

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXIV
Number 8

AUGUST 2007 THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

TOP 12 CODE VIOLATIONS

County lists its annual "Dirty Dozen."

PAGE 6

SCHOOL STARTS AUG. 20

Obey speed limits, stop for buses.

PAGE 18

INDEX

Harry Potter11

Coastal Cleanup.....13

Schools.....17

Law Enforcement.....18

Thanks For The Memories

BHA President Ted Grable Hands Reins To VP Joe Hickle. See Story, Page 3.



Photo courtesy BHA

Ted Grable, at left, in July resigned from his longtime post as president of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. The association's board of directors gratefully accepted Grable's offer to remain on board as director at-large, and unanimously elected vice-president Joe Hickle as its new president.

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BHA President Ted Grable Resigns, Will Remain On Board

A Gazette Report

Ted Grable announced his resignation as president of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at the association's board meeting in July. Grable told the board he believes he could best serve the community by being a director-at-large and passing the presidency over to someone else. He said his job has for some time required frequent travel, which makes it difficult to attend board meetings on a regular basis.

The board regretfully accepted Grable's resignation, presenting him with a plaque inscribed, "With deep appreciation for your many years of visionary guidance and undaunting leadership as President."

The board graciously accepted Grable's offer to remain on board as director at-large. Association vice-president Joe Hickle was unanimously elected new BHA

See BOARD, Page 7



Photo courtesy BHA

BHA board members pictured left to right, Pam Liguori, secretary/treasurer; Don Greyert; Shelia Harris; George May; Lydia Harrod; Ted Grable, immediate past president; Dale Kahn; Myron Magedanz; Joe Hickle, president; Stanley Lee, vice presiden

Guests Speak Up At July BHA Meeting

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board of directors holds open monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road in Valrico. All residents are invited to attend; speakers are welcome by appointment. Information: (813) 681-2051 or e-mail bloomingtondale.homeowners@

See MEETING, Page

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25X Riders Voice Concerns At Meeting

By NORBERT GOBIN

We met the Commissioner! Hillsborough County District 4 County Commissioner Al Higginbotham hosted a town-hall type meeting July 17 at Bloomingdale Regional Library.

Of 60 people present, about 15 represented county offices, and of the remaining 45 in attendance, five were 25X bus riders, four from SOCOM and one from CENTCOM.

Not a bad showing, boys and girls.

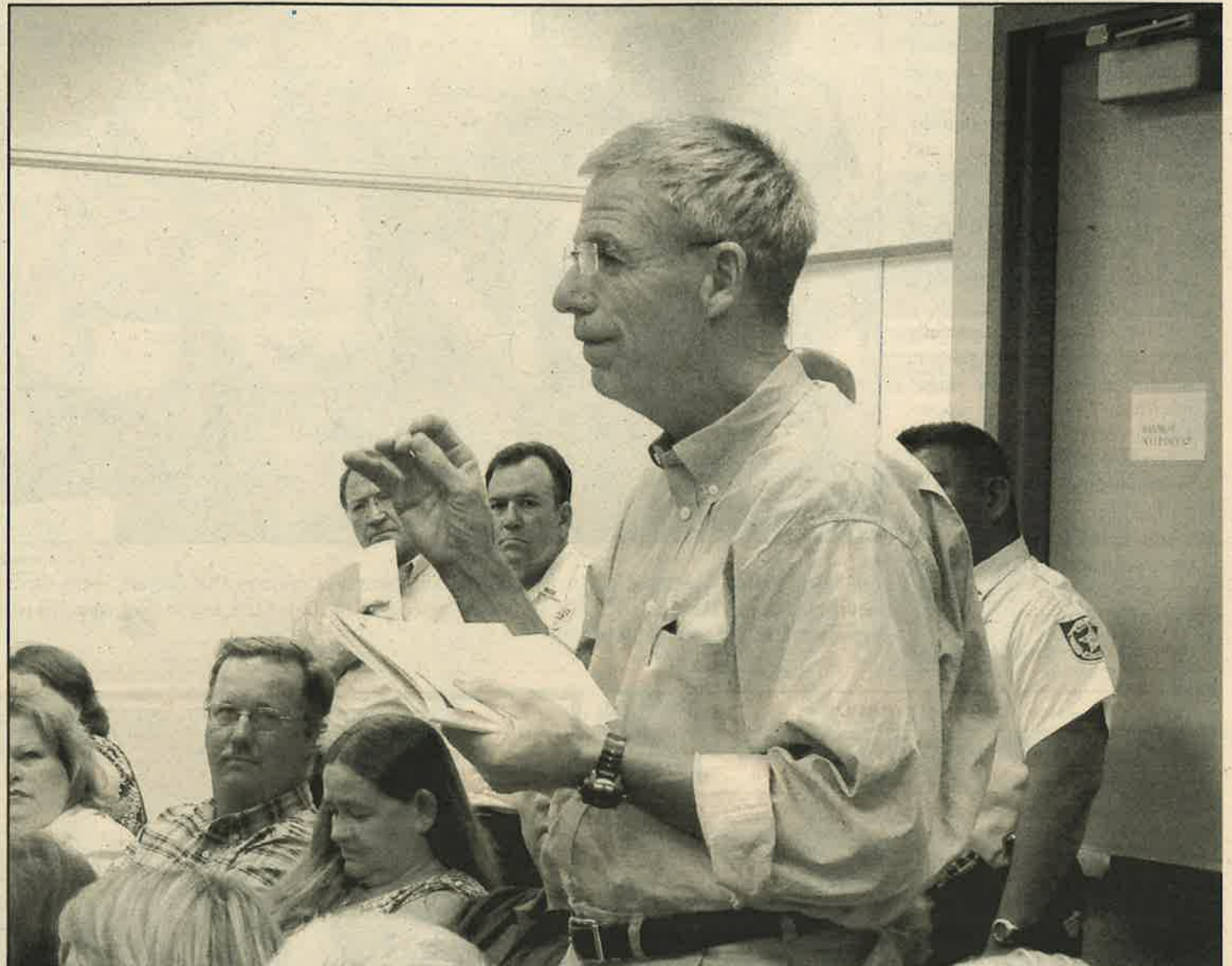
Several folks came prepared to take all of the commissioner's time and for the most part they were successful. Three topics dominated the discussion; lack of growth management and a Sydney mines project, a request for six lanes on Boyette Road, and a proposed amendment to a county ordinance on waste hauling.

