

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVII, Number 4

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

April 1997

BHA Briefs

The Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will not hold its regularly scheduled meeting in April. Instead the association plans a special meeting on April 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the community office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, Valrico, when the subject of park lighting will be discussed.

The BHA seeks residents' input on lighting the tennis courts of Park East and the basketball and tennis courts of Park West.

These parks previously have not been lighted because of their proximity to homes, however it has been some time since the residents were surveyed on the matter and there is renewed interest in lighting the parks.

Dedication Ceremony

Bloomingdale West Recreation Center will be officially dedicated Saturday, May 3, with a ribbon cutting nearly one year after the center opened.

Refreshments will be served to celebrate the event which begins at 10 a.m.

Registration for the center's popular summer program will also be held on this day.

More than 200 school-aged children participated in the day camp, which begins the Monday after school ends and continues until mid-August.

Children participate in supervised games and arts and crafts, and a daily activity such as a movie are part of the summer program. In addition, special field trips are planned to places as nearby as Adventure Island or as far as Universal Studios.

Meetings Set To Discuss School Choice

Special to The Gazette

Parents who want to find out how their children can attend the school of their choice possibly beginning next school year will be able to ask questions and offer ideas at two public meetings that will be held in eastern Hillsborough County to discuss the concept of Controlled Open Enrollment (COE).

The public meetings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 28 at Plant City High and Tuesday, April 29 at Brandon High.

In response to recent state legislation, the school district must submit a COE program to the Florida Department of Education, which would give parents a greater opportunity to decide where their child may attend school.

It is anticipated that the COE program in Hillsborough County will entail an application process whereby parents may request in rank order, through the Office of Pupil Administration, assignments to a school other than that designated by school boundaries. School choice placement will be based on criteria developed by the school district.

The program would allow families expanded opportunities for school choice beyond existing programs which currently permit parents to seek exceptions to the district's policy of school assignments.

Public input is sought for the development of the proposal.

Programs which currently offer a degree of choice in school assignments are special hardship assignments, majority to minority transfers, student affidavits, magnet schools and magnet programs and alternative schools.

State legislation stipulates that COE programs must adhere to federal desegregation requirements, and make parental involvement a significant factor in development of the program.

Another Child Hit Near Park

By Shannan Powell

It was supposed to be just another afternoon of kite-flying in the park for Ryan Moore and his neighbors. Instead, Ryan ended up flying out of the park in a medical helicopter for a trip to Tampa General Hospital.

On March 22, six-year-old Moore was struck by a GMC Jimmy driven by Sachiko Takiguchi of 13601 Aspen Ave. in Riverview. He was crossing Bloomingfield just two houses west of Canoga Park Drive.

The Lithia Springs first grader was admitted to TGH with scrapes and bruises, kept under surveillance for a night and sent home to recover.

"Right now he's scared to walk outside," said Linda Moore, Ryan's mother. "He's gone out in the back yard, but won't go anywhere near the road."

"He's fine, but he's having a little trouble walking around because he's got deep scrapes, especially on his ankle."

Ryan was in Bloomingdale West Park flying kites. He decided to follow his neighbor Linda Gordon across Bloomingfield. He waited for a car to pass and began to run across the street when he was hit by the second car traveling approximately 15 mph. His view of the second car and Takiguchi's view of Ryan were both obstructed by the first car.

Ryan's head hit the front center of the vehicle and he fell underneath it. Linda Moore believes that her son was fortunate he was not hit by a smaller car that might not have had as much clearance.

"It was injury protocol that he was airlifted out rather than taken out by ground ambulance because of the possibility of a head injury," said Sheriff Cpl. George Mosher. "What upsets me more than anything is that we

haven't heard anything from the other driver," Moore said. "She doesn't know if he's dead or anything."

"Everyone else was so helpful," she said. "There must have been 50 neighbors around by the time I got out there."

Donald Jett was especially helpful - he even came by the hospital with his pastor. And someone used a cell phone to call 911."

This latest incident rekindled the memory of a June, 1996, tragedy in which six-year-old Nicholas Faber was killed while crossing Canoga Park Drive on his bicycle.

"After that last speed hump, people just take off," said Moore, who has noted an increase in speeders around noon ("when the high school kids get out of school") and 6 p.m. "There are so many kids who play at that park."

"People have even honked horns at me because I drive slow over the speed humps. They can't be in that much of a hurry."

Since the fatality last summer, many residents have been trying to work with the county to increase the safety of Bloomingdale West streets, especially around the community center.

Signs have been posted and a crosswalk installed on Canoga Park Drive, directly in front of the center, but some residents are saying that still is not enough.

"A crosswalk (at Canoga Park and Bloomingfield) wouldn't be a bad idea," Moore said. "Anything to caution drivers that children are out here playing."

But several officials contend that part of the problem lies in the awareness of the children.

See CHILD, page 8



Ryan Moore

After-school Program Serves Many Interests

By Shannan Powell

At a time when many Hillsborough County after-school programs fall short of meeting parents' expectations, Burns/Valrico Middle School has found a unique niche.

Though it is subject to the same budget constraints as most of the other schools in Hillsborough County, Burns/Valrico offers a variety of activities for nearly 100 students who have applied for the program.

"We want to offer a safe place for the kids to be," said Tommi Sue Plaire, program coordinator and physical education instructor. "And a place where they can build a good repertoire with others of different backgrounds. It's a place for kids who don't have anywhere else to go after school."

The program, which offers registration on a weekly basis, averages 15 to 25 students daily, down from 35 last year. The drop in attendance can be attributed to changes in the student population. Last year's eighth and ninth graders moved up to Bloomingdale and sixth through eighth grade moved in, so all three grade levels are new to the school. In addition, Burns/Valrico is not currently serving a satellite area from where students would be bused into the community.

"We serving younger students this year," said Plaire, who works with five other teachers from 4 to 6 p.m. "We started the program three years ago to serve as a positive place for at-risk kids. Now it's the younger kids whose parents work."

School principal Linda Kipley said Burns/Valrico's program is unique to meet the needs of its students.

"Each school has to meet the needs and interests of its students," she said. "We offer what we believe is the most attended program. It is different from what Mann and McLane offer because our students are different."

