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FEATURE STORY



One Bloomingdale family speaks out about neighborhood speed limits.

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ROADS

Contractors working on the major road resurfacing project in Bloomingdale said last week they expected to finish the job by March 31.

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Taxing District 11

BHA Board Forced To Postpone April 8 PRIDE Cleanup Day

REQUIRES HELP FROM COUNTY, WASTE HAULERS

By LAURA FRAZIER Editor

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board of directors, on March 19, regretfully announced the cancellation of its April 8 Neighborhood PRIDE Community Cleanup Day.

The overwhelmingly successful semi-annual event, recognized as a model program by Hillsborough County, will continue, board members said.

Another Cleanup Day will be scheduled as soon as possible, the board agreed, but not until plans calling for more help from Hillsborough County's solid waste management department — and the waste haulers it contracts with — are firmly in place.

The board cited, "too many uncertainties about county contractor equipment, services and staff necessary to conduct the event," as the reason for the cancellation.

Board president Ted Grable said the scope of the event has grown beyond the ability of neighborhood volunteers to manage on their own.

The BHA board would like to thank the many neighborhood volunteers, county staff and contractors who tried in earnest to help organize the April 8 event. In addition, the volunteer board looks forward to working with all of its community partners to hold another cleanup day in the near future.

In consideration of homeowners who may have begun spring cleaning and stockpiling items in anticipation of the event, the board reminds residents of another free disposal option for trash not normally collected at the curb — County Collection Centers (story in this issue).

In addition, residents can request a fee-based special pick-up through Liberty Waste LLC. For rates and pick-up requests, call Liberty Waste, (813) 248-2820.

Another Free Option For Junk Disposal

OPEN WEEKDAYS, SATURDAY

A Gazette Report

Bloomingdale residents who wish to dispose of items not normally accepted at the curb — including household junk, electronics, hazardous materials and large amounts of yard waste — can bring their refuse to one of two Hillsborough County Collection Centers convenient to the Bloomingdale area.

The Alderman Ford and South County Collection Centers (directions below) are open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To gain free access to the sites, Hillsborough County residents are required to bring a copy of their property tax bill — and photo identification — to prove residency.

Please note hazardous and electronic materials are only accepted one day a month during limited hours at the South County

See JUNK, Page 5

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS + PAGE 3

Art Food & Book Festival Drinks Fair

Mini Golf Competitions Silent Auction Items Local Business Expo

BLOOMINGDALE

Community Family Fun-Raiser

To Benefit the BJ Stelter Community Scholarship Fund

Saturday, May 20 (Bloomingdale HS Football Stadium)

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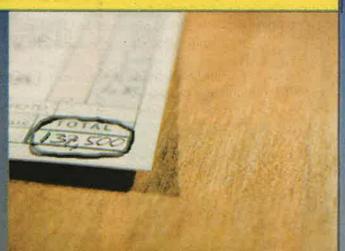


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Fun-Raiser Benefits Scholarship Program, More

COMMUNITY, BUSINESSES, SCHOOL PROFIT

By LAURA FRAZIER

The Bloomingdale Community Family Fun-Raiser, a collaborative effort of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and Bloomingdale High School, will feature a fun, challenging 18-hole miniature golf competition with four divisions, refreshments, entertainment and a mini-business expo. The affair will be held on the high school football field Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event was initially, and is still foremost, geared to benefit the first recipient of the annual B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship. The homeowners association board created the scholarship this year to honor Stelter, Bloomingdale's principal for 14 years. Stelter retired in December due to health reasons.

The event planning committee, however, at its meeting last week, said the benefits of the Fun-Raiser go far beyond raising money for the scholarship fund.

One of its primary goals, planners said, is to bring Bloomingdale neighbors, friends, businesses, clubs and service agencies together for a common cause.

"We see it as a community-building opportunity, where neighbors and friends can socialize and network," said George May, event chairman.

Ted Grable, president of the homeowners association board, said the annual event will also help forge a stronger relationship between Bloomingdale High School and the community.

"Bloomingdale's Parent/Teacher/Student Association wanted to hold a major fundraising event, and the Fun-Raiser fit the bill," Grable said. A portion of proceeds from the event will go to the PTSA.

Golf tournament organizer Bob Gaudreau said the event provides a unique opportunity for Bloomingdale area businesses to showcase the services and products they offer. In addition, he said, it's an opportunity for local businesses to give a little back to a community which, for many, represents one of the largest segments of their customer base.

Sponsorships at many levels are still available. A \$50 contribution buys a custom-made promotional sign placed at one of the course holes. Booth spaces for a mini-business expo are avail-

Planners Envision Community-Building Event

NEIGHBORS CAN SOCIALIZE, NETWORK

By LAURA FRAZIER Editor

Sunshine and rainbows aside, the Bloomingdale Community Family Fun-Raiser planning committee envisions a scenario on the day of the event that goes something like

At about 10 a.m. on the third Saturday in May, you drive down Bloomingdale Avenue and pull into the main entrance of Bloomingdale High School. The school marquee sign announces "Fun-Raiser Today."

You follow the signs to the back of the school and park in the rear parking lot, by the football stadium entrance.

Neighborhood volunteers and school PTSA members greet you at the gate and point you to a registration table. Perhaps you previously registered to play a round of miniature golf, so all that's left to do now is sign in, meet up with the rest of your fourperson team, and await the shotgun start for

Your team might consist of a chatty group of girlfriends (Desperate Housewives divi-

See NETWORK, Page 15

able for a donation of \$100. A limited number of title and presenting sponsorships — some offering industry-exclusive participation — are still available. Gift certificates for tournament prizes and silent auction items are also needed.

All contributions to the Fun-Raiser are tax deductible; in accordance with the high school PTSA's 501(c)(3) classification.

Business owners interested in participating in the Fun-Raiser or donating prize/silent auction items can call Bob Gaudreau, 685-1509, or email bgaudreau@LTSLeaderBoard.com.

To register for the miniature golf tournament (\$10 per player) or for more information, please log on to www.bloomingdalegazette.com, e-mail bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net or call 643-2990.

