

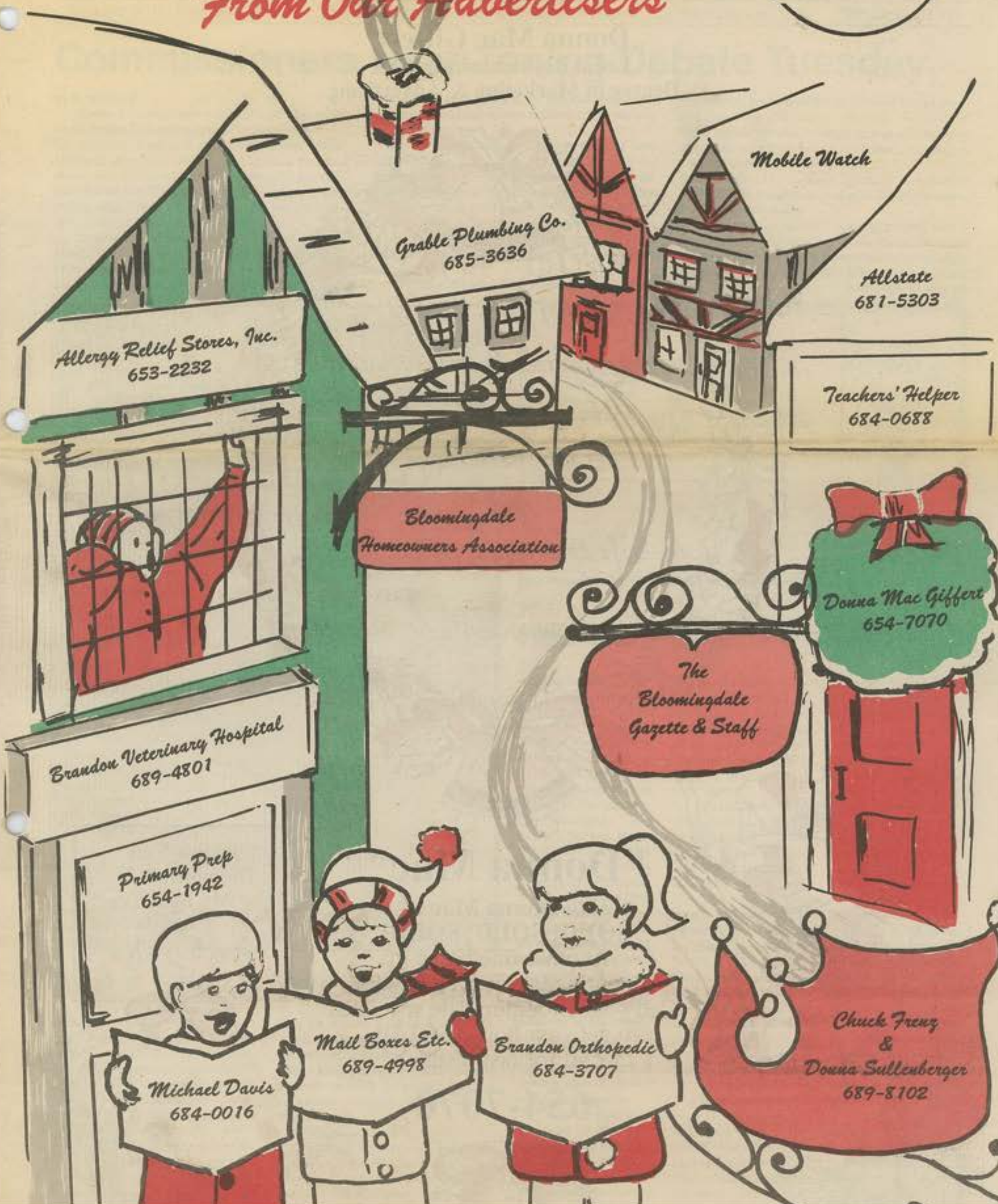
# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XIII, Number 12

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

December 1993

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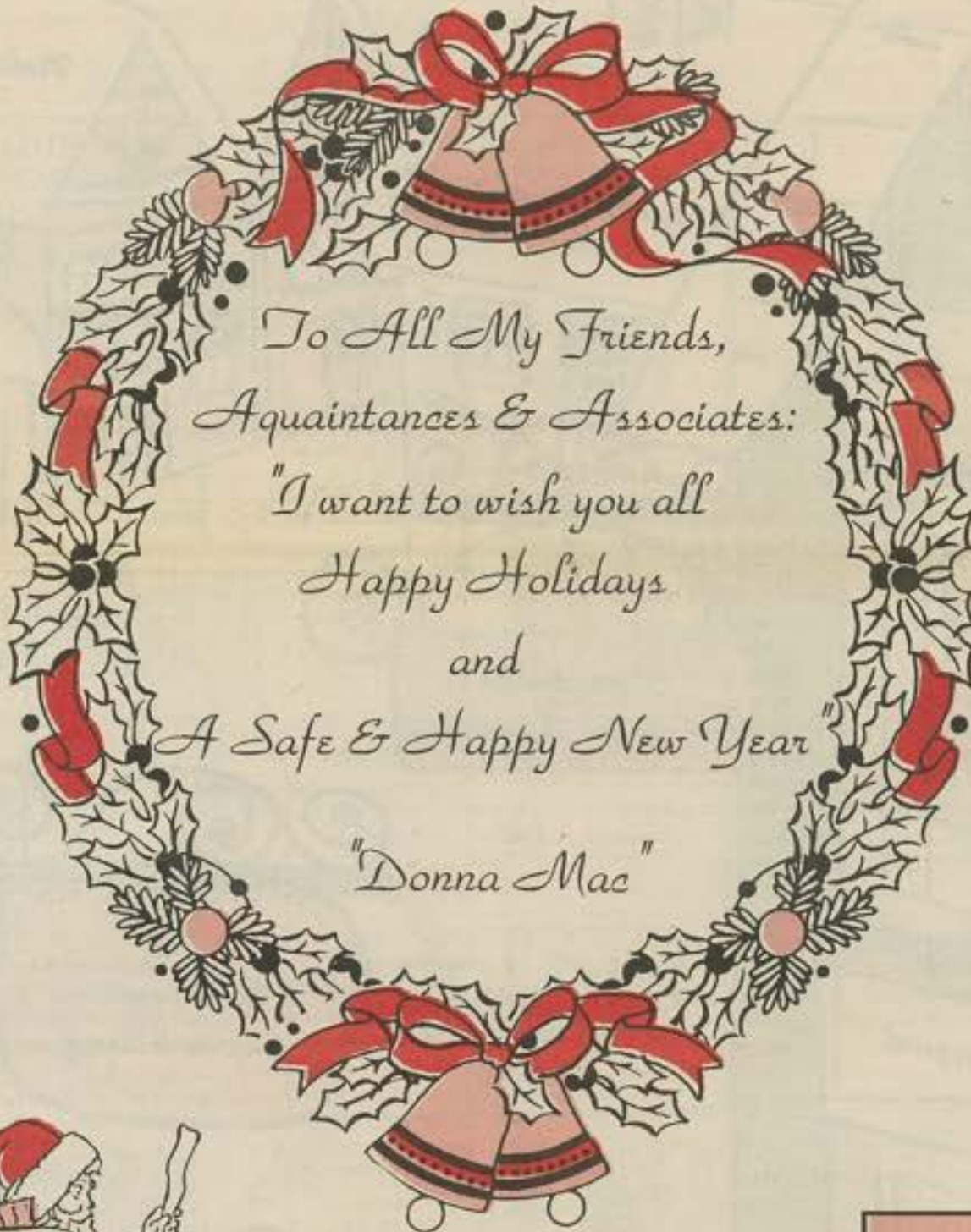


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# Contest Looks For Most Holiday Spirit

Light the lights and string the garland. Frost the windows, plant the yard ornaments, and hang the wreath. But don't fall off the roof, because you might miss out on a dinner for two if the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association selects your house as one of two winners of their Holiday Decorating Contest.

Two winners, one in East and one in West, will be selected based on the house that dis-



plays "The Most Holiday Spirit". Judges from the BHA will drive around all areas of East and West the week of December 13, and the winners with a photo of their home will appear in the January issue of *The Gazette*. Both winners will receive dinner for two at a Brandon area restaurant.

Happy decorating and happy holidays from the BHA.

## The Bloomingdale Gazette

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### Commissioners Hear Zoning Debate Tuesday

by Rozel Sciulli

County Commissioners will decide on Tuesday if Bloomingdale East property owned by Metropolitan Life should be re-zoned to meet the developers' needs. Months of negotiations and hearings at which residents voiced their objections to the zoning changes come to an end when the BOCC hears from all sides - county zoning and planning, representatives of Met Life, and residents. The meeting is set for 1:30 in the courthouse.

Up for consideration are over 2400 acres of undeveloped land within the Bloomingdale East community. Many changes are considered minor because they involve a change in density from more to less populated housing. Of

concern to residents, however, are major changes which involve a proposal for two new residential areas and two land use changes.

It is the land use changes that have stirred the most controversy. Should the county approve this request, the corner of Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale would become community commercial property housing 172,000 square feet of commercial retail space. It is expected that the county's zoning hearing master will recommend this move but with the restriction that certificates of occupancy not be issued until Bloomingdale Avenue is widened up to Bell Shoals.

"We could see that the retail development would have

an impact on traffic at an already crowded intersection," said Dan Santos of county planning. Widening of Bloomingdale from John Moore through the intersection at Bell Shoals is expected to begin in February, according to Commissioner Lydia Miller's office.

In addition, 15 acres along Springvale to the back of the retail shops would be designated for 150 units of multi-family, attached housing.

The other major land use change request is at Erindale and Lithia Pinecrest where property owners are asking that the county approve a switch from municipal use to single family housing. Opposition at the zoning hearing from

See ZONING, pg. 15

### General Meeting Set For BHA Elections

The annual General Meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza. Dues paying members will be asked to select board members for the 1994 and 1995 terms.

According to the BHA by-laws, 12 members make up the board and they serve a two-year term, with six positions coming up for election each year.