Yes, your bus captain did get something in, although his only intent was to take pictures of his comrades. His first words were, "Hey you wouldn't need six lanes on Boyette if y'all rode the bus."

He also pointed out to the commissioner that standing-room-only continues on the 25X, and that something needs to be done about the Causeway Boulevard stop before someone becomes road kill. That was it.

One county rep spent a painful nine minutes explaining the amendment process to the comprehensive growth plan. The bus captain wanted to yell "And how many developers were turned down?" At the end, a businesswoman pleaded for support to block a trash hauling amendment. Nearly everything she said was already in the morning Tampa Tribune. At the end of the meeting, Antonio from CENTCOM was able to speak one on one with the Commish.

Bloomingdale resident Norbert Gobin is a regular rider and unofficial "bus captain" of the HART-line 25X express bus route between Bloomingdale and MacDill Air Force Base. Contact Gobin at bus-chat@gmail.com.



NORBERT GOBIN/Photos
At Commissioner Higginbotham's July 17 town hall meeting, 25X rider David Miller addresses the commissioner.



Commissioner Higginbotham chats with 25X rider Tony Conceicao.

Your Inside Connections

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: (813) 681-2051
Fax: (813) 684-2358
E-mail: bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net
Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon
Meetings: first Monday each month, 7 p.m.
Web site: www.bloomingdalegazette.com
President: Joe Hickle
Vice president: Stanley Lee; **Treasurer:** Pam Liguori
Directors: Lydia Harrod; Steve Heckel; George May; Myron Magedanz; Dale Kahn; and Shelia Harris

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: (813) 684-6667
Fax: (813) 684-2358
E-mail: bloomingdale.district@verizon.net
Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon
Meetings: second Monday each month, 7 p.m.
President: Thom Snelling
Vice president: Russell Jones
Treasurer: David West
Property manager: Al Devney
Trustees: Joe Harless; Joe Liguori

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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- Take a tour of your home with the decorator to determine the size of the project.
- What is your family's lifestyle? How do you entertain? Do you have kids and pets?
- Set a realistic timetable for completion.
- Establish your decorating priorities. Which rooms are the most important?
- Determine a budget.
- Finally, let the decorator know what items you want to keep and work around.

Considering these basic guidelines will allow your decorator to work with you to design a project with your wishes, your lifestyle and your budget in mind, saving you from costly errors and resulting in a room you and your family will enjoy for years to come.



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Code Enforcement Lists "Dirty Dozen" Top Violations

A Gazette Report

Hillsborough County Code Enforcement this summer announced its list of "Dirty Dozen" top violations in the county.

Properties with a lot of junk and debris were the most common violation last year, with 4,064 violations written for the problem. Other common viola-

tions included inoperable vehicles in residential areas and overgrown properties, together logging more than 3,000 violations.

In total, Code Enforcement addressed 18,683 new code violations last year in unincorporated Hillsborough County, citing a variety of community standard, public health and public safety issues.

The Department's Dirty Dozen list of the most common violations and how many violations they issued last year for each are:

Accumulations of junk, trash and debris on property: 4,064
Inoperable vehicles: 1,819
Overgrown conditions: 1,688
Improperly parking commercial

vehicles on residential property: 807

Improper fences: 761
Broken or missing windows: 710
Improperly-stored vehicle parts: 651
None or not enough GFCI electrical outlets in structure: 609
Improperly-stored materials,

See VIOLATIONS, Page 7

It's Never Okay To Park Boats On Streets Or Right-Of-Way

At the July meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's board meeting, Bill Langford and Armando Sanchez from Hillsborough County Code Enforcement discussed resident complaints regarding boat parking in the streets, in driveways

and on right-of-ways. Langford recited statutes that indicate it is not legal to park a boat in the street or right-of-way under any circumstances. In addition, boats parked in a homeowner's driveway are in violation after the allowed 24-hour

time period. Residents are encouraged to submit complaints regarding potential County Code violations online at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce or call (813) 641-6946. Complainants may remain anonymous.

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MEETING

From page 3

verizon.net. The following notes were taken from the recorded minutes of the July BHA meeting.

Verizon Set To Wrap Up In October

At the July BHA board meeting, Gary Campau, a Verizon representative, gave an informative presentation regarding Verizon FiOS coming into all the neighborhoods in Bloomingdale to replace old copper wiring with new fiber optics. The company's target completion date for installation is October 2007.

COP Program Coming Soon

Deputy Pete Maurer, Bloomingdale's Community Resource Officer discussed the training program for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office's Cops on Patrol program, also known

as COP. Private citizens will be trained and issued uniforms to assist in some areas of law enforcement in select areas of the county.