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BLOOMINGDALE

Bloomingdale's Bob Gaudreau Brings Work, Play Together

'MINILINKS' GOLF **COURSE IS MAIN EVENT** AT FUN-RAISER

By DEREK MAUL

All his life, Bob Gaudreau has enjoyed sports — baseball, soccer, golf, you name it.

"I wanted to be a professional baseball player," he said. "I had enough skill for college, but not enough to advance to the next level. After graduation, I played in three or four softball leagues, just to keep it going."

Eventually, the games stopped and Gaudreau attended to the serious business of making a living. Today, 53 years old with his children grown, the athlete of old has found a way to blend both passion and experience in a new venture that — quite literally — follows the bouncing ball.

"You never know how life takes you," Gaudreau said. "It's all in the build-up."

Along with his wife, Jerilyn, Gaudreau owns LeaderBoard of Tampa, a golf tournament management franchise that redefines "charity scramble." Greater revenue, more fun, clearer communications, higher-profile exposure for sponsors and streamlined opera-

"Charity golf is a 2.9-billion dollar industry," Gaudreau said. "That number is going up. Yesterday there were probably 12 tournaments in Tampa Bay. We did two of them. LeaderBoard has a mission to be the tourna-



Bob Gaudreau

Born: New Bedford, Mass., 1952 Education: New Bedford High School, 1970; Southeastern Massachusetts University, 1974; master's of business administration from Tampa Metropolitan University, 1997

Family: married, Jerilyn Pfaffman, 1998; children: Aimee, Darcie, Adam, Ingrid and Nathan

ment expert in terms of bringing in entertainment and value for the sponsors and the play-

Key to the process is a proprietary software package that drives an event from conception to conclusion.

"People are successful when they can fill a niche," Gaudreau said. "At typical tournaments the organizers thank the sponsor and everyone goes home. People are more discretionary about spending for charity events and we believe our events are worth the investment. We have become experts in management. The awards ceremony is precise, registra-

know why they are there. We introduce new playing formats instead of the same old scrambles. Skins games, different contests on the course, it's all built into our software."

He brings in 6- by 8-foot theater screens. "We're a full multimedia sports marketing digital company," he said, "all driven by digital technology. The process increases exposure for the sponsors and creates a dynamic system."

Gaudreau was born and raised in New Bedford, Mass, about 50 miles south of Boston. After college, he found work as a teacher's aide in the physical education department at an elementary school.

"Eventually I got my certification and became an elemenphysical education teacher," he said. "I did some high school coaching too."

Gaudreau enjoyed teaching, but found it impossible to support a family. "I had many different jobs going at once," he said. "Bartending Saturdays, refereeing high school basketball, then in the summers it was something else. I was never home. It becomes a matter of quality of life."

He moved into sales and immediately found success.

In 1985, Gaudreau moved to Tampa with Sports Display, a marketing company that places scoreboards in golf clubs. He traveled Florida to service the

More satisfying was work as a program underwriter for pub-

"This Old House," he said, "programming I really felt comfortable selling. It didn't pay, but it was an opportunity to be creative."

By 1990, the New England transplant was selling cellular phones with GTE. "I stayed in sales and was able to build a career," he said. "I became a major account manager."

When the business was sold to Alltel, prospects of advancement slid away. "Alltel didn't have a senior sales program," Gaudreau said, "and I read between the lines. That's when things came together with LeaderBoard."

At the time, Gaudreau was studying 'Forty Days of Purpose by Rick Warren.

"I felt God challenging me. Tve given you all the skills, it is up to you how will you use these skills.' I realized I needed to have a passion for whatever I was getting into," he said. "My passion was golf. I came across a franchise that utilized everything my wife and I already had in the way of talent."

Jerilyn Gaudreau works as a computer technician at Burns Middle School and has her Microsoft certification.

Purchasing just the fourth franchise nationwide was a big

"I had a philosophy at the beginning," Gaudreau said. "Let's donate our services to practice our skills. We had to get out and work to let people see something new and different, let it come from giving

tion is smooth and people lic television. "Shows such as first. I get a little emotional when I talk about it, but it' kind of fun to give first."

Today, the enterprise is prof itable. "We've been in busines 35 months. We've completed 100 tournaments."

There are now 29 Leader Board franchises. Gaudrean believes there will be 70 by the end of 2006.

"The company is being taken public," Gaudreau said "and we have partners in Spain and Australia. A lot of compa nies are approaching us with ideas that will expand our capa bilities to raise money for char ity. If I can impact the botton line, then I'm not just a tourna ment expert; I'm a fundraiser.'

Gaudreau has helped rais \$3.6 million through Leader

In case he wasn't bus enough, Gaudreau recentle introduced a new product to the mix.

"We own an 18-hole miniature course," he said. "It's called MiniLinks."

The course can be set up a indoor venues and has already generated a lot of excitemen as a fundraising tool.

Gaudreau is busy, but happy with this new stage in his life Active on community boards happy in his marriage, passion ate about his work, moving for ward in his faith, even finding time for a little golf.

Contact: 685-1509 www.LTSLeaderBoard.com.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594 Phone: 681-2051 Fax: 684-2358 E-mail: Bloomingdale. Homeowners@Verizon.net Web Site: www.bloomingdalegazette.com BHA meetings are at the community office on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

Treasurer: Pam Liguori Director: Ken Pyse Director: Lydia Harrod Director: Steve Heckel Director: Dale Kahn Director: Tim Shuman Director: Myron Magedanz

President: Ted Grable Vice President: Joe Hickle Director: George May

Bloomingdale 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 Recording Secretary: Michael Buday Trustee: David Steck

Trustee: Joe Harless Property Manager: Al Devney

Bloomingdale Community Security Program

The Bloomingdale Community Security Program committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m..

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146

Treasurer: Paul Kelmer

Patrol Member: Steven

Heckel Patrol Member: Brad Scharp

Patrol Member: Paul Warr

Bloomingdale 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 Trustee: Rami Hijazi

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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OOMINGDA

JUNK

Continued From Page 1

site, as indicated below.

