

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXX
Number 4

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Taking the fast lane

Bloomington High School senior competes in her her first national drag race, the Gatornationals. See story, page 4.

The Community Cleanup Is Coming!

On Saturday, May 14, you are invited to help clean up Bloomington.
See page 6.

Kelsey Lay knows how to handle a car built to hurtle so fast it takes a parachute to slow it down.

Provided

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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Welcome

Please join us in welcoming Karin Stanton, DO

Women's Care Florida is proud to announce the newest addition to their medical staff, Karin Stanton, DO. Dr. Stanton comes from a family of medicine. She began her career working as a nursing assistant at her mother's nursing agency.

Dr. Stanton is a Junior Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology and earned her medical education at the University of South Florida and Nova Southeastern University. She completed her residency at Michigan State University. Her focuses include: Robotic Surgery, Menopause and Women's Health Education.

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residents on the first
Saturday of each month.

A need for speed

Bloomingtonale High senior enjoys the fast lane

BY SUSAN GREEN

At an age when many young people take the driver's seat to learn how to navigate neighborhood streets, Kelsey Lay was learning how to handle a car built to hurtle so fast it takes a parachute to slow it down.

The Bloomingdale High School senior, the youngest competitor to drive a Super Comp dragster in a National Hot Rod Association event, turned 18 the day she showed up for her first national drag race, the Gatornationals, last month in Gainesville.

"It was the best birthday gift I could ever have," Kelsey said. "It was an amazing experience."

Hers is a sport where cars zoom to 180 mph in a snap of the fingers, and fractions of split seconds can win or lose a quarter-mile heat. Kelsey said she was eliminated in the first round when the competing driver beat her time by 1/2000th of a second. But she was glad she went.

"I learned so much just by being around the pro drivers that were there," she said. "I learned you have to be consistent every time at the tree [starting lights] and on the track."

She has been on a fast track toward racing in the big leagues since age 16, when she spent three months in a junior division and quickly realized that she wanted to compete against adults.

Her father, Fred Lay, used to race Go-Karts and other open vehicles, and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kelsey Lay prepares to rocket down the track. She grew up around a racetrack and she began drag racing as a teen.

Kelsey, his younger daughter, tagged along to watch.

"I kind of grew up around a racetrack," Kelsey said. When she became a teen, she decided to try drag racing. About a year ago, she decided she was serious and took a two-day course at a drag-racing school. Then she and her dad began shop-

ping for a car and found her dream rocket, a burnt orange fuselage dubbed Wile E. Coyote after the popular cartoon character. Price tag: \$100,000.

Since then, she's competed in regional races and participated in numerous car shows and charity events, averaging about two a month. She said she

took extra courses online during her junior year at Bloomingdale in order to be able to have a less demanding final year so that she could indulge her urge to race.

"It's pretty incredible - a huge adrenaline rush," Kelsey said, adding that heats typically take less than 9 seconds long, but she loves the thrill. She said she takes 2.5 Gs of pressure, or gravity force, to her body during the surge forward, and 2 Gs when the rear parachute deploys to slow the car.

She said she realizes there are risks involved, such as the possibility of losing control and hitting a wall. She wears a helmet and flame-retardant suit

when she drives.

"There's always going to be that risk that something could happen," she said. "I try not to think about it."

Kelsey has been accepted to the University of Tampa, where she plans to study marketing and communications. Fred Lay said the university supports his daughter's goals and agreed to make accommodations in her schedule so that she can attend races around the country.

He and his daughter said they realize her dream is expensive and demanding, but they want to keep it a reality.

Said the father: "I see the same spark in her eye that I had - I wanted to go fast."



Taking to the track, Kelsey Lay finds the experience to be "a huge adrenaline rush."

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Bloomington Buzz

By SUSAN GREEN

For this month's Bloomington Buzz, we asked young people at Bloomington East Park about spring break, scheduled for late April in the public schools. We discovered that all four kids interviewed had the traditional spring respite scheduled at different times, depending on what school they attend.

What are your plans for spring break?

Amber Thrasher, 16, of Bloomington, who attends Providence Christian School. Her break was in late March.

"The beach, probably, and the mall. That's pretty much it."

Nathaniel Workman, 13, attends school in Daytona Beach. He was on spring break the second week of March, visiting his dad, Bill Workman, of Bloomington.

