

Bloomington Supports Troops, Families

As we reflect on the recent events of our nation, let us remember the sacrifice that many families have given for our freedom.

Many MacDill families who reside in Bloomington recently said their "goodbyes" to loved ones leaving our shores for a foreign land in order to preserve our freedoms.

As our eyes are focused on the news, we intently watch the bravery of our military and are filled with pride for our nation, and the democracy we so often take for granted.

Let us never take for granted the lives of those who serve our country and their fellow man.

Let us lift up our Military personnel and their families, our



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Many MacDill families who reside in Bloomington recently said their goodbyes to loved ones deployed overseas.

President, the Cabinet and Members of Congress as they continue to make extremely difficult decisions in extremely difficult times.

To our troops overseas and our military families here at home - Thank you for your continued sacrifices and commitment to our nation.

You and your families are valued and we are praying for you daily.
 -Hillsborough County Commissioner Ronda Storms

Featured Story:

Cleanup Day Is April 26

see page 8

County Approves Larger Library, see page 6

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Fight Terrorism - Plan Ahead

**MAKE CONTACT,
SUPPLY PLANS NOW**

By MACK AUSTIN

How can we prepare ourselves, our families and our homes for a potential terrorist attack or other disaster? What can we do, and what do we need? These questions are being asked with increasing frequency as people realize that the threat to our nation and our communities is very real.

When individuals and groups such as those that attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon on 9/11 spread their terror, they have no regard for human lives, or their own. They intend to spread terror by making us feel helpless and scared, not knowing when and where something will happen next. We help them spread the terror when we are not prepared.

We must face the fact that we cannot prepare for every conceivable incident. But we can take the time and steps necessary to prepare ourselves, our families and our



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Don't forget to make special arrangements in your emergency plans for your pets before a disaster strikes. They'll need food, medicine, vet records and possibly even special housing arrangements.

homes for disasters.

Disasters are nothing new to Florida. Hurricane season is long and at times unpredictable. That's why preparation is important. Preparing

for possible terrorist attacks is very similar to preparing for natural disasters.

The first key element in your preparation plan is communication. Work out a sys-

tem whereby you and your family will get/stay in touch when an incident occurs. Include others in your plan in case you can't be reached. As

See Plan, Page 6

Local Coast Guard Seeks Volunteers

CIVILIAN BOAT, AIRCRAFT OWNERS NEEDED

By WESLEY SAINZ
USCGA Staff Officer

The United States Coast Guard is increasing patrols while maintaining the highest level of vigilance in concurrence with the President's recent directive - raising the national threat level from

yellow (elevated) to orange (high), and the commencement of Operation Liberty Shield.

As a consequence of increased security concerns, the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the civilian component of the U. S. Coast Guard, is increasingly being called upon to augment Coast Guard assets in escort duty, port security, and search and rescue efforts.

Flotilla 75 in Ruskin, one of the Auxiliary's most active and well-trained units, is aggressively seeking potential members to assist with this important and serious mission in support of homeland defense.

Just a few of the many Auxiliary membership benefits offered are paid operating expenses, free training and instruction through the U. S.

Coast Guard, fellowship, and most importantly, an opportunity to support the U. S. Coast Guard and play an active role in the War on Terrorism.

If you are a boat or aircraft owner, the Personnel Services Officer for Flotilla 75 would like to talk to you about becoming a member. Please contact Wesley Sainz at 643-2799 or wsainz@tam-pabay.rr.com.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594.
(813) 681-2051. Fax: (813) 651-1129

E-mail: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@Verizon.net

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 — Joe Hickle
- Treasurer — Pam Liguori
- Director — Tony Diolosa
- Director — Steve Heckel
- Director — Cheryl Kehrmeyer
- Director — Michele Caballer
- Director — Joseph Grem

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
- Vice President — Russell Jones

- Treasurer — Dale Kahn
- Recording Secretary — Alice Burleson
- Correspondence Secretary — David West
- Trustee — Myron Magedanz
- Trustee — Michael Buday
- 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



Wireless provider for Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

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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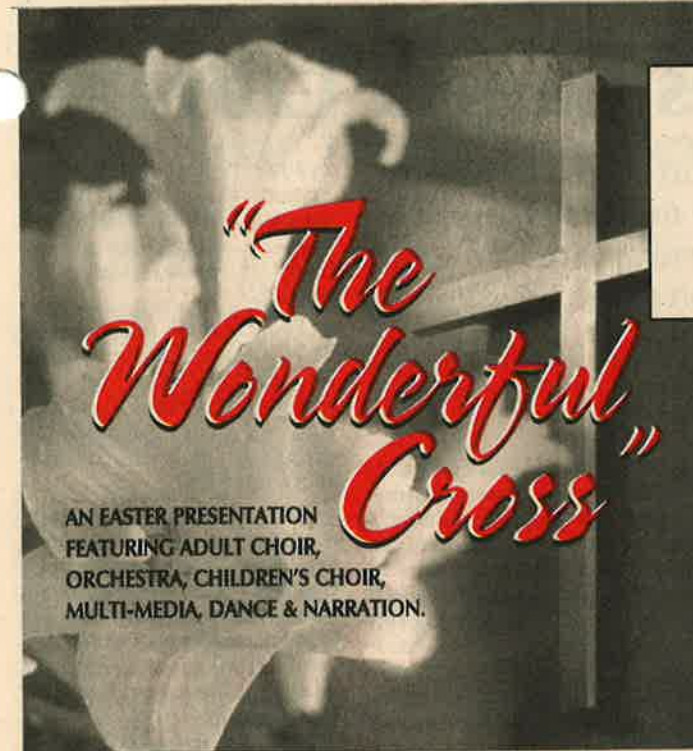
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- Photojournalist — Mack Austin
- Correspondent — Shannan D. Powell
- Correspondent — Leslie White
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- Yard of the Month — Karen Pearson

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Sunday, April 13th at 7:30 p.m.

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**Join Us For A Pre-Easter Celebration
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9:30 a.m.Contemporary Praise

11:00 a.m.Traditional Worship w/Choir and Orchestra

Join us for Worship, then stay and enjoy

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9:30 a.m.Contemporary Praise

11:00 a.m.Traditional Worship w/Choir and Orchestra



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County Approves Larger Library

SIZE UPPED TO STATE STANDARDS

By LAURA FRAZIER

Rapid population growth, vigorous public demand and a study recommending increased per capita standards, all factored into the Hillsborough County Commission's decision in March to increase the initial size of the new South Brandon Library from 10,000 to 15,000 square feet.

