

Coming Attractions

In May Look For

- ...YOU! Maybe you will be captured by our candid camera at the Community Picnic on April 22.
- ...Summer activities for the kids
- ...Mother's Day Feature

This Month In History

In April, 1987, the BHA met with county school officials regarding unsafe walking conditions to Alafia Elementary. As a result, bus routes were developed. The BHA also worked with county traffic engineers to synchronize Bloomingdale's stoplights. In 1989, the BHA battled the county over zoning laws, ending in a lawsuit against the county.

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XV, Number 4

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BHA Blurbs

This Month's Meeting

All dues paying members of the BHA are invited to attend the monthly meeting of the board of directors. They meet the second Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 in the Community Office, which is located in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza, four doors north of the Winn Dixie. This month's meeting will be Tuesday, April 11.

Residents who are guests at the meetings and who would like to be heard on an issue or topic of concern have an opportunity to address the board at the beginning of each meeting. They may leave afterwards or are welcomed to stay for the business portion of the meeting when such things as membership, the NIP program, and community activities are discussed.

Community Picnic

After months of preview announcements in *The Gazette*, the Spring Fling Community Picnic is finally here. Join your neighbors at this BHA sponsored event on Saturday, April 22, from 2 until 7 p.m., at Park West, on the corner of Canoga Park Drive and Bloomingfield. Food and entertainment, games and activities will mean a fun afternoon for children and adults. Don't forget your folding chairs and picnic blankets. See story this page for further details.

NIP Report

Spring is in the air and many homeowners are cleaning and fixing up their properties. A very encouraging sign, especially in the older sections of Bloomingdale. Complaints have been trickling into the Neighborhood Involvement Program, and sometimes before a card can be sent out, the violation has been corrected. This makes our job as volunteers so much easier.

Have you ever noticed that when one homeowner cleans or fixes up their property, it seems to spread throughout the neighborhood? Spring is such a wonderful time of years. Nature comes alive again, greening our lawns and sending forth buds and flowers, giving us the encouragement we need to get started on projects too long put off.

Four new volunteers recently completed their training and we are fortunate to have them aboard. The need still exists for volunteers, at least one for every four to five streets in Bloomingdale. This will keep the time each volunteer spends observing his or her area to a minimum. All that is needed is a concern for the appearance of your community, one hour of training, and the time it would take you to drive around your neighborhood once a month. Please call the community office at 681-2051 and leave a name and phone number if you are interested in assisting with this worthwhile community project. We have already begun to see the rewards of our efforts.

Our homes are our single greatest financial investment. Let's all work together and keep our property values up.

As usual, we're getting many complaints that are related to deed restrictions. The BHA board is looking into the best way to address these complaints. Please remember that the NIP is a county-sponsored program which empowers us to deal only with county code violations, issue a warning

It's Back, It's Better And You'll Love It Community Picnic Saturday, April 22

by Rozel Sculli

Spring Fling - the name alone suggests a fun and carefree event. Kick back, relax, join the neighbors, bring the kids - it's time once again for the Bloomingdale Community Picnic, Saturday, April 22, from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Park West. Newcomers and old-timers will be sure to enjoy this special event which is making a comeback since earlier years when it served as a benchmark of this community.

The BHA has planned an afternoon filled with entertainment, food, door prizes, games and activities. County agencies have joined in and will have information tables set up, and the county parks and recreation department will supervise children's and adult games beginning at 2 p.m.

Dinner will be served beginning at 4 p.m. when



Last year's Mike the Clown was a big hit with area children.

residents will have a choice of either a hearty hamburger plate with slaw, beans, and corn on the cob, or a hotdog plate with the same complements. All this for just \$2.

See PICNIC, pg. 16



Great food!

Support Kiwanis Efforts

The Kiwanis Club of Brandon Nights will once again operate the beverage wagon, and this year they have taken on the added responsibility of preparing and selling food at the annual Community Picnic. The Kiwanis men and women have scheduled this event as their major fund raiser of the year. Proceeds from the sale of beverages and food will go towards the Kiwanis Terrific Kids Programs in the local elementary schools.

The BHA encourages all residents to take advantage of the minimal cost of dinner (see details in Picnic story this

See KIWANIS, pg. 16

Easter Bunnies Require Love And Attention All Year

by Laura D. Frazier

The Boody family of Bloomingdale East think rabbits make fine house pets. Pat and Oliver Boody and their children, Alex and Bridgette, count three bunnies in their menagerie of pets which also includes two cats, a dog, and a ferret. Pat would recommend bunnies as pets to other families "because with patience and attention

puppy. They are easier to manage than a dog, and they are very, very quiet!"

The Boody's agree that the potential rabbit owner should be patient and have a sense of humor, with a daily schedule that includes plenty of time at home. Oliver and Pat both work, but the family manages to spend some time each



Alex Boody, 8, thinks his rabbit "Bunnie" is a pretty awesome

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Dear Readers,

It has been a good year for the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association, a year of successful remedies to many persistent problems and apprehensions. I hope each of you will enjoy the benefits provided by the BHA. We have tried, as is our practice, to enable everyone to voice their opinion concerning our community, by opening up the BHA Board meetings to the residents. Many of you took advantage of the opportunity and used the meetings to express your concerns. We still are encouraging you to get involved with the community.

Being successful is contagious. Last year's BHA Community Picnic was such a big success that the BHA decided to have another party this year!

The date is April 22 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Park West, with the meal being served at 4:00 p.m. Bring the entire family for a fun day of entertainment and community spirit.



Sincere Sympathy

Our most sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of Randy Lee Hale, 16, of Bloomingdale East. Since Randy's passing on March 7, many friends and neighbors have expressed their sympathies regarding his untimely death. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief.

