

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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Number 8

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FEATURE STORY



Lydia Harrod is co-chairperson of the BHA's Community Cleanup Day committee. The next cleanup is set for Saturday, Oct. 8.

PAGE 3

BUSINESS

Jacqueline Cooper of Bloomingdale is a new independent consultant for Big Yellow Box by Crayola, a national in-home selling program from Binney & Smith.

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3 Sections Participating In Name, Sign Program

DEADLINE FOR VOTES IS AUG. 18

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

Homeowners in three unnamed sections of Bloomingdale are busy collecting ballots and circulating petitions in hopes of giving their slice of the community a new name and unique identity.

Under a process set forth by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's Neighborhood Name and Sign committee, the section whose residents show the most participation in the program will be the next to receive the name of their choice and new entryway signs for their section.

The program is funded by the BHA and a series of Hillsborough County neighborhood mini-grants.

Eight sections are currently eligible for the program. The three sections now actively participating are sections O, F and a combination of residents in

E, C and H.

Residents in O can register their vote with the section coordinator, Thyra Hayes, 1251 Lornewood Drive, 655-6838, hayesjts@aol.com. Section O includes 126 residences on Lornewood Drive, Carrie Wood Drive, Ellenville Place, Havenstone Way and Monte Lake Drive (from Dumont Drive to Lornewood Drive). Suggested names are Bloomingdale Trace, Grand Oaks and Oakmont.

The section coordinator for F is Norbert Gobin, 1008 Elm Grove Lane, 828-2509, sleuth72@earthlink.net. Section F consists of 85 residences on Elm Grove Lane, Cameo Crest Lane, Springway Circle and Fown View Place. Suggested names are Spring Lake, Natures Glen, Glenhaven Way, Cameo Crest Glen, Pinewood Retreat, Cameo Crest Cove, Springhaven Reserve and Springway Cove.

One group of residents living in three unnamed sections near Bloom-

ingdale West Park, sections E, C and H, would like its neighbors to consider one name for all three sections. Resident Caryl Nolan has offered to be the section coordinator if anyone from E, C and H is interested. Nolan suggests the name "Park Place" for all three sections. To get in touch with Nolan, send your name and phone number to info@bloomingdalegazette.com or call Laura, 643-2990.

The three adjacent sections include (E) 94 residences on Bloomingfield Drive, Windtree Court, Cloverhill Court, Sweatleaf Court, Shady Nook Drive and Oakmoss Drive, (C) 226 residences on Redondo Drive, Fenner Court, Wasco Court, Hollister Place, Herlong Court, Isleton Drive, Caliente Drive and Fortuna Drive and (H) 228 residences on Paddlewheel Drive, Sweatleaf Drive, Fallon Court, Cedar Grove Drive, Denage Court, Fieldstone Drive and Encina Drive, Bloomingfield Drive, Van Reed Manor Drive.

See SIGN, Page 8

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS PAGE 4

BHA Board Comprised Of Bloomingdale Neighbors

MORE HELP NEEDED TO STAFF COMMITTEES



Photo courtesy of Joni Hickle

Taxing District Honors Volunteer

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District president Thom Snelling, right, accepts the official resignation of Joe Liguori, a longtime BSTD volunteer. Liguori will continue to serve the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association in various capacities. See story, page 13.

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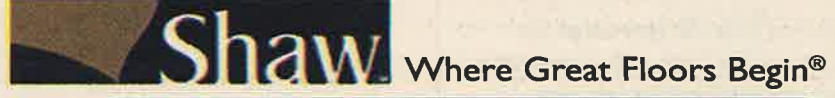
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Next PRIDE Cleanup Day Is Oct. 8

FREE DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD JUNK, COMPUTERS

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. PRIDE committee invites all residents to take advantage of an upcoming community-wide clean-up

day to dispose of items cluttering up their homes, yards and neighborhoods.

Community volunteers will collect household castoffs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Unit, 1626 Natures Way, just west of Alafia Elementary School. Acceptable items include old appliances, mattresses, water heaters, televisions, steel and other metals, old furniture, non-commercial con-

struction debris and tires.

A local charity will be on hand to collect tax deductible donations of reusable items, and a computer recycling company will accept used computers, monitors and computer components and accessories.

Elderly or disabled residents who need assistance to transport household junk or donated items can call the BHA office, 681-2051, prior to 11 a.m. Thurs-

day, Oct. 6 to schedule pick-up.

Items that CANNOT be accepted include those normally picked up at the curb by Hillsborough County; solid waste from commercial activity; and hazardous waste such as paint, household chemicals, batteries and propane tanks.

For more information call 681-2051 or e-mail bloomington.homeowners@verizon.net.

BHA Is Nonprofit, All Volunteer Organization

5,000 HOMES, 25 YEARS STRONG

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc., known as the BHA, was organized in August 1980 during the early development of the Bloomingdale community. Over the past 25 years, the association's membership area has grown from several hundred homes to

nearly 5,000 residences.

The organization's membership area is generally bordered by John Moore Road on the west, Bloomingdale Avenue on the north, Lithia Pincrest Road on the east and the Alafia River to the south.*

The BHA is a nonprofit corporation, run strictly by non-paid volunteers who live in Bloomingdale.

Annual membership dues of \$25 per residence are the BHA's only financial support. All moneys collected from

membership dues go back into the community.

Annual dues notices were mailed to all Bloomingdale residents in May. If you are not a BHA member, please take a moment to mail your check for \$25 to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. Please include your name, address and phone number.

For more information about the BHA, visit www.bloomingtongazette.com, call 681-2051 or e-mail [\[owners@verizon.net\]\(mailto:owners@verizon.net\).](mailto:bloomington.home-</p></div>
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The BHA membership area does not include separate communities with entrances off Bell Shoals Road and John Moore Road, such as Southoak, Oakdale Reserve, Emerald Creek, Indian Hills, Parkland Estates, River Rapids, etc. This year, the BHA invited homeowners in three communities at the south end of John Moore Road — Hickory Creek, Dogwood Hills and Hickory Ridge — to join the association.

