

The BLOOMINGDALE Gazette

Volume XXIII, Number

April 2002

The Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

www.bloomingtongazette.com



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

The MOMS Club of Bloomingdale holds monthly meetings, park days, holiday parties, field trips, play groups, arts and crafts, moms' night out and more. See story on page 8.



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**Alafia Grad
 Party Planned**

see page 30



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Bloomington Little League ... We built it, and they came. See story on page 18.

The Red Barn Is Back, see page 14



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Welcome To Bloomingdale

Bloomingdale area birth announcements courtesy of Brandon Regional Hospital.

Dec. 22

Sarah Grace Kennedy

Daughter of Mary Kathryn and Vincent Allen Kennedy

Jan. 12

Seth Jay Roberts

Son of Sandra Lynn and Steven Boyd Roberts

Jan. 17

Tatiyana Jesselle Gaines

Daughter of Cassandra Gaines

Jan. 19

Brionna Marie Langlois

Daughter of Jennifer A. Langlois and Rolondo Silva

Jan. 20

Autumn Rose Gosdoski

Daughter of Sue Ann and Dennis Gosdoski

Jan. 22

Dominic Giovanni DiPiazza

Son of Kristin and Rafael DiPiazza

Jan. 23

Keilah Marie-Renee Gadson

Daughter of Deitrich and Katharis Gadson

Jan. 29

Chase Hunter Richie

Son of Julie and Charlie Richie

Feb. 2

Joseph Daniel Cannella

Son of Beatriz and Greg Cannella

Sarah Maria Harwell

Daughter of Marisol and Darrell Harwell



Feb. 4

Aaron Nicolas McCoy

Son of Nicole Marie Davis and Brad Aaron McCoy

David Carlson Schiller

Son of Cassandra and Harold Schiller

Feb. 5

Carter Brennan Todd

Son of Kimberly and William Todd

Audrey Michele Stecher

Daughter of Joanne and Peter Stecher

Feb. 8

Judah Curtis Rodriguez

Son of Gloria McSpadden and Dennis Rodriguez

Feb. 14

Cullen James Faircloth

Son of Cathie and Fred Faircloth

Feb. 20

Elias Samuel Mayfield

Son of Christina and Gregory Mayfield

Feb. 21

Meghan Elizabeth White

Daughter of Barbie and Stacy White

Feb. 22

Sebastian Edward Lewis

Son of Susan Williams and Thomas Lewis

Feb. 26

Levias de'Alexi Barnes Jr.

Son of Michelle Gooden and Levias de'Alexi Barnes Sr.

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The Bloomingdale
Gazette

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(813) 681-2051. Fax: (813) 651-1129
E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com
Web Site: www.BloomingdaleGazette.com

BHA meetings are at the community office on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President — Ted Grable
Vice President — Len Jaszczak
Treasurer — Pam Liguori
Director — Patricia Radel
Director — Rodney Biddle
Director — Tony Diolosa
Director — Joe Hickle
Director — Jim Jeup

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 684-6667

BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President — Thom Snelling
Treasurer — Don Cassels

Recording Secretary — Alice Burleson
Trustee — Russell Jones
Trustee — Davis West
Trustee — Dale Kahn
Trustee — Myron Magedanz
Property Manager — Al Devney

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Coordinator/Equipment Manager —

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146
Treasurer — Paul Kelmer, 681-9701
Patrol Member — Steven Heckel, 654-4266
Patrol Member — Brad Scharp, 643-5000
Patrol Member — Paul Warr, 685-7883



Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132. (813) 685-2817

BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

President — Bill Grace
Treasurer — Fred Englehart

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-2051

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Publisher — Carla Rockwell
Advertising Manager — Susie Howell

Community Council Update

A Community Council Report

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council is composed of volunteer residents of area subdivisions who work directly with local law enforcement and county departments to research issues and concerns brought to their attention. The BACC meets monthly to discuss current issues that have been brought to the attention of council members or Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer and Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano.

The following topics were discussed at the last council meeting:

- Deputy Pete Maurer briefed council members on special training that local deputies recently received concerning the proper handling of those violating the law.
- Concerns over truck traffic on Bloomingdale Avenue were covered. Specifically noted were incidents involving two large trucks driving in both lanes, for which there are currently no restrictions.
- The continued concern

about the need for sidewalks on Canoga Drive by the Culbertson Recreation Center was discussed. The scheduled project date is October 2002.

• Enhancement of the crosswalks between Bloomingdale Little League and the Campo Family YMCA is still needed, especially with a new season beginning. Funding is still not available.

• Results of the first joint meeting about concerns around the new Cimino School, specifically the need for sidewalks, were discussed. Critical items noted

were the lack of crossing guards and school bus drivers. Another joint meeting is being planned.

• The installation of the American flags at Bloomingdale community entrances was completed, thanks to those involved.

BACC meetings are the third Thursday of each month at the community station on Bell Shoals Road. Any resident with concerns should contact the substation so their questions can be added to the agenda. Call: 635-8040.

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Letters

Send letters by e-mail to Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com, fax to (813) 651-1129 or mail to Editor, The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594. All letters are subject to editing.

Out Go The Lights

Has anyone reported that there are three street lights out on Springvale? They are the first set of lights on Springvale at the intersection of Springvale

and Nature's way. **Nicole Cloyd**

To report streetlights that are out or malfunctioning, residents can fill out an online form available at www.tampaelectric.com or call 223-0800. You will need the pole number, which is found on a green plate on the pole. The TECO rep we spoke with said they do have crews out checking for necessary repairs, but they appreciate residents helping them to keep the lights on. It can take up to ten working days to complete repair requests, depending on their workload.

Neighborhood Needs Some Fixing

Our family and several of our neighbors have a number of complaints about one of the homeowners on our street, including a van parked in the street that never moves, dogs running loose, an unkempt yard and a wooden fence in disrepair. First, how can we get them to fix the fence, and second, how do we address the wider issue of the appearance of the property in general?

Name Withheld

You may wish to check the deed restrictions for your neighborhood section to see if any of the concerns you have are addressed. Homeowners should receive a copy of their deed restrictions along with the closing documents for their home. In addition, many of the more than 40 individual sets of deed restrictions are available online at www.bloomingtongazette.com.

County ordinances prohibit loose dogs and cats from straying onto any public property, street, sidewalk or park, or on the private property of another person without their consent.

In addition, there are fines for owners who do not remove their pet's waste from public or private property. To file a complaint, call Hillsborough County Animal Control at 744-5660.

In regards to the van, it is legal for residents to park in front of their own property indefinitely as long as the vehicle is registered, operable and maintained. If you suspect the van is in violation of those requirements, we suggest that you call Deputy Pete Maurer at the Bloomingdale community substation to address the problem. Call 635-8040, weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We forwarded your letter to a member of the Neighborhood Involvement Program. A volunteer member of the NIP team will make a drive-by inspection of the property to determine if the condition of the fence is in violation of county codes and if so will contact the appropriate agency.

If you require further information or assistance, please feel free to attend the next monthly BHA meeting on Monday, May 6, 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, or call 681-2051.

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LAURA FRAZIER/Photos

Dozens of stay-at-home moms with children in tow attended the MOMS Club of Bloomingdale business fair in March. Here, coordinator Cheryl Kehrmeyer, background, welcomes a group of new arrivals to the fair.

Club Supports Bloomingdale Moms

A Gazette Report

The MOMS Club of Bloomingdale held its second annual open house and business fair at St. Andrews church in March. Dozens of moms and kids attended the fair to peruse displays set up by local businesses including Discovery Toys, Tupperware, Pampered Chef and Creative Memories.

Masonic Lodge groups from Brandon and Temple Terrace provided free child identification services including a videotape and home fingerprint and DNA collection kit.

MOMS Club is a national non-profit organization specifically for at-home

mothers.

Local chapters have monthly meetings, park days, holiday parties, field trips, play groups, arts and crafts, moms night out and more.

Most activities take place during the day.

The next Bloomingdale chapter meeting will be Tuesday, April 16, 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrews, corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bryan Road. WFLA TV meteorologist Debra Shrills will speak to the group about hurricane preparedness and safety.

The meeting is open to all Bloomingdale area moms and their children. Information: Cheryl Kehrmeyer, 655-5145.



Tom Hoffman of Brandon Tae Kwon Do charmed MOMS Club kids perusing the businesses fair displays. Hoffman has spoken at club meetings about women's safety and self-defense issues.