Seeking re-election to the board are

outgoing BHA president, Randy Wolfe, Jim Wiley, Ted Grable, and David Lees. In addition, there are two positions open for the new two-year term which begins in 1994, plus one position for a one-year term.

Area residents who have been nominated for these spots are Lee LaFontaine, Patricia Radel, and Steve Miller.

Other nominations may be made at the General Meeting or write-in candidates may be named on the ballot.

#### Ballot: Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

The Board has 12 director's positions as stated in the by-laws. At this time, BHA members must vote to fill six two-year terms and one one-year term. Four board members are seeking re-election, and three nominees are on the slate. You may vote for any of those listed or you may write in another candidate's name.

#### Nominees:

Ted Grable \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee LaFontaine \_\_\_\_\_  
David Lees \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Miller \_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Radel \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Wiley \_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Wolfe \_\_\_\_\_

#### Write-in Candidates:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Burns Site Of New Stadium

by David Bernhardt

It's not the new Lightning Arena, or even a new home for the Bucs, but it is the long-awaited football stadium that will be the new home of the Burns Junior High Bruins and the Brandon Bears Youth Football League. Construction is set to begin after the first of the year on the new \$350,000 complex located at the east end of the school grounds.

Built and funded by the Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department, the stadium will seat 1000 spectators and the parking lot will accommodate 240


cars. Entrance to the field will be from Brooker Road, west of Bell Shoals. Along with bleachers and parking comes a pressbox, storage area, a practice area, bathrooms and a concession stand. The existing track will be upgraded with new lights for evening competition.

The field will be used primarily by the Brandon Bears Youth Football League and by Burns Junior High teams. The Bears have been practicing and playing on the Bloomingdale High School field since the league's inception in the early '80s. But, See STADIUM, pg. 15

Dear Santa

Marey crismis

O



**Letters to Santa Claus**  
See page 11.

### Rec Center Gets Thumbs Up

by Rozel Sciulli

The Bloomingdale area is one step closer to having its own community recreation center, and when the final papers are drawn up, the BHA board said it will give its endorsement to the \$250,000 facility.

Addressing last month's meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association board, county representatives Lois Kessler and Joel Jackson fielded questions from area residents about the proposed center, set for construction on the property known as Park West.

Residents' concerns about evening activities attracting too much traffic to the area were put to rest when Kessler assured them that there was no outdoor lighting planned for the park around the center.

"Any evening activity would go on inside the center," said Kessler. And with parking limited for not more than 30 cars, she pointed out that there would not be a noticeable increase in activity or traffic.

Kessler said that a focus group made up of community residents would give its input on use of the center. "It may be that there would not be a need for evening activities," she said.

Jackson, in charge of the projects being funded by \$20 million in bond money, assured the residents that there would be different levels of community involvement that would begin in a few months.

"Once the plans are finalized," said Jackson, "they will be presented to the BHA for its endorsement." He explained that the plans would be complete with specifics on playground equipment, parking, and landscaping.

"I am strongly in favor of programmed development in Bloomingdale," said board member Ted Grable. "One of the problems here is that we don't have a community image and spirit - like a town square in a small town.

"We can control use

of the facility," he said. "If we walk away from the development of this park, we will have nothing more than a vacant lot."

According to Kessler, the county would staff the facility with three recreational personnel and a full-time custodian.

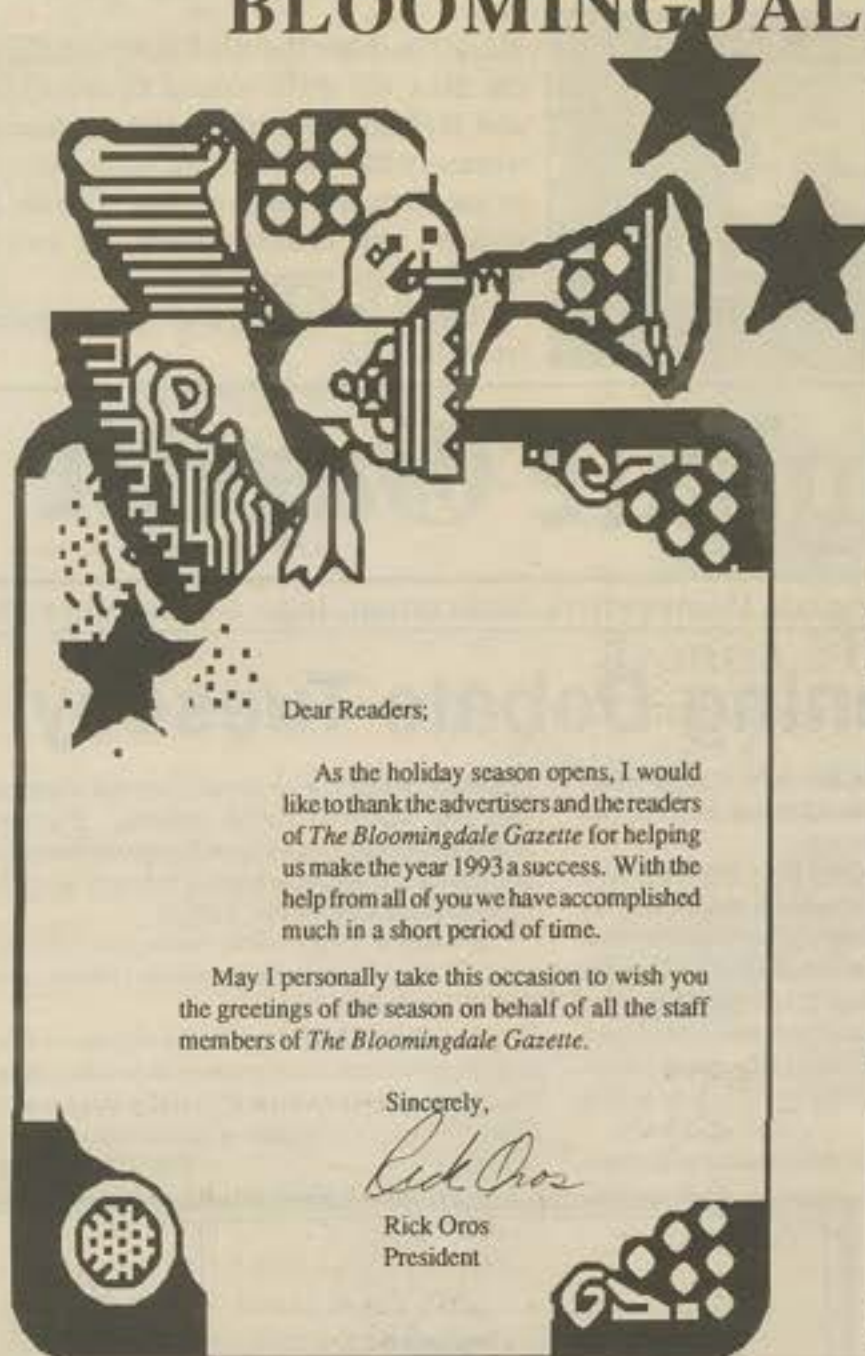
Of interest to residents was the county parks' after-school program which would be staffed from 2 to 6 p.m. and during school holidays.

The 3500 square foot facility would consist of five major areas - a multi-purpose room, a covered porch, game room, arts and crafts room and a kitchen.

New playground equipment, additional basketball courts, and landscaping to include shade trees would be part of the package.

There are no plans to construct a fence around the perimeter because deed restrictions prohibit chain link fencing, the type commonly used by the county. However, access See REC, pg. 2

# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE



Dear Readers:

As the holiday season opens, I would like to thank the advertisers and the readers of *The Bloomingdale Gazette* for helping us make the year 1993 a success. With the help from all of you we have accomplished much in a short period of time.

May I personally take this occasion to wish you the greetings of the season on behalf of all the staff members of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.

Sincerely,

Rick Oros  
President

## OFFICERS

**BLOOMINGDALE  
HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road  
Suite 101  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

Randy Wolfe	President	684-0079
Russ Lembke	Vice President	685-7193
Rick Oros	Secretary	685-0866
Jim Wiley	Treasurer	684-7825

### Directors

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Ian Horn	681-2051	LaWayne Wyatt	685-2072
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John Britton	Treasurer	681-1553
Steve Schneider	Equipment Manager	685-8378

### Members

David Guy	681-5943
Paul Kelmner	681-0701
Rick Borling	684-2022

### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

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

William Grace	President	685-2817
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## The Bloomingdale Gazette

3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 101  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### Bloomingdale Homeowners

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Rozel Sculli	Editor
Erin Mule	Writer
Melanie Plesee	Writer
David Barnhardt	Writer
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### Statement of Operation

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## MEETINGS

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

### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

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

### BHA Board of Directors

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

### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

### Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

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

## Welcome to Anyville, USA

Let me tell you about a town called Anyville - Population scattered. Anyville rose out of what used to be a swamp and a cow pasture. The developers put a wall around Anyville, probably to keep the people who lived there in and the outsiders out, but more likely to give a perception of oneness.

Anyville grew faster than most towns. Big businesses and the military brought people in and they chose Anyville because it looked like a nice place to live.

It grew so fast that soon there was an East Anyville and a West Anyville, separated by a busy road. All the shopping that the residents needed to do could be done right there in Anyville. There were shopping centers, grocery stores, doctors, new schools. Anyville had its own newspaper. The early residents were excited about taking care of their town. They were proud to be from Anyville.

A few times a year, the people who lived in Anyville got together to have some fun and family activity. They took time to get to know each other and to work for the common good of their town. When outsiders wanted to make changes in Anyville, the townspeople joined forces and made their voices heard.

But as Anyville grew and as big businesses and military types moved their people around, strangers moved into town, unaware of the years of work and hope and concern that had created a bond among the townspeople.

These new people had no interest in working for the common good of Anyville. They got up in the morning, drove to the big city to go to work, and came home after dark. They never even noticed that

### Our Times

by Rozel Sculli

Anyville was quickly becoming a maze of houses filled with strangers.

Some took the time to complain about the teenagers speeding through the streets and having drug and drinking parties in vacant houses and at dead end roads. But that's all they did - complain. Others griped that their neighbors didn't keep up their house and property the way they should. But that's all they did - gripe.