ON OUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE For Bloomingdale community meetings and events, visit our Web site at www.bloomingtongazette.com

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Volunteer Board Staffed By Bloomingdale Neighbors

MORE HELP NEEDED ON COMMITTEES

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. Board of Directors is currently comprised of 11 Bloomingdale residents — three officers and eight directors — who volunteer their time and talents on behalf of the community's 5,000 homeowners.

Each board member serves on one or more committees formed this year to focus on four key functions of the organization: Homeowners Association Services, Neighborhood PRIDE, Neighborhood Improvement and Government Services.

More volunteers are needed to help with various activities on several committees. Volunteer opportunities range from participating in one-time events to co-chairing a committee. Several opportunities require just a few hours of time each month. High school students and scouts who volunteer with the organization are eligible to receive community service hour credits.

BHA committees provide a way for residents with specific concerns about their neighborhood to take action. Committees are in place to help neighbors improve and resolve issues such as deed restriction and county codes enforcement, public safety, parks and recreation facilities, public works improvements, school issues and neighbors in need.

More than just a civic action group, the BHA board is a diverse, friendly group of neighbors who enjoy working together to preserve and improve the community they chose to call home.

Ted Grable, BHA president since 1999, is a fifth generation native of the



LAURA FRAZIER/Photos

Ted Grable, BHA President

Tampa Bay area. Grable has lived in Bloomingdale since 1985, when he and his wife Mary purchased a home on Van Reed Manor Drive in Bloomingdale West. In 2001, the couple moved to the Cambridge Cove section of Bloomingdale East.

Like many of his fellow board members, Grable said he got involved with the BHA through a friend and neighbor who was a board director at the time.

"I was immediately impressed with all of the activities that the BHA was involved in and the value it added to our community. It didn't take long for me to become very involved."

Grable has served on a variety of BHA committees including scholarships, membership and government relations. Prior to his election as president six years ago, he served as the organization's comptroller and vice president. He is also currently chairman of the Bloomingdale Gazette Online committee.

"When we moved to Bloomingdale in

1985, we were looking for an area that had good housing values and would be a great place to raise our three children, then 14, 9 and 2. Bloomingdale seemed like the perfect place. Back then, the community had around 500 homes. Today it has almost 5000. The great thing is that Bloomingdale has continued to be a great family area with great schools."

Grable has a close personal contact in the school system to keep him apprised of the progress of Bloomingdale area schools. His wife, Mary, is a guidance counselor and recent teacher of the year at Bloomingdale High School.

"This year Mary will be working with the new ninth grade academy — a small learning community designed to make the first year of high school more successful."

Grable brings a wealth of government services experience to the BHA board. From 1984 to 2000, he was the director of purchasing and contracting for Hillsborough County. Since then, he has worked with a technology consulting firm, providing financial management and purchasing systems to state and local governments throughout the country.

In addition to his service to the BHA, Grable is a member of the Brandon President's Round Table Charities and the Brandon Republican Club. He and his wife Mary, whose children are now grown, attend Nativity Catholic Church in Brandon.

Another longtime Bloomingdale resident and community volunteer, Pam Liguori has served the BHA board for about 15 years and has been treasurer of the organization for eight years.

Liguori and her husband, Joe, purchased a home in the Augusta Village section of Bloomingdale East 19 years



Pam Liguori, BHA Treasurer

ago.

"Believe it or not, we chose the Bloomingdale area because it had less traffic than any other area we considered," she said.

Liguori and her husband, Joe, give new meaning to the word "retired."

Both have served the Bloomingdale community for many years in various capacities. In July, the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District regretfully accepted Joe Liguori's resignation from service (see story in this issue). In addition to his service to the taxing district, Liguori is a longtime BHA volunteer. As executive director of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, he currently chairs the BHA's Gazette committee.

The Liguori's also co-chair the community's annual Visit With Santa Clause charity food drive and the association's Membership committee.

In addition to her service to the BHA, Pam Liguori is a Red Hatter, a member of the Bloomingdale Area Community

See VOLUNTEER, Page 11

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

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

President: Ted Grable **Vice President:** Joe Hickle
Treasurer: Pam Liguori **Director:** Tony Diolosa
Director: Lydia Harrod **Director:** Steve Heckel
Director: Dale Kahn **Director:** Jane Lee
Director: Stanley Lee **Director:** Myron Magedanz
Director: Ken Pysc

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: 684-6667
BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President: Thom Snelling
Vice President: Russell Jones
Treasurer: David West
Correspondence Secretary: Paul Sims
Recording Secretary: Michael Buday

Trustee: David Steck
Trustee: Joe Harless
Property Manager: Al Devney

Bloomingdale Community Security Program

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

Coordinator/Equipment Manager:

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146

Treasurer: Paul Kelmer

Patrol Member: Steven

Heckel

Patrol Member: Brad Scharp

Patrol Member: Paul Warr

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132

Phone: 685-2817

BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

President: Bill Grace

Treasurer: Fred Englehart



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**BLOOMINGDALE
NEIGHBORHOOD
NEWS**



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Florida State House Rep. Rich Glorioso and his staff, Brooke McKnight and John McCaughey, recently met with residents at the Bloomingdale library to discuss current legislative issues.

**State Rep. Glorioso Continues
To Serve Public In New Post**

**REPRESENTS VALRICO,
BLOOMINGDALE EAST**

By MACK AUSTIN
Correspondent

Once a person has worked in a profession that involves service to others, it's very hard to do anything else. Such is the case with Florida State House Rep. Rich Glorioso. After retiring from the U.S. Air Force, Glorioso has chosen another profession that definitely encompasses service to others.

