

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVI, Number 12

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

December 1996

Speed Humps Public Hearing Dec. 19 At Rec Center

By Chris-Ann Phillips

Three years after speed humps were installed on Bloomingfield comes another public meeting - this time to hear residents opinions about speed humps on Canoga Park Drive.

A public hearing will be held Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center. Jerry Devkowsky, an independent contractor, will be the hearing master and Wayne Kirby, a county residential traffic control team leader will be present.

County spokesman Steve Valdez said a traffic study on Canoga Park indicated speeding exists on the road where a six-year-old was struck and killed last June.

That incident and the increased traffic since the rec-

reation center opened the same month prompted residents to meet with County Commissioner Dottie Berger in August to discuss improvements to the area's roads. Speed humps were not considered an alternative at the time.

Since then lower speed limits, bike lanes and warning signs have been installed.

Community response at the meeting will determine the decision of the hearing master, who could recommend speed humps or suggest other alternatives.

If the decision for speed humps is rendered, the residents who initiated the request must then notify 90 percent of the residents in the impacted area of the decision. Sixty percent must agree, Valdez said.

Speed humps discussions polarized the Bloomingdale West community three years ago. Residents who wanted traffic reduced along Bloomingfield were opposed by residents who feared emergency vehicles would be slowed by the humps. Still others didn't want the inconvenience or aesthetics of their neighborhood diminished.

As a result of the humps on Bloomingfield, motorists found other routes, and those vehicles that travel the through street must come to a near stop to execute each hump.

The suggestion of speed humps at the August meeting with Commissioner Berger was met with resounding disapproval from those present.

Conservation Property Will Be Park Someday

By Chris-Ann Phillips

Its legal description is Parcel Number 088067.5198, Bloomingdale Section BB Phase 1 and Sec BB Phase 2 Tract A Conservation Area.

The Hillsborough County Property Appraiser describes it as: VACANT

But River Crossing residents know it as the conservation land that leads to the Alafia River. Now they have no access and a Riverview couple got some 18 acres of waterfront property for a cheap price.

Anthony Russo of Riverview says he loves the land, influenced as a youngster who camped and canoed on the Alafia River. So when 18 acres of river property came up for sale for the price of taxes owed, he purchased the land in May and June knowing its use is limited to a passive park. But two acres of the property front the paved road of River Crossing and is part of the Bloomingdale Community. Technically, a home could be constructed there, but Russo has other plans.

"I'm preparing the land for re-sale either to the county or to the homeowners," Russo said. "I would like the land to be a public or private park. It's really beautiful with the rapids and the steps going down to the river."

The two acres that front River Crossing could be developed as a picnic site, Russo said.

Residents whose homes back the wooded area and pond may soon have to make a choice to retain or lose their scenic view.

Russo said he must protect himself from liability since the land and pond are his properties. He said he currently is working with surveyors on a plan that would allow homeowners to purchase their pond frontage and extend their backyards into the wooded area.

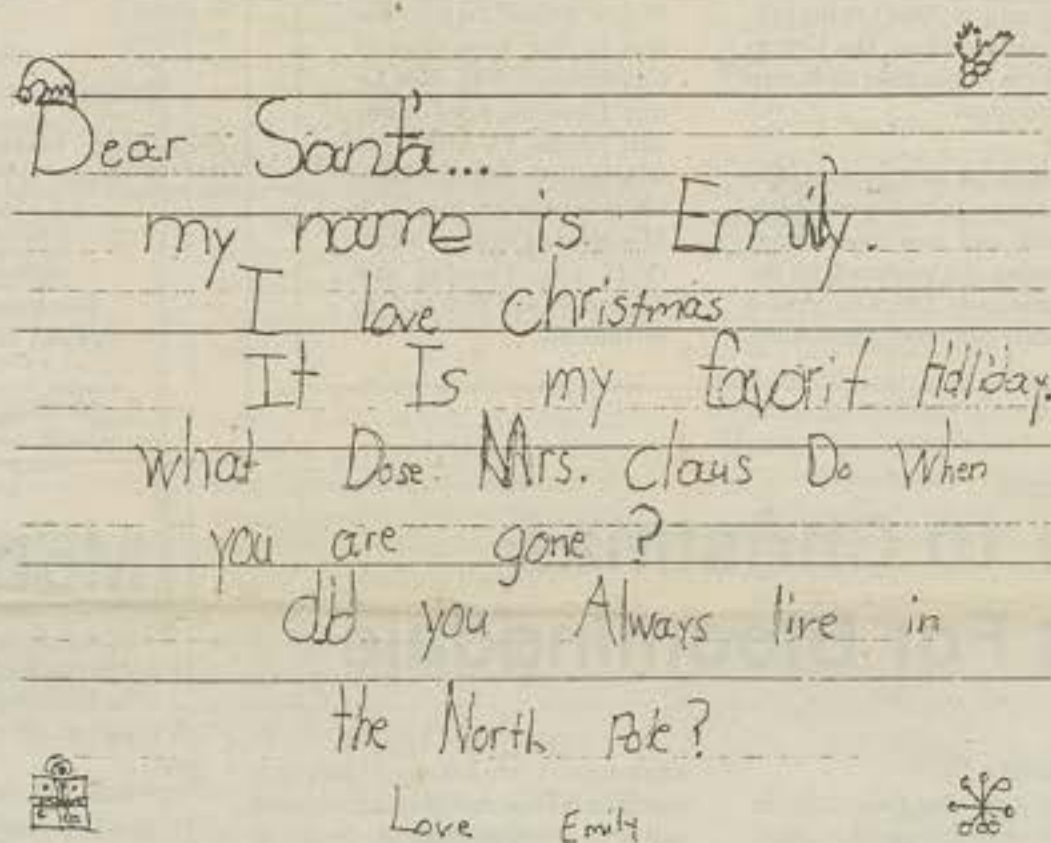
"I don't want to fence them off," Russo said. "When you've been looking at a pond, you don't want to look at a fence."

"The whole idea is the allow people access to this beautiful area."

He said he didn't have a date when he would offer the property for sale to the residents, only that it would be soon.

Residents initially were concerned about the purchase of the property because developer Glenn Cross owned the 52 acres east of Russo's land. *The Gazette* reported last month Cross' intentions to donate the Bloomingdale South acreage to the residents of Somerset and the Suarez community at the end of Culbreath for use as a private park.

River Crossing residents thought access the park would be through their community, but in fact, it will have only one entrance at the end of Culbreath.



Dear Santa...
my name is Emily.
I love Christmas
It Is my favorit Holiday.
What Dose Mrs. Claus Do When
you are gone?
did you Always live in
the North Pole?
Love Emily

Area first graders once again share their fondest wishes and some amusing comments in their Letters to Santa. See p. 5

New Construction Means Area Jobs

by Rozel Sciulli

Construction of an Albertsons Food and Drug Store and Walgreens Drug Store will open more than 150 new jobs for area residents.

The Albertsons is located at Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale where Miller Road once exited onto Lithia Pinecrest.

Walgreens will be a free standing store in front of a new shopping center opening at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale. Both stores are projected for completion in the second quarter of 1997.

Miller Road had to be re-designed for the new Albertson's construction. Where once it curved around and forked for left and right-lane turns, it will now emerge north of its original location in a straight line where a traffic signal is planned.

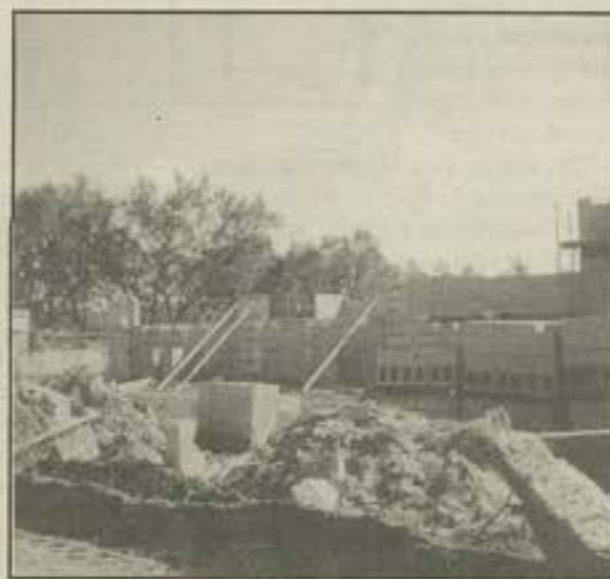
The new store will be 53,319 square feet and will feature a full-service pharmacy and full-service in-store bank. The branch has not yet been selected, said Albertson's spokesperson Jenny Enochson.

She said the store will employ 125 local residents.

Walgreens has planned an "over-sized" store in its new free-standing concept, said spokesperson Laurie Meyer.

"We have found it to be more convenient for our customers and more effective to be separate from a center or plaza," Meyer said.

The 16,000 square-foot store will feature a full liquor store and double drive-through pharmacy. There also will be a one-hour photo department and food department selling non-perishable items, staples such as canned goods, and frozen foods like pizza and dinners.



Bloomingdale is bustling with building. A new Walgreens goes up at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale and Albertsons construction has re-configured the Miller Road and Lithia Pinecrest intersection.

Meyer said food departments are not new to Walgreens, offering the accessibility of a convenience store with more moderate pricing.

