

## FEATURE STORY



Alafia Elementary School welcomed new principal Ellyn Smith to the campus in March. Former Buckhorn principal Lou Cerreta stepped in at Cimino Elementary in February.

PAGE 11

## BUSINESS

Bloomington resident Jennifer Smilee invites her neighbors to indulge themselves at her new day spa.

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## BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

# An Open Letter To Bloomington Residents

By Ted Grable  
President, The Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc.

The Bloomington Homeowners Association will be launching its 2005 annual membership drive in April. Your voluntary membership dues are the only source of income for the BHA.



Ted Grable

Without your dues, our volunteers would not be able to accomplish our many community programs.

Without your support there would be no community Web site, no Bloomington Gazette, no Neighborhood Pride program or Neighborhood Improvement Program.

With your support the BHA can continue to work with our government officials to bring new programs and services to our area like the new Bloomington Regional Public Library, roadway and park improvements, a second elementary school and the Culbertson Recreation Center.

For the first time since 1992, the BHA Board of Directors is increasing the annual voluntary dues amount

### What BHA Dues Go Towards

Some of the programs and services provided by the BHA, all made possible by BHA volunteers and residents' membership dues, include:

- Neighborhood Improvement program
- Neighborhood PRIDE program
- Community Cleanup Days
- Neighborhood Name and Sign program
- Part-time staff at the community office
- Bloomington Community Security program
- The Bloomington Gazette, published monthly
- www.BloomingtonGazette.com, E-mail BHA News Alerts
- Yard of the Month program

See DUES, Page 15

from \$20 to \$25 per home. For the past 10 years, the community's growth has increased membership and revenue. This allowed the BHA to increase services and keep up with growth.

With Bloomington's residential development nearly complete, our new membership growth has slowed down.

Increasing the BHA membership dues by \$5 will allow the BHA to continue its great work for only 48 cents a week.

On behalf of the BHA Board of Directors, I'd like to thank you in

advance for your continued support of our non-profit, all-volunteer organization.

We welcome Bloomington residents to attend a monthly board meeting, held at 7 p.m. on the first Monday each month, to learn more about the BHA and consider becoming actively involved in our community.

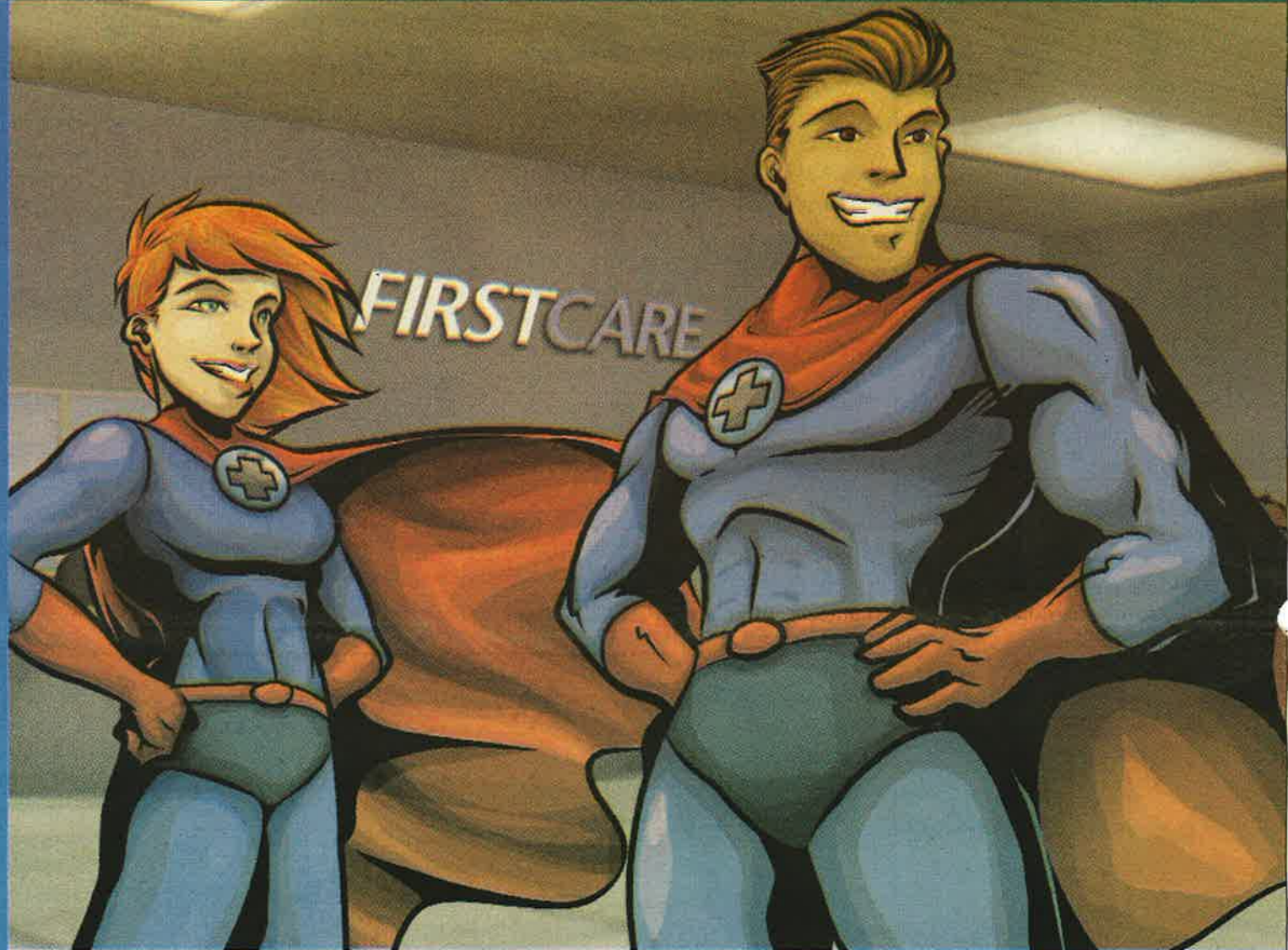
If you have any questions about the 2005 membership drive or about our community, please do not hesitate to contact us at 681-2051 or [bloomington.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomington.homeowners@verizon.net), or visit our community Web site at [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com).



### Party with a purpose

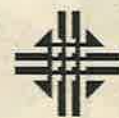
The Remnant Church held an Easter party at Bloomington West Park March 12. More than 35 local merchants and businesses contributed to the event, which raised \$1,000 for tsunami relief. See story, page 6.

# MIGHTY MEDS!



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## Dispose Of Household, Garage Junk For Free April 9

FREE COLLECTION SITE ON NATURES WAY

A Gazette Report

If household discards have taken over your garage, if you have to lean into your closet doors in order to close them, here's an opportunity to get rid of the junk without paying hauling and disposal fees or waiting in line at the dump.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, in cooperation with Hillsborough County, will hold a clean-up day April 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. BHA volunteers and county workers will accept household discards on Natures Way, at the park's maintenance facility just west of Alafia Elementary School. There is no charge for this service.

Acceptable items include appliances, mattresses, water heaters, televisions, steel and other metals, furniture, non-commercial construction debris and tires.

The Salvation Army will also be on hand to collect tax deductible donations of reusable items.

