

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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FEATURE STORY



Bloomington resident Margaret Fussell wins a portable DVD player in the Gazette's monthly raffle sponsored by American Online Publishers.

PAGE 7

BUSINESS

Elton Dumont says the food danced on his palate during a remarkable dining experience at a new Brandon restaurant.

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LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Children of all ages line up to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus each year at the Bloomington community office.

Santa Claus Is Coming To Bloomington

FREE VISIT, PHOTO WITH FOOD DONATION

A Gazette Report

Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their 18th annual visit to Bloomington this year to hear children's wish lists and to help collect food donations for local charities.

All children are invited to visit with Santa on Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bloomington community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, in the SunTrust Bank/Citgo

station plaza.

In exchange for a donation of one or more nonperishable food items, each child can visit personally with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and will have their photo taken for free. Santa's elves will serve complimentary juice and cookies.

The annual event is sponsored by The Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS ♦ PAGE 3

*Liberty Waste Picks Up
On Customer Service Issues*
BHA Working Close With Representatives

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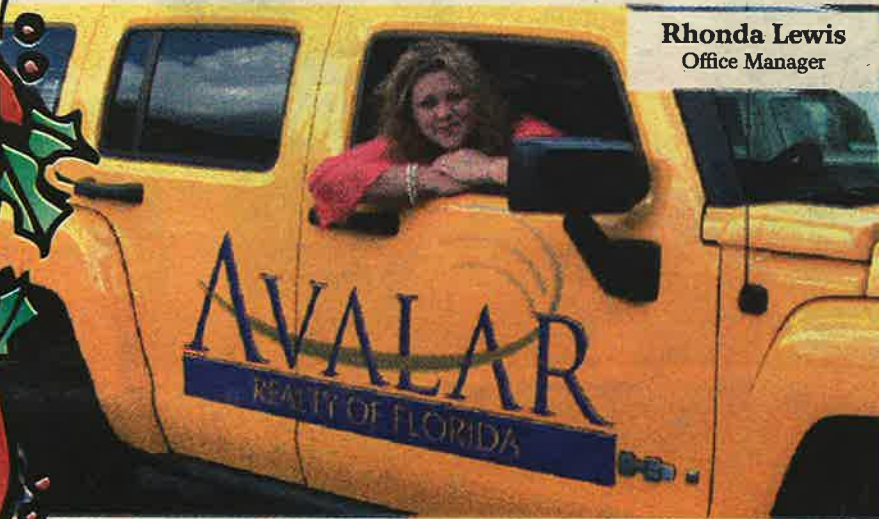
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3716 Sand Pebble Dr	189,900
2513 Mendocino Wy	198,900
2510 Mendocino Wy	215,000
3919 Penrod Ln	220,000
4204 Springway Cr	225,500
4105 Eastridge Dr	228,000
505 Wtnwood Dr	230,000
2627 Allwood Av	249,900
3723 Greenford St	255,000
705 Herlong Ct	259,900
3713 Orangecrest St	269,900
4024 Paddlewheel St	269,900
3815 Polumbo Dr	297,500
3402 Cade Lb	299,900
4603 Daventry Pl	299,900
3521 Springville Dr	320,000
3724 Hollow Wood Dr	325,000
2120 Golf Manor Bv	375,000
3933 Northridge Dr	385,000
2207 Eagle Bluff Dr	397,500
2314 Longmore Cr	409,900

(FRANKINCENSE)
 Houses Listed

Address	Price
4131 Quail Briar Dr	189,900
604 Fieldstone Dr	208,000
4105 Quail Briar Dr	212,000
1427 Peachfield Dr	228,000
523 Sandy Creek Dr	234,900
4033 Eastridge Dr	244,900
505 Sandy Creek Dr	244,900
4018 Paddlewheel Dr	249,000
2503 Mendocino Wy	250,000
3923 Casaba Lp	254,900
4528 Portobello Cr	259,900
1521 Dumont Dr	265,000
4305 Elton Pl	269,900
113 Bloomingfield Dr	275,000
4105 Eastridge Dr	275,000
4307 Ellenville Pl	285,000
2410 Needham Dr	285,900
3923 Applegate	288,400
3912 Sweetleaf Dr	289,900
3604 Warmspring Wy	289,900
4519 Portobello Cr	292,500
1741 Shady Leaf Dr	299,900

(MYRRH)
 Houses Pending

Address	Price
526 Sandy Creek Dr	168,000
3811 Hollister Pl	195,000
4024 Greenmark Ln	203,900
504 Emberwood Dr	204,900
609 Sweetleaf Dr	214,900
1011 Elm Grove Ln	225,000
1101 Mallory Point Dr	239,900
3604 Greenstone Pl	249,900
3616 Greenstone Pl	250,000
2011 River Crossing Dr	254,760
1215 Callista Av	255,000
1927 River Crossing Dr	258,520
701 Caliente Dr	259,700
1230 Lornewood Dr	259,900
1421 Monte Lake Dr	279,900
620 Shady Nook Dr	295,000
4201 Havenstone Wy	309,900
2705 Brookville Dr	313,038
3916 Dunaire Dr	319,900
4603 Oak River Cr	319,900
1413 Buckner Rd	320,000
2632 Allwood Av	324,900
3731 Cold Creek Dr	329,900
4501 Compass Oaks Dr	330,000
2321 Longmore Cr	380,000
4501 River Close Blvd	389,900
4321 Swift Cr	415,000
5104 Bell Shoals Rd	865,000
5106 Bell Shoals Rd	935,000

**To All Our Loved Ones, Both Home
 and Overseas: Merry Christmas
 and A Blessed New Year!**



Liberty Waste Picks Up On Customer Service Issues

BHA WORKING CLOSELY WITH REPS

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

There was standing room only in close quarters at the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's Nov. 7 meeting.

Most of about two dozen residents who attended the meeting turned out in response to announcements that a representative of Liberty Waste LLC, the company contracted by Hillsborough County to provide garbage collection services to the Bloomingdale area, would attend.

Faced with increasing numbers of complaints about household trash and yard waste services in the community, the BHA's volunteer board of directors in October sent a letter outlining the concerns of the residents it represents to Liberty, Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management and the Hillsborough County Commission.

Mike Laverty, Liberty's vice



Representatives of Liberty Waste and Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management, at a community meeting in November, address the BHA board and Bloomingdale residents' concerns about trash and recycling services.

president of operations, and Jason Greer, Liberty's community relations program manager, attended the meeting, along with Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management's customer service and support manager, Bryant Johnson.

The homeowners in attendance, and several BHA board

members, addressed Laverty and Johnson with their concerns.

Among the issues discussed at the meeting: no yard waste collection for up to two weeks in a row; trash cans thrown forcefully into the street resulting in irreparable containers and roadblock hazards; trucks

entering residential neighborhoods before the designated 6 a.m. start time; arbitrary pick-up of various types and volumes of yard waste; loose trash and yard debris left lying in the road after pick-up; and rude or unresponsive cus-

See LIBERTY, Page 19

Questions, Comments About Garbage Collection Services?

Residents with questions or comments about household trash, yard waste or recycling collection services should call the Liberty Waste customer service department at 248-2820.

To contact the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department, call 272-5680.

