

the Bloomingdale gazette

Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

Volume XX, Number 4

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MEET THE BHA!

See Page 6

Our friends and neighbors; The BHA Board of Directors

By Laura Frazier, Editor

When there are land use and rezoning issues in the Bloomingdale area; when there are traffic, safety, school or crime concerns in our community, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Board of Directors informs, investigates and takes action on behalf of all of Bloomingdale's 4000+ residents.

Under the direction of BHA President Ted Grable, our access to neighborhood news and information has come into the 21st century, right on schedule. Our community web site is now a reality. The web site, voice mail, e-mail and fax availability have strengthened the participation and timing of BHA communications.

The acquisition of our own Community Office provides a professional, convenient home base for the BHA and Special Taxing District monthly public meetings.

The communication lines are open between the BHA and our Sheriff's Substation Deputies, Bloomingdale Area Community Council and various Hillsborough County Departments.

All the elements of a strong, effective Homeowners Association are in place. But there are some crucial areas we can all help with. To keep our community attractive and our property values strong, we must take it upon ourselves to maintain our own private property. To maintain our low crime rate and to become involved in resolving safety, zoning, growth and traffic issues, we must take advantage of all the resources the BHA puts at our fingertips. We can keep informed by visiting our web site, scanning the Gazette, attending BHA



Meet the BHA Board of Directors! See story on page 6. Photo by Laura Frazier.

meetings and even just by talking with our neighbors.

The BHA receives many communications each month from residents concerned about deed restriction violations (see "Letters" in this issue). Yes, we do have deed restrictions (40 different sets!) and yes, the BHA and Neighborhood Improvement Program are here to help. However, not all violations are prohibited in every neighborhood. The BHA can help us discern between deed restrictions, county code violations and "difference of opinion" neighborhood disputes so that we, the residents, can become proactive in keeping our neighborhoods safe, clean and beautiful.

We hope you'll turn to page 6 to "Meet the BHA Board of Directors". You may find a familiar face or two. These are our friends and neighbors who, like us, have concerns and complaints about our neighbors and neighborhood. But while we are all airing out the dirty laundry, these are the folks attempting to wash it!

For more information about the BHA, please visit our web site at www.cyber-rails.com/bha/. Additional contact information appears on page 2 of every issue.

Residents' comments needed on proposed Natures Way Parks Dept. facility, see page 11 for details on how you can speak out.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-2051 • E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com

Web site: www.CyberRails.com/BHA/

- President Ted Grable
- Treasurer Pam Liguori
- Directors Patricia Radel
- LaWayne Wyatt
- Ann Underwood
- Rodney Biddle
- Len Jaszczak
- Mary Cummings



Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

- Coordinator/Scheduler
LaWayne Wyatt, 685-2072
- Treasurer, Paul Kelmer 681-9701
- Equipment Manager, Tony Diolosa 681-1146
- Membership Chairman, Steven Heckel .. 654-4266
- Brad Scharp
- Paul Warr 685-7883



Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

- P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
- President Bill Grace, 685-2817
- Treasurer Fred Englehart
- Meetings .. Second Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm,
3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks



Share your news with the community!

Write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
Phone (813) 681-2051
E-mail LauraFrazier@Prodigy.net
Fax (813) 651-1129

Bloomingdale Special

- Taxing District 684-6667
- President, Thom Snelling 681-9186
- Vice President, Tom Mackiewicz 653-4145
- Treasurer, Don Cassels 681-8855
- Corresponding Secretary, R. Dickey 689-2177
- Recording Secretary, Alice Burleson 685-1076
- Trustee, Tim Golden 653-1337
- Trustee, Paul Almeida 661-2018
- Property Manager, DPMI 684-6617



Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

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

Special Taxing District Meetings
Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



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The official publication of the BHA
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Published by Manatee Media, Inc.

- P.O. Box 271880 Tampa, FL 33688-1880
- Phone: (813) 964-1919 Fax: (813) 963-5876
- Advertising Director Diane Mathes
- Publisher Mark Mathes
- Classified Sales Arlene Jacobs
- Managing Editor Anissa Camp
- Design & Production Publisher's Support

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(813) 662-1535

3918 S. Kings Avenue, Brandon, Florida 33511

Bloomington Special Taxing District Property Manager's Report, February 2000

Submitted by Al Devney, DPMI Management

Irrigation:

1. Brandon Irrigation repaired the Cambridge Cove and Greenhollow electrical systems, repaired a broken main line in the Culbreath system and broken zone line on the Glenhaven system.