OFFICERS

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 101
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051

Randy Wolfe	President	229-3321
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Ted Grable	Membership	685-7193
Jim Wiley	Treasurer	684-7825

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John Britton	Treasurer	681-1553
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David Guy	681-5943
Paul Kelmer	681-9701
Rick Borling	684-2022

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P. O. Box 3132
Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

William Grace	President	685-2817
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The Bloomingdale Gazette

3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 101
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051
Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District
Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

BHA Board of Directors
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District
First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

Our Times

We Need Classroom Space...And Lots Of It

by Rozel Sciulli

In 1971, when forced busing to achieve desegregation first came to my high school, the result was overcrowding. Separation of church and state was ignored when overflow classes had to be housed in the Methodist church Sunday school classrooms across the street. My graduating class numbered 745, and the next year my high school was placed on double sessions.

Ironically, as the county eliminates forced busing and implements its cluster plan in our area, Bloomingdale High will be on double sessions with an anticipated enrollment of over 3,000 in the 96-97 school year.

The only relief in sight is still a long way away. Right now, eastern Hillsborough County needs three new high schools. Although Durant will open this fall without a senior class and an enrollment of over 1500, the following year it will be up to capacity. Property has been located for one high school in the Boyette Springs area. Another elementary school and middle school are also hoped for.

None of it will be possible, however, without passage of a 1/2 cent sales tax, a referendum for which is needed but which first must have legislative approval. This tax would generate some \$63 million a year for capital improvements and new construction.

Putting things into perspective, the new Durant High School cost \$30 million to build and another \$5.3 million to equip. The funds generated by the 1/2 cent sales tax could conceivably fund two new schools a year.

In 1979, Brandon High School was the largest high school in the state. With an enrollment of over 4,000 students, the school survived with overlapping triple sessions. Members of the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce lobbied the state legislature in the spring of 1980 for funds to build two new

efforts were Armwood and Bloomingdale high schools.

What I remember most about those triple sessions was how unfair it was that the football players had to attend the earliest session because of afternoon practices. Some students were getting home from school later than their parents from the workplace. Participation in clubs and extracurricular activities was difficult and almost nonexistent. Seniors didn't know juniors, and sophomores didn't have upperclassmen to look up to.

The county says double sessions will save them money. Two high schools will be carried on under one roof with only one set of administrators, and no duplication of materials or equipment. But the county also admits that it is not a benefit to the students. I was glad to miss out on double sessions. It is inevitable for all who will remain at Bloomingdale after next year.

Bloomingdale is not the only school that will suffer the effects of overcrowding. Already, Alafia Elementary exceeds capacity, its play yard lined with portable classrooms. In the fifth grades, classroom numbers exceed 35. With all the sixth and seventh graders due to return to our area year after next, Burns will surpass the 2,000 mark. Shifting boundaries will not accomplish anything, because Lithia Springs and Boyette Springs are already overcrowded and Durant will have a full load of 9th-12th graders.

With 13 new schools already built or under construction, Hillsborough County can still not keep up with the 3,000 new students it receives each year. It is in our area of rapid community growth - not in Tampa or the inner city - where the county will be strapped for classroom space over the next decade, adding some 125 new portables each year.

Only you can help by contacting your legislators and voicing approval of the 1/2 cent



etter To The Editor

Springtime In Bloomingdale Breeds Landscape Larceny

Dear Editor:

Ah, spring is in the air. And the time has come once more for me to turn my thoughts toward spring cleaning, home improvements, and yard maintenance.

Say, don't those new trees and bushes in my neighbor's yard look nice? Heck, they look great. I wonder how they would look in my yard? Maybe I'll just slip over into his yard one night and take a few. Save a few bucks. He's loaded. He can afford it. And he'll probably never know it was me.

Are you shocked? You wouldn't dream of doing such a thing, would you? Of course, not. You're a proud, hard working, law abiding member of the community. You've been brought up right. So why are so many of our common area bushes and plants, installed at taxpayer expense, vanishing from our rights of way?

It's simple. They're being stolen. People who wouldn't dream of stealing from their neighbor's yard somehow think it's okay to steal plants from the Special District. Just remember this, your tax dollars paid for those plants. And when people steal them, they're stealing from you.

Bloomingdale is a fine community. The District, the Homeowners' Associations and *The Gazette* are working hard to keep it that way. You should, too. If you see someone tampering with the common area landscape, get a description and report it. We'll prosecute.

End of story.

Sincerely,
Peter Aluotto
President
Bloomingdale STD

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The Club That Roars



Members of the Bloomingdale High Leo Club perform their Karaoke version of "Yellow Sub-

marine" at the American Cancer Society's annual "Making Strides" fundraiser walk.

by Laura D. Frazier

The Leo Club of Bloomingdale High School sports a double entendre title - the name Leo reflects the club's status as an auxiliary of the local Lion's Club, and also serves as an acronym for the club's motto - "Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity".

Student club president Katie Brunny reports that the Leo Club, an organization dedicated to student involvement through community service, boasts a current membership of 138 students. With the guidance of club advisor Matt Hauer, social studies department head, club members are actively involved in many community projects throughout the year.

Most recently, the group played a big part in the successful American Cancer Society's "Making Strides" Annual Walk for Cancer at Park East. Walk coordinators credit the Leo Club's diligent efforts in distributing and collecting pledges and their enthusiastic involvement as an important factor in the event's success.

The club is currently planning a food collection project. "We call it our canned food scavenger hunt," said Brunny. "We are teaming up with the Key Club and going door to door in Bloomingdale collecting canned goods for distribution to needy families." Other recent projects for the students have included playing the role of "Santa Claws" for the Humane Society last Christmas and participating in the Adopt-A-Family program at The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc., a domestic violence program.

On ongoing project for the Leo Club this year has been the federally funded "Head Start" program. Under this program, local pre-kindergarten children through age four meeting poverty guidelines are given social and educational encouragement that too often is missing from their daily lives. The Leo Club provides year-long assistance to children in this program, as well as special event coordination, like the Head Start program Christmas Party held at the end of last year.

Happy Easter

Ideas

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Making Strides Against Cancer

by Laura D. Frazier

Members of the Brandon Unit of the American Cancer Society held their sixth annual "Making Strides" Walk for Cancer last month at Bloomingdale Park East. Over 300 Brandon residents assembled at 8 a.m. to register for the 4.2 mile walk around Natures Way and Culbreath.