There were opportunities for the people of Anyville to help their town by joining organizations and giving their time for the common good. But they didn't do it.

The people were

needed. Their help was solicited. But no one listened. No one responded.

Pretty soon no one in Anyville got together anymore. All the woodlands in Anyville disappeared, replaced by tract housing and apartments. The crime rate in Anyville was the highest in the county. The kids ran wild. No one could jog or ride bikes because the streets were no longer safe. Businesses failed, and people started to leave Anyville.

Big businesses and the military no longer recommended Anyville as a nice place to live. More and more houses were left vacant and were vandalized. The walls that secured the town came down. Anyville lost its identity. It was no longer a town, just an extension of the big city.

Two old gentlemen sat on a rotting bench overlooking an algae-covered pond and reminisced about the town's heyday.

"This used to be a great town," said one fellow. "What happened to all the plans we made?"

"They fell apart when the people stopped caring," said the other. "Everyone was just too busy to get involved."

"Did I tell ya I'm moving? Gonna go live with my daughter," said his friend. "She lives in a town called Bloomingdale. Says it's a nice place to live."

## Letter To BHA

Dear BHA Members:

I am writing to apologize for missing your homeowners' association meeting last month. Being called to special session to address juvenile crime and workers' compensation issues placed a dent in my schedule.

I am looking forward to addressing your association on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Sincerely,  
Buddy Johnson  
State Representative, Dist. 62.

REC, from pg. 1

from Canoga Park Drive and Bloomingfield would be blocked to cars, which would be forced to use the parking lot only.

Residents whose homes border the park area are still concerned about trespassers using their yards for easy park access.

Kessler suggested that residents would have less problems since the center's staff members would keep children away from private property.

In addition, she said a county building on the property means that the area will be more secure and an increase in sheriff deputy patrols would be expected.

Bloomingdale resident and rec department employee Donna Clouse said that the staff would be responsible for the area around the center and that it would be up to them to monitor and patrol activity around the park.

## BHA Seeks Board Nominees

Residents who are interested in serving on the Bloomingdale Homeowner's board of directors are asked to submit their name this month. Prospective nominees are asked to call the Community Office at 681-2051, BHA president Randy Wolfe at 684-0079, or Rick Oros at 685-0866. The current board is looking for residents who are interested in working to improve the quality of life in the Bloomingdale East and West communities. Board members are responsible for attending one evening meeting a month.

# Exchange Students Tell Of Holiday Traditions

by Mandi Oros

It's that time of year again, when children start to behave, neighborhoods light up, and the ever familiar smell of Christmas lingers with the cooling air. The American traditions of the holidays become magically apparent.

Christmas is not only celebrated in America, but in other countries around the world, as well. The world hosts a great diversity of holiday spirit, in an assortment of methods. Even here at Bloomingdale High School, the Christmas spirit is affected by all walks of life. Foreign Exchange Students help to bring this reality a little closer to home. These students open up new doors to Americans who are used to celebrating the holidays in their own way. This knowledge broadens the horizons for the understanding of different cultures to help expand our own.

"Christmas is pretty Americanized", said Joanne Murray, one of the Exchange Students in Bloomingdale. Joanne is from Australia, a cousin country to the United States. Christmas in "The Land Down Under" is celebrated in December, but with a surprising twist. Unknown to a lot of Americans, December in Australia is one of the peak summer months, so the weather has an effect on the traditions Americans have come to know.

Take for instance, an important part of every Christmas-celebrating household, the infamous Evergreen Christmas Tree. "It gets very hot there", said Murray, "so the (Evergreen) trees won't grow." All of their trees are artificial

because of the hot climate. The Christmas trees have the same decorations Americans are used to.

Another modification the Australians have is their big



Photo by Mandi Oros

Jennifer Alfredsson and Joanne Murray speak out about Christmas in their country.

Christmas feast. This banquet is as big and delicious as our own, but not quite as hot. Since the holidays are celebrated in the summer months, the food is more refreshing. Their Christmas dinner would primarily consist of cold ham,

different kinds salads, and chilled vegetables. The Australians' version of carolling is something they call "Carols by Candlelight." This is a gathering of family and friends at a park or a camp on Christmas Eve. Each person has his or her own individual candle that they hold as they cluster around one another. The carols that these folks sing are the same all-time favorites, such as "Silent Night" and "Jingle Bells".

Christmas in Germany is based on a lot of tradition, like any other nation. Jennifer Alfredsson, from Germany, is another Foreign Exchange Student based here in Bloomingdale. In Germany, Christmas begins on December 24, Christmas Eve. The trees, real by the way, are decorated with real flaming candles that illuminate the room. The Christmas tree is usually decorated by the parents of the house. After the decorating is done, the presents are placed under the tree with great care, only to be opened after the Christmas feast. The dinner takes place on Christmas Eve, after the final decorations are trimmed. Only then are the presents allowed to be torn into to expose their plethora of endowments. Everyone takes a holiday on the 25th and 26th.

All countries that celebrate Christmas are aware of the real reason that Christmas is celebrated. Through the Foreign Exchange Student program American students can get in touch with their roots and find out the real meaning of brotherhood. Worlds away yet so much in common, Merry Christmas from the World.

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## Send Us Your Family News

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Send your social news to *The Bloomingdale Gazette* 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594, or stop by our office in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza. Please be sure to include a phone number. Photographs are also welcomed.

# The Sign of the Times



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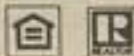
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# Area Churches Ring In The Holidays



by Erin Mule

There's something for everyone this holiday season when area church members and leaders rejoice during this special time of year. The public is invited to take a walk through Bethlehem and relive the past, or thrill to the sights and sounds of living Christmas trees, high-tech light shows, and festivals of praise. Local churches are teeming with talent, and it can all be experienced this month as Christians around the world celebrate Christ's birth.

**Bell Shoals Baptist Church**, at 2102 Bell Shoals Road, will present The Living Christmas Trees from Dec. 10 through 12. This night of song and dance is a favorite of Bloomingdale residents. Performances are at 7 p.m., and tickets are \$6 each. Call the church at 653-3875 for ticket information.

**Calvary Church** which meets at Bloomingdale High School will feature Christmas staging, music, festive lighting, and even snowy days at its services Dec. 5, 12, and 19 at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. They will begin a new series called "Experiencing God" which will give meaning to this Christmas season for families of all denominations.

Calvary's first Christmas production will be held at 6 p.m. on Dec. 19. "Bethlehem's Treasure" will be staged in an elegant and beautiful atmosphere, and is the church's holiday gift to the area.

Christmas Eve services will be offered at 5 and 6:30 p.m., and will feature Christmas carols, staging, lighting effects, drama, special production numbers by the church's ensembles, and a Christmas message and communion will conclude the service.

For further information, call Calvary's office at 653-0422.

**Crosswalk Christian Community Church** at 1603 Bloomingdale Ave. will present a cantata at 6 p.m. on Dec. 12. Presented by the church's youth and adults, the performance of music and drama is entitled "Shine the Light of Christmas". The public is invited to begin the holiday

season with Crosswalk.

**Kings Avenue Baptist Church** at 2602 S. Kings Avenue presents its 7th Annual Walk Through Bethlehem on Friday through Sunday, Dec. 10-12, from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, and 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Guests are invited to take a trip back in time and walk the streets of a living city. Meet the townspeople, see Roman guards, absorb the sights and sounds of the first century. Over 100 cast members dress in authentic costumes and engage in dialog as a tour guide takes guests around the city in groups of 10 to 12. The 20-minute tour is free and open to the public. Last year, over 5000 guests visited the city.

**St. Andrews United Methodist Church** at 3315 Bryan Rd. will host a concert by the Brandon Community Hand Bells on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 5 p.m. The choir is made up of members of eight churches, and contributions will be accepted to benefit local missions and charities.

Church members will also perform a Christmas Cantata during the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services on Dec. 19. St. Andrews' Christmas Eve services will be held at



Members of St. Marks Church celebrated a traditional Thanksgiving. Here, Pastor Barry Schever explains that in settler's days the preacher's sermon was timed with an hour glass.

5:30, 7:30, and 11 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 11 will hold their annual Christmas tree sale at the church. Douglas, Noble, and Frazier firs will be on sale through Dec. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays, and noon to 9 p.m. on Sundays. Proceeds will benefit Troop 11.

**St. Marks United Church of Christ** at 2814 Lithia Pinecrest Rd. continues its 10th Anniversary celebration during the holiday season. They will host the Bloomingdale Kiwanis Club's pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Dec. 4. Tickets are \$3 and are available that morning. A surprise visitor is expected. (Hint: he will be the one in the red suit).

A special Christmas choir program will highlight the Dec. 19 services at 9 and 11 a.m. Christmas Eve services begin at 7 p.m. with a family service and then again at 11 p.m. with a candlelight and carol service. Communion will be offered at the conclusion of each service.

Rev. Garry Scheuer will conclude the holidays and begin the New Year with his annual sermon titled "Headlines of the Future" during which the congregation submits items they would like to see in print in the next year.

**South Brandon Baptist Church** at 4939 Bell Shoals Rd. rang in the season early when they welcomed their new minister of music, R. J. Martin. He will direct a cantata titled "Come Celebrate Jesus" on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. Mr. Martin will also accompany the junior and senior high students to a rally on Dec. 22 in Plant City. The students have signed the "True Love Waits" contract which promotes sexual abstinence. Anyone interested in more information on the rally or the program may call the church at 681-1045.

The Ministerial Association will host its annual Festival of Praise at 3 p.m. Dec. 5, at Nativity Catholic Church. This event is presented by the choirs of local churches and will end with a group presentation of the Alleluia Chorus.

## Herbally Speaking With Holidays In Mind

by Cathy Mitchell

Holiday depression - we've all experienced it to one degree or another. Perhaps it begins as a creeping feeling when social obligations, financial demands, flus, colds, and the nightly news report reminding you that there are only 20 shopping days left before Christmas, begin to take their toll.

Although most individuals can anticipate stress caused by the situations listed above, there is yet another cause of depression which affects many individuals during the holiday season. To put it quite simply, the lack of sunlight during the winter months affects changes in brain chemistry. This condition, termed Seasonal Affective Disorder, or S.A.D., is responsible for depression in 35 million individuals yearly.

