

Pile March
P. 22

the Bloomingdale gazette

April, 2001

Complimentary

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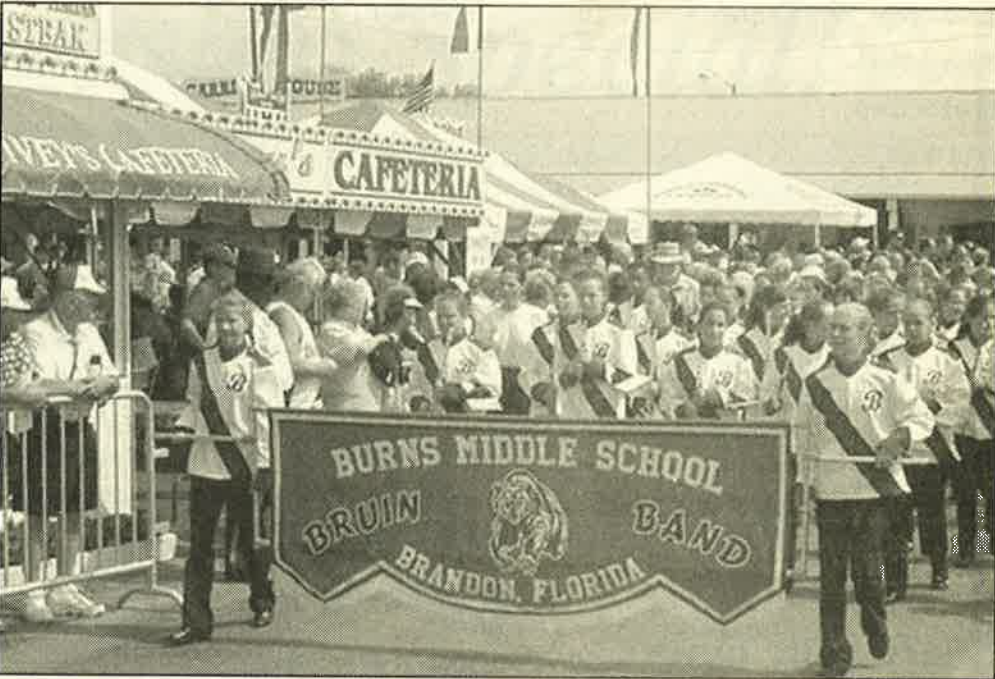
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Happy Easter!



“Bunny love”

Bobby and Sierra Michael of Bloomingdale share a tender moment with their pet rabbit, Chocolate Nibbles.



Burns Band

Brandon's Burns Middle School Bruins Band marched off with the first place trophy and Best Band award they received at the 2001 Strawberry Festival Youth Parade last month.

New school
site purchase
approved.

See page 9

Bloomingdale library branch? Check it out on page 18

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.bha-online.org

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Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

- P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
- President Bill Grace, 685-2817
- Treasurer Fred Englehart
- Meetings .. Second Monday 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 • Fax: (813) 651-1129
E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

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- 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.



the Bloomingdale gazette

The official publication of the BHA

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Phone: (813) 681-2051 Fax: (813) 651-1129
E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

- Executive Director Joe Liguori
- Editor Laura Frazier
- Photojournalist Mack Austin
- Feature Writer Rosie Trellis
- Restaurant Critic Elton Dumont

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Better Safe Than Sorry

By Howard Raymond, PTSA Volunteer

On February 21, 2001, administrators at Bloomingdale Senior High School ordered the evacuation and lock-down of the school in response to a threatening phone call. Students were held outside the school while the authorities searched and secured the buildings, from 11 a. m. until buses arrived at the usual 2:50 p. m. dismissal time. The threat thankfully turned out to be a false alarm.

Some students and parents criticized the school administration for exposing the students to prolonged heat, thirst and waiting, and for denying some students' requests to walk off campus or to contact their parents. Students were also forbidden to use their cell phones, since cellular waves can trip electronic devices.

The writer, Howard Raymond, is a Bloomingdale resident and volunteer reading tutor at Bloomingdale High.

I arrived at Bloomingdale High School at about 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21. The front of the campus was eerily quiet and almost devoid of any students or faculty. I saw two or three Security Patrol cars parked in front of the campus, and a Sheriff's Deputy vehicle parked in its assigned place.

A Security Patrol officer informed me that I could not enter the school because of a bomb threat and subsequent lock down of the campus. The students and faculty had been moved out of harm's way to the athletic field while the authorities conducted a search of the buildings. I was invited to go home or join the students and faculty.

I decided on the latter. Discretion never has been the better part of my valor.

The students and faculty had been sent to the athletic field

at 11 a.m., and were told to stay there until the "all clear" order was given. By the time I arrived, the weather had turned very hot for a February day. The students were getting thirsty and impatient.

Some enterprising cafeteria staff members gave out cans of soda pop and bottles of water to satisfy the student's thirst. But, life being basically unfair, there was not enough liquid to satisfy everyone. Some of the students protested loudly, even though the staff did the best they could under the circumstances.

Much to the dismay of the students and faculty alike, buses were not available to take the students home until the usual 2:50 p.m. dismissal time. Some students asked to be allowed to walk home, and their request was denied. In the interest of safety and order, it was decided that the entire student body would be held until the buses arrived on campus.