To report previously reported, unresolved issues — or to acknowledge notable improvements in service — contact Liberty's community relations program manager, Jason Greer, at 601-0998 or e-mail jgreer@libertytampa.com.

To read a list of frequently asked questions about solid waste collection services, log on to www.bloomingtongazette.com.

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New Board Games Are Unique, Fun

BUY ONLINE, SOME LOCAL STORES

By RYAN BRETSCH
Special To The Gazette

This Christmas, why not forget about that boring tie for dad or the six-week movie rental pass for your best friend. We all enjoyed ripping open that shiny red Christmas wrapping to reveal the wonderment of the latest games and toys underneath as kids. You can bring a little bit of that magic back this year, and give yourself something fun to do in the process.

Last month we talked about the renaissance of board games as a form of entertainment to enjoy in a casual evening with friends. This month, I'll introduce you to some great games to play, just in time for the gift-giving season.

You can find the following games, and others like them, online and at a handful of local retailers. Two prominent Web retailers are www.gamefest.com and www.funagain.com

Go To The Game store in the Westfield Citrus Park mall specializes in these types of games. Or, if you want a great place closer to home, try The Comics Club in the La Viva Shopping Center at 714 W. Lumsden Road. Their board game collection is impressive; you're sure to find yourself perusing the different games and titles.

Ticket to Ride

Published by Days of Wonder

Ticket to Ride is a beautiful game about trains, tracks and route planning from one U.S. railway destination to another. Omaha to Los Angeles? New



Photo courtesy of Ryan Bretsch

Players compete to make the most money in I'm the Boss, a game involving business wheeling and dealing, lining up investors and negotiating.

York to Miami? No problem. This game is light, yet surprisingly immersive. A big plus is that it can be explained very quickly and is easy to walk through a quick "dry run" before playing commences. Players make placements of trains in order to fulfill tickets. But watch out! Limited room exists, so you may have to claim track before another player grabs it. Effective strategies are quickly evident to even the most novice of players, and there are multiple paths to victory. Ticket to Ride is well balanced, and there is continuous tension involved in the choices throughout the game. Everyone remains involved in the game continuously because the actions of other players will always affect decision making on your turn.

Ticket to Ride is probably the best game out on the market right now to show people that there is much more to board games than Monopoly — without taking the entire night to prove it. It keeps everyone playing for the win until the very end and is sure to be a well-traveled companion that comes out of your closet to play time and again.

I'm the Boss

Published by Face to Face Games

I'm the Boss is a crazy game about business deals, lining up investors and negotiating to make even more business deals, all with the express purpose of trying to make the most money. The game runs and plays very smoothly, but

is pure chaos in its most delightful form. Like Ticket to Ride, there is obvious tension involved in the choices, but this time the decision making is fast and furious, leaving scarcely the opportunity to catch your breath. Deals rise and collapse in a matter of moments. And everyone is involved in the game, on every turn. Play time runs approximately two hours, but the game is so frantic that the time literally flies by. Free-wheeling dealing, constant jabbering and frantic negotiation is the best way to describe your dealings with your fellow business underlings in this game. I'm the Boss is a game where it always your turn, and it's every person for

See GAME, Page 17

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

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

President: Ted Grable Vice President: Joe Hickle
Treasurer: Pam Liguori Director: Myron Magedanz
Director: Lydia Harrod Director: Steve Heckel
Director: Dale Kahn Director: Ken Pyse
Director: Tim Shuman

Bloomington Special Taxing District

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

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

Trustee: Joe Harless
Property Manager: Al Devney

Bloomington Community Security Program

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

Coordinator/Equipment Manager:

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146
Treasurer: Paul Kelmer
Patrol Member:
Steven Heckel
Patrol Member:
Brad Scharp
Patrol Member: Paul Warr



Bloomington Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
Phone: 685-2817
BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
President: Bill Grace
Treasurer: Fred Englehart

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-2051
Fax: (813) 684-2358
E-Mail: info@bloomingtongazette.com

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Editor — Laura Frazier
Correspondent — Mack Austin
Correspondent — Leslie White
Restaurant Critic — Elton Dumont

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The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomington residents along with The Tampa Tribune on the first Saturday of each month.

Publisher — Carla Floyd
Advertising Manager — Tami Donaldson
Phone: 627-1322; E-mail: tdonaldson@tampatrib.com

Community Office Has New Office Hours

Effective Dec. 5, 2005, the Bloomington Community Office will be open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office is at 3509 Bell Shoals Road in the SunTrust Bank plaza. For more information, call 681-2051 or e-mail bloomington.homeowners@verizon.net.

Last Chance To Claim Found Items

The following items, as previously advertised in the Gazette and on www.bloomingtongazette.com, were found in Bloomington this year. The items will be held at the community office until Dec. 31, 2005. Please call 681-2051 or e-mail bloomington.homeowners@verizon.net to claim the items:

- Keys found on Culbreath Road
- CD case found near The Cove entryway
- Baby blanket

COMMENTARY

'Tis The Season To Give, And Give Some More

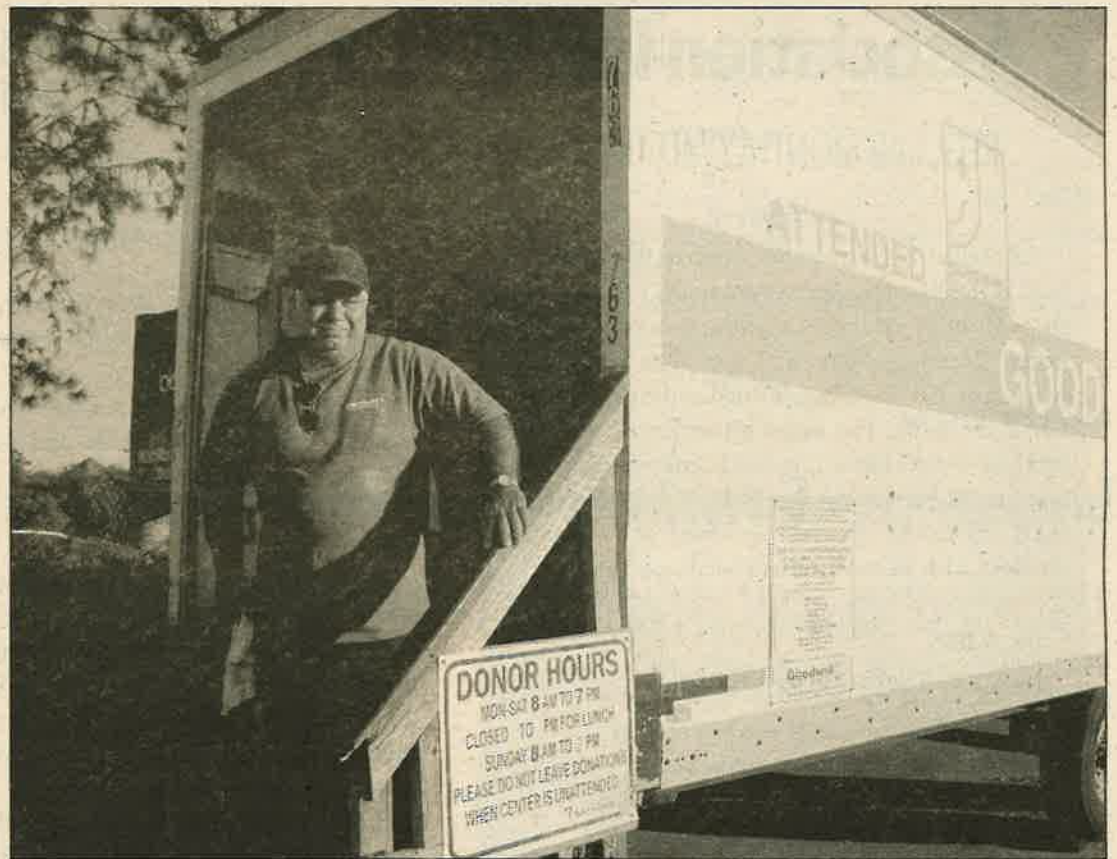
MANY CHOICES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