During the winter months when people are more likely to stay indoors, natural light is not absorbed by the body as it is during the warmer months. Light entering the eyes has been found to stimulate the small pineal gland in the brain (thought to be the "third eye" referred to in ancient cultures).

This gland produces hormones that contribute to the overall well-being of the body and mind. In turn, the hypothalamus hidden deep within the brain is also stimulated. The hypothalamus governs our eating, sleeping, and sex drive, all of which are disturbed

during winter depression.

Individuals suffering from depression may feel like there is no hope, but there are many things which can be done to help.

Dr. Norman Rosenthal, a psychiatrist and depression expert, suggests eating carbohydrates (whole bran cookies, pasta, cereal, bread, and crackers) which may help the brain exude good feelings. Get outside in the sun for longer periods of time or try in-

stalling "full spectrum" lights in the house. Be sure to take a full range of B vitamins which will nourish the nervous system and aid in coping with holiday stress. Try to cut down on heavy meats and fats and use hormone balancing herbs like licorice root, Siberian, Wild American, and Korean Ginseng, and Suma to help combat depression. Exercise helps, too, by stimulating chemical endorphins.

### 7th Annual WALK THRU BETHLEHEM

**WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM.**

Fri. Dec. 10- 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.  
Sat. Dec. 11- 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.  
Sun. Dec. 12-4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

**Kings Avenue Baptist Church**  
2602 S. Kings Avenue  
685-3095

	LUMSDEN
KINGS	BELL SHOALS
BLOOMINGDALE	

*The First Decade*

1983-1993

**St. Mark United Church**  
United Church of Christ

**ST. MARK UNITED CHURCH**  
United Church of Christ  
2914 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.  
Valrico, FL 33594

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
WORSHIP.....9a.m.  
WORSHIP & CHURCH SCHOOL.....11a.m.  
Dr. Garry A. Scheuer, Jr., Pastor

**685-0998**

**HOLIDAY HOURS**

**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**  
Childrens Program 7:00 p.m.  
Candlelight Service 11:00 p.m.

### St. Stephen Catholic Church

Looking for a Church Family to call your own? St. Stephen Catholic Church is gifted with a family atmosphere. We take pride in the well over 800 students attending our pre-school through high school Religious Education program.

**Christmas Schedule**  
Dec. 12th at 6:30 pm-Special Family Christmas Night  
Dec. 14th at 7:30pm-Communal Penance Service (with individual confessions)  
Dec. 24th 5:30 pm Childrens Mass  
7:30 pm Youth Mass  
12:00 am Midnight Mass  
Dec. 25th 9:30 am, 11:30 am Regular Holy Day Mass

**Regular Mass Schedule**  
Saturday, Vigil 5:30 pm  
Sunday, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am  
Babysitting Sunday during 9:30 & 11:30 am Masses.

5049 Bell Shoals Road  
Valrico, FL 33594  
**689-4900**

**Bits N Pieces**

Around Bloomingdale



**Association Looking For People With Heart**

Area resident Terry Morehouse is heading up the newly formed Brandon Division of the American Heart Association. In their first organizational meeting last month, residents responded to the call to take action in the fight against heart disease. Through the local chapter, Morehouse hopes the community will develop year-round educational programs and help raise funds for the association.

Funding cardiovascular research is also a priority of the organization. AHA-funded research has yielded such discoveries as the pacemaker, bypass surgery, CPR, artificial heart valves and life-extending drugs.

"By forming the Brandon Division, its citizens will be able to make an impact on funding critically needed cardiovascular research," Morehouse said.

For more information about how to become involved in the new Brandon Division, contact Cindy Aponte at 253-0023.

**Anniversary Wishes**

June Oros of Bloomingdale West sends anniversary wishes to her husband

Rick on the 20-year celebration of their marriage. It was on Dec. 8, 1973, that Rick and June had a trans-continental wedding with ceremonies in Hallendale, FL, and the reception in Madrid, Spain, where June's parents were living at the time.

**'Adoptees' Sought For Needy Families**

Officials at the Christmas Bureau of Hillsborough County are in need of donors to "adopt" needy families or individuals who would not have a Christmas otherwise. Donors are asked to provide the food for the Christmas meal and at least one gift for each child in the family. Call the Christmas Bureau at 221-8657 to become a donor or to offer volunteer hours between now and Christmas.



Members of Burns Junior High School's FFA showed off their wares at the school's first Arts and Crafts Festival to benefit the chorus.

**Safe Food Preparation Can Prevent Holiday Disaster**

**Special To The Gazette**

The holiday season means bountiful feasts and fun for many families. But, festivity can turn to calamity if there's an incident of food poisoning.

Food poisoning is caused by bacteria or their toxins which in most cases are undetectable by sight, smell or taste. Millions of people are affected by food poisoning each year. With the potential for food poisoning increased during the holidays it is especially important to remember safe food handling and preparation practices. Here are a few tips:

**Thaw Turkeys In Refrigerator**

Room temperature encourages growth of bacteria. Do not let the juices drip on other foods. Defrosting can also occur by wrapping a turkey in a waterproof bag and submerging it in cold water. This inhibits bacterial growth on the outside while the inside continues to thaw. Change the water every 30 minutes.

**Cook Stuffing Separate From Turkey**

It is best to cook stuffing separately rather than inside the turkey cavity. But, those who insist on cooking the stuffing inside the turkey should keep safety precautions in mind. Do not stuff a turkey before storing it in the refrigerator. Prepare the ingredients the day before and refrigerate them, then combine the ingredients and stuff the bird just prior to cooking. Don't cook a stuffed bird the night before, and don't thaw a pre-stuffed bird before cooking. Closely follow all storing and cooking directions.

**Don't Interrupt the Cooking Time**

This is because the turkey may have been heated enough to activate bacteria but not enough to kill them. So, once you've started cooking the turkey, continue the cooking process through completion.

**Carve Turkey Into Slices Before Storing**

Cooked, whole tur-

keys don't store safely in the refrigerator. Carve the bird into serving slices, place them in a shallow container, cover, and refrigerate. Reheat at a temperature of at least 165 degrees.

**Take Extra Care With Holiday Buffets**

Be sure to have enough room in your refrigerator for the perishable foods you plan to serve at holiday buffets. The longer food is kept out, especially beyond two hours, the greater the risk of food poisoning even if hot trays or chaffing dishes are used. Refrigerate all leftovers as soon as possible after guests have finished eating.

**Store Leftovers Carefully**

Reheated leftover turkey and stuffing shouldn't be kept out to serve for more than two hours before being refrigerated or frozen. Perishable foods left at room temperature for longer than two hours are susceptible to bacteria than can multiply to dangerous levels and cause food poisoning. Leftover turkey can be safely refrigerated for three to four days but stuffing and gravy should be used within a day or two. Store all leftovers in small, shallow, and covered containers to speed up the cooling process.

**Don't Let Kids Eat Cookie Dough**

Laying hens are suspected of transmitting bacteria directly into the interior of eggs before the shells are formed. Raw eggs in cookie dough may present a hazard, especially to children, the elderly, and those with certain health problems, so cookie dough is not safe to eat. The high temperatures required to cook cakes, cookies, and candy containing raw eggs are sufficient to kill bacteria. Using egg substitutes eliminates the hazard posed by raw eggs and offers the added benefit of no cholesterol.

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535 Sandy Creek/76 Days  
415 Van Reed Manor...17 Days

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Brandon, Florida 33511

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- REFERENCES UPON REQUEST
- LOW MONTHLY BUDGET PRICES
- FREE ESTIMATES, RES. & COMM.
- ESTABLISHED SINCE 1988

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**Brandon Veterinary Hospital**

**Experience Counts  
With the Pet You Love**

Harry D. Vildbill, D.V.M. Full Service Hospital  
34 years in Brandon Boarding

3301 John Moore Road  
Just North of Bloomingdale Ave.

**689-4801**

**689-4800**

**Primary  
Prep**

Quality Learning Environments

**Let's See...**

There's the shopping, the baking, the wrapping... special telephone calls to make, the holiday meal to plan, that company dinner to attend, picking up the relatives from the airport, decorating...

**WHAT WILL I DO WITH THE KIDS?!!**

Now is a great time to enroll them at Primary Prep! We promise to keep them busy interacting with their peers, building a solid educational foundation, and having the best kid fun around! Once you know your children are being well taken care of, your mind can be free to worry about so many other things! Like, will the gifts you ordered arrive in time, did you send cards to all your spouse's relatives, will the turkey fit in the oven...



Hours 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Bloomingdale Ave.

Bloomingdale West | Rossmore | Bell Shoals

**654-1942**

Owner: Christine Terrell  
Director: Gail Bjornson  
LIC # C-HC-193

3720 Canoga Park Drive  
Just South of the Wal-Mart  
Hours: 7am to 6pm



This Christmas you can please the golfers on your list with *one stop*...

## all-golf gifts!

889 E. Bloomingdale Ave.  
Brandon, FL 33511  
(813)661-1778

- over 350 unique gift ideas, personally selected by golfers, in a wide range of prices
- MC, VISA & American Express accepted
- FREE gift packaging
- Children's play area
- Gift Certificates
- Customer "Wish List"



## Red's Sporting Goods HOLIDAY SPECIALS!!!

IN-LINE  
SKATES  
ALL  
25% OFF!!  
EXP. 12-25-93

7-Shirts  
Buy one at  
reg. price,  
get one at half  
price!

REEBOK  
LADIES  
SHOES  
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25% OFF!!  
EXP. 12-25-93

OFFICIAL LIGHTNING GAME JERSEYS,  
HOME & AWAY IN STOCK! ONLY \$79.99!  
CUSTOM LETTERING AVAILABLE, ONE  
WEEK TURNAROUND!