The society hopes to realize over \$15,000 in pledges, according to Brandon Unit director Melissa Snow. Proceeds from the event will fund the Cancer Society's survivor's support system which provides transportation, pain medication, wigs and medical supplies, education, and support groups to area cancer survivors.

Local radio station Q105 was on hand to emcee the event, and several restaurants and distributors provided

food and drinks for participants. Local businesses and individuals made financial contributions, the largest of which was made by an anonymous individual who wishes only to be known as "A Friend of Brandon."

Entertainment was provided by local high school groups, including the Bloomingdale High LEO Club, and a touching moment occurred when the dancettes from the Brandon School of Dance Arts performed in honor of classmate Kelly Mitchell, a 14-year old who was diagnosed with bone cancer earlier this year.

The event's honorary chairperson was Laurie Walsh, a young mother whose cancer was diagnosed during pregnancy. She is now in total remission and doing very well.

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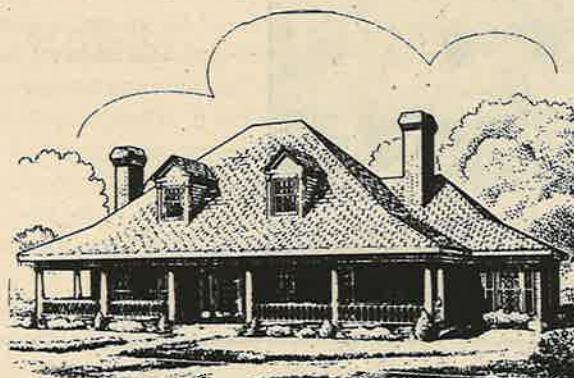
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Good Neighbors Meet Joyce Uphoff

by Mandi Oros

There are many levels of community service within each neighborhood. One major area is the improvement of the physical community, such as park restoration, Homeowners' Associations, and the beautification and general maintenance of the area. However, few people are willing to go out into the community and give direct assistance and help to those in need.

Joyce Uphoff is one of those few unsung heroes who has been donating unselfishly her time and unlimited efforts for the past eight years. She is heavily involved in the Emergency Care Help Organization, most commonly referred to as ECHO.

It is a non-profit organization that is operated only by volunteers. All money and donations are collected by volunteers, and it receives no outside funding. ECHO gets no government or United Way help. So far this year ECHO has taken care of 1,029 people and 5,066 total people for 1994.

ECHO was started eight years ago by the Ministerial Association, but broke away five years ago, and is now a separate entity. Presently, it has no religious affiliations. On occasion, some churches lend support, but most help comes from individual donations and fund raisers.

ECHO has one yearly fund raiser,

which is an annual golf tournament. This year it is going to be held on April 21, at Summerfield Golf Course, at Big Bend Road.

ECHO not only organizes canned food drives, they also distribute clothes to those who are in need. They limit people to one donation session every six months, and they are entitled to receive help four times

total. In each trip, an individual or family receives seven full days of groceries. Each member of the family is entitled to pick out five outfits, plus shoes, if needed. Each child in the family also receives two new pairs of underwear.

ECHO heavily depends on the Boy Scouts for additional fund raisers. This year, two Bloomingdale High School clubs were involved with

gathering much needed items for the organization. At one point, ECHO was running short of food and other supplies. Learning this, the Leo and Key clubs of Bloomingdale High School organized a canned food drive. This was greatly appreciated by Joyce and the other members of ECHO. The students actually went door-to-door and collected what they could. Fortunately the clubs were very successful.

Every community in Hillsborough County should be as fortunate as ours to have a resident like Joyce Uphoff.



Joyce Uphoff

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Church and Synagogue News

Easter, Passover Times Announced

by Donna Heinz

The Presbyterian Church of Bloomington is celebrating the arrival of a new full time pastor, Dr. Philip Makari. Dr. Makari, the son of a Presbyterian minister, was born in Egypt. He received his undergraduate degree in Cairo. Furthering his education, Dr. Makari came to America to attend Columbia Theological Seminary in 1971. While attending the Seminary, Dr. Makari earned both a Masters and Doctorate degrees. He has served at churches in both Alabama and Georgia, and since 1991, has served as an Associate Pastor of the Palma Sola Presbyterian Church in Bradenton.

This Sunday, April 9, at 3 p.m., an installation service will be conducted by the officers of The Presbytery of Tampa Bay at the Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, 710 E. Bloomington Ave. A formal reception will follow. The public is invited to attend.

Dr. Makari and his wife Vicky will reside in the Bloomington area.

Calvary Church will hold a Good Friday service at Crosswalk Community Church across from the high school. Contact the Calvary Church office at 653-0422 for the exact time and further details. An exciting, contemporary Easter worship service will be held in the auditorium of Bloomington High School on Sunday, April 16, at 9 a.m. and again at 10:30 a.m.

Bell Shoals Church of Christ will hold a spring cookout. Area residents are welcomed to attend. The date, time, and location are still to be announced. The church membership will hold a special Easter service on April 16, at 10 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church will hold Maundy Thursday services at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13. A Good Friday service will follow on April 14 at 7:30, and Easter services will be celebrated on April 16 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

The high school youth group of St. Stephen's Catholic Church will present, "The Living Stations of The Cross" on Friday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. Each year, students dress as Gospel characters and silently retrace the steps that Jesus took to the cross.

Congregation Beth Shalom will hold its Passover Seder on Friday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Dr. Reservations are needed and must be made by April 11. Contact Robin Bledsoe at 654-3483 or Sheryl Finke at 654-4142 for reservations and cost.

Easter Sunday will be a special time for all visitors at Bell Shoals Baptist Church. Refreshments and a free gift will be presented to visitors in the courtyard before and after the 6:15 p.m. service on Saturday, April 15, and before and in-between the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, April 16.

Babbie Mason will be in concert at Bell Shoals Baptist on Sunday, April 30, at 6:15 p.m. Ms. Mason is a six-time

Dove Award nominee, who has written several hit songs and has made annual appearances with the Billy Graham Crusades. While this concert is free, offerings will be accepted.

Members of the St. Andrew's United Methodist Church Pre-School Parent's Club and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department will team up on Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m. They will present a crime awareness and prevention program titled, "Don't Be A Victim: What You Don't Know...Can Hurt You". It will be held in the fellowship hall of St. Andrew's, 3315 Bryan Road.