By IRENE BUGGY
Correspondent

The holidays are fast approaching, and it has been a whirlwind of a year. A heart-breaking number of natural disasters began the day after Christmas last year with the tsunami in Southeast Asia, right through to hurricane Katrina in the southern U.S. this summer. We have been asked to give to charities almost throughout this entire year, and as 2005 comes to a close, we are asked again to open our checkbooks or credit cards to give some more.

This Christmas we need to look back as well as look ahead and decide who to write those "end of year" charitable donation checks to.

We are all a little hard pressed around this time of year. Our lives get very hectic as we try to balance family and work with holiday shopping and festivities. I am reminded of a saying that rings in my ears each holi-



IRENE BUGGY/Photo

The Goodwill Industries drop-off for used, resalable items, in the parking lot of Bloomington Square, is one of many convenient ways Bloomington residents can contribute to charitable causes throughout the year.

day season. It goes something like this, "To whom much has been given, much is required." This saying always humbles me when I hear it.

Most of us do not live in

mansions or make millions of dollars, but we all work hard to support ourselves and loved ones. As we try to make this the very best holiday for our families and friends, let us not for-

get those who are less fortunate. That list seems to be growing longer, and Santa may need a little extra help than usual this year.

See GIVE, Page 18

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Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Inc.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

A Gazette Report

All regular BHA meetings, open to the public, are held at the Bloomingtondale Community Office on the first Monday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. The community office is at 3509 Bell Shoals Road in the plaza behind SunTrust Bank. For more information, call 681-2051 or e-mail bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net. To register for free BHA News Alerts by e-mail, including special meetings and schedule changes, visit www.bloomingtondalegazette.com.

- Dec. 5, 2005
- Jan. 5, 2006 (Due to New Year's Holiday)
- Feb. 6, 2006
- March 6, 2006
- April 3, 2006
- May 1, 2006
- June 5, 2006
- July 6, 2006 (Due to Fourth of July)
- Aug. 7, 2006
- Sept. 7, 2006 (Due to Labor Day)

Faithbooking Preserves Memories, Connects Generations

FREE CLASSES AT BELL SHOALS BAPTIST CHURCH

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

For Liz Fox, scrapbooking is more than a hobby, it's her testimony.

Fox, a Bloomingtondale West resident, started scrapbooking in 2001. It was about that same time that she broke her hip.

"It was through that experience that I found out God had a purpose for my life, and it was not what I thought it was going to be."

Fox has since started what she calls a "Faithbooking" ministry.

"I actually faith-booked before I knew there was such a thing," she said.

Fox believes God uses every event in our lives and that scrapbookers can take their hobby to a higher level by creating a testimony of these events and use them as a witnessing tool for everyone who sees them.

"My kids and grandkids head for the scrapbooks as soon as they arrive," she said. "Throughout the books are references to how God has blessed our lives. It's wonderful to see them and our friends get exposed to God's wondrous works, his blessings and his comfort in times of need."

Recognizing how these "faithbooks" encouraged her own family, Fox decided she wanted to help



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Bloomingtondale resident Liz Fox practices what she preaches — the joys of Faithbooking.

other women preserve family memories as well as passing on their family values and heritage.

A member of Bell Shoals Baptist Church for 19 years, Fox approached John Martin, pastor to senior adults, about having a presentation on scrapbooking. The response was so good that a ministry grew out of it. Now a cross-generational group of women meet regularly to put together visual family treasures.

Heike House, a Creative Memories Consultant who lives in Bloomingtondale East, is a friend of Fox's and is on hand at each session to give advice.

"Initially, Liz invited me to help her, as an advisor

See FAITH, Page 19

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BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Briarlake Drive Homeowner Wins DVD Player Raffle

MONTHLY RAFFLES OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS

A Gazette Report

Bloomington resident Margaret Fussell stopped by the Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc. Nov. 7 meeting to pick up the DVD player she won simply by registering her e-mail address on the community Web site, www.bloomingtongazette.com.

All Bloomington residents who register on the site are eligible for a free monthly raffle sponsored by American Online Publishers. The company is owned by BHA Web site designer and host, Rodney Bidle.

At the Dec. 5 BHA meeting, American Online Publishers will give away a Latin-themed gift basket with food items provided by Paskert Distributing in Brandon, and a dinner certificate for a local Latin restaurant.

Homeowners who register once on the site (no personal information required) are automatically entered into each raf-



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Bloomington resident Margaret Fussell of Briarlake Drive with a DVD player she won in the November raffle on www.bloomingtongazette.com.

fle thereafter. The BHA maintains the private e-mail database to provide residents with BHA News Alerts. All addresses registered on the site are kept in strict confidence and will not be sold, shared or otherwise disclosed.

To register your e-mail address, and for raffle information and rules, log on to www.bloomingtongazette.com.

Homeless Veterans Need Help

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

A Gazette Report

AMVETS Post 4, a local chapter of the national American Veterans Association, is accepting donations through Dec. 22 for hundreds of veterans and their families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita who relocated to the Tampa Bay area.

Donations are being accepted at several locations, including a convenient drop-off site in Bloomington; the Waterhole Bar and Grill at 3503 Bell Shoals Road, in the SunTrust Bank plaza behind the Citgo gas station. Enterprise

Leasing will donate trucks to transport the donations.

Items needed include:

- Food — nonperishable canned goods, meats, poultry, fish, vegetables and fruits; packaged dry goods, rice, pastas, breakfast cereals, dehydrated vegetables and soups, nuts, candies, water, drinks, and juices; turkeys or hams for holiday meals.
- Kitchen and cooking utensils — pots, pans, knives, forks, plates, cups and glasses.
- Bath and bedroom items — sheets, blan-

See VETERANS, Page 10

Holiday Decorating Contest Starts Next Weekend

THREE BEST DISPLAYS WILL EARN PRIZES

A Gazette Report

Santa's helpers are once again combing Bloomington neighborhoods in search of the season's most impressive holiday lighting displays, but they need a little help this year.

Even for elves, it's quite a challenge to spot every decked-out home in this community of close to 5,000 residences.

To call our attention to your spectacular decorations, please e-mail or call us with your address. Likewise, if you see a shining stand-out in your travels throughout Bloomington,

send us the name of the street it's on and a description of the display.