The overriding factor in the administration's reluctance to allow students to walk home was the possibility of harm coming to them. Certainly the construction on Bloomingdale Avenue right in front of the school was another mitigating factor in the decision to hold the students until the buses and other transportation arrived.

The students and adults involved in the lock down on February 21 will undoubtedly

remember the heat, thirst and impatience they endured that day. Fortunately, we will have no tragic TV pictures to remind us of something worse than temporary discomfort and inconvenience.

Using 20/20 hindsight, it does not matter whether this instance was a false alarm or not. Strict precautionary measures must be taken to ensure the safety of our students and faculty in any situation deemed to be unsafe, threatening or potentially disastrous. In my opinion, the actions of the school's administration were totally appropriate. After all, if I had been there at 11 a.m., they would have been protecting my life as well.

"In my opinion, the actions of the school's administration were totally appropriate."

Howard Raymond

Welcome to Bloomingdale!

Reese Whitaker Bradley

Born January 26, 2001 to Tammy and Vince Bradley

Joseph Tillman Miller III

Born February 20, 2001 to Teresa and Joseph T. Miller II

Dane Michael Palsis

Born February 18, 2001 to Leslie and Dane Palsis

Isaiah Christian Benitez

Born February 22, 2001 to Odalis Olmeda and Samuel Benitez

Carly Elizabeth Hoyler

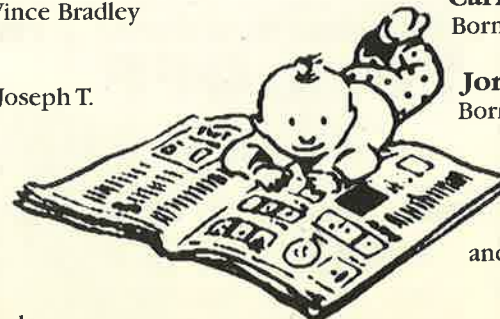
Born March 2, 2001 to Carolyn and Bass Hoyler

Jordan Skyler McMichael

Born February 12, 2001 to Christina and Derrick McMichael

Lila Eyad Husein

Born February 14, 2001 to Sameera and Eyad Husein



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BLOOMINGDALE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

By Mack Austin

Magazine drop-off points

Special thanks to Allen Kleinotas and his crew at Bloomingdale's new Car Wash on the Greens. Kleinotas offered to have his business be a new drop-off point for magazine donations for the Bloomingdale High School reading program. This kind of support is critical to the success of the reading program and is very much appreciated.

Volunteers are still needed to pick up the magazines dropped off at the Bell Shoals Community Station and at the Car Wash and deliver them to Bloomingdale High.

Volunteers are also needed to listen to and assist students with their reading. Anyone interested in being a part of this great program, please call 744-8018, ext. 563 for more information.

Important dates

- Report Cards go out April 4
- Non-Student/Teacher Days April 13, 16
- Memorial Day May 28
- Early Release - Last Day of School May 31
- Post-Planning Day June 1

Is it time to shut up and listen? A lot of attention has been given lately by local media to those students who would chose to purposely disrupt the school day and endanger the lives of others just to draw attention to themselves. Now is the time to take the attention away from the offenders and on to the stu-

dents who want to learn. Parents can help by getting personally involved in the school to learn what is going on and how to work with others to improve safety and security for everyone. Please consider attending the following special program at Bloomingdale High School:

Program: "Improving Communication"

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2001 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Agenda: There will be three concurrent discussion group sessions with experienced moderators discussing Family Communication, Peer to Peer Communication, and School to Family Communication. Great information from all three! There will also be information booths on health and safety resources from our Community. The new state of the art Driving Simulator from the Mendez Foundation will be set up to challenge your driving skills.

Where to get the Gazette

If you are a Bloomingdale resident and do not receive the Gazette by mail, please call the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at (813) 681-2051. Copies are available at the Campo Family YMCA, the Bloomingdale Community Substation and in newsstand boxes at both Bloomingdale Avenue Winn Dixie grocery stores.

New school site purchase approved

By Laura Frazier

The Hillsborough County School Board approved the \$955,000 purchase of 21 acres of land for a new Bloomingdale elementary school at a March 13, 2001 meeting.

The multiple-parcel property is situated on the east side of Culbreath Road, just south of Natures Way Boulevard, within the community of Bloomingdale East.

The board also approved a plan to model the new school after McKittrick Elementary, presently under construction by Howard and Associates Architects on Van Dyke Road in north Tampa.

County documents indicate that construction costs are limited to \$7,487,594 derived from county impact fees. Impact fees are county-imposed levies



New school site purchased

designed to support emerging communities with needed facilities and services.

Batson-Cook Company will serve as construction manager for the project.

School Board officials anticipate opening the school for the 2002-2003 school year. New school boundaries will divide the main Alafia attendance area in Bloomingdale East, and are likely to include satellite groups from Bloomingdale West and the northern Lithia Springs Elementary attendance area.

Public meetings to determine boundaries for the school will be announced this fall.

For more information, contact the Hillsborough County School Board at (813) 272-4055.

Controlled School Choice approved in federal court

A federal court in March approved a new plan that will allow Hillsborough County families to choose which schools their children attend, and eliminates busing "satellite groups" of students to meet race ratio requirements.