The Walgreens is the first in what is expected to be a commercial center housing a Kash N Karry and smaller satellite stores.

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE



Important Notice To Home Associations

The Bloomingdale Community office receives many calls that pertain to specific Homeowners Associations within the whole of Bloomingdale.

While all residents of Bloomingdale East, West, South and Estate are entitled to be members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association (BHA), many subdivisions such as The Greens or Erin Arbor have their own associations.

With many new communities growing up in Bloomingdale South and new associations forming, it is important for the Community Office to have a contact name and phone number for each association.

At this time we ask your help in providing this valuable information to our staff. We ask that a representative from each association, new and old, provide a name and phone number to the Community Office by the first of the year.

Mail or drop off the information to The Bloomingdale Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, Valrico, FL 33594. For information, call 681-2051. Office hours are 9:30 to 12:30 Monday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and 9:30 to 1:30 Wednesday.

OFFICERS

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 103
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051

Randy Wolfe President 229-3321
Rick Oros Vice President 685-0866

Directors

Michael Davis 684-8881
Ted Grable 685-7193
Stan Highsmith 661-9359
Dave Lowe 258-8855
Patricia Radel 651-0210
Luana Russell 662-1610
LaWayne Wyatt 685-2072
Anne Underwood 653-4677

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

684-6667
Rick Pitrowski President 684-6667
Tom Macklewicz Vice President 653-4145
Joe Liguori Treasurer 681-9655
T. Saabo Corresponding Secretary 684-2547
John Profetto Recording Secretary 684-7935
Tom Seelling Trustee 681-9184
Chris Hering Trustee 654-0235
Alan Devney Administrator 684-6617

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

Core Committee
LaWayne Wyatt Coordinator/Scheduler 685-2072
John Britton Treasurer 681-1553
Tony Diolosa Equipment Manager 681-1146

Members

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

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132
Brandon, Florida 33569-3132

Bill Grace President 685-2817
Fred Englehart Treasurer 685-3638

The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103
Valrico, Florida 33594 • 681-2051
HOURS: M & F: 9:30-12:30,
T & TH: 9:00-11:00, W: 9:30-2:30

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

Rick Oros Publisher
Rick Oros President
Rozel Sciuilli Copy Editor
June Oros Administrative Assistant/Layout & Graphics Editor
Shannan Powell Writer
Ellen Slovacek Writer
JoAnne Scoff Ad Representative
Joyce Zaversa Ad Representative
Anna Halaufia Distribution Manager
Circulation Assistants Rent A Kid delivery system

Accounting services provided by:

Robert Morris, 3302 Bell Shoals, Brandon, FL 33511

Statement of Operation

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available free of charge at area newspapers: Public, The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, NationsBank, Mail Boxes Etc., Bell Shoals Cigo, Rainbow Mart, Kash & Kery, Nations Bank, Brandon Library, Sun Bank, Sunart Bank, and Fern Stores.

The content of The Bloomingdale Gazette is the property of The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc. and is not reproducible in any manner without express written permission from the president of The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc.

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 7:00 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.

Our Times

Top 10 Christmas List For Bloomingdale

By Rozel Sciuilli

On the pages that follow are the Christmas wishes of first graders, many just learning to write, for themselves, their families and even strangers.

Their innocence is overshadowed by the reality that many are beginning to face as one child asked, "Santa are you for real?" As they grow, their wishes for Barbie Dolls and puppies, skateboards and remote control cars will turn into jewelry, label clothing and real cars.

As adults, their wishes will once again become practical. While most women would want to kill the man who put a small appliance under the tree, a new washing machine might not sound bad if you do 10 loads a week. And how many men would turn down a power tool?

The community has a Christmas list of its own. All practical, of course. The big 10-year wish finally came true with the completion of the new Community Center in Park West and we can stop wondering what will be built on the corner of Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale.

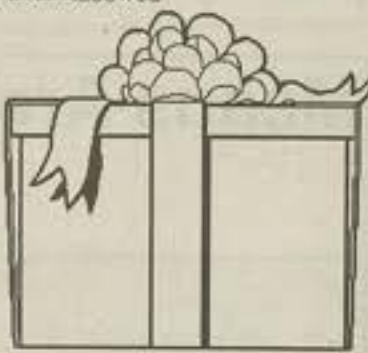
Now let's work on a few more.

Here, straight from the home office in Minot, North Dakota is this year's Top 10 List of Christmas Wishes for the Bloomingdale Community.

No. 10 - Solicitors should pay attention to the STDs No Soliciting signs posted at each of the eight entrances.

No. 9 - Kids will stop vandalizing en-

trance signs. Every kid around here must have his or her brass initial on their bedroom wall by now. It would make Al Devney so happy and he'll stop asking me to write about signs being vandalized.



No. 8 - Someone will finally adopt the pond on Bell Shoals south of Rosemead.

No. 7 - A new Little League site with 12 fields, ample parking, modern bathrooms, and sidewalks.

No. 6 - A traffic light at Erin Dale and Lithia Pinecrest. A traffic light at Springvale and Bloomingdale. A traffic light at Culbreath and Bloomingdale.

No. 5 - Sidewalks be completed in Bloomingdale West.

No. 4 - Bloomingdale High's boundary should be from Kings Avenue to Lithia Pinecrest. Let the people in Buckhorn find their own school.

No. 3 - A good restaurant. Not fast food. Not pizza. Not Mexican. Not Italian. Not Oriental. Just a nice steak and baked potato kind of place.

No. 2 - A disguise, like a dome, to hide the TECO power station at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale.

And the No. 1 Christmas Wish for the Bloomingdale Community...

Widening of Bloomingdale Avenue will be completed in our lifetime.

Mobile Watch Report

By LaWayne Wyatt

The following events were reported by patrols and residents since our last report.

8/23 House alarm on River Crossing Drive. Neighbor indicated owners out of town. Sheriff notified.

8/29 Unoccupied car in Park East

8/30 Unoccupied car in Park East

8/30 Three Hispanic male teens in Park East. Claimed to be looking for a bracelet. No flashlights being used.

8/30 Two cars illegally parked on grass on Bell Shoals Road south of Greenhollow. For sale sign in window.

9/4 Large depression in roadway on Casaba Loop. Traffic hazard. Notified sheriff. Deputy barricaded hole.

9/7 Deputy at Culbreath and Timbergrove Drive looking for a group of 25-30 teens floating from place to place. Advised deputy there was a group of teens in Park East.

9/7 Graffiti "jinx" painted on TECO box north end of Turnbury Drive

9/11 Two young male occupants sitting in car in Park East

9/11 Resident of Hollow Wood Drive reported teens in car had been harassing children in cul-de-sac. Deputy had talked to teens involved. Teens said they would not bother children again.

9/13 House alarm on Hollow Wood Drive. Sheriff notified. Deputy indicated was probably false alarm.

9/21 Large teen party in progress on Alafia Oaks Drive. Area was clear 10 minutes later.

9/21 Debris from drinking party at Culbreath Road and Golf Manor Blvd.

9/21 Party in progress again on Alafia Oaks Drive. Teens drinking. Sheriff notified. Two deputies responded.

9/21 Female teen sitting on car in Somerset subdivision. Says she is just "hanging out".

9/21 Two cars parked at Culbreath Road and Golf Manor Blvd. party site. Both left

area after talking to patrol.

10/10 Deputy checking possible stolen car parked in Park East.

10/10 Older male and female occupants of car in Park West. Advised them park was closed. Male said they were allowing dog to relieve itself.

10/11 Residents on Eagles Nest Drive complaining of loud music. Notified sheriff. Several deputies responded.

10/23 Building supply truck cruised area of Kendel Court and Golf Manor Blvd. several times. Backed into drive but didn't appear to make delivery. Left area after sighting patrol. Sheriff notified.

10/30 Two cars in Park East. Two adults in park by restroom. Both left in separate cars.

10/30 Resident advised patrol two bad dogs live on Cloverhill Court. Have killed 4 cats in neighborhood. Neighbors afraid to walk in area, especially with pets.

11/2 Several kids hanging out in Park East late at night.

11/2 Deputy recovered abandoned bike on River Crossings Drive. Took it to community center.

