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Bloomingdale High student Amber Smith, shown with Deputy Maurer, is an active member of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council. More on page

**Deputy John Corley assigned to Park West, See page 8.**

## Residents' Help Needed To Continue Maintenance and Improvements

*A Gazette Report*

If you are a Bloomingdale East or West homeowner, you should know your annual property tax bill includes a special \$80 per year fee assessed to cover maintenance and improvement costs for our common areas and entryways.

But do you know how that money is spent? Do you have a say as to how it is spent? Resident volunteers on the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Board of Trustees do.

The Taxing District Board is composed of seven Bloomingdale residents who volunteer about five hours each month identifying maintenance and improvement needs in our community, and making them happen.

Three of the district's Trustees have recently announced their resignations. If a new Board with a quorum of seven is not established, all the services that the district provides are in jeopardy. The Board is asking you to consider filling a vacant seat to help direct the effective use of our tax dollars.

No special experience is required. Our trustees are and have been homemakers,

See REPORT on page 15

### Special Taxing District Services

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Board of Trustees oversees and coordinates expenditures associated with maintaining and improving Bloomingdale, including:

- Lawn mowing and maintenance in our common areas

- Pressure washing, painting and repairing our perimeter walls

- Installing, maintaining and repairing over 11 miles of irrigation

- Planting and maintaining landscaping at all major and minor entryways

- Planting trees, shrubs and flowers and mulching plant beds

- Putting up and removing community holiday decorations

- Picking up litter throughout our neighborhoods

- Providing and maintaining entryway lighting

*The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District is an adjunct of Hillsborough County government, with an annual budget requiring the approval of the Board of County Commissioners.*

## Plot Thickens On Library Site Decision

*"If there are items unresolved out there, we need to take everything into consideration... I do not believe we should rush to judgment just to make a decision." County Commissioner Jim Norman.*

By Laura Frazier

The Hillsborough County Commission voted 6 to 1 last month to hold off on a final site decision for the planned south Brandon regional library.

The remand came as a welcome surprise to Bloomingdale residents and BHA board members attending the July 11 meeting. The commission was expected to rule in favor with the county library board's first choice site within the community of River Hills in

Lithia.

South Brandon and Valrico residents have rallied for the library to built on the board's second choice site, next to Bloomingdale Senior High School on Bloomingdale Avenue.

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association president Ted Grable addressed the commissioners on behalf of Bloomingdale's 4,500+ residents.

"A library is an important jewel in a community, a place that brings knowledge and learning to our children and our families. To move this library beyond the community where the people live, I believe, would be a mistake."

Several important cost and location issues appeared unresolved at the meeting. The commission asked the library board to take a closer look at both sites, and at a third site proposed for a future library in FishHawk Ranch.

See LIBRARY on page 10

**Rally to name new school for community activist, see page 14**



## Your Inside Connections

### The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

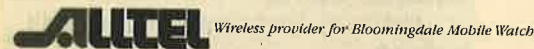
3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594  
(813) 681-2051 • E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com

Web site: www.bha-online.org

**President** ..... Ted Grable  
**Vice President** ..... Len Jaszczak  
**Treasurer** ..... Pam Liguori  
**Director** ..... Patricia Radel  
**Director** ..... Rodney Biddle  
**Director** ..... Tony Diolosa  
**Director** ..... Joe Hickle  
**Director** ..... John Benson



### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch



**Coordinator/Equipment Manager**  
Tony Diolosa, ..... 681-1146  
**Treasurer**, Paul Kelmer ..... 681-9701  
Steven Heckel ..... 654-4266  
Brad Scharp ..... 643-5000  
Paul Warr ..... 685-7883



### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132  
**President** ..... Bill Grace, 685-2817  
**Treasurer** ..... Fred Englehart  
**Meetings** .. Second Monday each month at 7:30 pm,  
3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks



### Share your news with the community!

Write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594  
Phone: (813) 681-2051 • Fax: (813) 651-1129  
E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

### Bloomingdale Special

**Taxing District** ..... 684-6667  
**President**, Thom Snelling ..... 681-9186  
**Vice President**, Tom Mackiewicz ..... 653-4145  
**Treasurer**, Don Cassels ..... 681-8855  
**Corresponding Secretary**, R. Dickey ..... 689-2177  
**Recording Secretary**, Alice Burleson ..... 685-1076  
**Trustee**, Tim Golden ..... 653-1337  
**Trustee**, Paul Almeida ..... 661-2018  
**Property Manager**, DPMI ..... 684-6617



### Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

**BHA Board of Directors Meetings**  
First Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

**Special Taxing District Meetings**  
Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



## the Bloomingdale gazette

### The official publication of the BHA

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
Phone: (813) 681-2051 Fax: (813) 651-1129  
E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

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## Change Is Good At Bloomingdale Little League Fields

Recent park improvements have made it safer and more enjoyable for players, spectators and volunteers to enjoy Little League baseball games.

