

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XIII, Number 8

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AUGUST 1994

BHA Blurbs

Commissioner BHA Guest

Hillsborough County Commissioner Joe Chillura (at large) will be the guest of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association at their monthly meeting Tuesday night, Aug. 9, at 7:30. Chillura, who sponsored the Neighborhood Bill of Rights Program for the county, will speak about the program and how it will affect Bloomingdale residents. All homeowners are invited to attend what promises to be a very informative meeting at the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101.

Group Will NIP Violations

BHA board member Pat Radel and her crew of volunteers will soon scour the neighborhoods looking for county code violations as part of the county's Neighborhood Improvement Program. The new program should increase response time by the county if a violation is cited by the volunteers.

Volunteers will tour the neighborhoods of Bloomingdale, and if a violation of county codes is sighted, a post card pointing out the violation will be mailed to the responsible resident, who will then have two weeks in which to comply. After that period, the NIP volunteer will re-inspect the site. If the violation has not been corrected, it will be turned over to the county, which may impose a fine on the offending resident.

Community involvement through the NIP hopes to increase awareness of county codes, bring attention to a greater number of violations, and bring quicker action by the county by doing all of the up-front work.

Currently, there are six volunteers each with a different area to cover. According to the BHA, more volunteers are needed, especially in Bloomingdale East. Those interested in volunteering to assist on the NIP are asked to call 651-0210.

Membership Dues Due

Residents are reminded that their 1994 BHA membership of \$20 is now due. Homeowners were mailed a dues statement in early spring. Included in the packet was an information brochure published by the BHA which includes important telephone numbers and information on deed restrictions and county codes violations. In addition, homeowners had an opportunity to answer a survey about community needs. Residents who require another packet may call the Community Office at 681-2051 during business hours, 9:30 to 12:30 Monday through Friday. Residents who have not yet done so, should mail their dues and survey to 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594.

The BHA is pleased with the response it has received to membership this year, thus far having surpassed previous years.

Prison Issue Is Not

Because residents have not responded to the plea of the BHA for response to the prison site issue, board members made no decision at last month's regular meeting. Residents of the Lithia area were hoping to gain the support of the BHA in their fight against the proposed site, approximately eight miles from the Bloomingdale community. The BHA did not want to take a stand either way until the residents' concerns were heard. The light response was not enough of an indicator for the BHA to give its endorsement to the Lithia group. Residents may still respond by calling the BHA at 681-2051.

Bloomingdale Security Topic Of Public Meeting

by Rozel Sciuilli

Residents will have an opportunity to voice their opinion about the need for paid security in the Bloomingdale community at a public meeting sponsored by the Special Taxing District trustees on Monday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Alafia Elementary School cafeteria.

The open forum will give residents a chance to ask questions and to tell trustees whether or not they want the STD to look into providing security via paid off-duty sheriff deputies.

"We want to hear from the residents," said STD president Rick Pitrowski. "This is by no means a done deal. If they don't feel the STD belongs in security then we won't be."

In recent months, Pitrowski and fellow trustee, Joe Liguori, have met with officials from the sheriff's department to determine the feasibility of providing full-time, around-the-clock security for Bloomingdale East and West. This, in response to residents' concerns that, while Bloomingdale's crime rate is the lowest in the county, no amount of crime is tolerable.

According to sheriff officials, it will cost \$19 per hour to hire off-duty deputies to patrol the neighborhoods. Over the course of a year, the total

expenditure would exceed \$170,000.

Pitrowski feels it is worth it in order to cut down response time in the event a deputy is needed.

"We would always have a deputy right here in our community. He or she could respond to an emergency in two to three minutes," he said, citing the case of a neighbor who waited nearly 20 minutes for a deputy to respond to a recent incident involving a carload of youths who allegedly attempted to run her over.

In addition, the regular duty deputy, of which there are currently four assigned to the Bloomingdale corridor, would respond and take over so the security personnel could return to the assigned route.

Proponents can not guarantee that it will reduce crime, but they say that residents will have more peace of mind as they notice the daily presence of a deputy on their individual streets.

Meanwhile, opponents ask why they should have to pay for law enforcement when their taxes are already going to the county for that purpose.

According to the sheriff's department, the county currently ranks behind its three municipalities and last among the most populous counties

Homeowner Survey Will Help BHA Set Goals

by Rozel Sciuilli

Looking to set goals for the future, the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will use as its guide a recent survey conducted as part of the 1994 membership drive. The survey, though not a scientific one, is a representation of the opinion of the people active in the community who have joined the BHA this year.

According to association vice president Ted Grable, it is the responsibility of the BHA to serve the interest of its members. Therefore, the BHA will use the results of the poll to set its goals and priorities and potential lobbying interests based on the response of nearly 500 residents who have thus far answered the questionnaire.

Grable said that the BHA is more than pleased with the response it received and, on behalf of the BHA, wanted to thank the residents for their input.

Residents were asked to respond to 22 questions regarding length of residency, reasons for choosing to live in Bloomingdale, issues facing the community such as crime and traffic, and quality of county services.

Whether residents are new to the community or have lived in Bloomingdale since it was first developed, the greatest concern is the issue of crime and safety (see graphic). A close second was maintaining the quality of life. Each received in excess of 300 "votes" as residents were able to select more than one issue.

The issue of crime and safety scored highest with residents who have lived in the area five or more years, although it was number one with all three groups, two to five years and less than two years of residency.

Surprisingly, the group of residents who have lived in the area the longest feel stronger than the other groups that the county provides Bloomingdale with adequate law enforcement.

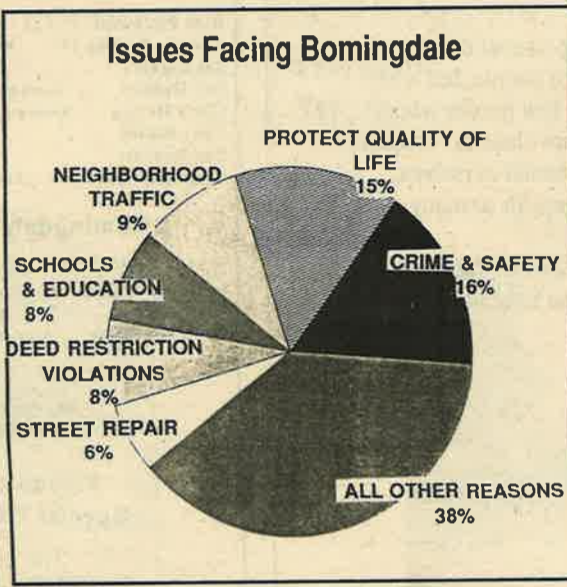
Overall the response to county services, including fire protection, parks and recreation, water and sewer, and zoning, reflected that most residents have had little contact with these agencies, as in the case of zoning, where over 50% of the respondents were "not sure" of the quality.