Deputy J. Rudy Harrell, a 12-year veteran in law enforcement and crime prevention will present an entertaining personal safety program that is designed to inform all of potential life saving techniques during this time of rising violent crime. The program is free and open to the public.

The seventh annual Praise Concert will be held at St. Andrew's on Sunday, April 30, at 7 p.m. This will be a musical evening filled with singing, instrumentals and liturgical dance. A nursery will be provided.

St. Mark's United Church of Christ invites area residents to celebrate the Procession of The Palms on Sunday, April 9, and both the 9 and 11 a.m. services. Maundy Thursday services will be held on April 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Good Friday services are at 7:30 on April 14, and there will be three services on Easter Sunday. A sunrise service at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by a children's Easter egg hunt and a breakfast buffet. There will also be services at 9 and 11 a.m. Communion will be served following the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and after the 9 a.m. Easter Sunday service. At 11 a.m., Communion will be served during the service.

A Maundy Thursday service at Living Savior Lutheran Church will be held on April 13, at 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae service is scheduled for 7:30 on the 14th. There will be an Easter Brunch at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday the 16th, followed by a worship service at 10 a.m.

Members of Living Savior will hold a church picnic on the church grounds on Sunday, April 30 immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. The church is located at the corner of Bloomington and Lithia Pinecrest.

Bloomington Brethern Church invite children in grades second through fifth to Kid's Club on Sunday, April 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. Recreational activities and a Bible story will be featured. At 6 p.m. on the 9th, a three-fold communion service will be held. Baptism will be conducted on April 16 at 6 p.m.

Bloomington Community Picnic

Saturday, April 22
2 - 7 p.m.
Park West

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Bits 'N Pieces



by Donna Heinz

Gail Bjornson and Joe Smallwood were united in marriage on Saturday, March 4, in an intimate ceremony held in the elegant foyer of Bell Shoals Baptist Church. Family and friends circled the couple as they exchanged their vows.

Dianne Molitor, the bride's sister, served as matron of honor, and Brian Britman was best man.



Newlyweds Gail and Joe Smallwood with children Blade, Brock, Sarah, Brent, and Jennifer

A reception at the couple's home in Bloomingdale West was held immediately following the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Smallwood honeymooned briefly in Sarasota.

Mrs. Smallwood is the director of Primary Prep Pre-School, and Mr. Smallwood is employed with James Pontiac.

As this is a second marriage for both, they have the added blessing of five children. The bride's three sons Blade, Brent, and Brock, and the groom's daughters, Jennifer and Sarah.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Smallwood family.

Stephen and Sherry Pryor of Bloomingdale East have a new baby in their family, a granddaughter. Their first grandchild, Sabrina Logan Waring, was born at Brandon Humana on March 9, at 5:37 p.m.



Sabrina Logan Waring

She weighed 8 lbs 3 ozs, and was 19 1/2 inches long. Sabrina, mother Masa and father Kyle are doing great. Grandma and Grandpa are still on cloud nine and don't plan on coming down for awhile.

Maryanne Aluotto recently won her age division at the Orlando Classic Roller Skating Invitational. Maryanne is the daughter of Peter and Elena Aluotto of Bloomingdale West. She is a 13-year old student at Immanuel Lutheran School and has been skating competitively for three years. Skaters representing various states competed at the invitational.

A local artist, Cheryl Jorgensen, won best of show and first place at the Strawberry Festival for a still life watercolor titled, "Strawberries and a Pear". Cheryl is from the Caribbean where she lived most of her life. She moved to the Bloomingdale area seven years ago, and she has been painting for the past six years. Her works will be display with the works of other local artists at the Brandon League of Fine Arts annual Artfest at Regency Square on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Congratulations to the Bloomingdale High School Marching Band for being selected to perform during the opening ceremonies of the new Florida Aquarium. Eighty band members (all the juniors and seniors) played Three Dog Night's "Joy to the World" about "all the little fishes in the deep blue sea" as children dressed as fish paraded into the Aquarium.



Pam and Joe Liguori's 'Easter Tree' has been a family tradition passed on by Pam's family. The first eggs were hand-made by Pam. Others were bought along their travels, making it bigger every year!

Restaurant Review

Tia's Serves Up Real Tex-Mex

by Elton Dumont

I know it has been a while since I've visited a local restaurant and I apologize for the long interruption. During this extended hiatus, I planned many activities revolving around restaurant reviews, but alas nothing fruitful developed.

Meantime, it seems like some exciting and interesting restaurants have opened in our backyard. Tia's, Bedroc's, and Mozzarella's are just a few. As of this date, we have tried just one, and I couldn't be happier to share our experience with you.

Tia's Tex-Mex Restaurant at 144 Brandon Town Center Drive is an authentic Tex-Mex Cantina style restaurant. There are differences between traditional Mexican restaurants and honest-to-goodness Tex-Mex food. Having moved to the Brandon area from Texas, we have had very few opportunities to enjoy authentic Tex-Mex until Tia's!

My wife settled in on the steak fajitas. There are five different fajita selections starting a \$7.45 for the veggie fajitas to \$7.95 for steak fajitas. These prices are certainly a welcome treat for your dining out budget and my wife agreed that it was "just like back in Texas" and the guacamole was darn good also. Other entrees include grilled chicken dishes, chile rellenos, Texas sizzler (mesquite grilled sirloin) and the rib/shrimp combo. These entrees start at \$6.25 and go up to \$14.95.

The unique entrees, of course, are the Mexican combinations. You can choose from the Presidente which is two chicken enchiladas with sour cream, one chicken taco al carbon and one tamale with chile con carne. How about Tia's dinner which includes guacamole salad and chile con queso as an appetizer, with one cheese and one beef enchilada topped with chili con

carne and sprinkled with chopped green onions. There is also the Juarez, the San Antonio, or the Matamoros as well as many others.