By Mack Austin

Recent and ongoing construction at Bloomingdale Little League Park is the result of years of planning by the league's many dedicated board members and parents. The result will be a Little League Park that everyone can be proud of.

President Tim Malloy has led the league in overseeing park renovations. Malloy has successfully kept operations and maintenance activities running smoothly. The league board has kept activities and parent involvement well organized.

Most of the park maintenance is still contracted, and excellent cooperation with the County Parks and Recreation Unit on Natures Way continues.

Parking along Bloomingdale Avenue is a thing of the past now that the Bloomingdale Avenue widening is near completion.

There is a new parking area across Culbreath Road by the new YMCA, along with new senior, major and softball fields. New clay and fences have been installed on several of the fields, and a new concession stand has been built.

The old senior field will be modified to one t-ball and two minor fields. A play area for younger kids is planned, and new lights will be a great improvement from those full of woodpecker holes!

The league continues to need the support of all parents. One

special need is for volunteer umpires. It is a great way to see the games! Umpires play an important role by insuring the games are played fairly and safely. Any parent who'd like to play an active part in this great sport and make a positive difference in the lives of our young athletes is invited to call (813) 684-8422 or visit the website at bllhomeplate.org.

One critical safety note; crosswalks on Culbreath Road between the park and the YMCA have been installed, but they must be used to be effective! Parents, please watch your kids and players carefully. There is a lot of fast traffic in this area.

### Bloomingdale Little League Fall Registration

**What:** Baseball And Softball

**When:** Saturday, August 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

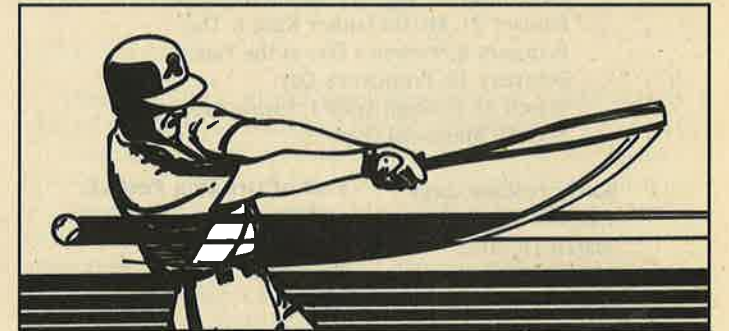
Wednesday, August 15, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, August 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** Bloomingdale Little League Civic Center

**Ages:** Children must be five years old by July 31, 2001

**Information:** Call (813) 684-8422 or visit bllhomeplate.org



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### Hillsborough County Public Schools 2001-02 Student Calendar

For further information including district and teacher calendars, please visit the Hillsborough County School District web site at <http://sdhc.k12.fl.us>.

**First day of school**  
Wednesday, August 8, 2001

**Last day of school**  
Thursday, May 30, 2002

**Students' days off**  
September 3, Labor Day  
September 27, Teacher Planning Day  
October 19, Teacher Planning Day  
November 12, Veteran's Day  
November 21-23, Thanksgiving Holiday  
December 21-January 7, Winter Holiday  
January 21, Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
February 8, Student's Day at the Fair  
February 18, President's Day  
March 21 through April 1, Spring Break  
May 27, Memorial Day

<b>Early release days</b>	<b>End of Grading Periods</b>
October 12, 2001	October 12
March 15, 2002	December 20
May 30, 2002	March 15
(also the last day of	May 30

### New Grading Scale for Middle and High School Courses

A Gazette Report

A statewide modified grading scale for middle and high school courses goes into effect this school year. Florida's first statewide grading scale, previously in effect and unchanged since 1987, required students to score 94 to 100 percent for an A, 85 to 93 for a B, 77 to 84 for a C and 70 to 76 for a D, with a failing grade of F for 59 percent or lower.

Proponents of the new law say the modified scale, already in effect in some other states, will help even out the playing field for students competing for national scholarships and college admissions.

The new scale is as follows:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 - Below	F



Keith Panfilio

### Panfilio Earns Kudos at Rollins College

Keith Panfilio, son of Wendy and Joe Panfilio of Bloomingdale, was named to the President's List at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida for the fall and spring terms of the 2000-2001 school year.

Continued on next page

Panfilio was a varsity team member and Sunshine State Conference Commissioner's Honor roll designee for the fall semester of Rollins Men's Cross Country team.

He received the Rollins College Presidential Scholarship, and was treasurer for the Rollins chapter of the Circle K service organization. He was also inducted into the national honor society Phi Eta Sigma in March 2001.

Panfilio graduated in 2000 from the International Baccalaureate Program at King High School, Tampa, Florida.