Resident Suggests Surveillance Cams

Resident Rich Junker introduced a suggestion to curb vandalism and littering: to install surveillance cameras along the major right-of-ways, funded jointly by private homeowners and the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. Immediate past president Ted Grable indicated that the homeowners association cannot issue citations and therefore has no way of enforcing such behavior. He suggested Junker talk with the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District and Deputy Pete Maurer to see if the sheriff's office would agree to take steps to seek prosecution of violators.

BOARD

From page 3

president, and board member Stanley Lee was unanimously elected vice-president.

Grable served as BHA president since 1999. Hickie, who has served on the board for 10 years, said, "Ted Grable created the fire of community spirit in Bloomingdale, fanned it repeatedly and made this a great place in which to live."

At its July meeting, the board asked Hickie in an open election

to serve as BHA president.

"This is a great honor and a responsibility that I am glad to bear to help Bloomingdale remain a great community," he said.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board of directors meets 7 p.m. on the first Monday each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road., Valrico. Meetings are open to the public, and all residents are invited to attend. Information: (813) 681-2051 or visit www.bloomingdalegazette.com.

VIOLATIONS

From page 6

equipment and vehicles: 536
Improper use of property other than its zoning: 511
Improperly installed or sealed walls in a structure: 506
None or not enough smoke detectors in a structure: 464

Though many of these violations are well-known, others might not be as familiar. For example, County Code does not allow grass or weeds higher than 10 inches in height within 200 feet of any building, recreational area or street right-of-way.

Another common violation is a result of commercial vehicles

on residential property. County Code does not allow trucks or trailers with capacity of more than one ton and made for commercial use to be parked on a residential-zoned property for long periods of time. Another lesser-known code requires that every habitable room in a structure has to have at least one window, skylight or glass door facing directly outside.

For more information or to file a complaint about a potential code violation (you may remain anonymous), visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce or call (813) 274-6675.

Source: Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Web site



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Town Hall Meeting

Join Your County Commissioners For A Town Hall Meeting In the East Area

Your Hillsborough County Commissioners will be at Hillsborough Community College Plant City Campus to hear from residents in the Plant City, Valrico, Brandon, Seffner, Dover area, to answer questions, and find out what you think are the important issues in your community.

Please join your friends and neighbors, your County Commissioners and your County staff for this informal, person-to-person meeting. If you can't attend in person, tune in live on Hillsborough Television (cable channel 22) and even call in your questions at 765-6702.

We'll have exhibits and displays of County services, and County staff will be on hand to answer your questions.

- **DATE:** Thursday, August 9
- **TIME:** 5:30 p.m. (Exhibits)
6:30 p.m. (Meeting)
- **PLACE:** Hillsborough Community College - Plant City Campus
1206 North Park Road
Plant City, FL

Meeting facilities are accessible in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any additional necessary accommodations will be provided with a 48-hour notice.

For more information,
please call Steve Valdez
Communications Department
272-5275

(TTY: 301-7172)

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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

Summer Forums Bring Issues To Light



By AL HIGGINBOTHAM
Hillsborough County Commissioner,
District IV

President George W. Bush has been quoted as saying, "Leadership to me means duty, honor, country. It means character, and it means listening from time to time." I take the same view in believing that leadership means meeting people where they are at, pulling up a chair, and lending an ear.

During June and July, I had the great pleasure of sharing time with the residents of

Eastern Hillsborough County during my District Dynamics Summer Series of community meetings. These meetings were open and informal. There were no time limits, and each person was invited to share their views on any issue. During the five meetings held throughout the county, more than 300 attendees became engaged and active players in local government by asking questions and sharing their opinions.

In June, I had great discussions with folks in Plant City

and in Brandon. Citizens were free to discuss issues ranging from irrigation to indigent health care, from budget to buses, from parks to land use planning. While we may not always see eye-to-eye on each issue, we can at least look each other in the eye and build a relationship of understanding and trust.

My July travels took me to Balm, Valrico, and most recently to Bloomingdale on July 17. In Balm, I listened to concerns about borrow pits, handicap access to environmental prop-

erties and sustainable growth. Many Balm residents showed up to the meeting on both sides of an issue concerning a paintball park. Because of the District Dynamics community meeting, these two sides were able to meet in the same room, discuss their concerns, and they even found some common ground. Bringing people together is a cornerstone of the type of leadership I continually try to exhibit in my role as your elected representative.

Our meetings in Valrico and

See FORUMS, Page 12

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Mature neighborhood on tree-lined cul-de-sac in the heart of Brandon, just minutes from I-75 and Crosstown. Beautiful home is completely remodeled and features spacious kitchen with new stainless steel appliances & bar, family room w/vaulted ceilings, natural wood floors and porcelain & ceramic tile throughout. Baths w/spa-like features, bedrooms w/loads of closet space, large pool, covered lanai and utility shed.

\$299,900



VALRICO POOL HOME, OH MY!

Fabulous 4 bedroom/3 bath pool home with office. Gorgeous wood floors cover the entire first floors. Paved pool with spectacular view of golf course in prestigious gated community. Super sized bedrooms! Fantastic Valrico location near interstates, shopping, and Tampa.

\$339,000



GORGEOUS TOWN HOME

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Bloomingtondale Invited To Free Friday Night Flicks At Winthrop

By LINDA CHION KENNEY

Roy McFarland of Bloomingtondale hadn't expected to go to the movies on a Friday night. He was at the Winthrop Town Centre, with family and friends, for dinner, not a show.

But he ended up on a borrowed green tarp, with his wife, Diana, his granddaughter, Sage Keck, and her mother, Crystal, watching a big-screen viewing of the Gene Kelly musical, "Singin' in the Rain."