"I just got back from running a 5K over at BayLife [Church in Brandon]."

Courtney Baugh, 9, of Bloomington, attends Alafia Elementary School. Her break will be April 25-29.

"Playing with my friend, Chloe. We normally play Barbies and play outside, riding our bikes, lots of stuff."

Clinton Sims, 9, of Bloomington, attends Bell Shoals Baptist Church School. Spring break for Clinton was the end of March.

"We see family [in Georgia or Alabama] or we stay home. ... We usually play games or play things outside."



Amber Thrasher



Courtney Baugh



Clinton Sims



Nathaniel Workman

Community Cleanup Day is coming

The Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc. plans to hold a Community Cleanup Day Saturday, May 14 at the Hillsborough County parks maintenance facility on Natures Way, near Alafia Elementary School.

The cleanup is made possible by BHA volunteers, a grant from the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations, residents' annual membership dues, and the Hillsborough County Parks Department.

The site will open at 9 a.m. and will close when all available dumpsters are full or 1 p.m., whichever comes first. Waste from commercial businesses will not be accepted.

Appliances, mattresses, water heaters, steel and other metals, furniture, and non-commercial construction debris will be accepted. Televisions, microwaves, computers and their components (printers, faxes, monitors, etc.) cannot be accepted.

Yard waste or regular household trash normally picked up at the curb cannot be accepted. Hazardous materials including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercial activities cannot be accepted.

The BHA is a voluntary, nonprofit organization run entirely by non-paid volunteers who live in the community. If you would like to help staff the collection site, please email inbloomington-news@tampabay.rr.com. High school students and Scouts can earn community service hour credits for assisting with this project.



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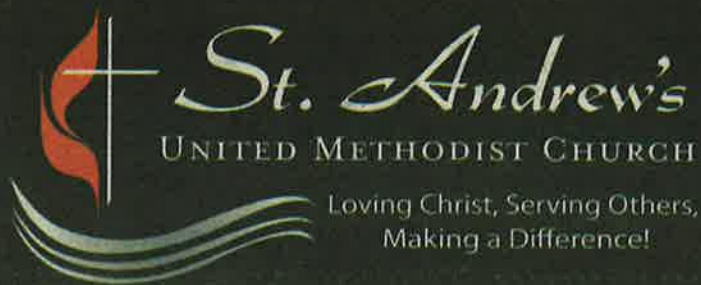
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Velvet Rope Boutique pampers prom queens

BY SUSAN GREEN

Attention, would-be Cinderellas: Prom season is in full swing and you might find your fairy godmother right here in the Bloomingdale area at The Velvet Rope Boutique.

Lauren Shanks of Valrico found her perfect dress there. In fact, she found six of them, leaving her with a dilemma she planned to solve with the help of boutique co-owner Tammie Borden.

"I love it," the 18-year-old Brandon High School senior said last month, as she tried on gown after gown in what Tammie and her husband, Cornelius, have dubbed the Narcissus

corner, a raised platform surrounded by full-length mirrors and topped by a chandelier. She finally narrowed her selections to two and made a second appointment to return with her mother.

"I'm not the best at picking out stuff," Shanks said. She had already checked out a couple of fancy dress shops in Brandon when a friend told her about the boutique in Plaza Bella at Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road.

Shanks said she expects the Brandon High prom, set for April 9 at the A La Carte Pavilion in Tampa, to be one of the highlights of her high school experi-

ence.

The Bloomingdale High School prom is scheduled for April 16 at ClubFUZE in Tampa.

The Bordens hail from New Orleans, relocating to the Tampa area to escape the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He had a career in health care and she worked in sales. The couple decided to open the boutique, described as Tammie's "dream closet," in July 2009 after they both lost their jobs to layoffs.

Party masks, chandeliers, feathered boas and emblems of New Orleans Saints football help create a Mardi Gras atmosphere

SUSAN GREEN

in the shop, which also sells jewelry, shoes, handbags and other accessories.

Popular this year are long, flowing gowns in colorful prints or royal blue with fabric falling off the shoulder and skirts split at the front or side. Sequins and fancy designs that show off the back are also in demand, Tammie said.

Customers don't have to worry about seeing the same dress on a rival, ei-

BOUTIQUE, Page 16

Lauren Shanks of Valrico tries on a prom gown at The Velvet Rope Boutique, as co-owner Tammie Borden provides guidance.