Jessica Poole

### Poole earns accolades at Oxford College

Jessica Poole, daughter of Tom and Patricia Poole of Bloomingdale, was named to the Dean's Honor List of Emory University's Oxford College in Oxford, Georgia for the 2000-2001 fall and spring semesters. She served as a freshman SGA representative and was elected vice-president of student government for 2001-2002. She is president of the student and faculty chorale and a tutor at Palmer-Stone Elementary in Oxford.

Poole is currently in her second year as an intern at JP Morgan - Chase in coordination with Inroads, an organization that matches minority students with local businesses. On July 19 she was recognized for her 4.00 GPA and won first place in Inroads' essay contest.

As a faculty scholar, Jessica will graduate from Oxford in May 2002 and will continue her education at Emory University in Atlanta, where she plans to be a business major.



Chris Tucker, 1972 Brandon High School graduate and owner of Apple Roof Cleaning, uses chemical cleaners and mildewcide to remove and inhibit black algae growth. Tucker can be reached at (813) 655-8777.

### The Fungus Among Us

By Laura Frazier

Those nasty black stains blanketing many of our neighborhoods' roofs are the work of an insidious airborne fungus called "gleo capsa." Common to homes in Florida's subtropical climate, the fungus thrives in damp, hot places. The spores attach themselves to the eaves and crannies of residential roofs, and set forth to bloom and spread. It's not uncommon for the fungus to traverse an entire roof if left undisturbed, turning the whole roof a different, darker color.

Aside from being unsightly (and potentially in violation of some homeowner's deed restrictions), gleo capsa can shorten the lifespan of your roof. The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturing Association says that as shingles age and are subjected to the extremes in local weather, they deteriorate, losing their protective granules and fungus fighting capabilities.

The Association, and Brandon area roofers, caution against tackling the fungus with a ladder and a bottle of Clorox. They say bleach will dry and crack the shingles, encouraging faster and more abundant algae growth. Pressure cleaning is generally not recommended for asphalt roofs. High-pressure streams of water may remove the roof's protective granules, and could result in lifted, loosened shingles. Newer homeowners should refer to their roof warranty for specific manufacturer's maintenance instructions. The use of chlorine or pressure cleaning may void some new roof warranties.

The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturer's Association recommends a low-pressure chemical cleaning, followed by a preventative application of mildew inhibitor, by an association-approved contractor.

Chris Tucker, owner of Apple Roof Cleaning of Brandon, says his crews apply a gentle spray of cleaning agents, rinse with a garden hose, and finish with an application of time-released fungicide. Tucker said most roofs he treats will maintain their mildew-free appearance for four to seven years.

"Homes under a lot of trees or close to the water may require more frequent treatment," said Tucker. "The spores travel from roof to roof, so the results will last longer if everyone in the neighborhood keeps their roofs clean."

As the chemicals are rinsed off the roof, damage to plants and shrubs around the perimeter of the house can be kept to a minimum by hosing the plants down thoroughly immediately after the cleaning and for several days after.

"Our recent daily rains make this a great time to chemically clean your roof," said Tucker. "Plants surrounding the house will benefit from frequent rinsings after the roof is cleaned, resulting in minimal damage."



## TUTOR TIME

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- Brooker
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### Alafia Wins "It's Elementary" Contest

A Gazette Report

**Bloomingdale Square donated \$1,000 to the Alafia Elementary PTA**



Bloomingdale Square kicked off the spring "It's Elementary" program in February of this year. The program encourages shoppers to save receipts generated from the Bloomingdale Square Shopping Center and deposit them into specially marked mailboxes located at the center and all participating school offices.

Shoppers deposited their receipts in one of four slots to benefit their choice of participating area elementary schools, including Alafia, Brooker, Buckhorn and Kingswood.

The grand total of all the receipts generated from the local elementary schools came to \$136,583 on May 31, 2001.

The "It's elementary" spring contest winners were: Alafia Elementary winning \$1,000 for first place; Brooker Elementary winning \$600 for second place; Kingswood winning \$400 for third place; and Buckhorn Elementary winning \$200 for fourth place. The Parent Teacher Associations for each school will decide how best to utilize the donated money.

"Regency Realty decided to establish 'It's elementary', two years ago as a fundraising opportunity for community schools, to build lasting relationships with parents and students, and to support the local school system," said LaVonna Paradise, Manager of Center Marketing. "To date, shoppers at Regency centers have submitted over \$4 million in receipts to raise money for their local students."

Bloomingdale Square is located at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road in Brandon, and is anchored by Publix and Wal-Mart with other tenants including Bealls and 33 specialty stores, services and places to eat. For more information about "It's elementary," call LaVonna Paradise at Regency Centers at (800) 950-6333 ext. 7679.

The next "It's Elementary" school rewards program will begin in late September.