Alderman Ford Collection Center

Address: 9402 SR 39, Lithia Phone: 757-3820

Directions: 10.5 miles from Bloomingdale. Take Lithia-Pinecrest Rd. south to SR-39, turn left. Cross the Alafia River, pass Alderman Ford Park. Facility is on the left immediately after the park entrance.

South County Collection Center

Address: 13000 US 41, Riverview Phone: 671-7611

Directions: 16 miles from Bloomingdale. Take Bloomingdale Ave. to US-301, turn right. Get on 1-75 south. Take I-75 to CR-672 (Big Bend Road) exit. Turn right (north) onto US-41. Facility entrance is ¾ mile north on the right side of the road

Appliances: Alderman Ford, South County

Batteries, Lead Acid: Alderman Ford, South County.

Furniture, Mattresses: Alderman Ford, South County

Paint, Household Chemicals, Computers, Electronics: Once a month, limited hours. South County only, second Saturday each month, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. only.

Residential Remodeling, Repair Debris, Non-Commercial (wood, metal, bricks, etc.): Alderman Ford, South County

Tires: Alderman Ford, South County

Used Motor Oil: South County Yard Waste: South County

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The charitable organizations listed below offer free scheduled pickups of reusable household items, clothing, etc. in good, saleable condition. Drop off locations convenient to the Bloomingdale area are

Goodwill Industries: Call for free pickup, 689-6279, or drop off at Bloomingdale Wal-Mart site, or at 1106 E. Brandon Blvd. (next to Super Wal-Mart) Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Lighthouse For The Blind: Call for free pickup, 251-2407.

Purple Heart Services: Call for free pickup, 899-2780.

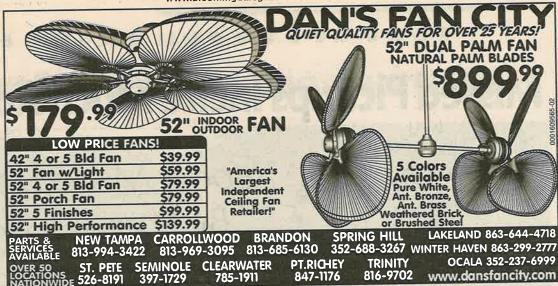
Salvation Army: Call for free pickup, 621-6425, or drop off at 9926 E. Adamo Drive, between US-301 and Falkenberg Road, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Bloomingdale Gazette

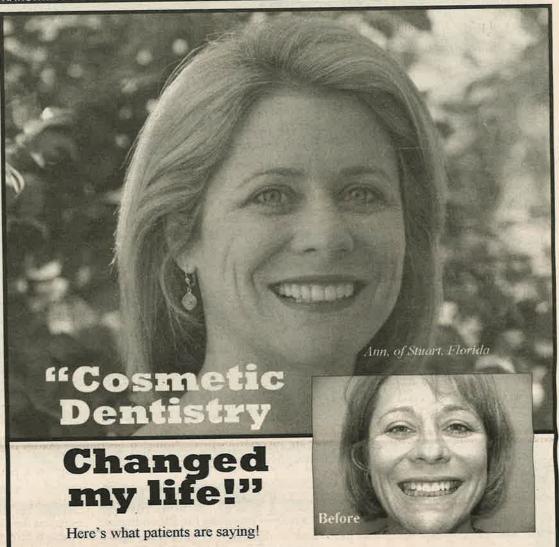
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Missed Pickups Incite Much Ado About Yard Waste

LIBERTY TRIES TO CATCH UP WITH EXTRA RUNS

Yard waste collection services have been a point of contention for many Bloomingdale residents — and the community's homeowners association — for the past two years.

At the November 2005 meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board, representatives of Hillsborough County's solid waste management department and Liberty Waste LLC, its contractor, acknowledged the residents' concerns, promised to improve communications with its customers, and vowed to improve curbside collections.

However, five months later, homeowners in many sections of Bloomingdale report their yard waste is still not being collected on a regular basis. In some instances, residents report no collections for up to three weeks in a row.

Hundreds of residents contacted the homeowners association and Gazette staff in March to voice their concerns about missed yard waste pickups.

Some requested information about how to report a missed pick up. Others wondered; if they left the waste at the curb for several days until the hauler could get to it, would they be in violation of deed restrictions? Most residents just wanted to let the homeowners association and Gazette staff know that they are not satisfied with the trash

Report Missed Pickups By Phone, E-Mail

CONTACT CONTRACTOR

To report missed collections of yard waste, recyclable materials and household trash, call Liberty Waste, (813) 248-2820, or e-mail the company's community relations manager, Jason Greer, jgreer@libertytampa.com.

According to Liberty's agreement with Hillsborough County, if a customer reports a missed pickup to Liberty before 2 p.m. on the scheduled collection day, a truck will be sent back on the same day to collect it. If the report is received after 2 p.m., a truck will return to pick it up the next day.

Liberty's contract allows a per-household limit of two cubic yards of natural vegetation debris (limbs, branches, leaves, etc.), which must be bundled, tied and stacked neatly or placed in containers at the curb. This translates to about 12 bags or cans of yard waste, each not exceeding 50 pounds.

For a list of frequently asked questions about household trash, recycling and yard waste collection services, log on to www.bloomingdalegazette.com.

There was some good news on March 10, when Liberty announced they would conduct an extra yard waste collection day in Brandon and Valrico including the entire Bloomingdale area — on Sunday, March 12. Gazette staff sent out a BHA News Alert about the extra pickup to hundreds of residents on its private e-mail list.

The bad news, for Liberty and many of its customers, was reported March 13. Liberty conducted an extra collection run through south Brandon and Valrico — including the Bloomingdale collection services their tax dollars pay area — on March 12, and again March 14. But the extra effort wasn't enough

to get all the tree limbs, bagged leaves and lawn clippings off the curbs.

To make matters worse, many residents understandably responded to the BHA News Alert about the extra Sunday and Tuesday pickups by doing additional yard work and piling up even more at the curb.