Some items cannot be accepted, such as yard waste and hazardous materials like

### Cleanup Volunteers Needed

A Gazette Report

More volunteers are needed for the BHA's Community Cleanup Day April 9 to staff the collection site and help residents unload their cars. High school students and Scouts can earn community service credits for assisting with this project. To help, contact Laura at 643-2990 or [laurafrazier@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:laurafrazier@tampabay.rr.com). The BHA is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization.

paint, batteries and propane tanks, and waste from commercial activities.

BHA volunteers offer to assist elderly or disabled residents who need help hauling items on cleanup day. Call the BHA office, 681-2051 before 11 a.m. on April 7 to schedule a pick-up.

For more information, call 681-2051 or e-mail [bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net)

## Residents Must Dispose Of Garbage Properly

A TIME, PLACE FOR ALL TYPES OF TRASH

By STEVE HECKEL  
BHA Board of Directors

We all need to get rid of our trash, but we don't want to have to look at it piled up along our street for very long either. Please remember there are local and county standards concerning the right day, time and place to dispose of all types of trash. Violations can lead to fines or other actions. Let's all work together to keep Bloomingdale looking as good as ever.

#### Pickup Days

In Bloomingdale, regular household trash is collected on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Recyclables are picked up on Tuesdays, and yard waste is collected on Fri-

days. Hillsborough County ordinances and neighborhood deed restrictions prescribe the following rules.

#### Regular household trash

All trash cans, bags and boxes must be stored out of sight from the street until 6 p.m. the evening before pickup day, and must be removed from the curb no later than 8 p.m. on the day of collection.

Each residence is allowed three 35 gallon cans per pick-up. If your trash is not in a trash can, then you must put it in a sealed bag to prevent animals from getting into it.

#### Yard waste

Most residents do their yard work on the weekends, but unfortunately yard waste pick up is not until Fridays. Never-

See TRASH, Page 15

## New Program Focuses On Neighborhood Security

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PATROLS

By STEVE HECKEL  
BHA Board of Directors

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is preparing to launch an all-volunteer security program to assist law enforcement officers patrolling our neighborhoods.

The Bloomingdale Community Security Program will be staffed by Bloomingdale residents willing to volunteer just a few hours each month. Volunteers will patrol our streets and report potential security problems to law enforcement officials and/or residents, depending on the problem.

The BHA will provide program supervision, training and all required equipment and supplies including cell phones, magnetic security signs for volunteers to place on their vehicles, roof warning lights and more.



Steve Heckel

The BHA Community Security Committee will provide coordination with Bloomingdale's community resource deputy, Pete Maurer, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

The new program is a modernized and enhanced version of the very successful, well supported and highly respected Bloomingdale Mobile Watch program, which oper-

ated for more than 15 years.

Community based security programs are a very effective deterrent to all types of crime, especially gang or drug related activities, vandalism, burglaries, theft, and vehicular speeding and reckless driving.

The ultimate goal would be to have vehicles patrolling 24/7. However, practically speaking, we are shooting for coverage during the peak problems hours, mainly evenings and nights.

Bloomingdale residents over the age of 20 who want to find out more about the program or who wish to volunteer can contact the BHA at 681-2051 or [bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net). Interested residents are also invited to attend a meeting of the Security Program committee, held 7 p.m. the third Thursday each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

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**BSTD MINUTES**

**Trustees Reviewed Financial Report, Awarded Painting Contract**

**1 RESIDENT ATTENDED LANDSCAPING MEETING**

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District's board of trustees is composed of eight Bloomingdale residents elected to the voluntary, non-paid board in the November 2004 general election.

The BSTD board hosts open meetings once a month to budget for and plan maintenance and improvements for the community's common areas. BSTD funds are allocated from the \$100 per residence special tax assessed annual on every homeowner's Hillsborough County property tax bill.

BSTD President Thom Snelling convened the board of trustees regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on March 14. All trustees were present. One guest signed in as an observer; no public comments were recorded. An abridged, edited version of the meeting minutes is as follows:

**President's Comments**

President Snelling informed the board a registered letter was received by the BSTD office from an attorney retained to represent a person who reported a trip and fall incident on Peachfield Drive. The attorney

requested insurance information, limits of liability and a statement of any policy or coverage within 30 days. Snelling immediately consulted with an attorney of his acquaintance to review the matter. Snelling's attorney determined the taxing district has no responsibility to maintain sidewalks within interior subdivisions. Accordingly, there is no insurance coverage in place which would apply to the attorney's claim. Snelling made a formal reply to the complainant's attorney.

**Financial Report**

Vince Ferraro of Ferraro, Higginbotham & Hayes presented the financial reports for February 2005. The balance sheet for February shows cash on hand in AmSouth Bank at the end of the month was \$477,604.65. A motion was made by trustee West to approve the February financial report, seconded by trustee Jones; the motion was approved unanimously. Accounts and expenditure comments are as follows:

**Property Manager's Report**

Property Manager Al Devney reported February activities including: the walls on Natures Way from Callista to Oak River were pressure

See MINUTES, Page 15

**2005 Wall Painting Contract Bids**

Company	Valid Package	Required Items			Bid Price		
		Ins.	License	Refr.	Item A	Item B	Item C
United Painting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3.05	\$1.65	\$8.70
West Florida Mtc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3.60	\$1.90	\$5.50
Phoenix	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$4.99	\$2.99	\$5.00
Olympic	No	Yes	No*	Yes	\$3.55	\$1.89	\$2.00

\* Did not have a Hillsborough County Occupation License; only provided Pinellas County License

AMANDA TOMAINI/Graphic

**Feb. 2005 Financial Report Account Status**

Account Number	Description	Year To Date	Annual Budget	Description
301363	Special Assessment	\$461,863	\$478,000	Looks good
304511	Insurance	\$1,026	\$600	Over, some of this could be security bond coded wrong
304671	Repairs: Accident Sites	\$3,855	\$1,000	Over, two accidents waiting on reimbursement
3046.81	Parts: Supplies Irrigation	\$2,000	\$1,252	None
606340	Irrigation	\$0	\$70,005	Under construction, should see charges within 30 days

AMANDA TOMAINI/Graphic

**PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**AL DEVNEY HAD \$10.21 WINDFALL IN MARCH**

A Gazette Report

In addition to overseeing the maintenance of Bloomingdale's entryways, landscaping, irrigation and common areas, Bloomingdale's Special Taxing District Manager, Al Devney, finds some interesting items each month on his quest to keep our neighborhoods free of

trash and debris.

Al's roadside finds in the month of March included 19 bags of litter, one pair of men's shorts, one pair of shower shoes, a throw rug, training pants, a dog bone, three socks, a men's sweater and \$10.21.

The beverages of choice were Diet Coke for soft drinks, Budweiser for beer, and Gordon's Extra Smooth Vodka for distilled spirits.

To report community property problems, call Devney at 684-6667 or e-mail bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net.