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Primrose School sprouts on Bloomingdale Avenue

By SUSAN GREEN

The sign announcing a new Primrose School on Bloomingdale Avenue has boasted, "coming soon," for years, but it took Ketan and Ami Gohil of Tampa to get the enterprise off the ground.

Now a 10,500-square-foot preschool building is rising fast on the lot at 1280 Bloomingdale Ave., just west of Bloomingdale High School.

"It's like watching a child growing up," said Ketan, who will co-own the school with his wife. The Gohils hope to start classes in July.

The couple said they bought the Bloomingdale franchise early this year

after Ami spent three years as a teacher at the Primrose School in Westchase, where the Gohils live with their two daughters, Maya, 8, and Sonia, 5. The Gohils said they were impressed with their children's experiences in the Primrose program.

The Georgia-based Primrose chain touts a "balanced learning" curriculum that targets academic and social skills through a variety of educational experiences, including teacher-led classes and children's hands-on exploration. Lessons are tailored for different ages, from 6 weeks to 5 years old.

The Bloomingdale school will be the fifth to open in Hillsborough

County, joining three Primrose franchises in Tampa and one in Lutz.

Ami had a career in banking and insurance before her children were born. After she became a mother and the girls were enrolled at Primrose in Westchase, she began volunteering and then joined the staff, where she currently is a pre-kindergarten teacher.

"I love the balanced curriculum," she said, adding that the program includes animal puppets to help teach children about kindness and "everything children need to know to in the first few years of life."

The Gohils said their school also will accept before- and after-school chil-

dren, with transportation provided for pupils at Alafia and Cimino elementary schools in Bloomingdale.

Teacher-to-children ratios will range from 1 to 4 for infants to 1 to 12 for preschool and after-school children, Ketan said, adding that in most categories supervision exceeds state standards.

The Primrose campus will encompass a 10-room building and four playgrounds, so that children can be separated and provided age-appropriate attention, Ketan said. The school is licensed for up to 184 children.

Ketan, a business consultant, said the Bloomingdale franchise was appealing because he be-



SUSAN GREEN

Ami and Ketan Gohil stand next to a display announcing the opening of Primrose School, with two of the puppets used in teaching preschoolers. The school is expected to open in July.

lieves the surrounding community holds "families that believe in the value of development of children for the future."

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is accepting registrations for the fall. For information, call (813) 438-5980 or visit primroseschools.com/Bloomingdale.

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Bloomingtondale High hosts annual chorus evaluations

By SUSAN GREEN

The risers at Bloomingtondale High School were busy last month for Hillsborough County's annual Music Performance Assessment chorus adjudications, known as the MPAs, which have been likened by educators to FCAT exams for music students.

Hundreds of high school students from chorus groups across Hillsborough County took the stage to blend their voices for four judges, who could assign scores ranging from poor to superior.

Bev Sutherland, chorus director at Bloomingtondale, said a total of 220 Bloomingtondale students in four choirs sang one song to



Bloomingtondale High chorus director Bev Sutherland directs the school's Advanced Ladies Choir in a rendition of "Homage."

accompaniment and one assessment. All four choirs received superior ratings.



SUSAN GREEN

Miguel Oquendo, assistant chorus director at Bloomingtondale High, conducts the Men's Choir as they sing "Down in the Valley."

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Have a safe trip?

By MACK AUSTIN

Normally, when we wish someone a "safe trip" we assume that they will be traveling on a mode of transportation that has been thoroughly inspected for safety and that they will be traveling to and from work in a safe manner.

Bloomington and the surrounding communities have a large number of residents who work at MacDill Air Force Base either as military or civilian workers. An increasing number of these MacDill workers are riding HART buses to and from work. When they leave for work each morning, I'm sure that their families wish them well and want them to come home safe.

Unbeknownst to many Bloomington residents, several years now, many of these MacDill HART bus riders have made the long trip to and from MacDill standing up. Yes, I said standing up.



MACK AUSTIN

Some riders stand on the bus from FishHawk to MacDill AFB.

Children are not allowed to ride standing up on their school buses for obvious "safety reasons." Their parents should not have to ride standing up either!