The Hillsborough County Library Board recommended adding 5,000 square feet to the Brandon facility and the Upper Tampa Bay Library planned for the Westchase area of Tampa. Community leaders in both areas strongly supported the increased square footage.

Both libraries will be designed to eventually expand to 25,000 square foot

"We have no doubt that when the facility opens, the community will quickly justify (the county's) commitment with enthusiastic utilization of the South Brandon Library."

TED GRABLE
president, Bloomington Homeowners Association

regional libraries. The South Brandon facility is expected to relieve growing public demand for services at the bustling Brandon Regional Library on Vonderberg Drive.

Construction of the library, immediately east of Bloomingdale High School on Bloomingdale Avenue, is scheduled to begin this December. Completion is estimated for December 2004.

Hillsborough County Chief Librarian Suzy George said the great service needs and demands in the Brandon area justify the initial expan-

sion.

In addition, George said, "Library staff recommendations and the consultant's review indicate Florida state standards for library (sizes) are .6 square feet per capita," a value met by increasing the plans to 15,000 square feet.

The study, George said, illustrated that current county standards of .39 square feet per capita are not enough to keep up with the explosive population and public service needs in many developing areas of Hillsborough County.

To address growing library

needs countywide, Joe Stines, director of library services, said his staff would present a ten-year master plan to commissioners by May 31.

Ted Grable, president of The Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc. said the neighborhood organization was very pleased the expansion won the commission's approval.

"The Bloomington community and south Brandon residents are very appreciative that the Library Board, County Commission and Joe Stines and his staff worked so hard to find a way to fund the additional square footage," Grable said.

"We have no doubt that when the facility opens, the community will quickly justify (the county's) commitment with enthusiastic utilization of the South Brandon Library."

Plan

From page 3

in a hurricane, cell towers may be down and power disrupted.

Also, know what actions will be taken by your business or company and your children's schools.

Crowding the roads with cars that emergency vehicles need to travel is not a good idea.

Check out the many websites for essential information on what items you need to have available for any emergency or disaster.

Well-stocked first aid kits along with proper first aid training are critical. CPR training is a definite plus.

One of the best websites we've seen is www.myflorida.com.

Go to the Emergency Management section and select from the numerous topics of importance.

The site includes excellent information on educating children about terrorism.

Other good sites are www.floridadisaster.org,

www.redcross.org and www.fema.org

Our schools have to upgrade their plans too.

A new site for school plans is www.ed.gov/emergency-plan.

Help your schools get their plans into operation.

Business owners, the Hillsborough County Emergency Management office has excellent information available that will help you prepare your business for disasters.

Contact Holley Wade at 272-6900.

Knowing you have done everything you can do to plan and prepare for a disaster is the greatest action you can take.

After the disaster comes the recovery phase, not the time to be preparing for a disaster.

It's very simple - plan and prepare carefully where a tree is going to fall before it gets cut down.

School Board Notebook

Four-Year Plan: Ten New Brandon Area Schools

CIMINO DEDICATION IS APRIL 6

By JENNIFER FALIERO
Hillsborough County School Board District IV Rep.

As a school board member and a resident in this community, I am honored to take part in the dedication ceremonies for schools in our area, as well as others throughout the district. On Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m., Cimino Elementary School will hold its dedication service. The ceremony will be held in the school's cafeteria and refreshments will be served. Following the Cimino Elementary School dedication, Grace Ippolito Elementary School will hold its dedication service at 4 p.m.

These two schools were built on a fast-track schedule

due to the crushing growth that our community is experiencing. The school district has opened 32 new schools since 1996, nine of them this year. Among those nine schools are Cimino Elementary School in Valrico, Ippolito Elementary School in Riverview and the South County Career Center in Ruskin.

The nine schools, combined with three newly refurbished schools, provide more than one million square feet of space for more than 14,000 students. Our school district is way ahead of the rest of the state in new construction, due in large part to the voters approving the Community Investment Tax in 1996, the special legislative session on school overcrowding in 1997, and wise use of those and other financial resources since then.



Jennifer Faliero

As a matter of fact, New-some High School, which will open this fall, was paid for with funds rebated to the district through the Smart Schools Clearinghouse, a state program that rewards school districts for building frugal schools. The district qualified for the rebate because previously built

schools were constructed below the state per-student average.

In the next four years, we have plans to build at least 10 new schools in the greater Brandon area. Current plans call for three elementary schools, a middle school and a high school that will open in 2003. We also anticipate opening an additional middle school to relieve Rodgers Middle, and a career center in 2004. For the 2005 school year, the district will open two elementaries, and another high school to relieve Riverview High School. Our plans for beyond that school year have not been finalized.

For questions about the school district, and to receive the most up to date information, please visit our website at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us, or contact our Citizen's Information center at 272-4974.



St. Clement Catholic Church

St. Clement Catholic Church will be honoring St. Joseph, foster parent of Jesus, on his feast day with Mass and procession on **Wednesday, March 19, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.**

St. Joseph's Altar will be erected in the church. Parishioners are asked to bring in donated canned goods and non-perishables for the needy. We asked that anyone who has participated in or helped erect one of these altars, please contact Mary Anne at **752-2974** or Esther, **754-5858**.

Items can be brought in the weekend before or that night. There will be marked canisters in the entrance at all weekend Masses.

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PRIDE Program Kicks Off This Month

"Receptacles for yard waste, litter, construction materials, and appliances will be at the two parks until 4 pm on clean up day."

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP APRIL 26

By CHERYL KEHRMEYER
BHA Director

Our Bloomingdale PRIDE Program - People of Bloomingdale Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying our great community - is ready for the big kick-off event on Saturday, April 26. Dozens of residents in seven neighborhood sections are ready to move into action this month, but that's just the beginning. The homeowners association's goal for 2003 is to organize a PRIDE committee in each of Bloomingdale's 40 neighborhood sections.

To kick the program off, the BHA and Hillsborough County will sponsor a cleanup day on Saturday, April 26 as part of the Great American Cleanup. Volunteers can check in by 9 a.m. at either of the two main sites, Bloomingdale West and Bloomingdale East parks, where trash bags, refreshments, and t-shirts will be available while supplies last. Volunteers can work in their own neighborhood section, or may choose to work on the common areas of

Natures Way, Canoga Park Drive and the two parks. Receptacles for yard waste, litter, construction materials, and appliances will be at the two parks until 4 pm on clean up day.

The BHA will send letters this month to residents in each selected neighborhood, listing what items can and can't be disposed of on clean-up day, and more details on the program - including neighborhood leaders and leader training dates. At these valuable sessions, we will provide each Neighborhood Team Captain with a PRIDE Resource Manual that includes tips and ideas on forming a team, organizing volunteers, and setting neighborhood improvement projects into action. We'll also talk about deed restrictions and county code compliance.