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KINGS ROW PLAZA

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Mon.-Fri. 10-8  
Sat. 9-7  
Sun. 12:30-6

VISA  
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MASTERCARD

## Patches & Lace

- Collectables
  - Dickens' Villages
  - North Pole Series
  - Snow Babies
  - David Winter Cottages
- Handcrafted Gifts
- Christmas Shoppe

167 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon  
(At John Moore & Bloomingdale  
by Winn Dixie Marketplace)

685-8498

HOURS  
M-F 10-6  
SAT. 10-4

## all-golf gifts!

Here are a few suggestions for Christmas gift giving that are sure to bring a smile to any golfer:

Single & boxed Christmas cards, \$1.50 - 10.50. **Stocking Stuffers:** tee pens, golf ball soap, jewelry, socks, boxers, neckties, yoyos, clocks, and more - from \$1.50. **Christmas ornaments and lights,** and 'golfing santas' - from \$4.

Have the kids color a golf poster for mom, dad, or grandparents to show off. Comes w/ colored pencils, for \$12.95 and 15.95.

**For friends, bosses, or gift exchanges:** desk sets, collectibles, stationary, board games, puzzles, photo albums, picture frames, calculators, recipe books, humorous gifts, and more - from \$5.

Everyone "chip in" for something really special: a pewter/antique brass/marble collector's chess set w/pieces that authentically represent gold attire from the turn-of-the-century, \$535. Or "The Byron Nelson Story", hard-covered, signed & numbered, personally autographed by Byron Nelson, \$149.

**For the golfer with everything:** how about an antique hickory club, \$155 to 175. Or dinnerware w/golf motif, \$7 to 37.

## Universal Jewelers

The Sosa family has been offering Brandon area residents the finest in 14 and 18Kt gold jewelry for the past seven years at Universal Jewelers. Their unique selection of custom jewelry comes from the United States and Europe, and features a superb quality of diamonds and gemstone pieces.

Universal's craftsmen will custom design settings for loose stones, or create beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry. They are also the only store in the area to carry the exceptional Swiss watches by Rado, the precision time pieces that were found in Europe by the store's owner.

Popular items such as name plates and bracelets can be special ordered for the holidays. A wide selection of unique charms and earrings are displayed or can be special ordered. Universal also offers expert jewelry and watch repair.

Visit Universal Jewelers for that exquisite gift for someone special. They are located at 928 W. Brandon Blvd. just west of Kings Avenue. Store hours are 10 to 6 Monday through Friday, and 10 to 5 on Saturday.

## Soccer Field Inc.

Pass, dribble, shoot and score!!! Yes, it's that time of the year again and with soccer season just around the corner, Soccer Field Inc., located at 526 Oakfield Drive is the place to go for all your soccer specialty needs.

Shoes, socks, shinguards and more, we carry hard to locate items. Items such as XXS Shinguards to size 3 soccer balls. Our selection, knowledge, and service is second to none. We look forward to sharing our business with you.



## Patches & Lace

Located at 167 East Bloomingdale (Bloomingdale and John Moore) in Brandon, Patches & Lace offers collectibles, handcrafted gifts and decorative accessories in addition to being a Christmas Shoppe.

The shop features many collectibles including Dickens' Villages and the North Pole series from Dept. 56, Snowbabies, and David Winter Cottages.

Patches & Lace specializes in unusual holiday merchandise. Angel and Santa collectors will be delighted with the selection. The seven decorated Christmas trees offer a selection of ornaments that range from a nature theme to exquisite Battenburg ornaments.

Established in 1982, Patches & Lace has been serving customers for more than 11 years. The shop is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Special extended hours during the holiday season will be offered. Layaway is available.

For more information, call Patches & Lace at 685-8498.

## Amore Pizza

Amore Pizza offers fine dining at reasonable prices, with New York style pizza, whole or by the slice. Affordable menu prices make this a great place to take the whole family! An authentic Italian restaurant welcomes you to dine-in or take-out.

Amore is located in the shopping center on the corner of John Moore and Bloomingdale Avenue, 133 E. Bloomingdale Avenue. The casual atmosphere welcomes families, groups and friends!

## Yellow Door, Inc., Craft Gallery

The "crafting wave of the future" has over 250 crafters year around, displaying and selling to the general public. Over 40,000 hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind gift selections for yourself, your friends, family members, or business associates. It is our intention, at Craft Gallery to present to you, the buying public, a tremendous assortment of selected gift ideas, during the various seasons.

Each of our crafters pays great attention to detail, in the age-old American tradition of handcrafting that has been passed down from generation to generation.

Craft Gallery offers layaway, gift certificates, and special orders. New holiday hours and Monday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

## AMORE PIZZA

Restaurante

Everyone  
Loves  
Pizza!

Call for Gift Certificates  
for the  
Holiday Season

133 E. Bloomingdale Ave.  
Corner of John Moore & Bloomingdale Ave.

684-0402



## UNIVERSAL JEWELERS

1 Ct. Ring  
\$399.00



1 Ct.  
Heart  
\$399.00



Tennis  
Bracelets  
1 Ct. \$399.00  
2 Ct. \$799.00  
3 Ct. \$1299.00  
4 Ct. \$1399.00

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EVERYTHING  
AT COMPETITIVE PRICES  
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Brandon  
526 Oakfield Dr.  
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Store Hours:  
10:30-5:30 Mon. thru Sat.

Tampa  
268 E. Fowler Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33612  
(813) 977-GOAL  
Store Hours:  
10:00-6:30 Mon. thru Sat.



# Holiday Ideas

## The Green Boutique Nursery and Gift Shop

The Green Boutique Nursery and Gift Shop has catered to the personal needs of its customers since 1978, when Rosalind and Mark Creager opened for business at 1014 Bloomingdale Ave. The nursery and greenhouse feature a variety of ornamental and landscape plants and flowering annuals. And now for the holidays, florist quality poinsettias - potted, hanging baskets, and lush hanging gardens. The beautiful poinsettias are a holiday favorite and prettier ones can't be found.

Customers will also delight in visiting the wonderfully unique gift shop that features custom gift baskets, gourmet foods, and collectables such as Dickens' Village, Dept. 56, and a full line of Crabtree and Evelyn. One-of-a-kind ornaments, crystal and porcelain pieces, wall decorations, and classic, fine linens provide a feast for shoppers.

If you are looking for that very special gift or if you are just wanting to treat yourself, visit the Green Boutique Nursery and Gift Shop. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5:30 and Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m.

## Red's Sporting Goods

Red's Sporting Goods has moved to a larger location and owner, Gary Redmon, invites area residents to visit and shop at 867 W. Bloomingdale Ave. in the Kings Row Shopping Center.

Red's has served the area for six years and carries top-of-the-line products at competitive prices, including licensed professional and college wear and name brand athletic shoes including Nike and Reebok. The store also carries Mizuno and Easton baseball equipment and Umbro athletic wear.

Spring baseball equipment is now in stock, and with practices beginning right after the new year, Christmas is a great time for giving gifts that will fill those baseball needs.

Red's can place special orders in time for Christmas, and their expanded facility has increased their capacity for monogramming and silk screening services.

Visit Red's on Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays 12:30 to 6 p.m.

## From The Heart

Discover a special world of unique gifts and crafts at From The Heart. Owners Cathy and George Guerrette take pride in their store's wide variety of arts and crafts - in fact, it's an arts festival everyday at From The Heart. Why wait for festivals to come around on the weekends when the same displays are available daily at From The Heart?

The store, which is located in the Wann Dixie plaza on Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale, features over 50 crafters with wide-ranging talents. Cathy will take special orders for her customers and lay-a-aways are available for the holidays.

Whether it's made of porcelain or ceramic, silk, wood, or cloth, you will find those special gifts for giving or that special something you've wanted for yourself at From The Heart. Stop in and see their festive holiday displays on Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until closing, 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 5 p.m. all other days. You won't leave empty-handed. (Crafters are welcomed to display their work)

## Signature Sports

When Jim McConnell and Clyde Heape opened Signature Sports, they knew they were offering Bloomingdale residents something really unique - sports collectables the likes of which cannot be found in this area. Signed game-used bats, autographed professional and college footballs and basketballs, team jackets and shirts, and a large selection of trading cards are on display and for sale. If they don't have that special item you want, then they will order it.

Sports collectables make great gift ideas, from the trading cards perfect for stocking stuffers to autographed memorabilia that will become more valuable with age. And during the months of November and December, Signature Sports is offering a 20% discount on its merchandise with the coupon featured in their ad on this page.

If you haven't already sneaked a peak inside Signature Sports, drop by and see their exciting collection in Bloomingdale Square between Stuarts and Publix. Store hours are 10 to 6:30 on Tuesday through Thursday, 10 to 9 p.m. on Fridays, 10 to 7 on Saturdays, and 1 to 5 on Sunday.

## Bloomingdale Square Liquors

Plenty of Holiday Cheer can be found at Bloomingdale Square Liquors located in the Wal-Mart Plaza between Stuarts and Publix. Privately owned by longtime Bloomingdale resident Randy Cunningham, the cozy and personal store's prices are competitive with larger chain stores.

Bloomingdale Square Liquors carries a wide selection of fine wines and imported beers not found anywhere else in Brandon. Residents are invited to stop in and register for the newly formed wine tasting club, perfect for holiday get-togethers.

In keeping with the personalized attention to each customer, Randy will customize gift baskets and will special order those hard to find items. In addition, he will ship anywhere in the continental U.S. There is no order too small or too large.

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

## Holiday Cheer

### The Green Boutique Nursery & Gift Shop

- Florist Quality Poinsettias
- Gourmet Foods
- Custom Gift Baskets
- Unique Gifts
- Collectables
  - Dickens' Village
  - Crabtree & Evelyn

1014 Bloomingdale Ave.  
685-9494

HOURS  
Tues.-Sat. 9-5:30  
Sun. 12-4  
Closed Mon.

## FROM THE HEART



### THE INDOOR YEAR ROUND CRAFT/GIFT STORE

Hand made crafts & gifts for special and everyday occasions. See us for all your holiday needs.

Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale  
3220 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

651-9395

Mon.-Wed. 10-5  
Thurs.-Fri. 10-6  
Sat. 10-5

## Signature SPORTS

Sports Memorabilia • Team Wearables • Sports Cards

Bloomingdale Square  
881 Bloomingdale Ave.

681-4230

Sports Cards make Great Stocking Stuffers!