When I first heard about this, my first reaction, as a safety professional for more than 20 years and a retired military member, was that this could not be right because it was simply unsafe. In the event of an

accident these riders would be open to serious injury if not death. The riders are having to ride standing up on HART Express buses that not only use local streets but also use the Selmon Crosstown and I-75 at speeds of 65 mph or greater?

Upon further investigation, I was told that this issue had been addressed many times but that it had

TRIP, Page 15

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Softball at a young age

BY KIM WALLACE

Bloomington Little League isn't just t-ball and baseball for boys these days - they also have Minor B Softball for girls.

I got the privilege of watching this young team play. I always thought of little girls at the age of 6, 7 and 8 as not having the best coordination. Boy was I proven wrong.

The coaching staff of the Cardinal team at Bloomington Little League is made up of Jeff Carter, head coach, McKenzie Carter, Savannah Aversa, Stan Adams and John Bennett. This coaching staff is dedicated to teaching the fundamentals of softball to these little girls.

Jeff Carter, a Bloomington resident who grew up in the Brandon area and



Peyton Carter with big sister McKenzie Carter during a game against East Point. Peyton is happy her sister is coaching her team!

graduated from Brandon High School in 1982, went on to the University of Tampa and graduated in 1987. Jeff was drafted by the Montreal Expos in 1987

and traded to Chicago White Sox.

Jeff played seven years professional baseball, pitching for both teams. In 1992 made his Major League Baseball debut for the Chicago White Sox.

Since then Jeff married and started a family. But that didn't stop Jeff from coaching and teaching baseball. His oldest daughter McKenzie Carter started playing softball when she was 9 years old. At that time Jeff also took an interest in coaching girls softball.

In 2005, Jeff, manager of a Softball all-star team, along with coaching staff, Steve Tarte and Dane White took this team to the Florida State Champions, Southern Regional Runner Ups. This is further than



KIM WALLACE

Emily Lipp swings with all her power to make a hit for her team.

any Bloomington LL Major Softball team has ever advanced.

Now his daughter McKenzie is graduating from Bloomington High School. McKenzie signed a scholarship to play softball at Elon University in North Carolina. Her experience and the help of her father

teaching have paid off for her. Jeff's son, Zack has also played baseball since he was little. He now plays baseball at Bloomington High. Peyton his 8 year old is also showing interest in the game. She is excited to have not only her dad coaching, but also her big sister.



Jeff Carter telling Sydney Cornett and Delaney Ries after two innings what a good job they did hitting.



McKenzie Carter assistant coach for Cardinal gives Emily Kozelka little pep talk!



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Ray Chadderton

Using the comparables that your agent researched, you'll be able to figure the average cost per square foot for the area, and determine if the home you want compares favorably with those figures. Total the square footage of several homes and divide by the number of homes to get an average. Total the "sold" prices of each home and divide by the number of homes to get an average selling price. Now, divide that average selling price by the average square footage to produce the average price per square foot for homes in the area. When you multiply that average price per square foot by the square footage of the home you want, you'll discover how your choice compares, and then you'll know if you're looking at a fair price.

Other factors like the seller's motivation or urgency may also affect your offer, so talk to your agent about that CMA and take the next step!

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TRIP

From Page 13

not been resolved. There has been a lot of "discussion" but no solution.

The solution may not be simple. I'm sure there are logistical and financial issues. It has been "under study and discussion" for

many months. But the lives of these riders have no price. The organizations responsible for their safety must immediately put safety rules in place. These rules must be strictly enforced. It only takes one accident to result in lives lost or serious injuries.

Our residents and those

who work to protect and defend our country deserve a safe ride to work. No family should have to worry about whether their loved ones will come home safely from work.

Whoever is responsible for ensuring the safety of our MacDill military troops and civilian workers riding these buses

must take whatever action is required and do it now before someone is hurt.

Anyone concerned about this serious safety issue for MacDill workers should contact the following via email:

◆ Commissioner Al Higginbotham (District 4), member of DOD-MacDill AFB Support Committee ;

HigginbothamA@hillsboroughcounty.org

◆ Col. Lenny Richoux/Commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill AFB: 6AMW.CC@us.af.mil

◆ David Armijo, HART CEO: armijod@gohart.org

The opinions expressed are not those of the Bloomingdale Gazette, its publisher or staff.



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KIM WALLACE

Spring has arrived

Spring is finally in the air in Bloomingdale!