2. During the monthly maintenance inspection, 39 spray heads and 11 rotors were replaced. One zone line was repaired.

Landscaping:

1. Planscape, Inc. replaced two 5' oaks on Natures Way, the dead landscaping on Culbreath and completed the entranceways on Erindale, Culbreath, Redondo and Rosemead.

2. Yardworks installed 40,000 square feet of St. Augustine grass plugs on Natures Way and Culbreath.

3. Natural Designs installed three palm tree groupings on Erindale.

Other:

1. There were three vehicle vs. wall accidents on Springvale and one on Greenhollow. One on Springvale and one on Greenhollow were covered by insurance. The other

accidents on Springvale were hit and runs.

2. Signs by Mineo installed the new Erin Arbor signs at Warm Springs entrance.

3. DPMI prepared a notice for the new painting contract and sent or delivered it to 7 contractors.

4. DPMI hosted the pre-bid meeting for this year's painting contract. Four contractors attended.

5. The County Road and Street Dept. completed the sidewalk on the SW corner of the Briarpark entrance. A handicapped person had fallen because there was a gap in the sidewalk.

6. In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, DPMI picked up 27 bags of litter, 6 pairs of socks, 5 pairs of gloves, 2 hubcaps, 1 roll of toilet paper, a telephone book, a radio, 12 CD's, a yellow plastic duck and \$1.16. The beverages of choice were Pepsi for soft drinks, Michelob Light for beer and, once again, Smirnoff Vodka for distilled spirits.

Al Devney can be reached at 684-6617.

Commercial Cleaning Services

Bloomington East residents Phoebe and Wayne Cates are pleased to announce their new business, Commercial Cleaning Services. The company offers satisfaction guaranteed complete office and commercial property cleaning. Licensed, bonded and insured, the Cates' offer "Your office cleaning solution!" For free estimate or more information, call 662-5884.

Brandon Bears Football and Cheerleading registration

What: Open Registration, Brandon Bears Youth Football and Cheerleading 2000 season. Rosters are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

When: April 15 and May 20, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Open Registration.

June 24, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Final Registration.

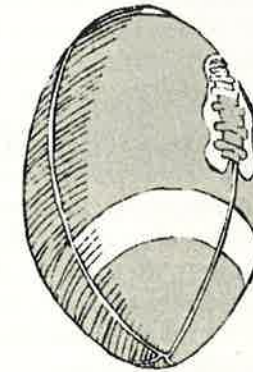
Where: Providence Park Athletic Building, 5720 Providence Road, Brandon.

Bring: Original birth certificate and a small photograph.

Fees: Cheerleading fee is \$170, football fee is \$125. Registration fees may be paid by cash or check. Please make checks payable to: The Brandon Bears Youth Football & Cheerleading League, Inc.

Home games: All home games are played at Bloomington Senior High School.

Information: Please call (813) 685-3057 or (813) 685-1633 re 12:30 pm.



Welcome to Bloomington

The Bloomington Gazette and Brandon Regional Hospital are pleased to announce the following new arrivals to our community:

Bailey Elizabeth Jaeger

Born February 5, 2000 to Cameron Morris and Brian S. Jaeger

Matthew Randal Bullington

Born February 11, 2000 to Jennifer and Mark Bullington

Claire Sicily Wendt

Born February 16, 2000 to Teri and Douglas Wendt, Jr. D.D.S.

Joshua Caleb Burnett

Born February 17, 2000 to Melissa and Charles Burnett

Hunter David DeLones

Born February 17, 2000 to Heather and David DeLones

Matthew Joseph Lipp

Born February 21, 2000 to Shannon and Gregg Lipp

Daniel John Petrilli

Born February 28, 2000 to Sharon and John Petrilli

Anthony Julian Tolbert

Born February 28, 2000 to Shari and Vince Tolbert

Congratulations from the staff and friends of The Bloomington Gazette!

Please send birth announcements to the Gazette address, e-mail or fax listed on page 2 of every issue.

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Anne Marie Pracht and her miniature dachshund, Nicole and ragdoll cat, Blu.

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Meet the BHA Board of Directors

By Laura Frazier, Editor

Ted Grable, BHA President Bloomingdale West

A 5th generation Tampa native, Ted's family moved to Brandon in 1956. "We were returning to Brandon in 1985 after living out of the area for 12 years and were attracted to the location of the community, especially the mix of rural and suburban lifestyle that characterized the area at the time. Bloomingdale is clearly suburbia today, but some things have not changed; great people, great schools and convenience to Tampa and 'downtown' Brandon."