### Bloomingdale East Park Slated For Maintenance, Improvements

By Laura Frazier

Bloomingdale East Park on Natures Way, a popular gathering spot for Bloomingdale residents of all ages, requires constant maintenance to keep the courts, grounds and equipment in good repair.

Dozens of tots, teens and adults visit the county-owned park each day to picnic, to meet friends, and to play tennis, racquetball and basketball.

The County Parks Department is currently scheduling several

*Continued on next page*



*The park's four tennis courts will be recoated and restriped this fall.*

maintenance jobs at the park, including recoating and re-striping the tennis courts, replacing some of the court fencing and repainting the racquetball courts.

Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Mauch would like to hear Bloomingdale residents' suggestions for improvements to the

park's grounds and facilities.

"If there is enough interest in adding specialty exercise or playground equipment, or upgrading the landscaping to include trees or additional plantings, we are open to suggestions," said Mauch.

Maintenance of the park's sandy landscape is a constant battle.

"Whenever you have a very sandy area with a lot of foot traffic, the roots of the grass get shuffled around and exposed, and eventually die. The drought certainly hasn't helped the situation."

Mauch said the barren landscape may soon be re-seeded. Concrete walkways will be installed at the park this fall, under a county program designed to provide disabled citizens with better access to roads and facilities. The walks will connect the parking lot to the playground and picnic areas, offering easier access for everyone.

Mauch said that if the walks are used, the surrounding grassy areas might have a chance to take hold.

When the parks department and the BHA recently noticed a growing number of teens using the tennis courts as roller hockey rinks, one double court was converted by removing the nets and poles, and painting hockey field striping on the court.

"Give us your ideas, and we'll do what we can to make them happen," said Mauch.

Homeowners with ideas for improvements to the park are invited to attend the next BHA meeting on Monday, August 6 at 7:30 p.m., at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents may also contact the BHA with their ideas by calling (813) 681-2051, faxing (813) 651-1129 or by e-mailing frazier1@tampabay.rr.com.



*Play equipment and landscape curbing was recently added to the playground at Bloomingdale East Park.*

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**Welcome to Bloomingdale Deputy Corley!**

**Resident Deputy Arrives At Park West**

By Mack Austin

The resident park deputy for Bloomingdale West Park has finally arrived. Deputy John Corley is one of 62 law enforcement officers assigned countywide to enhance safety and security in our neighborhood parks.

Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer worked diligently with Commissioner Ronda Storms to obtain the necessary funds for the project. Parks and Rec Director Ed Radice reviewed and approved the request, and turned to Personnel Director Lynn Goldie to recruit the deputy.

The recruiting process was long and tedious. The deputy was required to be available immediately, and the county was very particular in whom they selected. They wanted a deputy who would fit in well with the community since he or she would become an integral part of the community. Deputy Corley is a former resident of Bloomingdale and knows our community very well.

Parks and Rec Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Mauch accomplished the site preparation in coordination with the park's recreation director, Donna Clouse.

The location of the deputies' home met with the disapproval of a few residents. A special meeting was organized by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association last month to inform residents on the details involved in the site selection.

The Parks Department had to follow strict guidelines on

where to locate the mobile home provided by the deputy. It had to be placed specific distances from other resident's property and wetlands, in a spot that would still leave as much area as possible for the park's outdoor activities. One of the most important reasons the home was placed where it is, was to give the deputy maximum visibility of the entire park and rec center area.

At the July 23 meeting, it was agreed that the location of the home would remain the same. County officials will work with their architects, solicit input from residents and coordinate with landscaping personnel to enhance the site's aesthetics. A special project to involve the community in helping to landscape the site is also being planned.

Further announcements and meeting dates will be posted on our community web site, BloomingdaleOnline.com.



The location of the new park deputy's residence at Bloomingdale West Park will allow him to keep an eye on every area of the park including the playground, fields, recreation center and wooded areas. Mack Austin photo.

**RESTAURANT REVIEW**

**First Choice Southern Bar-B-Que**  
 10113 Adamo Drive  
 Waccamaw shopping center, Tampa  
 Phone: 621-7434, Fax: 621-7378

"If you're looking for Bar-B-Que with zest, then follow the smoke to First Choice"... I wish I could take credit for that phrase, but it appears on their menu. It is true however, that this open pit Bar-B-Que restaurant is home to one of the areas greatest, authentic Southern style BBQ.

This was the first time in 14 and a half years of dining out that we had to wait in a line that was snaked out the front door to get into a restaurant for lunch. Sure we're familiar with trying to get into a Brandon area restaurant on a Friday or Saturday night, but in line for lunch on a weekday at 1:50 p.m.? What a testimony to great food. They have been in business for almost 10 years. With the high fatality rate of locally owned eateries, this also speaks volume of the staying power and great tasting food served here.