BOUTIQUE

From Page 8

ther, her husband said.

"We register each dress for each girl so there's only one at each school," he said. "The majority of the dresses are one only, anyway."

Walk-ins are welcome, but Tammie encourages girls to make appointments so that she can give them one-on-one guidance.

Her best advice?

"It's not about the glitz and glamour of the dress," she said. "It's what fits you well. It's kind of all about the flow. You make the dress; the dress doesn't make you."

Other deciding factors might include choosing the dress that can work again for weddings or other special occasions, she said. Prom dresses at the shop start at about \$250,

she said.

Prom season is among the busiest times for The Velvet Rope, but Tammie said fancy sundresses and party frocks for the summer, as well as mother-of-the-bride gowns, typically sell well once the high school dances are over.

Store hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays except Thursday, when the shop stays open until 8 p.m. Weekend hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For information, call (813) 381-3865 or email velvet.rope@ymail.com.

Tammie and her husband, Cornelius, pictured with their 3-year-old daughter, Christina, opened The Velvet Rope Boutique in the Plaza Bella retail center in 2009.



SUSAN GREEN



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PYR TreJolie Desserts comes to Bloomingdale

By KIM WALLACE

Taylor Guerrier, owner and operator of PYR TreJolie Desserts, recently partnered with Francisco Maldonado to bring a new dessert/ice cream shop to the Bloomingdale area. The new shop is located at 4344 Bell Shoals Road.

TreJolie Desserts serves all types of novelty desserts — from fresh made ice cream, Italian ice and ice cream cakes, to specialty cakes and fresh daily baked goods from the PYR Bakery. They wanted to bring more than just an ice cream shop to the area.

in New York, and worked in Bartow, where he and Francisco worked together. Taylor decided that he wanted to work closer to home to be with his family.

Come by the bakery and check out all their new types of desserts. You won't be disappointed.

Taylor owns two shops



KIM WALLACE

Taylor Guerrier serves customers Orlando Jr. and Marc Rodriguez.



Taylor Guerrier, the owner of PYR TreJolie Desserts on Bell Shoals.



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Roger Foss with his 1957 Chevy Bell Aire, 2 door hard top.



KIM WALLACE

Car Show at Bloomingdale Pizza brought out some unique cars to show off!

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Bloomingdale Pizza to host once a month car show

By KIM WALLACE

Al Carapella, owner of Bloomingdale Pizza, will now host a car show the first Saturday of every month. The car show is a way to get the community to come out and show off their cars and have some fun while enjoying good food, music and prizes.

Al Carapella commented that he feels it is very important to be a part of and involved with our community.

The March 5 car show was a huge success. Ed and Sandy Cullins spun the tunes and had some fun giveaways.

Bloomingdale Pizza also offered their daily special

with \$1 drafts and pizza specials all day.

The day ended with the following car show winners. Bill MacGuire came in first with his 1958 Chevy truck. Jack Arnold took second place with his 1976 Dodge Dart and Jamie Poole was the winner of the People's Choice Award with his Porsche.

So mark your calendar for the first Saturday of every month and come on out and be a part of this fun event. There is no entry fee for the car show and everyone is welcome.

For more information contact Bloomingdale Pizza located on Bell Shoals Road in the same plaza as Beef 'O' Brady's.



Al Carapella owner of Bloomingdale Pizza

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Chris Mentor monitors and gives encouragement to his morning class.

New Fitness Center in Bloomingdale

BY KIM WALLACE

"Mentors Muscles Professional Fitness Training" recently opened for business at 4326 Bell Shoals Ave. in the Beef 'O' Brady Plaza. Chris Mentors, owner and operator, is excited to bring a more personal training and fitness center to the area.

Chris commented that he offers a lot more than just "working out." His motto? "Friends Don't Let Friends Train Lite." Chris also uses his last name to help: "Mentors" stands for M-otivating E-xercises N-ecessary T-o O-btain R-esults.

Chris is a professional fitness trainer, as well as a post rehab specialist for head trauma and catastrophic injury patients, plyometrics, isometrics, athletic trainer, cross training, flexibility, boot camps, cardiovascular conditioning, massage, muscles and joint strengthening. He also offers home visits. Chris has also worked with sports teams and military units, as well as the average everyday person.