I chose the enchilada plate served with rice, Charra beans (these are not refried, they are served in a cup). There are also three cheese or spinach enchiladas. Also an array of chimichangas and burritos are available for an entree selection. I chose the cheese. With the Mexican combinations, enchiladas, burritos, or chimichangas you also get your choice of a special sauce. Choose from Chile Con Carne, Spanish, Sour Cream, Green Chile, Chile con Queso or Caliente. And if these are not spicy enough, just ask for the special hot sauce selection.

Yes, they are open for lunch, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and they do have a child's menu (under 12) for \$2.50 with a soft drink included. Incidentally, if I forgot to mention it, the iced tea is served in 32 oz glasses, so you won't run out after swigs, and the chips are served within one minute of being seated.

Our total including tax and gratuity was less than \$22 for a very good meal.

And finally, if you enjoyed your experience (or even if you didn't), ask for Brent Baker, the manager. A very nice guy who really wants to hear what you have to say and will be more than happy to tell you the history and start of Tia's.

Until we eat again, this is Elton Dumont saying *bon appetit*.

Based on 4 stars
 Ambiance **1/2
 Service ***
 Food ***
 Overall ***



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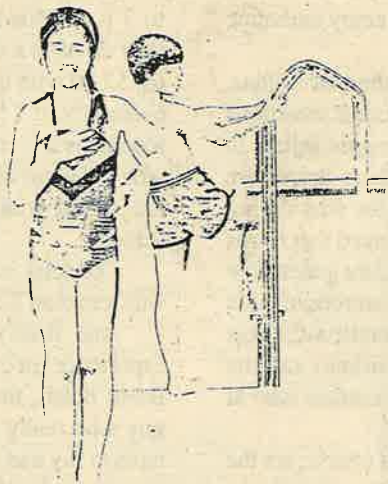
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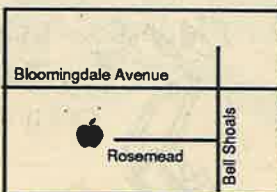
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David Stephens of Windsor Woods was the reading champion of Bell Shoals Baptist Academy's recent "Reading Incentive Program". The third grader earned 96 points for number of pages read. Children in all grades

were rewarded with tickets that they used at the Media Circus held last month on the school grounds. They were able to spend their tickets on games, food, and merchandise donated by local merchants.



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Lithia Lynx



Congratulations to Donnamarie Kibler, Lithia Springs County Council Representative, on her recent election to area vice-president for the Bloomingdale schools. She will serve as a strong communications link from the PTA's county council to area school principals and PTA presidents.

The new board of officers for the 95-96 PTA will be introduced and voted into office at the May general meeting. Parents are encouraged to attend and join in recognizing the accomplishments of this year's board and the many volunteers who deserve public acknowledgement for their time and talents. This important year-end meeting is set for Tuesday, May 9, at 7:15 p.m.

Wake up and smell the coffee!...and the famous "Brandon Bagels" at Lithia Springs every Friday morning. Proceeds from this bagel breakfast go to award two students with new bicycles at the end of the year. The two students who brought in the most aluminum cans for the school's recycling effort will be announced in May.

Gator Tales



by Suzie Wiesenhart

Our Pot O Gold Penny Collection was a huge success. We raised \$750 for computers. Not quite as much as last time, but every bit helps us get closer to our goal. Mrs. Ward's 5th grade class and Mrs. Ruhle's kindergarten class won a pizza party for collecting the most money. At press time, we were not sure just who was going to get "crazy stringed"...Mrs. Wiesenhart or Mrs. Lizer. Stay Tuned and we'll let you know. Thanks to everyone who participated.

April has already been such a busy month for the Alafia Alligators, who kicked off the month on April 1 with the school's first Bicycle Safety Rodeo. We had a great turn-out for bike skills and safety instruction. That big

event was followed by the school's Book Fair which took place all last week. Parents especially enjoyed the selections when they got a chance to visit during conference night. That same night, the PTA sponsored a pizza party and the annual "Summer Extravaganza" where parents could collect information about summer clubs, camps, and programs for their children.

A big thanks to Sunrise Homes and MacRiley Homes for donating 5,000 square feet of sod to help beautify the ground at Alafia. They were also kind enough to see that the sod was laid down by their people on March 27. It's a wonderful show of community partnership and we appreciate it so much.

We could use some more...so any other businesses out there who are interested in donating sod, please call Lori Kelly at 661-3678.



by **Sonia M. Ruiz, M.D.**

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Pee Wees	\$25	\$40
Future Stars	\$45	\$65
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SESSIONS
March 6 - March 30
April 3 - April 27
May 1 - May 25

Bruin Beat



by Tiffany Waller

The latest event that many Burns students have participated in was "SPIFFS", St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society, Inc.

The field trip was offered to all students enrolled in Spanish at Burns, and nearly 300 students attended the day-long event at the Thunder Dome on March 17.

Students had an opportunity to visit each country's booth and get their "passport" stamped along the way. Some 50 countries were represented and each had a display of crafts and native food. On stage were performances by dancers and musicians each representing the different cultures..

When students arrived back at school, they were wearing different types of hats and head-pieces. Some students had their hair braided and others had different types of flowers and crafts.

It was a true multi-cultural experience.

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Members of the Burns Junior High School chorus earned a Superior Rating at district competition held last month at Tomlin Junior High. The chorus, directed by Lynn Bennett, performed to rehearsed pieces and were also judged on site reading.

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Student Numbers Create Class Crunch School Official Pushes Sales Tax To Parents

by Rozel Sciulli

They came expecting answers. They left without them. They came knowing that their school was filled beyond capacity. They left worrying that their children's educational future would be compromised by overcrowded classrooms, a lack of instructional materials, and schools on double sessions. They received a sales pitch for the 1/2 cent tax referendum, and they left wondering where all their tax dollars are being spent.

Weeks before area school director Larry Martin was scheduled to visit with the Alafia PTA last month, he was sent a list of questions that the parents wanted answered. The hope, said PTA president Suzie Wiesenhart, was that Martin would have answers to these questions rather than be caught off guard and "tell us he'd have to look into it."