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Trip Down Memory Lane: Remember When?

This nostalgic ode to childhood was passed along to the Gazette by friends on the Internet. If you would like to share an amusing or poignant Internet message with your neighbors, please forward to News@BloomingtonGazette.com (no attachments please).

Remember When?
(like it was yesterday)
Close your eyes and go back in time...

Before the Internet or the MAC...

Before semi automatics and crack...

Before SEGA or Super Nintendo...

Way back...

I'm talking about hide and seek at dusk

The Good Humor man

Red light, green light
The corner store
Hopscotch, double Dutch, jacks, kickball, dodge ball
Mother May I?

Hula Hoops
Running through the sprinkler

Wax-lips and mustaches
An ice cream cone on a warm summer night, chocolate, vanilla or strawberry
Wait...

Watching Saturday morning cartoons...

Short commercials, Fat Albert, Road Runner, He-Man,

The Three Stooges, and Bugs

A million mosquito bites
Sticky fingers.

Cops and Robbers, Cow-

boys and Indians, Zorro
Climbing trees. Building igloos out of snow banks
Walking to school, no matter what the weather
Running till you were out of breath
Laughing so hard that your stomach hurt

Jumping on the bed
Pillow fights
Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was cause for giggles
Being tired from playing...
Remember that?

The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team

War was a card game
Water balloons were the ultimate weapons
Baseball cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle
Eating Kool-aid powder
Remember when...

There were two types of sneakers for girls and boys (Keds & PF Flyers) and the only time you wore them at school was for "gym"

It wasn't odd to have two or three best friends

When nobody owned a purebred dog

When a quarter was a decent allowance, and another quarter a miracle

When milk went up one cent and everyone talked about it for weeks

When you'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny

When you got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped, without asking, for free, every time and you didn't pay for air

When nearly everyone's Mom was at home when the kids got there

It was magic when dad would "remove" his thumb

When it was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents

When any parent could discipline any kid or feed him or use him to carry groceries and nobody, not even the kid, thought a thing of it

When they threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed... and did

When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited a misbehaving student at home

Basically, we were in fear for our lives, but it wasn't because of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc. Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat. And some of us are still afraid of them!

Remember when...
Decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny-miney-mo"

Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, "do over!"

"Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest

Money issues were handled by whoever was the banker in Monopoly

Worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was cooties

Having a weapon in school, meant being caught with a slingshot

Nobody was prettier than Mom

Scrapes and bruises were kissed and made better

Taking drugs meant orange-flavored chewable aspirin

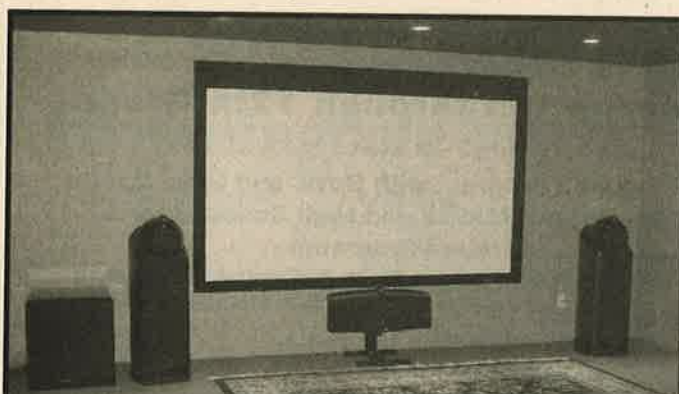
Ice cream was considered a basic food group

Getting a foot of snow was a dream come true

Abilities were discovered because of a "double-dog-dare"

Older siblings were the worst tormentors, but also the fiercest protectors

If you can remember most or all of these, then you have LIVED!



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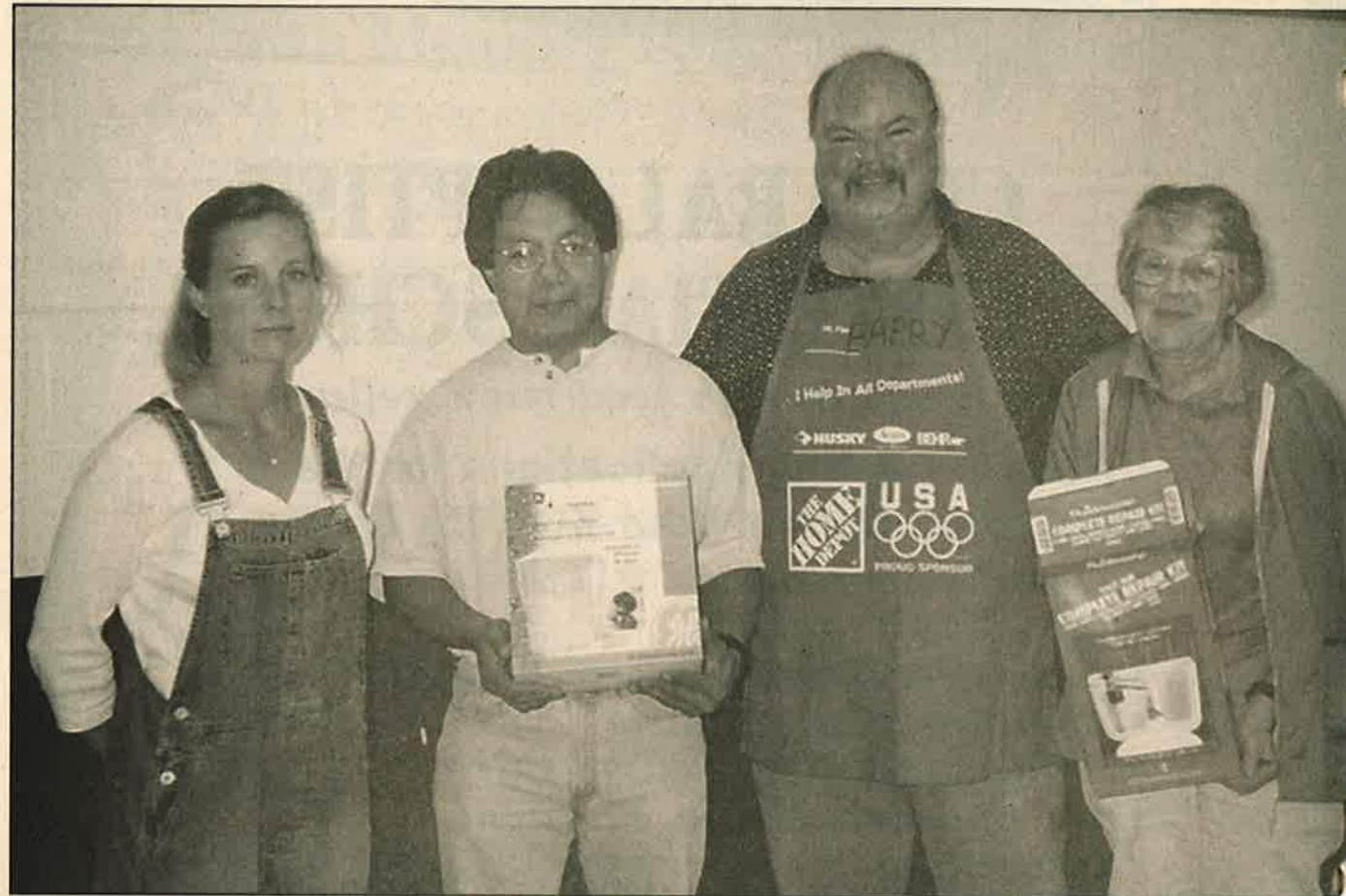
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Bloomington residents Amado Yarleque and Kay Powell, holding their door prizes, are congratulated by Kellie Fisher (left) and Barry Brinson of The Home Depot. MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Homeowners Tackle Plumbing 101

By MACK AUSTIN

"Where did all this water come from?" Those are scary words when you're referring to a possible plumbing leak in your home.

We know we have a quick decision to make - should we make an attempt to fix it ourselves or call a plumber? After all, it's Sunday morning. It won't cost much!

A group of Bloomington residents were treated in March to a long list of tips and a lot of information on just how to attack these types of problems on their own.

They attended the special "Handling Plumbing Emergencies" seminar last month in the Culbertson Recreation Center at Bloomington West Park.