"What happened to the extra yard waste pickup today? I, as well as several neighbors, put out yard waste in anticipation of today's pickup but no one showed up to pick it up," one resident e-mailed the Gazette.

Another homeowner wrote, "We were told via the Bloomingdale Gazette

that there would be an extra pick up on Sunday (March 12). That did not happen. Now all my trash cans are full of yard waste and I have no cans for my household rubbish. This is a huge incontinence."

"If you were to drive down our street you would think that there had been a hurricane or something with all the yard waste that is piled up."

Liberty spokesman Jason Greer said eight trucks dispatched on Sunday, March 12 collected 80 tons, or 160,000 pounds, of yard waste in south Brandon and Valrico - including Bloomingdale. There was, Greer said, an unforeseen and overwhelming amount of yard waste to process. Crews were forced to call off the collection before everything was picked up. The scenario was much the same on Tuesday, March 14, Greer said.

"From the last two weeks in February to the first two weeks in March, Liberty Waste collected 20 percent more volume than normal," Greer said, noting an overall increase of 151 tons or 302,000 pounds.

Liberty currently serves 85,000 residents, including the entire Bloomingdale community of about 5,000 homes. The company's fleet includes 18 garbage trucks, eight yard waste trucks and eight recycling trucks.

Garbage and yard waste collections crews operate six days a week.

Due to the current increase in volume, Greer said yard waste collections will operate seven days a week until further notice.

See WASTE, Page 15





EIGHBORHOOD BLOOMINGDALE

Traffic Creates Challenges For Residents, Resurfacing Crews

WAS SET TO FINISH MARCH 31

By LAURA FRAZIER

Contractors working on the major road resurfacing project in Bloomingdale said last week they expected to finish the job by March

Completion of the project couldn't come too soon for thousands of Bloomingdale residents whose patience was tested on a daily basis... and for the work crews forced to route traffic around the construction.

Project engineer Virgus Mann said in March the three-step resurfacing process was going slowly on Natures Way and Culbreath due to heavy local traffic volume and the long stretches of road being repaved.

First the contractor milled out the old asphalt, then leveled the road and finally applied the new surface. At each stage of the process, Mann said, crews had to alternately route into one lane hundreds of cars an hour coming from two directions. The process was obviously frustrating to many Bloomingdale

Throughout the month of March, Mann provided project updates to Gazette staff by phone and e-mail. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association broadcast several BHA News Alerts by e-mail to keep residents posted on the progress.

To register for BHA News Alerts, log on to www.bloomingdalegazette.com.



IRENE BUGGY/Photo



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Road crews direct traffic around construction on Culbreath Rd. near Alafia Elementary School in mid-March. The contractor last week said the project was going slow but steady and was still set for completion March 31. At right, four lanes of traffic are routed into one lane on Natures Way near Bloomingdale Golfers Club as road crews neared completion of the resurfacing project in March.



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SOUGHT-AFTER FISHHAWK RANCH 4BR/3BA home offers huge office/den & bonus rm. 42" raised

panel cabinets in kitchen w/lots of counter space, plant shelves & built-in desk. Art niches thru-out. Formal dining rm w/built-in niche for china cabinet. Huge upstairs bonus room. Master bath features garden tub and double vanities. Separate wing w/large bedroom, full bath & french door to lanai. Screen-enclosed lanai with pool is perfect for entertaining. Lots of privacy. Backs up to conservation. Don't miss this one. Priced to sell



DIAMOND HILLS BEAUTY 5BR/3BA pool home w/bonus & office/den. Kitchen features 42" maple

cabs. w/crown molding & built-in wine rack, Corian counters, pendant lights over snack bar, tiled backsplash & work island w/storage. 18X18 cer. tile & carpet thru out. Formal living & dining rms. Open, airy family rm, triple glass sliders lead to pool area. Master suite has sitting area w/sliders & tray ceiling. MBA features garden tub w/decor. tile, plant shelves, marble counters & dbl. vanities. French drs. to office/den. Huge bonus rm upstrs. Upgraded lighting. Oversize solar heated pool, extended lanai w/brick pavers. Pond view on both sides. Don't miss this one!

MLS# T2153728 • 3,668 sq. ft. • \$590,000



FISHHAWK RANCH BEAUTY

This 5BR/4BA home is located in Merlin Glen in FishHawk Ranch. The kitchen features 42" cabinets w/crown molding. Formal living and dining rooms. Hardwood flooring in formal areas and hallways. Closet and private bath in 5th bedroom/bonus room. Huge, screenenclosed lanal with stamped concrete floor. Large, private backyard. Model perfect. Great family neighborhood! This one is a must see!

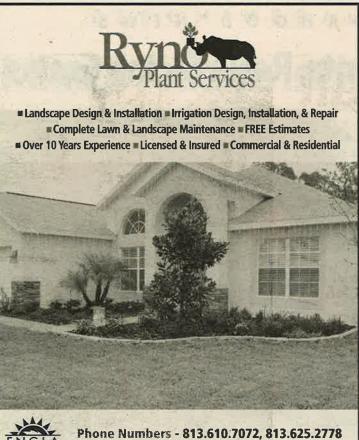
MLS# T2139715 • 3,290 sq. ft. • \$535,000



COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS FINEST This 4BR/2BA pool home sits on a .69-acre corner lot. Kitchen

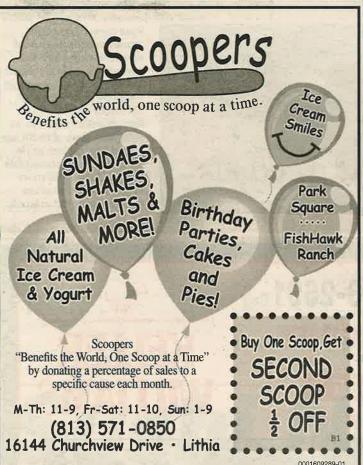
has plenty of cabinets, counter space & smooth-top range. Kitchen nook has 2 sets of sliders overlooking pool area. Open, airy family room w/wood burning fireplace and vaulted ceilings. Large formal living and dining rooms. Spacious master suite w/2 walk-in closets, bath with whirlpool garden tub and double vanities w/marble countertops. Oversized pool w/brick pavers. Large secondary bedrooms. Laundry room with cabinets and laundry tub. Don't miss this tree-shaded home! Priced to sell!