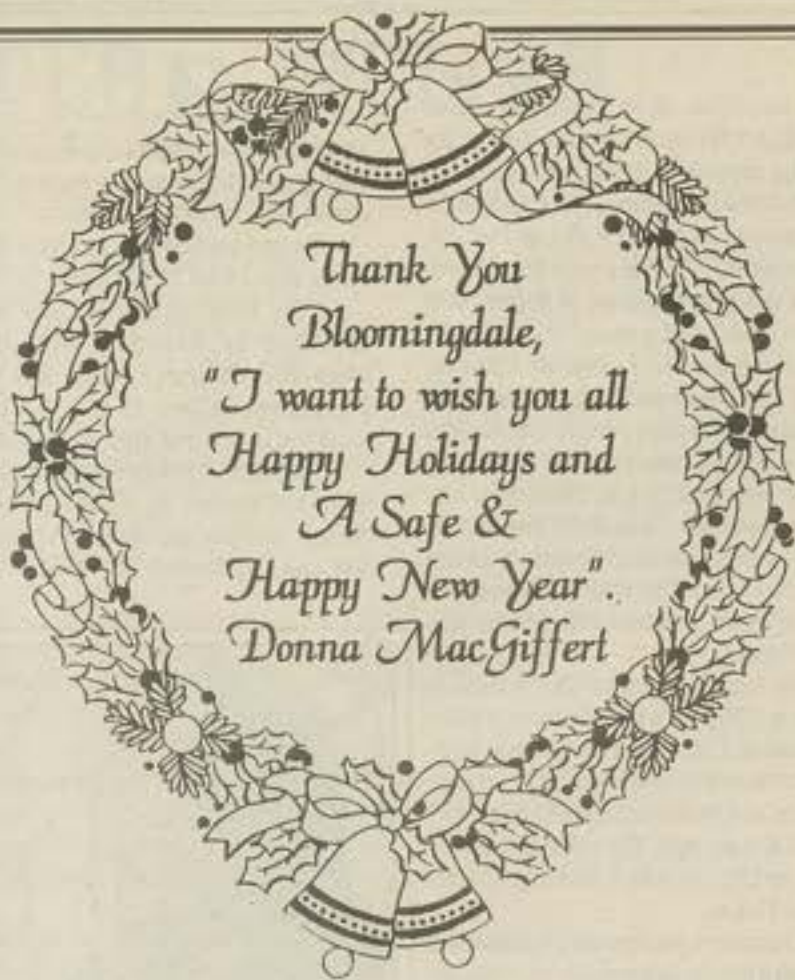
11/6 Unoccupied car in Park East after dark.

11/6 Unoccupied car in Park West after closing.

11/8 Party in progress on Sandy Creek Drive. 6-7 cars. Male teens harassing residents walking in area. Sheriff notified.

11/10 Resident reported seeing two male teens vicinity of Dumont and River Crossings Drive lying on cars, tried to remove stop sign, appeared to be scratching cars. Sheriff notified.

We can still use additional volunteers. Several have indicated an interest, however, due to conflicting schedules they have not been through the orientation yet.



Thank You
 Bloomingdale,
 "I want to wish you all
 Happy Holidays and
 A Safe &
 Happy New Year".
 Donna MacGiffert



Call Your
 Neighborhood
 Specialist
 Donna Mac
 654-7070



In Bloomingdale Square
 CONVENIENT AND CLOSE TO YOU!

Your Bloomingdale Area
 Realtor since 1984

Donna MacGiffert

If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, please disregard this offer. It is not our intention to solicit the offering of other real estate brokers. We cooperate with them fully.



Hanukkah Celebrates Victory For Religious Freedom

By Rabbi Robert Goodman
 Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon

For the past eight days Jews have celebrated the Festival of Lights known as Hanukkah. During this time, Jews light the Menorah, a special candelabra which holds a total of nine candles.

On the first night, Dec. 5, a single candle was placed at the right end of the Menorah. Each night an additional candle was added. The servant candle, known as the Shamash, is lit and then it is used to light the other candles.

Why eight days? The answer to this question goes back to the origin of Hanukkah. During the years 200-165 B.C., the Syrian Greeks controlled Israel. One king, Antiochus, decided that all of the people in his empire should follow the Greek religion. The Jews of Israel were willing to wear Greek clothing and even speak Greek, but they refused to give up their religion.

The rebellion led by Judah Maccabee and his brothers became the first fight for religious freedom in the history of the world. For several years these guerilla fighters fought valiantly against the vastly superior Greek army and finally prevailed.

They captured Jerusalem and went to the Temple which had been intentionally defiled by the Greeks. They cleaned the Temple and rededicated it to the God of Israel.

The word "Hanukkah" means "dedication." It was at this time that Judah Maccabee and his fellow Jews found a small container of oil that seemed to be enough to burn for one day. Miraculously it lasted for eight days. For that reason, we celebrate eight days of Hanukkah.

One of the puzzling aspects of Hanukkah is the fact that it may begin in late

November one year and in late December a few years later. This is due to the fact that the Jewish holidays follow a lunar rather than a solar calendar. Seven times every 19 years a leap-month is added. That is why there is a 30-day swing period within which each Jewish holiday occurs. Without the leap-month, there would be no coordination between the solar and lunar calendars.

Traditionally, children are given small gifts or Hanukkah chocolates (known as Hanukkah Gelt) each night. Only in recent years and only in the U.S. has gift-giving on Hanukkah rivaled the gift-giving of Christmas.

Hanukkah customs include playing with a special top called a "Dreidel." Each side of the dreidel has a different letter on it. The letters are abbreviations for the Hebrew phrase that means "A great miracle happened there," referring of course to the victory of the Maccabees.

During Hanukkah we eat "Latkes" which are delicious potato pancakes. There are a good number of cheerful, upbeat Hanukkah songs that also enrich the celebration.

With the establishment of the State of Israel, the heroic accomplishments of the world's first religious freedom fighters strikes a resonant chord, for there is a similarity between the miraculous survival of the State of Israel and the victories of the ancient Maccabees.

As Americans, Jews are proud to be a part of a society that encourages cultural diversity and religious pluralism.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season.

AUTO SECURITY SYSTEM'S BLOWOUT

BASIC ALARM	BASIC ALARM (w/Keyless Entry)	FULL FEATURE Security System w/Keyless Entry
HORNET 719T \$99 INSTALLED Expires 1-1-97 • Two Transmitters • Shock Sensor • Current Sense	HORNET 723T \$169 INSTALLED Expires 1-1-97 • Two Transmitter • Double Guard Shock Sensor • 1 Year Warranty Requires Power Locks	PYTHON 279 \$279 INSTALLED • High Frequency Transmitters • Code Hopping • Parking Light Flash • VRS (Vehicle Recovery System) • Lifetime Warranty & Protection Plan Requires Power Locks Expires 1-1-97

WINDOW TINT
\$99
 SCRATCH RESISTANT \$15 EXTRA
 MOST 2 & 4 DOOR CARS
 VANS & UTILITY SLIGHTLY MORE
 Expires 1-1-97

HOUSE TINT
 COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL
 Save 10%
 Any Home
 or
 Commercial
 Business
 Valid with Coupon only
 Expires 1-1-97

GTE
 AUTHORIZED
 WIRELESS AGENT

**Stocking
 Stuffers**
 Phone Accessories

- Leather Carrying Case.....\$19.95*
- Batteries.....\$45.00*
- Cigarette Lighter Charger.....\$39.95*

*most phones

PAGERS
 Only **\$59**

- 16 Messages
- Tone/Vibrate
- \$8 Monthly Service

INCLUDES ACTIVATION FEE
 Expires 1-1-97

1200 Minutes of
 off-peak airtime
FREE
 FOR 12 MONTHS
 (WITH A 2 YEAR CONTRACT)

For
\$1

You Also Get . . .
The NEC P820
 (with any new activation excluding
 grandfathered, Talk-n-Go, and GTEM
 employees)

Talk Time
820
 PORTABLE CELLULAR
 PHONE



(Expires 12-28-96)

Off Peak hours are 9 p.m.-6a.m. Mon-Fri and all day Sat & Sun.
 Effective January 1, 1997 off peak hours change from 9p.m.-10p.m.
 Free off peak airtime does not accumulate from month to month.



**Mobile
 Connections**
 GET CONNECTED

Corner of 301 & 60
 9017-F Adamo Drive
621-2222

	SR 60	
301	Bloomington	
*	Bell Shoals	*

3521 Bell Shoals Road
Bloomington
 (Across from Wal-Mart)
651-3333

Religion

By Ellen Slovacek

The other day, while out shopping, I came across a sweet little boy with large brown eyes and tousled blonde hairs. His face was smudged with what looked to be the remains of a chocolate candy bar. Some of it had dribbled onto his shirt. In his back pocket, I could see a small toy - the kind you get from a Happy Meal - sticking out. He was adorable, about 3, and lost.

Bright and articulate, this little guy came up to me and asked me if I had seen his grandmother.

"What does she look like?" I asked.

"She's really old." Hmm. That didn't help much. I looked around for someone old-looking, but unfortunately, at age 40-something, I was the oldest-looking person around.

"Just exactly how old is your grandmother?" I asked.

"She's really old. I don't know, maybe 100. 120. Something like that."

Oh, great, I thought. Here's a lost little boy with a really old grandmother. How will they ever find each other?

Just then a kind-looking woman, maybe in her 60s, came up to the boy and swooped him up in her arms.

"Daniel!" she cried. "Where on earth have you been? I've been looking everywhere for you."

I eyed this woman suspiciously. She didn't look 120.

"Is this your mother?" I asked.

"No, this is my grandma."

"The really old one!" I blurted out

before I could stop myself. The woman looked quite offended.

"Come along, Daniel," she said while pulling him closer to her. "What have I told you about talking to strangers?"

"But Grandma," I could hear him say as he was whisked out of sight. "That really old lady was nice."

Ah, children. Their reality is certainly not ours. What they perceive as truth, is a distortion of ours... good, bad, or otherwise.

At this time of year, we adults work so hard to make everything perfect for our children. Or at least we try. We remember what it was like for us as children during the holiday season and we have either resolved to make it the same, or better for our kids, depending on our circumstances while we were growing up.