**Your Inside Connections**

**The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.**

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
 Phone: 681-2051 Fax: 684-2358  
 E-mail: [Bloomington.Homeowners@Verizon.net](mailto:Bloomington.Homeowners@Verizon.net)  
 Web Site: [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com)  
 BHA meetings are at the community office on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

**President:** Ted Grable **Vice President:** Joe Hickle  
**Treasurer:** Pam Liguori **Director:** Tony Diolosa  
**Director:** Lydia Harrod **Director:** Steve Heckel  
**Director:** Dale Kahn **Director:** Jane Lee  
**Director:** Stanley Lee **Director:** Myron Magedanz  
**Director:** Ken Pyse

**Bloomington Special Taxing District**

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
 Phone: 684-6667  
 BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

**President:** Thom Snelling  
**Vice President:** Russell Jones  
**Treasurer:** David West  
**Correspondence Secretary:** Paul Sims

**Recording Secretary:** Michael Buday  
**Trustee:** David Steck  
**Trustee:** Joe Harless  
**Property Manager:** Al Devney

**Bloomington Mobile Watch**

**Coordinator/Equipment Manager:** Tony Diolosa, 681-1146  
**Treasurer:** Paul Kelmer  
**Patrol Member:** Steven Heckel  
**Patrol Member:** Brad Scharp  
**Patrol Member:** Paul Warr



Wireless provider for Bloomington Mobile Watch

**Bloomington Oaks Special Taxing District**

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132  
 Phone: 685-2817

BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the second 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  
 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
 (813) 681-2051  
 Fax: (813) 684-2358  
 E-Mail: [info@bloomingtongazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtongazette.com)

**Executive Director** — Joe Liguori  
**Editor** — Laura Frazier  
**Correspondent** — Mack Austin  
**Correspondent** — Leslie White  
**Restaurant Critic** — Elton Dumont

Published by **Sunbelt Newspapers**  
 505 W. Robertson, Brandon, FL 33511  
 Phone: (813) 657-4500

The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomingdale residents along with The Tampa Tribune on the first Saturday of each month.

**Publisher** — Carla Floyd  
**Advertising Manager** — Tami Donaldson  
 Phone: 627-1322; E-mail: [tdonaldson@tampatrib.com](mailto:tdonaldson@tampatrib.com)

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# Smile Your Headache is Gone!

By Jackie Rowe

Rebecca was used to going to the dentist. She was apparently born with naturally bad teeth and had seen many dentists throughout her childhood and adulthood. Her mouth was full of fillings and crowns. The problem was the crowns kept breaking off; sometimes they only lasted a few months. She was also beginning to experience so much pain in her teeth that she went from eating primarily on just one side of her mouth to eating almost exclusively soft foods only.

So when Rebecca decided to shop around for a new dentist in Brandon, she knew she would hate the process. Not only did she already dislike going to the dentist, but also Rebecca was a nurse practitioner by trade and knew a little something about quality healthcare. She would know very quickly whether she would ever return to the dentist she chose.

To make a long story short: a friend referred her to Scott Arnold, D.M.D. and she made an appointment for a cleaning only. She wanted to see if she would like the office and the dentist. Turns out she loved the office, the staff was phenomenally attentive and the doctor impressed her greatly.

Rebecca told the team member that took her history about all of her crowns and fillings, but what the doctor told her af-

ter the exam and cleaning was what really changed her life.

He told her what no one else had: that her bite alignment was unbalanced and incredibly out of sync, causing her to break her teeth and crowns. Additionally, she was grinding and clenching her teeth until teeth, jaw and headache pain set in.

"Dr. Arnold presented me with options for treatment that I had never heard before. He was able to show me exactly why this was happening to me and how he could fix it," said Rebecca. "It seems that everyone else had been fixing the bits and pieces of the breakage caused by the problem, but no one had actually been fixing the problem!"

Dr. Arnold graduated from one of the world's most prestigious post-graduate dental teaching centers, the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies.

"When the jaw and teeth are misaligned, tremendous stress develops in the jaw, head and neck muscles," explained Dr. Arnold. "This stress results in pain of the jaw, head, neck and back. It may start as minor pain, but as teeth are worn down by grinding or the misalignment worsens with time, the pain can become quite unbearable."

He continued, "Many people never associate their headaches, neck or back pain with their teeth or jaw, but it is actually very common. Many of our cosmetic



patients tell us that an added benefit to their fantastic new smile is the relief of pain they didn't know was caused by their bite misalignment. Conversely, when

we treat a patient for pain the added value is a wonderful and beautiful smile."

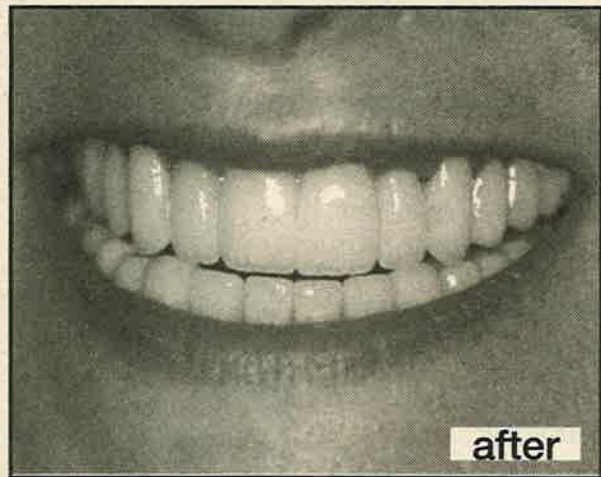
Rebecca accepted one of several treatment plans Dr. Arnold had laid out for her. "I felt very confident in his abilities," she said. "Today, my smile is awesome! Every time I look in the mirror and see my straight, white teeth I give thanks to Dr. Arnold and his dream team. The frequency of my migraines is much improved and tooth pain is gone. I can eat whatever I want and my teeth feel completely natural. I feel very fortunate to have found Arnold Dentistry. They have changed my smile and my life forever."

*Dr. Arnold takes great pride in delivering personalized care to his clients, utilizing the newest technology to deliver the highest quality. For more information please call (813) 689-1529.*

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# Church Hosts Easter Party, Tsunami Relief Effort

## GROUP RAISED FUNDS TO BUILD HOUSE

A Gazette Report

The Remnant Church held an Easter party, open to the public, at Bloomingdale West Park March 12. More than 35 local merchants and businesses contributed to the event, which raised \$1,000 to build a house in tsunami-ravaged Asia.

Church member Linda Green said the group will continue its fundraising efforts.

"It will cost \$4,000 to build the home, so we are still taking and sending donations."

Local Winn-Dixie and Kash n' Karry stores provided gift certificates to purchase food for the event.

The Bloomingdale Valrico Fire Department gave children tours of Engine 7, and youth band Acacia provided free entertainment.

In addition to a raffle and silent auction held at the event, the group sold cupcakes, candy and drinks to raise money.

The Rev. Imina Nosamiefan invites Bloomingdale residents to attend Remnant Church services, 10:30 a.m. Sundays, at the park. Information: (727) 541-2003.



Photo Courtesy of The Remnant Church

Dozens of children and families attended an Easter party and tsunami relief fundraiser at Bloomingdale West Park March 12 sponsored by The Remnant Church.

## Kids Can Set Designs On Bookmark

### WINNING ENTRIES PRINTED, DISTRIBUTED

A Gazette Report

A bookmark design contest open to students from kinder-

garten to eighth grade will be held at the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library this month. The contest is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

A panel of judges will select

one or more entries to be printed and distributed at the Bloomingdale branch.

Entries must be turned in at the library by April 15. Entry forms are available at the library. Information: 635-1644.

## Library Friends Plan Hands-On Display

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER

A Gazette Report

The Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library are planning a Children's Activity Center at the new branch on Bloomingdale Avenue.

Friends president Pat Boody said the center, designed for children 18 months and up, will

feature five different activity panels to encourage color recognition, hand-eye coordination and counting. The hands-on display will be installed in the children's room.

The group is currently raising funds for the \$400 display. A used book sale will be held at the library May 21 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Hardcover books will sell for

\$1 and paperbacks for 50 cents.