Volunteers are still needed. Call the BHA office at 681-2051 or e-mail Bloomingdale.Homeowners@verizon.net. We look forward to hearing from you, and helping you improve and take pride in your neighborhood.

The following streets and sections - almost 1400 residences - are scheduled for cleanup on April 26:

Bloomingdale West
(Sections C1 & C2)
Fenner Ct.
Herlong Ct.
Hollister Pl.
Isleton Dr.
Redondo Dr.
Wasco Ct.

Buttonwood Ct.
Paddlewheel Ct.
Rosedale Dr.
Sabal Palm Ct.

Chadds Ford
(Section N)
Moondale Ct.
Rainbrook Cr.
Turnbury St. (3909 - 3925)

Bloomingdale West
(Sections H1 & H3)
Bloomingfield Dr. (401 - 423)
Cedar Grove Dr. (501 - 514)
Emberwood Dr.
Fallon Ct.
Paddlewheel Dr.
Sweetleaf Dr.
Van Reed Manor Dr.

OakCrest Section
(Section R)
Fontana Pl.
Gotham Way
Kenwick Dr.
Levonshire Pl.
LynCrest Ct.
Mendocina Way
MillCreek Ct.
Moreland Dr.
Needham Dr.
Oakhurst Ct.
Penrod Ln.
Quail Briar Dr.
Shilo Ct.
Windell Pl.
WrenCrest Cr.

Bloomingdale West
(Sections H2 & H4)
Canoga Park Dr. (4107 - 4119)
Cedar Grove Dr. (515 - 638)
Denage Ct.
Encina Dr.
Ephrata Dr.
Fieldstone Dr.
Royan Way
Sandy Creek Dr. (501 - 621)
Wynnewood Dr.

Windsor Woods
(Section PQ)
Blackwood Pl.
Cold Creek Dr.
Eaglewood St.
HollowWood Dr.
Kiowa Ln.
Timberfall Ln.
Treeline Dr.

Bloomingdale Estates
(Section D)
Applegate Cr.
Bayfield Dr.
Bessemer Cr.
Bloomingfield Dr. (104 - 314)
Butternut Ct.

Recycling Do's and Don't's

A Gazette Report

In the Bloomingdale area, residents use two containers - one blue and one green - to place their recyclable items curbside for collection. The containers are collected on Tuesdays. Yard waste is collected on Fridays. Here are the do's and don't's for curbside recycling collection, provided by the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department. For more information call 272-5680.

Blue Recycling Container

Do put in...
Newspapers (without plastic cover)

Magazines
Junk Mail (remove plastic and cellophane)
Office Paper
Brown Grocery Bags
Unwaxed Corrugated Cardboard
Do NOT put in...
Cereal Boxes
Pizza Boxes
Waxed Boxes
Paper Drink Carriers
Green Recycling Container
Do put in...
Rinsed plastic bottles and jars marked recyclable nos. 1 and 2
Glass bottles and jars
Aluminum and steel food and beverage containers (remove caps and lids)

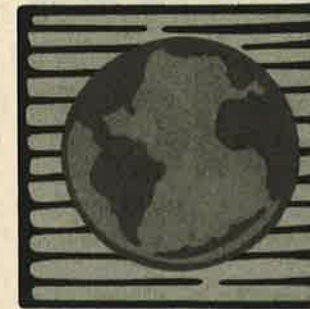


Do NOT put in...
Plastic tubs or cups
Aluminum pans or foil
Hangers
Household batteries

Great American Cleanup Keeps America Beautiful

The Great American Cleanup, Keep America Beautiful Inc.'s signature event, is the nation's largest annual community improvement program, held March through May. The program features 30,000 events in more than 14,000 communities, and encourages Americans to participate in hands-on activities that dramatically improve their communities, creating healthier, cleaner and safer environments across the nation.

Last year, nearly 2.3 million people volunteered for the Great American Cleanup. This year, activities include renovating playgrounds, cleaning up waterways and seashores, picking up litter, planting trees, beautifying parks, graffiti removal and building restoration, conducting recycling collections, youth



education and litter-free events.

Following are the results of the 2002 Great American Cleanup.

These figures were derived from reports obtained from actual participating organizations, and describe the extent of their extraordinary accomplishments.

See Cleanup, Page 10

Why People Litter

Research by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., has found that people litter primarily for three reasons: They feel no sense of ownership, even though areas such as parks and beaches are public property; They believe someone else - a park maintenance or highway worker - will pick up after them; Litter has already accumulated.

Motorists and pedestrians are often blamed for litter, but there are actually seven primary sources: household trash handling, dumpsters, loading docks, construction sites, trucks with uncovered loads, pedestrians and motorists.

Litter is blown about by wind and traffic or carried by water. It moves until trapped by a curb, building or fence. Once litter has accumulated, it invites people to thoughtlessly add more.

So what can we do? Keep America Beautiful has several suggestions that begin with setting an example for others, especially children, by not littering. The organization recommends carrying a litterbag in your car, and covering all loads on open trucks.

Make sure trashcans have lids that can be securely fastened. Don't put out loose trash in boxes,

and tie papers in a bundle before placing them curbside for recycling.

Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage and debris to your local solid waste management department. In Hillsborough County the number is 272-5680.

If you smoke, please use an ashtray and encourage other smokers to do the same.

Source: Keep America Beautiful, Inc.



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Photo from Keller Williams Realty

Realtors Enjoy Rewarding Career

Brandon's Keller Williams Realty Agents, from left, Laura Harris, Pete Marion, Brenda Carter, Ray Chadderton and Luana Russell, celebrated the numerous North Florida Region kudos they received at the company's awards ceremony in February. Keller Williams Realty International has more than 279 offices in the United States and Canada.

Dispose Of Batteries Properly

A Gazette Report

In 1997, rechargeable Nicad (nickel-cadmium) and SSLA (small sealed lead acid) batteries were banned from disposal in the trash. These batteries contain toxic heavy metals and should be recycled or properly disposed of when they are no longer usable.

Nicad and SSLA batteries are commonly used in cellular phones, pagers, camcorders, portable power tools, video games, laptop computers and other electrical equipment.

Nicads and SSLA batteries come in different shapes and sizes, and most have the words "Cd", "Ni-Cd", "Nickel Cadmium", "Pb", or "Lead Acid" together with the word



"Rechargeable" and a recycling symbol located somewhere on them.

Rechargeable batteries may be taken to the following stores for recycling or disposal; Radio Shack, Verizon Wireless, Circuit City, Ace Hardware, Wal-Mart, Sears and Target. For more information call 1-800-8BATTERY or visit www.rbrbc.org.