Think drive-in movie, but without the car, at The Lawn at Winthrop, an outdoor venue taking advantage of the expansive turf adjacent to the east wall of Publix. The two-story supermarket building with brick façade is the anchor for the Winthrop Traditional Market Place at the corner of Bloomingtondale Avenue and Providence Road.

The venue's debut event is the Grass Stains at Winthrop

summer movie series, showing for 10 consecutive Friday nights beginning at 9 p.m. Free to the public, the series continues through Sept. 27 with "The Blues Brothers" (Aug. 10), "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (Aug. 17), "To Kill a Mockingbird" (Aug. 24), "What's Up Doc?" (Aug. 31), "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (Sept. 7), "Jurassic Park" (Sept. 14), Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo" (Sept. 21) and "Some Like It Hot" (Sept. 27).

Grass Stains draws its name from the obvious consequence of sitting on a lawn. Moviegoers are asked to bring their own blankets, beach chairs and patio recliners, although green tarps are available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis.

"I loved it, I really liked it," Roy McFarland said. "It was very family oriented and something the community needs. We've gone away from family



LINDA CHION KENNEY/Photo

From left, Roy and Diana McFarland, with their granddaughter Sage Keck and her mother, Crystal, enjoy the July 27 showing of "Singin' in the Rain," the premier feature of the Grass Stains at Winthrop summer movie series.

oriented things like this. Kids are spending too much time in their rooms when they can be spending time like this outside with their families."

McFarland was dining at M.J. Barleyhoppers International Alehouse and Grille, in the Winthrop Town Centre, when his toddler granddaughter,

Sage, whose eye was caught by the movie, begged him to take her for a closer look.

"It makes you think back on the drive-in movie theatres, which are like a dinosaur now, they're so hard to find," McFarland said. "This is a great way to spend time outside."

John and Kay Sullivan, founders of the Winthrop neo-traditional community, said the summer movie series helps further their mission of giving people a reason to stay close to home.

"We're just trying to get people out and to socialize and to get families and other families interacting," John Sullivan said. "It's all about giving people a shared experience. And people love spending time outdoors."

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Potter Fans Until 'The Very End'

By LINDA CHION KENNEY

When Bloomington High School student Austin Sackman looks back on his childhood days with Harry Potter, he can truly say he grew up with the boy wizard.

As Harry turned 17, so, too, did Sackman, who, with a group of friends, was in line at midnight, July 21, to secure his copy of the final book in the record-shattering epic series of seven novels, 10 years in the making.

Sackman came to the series later than some of his peers, arriving at book three after seeing the first Harry Potter movie, based on the first book in the series, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

"I remember I saw the movie and I said, 'This is really good,' and I started reading the books then," said Sackman, who begins his senior year this month. "That was a long time ago."

Indeed, it's been quite a ride for Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling and her devoted fans worldwide, who with her have watched the maturation of the Boy Who Lived, as Harry is also known, and his struggles against

He Who Must Not Be Named, his primary antagonist. The final installment in the series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," sold an incredible 8.3 million copies in its first 24 hours on the American market alone. Rowling's seven Potter books have sold more than 335 million copies worldwide.

Lining up for a slew of those final-installment copies at the July 21 midnight release at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Brandon were Sackman and his friends, Bailey Shertzinger, Chris Tournade, Sarah Harmon and Brian Inch.

"I'm not going to work until I finish the book," Harmon promised. "I'm like really excited and depressed at the same time because I want to know what happens but also it's over. It's going to be like there's nothing more to look forward to except for the movies and the Harry Potter theme park they're building in Orlando."

Sackman put it more succinctly, days later, when he reflected on his motivation to spend a night with friends, in line for hours, for the honor of buying a 759-page book.



LINDA CHION-KENNEY/Photos
From left, Bloomington friends Bailey Shertzinger, Chris Tournade, Sarah Harmon, Brian Inch and Austin Sackman eagerly await their copies of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." The friends were on line at the July 21 midnight release at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Brandon.



From left, Alfredo Munte, Melissa Fallman, Chris Ferguson and Jennifer Hithcock, Barnes & Noble Booksellers employees, await their moment to release the seventh installment in the wildly popular "Harry Potter" series.



