



Back To School
Pages 3, 6, & 7



The Bloomingdale Gazette

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Are you ready for Election '96

By Rozel Sciulli

If voters approve a 30-year, half-cent sales tax increase, Bloomingdale High could be removed from double sessions in three years.

The Bloomingdale area is designated for a \$39 million high school if the sales tax passes.

The proposal would raise the sales tax in Hillsborough County from 6.5 cents on the \$1 to 7 cents and it would yield about \$2.7 billion over 30-years. Schools would not be the only beneficiary. Funds have been designated for law enforcement, roads and a new stadium.

"People don't see it as improving property value," said Steve Valdez of the county road engineering department. "But home sales drop off in areas where schools are on double sessions and there are poor roads."

Valdez cited a decline in home value in the northwest county until the road systems improved. "Once the roads opened up, the property value went up 20 percent."

School superintendent Earl Lennard said the board's 25 percent share of the tax (about \$678 million) would enable the system to construct 11 schools.

But first voters have to turn out, said Valdez. Because the tax vote is on the Sept. 3 primary slate, county officials are concerned about a low voter turnout. Historically, only 30 percent of registered voters turn out for a primary in this county.

And Valdez said he's afraid it will be the wrong 30 percent.

"This vote could turn out all the people who are against the tax. But there is an aggressive promotion being planned."

The Supervisor of Elections office is concerned

Precinct	Location	Voters
805	South Brandon Baptist Church	Bloomingdale West & Estates
806	Bloomingdale West Community Center	Bloomingdale East Culbreath, & parts of OakCrest
Note: This is a change from the previous polling site at Crosswalk Christian Church.		
808	Public Utilities Dept. 626 Natures Way (behind Alafia)	Windsor Woods, Erin Arbor & parts of OakCrest

Bloomingdale residents who have been assigned to a new polling place, may be deterred by the change.

For example, the supervisor's office said residents of West will continue to vote at South Brandon Baptist Church even though they will see "Vote Here" signs at the Recreation Center in Park West. That polling site is for East residents.

Above is a list of polling places for Bloomingdale residents. But, the supervisor's office said voters should be sure to check the location listed on their new voter I.D. cards due to be mailed this month.

Election Dates:

September 3 Primary, registration deadline MONDAY

October 1 Runoff, registration deadline Sept. 3

November 5 General Election, registration deadline

Oct. 7



Kids like Adam and Jason can hang out at the Bloomingdale West Community Center after school.

Rec Center Sets After-School Program

Students who attend Lithia Springs Elementary will have bus transportation to the Bloomingdale West Community Center on school days and parents of Alafia students are looking for the same service for their children.

Hillsborough County is offering after-school care at the Bloomingdale center from 2 to 6 p.m. on school days for children in first grade and beyond.

Center director Donna Clouse said that because children who reside in West attend Lithia Springs, it's natural for a bus drop-off to be located at the park. But not so for Alafia children.

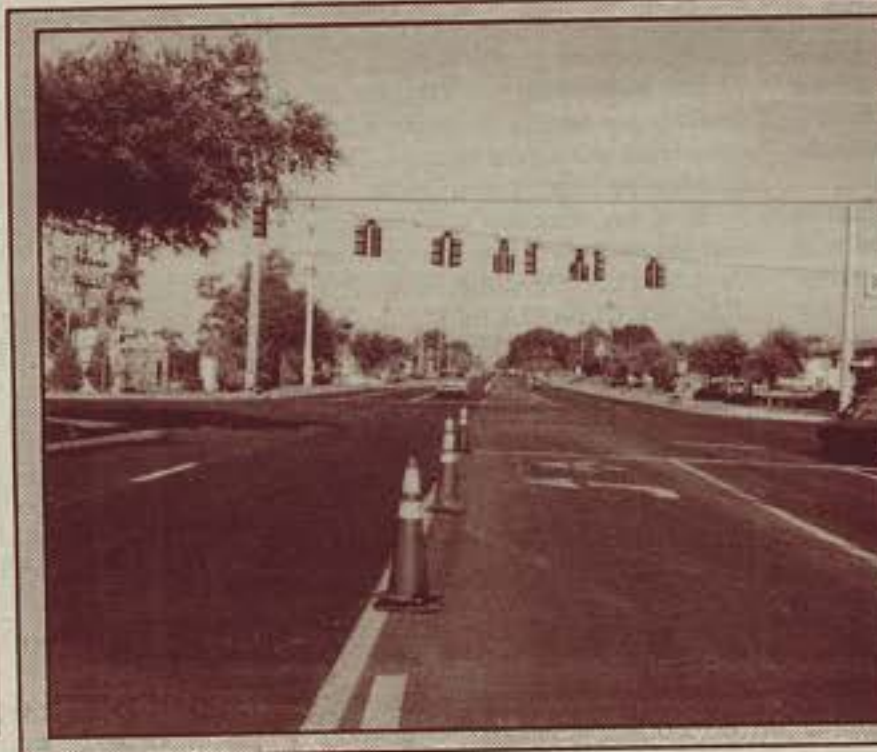
Clouse said about 30 parents are negotiating with school transportation officials to place the park on the Alafia after-school bus route.

"The people in East pay their taxes," Clouse said. "They have supported this center too!"

Registration for after-school care will be held this month from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 5 to 6 p.m. weekdays. The cost is \$15 for three months.