The seminar was another

The next home improvement clinic, "Working With Molding; Cutting, Painting and Varnishing," will be April 9, 7 p.m. in the Culbertson Recreation Center at Bloomington West Park. Admission and refreshments are free, courtesy of the BHA. The Home Depot will award door prizes. Information: Kellie Fisher, 684-0516.

in the series of home improvement clinics coordinated by Kellie Fisher, a Bloomington resident and apprentice home-improvement expert.

The seminars are conducted by professionals from The Home Depot and are sponsored by the Bloomington Homeowners Association.

Free refreshments are provided and door prizes are awarded.

At the seminar, Home Depot representative Barry Brinson gave helpful hints and answered numerous questions about how to maintain the plumbing in our homes, how to handle emergencies and how to save money.

His main tip was, "The trick is to fix one problem without causing another!"

Brinson said the first step to handling a plumbing emer-

gency involving flowing water is to know where to turn the water off and to have the proper tool, usually a T-wrench, ready.

The water shut-off is usually outside by the water meter. There are also cutoffs under your sinks.

Make sure several family members know how to handle this situation.

Also, test these cutoffs to be sure they work.

In addition, Brinson said most leaky toilets are caused by a bad flapper.

Our water causes them to warp and produces a leak.

Some of the new types can be adjusted for timing the water flow.

He also cautioned against putting drain cleaner in you

See DEPOT, Page 29

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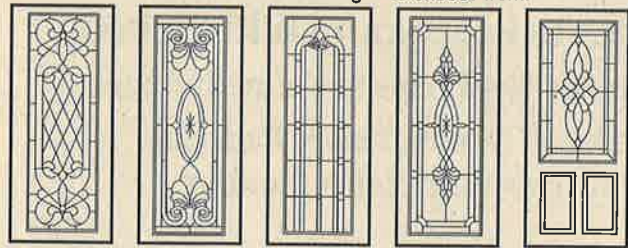


Bloomingdale High media specialist Cathy Hendley arranges some of the hundreds of new books purchased for the school this year.

LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

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School Advisory Committee Needs Volunteers

By LAURA FRAZIER

Bloomingdale High media specialist Cathy Hendley said the arrival of 400 new books at the school library this year made it feel just like Christmas. The books were purchased by a grant made possible by the School Advisory Council.

Bloomingdale PTSA president Diane Clare said the school's SAC committee has a wish list of its own this year.

"We are absolutely in need of new advisory council members for the 2002 - 2003 school year," Clare said.

The state mandated council, composed of parents, educators and community and business leaders, meets monthly to identify and budget state funds earmarked for school improvement needs. The funds are provided by the state to Florida schools on a per-pupil basis.

The advisory council is tasked with identifying areas of need throughout the school, prioritizing those needs, and making them happen. The council organizes programs and acquires supplies and services that might otherwise not be available to teachers, students and parents.

"There are no elections or appointments; all you have to do is ask to serve on the committee," Clare said.

Other areas at Bloomingdale benefiting from advisory council funds this year are staff development conferences, student incentives, and FCAT and SAT improvement programs. The council also hired a new attendance aide this year whose job is to help track and confirm student absences.

The School Advisory Council meets monthly at the school. The next meeting will be held in April. Information: 744-8018.

Homeowners Association Seeks Board Members

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association seeks volunteers to serve on the BHA Board of Directors. Board seats are open to all residents living with the BHA area, which includes all neighborhoods within Bloomingdale East and West, Bloomingdale Estates, Bloomingdale Oaks, Hickory Creek, Hickory Ridge and Dogwood Hills.

The board meets monthly to hear and discuss current community concerns and to work towards the following ongoing objectives:

- To promote a spirit of

neighborly relations and cooperation among residents of the community.

- To facilitate improved utilities, governmental services and other beneficial improvements for the community.

- To maintain vigorous opposition to any encroachment or conduct that may tend to lower the standards of the community.

- To promote physical improvements of the community for the common good of its residents, and to oppose any act that may tend to depreciate the property values in the community.

The homeowners association produces The Bloomingdale Gazette, maintains our community Web site, www.BloomingdaleGazette.com, operates the Neighborhood Involvement Program, conducts the Deed Restriction Enforcement and Mobile Watch programs, works with Hillsborough County government agencies for improved services including sidewalks, street lighting and road signs, and is an active participant in the President's Roundtable of Greater Brandon.

The efforts of the homeowners association are fund-

ed by the financial support of Bloomingdale residents' \$20 annual voluntary membership dues.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c)(4) not-for-profit corporation.

It is run strictly by non-paid volunteers who live in Bloomingdale. All dues collected go back into the community.

For more information about the BHA, or to volunteer for the board of directors, call 681-2051 or attend the next board meeting at 7 p.m. on May 6 in the Bloomingdale community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

Say you saw it in
The Bloomingdale Gazette

FINAL CHAPTER



truth in concert

Friday • April 12th, 2002 • 7pm (doors open at 6pm)

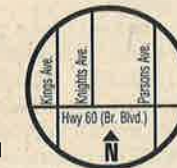
Welcoming back one of our own, Jon Richardson.

Currently in its 30th year of ministry, the powerhouse known as Truth has contributed more artists to the arena of contemporary Christian music than any other entity.

While the group has been showered with recognition through the years with Grammy and Dove nominations and awards, as well as a long list of #1 singles, the group has never lost sight of its purpose which is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ all over the globe.

For tickets & more information, please call the Church Office at 813-689-4161.

First United Methodist Church of Brandon, 121 N. Knights Ave. • No tickets needed. Love offering taken.



First United
METHODIST CHURCH



Thanks to the Gladney family the "red barn" will remain on Bloomingdale Avenue.

The Red Barn Is Back In Business

By MACK AUSTIN

For many years, the red barn across from the YMCA on Bloomingdale Avenue was a great place to get fresh fruits and vegetables from John, the owner, and catch up on community news.

But about two years ago, with the Bloomingdale Avenue widening project in full swing, it didn't look very promising for the produce stand to stay open, even if it was a Bloomingdale landmark. John decided to move back to Georgia.

Now a new family has decided to save the landmark and reopen the produce stand.

The Gladney family recently put a lot of long, hard hours into restoring the old barn, adding to the serv-

ices offered, and opening their new business, Berry Patch Farms.

Lamarr and Tonya Gladney decided they would reopen the barn as a family business.

Tonya said she remembers her family farming strawberries and working in the orange groves in Durant for so many years.

"It just seemed like a natural thing to do," she said.

The Gladney's daughter, Chassity, and sons, Skeeter and Justin, are all very active members of the business.

As Lamarr said, "This is a very work-intensive business and it takes a great team to make it work, just like in little league." In fact, Lamarr coaches his son Justin's

See RED BARN, Page 17



Justin Gladney, left, helped his Detroit Tigers teammate, Andrew Marchetti, select a good apple after they finished a tough game at Bloomingdale Little League.

RED BARN

From page 16

Detroit Tigers major's team might cross the street at Bloomingdale Little League.

Tonya said the business offers a variety of goodies, fresh fruits and vegetables.

"We have fresh strawberry milk shakes, strawberry pizzas, ice cream, pressed Cuban sandwiches and even chocolate covered strawberries. And we'll be adding more items after we've had the chance to find out what our

customers want."

Berry Patch Farms is currently open Sunday through Saturday, closed on Mondays. Right now they open at 10:30 a.m. and closing time varies; there are no set hours yet.

The barn is real easy to spot, under some of the few large oak trees left in our area, right across from the Campo Family YMCA and the Bloomingdale Little League Park.

So, when those hot days of spring and summer hit or after a long hot little league game, head on over to the red barn for a cold milkshake and a great sandwich, enjoy the friendly conversation, and be sure to take home some fresh vegetables.

Bloomington needs more family oriented businesses like this one.

Let's keep this one going for a long time!

"We have fresh strawberry milk shakes, strawberry pizzas, ice cream, pressed Cuban sandwiches and even chocolate covered strawberries. And we'll be adding more items after we've had the chance to find out what our customers want."