Three winners, one in each category, will receive a \$50 pre-paid American Express gift card, valid at any Westfield Brandon mall store or restaurant that accepts AMEX, courtesy of the Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc.

The three categories are Most Elegant, Most Charming and Most Delightfully Excessive.

All homes in the official BHA area are qualified for the contest. Winners will be announced in the January issue of the Gazette and on www.bloomingtongazette.com.

Send nominations to info@bloomingtongazette.com or call Laura, 643-2990.

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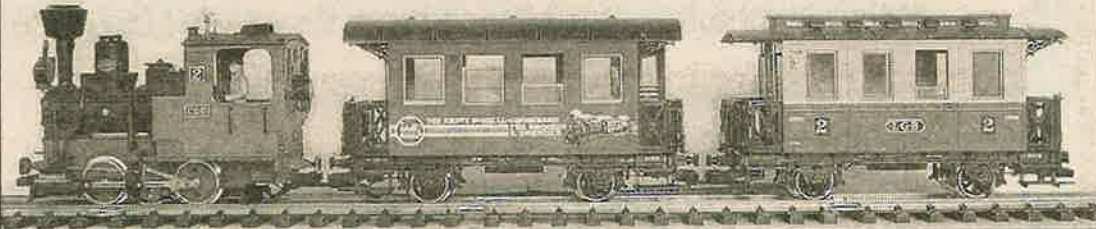
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BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Annual Star Party Set For Feb. 22-26

GREAT TIME FOR ASTRONOMY NERDS

By ALLISON CURRAN
Special To The Gazette

Smithsonian magazine recently published a special anniversary issue titled "35 Who Made a Difference." The edition includes articles about people like Bill Gates, the so-called king of software; Sally Ride, the first female astronaut; and movie magician Steven Spielberg. For me, there was one person profiled that stood out above them all: John Dobson.

Many people have no idea whatsoever about Dobson, but he is a celebrity in the world of astronomy. He is best known as the father of sidewalk astronomy and as the inventor of the convenient Dobsonian mount. Either way, he is an icon to the astronomical world.

Dobson travels around the world teaching people about the sky and sharing his knowledge. This past February, he visited Alafia River State Park for the annual Orange Blossom Special stargazing festival, where he shared his knowledge with other amateur astronomers. I was even able to meet him personally and have a picture taken with him. I was amazed by his keen personality and liveliness. Recently, celebrating his 90th

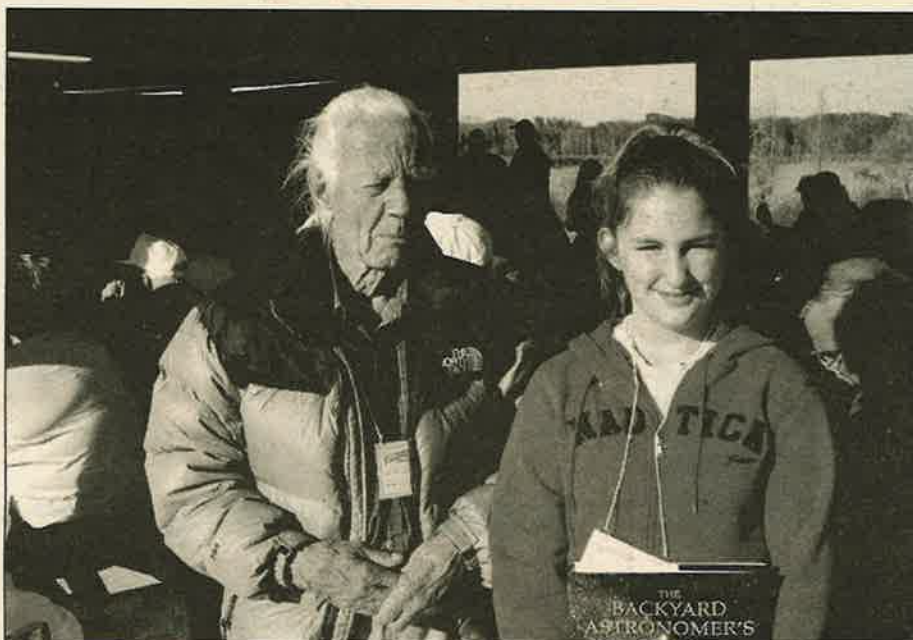


Photo courtesy of the Curran Family

Bloomingtondale resident Allison Curran poses with a picture of her astronomy hero, John Dobson.

birthday, Dobson shows no signs of slowing down.

The St. Pete Astronomy Club hosts the Orange Blossom Special every February at Alafia River State Park. We astronomy nerds call it a star party. Even though the remarkable John Dobson was there, it doesn't mean that it's a party with a bunch of Hollywood stars. Of course not! It is where members gather their families, trailers, food, and most important of all their telescopes, and

join the rest of the group to look at stars until you can't pry your eyes open any longer. I personally suggest falling asleep outside with a heater blowing under your blanket.

It all starts when the day ends. As soon as the sun goes down, all telescopes are up. Some people just cruise around observing different things through all sorts of telescopes. The most popular place is the "Dob Nob," where members bring their huge Dob-

sonian telescopes on top of a hill and look at every thing from the Great Orion Nebula to Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

What happens during the day you ask? Well, that is the time when you prepare for the night. Napping, relaxing, playing video games, socializing — anything. Every night there is a door prize drawing right before it gets dark. There were games, eyepieces, books, and even a grand prize of one of John Dobson's invention, a telescope on a Dobsonian mount.

I myself won a book named "Backyard Astronomer's Guide," which I later got signed by Mr. Dobson saying, "I don't do backyard astronomy. I prefer front yard astronomy."

There's no telling what kind of fun we are going to have this February. For more information on the upcoming Orange Blossom Special, visit www.stpeteastronomyclub.org or call 792-0721.

Allison Curran, a Bloomingtondale resident, is an eight-grade student at Immanuel Lutheran School in Brandon. The Curran family can frequently be found scanning the skies in their front yard and at Bloomingtondale West Park. Visit their Web site at www.planetcurran.com