Dispose Of Household Chemicals, Electronics

By MACK AUSTIN

"Home Safe Home" is a special program offered by the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Dept. to give residents an opportunity to properly dispose of household chemicals and electronic items.

Proper disposal of these dangerous items protects our homes and environment.

Household chemicals can be disposed of on the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (new hours) at the South County Collection site, 13000 Hwy. 41 South in Gibsonton, one quarter mile north of Big Bend Road. Chemical materials accepted include paints and solvents, automotive products, household cleaners, pool chemicals, lawn and garden supplies.

Absolutely no commercial waste will be accepted.

Household electronics can be disposed of at the South County Collection site from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 2, 2003 (chemicals will not be accepted on this date). Residents are limited to disposing a maximum of five electronic items including televisions, VCRs, computers and computer components (laptops, monitors, keyboards, hard drives and printers), microwaves, cell phones, power supplies and household appliances.

For the safety of the public and county employees, collections may be suspended during periods of severe weather. For additional information or to report illegal dumping call the Solid Waste Management Dept. at 272-5680.

Community Council Update

A Bloomingdale Area Community Council Report

Bloomingdale Area Community Council, or BACC, volunteers meet monthly with local law enforcement and county departments to research and resolve neighborhood issues and concerns. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the community station. For information, call Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer or Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano at 635-8040.

The council addressed the following items at the BACC's March 2003 meeting:

Homeland Security

Deputy Maurer discussed the Sheriff's Office increased missions providing security at the Port of Tampa, TIA, and key areas in our county. He noted the need for residents to be more aware of their environment and to immediately report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Dept. at 247-8200.

Crime Watch

Deputy Maurer reminded members that fighting crime

Council Needs Input, Reps

The BACC needs more input from residents and more representation from homeowners' associations and neighborhood sections. For information, visit the Bloomingdale Community Station on Bell Shoals Road, open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call Deputy Pete Maurer at 635-8040.

in our community takes the direct involvement of everyone. As with Homeland Security, residents are asked to report criminal activity or suspicious events. For basic law enforcement questions, call the Community Station weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For criminal activities or emergencies, call 911 or dispatch at 247-8200. This is especially important since the Sheriff's Office will lose several deputies in June during their retirement program.

School Security

Members asked about security and crime at our schools. Deputy Maurer said each school has security programs, crime prevention pro-

grams and disaster preparedness programs. Parents should get acquainted with and involved in all of these programs.

Mobile Watch

Joe Liguori updated members on the Bloomingdale Mobile Watch program. He stated that our community program is being reorganized and should incorporate more direct involvement in volunteers' own neighborhoods, and utilize more effective

communications equipment. A special promotion program is being planned.

School Bomb Threats

Deputy Maurer emphasized that all bomb threats are second-degree felonies with very serious penalties and could become federal cases, especially with our nation at war. All parents should explain to their children the serious consequences of calling in a bomb threat.

Special Projects

Members reviewed a list of projects that the BACC will continue to monitor. These projects covered topics including traffic, school safety, homeland security, safety, home security, personal security, growth management, new construction, crime prevention and coordination with local political leaders.

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Cleanup

From page 9

Volunteers participated2,309,512
Volunteer hours6,435,208
Communities involved13,885
Pounds of litter & debris collected110,145,020
Pounds of clothing collected for reuse8,047,826
Miles of roads, streets & highways cleaned65,996
Miles of RR tracks cleaned971

Acres of parks cleaned80,027
Miles of trails cleaned1,981
Playgrounds & community recreation areas cleaned, restored, constructed6,921
Miles of shoreline cleaned7,607
Underwater cleanups conducted117
Acres of wetlands restored12,853
Illegal dump sites

cleaned2,032
Junk cars removed10,559
Bags of aluminum products recycled982,870
Bags of newspaper recycled912,602
Tires collected for recycling377,420
Batteries collected for recycling54,155
Trees planted157,556
Flowers & bulbs

planted1,940,366
Homes painted5,100
Commercial buildings painted1,670
Graffiti sites abated10,613
Educational workshops held5,240
Educational workshop attendees358,9

Source: Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

Sign Here To Save Pledge

A Gazette Report

WePledge.com is trying to secure ten million signatures for the Constitutional Amendment to save the Pledge of Allegiance and our National Motto.

This would be the most people to sign a petition in history. Help save our Pledge of Allegiance and National Motto - visit www.wepledge.com, sign the petition, and forward it on to others.

Local Christian Rock Band Shares "The Gift"

A Gazette Report

When Shepherd's View takes the main stage at Spring Jubilee at noon on April 6, the band hopes they can share more than just the lyrics of their opening song, The Gift. They want to turn their music into a gift for the Boys & Girls Club of Tampa Bay.

"We like to open up a performance with this song, because the lyrics really explain why He brought the band together, and what our greater purpose is," said David Dunkel, spokesman and lead guitarist. "We are pleased to be able to turn our gift of music into a gift for the kids in our community."

The band has pledged to donate \$5 from the sale of each of their CDs to the Boys & Girls Club in Tampa Bay to create a much-wanted steel drum music program.

"This program will be such a great opportunity for our kids," said Celeste Roberts, area supervisor for the Boys & Girls Club. "This pledge from Shepherd's View is really going to help get this program off the ground."

According to Roberts, the program will include instruction, performance and a



Photo courtesy Shepherd's View
Shepherd's View members Dave Dunkel (left to right), John Cameron, Bloomingdale resident Randy Kehmeyer, Andy Dobson, Michael Anderson.

music culture curriculum.

"By giving our kids a chance to be inspired by this new culture of music, who knows what it will lead them to do," Roberts said.

The Boys & Girls Club's mission is to inspire and enable young people to realize their full potential as pro-

ductive, responsible and caring citizens.

The group released their first CD in September 2002. They have been featured on WMTX, MIX 100.7 FM radio, and their music can be heard on Spirit 90.5 FM radio.

The CD, Music from the

Shepherd's View is available for purchase at the April 6 Spring Jubilee performance, at Berean Christian bookstore, and at www.shepherdsvie.com.

The group will also perform April 26 at Berean Christian Store, 3993 Tyrone Blvd. in St. Petersburg.

Spring Jubilee Runs Through April 6

FREE PARKING, ADMISSION

A Gazette Report

The Brandon area's second annual Spring Jubilee community festival kicked off April 3 and runs through Sunday, April 6. The event, held on the grounds of St. Stephen Catholic School at the corner of Boyette Road and St. Stephen Circle in Riverview, features free parking, admission and entertainment.

