a public meeting, details of an evaluation report about ways the Apopka Fire Department could better its health and safety compliance have been presented, which includes the department's blind spots and recommendations for improvement.

The Rock Springs Ridge Homeowners Association Board voted to prepare and submit a mitigation proposal to the state requesting an easement release for the gopher tortoise easement on West Kelly Park Road, the road that is the northern boundary of Rock Springs Ridge.

An eight-year member of the Planning Commission is stepping down citing health reasons, with the Tuesday, March 14, meeting being her last one. Linda Laurendeau was presented a proclamation and flowers by Mayor Bryan Nelson at the meeting honoring her hard work and volunteering efforts to the community.

The Apopka Fire Department voted Austin Duran as the 2022 Firefighter of the Year, the AFD announced in a Monday, March 13, Facebook post.

Wekiva High School culi-

nary arts students participated in the 22nd annual ProStart Culinary Team Competition at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando on Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5. Sixty-five of the 224 recognized culinary programs in the state met the requirements to participate and sent teams of students to compete for scholarships, prizes and bragging rights.

March 24, 2023

Apopka city attorney Michael Rodriguez was cleared on Tuesday, March 10, by the Florida Bar when the organization dismissed a complaint filed against Rodriguez by Kelley Butcher, who claimed, among other issues, that the city attorney "has blocked the city of Apopka's fire union from doing their job regarding the death of firefighter Austin Duran."

The recent failures of major U.S. banks earlier this month have not impacted the city of Apopka's estimated \$122 million funds, according to city Finance Director Blanche Sherman.

The Apopka City Council voted 3-1 with one refusal to deny adopting an ordinance amending the future land use of a one-acre city-owned vacant land, which would have supported the development of seven single-family homes across the street from Alonzo Williams Park.

On Tuesday, March 21, the Apopka High beach volleyball team had its first match following spring break, hosting the Lake Highland Prep Highlanders at the city of Apopka's Northwest Recreation Complex.

March 31, 2023

The Development Review Committee (DRC) evaluated the major development plan for the Miller's Ale House that's coming to the Apopka City Center.

The Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored the Loomis family at the Apopka Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner on Wednesday, March 29, at Highland Manor. Cate Manley, president and CEO of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, chaired the event.

The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive will be closed to vehicular traffic until further notice due to ongoing construction on the property. The Lake Apopka North Shore Loop Trail will remain open for pedestrian traffic.

The city of Apopka conducted its third community meeting in four months, this time in a town hall format, to discuss the mass annexation of unincorporated South Apopka into the city on Tuesday, March 28, at the John H. Bridges Community Center on West 13th Street.

Scoring an average of 7.5 runs while giving up 3.6, the Wekiva Mustangs baseball team has been dominant far more often than not. The state of the program has turned from the best start ever with eight consecutive victories to facing the most important stretch of contests. The two losses suffered recently were to the Umatilla Bulldogs and Liberty Chargers.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Bryan Potts, P.E.** has made application relating to the following described property.

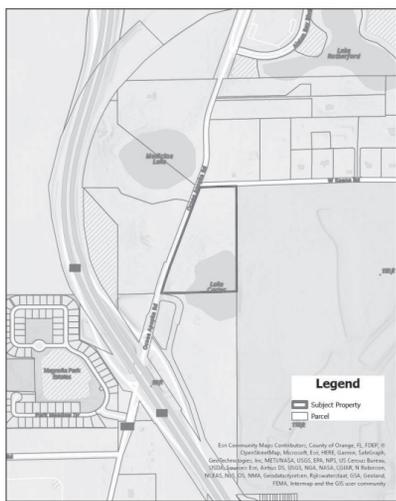
ORDINANCE NO. 3034

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM OFFICE TO COMMERCIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 WEST KEENE ROAD, OWNED BY M.L. CARTER SERVICES, INC., TRUSTEE OF THE CARTER-KEENE ROAD LAND TRUST, COMPRISING 18.8 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3035

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM O (OFFICE) TO C-C (COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 WEST KEENE ROAD, OWNED BY M.L. CARTER SERVICES, INC., TRUSTEE OF THE CARTER-KEENE ROAD LAND TRUST COMPRISING 18.8 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Location Map



Parcel Identification Number(s): 29-21-28-0000-00-003
Contains: 18.8 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3034 and 3035 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, January 17, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

January 5, 2024

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Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

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