The Unitary Status Plan, approved by the Hillsborough County School Board in 2000, will be gradually phased in over the next three years, giving parents "controlled choice" within one of seven choice zones. The district's current 18 school clusters will be divided into seven regions or choice zones.

For more information, contact the Hillsborough County School Board at (813) 272-4055.



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Bloomington High School Principal's Honor Roll

By Mack Austin

Juggling high school classes, athletics, special activities and maybe even a part-time job practically requires a computer to schedule. Throw in homework, family, church and some time to relax, and you have a 32-hour day.

There are hundreds of great, hard working students in our community putting forth the time, effort and personal discipline it takes to achieve academic excellence. These students deserve our congratulations.

For the second grading period of this school year, 586 Bloomington High students achieved one of three outstanding honors; the Principal's Honor Roll, High Honor Roll and Honor Roll. Our special congratulations go out to each and every one of them.

A list of the 85 students who made the Principal's Honor Roll with a grade point average of 4.0 follows:

Congratulations!

Bloomington High School Principal's Honor Roll

Seniors

ABDEL-AZIZ, MOHAMED MOHAMED
BAKER, JENNIFER ELLEN
BAKSH, KATHRYN ANISSA
BERNOWSKI, NICOLE LEE
ELLIOTT, TANEHA WRAY
GATES, ABIGAIL RYON

GODEN, JULIA CHRISTINE
GRAFTON, MITCHELL ROSS
HINKLE, MOLLIE LYNN
HUERCA, ANTHONY MICHAEL
KIRCHMAN, ROSS ALLEN
LITTLE, MARTHA CAROL
MARCHANT, MATTHEW JOHN

MELCHERT, TRINA GAIL
NILITAS, ERIN MARIE
PETER, HANNAH RENEE
REYES, ESTEFANIA
RODRIGUEZ, AMBER NICHOLE
SHEPHERD, CHRISTOPHER ALAN
SWAN, BRANDON LLOYD
VAN HORNE, KRISTIN MAY
WILT, LAUREN ANN
WINGER, HEATHER LYNN

Juniors

ALTMAN, KIMBERLY
AYRES, ASHLEY DEANN
BARTA, MICHELLE K
CORZO, NATHASSIA
DAVISON, DANIELLE IRENE
FORTIN, MATTHEW W
HAMPSON, CRAWFORD ELIAS
HARGUS, CHANDRA
HUSSAMY, DEANA J
HERZOG, FRANK
MABRY, RYAN MICHAEL
REYES, ROBERT A
RODRIGUEZ, NICOLLE
SANCHEZ, NICHOLAS MICHAEL
SARVER, ZAHARV JOHN
WANG, DAVID Q
WILLIAMS, MATTHEW RYAN

Sophomores

CASAGRANDE, CARLO PAUL
DAILY, JENNIFER L
DETRI, BRIAN W
FRENCH, AMY NICOLE
HODGES, ASHLEY SHANTELL
KEATING, CHRISTOPHER JULIAN
KOMINSKY, HEATHER NICOLE
KSAIBATI, LAYLA KATHLEEN

KUO, JENNIFER
LITTLE, MICHAEL SHANE
MANDRY, DANIEL KHALIL
MUNOZ, AARON ADIEL
NEHAUL, KEVIN DHARMINDRA
NG, ALBERT JOHN
PASCO, JED TIMOTHY
POTTACKAL, SANJOY PAUL
POLISEO, JACLYN M
SINK, EMILY ELIZABETH
TOMLINSON, DEBRA ANN
TUBAUGH, AMBER NICOLE
WALSH, EDWARD MICHAEL
WALSH, THOMAS JAMES
WARACH, RACHEL LEAH

Freshmen

BEALL, JOSEPH C
BERRIER, COLE J
BORAICO, JESSICA L
BROWN, WENDY KAY
COOLEY, AUSTIN DAVID
COOLEY, BETHANY ANNE
CORSETINO, ELIZABETH ANN
COTTO, JORGE ARMAND
ELLIS, JESSICA LEE
FLEMING, CONSTANCE ELIZABETH
HOBREN, HAILEY ANNE
HOLLOWAY, JENNIFER DIANE
KESTENBAUM, RACHEL A
LEAVITT, BETHANY CLAIRE
MORLEY, SARAH ANNE
OATLEY, BENJAMIN WILLIAM
PINGOL, APRIL DANES
REUTHER, JENNIFER
SHULL, CHENOA N
STAUFFER, RYAN PATRICK
THAYER, TIMOTHY PATRICK
WALLER, JENNIFER N

Making a difference

By Mack Austin

Many people go through life hoping to make a positive difference in the lives of others. A lot of those people chose the very respectable and challenging profession of teaching. Many of us remember a teacher or teachers who made a difference in our lives.

I recently met one such person. Her name is Ruth Dean. Miss Dean was born in Kentucky, met her husband at Camp Campbell, and moved to Eustis, Florida, where she began a thirty-seven year career teaching elementary students. At 83 years young, she is still full of energy and eager to make a difference in the lives of young children.

Not long after moving here where two of her sons live, Ruth dove right in and volunteered to work with at-risk elementary school children. She began her volunteer work with a teacher at Kingswood Elementary who had thirty-seven third grade students, some reading at the first grade level.

She thought, "I should have no problem working with a small group, especially with all of my teaching experience." But, Ruth says, "It turned out to be some of the most unproductive teaching I have ever done! I thought, should these little ones be on Ritalin?"