Children's after-school activities will include a homework time, outdoor and indoor games, arts and crafts and fee-based classes such as ceramics, karate, tennis, flag football and cheerleading.

For information, call 744-5907.



Traffic Jams No More

Two months ahead of schedule, Bloomingdale Avenue between Bell Shoals and John Moore is finally open. The next phase of widening continues between Kings and Hwy. 301 and it is slated for completion within 12 months. Widening between Bell Shoals and Lithia Pinecrest is in the design stages and is not expected to begin until late 1997, according to Steve Valdez of the Road Engineering Department.

Truck Route Designation Can Be Removed

By Rozel Sciulli

How many residents remember recommending Bloomingdale Avenue as a truck route to a county committee back in 1994?

If Bloomingdale residents didn't, then the rest of Brandon did. And on November, 1994, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Metropolitan Planning Organization's proposal to make Bloomingdale Avenue a truck route from Lithia Pinecrest west into Tampa.

What the MPO and BOCC establish is not necessarily irrevocable, says Commissioner Joe Chillura, a member of the MPO.

"We held meetings for a year," Chillura said. "It was the residents who picked Bloomingdale."

According to county engineer William McCall, a

truck route can be removed from the MPO plan only by a resolution from the BOCC and only after a public hearing.

In the original study, the MPO examined every road in the county to find those suited to be designated as truck routes. Roads were evaluated within four criteria groups - safety, usage, land sensitivity, alternate route distance.

That doesn't satisfy William and Mary Armistead whose home in Bloomingdale Oaks backs up to Bloomingdale Avenue.

"The trucks fly through here at night," Mary Armistead said. "Sometimes five in a row especially on weekends and in the middle of the night. It wakes me up."

Mary Armistead also is afraid of a tragedy. "A CTL truck almost hit kids crossing at the light to get to school.

The driver had to slam on his brakes. He almost hit those kids."

Chillura, who made a visit to the stretch of road between Lithia Pinecrest and Bell Shoals, said he will issue a request to the Sheriff's Department more patrols and tighter enforcement of speed limits in the area.

He said he is also willing to listen to proposals to reverse the decision.

"If there's a groundswell of citizens opposed to this designation, if the numbers make sense, I'd certainly be receptive," he said.

McCall said residents can ask their county commissioner to put the item on the agenda or they can wait until January, 1998 when the truck route plan will be reviewed by the board again.

NEW SUMMER HOURS

MON. & FRI. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
TUES. & THURS. 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
WEDS. 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

For your convenience we will be opened until 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

NIP Report

Cars Not Permitted On Lawns

Summer has arrived and there has been a lot of activity in all our neighborhoods. Trimming, cleaning up, fixing that broken fence, even taking the old one down and putting a brand new one up. Painting, replacing that old worn out roof that leaks.

Oh, the expenses of owning a home! But what a wonderful feeling when everything is fixed neat and clean and you can sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

The volunteers in the NIP program have been busy and we hope we are making a difference. One of our main complaints has been cars that are parked on the grass. The cooperation of all the residents in Bloomingdale is greatly appreciated.

We realize a lot of homes have two, three or even four cars and it's a real hassle moving them around, but it is a deed restriction violation in all areas of Bloomingdale to park any vehicle on grass. Please comply and park on the cement driveway if your garage is full of other things.

In the past month, our volunteers have

targeted homes with cars parked on their lawns. Just think about it. What would your neighborhood look like if every other home had a car parked on their lawn? Not a pretty sight! Not to mention diminishing the value of your home - no one wants to buy a house on a street where people park cars on the yard.

If we don't cooperate and concern ourselves with what our neighbors think, our neighborhoods will get run down and we'll all be losers.

If you violate this restriction, your neighbors are calling in and complaining about it.

We still can use more volunteers. If you have a pet peeve, call the BHA office at 681-2051 and volunteer to give us a hand. Get involved and do as little or as much as time allows you to do. Every little bit helps.

You'll be doing a valuable service for your community. And, as always, NIP volunteers remain anonymous.

Our Times

Everyone Can Vote In Primaries (No Matter Where You Stand On The Tax)

By Rozel Sciuilli

Now I'm not about to get on my soap box for or against taxes, because I know there are real strong feelings out there both ways and well, people are going to do what they want to do, no matter what I think.

However, regardless of your stand, the one thing you must do is vote Sept. 3.

Historically, primary elections in Hillsborough County have around a 30 percent turnout. There are over 6,000 registered voters in Bloomingdale. If you follow the trend, that means 1,800 of you will show up at the polls.

There are more than 1,800 students at Bloomingdale High School and for sure more than 1,800 of you have children in county schools. Oops, I promised not to talk about how the tax vote could affect your children and overcrowded Bloomingdale which more than 1,800 of you are resigned to allow on double sessions for who knows how long.

There are probably more than 1,800 of you who attend Bucs games on any given Sunday. Gosh, sorry, I know I promised not to allude to that tax thing.

And I know there are more than 1,800 of you who drive on the county's roads during the day. There I go again. Sorry!

Anyway the Sept. 3 primary is very important. Because those of you who feel one way or the other about the (shhhh!) T-A-X can only vote on it then. It will not appear on the October run-off ballot, nor will it appear on the November presidential election ballot.

SEPTEMBER 3RD. That's the only day you can vote on this and other non-partisan issues.

Still, some people won't turn out because they are affiliated with a political party and they think they can't vote in a primary in Florida.

Bull-feathers!