TONYA GLADNEY
Owner of Berry Patch Farms

Say you saw it in
The Bloomingdale Gazette

E-Mail: News@BloomingtonGazette.com



GRAND
OPENING

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come enjoy our traditional Japanese cuisine in a tranquil dining atmosphere

try our special **Ninja Sauce!**

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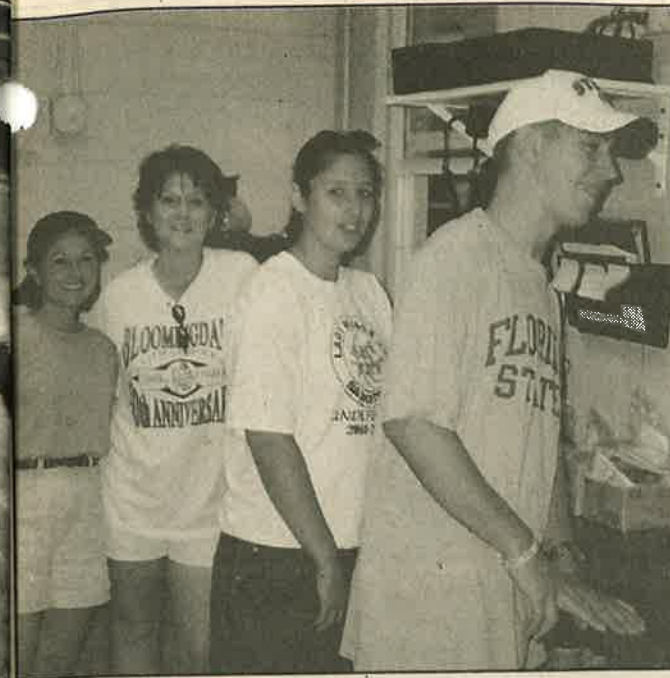
887 E. Bloomingdale Ave.

Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale Avenue in Bloomingdale Square



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Want to see the real fun? Catch a tee-ball game. Maybe some confusion and a little disorganization, but who cares!



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Who says working in the concession stand isn't fun? Just ask volunteers Angela Griffith, Barbara Wiedrich, Tyler Ragghianti, and Connie Fleming.

LEAGUE

From page 18

Bloomington Little League We Built It, They Came!

By MACK AUSTIN

Most of us are familiar with the phrase "If you build it, they will come," from the baseball movie, "Field of Dreams." Well, this actually happened in Bloomington, according to Bill Russell, Bloomington Little League president.

"We've pretty much completed the major building projects at the park, and yes, they have come — more than 1,040 families are involved in spring season Little League," Russell said.

The differences at the park are amazing. A very motivated, well-organized board of directors and hundreds of volunteers coordinated the completion of many significant improvements not only to the fields, but also to the park operations.

The fields must be in great condition, not only to allow proper play, but for the safe-

ty of the players. Bloomington Little League now has a full-time maintenance director, Mark West.

As Russell says, "Keeping the park looking great and the fields in great condition is a never-ending task. Mark and the many other volunteers make it a park to be proud of. Having fun and playing in a safe environment come first for our players. We also greatly appreciate the outstanding support and work done by Jeff Mauch and his team at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Unit II."

"We still have a lot of projects in progress and some areas that need special attention," he added.

The league would like to build a playground for the younger kids under the tall oaks between the umpire's

building and the girl's softball field, and the trees will need major trimming to ensure a safe play area.

Enhanced crosswalks from the park to the YMCA are still a critical need, but funding is currently not available for this project.

One possibility would be to move one of the crosswalks.

Observations indicate that the majority of parents and players cross by the major's field and not down by the senior field.

Having the trees trimmed would also improve lighting and safety in the crosswalk area.

The league is still in need of volunteer umpires, who require minimum training to umpire at games up to the majors level. Later on they can become certified to umpire games at the majors level and above. As one umpire noted, "It is the best seat in the house!"

Russell also mentioned the need to improve overall security for the park. Recent vandalism resulted in over five

thousand dollars in damage.

"Our goal is to have a park deputy on duty. In fact, we already have a site for their living area picked out," he said.

"If possible, a locked gate to prevent access down South Miller road would prevent it from becoming another hang-out spot.

Being a Little League president is definitely not just watching baseball and softball games. Russell said, "It takes the combined hard work of hundreds of volunteers to coach, manage, umpire, perform maintenance, man the concession stands and take care of numerous other tasks that many folks don't even know about."

The Bloomington Little League Park is truly a park of dreams. If you want to see why, just head on down to a game and watch the faces of the young players as they learn team work, gain self-confidence, enjoy our great American past-time and just plain have fun.

See LEAGUE, Page 19

There is a better way...

Shaving more than your husband?



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233789

Immunizations Required For Seventh-Graders

A Gazette Report

Additional immunizations are required for seventh-graders, including the hepatitis B series, a series of 3 consecutive shots that must be administered prior to the start of 7th grade.

MMR and TD shots are also required.

A blue immunization

card should be completed at the doctor's office where the shot is administered.

The cards must be presented to the school to update the student's immunization record. Free immunizations are available at the Health Department Immunization Clinic at 4951-B E. Adamo Drive in Tampa.

Information: 307-8000.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com

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- Arts & Crafts
- Certified Teachers
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Yard Of The Month



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Yard of the Month winners Amy and Daniel Dunaway received a \$25 Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift certificate courtesy of the BHA.

Bloomingdale Yard of the Month

Nominate your friends and neighbors (or yourself) for the Bloomingdale Yard of the Month award.

Winners will receive an Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift certificate courtesy of the Blooming-

dale Homeowners Association.

Submit entries by mail to Yard, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594, by fax to (813) 651-1129 or by E-mail to Letters@Bloom- ingdaleGazette.com.

Your name and phone number: _____

Nominee's name, address, phone number: _____

Outstanding yard features: _____

Dunaways Have A Way With Yard Care

By ROSIE TRELIS

Amy and Daniel Dunaway of Bloomingdale East, this month's Yard of the Month winners, say the most important element of maintaining a Floridian landscape is to keep one step ahead of the chinch bugs, weeds and other assorted garden pests.

When it comes to pest and weed control, "You have to stay very active," said Daniel. The Dunaways contract Greentek Pest Services to spray and fertilize their lawn once a month, but the family does all the mowing, trimming, planting and weeding themselves.

The curb appeal of the Delamere Drive home starts with a glossy green jasmine trellis that cloaks the family's mailbox. A dense, compact hedge of dwarf boxwood lines both sides of the front walkway in an inviting fashion. Tender plants including

hibiscus, azaleas and palms are strategically placed close to the house where they'll retain moisture, benefit from cold protection in the winter and enjoy a bit of shade in the summer. Two topiaries in contrasting shapes flank the front door entryway to add a final, welcoming touch.

The Dunaways and their 12-year-old son, Daniel Jr., a sixth-grader at Bell Shoals Baptist Academy, all pitch in to get the yard work done. And this summer, Amy said perhaps a bit wistfully, their work here will truly be done.

The military family will move to Hampton, Va., in June where Daniel Sr. will be stationed at Langley Air Force Base. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association extends its thanks to the Dunaways for helping to keep Bloomingdale beautiful, and our best regards for safe and happy future in Virginia.

Anti-Drug Coalition Has New Name, Focus

"CommUNITY Works" By LAURA FRAZIER

The anti-drug coalition that formed in Brandon late last year now has an official name and focus.

Coalition member Sharron Cosby said the group's name, CommUNITY Works, reflects its adopted mission statement, "A coalition linking families with resources working to build a healthy community."

"Our objectives are to communicate with and educate the community, and to link resources to reduce alcohol, tobacco and drug use," Cosby said.

Cosby was one of several coalition members who traveled in March to attend the Florida Counterdrug Training Academy at the National Guard Camp Blanding training site in Starke, FL.

The purpose of the training session is to show communities how to counter drug abuse at the local level by bringing people together to build an anti-drug coalition.

Group founder and Bloomingdale resident Ellen Gates attended the weekend-long training session. She praised the program and its organizers.

"The National Guard program is outstanding. The facilitators were incredible and really helped us get a handle on our vision statement and how we can go about achieving it," Gates said.

CommUNITY Works is supported by county commissioners, law enforcement officials, educators, representatives of the medical commu-

nity and various non-profit youth service organizations.

Gates said two youth rallies the coalition held in March, co-sponsored by the YMCA and the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, exemplified the group's intent to foster partnerships among community groups to combat drug abuse.

At the March 16 rally at the Campo Family YMCA, Gates presented Bloomingdale Homeowners Association president Ted Grable with a certificate of appreciation.