Thankfully, you'll find that the line moves fairly fast and you get your meal quickly.

Once you're in, don't expect fancy tables and chairs or artsy pictures on the walls. What you will get is clean tables and chairs, bare walls and a dimly lit dining area.

Don't expect a difficult menu with all those fancy names either. The entire menu consists of seven sandwiches, eight dinners, twelve specials and seven sides; that's it. But oh boy, is it enough!

The sandwiches include beef, pork, chicken ham, turkey breast, sausage or ribs, all priced under \$3.75. Dinners include the

previously mentioned meats, plus a combination of any two with two sides, all priced under \$6.75.

Sides include coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, french fries, onion rings, collard greens or the 'R&L Special fritters'.

I had a chopped beef sandwich with a side of the fritters. My wife had a pork sandwich with a side of cole slaw. The servings were huge and the homemade special sauce that was slathered on was unique, delicious and wholly satisfying. The fritters look like hush puppies, but they're actually more doughy and made with bits of pork, chicken and beef; very good.

The bill for two sandwiches, two sides, and two medium fountain drinks with free refills was under \$11.

The hours are Monday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Take out business is a large part of their volume, so you can call or fax ahead with your order.

From now on, my first choice for Bar-B-Que is First Choice (I'm sorry, I couldn't resist it!)

Until we eat again,

*Elton Dumont*



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 Frank J. Nivert, Clifton C. Curry, Jr.

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The proposed Bloomingdale Avenue site, just east of Bloomingdale Senior High in Valrico.

**LIBRARY from page 1**

Representatives of FishHawk Ranch developer Newland Communities approached the board with a verbal offer to donate land within their community for a future library. The commissioners asked real estate director Mike Kelly to get it in writing.

Newland's generous offer had the commission asking if building the south Brandon library in Lithia would exclude nearby FishHawk from consideration for a future library branch. Current restrictions require libraries to be built at a general distance of five miles apart.

The owners of the 5.9-acre Bloomingdale Avenue site offered to donate an additional acre of land to the county free of charge, bringing the available acreage up to 6.9 acres at a cost of \$265,000. The commissioners asked the county real estate department to document the offer. The 4-acre Lithia site is being offered to the county for \$550,000.



The proposed Lithia Pinecrest Road site, just south of Lithia Springs Elementary, within the Lithia community of River Hills.

The commission also requested bottom line cost estimates for additional development required at both sites, including access roads and a storm water retention system required for the Bloomingdale site. Library Board Director Joe Stines said he would expedite further studies this month to meet the board's original time frame of selecting the site this October and completing the construction in 2004.

The commission is tentatively scheduled to make a final ruling on the site choice at their September 5 board meeting. Additional public hearings to gather residents' input may be announced this month. Meeting dates and announcements will be posted on Bloomingdale's community web site, BloomingdaleOnline.com. The BHA urges all Bloomingdale residents in support of the Bloomingdale Avenue library site to e-mail the county commission at hillsboroughcounty.org/mail/email.html, or call (813) 272-5660 for commission phone and fax numbers.



The new MacDill Federal Credit Union (MFCU) Operations Center is now open for business. Photo by Mack Austin.

**New MacDill Federal Credit Union Open**

MacDill Federal Credit Union recently opened its newest branch on Bloomingdale Avenue in Brandon, just east of Bryan Road. It is the largest of MacDill's fifteen branch offices. The branch will serve thousands of active duty and retired military residents living in the Bloomingdale area.

The Bloomingdale branch has six drive-through lanes, six tellers, two ATMs and will employ forty employees. Credit union members can use this branch to obtain free or low-cost checking accounts, personal and auto loans, mortgages, consumer loans, direct deposit on their paychecks and special auto-buying services. Online services are offered.

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**Give Your Child A Better Head Start.**

**Bloomingdale Area Community Council Update**

By Mack Austin

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council is composed of volunteer residents from various Bloomingdale area subdivisions. Council members work with local law enforcement and county officials to address community concerns brought to their attention.

The council meets monthly at the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station at 4342 Bell Shoals Road with Deputy Pete Maurer and Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano. Guest speakers attend many of the meetings.

The B.A.C.C. met on July 19, 2001 to discuss the following current issues and concerns brought to their attention:

The new resident park deputy at Bloomingdale West Park will be responsible for safety and security in the park. The setup of his residence has met with some disagreement.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will coordinate details of setting up the deputy's residence through communication with residents and homeowners association meetings.

The new "Community Drug Task Force" is now in place. This group of volunteers is working to find and implement ways to reduce local drug demand, educate both parents and teens on the dangers of drugs, and improve family communication. Several residents with professional experience and local school officials are involved in the project.

Deputy Pete Maurer said, "I have been amazed and encouraged by the turn-out at the meetings." Interested residents are invited to call coordinator Ellen Gates at (813) 681-9591 for more

information.