The state's system requires voters to

remain within their party lines during primaries. EXCEPT ON NON-PARTISAN issues. Anybody can vote for these.

Like the (shhhh!) T-A-X referendum. Other non-partisan categories include school board and judicial elections. These are also on the Sept. 3 primary ballot.

So if you want new schools, better roads and the Bucs to stop here (or if you don't). VOTE SEPTEMBER 3RD.

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW

Can you believe it? Bob's Barricades have finally left town. Bloomingdale Avenue is finally open. It's a thoroughfare, for Pete's sake. No more leaving the house 30 minutes earlier. No more avoiding potholes, no more not knowing if you're in the proper lane at night, or day, for that matter. Can it be that 18 months after it started, the county actually finished a project on time?

As I was enjoying waiting for the light at Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals, anticipating my inaugural passage into two-lane nirvana I noticed something on the corners.

I noticed them again at Bryan Road as I was changing lanes. Can you believe it? Changing lanes on Bloomingdale! Right there in front of Dr. Cane's place. No kidding. Excuse me, it's so easy to get sidetracked when you're in driving Xanadu.

Anyway, I saw them again. Little black boxes on the top of poles at the corners. Where these...wait a minute...could they possibly be "Walk-Don't Walk" signals?

Why?

Does anyone walk anywhere anymore. Now, people walk for exercise, which is good. But how many people do you see exercising down Bloomingdale Avenue?

Well, maybe one of the reasons we don't send our kids on errands on foot is because crossing roads like Bloomingdale is so dangerous. Maybe the crossing signals will inspire more pedestrian travel. But, don't count on it.

OFFICERS

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 Valrico, Florida 33594
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 Joe Ligouri Treasurer 681-9655
 Tom Snelling Corresponding Secretary 681-9186
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Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

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The Bloomingdale Gazette

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NEW SUMMER HOURS: M & F: 9:30-12:30, T & TH: 9:30-11:30, W: 9:30-2:30

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Statement of Operation

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MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District
 Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

BHA Board of Directors

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District
 First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch
 Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

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Don't Look Now, But It's Almost Time For School

By Shannan D. Powell

The camps are drawing to a close. Vacation Bible school artwork hangs on the fridge. And if you hear "Mom, I'm bored" one more time, you'll scream.

But, there it is - that welcome sign that the end is near, the light at the end of the tunnel - the ad for back-to-school sales.

And in the same breath, the tension comes back. There is so much to do and so much to buy before the first day of classes just 19 days away.

Clothes, shoes, backpacks, pencils, paper, lunchboxes - enough to make your head spin.

"The biggest expense is clothing, definitely," said Martha Hardy, a Bloomingtondale West mother of three. "And daily lunches. We have an assembly line every night, and I really think in the long run, it's cheaper."

Another Bloomingtondale mom, Kerry Chalk, starts her shopping early, putting a number of items on lay-away two months in advance.

"Each week I try to pick up something," Chalk said. "My biggest expense is most likely going to be the clothes. I like to buy eight to 10 outfits."

Chalk said shoes are another high-priced back-to-school purchase for her son, Kyle, soon to be a second grader at Lithia Springs.

"He's getting to the point that he has to have a certain type of shoes. School supplies aren't that bad, but he's still in the lower grades."

While Hardy, like Chalk, suggests hitting close-out sales throughout the year, many parents just don't have the time. Before they realize it, school's around the corner and they are empty-handed.

Two weeks before the first bell sounds, parents lure their children to the car with promises of new Air Jordans

and Calvin Kleins. Once everyone is in the car, the first stop is the doctor's office.

Between whines and groans, children are poked and prodded, and physicals and immunizations are up to date and out of the way.

Next, with visions of new Grant Hill jerseys and the latest JanSport, the kids find themselves sitting in the barber shop/ beauty salon. Arguments ensue about head-shaving and hair color.

Finally, it is time for the mall. On the way, moms lay down the ground rules and plans of attack. Not too much money. Stay with me. Only five new outfits each. No CDs today. In and out. Two, maybe three stores, maximum.

Parents start dreaming of locking themselves in the bathroom for long, hot soaks, while the kids argue about listening to either their new Coolio CD or new Green Day CD. But, still, the carload finds itself headed for school supplies.

More chaos, more decisions. Thank goodness for lists the school furnished. Somehow the cart fills up, the list is checked off and money exchanges hands. The family is finally home. The kids are entertained for a few hours with their new things (ever notice how the kids like to organize their clothes and new supplies, but that's the last time all year they'll be that organized?) and parents collapse on the couch, exhausted and broke.

The Gazette staff decided to make an early run on the stores to get an idea of the expense facing back-to-school shoppers. These averages are based on trips to Wal-Mart, Target, J.C. Penney and Dillard's. Keep in mind that many items are for certain ages only and come in a variety of styles, functions and quantities.

As always, look for sales and Happy Shopping!

The Squeezes Is On

As students prepare to return to school, parents prepare to shell out big bucks for clothes, supplies, fees and physicals. This back-to-school cost estimate is an average cost of items priced at Target, Wal-Mart, J.C. Penney and Dillard's.