Glorioso said he spends almost every waking moment in service to others in his new position. As representative for District 62, which includes Valrico and sections of Bloomingdale east of Bell Shoals Road, he is continually talking, writing, e-mailing and meeting with his constituents to find out their concerns, their needs and how to make their lives better.

As part of his process to gain insight into the concerns and needs of his District, Glorioso and his staff hold community meetings. One such meeting was recently held at the new Bloomingdale library. The purpose of the meeting was to update those present on the current status of legislative actions completed at the last session in Tallahassee and also to find out about any other

specific concerns they had.

The briefing about the past legislative session began with some basic facts. Glorioso noted the session lasted 60 days, with more than 2000 bills reviewed and 400 passed.

One of the main topics of discussion was the economy. Florida has a \$64 billion dollar budget. From that, education was given increases for K-12 including a 5% raise for teachers. Hillsborough County will get \$112 million dollars.

Next came taxes, with approval for two tax-free holidays including a hurricane holiday. The intangible tax was cut. The alternative communications tax was eliminated.

One of the biggest issues was growth management. As Glorioso noted, "Growth must be properly managed because it directly affects so many other major issues like transportation, schools, water, traffic, safety and many more." Bloomingdale residents see the affects of unmanaged growth every time they drive in the traffic.

Medical issues also received lots of attention, including the current proposed changes to Medicaid. Glorioso said, "These types of concerns affect everyone and although

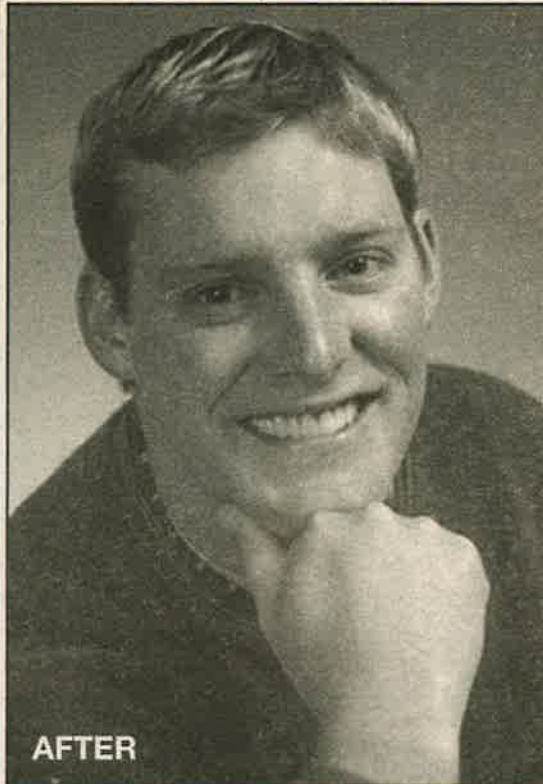
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AFTER

"He's The Man!"

By Jeff Winslow

Do I really have to tell you what a difference my *Smile Makeover* made in my life? Just look at the pictures!

I had no idea what a *Smile Makeover* could do for me. My parents actually pushed me into it. I didn't want to do it. After all, who wants to go to the dentist in the first place? I knew my teeth were messed up, but I didn't realize just how bad they looked or what a difference having them straightened and whitened would make.

When I smiled before the makeover I noticed people looking at my teeth but I just figured I was stuck with this smile. Like I said, I didn't think it was all that bad.

My dad was going to a dentist in Bloomingdale for his regular check-ups when the doctor recommended that he have some bonding done to repair some chips in his teeth. So my dad asked him what he thought about all the hype over the extreme makeovers we all see on television.

Well, it turns out that the doctor attended the same institute in Las Vegas as the doctors on *Extreme Makeover*. Naturally, he believes in the makeovers and explained to my dad about the possibilities. To make a long story longer, he made an appointment for me to have a consultation about my situation.

Reluctantly and with true adolescent attitude, I went. I really liked Dr. Arnold. He didn't push anything on me. He told me exactly why my teeth were crooked and misaligned and what he could do to

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What more can I say? If you have any thoughts about whether you should look into a *Smile Makeover*, as far as I'm concerned there's only one place to go, Dr. Scott Arnold. He's the man. It doesn't hurt to look into getting a smile makeover. As a matter of fact, it didn't hurt at all.

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Alafia Gators Ready For New School Year

CLASS SIZE, CO-TEACHING ON SCHEDULE

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

In mid-July, new Principal Ellyn Smith was busy preparing for her first "back-to-school" experience at Alafia Elementary. Smith's focus was on staffing and planning for the coming year, now underway.

"I'm getting to know procedures and routines here at Alafia," Smith said.

"We are going ahead with our class size reduction units, so we've increased classroom space by adding four new portables to the two existing non-classroom portables on campus last year."

"We are really hoping to have 18 to 20 students per class in grades kinder-

garten through three, and 22 to 25 in fourth and fifth grades," she said.

The major impact of the class size reduction law is that it allows teachers to have more time to meet the individual needs of the students in the classroom. In Smith's opinion, it also allows for other learning spaces to be created within the classroom due to the reduced number of desks, freeing up the classroom's environmental space.

Alafia has some classes that will utilize co-teaching, a model that works best if the teachers are well-matched, Smith said.

"With co-teaching, you have two pairs of eyes sharing those 36 students. Professionally, it allows teachers the opportunity to increase the quality of interaction with their students."

Other amendments include a slight change for bike riders.

"Students will no longer be released to cross Natures Way," said Smith.

"All of our bikers will cross at the corner of Culbreath and Nature's Way, with the same crossing guard."

Safety concerns have parents and staff brainstorming for a viable solution for dismissal procedures, with the well-being of each student being the priority, according to Smith.