The most pressing question was the issue of overcrowding at Alafia. Parents wanted to know what, if anything, the school system had planned for accommodating the children of Bloomingdale East with the addition of nearly 1,100 new homes over the next five years.

Already at 1,250 students, Alafia's enrollment could reach a staggering 1,500 over the next two years. Some classes already exceed 30. Martin said the numbers would be worked out through attrition of students and the addi-

tion of portable classrooms.

When Bloomingdale's cluster plan goes into effect in the 1996-97 school year, Alafia will not be affected, but Burns will receive sixth and seventh graders who were previously bused, and Bloomingdale will take on the ninth graders from Burns, resulting in double sessions for the high school.

"We're bringing all the sixth and seventh graders back into Brandon without a place to put them," said Martin.

Burns, already at 1,500 students, may not be able to house the incoming sixth graders. Should that happen, the new elementary school "I" on South Miller Road would become a Burns satellite school and home to those sixth graders.

Martin announced this area's need for a new elementary and middle school, funds for which have been earmarked should the tax pass, and said that property has already been located for a new high school in the Boyette Springs area..

If passed by the legislature and then by the voters, the tax would generate \$63 million a year. The current cost of building a new school is \$25 to \$30 million and rising. In the last eight years, the south Brandon area has received six new schools, more than any other single area of the county.

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Local Brownie Troops join to celebrate Scout Day.

Troops Celebrate Girl Scout Sunday

by Christine George

On Sunday, March 12, Girl Scout Birthday, Girl Scouts from Go-fer and Sanspur Neighborhoods got together at Kings Avenue Baptist Church for a Girl Scout Sunday Service. The flag ceremony was performed by Christine George and Stephanie Small. Then, there was a candle ceremony where different colored candles represented how a Girl Scout should be. Then some songs were sung. Girls from

Sanspur Neighborhood and a beautiful song called "Silver and Gold".

The guest speaker was the pastor of Kings Avenue, Rev. Charles Richard, Jr. After the service, everyone went upstairs and had refreshments. The service was very interesting and the troops plan on doing it again next year.

Editor's Note: This article was contributed by Christine George, an eight-year old third grader from Brownie Troop #65.



Proudly displaying their homemade race cars and Pinewood Derby award ribbons are Cub Scouts (l-r) Troy Lybbert, 1st place; Shawn Mowery, 2nd; and Aaron Weiss, 3rd. The three, representatives of Pack 61 Timucua District, claimed their ribbons at the annual derby sponsored by the Bloomingdale Civic Association at Park East.

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BSHS Students Get A Work-Out



Don Vela of Bloomingdale Florist welcomes his students for a day, Stephanie Reich and Michael Ames, participants in the Great American Work-Out (L).

Area high school students got a work-out last month when they participated in the Great American Work-Out sponsored by the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce. Fifty-five students from Bloomingdale High were hosted by 15 businesses for a day of hands on work experience.

Their experiences, although varied, had a common purpose - to show students what a day at work is all about. Students' job experiences ranged from banking and sales to flower arranging. Amounting to much more than just a field trip, the work-out was designed to give students first hand exposure to the daily work habits. At Bloomingdale Florist, for example, the students started their day by cleaning flowers arriving from the wholesaler.

"This program is a perfect example of business and education partnerships," said Chamber president, Judy Sherwood. "Our area businesses realize the importance of their taking an 'ownership' attitude toward assisting educators in preparing the future workforce. The 210 students

involved in this year's program are hopefully the vanguard for a county wide program."

Bloomingdale students who participated were Lina Grady, Bridgett Jenkins, Peter Belford, Kirsten Buschbacher, Karyn Bateman, Michael Pullara, Stephanie Reich, Michael Ames, Matt May, Russ Robinson, Kim Hanley, Melissa Laing, Brad Guagliardo, Julie Pfalz, Jessical Hartling, Justin Welty, Skip Launer, Ashley Theobald, Paul Johnson, T. J. Hendley, Matt Jacoby, Ryan Bayless, Krista Miller, Jennifer Elliot, Amy Williams, Shawn Rich, Brian Nanns, Shannon Barnes, Abby Gobel, Greg Pope, Ian Murphy, Marissa Maggio, Tim Parrish, Henry Safer, Rhonda Booth, Meaghan Reed, Stacy Hill, Heather Canon, Chris DeManche, Krista Gasparino, Jeff Hill, Katrina Duggins, Sam Scott, Marcus Holmes, Mike Sankey, Jason Gordon, John Glikzman, Mark Norris, Janies Rosenberry, and Naydelis Rivera-Lebron.

and Bloomingdale offices as the top closer and lister for the month of January. Mrs. Russell recently enhanced her real estate selling and marketing skills by attending the RE/MAX annual convention in Dallas. The conclave allowed her to participate in an exchange of ideas with other high volume real estate producers on topics ranging from upgraded computer programs to marketing strategies.

Java Junction

Gourmet coffees, teas, and deserts, plus breakfast and lunch menus are all to tempt the taste buds at **Java Junction** which opened in early December adjacent to Details Salon on Bloomingdale Avenue across from the Little League field.

Owners **Ted Krohne** and **David Combs** offer area residents a selection of 60 coffees, latte, cappucino, cafe con leche, and macchiato, plus house specialties such as the Java Cooler and Java Blast, a sort of coffee milkshake. Deli sandwiches and soups are served up daily for lunch, and while croissants and Cuban toast are the order for weekday breakfasts, Saturdays bring a breakfast specialty. Indoor and outdoor seating are available, and live entertainment from the strings of a classical guitar is on tap Friday and Saturday nights.

Java Junction is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 to 11 on Friday and Saturday.

Business Notes



Realtors Recognized

Coldwell Banker recognized its top achievers at its annual awards breakfast last month. Among the honorees were local realtors **Mary Odum** and **Frank St. Pierre**, who were both named Senior Sales Associates for high earnings during three of the last five years. Odum, a Bloomingdale Estates resident, was also named to the 1994 President's Club for earnings in excess of \$50,000 or 34 units sold. St. Pierre was named to the prestigious International President's Elite, placing him in the top one percent of Coldwell Banker's associates. He was also named to the Chairman's Advisory Council, the Circle of Excellence, and the Gold Outstanding Achievement award.