A variety of shows, games

and contests will be staged around a midway featuring more than 35 attractions ranging from kiddie rides, like the ferris wheel and merry go round, to big kid thrillers "Spaceship 2000" and "The Zipper."

Perhaps the biggest new addition to the festival is the return of the Brandon Balloon Classic, celebrating its 21st anniversary this year. Early Saturday morning, a hot-air balloon launch and race begin at 7 a.m. The balloons will return to the field for a balloon "glow" at 7 p.m.

Saturday evening, and for a final flight at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Tampa Bay Vettes and Ferman Chevrolet will hold a Corvette car show on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A chili cook-off featuring the spicy creations of both novice and professional chili cooks will be held Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the cook-off will benefit Moffitt Cancer Center.

A fireworks display will begin Saturday evening at 8 p.m.

A talent show will be held Sunday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The show is open to all ages and any category of talent. Entry is free, and cash prizes will be awarded. To enter, call Entertainment Director Rob Hudack at 689-7174.

A full roster of free entertainment by pop, swing, instrumental and contemporary Christian performers is lined up for Saturday and Sunday.

For information call 689-7174 or visit www.springjubilee.com.



Chili's Opens Soon

Stein Mart is open and the construction continues at the Lithia Crossings Shopping Center on Lithia-Pinecrest Road, just south of Bloomingdale Avenue. More businesses will open soon, including the long-awaited Chili's Restaurant.

County To Review Rezoning Request

A Gazette Report

The Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners, on April 8, is scheduled to review a developer's request to rezone 42.5 acres on the west side of John Moore Road, just south of Bloomingdale Avenue, from agricultural to planned development usage.

A group of Bloomingdale area residents oppose the rezoning.

The residents dispute previous statements and reports presented by the developer in response to their concerns about traffic on Bloomingdale Avenue.

Area resident and attorney

Ryan Rodems testified at a March hearing that Bloomingdale Avenue is currently identified by state transportation reports as over capacity and at a failing level of service.

Rodems said the developer's offer to provide additional turning lanes and change traffic light timing would not be effective.

The county commission earlier this year denied a separate commercial rezoning request for land at the intersection.

Residents and commissioners cited traffic and area compatibility problems as their major reasons for opposing the request.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?
E-mail: Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com

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- Brandon 717 W. Lumsden, 654-9541
- Brandon 913 W. Brandon Blvd, 684-4499
- Brandon 11393 Causeway Blvd, 643-6944
- N. Brandon 213 Kingsway Ave, 653-4535
- Lithia 16739 Fishhawk Blvd, 654-7991
- Plant City 2621 Thonotosassa Rd, 752-6631
- Providence 1983 Lumsden Rd, 654-4423
- Riverview 11697 Boyette Rd, 672-1832
- Seffner 1515 S. Parson Ave., 684-5897
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- Valrico 2511 SR 60 E, 643-4825
- Apollo Beach 220 Apollo Beach Blvd, 645-1499

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Little League Spring Season Underway

Spring is in the air and so is the smell of hot dogs, popcorn and good old sweat. Spring season at Bloomingdale Little League Park is in full swing. Players like these are determined to play well and have fun. Get out and enjoy a game of real baseball or softball soon.

Campo Family YMCA News

By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

The Campo Family YMCA is at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road. For a complete schedule of activities and events, or for more information, call 684-1371 or visit www.tampaymca.org/campohome.

Sign-Up Today for Summer Program

Visit the Campo Family YMCA and take part in a celebration of all the healthy opportunities available to children. Displays, exhibitions and demonstrations from around the community

will be on the agenda. The Y is kicking off registration for its Healthy Kids summer program. A \$10.00 deposit for each week will reserve your child a spot.

Breakfast with Bunny

Breakfast with The Easter Bunny at the Campo YMCA is April 12 from 9 - 11 a.m. Join Y members for breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt, and don't forget to bring your camera! YMCA staff and volunteers will serve breakfast and provide games, prizes and photo opportunities with the one, the cuddly — the bunny! So hop on down the

See YMCA, Page 18

Bloomingtondale Property Manager's Report

By AL DEVNEY

Al Devney, Bloomingtondale Property Manager and president of Devney Property Management, Inc., can be reached at 684-6667. Excerpts of the latest monthly Property Manager's Report are as follows.

Irrigation

Brandon Irrigation repaired a leaking zone line at the Moondale entrance, repaired a broken main line and replaced a broken valve box at Canoga Park and Caliente, and replaced a defective timer on the Bell Grande system. DPPI replaced 91 sprinkler heads and 34 lights, and repaired four risers and three zone lines. A vandalized spot light was replaced.

Landscaping

Camaras Landscaping trimmed 260 Crepe Myrtle trees. Planscape replaced dead palm trees at Rosemead, Glenhaven and Springvale, and replanted 17 Crepe Myrtle trees on Canoga Park. Cardinal Landscaping removed the Wax Myrtle trees and stumps on Springvale. DPPI watered the new palm trees, obtained prices to cap the 47 pillars on Natures Way, and to remove the vegetation along the pond at Natures Way and Kingsford. DPPI prepared correspondence to void the Hillsborough County citation received for a broken sprinkler head, and obtained prices for landscaping on Glenhaven, Rivercrossing, Oak River and Grover. DPPI obtained prices for pressure cleaning Natures Way and notified all contractors to begin work. DPPI also conducted a pre-bid meeting for the removal and rebuilding of a section of wall on Bell Shoals, and met Thomas Schaub, the taxing district's landscape architect, to discuss the entryway at Culbreath Road and Bloomingtondale Avenue.

Accidents

There were two accidents; a car vs. palm tree at Natures Way and Bell Grande, and a car vs. wall at Springvale and Murray Dale. The cars lost both times.

Walls & Signs

United Painting Services was awarded the painting contract for the walls on Bell Shoals Road and has completed the cleaning phase of the project.

ZK Construction repaired a damaged wall on Springvale. Specialty Pressure Washing cleaned the walls on Natures Way from Glenhaven to Dunaire on the east side of Natures Way.

Signs by Mineo started repainting the entrance signs at Elton and Groveway.

Sidewalks

Hillsborough County continues to muddle along on the Canoga Park sidewalk project. In February, they estimated four to six weeks completion.

Electrical

Russell Electric replaced a defective light sensor at the Rivercrossing entrance, a defective pump breaker on the Lornewood system, and repaired three broken lights at the Garnet entrance.

Eat, Drink & Pitch Out The Window

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, Mr. Devney picked up 21 bags of litter, three shirts, six gloves, the top of a gas grill, a full size copy machine, four towels, two hubcaps, a pair of pliers, a pair of vice grips, 100 feet of orange barricade, two pieces of plywood, a sweat shirt, 15 feet of 50 pair telephone cable and 87 cents.