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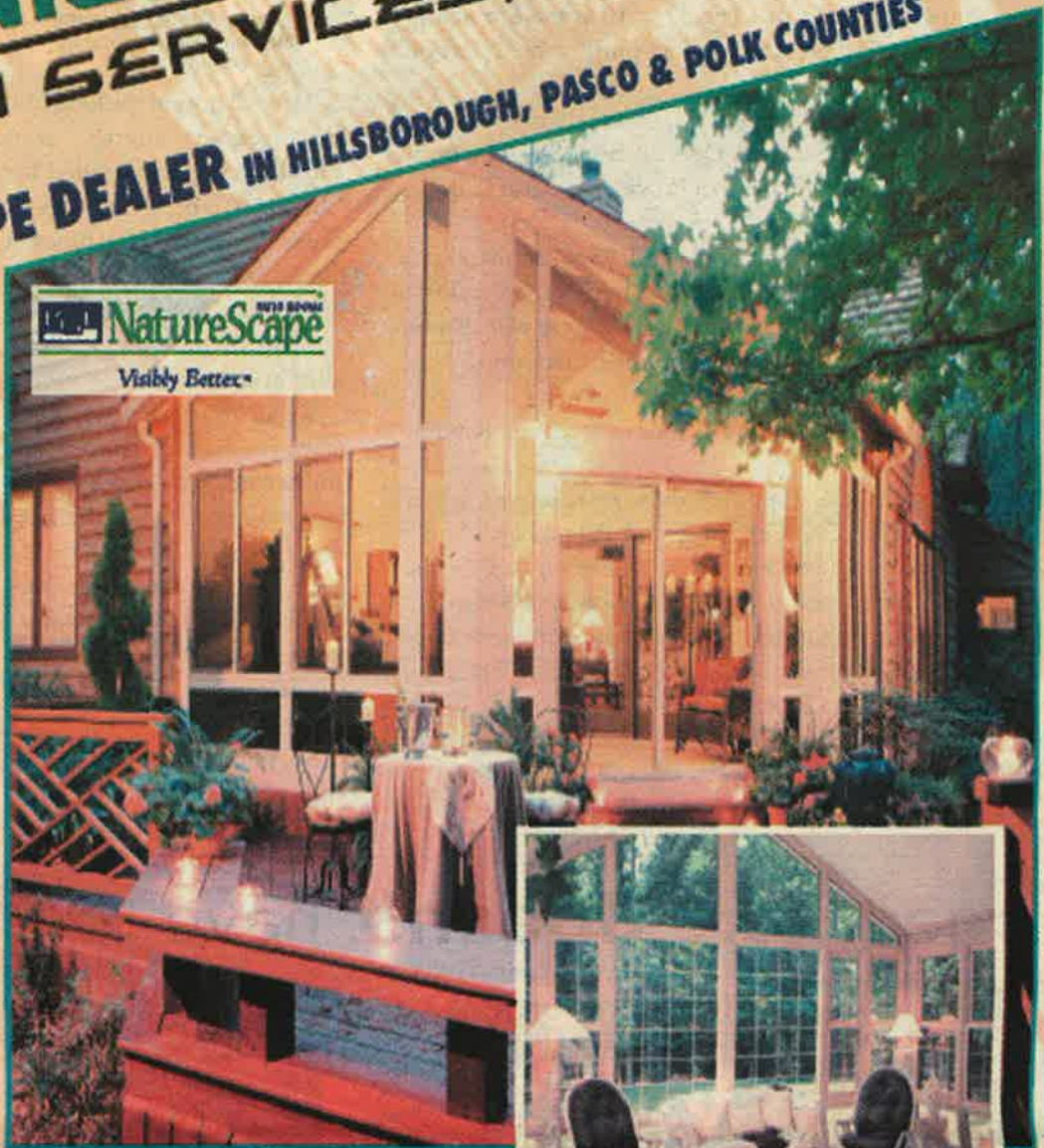
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Children Invited To Breakfast With Santa Dec. 21

PROCEEDS BENEFIT KIWANIS YOUTH PROGRAMS

A Gazette Report

After you visit with Santa Claus Dec. 10 at the Bloomingdale Community Office, why not join him for breakfast on Dec. 21?

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon will host its 13th annual Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 21, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 815 Providence Road in Brandon.

Tickets are \$5 for children ages 4 to 12; \$8 for adults; kids 3 and under eat free. The ticket price includes a full breakfast buffet with drinks and a visit with Santa. There will also be goody bags, candy canes, balloon animals, live music and Christmas caroling.

You may purchase tickets at the door or from any Kiwanis member.

Breakfast with Santa is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon and the Golden Corral. All proceeds benefit Kiwanis-sponsored youth programs, including the Terrific Kids programs in 25 local elementary schools which provides motivation and recognition to youngsters, an elementary school K-Kids Club, two middle school Builders Clubs, and three high school Key Clubs.

For more information about the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon and its programs, visit www.brandonkiwanis.org.

BLOOMINGDALE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Take Steps To Ensure Happy Holidays

BUCKLE UP, BE ALERT

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER
Bloomington Community
Resource Officer

We're all now in the long holiday season stretch after Thanksgiving and headed for Christmas and New Year's. These two very special times of the year will hopefully be filled lots of fun, but we have to do our part to make them memorable in a positive way.

We all know what it takes to make our holiday seasons safe and secure. We hear each year, but you know, folks, the rules don't change. It's up to us to keep our families, ourselves, our homes and our possessions safe and secure during the holiday season just like any other time.

So, please, follow the basic rules. Be constantly aware of

your surroundings, lock up your valuables and follow good safety practices, especially when you're driving. These are all important steps we all must take to make our holidays memorable ones instead of sad or miserable ones.

Many of you will do some extra traveling this holiday season, whether you're shopping or going to parties or visiting friends and family. The scene doesn't change from the normal day-to-day driving except there will be more of every type of driver imaginable on the highways and our local roads. They'll include teenagers just learning to drive and truck drivers in a hurry to make deliveries. Buckle up everyone in your cars and give 100 percent of your attention to your driving. Don't be distracted. It's

very dangerous out there. Of the millions of drivers traveling the roads over the holidays, there are some special types to watch out for and also not be one of. These include:

- According to the National Sleep Foundation, over "half" that's 50 percent or 1 out of every 2, of the nation's drivers (51 percent) admit to driving tired or drowsy, pushing themselves too far. Among drivers ages 18 to 29, nearly one-quarter (24 percent) reported that they have actually fallen asleep at the wheel. Most of these drivers are also impatient, drive faster and feel more stressed. Watch out for them! They usually speed up, then slow down or weave back and forth, just like a drunk driver.

- Drivers that drive while distracted have become such a serious problem that laws were recently passed to increase the fines for driving while distracted and law enforcement officers may now note "driver distracted" on accident reports. This seriously affects auto insurance rates! The types of distractions noted could fill a book and many are just plain crazy. They cover everything from cell phones, PDAs, eating, putting on makeup, changing clothes, talking to passengers, reading, shaving and now even watching videos or working on a laptop computer. Their minds can concentrate fully on only one thing at a time and if they are distracted it's not you. Concentrate on your driving like your life depends on it. It does.

- These are well known factors being some of the most dangerous

See SAFE, Page 1

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VETERANS

Continued From Page 7

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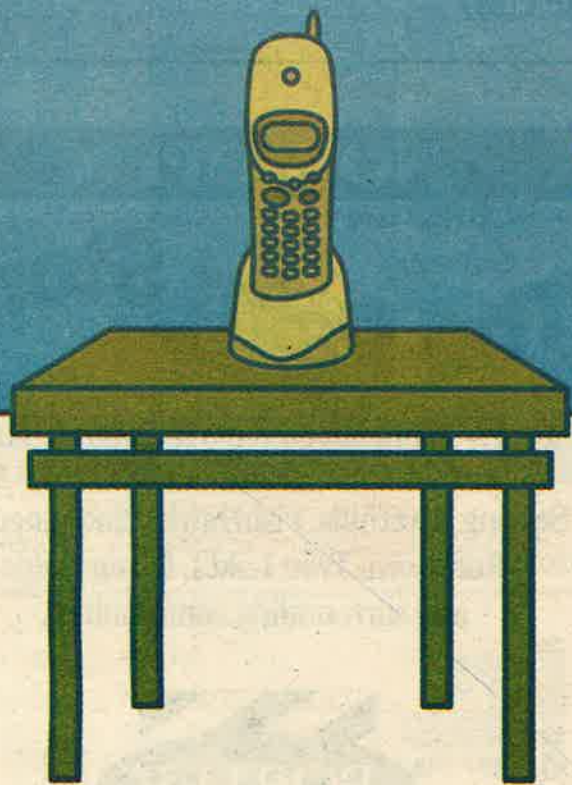
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BLOOMINGDALE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Traffic Signal, Crosswalk Completed

COUNCIL GIVES THANKS TO COUNTY REPS

By MACK AUSTIN
Correspondent

The BACC, Bloomingdale Area Community Council, is a volunteer group of residents from various homeowners associations in our community. The council works with law enforcement, county and state government representatives to help improve safety, security and the quality of life in the greater Bloomingdale area.