"Our parents have asked for certain types of programs, and the home work and tutoring time was the most common response," Kipley said.

In addition to academic assistance, after-school activities include basketball, volleyball, football, soccer, arts and crafts and journalism/yearbook.

A unique activity is what the school calls its self-esteem program, which is a combination of conflict/resolution, discipline intervention and tutoring, and must be assigned through the assistant principal.

"What we hope to accomplish is to give these students the understanding that school is important and everyone can be successful," Kipley said. "We teach them to avoid conflict and negative situations and to use the proper channels so they will not have to come back."

Kipley said this is the least punitive option possible for those students referred to the self-esteem program.

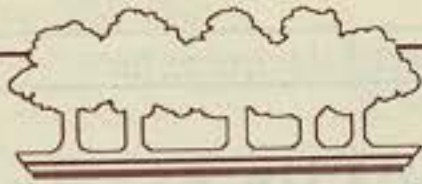
As with most public-school-related activities, Plaire and her after-school staff must work within the confines of a tight budget. Salaries and program expenses must be paid from the federal funds allotted. Until last year, transportation consumed a large portion of the funds.

"If we had more funding, we could offer more activities, get more supplies and pay for more teachers, which would all attract a larger number of kids," Plaire said. "As long as we are serving the same kids, who need the same type of service, we'll maintain the same type of operation."

The cost for the program is \$15 a week or \$7.50 for half a week. There is no charge for students who qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program.

"We want to be able to offer an atmosphere for the students in the after-school program that is safe," Kipley said. "Where parents know where their kids are provided with the appropriate kind of activities."

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE



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BHA REMINDER !!!

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(BHA)

Our Times

Creepy-Crawlies And Other Joys Of Spring

By Rozel Sciuilli

Every era has had its epidemic, its scourge, its pestilence. There have been locusts, killer bees, German/Asian roaches and if you've ever lived in Georgia, there's kudzu.

The infestation of this decade is back.

I was sitting at a A-1-A Cafe when I felt it crawling on my back. I ignored it. I am hampered by short arms so I do what other short-armed people do when their back itches - ask someone else to scratch it. Well, I didn't want to do THAT in a restaurant so I did the next best thing - reached over my left shoulder, down the back of my dress with the freshly placed dinner fork, and ooooo, scraaaaaatched.

The itch subsided. But only temporarily. The patio doors were open and it was a particularly breezy day so I continued to feel the crawling sensation on my back.

You know how when somebody talks about bugs, fleas or spiders it makes you want to scratch all over. You can actually feel the darn things crawling up your leg or down your arm.

Well, I didn't need any power of suggestion on this day. For there, just as I stretched to reach for a cool iced tea, it appeared. At first, I saw it out of the corner of my left eye. It peeked out of my short sleeve to see if the coast was clear to make its escape from the hiding place between my dress and skin.

It had at least a million legs on its underside and hairy bristles covering its body. It gave no hint of the beauty it might someday become - if it managed to live long enough.

The thought that this creature had inched across my skin beneath a shroud of navy blue cotton to daylight made me wonder at its apparent intelligence.

But only for a moment.

Because once it appeared in

full form, I let out a yelp and whisked it off my skin with the back of my hand.

I was careful to watch where it landed. I think it actually looked up at me with sort of sad wormy eyes then quickly found a crack in the floor to slither through.

The problem with not having had much of a winter is the caterpillars are back earlier and with a vengeance to wreak havoc on our plants and exterior wall paint.

It's like in the movie Gremlins. When the little monsters got wet, they multiplied.

Well, how many of you washed the milky white cocoons off your front porches and away from your window casements or door frames last year? Huh?

It's all your fault, you know.

They don't die. No matter how many squashed caterpillar bodies you see staining the driveways and sidewalks of Bloomingdale, there are hundreds of thousands more. And this year, it seems they've sent for reinforcements.

Beware not to park under an oak tree. The caterpillar corp will make kamikaze dives on to your shoulder or into your hair. They'll attach themselves to your kids' sneakers or jeans pant legs for a free ride inside your home. They'll drop into your grocery bag or cover your car tires. And this definitely isn't the time of year to get that spring fresh scent by hanging your towels out on the line. Nope, wouldn't do that.

Soon, they'll be gone. They'll wrap themselves up for a springtime nap in a silky white bundle and - wait a minute. Has anyone ever seen one of these things actually unfold and fly away as some giant moth into the night?

No. Didn't think so.

Don't put that squeegie away too fast. When their time here is spent, May brings the invasion of love bugs.

OFFICERS

**BLOOMINGDALE
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3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 103
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051

Randy Wolfe President 229-3321
Rick Oros Vice President 685-0866

Directors

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Brandon, Florida 33599-3132
Bill Grace President 885-2817
Fred Englehart Treasurer 685-3038

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Valrico, Florida 33594-681-2051
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Bloomingdale Homeowners

Association, Inc.	Publisher
Rick Oros	President
Rozel Sciuilli	Copy Editor
June Oros	Administrative Assistant/Layout & Graphics Editor
	Writer
Shannan Powell	Ad Representative
Carolyn Roger	Distribution Manager
Rio Oros	Rent A Kid delivery system
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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 7:00 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.

Better To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to compliment the members of the community who volunteer for the many jobs that often go unrecognized.

I read with interest Mr. Wyatt's plea for volunteers for the Mobile Watch and Rozel Sciuilli's column on safe living in Bloomingdale and how her friend chose to live elsewhere.

My family and I have lived in small towns and big cities. Our children have attended country schools and inner-city mega-schools and I can honestly say we have never had such peace of mind in a community as we have here in Bloomingdale.

The minor nuisances in a community this size are to be expected. And if we can say that kids in the park too late is as bad as it gets - well, then we're living in River City 50 years ago.

Yes, the schools are overcrowded and we're not too happy with that. But the quality of education doesn't appear diminished. The teachers seem just as dedicated and hardworking, if not more so because they realize any shortfall will be blamed on double sessions.

No, I don't like that it takes forever and a prayer to turn on to Lithia Pinecrest from Erindale in the morning and I take my life into my hands every time I have to cross Bloomingdale at Culbreath.

These are all part of a growing community and, folks, if this is the only place you've ever lived, then you have no idea how minor these inconveniences are.