He has developed many challenging group fitness programs and one-on-one programs that can and will allow you to obtain your goal. These programs are all part of the Mentor Challenge.

To check out this new fitness program, visit Mentors-Muscles.com



KIM WALLACE

Chris Mentor with one of his morning classes at the new facility.

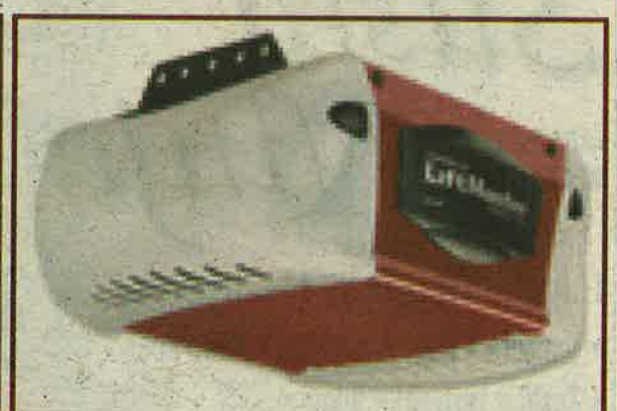


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Campo Family YMCA hosts health fair

By SUSAN GREEN

The theme was "Future Trends in Health Care," but visitors to Health Fair 2011 last month at the Campo Family YMCA were also treated to information from dance studios and day spas among the more than 70 exhibitors.

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the event at the Campo Y for eight years, largely because it provides a convenient location and good attendance of health-minded people, said Crystal Colegrove, member programming director at the chamber. She said more than 700 people attended the fair this year.

Mike Alfaro was there



Chiropractor Jackie Fullerton (left) helps Jay Silverstein of Valrico interpret results on a computer screen after he steps on special equipment at Health Fair 2011.

which custom-fits vans for disabled drivers. Features include lowered floors to accommodate wheelchairs, lifts and hand-operated acceleration and brake controls.

The Bloomingdale area is home to many injured military veterans who can use Ride-Away services, he said.

Chiropractor Jackie Fullerton said the March 5 fair was the third she has signed up to participate in.

Jay Silverstein of Valrico was among those at Fullerton's booth who stepped onto special equipment to get a computer reading of how well he carried his frame.

"I'm off-balance, but I've known that for years," he quipped.

with a demonstration of equipment available from Ride-Away of Tampa,



PHOTO PROVIDED

More than 700 people checked out the displays March 5 at Health Fair 2011 at the Campo Family YMCA.



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Bloomingtondale National Honor Society comes to the rescue

By KIM WALLACE

When Darren Dennington, President of the Brooker Elementary PTA, realized his school did not have enough volunteers to put together this year's Spring Fling, he knew just who to call.

Dennington placed a call to Catrina Miller, President of the Bloomingtondale High PTSA, and asked if she could lend a hand.

Ms. Miller went into action and asked her National Honor Society students if they would be willing to help support Brooker Elementary by giving up a Saturday and volunteering their time to help the younger children and their families enjoy a day of fun. Her students didn't hesitate.

Ms. Miller knew this



Left to Right: Laura Jones, Emily Dees, Alec Anderson, Chris Gleason and Alexis Davidson National Honor Students from Bloomingtondale High School ready to help out with Spring Fling.

was not just about a day of fun; it was about bringing two schools closer together and the community.

Mr. Dennington said,

thanks to the Bloomingtondale High National Honor Society students, this was one of the best Spring Fling's Brooker Elementary has ever had.



KIM WALLACE

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Bloomingtondale Crimson Guard ends season with first place win

The Bloomingtondale High School Crimson Guard finished their winter competition season with a first place win in the 2011 Florida Federation of Colorguard Circuit (FFCC) Premier II Scholastic Class AA Western Division.

The final event was held at Lakewood High School in Bradenton where the 26-member squad challenged 10 other squads by performing their program titled, "The Glass Ceiling." In the end, Bloomingtondale was victorious; Chamberlain earned a second place spot and Durant and Sickles tied for third.

Directed by Billy Sullivan and assisted by Coleen Petree, the squad is now preparing for the FFCC 2011 Championship on April 2 at Palm Coast, FL.

2011-2012 Bloomingtondale High School Crimson Guard Tryouts

May 2-6: 5pm to 7pm

May 9-12: 5pm to 7pm

Auditions on May 13 starting at 5pm

All paperwork (school physical, insurance, etc.) must be completed before try-outs and can be picked up in the school office.