It is in these areas that Grable said the BHA could better educate its residents.

One hot issue in the Bloomingdale community this past year concerned speed humps. While traffic rated a concern with nine percent of the respondents, 42% of the respondents indicated that speed humps were not a viable solution to the area's traffic woes. Of the 140 residents who want speed humps, 31% want them on their own streets, with the next highest percentage selecting Nature's Way.

"This sends a message to the county that our homeowners

See Survey, pg. 14



Residents Discuss Growth, Traffic At Town Hall Planning Meeting

by Chris-Ann Phillips

A handful of residents, realtors, and political candidates were on hand to let county planners know what they like and dislike most about the Bloomingdale Community at a meeting held last month in a local church hall.

The meeting was one in a series of town hall type gatherings instituted last year by the county to receive community input on land use, services and facilities, transportation, and community design. Early meetings in Mango, Seffner, Limona, Brandon and Durant yielded small turnouts with the exception of the Durant meeting which was attended by nearly 100 residents opposed to the proposed state prison site in their community.

The results of a questionnaire indicate that the majority of Brandon area residents want a small town image with rural characteristics. The survey also showed that residents share a universal dislike for rapid, unplanned growth, crime, strip centers, lack of recreation facilities, and shortage of sheriff and fire protection.

And Bloomingdale is no exception. Residents at the local meeting like their community's single family residential lifestyle, its convenience to main roads, and the "child-friendly" atmosphere.

What they do not like is what they consider to be poorly designed

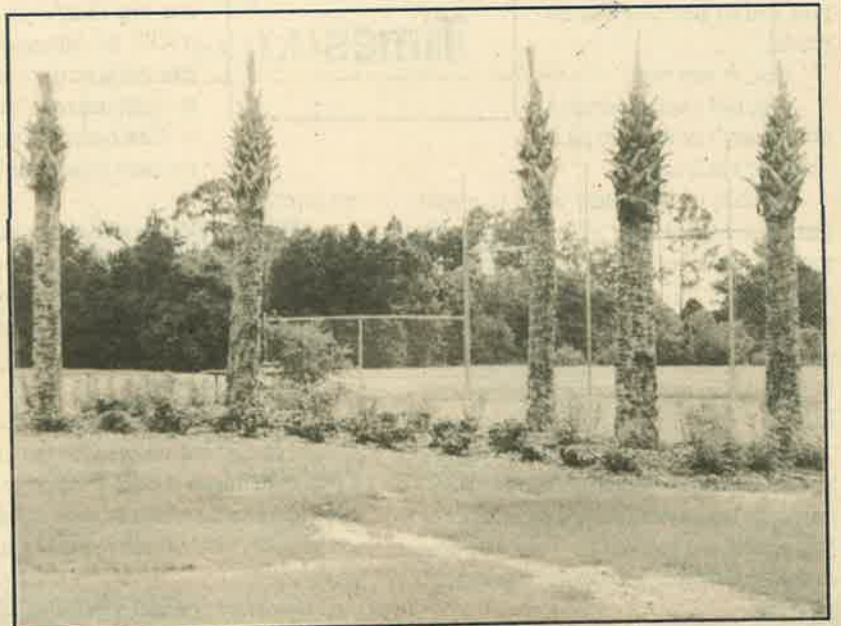
intersections, roadways not keeping up with development, poor traffic control, and the Tampa Electric Company's transmitter on the southwest corner of Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale.

In addition, residents had concerns about the extension of Bloomingdale Avenue to accommodate student travel to the new Durant High School.

While the county representatives conducting the meeting made no firm commitments, they did promise to take residents' opinions and suggestions back to the proper departments.

Those in attendance became unsettled when a few guests continued to discuss issues of relevance only to Brandon, quickly reminding the guests that this was, in fact, a Bloomingdale meeting.

In April of 1992, the Board of County Commissioners mandated that residents and the planning commission devise a land use plan for the section of the county bordered by I-4 on the north, U.S. 301 on the west, Morris Lake and Turkey Creek Roads on the east, and the Alafia River on the south, to carry this area into the first decade of the 21st Century. In order to facilitate the study, a series of meetings began in July of 1993 with neighbors in Brandon who had originally banded to successfully oppose the Crosstown Extension.



The STD's beautification project has finally moved into Bloomingdale West as evidenced by the newly planted palms and shrubs at Canoga Park Drive and Bloomingfield.

See SECURITY, pg. 11

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Comfort In Cotton, Denim The Look For Teens This Year

by Shirley Rosen

Layers of tops, lots of denim, and prints for guys lead the trends in back-to-school fashions this fall. A relaxed, Western prep look is what kids will be wearing, and cool comfort in cottons is the key to style.

Denim is everywhere for boys and girls. Jeans and shorts are a relaxed fit and straight-legged, and they come in a variety of earthy tones - browns, beiges, forest green, russet, and denim blue.

While denim is nothing new, what they'll be topped off with is!

The real surprise for guys is in shirts. Polo (not the brand, but the style) is back, but this time with bold stripes and paisley or Aztec prints. And, they're not fitted, either. The baggier the better, shirts will be worn outside of jeans pants or baggy shorts.

Guys will also be seen in cotton flannel shirts of yarn-dyed plaids or prints, and cotton, crew-necked T's. One, new look, combines solid cotton, long sleeves and button down collar with a plaid or checked shirt front. Dressing up means wearing striped oxford shirts and Docker-style pleated slacks. Suede front vests with satin backs and adjustable buckle can be worn over T's and cotton, western-style shirts.

Footwear for boys include suede or leather oxfords, boat shoes, kilted tassel slip-ons, and lightweight leather hikers.

The look for girls will be in cool cotton layers. A ribbed knit top in pale shades on the bottom can be jacketed by a long-sleeved denim shirt

that is solid, thinly striped or checked, topped by a solid or print open vest. In addition, girls will be seen in button-front-five-pocket, cotton denim mini skirts in solid colors. Carpenter's shortalls in black or white and denim apron dresses will all be worn with cotton T's or ribbed knit crop tops.

Cropped tops and sweaters will be button-down or crew-necked in solids and horizontal, multi-colored stripes. But don't look for bright colors, instead girls will be wearing navys, blacks, browns, burgandys, and dark greens.

Brighter colors are saved for vests in solids, stripes, and paisley prints worn casually with shorts, pants, or skirts. Tapestry vests will be used to dress up even the most casual outfits from jeans or brushed cotton slacks. Even crepe and challis dressier pants suits will be worn with a button-front weskit under the jacket.

While skirts are mini in length, dresses are jumpers to mid-calf, pleated, and sheer. The apron dress is making an appearance with solid cotton T's underneath.

Dressing up will also be fun in crinkle textured knit separates, featuring multi-colored tiered skirts overlaid by a tunic top. Wide-legged pants can be topped by oversized vests covering a cotton T.