Since the branch opened in February, the friends group has purchased shopping baskets for library patrons, a coffee pot and punch bowl for the meeting room and a microwave oven and refrigerator for the staff break room.

Information: Boody, 275-3642 or pwboody@tecoenergy.com.



Photo courtesy Brandon MOMS Club

## MOMS Bake Sale To Aid Tsunami Victims

The MOMS Club of Brandon recently held a bake sale to benefit the International Red Cross. The sale, held at Starbucks on Lithia-Pinecrest Road, raised \$230 for Asia's tsunami victims. MOMS is an acronym for Moms Offering Moms Support. The nonprofit club provides a forum for topics of interest to women, gives mothers a voice in the community, performs service projects and has fun with their children. For information about the Brandon MOMS Club, call Kerri Pepe at 681-1089 or kpepe3937@yahoo.com. For information about the MOMS Club of Valrico/Bloomingdale, call Kelly Miller at 571-5934 or kellym7@tampabay.rr.com.

## Arley Place Residents Wins DVD Player

The winners of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's March 7 raffle were Lynne and Paul Walther of Arley Place. The Walthers won a DVD player, courtesy of the BHA. Bloomingdale resident Linda Gordon drew the winning name from more than 700 e-mail addresses registered on the community's Web site, [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com). All residents who register their e-mail address on the site are automatically entered in BHA drawings and receive BHA News Alerts by e-mail. Registration is free; no information other than your e-mail address is requested. Subsequent drawings will be an-



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

nounced on the Web site and in an upcoming issue of The Bloomingdale Gazette. The Gazette is delivered free to all Bloomingdale residents along with a complimentary copy of The Tampa Tribune on the first Saturday of each month.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594 or e-mail [laurafrazier@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:laurafrazier@tampabay.rr.com). Letters will appear on a space available basis and may be edited for content and clarity.

### Carrie Wood B-Ball Hoop Throws Drivers A Curveball

Is there any rule against putting basketball hoops right next to the street? The kids have to stand in the street to play with them. There is one on Carrie Wood Drive that is near the curve in the road. You can't see the kids playing in the street until you drive around the curve. This is an accident waiting to happen.

-A Stratford Trace resident

According to Bloomingdale Deputy Pete Maurer, as

long as the hoops are the temporary kind — the type that roll or are otherwise movable — it is legal for residents to place them on the shoulder of the road or in front of their own home in the public right-of-way (the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street). Temporary hoops may not be placed on or otherwise block the sidewalk, and cannot be placed directly on the street.

Permanent hoops — those dug into the ground — may only be installed on private property, and are not permitted on the sidewalk or right-of-way. Although children are certainly permitted to play in the street, the hoops themselves cannot be placed directly on the road.

-Editor

### Special Olympics Needs Support, Volunteers

April is Mental Retardation Awareness

See LETTERS, Page 14

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## SUBSTATION NOTES

# Let Us Honor Jessica's Memory

BE INFORMED,  
VIGILANT

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER  
Bloomingtondale Community  
Resource Deputy

We couldn't believe it when someone recently told us it has been almost a year since a young girl named Carly was abducted and murdered in Sarasota County. This month we all followed the news hoping and praying for the safe return of another precious young girl named Jessica living just north of us in Citrus County.

Sadly, the long hours of waiting and wondering ended last week with the arrest of the man who confessed to the senseless abduction and murder of another innocent young girl. Her young body was found a short distance from her own home.

We are addressing this tragedy in our monthly news to the Bloomingtondale area because there is a very real, hard fact of life that we all must face. There are evil people in this world who will harm our most precious possessions — our children.

We in law enforcement come face to face with them more than we would really like to.

What I feel I must ask each and every parent reading this article now is, "Have you taken the time to sit down and carefully explain to your children, boys and girls, how important it is to be aware of their surroundings, to be cautious of strangers and what to do if someone tries to harm or abduct them?"

See SUBSTATION, Page 14

## BACC REPORT

## Gee Promotes Community Involvement

WEB SITE OUTLINES  
POLICY, OPERATIONS  
CHANGES

By MACKAUSTIN  
Correspondent

The following items were discussed at the March meeting of The Bloomingtondale Area Community Council:

### Sheriff Gee Directs Changes

New law enforcement programs under the direction of Sheriff David Gee are being implemented to improve safety and security in Hillsborough County.

To view the 2005-07 Strategic Operations Plan and 180-Day Plan, log on to [www.hcso.tampa.fl.us](http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us). Both plans contain detailed information about ongoing changes in sheriff's office policies, operations and organizational structure.

The changes include the promotion of increased community involvement to improve

public safety.

[dalegazette.com](http://dalegazette.com).

### Burglary Cases Solved

Bloomingtondale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer noted that several local burglaries have been solved thanks to the outstanding efforts of detectives, and increased support and cooperation from residents. Maurer encouraged all residents to continue to be vigilant and to report suspicious activities.

### Parking Lots Aren't Shortcuts

Several residents who travel south on Bell Shoals Road and then turn west on Boyette Road have been seen cutting through the parking lot of the old Eckerd's drug store. This area is now being patrolled and citations will be issued. Illegal dumping is also being monitored in this area and fines will be charged.

### Public Bus Routes Under Review

Several council members, led by new member Gobin Norbert, are working directly with HARTline representatives to improve bus transportation for Bloomingtondale area residents, particularly those traveling to and from MacDill Airforce Base. Public hearings will be held to allow residents to review the proposed restructuring of HARTline services. Hearings will be announced in local papers and on [www.bloomingtondale.com](http://www.bloomingtondale.com).

### No Warnings For Motorized Scooter Use

The sheriff's office has implemented a no warning policy that will result in serious charges and big fines for violators caught using motorized scooters or bikes on any public road or sidewalk. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has produced a special brochure that clearly explains the legal details. Copies are available at the Bloomingtondale Substation on Bell Shoals Road.

# DIAGNOSTIC DYNAMO!



Heart disease can't hide anymore thanks to the diagnostic superpowers of the new GE LightSpeed 16 multi-slice CT Scanner. A new test called CT Heart Score provides a very reliable picture of calcium deposits in arteries, a condition that can lead to a heart attack. Call us for more information or ask your physician, today.

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- ★ Cardiovascular studies
- ★ Coronary artery calcification measurements

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\* Not covered by insurance. Prescription required.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Michael Gottesman, former owner of A.J. Barnes Bicycle Emporium, stands behind new owners of the renamed AJ's Bikes and Boards, from the left, David Decker, Heather Hartman, and Gottesman's son, Darrin Rutledge. The shop moved in January to Bloomingdale Professional Plaza, just west of Bloomingdale High School.

## High Tech Bike Store Switches Gears

NEW LOCATION,  
OWNERS

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Correspondent

Why did the bicycle store cross the road? To set up shop in a more visible location with room to grow, said the owners

of AJ's Bikes and Boards on Bloomingdale Avenue.

The high-tech bicycle shop, formerly A. J. Barnes Bicycle Emporium, moved in January to its new location just down the road and across the street from its previous digs in Bloomingdale Square.

A change in ownership coincided with the store's move to Bloomingdale Professional Plaza, next to Bloomingdale High School.

Valrico resident Michael Gottesman ran the shop in Bloomingdale Square for 10

See BIKE, Page 14

## Decorator Offers Room Makeovers

DON'T REPLACE  
BIG TICKET ITEMS

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

In the past, redecorating was costly, time consuming and displaced the family for an untold amount of time. Paige Pearson of Paige One Creations said it doesn't have to be that way anymore.