Before you hit the last frenzied week of holiday preparations, may I make one suggestion? Think about your child's reality. And then take some time to play that game with them or color that picture. Make the snowflakes that leave little scraps of paper all over the floor. Decorate the sugar cookies that leave faces and hands all sticky. It's okay. Their reality will then be "Mom and Dad think I am important enough to spend some time with me." And that's not distorted in anybody's book.

Have a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season.

Now here's what's happening...

The Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale will feature a children's living Nativity during their worship ser-

vice Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. Other events include a Christmas Cantata during the worship service at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 22. There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24. The public is invited to join in the celebration of this joyous season. A nursery will be provided for all events.

Living Savior Lutheran Church, 3401 Lithia Pinecrest Road, will celebrate Christmas Eve with a Family Candlelight Service at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24. A Festival Service begins at 10 a.m. Christmas Day.

St. Stephen Catholic Church will hold its annual Family Christmas Night on Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. This will be followed on Dec. 16 by a Communal Penance Service at 7:30 p.m.

The Mass schedule on Christmas Eve begins at 5:30 p.m. with a Children's Mass followed at 7:30 by a Youth Mass. Midnight Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 a.m. Services on Christmas Day will be at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. only. The celebration continues on Dec. 26 with a Blessing of Animals at 11 a.m.

Youngsters, parents and grandparents will find a unique opportunity to celebrate together at "Christmas in a Castle," a dinner theater production Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at St. Mark United Church, 2914 Lithia Pinecrest Road.

From the moment visitors walk through the door, they will be transported into medieval times when Christmas was a festival for an entire kingdom. Dancing and singing, juggling and sword playing, and a puppet show will accompany a grand holiday feast.

The program will offer audience participation in holiday music, dance and

comedy as kids and grown-ups cavort to cheer the kind. As in many fairy tales, there is a happy ending, but only the king's jester knows how the story will go.

Tickets are \$25 for a family or \$12 per single ticket with \$2 per child.

"The Wonders of His Love" will be presented by Brandon First United Methodist Church's Music and Drama Department on Dec. 15 at 7:30. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The musical, celebrating the Messiah's birth, will feature the Chancel choir, orchestra, soloists and drama. For information, call Jeff Brant at 689-4161.



Amanda Osgood dances to cheer the king, Brad Osgood, in the dinner theater production of "Christmas in a Castle" at St. Mark Church.



A MOMENT IN TIME

By Ellen Abramson

It was a great day; cool enough for the car windows to be down. As I waited for the left-turn light, I was startled by a loud, persistent bark in the field to my left.

A man stood quietly at the opened rear door of an animal trailer. The dog was running in a business-like, zig-zag pattern across the field. The object of his concern was beautiful little burro.

Finally, the stubborn little animal blithely walked up to its waiting owner.

The light turned green and I had to move fast, but, what a show! The actors were superb.



A PROMISE MADE A PROMISE KEPT

*"The virgin will give
birth to a son, and
they will call him
Immanuel -
God with us."
Mt 1:22-23*

Living Savior Lutheran Church
3401 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico • 681-2375

Christmas Eve
Family Candlelight Service - 6:30 PM

Christmas Day
Festival Service - 10:00 AM



Hey Kids!

The Bloomingdale Gazette
has several routes available:

Sandy Creek
Wynnwood Drive
Isleton Drive
Tyndale Drive
Bloomingdale Estates, North

For more information call Ms. Halaufia at 661-6707.

**St. Stephen
Catholic Church**

Christmas Holiday Schedule
Family Christmas Night
December 15, 4:00 p.m.
Communal Penance Service
December 16, 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Mass Schedule
December 24, 5:30 p.m. - Children's Mass
7:30 p.m. - Youth Mass
12:00 a.m. - Midnight Mass
Blessing of Animals
December 26, 11:00 a.m.
New Year's Mass Schedule
Vigil - Tuesday, December 31, 5:30 p.m.
New Year's Day - January 1
9:30 & 11:30 Only

**December 25
Christmas Day**
9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
only

5049 Bell Shoals Road

DEAR SANTA...

By the First Graders of Alafia Elementary School

I hope oll of you gise aer exsited for cremas!!! I'm happy hear in scool. I ben outstanden in scool. I wan't a pear of roler blades. Ho ho ho!!! meary crespas. all of you gise aer the best wrkers. - From T. J. M.

How are your rane deere like Donre and Kupite and Blitsi and Dashr and Dansre and Pransr and Viksin and Komit and Rowdoff and Mrs. Clas and the Elvis and you Santa Clos. I hop you hav a good Cris Muss. - your best belevre frend Amy, I wod lik a purlp tex buneye doll.

I hope you have a good chrep (trip). Can you get my mom a reg (ring) and I have been grat! how do you fel? my name is Dustin. Can you get my dad sum shos. Well you get my sestr a toy.

I hope you will have a grate Creismes this yeire. Rodollf is your nose still brihgt as brihgt can be dos it hellp Santa? dos your Elfs make the toys for the little chilldm? - Love Maggie

Breeng my Dad sum undwer. and Breeng me a Baby Doll Wih a krib. - Love Melissa

All I wote for Cisemiss is my two frute tethe and a Nintaendo 64 and a pool table. - Love Danielle R.

I wood like a trapolen. I wood like a skatebod. and noe rolerbads. - Love, Alex

Please get me four kittns and shoppin fun barbie and Kelly Nibbles the wocing hourse. - from Amanda

I wot a basket boll hop and a boll to. - Love, Austin

I wat a brown ber. - Jon Jon

I want a litte trapolene. - Love, Lindsey

Are you breing my faefirite ranine deer well you breing me a turboman and well you breing me reacadre mosle. - Love, Chad

Christmas is comeing. Are you haveing fun makeing all those toys. how do you go in my house I do not have a chimney. why are you fat. Love, Kirsten

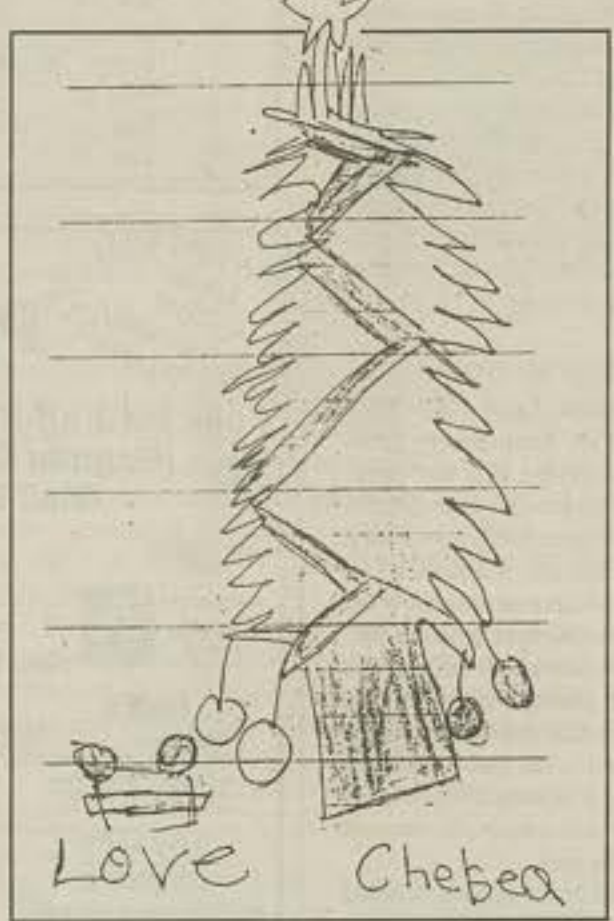
I like you and I love you ok lets get down to bisns I want a wach. - Love, Anthony

How can your reindeer fly. How can you go so fast before it's time to wake up. I wont clothes. Are you magic. - love Ashley

I want a dog. I want a fat cat. - Love Zachary

how are you down santa I want sakboard and i want a car. Happy Holidays. - Love Joel

I tink you are neet. I want a barbie. You fly with reindeer



I no. - Love Hannah

I want a turboman and I want christmas every day. - Love Jeffrey

I woht a puppy for chirstmas - Love Douglas

I blevin you bekus mi Dad sed you are real to miy hol famule. - Love Kathryn

Pleese give me a pretend horse. plees let me see you for real. how do you go all over the worold in one nite. - Love Tara

Last yir l of your radse (reindeer) most have ben sic. mi kosin sed you or not komig dis yeer. But I now you are kumig. - Love, Bethany

All I want for Christmas is a cat. - Love Zeina

Dos Mrs. Santa Claus no know to sow. I dot but my Gramom nos how to sow. For Christmas I want Wander Werda. - Love Kandace

I'm exited that Christmas is coming. I have a chess tournament this month to and i want to ask you now how do the reindeers fly? How do you fly house to house without any one seeing you! do you buy the toys are do the elves make them? do any raindeers get sik? - Love, Patrick

Ireley wont a puppie but I no my Mom wot let me have one. So I wont a Dinosaurs 100 pusal pieces. - Love, Kristen

I want a spac jam book and magic set book. Shop fun barbe and Kellie - Love, Kelsey

I wot a dollie and a play cat and a play bear and rabbit - love Jessica

I want a spac jam hand hole game and a gaskkget ball hoop to and one more thing a magic set. - Love, Kurtis

Dear Saynte Nickulis plese giv me 10presens. - Love Hans

I wood like it if you brote sum toys for the chirin and thar parins hoo dote have nuthing becus I wood wot thim to have a home. - Love Emily - I Love you!