MLS# T2153481 • 2,444 sq. ft. • \$350,000



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0001607332-01



County May Add Bike Lanes To Natures Way, Culbreath

SURVEYS, DESIGN START THIS MONTH

By LAURA FRAZIER Editor

Hillsborough County traffic engineering department staff said last week that by late April, a series of surveys, studies and design plans necessary to add bike lanes to two busy roads in Bloomingdale will be underway.

When the road resurfacing project on Natures Way and Culbreath Rd. began in March, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board asked county staff to reconsider a previous request to add bicycle lanes to the roads.

Robert Kouveras, county traffic engineering specialist, said bike lanes cannot be added to the roads until surveys and design plans are completed and approved by traffic services staff. It's a

process, he said, that may take some time.

"The road(s) vary from 30 feet to 54 feet i some places, and there are many turn lanes that must be taken into consideration," Kouvera

"We need between four and five feet width for bike lanes."

The bike lane surveys and design plans coul not be prepared and approved before the roa repaving was scheduled for completion, Kou veras said. In addition, the contractor in charge of the resurfacing project must repaint the roa striping, including the sides of the road, before leaving the job.

If and when the bike lanes are approved, the paint crews will be back out in Bloomingdale t re-stripe the sides of the road, Kouveras said.

Spring Cleanup Can Add Up

HOW LONG TO KEEP GROWN KIDS' STUFF?

By IRENE BUGGY Correspondent

If you are like me, when you walk through your garage you wonder what could possibly be in all those boxes piled up everywhere. Every once in awhile, I actually get the urge to begin sorting though it all. Spring seems the perfect time to get busy.

So, one recent lazy day I began the awesome job. I knew from the onset it wouldn't be a pretty sight.

Some of those boxes ha been there from the day w moved into our new home Others had accumulated from my children since we ha moved them several times i and out of dorm rooms and a over the Southeast portion of

By the time I got through a the old baseball cards and cal bage patch dolls, I realized was knee deep in stuff that belonged not to me, but to m grown children.

So, the question is, "Ho long do parents hold on to th stuff that belongs to our of

Are we obligated to keep th stuff for eternity? Just wonder

Everyone has a bit of sent ment attached to things. I ce tainly can understand wantin to keep a bit of your children past to show the grandkic someday. But really, in the meantime, my garage looks lik

a thrift shop gone awry. The idea of a yard sale cam to mind as I got through th last of the unknown boxe But, as soon as I mentione this subject to my children, was immediately stopped b the whining and complaining of all concerned. It seems that they actually wanted (me) t keep all of this stuff. I relente and dutifully put back most of the old memories to sit, I sup pose, for another decade.

I did find a few things that actually belonged to m though. I also found som things that had been hande down from my parents. Or

spring?"



Don't you deserve a spring break, too?



The Mai As: Home Services

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See CLEAN, Page

County Limit: 2 Garage Sales A Year

ONE EXCEPTION

The community of Bloomingdale has more than 40 neighborhood sections, each with its own unique set of deed restrictions. Most, but not all, outline specific rules about conducting garage or yard sales.

Hillsborough County ordinances, however, state that all county residents may conduct one yard sale every six months, with exceptions provided only for families that are relocating.

Ordinance 90-8 in the zoning code, section 7-10, states, "Garage, yard, tag, patio and apartment sales are specifically permitted, as an accessory use, in all residential districts. Such sales shall be limited to one during each six month period, for duration not to exceed three

— Irene Buggy

We've Got Mail

Send letters by e-mail to info@bloomingdalegazette.com. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity and are published on a space-available basis.

Two Years Too Long To Wait

Debra Phillips of The Links responded by e-mail to a March 9 BHA News Alert, "Surveys, Design Plans Under Way For New Traffic Signals" reporting that traffic lights approved for intersections Shoals/Glenhaven and Bell-Shoals/Garnet could take up to two years to complete ...

"As a parent of a teen driver, I fear that it is only a matter of time before we see a tragic fatality (on Bell Shoals Rd. at Glenhaven and at Garnet). Even I, an experienced driver, absolutely dread going to either one of

those intersections, rush hour or not. These lights should have been in place a long time ago. Any and every thing that we can do as a community to get these lights installed sooner is a push in the right direction."

Mom Urges Drivers To Slow For Kids, Pets

Jodie Hawkins of Preston Woods is concerned about drivers speeding through her neighborhood section. When her dog Rider was recently hit by a car on her street, Hawkins sent us an email and asked us to share it with our readers ...

"Thursday, February 23 was a night like any other, or so I thought. The neighborhood men were having poker night out in the garage, and I was snuggled

See MAIL, Page 14



Hawkins family photo

Mikenna Hawkins, at left, with friend Wyatt and his dog Taylor, display a cautionary sign in Preston Woods. Hawkins' dog, Rider, was hit by a car last month on Preston Woods Drive. The dog has since recovered and is doing well.

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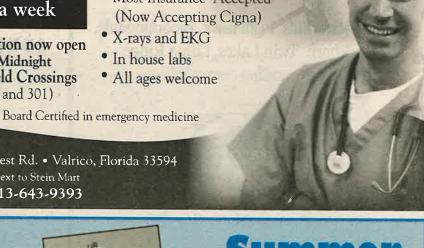
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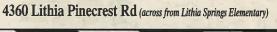
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Neighbors No Longer Need To Be In Need

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION PROGRAM PAIRS **RESIDENTS WITH SERVICES**

By SCOTT E. RUPP srupp@mediageneral.com

Bloomingdale's idea to create a more cohesive community by helping residents is akin to days gone by when neighbors borrowed cups of sugar from one another.

But one Bloomingdale Homeowners Association member believes that willingness to help one another was key to a better quality of life.