Pearson, who lives in Southoak off Bell Shoals Road, has always had a love of decorating. After a 2003 job downsizing, she found the opportunity to pursue it full time.

Her concept is based on reconfiguring existing furnishings and displaying artwork and existing collections more effectively.

"People fill their homes with things they love, but not everyone knows what to do with what they have. I take peoples' treasures and bring new life to them. I help my client realize the possibilities available with what they

already own," she said.

The key is a fresh eye. "People are just used to seeing things where they are, but I see their belongings with fresh eyes."

Pearson meets with clients in their home to assess their style and take a look at what they have to work with.

The first step is removing everything from the room giving her the proverbial blank canvas to work from. She pulls items from other rooms in the house to change the look and mood of the room.

Pearson shops for accessories at the client's request presenting them with options to suit their decorating needs and their budget.

"I get discounts the average consumer can't," she said.

Consultations are \$50 applicable to the redecorating fee of \$75 per hour.

Pearson works closely with Realtors and homeowners to maximize the selling appeal of a home ready to hit the market.

See ROOM, Page 14

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B L O O M I N G D A L E B U S I N E S S N E W S

# Moms Have Flair For Cooking, Etiquette

## KIDS LEARN COOKING, TABLE MANNERS

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

If you find yourself in need of a little reinforcement when it comes to kids and table manners, one group of Bloomingdale moms is ready to help.

In addition to the regular "Cooking With Flair" classes they teach, they now offer sessions that incorporate table manners into the mix.

The group put together a five-week course on how to prepare and serve a formal dinner, including proper table settings and serving techniques. The session ends with students hosting a formal sit down dinner for their moms. The prepare and serve their mothers a four-course dinner while displaying their newly acquired dinner etiquette.

Spring classes begin April 6 and run through May 4 from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Private classes are available upon request. The also offer summer cooking



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Bloomingle residents Robin Carney, Tiffany Howard and Tammie Sassor offer cooking and dinner etiquette classes for kids.

camp and birthday parties. During summer camps, young chefs will be a part of "Eat Your Way Around the World", a culinary excursion featuring a

different country each class, with the menu changing each week. Class sizes are limited.

To reserve a spot, call 662-1629.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Bloomingle resident Jennifer Smilee has opened Indulgence Day Spa on Kings Avenue, just south of Lumsden Boulevard.

# Spa Offers Relaxation, Beauty Services

## MANICURES TO MASSAGES

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Bloomingle resident Jennifer Smilee invites her neighbors to indulge themselves in an hour — or a whole day — of relaxation and pampering beauty services.

Smilee opened Indul-

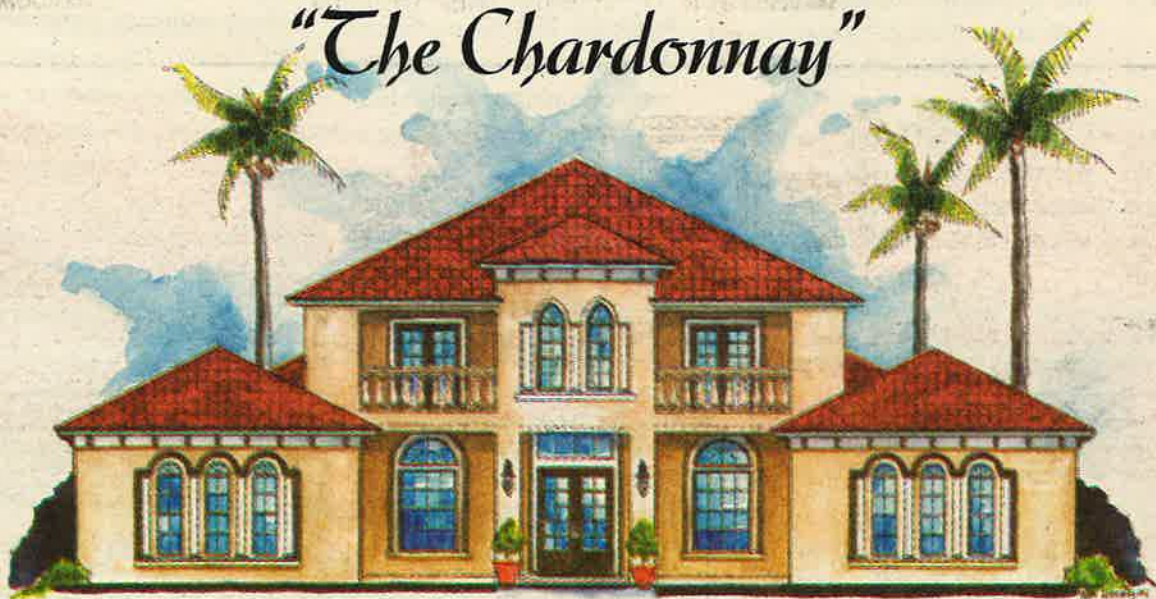
gence Day Spa on Kings Avenue, just south Lumsden Boulevard, and Kings Avenue, in January.

A licensed physical therapist, Smilee and her staff offer a wide range of spa services from luxurious manicures and facials to therapeutic massages and hydrotherapy tub soaks.

See SPA, Page 15

**ON OUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE:** See upcoming community event listings at [www.bloominglegazette.com](http://www.bloominglegazette.com)

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B L O O M I N G D A L E P U B L I C H E A L T H A N D S A F E T Y



MACKAUSTIN/Photo

Rodney Hardway with Hillsborough County Public Works prepares to set out bait as part of the county's program to control rabies in the raccoon population. Hardway cautions residents to be very careful around the animals.

## Raccoons Are Cute, Sometimes Dangerous

### COUNTY DROPPED RABIES BAIT

By MACKAUSTIN Correspondent

Many Bloomingdale residents enjoy living near our community's many wooded conservation areas. The natural settings are home to many types of wildlife. The critters can be cute and fun to observe, but their presence in our neighborhoods poses some serious health and safety concerns.

Representatives of Hillsborough County's Public Works section said the raccoons that

roam freely around our neighborhoods as they hunt for food and pilfer through trashcans present a very real danger to people and pets. They are a major carrier of rabies.

Rabies is one of the oldest known viral diseases. When it affects the central nervous system of unvaccinated animals, it is invariably fatal.

Controlling the spread of rabies requires a joint effort between residents and county officials. Homeowners can do their part by not feeding the raccoons. It is tempting but can be very dangerous. Raccoons learn quickly where they can

find food and will return to these locations, putting neighborhood pets at risk of exposure.

The Hillsborough County Health Department and Animal Services are currently working with state and federal agriculture officials to distribute special bait containing an oral rabies vaccine across the county, including the Bloomingdale area.

The bait is small, hollow polymer cubes made of fish meal with the rabies vaccine inserted in the middle and then

See RACCOON, Page 14

## Nurse Assistant Training Offered In Brandon

### CAN HELP FAMILY CARETAKERS

A Gazette Report

The American Red Cross Nurse Assistant Training program is a good first step for adults interested in a health-care career, and more.

In addition to preparing students to become Certified Nursing Assistants, the program provides training for those who are or may become the primary caretaker of a family member who requires constant medical care.

Course topics include adult CPR, first aid, HIV/AIDS and Alzheimer's care.

The program involves 108 hours of classroom learning and 27 hours of clinic training.