Gas wat my Dad was a Santa in the moll - Lov a gral named Angelina

I wud like you to take sum food to the poor and I wud like sum theegs for my self like Sumath land a gold fish - Love, Sarah

Plees ma I have a monstchrus for Christmas - Love Joey

I wot for christmas some G.I. joe - Love, Kurt

For Christmas I wood like to get a my size pinses brbee. - Love Amanda

I want a moducycl that gos in the drt. - Love, Andrew

I wod like a rumot chrol car. Also a new baby doll. Also a Brbey. - Love, Jenna

This is my list for peopol that do not hav esome neet toys. Cash 100\$, spx cards, a 3d puzzl - Love, Evan

Special thanks to Mrs. Waller, Mrs. Maggio, Mrs. Loadwick, Mrs. Stanaland, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Burton, and Mrs. Ford.

Red's

Sporting Goods

Serving Brandon & Tampa • 10 Years Family Owned & Operated

New Super Store!!

"Where The Serious Athlete Shops"

- Monogramming
- Sewing • Lettering
- Shoes • Athletic Equipment



Brandon's Nike Headquarters

\$10 OFF Any Shoes \$50 or More
(Excludes Closeout Table)
With coupon • Expires 12-25-96

Buy 1 Logo T-Shirt Get 1 Half Price
With Coupon • Expires 12-25-96

Adidas & Umbro Soccer Shorts \$3 OFF Reg. Price
With Coupon • Expires 12-25-95

Also Carrying Full Line Of Starter, Champion Clothing, Headwear, Shirts & Jerseys



Not Just Sporting Goods Anymore

Many In-Store Specials!

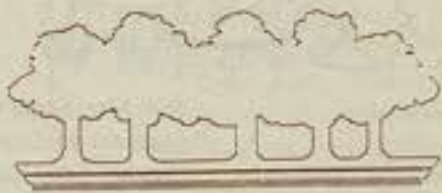
Baby's Clothing Full Line Nike Dealer Shoes Starting at sz. 2

One Stop Shopping For The Whole Family
Hours: M-F 10-8 • Sat 9-6 Sun 12:30-6

821 W. Bloomingdale Avenue • 654-7411

Bits N Pieces

Around Bloomington



Editor's Note: Shannan Powell's column will return in the next issue for reasons revealed below.

Powells' New Arrival



Chandler Powell, 3 weeks, with big brother Cameron.

Chris and Shannan Powell of Bloomington West welcomed home the newest addition to their family, Chandler Joseph, born Nov. 14 at Columbia Bran-

don Regional Hospital.

Baby Chandler, weighed in at 9 lbs, 5 oz. and was 21.25 inches long. Big brother Cameron, a first grader at Lithia Springs Elementary, is excited to have a new baby in the house and has been very helpful, says Shannan.

Chandler's maternal grandparents are John and Patty DiCenzo of Orange City, Florida. His paternal grandparents are Pat Gibson of Orlando and Tom Powell of Windermere.

BLFA Officers Chosen

The Brandon League of Fine Arts' 1997 officers are Anne Drewry, president; Doreen Myers, first vice-president; Cheryl Jorgenson, second vice-president; Suzanne Sargent, secretary; and Bob McAnespie, treasurer.

At the November meeting, the board voted to replace the Spring Artfest with an all-fina art show which will be called the Brandon Spring Festival of fine Art. The two-day show will be held April 12 and 13. The Fall Artfest will also become a two-day show Oct. 11 and 12, but will remain the same as Artfests of the past.

The Christmas general meeting will be held Dec. 16 at 7:30 at Center Place.

1996-97 Public School Calendar

Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Winter Holidays
Jan. 6	Report to School
Jan. 16	End 2nd grading period
Jan. 17	Planning Day - Students off
Jan. 20	Dr. MLK Day - Holiday
Jan. 29	Half-Day
Jan. 31	Report Cards - Elementary
Feb. 6	Report Cards - Secondary
Feb. 13	Half-Day
Feb. 14	Students' State Fair Day
Feb. 17	Planning Day - Students off

Valrico
PACK & SHIP

Fully Insured • Stamps • Mail Service • Postal Services
(Regular Drop Off Is Free) • Faxes • Copies
• Mail Boxes • Packing & Shipping

3240 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Royal Oaks Shopping Center
(Corner of Lithia & Bloomington)
Phone: 654-0047 • Fax: 654-5129
New Holiday Hours: M-F 9-7, Sat. 9:30-5

We honor all competitor's Coupons

<p>20% OFF Any UPS Shipment</p> <p><small>excluding next day letter Limit 1 per customer-Not valid with other offers-Expires 11-9-96</small></p>	<p>\$1 OFF Any Fax Incoming, Outgoing Local & Long Distance</p> <p><small>Limit 1 per customer-Not valid with other offers-Exp 11-9-96</small></p>	<p>20% OFF Packing Supplies</p> <p><small>Limit 1 per customer-Not valid with other offers-Exp. 11-9-96</small></p>
---	---	--

Wanted:

The
Bloomington
Gazette

is looking
for Delivery
Kids
to distribute
the
paper.
Call

Ms. Halaufia
at

661-6707.

Exquisite - Creative
Picture Framing
at prices
You can Afford

ART

We Frame
Memories

DECORATION

654-8616
FIELDS

Art & Framing

3407 Lithia Pinecrest Rd - Valrico

COGGINS PLUMBING



So You Can Get Wet...
Without Getting Soaked!

Our Friendly Services Include:

- Water Heaters-Installation & Repair
- Sink & Faucet Replacements
- Emergency Drain Cleaning
- Re-piping & Leak Repair
- Leak Detection
- Water & Iron Filters

Fast,
Professional
Help For Every
Plumbing Need

Representing the Industry's Finest
names in Plumbing Products

10 TOP REASONS
TO BUY A



NORTH
STAR

WATER SOFTENER

WATER CONDITIONING

1. 24-volt operation for safety and ease of installation
2. Valve has fewer moving parts
3. Meter-controlled regeneration saves salt and water
4. Capacitor keeps functions intact in case of power disruption
- recharges self when power is restored
5. Permanent program memory
6. Simple to use
7. Insta-brine feed helps control salt bridging and tank sweating
8. High values at lower costs
9. Extra capacity regeneration
10. Sold and serviced by people you know



\$50 TRADE-IN FOR YOUR OLD WATER SOFTENER,
WORKING OR NOT

"We make good water taste better"

- Emergency Service
- Radio Dispatched
- Free Estimates
- All Phases Residential
& Commercial

671-5831
685-0411

Licensed, Bonded & Insured
State Cert. #CFC037149

Why do smart kids fail?

Your child may be smarter than his or her grades show. Our certified teachers help children of all ages overcome frustration and failure, and realize their potential. A few hours a week can help your child improve weak study skills and gain the Educational Edge.

Our testing pinpoints problems and we tutor in reading, phonics, study skills, math and SAT/ACT prep to help students in all grades do better in school.

Call us and let us help your child break the failure chain.

Weak Basic Skills

Frustration with School

Lack of Confidence

No Motivation

681-1500
Brandon

819 E. Brandon Blvd., (S. R. 60)



HUNTINGTON
LEARNING
CENTER

Your child can learn.

Happy Holidays!



FAMILY DENTISTRY IN BLOOMINGDALE

Experienced and concerned professional care for the whole family



Dr. Ray Aquilina, D.D.S., P.A.

689-1529

4320 Bell Shoals Rd.

Village Center in Bloomingdale East

Insurance • Military Insurance • VISA • MasterCard

Lithia Lynx



By Ron Pogorzelski
Because Lithia Springs Elementary is designated as an "Overcrowded School", it has begun community meetings seeking recommendations for submission to the Hillsborough County School Board.

It is the only elementary school in the Bloomingdale-Valrico district to exceed 120% of capacity. Planned for 831 students, it currently has 1162 children. It uses 14 portables, five of which do not have restrooms.

The school draws students from 23 postal zones, including based students from the inner city, an area north of Bloomingdale to Durant between Pearson and Ranch, and an area south of Bloomingdale between Bell Shoals and John Moore Road.

By classroom size, the kindergarten has five teachers



The Camera Club of Lithia Springs Elementary hosted two conservation workers of Busch Gardens for a "shoot" of some exotic animals. John Whitlock and Michell Collins show off a python to the awe and delight of club members.

averaging 26.7 students each; first grade has seven teachers with an average of 24.7 pupils; second grade has seven teachers with a 25.1 student average; third grade has seven teachers with an average of 29.1 students; fourth grade 28.5 students for six teachers; fifth grade, 32.3 students for each of its six teachers. There are 42 children in the PEP program with two teachers and seven teachers have 75 students total

in the full time exceptional education programs.

The building of homes in Lithia's area continues to grow and aggravates an already crowded situation for lunches (since there is only so much lunchroom space, students now start earlier and end later), the media center and parking.

The school is soliciting suggestions from the community on how it can better handle overcrowding. The recommendation that receives a consensus recommendation will

be presented to the Superintendent and the School Board for their consideration.

If you have ideas on this subject, send them in writing to Principal Constance S. Gilbert, Lithia Springs Elementary School, 4333 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico, FL 33594.