Ted has served on the BHA Board since 1991, and accepted the position of President in 1999. "I believe that if you want something to be better, you have to pitch in and help make it happen. What makes Bloomingdale a great place to live is the community involvement of our residents."

Under Ted's direction, the BHA has established a community office and web site. Ted has been instrumental in opening the lines of communication between residents and county government. The monthly BHA meetings have benefited greatly by his sense of organization, direction and leadership.

Pam Liguori, Treasurer Augusta Village, Bloomingdale East

A Bloomingdale resident since 1986, Pam moved here with her husband Joe from Katy, TX. "In 1986 Bloomingdale was a small community that reminded us of Katy." Pam has observed many of the community's growing pains and counts traffic, population density and school crowding among her special concerns. Pam's Bloomingdale "wish list" includes widening Bell Shoals Road and the realization of a Bloomingdale Public Library branch. She has served on the Gazette committee and BHA Board for over 10 years, citing "a desire to give back to the community." Pam and Joe are dedicated, active members in many areas of the community. Joe wears many hats, and has been instrumental in revitalizing the Bloomingdale Gazette as our volunteer Executive Director.



Patricia Radel, Director Bloomingdale West

A native of Kingsville, Ohio, Pat Radel has been a Bloomingdale resident since 1990. "We looked all around and thought we would like to live in Bloomingdale because it was close to a lot of conveniences and away from a lot of traffic. Of course, that was in



1990!" Pat attended a Homeowners Association meeting with questions about deed restrictions and the rest, as they say, in history. "The BHA needed a new director and I decided to give it a try. I like knowing what's going on in the community."

Pat's major community concerns are traffic and neglected rental homes. She would like to see landlords and tenants take better care of the growing number of rental homes in order to keep property values up.

"I do hope the overall growth in our area slows down," says Pat. "Also, I think more roads need to be widened to accommodate our increased traffic." Pat says she appreciates the efforts of residents who work to improve and maintain the community. She'd like to encourage residents who share her concerns about community maintenance, deed restrictions and property values to join the efforts of the Neighborhood Involvement Program.

Ann Underwood, Director Cambridge Cove, Bloomingdale East

A resident of Bloomingdale from 1985-1988 and again since 1983, Ann says, "My husband and I like Bloomingdale as much today as we did when we moved here in 1985...except for the increased traffic." Ann is involved with the Neighborhood Involvement Program, which assists residents with deed restriction concerns. "I became involved with the BHA to help ensure that our community maintains the high standards that Bloomingdale is known for and that we have come to appreciate and enjoy." Ann's service to the BHA over the past 10 years and her familiarity with the history of our community are important assets to the BHA.



Rodney Biddle, Director The Greens, Bloomingdale Ridge

A Brandon native, Rodney and his family moved to Bloomingdale in 1998. The BHA has tapped Rodney's experience with web site design and community relations to bring our neighborhood communications into the 21st century. Designer and Co-Administrator of BHA Online, Rodney says, "I felt that my knowledge, resources and experience with web site design could strongly benefit the community." We couldn't agree more! Rodney has committed countless hours to working with BHA President Ted Grable to get our web site up, running and improving every month. Among his special hopes for the community are his desire to increase and improve neighborhood communications in an effort to keep resident interest, and involvement, at a high level. "Bloomingdale is a strong and well established community. We can, and must, continue to work towards keeping Bloomingdale's standing as one of the better places to live in the Brandon area."



(continued on page 7)

continued from page 6)

Len Jaszczak Stol Green, Bloomingdale East

Len and his family moved here from Edison, NJ in 1996. He has served on the Board since October of 1999, and counts controlled growth and school crowding among his community concerns. "I would like to help uphold the qualities that originally attracted my family and I to the community," Len says. "We can keep the qualities our area is well known for while we continue to grow." As one of the newest Bloomingdale residents on the board, Len brings the perspective of the "new" Bloomingdale, good points and bad, to the table.



Mary Leffler Cummings Bloomingdale East

Mary moved with her family to Bloomingdale in 1985, and has served on the Board periodically since 1987, most recently since the fall of 1999. Her community concerns include traffic and infrastructure maintenance. "In 1985, Bloomingdale Avenue was two lanes. There was no development on corner of Bloomingdale and Bell

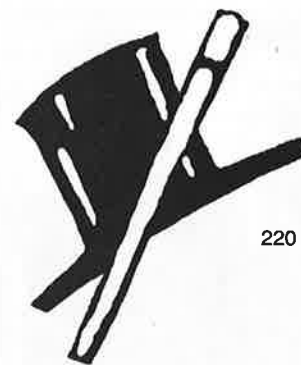
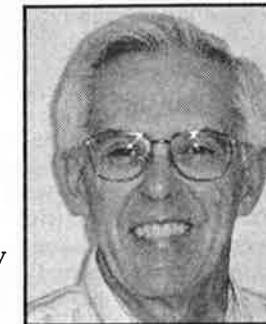


Shoals, except for a produce stand under a wonderful sprawling oak tree, both long gone now. The schools, Alafia Elementary, Burns Middle and Bloomingdale High, were all literally still on the drawing table. And, there were lots of cows!"