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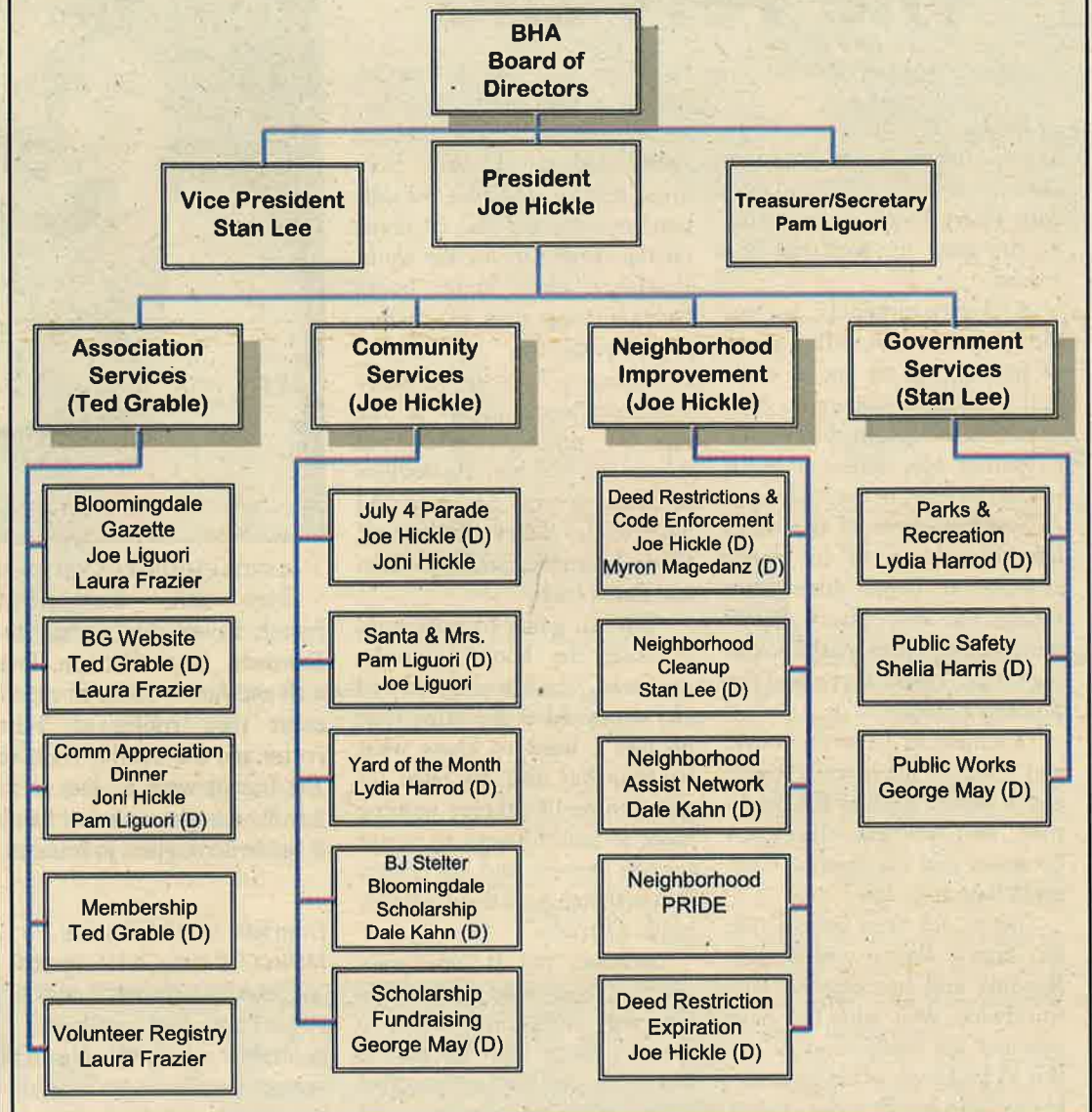
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BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Bloomingtondale Homeowner's Association, Inc.

Committee Organization



FORUMS

From page 8

Bloomingtondale brought out issues like the proposed development at the Sydney-Dover mining site, addressing congestion on roads, and improving bus service to MacDill Air Force Base. The HARTline routes which provide service from the Bloomingtondale area to the base are often

crowded, requiring patrons to stand. This is at a time when other routes are being cut due to low ridership. I'm now working to see how we can improve this situation, and provide more buses to the MacDill routes.

Many Hillsborough County staff members were available at each meeting to provide information on road-widening projects, rezonings, proposed

comprehensive plan amendments, code enforcement issues, questions about the county budget, and other concerns. I'm thankful to the staff members who took time away from their families to provide service to our community above and beyond the call of duty.

Heartfelt gratitude goes out to each of you who joined me in one or more of the District Dynamics community meetings. I've enjoyed getting to know you better, and I hope our relationship will continue to grow. Successful government depends on citizens being informed and engaged, and I'm grateful that I was able to provide an open forum through these meetings. We will continue working together because I know that working together we will make a difference.

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Coastal Cleanup Set For Sept. 15

A Gazette Report

Volunteers around the world will converge on coastlines and shorelines Sept. 15 to clean up trash and debris left behind by litterbugs.

Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful will coordinate the event locally. More than 3,000 volunteers are expected to participate in this year's event.

The International Coastal Cleanup, coordinated by The Ocean Conservancy, saw nearly 500,000 international volunteers in 2005 lend a hand to clean up litter and marine debris from the shores, lakes and rivers of more than 70 nations, from

Argentina to Vietnam.

More than 3,000 volunteers cleaned 90.5 miles of shorelines and coastlines in Hillsborough County last year and collected 63,766 pounds of trash. In addition to the typical cigarette butts, cans and bottles, volunteers found birds, fish and crabs entangled in fishing line.

In addition to picking up trash, volunteers will be asked to mark the trash they find on data cards distributed at the event. The information is reported to the Ocean Conservancy to help determine the causes of litter and to educate legislators and the general public on marine debris.

"It's a chance for residents to show

It's a chance for residents to show their commitment to a cleaner environment and healthier ecosystem while having fun at the same time.

CHRISTINE COMMERCE,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR KEEP HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BEAUTIFUL.

their commitment to a cleaner environment and healthier ecosystem while having fun at the same time," said Christine Commerce, Executive Director for Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful.

The event will take place from 8 a.m. to noon Sept. 15 at locations throughout Hillsborough County. For a list of locations and a registration form, visit www.khcbonline.org or call (813) 960-5121.

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Congregation Beth Shalom Hosts Open House



Photo courtesy Congregation Beth Shalom

Congregation Beth Shalom's open house membership committee, from the left, Keith Balot of FishHawk Ranch, Bonnie Karr of Apollo Beach, Sheila Fisham of FishHawk Ranch, Gail Verlin of Temple Terrace and Lauren Davis of FishHawk Ranch invite the community to the Brandon synagogue Aug. 12.