Supplies:	K-8	9-12
Binder	12.68	12.68
Calculator		10.34
Compass		1.60
Crayons (16)	.66	
Dictionary	2.81	2.81
Erasers	.83	.83
Folders (5)	2.40	2.40
Glue (4 oz)	.64	
Pencils	.97	.97
Pencil box	1.54	
Pens	1.92	1.92
Protractor		.98
Lunch box	6.80	
Markers	2.18	2.18
Nap Mat (K)	2.50	
Rain slicker	10.98	
Ruler	1.03	1.03
Scissors	2.49	
Sharpener	.89	.89
Student Planner		10.48
Thesaurus		2.74
Umbrella		8.78

Personal Expenses		
Dental check-up	45.00	45.00
Haircut	9.98	15.39
School physical	25.00	
Sport physical		25.00
Immunizations	94.50	

Clothing/Shoes		
5 outfits	150.00	200.00
Shoes	30.40	30.40
P.E. Uniform		15.00

School Fees		
Parking		3.00
Locker lock		3.00
Student Activities		10.00

TOTAL	406.20	407.42
- Immunizations	94.50	
Total	311.70	

compiled by Shannan Powell

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Bits 'N Pieces



Weddings Highlight Summer

By Shannan D. Powell

This summer seems to be a time of new beginnings in the Bloomingdale community. While last month was loaded with births, this one seems to be teeming with marriages.

Miss Sherman and Mr. Hyde

Danielle Sherman and Brandon Hyde were united in marriage at the Brandon Church of God on June 15 in a double ring ceremony.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a white Demetrius gown of sequins and pearls with a scalloped neckline and cathedral-length train trimmed in sequins and pearls. She also wore a fingertip veil held by a crown of sequins and pearls. The bride carried a bouquet of white and pink roses, stephanotis and ivy.

The maid of honor was Kelly Boyette, a friend of the bride, from Cleveland, Tenn. The bridal attendants were Kelley Byrd of Marietta, Ga., Amy Akery, Jenny Newcomb, Sandra Smith and Jennifer Johnson, all of Brandon. The junior bridesmaids were the groom's cousin Becca Russo and half-sister Heather Hyde, both of Kokomo, Ind. Crystal Joiner, 3, of Brandon was the flowergirl. All the attendants wore full-length burgandy gowns and carried bouquets of burgandy flowers with hunter green ribbons.

The best man was Scott Griswald, a friend of the room, from Raleigh, N.C. The ushers were the groom's step-brother Adam Rinehart of Chicago, the bride's brother, Shaun Sherman of Valrico, the groom's cousin Nathan Russo and Brian Martin, both of Kokomo, Justin Carpenter and Michael Hodges of Cleveland, Tenn. and the bride's uncle Homer Elliot of Warner Robins, Ga. Adam Earwood, 8, of Macon, Ga. was the ring bearer.

The bride is the daughter of Bloomingdale residents Gayle and Robert Sherman. She attends Lee College in Cleveland, Tenn., where she is a member of the volleyball team.

The groom is the son of Carmen Rinehart and Lance Hyde of Kokomo. He attends Lee College and is owner of Hyde Touch and Repair Photography.

Treasure chests were the predominant theme. Since the groom proposed to his bride by burying the engagement ring in a treasure chest on the beach, the wedding rings were carried in a small treasure chest into the church. Reception guests were treated to a treasure hunt and the groom's cake was in the shape of another treasure chest.

Following the reception at River Hills Country Club, the couple took a trip to the

Pocanos. They will reside in Cleveland, Tenn.

Miss Rodriguez and Mr. Skinner

Felicia Rodriguez and Tom Skinner were united in marriage at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Temple in Orlando on June.

The bride wore a white gown with a V-neck, an iridescent sequined bodice and a



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Skinner

cathedral train trimmed with lace and sequins. She also wore a fingertip veil trimmed with white flowers and carried a bouquet of white and light pink roses and ivy.

The matron of honor was Melissa Spreng of Provo, Utah, sister of the bride. The bridal attendants were the bride's sister-in-law, Ariel Smeaton Rodriguez of Brandon, Cara Bosko of Lakeland, and Cheri Bowman and Amanda Lesco, both of Brandon. The flowergirls were the bride's nieces Madison and Kayla Spreng of Provo.

Travis Robert of Brandon was the best man. The bride's brother-in-law, Kevin Spreng of Provo and her brother Robert Rodriguez of Brandon were the ushers.

The bride is the daughter of Susan and Manuel Rodriguez, residents of Bloomingdale West. She is a graduate of Bloomingdale High and attends Utah Valley State College.

The groom is the son of Jenny and Tom Skinner of Gillette, Wyo. He attends Brigham Young University.

Following the reception in Tampa, the couple took a trip to Disney World. They will reside in Provo.

Miss Bowman and Mr. Roberts

Cheri Leigh Bowman and Travis Dean Roberts were united in marriage at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Temple in Orlando on June 12.

The bride wore a full-length white satin gown with lace bodice and trimmed with pearls, sequins and lace.

She is the daughter of Nolana Mae and Cal Bowman of Brandon. She is a graduate

of Bloomingdale High and attends Brigham Young University.

The groom is the son of Linda and Dean Roberts of Chillicothe, Ohio. He is a student at BYU.

Lewis On Dean's List

Rhonda Ann Lewis, daughter of Charles and Irma Lewis of Bloomingdale East, was rewarded for her outstanding academic performance by the University of South Florida College of Arts and Sciences. The USF junior was named to the Dean's List for the spring term, an award honoring the top 10 percent of students at the school. Lewis is majoring in social work and minoring in sociology.