Nicole sports a denim short and vest outfit by Bongo, popular with ribbed knit crop top in thin stripes.



Denim dominates the fall fashion outlook including shortalls for girls and shirts and shorts for guys.

Accessories will be no-frills, the less cumbersome the better. The western look can be accented by Indian beaded and leather jewelry, leather belts, and sturdy hiking shoes with patterned or striped slouch socks.

From eighth grade to college, students will be in style this year with cool cotton and, of course, denim.

New Construction In East Begins

by Rozel Sculli

Construction of 1100 units of housing in the remaining undeveloped land of Bloomingdale East will get off the ground next month when Ken Franklin begins work on the 68 homes of Cambridge Cove.

Franklin Homes will open its sales office this month on the 28 acres situated on Nature's Way between the entrance to Bloomingdale Golfer's Club and Chadd's Ford. The development is the largest undertaken by the home builder since starting business locally in 1985.

According to Kevin McGuinness, Franklin's vice president of sales and marketing, the 68 homes will be upscale ranging from the \$170,000's upwards to over \$400,000 for the 16 homes that will be built around a lake with a golf course view. Lots will be an average size of 90 X 130.

The sales office will eventually move from a mobile building into a Franklin home, but, said McGuinness, who added that the balance of the spec homes will be unique in their distinctive style. Each will be a custom home that may be a repeat of existing Franklin plans with changes to suit the buyer.

The walled community will feature a gated security entrance, which has received preliminary approval from the developer, Shimberg-Cross. In addition, McGuinness said that as much of the natural Florida foliage will be preserved with roads and yards carved

out of the existing landscape.

"Ken and I have put a great deal of effort into making this a community of homes, not houses, and we have taken the most costly routes to insure this."

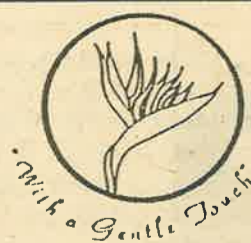
McGuinness described Cambridge Cove as having the intimacy of a Fox Run, another golf course community in East, and the style of a Cinnamon Trace, a community of homes on Pearson Road. The style of homes will vary to include two-story Victorians, next to country farm houses, an English reGENCY or Floridian traditional.

No stranger to this area's housing market, Ken Franklin Homes has earned the Grand Prize for three consecutive years in the Parade of Homes. He was also Arvida's Builder of the Year in 1993.

McGuinness expects this project to take 2 1/2 years to complete. It is the first of many new developments on the drawings boards for this area.

Before the end of the year, new construction will begin at Nature's Way and Culbreath near The Spot, and Schmidt Brothers will begin construction on the corner of Greenhollow and Nature's Way across from Park East later in the fall.

According to Randy Schmidt, the property was originally zoned residential commercial, and has been re-zoned to allow a maximum of 22 units of attached housing on the five-acre site. While Schmidt has not confirmed what will be built there, possibilities include patio homes or duplexes.



SMILE WRIGHT

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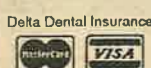


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Exchange Students Call McDermott's 'Home'

by Rozel Sciulli

If home is where the heart is, then Steve and Pauline McDermott need to build a bigger house. Their faces beam as would those of any proud parents as they speak of Diana, Aida, Christina, and Ko. Their voices full of anticipation as they speak of Elena.

They're the foreign exchange students the Bloomingdale couple has hosted in their home over the last three years. Their newest arrival, Elena, is a 15-year old from the Ukraine.

Encouraged by her friend to take an exchange student, Pauline is now the Florida representative of World Heritage, an organization that matches students with host families and sends American students to foreign countries.

In all, the McDermotts have hosted six students in three years, some coming just for the summer months, others for the 10-month school year.

According to Steve, a sheriff deputy, it has been a rewarding experience for him, his wife, and 10-year old daughter Samantha.

"The world is a small place divided only by man-made borders," he said. "When people of different nationalities live together, you find out we're all the same."

It takes no time at all for guests to become Americanized, and while native customs like holiday celebrations and foods are shared and encouraged, the object is for the students to have an American experience.

Language has never been a problem, as the students are required to study English in their native lands. And, said Steve, Bloomingdale High School has a supportive program that provides counselors and tutors to the students. "They never come here and fail," he said. "They are motivated and geared toward success."

Besides rules and regulations forbidding certain practices, such as obtaining a driver's licence and driving a car, the students are allowed to do "anything you would let your own daughter do."

The girls are treated equally, said Pauline. "If Samantha has a stereo

thanks the McDermotts for taking such good care of his daughter.

"See," said Steve, "parents concerns are the same, no matter where they come from."

Most of the students come from affluent families, but the latest crop of students from Russia, are only able to visit the U.S. due to the Freedom Support Act sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley. The bill helps fund student exchange with former cold war countries.

Elena, whose parents are both engineers, comes from a household whose income is around \$30 a month. And there are approximately 15 other students who need host families, said Pauline.

As the representative from Florida, it is her responsibility to find homes for the students who want to come to the states. She said it is not too late for this school year. In fact, there is sometimes a need for "replacement."

For a number a reasons, a match may not work out, she said, citing an instance where a student moved in with her after a severe allergic reaction to the host family's pet. That same summer, the McDermotts ended up with four girls from Spain.

Residents who are interested in hosting a foreign student may contact Pauline McDermott by calling her digital pager at 651-7101 and leaving a phone number.

She said that the organization offers a support system to host families and arranges activities during the year for students from the same country to get together.

Homesickness quickly fades, though, said Steve. "All they need to do is find that remote control, take one look at MTV, and they are instantly an American teenager."



Steve and Pauline McDermott hosted Ko, a Japanese exchange student, last year. She is one of six foreign students the family has hosted.

or T.V. in her room, so does the exchange student."

And the McDermotts feel their own daughter has benefited by learning different customs and languages in addition to having a big sister in several different countries. They share the photographs and letters received from their foreign daughters, and someday, they hope to send their own daughter abroad to study.

Steve read with pride the letter of a father from their most recent visitor, Ko, a Japanese student. In the letter, Ko's father, a bank president,

Commissioner To Be BHA Guest

The Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association's monthly meeting will be Tuesday evening, August 9, at 7:30 with Hillsborough County Commissioner Joe Chillura as the guest speaker. Chillura, who sponsored the Neighborhood Bill of Rights Program for the county, will speak about the program and how it will affect Bloomingdale residents. All homeowners are invited to attend this meeting which will be held at the Community Office, in the Royal Oaks Plaza, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101 (on the corner of Lithia Pinecrest Road and Bloomingdale Avenue).

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Church and Synagogue News

by Erin Mule'

Single Parenting will be the topic of a discussion workshop sponsored by the singles ministry of **Bell Shoals Baptist Church** on August 12, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. and on August 13 from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m.

"Single With Children - Successful Single Parenting" is designed to help parents deal with some of the challenges of being a single parent such as building positive self-esteem in themselves and their children, learning communication skills, disciplining children, coping with everyday personal and family challenges.

