

School Boundaries To Divide Bloomingtondale

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A BHA Editorial

The Bloomingtondale community was surprised on October 20 by news that the Hillsborough School District is proposing to divide the Bloomingtondale community with its boundaries for the new Riverview middle school and high school. Bloomingtondale was well represented when almost 700 disgruntled parents expressed their disagreement with the proposal to send students who live west of Bell Shoals Road to the new schools. This includes all of Bloomingtondale West and Bloomingtondale Estates. Many parents complained that the District's proposed boundaries made no sense and would force students who live within a mile or two of Bloomingtondale High School to ride buses six or seven miles to Riverview.

The message to School officials was clear: redraw the boundaries, keep Bloomingtondale one community and keep our Bloomingtondale children at their neighborhood schools. At its monthly meeting on November 11, the Board of Directors of the BHA, Inc. unanimously voted to oppose the proposed school boundaries which would divide this community.

Bloomingtondale residents were not alone in their disappointment with the boundaries. Many Brandon residents who live south of Brandon Boulevard were equally surprised to learn their children would be bused to Riverview. Riverview students who live only a mile or two from the new high school would still be making the long trip to East Bay High School.

Many speakers from Bloomingtondale who spoke against the District's proposal, citing the division of the community and the distance to Riverview as major concerns, were supported by enthusiastic rounds of applause. In reply, Mr. Bill Person, Director of Pupil Administrative Services, and other school officials assured those in attendance that their comments would be taken into consideration in reviewing the boundary proposal. They also committed that the community would have additional opportunities to discuss the school boundaries.

However, as late as November 18, the news from Mr. Person is not encouraging. No new boundaries have been proposed by his office. The existing boundaries accompanied by the District's listing of the issues raised at the information meetings was scheduled to be presented by staff to Earl Lennard, Superintendent, on November 20. Dr. Lennard's decision is expected to go to the School Board in early December. As of November 18 there were no new community meetings planned for discussion of the boundary proposal before it is presented to the School Board for approval.

Your inside connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3240 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 103
Valrico, FL 33594
#681-2051
bloomingdale@juno.com

Randy Wolfe, President	229-3321
Michael Davis, V.P./Treasurer	684-8881
Ted Grable, Comptroller	685-7193
Walter Glenn, Secretary	681-2051
Patricia Radel, Director	651-0210
Luana Russell, Director	662-1610
LaWayne Wyatt, Director	685-2072
Ann Underwood, Director	621-4293
Pam Liguori, Director	681-9655

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District 684-6667

Rick Pitrowski, President	684-6667
Tom Mackiewicz, Vice President	653-4145
Joe Liguori, Treasurer	681-9655
T. Szabo, Corresponding Secretary	684-2547
Fred Uphoff, Recording Secretary	685-3013
Tom Snelling, Trustee	681-9186
Sue Meyers, Trustee	689-1514
Alan Devney, Administrator	684-6617

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

LaWayne Wyatt, Coordinator/Scheduler	685-2072
Paul Kelmer, Treasurer	681-9701
Tony Diolosa, Equipment Manager	681-1146
Steven Heckel, Membership Chairman	654-4266
David Guy	681-5943
Paul Warr	685-7883

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District PO Box 3132 Brandon, FL 33509-3132

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

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
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
at 3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks

Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch meetings are held when special concerns arise

the Bloomingdale gazette
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A Balanced Water Plan For Our Future

*Continued from November Issue
by Jerry L. Maxwell, General Manager*

A Solution To Our Future Water Needs

The Master Water Plan, adopted by the Authority's Board of Directors in December 1995, provides a cost-effective, far-sighted and environmentally sound compass for this journey. Developed by an alliance of technical advisers representing state, regional and local governments and regulatory agencies, as well as academic institutions, the Plan balances the needs of our natural resources with the needs of the residents, business and industries that share those resources.

Identifying where and how we can get the new water we need in an economically and environmentally sensible way is the goal of the Master Water Plan. It proposes achievable and affordable strategies to meet the water needs of both people and the environment through the year 2015.

Implementing the Master Water Plan will give the Tampa Bay region an additional 50 million gallons of water daily in the first six years and another 35 MGD by the year 2007. It expands our network with six new supply facilities - including new technologies for utilizing repurified water, surface water and potentially, brackish or sea water. Enough new water facilities will be brought on-line in the next 10 years to meet the area's water needs for the next 20 years.