BRACES



"Brooke Bennett is not one of our staff, she is our patient and our hero"

Neal A. Stubbs, D.D.S., P.A.

929 Oakfield Dr. • Brandon • 685-3511

No
Down
Payment
\$ 89
per mo.

Standard Active Treatment \$2,136 to \$2,670
Records Fee \$178 • Retainers \$245 to \$340
#08450 #08550 #08750

Gator Tales



PTA Wins State Award

By Phyllis Berlacher

For the third consecutive year, Alafia's PTA received the Local Unit Achievement Award from the Florida State PTA.

"This award recognizes what the PTA has done throughout the year and is one of the most prestigious awards a PTA can receive," said Michelle Colesanti, Alafia PTA president.

The competition was within the 167 schools in Hillsborough County.

"We're one of only a few schools to receive this award," said Suzy Wiesenhart, past president. "It's quite an achievement."

See GATORS, page 11

THANK YOU!



I deeply appreciate the three gratifying victories this year, and the trust you have placed in me. The voters in state senate District 23 have been very helpful in confirming my conservative vision of state government. I sincerely thank you.

Tom

TOM LEE
FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23 REP.

In Need of Counsel? Going Through a Divorce?

Make sure you know your rights under Florida law concerning domestic problems.

CURRY & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

A Full Service Law Firm

FAMILY LAW:
DIVORCE
CUSTODY
ADOPTION
MODIFICATION
& SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT



La Viva Professional Center
750 W. Lumsden • Brandon 653-2500

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

Kids Kalendar

Children's Theater

A musical production of "Jack and The Beanstalk" will be presented at Center Place on January 23 at 9:30 a.m. and January 24 and 31 at 7 p.m. The play is recommended for ages 3 and older and tickets are \$2.50 per person. They must be purchased in advance.

What a great stocking stuffer idea.

MOSI Camps

Kids out of school and bored? Hard to imagine at Christmas, but the Museum of Science and Industry has a solution. An eight-day science camp or computer camp has a different theme every day except Christmas and New Years days.

The Science Camp begins Dec. 23 with themes like Create Wrapping Paper, Holiday Treats, Kitchen Chemistry, Outdoor Adventure, Whales, Meet the Animals, Science Magic and MOSI's Kitchen.

Computer Camp also begins Dec. 23 with programs on Holiday greeting cards, Holiday ornaments, Holiday animation with 3-D Movie Maker, Dangerous Creatures, Kid Pix Graphics, Magic School Bus and Exploring computer Resources.

The camps are for grades K-5 at alternate times so kids can take advantage of both camps. Kids K-2 attend science

camp from 9 a.m. until noon and computer camp from 1 to 4 p.m. Kids in 3rd through 5th follow the opposite schedule.

Costs vary based on MOSI membership or nonmembers and whether kids attend one day, a half-day all week, or full days.

For information, call 987-6000.

Cool Crafts

Kids 9-12 can make some fun crafts Dec. 17 at the Brandon Regional Library. The session which includes a story and a craft project, begins at 3:30. Pre-registration is required in person.

For information, call the library at 744-5630.

Baton Lessons

Baton classes are held every Thursday in the multi-purpose room at Alafia Elementary School.

Beginner classes are at 3 p.m. and 3:45. Intermediates are also at 3:45. A class for four and five-year olds is at 4:30, while lessons for older students begin at 5:30.

Each level of students is taught one baton, two baton, dance twirl and marching.

For information and registration, call Peggy Capps at 634-1004. Please do not phone the school for information.

Bruin Beat



Honor roll students for the first grading period at Burns Middle School are as follows:

Seventh grade - Kelly Allen, Pamela Aluotto, Jennifer Angelosante, Erica Baker, Roger Barker, Brian Batson, Sarah Bergeron, Jonathan Bowser, Jessica Brandes, Jennifer Clark, Kerrie Cleveland, Amanda Cooley, Lisa Dangelo, Erin Davis, Christina Doherty, Jill Duemig, Lauren Edmonds, Lauren Edwards, Eric Feldman, Zina Gabsi, Melissa Haines, Marisa Hampers, Crawford Hampson, Nicole Jarrett, Courtney

Johnson, Carolyn Kense, Melanie Laing, Ryan Lybbert, Ryan Mabry, Lauren McClain, Daniel Medina, Christopher Oszust, Jeffrey Ottaway, Peter Pasek, Benjamin Pope, Amber Smith, Valerie Taylor, Harmonie Thornton, Alicia Traurig, Destini Wakefield, Catherine Wangerien, Karin Weaver, Jennifer Yacub, and Jacob Zurasky.

Eighth grade - Christopher Bancroft, Ashley Breland, Krista Cole, Christine Cook, Shannon Dunbar, Abigail Gates, Michael Gorham, Amanda Griffiths, Tiffany Jackson, Tracy Johnson, Laura Kochansky, William Lohman, Trina Melchert, Christopher Mestre, Courtney Nichols, Erin Nikitas, Ryan Palmer, Melissa Thumberg, Monica Wilson and Heather Winger.

SPORTS MEDICINE ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY



BRANDON ORTHOPEDIC ASSOCIATES

Laser • Arthroscopic Surgery
Hip & Knee Joint Replacements
Knee • Hand • Foot • Back Surgery
Mini-Incision Carpal Tunnel Release
Sports Medicine

John D. Okun, M.D.
Board Certified

Robert J. Maddalon, M.D., M.S.
Board Certified

Lance T. Sisco, M.D.
Board Certified

684-3707

Hours By Appointment
721 Robertson Street
Brandon, FL 33511

YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH

Allstate®

We Sell Homeowners and
Automobile Insurance,
Regardless of Driving Record
or Prior Claims.

DON BUA
681-5303

611 E. Bloomingdale Ave.,
(Next to Bloomingdale Square)

STEVE BRIGGS
681-5303

Allstate Insurance Co. and Allstate Life Insurance

Ed Rahal, DMD

654-3399

GENTLE DENTAL CARE

NEW PATIENTS ONLY

Introductory Offer
DENTAL
EXAMINATION

\$40 (Reg. \$101.)

(or \$25 credit per family member
if these services are covered by
insurance.)

Includes:

- Comprehensive Oral Exam (00110)
 - 4 Bite-Wing X-Rays (00272)
 - Cleaning (001110)
 - Consultation With Doctor (9920)
- Valid For All Family Members.



Insurance Accepted

This office meets or exceeds all government required standards for sterilization.



3646 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico

The patient and any other person responsible for payment has the right to refuse to pay, cancel payment or be reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination or treatment which is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free, discounted fee or reduced fee service, examination or treatment. *Need must be determined by doctor.



★ WEDDINGS ★ BIRTHDAYS ★ BANQUETS
★ CORPORATE FUNCTIONS ★ ANNIVERSARIES
★ GOLF AND TENNIS OUTINGS

RIVER HILLS
Country Club

Call 653-1554, Ext. 39 For
Reservations and Information

Sports Salute

Bulls Honored

Several members of the Bloomingdale Bulls' football team were named to the All-Western Conference teams. Justin Wilson is the county's leading punter and was the only Bull named to the WC 1st Team. Second team selections were tight end Levi Knox and offensive guard Jeff Hill. Lineman Ben Mussano and and line-backer Nathan Lovelace made 2nd team defense.

Honorable mention went to Walter Carter, Grant Bougere, Jason VanHeule, Dino Bowen and Torre Warren.

These players and others were honored at the Bulls annual football banquet Dec. 9, at which two special awards were given. Levi Knox and Jeff Hill earned the school's Black Helmet Award as the individuals who epitomized the "complete player."

Sports Spots Bulls' Boosters Host Tourney

Bloomingdale Baseball

The Bloomingdale Booster Club and boys baseball team will sponsor a scramble golf tournament at Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club on Dec. 23. The \$45 fee includes a dinner buffet, two free beverages and door prizes. Sign-in is at 11:30 a.m. with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

Proceeds will benefit the Bloomingdale High baseball team. For information, contact Randy Tarter at 653-4199, Garry Hancock at 685-5426, or Jack Huff at 661-8632.

Lightning Buses

Beat the traffic to and from hockey games. Bloomingdale residents can hop a HARTline Bus to Tampa Bay Lightning games at the Ice Palace for a \$3 round-trip fare. Locally, buses pickup and drop off at St. Andrews United Methodist Church at 6:10 p.m. game nights. Buses depart 30 minutes after the game's conclusion.

For information, call 254-4278.

Umpires Needed

The West Coast Umpires Association is looking for new and experienced umpires to work for pay for baseball and softball at the youth, high school and junior college levels.

Training will be provided by professional umpires.

Umpires who want to work high school games must be registered with the Florida High School Activities Association by Jan. 2. West Coast Umpires provide that registration.

For information, call Eric Arens at 968-4653.

Bulls' Athletic Calendar



BASKETBALL

Dec. 14	at Hillsborough (B)
Dec. 14	Brandon (G)
Dec. 16	Gaither (G)
Dec. 19	at King (G only)
Jan. 6	Brandon (B)
Jan. 7	at Plant City (G)
Jan. 9	at Gaither (B)
Jan. 10	Chamberlain (G)
Jan. 11	King (B)

Junior Varsity 6:30
Varsity 8 p.m.
Saturday games 1 p.m.