For more information, call 744-8018 ext. 223.



The Bloomingtondale Crimson Guard finished their winter competition season with a first place win in the 2011 Florida Federation of Colorguard Circuit Premier II Scholastic Class AA Western Division.

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Alafia Elementary reading incentive a success

BY KIM WALLACE

To see how well the kids would do in spelling, media specialist Marcy Ringdahl at Alafia Elementary put on a reading incentive.

After the students read 44,069,347 words and 3,415 books at an astonishing 90 percent participation rate, the students were rewarded with a special outdoor lunch and free time to spend with their friends. They were allowed to wear crazy hats or have a crazy hair style. They each got prizes for all their hard work.

Marcy stated that the more interesting and fun you make it for kids to read, the more apt they will be to pick up a book.

Alafia has more events coming up for reading in the near future and the kids are excited about that.



These 5th grade boys are enjoying lunch. Front: Michael McLaughlin, Jon Hyatt, Wyatt Brimner, Zachary McKinnon Back: Anthony Stubbs, Paol Izzd and Ian Hapeman



Gabby Savinon, Lexie Chevalier, Devin Mason and Isaelba Alfonso are having fun because they reached their reading goal.



Mrs. Jackson, Principal and Trish Eckles, Reading Coach are serving lunch to the 5th graders who met their goals in reading!



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Vera Bradley's daughter visits The Green Boutique

By KIM WALLACE

On Tuesday, March 8, Joan Bradley Reedy, daughter of Vera Bradley made an appearance at The Green Boutique.

The Green Boutique is rated with Vera Bradley at the highest level, or designated as a platinum store. Julie Frick, a consultant for Vera Bradley in eight counties in the Tampa Bay area, commented that The Green Boutique is one of the top suppliers area.

Roz Creager, owner of The Green Boutique, does all of her ordering through Ms. Frick. Due to The Green Boutique's designation of being a platinum store, Ms. Frick spoke with her director of marketing, Monica Edwards, to see if

Joan Bradley Reedy would come to the Tampa area for a signing and meet their customers. Joan Bradley Reedy agreed to do just that.

She only made three appearances in Florida during her visit. Her first stop was for the Seaside Run Half Marathon and 5K runs in Seaside, Florida. All proceeds from both races benefit The Seaside Neighborhood School. All monies raised will stay in the community and will be used to enhance school programs. Vera Bradley is one of the main sponsors for this run. They provided a bag for each of the 3000 runners.

Her second stop was at The Green Boutique for a Vera Bradley signing. Roz

and her staff were very excited about Joan Bradley Reedy coming to meet their customers. Everyone who attended the event received a Vera Bradley gift and was able to draw for \$5, \$10 or \$15 dollars off Vera Bradley purchases. They also had 3 drawings of Vera Bradley products and the grand prize was a \$100 gift card to The Green Boutique.

The new summer collection of Vera Bradley debuted on March 24. Please come by and check out the new designs and ask for Debbie, who will be more than happy to assist you with all your Vera Bradley purchases.

As for upcoming events, The Green Boutique has

BRADLEY, Page 25



KIM WALLACE

Ana and Mariana Bernal with Joan Bradley Reedy

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BRADLEY

From Page 24

Joan Bradley was asked to partner with Lindsey Phillips, the creator of the popular Switch Flops line. She developed her product from a high school art project. Lindsey Phillips is trying to bring awareness to the online organization DonorsChoose.org. This is a site where teachers post needs for their un-funded school projects. There are already at least 146 postings for Valrico alone. Lindsey Phillips will be visiting The Green Boutique sometime in May. The Green Boutique will also be holding a teacher appreciation event on that day. There will be plenty of goodies for attending teachers. To find out about upcoming events to be held by The Green Boutique, visit their website at www.greenboutique.net



The Green Boutique staff welcomes Joan Bradley Reedy daughter of Vera Bradley. Left to right Summer Lane, Debbie Brus, Joan Bradley Reedy, Roz Creager, Matt Creager and Julie Frick

KIM WALLACE

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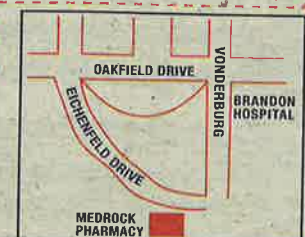
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Bloomingtondale Community Station Notes

One year anniversary as our Community Resource Deputy

By MASTER DEPUTY
CURTIS WARREN

On March 22, 2011, I completed my first year as the Community Resource Deputy (CRD) for Bloomingtondale. I can't believe it has already been a year. It has been a very good year with many important improvements in crime prevention and in our success in working effectively with the Bloomingtondale and surrounding communities.