The site study for the new library has been resurrected. The Board of County Commissioners directed Library Board officials in July to go back and review more detailed facts about the two sites, especially the tremendous difference in cost. All present at the council meeting hope the Commission will select the Bloomingdale site.

The next B.A.C.C. meeting will be held in August 2001. Residents are invited to contact Deputy Maurer at (813) 635-8040 with any concerns that they would like to see added to the council's agenda.



Bloomingdale and Brandon High students combined forces as the East Hillsborough County Summer Band and Drill Team to march in Brandon's 4th of July parade last month.

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**PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT**



DPMI President  
Al Devney

Report for the month of July 2001  
By DPMI Property Management, Inc.  
President Al Devney, (813) 684-6617

**Irrigation:** An irrigation system inventory accounted for 24 separate systems, 20 wells and one on county water, 208 zones, 243 valves, 7265 spray heads and 536 rotors. The entire system is 65,308 feet or 12.3 miles long. Repairs were made near Holleman, Greenhollow, Natures Way and John Moore. Parts replacements included 7 spray heads, 1 zone line, 1 riser, 1 valve and 27 light bulbs.

**Landscaping:** Planscape replaced 1 palm tree and 12 Indian Hawthorns at Gotham. Greenturf mulched beds and trimmed vines and palm trees. Communities of America installed 2000 coleus and added a polymer for water retention.

**Other:** Russell Electric installed new entrance lights at Timbergrove, Eagle Bluff, Highlander, Culbreath, Natures Way and Kiowa. A hit and run car-vs-sign accident at Elton and Natures Way resulted in \$544 worth of damages. If anyone has information concerning the accident, please call Al Devney at (813) 684-6617.

**Eat, Drink and Pitch Out the Window:** In the month of July, DPMI picked up 15 bags of litter, 2 spare tires, a hubcap, a CD player, the back to an office chair, 6 shirts, 4 towels, 3 pairs of gloves and \$1.32. The beverages of choice were Coke for soft drinks, Smirnoff Ice for beer and Scorbe Very Rare scotch for dis-

**New Asian Emporium at Bloomingdale Square**

By Laura Frazier

Bill and Mindy Gill are bringing a little bit of the Orient to Bloomingdale Square. The Valrico couple held a July 21 grand opening of their new Asian specialties store, Mindy's Asian Emporium of Gifts.

Mindy moved to the United States two years ago from her homeland of China, where she enjoyed dual careers as a middle school teacher and a marketing and management professional for over 15 years.

The store carries fine Asian imports, including home décor, gifts, clothing and furniture. Gill says her unique sculpted water fountains have proven popular with shoppers at Peddler's Mall in Brandon. "We have so many beautiful things to offer, all of fine quality and at good prices."

The store is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call (813) 651-1493.



**YARD OF THE MONTH**

By Rosie Trellis

When it rains, it pours Yard of the Month nominations! We have been happily inundated with nominations from folks throughout Bloomingdale East and West. If you've already sent one in, please be assured that you're still in the running. We'll have two monthly winners throughout the summer... or at least until the rain holds out!

This month's winners each received multiple nominations from their neighbors. Both received a \$20 gift certificate from



The Foreman's Dogwood Hills yard

Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale.

The Green Thumb award goes to Dave and Debbie Foreman of Dogwood Hills. Lush islands of ivy, large tropical plants and azaleas, all neatly bordered with brick edging, blanket the Foreman's yard. Neighbors marveled at the couple's ability to maintain an incredibly green yard throughout the drought. This may be too much information, but we hear Dave showers with two 5-gallon buckets that he douses on dry spots in the yard!

The Everything's Coming Up Roses award goes to Carmela and Rocco Vasta of River Crossing. The Italian Vastas speak a limited amount of English, but they are fluent in the language of flowers. Their yard is a virtual palette of colors lined with rows of colorful flora and dozens of rose bushes. Neighbors say the Vastas are always out working in their yard, planting, trimming and even harvesting... Carmela grows tiny red bell peppers in her back yard garden. Magnifico!



Carmela and Rocco Vasta of River Crossing

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## Residents rally to name new school for community activist

By Laura Frazier

By all accounts, Tampa native Richard "Dick" Cimino touched many lives in the Brandon area before his death last November at the age of 70. Now hundreds of Brandon area residents are rallying to name a new elementary school in his honor.

Cimino's friends, colleagues and fellow civic leaders circulated a petition this April to name the new elementary school planned for Bloomingdale East in his honor. The group recently presented the school board with 541 signatures in support of the commemoration.

Brandon residents Vince Ferraro and B. Lee Elam spearheaded the drive to name the school after their late friend and colleague.

"Dick did so much for the Brandon community," said Ferraro.