Loved Ones Will Be Missed

On Saturday, July 6th, the Bloomingdale community suffered the loss of two of its

residents Vincenza Ruiz and her 9-year-old son Andrew, victims of an auto accident. It was a tragic end to a festive holiday weekend that saw Andrew celebrate his birthday the day prior and his parents celebrate their 14th wedding anniversary on July 4.

In addition, the Ruiz' 10-year-old son Robert continues to be hospitalized with a severe head injury and a cousin, Michael, visiting from New York, was also seriously injured, but has since returned home.

Andrew was a student at Alafia Elementary and a baseball player at Bloomingdale Little League. Robert is also an Alafia student and enjoys playing soccer for BAYSU. Peter, another brother, will be a student at Burns Middle School in the fall.

See BITS, page 1

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Then picture yourself on a scenic bus making the same journey that the Israelites made through the Sinai.

"If this is one of your dreams, it is too late for this

year," said Dr. Philip Makari, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale and a native of Egypt. "A group of us just returned from there, but intend to go back in two years."

Dr. Makari and many members of his church began their trip with a flight to Cairo in the extreme North then traveled to Abu Simbel in the extreme south, 25 miles from the border of The Sudan.

There, they visited the Temples of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. The Temple was guarded by four statues over 65 feet tall and was carved from solid rock. The interiors depicted his many battle triumphs.

From there, the entourage made a trip to the ancient city of Aswan, for a felucca sail across the Nile River and a visit to the Botanical Gardens, the High Dam, and the Cataract Hotel where the motion picture *Death on the Nile* took place.

While in Aswan, the tourists were introduced to the very source of the rock of the pyramids and the temples of Egypt. Following their stay in Aswan, they boarded a ship for a cruise on the Nile.

There destiny was Luxor where they visited the famous Karnak and other ancient sites. From Luxor they boarded an overnight train to Cairo where they visited the Pyramids of Giza and their mysterious guardian, the Sphinx.

A drive to the Egyptian museum, one of the greatest archaeological museums in the world, revealed the treasures of the Pharaohs. Other highlights of the Cairo trip were visits to the bazaars and to the mosques and monasteries of old Cairo.

From Cairo the group crossed the Red Sea and followed in the steps of Moses and the Israelites to the site of the burning bush and the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

"What an exciting adventure that was," Dr. Makari said. "To touch the very rocks that Moses touched is a fascinating act."



Brave sight-seers rode camels to survey the great pyramids.

A trip on the Suez Canal was next. There the group worshipped at a Presbyterian church and were the guests of its congregation for supper. The following morning, they traveled to Alexandria, designed and named by Alexander the Great. The women enjoyed going to the popular markets of that ancient city while the men decided to take the day off and enjoy the beach.

The tour was led by Dr. Makari and Dr. Bill Brown of First Presbyterian Church of Brandon and their wives. Twenty-five members representing four congregations made the 17-day trip.

What made this trip unique was the knowledge and experience of its leaders, the remarkable information shared by the tour guides, the harmony and unity between those who traveled, the security provided by the Egyptian government, and having the opportunity to meet with the natives and visit their homes.

"I am delighted that the trip to Egypt was so delightful and educational that many want to go back in two years," Dr. Makari said.

Dr. Makari is already taking names of those who wish to make the trip in 1998. The price of approximately \$2800 includes round trip air fair, travel while in the country, accommodations in five star hotels, all meals and a Nile Cruise.

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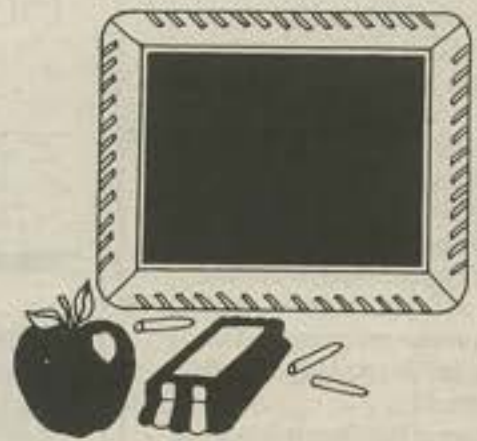
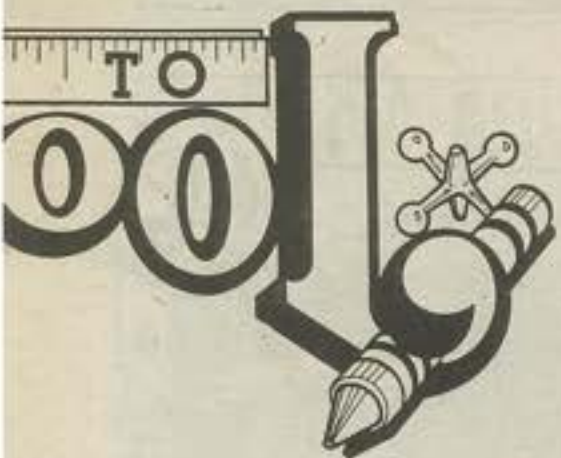
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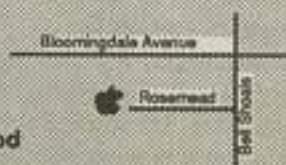
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STD Makes Safety Priority For Childrens' Bus Stops

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (STD) is putting in benches with walkways approximately 100 feet from bus stops. Keeping the children out of the intersections should insure better safety for children while waiting for their buses. The new locations are listed below:

- | | |
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| 1. Kiowa and Culbreath | Movement 100 feet to the south |
| 2. Windell and Erindale | Movement 100 feet to the west |
| 3. Elba and Nature's Way | Movement 100 feet to the west |
| 4. Tyndale and Garnet | Movement 100 feet to the east |
| 5. Fieldstone & Canoga Pk. Dr. | Movement 100 feet to the north |
| 6. Holleman and Nature's Way | Movement 100 feet to the west |
| 7. Highlander and Culbreath | Movement 100 feet to the south |
| 8. Eagle Bluff and Culbreath | Movement 100 feet to the north |
| 9. Orange Pointe and Springvale | Movement 100 feet to the north |
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Church and Synagogue News

'New Commandments' Create Confusion

By Ellen Slovacek

I had a theory. I really thought this column had no readers. Not that it isn't written by an outstanding and well-versed scriptorion (those who know me, know I have no problem with self-esteem); but the very nature of the subject of religion will generally produce a yawn from most people.

I mean, really, how interesting can religion be? With the exception of just a few of us spiritual types, who would want to take the time to read about God and stuff? So, anyway, my theory was that I had no readers. My column last month with a couple of typing mistakes and suddenly I had readers coming out of the woodwork. Why the huge response? Well these errors were quite amusing. You see, I had written about obeying a few of the 10 commandments, but the way it came across in print was not what the Lord had intended.

My column which ran last month quoted them as "Thou shalt NOW commit adultery." and, "Thou shalt NOW covet." You can't imagine the comments I've received from this column.

The phone rings. It's my neighbor Gary.

"Hey Ellen, I'm sure glad you told me that now is the time to commit adultery. Otherwise I would've never known. Thanks for the hot tip."

"Gary, that was a typo."

"That new lady down the street is kind of cute."

"Larry, give it up. It was a mistake."

"Do you think she'll go for me?"

"Gary, I'm busy. I have to go now."

"Wait a minute, here she comes! She's walking her dog and wearing a bikini. This may be my lucky day. Gotta go."

I was thinking I had created a monster, when I got a call from my Bishop.

"Yes, Bishop, I wrote that article. No sir, I really don't think that now is the time to covet or commit adultery. No sir, I haven't had my eye on anyone lately. Really. No, my marriage is just fine. You want to see me in your office? Sunday at 4 o'clock. Yes sir, I'll be there. Okay. Good-bye."

So here I was pondering if one could be excommunicated from the church because of a typesetter's slip-up, when I get a FAX from a guy in Bloomingdale.

"Religion Editor: I found your article concerning the new stance on adultery intriguing. Would like to meet you and discuss the details over lunch." He went on to make a few more suggestions, and I was quite taken aback until I read the signature. It was from my husband!

So let's set the record straight. Now is NOT the time to commit adultery, or covet. But I'll be sure and let you know as soon as I hear of a reversal of those commandments.

Now, here's what's happening:

Rabbi Frank Sundheim, regional director of the Southeast Council, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, was in Brandon Aug. 2 to officiate at the installation of Rabbi Robert Goodman as spiritual leader of Congre-

gation Beth Shalom. Rabbi Sundheim served congregation Scharai Zedek in Tampa for 20 years before accepting his present position in Miami.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church announces Aug. 12-17 is Youth Week, with the theme of House on a Rock. The week will include service projects, growth groups and activities based on the theme. The week concludes with Youth Sunday. Call St. Andrew's at 689-6849 for details.

The Living Savior Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening Bible class featuring the book of Revelation. Anyone interested in learning more about this fascinating book is encouraged to join. The class begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Ministry Center at 681-2375.

A new service has been added to the First United Methodist Church, 120 No. Knights Ave. in Brandon. The new service on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:30 is a casual and contemporary praise and worship service. It features Praise band and Praise singers, short live drama skits, dramatic video clips as well as testimonies from members of the congregation to inspire and motivate. This service is casual dress and nursery is provided. All are welcome to attend and bring a friend.

The Women in Focus Ministry of Bell Shoals Baptist church, would like to invite all area women to their Tuesday morning Fruitful Hands Craft Ministry and Fellowship. The Aug. 6 projects include a birdhouse yard sign and a shadow box. Sample crafts and supply lists are available at the church's Fruitful Hands display board located in the concourse near the Special Events Center. Call Cynthia Alford at 661-5561 for information.

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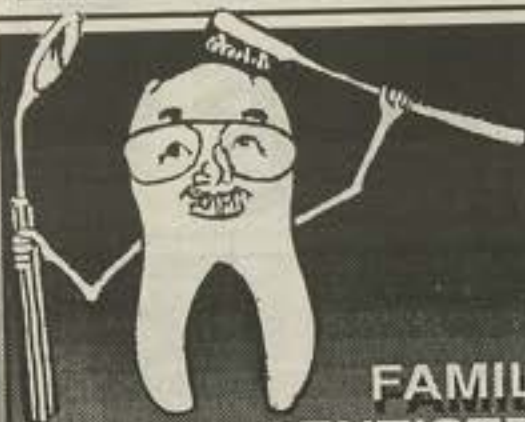
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Summer At The Brandon Library

Summer Reading is every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Stories, games and creative dramatics are designed for children 6-12. There is a limit of 50.

Read-A-Thon inspires children 6-12 to show off their love of reading. Children are asked to keep track of the books they read through Aug. 25. When 25 books have been read, the reader will earn a prize.

Calling all Critics invites teens 12-18 to read their favorite books and then write a short review of them, sharing their impressions. They can then try to guess the number of M&Ms in the jar at the library. The person who correctly guesses the amount will receive a gift certificate. The contest runs through Aug. 12. Pick up a copy of the rules at the information desk.