"For the homeowners association to embrace a partnership with the coalition and the YMCA is just a great move. I think it's commendable that our community is coming together to let our youth and families know how much we care," Gates said.

The coalition is open to speaking to Brandon area groups about the pervasiveness of drug and alcohol abuse in today's society, and the tools citizens can use to reduce it. Gates said the message CommUNITY Works hopes to bring to Brandon area families is one of empowerment and encouragement.

"We want to empower parents to communicate with their kids about tobacco, alcohol and drug use, and we want to encourage our youth to make healthy decisions."

The group meets monthly at the Campo Family YMCA in Bloomingdale. Brandon area parents, teens, and youth service professionals are invited to attend the open meetings. The next meeting is set for April 16 at 6:45 p.m. Information: 340-5039.



Photo courtesy CommUNITY Works

Coalition members Candace Hastings, Ellen Gates, Sharron Cosby and Dr. Sonia Ruiz attended the National Guard Counterdrug Training Academy in Starke last month.

Why do smart kids fail?



Your child may be smarter than his or her grades show. Our teachers help children of all ages overcome frustration and failure, and realize their potential. A few hours a week can help your child improve weak study skills and gain the Educational Edge.

Our testing pinpoints problems. We tutor in reading, phonics, study skills, math and SAT prep to help students in all grades do better in school.

Call us and let us help your child.

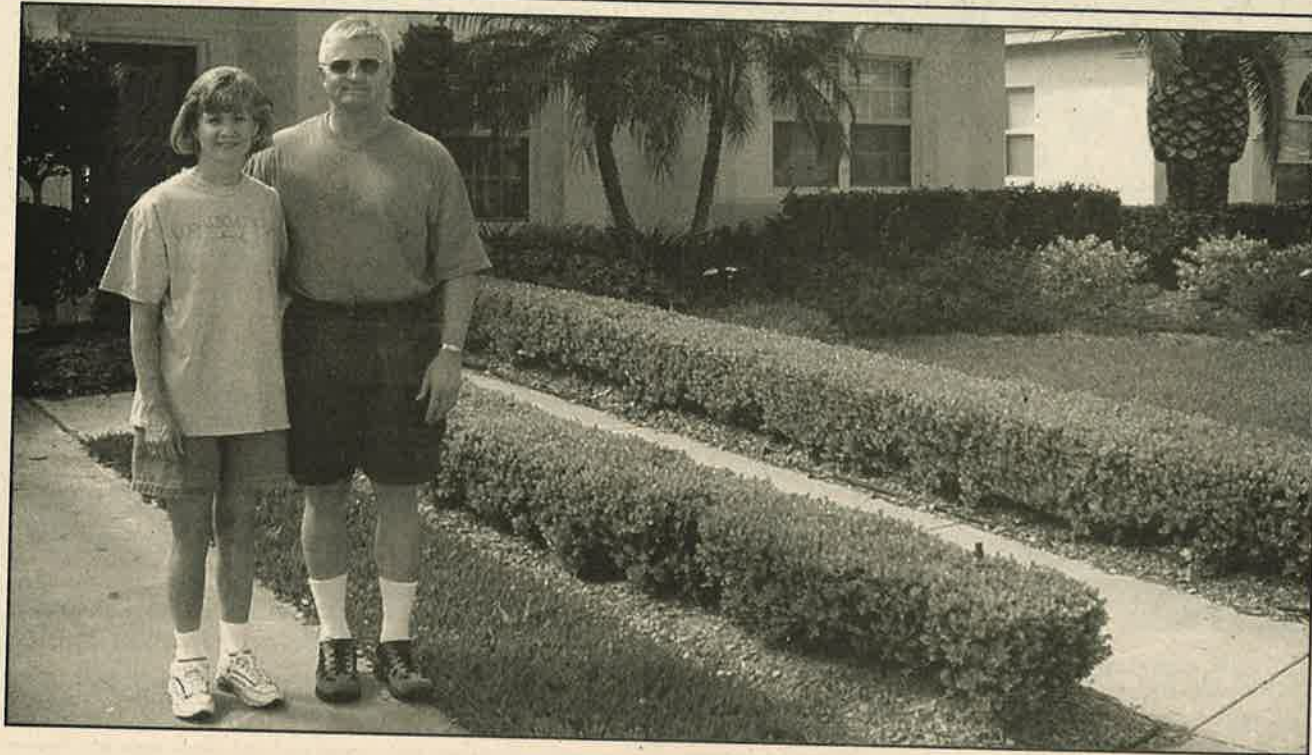
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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Property Manager's Report

Excerpts from the latest Bloomingdale Special Taxing District property manager's report are as follows, submitted by Al Devney, president, DPMI Property Management, Inc. Information: 684-6617.

Projects completed in the second quarter include the installation of 2,000 flowers, installation of a 25-foot flagpole at each of the major entrances, and the installation of a 12-zone irrigation system on Springvale Drive.

Ongoing projects as of February include pressure cleaning of the walls on Greenholow and Natures Way, landscaping of Springvale, repainting and lettering of four Bloomingdale directory signs, painting the walls on Culbreath, Natures Way, Glenhaven and Garnet, renovation of the Garnet entrance and replacement of the barricades on Culbreath PVC poles.

In the irrigation department, Brandon Irrigation repaired electrical problems in zone 7 on the Allwood system and zone 12 on the Golf Manor system, and replaced a defective pressure relief valve on the Golf Manor system.

Plandscape Inc. finished the installation of the new irrigation system on Springvale Drive.

Thunder Irrigation added six spray heads to zone 5 of the Callista system.

DPMI replaced 22 spray heads and repaired six risers.

There were two abandoned accident scenes in Bloomingdale in February resulting in property damage; car vs. light pole at Natures Way and Oak River, and car vs. wall at Natures Way and Lornewood. If anyone has information about these accidents, please call Al Devney at 684-6617.

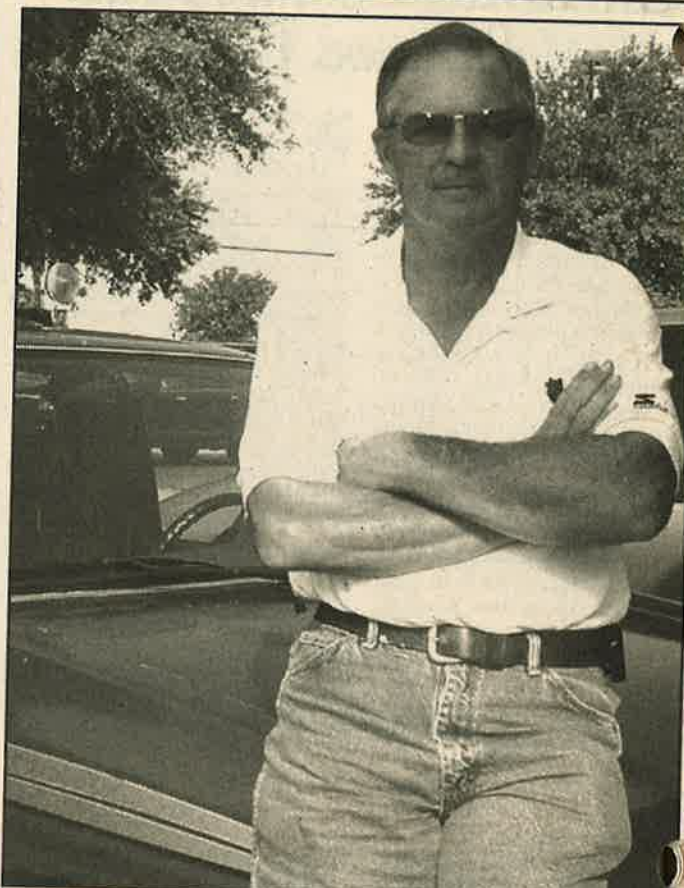
Additionally, the operating time for the Bell Grande system was adjusted and zones 10-13 were reprogrammed to run in the evening.

In the landscaping department, DPMI measured Springvale Drive to determine the areas for St. Augustine grass plugs, dwarf confederate jasmine, indian hawthorn, azaleas and lorepettum. Mr. Devney designed the landscape plan for Springvale and prepared and sent notices to landscape companies requesting bids. DPMI hosted the pre-bid conference for the reconstruction of the Garnet entrance.