- 1992 Limited Edition of 144 ALABAMA Championship Football
- All Team Wearables on Sale
- Gift Certificates

20% OFF "With this Ad"  
All Memorabilia during November & December

## CRAFT GALLERY

THE YEAR ROUND CRAFT SHOW SUPER STORE!

Looking for an Unusual Gift?

FIND IT HERE!

LOOK FOR THE STORE WITH THE BIG YELLOW DOORS

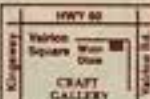


The most unique selection of original handmade crafts, one-of-a-kind gifts, and collectibles all made by local artists & crafters.

- ★ Layaway Available
- ★ Thousands Of Christmas Gifts
- ★ Gift Certificates

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1973 S.R. 60 EAST  
(1.8 MILES EAST OF I-75,  
BRANDON - S.R. 60 EXIT)



## Bloomingdale Square LIQUORS



"Your neighborhood source for all your holiday needs"

Best Selection of Imported Beers & Fine Wines in Brandon

Special Orders Welcomed - If you can't find it, we will.

Gift Sets, Gift Baskets and We Ship

Competitive Pricing and Case Discounts

In the Walmart Shopping Plaza  
Between Publix and Stuarts

Mon-Sat 10-9  
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**Calendar of Events**

- Dec. 6 FFA Alumni Meeting 7 p.m. Rm 136
- Dec. 7 Basketball vs. McLane at McLane
- Dec. 9 Basketball vs. Mann at Burns
- Dec. 15 Club Day, Early Dismissal
- Dec. 16 Basketball vs. Hillsborough at Burns
- Dec. 20 - Jan. 3 Winter Holidays

**Bruin Beat**



by Kira Slovacek

Three eighth grade students from Burns Junior High School were selected for the Middle School All-State Band.

Robbie Eisenberg, Vivian Ryan, and Amanda Wetherington worked hard at the auditions and were chosen for the band based on their ability to memorize scales, sight read, and perform prepared exercises.

**Student Officers Elected** - Burns students recently elected their officers to serve on Student Council for this school year. The council will be led by 9th grade president Brianna Nation and 8th grade president Jill Thompson. The other officers are ninth graders Matt May, vice-president; Melissa Wayson, secretary; and Stacy Reich, treasurer; eighth graders Kevin MacKiewicz, vice-president; and Ansley Sculli, secretary. The officers meet weekly with their advisor, Mr. Mix, and assistant principal, Mrs. Nolte. The group sponsored a sock hop last month.

The Cheerleaders won 1st place at the Eastern Cheerleaders Association Clinic and Competition last month at Gaither High School. After two hours of training in clinic, the teams from around the county entered competition with a routine that consisted of cheering, dancing, and stunts. The Bruin team won first place in the Freshman Division, after practicing nearly two hours after school every day for two weeks prior to competition.

**Bulls Eye**



by Brian Okay

There is a tremendous amount of club activities at Bloomingdale during the months of November and December. Students and sponsors are all working together to meet the goals of their club or organization.

Last month the Fashion DECA held a canned food drive. The homeroom with the most cans was rewarded with a pizza party. This month, the German Club's Advent calendar sale is underway, and DCT-CECF students are collecting candy and trinkets for the Salvation Army Christmas Stockings.

**Special to The Gazette**

Diversified Cooperative Training, better known as DCT, is a countywide program in which high school students may attend school and receive credit for work training as part of their school day.

Senior Ryan Ong, president of the BSHS DCT organization, says that the best part of being in DCT is the potential for college scholarships, getting a foot in the door of a local employer, and the extra-curricular activities the club is involved in.

Ong is employed by Target, one of many area businesses that employs high school students. The area's largest employer of students is Publix Supermarkets, last year's DCT Employer of the Year.

Observing child labor laws, employers may only hire students for up to 30 hours a week. Most students

attend school for four or five periods per day, then receive course credit for the remaining periods by reporting to DCT class or to the job site. An employer's evaluation of the student will determine the grade earned for the course.

Students who maintain a 3.0 GPA and are members of DCT for two years are eligible for the Gold Seal Scholarship which awards students \$2000 a year for college.

This year, the DCT, which is taught by Miss Barr and Mr. Pate, has sponsored phone book recycling and Christmas stockings that they will donate to the Salvation Army.

More Bulls Eye news on Sports

Bulls Eye writers are students of Mrs. Carol Lopez's journalism staff.

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RIDING LESSONS**  
Paragrims Farms  
South Brandon & Bloomingdale Area



Hunters • Jumpers • Saddlebreds

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**NOW SCHEDULING  
Christmas Holiday Clinics  
Registering Now  
Call for Details**

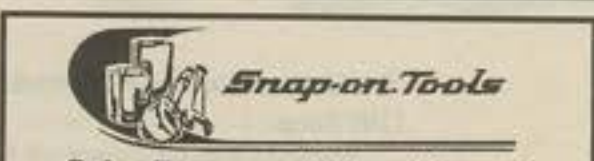
SAFE SHOW QUALITY HORSES PROVIDED  
ALL AGES & ABILITIES.

*Happy Holidays from*  
**ALTERATIONS PLUS... by maria inc.**

- Dry Cleaning & Laundry
- Expert Alterations
- Monogramming
- Uniforms & Costumes
- Custom Specialty Sewing

**DRIVE-UP WINDOW**

3662 LITHIA PINECREST RD. MARIA D. TESMER  
VALRICO, FL 33594 (813) 654-4132



**Sales Representatives Wanted**

Snap-on Tools Corporation is seeking a limited number of individuals to sell Snap-on products using a mobile van/showroom sales method.

The Sales Representative position is a time-limited, one year program that serves as an apprentice and training program for the Snap-on franchise and other positions within the company. While in this unique program, you will enjoy a salary, commission on your sales and excellent health benefits. You will have an opportunity to evaluate the Company while Snap-on evaluates you.

By the end of your apprenticeship, it will be necessary for you to become a franchised dealer or to fill some other position within the Company. However, if you reach certain performance levels while you are a Sales Representative, you may be eligible to become a franchised dealer using Snap-on financing, without having to meet the standard minimum net worth requirement.

This ad is not an offer to purchase a franchise, nor is it a guarantee of acceptance into the franchise program or future employment beyond the Sales Representative program.

If interested, please call: 1-800-775-7629 or 813-681-8473

**The First Christmas,  
Visitors Were Welcome.**

They Still Are. From all walks of life they came. And they were all welcomed. Christmas is special in the way it brings us together.

Come, let's join our hearts in worship and make this a Christmas to remember.

*Calvary Church*

Meeting at Bloomingdale High School  
9:00 am & 10:30 am  
Christmas Eve Services  
5:00 & 6:30 pm  
Calvary Ofc. 653-0422



*Bloomingdale Pediatric Associates P.A.*

by **Sonia M. Ruiz, M.D.**  
*Pediatrician*

Featuring the finest medical care for:

- Infants
- Children
- Adolescents

Most health plans accepted.

**684-1881**  
4316 Bell Shoals Road  
Village Center

# "Dear Santa, I Love You veire mosh" Chris Price

## Letters from Alafia's First Graders (uncut and unedited)

Dear Santa,  
I wold lick to have a' Brby semeg pool.  
Love Stephanie S.

Dear Santa,  
I love you dear Santa!  
I went you to come to my house? thank you dear Santa. Thank you four comeing.  
Paria S.

Dear Santa,  
I wot a tede Bear for crismos and I wot a book. How are you douig. I am douig fine. I can rede varre well. Tel all your elvs I seid hi I have met a lot of fens in shool. I love you  
Allison F.

Dear Santa,  
I wot a wotr baby for Krismis and a puppey  
Love Sara C.

Dear Santa,  
Wate Do you wont. Do do wont a book or a bar. I hop your having good tim up thr. it is omost Thackgeveing. Wate or you going to bring me this uer I wont a hamstr.  
Love Laurie B.  
P.S. mere cresms

Deew Santa,  
I Love you.  
You and me can hav fun together. Wey can hav fun yes wey can. Wut well you bweg me I love you  
Lindsay J.

Dear Santa,  
I wid like a baby aliv tate cize (that cries) win she nez you and som skaes  
Love Lauren S.

Dear Santa  
I hope you brange me sumthege at Crismis. I wiss I cud brange you sumthege at Crismis. I Love you Santa. Santa is nise.  
Love Leslie D.

Dear Santa  
I wod like to towk a bot a medo deter (metal detector) and a band new game  
Love Sean K.

Dear Santa  
I wot a cat a protee cat and a dog a swete dog and a rapit a protee rapit  
Love Amy R.

Dear Santa  
I Love you and I wont a rel liv puppy  
Travis M

Dear Santa  
Wie do you war a red soot  
Andrew S.

Dear Santa  
I want a new bed spred dog or a kitten with a red bow  
Allison

Dear Santa  
I know you are bisey for Christmas I what a kitten and a toy  
Love Megan F

Dear Santa  
I want a horse for crismis  
Anthony

Der Sata Clos  
Ded you hav a hape your. I blev in yeu I wes rdor the rud nos randir (Rudolph the red nosed reindeer). I got a fon koll from yeu  
Andrew L

Dear Santa  
Merry Crestmas Last year you got me lots of presents. I hope you do the same thing this year. I hope you have fun for Crestmas. Did you now that thes is my first Crestmas in firoda. Take caer.  
Love Jillian P.

Dear Sattou  
I like wen you gev bos and grls som towys I bulev in Sattou  
Adam S

Letters were submitted from the first grade classes of Mrs. Caskey, Cynthia Waller, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Stanaland, Mrs. Loadwick, and Mrs. Maggio and her intern Kelly O'Brien. Special thanks to Mrs. Maggio and Ms. O'Brien for coordinating this project.