This seminar will be lead by Paulo Weisemann, a counselor from

the Bell Shoals Counseling Center. The fee of \$15 per person covers the cost of materials, light refreshments for the evening seminar and continental breakfast for Saturday morning's session. Child care for infants through 6th graders will be available for a nominal fee with reservations due by August 8.

Interested parents may register at the church or by calling 653-3875, ext. 173.

Congregation Beth Shalom is scheduling its Sunday School classes for the coming academic year. According to Alan Weiss, the fees for the 94-95 school year are \$150 for the first child, \$120 for the second, and \$90 per child for three or more. The registration fee is \$35. Additional information may be obtained from Weiss at 654-0877.

The Sisterhood will meet August 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Whistle Stop coffee shop, 111 N. Montclair in Brandon. New, returning, and potential members are invited to attend.

Members of **South Brandon Baptist Church** are starting an exciting new children's program called Teen KID. It is open to children in first through 6th grades who will meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the

church which is located at 4929 S. Bell Shoals. The program consists of games, activities, and Bible Study. Further information may be obtained by calling the church at 681-1045.

Vacation Bible School at **St. Mark's United Church** begins Monday, Aug. 8 through Aug. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. For registration and information, call the church at 685-0998.

Living Savior Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Ave. will hold a unique Family Vacation Bible School from Aug. 15 through 19, with closing services on Aug. 21. The limited spaces are filling quickly, and those interested should call the church at 681-2375 to register.

Members of **Brandon Day Women's Aglow** invite women of all ages to experience the dynamic mime group "Words Not Needed", when they perform at Center Place on Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 9:30 a.m. Admission is free and guests will be treated to a continental breakfast. According to a group spokesperson, the performance by this Christ group of young men and women will be especially enjoyed by teens.

Local Pastor Weds

Christopher and Linda Kruschel exchanged wedding vows on June 26, in Racine, Wisconsin. He is the pastor of the Living Savior Lutheran Church in Bloomingdale. Linda works in the research and development department at Walt

Disney World. Their family is made complete by Linda's, and now Chris's, 10-year old daughter Holly.

The couple was joined in marriage by the groom's father, Herbert Kruschel, and his brother Jonathan delivered the

sermon at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Racine.

Following the ceremony and reception, Chris and Linda enjoyed a wedding trip to Niagra Falls and attended the Shakespearian Festival in Stratford, Ontario, Canada.

Stebbins-Puebla Engaged

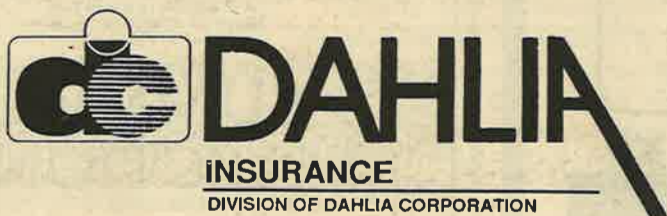


Sarah Jeanne Stebbins and David Puebla

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Stebbins of Bloomingdale announce the engagement of their daughter Sarah Jeanne to Mr. David Puebla. An outdoor wedding is planned on Nov. 26, 1994 in Thonotosassa.

A 1991 graduate of Brandon High School,

Miss Stebbins attended Southeastern Bible College in Lakeland and is now employed by Atkinson's Gift Shop in Brandon. Mr. Puebla is a graduate of the Florida State University and is employed with Sensible Property Care.



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"*The Bloomingdale Gazette* was like the grapevine when we were newcomers to Bloomingdale. We relied on it for news we wouldn't read in the other papers"

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Military Review

by Yolanda Boronell

MacDill Air Force Base has been buzzing with activity all summer long. The base offers families a variety of interesting activities, workshops, and services. The idea is to promote safe and fun-filled summers at the base.

Special interest workshops and classes are in session, including aerobics, scuba diving, career options, CPR, First Aid, tennis, martial arts and a host of others. Interest youths are encouraged to check out the Red Cross Youth Volunteer Program. For more information about the program, contact MacDill AFB.

The base's Wellness Center offers families support groups, TOPS meetings, and many other similar activities centered around general well being.

There are special activities on base where family members are sure to find fun. For those who are fast on their feet, the Annual Youth Center Meet was the place to be. Over 100 children ages five through 13, participated in this track and field event and many ran home with honors.

The granddaddy of all summer events was the Fourth of July Base Beach Bash. This year, over 5,000 people participated in events like the three-legged race, the dizzy bat race, canoe racing, aqua bike races, volleyball tournaments and much more.

Look for more family fun at MacDill AFB. **Senior Earns Scholarship**

Michelle N. Lossius, a Bloomingdale High School senior, earned a \$1000 scholarship awarded by the MacDill Officers Wives Club. Only three of many were chosen to receive the honored scholarships.

Scholarship recipients are evaluated in the areas of responsible citizenship, academic achievement, and a desire to further their education. Other qualifiers include being a child of active, retired, or deceased military personnel. Michelle is the daughter of Army Col. Bob Lossius of U.S. Special Operations Commands.

Michelle hopes to attend the University of Florida, where she plans to study Chemistry and French.

Life In These Times

by Daniel Farrer

For many of us who use the airlines a lot for business or pleasure travel over the years, it has been a fairly enjoyable experience. Lately, however, air travel has turned into scare travel. I don't mean "scare" from the standpoint of air safety. Air travel is still the safest mode of mass transportation in the world. But from the perspective of getting from point A to point B when you're supposed to, with as little inconvenience as possible, it can end up being a real scary experience.

An excellent example of "Scare travel" recently happened to a good friend of mine who we'll call Cal so the airlines won't slash his frequent flyer mileage or cancel his Presidential Club Membership, both of which would put a significant "dent" in any seasoned flyer's comfort level.

Cal's story begins at La Guardia Airport on a routine 3 p.m. flight to Washington D.C. After boarding the plane and sitting for a while, Cal and his fellow passengers were told the flight was cancelled due to weather conditions. He rebooked on the 6 p.m. flight, which was also cancelled for weather as was the 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. flights.

Joy! Nothing like a six-hour stay at the airport to lift the spirits. Knowing there was no way to make his morning meeting in Washington, Cal decided to book an early flight leaving the next day for Atlanta to catch his next meeting. A nice hotel room and breakfast seemed like a good way to turn things around.

At 7 a.m. the next morning, Cal is safely tucked away in seat 12A with his seat belt snugly in place and the paper turned to the business section, ready to head for Atlanta. Like most veteran air travelers, his ears are eagerly listening for that low whining sound from the wing area that signals engine start. By 7:15, nothing is happening. Must be a holding for a late passenger. 7:30 comes and goes. Still no sound from the engines. Then, at 7:45...