Unfortunately, we are on the move again as soon as this school year is ended, or I would be first in line to sign up to volunteer for the Mobile Watch.

I wish we could hang around to see the finished product of Bloomingdale. Take care of your community. It's a great place to live.

S. Davis
Bloomingdale East
soon to be of
Fl. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Davis,

We wish you and your family well. Thank you for making up part of the fabric of our community. I am sure you will be missed by those who have come to know you and your family during your stay here.

The Staff of The Bloomingdale Gazette

Bits N Pieces



The winners, by den, were: Webelos I and II - Scott LeBoeuf, first; Chris Klarman, second; Brandon Yates, third; Bears - Jack Bellos, first, Dan Horn, second; Brian McMahon, third; Tigers - Kyle Kepics, first, Phillip Taylor, second; Thomas Graham, third; Wolves - Matt Grymes, first; Matt Hardin, second; Jonathan Stephanz, third.

In addition, Bellos, Hardin, LeBoeuf, Kepics and Grymes went on to represent the pack at the Timucua District Derby held March 22 in Plant City.

The pack currently is preparing for its annual Mom and Me camp-out at Medard Park April 19-20.

Residents win at festival

In addition to attending the 1997 Strawberry Festival in Plant City to sample its namesake fruit, rides and big-name entertainment, several area residents found attraction in the festival's many competitions.

In the Fine Art Show exhibits, Bloomingdale East resident Sue Allen placed first in the Professional Adult Graphics and received a \$100 cash prize. East resident Cheryl Jorgensen placed second in Professional Adult Watercolors, receiving a \$75.

The Bloomingdale High marching band won a second place ribbon in the marching division of the Grand Parade competition, while the Burns Middle School band took third place in the bands division of the Youth Parade.

Four-year-old Bloomingdale West resident Jamie Baker placed third in his age group of the Most Handsome Boy competition during the baby parade finals.



James Baker stands with a Strawberry Festival member of the Queen's Court.

And, finally, one young Fox Run resident who decided against entering his big dog Ribsey in the 4H Dog Show was James Santillo. Instead, the Burns/Valrico Middle School student volunteered to assist officials during the event. Santillo plans to enter Ribsey next year.

School sets Spring Fling

It's hard to believe that Immanuel Lutheran School's 16-year history has never hosted a major fund raiser. Private schools often must tap many financial resources and fund raisers have been a tried and true method of raising much-needed funds.

There's a first time for everything, and the school's first event, dubbed the Spring Fling, holds lots of promise with a catered buffet dinner, dancing, a gift basket auction and a chance to win the grand prize of one year's free tuition to the school to be cashed in within three years.

The night of fun even comes with a theme - "Party in the Palms" - and will be held April 19 in the school's Family Life Center, 2913 S. John Moore Road.

The event is open to the entire community. Auction basket items include a three-night cruise for two, a weekend get-away to Longboat Key, and a golf outing combination that includes a golf bag, clubs and a round of golf at a local country club.

Aglow invites women

Free breakfast, fellowship and babysitting all while listening to an inspiring speaker. What could be a better way to spend a Wednesday morning.

Aglow International, Brandon Day Chapter invites the area's women to its monthly meeting and breakfast at Center Place on Wednesday, April 9 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Humorous speaker Kaye Brooks explains how you can live happier by turning your shortcomings and failures into your greatest assets.

Complimentary breakfast and free child care are provided. For information call Linda Green at 677-7041.

Residents in Passion Cast

Several Bloomingdale residents were cast in Bell Shoals Baptist Church's Passion Play presented during Holy Week.

Players included West residents Debbie Scott, Mat McCalpin and Dave Scott. East residents Steve Workman, Jordan Workman, Stephen Workman and Kimberly Meachan also performed, as did OakCrest resident Bill Shireling.

New babies everywhere

... but especially in Bloomingdale

Daniel Rivas was born to Bloomingdale East residents

See BITS, page 4

Talented Residents Win Awards

By Shaanan Powell

Mulvihill artwork honored

Bloomingdale East resident Erin Mulvihill recently received an honorable mention at the "Youth in Art Show" awards and reception sponsored by the GFWC - Women's Service League at Center Place.

Mulvihill, a junior at Bloomingdale, was recognized for a stylized two-dimensional mayonnaise jar advertisement. She plans to pursue an art career in graphic design or commercial art.

Students from several Hillsborough County junior and senior high schools competed in two- and three-dimensional art categories. Other Bloomingdale High honorees were April Burross, 2-D second place, and Brian Hoop, honorable mention.

Cubs hold annual derby



From left to right: Matt Grymes, Kyle Kepics, Scott LeBoeuf, and Jack Bellos.

St. Stephen's Cub Scout Pack 610 held its annual Pinewood Derby on March 15 at the church. Scouts received car kits during their Christmas celebration in December and came up with a variety of designs in the three months following. Unique designs included a slice of Swiss cheese with a resident mouse, a large pencil and a shark.

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BITS, from page 3

Lazara and Jose Rivas on Feb. 7, weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces. Daniel joins sisters Loveny, 14, and Chelsea, 9, and brother Christopher, 11. Maternal grandparents are Martha Velarde and Rolando Torviso, both of Miami. Paternal grandparents are Luis and Josephina Rivas of Los Angeles.

Anthony William Ambrioso is the first child of Bloomingdale East residents Sonya and Alex Ambrioso. He was born Feb. 15 and weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces. Maternal grandparents are Jack and Erika Golden of Sarasota. Paternal grandparents are Michelle Ambrioso of Tampa and Raz Ambrioso of Lakeland.

James Lewis Weinold was born to Michelle and Paul Weinold on Feb. 18, weighing 7 pounds, 15 oz. Terria Michelle, 11, and Paul Thomas, 3, welcomed James home. Maternal grandparents are James and Pamela Suggs of Tampa. Paternal grandparents are Diane and Paul Weinold of Brandon.

Rachel Leigh Steinbacher is the first child of Oak Crest residents Jani and Richard Steinbacher. She was born Feb. 20 weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces. Maternal grandparents are Martha and Bill Riggs. Paternal grandparents are J. Glenn and Arvilla Steinbacher of Sun City Center.