The beverages of choice were coke for soft drinks, Natural Light for beer and Black Velvet for distilled spirits.



SHANNAN D. POWELL/Photo

Alafia second-graders Mitchell McDade (left to right), Elle Mancini, Nick Montiero, Ashley Tressel, Kaylen Mandry and teacher Jane Ham, celebrate their third-place win in the Hillsborough County Math Bowl on Feb. 20.

Alafia Scores Big In Math Bowl

The Alafia Elementary School second-grade math team took third place in the Feb. 20 Hillsborough County Math Bowl. The five-student team placed third against 30 other eastern county schools to advance to the final round. Westchase and Tampa Palms elementaries placed first and second, respectively.

Alafia, Cimino Round Up Kindergartners

By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

Round 'em up!

It's that time of year again - time for both Bloomingtondale elementary schools to look ahead to the 2003 - 04 school year. That means opening the doors to incoming kindergartners.

Alafia and Cimino elementary schools will hold Kindergarten Roundup this month, giving youngsters and their parents opportunities to learn more about the schools and to register for the coming school year.

Cimino's program will be April 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the school's multipurpose room. Alafia's roundup will be April 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, and will give parents a view of a typical day in the life of a kindergartener with visits to classrooms and

their learning centers.

Parents registering their kindergartners are required to provide the following:

An original birth certificate

An original Social Security card

Proof of residence (such as mortgage or lease documents or utility bill)

Proof of a physical exam within 1 year prior to Aug. 6, 2003 (gold form)

Shot record (gold form), including Varcella, DPT (5 doses), OPV (4 doses), MMR (2 doses), HepB series (3 shots)

Alafia Elementary is at 3535 Culbreath Rd. For information call 744-8190.

Cimino Elementary is at 4329 Culbreath Rd. For information call 740-4450.



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Program Helps Prevent, Solve Crimes

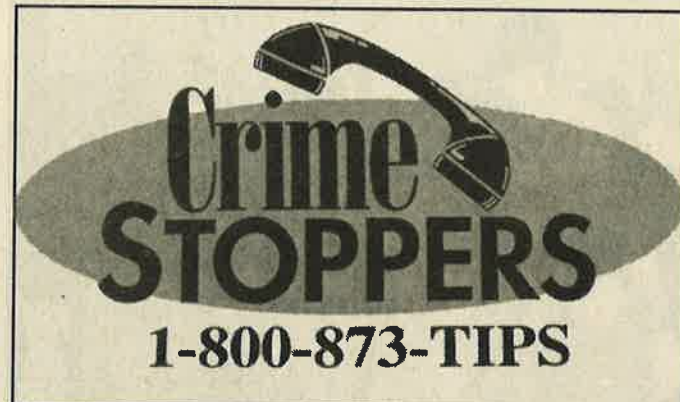
**ANONYMOUS TIP LINE
OFFERS REWARDS**

By MACK AUSTIN

No matter what is going on in the world, our state, or in our community, crime doesn't stop. Even during widespread disasters like Hurricane Andrew, criminals continued to operate - robbing, looting and selling drugs. Stopping crime has to be a full-time, cooperative effort.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office's Crime Stoppers program mission statement says it all - "To be an effective crime-solving force throughout West Central Florida with a primary objective to bring together community, media, law and law enforcement into an organization working together to solve crimes."

Crime Stoppers is a non-profit, community program that brings together the major elements critical in stopping criminal activity. Together they combat crime and make our communities a safer place to live. The program is funded through corporate sponsorships, individ-



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Get involved, stop a crime - get a reward! Call the Crime Stoppers tip-line at 1-800-873-TIPS or use their website at www.crimestopperstb.com

ual donations, special trusts and fund raising events.

Crime Stoppers covers West Central Florida because many criminals are mobile and move into and out of our community. The program covers Hillsborough, DeSoto, Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands and Pasco counties, and works with all media sources in these counties to collect and distribute information on crimes and criminals.

Crime Stoppers serves as a clearinghouse for information to encourage people who

have knowledge about crimes or criminals to call the tip line. Rewards up to \$1000 are offered and anyone calling remains anonymous.

The anonymous tip-line makes it convenient and safe for persons wanting to get involved. Persons with information can call 1-800-873-TIPS or use their website at www.crimestopperstb.com

Crime Stoppers forwards information provided to the appropriate law enforcement section, which then uses it to prevent or solve crimes. This is a very critical source of

intelligence for law enforcement officers.

Recent statistics include over 52,000 calls received, 1759 arrests made, 59 homicides solved, \$892,000 worth of property and narcotics recovered and \$202,000 in rewards paid to anonymous tipsters.

Student Crime Stoppers programs are in every middle and senior high school in Hillsborough County. Students provide anonymous information on campus crime and receive rewards up to \$100. This program is very effective too. Recent statistics indicate 369 arrests, \$68,000 worth of property and narcotics recovered, \$8500 in rewards paid to anonymous students and 79 knives, 8 firearms and 17 other weapons recovered.

Crime Stoppers is a very effective program that each and every resident can be a part of to make our community safer. When you notice unusual activity around a home, business, church or park, or if you hear about planned criminal activity, call the tip-line. Crimes are stopped one at a time. Now is the time to get involved.

Focus: Hillsborough County School Security

**LENNARD SERVES
ON TASK FORCE**

By JENNIFER FALIERO
Hillsborough County Board
District IV Representative

Safety for our children is paramount. As you are aware, the Department of Homeland Security has made the decision to raise the national threat level to high (orange) because of the risk of terrorist attacks.

It may be of comfort to know that Dr. Earl Lennard, Hillsborough County Superintendent of Schools, serves on the Regional Domestic Security Task Force. The district works hand-in-hand with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and our procedures for school safety are in alignment with the threat level assessments set

by the Department of Homeland Security.

These are uncertain times. In order to maintain a safe environment for our students, communication is critical.

The district recently sent letters home to parents about emergency procedures. Additionally, our district website has all procedures listed, along with resources for parents and teachers in dealing with stress and anxiety, and links to other related websites.

The district site has the most up to date school wide announcements, including possible field trip changes. At the time of writing this article, no field trips were cancelled due to the national threat level.

See Security, Page 21



Photo courtesy DAR

Daughters Presents Journalism Award

Nell Truitt, chairman of the Alafia River Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at right, presents the organization's Journalism Award to Dr. Celeste Ray for her research and authorship of "Highland Heritage - Scottish Americans in the American South." Ray is the daughter of DAR chapter member Anna Jean Springer, and is assistant professor of anthropology at the University of the South in Sevensville, Tennessee.