Mary took an extended "leave of absence" from the Board to care for her family. Then, last year, "I ran into Ted Grable, an old friend, and he suggested that the time had come for me to rejoin the Board." Mary's return as a knowledgeable and action-oriented board member is truly a welcome advantage to the BHA.

LaWayne Wyatt Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Coordinator Bloomingdale West

Not one to mince words, LaWayne Wyatt expresses his concerns for the community, "Crime and safety." A Bloomingdale resident since 1984, LaWayne has coordinated our Mobile Watch program for the past 10 years. Mobile Watch volunteers work with our Community Substation and County Sheriff's Department Deputies to prevent and deter crime in Bloomingdale. LaWayne's no-nonsense approach to heading off crime in our neighborhoods has served our community well since 1990. From inception to recruitment and scheduling, LaWayne has consistently provided our community with an effective Mobile Watch program.



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YMCA - Little League field crosswalk needed

By Mack Austin

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) has been actively involved in several projects that will improve safety and the quality of life in our community. One of the most important projects the BACC is directly involved in is the "Bloomingdale Little League/YMCA Crosswalk" project.

This project began when plans were announced to build a new YMCA with a new Senior baseball field across from the Bloomingdale Little League. With traffic along Culbreath Road already a major concern, especially when Bloomingdale High School lets out and during other peak traffic hours, the need was clear for providing the maximum available safety measures for parents, Little Leaguers and families involved in the BLL and YMCA activities.

To date, several meetings have been held along with one attended by Commissioner Ronda Storms and Ed Howlette, aide to Representative Johnnie Byrd. Both expressed concerns about the safety of everyone using the YMCA and Little League parks, especially since the park is now part of the Hillsborough County Park system. Commissioner Storms assigned engineers to study the situation and make recommendations.

As of last month, both the YMCA and Bloomingdale Little League have provided plans to the engineers at Hillsborough County to explore possible solutions. The ultimate solution would be "an elevated crossover" from the YMCA to the Little League. The estimated cost of a crossover is between eight



Measures are being taken to provide the maximum crosswalk available at this dangerous area. Photo by Mack Austin.

hundred thousand and one million dollars. The plans for a crossover are not currently available due to funding restrictions. Research is underway to find sources.

In the meantime, the BACC is working with County engineers, the YMCA and the BLL to insure that the maximum available protection is provided this area. County Project engineer Mike McCarthy stated that the "maximum crosswalk available" will be constructed at this location.

One of the best steps that can be taken is for parents and older athletes to watch out for the younger athletes and kids and insure that they get across safely, especially at night. Also anyone driving in this area should use extra caution and be aware of the speed limit.

"Kids Helping Kids" Alafia Elementary students organize Kosovo relief project

By Laura Frazier

In January of this year, Alafia Elementary School teacher Betty Schino received a touching e-mail correspondence from her nephew Bryan, stationed with his military unit in Kosovo. Bryan's unit had "adopted" the local school in order to help the citizens rebuild and refurbish their facilities. He relayed the harsh details of the Kosovo children's daily lives.

They endured a frigid winter with no electricity or running water in their ravaged village. Often the children returned to school each day with the same suit of clothes; they had been forced from their homes with few belongings and returned to even less.

As Mrs. Schino read the tragic reports, she was struck by the photos that accompanied the letters. "The pictures I received showed happy little faces." The teacher felt compelled to help. Operation Three Aprils, the translated name of the school, was born. Alafia Elementary students and families joined Bryan's military unit in "adopting" the school.

By March 1, the students had collected 55 boxes full of clothing, shoes, toys and school supplies. On March 9, students and parent volunteers loaded all 2,280 pounds of donations to a U-Haul truck donated by Brandon U-Haul Manager Mark



Alafia student and parent volunteers load up relief supplies headed for Kosovo.

Parker. Mrs. Schino is coordinating efforts with representatives of United Parcel Service and MacDill Air Force Base to get the supplies to Kosovo.

"When I first read Bryan's message back in January, I knew that helping those kids was something that I wanted to do. I just knew that our Alafia families would come through with their help and support," said Mrs. Schino. "We are so proud of our children. They were very generous; some even used their own allowances to buy donations. They learned how good it feels to help others in need."