The Plan also will improve management of both existing and new water supplies by boosting our

reserve capacity. It proposes setting aside 25 percent of our available water supplies as reserves to handle emergencies, equipment malfunctions or long-term droughts. The Plan also sets out an ambitious schedule for the construction of inter-locking pipelines connecting the Authority's 10 existing water supply facilities to each other and to new facilities. Linking our water supply facilities ensures that water production can be transferred as needed to safeguard wetlands, lakes and rivers to meet fluctuations in demand.

Conservation is also a vital component. The coordinated, aggressive conservation strategy *continued on page 5*

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A Balanced Water Plan, *continued*

proposed in the Master Water Plan seeks to reduce overall consumption in the Tri-County area by as much as 17 mgd over the next eight years.

To make sure there will be enough affordable water to go around, we can't abandon the traditional groundwater supplies that have served us so well for so long. But we can reduce our dependence on groundwater. The Master Water Plan does this by limiting development of new wellfields, developing alternative sources such as surface water, improving our ability to manage the entire system, expanding our conservation efforts, and accelerating exploration of new technologies, including desalination.

Community Input Used In Project Planning

The Master Water Plan is not just the Authority's plan. We want it to be the community's plan.

Without the public's understanding and support of our goals, we can't succeed. The Authority is seeking input from area residents before proceeding with each element identified in the Plan.

In the coming months, project managers will be holding open houses, workshops and public meetings in communities potentially affected by proposed water supply facilities construction. These forums provide citizens with an opportunity to learn about the project and to provide input before individual elements are finalized. We encourage you to learn more about the Plan by attending a public meeting in your area or by calling the Master Water Plan information line in Hillsborough at 929-3200 or in Pinellas and Pasco at 1-888-MWP-2015.

The Master Water Plan is a comprehensive, coordinated and balanced approach that will provide reliable supplies of high-quality water for us all while protecting the natural resources of our region for future generations. Together, we can bring the Plan to life.

Ed Rahal, DMD
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La Septima Brandon's First Authentic Spanish Restaurant

by Elton Dumont

La Septima menu says that this is Brandon's First Authentic Spanish Restaurant. I certainly can't prove or disapprove whether it was Brandon's first, but I can comment that it is among Brandon's best. Although it is billed as Spanish, it is definitely Cuban in flavor and design. Their menu even reads "A taste of old Ybor".

It has been quite a while since we visited La Septima. On our previous visits, it was small and intimate with about 14 or 15 tables. They have expanded their Dining Room, doubling seating capacity. And although their are still some booths in the old section, the chairs are very comfortable (a major issue for me if you plant on sitting and eating for an hour or more).

We arrived at 4:30 PM on a Tuesday, which does become important as you read on, and seated ourselves. Our server did greet us quickly and we were served brewed iced tea immediately. They also have beer and a wine offering consisting of Burgundy, Chablis, White Zinfandel and a very fruity Sangria. They also serve Café con Leche (Cuban coffee) and Buchito (demitasse). If you are lucky enough to be seated in the older section, you will be treated to extremely tasteful appointments including some rare photographs of early Ybor City. Most of the pictures are on display by courtesy of Roland Manteiga. If you lived in Tampa for a few years, you know Roland is synonymous with LA GACETA.

I started off with a cup of Frijoles Negros, Black Bean Soup. I said yes to the obligatory onion question and was very very pleased with the taste of this Spanish/Cuban staple. I recommend this for a starter for everybody. The other soups included Garbanzo Soup, and Caldo Gallego.

We went from there directly to the entree. I selected the Ropa Vieja, also known as "Old Clothes". It is shredded, tender flank steak sautéed with green peppers, onion, green olives and capers in a tomato sauce. It comes with two vegetables and you can choose from Black Beans, Yellow Rice or Fried Plantains, as well as the more standard peas, corn, white rice, etc. A very wise selection based on great taste and a healthy portion. Very reasonably priced at \$5.95.

My wife chose the Lechon Asado, which is Roasted French Pork. It is sliced and marinated in oranges, garlic and a special "mojo" seasoning. It is also served with two vegetables and she chose the black bean and the yellow

rice. The pork slices were very thick, the meal extremely tasty, and once again the portion were quite ample. Offered at only \$6.75, this was also a bargain. The other entrees offered include Palomilla Steak, Merluza a la Rusa (lightly breaded Spanish whitefish filet), Arroz con Pollo (Yellow rice and chicken) as well as a few others.

They are open for lunch as well as dinner and the lunch menu includes a traditional Cuban sandwich as well as other sandwiches including the Lechon Asado, the Palomilla Steak or the Merluza fish. The sandwiches start at \$3.65 up to \$5.25.