An Illuminating Solution To Streetlight Outages

By Brian Lott
Special To The Gazette

The many streetlights throughout the Bloomingdale community help bring neighbors together and light the way to safety and security. It's something Americans have cherished in the nearly 125 years since the invention of artificial light. Now, when a streetlight goes out - which is increasingly likely with the onset of summer storm season - you can easily help make sure its glow returns to your street.

Tampa Electric Company's "lights out" online form is a free, easy and fast way for you to help brighten your

neighborhood by notifying the company of a streetlight outage. Residents can simply log on to tampaelectric.com and scroll to the bottom of the home page for the link to the online form. The form lets residents list the location of the light and other pertinent information that can be helpful to trouble men and line crews.

Residents benefit from this service by being able to submit the form 24 hours a day, seven days a week, without having to wait on the phone. Typing the 10-digit grid number on the streetlight pole into the lights out online form will help Tampa Elec-

See TECO, Page 18

The Tax Man Moveth

A Gazette Report

The Brandon branch of the Hillsborough County Tax Collector's Office has relocated.

The Hwy. 60 office closed April 1 and will re-open Monday, April 7 at 2211 N. Falkenburg Road (at the intersection of Windhorst and Falkenburg across from

the Sheriff's Office complex).

Residents can pay taxes or renew their auto and boat tags by mail, phone or the Internet.

In addition, drop boxes are located outside every office branch.

For information call 307-6500 or visit www.hillstax.org.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com

AAUW News

A Gazette Report

The American Association of University Women, Brandon Branch, meets month. Graduates of a four year accredited college or university are eligible to join AAUW.

The following group events take place this month. For information, contact Arlene, 689-8457 or Mary Ann, 681-4502.

Dover author Betty Bradford Byers will be the guest speaker at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15 at Stacey's Homestyle Buffet, 790 West Dr. Martin Luther King Drive in Seffner.

Byers will read excerpts

from her books and address the subject of getting a book published.

She is the author of *Wired for Murder* and *The Big Payback*.

Co-presidents Ann Hubbard and Mary Ann Walters will represent the branch at Florida AAUW's annual convention in Orlando April 25 - 27 at the airport Renaissance Orlando Hotel.

The convention's theme is "Women in Charge: Shape the Future with AAUW."

The literary group will meet at the home of Barbara Reed on Tuesday, April 1 to discuss *Big Stone Gap* by Adriana Trigiani.

314906



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Grandpa's Produce Open At Red Barn

The famous "red barn" on Bloomingdale Avenue at Culbreath Road is back in business under new management. The new owner, Augustine, said he and his family are determined to provide the Bloomingdale community with quality fruit and vegetables and plants. He said they are currently expanding their space. "Grandpa's Produce" is open seven days a week.

St. Andrews Church Is 'Bloomin' In Faith'

**EVENT FEATURES
BELINDA WOMACK**

A Gazette Report

To help celebrate the arrival of spring, the United Methodist Women of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church is hosting "Bloomin' in Faith," a program featuring well known contemporary music artist Belinda Womack.

The event will be held at the church, on the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bryan Road, on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Womack has won numer-

ous awards throughout the Tampa Bay area and Florida, and has performed in conjunction with the Florida Orchestra, led a 100-voice choir for the Devil Rays' inaugural game, and helped form and chair the mass choir for the Billy Graham Crusade Ministry, Tampa Crusade.

The Contemporary Worship Director at Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Womack is said to blend her musical roots of gospel, jazz and blues to create an uplifting on-stage performance that appeals to a diverse audience.

The event is billed as a

fun, lively evening, with dessert and door prizes following Womack's program.

Tickets for the event are \$10 per person or \$20 per family, with proceeds going to United Methodist Women missions, an organization whose purpose is "To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; To develop a creative, supportive fellowship; And to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

To purchase tickets, or to find out more about the program, call 689-6849.

YMCA

From page 14

bunny trail to the Campo Family YMCA.

Prayer Breakfast

Join other YMCA members for a prayer breakfast on Good Friday, April 18 at 7:30 a.m. The Y will provide a time for prayer, reflection and celebration.

Register now for Spring Sports

Basketball, flag football and cheerleading programs, for ages 3-12, are now enrolling. In YMCA sports "Everybody Plays, Everybody Wins!" The Campo Family YMCA is looking for volunteer coaches and players for all age groups. Contact Damon Dye at 684-1371 or at ddye@tampaymca.org for more information.

TECO

From page 17

tric identify the exact location of the outage.

The online form is just one of many recent upgrades to tampaelectric.com designed to provide residential and commercial customers with fast, free and easy access to company programs and services. Other services include online bill payment, which saves residents money and sends information securely and instantaneously.

Brian Lott, TECO Marketing and Customer Communications Coordinator, was raised in Bloomingdale and graduated from Bloomingdale Senior High School.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN

THE
BLOOMINGDALE
GAZETTE

Caregivers Offer Comfort, Help For Seniors

A Gazette Report

Jim Merckling of Comfort Keepers, a franchise business now serving the Brandon area, says life can be extremely stressful for some senior citizens and their families.

"Simple, daily activities like getting to doctor appointments, shopping for groceries and clothing, doing the laundry, running errands and preparing meals can be frustrating," Merckling said, a stress that can sometimes lead families into discussions of moving their loved ones into a nursing home.

Comfort Keepers provides seniors with the extra assistance that they and their families need to manage their everyday life, he said, noting that all of the company's employees and dependable, caring professionals who have been thoroughly screened, formally trained, bonded and insured.

Comfort Keepers provides



Photo courtesy Comfort Keepers

A Comfort Keeper caregiver helps a client prepare dinner, one of the many in-home services now available to Brandon area seniors.

a variety of non-medical, in-home services tailored to meet the needs of each client. Caregivers are available by

the day or by the week.

"Since our clients decide how often they need us, our services are an affordable, practical

choice," Merckling said.

For information call 655-1731 or visit www.comfortkeepers.com.

USF Conference: The African-American Child, Family

A Gazette Report

The African-American child and family are the focus of a two-day conference at the University of South Florida hosted by the Institute on Black Life. "The Black Child and Family: Reconstructing the Village" annual research conference will conclude with a Community Outreach Day April 5 at the University Area Community Development Complex.

The event will feature ethnic foods, music, a town hall meeting and a workshop on single parenting. USF representatives will be available to provide information about applying for college and financial aid, job preparation, development of employability skills and dressing for

success. The event is free and open to the public.