The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale substation on Bell Shoals Road. All interested residents are invited to attend. For information, call 635-8040.

At the November 2005 BACC meeting, the following items of interest and concern to Bloomingdale residents were discussed:

Little League, YMCA crosswalk

Deputy Pete Maurer and all members of the council agreed special thanks go to the Hillsborough County traffic engi-

neers who facilitated the completion of the very important crosswalk between the Bloomingdale Little League field and the YMCA.

All parents and children are asked to use the crosswalk, which offers the most secure area to access the fields.

Traffic signal installed

The council offered thanks to county officials for the completion of the now operating traffic signal at Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Erindale Drive.

Traffic blitz

Deputy Maurer presented the results of the recent traffic blitz operations completed by sheriff's deputies (see sidebar). Maurer said, "The largest group of citations involved drivers not coming to a complete stop for the red light before turning right (south) onto Bell Shoals Road."

Traffic engineers are coordinating the installation of cameras at intersections like this one that have a serious numbers of violations.

Gang activity

Deputy Maurer noted that although gangs are not a big problem in our area, special training sessions are being held throughout the county by the sheriff's gang unit to help educate residents on gang issues (see story in this issue).

Drug bust

It's sad to say but yes, there are those in our community who choose to deal in drugs. However, after a recent arrest at one Bloomingdale residence, Deputy Maurer said, "Thanks to the outstanding cooperation of concerned residents a major drug bust was made. Deputies monitored suspicious activities that were reported by residents and made several arrests (at a residence on Briar-lake Drive). This type of cooperation is what it takes to remove those who would bring crime to our community. Residents observing suspicious activities are asked to call the sheriff's office at 247-8200."

HARTline routes

Council member Norbert Gobin

reported he will attend special meetings called to review and improve HARTline bus routes.

Bell Shoals, Bloomingdale improvements

Several members expressed serious concern about when this very important, major traffic safety project will begin. As of the last update, plans were still being coordinated to purchase the right-of-way areas required for construction. Members said their main concern is "not losing the \$3.6 million dollars programmed for this project."

Special projects

Several ongoing projects were mentioned by BACC members, including improvements needed at the intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and John Moore Road, next to the major construction project; improving services provided by the contracted waste management companies for our area (see story in this issue) and the acquisition of property within Bloomingdale that poses possible conflicts with security.

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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BLOOMINGDALE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Green Team Focuses On Gang Awareness, Eradication

ACTIVITY NOTED AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

By MACK AUSTIN
Correspondent

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has a new team in town and members are very serious about their jobs.

The newly established Gang Task Force, also known as The Green Team, was formed this year to provide an extensive focus on controlling and eliminating gang activity throughout the county.

Yes, there is gang activity in our community. In fact, there are very few communities without any gang activity. This is why the Bloomingdale Area Community Council invited members of the sheriff's new unit to brief them on the missions of this special unit.

At the council's October meeting,

members were privileged to have a special guest speaker, Deputy James McDaniel from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. McDaniel briefed council members on the responsibilities and duties of the new gang task force.

McDaniel provided a detailed map of the locations of gang activity and the names of various gangs. Those locations included both middle and high schools in our area. The one most noticeable was Bloomingdale High School.

McDaniel said, "Gangs are a very real concern in our county. They recruit members at a very early age, usually around 12. Once a boy or girl becomes a member, they are members for life. This is why it is so critical for parents to become concerned and more involved in the lives of their kids. Some kids see the gangs as their new families. They get the attention and support they aren't getting at home.

"Then comes the sad part," McDaniel said. "Included in gang activities are a variety of criminal actions, including drugs, robberies, assaults and other requirements that can lead to being killed. They are very serious and very territorial.

"Parents, teachers and other adults should become closely aware of any changes in a young adult's activities, dress, friends, attitudes and habits. Watch for things like wearing the same types of clothes with the same colors, changes in attitudes towards school and things like tattoos. Be personally concerned and take whatever action is necessary. It may be your last chance to keep them out of a gang."

McDaniel asked for the support and cooperation of all the residents in all of our communities.

"We need your eyes and ears. Hillsborough is a large county. Report any suspicious signs like graffiti painted on

walls or buildings, but don't cover it until we investigate. Don't confront any possible gang members. Call the Community Station at 635-8040 or the sheriff's dispatch at 247-8200. Our goal is to reduce the membership in these gangs and then get these gangs out of our communities. We register any arrests in a national data base so that their activities can be tracked."

There are ways to combat the problem, he said. "Community support and involvement coupled with increased parental concern and action are what are needed to work this serious problem."

Members of the council thanked Deputy McDaniel and the Gang Task Force on behalf of the entire Bloomingdale community for their hard work and dedication to serve and protect our community.

For more information about the task force, log on to www.hcso.tampa.fl.us.

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BLOOMINGDALE SCHOOLS



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Cimino Pilgrims, Indians Share Friendship Feast

Cimino Elementary School teacher Hope Carter helps her students make pumpkin pies, one of many treats third-grade students shared during a Friendship Feast at the school last month. Students made their own placemats, napkin rings, Indian headbands and pilgrim hats. The group feasted on turkey (donated by Sam Pothier, manager of the Lithia-Pinecrest Road Albertsons) and all the trimmings. Carter said, "The feast brought history alive for the kids and gave us a feeling of togetherness."

Visitors Enthral Elementary, Middle School Students

GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Hillsborough County schools opened their doors Nov. 16 for parents, business partners and members of the community to come and share their vocations during the 11th annual Great American Teach-In. The event is held during nationwide American Education Week.

The intent is to educate the students and open doors to future vocational possibilities.

One speaker said he participated in the teach-in because, "These are the next generation of employees."

Cimino Elementary School welcomed 59 speakers who spend their workdays as pilots, nurses, writers, police officers and members of various branches of the military. Speakers told students what they do, how they got started and how they feel about their job.

Alafia Elementary School received a visit from a member of the S.W.A.T. team.

Burns Middle School reported 114 visitors and 223 classroom presentations.

"The parents and students enjoyed the presentations," said Beth Alexander, student intervention specialist at Burns.

Burns received visits from a professional girls' soccer player, a representative from the Tampa Bay Lightning and a college football referee, to name just a few.

Burns student Sam Morgan said, "The Great American Teach-In is one of the most exciting, fun-filled days of the year." Morgan's favorite visitor was a man who brought in venomous snakes.