Dale Kahn is the head of a new committee called Neighbors In Need. His goal is to help Bloomingdale residents find the services they need to better their lives, their homes and their security in the 5,000-home community.

Anything someone needs, Kahn said, he and the new committee will attempt to accommodate it, even if someone needs nothing more than to have their mailed picked up while on vacation or to find a plumber, gardener or con-

Almost any service can be matched to any need, Kahn said.

Neighbors In Need was the brainchild of Ted Grable, longtime board president, who wanted the association to take a more active role in helping individual residents.

Kahn, a former member of the Bloomingdale

Special Taxing District now serving on the homeowners board, volunteered to lead the

As the committee leader, Kahn is responsible for assembling all the information needed to build a database of services, business and organizations that are able to serve the residents. Kahn works in Verizon's IT department, so handling the construction of a computer database is not a

The new service, conceived about three months ago, is free to all residents of Blooming-

"The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is assisting residents to find services or help they may not have been aware of," he said. "We're matching up needs for residents that are age related, senior programs, animal problems, code enforcement, solid waste and mediation for feuding neighbors."

The South Shore Community Justice Center in Ruskin is the mediation service Kahn said Bloomingdale uses. It's a mediation-only branch of the Hillsborough County court system.

"They have a very high success rate. They're so unknown, it's hard pressed to find anyone who's heard of them, but they're very successful," he said.

Bloomingdale neighbors with a need may find help by calling the homeowners association office at 681-2051 or visiting www.bloomingdalegazette.com.

APRIL EVENTS

Send event notices to info@bloomingdalegazette.com or call 643-2990.

Annual Egg Hunt, Lunch With Easter Bunny April 8

The annual Lunch with the Easter Bunny and egg hunt will be held at Center Place Saturday, April 8. Lunch is at 11:00 a.m., followed by the egg hunt. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Cost is \$4 for Center Place members, \$5 for the general public. Purchase tickets at Center Place, inside the Brandon Library on Vonderberg Drive. Information: 685-8888.

Church Spring Fling, Auction April 8

Central Baptist Christian School, at 402 E. Windhorst Road, will hold its second annual Spring Fling Auction April 8 from 3 p.m. to 7

The event is free for the entire family. There will be games, bounce towers, a 20-foot rock wall, give-a-ways, local dance groups, business expo, silent and live auctions. Radio station Joy FM will broadcast live at the event.

Food will be provided by Dean O Foods and Hungry Harry's BBQ.

Silent auction items include a golf package to Ireland, a signed Tampa Bay Buccaneer's football, a pin flag from the master's tournament signed by Arnold Palmer and a variety of specialty baskets, gift certificates, and more.

A drawing will be held for a free home computer system designed by PC Innovators on

See EVENTS, Page 14

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rico meets the

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Catholic Church

Road. The group

days, holiday par-

organizes park

ties, field trips,

playgroups, arts

and crafts and

other activities.

Information: (813) 657-8503.

MOMS Club Hosts Night Of Hope April 1

TO BENEFIT AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

A Gazette Report

The MOMS® Club of Blooming-dale/Valrico hopes Lady Luck is with them on April 1 when they host "A Night of Hope," an evening of casinostyle gaming with a silent auction to benefit the club's American Cancer Society Relay For Life team.

The event, set for 7 p.m. on April 1 at River Hills Country Club, will include hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, entertainment and prizes. The band "Surly Bonds" will provide entertainment.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include \$5000 in "hope" gaming chips.

Guests can try their luck at slot items, and themed baskets, all donated



machines, blackjack, roulette, craps and poker, and then turn in their "hope" chips at the end of the evening for chances to win prizes. A silent auction will feature items like restaurant and retail gift certificates, jewelry and gift

by businesses in the community.

"We are really thrilled with the support we have received from our community," said Janine Harrity, the club's Relay for Life team captain.

"Our team was proud to raise nearly \$3,300 last year to help cancer patients

in our community. We hope this fundraiser helps us double that donation this year."

The club will participate in the 2006 Relay For Life April 21-22 at Blooming-dale High School. The annual relay is billed as a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and to empower individuals to fight back against the disease.

"We're proud to have our club involved in this event each year," said Melissa Canfield, president of the MOMS® Club of Bloomingdale/Valri-

For more information, call Harrity, (813) 416-6632.

BLOOMING DALE SPECIAL TAXING

Board Set To Awards Landscaping Contract

LOW BID: TRUGREEN CHEMLAWN

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District board of trustees meets on the

second Monday each month, 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Office. All Bloomingdale residents are welcome to attend.

For more information, call 684-6667 or e-mail bloomingdale.homeowners@

verizon.net

This report is a summary of general interest topics discussed at the board's March 13, 2006 meeting. Trustees in attendance March 13 were Michael Buday, Joe Harless, Thom Snelling, David Steck, David West and Rusty Jones. Property manager Al Devney also attended.

Financial Report Approved

DISTRICT

At the March 13 board meeting, Michael Hayes of Ferraro, Higginbotham & Hayes presented the financial report. As of February 28, 2006, the total cash on hand in Am-South Bank was \$447,469. Budget items for the current period were recorded and

See LANDSCAPE, Page 12



While we're on the subject, let's talk about your kid sniffing to get high.

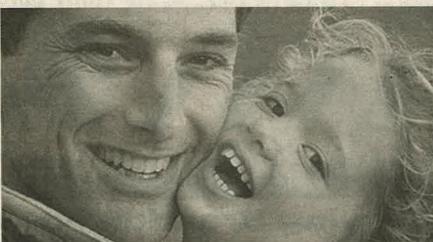
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BLOOMING DALE SCHOOLS

College Scholarship Applications Due April 10

DOWNLOAD FORMS ON BHA WEB SITE

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. board of directors, in cooperation with the faculty of Bloomingdale Senior High School, has set forth the official criteria for the annual B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship.

One scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 will be awarded in the program's first year. Organizers hope to increase the value and number of scholarship awards each

year, according to available BHA funds and the combined fundraising efforts of the BHA and high school PTSA.