"He was a very warm person who did a great deal of behind-the-scenes work that benefited many people, especially young children."

Friends say Cimino often provided financial assistance to families in distress

by helping to pay their children's medical bills. He also made it possible for dozens of underprivileged kids to attend area summer camps.

Ferraro said Cimino quietly enjoyed taking Brandon area children shopping at Barnes and Noble to purchase books they might otherwise never have owned.

Cimino's legacy of generosity and community activism recently prompted a local business organization to name their highest award in his honor.

Cimino worked as a financial advisor and was a member of the Florida Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, along with his longtime friend and colleague Ken Cochran.

"The award is presented to the association member who most clearly goes beyond the call of business by showing compassion and concern for the community and its residents," said Cochran.

"No one has worked harder to benefit the Brandon community than Dick Cimino. It's a fitting tribute."

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association President Ted Grable is in support of the petition.

"It's very appropriate that Dick Cimino be remembered for all he did for the community by naming the new school in his honor," said Grable.

"The term 'community service'



Friends say they will miss Cimino's fun-loving, generous spirit. Here he pauses to reflect during one of his cherished camping/fishing/duck hunting/eating gourmet food trips!

Continued on next page



Dick Cimino served as an honorary Mayor of Brandon. The Brandon President's Roundtable coordinates the annual election. Candidates hold fundraising events to benefit local charities and service clubs, and the candidate who raises the most money is named to the office. Photos courtesy of Rosalind Creager.

defined Dick Cimino. When Dick passed away last November, Brandon lost one of its finest citizens."

Construction of the new school, which is expected to open for the 2002-2003 school year, is scheduled to begin in October. School district officials say they will announce meetings and surveys this fall to gather community input in naming the school. The district will send letters home with students currently assigned to Alafia Elementary and Lithia Springs Elementary, the schools that the new elementary will draw attendance from. Announcements will also be posted on the school district web site at [www.sdhc.k12.fl.us](http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us).

### Dick Cimino

1930 - 2000

Dick Cimino was a Tampa native and lifelong Bay area resident. He was a financial planner, captain in the Army Artillery, past president of the Greater Brandon Kiwanis Club, past president of the American Cancer Society, past president of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, former honorary Mayor of Brandon, recipient of the Brandon Key Citizen award and the Alice B. Thompkins Award for community service. He received various commendations from Hillsborough County for community service, served on the Board of Directors at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama and was a member of the Jesuit High School Dad's Club and Nativity Catholic Church.

#### REPORT from page 1

chefs, retired individuals, mortgage brokers, county and/or city employees.

The District is currently considering a 10-year, half million dollar project to rebuild and upgrade all the entryways in Bloomingdale East and West. If you have suggestions or questions about the project, or would consider filling a seat on the Board of Trustees, please join us at the next meeting on Monday August 13 at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, in the Citgo plaza.

For more information, call Joe Liguori, Executive Director of the Gazette, at 681-9655 or Taxing District Administrator Bobbi Grussing at 684-6667.

I've already written an article on the well documented relationship between periodontal disease and some forms of heart disease, but did you know that many forms of ill health show up intra-orally? More than 90 percent of all systemic diseases have some oral symptoms associated with them. Of major concern is oral cancer which now takes more lives annually than cervical or skin cancer.

Consider how poor digestive processes can lead to intestinal problems including irritable bowel syndrome and other problems associated with poor nutrition. Some of the more noteworthy diseases that show up in the mouth include diabetes, leukemia and kidney disease.

If you should have special medical treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation to the head and neck region, your dentist should be consulted prior to these treatments. Many dentists denote signs of tobacco use during their examination and educate their patients of the risks they are taking.

I would like to invite the readers of this regular article to submit any questions they would like answered to me at 410 W. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon, FL 33511. I'll do the best I can to answer each of them.

Source: AGD, Academy of General Dentistry

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## BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY SUBSTATION NOTES

By Deputy Pete Maurer



Deputy Pete Maurer

### Back To School August 8

Soon the air will be filled with the shouts of excitement about school starting back, at least from parents! Everyone should allow extra time to get where they're going during school arrival and dismissal times. First and foremost is the safety of the hundreds of children walking, riding and being driven to school. Parents, please make sure everyone has their seatbelts on!

### Stop For Buses Both Ways

Traffic laws require cars traveling in both directions on roads without a dividing median to stop for school buses. This applies to Bloomingdale Avenue. Slow down and give yourself enough distance from other vehicles, including school buses.



Drivers going through school zones must slow down, especially around Alafia Elementary. No warnings will be given.

### Bike Helmets Save Lives

Many students will be riding their bikes to school, especially to Alafia Elementary. Children under the age of 16 are required by law to wear bike hel-

metts. Hundreds of kids and adults are seriously injured each year, some critically, because they weren't wearing a twenty-dollar helmet. Helmets are a smart choice for bike riders of all ages.