The lab setting is a small hospital ward with beds, wheelchairs and other medical equipment. Students practice moving patients from beds to wheelchairs, give sponge baths and provide other essential health care services.

Classes are held in Brandon at the Red Cross office, 410 Ware Blvd. off State Road 60. Evening and Saturday classes are available.

For more information, call Peggy Kirk at 367-2832 or log on to [www.redcrossbtbc.org](http://www.redcrossbtbc.org).

## Coast Guard Offers Safe Boating Course

### HELD IN SOUTH BRANDON

By MACKAUSTIN Correspondent

Ahoy, all Bloomingdale boaters!

During the first week of April the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct two very important boating classes at a location convenient to Bloomingdale residents: Immanuel Lutheran Church at 2913 S. John Moore Road.

America's Boating Course will be held April 9 and May 14

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuition is \$40, and \$35 for each additional family member.

Basic and Advanced Coastal Navigation will be held Thursday evenings April 7 through June 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuition is \$85.

Many insurance companies offer discounts upon completion of these courses, so remember to ask for your Safe Boating Card for verification purposes. For more information, call the Coast Guard Auxiliary at 645-1306 or [fso-pe@cgaux74.org](mailto:fso-pe@cgaux74.org).

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B L O O M I N G D A L E S C H O O L S



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Lou Cerreta, former principal of Buckhorn Elementary School, was reassigned to Cimino Elementary School.

## Cimino Elementary Welcomes 'Mr. C'

### FORMER BUCKHORN PRINCIPAL

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

Cimino Elementary School students won't have to be sent to the principal's office to meet the school's new leader.

Chances are they'll see their new principal often, in the hallways between classes or sitting down to lunch with students in the cafeteria.

Lou Cerreta, former Buckhorn Elementary principal and

Gorrie Elementary assistant principal, began his tenure at Cimino in February by visiting each classroom and getting to know the students.

"I enjoy spending time with them and letting them ask questions. What I really like is to eat lunch with the children. It's a non-structured environment and allows me to get to know them," he said.

Cerreta also likes to be out on the sidewalks during transition periods to have a chance to speak to the children.

He received a warm wel-

come at the school. Students made cards and pictures for him, and several of the second grade classes created a Valentine's Day tree with personalized greetings for the principal.

"I've received a very, very warm welcome," he said.

Cerreta plans to continue the vision established by Sandra Frost, the school's founding principal. Frost died in October after a year-long bout with cancer. Assistant principal Deborah Talley served for four

See CERRETA, Page 12



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Alafia Elementary welcomed its new principal, Ellyn Smith, to the campus in March.

## Mrs. Smith Goes To Alafia

### PRINCIPAL LIVES IN BLOOMINGDALE

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

Alafia Elementary welcomed its new principal, Ellyn Smith, to the campus on Monday, March 14.

Smith came to Alafia from Seffner Elementary, where she served as principal for

seven years. Prior to her appointment at Seffner, she was the Hillsborough County School District's Elementary School Science Supervisor.

Smith did her principal internship at Lithia Springs Elementary from 1995 to 1997.

She and her husband, Ashley — Bloomingdale resi-

See SMITH, Page 12

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# Community Concert At High School Today

## EVENT PROMOTES MUSIC APPRECIATION

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Correspondent

SuLing Chau said the best part of being a music teacher is the opportunity to share her love of music with her students.

The Bloomingdale High School orchestra director hopes to convey that affection to an even broader audience this weekend by staging a community concert at the school, open to the public.

The Bloomingdale Orchestra Community Concert will be held April 2 at the school.

Chau hopes the community will embrace the event as an introduction to music and the way it can bridge gaps between people from all walks of life.

"Our goal with this concert is to educate the general public — and young children in particular — about the exciting world of orchestral music."

Chau would like to see the concert become an annual event to benefit Bloomingdale's orchestra booster club.

"The boosters club makes it possible to repair and purchase instruments, buy new sheet music and hire professional musicians to come and work



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Bloomingdale High Orchestra director SuLing Chau directs the Symphony Orchestra at the school last week. The group will hold an "infotainment" concert.

with the students."

The program, Chau said, is more of an "informance" than a performance. "Before the concert we will have several pre-show activities to provide hands-on musical experiences geared towards elementary school children," she said.

The theme of the program is "Heroes." The orchestra will perform patriotic favorites and

pieces culled from famous movies and operas.

Orchestra booster club member Denise Plichta said the pre-show event will have a carnival-like atmosphere geared towards young children.

"We will have a variety of activities that appeal to kids, like an instrument petting zoo, face painting and balloon animals," Plichta said.

Chau studied violin at the University of Central Florida and has performed with the Orlando Philharmonic, Brevard Symphony and Walt Disney World Entertainment.

"Playing the violin has given me many opportunities to perform all over the world."

Music, Chau said, is a universal language. "I want to share with our community how

music makes it possible to transcend the language barrier."

The event will be held Saturday, April 2. Pre-show activities begin at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. The concert starts in the auditorium at 11 a.m. Tickets for pre-show events are 25 cents each; most activities require two tickets. Concert admission is \$1 per person. Information: 744-8018, Ext. 263.

## High School To Host Yard Sale

### TO BENEFIT SOPHOMORE CLASS

A Gazette Report

A yard sale will be held at Bloomingdale High School April 30 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. to benefit the 2005 sophomore class.

Typical garage sale items will be offered including clothing, household items, toys and games, knick knacks, books and more. For information, or to donate items for the sale, contact sophomore steering vice president Sarah Paquin at 569-1033.

## SMITH

Continued From Page 11

dents for the past 23 years — are very familiar with the school and the community.

On her first two days at Alafia, Smith said, "I was able to make it to every classroom. It was great to get to spend time in every class. The children helped me learn my way around."

The alligator belt buckle Smith wore in honor of the school mascot got a lot of attention from the students.

"They liked the fact that I had an alligator," Smith said.

Having lived in the community for over two decades, Smith finds herself familiar with many of the families

whose children attend Alafia.

"I'm fortunate to know some of the PTA board members as neighbors," she said.

Smith plans first to observe the routines and procedures at Alafia to assess what's working best. She'll ask for input from her new staff as the current school year wraps up and then

make plans to head into the next.

Smith's husband, Ashley, a retired school administrator, ran for the District 62 House of Representatives seat last fall. Despite an unsuccessful first attempt, he is encouraged to run again. Smith is supportive. "I think it'd be wonderful."

## CERRETA

Continued From Page 11

months as the school's interim principal.

"Now is a time for me to truly observe," he said.

"It's a time for me to get to know the community, teachers, faculty and staff as we head into next year."

Cerreta said he has an open-door policy. "Parents are welcome to catch me when-

ever they see me, or schedule an appointment. I want to be accessible."

The principal promises to return all phone calls daily, well into the evening.

"My day doesn't end when school is out," he said.

Kelly Dorsett, the parent of a Buckhorn Elementary School student, said of Cerre-

ta, "He has so much energy and is a go-getter. Within a couple of times of meeting your kids, he can call them by name. We're really going to miss "Mr. C." Cimino's getting a great principal."

Cerreta and his wife live in Lutz. They have three sons: Christopher, 9, Matthew, 7, and Danny, 3.