Toddler Time is Tuesdays at 9:20 and 9:50 a.m. for ages 24-36 months, with a caregiver present. Stories, songs and finger plays are presented during the 20-minute session. There is a limit of 25.

Story Time continues on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for 3-5-year-olds who are mature enough to participate in a group by themselves. Story times, which last 30 minutes,

are limited to 50 children and there is no registration required.

Children's Chorus Auditions

Auditions are being held for the 1996-97 season of the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus. Girls and boys with unchanged voices ages 7-16 may audition and no previous experience is necessary. Call 988-8936.

In addition, the TBCC will offer a beginning singing program for children who will be in second grade during the coming year.

First Aid, Child Care For Kids

Columbia Brandon Regional Medical Center will offer classes in first aid and babysitting this summer.

FAB (First Aid Basics for Kids) will be taught to children in second through fifth grades on Saturday Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Babysitting Basics is offered to boys and girls ages 11 and older who will be taught to be an effective, safe and fun babysitter. Three different classes will be offered Saturday, Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. until noon.



Members of Immanuel Lutheran School Chorus recently presented "The Secret of My Success", a children's musical by Celeste and David Clydesdale. Lead roles were played by 5th grader Trent Watkins and 6th grader Christie Brunaeu. The musical production was directed by Mrs. Sue Steenis.

Two Weeks Left For Rec Center Fun

Two fun-filled weeks of activities remain at the Bloomingdale West Community Center including a Decathlon on Wednesday and Friday, Aug. 14 and 16.

Features of the next two include Beach Towel Volleyball, water events on Aug. 8, and a talent show at 3 p.m. Aug. 15.

Remaining field trips include a puppet show and roller skating on Aug. 9 for ages 6-9, and a trip to Orlando's Wet N Wild for kids 9 and older on Aug. 15. Only those children registered in the center's summer program are eligible to participate.

Tennis Camp: The last session of

tennis camp is Aug. 5-15. Camp days are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8:45 or 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. The camp is open to boys and girls 5 and older.

Tennis players 18 and under can still sign up for the United States Tennis Association/Florida Section junior team tennis. Team members will play local and sanctioned tournaments.

Karate: Lessons for boys and girls 5 and older are offered Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30. The registration is \$3 and the uniform fee is \$25. For information, call Mr. Hughes at 931-8933.

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Bulls Eye

Band Sets Camp, Booster Meeting

Bloomingdale High band director Ted Hope will hold camp for all incoming freshmen and sophomores as well as new students Aug. 12-15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the high school. In addition, all band students must attend camp Aug. 19 and 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The first Band Booster meeting of the school year will be Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. in the band room of the school. Marching band and Crimson Doll parents are urged to attend this meeting.

For information about Band Camp or the Booster Club call **Sandra Thomson** at 654-2433.

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Sports Salute

New Basketball Coach

Mark Hampshire has been selected to succeed Mike Phillips as girls basketball coach at Bloomingdale High. Phillips was named boys basketball coach at Plant High in Tampa.

Hampshire was the junior varsity coach and assistant varsity coach at Leto for four years while teaching physical education at Dowdell Junior High. Hampshire, 26, is from New York and has camp coaching experience at Syracuse University and at USF.

He takes over a team that last won a district title in 1995 when the Bulls were 23-6.

Bauer Wins Title

Bloomingdale junior Beth Bauer won the Optimist

International Junior Golf Championship by one stroke in West Palm Beach last month. She shot a 72 among a field of more than 600 competitors. Bauer is a member of the state champion Bulls and has been rated the No. 1 junior golfer in the country.

Baseball Honors

Bloomingdale senior Greg Maslar was selected as a member of Team Florida and will play in the Blue-Gray Classic at Wake Forest later this month. Maslar, an outfielder for the Bulls, was named defensive player of the year at Bloomingdale. He was chosen for Team Florida while participating in a baseball camp at the University of Central Florida.

Softball Smarts

Former Bulls catcher Ellen Bailey was named to the Mid-Continent Conference All-Academic team recently. The 1994 Bloomingdale graduate attends Troy State Uni-

versity where she holds a 3.8 grade point average while majoring in accounting. As a member of Troy State, Bailey hit .280 and played errorless ball behind the plate. Her team reached the NCAA regionals.

Janss Selects Maryland

Emily Janss, Bloomingdale High's all-American soccer player, has decided to attend the University of Maryland. She previously had verbally committed to Southern Methodist University. Janss was recently selected to the United States Regional Olympic Development Program team for players 20-under. She is attending a camp where she hopes to earn a spot on the national team for the second time.

Bloomingdale Softball Sweeps

All three Bloomingdale Little League softball teams won District 13 titles during July and at the time of publication were in place to advance to the Sectional finals.

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Business Notes

Law Office Focuses On Employment, Tort Issues

Douglas A. Lopp announces the opening of his Florida office at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103. A graduate of the University of South Florida and Cornell University Law School, he entered private practice after the firm of Liddle and Robinson in New York City.

Lopp is concentrating on the tort and commercial areas along with a primary fo-

cus on employment related matters.

Russell Recognized

Bloomingdale resident and realtor Luana Russell was named the Top Listing Associate in Tampa Bay Realty's Brandon office for the month of June. The 20-year professional has moved more than 1,000 families through her 5-Star Service Real Estate Program.