Sean Arthur O'Steen was born to Oak Crest resi-



Sean Arthur O'Steen

dents Sherri and Roy O'Steen on Feb. 27, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces. Sean joins step-brother R. J., 9. Maternal grandparents are John and Dianna Otis of Springfield, Va. Paternal great-grandmother is Virgie O'Steen of Riverview.

Natalie Marie Erickson was born to Bloomingdale

West residents Margaret and Kirk Erickson on Feb. 24, weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces. Natalie was welcomed home by Zachary, 3. Maternal grandparents are Judy and Evan Morgan of Chicago. Paternal grandparents are Tony Fleszig of Chicago and Ellen Erickson of Paris.

Luke Phillip Brekhuis was born to Bloomingdale East residents Virginia and Edward Brekhuis on Feb. 25, weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Luke joins brothers David, 9, and Benjamin, 8. Maternal grandparents are Kathryn Greene of Clearwater and Burke Fox of Charlotte, N. C. Paternal grandmother is Clara Gerton, also of Charlotte.

Chad Thomas Kiser was born to Oakdale Reserve residents Kimberly and Randy Kiser on March 1, weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces. Chad joins brother, Quinn 3. Maternal grandparents are Peg and Bill Nine of Pennsylvania. Paternal grandmother is Maxine Kiser of Pennsylvania.

Paul Henry Tanner is the first child of Donna and Bruce Tanner. He was born March 6 and weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces. Maternal grandparents are Cliff and Muriel Stevenson of Bradenton. Paternal grandparents are Bruce and Joanne Tanner of East Providence, R. I.



Calling All Spring and Summer Brides

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in

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Spring Is In The Air At Annual Art Show



Looking for that perfect piece of art to hang above the fireplace or that new couch you bought? Time to redecorate or freshen up the house for spring?

Stroll at your leisure through Regency Square where a variety of fine arts will be on exhibit and for sale April 12 and 13 at the Brandon Spring Festival of Fine Art.

The event is sponsored by the Brandon League of Fine Arts, Time Warner Communications, and The

Regency Group.

In addition to the sale, the festival is also a juried show. Nancy Burgess Adams, art history instructor at Polk Community College and a well-known award-winning artist will be the juror.

Nine awards will be given including Best of Show, four Awards of Excellence and four Awards of Merit.

Show hours will be 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. both days.

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For Women Only

Establishing Routine Important In Single-Parent Homes

Many Bloomingdale moms are the head of a single parent household. It is often difficult to manage a home, raise children, and work a full time job - sometimes two - and maintain sanity.

One of the best things a single parent can do for a child is to give him a feeling of safety and security. Children gain tremendous security in knowing what to expect each day. Many single parent homes have difficulty establishing structure. This isn't surprising considering the time crunch single parents experience.

Establish routines that are simple and easy for all family members to follow. Even the youngest child can learn the morning routine. First, get up. Then wash face, get dressed, eat breakfast, and brush teeth. You can make posters, charts or even rhymes to help little ones remember what to do next. Reward them for accomplishing the tasks. Give stars or stickers for completing tasks successfully. After a while, the process becomes a habit and rewards are no longer necessary.

One routine that is very important to the single parent family is eating meals together. Family meal times are central to the family's sense of one another as individuals and as a family unit.

Routine allows you and your children to complete daily tasks automatically without wasting time or trying to decide what to do and when to do it. Some of the

best family conversation and communication occurs while dishes are being washed or during bedtime rituals.

Also...Since there isn't a second pair of adult hands to help in a crisis, it's important to prepare for emergencies. You can avoid some situations by having the necessary knowledge, equipment and medicines on hand.

- Have a good first aid manual
- Keep medicine cabinet properly stocked
- Learn CPR and basic first aid
- Have smoke detectors in working order (change batteries twice a year)
- Teach fire safety rules. Make and rehearse an escape plan.
- Teach children how and WHEN to dial 911 (make sure they know their address and phone number, post emergency numbers by the phone including trusted neighbors and your work number)
- Have a regular call-in time or checkpoint for your school-age children
- Make sure your children know how and where to reach you. Have a backup person to call in case you can't be reached.
- Get a good home repair book - how-to information can save money
- Keep a tool box
- Know how to turn off water, gas and electricity to your home.
- Keep water, canned and dry foods, manual can opener, flashlights, batteries and battery-operated radio

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Gator Tales



GT Bicycle Air Show Soars Into Alafia

By Phyllis Berlacher

May at Alafia starts off with a "hot" date. The GT Bicycle Air Show will thrill children of all ages with a high-flying bicycle acrobatic demonstration on Friday, May 2.

Sponsored by the Alafia PTA and Barnett Bank, N.A. - Tampa (Bloomingdale office), the show consists of a two-man bicycle stunt team that delivers 40 minutes of unforgettable bicycle maneuvers. Laced throughout the program are important bicycle safety and anti-drug and alcohol messages.

The show begins at 6 p.m. on the school grounds; cost per ticket is \$1. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of Alafia's new playground equipment. Refreshments also will be available.

Be sure to look for the information to be sent home with the children.

This is one show you don't want to miss.

In other news...

Alafia children raised about \$2,100 for the new playground during the school's "Read for the Gold" read-a-thon. And participants at the Shamrockin' Hop say the luck of the Irish was with them. More than 300 people enjoyed Alafia's first - but not last - hop.

New Education Model Open To Alafia Children

By Phyllis Berlacher

Beginning in the 1997-98 school year, Alafia Elementary School will offer an alternative approach to educating students.

Called "Continuous Progress" the approach enables students to progress at their own rate. In Continuous Progress, students remain with the same team of teachers throughout their stay in a primary house (kindergarten through second grade) or intermediate house (third through fifth grade).

A parents general information meeting on Continuous Progress will be held Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

"Parents with children in grades kindergarten through fourth in the 1997-98 school year are strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting," said Alafia principal Tanly Cabrera.

Dr. William Katzenmeyer and Barbara McClamma

from the Anchin Center at the University of South Florida and Gwen Mora, elementary generalist with Hillsborough County Schools, will present information about this educational model.

"This information is essential as parents make a decision about their child's participation."