"Ladies and gentleman, we are currently experiencing some minor maintenance problems. It's going to take us a couple of hours to have a \$16 part flown in before we are ready to depart for Atlanta."

Within seconds, seat 12A is empty. The only sign of its former occupant - a crumpled morning paper left hastily in the seat.

Two hours later, our crafty traveler has switched airlines and with 300 other passengers, is wheels up leaving La Guardia passing through 2000 feet heading for Atlanta. You've gotta be fast and you've gotta be slick to beat the airlines these days. With a cat-like smile of satisfaction, Cal settles in for the short flight and centers his thoughts on his next meeting a few hours away in Atlanta.

Unfortunately, God does not always smile down upon human travelers who want to be like birds. Within minutes, Cal's concentration was broken by the "ping" of the fasten seat belt indicator followed again by "The Voice".

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are experiencing some slight mechanical difficulty (Pilot's language for, 'we have a serious problem and need to get this plane on the ground.'). and we'll be diverting the flight to JFK in New York."

At that moment, Cal's thoughts were the same as the other 300 passengers - "How fast can I get off and get to the ticket counter?"

Shortly after landing, the stampede was on and the massive surge of passengers descended upon the ticket counter like a thunderous herd of teenagers on the doors of a Guns and Roses concert. Cal was pulled along by the sheer force of the human wave and finally found himself standing somewhere in the middle of a very long line. It didn't look very good Atlanta looked a long way away.

At this time of almost hopeless despair and obvious failure, most normal people would have given up, accepted defeat, and dropped out of line. But for the guy who has more frequent flyer miles than Superman, it was only child's play. Reaching into his briefcase, Cal pulled out the miracle tool of the modern ages, his cellphone. Quickly he dialed a few well-chosen numbers and within a few short minutes a voice politely said, "Sir your reservations are confirmed for flight 1204 leaving JFK for Atlanta at 1 p.m."

Cal eventually made it to the counter and walked away with ticket in hand. A lady who had been ahead of him in line and had been unable to get a flight to Atlanta asked the obvious. Cal just politely smiled his best veteran traveler smile and said, "Cellphone."

Cal arrived in Atlanta a few hours later than his scheduled arrival time. He finished his meeting the next day and was booked out on a 5 p.m. flight for Tampa, which, by the way, didn't leave until 7:30 p.m.

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Tuition rates are competitive with discounts available for families with more than one child and for current families referring new ones. Feel free to stop by and visit or call Sue Verzillo, Director, or Mercy Ontengco, Assistant, at 654-0572.



Living Savior Lutheran Church

Living Savior Lutheran Church, a mission congregation of the Wisconsin Synod, often times faces the unfortunate paradox that states size equals ability. "As a mission, families tend to think of us as unable to offer various programs. That's far from the truth," says pastor Christopher Kruschel. "The families of Living Savior purposely moved to Valrico just to better meet the needs of today's families. As families face the struggles of today's society, we as a congregation wanted to help."

Through their new facilities, Living Savior is able to do just that. This summer they plan to run their first "Family" Vacation Bible School (August 15 - 19, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) which will spring board them into their Fall programs. "Children are important to us, but so are the parents. When we speak of family, we really include everyone, not just the children but the parents as well."

Living Savior is located at 3401 Lithia Pinecrest Road (corner of Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale). Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. Family Bible Study begins at 9:00 a.m.

Brandon Academy

Brandon Academy Private School has provided quality education to the Brandon area for over 20 years. The school is situated on 10 acres of beautifully wooded property just north of Hwy. 60.

Our mission is to educate young people in an environment of respect coupled with a commitment to quality education in a challenging program for average to above average ability students. Full school enrichment curriculum includes Spanish, computer, art and physical education. Middle school students choose electives from both the full school enrichment and several specially designed curriculums. Classroom experiences are supplemented with field trips, clubs and guest speakers. Students work in both small and large group situations within the school environment and are provided opportunity for the development of positive social skills.

Admission to Brandon Academy is selective. Students must provide a writing sample (grades 4-8) and interview. Qualified applicants are accepted regardless of race, sex, color, ethnic or national origin.

Please call for an appointment Monday-Thursday, 8:00-2:00 or after August 22, Monday-Friday from 8:00-3:00 at 689-1952.

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Harvest time Christian School is now beginning our 17th school year. Our commitment to quality Christian education remains the cornerstone of our philosophy. America has never faced a greater crisis than it faces today; achievement scores are plummeting, moral values are notably absent and violence is on the rise.

We believe a return to the absolutes of God's word would correct many of America's problems, including our education crisis. Harvest Time provides an excellent academic program in a Christian environment. We offer care for infants through 12th grade. We use the ABEKA curriculum for our preschool through 2nd grade and the ACE curriculum for 3rd through 12th grade.

Harvest Time Christian School is conveniently located next to the Crosstown on Highway 301. Call for more information 626-4600.

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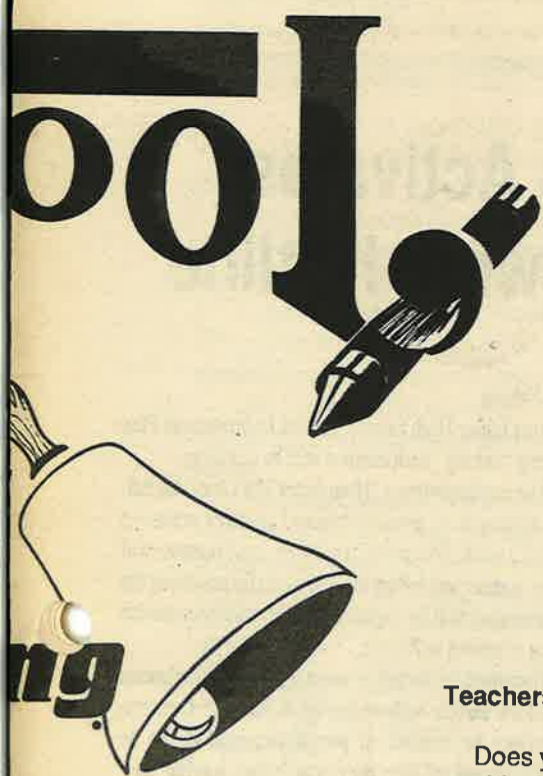
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Please call for an appointment at 689-3242. You'll also appreciate their surprisingly economical fees, when you consider their unique caring service: Pre tots to 2 yrs. is \$78 a week, 3 - 4 yr. olds is \$76 a week, and private kindergarten is \$80 a week. Before and after school is \$54, after school is \$51 and registration is \$55. Compare their rates!

Sylvan Learning Center

The Sylvan Learning Center of Brandon has been serving the Brandon Community for the past 8 years. This center is one of over 500 centers established in the Continental United States and Canada. We teach students from age 4 through adult, focusing on remediation of academic skills as well as enrichment skills for the gifted.