Another priority at Alafia has been repairs to the roof, which were scheduled for completion last year. Due to the weather, the repairs have been postponed to minimize distractions to the classrooms. Roof leaks were patched this summer, and the roof replacement is scheduled for next summer.



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Principal Ellyn Smith prepares for her first "back to school" experience at Alafia Elementary.

Cimino Elementary Cougars Got Jump Start On New Year

PROGRAM GAVE KINDERGARTENERS TRIAL RUN

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Cimino Elementary got a "Jump Start" on the 2005-06 school year in July with a program by the same name.

"What we're doing is brand new this

year," said principal Lou Cerreta.

"We invited kindergarten children in before the school year started."

Cimino's 135 currently registered kindergartners were invited by their teachers to come in, cycle through a typical day, and meet with their teacher one-on-one. Student assessments, previously done after the start of the school year,

were done during Jump Start time this year.

"This allowed the teachers to know where the child is before the year even began," Cerreta said.

The two-week, three-hour Jump Start program was funded entirely by grant monies.

"The feedback that I've received so

far has been so positive," Cerreta said.

Kindergarten teacher Mary Belcher said her new students seemed to enjoy the program.

"They were excited. They wanted to come to school. I think they become more comfortable with the teachers, the school and surroundings once they've

See COUGARS, Page 7

All Aboard!

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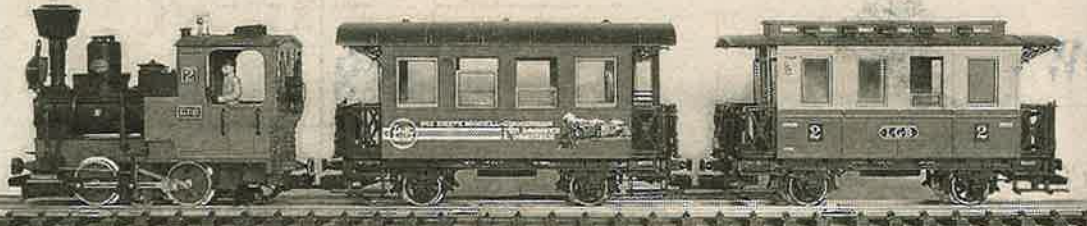
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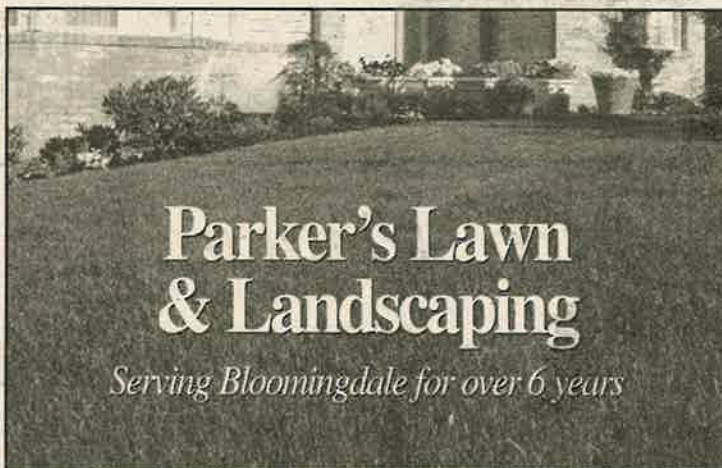
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B L O O M I N G D A L E S C H O O L S



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Cimino principal Lou Cerreta and fourth-grade teacher Liz Waters go over the revamped school-day schedule for the coming year, which allows for bigger blocks of uninterrupted instructional time.

COUGARS

Continued From Page 6

been through this program," Belcher said. According to Cerreta, each teacher phoned their student's parents and found them to be very receptive, giving the program high participation.

Jump Start also offered an intensive reading program for students in first, second and third grades whose prior teachers thought would benefit from individualized reading instruction.

While teachers and students got a head start on the academic year, another project affecting Cimino was put on hold. The construction of a building to provide extra classroom space to the fast-growing elementary school has been delayed due to rising construction costs.

Elementary School Enrollment
2005-06 SCHOOL YEAR

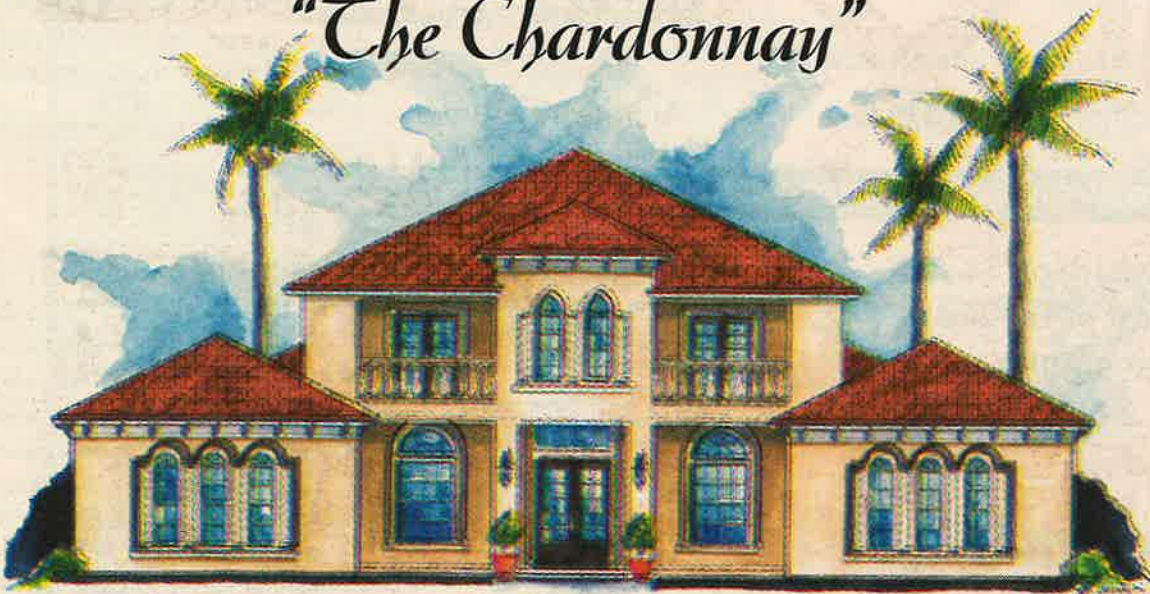
Cimino Elementary School

Total students registered: 900*
Eight kindergarten classes, seven first grade, nine second grade, eight third grade, seven fourth grade, seven fifth grade.
Open house: Aug. 18