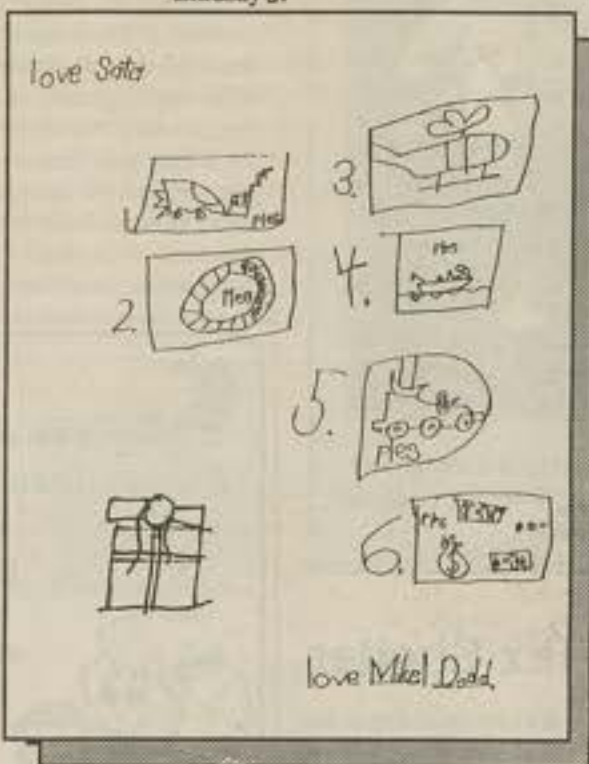
Dear Santa,  
I like santa clis bec cus he is nise and he has randers  
Philip C.

Dear Santa,  
I have ben a gud grl  
Beth C.

Dear Santa,  
I would say can I have sum toys ples Santa ples tank you  
Kate S.

Dear Santa,  
I hope you like your milke and cuoceyu (cookies) and I hope the rain dear like the cairites and I'll see you next year. Love  
Karin T.

Dear Santa,  
I wot a toy dollin a fllofy sgrol (squirrel) a wooley toy dog a Baer.  
Chelsea W.



Dear Santa,  
Will you get my a dog I love you Santa  
Kenny B

Dear Santa,  
I wood tock to him abawt wot to I wot for Crismis I like you because you beg me toys.  
Love Megan B.

Dear Santa,  
I wont a viteo game I wont a skatbord I wont too be Be Bigr  
Love Ryan J.

## Madrigal Dinner At Lithia This Week

by Marie Massaro  
The music, drama, art and costumes of the Renaissance period will grace the halls of Lithia Springs Elementary School this week when its students present a Holiday Madrigal Dinner on Dec. 7 through 9. Students in the school's kindergarten through fifth grades will become lords and ladies at one of three special lunch periods. PTA parent volunteers in costumes will help serve the children at

each dinner and will join other parents for a special evening performance of the music and drama on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. Music specialists Janice Lancaster and Melissa Green, string specialist Penny Estrada, and art teacher Mary Ellen Houghton directed the students in the project, which was funded by an Arts for a Complete Education (ACE) grant. Only 26 grants were awarded

statewide out of 300 applications. Intermediate students will entertain guests with sacred and secular music woven into a dramatization that includes the "Fanfare" and song for each course of the meal as well with a play entitled "A Jester's Test". Renaissance inspired art projects including mosaics, banners, masks, shields, and costumes prepared by the students will decorate the dinner hall and will be on display throughout the school.



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Tom Turkey visited Primary Prep last month much to the delight of (L to R) Brock Bjornson, Dallas Rogers, Jonathan Hobren, Jeannie Berhow, Jonnie Herrera and Jamie Goodman.

### The Last Small Business Tax Shelter

During this last year, Americans have heard a great deal about the "Clinton" tax act, but who has it really affected? A married couple making \$20,000 a year loves it and a couple making over \$140,000 a year really hates it, but what about the small business, self-employed person in between? How does that person gain or lose by the new law?

On the surface, it would seem there is little or no difference, but with the increases in the threshold of self employment income subject to social security and medicare tax, the value of a Subchapter - S corporation increases as a tax reduction mechanism for self employed people:

Self employed people must pay social security tax on earnings up to \$57,600 in 1993 and medicare tax of 2.9% on earnings up to

\$135,000, but starting next year, there is no cap on the amount of earnings subject to medicare, so small business owners will pay this tax on all self-employment income!

However, in a Sub-S corporation, the small business owner can dictate his own paycheck more or less and pay out some of his profits as a dividend distribution which is not subject to self employment tax. For example, a person making a pre-tax profit before owner compensation of \$50,000 would pay \$7650 of self employment (S/E) tax, whereas a Sub-S owner who pays himself a salary of \$30,000 and a \$20,000 dividend escapes the tax on the dividend and saves \$3060 in self employment tax.

What does the IRS say about this approach? The official position is to judge

each case on its merits, but the actions of the Revenue Agents handling employment tax audits in this area has been to accept a shareholder/employee salary structure that can be justified as being the "market value" of the services performed.

Can anyone do this? Some businesses and the personal circumstances of the taxpayer lend themselves better to this than others.

Is this costly or difficult to do? It costs \$122.50 to incorporate in the State of Florida and \$200 annual renewal, but familiarity with payroll and corporate income tax returns is necessary. In most cases, it is worth seeking the services of a professional as the cost is greatly outweighed by the tax savings.

(Tax Shelter is provided by Michael Reedy, C.P.A.)

### Business Notes



#### Oaks Resident Attends Conference

James A. Belliveau, Jr., P.E., a resident of Bloomingdale Oaks, recently attended the 7th Annual Conference of Criterium Engineers in San Diego. As a registered, Professional Engineer, Belliveau specializes in building evaluation services. His firm services residential and commercial clients by providing pre-purchase inspections of property and conducting insurance investigations,

maintenance planning, and feasibility studies.

The theme of the conference was "fundamental Change; change in our economy, society and environment," and it focused on being able to act smartly in an uncertain future. During the conference, Belliveau has an opportunity to meet with engineers from the other 63 affiliated offices around the country.

#### Coldwell Banker's Top Producers

Coldwell Banker Residential REcal Estate announced its top producers for the month of October. Leading the Brandon office in sales was Frank St. Pierre. The top listing associate for the Brandon office was Larry Bartow.



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# Bulls Set To Go

by Brian Crim

Wintertime has come around again, and that means Christmas, cool weather, and, of course, basketball. The 1993-94 boys' basketball team at Bloomingdale High School is all set for another year of exciting action.

Trying to rebound from a disappointing 5-15 finish last season, the Bulls are working on team unity and spirit more than ever. The team will stop short at nothing in order to clinch the Western Conference and district 5A-VII

crowns. Head Coach Phil Zimmerman leads the way as 14 young men attempt to grow and win together in the next few months.

"The team unity is very good," said Zimmerman. "That's important because if they're not playing together, they're not going to succeed. We're trying to build team chemistry."

Zimmerman made no attempt to conceal his earnest for affirming his desire for team unity. "In tryouts, we looked for good attitudes. We want everyone willing to work hard and willing to sacrifice for each other."

The coaching staff does not just train its players in the art of basketball, but also in the art of life, particularly in working together. Zimmerman likes to put little quotes and sayings in his players lockers every once in a while, just to fire them up. These prophetic sayings may be from a legendary coach, or a prominent author, it doesn't matter. The important thing is that the player gains new insight to life, and to being a member of a team.

The team is loaded with talent as well as team spirit, and is quicker and better inside than last year. Leading the way is senior Jeff Warbritton, who is extremely strong inside. He will be complemented by fellow senior Charlie Cates, who drives to the basket well and is solid on defense. Senior Matt Lavergheta will be responsible for hitting them from three-point land, and junior point guard Kevin Perry will try to make the team a cohesive unit.

Zimmerman did not want to exclude the "unsung heroes", those players always willing to take charge or dive for a loose ball, of whom he mentioned senior Jeremy Pope as an excellent example. These players and others endure a grueling 2 1/2 hour practice session everyday that includes drills on ball handling, shooting, fast breaks, inbounds plays, last-second strategies, free throw situations and more. Zimmerman notes, "It is important for them to get a feel for different situations."

In his nine years of coaching, seven at Bloomingdale, Zimmerman has compiled a 121-81 record. His words of wisdom to any aspiring athlete are, "If you are given the opportunity to be on a team, first at practice and at games, play as hard as you can every minute you play, and second, you have an opportunity with your teammates to build special relationships. You need to care about each other and be concerned about each other."

Already four games into their season, the Bulls have just two more games before the winter holidays. This Thursday they will play at Hillsborough, and on Monday, Dec. 13, they play at East Bay. Both games begin at 7:30. Brian Crim is a BSHS junior and the son of Capt. and Mrs. Mark A. Crim of Bloomingdale. A writer for the school's Crimson Times, Brian hopes for a career in broadcast journalism.

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Dec. 7	Girls' Basketball vs. Gaither	7:30
Dec. 9	Burns vs. Mann	6:00
Dec. 14	Girls' Basketball vs. King	7:30
Dec. 14	Girls/Boys Soccer vs. Plant City	5:00
Dec. 16	Burns vs. Hillsboro	6:00
Dec. 16	Girls/Boys Soccer vs. East Bay	5:00
Jan. 3	Boys' Basketball vs. Plant City	7:30
Jan. 4	Girls/Boys Soccer vs. Leto	7:00
Jan. 4	Girls' Basketball vs. Chamberlain	7:30
Jan. 6	Boys' Basketball vs. Brandon	7:30
Jan. 7	Girls' Basketball vs. Leto	7:30
Jan. 8	Wrestling vs. Chamberlain	1:00

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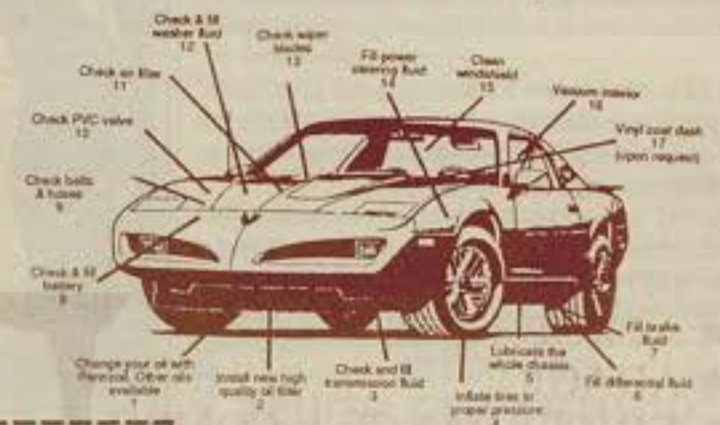
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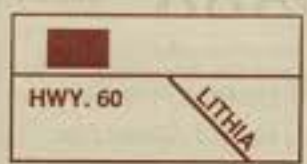
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**BHA Meeting**

The annual general meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, next door to the Rite-Aid Pharmacy.