C. R. Lewis, also a Burns student, said, "Parents, friends and family of all the students came in to teach us about their jobs because they care

See TEACH-IN, Page 15

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Fine Dining Is Back In Brandon

ELTON: REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE

By ELTON DUMONT
Exclusive to the Gazette

Fine dining — I mean really fine dining — is back in Brandon. Chianti's Restaurant' at 902 E. Brandon Blvd. is not pretentious at all in attempting to stake out the high end of fine dining in Brandon.

Lovie and Monte Queensbury recently joined Mrs. Dumont and I for dinner to check our Chianti's. When you enter the restaurant, you are greeted by a maitre d' in formal wear. After being seated, the maitre d' serves you an appetizer of imported Italian cheese and a selection of green and black olives. Your server then brings you an unusual pizza-style bread with a small dish of eggplant dip. And of course, there is the traditional bottle of straw-wrapped Chianti wine on each table.

The service, starting right out, was the best. The seasoned servers — not

Rating based on 5 stars	
Food	*****
Service	*****
Ambience	****
Overall	****1/2

kids, not neophytes — know how to cater to the carriage trade. With a full bar and fine wine list, you know this place exudes service. No loud voices, just soft piped-in Italian music, and not one cell phone. Life is good.

The appetizers range from \$8 to \$14, including Insalata di Mare (chilled seafood in lemon garlic and virgin olive oil); Cozze del Principe (mussels in a red or white wine sauce); Carpaccio di Manzo (Italian classic cured beef); and Antipasto alla Chianti (hot or cold appetizer for two). There is also a raw bar section and a zuppe section that includes traditional pasta fagioli. The

salads include the Spinaci e' Arance (leaf lettuce with pancetta, walnuts, mushrooms and orange sections) and Insalata di Pomodorialla Siciliana (vine tomatoes with basil, olive oil and shaved Ricotta salata cheese).

Pasta entrees range from \$14 to \$18, including ravioli in a tomato basil sauce, spaghetti fresco, penne alla vodka, fusilli with black olives and arugula and capellini. Fish entrees range from \$18 for salmon to \$36 for South African lobster tail. And you can still go to the veal, chicken or steak sections.

I ordered the mussels with extra hot sauce; the best I've had in a long while. The Queensbury's ordered the fried zucchini, an off menu item. Monte was extremely pleased with his choice and Lovie enjoyed it also. They ordered the Insalata di Pomodorialla, and we ordered the Spinaci e' Arance. Fresh, delicious and ample, so ample that each couple shared one salad. What else could one ask for?

For our entrees, we considered the specials such as encrusted sea bass or rack of lamb or Milanese pork chop, but settled on menu items after all. Monte had the penne vodka and Lovie had the ravioli, while Mrs. Dumont ordered spaghetti and meatballs. I broke the pasta chain and ordered the Gamberi scampi (pan seared jumbo shrimp with a garlic lemon sauce). To review each one would take too long. Simply said, all the entrees danced on our palates. It was a remarkable dining experience.

The dessert menu is just as wonderful: tiramisu, Frutto di Bosco, cappuccino cake, casata and tartufo. We all shared the casata, crème brulee, and a chocolate shell ice cream (tartufo). Nothing run of the mill here.

Our bill before the gratuity was \$136, and it was well worth every dollar. Remember, everything is ala carte and they are serving fine dining customers. For an expense account meal, a romantic evening or an anniversary, this is the place to go.

TEACH-IN

Continued From Page 14

about our future and want to assist us in choosing the right job."

The Manatee team at Burns had visits from Ann McFee, the executive director of the Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center. McFee told students about the history of the facility and about some of the Olympic divers and

swimmers that have trained there, like Brooke Bennett.

David Groh, representing the U.S. Coast Guard, also visited the middle school. Groh is one of about 30,000 Coast Guard members. He told students how the Coast Guard works to ensure national safety.


Yolanda Gacio, who has students at both Burns and Cimino, works at a genetics lab and shared the fundamentals of genetics with students at both schools.

Alyssa Broff, third-grade teacher at Cimino, took her class outside to see Earl Harris' presentation. As owner and

instructor at Earl Harris Karate Academy, he came to show the kids a karate demonstration.

"The kids loved it — it was great," said Broff.

Logan White contributed to this report.



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BLOOMINGDALE BUSINESS

New Restaurant Offers Southern Barbecue, More

**FRIDAY RIBFESTS, SATURDAY
 NIGHT STEAK-OUTS**

By **LESLIE WHITE**
 Correspondent

Looking for a down-home, home-cooked barbecue dinner? Jaymer and Cyndi Holcombe of Bloomingdale are offering just that — right around the corner.

The Holcombes, who have lived in Bloomingdale for seven years, opened their new restaurant Jaymer-Que on Dec. 1 in the Albertsons shopping center on Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

The couple had been looking for a place to open their business and when the store recently vacated by Quizno's came available, they said, "We knew God reserved this place just for us."

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Jaymer has been an avid barbecue chef since first sampling the fare at a "pig pickin'" in Marietta, Ga. The couple has been cooking up brisket, ribs and chicken and all the fixing and serving it to friends and church members, and generally got the response of, "This is the best thing I've ever tasted."

With feedback like that, Jaymer decided it was time to branch out.

Holcombe will offer his specialty brisket, along with pulled pork, ribs, chicken and fixings like baked beans, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, potato salad, vegetables and Cyndi's smoked chicken salad.

Jaymer also blends custom sausages without casings that will be available in the restaurant and take-home food saver bags. The custom blended sausages include those made with pulled pork, brisket, chicken and sun dried tomato with mozzarella and Romano, and mushroom and roasted pine nuts with Craisins.

"We truly are absolutely unique," said Holcombe.

Friday's will be Ribfest, followed by Saturday



Photo courtesy of the Holcombe family
Bloomingdale residents Jaymer and Cyndi Holcombe opened their new restaurant, Jaymer-Que, Dec. 1 in the Albertson's plaza on Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

Night Steak-Outs, where Holcombe will grill right in front of you cut-to-order rib eyes and N.Y. strips seasoned with his special rub. He'll also offer shrimp, fish, pork tenderloins and ABT's, otherwise known as atomic buffalo turdles — scooped out jalapeño peppers filled with cream cheese and bacon, grilled to a sumptuous perfection.

Jaymer-Que will serve up the traditional southern New Year's Day meal — ribs — which are said to bring good health in the new year. The ribs will also be sold in bulk before New Year's Day, in food saver bags with a no-fail warm up tip to keep the meat moist during reheating.

Restaurant hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday, closed on Sunday. For more information call 657-4227.

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BLOOMINGDALE SPORTS

Baseball Tryouts This Weekend

BLOOMINGDALE BREAKERS 12 AND UNDER

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Breakers 12 & Under AAU Baseball Team will hold a two-day tryout session this weekend, Dec. 3-4.

Players interested in trying out should plan to attend both days of the tryouts. Players should not turn 13 until after May 2, 2006. Prior to try-

outs, a parent/guardian must complete a medical release for their child.

The Breakers are primarily looking for pitchers, catchers and other skill sets. Interested players should have at least four years of Little League experience and must be willing to work hard to take their skills to the next level.

Saturday's tryouts are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Bloomingdale Little League field. For more information, call Tom Ewing, 657-2790, between 6 and 9 p.m.