Scholarship criteria and applications are available at Bloomingdale High School and the Bloomingdale Community Office, and can also be

downloaded from the homeowners association Web site, www.bloomingdalegazette.co m.

The deadline for receipt of submissions is April 10, 2006.

For more information call the BHA office, 681-2051, or e-mail bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

At the March meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, board vice president, Joe Hickle (right), presents to Bloomingdale High School principal, Mark West, a plaque that will bear the names of future recipients of the annual B.J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship

LANDSCAPE

Continued From Page 11

approved by the board:

- Wall Painting \$30,562.55
- Lawn Maintenance \$10,371.32
- Irrigation Repairs: \$5,781.69
- Electric, Utilities: \$3,848.98 (two months)
- General Parts, Supplies: \$2,445.17
- Miscellaneous Painting: \$1,504.77

The board discussed the unusually high cost of irrigation repairs for the period (current budget called \$1,667.00). The property manager reported an unusual number of minor repairs needed, and one major electrical problem that cost \$2,500 to fix. In addition, it was noted that injection system chemicals and service are being charged to the irrigation repairs account. The board will consider designating a special budget line item for the injection system next fiscal

Landscaping Contract Awarded

Qualified bids for landscaping in sections of Bloomingdale East were announced as follows:

- Raymow: \$34,471.75
- TruGreen ChemLawn: \$25,524.75
- Pro Landscape: \$49,863.35
- Cardinal: \$25,824.00

The board voted 5-1 to accept TruGreen's bid, contingent upon a satisfactory check of references.

Accident Site Repairs

The property manager reported six accidents resulting in \$6,517.14 in damages to community property occurred this period. Two of the accidents involved persons with no insurance. A resident involved in one of the accidents is working with the taxing district to pay for damages. Insurance company paperwork is pending

for two additional accidents.

Flood Light Damage, Vandalism

The board discussed the possibility of fabricating some type of hood or cover for common area flood lights to protect them from vandalism. The property manager said Tim Shuman of Shuman's Handiwork has come up with a design to build a shield to protect the entryway lights. The property manager will work on a solution.

New Trustee

Bloomingdale resident Rami Hijazi attended several recent board meetings. At the March 13 meeting, Hijazi volunteered to join the board to fill the seat vacated by Paul Sims. The board determined Hijazi meets the requirements as a Bloomingdale resident and registered voter, and he agreed to submit the required financial disclosure. The trustees voted and unanimously agreed to accept Hijazi to the board.

Bloomingdale Estates Inquiries

Bloomingdale Gazette staff e-mailed the board on behalf of several Bloomingdale Estates residents who inquired about upgrading the Canoga Park/Bloomingfield entrance, adding more flowering plants to the John Moore Rd./Bloomingfield entrance, and painting or cleaning the Bloomingdale Estates sign at John Moore Rd./Bloomingfield.

The board discussed at the March 13 meeting that the property manager worked with a group of residents last year to design and replant the John Moore Rd./Bloomingfield entryway. It was determined at that time, due to watering restrictions and maintenance

costs, it was not possible for many of the flowering plants and other features the homeowners requested to be installed. It was also noted that the corner of Canoga Park and Bloomingfield is not a major entrance and is not eligible for upgrades at this time.

The property manager confirmed that the Bloomingdale Estates sign was recently painted, and said he would inspect it to see if it needs to be pressure washed.

The board reiterated that if residents in any section of Bloomingdale have particular questions about landscaping or taxing district expenditures in their section, they are encouraged to attend a board meeting.

Some Sections Independently Upgrade, Refurbish Entryways

The property manager noted that residents in some sections within Bloomingdale design and plant entryways with their own mandatory homeowners' association funds. Many of those plants, he noted, are not consistent with other entrances and won't survive with county watering restrictions. Devney said he feels this situation may be creating hard feelings with residents in other areas that do not have mandatory HOA's. Trustee West indicated that although mandatory HOA sections are certainly free to upgrade their entryways, the taxing district will not replace the plants if they don't survive.

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BLOOMINGDALE

Alafia Kindergarten Classes Hold Medieval Banquet

STUDIES CULMINATE IN ANNUAL FEAST

By LESLIE WHITE Correspondent

Hear ye, hear ye! The kindergarten courts at Alafia Elementary School celebrated their annual medieval feast in

Entering the "castle" to the sounds of blaring trumpets, the kings and queens of the medieval feast, elected by their classmates, took their place at the royal table. Meanwhile, the Bloomingdale High School chamber orchestra serenaded princesses, princes, lords and

ladies as they seated themselves in the dining hall.

"We've been studying medieval times, learning all about kings and queens and chivalry," said kindergarten teacher, Barbara Baker. The medieval theme, incorporated into many areas of the kindergarten curriculum, culminates each year with the medieval

Fare for the event, served on rounds of flatbread, included fruit, sausages and chicken nuggets, alongside juice-filled goblets handcrafted by students, teachers and parents.

The group even feasted on a

"wild boar," in reality a meatloaf shaped like the head of a

Baker said kindergarteners look forward to the feast each year. Some spent classroom time re-enacting books and doing puppet shows or writing about medieval times in their journals.

"We wanted this to be a magical day that they would remember forever," Baker said.

"It's been wonderful, and they learned so much."

PTA volunteer, Dani Akers, said parent volunteers put a lot of effort into creating the unique experience.

"Our parents worked really hard to make this special for the kids," Akers said.

Each of six classes elected their own king and queen. The royal court included King Just Whiele, Queen Mikayla Akers (Mrs. Baker's class); King Charles Offenhauser, Queen Mallorie (Mrs. Clarkson's class); King Dylan Antes, Queen Taylor Tew (Mrs. Gallaher's class); King Gabriel Ruiz, Queen Maci Smith (Mrs. O'Neill's class); King Matthew Lipp, Queen Coral Lowery (Mrs. Rudolf's class); and King David Lena, Queen Nikki Zimmerman (Mrs. Ruhle's class).

CLEAN

Continued From Page 8

box held a satin-lined box containing some spoons with a note from my father. He served in the army during WWII and received those spoons as a gift from a very nice German family that took him in for dinner one night. There is no way I could ever part with those memories. Not even if the Antiques Road Show offered me big bucks!