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Bloomingdale Senior High School News

By Mack Austin

S.A.F.E. Program Gets Great Response

The S.A.F.E. (Students Alive Form Education) Program that is dedicated to making high school and college students aware of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, not wearing seat belts, and the trauma associated with these dangers has gotten a positive response from students and faculty at Bloomingdale High School. "The program definitely saves lives," stated Ellen Gates, Chairperson for the Bloomingdale High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Safety Committee. "Our goal is to have every Senior attend the presentation. The information is critical at this point in their lives not only as students, but especially as drivers."

Candy for Magazines

Candy has always been an effective bartering tool. According to Kathy Steed, BHS PTSA Volunteer Coordinator, "It has even helped with the Reading Enhancement Program. Every Tuesday during all four lunch periods candy is given to students who bring in magazines for the program. Magazines are also passed out to students to encourage reading. "There is always a need for more and more magazines, especially car, sports, computer and science magazines for our male students," noted Linda Weronik, Director of the Reading Program. These magazines can be dropped off at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Community Station on Bell Shoals. Deputy Pete and Officer Sandy collect the magazines and arrange to have them taken to the school for distribution. One special note, please remove any mailing labels. The students really enjoy reading them and progress is being made with Reading Test Scores. Also, volunteers are needed to listen and assist students with their reading. Reading is scheduled each week on Monday/Wednesday/Thursday during second period (8:30-9:30 a.m.) and during fifth period (12:50-1:50 p.m.). Volunteers are

needed to pick up magazines donated by businesses and drop them off at BHS. Call 744-8018, EXT 563 to volunteer to be a Reading Program volunteer. Whatever time you can spare. The rewards are great!

More business sponsors still needed

Linda Weronik, Bloomingdale High School's Reading Program Director, is looking for more local businesses to help provide the incentives needed to motivate students into reading more and learning the true importance of developing a life-long interest in reading. All students like good food and a good party. Local businesses are being asked to sponsor a party - pizza, ice cream, donuts, hamburgers, etc. party for those classes she identifies as being the "most active participants in the reading program". She can be contacted at 744-8018, Ext.563.

Future programs

Two very important programs are in the planning stage and will need the support of everyone at BHS. First is a "Violence Prevention Week" that Gail Butler is directing. Second is a "Peer Counseling Program" that is being researched and could be put in place next year. For more information on these and the many other activities taking place that can make a positive difference, call 744-8018 EXT 263.



Christie Stevens, a BHS student, works with Sally Baxley, a BHS PTSA volunteer, during one of the "magazines for candy exchange program" periods. This is one of the many BHS Reading Program activities where volunteers are making a big difference.

BHA urges residents to voice concerns County plans to relocate Parks Maintenance Department to Nature's Way

By Mack Austin

The county owned property just west of Alafia Elementary School on Natures Way, previously occupied by the County Water Maintenance Department, has been vacant for many months. County representatives have announced plans to relocate a Parks Department Maintenance facility from its present location at the Crosstown and 78th Street to this property on Natures Way.

Representatives from the Parks Department recently met with the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Board of Directors to discuss the proposed plans and answer any questions. Representing the County Parks Department were Director of Hillsborough County Parks Ed Radice, Parks Department Maintenance facility manager Jeff Mauch, and Director of County Real Estate Mike Kelly.

The 30-acre property includes a large open area north of the maintenance facility building. Mike Kelly indicated that the School Board is reviewing the possibility of using a portion of the property to expand the area around Alafia Elementary School.

Parks Department Director Ed Radice answered questions about the Parks Maintenance facility staff of 53 employees, their schedules, work projects and equipment. Their tasks include maintaining county parks, recreation centers, ballfields and all facilities located at these sites. The employees currently work five days a week, 6:30 am to 3:30 pm. Some of their equipment is already stored at satellite locations to reduce driving times.

The major concern addressed by the BHA Board was the facility's proximity to Alafia Elementary and the impact of traffic on an already congested area. Ed Radice indicated that he would work with his staff on their schedule's affect on area traffic. He stated that they would like to be "a good neighbor" to the Bloomingdale Community. The Water Department Maintenance facility has used the location with minimal affect on traffic.

BHA Board member Mary Cummings noted the property in question was purchased with enterprise funds and therefore, if not used by the County, could be purchased and used



The County is working on plans to relocate a Parks Department Maintenance facility to this facility on Natures Way. Photo by Mack Austin.

by "just about anyone". It was also mentioned that for many years the Parks Department has kept the Bloomingdale Little League Park maintained and now owns it. Having the Parks Maintenance facility in Bloomingdale would be an asset as far as the maintenance of Bloomingdale's parks.