Alafia Elementary School

Total students registered: 800*
Six kindergarten classes, seven first grade, six second grade, eight third grade, seven fourth grade, five fifth grade.
Open house: Aug. 25
* Estimates as of July 27.

"The Chardonnay"

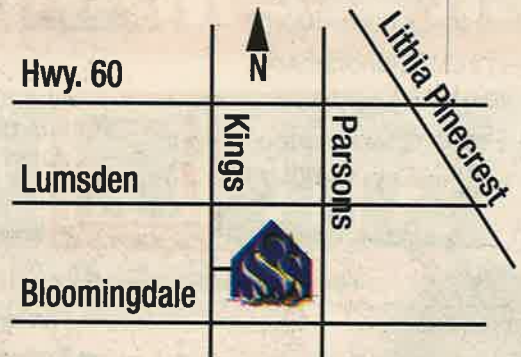


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B L O O M I N G D A L E L A W E N F O R C E M E N T



MACKAUSTIN/Photo

With school back in session, Bloomingdale Avenue looks like a beehive that's been disturbed. Drivers, please slow down and keep a safe distance from school buses, and stop for buses in both directions if there is no median.

Have Fun, Stay Safe This Summer

FALL CALLS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDERS

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER

School is back in session. We know you can't believe it, but it's true. Besides, you just got through fighting the crowds at Wal-Mart buying school supplies, or you will be soon.

This may sound repetitious to some folks, but our first con-

cern must now be the safety and protection of the thousands of kids headed back to school in our community. Many of these kids will be walking or riding their bikes to school for the first time. Many will have to walk or ride their bikes in areas where sidewalks have still not been installed. Several thousands will be waiting at bus stops for their school buses. Hundreds of teenagers will be driving to school for the first time. Combine all of these

different ways for kids to get to school with thousands of other drivers, many in a hurry to get to work, and you have a lot of very dangerous situations.

Parents, please take the time to talk to your kids about the importance of being safe going to and from school. Emphasize safe bike riding — wearing their helmets, crossing only at crosswalks, obeying all bike riding rules, and watching for cars. Have your kids either walk or ride their bikes in groups with friends or classmates. Discuss the importance of being very careful if strangers approach them. Review the route they should take to school, and walk or ride it with them. Note the seriousness of them staying at their bus stop watching out for cars and behaving while they wait.

After school, some kids will be home alone for a while. Stress the importance of staying inside, knowing important emergency numbers and those of parents or friends, following the rules you set for using kitchen appliances and not talking to strangers or opening the doors.

Parents, don't forget to prepare yourself for a new school year too. Give yourself extra travel time in your commute.

See FUN, Page 1

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B L O O M I N G D A L E L A W E N F O R C E M E N T

Council Concerned About Auto Accidents, Growth

NEW TRAFFIC LAWS IN EFFECT

By MACK AUSTIN
Correspondent

The BACC, Bloomingtondale Area Community Council, is made up of residents from various homeowners associations in our community. The council works with Bloomingtondale's community resource deputy, Pete Maurer, community service officer, Sandy Capitano, and county and state government representatives to help improve safety, security and the quality of life in our community.

The council meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Bloomingtondale Substation on Bell Shoals Road. All interested residents are invited to attend. For information call

635-8040.

The following items were discussed at the July meeting of the BACC.

Council Welcomes New Member

The council welcomed a new member, John Spina. Deputy Maurer noted that more participation from residents helps get more improvements made.

New Florida Traffic Laws In Effect

Deputy Maurer briefed the council on several very important new Florida traffic laws that all Bloomingtondale residents must be aware of and follow:

Drivers changing lanes or passing another car without signaling will be fined \$118.50.

In accordance with Florida's new

"primary seat belt law," officers can now stop any vehicle when drivers or passengers under the age of 18 are seen not wearing seat belts. The driver will be held responsible for the failure of any occupant under the age of 18 to wear a seat belt.

Lawmakers lowered the distance that auto boom boxes/stereo systems may be heard from another vehicle. Citations will now be issued if they can hear a stereo system from 25 feet away, instead of 100 feet.

Drivers causing a crash with severe injuries will pay \$500 for each person injured and \$1000 if someone is killed, in addition to any criminal punishment incurred.

The minimum speed on interstates has been changed from 40 to 50mph.

Public Works To Review Crosswalk Plans

Plans have been made to have the crosswalk on Culbreath Road between the Campo YMCA and Bloomingtondale Little League field scheduled for a formal field review. County traffic engineers will study the site to determine if it is the most appropriate crossing location and assess any ADA ramps that are necessary to provide pedestrian access. In addition, parks maintenance will review the site to determine the feasibility of adding shrubbery to direct pedestrians to the selected crossing, and review the possible construction of a bridge to the little league park.

See TRAFFIC, Page 14

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Now, thanks to a new computer system, home sellers can get extremely accurate,

up-to-the minute information that will help them get the highest price for their home when they sell.

The FREE REPORT is titled "How to Sell Your Home for the Highest Price", and also includes a computerized market report. If your home is currently listed for sale with a real estate broker, there are some restrictions on what information can be provided.