Traffic laws require cars traveling in both directions to stop for school buses. Mack Austin photos.

### Parking At Alafia

Parents of Alafia Elementary students, please take care and follow the rules for parking and dropping off students. Please be patient and courteous at the very congested intersection of Natures Way and Culbreath.

### Avoid Speeding Citations

Our radar speed monitor will be used extensively throughout the school areas and surrounding neighborhoods. The area of continuing construction around Bloomingdale High School is a school zone and construction zone combined. There will be no warnings. You speed, you pay!

### No Shortcuts To Bypass Traffic

Despite signs put in place to discourage neighborhood through-traffic during school arrival and dismissal times, several drivers are still cutting through neighborhood streets to bypass the traffic. These streets have been identified and residents are watching for offenders. Sheriff's deputies will be patrolling them.

## Cease Fire Tampa Bay

Saturday, September 15  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Bloomingdale Community Station  
4342 Bell Shoals Road

Turn in any old or new firearms that you wish to have properly disposed of and receive a \$50 gift certificate to Bealls or Winn Dixie. Pellet and BB guns will be accepted, but gift certificates will not be given for them. For additional information call 844-GUN1.

## Bloomingdale Avenue Businesses Endure Construction Delays

By Laura Frazier

The last phase of the \$32 million Bloomingdale Avenue widening project was initially slated for completion in January of this year. Serious problems with gas and water pipelines beneath the road forced contractor Overstreet Paving to push the completion date forward first to April, then July, then August.

County officials now estimate an October 2001 completion. Businesses along the final stretch, from Bell Shoals Road to Lithia Pinecrest Road, have patiently endured the mess, delays and detours that have plagued their storefront road, and livelihoods, since February of last year.

Super Cuts salon manager Marlena Blanton hasn't let a recent decline in business get her down. For the month of July, the salon is offering customers special discounts on haircuts, billed as the



Super Cuts manager Marlena Blanton created a miniature Bloomingdale Avenue construction scene, on display at the salon. Photo by Laura Frazier

"Bloomingdale Avenue Construction Special." Blanton even created a miniature construction scene on display at the salon, complete with tiny mounds of dirt, heavy machinery, detour signs and road crews.

Across the street from Super Cuts, The Green Boutique antiques and gift shop sits at ground zero of the current construction. Owner Roz Creager, a resident of Brandon for over 20 years, says the construction has affected her business to a degree, most notably during the few times the entrance to her store has been blocked off. But roadblocks haven't stopped The Green Boutique's most dedicated shoppers.

"Even when our driveway was totally inaccessible, we had some very determined shoppers. Several customers parked across the street at Hollywood Video or next-door at Animal Medical Center. They walked right through the dirt and debris to get here," said Creager.

Roz says Overstreet's managers have been very accommodating to her business, scheduling entrance blocks and major work in front of her store on days the shop is closed.

"We are definitely looking forward to it being finished," she said.

"And when it is, I think we'll throw a big party!"

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### Springvale rezoning effort resurfaces

By David Yake

The developer who launched an effort last year to rezone the conservation property on Springvale Avenue in Bloomingdale East still wants to pursue the issue. The zoning request was not approved by the Hillsborough County Commission earlier this year due to resident opposition to any changes to our deed restrictions.

The developer's local agent has scheduled a presentation at the next BHA board meeting on Monday, August 6, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road in the Citgo plaza. The meeting is open to the public and all residents are encouraged to attend.

It is my understanding that the purpose of the presentation is to introduce concerned residents to the "residential development plan" that would be implemented if the rezoning were approved.

If you question or oppose further rezoning and development of Bloomingdale's conservation areas, please attend the August 8 meeting. Remember, it is our green space that's up for grabs. The property was purchased last year for back taxes of \$2,500. The

seller's asking price is \$275,000. Private interests have a lot to gain by rezoning this property. Our community has only so much more green space to lose.

For more information, call the BHA at (813) 681-2051.

### Welcome to Bloomingdale!

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**Kacey Leigh Houlihan**-Born June 10, 2001 to Janis and Mark Houlihan

**Jaden Thayne Shatch**-Born June 10, 2001 to Dorian and Thayne Shatch

**Gabriel Christopher Janus**-Born June 18, 2001 to Beth and Christopher Janus

**Jeremy William Barone**-Born June 25, 2001 to Shannon and Jason Barone

**Nicholas Michael Lilly**-Born June 24, 2001 to Mary and Michael Lilly

**Aleesa Joy Huyck**-Born July 4, 2001 to Jessica and Tony Huyck

**Kyle Ryan Knotek**-Born July 4, 2001 to Letitia and Ryan Knotek

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**NOTE:** Businesses advertise here for as low as \$13 per month! Call ARLENE at 662-1306 for information.

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