Neighborhood Pest Control fertilized St. Augustine grass areas with Lesko 24-2-7 with Atroline and Lesko 24-5-11 on all the bushes.

In other areas, DPMI inventoried, boxed and stored 416 Christmas bows and removed the holiday lights from the Preston Woods entrance.

Devney hosted the wall



Al Devney

LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

painting conference for this year's contract, prepared and mailed an initial and second notice and hand carried a third notice to residents whose property abuts the walls that are to be painted.

Handy Man raised the cleats on each flagpole by 4 feet, and Signs by Mineo repaired and repainted the Bloomingdale sign at Erindale and Culbreath.

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, Devney picked up 20 bags of litter, three golf balls, two tennis balls, three socks, men's shorts size 34 and 36, two gloves, a shirt, two hubcaps, a pair of pants, a 6-foot sofa, a gray cat and 43 cents.

The beverages of choice were Budweiser for beer, Coke for soft drinks and Makers Mark for distilled spirits.

Correction

A photo caption in the March issue of the Gazette incorrectly identified the Bloomingdale High school

newspaper, The Crimson Times, as The Crimson Tide. The Bloomingdale "Gazetteer" regrets the error!

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail to Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com

Cimino Kindergarten Round Up

Register now, avoid classroom shuffle later

By LAURA FRAZIER

Kindergarten Round Up for the new Cimino Elementary School in Bloomingdale East will be held Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. at Alafia Elementary School.

Cimino Principal Sandra Frost encourages all parents to promptly register incoming kindergarteners. Frost said accurate pre-opening counts would help the school avoid having to restructure classes after school begins. Restructuring often results in children being reassigned to new classrooms weeks after school begins and they've already begun to settle in.

"Everyone wants to avoid that (reassignment) if possible," Frost said.



Sandra Frost

LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

"We really need to know how many children to expect so that we can have everything in place by opening day," Frost said. Information: 744-8190.

Was It Something He Ate?

The Bloomingdale Gazette Restaurant Review is on hiatus as Elton Dumont recuperates from a minor illness. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to our favorite gastronomical con-

sultant. As Elton works feverishly to get his appetite back, he invites readers to submit their suggestions for future restaurant reviews to Elton@BloomingtonGazette.com.

The Bloomingdale Gazette is your source for neighborhood news



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

9/11

We have seen 207 days pass since that day we now call simply 9/11. We admire those who struggled on that day to save the lives of others. We are a nation at war against terrorism and the fear and pain it brings. We must remain strong and vigilant and continue to prepare. We will always remember those that died and suffered. We will not forget that day called 9/11. -Mack Austin

School will be out before you know it.....enroll now for our Summer Sports Camp

"A Brandon tradition" for 21 years offering 3 & 5 days programs with either long or short days. Campers ages 5-14 participate in a variety of supervised activities including, swimming, diving, tennis, field games, sewing, field trips and much more.

\$10 off registration with this ad through 4/15/02



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- Academic Tutoring
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- Lessons, teams, camps
- After School Sports Camp

Bloomingtondale Substation Notes

The Bloomingtondale Community Sheriff's Substation is in the Village Plaza at the corner of Bell Shoals Rd. and Glenhaven Dr. near Beef O'Brady's restaurant. Station hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Information: 635-8040.

By Deputy Pete Maurer and Officer Sandy Capitano



Deputy Pete Maurer

Mail Security

Last month two common criminals invaded the community of Bloomingtondale with the purpose of stealing personal mail right from residents' mailboxes.

They planned to use anything they found to make money, regardless of the harm, inconvenience, or problems it caused the owners. But thanks to the vigilance and courage of one Bloomingtondale resident, Bill Gray, the thugs were apprehended and arrested. They'll be spending a long, hard life in prison.

This incident clearly shows how concern and action by one person can make a difference. Thanks, Bill. Great work!

We can clearly see now after this recent incident that we must take the steps necessary to protect what is ours. This includes what we thought was personal, private and safe — our mail. The following tips for handling your mail will help protect your privacy, your credit, your money and your security.

• Do not put mail with cash, checks or credit card payments in your mailbox; mail them at a post office or

in a federal mailbox.

• Don't put up the red flag when you put anything in your mailbox. It sends a signal that something is in the mailbox.

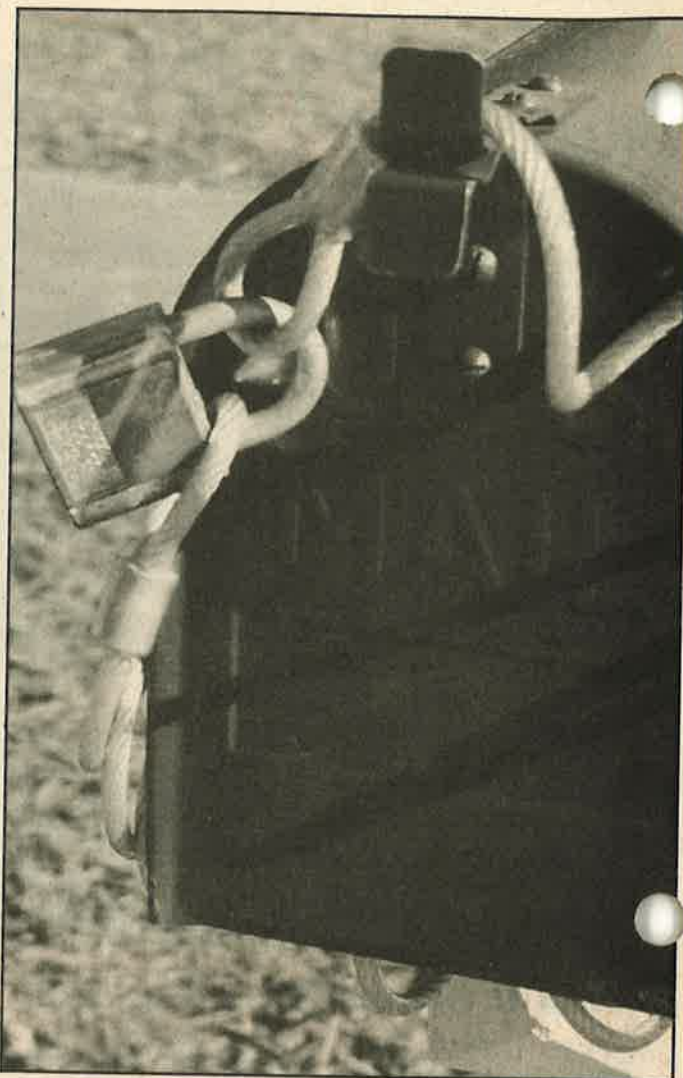
• Get your incoming mail out of the mailbox as soon as possible, and don't leave mail in the box any longer than necessary.

• If you are not going to be home to get your mail, have a friend or neighbor retrieve it for you.

• If you know you are going to receive a package, make arrangements to be home or have it delivered to someone you know and trust. Be aware that some UPS drivers routinely leave packages by the front door unless you make specific delivery arrangements.

Traffic Violations

Special attention is being



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

No, this is not the safest way to protect your mail. Follow the basic security steps given by Deputy Maurer to protect your mail and your credit.

given to traffic violators in our community.

Area deputies have been instructed to give extra attention to enforcing speeding laws, especially in school zones, residential areas and construction zones. Drivers running red lights can watch for the blue lights.

The citations are expensive. Got an extra \$200 for a citation, extra time to go to traffic school and money you want to donate to your auto insurance company? Slow down and obey the laws — no

charge.

Construction Site Theft

Lots of construction continues in and around the Bloomingtondale area.

Bloomingtondale residents living in or near areas where construction sites are located are asked to keep an eye out for unusual activities or vehicles, especially on weekends. If you see any suspicious activity, call the Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 247-8200 during evenings and weekends. Your assistance is appreciated.

Say you saw it in
The Bloomingtondale Gazette

County Considers New Library Name: McLean Family Public Library

A Community Council Report

In November 2001, the Bloomingtondale Area Community Council sent a letter to the Hillsborough County Library Board requesting that the new Brandon library be named, "The McLean Family Public Library," in honor of the family who owned and farmed the land at the site.

The McLean family's history and their donation of additional acreage to help allow for future expansion of the library motivated community council members to request the name.

In a letter dated March 4 library board chairman William Scheuerle wrote that the matter had been

The McLean family's history and their donation of additional acreage to help allow for future expansion of the library motivated community council members to request the name.

assigned for research and recommendation to the Policy and Bylaws Committee of the library board.