The menu is very clear about asking for the daily lunch and dinner specials. Since our server failed to mention them, I asked. The response was "not until 5:00". It was now about 4:45 PM but we decided not to travel that road. Also if you want to be seated in the new section, I suggest you wait until 5:00 PM. They didn't open it until then and the host to seat you didn't appear until 5:00 PM. I guess we felt that 4:30 PM was is a kind of time warp, neither fish nor fowl.

The service was good, but just that. I think they will improve as they get a handle on the learning curve. We do plan on returning. Our bill including tax and tip was \$23.00.

La Septima is located at 140 North Parsons Avenue in Brandon. Call 684-1948.

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Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association
Minutes - October
Meeting of the Board of Directors

Directors Present At Meeting
 Randy Wolfe
 Ted Grable
 Ann Underwood
 Patricia Radel
 LaWayne Wyatt
 Pam Liguori
 Walter Glenn

Guests Present At Meeting
 Tim Golden
 Joe Liguori
 Deputy Pete Maurer



The Board of Directors of the
 Bloomingtondale Homeowners
 Association Wish All Our
 Neighbors and Friends
 A Happy Holiday Season and
 A Prosperous New Year!

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM.

Ted Grable brought up the need to create a separate BHA minute book. Also discussed the new boundaries for the High School in the Bloomingtondale area. We agreed the BHA should take a position regarding the division of the Bloomingtondale neighborhood. The West subdivision are proposed areas for the new school in the Riverview area. BHA would show support for the maintaining of the current boundaries with regard to Bloomingtondale Subdivisions. Ted also discussed the need to prepare for the 1998 dues drive at the first of the year.

Tim Golden was a guest. He discussed the first annual park safety fair and the success of it. Spoke of the funding for the sidewalks in Bloomingtondale West.

Sheriff's Report: Deputy Maurer discussed the possibility of a permanent storefront sub-station at Bell Shoals and Glenhaven by the first of the year. He attended as a guest.

NIP Report: Patricia Radel proposed the purchase of 1000 NIP cards for \$72.00.

Mobile Watch Report: LaWayne Wyatt discussed the need for more volunteers.

Randy Wolfe made the motion to close meeting at 9:15 PM. Second-Patricia Radel. Unanimous approval.

There was not a Secretary or Treasurer's report for the previous month's meeting.

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Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Plans to Establish Substation

Bloomington's Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer is pleased to announce the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office plans to establish a community substation in our area. In order to expand HCSO's policy of Community Oriented Policing and to provide better interactive service to our residents and area business's, this substation is being placed in the area covered by the Resource Deputies, with Bloomington among the first considered.

Deputy Maurer has been serving as a "CRD" part time for the past several years, working on community projects between area patrol duties and has been working in part, out of a temporary office space donated by Park and Recreation at the Bloomington West Community Park on Canoga Park Drive. With the valued assistance of area residents, and the BHA, several of whom are Community Council members he has brought the "Cop on the Beat" back to us. He says the establishing of the substation in the "Village Center" at 4342A Bell Shoals Road just South of Glenhaven Drive will afford full time attention to our concerns and interaction with the Sheriff's Office. In addition to being open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, and staffed by Deputy "Pete" and a full time Community Service Officer, the substation will be available for Patrol Deputies use after hours and

weekends. He hopes to provide a convenient friendly atmosphere with ample room for information, sharing ideas and providing "walk-in" law enforcement service to the community.

The office site at the South end of the strip center was generously donated by Mr. Jim Mikes and assistance in working out the details is being provided by area resident and new Community Council member Tom Karpenske. The preliminary inspection was done by East Area Command Major Larry Terry and District IV Captain Jim Walker and the lease agreement has been forwarded to the County Real Estate Office and the Sheriff's Office Staff for approval. Pending final approval by the Board of County Commissioners, Deputy Maurer hopes to be able to start interior work and equipment installation in December. Anyone wishing to donate time and assistance in cleaning, painting and helping to get our substation up and running is encouraged to contact Deputy Maurer at (813) 247-8555 or via his digital pager at (813) 336-0461 or by contacting the Gazette, BHA or a Community Council member.

The Sheriff's Office has designated the resource area to include all the residences and business's from Bloomington Avenue South to the Alafia River between Lithia Pinecrest Road and John Moore Road, including the Mason Oaks and the River Ridge Reserve subdivisions. While many of the Homeowners Association within the BHA area are represented in the Community Council, Deputy Maurer plans to recruit new members from the other including subdivisions to better serve our community. He looks forward to the official "Grand Opening" which will be officiated by Sheriff Cal Henderson and to meeting and working with area residents. This is your substation and you are encouraged and welcome to stop by and say hello.

Bloomington News

Volunteers can help create holiday spirit year round. Goodwill needs volunteers to help cut, paste, and fold general purpose greeting cards. For more information call Jinnie Kerdi at (813) 523-1512, ext. #223.