A follow-up meeting on May 15 will provide more specific information on Alafia's Continuous Progress model. A panel of Continuous Progress teachers, principals and other experts will be available to answer questions.

The school will continue to offer the standard grade structure; space for Continuous Progress is limited. Students will be considered for the model by parents submitting applications and selection by lottery drawing.

"Whether the approach is through Continuous Progress or the traditional model, our consistent focus will be on our students' success," Cabrera said.

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Bruin Beat



Honor Students Named

Students named to the Burns Middle School Principal's Honor Roll for the second grading period made all A's in academics and conduct. They are as follows:

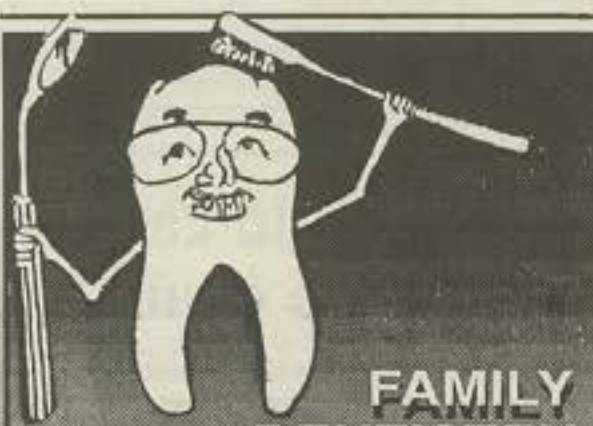
Sixth graders - Casey Albritton, Lisa Allen, Kristi Andersen, Xavier Arrazola, Bridget Asplund, Theresa Augello, Anthony Baker, Mark Baranyai, Jennifer Beach, Kathryn Belcher, Melissa Berley, Keri Blickenstaff, Amanda Bresett, Nicholas Brown, Brooke Burdette, Robert Carlisle, Lisa Carter, Carlo Casagrande, Christopher Chase, Monika Coletto, Alexander Cook, Todd Cripe, David Daniels, Ashli Davis, Warren Davis, Lauren Deakman, Brian Detri, Nicole Downey, Emily Dutton, Lynsey Ellis, Matthew Feeley, Devin Fernandez, Sandra Flagg, Patrick Forshee, Katherine Fowke, Jamie Franz, also...

Amy French, Christen Garcia, Jeffica Gerena, Barbara Bolden, Michael Gonzalez, Jeana Griffin, Evelyn Hall, Justin Hansen, Jessica Hardy, Zachary Henry, Kristin Hicks, Ashley Hinton, Michael Houlihan, Meredith Huff, Robert Hundley, Frank James, Regina James, Rhian Jenks, Jordan Johnson, Lindsey Johnson, Garret Jones, Suzanne Jumper, Christopher Keating, Erik Keim, Kara Keller, Erin Kelly, Stephen King, Heather Kominsky, Stephan

Kozak, Cheryl Kravchuck, Jennifer Juo, Teresa Lamar, Blair Leake, Tasha Leitner, Allison Leto, Kristen Lewis, Heather Livingston, Angela Malley, Andrew Mallory, also...

Seventh graders - Kelly Allen, Pamela Aluotto, Jennifer Angelosante, Brian Batson, Sarah Bergeron, Sonja Boulware, Erin Cantwell, Amanda Cooley, Lisa Dangelo, Christina Doherty, Bradley Doss, Eric Feldman, Thomas Fusco, Marisa Hampers, Crawford Hampson, Deana Hussamy, Courtney Johnson, Carolyn Kense, Amy Kohlbecker, Melanie Laing, Ryan Mabry, Lauren McClain, Peter Pasek, Michelle Poe, Jennifer Reid, Rachel Remley, Monica Revelle, Robert Reyes, Amber Smith, Mary Stablein, Lauren Tracy, Alicia Traurig and Nicole Wightman.

Eighth graders - Jennifer Baker, Christopher Bancroft, Sara Boraiko, Christine Cook, Kelly Evans, Kelly Forkel, Michael Gorham, Erin Hamlet, Tiffany Jackson, Anu Jacob, Tracy Johnson, Laura Kochansky, Hallie McGowan, Trina Melchert, Christopher Mestre, Lisa Milnamow, Laura Mitchell, Erin Nikitas, Ryan Palmer, Lindsey Ragsdale, Michael Scott, Andrew White, Matthew Wilson, Monica Wilson and Heather Winger.



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Bulletin Board

Hats off to Burns Middle School math students who captured first place in a math league competition at Dowdell Middle School last month.

The winning seventh grade team members were Carolyn Kense, Ryan Lybbert, Amanda Cooley and Jacob Zurasky, who also won a trophy for first place in the individual competition. Mrs. Williams is their coach.

The champion eighth grade algebra team included members Tracy Johnson, Raj Mehta, Heather Winger and Ross Kirchman. Tracy and Heather received trophies for their third and fourth place finishes in the individual competition. They are coached by Mr. Firluk.

The final county wide competition will be April 29.

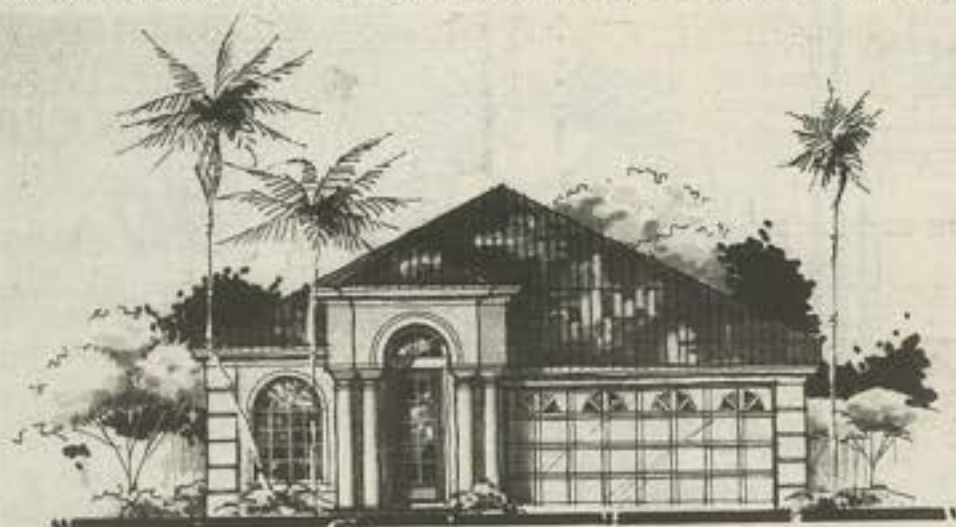
Dates to remember:

April 11 Report Cards - Elementary

April 22 Report Cards - Secondary

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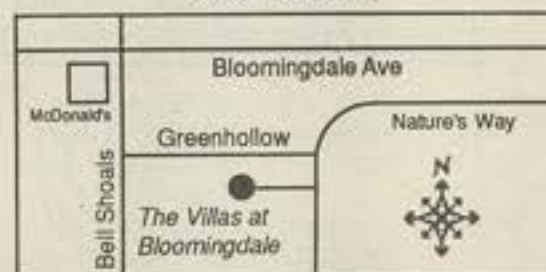
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Alafia Honor Students Named

Students who were named to the Principal's Honor Roll at Alafia Elementary School earned all A's in academics and conduct for the second grading period just ended. They are as follows:

First grade - William Aisenberg, Hans Arcand, Suke Benson, Thomas Berlacher, Sarah Berland, Jessica Boslaugh, Ryan Boyette, Taylor Caplinger, Kurtis Carter, Maggie Coker, Whitney Cull, Matthew Dodenhoff, Kellie Fowke, Emily Frazier, Alexandra Glover, Zeina Hasbini, Chelsea Holleman, Jared Holme, Megan Hudson, Angelina LaLima, Emily Lombard, T. J. Mallozzi, Dustin Mattingly, Ryan Maun, Rachel Maxwell, Hannah Morgan, Nicole Ortega, Trevor Parham, Thanyevia Pollard, Martin Reed, Bailey Shertzinger, Sam Singletary, Abigail Smith, Ashley Squires, Patrick Stauffer, Kandace Valentine, Cotton Walker, Amy Williams, Caleb Wilson, Jamie Wood, Kristen Woodberry.

Second grade - Lauren Ashley, Nicolas Astore, Billy Austin, Meagan Baytarian, Paul Boyette, Exequiel Bravo, Cameron Bullock, Melissa Chudow, J. J. Clark, Angelina Dale, Terrence Donald, Danielle Echols, Robert Ferdinand, Michelle Fowke, T. J. Gross, Brittany Hill, Derek Hirsch, Ali Idrees, Janelle Karlen, Rachel Kelly, Alexander Lewis, John Lockett, Michael McConville, Sherrick McFarlane, Bradley Myers, Tyler Myers, Jasmine Olover, Sarah Paquin, Stephanie Piotrowski, David Placke, Kelsey Primiano, Phillip Romanski, Jourdan Santome, Bradley Schneider, Erica Scholl, Cynthia Scott, Kristen Shader, Tiffany Shannon, Mitchell Shipman, Anna Shirina, Kyle Simpson, Darin Smith, Sabrina Stair, Shannan Stewart, Sarah Sullivan, Elyse

Szczepanski, Kaitlyn Tomlinson, Kelsey Vadelund, Lauren West.

Third grade - Omar Abdel-Aziz, Lacey Angerosa, Kendra Bailey, Matthew Beaudreault, Kenitra Betts, Katherine Cheetham, Susannah Clark, Audrey Coyne, Christabelle Darby, Alex Deakman, Caitlin Duncan, Jennifer Earle, Samantha Eaves, Justin Goff, John Goodrich, Cydney Greene, Melissa Isabel, Kristen Jones, Stephanie Kacer, Christopher Kale, Jessica Lumsden, Kimberly Marino, Morgan McClain, Mark McShera, Ray Melendez, Greta Morgan, Lauren Morrow, Roger Nehaul, Kimberly Ponichtera, Linda Rackauskas, Corryne Rich, Melissa Rogovin, Daniel Segarra, Joey Serock, Sarah Shirina, Andrew Stoutenburg, Catherina Tiso, Heather Todd, Jessica Traurig, Kevin Tressel, Robert Vidal, and Mark Waeltermann.

Fourth grade - Laurie Bailey, Jason Boslaugh, Linsey Cull, Emily Dodenhoff, Megan Fast, Ali Hagan, Stephanie Halsted, Thomas Marrs, Christopher Monson, Trisha Phillips, Jillian Primiano, Kevin Savage, Paria Shirzadi, Meghan Tomlinson, Brent Underwood, David Vassalotti, Chelsea Woodcock and Cameron Worden.

Fifth grade - Kierston Allen, Dawn Angelosante, Mabel Avilas, Nicole Avelino, Jessica Bryant, Daniel Butson, Austin Cooley, Bethany Cooley, Brittany Cooley, Jake DeRussy, Eric Gardner, Roxanne Gilmore, Justin Goldfarb, Callan Hartford, Melissa Huff, Megan Matthews, Grant Novitske, Nicole Paquin, Lisa Puckett, Katlyn Putz, Julianne Reed, Frank Remley, Jennifer Romanski, Anne Marie Rossi, Ashley Rouda, Ryan Smith, Kyle Spalding, Ryan Stauffer, Hallie Tate, Jill Traurig, Raina Wallace, Jennifer Waller and Nicholas Zurasky.

CHILD, from page 1

"In a lot of cases the entire community has the responsibility to ensure safety," Mosher said. "But in this instance, it looks like it was the child's fault."

Moore said she was told the community center is planning a safety class for neighborhood children. For details, a resident can contact the center.

In an attempt to slow speeders along Natures' Way in Bloomingdale East, the sheriff's department will continue to post

DUI officers at Polumbo and Natures' Way at the beginning of their evening shifts.

"The number of speeding violations is slowing down," Mosher said. "We will continue as time and duty permits."

Mosher points out that the greater percentage of violators are caught within communities like Bloomingdale.

"I don't understand why people don't take responsibility, but people don't," he said.

Important Notice To Home Associations

The Bloomingdale Community office receives many calls that pertain to specific Homeowners Associations within the whole of Bloomingdale.