After admitting defeat, Ruth says, "I took them on one-by-one and began to really understand each child. They began to trust me and many told me their sad, almost unbelievable stories. Many have home situations most people could never understand."

"What was so impressive to me," she said, "was how they accepted their mixed-up lives as normal, and how their spirit

to live and learn, up to this point, was unconsumed."

Ruth said she realized then, "that it's not any wonder these future citizens of our community and our nation, with all of the turmoil in their lives, can't concentrate enough to comprehend their school work!"


"They truly need one-on-one attention to make a difference in their lives."

Ruth has a personal concern for these kids and the many others like them that are attending our schools. She is asking on their behalf for more volunteers to come forth and help her make a difference. It can be only one hour a week. Of course, the more time, the bigger the difference. "Helping these young students feel that their efforts at learning are significant will help them believe that God's purpose for their lives is goodly indeed," she said.

"I found out about volunteering in the schools through an article I read about a man whose doctor prescribed it to him. I hope others will read this article and decide to make use of their time wisely and make a difference."

Burns Middle School students (from left) Stephanie Haines, Ali Hanes, Kelli Roger, Ali Hagan and Phillip Colesanti, are active volunteers in the Tutor Time program. The young tutors work one-on-one with elementary school students who need extra help with basic academic skills.





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Give Your Child A Better Head Start.

Brandon Bears sign-up



Registration for the 2001 Brandon Bears football and cheerleading season is in progress.

Open registration will be held at the Providence Park Athletic Building, 5720 Providence Road in Brandon, just north of Bloomingdale Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday April 21, Saturday May 19 and Saturday June 9.

Please bring a copy of the child's birth certificate

and a small photo. All fees are to be paid in full by cash or check at the time of registration.

For fees and further information, call (813) 685-3057.

Brandon Broncos Sign-Ups

Registration for the 2001 Brandon Broncos Youth Football League football and cheerleading season is in progress.

Open registration will be held at Handley Field on Kings Avenue in Brandon, just north of Kings Elementary School, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday April 7, Saturday April 28 and Saturday May 19. Please bring a birth certificate and a \$25 non-refundable deposit.

For fees and more information, call (813) 685-4351.

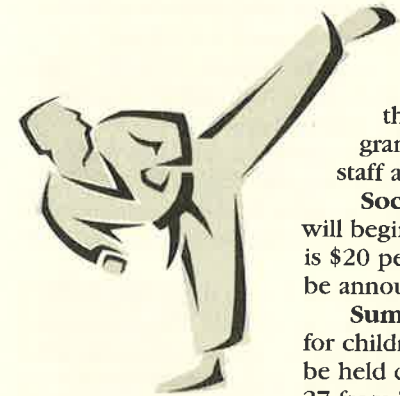
Bloomingdale West Rec Center

The Bloomingdale West Recreation Center is located at 3919 Canoga Park Drive in Bloomingdale West. For information, call Director Donna Clouse at (813) 744-5907 weekdays from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

April Youth Sports

Youth Tennis instruction will be given by Steve Clouse on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$16 per month.

Karate classes with instructor R. Hughes will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$25 per month.



Registration on those dates.



Track club will meet on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. for ages 8 through 14. The track program is run by the Rec Center staff at no cost to participants.

Soccer for ages 3 through 10 will begin in the month of May. Cost is \$20 per player; days and times to be announced in April.

Summer Priority Registration for children ages 6 through 12 will be held daily from April 23 through 27 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Parents may also register their children in the Lotto

Campo YMCA open for business

YMCA staff and cornerstone members held a ribbon cutting ceremony in March to officially open the new Campo Family YMCA.

The YMCA is located at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road in Bloomingdale East. Membership joining fees are \$125 annually for families, \$75 for seniors, \$100 for adults ages 26 to 59, \$50 for adults ages 18 to 25 and \$25 for youths age 17 and under.

Monthly membership dues are \$60 per month per family, \$32 per month for seniors, \$41 per month for adults 26 to 59, \$30 per month for young adults ages 18 to 25 and \$20 per month for youths age 17 and under.

Programs offered this spring include:

- Youth Basketball
- Dance, Tumbling
- Karate
- Indian Guides and Indian Princesses
- Birthday Parties
- Leader's Club
- Jr. Leader's Club
- Pick-up Adult Volleyball
- Pick-up Adult Basketball
- Summer Day Camp
- Summer Teen Adventure Camp
- Summer Sports Camp

YMCA partnerships are available to provide assistance to individuals and families who are without the financial

resources to pay for YMCA services. For more information, call Branch Manager Cindy Benson at (813) 684-1371 or visit www.tampaymca.org.



The Campo Family YMCA is open for business.

Recycle soccer uniforms and equipment

Shannan Powell, a member of Brandon Area Youth Soccer League (BAYSL) has organized a used soccer uniform and equipment program to provide less fortunate Brandon area children with uniforms, shin guards and cleats.

Please bring clean uniforms and equipment in good condition to the BAYSL building at Handley Field, behind Kings Elementary School off Kings Road in Brandon.

For more information, contact Shannan Powell at 654-6872.

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We're looking for a few good yards!