A Gazette Report

Congregation Beth Shalom will host an open house from 9:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, Aug. 12 at its Brandon synagogue, 706 Bryan Road in Brandon. The event is free and open to the public. A light bagel breakfast will be served. Reservations are not necessary.

Rabbit Betsy Torop said, "We provide a meaningful Jewish home for people of all ages and levels of knowledge, a place to learn and to question, a place to worship and celebrate, and a place

to find a community that cares."

Information about the congregation's activities will be available at the open house, and religious school registration also will be conducted.

The synagogue offers Friday evening worship service, Sisterhood, Men's Club, Religious School (pre-K thru grade 10), B'nai Mitzvah preparation, Daytimers, Chavurah Groups, youth programming, adult education classes, JCC preschool, holiday celebrations and more. For information call (813) 681-6547 or visit www.bethshalom-brandon.org.

Patriotic Pride - That's Hot!



Photo courtesy BHA

Braving the heat to represent the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association in Brandon's 2007 Fourth of July Parade are Adele Kluger, Joni Hickle and, in back, BHA president and chauffer-for-a-day Joe Hickle. BHA board members Ted Grable, Shelia Harris and Myron Magedanz, and past board member Steve Heckel, also turned out to participate in the annual community event.

Chabad Launches New Jewish Men's Club in Brandon

A Gazette Report

Chabad of Brandon will launch its new Brandon Jewish Men's Club this month.

The first club activity, "Beer, Burgers & More Beer" will be held 4 p.m. on Aug. 5.

The primary goal of the club is to be a social group. The group will also participate in projects to benefit the Brandon Jewish community and the Brandon community at large.

"We are looking to connect and network with others in the Brandon Jewish Community. There

is no affiliation or membership required, as we want to present a forum for all to come together," said group leader Brad Statter.

The club plans to meet once a month, usually on a Sunday afternoon or evening, for a social get-together or outing. Once or twice a year, the club will organize a major outing. The group is open to all religious and non religious men who want to connect with Jewish men in the Brandon area.

For more information, call Statter, (813) 689-8275, or e-mail bstatter@earthlink.net.

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16 Years In Bloomingdale

Emerging Artists Try Hand At 'Thursday Night Live'

By LINDA CHION KENNEY

The Barn Theatre at Winthrop has its history -- as, well, a barn -- but it's the facility's future that has people talking.

"The Barn has a lot of potential, they're putting in professional lights and sound equipment so it will become an actual theater," said Chris Rutherford, co-curator of the Emerging Artists Theatre Co. For now, he added, "it can be anything it wants to be."

The Barn has given numerous community theater troupes, independent artists and performers, civic groups and community businesses and organizations a place to stage their shows, events, classes, practices, fairs and town hall meetings. Even private citizens have booked parties and weddings there.

Of paramount importance, though, has been the Barn's growth as a black-box theatre, as conceived by Katharine Sullivan, founder of the Emerging Artists Theatre Co. and the Indigent College Unit.

Sullivan is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and the daughter of Winthrop town founders John and Kay Sullivan. With Rutherford, she spent the

summer bringing to the Barn every Thursday night an event, appropriately called, "Thursday Night Live."

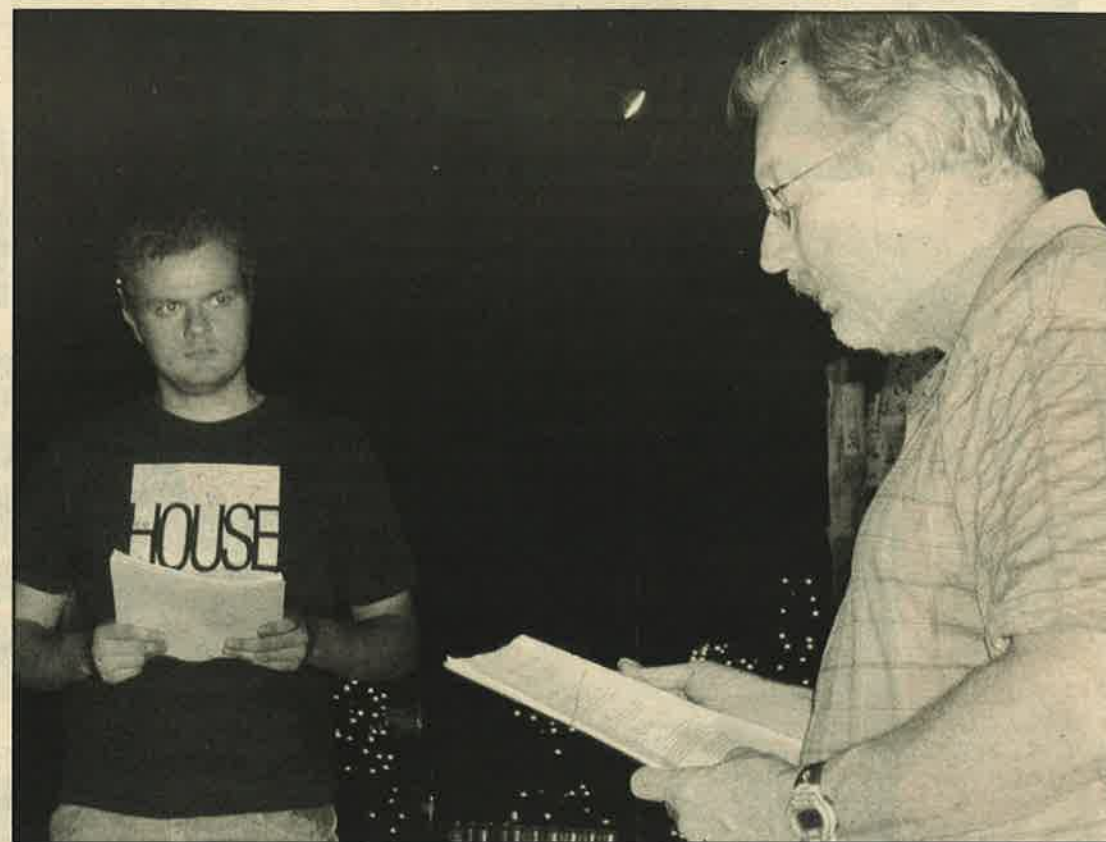
John Sullivan envisions the event, starting small, could eventually build widespread and regional interest, drawing people not only to Winthrop, a "livable city" founded on the tenets of New Urbanism, but also to the neighboring communities of Bloomingdale and Riverview.