One of the major changes that took place this year was the moving of the Sheriff's Community Station from the Bell Shoals site to the new location in the business plaza at 3622 Erindale Drive at the intersection of Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Erindale Drive. Sandy and I, along with the many detectives and Sheriff's Volunteer Citizen on Patrol team members that utilize the station, have been very pleased with the new site. It has provided us with more room to process investigations and work community issues.

We would love for residents to drop by and let us know about any issues and concerns you have regarding the safety and security of our community.

I look forward to working with all of you in continuing the outstanding work that has been done to make Bloomingtondale and the surrounding communities a safer and more secure place to live and work.

CONTINUED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EQUALS LOWER CRIME RATES

Many successful programs have been put in place by the Sheriff's Office to improve the quality of life in our community. As a deputy I have worked in several different sections within the Sheriff's Office and continue to stay aware of what is going on in terms of law enforcement and criminal activity.

Community policing is a major factor in reducing crime rates and stopping criminals that invade our

area. The team work and personal involvement of concerned, dedicated residents is what makes the big difference. Those of you who have been involved, please continue your involvement and renew your commitment. When you alert us we can take immediate action and we will chase down these criminals and put them where they belong – behind bars!

To those residents who want to make a positive difference in our community, it is very simple. When you see any kind of suspicious activity in your neighborhood, call the Sheriff's Dispatch at (813) 247-8200. Time is critical in enabling us to catch the criminals.

If you have concerns or issues you would like to discuss and work together with other members of the Bloomingtondale community on, I "invite you" to become a part of or visit one of the monthly Bloomingtondale Area Community Council (BACC) meetings. The BACC is made up of concerned residents,

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A heartfelt thanks

The residents of Bloomingtondale and the surrounding areas would like to congratulate and thank Master Deputy Curtis Warren on successfully completing his first year as the Sheriff's Bloomingtondale Community Resource Deputy. Through his hard work with



Master Deputy Curtis Warren

other Sheriff's deputies, detectives, the Volunteer Citizens on Patrol and the Bloomingtondale Area Community Council (BACC) and other concerned residents, he has made Bloomingtondale a much safer and more secure community.

We wish him much success as he continues to serve and protect.

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STATION

From Page 26

Homeowner's association members and Sheriff's officers who work together to improve our community. The BACC meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Community Station on Erindale Drive.

One other area that has proven to be extremely successful is our Volunteer Citizens on Patrol Program. For those interested please contact our Crime Prevention Section at (813) 247-0944 to find out how you can become an important part of this great team of volunteers!

RESIDENTS MUST TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

At our March Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC)

we reviewed the crime statistics for our area. As I said earlier crime has taken a serious drop in area, down 21.2 percent in our District IV, which covers Bloomingdale, FishHawk and surrounding areas.

In reviewing the crime statistics, we noticed some obvious patterns as to the types of crimes and possible causes. The first example - there were several vehicle burglaries. In all of the incidents the vehicles were left open. This is just an open invitation for criminals. The solution - lock up your vehicles. The second incidents involved home burglaries. Again the homeowner made it very easy for the criminals. They left their garage door open. Again the solution - close your garage door.

These are just two examples of how residents can help decrease crime in our area and not become victims. The respon-

sibility for keeping your homes and vehicles safe and secure starts with you the resident and homeowner. Do not make it easy for the criminals. With summer coming and residents already making plans we would like to remind you about the Sheriff's vacation watch program. Vacation watch forms are available at the Community Station for completing and coordinating a security watch to be completed on your home while you are on vacation. This very valuable service is provided by our Volunteer Citizen on Patrol team members.

REMEMBER:

If you notice any suspicious activity or a crime being committed, get all the information you can - descriptions of individuals, descriptions of vehicles and license numbers, and immediately call the Sheriff's Dispatch at (813) 247-8200! Time is very critical!

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