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association invites all Bloomingdale homeowners to nominate their friends and neighbors (or themselves!) for the Bloomingdale Yard of the Month award. If you have a beautiful or unique yard, or know someone who does, please complete the entry form and mail to: Yard of the Month, BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. e-mail to frazier1@tampabay.rr.com or fax to 813-651-1129. Winners will be presented with a \$25 Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift certificate.

Bloomingdale Yard of the Month nomination

Homeowner's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Landscape features that stand out _____

YARD OF THE MONTH

Dana and Karen Pucciarelli
 3934 Northridge Drive, Fox Run

Dana and Karen Pucciarelli take pride in caring for their lovely Bloomingdale East yard. The mostly shady landscape features mature oak trees, a manicured lawn and ligustrum trees that Dana carefully trims into an attractive umbrella shape.

Like the Pucciarelli's, many Bloomingdale area residents were treated to a beautifully profuse display of azaleas this year. Ironically, our winter freeze and drought conditions caused the plants to put forth a large amount of intensely colored blooms, Mother Nature's way of giving the stressed plants the best chance of survival.

The Pucciarelli's received a \$25 Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift certificate, courtesy of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.



PhilFest 2001

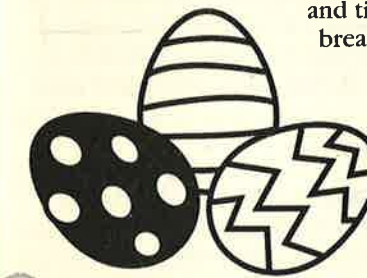
The sixth annual Philippine Festival will be held from Friday, April 6 through Sunday, April 8 on the 10-acre festival grounds at Nine Eagles Road, off Race Track Road, in Tampa.

The Philippine Cultural Foundation bills the event as, "A continuous entertainment of dances, songs, food and music, exhibits of arts, pictorial history, handicrafts and Philippine embroidered garments, plus barrio-decorated booths and grounds."

Entertainment will be featured on three stages. For more information, call (813) 931-8687.

Free Eggstravaganza

The fifth annual MAGIC 94.9 Eggstravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 14 at Curtis Hixon Park from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The event is free, and tickets are not required. A free breakfast will be served at 8 a.m., and the Easter egg hunt, with over 25,000 hidden eggs, starts at 10 a.m. Other activities include photos with the Easter Bunny, a petting zoo, puppet making and face painting.



For more information, call 229-STAR or visit www.tbpac.org

Neighborhood Garage Sale

The Erin Arbor Homeowners Association will hold a neighborhood garage sale on Saturday, April 7, 2001 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Erin Arbor is in Bloomingdale East, near the intersection of Erindale Road and Lithia-Pinecrest Road.



Batter up

Coach Chris Mitchell helps Nicky Wilbur get ready for his turn at bat as Bloomingdale Little League's Spring Season gets into full swing.

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SUBSTATION NOTES

By Deputy Pete Maurer



The Bloomingdale Community Substation is located at the corner of Bell Shoals Road and Glenhaven Drive, in the Village Center Plaza. Station hours are weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Deputy Maurer can be reached at (813) 635-8040.

Car seat check

Deputy Pete Maurer Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano was actively involved in completing two car seat checks in our community in March. She noted that, "over 90% were found to be installed incorrectly, primarily being too loose." Parents with children in car seats must get them installed correctly. Contact Officer Capitano at 635-8040 for information on future car seat checks.

Road rage

Sheriff's deputies are continuing to give special attention to drivers running red lights and not using their seat belts. Hundreds of citations have been written. Special attention is now being given to any driven exhibiting "road rage"; cutting off other drivers, abruptly changing lanes, not signaling when changing lanes, etc. Pay close attention. These citations are very expensive.

Neighborhood watch in Bloomingdale West

Several neighborhoods in Bloomingdale West have taken the extra step to improve security in their community by becoming



Drivers turning right on to Bell Shoals from Greenbollow can improve traffic flow by using the merge lane provided. Merge slowly and use your turn signal.

active in the Sheriff's Neighborhood Watch program. This program has proven to be very successful in reducing crime. Interested neighborhoods can call the Sheriff's Office crime prevention unit at 247-8115 for information.

Thanks for the help

Our thanks to the community members who are helping us with the Bloomingdale High School reading program by donating their old magazines. It does help us a lot by taking them to the new drop-off point at the Car Wash on the Greens at the corner of

Continued on page 17

Erindale Drive and Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

More neighborhood reps needed

There are still several subdivisions within the Bloomingdale community that are not represented on the Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC). The BACC is an outstanding forum for members of our community to stay informed on issues of concern and have them addressed through an organized effort. Sections of the Bloomingdale area not represented on the BACC include **Augusta Village, Bloomingdale Cove, Bloomingdale Estates, Cambridge Cove, Erin Arbor, The Greens, The Links, Oakcrest, Preston Woods, Somerset, Stratford Trace and Windsor Woods.** Call the community station at 635-8040 for more information.

Prison labor

A few community residents have expressed concern when they noticed prison laborers working in our community. These prisoners are offenders who committed minor offenses and who have completed the majority of their sentences. They have been assigned this special work detail as trustees, and are under very close supervision by the Public Works South Service Unit and Department of Corrections officers. According to their supervisor, "These young men all know that any problems will result in several years added to their sentence."