Real Estate Moves

3 Important Tips To Home Selling

by Michael Davis

For most people, selling their home means cashing in their biggest asset. In other words, it must be handled with great care if you hope to protect - and capitalize on - your investment. These tips are written with one goal in mind: to give you the tools you need to maximize your profits, maintain control, and reduce the stress that comes with the home-selling process.

Tip No. 1: Know why you are selling

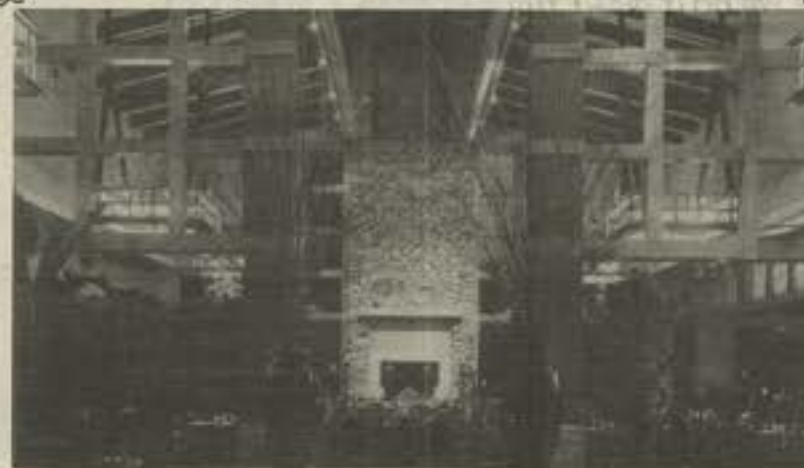
The reason you look closely at why you want to sell is that your motivations play an important role in the process. They affect everything from setting a price to deciding how much time and money you'll invest towards getting your home ready for selling. If your goal is a quick sale, that can dictate one kind of

approach. If you want to maximize your profit, the sales process will almost certainly take longer.

Tip No. 2: Once you know, keep it to yourself

Your reasons will affect how you negotiate the sale of your home, but they shouldn't be given as ammunition to the person who wants to buy it. For example, a prospective buyer who knows you must move quickly has you at their mercy in the negotiation process. When asked, simply say that your housing needs have changed.

Tip No. 3: Do your homework before setting a price... will be shared with you the next time we meet for "Real Estate Moves". If you would like a copy of the complete report, "29 Essential Tips that Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar)", call 681-2051.



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★ CORPORATE FUNCTIONS ★ ANNIVERSARIES
★ GOLF AND TENNIS OUTINGS

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Reservations and Information



**Hear Ye
BHA Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Luthia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, Aug. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Luthia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

Low-Impact Aerobics

Tracey Shriver teaches low-impact aerobics at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center. Classes meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. and the cost is \$3 per class. Child care is provided for children 5 and older. Light weights and floor work are also used.

Meet The Candidates

The Greater Brandon Republican Club will host candidates for office on Monday, Aug. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Farm Bureau building located at the corner of Mulrennan and Hwy. 60 east of Valrico. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served. County Commission and other candidates, including those for non-partisan offices are expected to attend.

Logo Contest

Area artists are invited to submit original graphics for the Brandon Centre Ballet Guild contest. The logo will be used on programs, advertising and memorabilia in conjunction with the Guild's Nutcracker performance. Deadline is August 26. For further information call 685-6142.

Sports Spots

**Little League Sets
Registration, Elections**

Bloomingdale Little League will hold registration for winter baseball and softball as well as officer elections Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Civic Association adjacent to the league.

Registration also will be held Wednesday, Aug. 28, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the association building.

League president Allan Trovillion said the league is in need of parents to serve on the all-volunteer board as well as coaches, managers and volunteers to help the league run. Bloomingdale is the largest Little League in Hillsborough County with more than 900 children participating.

Trovillion said volunteerism hit a low point this past season, but he knows there are many enthusiastic and hard working parents in the community who would like to help.

League members interested in serving one of the board's 17 positions have three ways to make their intentions known:

1. By placing their name on a sign-up sheet posted at the concession stand until Aug. 23.
2. By completing a form which will be enclosed in a newsletter to be mailed this month.
3. By calling the league at 684-8422. Be sure to leave a return phone number.

Winter baseball and softball begins the week of September 16 and is an instructional season with practices during the week and games on Saturdays until December. Children 5-15 may sign up.

BITS, from page 4

An education trust fund has been established for Peter and Robert at NationsBank on Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals.

The Ruiz family would like to thank all their neighbors, friends and the Sheriff's Department, the EMS workers, Fire Department and all the strangers who offered support to the family at the time of the accident.

In another, unrelated traffic fatality, Oakcrest resident Kim Blok-Andersen lost his son Damien John, 18. A native of Sarnia, Ontario, Damien was a member of Bloomingdale High School's debate team.

Classifieds

NIP (Neighborhood Improvement Program)
Volunteers needed for the BHA program. Call the community office at 681-2051.

East, Golf Course Community. 4 BR/2BA MacRiley Home on cul-de-sac, 1 yr. old, 2280SF, Ceramic Tile thru-out, \$145,900. Call 685-3199

FOUND:
Pair of man's glasses found in Bloomingdale. Call the Community Office at 681-2051.

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Angela Reiser and Kimberly Reiser, 684-6006
Erin and Beth Schlossnagle, 650-0453

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Proceeds from concession stand go to the Paragrims Riding Club.

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