SOCCER

Dec. 20-23	Diadora Tournament Various sites
Jan. 7	at Leto
Jan. 10	Gaither

Girls 5:30; Boys 7:30 (M-Th)
Girls 6:20; Boys 8:30 (Fri)
Single games begin at 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

Dec. 17	at Brandon
Jan. 8	Gaither
Jan. 10	at Chamberlain

Matches begin at 7:15
Saturdays at 1 p.m.

MacDonald Plumbing

★ Repipe Special ★

We Specialize in
Hot & Cold Repipe
Guaranteed to beat any licensed plumber

— Top Quality Work —

Call About:
Under Sink Drinking Water
Purification Systems

For All Your Plumbing Needs Call:

681-2626

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Lic. #CFC 051643

\$100 OFF

Towards Any Repipe

"EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE"



MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

NEW!
DRIVE-THRU
3513 Bell Shoals

MAIN OFFICE - For Information - 654-2323

APOLLO BEACH - 220 APOLLO BEACH BLVD.....	645-1499
BLOOMINGDALE - ROYAL OAKS SHOPPING CTR - LITHIA PINECREST RD.....	654-8113
BLOOMINGDALE - 3513 BELL SHOALS RD. (JUST S. OF BLOOMINGDALE AVE).....	654-9292
BRANDON - OAK PARK PLAZA - 717 W. LUMSDEN RD.....	654-9541
BRANDON - PUBLIX/BLDGS SHP SQ CNTR - 913 W. BRANDON BLVD.....	684-4499
NORTH BRANDON - KINGSWAY PLAZA - 1213 KINGSWAY AVE.....	653-4535
SEFFNER - NORTH GROVE PLAZA - 1515 Parsons Ave., S.....	684-5897
VALRICO - VALRICO SQUARE - 1985 E. BRANDON BLVD.....	654-2324

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

99¢
each

With a \$5 minimum dry cleaning order.

SHIRTS LAUNDERED

VALID ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY, LIMIT 10.
BLOUSES, POLO & BOXED SHIRTS EXTRA

Valid only with coupon.

Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 1-10-97

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

\$500
OFF

ANY DRY CLEANING ORDER
OF \$25 OR MORE
ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY

Valid only with coupon.

Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 1-10-97

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

\$300
OFF

ANY DRY CLEANING ORDER
OF \$15 OR MORE
ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY

Valid only with coupon.

Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 1-10-97

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

20%
OFF

WEDDING GOWNS,
DRAPERY CLEANING,
BEDSPREADS,
COMFORTERS/BLANKETS

VALID ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY.

Valid only with coupon.

Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 1-10-97

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

20%
OFF

ANY ALTERATIONS
ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY

Valid only with coupon.

Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 1-10-97

Holiday Gift Ideas

from

THE ART PLACE



- Oil & Acrylic Sets
- Pastel & Watercolor Sets
- Paint by Numbers Sets
- Children Drawing Sets
- Artist Materials, Easels
- Art Classes
- Gift Certificates
- 20% Off Custom & Ready-Made Framing (exp. 12-31-96)

THE ART PLACE

234 Oakfield Drive
(Corner of Moon & Oakfield)
689-2892

Brandon Academy PRIVATE SCHOOL

FULLY ACCREDITED BY
THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
AND

FLORIDA KINDERGARTEN COUNCIL

Academic Excellence For Over 25 Years

- Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade
- Small Classroom Environment
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Before and After School Care



Now accepting applications for testing for Jan. 18. and Feb. 22.

801 Limona Road • Brandon, FL 33510
689-1952

Teresa (Terry) Curry-Administrator

The Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.

Tax Topics

'96 Budget Act Alters IRS

By Robert Morris, CPA

Even though the IRS has stated it would reduce taxpayer services to cut costs (which is evident they have), the Budget Act of 1996 requires the Taxpayer Service Division in 1996 to maintain the same level of staff and services as in 1995. Also, the act requires adding one new member from government and three members from the private sector to the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS.

Funding for the IRS continues to decline and Congress is considering the removal of entire projects from under IRS control. A key house subcommittee voted to reduce almost \$300 million from last year's IRS budget and freeze all work on the modernization program. Also, this program may be moved to be controlled by the Defense Department (is this better?). After spending \$8 billion in 8 years on modernization, Congress has decided the IRS lacks technical and management expertise to undertake an effective project. Congress is considering stripping the IRS of some authority and giving the Treasury Department the function of developing and/or producing tax policy.

Senator T. Stevens (Alaska) recommends Congress to set up an outside agency to oversee the IRS. Stevens is the senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and chairs the Government Affairs Committee so he may be influential enough to get some action.

The GAO has issued a report stating the IRS book-keeping procedures were so shoddy that its own financial reports could not be audited. They also stated the IRS cannot reconcile total revenue, tax refunds to taxpayers, its own accounts receivable estimates or reconcile its \$3 billion in non payroll operating expenses. All of these negative reports should continue sweeping Congressional changes in operating the IRS and hopefully improve the system over the next several years.

On a good note, President Clinton is seeking to expand the tax break on the sale of a taxpayer residence. He wants the taxable gain exclusion to apply to any age taxpayer and also is trying to raise the exclusion from \$125,000 to possibly \$500,000. This would greatly reduce the requirement to maintain tax records on most homes as well as reduce the tax on selling your house.



A COUNTRY CAT HOUSE

Make Your Holiday Reservations Early!
A Luxury Cat Resort

Let us pamper & care for your family's cat. We have everything cats love.

- Large units with huge windows overlooking gardens (for lizard, bird & squirrel watching).
- Aquarium views-3 level treehouses.
- Units with T.V.'s
- Soft music, daily playtime, 24 hr. attendants.

Come see our beautiful hotel before making your cat's care arrangements. Its worth your peace of mind.

M-F 9-5 Sat. 9-3 Closed Sun.
Call for a tour or brochure

**15501 Boyette Road
(813) 654-2287 (654-CATS)**

Real Estate Moves

Neighborhood Can Set Selling Price

By Michael Davis

Note: This is the second in a series of home buying tips by realtor and Bloomingdale resident Michael Davis.

Tip No. 1 was called Knowing why you're selling which explained how motive for selling will play an important role in the process including everything from setting price to how much time is spent preparing your home for sale.

Tip No. 2, entitled Once you know, keep it to yourself, stressed that it's not the buyers' right to know your reason for selling.

Tip No. 3: Do your homework before setting a price...

Settling on an offering price shouldn't be done lightly. Once you've set your price, you've told buyers the absolute maximum they have to pay for your home. The trick for the seller is to get a selling price as close to the offering price as possible. If you start out by pricing too high, you might not be taken seriously by prospective buyers and their agents. A price too low can result in selling for much less than you had hoped for.

Setting your home's sale price can be a fairly easy process. If you live in a subdivision comprised of homes with similar or identical floor plans, built in the same time period, then all you have to do is look at recent sales in the neighborhood to give you a good ball park figure.

But many people live in older neigh-

borhoods that have changed quite a bit over the years. Every home in your neighborhood may be different in minor or substantial ways. - the house next door may have added another bedroom, for example, or the one across the street might have been built recently to fill a vacant lot. As a neighborhood evolves over the years, you may find that there aren't many homes that are truly comparable to your own.

if you decide to sell your home on your own, the most common way to set a value is to look at homes that have sold in your neighborhood within the past six to 12 months, as well as those now on the market. That's certainly how prospective buyers will assess the worth of your home.

You can usually learn what homes have sold for in your neighborhood by making a quick trip to the county record office; home sale information is in the public records in most communities.

If this sounds like a lot of work, you may decide to hire a realtor. Your realtor will do all the market research and provide you with comps showing where your home should be priced to best meet your goals - a fast sell, maximum profit, etc.

Tip No. 4: will be shared with you in the next publication of Real Estate Moves. If you would like a copy of the complete report, "29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar)", please call 631-2051.

The Bloomingdale Gazette

is looking for part-time employees. If you enjoy meeting people and need a flexible schedule call 681-2051.



SMILE WRIGHT

653-1455



Diane Wright, D.M.D.

- Cosmetic and General Dentistry
 - Porcelain Veneers • Bleaching
 - Cosmetic Bonding • Crown & Bridge
- All performed in a safe, comfortable, gentle setting.

We follow strict infection control standards

BEAUTIFUL SMILES!
710 Oakfield Drive, Suite 251
Brandon, FL 33511

Evening Hours by Appointment



Mail Boxes Etc.® is The Post Office Alternative®

- SHIPPING
- OVERNIGHT
- PACKING SUPPLIES
- COPIES
- PACKAGING
- MAIL SERVICES
- STAMPS
- FAX
- OFFICE SUPPLIES

OPEN SUNDAY! Hours: M-F 8-7, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 12-4

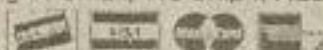
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1987!!

Bloomingdale Square
813 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
(Wal-Mart Shopping Ctr.)

689-4998

EMBE MAIL BOXES ETC.®

Big or Small, We Ship It ALL



Sue & Jim Harbridge
Owners

We honor all competitor's coupons!



PUBLIX / WALMART PLAZA
at
Bell Shoals & Bloomingdale
661-2228

Gourmet Gift Baskets

Low Prices Everyday!