Keep the drains clear

The Public Works Department South Service Unit is working hard to keep the drains in our community clear. Please keep trash-can lids, pine straw and any other materials that can clog the drains out of the street and out of the drains. This will insure good drainage during our rainy season.

PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Submitted by Al Devney, DPPI President
Devney Property Management, Inc.
Phone: (813) 684-6617

Irrigation: Brandon Irrigation replaced two defective valves, two pressure switches, a pressure tank and a pump control box, and repaired an electrical problem. DPPI replaced 67 spray heads, five rotors and five risers. Three zone lines were repaired.

Landscaping: Planscape, Inc. replaced two dead palm trees and pruned 230 crepe myrtle trees.

Miscellaneous: Neighborhood Pest Control spread Lesko 24-5-11 on the St. Augustine grass, and Lesko 15-0-22 on all the bushes. Russell Electric repaired an electrical problem on the Gotham system. DPPI painted the wall on natures Way by Glenhaven and inventoried the minor entrances. There are 56 entrances, 16 signs and lights, 14 with signs and 26 with no signs or lights. DPPI hosted the pre-bid meeting for this year's wall painting. Four contractors attended the meeting. Thanks to all the people who pick up litter and put it in the trash baskets; every little bit helps to keep our area clean. For the residents who let their pets use the landscaping area as a latrine, their residue is killing the plants.

Eat, drink and pitch out the window. DPPI picked up 26 bags of litter, 2 hubcaps, a tire cover, six gloves, a trash can top, a pair of glasses, a boat battery, 20 feet of pool hose, 2 hats, a large orange and white cat, and \$.38 cents. The beverages of choice were Coke for soft drinks, Bud Light for beer and Scorbies Very Rare Scotch for distilled spirits.



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How 'Bout That!

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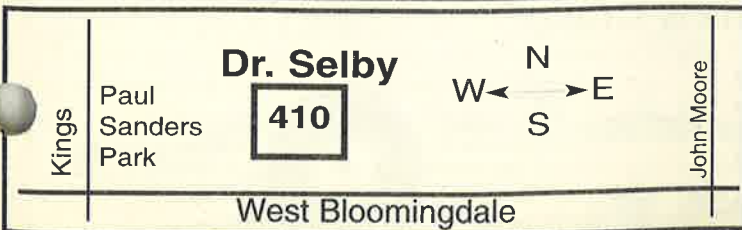
Allergic responses to natural rubber latex is recognized as a serious problem for health care workers and the general population as well. Since 1980 the incidences of reactions to latex have dramatically increased. You may not even realize how often you come into contact with latex but you will find it all around you. From rubber bands and toys to stretchy clothes and makeup, it is everywhere. I suppose I should be more savvy about this subject since my son Stephen is allergic to latex. However, just recently I loaned him a pair of binoculars to use and didn't know the eye cups were latex. He had a classic allergic response consisting of itchy red swollen eyes. Carried to the extreme, latex allergies can be life threatening. Even inhaling the powder from the latex gloves can cause asthma like symptoms.

If you suspect that you are allergic to latex, please inform your dentist so that he or she may select another type of glove for your treatment. Lastly, if you suffer with symptoms such as low blood pressure, nausea, labored breathing, hives, tingling sensations or itchiness, following exposure to latex, let your dentist know immediately.

Source: AGD, Academy of General Dentistry



How 'Bout That!



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410 W. Bloomingdale Avenue
654-0037

County proposes four possible sites for new library

by Laura Frazier

Plans for a new South Brandon public library branch are on fast-forward.

Hillsborough County staff and Library Advisory Board members are working closely together to expedite the project. Their goal is to have a site selected by October of this year and open for business in 2004.

All four sites under consideration meet cost, development and expansion potential requirements. Location factors taken into consideration include convenience, visibility and proximity to existing branch locations.

"We are moving very quickly with the South Brandon branch compared to other similar projects," said Stines. "The South County area is experiencing a tremendous amount of residential growth and is in great need of additional library services."

"If Brandon were incorporated, it would be a bigger city than Tallahassee."

Mike Kelly, County Real Estate Department Director,

announced in March four potential sites for the South Brandon branch.

"We identified four sites that meet our preliminary criteria," said Kelly.

All four sites under consideration meet requirements for site cost, location and convenience and development and expansion potential. Visibility and proximity to existing branch locations were also taken into consideration.



Site 1 is adjacent to Lithia Springs Elementary School within the community of River Hills in Lithia.

Site 2 is west of and adjacent to Bloomingdale Senior High School on Bloomingdale Avenue in Valrico.

Site 3 is northeast of the Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Avenue intersection in Valrico, behind Albertson's Supermarket within the community of Buckhorn.

Site 4 is located within the community of Bloomingdale East, off Natures Way Boulevard, just west of Alafia Elementary School.

Preliminary plans call for an initial 10,000 square foot library, designed for future expansion to 25,000 square feet. The facility will eventually include several innovative features,

including meeting rooms and a state of the art computer lab. The size of the library property will vary depending on the site chosen. Some of the sites include multiple-owner parcels and surrounding areas of wetlands. The property will be in the range of 4 to 5 acres, not including wetlands.

Continued on page

An initial public siting meeting was held at Alafia Elementary School, after press time, on March 27.

"We are here to build the libraries and put them in the right spots," said Joe Stines.

"We need as much resident input as possible to ensure that our library patrons are accommodated with a functional, well-designed facility in a convenient and appropriate location."