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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

# BHA Wants Residents' Comments On Rezoning Request

## BIG-BOX STORE PROPOSED

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Inc. is asking residents to comment on a developer's rezoning request to allow the construction of a major retail store on Bloomingtondale Avenue, east of Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

More than 150 Buckhorn area residents — many whose homes border the north side of the land along Miller Road — have organized to oppose the project. The group is concerned about increased traffic on Bloomingtondale Avenue, Miller Road and Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

They also expressed concerns about drainage. The site is across the street

from Hillgrove Road where homeowners are experiencing major flooding problems following the construction of the Publix at the corner of Bloomingtondale and Lithia-Pinecrest.

The BHA board of directors, at its March meeting, said they want to hear from Bloomingtondale residents about the proposed development.

To date, Bloomingtondale residents have not attended in force public meetings about the proposed development. Despite newspaper and Web site reports of the proposal, and several discussions about the issue at BHA meetings, the homeowners association and The Bloomingtondale Gazette have not received correspondence or phone calls from residents in opposition — or support — of

the proposed project.

"We'd like to hear from our residents, how they feel about the proposed development, and what their concerns are," said Joe Hickle, BHA vice president.

Hickle said it's important to note that the property is already approved for a 165,000-square-foot retail plaza with smaller stores, which some say could pose bigger problems than a single retail store would. "Regardless of what is approved for the site, the BHA will continue to monitor and be involved in the process," Hickle said.

The direction the board takes and its level of involvement could hinge on the interests and opinions expressed by Bloomingtondale residents.

The developer has not yet named a

potential tenant but said it could be anything from a Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse to a Kohl's, comparable in size to the Wal-Mart on Bloomingtondale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road.

The big-box retail proposal is scheduled to go before the Hillsborough County Commission on April 12.

The issue will be addressed at the April meeting of the BHA board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, April 4 at the Bloomingtondale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. The meeting is open to the public.

Send comments to [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com) or call Laura at 643-2990.

D'Ann White contributed to this report

# County Requires All Landlords To Register Rental Properties

## MUST PASS ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

A new Hillsborough County ordinance requires all landlords to register the rental properties they lease out, and to pass an annual housing inspection.

The law applies to all rental properties, including single-family homes, duplexes, apartments and condominiums. New properties constructed less than five years ago are exempt from the ordinance.

Melanie Hickey, manager of the Rental Housing Inspection

Ordinance, said the law was needed to help hone in on some of the most egregious violators of county codes and minimum housing standards — rental property owners.

When the ordinance was passed in June 2004, there were just 3,500 rental units registered with the county. By the time the law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2005, 7,600 units were identified. Hickey estimates there are still at least 160,000 unregistered properties, a number she expects to grow as more rental units are identified.

The rental property database Hickey and her staff of two clerical aides are compiling is

the backbone of the program. Before the new ordinance was drafted, no such database existed.

"We are identifying rentals by combing through the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's records for owners with out of state addresses, and those who do not claim the homestead exemption," Hickey said.

The staff also searches newspaper and online "for rent" ads for contact information.

The county sends up to 200 letters a week to property owners asking them to register their rentals and call in for an inspection within 30 days. Registered

properties are subject to an initial inspection and are checked annually thereafter.

The properties are inspected inside and out for county code and ordinance compliance to meet structural, health and safety standards.

The most common interior violation reported is exposed electrical wires.

"Almost every unit we've inspected has had some sort of exposed wiring," Hickey said, a violation of codes requiring all wiring less than 8 feet from the ground to be encased in conduit.

"It is very common for us to find exposed wiring around

water heaters, air conditioners inside and out, breaker boxes, even garbage disposals."

Common exterior violations include water damage, broken or cracked windows, accumulated trash, junk or debris, and roof rot.

Owners who do not register and/or permit inspections of their rental within the required time frame could have a lien placed on their property.

For information about the ordinance, to register your rental property, or to report one that may have violations, contact Hickey at 274-6651 or [hickeym@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:hickeym@hillsboroughcounty.org).

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## RACCOON

Continued From Page 10

sealed with wax. The cubes are attractive to raccoons and strong enough to be distributed by air from airplanes flying at altitudes of 500 feet. When a raccoon finds the bait and bites into it, the sachet ruptures, allowing the vaccine to flow into the animal's mouth. The raccoon then becomes vaccinated against rabies.

The bait has an awful smell, but is harmless if consumed by

a dog or other animal. Reactions to the vaccine could develop, so people who find the baits around their homes are advised to pick it up with gloves and toss it into a wooded area or the trash.

If a person or pet is attacked or bitten by another animal, call the county's Animal Services Department at 774-5660. They will trap and test the animal for rabies.

For information on the vaccine, call the Health Department at 307-8059.

## ROOM

Continued From Page 8

ket. Her husband, Chip, runs a branch of the business they call "Hang Ups," a mobile frame shop that comes to the home

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For information, call Pearson at 503-8125.

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## BIKE

Continued From Page 8

years. The store specializes in sales and service of all types of bicycles, from modestly priced family and recreational models to high-end customized boutique bikes.

Although the shop changed hands, its loyal customers — many of them members of local mountain biking groups — may be glad to know the business is staying in the family.

Gottesman sold the shop to his son, Darrin Rutledge, and Rutledge's friends and business partners, Heather Hartman and David Decker.

Gottesman said "the kids" have been running the store in effect for the past three years as he segued into a full-time career in commercial lending at Valrico State Bank.

The new owners plan to carry on Gottesman's successful concept of providing high quality bicycles, accessories and maintenance services to cyclists of all skill levels.

The difference between buy-

ing a bike at a department store and getting one at a specialty shop, Rutledge said, is a ride that's easier, safer and more enjoyable.

"The average guy who comes home from work and wants to bike a few miles around the neighborhood wants an easy, comfortable ride, and you're just not going to find that at a department store," Rutledge said.

"We see so many people riding on the side of the roads that are all hunched over on their bikes and really struggling to ride. They get frustrated and the bike winds up abandoned in a corner of the garage, and that's just not necessary."

The shop has a full service department that offers complimentary custom fitting and adjustments for all bikes purchased at the store, and a free tune up within one year of sale. Special service and maintenance deals are offered for any bicycle, regardless of where it

was purchased.

An expanded line of skateboards debuted at the new shop, along with a full line of boarding and cycling accessories.

The new owners are among more than 400 members of the SWAMP Club — the Southwest Association of Mountain Bike Peddlers.

The group meets at the Alafia State Park and Boyette Scrub Park trails weekly. Rutledge invites cyclists of all skill levels to visit the group's Web site, www.swampclub.org, for more information.

"It's a great group of singles and families from all walks of life and all skill levels who get together to ride two of the best bike trails in the state," he said.

AJ's Bikes and Boards is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 685-2453.

## SUBSTATION

Continued From Page 7

If you answered yes, I congratulate you and ask that you continue to know where your children are and whom they are with. Build a relationship of trust and concern with them so they will be able to help take care of themselves.

If you answered no, then I must strongly recommend that you take the time to talk to your children as soon as possible. It only took a few minutes for Jessica to be abducted.

We don't have to become paranoid. Most of the people around us are good, but we must all face the fact that some are not. It is critical that both parents and children learn

more about what to do to protect themselves.

There are many groups in our community involved in helping both parents and children prepare for the unseen dangers in our world. YMCAs are offering special classes in self-defense. Many Web sites contain excellent information on personal safety.

Another step is having your children fingerprinted, a service is offered through the sheriff's office and other groups. For information call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040.

And please, let's remember Jessica. Her precious life was

taken away so early. Make her tragedy count for something positive. Use it to make you take the extra time to learn how take better care of your children by preparing them for life's dangers.