However, if you are about to put your home on the market for sale, the complete report can be provided to you without charge. The computerized market report

alone could save you thousands when you sell your home!

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BLOOMINGDALE SPORTS

Bloomington American All-Stars Take It To State

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A Gazette Report

National press releases in July announced that in case of an emergency, paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to the person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt — ICE.

ICE stands for "In Case of Emergency."

U.S. citizens are asked to add an entry in their cell phone contacts list under "ICE" with the name and phone number of the person that emergency workers should call on their behalf. It only takes a few moments of your time to do. Paramedics know what ICE means, and they look for it immediately.

TEAM HIT DEBARY LAST WEEKEND

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

After winning the District 13 title, Bloomington American's 9- and 10-year-old all-star team beat Plant City, 8-5, and Land O'Lakes, 11-6, to win the Section 4 tournament in Dade City. The win earned the team a trip to the state tournament in DeBary last weekend (check www.bloomingtongazette.com for results).

The team distinguished themselves by winning the district championship in July by winning five straight games without a loss, taking the title in a win against East Point Little League. The tournament hosted 12 mostly local little leagues, but the Bloomington American All Stars came home with the title.

"They all work great together," said team manager Rob Bullara.

"It was a 13-player effort to win this title."

"I don't know who was more excited —



Photo courtesy of Richard Martin

Bloomington Little League's 9 and 10 year old American all-stars, from left, are Michael Farley, Richie Martin, Brice Bartlett, Noah Schaller, Will Worth, Ryan Sullivan, Alex Kerr, Christian Cope, Tyler Shaw, Jack Fleming, Zach Hodges, Travis Bird and Robbie Bullara. In back, from left are manager Rob Bullara and coaches Jack Bartlett and Randy Sullivan.

the kids or the parents," Bullara said.

Bloomington Little League consists of more than 1,000 boys and girls in national and American divisions. Coaches for the

winning team are Jack Bartlett, Randy Sullivan and Carlos Somellan.

Brandon News sports editor Robert Cone contributed to this report.

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B L O O M I N G D A L E S P O R T S

Major Girls Capture State Title

PLAY FOR REGION CROWN,
RIGHT TO GO TO WORLD SERIES

By ROBERT CONE
rcone@mediageneral.com

Ten playoff games, 10 victories. The Bloomingdale all-star Major girls raced through the district, section and state tournaments with a perfect record. Now, they've set their sights on earning a trip to the Little League Softball World Series in Portland, Ore.

The team can reach its goal by winning the eight-state South region tournament, which began July 29 at Gulfport in Pinellas County. The girls were matched with teams from Alabama, Virginia and West Virginia in pool play, and they emerged with three straight victories to advance to the semifinals, where they were scheduled to take on a squad from North Carolina Aug. 1. If the team won, they would play for the region championship Aug. 3.

Bloomingdale beat a field of seven other teams July 22-25 at the state tournament for 11- and 12-year-olds at DeFuniak Springs.

Nine of the 12 girls on Bloomingdale's roster have felt the rush a state title provides. They were on the Bloomingdale 9- and 10-year-old team that earned a state crown two years ago. That team could not advance any further than the state tourna-



ROBERT CONE/Staff photo

The Bloomingdale Major softball all-stars proudly hold their banner after winning the Section 4 tournament in Dade City. The team went on to win the state tournament to qualify for the region tournament, which took place July 29 to Aug. 3 in Gulfport in Pinellas County. Coached by manager Jeff Carter, Dane White and Steve Tarte, Bloomingdale players include Tory Bohanan, Stephanie Buehler McKenzie Carter, Nicci Hopps, Kayla Jurrens, Alexa Lopez, Kelly Nader, Jennifer Owens, Sophia Tarte, Devyn White, Laura Swartz and Leah Pemberton.

ment, but this year's squad has a chance to reach the pinnacle of Little League tournaments, the World Series, which will begin Aug. 10. Girls from the teams that reach the World Series will have an audience of worldwide proportions, as the semifinals and championship games will be televised on ESPN2 Aug. 16 and 18,

respectively.

"It's always nice to have a lot of talent, and we do have talent, but I've seen teams lose when they don't come together," said manager Jeff Carter. "It's been a work in progress. We've gotten better as it (all-star season) has gone along, and they're starting to buy into the team concept."

VOLUNTEER

Continued From Page 4

Council, Community for Women and participates in the annual American Cancer Society Walk-a-Thon. She and her husband Joe attend St. Stephen Catholic Church, where Pam serves on the Bereavement Committee and as an usher.

Bloomingdale residents looking for a reason to get involved with the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association might consider Liguori's elegantly simple objective.

"I just wanted to be part of the community that I live in," she said.

The BHA board meets on the first Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. All Bloomingdale residents are invited to attend the open meetings to observe the proceedings, ask questions or find out how they can help address whatever community concerns they may have.

For more information about BHA committees and volunteer opportunities, visit www.bloomingtondalegazette.com, call 681-2051 or e-mail info@bloomingtondalegazette.com.