We begin with a precise diagnostic evaluation to access strengths and weaknesses. Then an individualized prescriptive program is written based on these results. The students normally attend two, one-hour sessions per week. The length of time needed depends on the number of skills needing enrichment and the completion of the parent and student established goals which are established following diagnostic testing.

There are programs in Readiness, Reading, Phonics, Writing, Math, Algebra, Geometry, College Algebra, Trig., Calculus, Study Skills, and P.S.A.T., and A.C.T. prep.

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Kid Kountry

Kid Kountry has been serving the Brandon area for almost nine years. Since our opening date, we have expanded our services to you with the addition of our Bloomingdale center.

Here at Kid Kountry it is our goal to provide the best quality child care for you and your child. Kid Kountry offers an enriched learning program that allows your child to grow while surrounded by an environment full of creative opportunities. Our new full program will include theme weeks and field trips as well as outdoor activities, art, language, and science experiences. We also provide after school care with pick-up from all local area schools.

We invite you to drop by and visit us at either our Lithia or Bloomingdale locations and see what we are all about.

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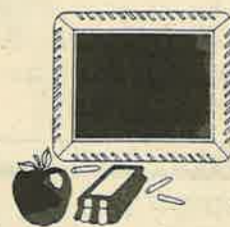
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School News

Bruin Beat



This year, for the first time, Burns Junior High School held a journalism summer school class. The class was held for the students who were selected for the 1994-95 yearbook staff. The staff worked on writing stories, taking pictures, developing film, and making prints and layouts. All their hard work has paid off - the staff is definitely ready for next year.

Along with editor-in-chief, Alyssa Kochansky, the staff has already brainstormed on themes for next year's memory book and has selected a cover design.

Alyssa will be joined by managing editors Diane Hurt and Carlie Miller, and other editors as follows:

Kelly Wicklund, layout/copy editor, Megan Allen, sales and distribution; Jill Kohlbecker, candid editor; Beth Frescura, mugs editor; Tiffany Waller, advertising manager; Lauren Hammond, photography editor;



Bruin yearbook staffers completed six weeks of summer school to get a head start on next year's publication.

Tony Pirotta, sports editor; Mindy Fels, darkroom editor; Kara Tibbits, academics editor; Ansley Sciulli, patrons editor; and Lisa Womack, artwork editor.

Burns Activates Homework Hotline

by Linda Kipley
Principal

Burns Junior High School

As a part of Burns Junior High School, School Improvement Plan for 1994-95, improving students' performance will be a priority.

The school will be implementing a "Homework Hot Line" this fall. The purpose of the system is to give parents and students access to homework seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Parents and students will simply dial the hot line number and follow the directions for accessing the system. Detailed information will be explained in the newsletter mailed prior to the beginning of school in August.

An additional feature of the system is voice mail capacity. Parents can leave a message for a teacher without having to access a secretary. This will help to reduce the number of people parents have to be transferred to and the amount of time they wait before leaving their message.

Our intent is to improve communication with parents to enable their students' performance to be more successful.

Educational Edge



by Ann Kilcline

The ability to focus your attention may seem simple to you. But paying attention is a skill that must be learned. Many students cannot control their attention because they have never learned how to direct their thoughts and energies. With the start of school less than a few weeks away, help your children begin preparing for the sometimes difficult task of paying attention.

Parents can help children improve their ability to concentrate by using a simple three-step process.

First, use positive self-talk and positive images. At sporting events you often see one player standing alone, muttering to himself, "OK, you can do it! Keep your eye on the ball." This is "Self-talk," an important tool for controlling attention.

Just as we can use words to give directions to others, we can use them to direct our own actions too. Self-talk is an important tool for controlling attention. Children can be taught to use it.

People also improve their attention span by controlling the images they see in their mind's eye. When a runner is half-way through a race, she may picture herself crossing the finish line; or a dieter may imagine his new appearance when tempted by an ice cream cone. These images serve the same purpose as self-talk. They help keep attention focused on a difficult task, and increase motivation to complete the task.

Children can use both self-talk and images to direct their attention away from distractions and toward a task at hand, whether it is homework, classwork, or a test.

The second step is asking questions about the work. Another way to direct attention is to ask questions while studying. Some general questions are "What is this paragraph about? Who did what and why? What is the evidence that supports the central idea? Is the argument true or false? Why?"

Asking themselves questions helps students bring their attention back to the task at hand, and it helps keep their attention on the task.

Finally, set specific study goals. One way to improve attention is for children to work toward specific goals as they study. The goal you set will depend on the lesson and the children's ages.

You might want them to study until they can tell you the main point of the paragraph, or until they can solve a specific math problem.

Discuss each goal with your children. They together set reasonable goals, given what you already know about their study habits. Remember that many small goals are better than a single large one.

You can also set goals for tasks that do not involve reading. Although the goals will be different, they should help the children concentrate on the important parts of the lessons. For example, to learn the geographical relationship of principal trade centers, a goal might be to have your children draw a map of a country from memory.

As your children become more used to using specific goals to guide their studying, you can ask them to construct some of these goals themselves. Encourage them to divide their study tasks into small segments, with a goal for each.



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SECURITY from page 1

in the state in the ratio of law enforcement officers to residents. The department has already asked for funding to put 33 more deputies on the streets.

The question that remains is, do homeowners want to pay an additional \$50 a year (about \$1 a week) in non-ad valorem taxes to provide this security.

Homeowners currently pay \$80 of their non-ad valorem taxes to the STD, a tax that is used to maintain the common grounds of the community and one that has not been increased since its inception in 1985.

Opponents of paid security say that it was the intent of the original STD trustees to eventually decrease the tax as the number of homes increased thereby generating more funds.

But, Pitrowski points out that the existing budget only covers the demands of a growing community and will not provide enough funds for security.

"We don't need a tax increase to continue with the services the STD is currently providing, however, if residents want the additional services of security, then it will likely mean an increase in taxes," said Pitrowski. The increase would only be possible through a vote on a referendum.

1994-95 School Year Student Calendar 1994-95 School Year

Aug. 25	First Day for Students	Jan. 23	Teacher Work Day
Sept. 5	Labor Day Holiday	Jan. 25	Half-Day
Sept. 28	Half-Day	Feb. 6	Students' Fair Day
Oct. 7	Conference Day	Feb. 20	Teacher Planning Day
Oct. 14	Teacher Planning Day	Feb. 22	Half-Day
Oct. 26	Half-Day	Mar. 22	Half-Day
Nov. 11	Veterans' Day Holiday	Apr. 7	Conference Day
Nov. 16	Half-Day	Apr. 10-14	Spring Holidays
Nov. 24-25	Thanksgiving Holidays	Apr. 26	Half-Day
Dec. 14	Half-Day	May 24	Half-Day
Dec. 21-Jan. 3	Winter Holidays	May 29	Memorial Day Holiday
Jan. 4	Return To School	June 9	Last Day of School
Jan. 16	Dr. M.L. King Holiday		

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Lithia Lynx



This summer the students at Lithia Springs Elementary School have been involved in an innovative art program unique to Hillsborough County. With history as the backdrop, 300 kindergarten through sixth graders in the basic summer enrichment program created art based on a timeline ranging from the Stone Age to the Modern Era.