Bloomingdale resident **Luana Russell** of RE/MAX Realty Unlimited, Inc., was recognized by the Brandon

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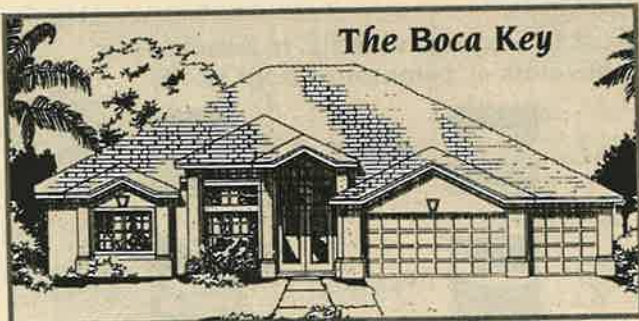
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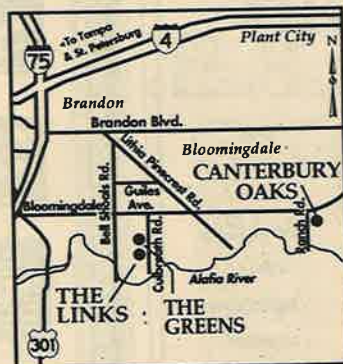


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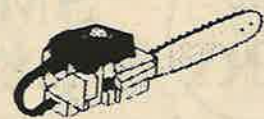
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Garber Legacy Should Keep Bulls On Top

by Rozel Sciulli

A state championship is the only honor that has eluded Jo Garber during her tenure as coach of the Bloomingdale girls' soccer team. And just when it looks like next year's team might be the dream-maker, Garber will not be there to enjoy it.

After 20 years of coaching soccer, the last eight at Bloomingdale, the revered coach is hanging up her cleats in order to spend time with her children. A job transfer for her husband means the couple is moving to Sarasota, but with a hiring freeze on in that county, Garber hopes to land a teaching job in this area. Her position as health instructor at BHS was tied into the coaching slot.

She leaves behind a team that will see 10 to 12 seniors returning next year, a bittersweet outlook for Garber, who in the past, has had only four or five seniors return each season.

"I'm happy to be turning over such an experienced team full of strong seniors," she said. "I know whoever comes in will change things but they will be taking over a program with a strong reputation. We are respected state-wide."

A trophy case full of soccer accolades earned that respect through seven district titles, four Western Conference championships, four regional wins, one sectional honor and a stint as state runner-up. Garber proudly adds that every senior who has pursued a college scholarship has received one.

"The pleasure for me has been in watching the players mature not only as athletes but as individuals.

For the past four years, Garber's players have held clinics and worked with youngsters in the Brandon Area Youth Soccer League (BAYSL). "It was really neat to see my kids teaching younger players the things I have taught them. That's the greatest compliment a coach can receive."

Garber, mother of three, was recruited into coaching youth soccer when her oldest son began playing in a recreational league nearly 20 years ago. By virtue of her physical education degree, it was assumed she would be the most qualified coach. She taught phys ed for 16 years at Mann and Turkey Creek Junior High schools, before joining the faculty at the new Bloomingdale High when it opened eight years ago.



Tip Of The Month Tennis Anyone?

by Scott Coleman

Some of you love singles and never play doubles. You can improve your singles game by playing doubles. Doubles requires more net play and quicker reactions. By playing doubles, you will become a more confident net player which will certainly make you a more effective singles player.



Adult Women's Tennis Clinics

Directed by: Scott Coleman

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3.6-4.0 Intermediate	10:30-11:30

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Reich Honored As Top Athlete

Special to *The Gazette*

Bloomingdale senior and swimming sensation John Reich, was named Brandon's Male Amateur Athlete of the Year at last month's Brandon Sports Night banquet sponsored by the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce.

Reich is a three-time state champion in the 500-yard freestyle and two-time champion in the 200-yard event. Currently training for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta,

Reich has accepted a scholarship to attend the University of Michigan, ranked first in the NCAA this year. Reich is also a champion in the classroom. He carries a 4.0 average and is in the top 10 in his class.

Other honorees included Brandon basketball coach Frank Vining, named Coach of the Year; swimmer Brooke Bennett, Female Athlete of the Year; and the world champion North Brandon Little League Senior All-Stars, team of the year.

Athletic Calendar

April 17	Tennis (B) v Hillsborough Tennis (G) at Hillsborough
April 18	Softball at Jefferson Baseball at Jefferson
April 19	Boys' Golf at MacDill
April 21	Softball v Armwood Baseball v Armwood Track - Western Conf. at Gaither Girls' Golf vs Plant at RiverHills
April 24	Tennis - Districts
April 25	Baseball at Plant
April 28	Baseball at Tampa Tech Track - Districts at East Bay

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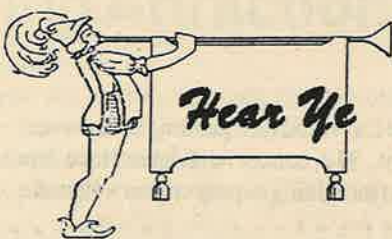
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BHA Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be held Tuesday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza. Final plans for the spring picnic will be announced. Homeowner concerns and issues are always welcomed. The meeting is open to all dues paying members and all newcomers are invited to attend.

STD Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustees will be held Monday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza. The meeting is open to all Bloomingdale homeowners.

Community Picnic

The second annual Renewed Community Picnic will be held Saturday, April 22, from 2 until 7 p.m. on the grounds of Park West, at the corner of Canoga Park Drive and Bloomingfield. Residents from East, may enter across

Bell Shoals at Rosemead, proceed left around the bend and the park is approximately two blocks on the right. Residents are encouraged to ride bikes or walk, although parking has been arranged. Dinner will be served for a minimal fee beginning at 4 p.m., but beverages will be on sale throughout the event. Entertainment, games, and informational booths will be featured. See story on page 1 for further details.

Artfest

The Brandon League of Fine Arts will hold its annual Spring Artfest on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., at Regency Square. Local and regional artists and craftsmen will have their works on display for judging and for purchase.