The BACC extends our thanks to the library board for their assistance and consideration of this special request.

Residents' questions or comments may be referred to the library board at 276-3660.



Photo courtesy of Susan Shultz

Jetstream Divers Make A Splash

The Jetstream Divers team of Brandon swam away from the Coral Springs Invitational in February with numerous awards in the 1 and 3-meter and group platform events. Pictured are Coach Amy Koffel (front), Molly Coffey, Chris Plante, Sarah Pickens, Ali Lepech (center), Taylor Krueger and Kaylee Doback (top).

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Cell Phones Not The Answer On Boats

By KAY LORI
U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary,
Ruskin

Cellular phones are not recommended by the U.S. Coast Guard as substitutes for recognized maritime radio on boats, although the agency says cell phones can have a place on board as added safety equipment.

Cellular phones generally cannot provide ship-to-ship communications or communication with rescue vessels.

When making a distress call on a cellular, only the party you call will hear you, and you must know that number.

Most cellular phones are designed for land-based service. Their coverage offshore, on large lakes or remote river locations can be extremely limited and may cease without notice.

Locating a cellular caller is difficult. If you don't know precisely where you are, the Coast Guard, or other rescuers, may have trouble finding you. Coast Guard Sta-

tions contacted by VHF Marine Band Radio can use direction-finding equipment to determine the transmitting location.

Some areas have established a special code that will connect you directly to a Coast Guard operations center, if you are in range. This service may work only with the carrier to which you have subscribed.

Actually, there is no comparison between cellular phones and the VHF marine radios recognized by the Fed-

eral Communication Commission and International Radio Regulations. They provide different services. The cellular phone is best used for what it is, an onboard telephone, and a link with shore-based telephones. A VHF marine radio is intended for communication with other ships or maritime installations, and is a powerful ally in an emergency.

To learn more about proper communications aboard your vessel call Joe Lori at 677-2822.

Tips For New High School Students

Don't be the weakest link!

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Senior High School PTSA will host a special program this month designed to help prepare graduating 8th graders and their parents or guardians to move up to the high school level this fall.

"Don't Be The Weakest Link" will be Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m. in the school cafe-

teria.

The PTSA will conduct a question and answer session at the beginning of the program. Teachers, staff, administrators and representatives from school clubs and sports groups will also take questions.

All Bloomingdale area graduating 8th graders and their parents or guardians are encouraged to attend. Information: Suzy Wiesenhart, 651-0850.

La Leche League Meets April 17

A Gazette Report

The La Leche League of Brandon holds open meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon, at St. Andrews church, 3315 Bryan Road (corner of Bryan and Bloomingdale Avenue).

The next meeting will be April 17.

La Leche League is a mother's discussion group that focuses on parenting and breastfeeding support.

Accredited leaders attend the meetings and are also available on call for new mothers.

Healthy babies are welcome at all meetings.

Information: Susan Blake, 685-1096.

BHA: Check Web Site For Registered Offenders

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Gazette and Bloomingdale Homeowners Association encourage residents to check the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement Web site www.FDLE.state.fl.us for public records listing the current residences of registered sexual offenders and predators.

The database is easily searchable by street, city or zip code. Information is also available by calling 1-850-410-7000.

Parents should be aware that according to current Florida law, residential restrictions may be placed on sexual offenders currently serving probation, but there are no restrictions on former convicts who have served their jail time and completed their probationary sentence.

In addition, sexual predators and offenders convicted prior to the 1996 Jimmy Ryce act may not have residential restrictions attached to their probation sentence.

Local probation officers we spoke with said that after serving jail time and probation, registered sexual offenders are required to notify FDLE with their new address whenever they relocate. When a registered offender establishes a new residence, FDLE issues a bulletin to local law enforcement and schools as a precautionary measure.

Representatives of the Hillsborough County School district and Bloomingdale area sheriff's deputies say they keep close tabs on registered offenders. They encourage parents to speak with their children about safety issues in general, and to contact sheriff's department and school officials with any specific concerns they might have.

The FDLE web site also offers information about missing children, stolen property, fugitives, domestic security issues and more. For more information about the Jimmy Ryce act, visit www.jimmyryce.org.

School Service Club Launches Holiday Project

By JUDY RICE

The Bloomingdale Students Helping Society service club at Bloomingdale High will increase its involvement in the annual Christmas giveaway for migrant families sponsored by the YMCA at Camp Cristina in Riverview.

The club normally provides extra hands at the holiday celebration as families in need receive donated gifts collected for them by the YMCA.

Members of the BSHS club noted that since many of the donated gifts are for younger children, the teens and pre-teens of the migrant families often go without. The Bloom-

ingdale teens are intent on providing gifts for the older children this year.

The students are asking the community for donations of toiletry items like deodorant, shampoo, conditioners, hair bows, scrunchies, socks, perfumes, toothbrushes, etc.

Donations of empty shoeboxes and holiday wrapping paper to package the gifts in are also needed.

The project will be ongoing for the remainder of this year, but the club would like to begin collecting and wrapping donations this spring.

For information about the Christmas giveaway program or to donate items to the BSHS service project, call Judy Rice at 654-0016.



Photo courtesy of the Bloomingdale Ambassador

Ambassadors Hosted 4th Annual Showcase

Bloomingdale High School's Ambassadors Show Choir hosted group's 4th annual Showcase of Show Choirs at the school in March. The event also featured performances by groups from Brandon, East Bay, Gaither, King, Riverview and Sickles high schools, Eisenhower and Walker middle schools. Under the direction of teacher Beverly Sutherland, the Ambassadors have consistently national championships and are well renowned for their swing performances.

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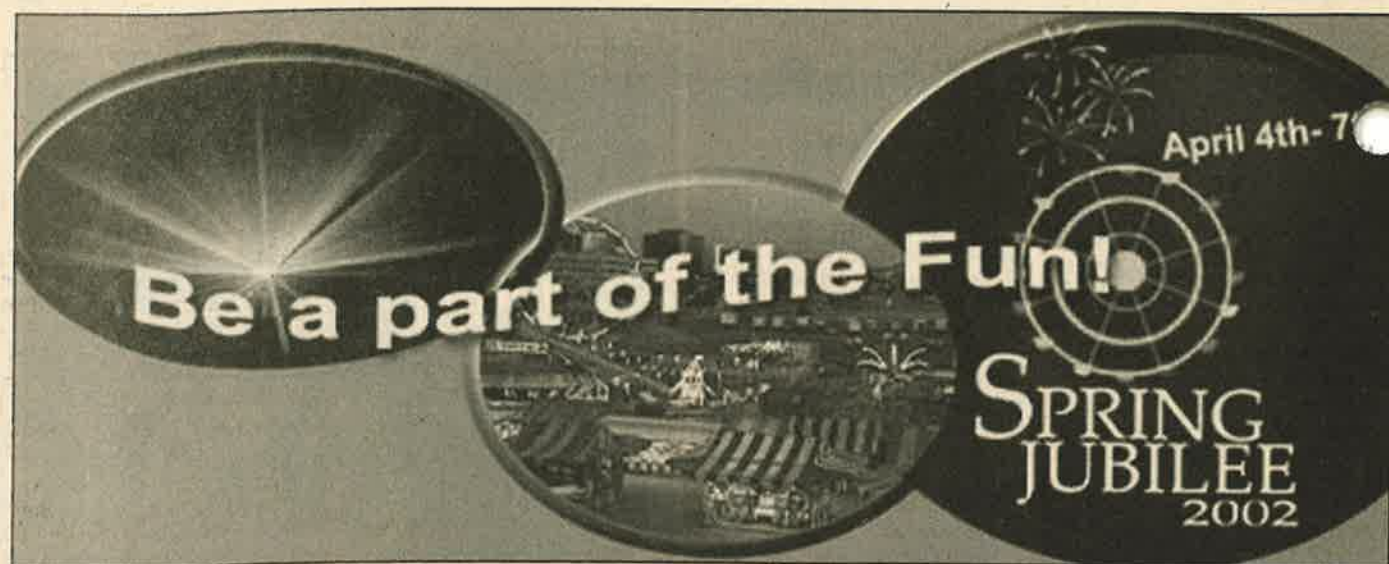
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Jubilee Runs Through This Weekend

A Gazette Report

The St. Stephen Catholic Church Spring Jubilee runs through this weekend and will conclude on Sunday,

April 7.