"Brandon needs to be known for something," Sullivan said. "The arts are a good thing to be known for."

Open to the public, Thursday Night Live has been a gathering of those active in, and attracted to, the visual, performing and communication arts. The event was a home for original art to be displayed, recited, heard and performed, ranging from modern dance to modernistic painting, from jazz to classical guitar, from short films to recitations of short literary works.

James Rayfield retired this year from teaching drama at Blake, Hillsborough's sole magnet high school for the arts, open to all county students through audition or portfolio presentation.

Rayfield also taught drama for 11 years at Brandon High School



LINDA CHION-KENNEY/Photo

Retired Blake High School drama teacher James Rayfield, right, gave rave reviews about Thursday Night Live to Chris Rutherford, left, co-curator of the Emerging Artists Theatre Co.

and many thespians active in community theater today credit him with getting them interested in the performing arts.

At a recent Thursday Night Live, Rayfield gave the initiative a rave review. As he put it:

"There have always been people in this area who wanted to create art and to see art."

For information about the possibility of continuing Thursday Night Live, contact Rutherford at (813) 404-4043 or e-mail

emergingtheatre@gmail.com.

The Barn Theatre at Winthrop is at 11349 Bloomingdale Avenue, between Watson and Providence roads. For information about the Barn, call 681-3480.

To see the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's Yard of the Month, sponsored by Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale, log on to www.bloomingdalegazette.com. Send nominations to bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net or call (813) 681-2051.

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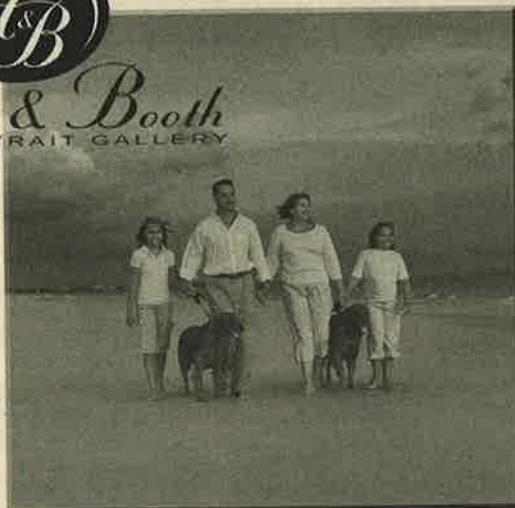
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**BLOOMINGDALE
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS****All-Star Champs**

Photo courtesy Rob Bullara

The Bloomington American Little League All Stars on July 9 won their fifth straight game to become the 11- and 12-year-old District 13 Champions. The team won five games on its way to the crown by scoring 34 runs, only allowing two to their competition.

The offense was powered by home runs from Richie Martin, Chaz Fowler, Michael Farley, Zach Paiva, and Alex Kerr. The pitching core gave up just two runs during the tournament, both to South Brandon American who they defeated for the championship. Team members pictured are, front row, Nathan Bancroft, Zach Paiva, Robert Bullara Alex Kerr and, back row, Coach Steve Bancroft, Coach Ken Hawkins, Garrett Lorenzo, Chaz Fowler, Michael Farley, Joey Kohl, Manager Rob Bullara, Brice Bartlett, Travis Bird, Richie Martin, Coach Jack Bartlett, Coach Joe Paiva.

**Charges Filed In Deadly
Bloomington Student Crash**

A Gazette Report

On Wednesday, July 25, the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office confirmed charges were filed against two adults who authorities say hosted a party in October where 17-year-old Bloomington High School student Tyler Clark consumed alcohol before dying in a fatal crash.

Lamar Justice and Tera McEntarffer were charged with having an open house party. The second-degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

Investigators said that shortly after midnight Oct. 8, Clark drove six passengers in his 1995 Jeep Wrangler west on Bloomington Avenue, near Bell Shoals Road. The Jeep crashed into a tree just east of the intersection. Clark was killed and the passengers were injured.

Investigators said Clark's blood alcohol level was above the legal limit at the time of the crash.

According to the state attorney's office, Justice and McEntarffer, both 42, each were issued a notice to appear in court Aug. 20 for arraignment.

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE**

Superintendent Elia Honored

A Gazette Report

Hillsborough County schools superintendent MaryEllen Elia received the Lamp of Knowledge award in July from the Florida Association of School Administrators.

School Board Chair Jack Lamb accepted the award on behalf of Elia, who was out of town for a previously scheduled event. Dr. Lamb, who won the award in 2003, also nominated Superintendent Elia, noting that

she "truly hit her stride" when she took over as superintendent in 2005.

Elia was recognized for securing the largest teacher raise in 20 years, working closely with U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings on the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, and leading the state in implementing performance pay plans for teachers.