So it seems although you may actually enjoy the task of sorting through that old stuff in your garage, you may find a treasure or two that you forgot you had. Or, you may just find stuff to get rid of in your next yard sale.

Bloomingdale y o u i n Gazette

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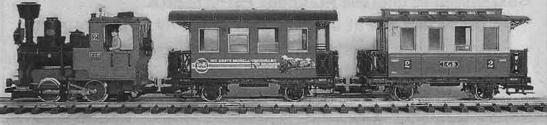
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Bloomingdale Yard of the Month

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Yard of the Month winners receive a \$25 Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift card, courtesy of The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. To nominate a yard for the monthly award, please email info@bloomingdalegazette.com or call 643-2990.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

EVENTS

Continued From Page 10

Kingsway Road. For more information, call (813) 689-6133.

Somerset Neighborhood Garage Sale April 8

Residents of the Somerset section of Bloomingdale will hold a neighborhood yard sale on Saturday, April 8. Signs announcing the sale and pointing to the location will be posted around the community. About 40 families

participate in the annual event. Somerset is in Bloomingdale East near the (south) corner of Culbreath Road and Natures Way.

Church Hosts Egg Hunt April 15

First Baptist Church of Bloomingdale will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. The hunt is open to all children age, 12 and under. Lunch; and games will also be offered. The church is at 3303 East Bloomingdale Avenue. For more information, call 689-3847.

MAIL

Continued From Page 9

on the couch with my two children getting ready to watch our favorite show, 'American Idol.'

"Our calm evening was interrupted by a frantic knock on my door. I answered it to find my neighbor crying and screaming that my dog had been hit by a car. My kids were so upset. I told them to stay inside while I went to see what was going on.

"Rider, our beloved grey-hound, was unconscious and bleeding on the side of the road. Two of the men were holding him while another called the veterinarian. The person who hit him was inconsolable and had to be walked home to her house.

"Rider was taken to the emergency room where he was treated for his injuries. Luckily there were no broken bones, but he was bleeding internally and was suffering from shock. We were on the phone most of the night making sure he was okay. Finally at 4 a.m. he was stabilized.

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He came home two days later and it looks like he will make a full recovery.

"It's true that Rider was not on his leash, but everybody who saw and heard the accident said the driver was speeding, going at least 40 mph or faster in a 25 mph zone. If the person would've been driving the speed limit, she would have had plenty of time to stop.

"The only part of Rider that didn't make it across the road was his back legs. Witnesses said the impact spun him into the road.

"This could easily have been somebody's child instead of a dog, and it would be a tragedy for all involved. When you are driving through your neighborhood, please do not speed. Childrens' and pets' lives are at stake."

Editor's Note: Hawkins said she displayed the "speed limit" sign in her front yard for a few days and removed it immediately when asked to do so by the Preston Woods Homeowners Association, in accordance with its deed restriction covenants.



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Surveys, Design Plans Underway For New Traffic Signals

BELL SHOALS AT GLENHAVEN, GARNET

By LAURA FRAZIER Editor

Hillsborough County's traffic engineering department is making plans to install traffic signals at two busy intersections on Bell Shoals

However, there could be a very long wait — up to two years before the first light turns green.

According to county traffic engineering staff, studies and design

plans to install traffic signals at Bell Shoals Road at Glenhaven Drive, and Bell Shoals Road at Garnet Drive, are underway.

The signal at Garnet is scheduled to be installed by December 2007.

The Glenhaven signal is set for completion by March 2008.

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council is working with public officials and county staff to try and expedite the installation of both signals.

Bloomingdale residents who want to see the lights installed soon-

er are encouraged to contact the Board of County Commissioners with their concerns.

Phone the commission at (813) 272-5660, or use the e-mail form provided under "Contact The Commissioners" at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/bocc.

The form allows senders to copy all seven commissioners with one e-mail message, and to request a response by e-mail, phone or U.S.

Updates on this issue will be www.bloomingposted on

dalegazette.com.

WASTE

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Continued From Page 6

Extra collection runs — especially on Sundays indicate a concerted effort by Liberty officials to get caught up on yard waste collections.

However, as of March 24, complaints were still coming in to the homeowners association office and the Gazette about missed yard waste collections on Bloomingdale's regular Friday pickup day.

"We are asking for patience from our customers," Greer said.

Liberty Waste LLC is currently in negotiations to renew its contract with Hillsborough County. Residents with comments and questions about yard waste, household trash and recycling collection can contact Greer at (813) 601-0998 or jgreer@libertytampa.com.

To contact the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department, call (813) 272-5680 or log on to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/solidwaste.

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NETWORK

Continued From Page 3

sion), a competitively friendly set of men (D-I-Y Guys), a bubbly bunch of young children (Disney Kids) or a gifted gathering of parents, teachers and students of all ages (Parent/Teacher Confer-

The miniature golf course is set up in the end zone of the football field. On the track surrounding the field, a mini-expo of sorts is underway. A variety of Bloomingdale area businesses, along with several civic and government groups, offer information and promotional freebies to passers-

As you scan the scene for your teammates, you are pleasantly surprised to see some other familiar faces.

Your now-grown daughter's fifth-grade teacher from Alafia Elementary School waves to you from the silent auction table. You stop by the mini-business expo to say hello to the Realtor who helped you find your Bloomingdale dream home five years ago. And isn't that your exercise class teacher from the Campo Family YMCA, buying three loaded hot dogs and an extra large Pepsi for herself?

A small group of children, their hands slathered in glue and glitter, create keepsakes at the craft booth to take home and display on the refrigerator. Nearby, a young mother tips a roving entertainer on behalf of her child, who is thoroughly delighted with his new balloon animal.

After a round of miniature golf and a bite to eat, some socializing with old and new friends and a little networking with local business reps you leave the event with your batteries recharged and a renewed sense of community.

To register for the miniature golf tournament, or for more information, please log on to www.bloomingdalegazette.com, e-mail bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net or call 643-2990.

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