Please check out the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office database of registered sexual offenders and predators living in our community, at www.hcso.tampa.fl.us. You may be unpleasantly surprised.

For information on "Stranger Danger" and other important child safety topics, visit www.childsafetyexperts.com, www.safekids.com, www.theparentreport.com.

## LETTERS

Continued From Page 6

Month. Unaware to most, there are approximately 170 million people with intellectual disabilities worldwide, and more than 7 million in the United States, many in our own communities.

While everyone can benefit from sports, for our athletes there are also clinical benefits like self-esteem and greater social adjustment. By participating in Special Olympics, people with intellectual disabilities have gained the self-confi-

dence and social skills to succeed both on and off the playing field.

Individuals once thought of as burdens to society are proving themselves to be productive citizens.

Special Olympics serves more than one million athletes in more than 160 countries, providing year-round sports training and competition in 26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports. To reach the millions who could benefit

from this program, we need the help of many more volunteers and contributors.

If you would like to support a movement that celebrates differences and embraces acceptance and understanding, call Special Olympics Florida at 1-800-322-HERO (4376) or visit www.sofl.org. Please volunteer today. Because with your help, everyone wins.

Monty Castevens

President/CEO

Special Olympics Florida

### ON OUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE

See upcoming community event listings at [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com)

## MINUTES

Continued From Page 4

washed; 108 painting permission requests were mailed to residents whose properties abut walls requiring paint; various sod and landscaping areas were fertilized; grass damaged during Verizon's installation of new fiber optics system on Culbreath was replaced; Verizon replaced the damaged sidewalk on Lithia-Pinecrest.

Activities scheduled for March included: Explore solutions to the post-pressure washing problem of algae growing through the paint and staining the walls on Natures Way; install new sprinkler heads on Greenhollow; prune the Crepe Myrtle trees; install new mulch beds and trim creeping fig; begin painting project awarded March 14 (should take about 30 days to complete); begin work on irrigation project (should take about 45 days to complete).

### Budget Committee

Trustee West reviewed plans for the renovation of the major entrance at Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue, a projected capital project slated for fiscal year 2006. West said property manager Al Devney has determined one side of the entrance is county right-of-way and therefore requires permission from the county before any work can be done. West said since Devney is still in the process of trying to obtain approval for the project, the

trustees may want to consider moving the project to fiscal year 2007, and move up the renovations planned for the major entrance at John Moore Road and Bloomingfield Avenue.

### Tax/Assessment

Trustee Buday said the Tax/Assessment committee is waiting for information from the county. He plans to put together a procedure outline for new board members who will work on the committee.

### Capital Improvements

Trustee Harless said upon review by a tree service, trimming the tree roots that caused the cracked wall at the Eagle Bluff entrance could cause severe damage to the tree or upset the balance of the tree, presenting a potential hazard during strong winds or storms. Trustee West made a motion to do nothing to the wall or tree. The motion was seconded by trustee Sims. Trustee Steck asked the board to consider monitoring the crack.

Trustee West declined to change his motion, the board voted 6-1 to take no further action.

### Landscaping

Trustee Sims reported the landscape committee had its first scheduled meeting, to review landscaping plans for

various sections of Bloomingdale West. Sims was very disappointed that the other committee members did not attend and only one resident from Bloomingdale Estates showed up. Sims said another meeting was scheduled in March and he hoped to have more participation from committee members and residences. Committee meetings for sections of Bloomingdale East will begin in April.

### Contracts/Renewables

Trustee Steck made a motion to accept the bid package of United Painting contingent upon property manager Devney checking references. The motion was seconded by trustee Sims. President Snelling opened the floor for discussion.

Trustee West said he would abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest, since he works for Sherwin Williams and the paint for this project would be purchased from that company. The vote was 6 Yes with 1 Abstaining (Trustee West).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District's board of trustees will be April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Information: 684-6667 or bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net.

## TRASH

Continued From Page 3

theless, yard waste must be stored out of sight — not on the curb — until pickup day. It must be separated from other garbage. Grass and/or leaves must be in cans, boxes or plastic bags, not to exceed 50 pounds each, with a maximum of 12 bags per residence. Branches — not more than 4 feet in length or 6 inches in

diameter — must be bundled or neatly stacked.

### Special pick ups

Special pickups of non-collectible items such as furniture, appliances, non-combustible materials, motor vehicle parts, or large amounts of yard waste are available for a nominal fee

by calling 272-5680, or they can be taken to the South County Collection Site on U.S. 41 north of Big Bend Road. Household chemicals and paints are not collectible in normal trash. Chemical collections are held on the second Saturday of each month at the South County waste facility. For information call 671-7611.

## DUES

Continued From Page 1

The BHA works closely with Hillsborough County officials to address:

- ♦ Road and park improve-

ments

- ♦ County codes and ordinance compliance
- ♦ Land rezoning and con-

struction proposals

- ♦ School boundary issues
- ♦ Crime prevention and neighborhood safety

### ON OUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE

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## SPA

Continued From Page 9

A half-hour "classic hand treatment," begins with a forearm and hand massage, exfoliation and cuticle treatment and is polished off with a natural manicure, all for \$20. The "classic foot treatment," \$40, includes a lower leg and foot massage and lasts about an hour.

Add a therapeutic paraffin dip to either treatment for \$10 more.

Hydrotherapy tub soaks, using bath blends like "Desert Minerals" and "Aromatherapy Salt" are drawn in an elegant claw foot tub. Smilee's favorite soak is her "Athletic Botanical" blend.

"Our athletic soak blend of essential oils of ginger, coriander, eucalyptus, birch and bay

leaf soothes tired, stiff and aching muscles," she said. Soaks start at \$35 for a 25-minute bath.

Massages for relaxation, therapy, sports therapy and prenatal clients are offered.

Couples, friends or mothers and daughters may enjoy the massage room for two, where kindred spirits indulge in separate massages — together in the same room.

Smilee is relaxing a bit more herself these days. Until a year and a half ago, she was in corporate sales and service, a high-stress profession she grew to loathe.

Indulgence Day Spa is open Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., closed on Tuesday. Information: 657-8141 or [www.indulgenceforwellness.com](http://www.indulgenceforwellness.com).

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- 2719 Brookville Drive.... \$249,900
- 404 Van Reed Manor Dr.. \$250,000
- 4515 Portobello Circle .... \$269,000
- 3707 Eaglewood Street.... \$269,900
- 2516 Groveway Drive ..... \$279,000
- 3711 Eaglewood Street.... \$282,000
- 4403 Blantyre Place ..... \$299,900
- 4546 Oak River Circle.... \$319,900
- 2306 Timbergrove Drive.. \$350,000

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- 4035 Eastridge Drive..... \$163,000
- 4002 Moreland Drive .... \$167,500
- 4025 Eastridge Drive ..... \$176,000
- 727 Sandy Creek Drive... \$179,900
- 1327 Peachfield Drive.... \$188,000
- 1222 Lornewood Drive ... \$195,000
- 2310 Kenwick Drive ..... \$199,900
- 4529 Oak River Circle .... \$221,500
- 3608 Warmspring Way ... \$249,900
- 2523 Allwood Avenue..... \$271,000
- 2313 Timbergrove Drive.. \$315,000
- 2303 Eagle Bluff Drive... \$345,000
- 4401 Arranmore Circle... \$350,000