The program, written by Lithia Springs's art specialist, Mary-Ellen Houghton, is funded by a U-Save Creativity Grant and by the Hillsborough County Education Foundation. The course is entitled Summer T.I.M.E., a timeline of Imagination of Multicultural Enrichment.

The main purpose of the program, according to Houghton, is to give the summer student a chance to appreciate, learn, and communicate through art. Many students enrolled in the summer program may have difficulty expressing themselves in written form, and the art gives these students an alternative method of communicating.

Students made historic crafts such as Egyptian foil medallions, Greek clay amphora pottery, medieval felt banners, Impressionistic batiks, and modern graphic designs. A display of student art will be on exhibit at Center Place in Brandon this month.

Houghton extended her thanks to Jay Bever and Dave Esterman of U-Save Supermarket, the Hillsborough County Education Foundation, Joe Testasecca, coordinator of visual and performing arts for Hillsborough County schools, Lithia principal Connie Gilbert, and assistant principal Donna St. Peter.



Lithia second grader Derek Dempsey shows off his "mini cave" from the Stone Age during summer school art classes.

HARRY D. VILDBILL, D.V.M.

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Art students at Alafia make tie-dyed T-shirts on the last day of summer school.

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Alafia summer school principal, Mrs. Lobe, serves up hot dogs during the last day of the session, when each class held a picnic.

Choosing The Right Pre-School

by Rozel Sciulli

As a former educator, I am often asked for advice from people I know when it comes time to select a pre-school for their child. How do I know I'm making the right decision? Is my child too young? Should I stress academics at such a young age? What do you know about this school or that one?

It's a big decision and often a source of conflict between spouses. All of a sudden, you are handing over the care of your child to a total stranger, who may now have more contact with your child than you do on a daily basis.

No one school is right for every child and not every child is ready for schooling at the same time. Terry Curry, administrator of Brandon Academy Private School, encourages parents to address the individual needs of each child. Even in the same family, each child may be ready to start school at a different age.

"Some children need and are ready for academics. Others need developmental training," said Curry. "Parents have to determine what their child needs and assess how involved they plan to be with their child's education."

For many parents who work outside the home, the decision is forced. You must find a care-giver; the only question that remains is "Which one?". But, for parents who have been fortunate enough to stay at home with their child, the dilemma is compounded. Because there comes a time when you know your child needs more - more interaction with children the same age, more academics than you or Reading Rainbow are able to offer - the decision to let go is not easy.

The answer? There is no, one correct answer.

The choices, especially in our area, are plentiful. There are private schools, privately owned day care centers, franchise day care facilities, Montessori schools, youth "ranches" and "academies". But, let's face it, when it comes to your three or four-year old, it's all child care - the extras are just nice perks.

Since we're dealing with the question of proper care of a child, the first thing you will want to

consider is safety and cleanliness, above all else. According to Mercy Ontengco, assistant director of Kinder-Care in Bloomingdale, parents should first check out the environment. Education is secondary.

She encourages parents to check out staff credentials to make sure of licensing, HRS clearance, first aid and CPR training, and physical safety features such as fire extinguishers, high door handles, and gate locks on the playgrounds.

After making sure the environment is safe, then question the academics. Ontengco suggests that parents ask to see updated schedules and lesson plans. It's also important, she said, to visit a facility more than once and at different times of the day.

Helen Cook, director of Kid Kountry, further advises parents to inquire if the school has an "open-door" policy to see the center and visit classrooms at any time. "Parents need to observe the interaction of teachers with children. Look at the children's faces to see if they look interested and involved." She adds that the program is not as important as who is teaching it.

June Post, who taught in the public schools for 23 years and has owned Post Sunshine Ranch for 13 years, said that parents should look for a school that looks "something like home as soon as you enter."

"Make sure the children are happy and that the staff is loving."

Post believes in teaching reading skills at an early age, and says that exposure to academics creates learning. "The brain is like a little sponge. Children are coming to us so much smarter. Parents are doing so much with children. They have early computer knowledge. They are eager to learn."

She advises parents to look for a pre-school that offers a good balance of instruction, hands-on learning in work centers, and free play time.

Remember, whatever decision you make, is not going to be the same as another parent's. Your children are not alike; they have different needs. Sometimes you just have to go with a gut feeling about a school. If you are comfortable with your decision and positive in discussions with your child about the new experience, then chances are good, your child will be happy.

What's Hot In School Supplies

Move over dinosaurs of Jurassic Park - you're truly extinct! And, Aladdin, take your carpet and fly away. Just as Beauty and the Beast and The Little Mermaid that came before it, this year's mega movie, the Lion King, has top billing when it comes to cool school supplies.

That cute Lion Cub face that lit up the big screen is imprinted on everything from backpacks to zipper bags. Of course, lunch boxes and notebooks bear the Lion King and his buddies' images as well.

Not to be outdone are those crazy characters from The Flintstones. Take Fred and Barney to school with you this year, kids. Only they don't look like Fred and Barney - more like John Goodman and Rick Moranis.

For the really hip kids, let's talk Power Rangers. Those Mighty Morphins can be found on all varieties of school supplies as themselves or transformed into their crime-fighting persona.

Barbie and the Looney Tunes characters have not lost their appeal, and those kids who don't want to be a part of the latest fad can gain comfort in knowing that the old standbys can still be found on store shelves.

Junior high kids wouldn't be caught dead with any of this fantasy fan fare, so they'll look in style this fall carrying folders bearing the name of their favorite pro sports teams, or a picture of their dream car. And, speaking of dreams, it's Dream Team II, basketball's answer to World Cup Soccer, that will also be featured on all sorts of school paraphernalia. Even Nike said "move over, Trapper Keeper" and has come out with its own line of multi-subject notebooks in a heavy duty nylon binding.

Jansport backpacks are still a hot ticket item, only this year, they come in a wider variety of styles and at sales prices.



Kids Kalendar - Rated G

Library Hosts Bake-off

Children ages six to 12 are invited to participate in the Brandon Regional Library's annual Bake-Off, which brings to a close a summer full of activities. The bake-off will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 10, with food items being presented at 11 a.m., followed by judging and a party at 3 p.m. Entry forms with a full explanation of the rules and criteria are available at the reference desk in the children's section. Prizes will be awarded in different categories.

The library's final storytime of the summer will be Tuesday, Aug. 9, at 9:30 a.m. and again at 10:30 a.m. Storytimes are for children ages three through five.

Classes at Center Place

A variety of children's classes are offered monthly at Center Place, including work with arts and crafts, clay, and lessons in drawing.