Driver Ed Sign-up

Students planning to take Driver Education during Summer School, 1995, must register in advance. Applications will be taken from April 17 through May 5 in high school guidance offices. Applications will be sorted based on priority with seniors receiving first preference, followed by juniors, sophomores, and ninth graders. Students will receive one-half unit of credit and they will meet the substance abuse instruction requirements and may waive the driving test for an operator's license.

Town Hall Meeting

U. S. Congressman Charles Canady (R-Dist. 12) will meet with his Valrico constituents Tuesday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bloomingdale High auditorium.

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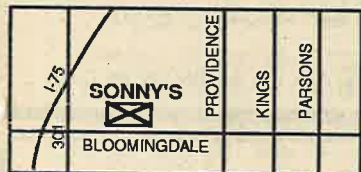
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PICNIC, from pg. 1

Individually priced burgers and dogs will sell for \$1, and beverages will be on sale throughout the event also for \$1. The food and beverage wagon is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Brandon Nights who will use proceeds from the sale of food and drinks as a fund raiser. The cost of the food is being supplemented by the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association in order to keep the cost minimal to residents.

The afternoon will be made complete by a series of acts scheduled for the community's entertainment. Live and on stage will be a dance performance featuring local talent from Kim Halls Dance Studio, and Bloomingdale High School's Jazz Band will perform. A soccer demonstration is also on tap. Children will laugh at the antics of two clowns, and they will once again enjoy the pony rides

sponsored by Michael Davis and face painting by members of BHS service clubs. The county will have three fire engines on display and the talking deputy cruiser will make a guest appearance.

"It's hard to believe it's been almost a year since our last picnic," said organizer and BHA vice president Rick Oros. "We all lead such busy lives, the BHA wanted to give residents an opportunity to get together with their neighbors and enjoy what promises to be a fun afternoon."

Picnic committee member LaWayne Wyatt, who is director of the Mobile Watch program, will once again have parking organized. He encourages all those who live nearby to walk or ride bikes.

Door prizes will be announced throughout the afternoon. Donated by local merchants, residents may win a gift from Bloomingdale Florist, Man Trap Hair Salon, Greg's

Hallmark, WalMart, Elephant's Trunk, Georggi's, Video Show, Lenny & Vinny Pizzeria, Publix of Bloomingdale, Bealls, or City Side Pizza. And the prize chest is expected to be even bigger by the day of the picnic, according to committee members Ann Underwood and Pat Radel.

Residents are reminded to bring with them folding chairs or picnic blankets and any sun protection they require.

Park West is located at the corner of Canoga Park Drive and Bloomingfield. Residents from communities off Culbreath and around Nature's Way, may exit onto Bell Shoals at Greenhollow and turn left onto Rosemead which turns left into Canoga Park Drive. The park is located approximately three blocks on the right. If exiting onto Bell Shoals from Glenhaven, residents may turn left on Garnet and right on Canoga Park. The park will be on the left.

BUNNIES, from pg. 1

weekend tending to and playing with the rabbits. Pat reports the rabbits seem to find this quality time sufficient.

"Our children will put the harness and leash on the bunnies, and they like to hop around the backyard," she said.

Bunnies are intelligent animals and require mental stimulation in the form of toys, exercise, and social interaction (from people, other rabbits, or other animals). Pat often finds the children and various combinations of pets playing happily together.

The rabbits, Mama Bunny, Daddy Bunny and Pumpkin, live in a comfortably sheltered bunny hutch in the backyard. At one time, the Boodyds did have a full time house rabbit.

"Leo was litterbox trained, slept on the bathroom floor, and was a really special member of the family," Pat recalls fondly.

"A common misconception is that bunnies bite and scratch and must be kept in their cages at all times. Through their experience with many breeds of different temperaments and personalities, the Boodyds have found that most rabbits can be domesticated and taught appropriate behavior,

much like a puppy, if they are given the opportunity to interact regularly with the family.

Debbie Taylor, supervisor of the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, says that rabbits need regular daily exercise and socialization. "A bunny does need a hutch for sleeping and for when he cannot be attended," said Taylor, "but should be taken out and played with and socialized as a part of the family, just as you would do with a dog or a cat."

The cage should be large enough for them to hop around a bit and stretch out in, and although they may be kept outside, should be sheltered from direct sunlight. The House Rabbit Society, whose primary consideration is the welfare of house rabbits, stresses the importance of protecting rabbits from temperature extremes, predators, electrical cords, rough handling and poisons.

House rabbits should be fed a diet of commercial rabbit chow supplemented by carrots and occasional treats. Breeders caution against providing lettuce or cabbage as a snack since leafy greens can cause digestive problems and even death in pet rabbits.

Karen Cheeks, operations supervisor of the Humane Society, encourages anyone looking for a pet rabbit to call the society, which does have available for adoption a small number of rabbits each year, most commonly (and sadly)

after the Easter holiday.

"We hope that people will take the time to be certain that any pet being considered for adoption will fit into their lifestyle," said Cheeks. "It is not fair to adopt a pet if you cannot keep it for the remainder of its life." Rabbits may live to be seven to 10 years old depending on health, living conditions, and stress.

Rabbits are inquisitive, sociable animals that are well suited to the indoors. Indeed they are lovable (did you know they can purr?) and with patience and attention can be trained. Parents who decide to bring a real Easter bunny home this spring, may find it to be a very gentle, enjoyable addition to the family.

And now, about those darling, fluffy little chicks...

Choosing A Pet Rabbit

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Sources: Local Pet Stores, S. Fla. Rabbit Breeders Assoc. 634-7055; Humane Society of Tampa Bay, 876-7138

Expect to pay \$10 to \$20.

The Humane Society recommends that rabbits be spayed or neutered. Vaccinations are not required, but bunnies should be de-wormed.

KIWANIS, from pg. 1

page) and at the same time help local programs which benefit from Kiwanis fund raising efforts.

Bloomingdale East resident Mark Leytze is the newly elected president of the organization which meets each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Game Day Grill, Oak Park Shopping Center corner of Lumsden and Kings.



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