A motion was made and accepted by the Board to solicit concerns from the residents of Bloomingdale on this matter. These concerns will then be addressed at a special Public Meeting to be held at the Bloomingdale West Recreation Center on Tuesday, April 11, 2000 at 7 PM. The regular monthly meeting of the BHA will convene at 7:30 at the Recreation Center. To voice your concerns and questions, or for more information, please contact the BHA (see page 2 of this issue).

Attention Bloomingdale Homeowners

County Parks Maintenance representatives will hear resident's concerns and questions about the Natures Way property/facility usage at the next BHA meeting on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 pm at the Bloomingdale Recreation Center on Canoga Park Drive in Bloomingdale West. For more information, please call the BHA at 681-2051.

Substation Notes

By Deputy Pete Maurer, Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy

Sheriff's Substation location: corner of Bell Shoals and Glenhaven in the Village Center Plaza. Phone: 635-8040. Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm weekdays.



Natures Way/Culbreath intersection traffic/safety issues

Numerous parents have called the Community Station expressing their personal concerns about the increased traffic flow, speeding and other dangers at the intersection of Culbreath Road and Natures Way. These dangers are multiplied during school arrival and dismissal periods.

Members of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council (B.A.C.C.) researched the problems, contacted Hillsborough County Public Works and requested that a 3-way stop be installed to slow down traffic. However, the very strict criteria for this type of traffic control are such that this intersection does not qualify. Included in the criteria is a requirement for five accidents in a one-year period. No one wants one accident! One possible next step is for parents con-



A request for a 3-way stop at this intersection near Alafia Elementary was turned down. Photo by Mack Austin.

cerned about this safety issue to contact County Commissioner Ronda Storms directly or through their PTA and request a special provision be made for improving traffic safety at this intersection. Commissioner Storms can be reached at 272-5740.

Patrolling Bloomingdale

Ever wonder just what life in Bloomingdale is like really late on Saturday night? One way to find out is to do what one of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council

B.A.C.C. members recently did. Terry Ward, a graduate of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Citizen's Academy and a very active member of the Council, went on patrol with yours truly.

We patrolled for over eight hours into the early morning. During this time, we conducted security checks on local businesses, monitored traffic, wrote three citations and issued six warnings, and responded to several juvenile situations primarily associated with parties.

Illegal use of dumpsters

Several cases of illegally using dumpsters such as the one behind the Community Station have been reported. It is illegal to put anything in these dumpsters without the permission of

the business owners who contract it. There are severe fines for illegally using these dumpsters.

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READING WRITING MATH SAT/ACT STUDY SKILLS COURSES FOR CREDIT

BSHS Traffic Survey completed *(continued from page 12)*

By Mack Austin

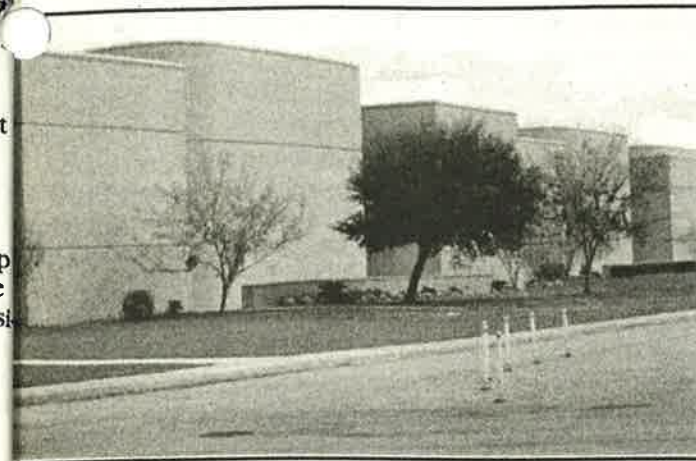
Traffic and safety concerns around Bloomingdale High School are a daily issue. In fact, very few days pass without at least one accident in the area.

In an effort to explore solution options, the BSHS PTSA determined that the School Board controls changes on the campus, while County Traffic Operations controls the area up to the right-of-way in front of the school. Both agencies were asked by the PTSA to conduct a traffic survey exploring possible solutions for improving safety conditions in and around school grounds.