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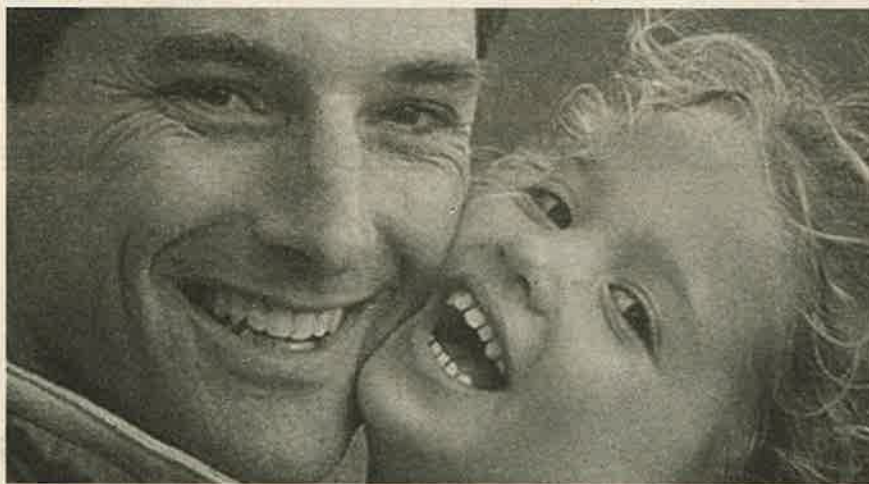
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COMMENTARY

Tampa Bay Storm Basketball Team Defines Success Differently

DESPITE RECORD, DISBANDED TEAMMATES ARE WINNERS

By JOHN HAYES
Tampa Bay Storm

About two years ago, 15 Bloomington area friends got together and formed the Tampa Bay Storm, a 13-and-under basketball team, with visions of glory dancing in their heads.

Two dads stood up and volunteered to coach the boys, and off they raced into the world of competitive youth basketball. Almost immediately, reality reared its ugly head.

Apparently 13-and-under doesn't really mean all the boys who are playing will be that age, even though they may all be in the seventh grade as our lads were.

We should have done our homework and read the fine print that allows for three exception players per team. The rule allows teams to use boys who in many cases were at least a year older than their teammates.

We originally joked that we should insist on seeing who on the other team drove their own car to the game and finally ended up wondering if we needed to ask for a marriage license and not just their driver's license.

As you can imagine, our team — consisting of good friends just out to play some basketball — met with a few challenges right off the bat. The number of kids dwindled to a firm seven and the number of coaches to one. Two years later those seven boys and one coach wrapped up their youth basketball experience



Photo Courtesy of Tampa Bay Storm

Coach Greg Akers stands two years ago with players of the now-disbanded Tampa Bay Storm basketball team, (back row) Andrew Marchetti, Chris Knott, Sean Hayes, Coach Chris Akers, Travis Nichols and (front row) Cody Schwartz, Todd Young, Matt Denny, and Drew Akers.

without a winning record. But, as a wise man once said, "Eight-five percent of success is showing up." Indeed, those boys and their coach showed up.

In the end, each boy played in more than 40 games, participated in countless practices and learned some very valuable life lessons.

Each stuck with their friends through thick and thin. Each learned to accept defeat and bask in the glory of a rare

victory. Parents and players alike learned that at the end of the day, a hamburger at the nearest sports bar makes everything OK.

As parents, we all hoped our sons' basketball experience would be valuable. As it turns out it was, but probably not as we expected. Although it does look like each boy has developed the confidence and skills to try out for their respective high school team, none will

have to worry about grades or desire because those attributes are firmly entrenched.

As others drop from their high school team tryouts because of a low GPA, lack of playing time or because the practices are too demanding, our sons will continue to hang tough. After all, they have spent the last two years practicing on an outdoor court in the rain, heat and the occasional cold spell.

They are all attending various high schools. Hopefully they will meet over the next four years and right before the game begins shake hands with that youthful confident cocky attitude say something like, "How you been...we are going to kick your butts." Then, after the game is over, they will meet again to congratulate or commiserate as appropriate.

Our boys and our coach have kept their eye on the ball, but it actually turns out the ball they were keeping their eyes on wasn't always the one that ends up in the basket.

They continually showed up and deserve our admiration and congratulations for hanging in and enduring a couple of tough basketball years.

In one game, played against a team from the Miami area, our tallest player had to look up to their shortest player. When the first season started, we only hoped to give our boys a chance to play basketball and possibly learn some basketball skills in hopes of making their high school team. Despite the losing record, that turns out to be exactly what

See **STORM**, Page 15

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**BLOOMINGDALE
BUSINESS NEWS**

Eagle Ridge Resident Brings Big Yellow Box To Bloomingdale

CRAFT KITS CREATE FAMILY KEEPSAKES

A Gazette Report

Jacqueline Cooper of Bloomingdale is a new independent consultant for Big Yellow Box by Crayola, a national in-home selling program from Binney & Smith, the maker of Crayola products, based in Easton PA.

As a consultant, Cooper does in-home presentations of a unique and simple-to-make line of Big Yellow Box

crafting projects designed to let families and children enjoy quality time together. At the "big kids only" parties, parents make a project to take home and learn about the whole collection. From ice cream bowls and gumball machines that can be personalized with stencils and paints, to garden flags, hand-crafted lamps and wearable art, every activity is designed to ensure success and to be functional as well as decorative.

See **YELLOW**, Page 15

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

Taxing District Honors Longtime Volunteer

JOE LIGUORI RESIGNS FROM BSTD

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District board of trustees, at its July 11 meeting, formally accepted the resignation of longtime volunteer Joe Liguori.

Liguori has served the taxing district in various capacities for more than 17 years, including a five year term as vice president and a six year term as treasurer.

Taxing district board president Thom Snelling presented Liguori with an inscribed desk clock, offered as a small token of appreciation for his service over the years.

"You are the true meaning of a community leader," Snelling said.

Liguori said he has been very pleased with how various taxing district boards over the years

have watched the taxpayers' money, but at the same time he's been constantly disappointed at the low attendance numbers at the board's monthly open meetings.

"For me, I just wanted to make a difference in my community," he said.

"No high ideals, no mile-high wishes, just giving back."

Liguori thanked the taxing district board for the gift and said, "I know you can continue to do a good job without me. But if for any reason you need me, just call."

Liguori will continue to serve on the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board as committee chairman and executive director of The Bloomingdale Gazette and as committee co-chair, along with his wife, BHA treasurer Pam Liguori, on the Visit With Santa Claus and Membership committees.