While all residents of Bloomingdale East, West, South and Estate are entitled to be members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association (BHA), many subdivisions such as The Greens or Erin Arbor have their own associations.

With many new communities growing up in Bloomingdale South and new associations forming, it is important for the Community Office to have a contact name and phone number for each association.

At this time we ask your help in providing this valuable information to our staff.

We ask that a representative from each association, new and old, provide a name and phone number to the Community Office.

Mail or drop off the information to The Bloomingdale Community Office, Royal Oaks Plaza, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, Valrico, FL 33594. For information, call 681-2051. Office hours are 9:30 to 12:30 Monday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and 9:30 to 1:30 Wednesday.



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Business Notes



Davis Returns from Hawaii

Local realtor and Bloomingdale resident Michael Davis recently returned from the Christian Business Leaders Seminar in Hawaii where he was asked to be one of the featured speakers. He spoke to a group of over 500 business leaders from across the country.

Davis, who has been locally and nationally recognized as one of Brandon's leading realtors, spoke on marketing skills and techniques that impact one's business.

Davis has served the Brandon community in real estate for more than 16 years and is an associate at RE/MAX Realty Unlimited in Bloomingdale.

Working Out

More than 100 high school students including many from Bloomingdale, spent three hours at work March 12. The annual "Work Out" placed students at Brandon area businesses for the morning observing and in some cases getting hands-on opportunities to discover the variety of skills needed in today's job market.

The event was sponsored by the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Ogden Martin Systems of Hillsborough County and the Hillsborough County Schools. It offered students first-hand information from business experts - the employers and their employees.

More than 40 of the participating businesses were classified as "small business" with 10 or less employees. These will be hiring the bulk of the future graduates and this was their opportunity to stress the variety of skills necessary to be competitive, competent and technically educated.

Participating businesses hosted at least two students who had been previously surveyed to determine their career interests.

viously surveyed to determine their career interests.

"The main objective of this program is to emphasize to members of the future work force the importance of thinking on your feet, organizational skills and coping with a wide range of personalities," said Work Out chairperson Linda Santos, who is also the occupational specialist at Armwood High. "After the Work Out experience, students will have the information they need to make more appropriate career choices."

Consumer Advisory

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Bob Crawford advised consumers to be alert to unscrupulous practices of some salespersons in the door-to-door meat business.

During the past month, food inspectors from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have obtained information indicating that consumers are being misled and sold meat products that are grossly misrepresented. Some of the products found were actually marinated steaks that can have up to 10 percent of their weight composed of absorbed water, flavorings, sugar and other ingredients.

Before purchasing meat from a door-to-door salesperson, Crawford urged consumers to ask questions and obtain the following information:

- Ask to see the original food permit and write down the number. Make sure it is not a copy.
- Ask to see the salesperson's home solicitation permit issued by the county or the state department. Write down the name and permit number.
- Get in writing on a receipt the price per pound of each meat item purchased.
- Look at the label carefully to determine the type of meat you are receiving.
- Do not accept quantity information provided as

See NOTES, page 11

Resident Is Business Leader

Bloomingdale resident Anne Madden has been named Sun City Center's Business Person of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce there.

Madden, president of Frame Crafters, Inc. in Ruskin, was selected in recognition of "exceptional and unselfish service to Sun City Center and with grateful appreciation for her meaningful contribution to its betterment," said chamber director Donetta Myers.

Community residents and chamber members may nominate business leaders for this award which has been presented for 15 years. Madden was given a plaque at a chamber social and her portrait will hang in the chamber office for this business year.

She has owned and operated the frame shop for three years and has doubled the size of the shop in that time. The community enjoys attending receptions Madden gives for area artists every four months.

Madden is involved in civic and business organizations in south Hillsborough County and the Brandon League of Fine Arts. The native of Cincinnati moved to Valrico in 1992 from the Netherlands.

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Analysis of Bloomingdale's Single Family Residential Re-Sale Homes

1/1/96 thru 12/31/96

Total Sold	261
High Sale Price	\$500,000
Low Sale Price	\$45,500
Median Sale Price	\$109,700
High Cost Per Sq.Ft.	\$131.2 (NOTE: Home on 4.26 acres.)
Low Cost Per Sq.Ft.	\$31.6 (NOTE: Foreclosure)
Median Cost Per Sq.Ft.	\$58
Median Age	1987
Median Home Size	2,002

Number of Units Sold by Price Range	Median Days To Close	Median Home Size
Under \$70,000	1	1,440
\$70,000 - \$100,000	103	1,614
\$100,000 - \$150,000	115	2,105
\$150,000 - \$200,000	33	2,506
\$200,000 - \$250,000	4	2,639
\$250,000 - \$300,000	2	3,286
Over \$300,000	3	4,496

Your neighborhood analysis is a community service provided by Michael Davis. Michael and his family reside in Bloomingdale and Michael is a Realtor® with RE/MAX Realty Unlimited located in Bloomingdale Plaza.

The above has been provided by Michael Davis.

NOTARY

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Albro's Senior Year A Big Hit

By Shannan Powell

One year he is spending most of his limited playing time as a designated hitter. The next he finds himself with two home runs in back-to-back games as a starter splitting his time between third base and the pitcher's mound.

Steve Albro, a Bloomingdale senior and Fox Run resident, has made a place for himself in the 1997 Bulls.

"Last year all I really did was hit," Albro said. "I worked really hard over the summer and I'm physically and mentally stronger. I can keep my head in the game because I'm playing every day."

With the added strength from daily off-season workouts - he added 20 pounds and one inch to last year's 160-pound, 6-foot-1 frame - Albro has become a power hitter for the Bulls.

"It's hitting mainly with good power," said Albro, who has had a hit in his last five games. "I've got average speed. I'm not fast."

But Albro's need for speed diminishes with just one look at his stats. Before the March 21 game against Gaither in which he hit his second home run, Albro was hitting .318 with two doubles, one homer and seven hits in 22 at-bats. On the mound, he pitched three games and was 1-0 with 12 strikeouts in eight and one-third innings.

"He's a good hitter and has a good arm," said Bulls coach K. B. Scull. "He's a hard worker and that rubs off on

the other kids. He really likes to play and enjoys the game. He's well-liked and respected, and the hard work is part of it.