Sweet Saturday is a class

offered each month for children ages six to 10, who are exposed to the world of arts and crafts. A different project is featured each month. Kid's Clay is for children ages seven through 12 to experiment with building with clay. This class will be offered on Monday, Aug. 8 and 22. Two levels of drawing will be offered in a six-week session beginning Aug. 18, and ending Sept. 22. The levels are for children ages eight to 10 and ages 11 and up.

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Real Estate Moves It's A Great Year!

by Michael Davis

Is this the right time to buy a home? Three important factors point to a "YES!" answer to that question. Take a look at the present homes market.

First, interest rates are still at their lowest level in years. Several years ago, when interest rates were 12%, a buyer qualifying for a monthly payment of \$750 could borrow only \$72,913 on a home. Today, with lower rates, that same buyer could borrow in excess of \$100,000.

In short, low rates are causing many buyers to make a move. This, in turn, influences the second factor - demand. With the housing

industry on the rebound, more and more buyers will be putting pressure on the supply of housing, which, in turn, causes prices to rise and selection to drop.

For the past several years, prices have moderated leaving a broad selection of available homes at reasonable prices. As demand increases, however, fewer homes are left available at last year's prices. The longer you put off your home purchase, the more likely you will pay more for a home. The third factor that may influence your buying decision is the new home market. Because of increasing demand for housing, and higher lumber prices, new homes may influence the sale of existing homes.

As new homes are constructed at today's higher lumber prices, their sale prices may rise. As they do, a gap widens between the cost of a new home versus an existing home built at prices from 10 years ago. As buyers notice the difference and begin buying up existing homes, prices again rise, while selection falls.

This is a great year to buy a home, perhaps the best in modern history. If you want to buy a home, contact a real estate agent now, before you miss the opportunity of a lifetime.

Begin by telling the agent your housing objectives, then ask to see a selection of suitable homes. You'll be glad you did!

Business Notes



CPA Relocates Office

Local accountant, Robert Morris, has relocated his office to 3302 Bell Shoals, between Bloomingdale Ave. and Knowles Road on the west side. There, he has renovated a home and has had the property re-zoned to accommodate the needs of his growing business. Morris, a Bloomingdale area resident, has practiced locally since 1985 when he established his business in the All-State building on Bloomingdale Ave.


Chamber Hosts Candidates

Three sessions of the Chamber's breakfast series, "Eggs and Issues", will feature political candidates this month. The public is invited to attend each forum and may make reservations by calling the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce at 689-1221.

Candidates for the District 4, 5, and 7 County Commission seats will be guests at the first session, Thursday, August 18, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 at Tampa's Sheraton East. Breakfasts may be reserved at a cost of \$12 apiece.

The next forum is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 25, with candidates running for Florida House of Representatives, District 60, 62, and 66. Center Place will host the event beginning at 8 a.m.

Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, District 11 and 12 will be guests at the Aug. 30, breakfast at Sheraton East.



by
Sonia M. Ruiz, M.D.
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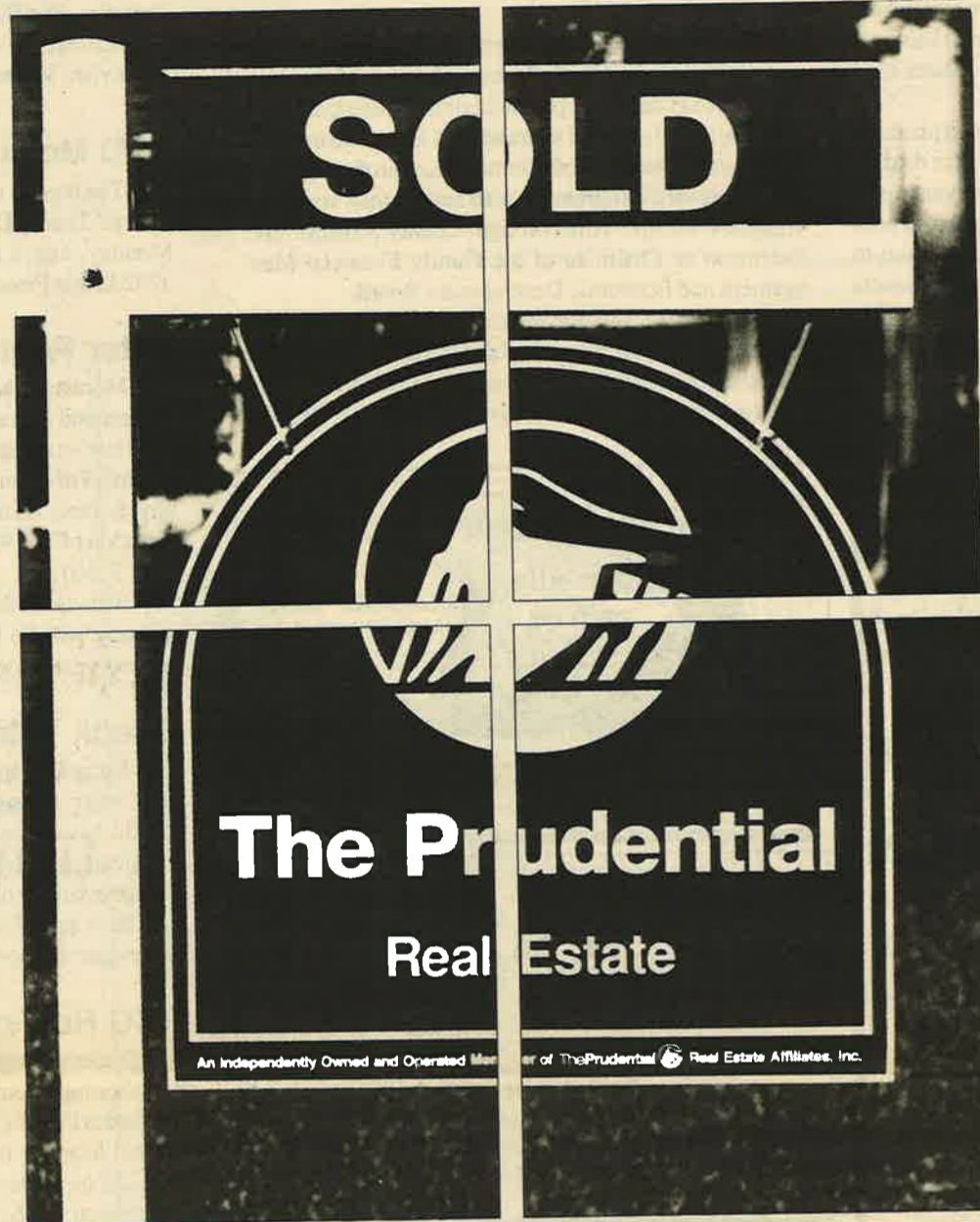
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