"One of the goals of the Institute on Black Life is to promote dialogue on issues of national concern, especially those affecting the African-American community," said Geoffrey Okogbaa, director of the institute. "This conference touches on issues that will determine the fate of Black people for years to come. It is only fitting that USF engage the community to facilitate better interaction and partnerships in the process of finding answers to some of the troubling issues regarding the African-American child and family."

For more information visit usf.edu/ibl.

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And now serving coffee in Valrico/Brandon

Join me for our monthly round table discussion at Dan's office on Thursday, April 10 at 9:00 a.m. We'll share ideas about current events, the economy, investing and a few cups of coffee. This month's topic is Last Minute Tax Planning. The coffee's on me!



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SHANNAN D. POWELL/Photos

Cimino Event Weathered Storms

Plans for Cimino Elementary School's afternoon Field Day for third through fifth graders were washed out by heavy storms last Thursday. But kindergartners through second grade got lucky - and just a little wet - at their morning Field Day.



Above left, third-grader Josh Pinkerton take part in shooting hoops. Above, second-graders Erin Gregor, Jordan Noh and Stephanie Ellison compete in the Hula Hoop competition. At left, Bloomingdale High student Larissa Sutherland paints first-grader Quennay Price's face.



Cimino Cool Cats Have Character

A Gazette Report

Each month teachers at Cimino Elementary School in Bloomingdale select one "Cool Cat" from every class to be honored for exemplifying a specific character trait. The students are honored during a special awards ceremony, receive certificates and car signs and have their pictures displayed in the school's multipurpose room for the entire month. Congratulations Cool Cats!

Recent Cimino Cool Cats awarded in grades K through 2 were Morgan Slater, Bailey Lesperance, Kayln Byrd, Tiffany Ma, Alex Pulliam, Nicolas Mowery, Patrick Harris, Sofia Prophet, Allison Agolia, Luke Elton, David "Scott" Ingram, Hunter Horstman, Zachery Mazen McGuinness, Kyle Aebischer, Emily Sukloff, Lisa Kauffman, Zachery Carter and H. J. Fitchlett.



Photos courtesy Cimino Elementary School

Cool Cats in grades K through 2

Cool Cats in grades 3 through 5 were William Bramlett, John Kelly, Michelle Whitaker, Amanda

Santiago, Sean Brady, Courtney Wiggins, Kelsey Morris, Danny Paciella, Paul Snyder, Kristin Hawkins, Austin

Evans, Michael Butler, Jamil McGinnis, Zachery Field, Kayla Kochinski, Joe Musselman, and Caroline Cole.



Cool Cats in grades 3 through 5

Security

From page 17

The district web address is www.sdhc.k12.fl.us. For those who do not have access to the Internet, letters are sent home with students and are reprinted in the school's newsletter.

This may be a good time to set aside at-home procedures for collecting your child's papers from their backpacks.

I hope this information is helpful and reassuring.

Please do not hesitate to contact your school if you have any questions or concerns.

According to the FDLE, the most important thing for us to be right now is vigilant and aware of our surroundings.

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Bloomingtondale Golfers Club News

A Gazette Report

Bloomingtondale Golfers Club, located at 4113 Great Golfers Way in Bloomingtondale, was recently chosen to host a Florida State Amateur Qualifier. Gautam Patankar, general manager, said the course staff is honored that Bloomingtondale was among only 12 sites throughout the state chosen for the event.

"We recently had our annual corporate meeting in Dallas, and Bloomingtondale was honored by receiving the Most Improved Course/Comeback Course of the Year award," Patankar said.

In addition, Jerry Matthews, course superintendent, received the Superintendent of the Year award.

Patankar said the two awards show how much the course has improved.

He added, "And certainly, we'd like to thank the community for supporting the course and coming out to play."

Patankar said the club's



Bloomingtondale Golfers Club was recently chosen to host a Florida State Amateur Qualifier.

Photo courtesy Bloomingtondale Golfers Club

teaching schools have plenty of clinics available for juniors, women, and individual lessons.

For information about les-

sons with the Inner Circle of Golf School, call 685-4105.

A full Easter Breakfast spread open to the public will be held Sunday, April 20.

Those who attend the breakfast will receive a special Comeback Pass for golf.

For more information call 685-4105 or visit www.BloomingtondaleGolf.com.

Bloomingtondale Substation Notes

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER and OFFICER SANDY CAPITANO

The Bloomingtondale Community Substation, at 4342 Bell Shoals Road, near Beef O'Brady's restaurant in the Village Center Plaza, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Information: 635-8040. For immediate assistance, call the Sheriff's Dept. at 247-8200 or 911 for emergencies.

Prepare Home, Family Now

Our nation is at war. Hopefully you have prepared yourself, your family and your home for any terrorist incidents that may occur. This is serious business, folks. Just ask the people living in New York. If you

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MACK AUSTIN/Photo

The new traffic signals at the east entrance to Bloomingtondale High School have been installed. Thanks to Hillsborough County Traffic Engineering for a job well done. A reminder - traffic fines in school zones are doubled.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Restaurant Planned At Old Quik-Mart Site

The owners of this prime piece of property at the corner of Bloomingtondale Avenue and Lithia-Pinecrest Road, formerly the site of a Quik-Mart convenience store, plan to construct a restaurant at the busy intersection.

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haven't already, I strongly recommend that you take the time now to get your plans in order. Use the information about preparing for disasters in this issue of the Gazette. When any disaster strikes, natural or man-made, law enforcement and emergency resources will be stretched very thin. You must be prepared to help yourself and others.

Make A Fire Safety Plan

One area that is essential to prepare for is fire safety, no matter what the state of the world. Lives have been saved right here in our community because residents, including children, knew what to do. The plan is very simple. Purchase at least two ABC fire extinguishers and have your family learn how to use them. Have at least two smoke detectors installed in your home and check them monthly. Learn how to escape from a fire by using the drop and crawl system. For excellent info on fire safety in the home visit www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/public/safety.cfm

School Zone Speeders

Would you believe that over \$15,000 in speeding tickets were written in our community just last month? What made the total climb so high was the fact that most were written for speeding in school zones. The average ticket was \$330. One key factor is that speeding fines in school zones are automatically doubled. Besides the money, which I'm sure all of you could find something better to do with, it's just a matter of showing respect for the safety of others, so slow down.

No Parking Near Alafia

Folks, the "No Parking" signs around Alafia Elementary School were not installed for decorations. They are there to protect both lives and property. This is a very congested area and kids are everywhere. Cars and kids do not mix well. We also want the areas around our schools to look good, so stay off the grass. Deep tire ruts and busted water lines are no good. Please cooperate. It's your kids and your school.

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