For more information, or to contribute comments and suggestions about the new branch location, residents are invited to contact the Hillsborough County Library Advisory Board at (813) 273-3660 or visit www.thpl.org.

Students plan Youth Memorial Wall

By Mack Austin

A special group of over twenty Bloomingdale High School students have bonded together to work towards creating a Youth Memorial Wall to honor and remember students from Eastern Hillsborough schools that have died since 1998. They chose 1998 as the starting year because that is when James Wisner, a local student, died.

The students are receiving assistance from Doug Aherns, a member of the Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department. Ahern also worked with the students in getting the Bloomingdale West Recreation center named after Stephanie Ann Culbertson, a Bloomingdale High School student killed in a tragic auto accident on Bloomingdale Avenue.

The Hillsborough County School Board has approved construction of the memorial wall. The estimated cost to begin the project is \$1500. Two proposed sites include the new Campo YMCA and the Culbertson Recreation Center. The YMCA may be the best site since it has a large number of visitors that use it.

"We will be contacting other student government associations to work together on the wall," said Bloomingdale High student Amy Glover, President of the fund. "This will be the first joint project to include students from so many schools at one time. We'll have names from students at Bloomingdale, Brandon, Riverview, Durant and Armwood."

"We want to emphasize the importance of enjoying life and remembering close friends," said Glover.

Group member Stephanie Murray said, "Working with fellow students is a great way to share feelings and learn to cope."

After the students complete their special project and perhaps plant some forget-me-nots near the memorial, we must all make it a goal to never have a name added to the wall.

We can best honor those students whose names are on the wall by instructing and encouraging our teens to make driving and safety-related decisions like their lives depend on them, because they do!

We as adults can do our part by setting the right example.

Donations for or inquiries about the memorial may be sent to the "Youth Memorial Wall Fund," P.O. Box 2114, Valrico, Florida 33594-2114.



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Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

February 12, 2001 meeting Abridged minutes

Vince Ferraro of Ferraro, Higginbotham & Hayes presented the financial report for January. Total cash on hand is \$355,855.88. Assessments collected through the end of January 2001 total \$339,530.16. The annual budget should be met.

The Board discussed the various county-required general budget categories and the possible sub-categories that might be set up to (internally) clarify expenditures. A motion to accept the December 2000 and January 2001 financial reports was passed unanimously.

Trustee Snelling presented Property Manager Al Devney's letter for renewal of his contract with the BSTD. A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept Mr. Devney's renewal of contract.

Laura Ross, representing the Pine Grove Homeowners asked if the BSTD knew if there were plans for a traffic light at the corner of Springvale and Bloomingdale Avenues (see "Commissioner Storms" article in this issue). She also asked if the BSTD was planning to take any position on the rezoning request for the reserve behind Pine Grove. Members advised that the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) was involved, and invited Ms. Ross to attend the monthly BHA meeting.

Rick Pitrowski inquired about the status of soundproofing the intersection of Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale. Discussion followed about past research that has been done for this location and others that may have the same sound

problems in view of future development. Trustee Golden advised he did not believe sound deadening was part of the BSTD charter.

Property Manager Devney has put together a package for bids on the entryway project and it was stated that we should be able to proceed shortly with the bid process, even though no loan is secured as yet. There was discussion regarding gathering necessary signatures to close the loan, and general conversation regarding the bid process and contractors. There was a discussion on the brick selection for the entryways.

The Board discussed the various walls that need repair and painting and those that can be completed within the budget. A motion was made and passed unanimously to begin the bidding process to paint the walls identified by Property Manager Devney.

Trustee Cassels requested the Board consider signage and lighting at minor entranceways throughout the BSTD area. After discussion of cost and size of signs, etc., Trustee Snelling asked Trustee Cassels to get the name of a sign contractor and Mr. Devney to get cost estimates.

BSTD seat open

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) has announced a forthcoming opening seat on the BSTD Board of Trustees.

The BSTD Board is composed of volunteer Bloomingdale homeowners who meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices on Bell Shoals Road. BSTD members help to coordinate the upkeep and improvement of Bloomingdale's common grounds and

Continued on page

property.

BSTD Board Members work with Property Manager Al Devney to maintain and enhance lawn care, landscaping and entryways. The BSTD coordinates services like painting, pest control, irrigation, litter pick-up and holiday decorations, all paid for with proceeds from the \$80 annual assessment tax levied on the property tax bill of each homeowner in the district.



BSTD Property Manager Al Devney

Bloomingdale residents with an interest in or questions about the volunteer position are invited to call BSTD President Thom Snelling at (813) 681-9186.



Be the ball

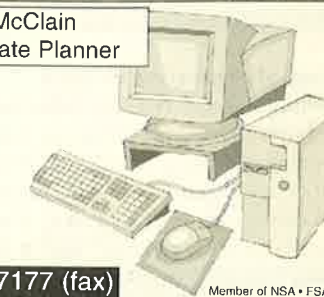
Major's pitcher Ryan Elzie's form illustrates a winning combination of concentration and focus.