The full-scale festival features 8 acres of rides, games, live entertainment and food.

Festival hours on Saturday, April 6 are 11 a.m. to

midnight, and Sunday, April 7 from noon to 9 p.m.

Ride-all-the-rides arm-bands are available for \$16 at the gate and may be used Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6

p.m. and all day Sunday.

The event is being held on the new church parish grounds on Boyette Road in Riverview.

Information: 689-4900.

*The Bloomingdale Gazette
is your source for
neighborhood news*

Gazette Seeks Summer Fun Info

Bloomingdale kids are gearing up for the last day of school on May 30, and parents are brainstorming for ideas to keep the little darlings busy!

The Gazette seeks listings of summertime activities convenient to the Bloomingdale area, including day camps, classes, team sports, vacation Bible schools, etc.

Listings will be published in the May issue of the Gazette and on www.BloomingdaleGazette.com.

Call your free listing in to Laura Frazier at 654-6281; fax to 651-1129; or e-mail to News@BloomingdaleGazette.com. Display ads are also available by calling Susie Howell at 689-7764 for rates and information.



The Spring of Tampa Bay will raffle off a quilt created and donated by The Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Brandon.

Guild Creates Piece Offering

A Gazette Report

The Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Brandon presented in March a handmade quilt to The Spring of Tampa Bay Auxiliary.

The auxiliary group will raffle off the quilt at its annual luncheon next month.

The Spring, Florida's largest domestic violence shelter, offers comprehensive services for abuse victims including hotlines, safe shelter, counseling, transitional housing, outreach counseling and support groups.

Quilt Guild member Kathy

Coryn said the group creates and donates quilts to other Brandon area residents in need through organizations like the Brandon Care Pregnancy Center and Hawthorn Village nursing home.

In addition, guild members are asked individually to donate one quilt to charity each year.

The raffle will be held at The Spring Auxiliary luncheon on Saturday, May 11. The winner need not be present. Raffle tickets cost \$2 each and may be purchased by calling Sue Green at 833-3417.

DEPOT

From page 12

toilets, which can cause serious damage.

Properly maintaining your hot water heater will not only insure you have plenty of hot water but will also save you money and extend the life of the water heater, Brinson said.

Check your water heater instructions for details on how to properly drain it.

The minerals in our water cause sediment to build up and seriously damage the water heater.

Heater timers are proven to save money.

Also, watch the temperature your heater is set on.

Too high a temperature can be dangerous.

Insulating the heater will also save money.

Also recommended; a good water softener to help reduce the minerals found in our water. It usually saves money by reducing water usage, and has been said to get your clothes cleaner.

These are but a few of the many great tips provided at the March seminar.

Those attending agreed that you get the most information by being there.

The next seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. and will cover "Working with Wood Molding; Cutting, Painting and varnishing."

Information: Kellie Fisher, 684-0516.

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Around Town

Plant clinics

Master Gardener Plant Clinics will be held at the Brandon Regional Library, 619 Vonderburg Drive, at 7 p.m. on the following dates:

- ♦ April 2 — Butterfly Gardening with Vic Johnson.
- ♦ May 7 — Central Florida Friendly Gardening with Tassie Brautigam.
- ♦ June 4 — Florida Lawns 101 with Jennifer Pinson.

Residents with a particular plant problem can bring it in for a diagnosis and possible cure.

Those who have extra plants can bring them in and share them with fellow gardeners during the plant swap.

Call: 744-5519, Ext. 145.

Artists wanted

The Brandon League of Fine Arts is now accepting applications for its annual

Brandon Spring Festival of Arts fine arts and fine crafts show April 27-28 at the Winthrop on Bloomingdale Avenue and Providence Road.

Those wishing to enter should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to BLFA, P.O. Box 451, Brandon, FL 33509-0451.

Call: Hope Zagami, 655-4673, or Alice Velazquez-Suarez, 689-7265.

Locks of Love

Spectrum Hair Design Studio, 705 W. Lumsden Road, Brandon, will host its second annual hair donation drive for Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is a not-for-profit organization that provides children who have experienced hair loss with human hair wigs.

The drive will run April 1-30.

Call: 651-6650.

Sewing guild

The American Sewing Guild recently organized a new group called the Brandon/East Bay chapter. Membership is available to all interested sewers and quilters.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Brandon Recreation Center, 502 Sadie St.

Programs include demonstrations of sewing techniques, sewing for creativity and participation in sewing for charity.

Guild members receive discounts at retail sewing shops, newsletters, workshops and field trips.

Call: Marjorie Cook, 655-9846.

Walk for Life

The Brandon Pregnancy Care Center will host its

2002 Walk for Life April 10 a.m., followed by food, music and activities from 11 a.m. to noon. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Walkers who raise \$50 in pledges are eligible for a free T-shirt and families that raise \$150 are entitled to shirts for the entire family, limited to five per family.

First Choice Southern Bar-B-Que will donate the proceeds from a \$5 per-person lunch to the center.

A variety of activities are planned for the kids, including pony rides, a moonwalk and a puppet show.

There also will be snow cones and popcorn for all participants.

Call: 654-0941.

Chili cook off

The Crewe of Alafia Norsemen in Riverview is accept-

See TOWN, Page 31

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• N. Brandon 213 Kingsway Ave, 653-4535
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Alafia Parents Plan Grad Party

A Gazette Report

A group of Alafia Elementary School parents are planning a graduation party open to all 2002 Alafia 5th grade graduates and their families. The party will be on the last day of school, May 30, at Bloomingdale East Park on Natures Way.

The cost will be \$1 per person and one 12-pack of soda,

water or juice per family.

Parent Debby Duncan said, "We will have food, a disc jockey and plenty of fun. We want to congratulate the kids for successfully completing elementary school."

All children must be accompanied by an adult; this event is not a school function. Information: Debby Duncan, 654-1851, or Karen Young, 653-2068.

LETTERS?
COMMENTS?
QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingtondaleGazette.com

TOWN

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...g entries for a chili-cook-off to be held during the St. Stephen Spring Jubilee April 6 on the grounds of St. Stephen Catholic School on Boyette Road. Proceeds will benefit the Tampa Children's Hospital.

Call: Randy at 732-8460, or Bill at 654-6477.

Benefit recital

Soprano Susann Brady and pianist David Matthews will present a benefit recital April 7 from 4 to 5 p.m. at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Drive.

They will present arias by Mozart, Donizetti and Puccini. Proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Suggested donation is \$5.

Vietnam memorial

Medard Park will host the ninth annual Salute to Vietnam Veterans and Moving Wall Memorial April 11-17.

The event will feature a tribute to veterans and a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Other activities include vendors, food, live entertainment, military displays, on-site counselors, classic car display, a re-enactment of the Last Patrol and Firebase Golden, skydivers and ceremonies.

The Moving Wall is open 24 hours a day during its stay at Medard Park on Turkey Creek Road, one mile south of State Road 60.

Call: 744-5502.

Benefit baby shower

The Leadership Brandon Class of 2002 will sponsor Brandon's Biggest Baby Shower to benefit the Brandon Care Pregnancy Center, 122 N. Moon Ave., April 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those attending should bring donations of unwrapped new or barely used baby items or cash. For pickup of donations, call 654-3100.

Participants can enjoy cake while visiting vendors and signing up for raffle prizes.

Vendor space is available for \$25.

The center offers support to women with unplanned pregnancies.

Call: 661-0542, or 630-9000.

Blessing of bikes

Bay Area Bikers will gather April 6 at 11 a.m. at "The Wrench," 4911 E. Broadway in Ybor City, for the Blessings of the Bikes to kick off a food drive to benefit the needy.

Bikers will ride to Resurrection Catholic Church in Riverview where the Rev. Antonio Diez, pastor of Resurrection Church, will bless all bikes.

All participants are asked to bring non-perishable food or necessity items to be donated to St. Vincent DePaul food pantry and THORN Ministries to feed the homeless.

Information: The Wrench, 248-4443 or www.thewrenchonline.com.

CLASSIFIED

The Bloomingdale Gazette classified office is located in the Brandon News building at 1401 Oakfield Dr., Brandon FL 33511

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- **by fax:** 689-9545, attention: Bloomingdale Gazette
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