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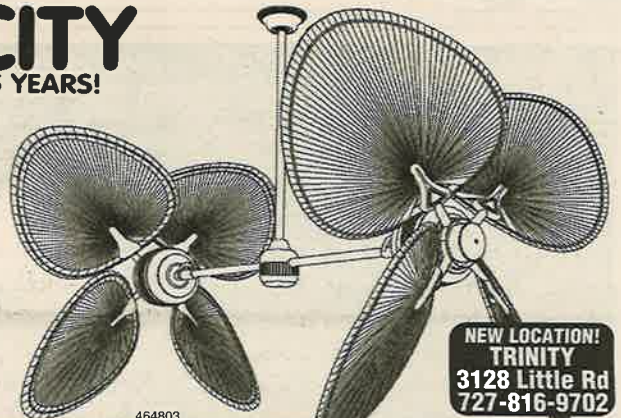
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FUN

Continued From Page 8

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Most drivers don't plan on speeding, especially in school zones. If you do and get pulled over by a deputy, there will no warnings. You speed, you pay and you pay big. During a speeding blitz in front of Bloomington High School in May, deputies wrote over \$14,000 in speeding citations. The average was \$360 a ticket. Special patrols will be watching you. Speeding fines are doubled in school zones. Slow down; it's that simple.

Please do not talk on the phone and drive. The safety of your kids and the safety of other kids are much more important than any phone call. Accidents only take seconds to happen. Let's all buckle up, and make the 2005-06 school year a safe one.

TRAFFIC

Continued From Page 9

New State House Rep. Met With Residents

The BACC was briefed on the recent community meeting at the new Bloomington Library with State House Rep. Rich Glorioso and his staff. Glorioso briefed residents in attendance on the results of the 2005 legislative session (see story in this issue).

More Publicity Needed For Rezoning Projects

Members noted the recent news concerning another very large construction project scheduled to start in the FishHawk/Boyette/Lithia Pinecrest area. The project is projected to put an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 more cars on our already congested roads. All members of the council agreed that more detailed, formal notifications of any significant construction project or rezoning should be required to insure maximum publicity is provided to residents, not just those living near the proposed project. Too many large-scale projects have started without members of the community being informed so they could participate in public hearings.

Area Traffic, Accidents Abound

Several members noted serious concern about traffic problems and the increased number of accidents. Member Al Devney noted that the walls on Natures way have been hit numer-

ous times. Other members suggested ways to help improve driving by installing signs that guide drivers off Natures Way and back to Bell Shoals.

Bell Shoals Road Enhancement Project

Members expressed concern over the delay in this project getting started and the possible loss of funding. (Editor's note: The Bloomington Homeowners Association is in the process of contacting County Commissioner Ronda Storms for assistance in determining the status of this project. For updates visit www.bloomingtongazette.com).

Neighborhood Watch Info Available

Several members are actively involved in Neighborhood Watch Projects. They encourage all residents to go to the Sheriff's website and get information on this great program.

Integrity Scholarship Academy

Deputy Maurer briefed members on a special project currently in progress by the sheriff's office that offers a full scholarship, \$2000 per month stipend, and books and uniforms to residents that are accepted into the Sheriff's Academy Program. For more information visit www.hcso.tampa.fl.us.

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YELLOW

Continued From Page 13

"An easy-to-follow project guide and just the right color palette comes with every activity to make crafting simple and successful for anyone, even those who don't think they are creative," Cooper said.

"The idea is for families to focus on the fun of creating a keepsake together."

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For information contact Cooper at 643-7672, e-mail jacster@tampabay.rr.com or visit her Web site at www.bigyellow-box.net/jcooper.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Cooper

Jennifer Cooper, who recently started her own Big Yellow Box by Crayola business, displays one of her most popular items. Crafty kids and adults enjoy painting, personalizing and baking the all-white "Dream Pig."

GLORIOSO

Continued From Page 5

there are no magic answers, we can't just do nothing."

One topic of great concern involved the increase in crimes committed by sexual predators. One bill Glorioso was instrumental in helping pass concerned changing the predator law to have more specific restrictions so that predators can't slip through the loop holes in our laws.

Glorioso serves on a number of house committees including Transportation, Economic Development, Military and Veteran's Affairs and Future of Florida Families. He and his staff members, John McCaughey, District executive secretary, and Brooke McKnight, legislative assistant, work out of their office in Plant City when they are not in Tallahassee. They welcome calls to 757-9110, faxes to 757-9109, or e-mails to <mailto:rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov>. Constituents may also write to or call for an appointment to visit their office at 110 West Reynolds Street, Suite 204, Plant City.

"What makes my job work is input from the community," Glorioso said.

"Knowing your concerns and the issues you believe need addressing helps me know where to focus and meet my goal of improving the quality of life for everyone in District 62."

STORM

Continued From Page 12

happened.

By voting to continue for a second year in the 14-and-under division, the boys proved that friendships are thicker than a winning season. Each intends to try out for their JV team. Naturally, each believes he will make the team. Now some of them even dream about playing college ball and, just as their quest to play high school ball began two years ago, their quest to play college ball will begin this fall and once again they will show up.

Unfortunately we didn't know our last game would be the final one and the Tampa Bay Storm team disbanded quietly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Craig Akers who coached the Tampa Bay Storm from beginning to end. His brother, Chris, pitched in as did Allen Schwartz and Scott Young.

I want to also thank all of the parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters who continued to support the team through thick and thin. But most of all to Drew

Akers, Matt Denny, Sean Hayes, Andrew Marchetti, Travis Nichols, Cody Schwartz and Todd Young I would like to say, "Well done and good luck in the future. It has been a pleasure watching you grow into young men."

And remember, continue to show up and you will be a success. Of course, it wouldn't hurt if you followed your shot once in a while and blocked out for a rebound ...

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