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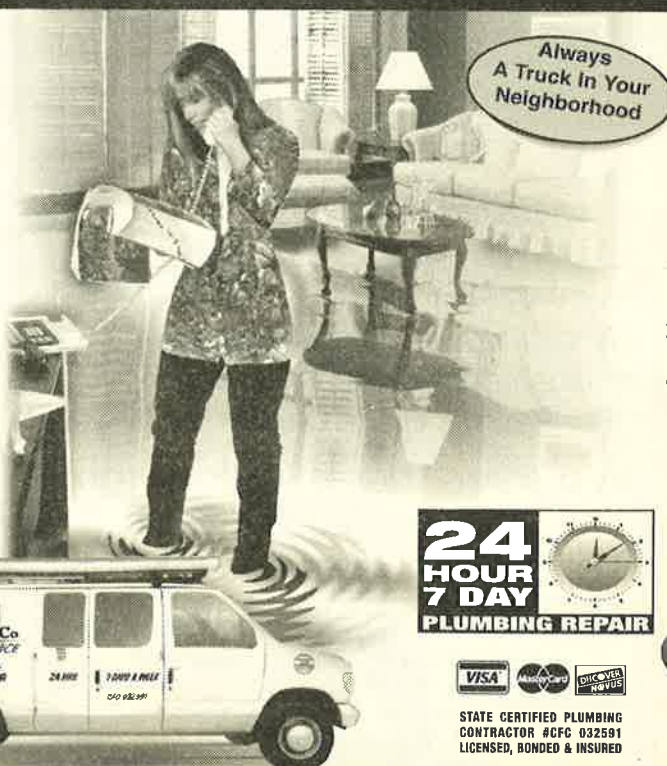
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Commissioner Storms attends community meeting

By Mack Austin

Hillsborough County staff members and Commissioner Ronda Storms addressed the concerns of Bloomingdale area residents at a community meeting held last month at the Culbertson Recreation Center.

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) organized the event, which included displays and a planned agenda to maximize use of the time available.

Following is a list of the items addressed, comments and recommendations from the meeting, and current status. For more information on any of these topics, please visit www.bha-online.org or call the BHA at (813) 681-2051.

Commissioner Storms will hold another community meeting on April 23 at 7 p.m. at Bloomingdale Senior High School.

Springvale rezoning request

Bloomingdale resident John Yake noted that the owner of the 11.2 acres on Springvale Drive is facing a "procedural discontinuance because he did not follow correct procedures." The "Notice of Public Hearing" sign is posted, and residents should continue to contact Commissioner Storms' office and express their objections.

New elementary school

The Hillsborough County School Board approved the purchase of a 21-acre site at the southern intersection of Natures Way and Culbreath Road. (See related story in this issue).

Lights and sidewalks

Lights and sidewalks needed near the new elementary school site will be included in the contract for construction of the school.

Abandoned dogs

Hillsborough County Animal Services will work with residents to trap the dogs running loose in the vicinity of the south intersection of Natures Way and Culbreath Road.

New library

Detailed drawings showed four several proposed sites for a new library (see related story in this issue). No mention was made of the property on the east side of Bloomingdale High School.

Glenhaven/Bell Shoals Road traffic signal

Several residents expressed concerns about the need for a traffic signal at this intersection. Standard traffic studies will be conducted and evaluated.

Proposed Publix at Lithia Pinecrest/Bloomingdale Avenue

Reviewed by the B.O.C.C. and postponed for further changes requested by the B.O.C.C. and in coordination with

Publix Corporation.

Canoe Launch

Recommendation for the proposed Bell Shoals Road canoe launch by Parks and Recreation was presented to the B.O.C.C. Residents with objections should attend the budget meetings on May 14th and 21st. Check the Hillsborough County website for details or contact Phil Evans at 903-2258.

Speed humps

County will consider changing the current rule that requires 60% of residents on a street to sign approval and 90% of neighborhood to sign "yes or no", to just the 60% approval requirement."

Drug problem task force

Resident Ellen gates called for a joint task force to be developed that would study the problem of drug use and work to reduce the demand. Commissioner Storms said she would be glad to facilitate this project.

Deputy for Park West

Jeff Mauch from Parks and Recreation stated that the site has been selected, funds were received in November and the required permits are being processed as fast as possible. One of the most critical elements of the process is finding the right person to fill the position.

Growth management

Commissioner Storms said, "Growth is not an issue. [Growth] is due to people having babies and people moving into our area, things that can't be controlled. Moratoriums on growth can't be used because they would seriously affect too many people like those who work for subcontractors."

Erindale /Lithia traffic signal

Several residents expressed concerns about the dangerous Erindale Drive/Lithia Pinecrest Road intersection. Growth in the Fish Hawk area and other areas east on Lithia Pinecrest Road has significantly increased traffic at this location. It will be evaluated.

Trash

Several residents mentioned problems with the waste management contractor. They were advised to contact the waste management contractor and Hillsborough county Solid Waste Management. Commissioner Storms expressed serious concerns about the roadside trash problem. There is currently no specific department task with covering this problem. Commissioner Storms indicated that she is looking into contracting with a private company to handle it.

Items NOT addressed due to time:

An update on the county truck route plan; public meetings are in progress.

Enhanced crosswalk needed between the YMCA and Bloomingdale Little

League; planning on hold pending appropriation of funds and completion of Bloomingdale Avenue widening.



County Commissioner Ronda Storms addressed Bloomingdale residents' concerns at the Bloomingdale West Rec Center in March. Photo by Tim Golden.

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