The JC Penney Golf Classic is offering discounted tickets. The program is to be held December 1st - 7th, 1997 at the Innisbrook Hilton Resort. For more information call the Big Brothers/Big Sisters at (813) 287-2210.

Luminarias will again light the way of Christmas Eve as communities and neighborhoods illuminate their sidewalks, driveways and property frontage with candles in brown paper bags. It has become a tradition in the Brandon area. Neighborhoods not yet involved may do so by contacting Lina Angelici at (813) 684-1308 or Barbara Reed at (813) 671-3078. Luminaria orders will be ready for distribution on November 29th, 1997.

Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center presents "The Nutcracker" on December 12th - 14th, 1997. For more information call (813) 229-STAR.

Tampa Hillsborough County Public Main Library presents "The Frontier in American Culture" starting December 1st - January 8th, 1998. For more information call (813) 272-6411.

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School Boundaries continued from page 1

If you would like to comment on the proposed school boundaries, write or call Dr. Earl J. Lennard, Superintendent, and School Board Members: Carol W. Kurdell - Chairman, Glenn Barrington - Vice-Chairman, Carolyn Bricklemeyer, Sharon Danaher, Joe E. Newsome, Candy Olson and Doris Ross Reddick at 901 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa 33602, Phone 272-4050 or FAX 272-4510. You may also e-mail your comments to the BHA at bloomingtondale@juno.com and we will forward them to the School District. Be sure to include your name and address in your e-mail.

There is no doubt that the School District is facing a monumental task in delivering education to a growing county like Hillsborough. Unlike Orange County, which recently refused to approve a sales tax increase for building schools, the voters of Hillsborough County cautiously approved a similar tax. Insensitivity to community needs as exhibited by the recent boundary proposal will quickly erode this cautious support.

In closing, Bloomingdale is a community. It is a historical community which has worked diligently to preserve the quality of life and spirit that so many found appealing when they chose to live here. Evidence of this community spirit has been the support and membership of so many households over the past 16 years in the nonprofit Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. As a community we have been strong supporters of our education system. We are proud of our elementary schools and their dedicated staffs. We support the great work done at Burns Middle School by Principals Billy Pate and Linda Kipley and look forward to the stewardship of Brenda Nolte. Bloomingdale High School has become a leader in secondary education under the leadership of Charlie Harris and now B.J. Steiter.

But have no doubt, it has been the community of Bloomingdale, the parents, students and teachers which have made these schools hallmarks of our district. As a community, we should insist that we be recognized and supported by the School District.

Bloomingdale News



Bloomingdale High School looms in the back while a truck speeds by. Some residents feel the speed limit posted should be a lot lower for a school district.

The Brandon Church of God will present "Angels Unaware". A love offering for missions will be taken. Please join them at 406 North Kingsway Avenue. For more information call Toni Combs at (813) 671-9649.

The Hillsborough Hunger-Free Coalition now in its 4th year, is a collaborative effort of agencies, organizations, universities, religious groups and citizens, who are all committed to reduce hunger in the Hillsborough and Tampa Bay area. The Hunger Coalition meets the third Friday of each month at 10:00 AM and membership is open to anyone who cares. For additional information on the Hunger-Free Coalition, call Helen Webb at the Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service at 744-5519.

Have an interesting hobby? Tell the community about it! Write a column about your interest, or just send your ideas and pictures to Editor, Bloomingdale Gazette, "Hobbies," 200 W. Brandon Blvd., Suite 102, Brandon, FL 33511.

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Out of the Water

Fresh Grouper Filet	\$10.95
Mahi-Mahi Filet	\$9.95
Yellow Fin Tuna Filet	\$9.95
Swordfish Filet	\$10.95
Sandwich	\$7.95

Play'n Thru

Veggie Pasta	\$8.95
<i>Fettucini tossed with mushrooms & vegetables in Alfredo sauce</i>	
Pasta Sasebo	\$9.95
<i>White wine, garlic, tomatoes, scallions, crabmeat, shrimp, & scallops</i>	

From the Green

Player's Platter	\$3.95
<i>Sliced carrots, celery, cucumbers and whole mushrooms w/dressing</i>	
The Bogey	\$2.95
<i>Provolone cheese & sliced tomatoes w/olive oil, peppercorn & oregano</i>	
"The Kings" Sals (Chef's Salad)	\$5.25
Spinach Salad	\$5.25
Legends House Salad	\$3.25
Caesar Salad	\$4.95

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Excludes tax, beverage, & gratuity.
With purchase of entree.

1 coupon per table. Not valid w/other offers.



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