"He has been put in a lot of different positions and has been very patient."

"Coach Scull has helped me a lot with hitting and becoming a better player," Albro said. "Every day the coaches work on keeping me focused."

Albro has been playing baseball since he was seven years old. He and his family moved to Bloomingdale from Michigan in February, 1989, and he soon began playing in Bloomingdale Little League.

Now Albro is one of four senior pitchers - Matt Smith, Damian Carapella and Craig Contos - who have helped lead the Bulls to a sound 8-3 start headed into last week's Saladino Tournament.

One of the main advantages of the tournament that Albro was looking forward to was having the opportunity to be seen by college and professional scouts. With only one year as a starter, he said he would like to make an influential impression on them.

"In the preseason, a scout from the Pittsburgh Pirates talked to me," Albro said. "I think I'm going to stick with a two-year school. Manatee Community College has already offered me a (full scholarship) and I'm going to Brevard Community College to work out with the team."



Steve Albro

The idea of starting at third as a freshman for nationally ranked 25-5 Manatee appeals to Albro.

And while seemingly just tapping into his potential, Albro remains realistic about a baseball future.

"I'd like to play ball until I can't go any further," said Albro, who would also like to pursue studies in mechanical engineering or business management. "I'd like to play pro ball. If that happens, then great. But some people have that chance and some don't."

Athletic Calendar

Baseball & Softball

- April 8 vs. Hillsborough
- April 11 at Plant City
- April 12 at Leto
- April 15 at Gaither
- April 18 vs. Brandon
- April 19 at Chamberlain
- April 22 vs. King
- April 24 at Hillsborough



Boys Golf

- April 7 vs. Plant City at RH
- April 9 vs. Chamberlain at RH
- April 16 vs. Plant at RH
- April 21 Western Conference

Girls Golf

- April 7 vs. King at BGC
- April 9 vs. Jefferson at Rogers
- April 15 vs. Brandon at ..Buckhorn
- April 17 vs. Robinson at MacDill
- April 22 Western Conference

Tennis

- April 7 vs. King
- April 10 at Leto
- April 14 vs. Plant City
- April 17 at Plant
- April 21 vs. Robinson
- April 24 at Tampa Bay Tech

Note: When boys are home, girls are away vs. same school. Above is the boys schedule

Track and Field

- April 7 Lady Gaither Invitational
- April 9 Chamberlain Invite - Boys
- April 25 Western Conf. at Gaither
- May 2 District 8 Meet - TBA



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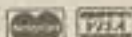
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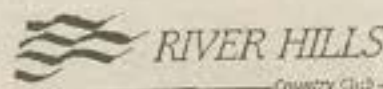
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Reservations and Information



BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomington Homeowner's Association will not be held in April. Instead, the BHA will hold a special meeting for the purpose of discussing park lighting on a date to be announced. Meetings normally are held the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomington. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomington Special Taxing District will be Monday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest

Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomington. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomington. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

Camp Volunteers Needed

Lifeguards and counselors are needed for Camp Wannago, Florida's first camp for children both infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The camp, located in Brandon, is sponsored by the Tampa AIDS Network (TAN) and volunteers must be 18 years or older.

Camp dates are June 9-14 and July 7-12 and volunteers are needed on both a daytime only and an overnight basis.

Lifeguards will be paid a stipend, and TAN will pay for and arrange for lifeguard certification training, but those interested must contact Susan Onischuk at 978-8683 before May 1.

Counselors will be accepted on a volunteer basis and will be given a background check, screening and interview. Call Debbie Torres or Susan Onischuk at 978-8683.

Low-Impact Aerobics

Tracey Shriver teaches low-impact aerobics at the Bloomington Park West Community Center. Classes meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. and the cost is \$3 per class. Child care is provided for children 5 and older. Shriver explains there is no jumping or jogging involved. With low-impact aerobics one foot is always on the ground. Light weights and floor work are

also used.

For information, call 744-5907.

Spanish Lessons

Conversational Spanish classes will resume at the Bloomington Park West Community Center in January. Classes will meet every Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m.

For information call 744-5907 after 1 p.m.

Parents Help Group

Parents Anonymous is a self-help group for parents who have lost, or feel they are losing control of their children. Groups meet in Valrico on Thursdays evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at area churches. The meetings are free. For information call 251-8080.

Recycle Computers

The county has begun a program, "Computers for Kids," that involves collecting computers to place in recreation centers and later in libraries for kids to use during after school and summer programs.

Since the program began in April, donations have dropped off. There is no certain type of computer that the county is looking for. Software and programs also are acceptable donations.

Computers can be dropped off at the Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance unit on 78th St. and the Crosstown Expressway or at any of several libraries including the Main Library downtown at 900 N. Ashley Drive. For information call 744-5815 or 273-3652.

NOTES, from page 9

"number of boxes" or "number of" steaks, chops, etc. Make sure that no cheap cuts of meat are being substituted for high-priced cuts. Ask if any ingredients have been added.

- Get a clear, written statement of the buyer's right to cancel the purchase and of the company's refund policy. Is the guarantee a refund or a replacement of the meat products?

- Get the address and phone number of a representative who can resolve any problem. Call this individual before signing a contract or making a payment. Confirm whether payment should be made to the company or the salesperson.

- If a freezer or any other appliance is included with the purchase, find out if it is new or used. Does it come with a warranty and operator's manual. Compare prices for the same model at local businesses.

- Ask for the names of other customers who you could

call to determine their satisfaction with purchases.

Business Park Set Among Nature

When Murray Homelsky decided to open his first professional business park in Hillsborough County, he knew he wanted his future buyers to enjoy nature's beauty.

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The park will feature service-oriented office buildings customized to meet the needs of each owner or leaser. A total 40,000 square feet of individual buildings, which will be a minimum of 2,000 square feet each will be constructed in a contemporary style of brick and siding.

Professional parks are not new to Homelsky who has completed similar endeavors in New York and south Florida, always emphasizing the natural beauty of the surrounding environment.

Classifieds

NIP(Neighborhood Improvement Program)

Volunteers needed for BHA (Bloomington Homeowners Association) program. Call the community office at 681-2051 for information.

JUDY CLEANS:

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