Last month, County Traffic Operations Senior Engineer Gary Tait and School Board Safety Specialist Ann Anderson joined together in conducting the survey. Several dangerous traffic situations were noted. "The most obvious was parents dropping off students at the west entrance by the light and by the new wing, and then making illegal U-turns to exit," noted Gary Tait. "Also, parents pulled over on Bloomingdale Avenue to drop off their students, requiring them to cross Bloomingdale Avenue; a dangerous situation. Everyone was in a hurry."

Tait and Anderson listed several possible improvements that they coordinated with Assistant Principal Roland Jones, including installing traffic control poles at the west entrance to prevent illegal U-turns, having more "No U-turn" and "One Way" signs installed, a white line in the center of the front

(continued on page 13)



Traffic safety poles have been installed at the west entrance of BHS. It is illegal to make a U-turn in this area. Photo by Mack Austin.

drop-off area, and restricting left turns at the east entrance. These findings and other possible solutions will be evaluated and put in place.

There are no magic solutions. Unless everyone slows down, allows extra time in the morning and obeys the traffic sign, the problems will only get worse as the construction on Bloomingdale Avenue commences. As Gary Tait stated, "The major controlling factor is each and every driver obeying the rules, showing patience and courtesy, and driving with the safety of the students as the most important element."

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Restaurant Review

By Elton Dumont

Exclusive to The Bloomingdale Gazette

Cherry's
 903 East Bloomingdale Avenue, Brandon
 (813) 662-1500

Quick now! If you wanted a great burger at a restaurant very close to home, where would you go? Okay, if you wanted a late night (after 11:00 pm) snack, where would you go? In both cases, I'll bet a good portion of you would say "Cherry's"! And if you haven't tried it yet, we recommend that you do. It is a great local restaurant and pub, with a full bar and great food. As their logo says, it is a great place to "eat, drink and be Cherry!"

Cherry's of Brandon is conveniently located in Bloomingdale Square in the corner between Wal-Mart and Publix. They now have two other locations in Ybor City and Plant City. I have been to the Brandon location several times for lunch and found it to be comfortable, with a very relaxed atmosphere. I plan to take my wife there for dinner soon.

The menu is divided into 7 interesting sections; Appetizers, Birds of a Feather, Wings of a Cherry, Greens and Things, Cherry's Entrees, Half Pounders and Sandwich Board.

Appetizers include Mexican Queso and Chips (\$4.75) and Buffalo Style Shrimp (\$5.95). "Birds of a Feather" offerings include Blackened Chicken Philly, a marinated and blackened chicken breast with green pepper, onions, mushrooms and provolone cheese (\$5.95).

In the Wings department, choose from 10 (\$5.25) to 100 wings (\$29.95) served with bleu cheese and celery. Turkey Feta, Sirloin Salad and Fried Chicken Salad are among the "Greens and Things" items. Entrees include a 10 oz. Top Sirloin (\$8.95), Country Fried Steak (\$7.95) and Grouper Filet, available grilled, fried or blackened (\$9.95).

The 1/2 lb "Big One" burger, various specialty burgers and Veggie Burger are all around six bucks. The "Turkey Mush" sandwich is an interesting name, as is the Turkey Gouda and the Big Dipper. All sandwiches, including the popular Cherry's Cuban, are in the \$5.95 range.

Daily specials are posted on the outside blackboard and are worth checking out. The abbreviated late night menu features Buffalo Shrimp or Wings, as well as sandwiches.

Cherry's has a great kid's menu, and the TV sets around the dining area have interactive capabilities. You can get a handheld remote from your server and play trivia games while you dine. Great food and great fun for the adults and the kids!

Until we eat again,

Elton Dumont

Yard of the Month

Sponsored by Southern Lawn and Turf



Address: 3812 Northridge Drive, Fox Run section
Homeowners: Ellen and Marvin Slovacek

Landscaping features: azaleas, crotons, azaleas, impatiens, azaleas, begonias, azalea trees and azaleas! The Slovacek's front yard flowerbeds are bursting with over 100 (you guessed it) azalea plants in full bloom.

Gardening tip: "We bought well-established azaleas and fertilized heavily during the planting process. Since then, we haven't had to do a whole lot except enjoy them."

Please send your nominations for the Yard of the Month to the Gazette (see page 2 for contact information).

T-Ball fever Catch it!

Katrina Giardina, a catcher on one of Bloomingdale Little League's new Girl's T-Ball Softball teams, joins hundreds of other Bloomingdale ballplayers as the season gets into "full swing". Get out and enjoy a game. Teams range from T-Ball all the way up to the Big Leaguers (16 to 18 year olds). It's a great game and a great park! Photo by Mack Austin.