We Match Walgreen's Ads

Brandon's Finest Wines
Single Malts
Microbrews
Cigars



BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, Jan. 13, p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

Library Class

Do you want to learn more about computerized library

services? Are you still searching for the card catalog? Do you know how to place a book on hold through the computer?

Answers to these and other library resource questions can be found at "Tinkering with THOR" on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. or Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. at the Brandon Regional Library.

Registration is required. For information call 744-5630.

Parents Help Group

Parents Anonymous is a self-help group for parents who have lost, or feel they are losing control of their children. Groups meet in Valrico on Thursdays evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at area churches. The meetings are free. For information call 251-8080.

Recycle Computers

The county has begun a program, "Computers for Kids," that involves collecting computers to place in recreation centers and later in libraries for kids to use during after school and summer programs.

Since the program began in April, donations have dropped off. There is no certain type of computer that the county is looking for. Software and programs also are acceptable donations.

Computers can be dropped off at the Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance unit on 78th St. and the Crosstown Expressway or at any of several libraries including the Main Library downtown at 900 N. Ashley Drive. For information call 744-5815 or 273-3652.

Bulletin Board

Lithia Springs Honored

The PTA of Lithia Springs Elementary was one of four Hillsborough County local units to take top statewide honors from the Florida PTA.

Lithia Springs was awarded the President's Program Award in the elementary category for its Parents Mini-Workshop Conference, a Saturday program involving parents, teachers, students and businesses. It focuses on curriculum, peer mediation, legislative issues and other concerns.

The school was also honored for 100 percent membership.

Calendar Benefits PTA

A joint project between the Friends of the Library Hillsborough County, Inc. and the Hillsborough County Council of PTA-PTSA has resulted in a 1997 calendar showcasing education, which will benefit special community projects.

The 1997 Commemorative Calendar Celebrating PTA's 100-Year Anniversary Featuring Burgert Brothers Photographs are available at Barnes & Nobles for \$6.

PTA Council's portion of the proceeds from the calendar will be used for scholarships and mini-grants.

GATORS, from page 7

Alafia's wining streak continued with two additional awards: The Volunteer Award for outstanding volunteer effort and the Program Award.

The Program Award was earned for a general membership meeting on educational funding entitled "Where does the money go?". The program featured a panel presentation moderated by WFLA Channel 8's Wes Sarginson.

As a reminder, the Alafia PTA "holiday Shoppe" for students will be held Dec. 14. Students may purchase gifts ranging from 25 cents to \$10; volunteers will be available to assist children with their choices.

Parents benefit too - with an opportunity to relax in a separate waiting area where refreshments will be served. Visit the Shoppe; it provides a stress-free, safe and economical approach to holiday gift shopping.

Classifieds

NIP (Neighborhood Improvement Program)

Volunteers needed for BHA (Bloomingdale Homeowners Association) program. Call the community office at 681-2051 for information.

HELP WANTED:

Do you enjoy meeting people? Do you need a flexible, part-time schedule? Then call *The Bloomingdale Gazette* at 681-2051 and find out the details!

JUDY CLEANS:

Give yourself a break! Let Judy clean your home, office, condo, or apartment; reasonable rates, references available. Wkly/bi/wkly. Call anytime 681-5609. License #80356.

PART TIME ADVERTISING REP:

Make your own hours! No pressure sales. Call 681-2051.

LOSE WEIGHT:

Want to lose weight? Call me today. (813) 654-3227 (evenings)

LESSONS:

Piano and flute lessons 17 years teaching experience. \$15 per hour, in my home, day or evenings. Sharon Stout, 684-2027.

RESIDENTS WHO ARE:

Babysitters
Dustin Braswell, 689-8555
Angela Reiser and Kimberly Reiser, 684-6006
Erin and Beth Schlossnagle, 650-0453
Avon Representatives:
Ruth Calandro, 689-0212
Mary Kay Consultant:
Barbara Borchers, 653-2509

Magician:

Magic by Rio
Parties for children 5-10 years of age. Entertainment, magic and fun! Call 689-2087.

ART CLASSES:

Drawing, colored pencil or pastel classes, ages 14 to adult. Call 689-2007.

ROBERT MORRIS

C.P.A., P.A.

"Professional Accounting & Tax Service"

- TAX SERVICE
- BOOKKEEPING
- MANAGEMENT SERVICES
- ELECTRONIC FILING DIRECTLY TO IRS
- DAY & EVENING APPOINTMENTS

WITH OVER 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE

3302 BELL SHOALS

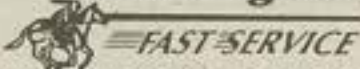
681-4164

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

WE DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

SAVE MONEY 24 HOURS - 7 DAYS PLUMBING SERVICE

Grable Plumbing Co.



"Always A Truck In Your Neighborhood"

TOP QUALITY WORK AT COMPETITIVE PRICES...

- Better, Cleaner, Faster
- Sewer & Drain Cleaning
- Ultrasonic Leak Detection
- Recipe Specialists
- All Plumbing Repairs Guaranteed
- Same Day Water Heater Repair/Replacement
- High Pressure Sewer Jetting/Video Taping
- Backflow Preventers Installed, Tested & Repaired
- Lift Stations 1/2 Through 25 H.P.



ULTRASONIC LEAK DETECTION

Using the most advanced Ultrasonic equipment we locate underslab leaks with pinpoint accuracy.

State Certified Plumbing Contractor #CFC032091

685-3636

Licensed Bonded & Insured

Personal Injury & Wrongful Death

The insurance company has a lawyer, so should you.

CURRY & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

A Full Service Law Firm



ACCIDENTS, DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS, MALPRACTICE

No charge for initial consultation on injury cases.

La Viva Professional Center 750 W. Lumsden-Brandon **653-2500**

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask questions.

Who Is This Man, And Why Is He Smiling?

✓ **He's Realtor Michael Davis.**

✓ **And He Enjoys Helping Bloomingdale Families With Their Very Important Real Estate Needs.**



It's a labor of love, really. How else could you describe it? Helping his friends and neighbors with one of the most important investments of their life is a responsibility Michael Davis cherishes. He sees it as often helping people achieve their lifelong dreams.

Michael Knows How Important It Is

Because he's keenly aware of the importance of such a large transaction, he will do hours of homework to make sure he can provide you with the accurate and up-to-the-minute information you need to make a sound decision. And you can relax, knowing you have one of the area's top agents on the job. Michael puts years of expertise and knowledge to work on your transaction.

Helping Buyers And Sellers

Even if you don't end up working with Michael, he would like to share his knowledge of the area's real estate market with you. If you have any questions about this dynamic market, feel free to give Michael a call and he'll be glad to answer your questions. He also invites you to call for a free copy of his special report, *How To Sell Your Home For The Highest Price Possible*. It's filled with valuable information to improve your return on investment when you sell your home. Essential reading—even if you don't intend to sell right now.

684-8881 (24 hrs.)

Michael Davis
Because Your Family Matters Most

RE/MAX
Realty Unlimited
Each office independently owned & operated

139 E. Bloomingdale Ave. • Brandon, FL 33511

Call Michael Davis today for your FREE copy of *How To Sell Your Home For The Highest Price Possible*.

Randall Munsters
President

Purrfection
Computer Services Inc.

3815 Upland Place Valrico Florida 33594
Phone (813) 685-5880
Consulting, Programming, Networking, Integration, Repair



Earn Extra Money

Call
The Bloomingdale Gazette
at
681-2051

VAUGHN RENTALS

VAUGHN ALI
PRESIDENT AND
GENERAL MANAGER

3650 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Valrico, FL 33594

Phone: (813) 654-0097
Fax: (813) 654-9310

Lawn & Garden Equipment
Power Tools
Tile Cutters
Plumbing Tools

Generators
Chain Saws
Rug Cleaners
Office Equipment

Compressors
Pressure Washers
Ladders
Plus much more...

WE ALSO SELL & SERVICE SNAPPER, ECHO AND BRIGGS

MARY KAY

Barbara Borchers
Independent Skin Care Consultant

4111 Quail Briar Dr.
Valrico, FL 33594
813-653-2509 or
1-800-755-4850

SHANNON D. BRUFFETT CHERYLE BRUFFETT

VALRICO PACK & SHIP



One Stop Shipping Center

3240 Lithia-Pinecrest Rd.
Ste 102
Valrico, FL 33594

Phone (813) 654-0047
Fax (813) 654-5129

sue allen
Original Watercolor Paintings
Instructor

1310 Holleman Drive
Valrico, Florida 33594

Commissions Accepted
(813) 681-3589

Pastels
Charcoal
Colored Pencil...

Fine Portraits
by June Oros

Call to review portfolio
689-2087



Richard E. Rogovin, D.C., P.A.
CHIROPRACTOR

111 N. Valrico Rd., Suite G
Valrico, Florida 33594
Telephone: (813) 689-6359

1 BLOCK NORTH OF STATE RD. 60 ON VALRICO RD.

GRACE C. LEWIS, CPA

Tax & Accounting Services

3905 Kristin Place
Valrico, FL 33594

(813) 681-4548
FAX 684-1608

The Bloomingdale Gazette

681-2051
call for advertising rates

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road-Valrico-33594

Thank you
Olivia
Santa!



RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL

Tom Hayden
Painting and Pressure Washing
"Let Us Color Your World"

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

(813) 654-1313 Blg. Resident License #450