**Tree Sale At Little League**

Members of the Bloomingdale Little League will be selling Christmas Trees again this year. Their lot will be set up inside the T-ball field on Bloomingdale Avenue just west of the light at Lithia Pinecrest. Trees will be on sale through Christmas week.



**Young Seamstresses Win At County Fair**

Some young Bloomingdale area residents showed off their talent at the county fair last month taking home ribbons in sewing and craft competitions. Lindsay Reid took a 1st place ribbon for an original design quilt. The 12-year-old competed against adults in this category. She also garnered 3rd place in sewing. Lindsey Hurner earned a 2nd place ribbon for sewing a vest and culotte ensemble, and Jennie Barber won two third place ribbons for items she entered. Other first place winners were Adrienne Truitt, Danielle Flory, Shannon Saunders, Lauren Miltner, and Mona Shah. All the teens and pre-teens take sewing lessons from Dawn Gundlach, whose students will also enter items in competition at the Florida State Fair and Strawberry Festival.

**Burns Names Principal's Honor Roll**

Students who earned straight A's on the first report card of the school year at Burns are as follows:

8th Graders - Megan Allen, Jane Aska, Ryan Bolchoz, Valerie Bryan, Melissa Cantwell, Amanda Eady, Robert Eisenberg, Jana Escribano, Jennifer Fowke, Christopher Gatlyn, Bhavik Gedia, Brian Gottlieb, Matilda Grady, Linsey Hill, Andrew Hooker, Megan Hubbard, Diane Hurt, Aju Jacob, Alyssa Kochansky, Melanie Kubler, Jason Lambert, Matthew Lepley, Daniel Lorch, Kimberly McCoy, Carla Miller, Jessica Moats, Sarah Mueller, Nekeshia Negussie, Elizabeth Oreck, Jaime Ramirez, Kathryn Reese, Michael Rhey, Melanie Robinson, Nicole Ross, Vivian Ryan, Melissa Scheeren, Tiffany Tharpe, Amanda

**Calls Keep BVFD Busy**

During the month of October, the Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department responded to 40 calls, 17 of which were medical calls. There were nine fire alarms, six traffic accidents, four structure fires, and four miscellaneous calls.

So far in 1993, the BVFD has responded to 493 calls, 170 of which were medically related. There have been over 70 each of brush fires, traffic accidents, and miscellaneous calls; 66 fire alarms, and 27 structure fires.

The BVFD is staffed entirely by volunteers, and they are funded in part by homeowner contributions and by the county. They respond to calls on their own as well as assist other departments in the area.

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**Burns, Bloomingdale Concert**

Area students will join in concert on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Bloomingdale Senior High School auditorium. Members of both the Burns and Bloomingdale choruses and ensemble groups, as well as the Burns band and Bloomingdale orchestra will perform in the holiday concert, which is free and open to the public.

**Nutcracker At Alafia**

Alafia Elementary School's Alligator Chorus will produce a special presentation of "The Nutcracker" on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Mrs. Shaw leads the 64-member group of fifth grade boys and girls.

**CPR Classes**

Residents are invited to register for two CPR classes offered by the Red Cross on two consecutive Saturdays in January. Adult CPR will be taught on Saturday, Jan. 22,

**Wetherington, and Kelly Wicklund.**

9th Graders - Lisa Bancroft, Koren Britt, Geoffrey Brown, Amy D'Urso, Robert Fallon, Erick Langenbrunner, Kelley Lavandera, Suzanne Lofreddo, Christine Nichols, Ria Palmer, Michael Pennock, Trisha Peterson, Robert Robison, Nina Seenath, Amanda Smith, Diane Standaert, William Stephens, Mary Thomas, Margaret Willman, and Erika Wilson.

**Students Of The Month**

Mary Help of Christians School recently announced the selection of Sean Loeffler and Alexander Zukowski among their Students of the Month. Sean is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Loeffler of Valrico and he is in the sixth grade. Alex, a seventh grader, is the son of Teresa Zukowski of Valrico.

Students are chosen each month based on their achievements in academics, class conduct, and interpersonal relations.

**Ballet Guild Selects Dancers**

Dancers for the premier season of the Brandon Centre Ballet Guild were selected after auditions were held in October. Dancers had to execute directional changes and continue to use their technique and maintain poise.

The members of the senior company are Heather Ambrose, Elizabeth Cates, Lucille Dillin, Heather Hardwick, Stacie Hemmitt, Amber Lindberg, Melanie Michael, Sarah Mueller, Heather Sack, and Susana Tuzzo. Junior company dancers are Vanessa Ayre,

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from 2 to 6 p.m., and Infant CPR will be taught Saturday, Jan. 29, from 2 to 7 p.m. Both classes will be presented at Brandon Classic Karate in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza, Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale. Spaces are limited, so please call 684-7805 or the Red Cross to reserve a spot.

**Center Place Events**

Tickets are now available for "The Gift of the Magi", a live performance on stage at Center Place on Friday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. The show is open to the public free of charge, but the complimentary ticket is required for admission. Tickets may be picked up at the Center Place office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lunch With Santa tickets are also on sale for \$2.50 per person. The annual events will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. at Center Place. Reservations must be made in advance and prepaid. Call 685-8888 for more information.

Tiffany Bader, Kerry Callahan, Stephanie Costales, Cheryl Devlieg, Alyson Dillin, Sarah Foster, Katie Mueller, Allison Ploor, Michelle Price, Kristy Schweikert, and Samantha Smoot.

The troupe's first performance was at last month's Festival of Trees at the Performing Arts Center.

**Church Member Honored**

Mrs. Segundo (Peggy) Argudo, an elder and charter member of the Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale, was honored by the congregation as Outstanding Older Adult and was recognized with other church's honorees at the Presbytery Luncheon at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church last month. Peggy chairs the church's Missions Ministry, is liaison to its sister church in Guatemala, teaches Spanish to a group of the church's children, and serves on the Prayer Chain. At the Presbytery level, she serves on Mission Interpretation and Partnership with Guatemala committees.

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**ZONING, from page 1**

residents in the Oakcrest subdivision netted the homeowners a minor victory in the form of a 30-foot buffer between the new development and the homes on Wrencrest which back up to it. Fifty-two single family homes are planned for that area.

The change, if approved, will still allow for the possibility of municipal use, according to Santos. That stipulation will leave some of the property available to the county should they want to purchase it for municipal use such as a library, recreational facility, or service department such as fire or sheriff.

Of the remaining areas up for zoning changes, two will have significantly less impact on the community than originally planned. Both areas border the golf course along Nature's Way.

Originally planned for 424 units of attached housing, 28 acres on Nature's Way across from Glenhaven would house 70 single family units if the change is approved. Just south of it, development of 30 acres across from Elba and Elton would be reduced from 420 units of attached housing to 105 single family dwellings.

Other density changes are proposed for property on Culbreath across from the Little League, Culbreath and Nature's Way, 72 acres across from River Crossing, Culbreath at Erindale, and Glenhaven behind KinderCare.

**Athletes Capture State Crowns**

*Special to The Gazette*

From the asphalt to the pool, Bloomingdale's athletes brought home the hardware following state competition in cross-country and swimming last month.

The girls' cross-country team earned the state's runner-up honors at competition in Jacksonville. Sophomore Jennifer Mitchell led the field with a winning time of 11:48.8, an amazing 13 seconds ahead of the second place finisher, for the two-mile course.

Mitchell capped off a perfect season winning conference, district, region and state titles, and opposing schools have two more years to compete against the super soph.

Bloomingdale's boys' swim team captured both conference and district titles before moving on to state competition in Orlando last month. There, junior standout John Reich swam away with two state medals in the 500-yard and 200-yard freestyle races. It was his second state win in the 500, which he captured last year as a sophomore. He was the only Bloomingdale swimmer to take a state prize, while the team as a whole finished in third place.

**Bike Rodeo A Big Success**



Students at Lithia Springs Elementary learn the rules of the road (bottom) during the PTA-sponsored Bike Rodeo last month. Officer McGruff (top) was one of many special guests on hand pictured here with Roger, Stefane, and Rashid.



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**ZONING, from page 1**

high demand on use of the field by several of the school's organizations forced the Bears look elsewhere.

"Time restraints at Bloomingdale were a problem," said Bears' president Frank Sposaro. "They needed the field when we needed the field, and it just didn't work out."

County Parks and Rec director, Ed Radice, said that the Bears asked the county for help in finding a place to play. "Wayne Williamson (public system supervisor of athletics) and the school board made the property at Burns available

to the county," said Radice.

"When the county and the school system can work together, it's a tremendous advantage to the taxpayers," Radice named other sites where county recreation facilities are located on public school property.

"Mrs. Kipley (Burns principal) has been outstanding in support of the program," said Radice, who added that the school system, the county, and the league are in the process of completing the necessary paperwork.

Three years ago, the county spent \$500,000 on property across from

Providence Christian School on Providence Road just north of Bloomingdale. That land is now used by the Brandon Steelers football organization as well as the Christian high school.

Originally intended for use by the Steelers and the Bears, the site became a source of controversy when the two rival organizations determined they could not work together.

According to Sposaro, because each organization is in a different league, "playing at the same location was just not feasible. There would have been competition for players at registration. It was just too hard to work out."

The Bears enroll nearly 300 school-aged football players and cheerleaders, who play from August through November. Next year, the new stadium will be the site of the youth football championship games, something the Bears have never hosted before because of scheduling conflicts at Bloomingdale High.

When Burns becomes a middle school in the late 90's, they will use the field for intramural team sports.

With the new stadium, Burns joins a small number of junior high schools with football fields including Tomlin in Plant City, and McLane in Brandon.

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S	O	L	D!
S	O	L	D!

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