BHA Online: www.cyberrails.com/bha/
 January 29, 2000

To: The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

Just a quick note to inform you we've checked out your web site and think it's quite informative. We have been residents for less than two years and think the community is wonderful. Keep up the good work.

Jim and Sue Cox

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Letters

Q: The streetlight in front of my home isn't working. Who do I call?

A: According to the Hillsborough County Public Works Department, please contact TECO at (813) 228-1111 to report inoperable streetlights. If there is an identification number visible on the pole, this information will assist TECO in responding.

Q: There are several trees along Springvale bordering our neighborhood that need to be trimmed. Does the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) handle this?

A: The three agencies that share the responsibility for maintaining the roadways, right of ways and certain common areas of Bloomingdale are the Hillsborough County Roadway Maintenance Division, the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) and the Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District. As for tree trimming, the BSTD is the appropriate agency to contact if the matter is one of aesthetics. If safety (line of sight) issues are of concern, the County's Citizen Action Center (272-6333) will assist you in submitting a service request to the Roadway Maintenance Unit. If you require further assistance, please refer to page 2 of the Gazette for BSTD contact information.


Q: A family in our neighborhood has acquired a large motor home. They continually park it in their driveway. It is so large that they have to park their other vehicles in the street since there is no room left in the driveway. At times it disappears for a few days, but always returns for another extended stay. Is there any way to get rid of this behemoth on a permanent basis?

A: BHA President Ted Grable researched the deed restrictions for your section of Bloomingdale and found (in part) the following: "No boat, boat trailer, camper, mobile home, travel trailer or truck in excess of two tons shall be parked, kept or stored on any lot except in such a location as to not be visible from the street." Your concerns have been referred to our Neighborhood Involvement Program volunteers for follow up. For more information, please visit our community web site.

Q: My neighbor has constructed a 25-foot tall metal pole in his backyard and attached his satellite dish to it. The wire hangs down on the side of the home. I am concerned about the wire and our children, as well as this being a potential lightning rod. Is there anything we can do about this?

A: BHA President Ted Grable researched the online deed restrictions for your section and found (in part) the following: "No satellite dishes or TV antennas shall be erected." Federal legislation in recent years may preempt deed restrictions for certain types of satellite dishes, such as the 18" Direct TV or Dish Network type. Larger dishes are not permitted in your section. In addition, local electrical codes require all outside antennas (including satellite dish antennas) to be properly grounded. A volunteer member of our Neighborhood Involvement Program has been asked to drive by the residence to assess the situation. Any apparent code violations will be reported to the County. For more information about deed restrictions and county codes, please visit our community web site. For more information about county codes, please contact the Hillsborough County Neighborhood Helpline at 272-6333.

Please send letters to the Gazette mail, fax or e-mail address listed on page 2 of every issue. For more information about the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, please visit our community web site at www.cyberrails.com/bha/.



REAL ESTATE UPDATE

By Luana Russell

Realistic Selling Price

QUESTION: What is the worst mistake a homeseller can make?

ANSWER: The worst mistake is to unrealistically overprice the home. The finest advertising and sales efforts can't sell a home unless the price is right. Many good prospects will shy away from a home that's out of their price range. When the price eventually comes down to a realistic figure, these best prospects will have been lost forever.

Any home will sell at the right price (unless it's ready to fall off a cliff or is haunted).

How do you set the right price? Let your REALTOR help. He or she knows the local market and can suggest a marketing price that will sell.

Luana
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BUSINESS RATES/PAYMENTS: \$13 for first 3 lines, \$2 each additional line. \$5 extra for box around ad. Please call for more information

AUDIENCE/DISTRIBUTION: 57,000 Community News Classifieds are published in all editions, with a combined reach of 57,000 select homes and businesses in Carrollwood, Northdale, Cheval, Villa Rosa, Brandon, Valrico, Riverview and Bloomingdale.

CLASSIFIED POLICIES: We strive to help. Community News reserves the right to reject, edit or reclassify any advertisement. Please check your ad for accuracy on first insertion. We make every effort to be accurate. Community News is responsible for failure to publish an ad or for errors beyond the cost of the first insertion. All claims for adjustments must be addressed within 30 days of publication. The Community News takes care in the ads accepted; we do not investigate every ad submitted.

Classifieds due on the 25th of the month for the following month.

MAIL IN/FAX/E-MAIL ORDER
Mail: Community News; PO Box 271880; Tampa, FL 33688
Fax: 813-662-5804
E-mail: cnews@ij.com
Questions: 813-662-1306, Monday-Friday 9 a.m.—5 p.m.
Visit: 11406 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Suite F, Tampa.

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CITY _____
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