Also contributing to Elia's selection was the fact that under her leadership the district was

chosen by the College Board and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to participate in the EXCELerator project to provide a national model for addressing the "advantage gap."

The Lamp of Knowledge award is given annually to an education administrator for outstanding contributions to the field of education. The award was one of six presented at the annual summer joint conference of educators and school boards, held in Lake Buena Vista.

2007 Sales Tax Holiday Starts Today

A Gazette Report

Florida's 2007 Tax Free Days for Sales Tax will begin at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007 and will run through midnight, Monday, Aug. 13, 2007. The legislative intent of Senate Bill 1456 is to provide the citizens of Florida a tax break on the purchase of books, clothing, footwear, certain bags such as purses, wallets, backpacks and diaper

bags and school supplies. The break applies also to mail order and Internet purchases placed during the holiday.

Items eligible for exemption are clothing and related items priced \$50 or less; books priced \$50 or less and school supplies priced \$10 or less. For more information about the tax holiday, visit www.myflorida.gov.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2007-2008 School Year Calendar

- District Teacher Training Date (Continuous Improvement Training at School Site): August 13, 2007
 - Professional Study Day: August 14, 2007
 - Teachers in Schools - Pre-Planning: August 10, 15, 16 and 17, 2007
 - Students' First Day of School: August 20, 2007
 - Labor Day: September 3, 2007
 - End of First Grading Period: October 18, 2007
 - Professional Planning Day/Non-Student Day: October 19, 2007
 - Conference Night - First Semester: TBA by individual Schools
 - Thanksgiving Holidays: November 21, 22, & 23, 2007
 - End of Second Grading Period: December 21, 2007
 - Winter Holidays: December 24, 2007 - January 4, 2008
 - Teacher Work Day: January 7, 2008
 - Students Return to School/First Day Second Semester: January 8, 2008
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 21, 2008
 - Students' Day at the Fair (western Hillsborough County): February 8, 2008 (East Hillsborough celebrates Strawberry Festival in lieu of Fair Day - March 3, 2008)
 - Presidents Day Holiday: February 18, 2008
 - End of Third Grading Period: March 11, 2008
 - Conference Night - Second Semester: TBA by individual Schools
 - Spring Holidays: April 7 - 11, 2008
 - Students Return to School: April 14, 2008
 - Non-Student/Non-Teacher Day: May 2, 2008
 - Memorial Day: May 26, 2008
 - Last Day of School: June 4, 2008
 - Post-Planning Day: June 5, 2008
- School Board Approved Feb. 27, 2007
Source: School District of Hillsborough County Web Site, www.sdhc.k12.fl.us

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The Osprey Club in Fish Hawk Ranch
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Classes are held on Mondays.

The Winthrop Pole Barn
Wed., Aug. 29th & Wed., Sept. 5th • 3:30-6:15 pm
Classes are held on Wednesdays.

CLASSES BEGIN:

Monday, August 27th at the Osprey Club in Fish Hawk - class times 3:45-4:45 & 5:15-6:15
Wednesday, August 29th at the Winthrop Pole Barn - class times: 3:45-4:45 & 5:15-6:15

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

Parents, Drivers Urged To Review School Safety Rules



Gazette file photo

Bloomingtondale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer works at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Bloomingtondale Substation, 4342 Bell Shoals Road. The station is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information call (813) 635-8040.

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER

Summer is drawing to a close, and school starts Aug. 20. Hopefully, all of you all had a nice summer. Now is the time to be cautious when driving around

our schools. Our first concern must be the safety and protection of the thousands of kids back in school in our community and other areas we visit or drive through.

Lots of kids will be walking

or riding their bikes to school, many for the first time. Thousands of others will be waiting at corners for their school buses. Then there are the teens that will be driving to school for the first

See DEPUTY, Page 19

Obey School Zone Speed Limits, Stop For Buses

School is back in session Aug. 20. Drivers, it's the law: both lanes of traffic – driving in either direction – must stop for school buses stopped on roads without median dividers. That means even if the bus is on the other side of the road, going in the opposite direction, if there's no median, you must stop and wait until the bus finishes loading or unloading and pulls away.

In addition, if you get pulled over by a deputy for speeding in a school zone, no warnings will be given. Special patrols will be out in full force, and speeding fines are doubled in school zones.

Residents Urged To Report Suspect Criminal Activity

A Gazette Report

Bloomingtondale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer reminds residents that one of the best ways to prevent crime in our community is for citizens to be

alert and report any suspicious activity they see, including strangers or strange cars and any obvious criminal activity, no matter how small it may appear to be.

Many residents are understandably

concerned about retribution for calling the Sheriff's Office, but Maurer assures residents callers can and will remain anonymous.

"Your concern and involvement can

make a positive difference and can even save lives," Maurer said.

In an emergency, always call 911. To report non-emergency issues to the Sheriff's Office, call (813) 247-8200.

DEPUTY

From page 18

time. Talk about nervous and excited!

Combine all these different ways our kids get to school with the thousands of drivers, most in a hurry to get to work, and you have a very dangerous set of possibilities.

Parents, please take the time to talk to your kids about the importance of being safe going to

and from their schools. Emphasize bike safety and include the wearing of bike 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, and 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. Remember to 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 when they first get home. Stress the importance of staying inside,

knowing important emergency numbers and numbers for parents or friends, following the rules you set for using kitchen appliances and not talking to strangers or opening doors for strangers.

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

any new schools have opened up along the way you take to work.

Make sure everyone in your car buckles up, and watch out for school buses. And remember - your kids are watching you! Don't talk on the phone and drive, and always pay close attention.

We all want to have a safe school year. The only way to do it is for everyone to do their part.

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