GAME

Continued From Page 4

themselves in this board game barn burner. No downtime in this game is what makes it brilliant in conception. If you are playing with a good group of people, you will be too busy laughing, oooooohing and aaaahing and laughing some more to notice you are losing your shirt and your bankroll.

Mystery of the Abbey

Published by Days of Wonder

Mystery of the Abbey is a game of monks exploring the passages of an early medieval monastery set among steep and foreboding cliffs to solve the mystery of the murder of one of their brethren. The game oozes a mystery theme. From the scurrying of monks to-mass at the sound of the little mass bell, to entering the private confessionals in an effort to secret away important information to restore the peace of the abbey, this game is an easy connect for a little charming entertainment. The name of the rooms you explore are given in their Latin root name, adding even more atmosphere to the

game. It just doesn't get any better than this for ambient mood. In fact, Mystery of the Abbey sets the standard for thematic ambiance in a board game.

This is essentially a deduction game, but is purposefully given to other factors, making it unique in many respects and is a delight to play. Everyone has a chance in this game, where typically those who excel in various cognitive thinking skills tend to have dominance. Well-conceived but lighthearted mechanics and many fun and intriguing choices keep all of the players engaged and invested in the action. Mystery of the Abbey is about investigating and asking questions, but you have to be very creative to discover how far your astute questioning skills can take you. Player interaction is abundant and there are some grand, lighthearted treats that would be in poor form to spoil by revealing here; they're that good. So we won't say... only that they are found in the cards, and they will keep everyone laughing, singing and making merry together in good spirits.

Ryan Bretsch, a Bloomingdale resident, is a freelance writer and a game columnist for www.gamefest.com.

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Super Midgets Are Super Bowl Champs

BEARS' 1ST TITLE IN DIVISION

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

The Tampa Bay Bucs aren't the only local team with a claim to Super Bowl fame. The Brandon Bears Super Midgets took

that title themselves Nov. 19 in Plant City against the Temple Terrace Jaguars at the West Coast Youth Football Conference Super Bowl game.

An assistant team coach, Bloomingdale resident Butch Doane, said the Bears went 9-1 this season.

"I've learned more from you this year. This has been a great year," Doane told the team after the Super Bowl win.

Doane's son Tyler plays on the super midgets team and had an outstanding game.

"The best part of the day for me was when I got a 15-yard run," said Tyler, in his first year out of five playing that he's had his dad as a coach.

The team is coached by head coach Tony Saladino and assistant coaches Steve Sims, Mike Danish (Bears athletic director), Butch Doane, Dale Davison and Scott Steinberg.

Many members of the 29-man team are Bloomingdale residents, including Dakota Greene, Doug Sandberg, Paul Wallace, Brett Lindbeck, Marlon Fleming, Peyton White,



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

The Brandon Bears Super Midgets became the WCYFC Super Bowl champions in their division Nov. 19 with a 14-0 shut out over the Temple Terrace Jaguars.

Carter Fleck, Kevin Clifford, Tyler Doane, Kyle Wilson and Courtney Wilson, the Bears' only female player.

Assistant coach Sims, who formerly worked at Cimino Elementary as a physical education teacher before being appointed assistant principal of Collins Elementary, said,

"These boys worked hard."

This was a monumental win for the Brandon Bears organization, as no Super Midget team has ever taken the Super Bowl title, according to Danish.

"Every player on this team had a hand in this win," said Saladino.

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GIVE

Continued From Page 5

Following are just a few of the many charities that are asking for donations:

Toys For Tots

One of the most notable annual holiday charities, Toys for Tots, is run by the Marines. This year the event will be held Dec. 15-16 at the Toys 'R' Us parking lot at Westfield Brandon mall.

It will be hosted by radio station WQYK 99.5, which will broadcast the "Randy and Dave Show" live on location starting at noon on Dec. 15. Volunteers will be on hand to accept donations of new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has a special wish list this year for anyone who would like to help the wounded service people who are healing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Among the items they need are shampoo, deodorant, 5-by-7-inch lined writing pads,

pens, pencils and disposable cameras. Monetary donations can also be mailed to American Red Cross, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Bldg. 2 (Heaton Pavilion), 3rd Floor, Room 3E05, 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20307-5001.

Many of our men and women who have been wounded overseas spend weeks at Walter Reed recuperating. What a great way to let them know that they are appreciated.

The American Red Cross, Tampa Bay Chapter at 3310 W. Main St., Tampa, FL 33607 also needs monetary donations to help our local families get through the holidays.

Other Needs

Caroline Klich, an American Red Cross worker, suggested the following other charities: Metropolitan Ministries, 209-1000; The Salvation Army, www.salvationarmyusa.org, or 1-800-SAL-ARMY and Catholic Charities, 1-800-919-9338 or www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

visit www.BloomingtonGazette.com The official web site of The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

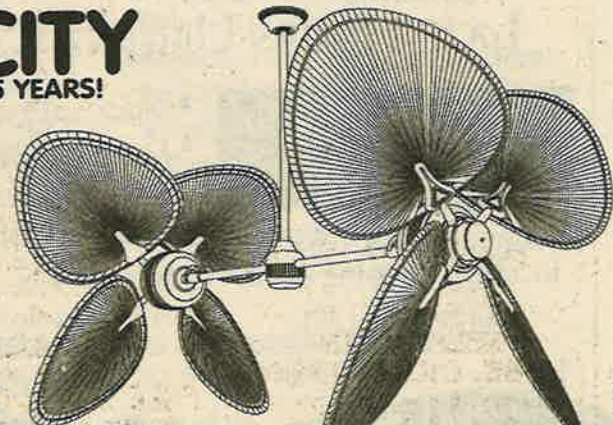
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SAFE

Continued From Page 10

gerous drivers. Nearly 40 percent of all traffic fatalities are alcohol related. These drivers are very unpredictable, can be very aggressive and usually aren't the ones that get injured seriously. Watch for the common signs displayed by this type of driver — weaving back and forth, driving very slowly or following the emergency lane line. Avoid them! Contact local law enforcement if you see them. Please, don't be one of them.

The holidays are stressful and many drivers take that stress with them behind the wheel. If you are driving near a driver being aggressive, do not confront them or aggravate them. They can be very unpredictable. You can't know if they are armed or drunk or on drugs. Many drugs will make drivers very aggressive. Back off from them, avoid eye contact, don't flash your lights and show any aggression yourself.

Avoid all of these types of drivers and definitely don't be one of them. Protect yourself and your family by wearing your seatbelts and ensuring all young children are in properly installed car seats or booster seats.

FAITH

Continued From Page 6

of sorts, to start a scrapbooking club at church. I'm involved as a participant, as well as a resource for questions about album making," said House.

Like Fox, House believes in passing on values and beliefs to the generations to come.

"We can do this by punctuating God's word with our own. Oftentimes we need to be reminded of the significance of an event — how it has affected us, or others — and not only the major events in our lives, but the every day things we do and say as well," said House.

Fox's goal is to help other women learn to put their life stories down in pictures as well as words, including how God used that particular person or event in their lives to mold them into who they are today. Fox uses the experience of her broken hip to encourage others who might be experiencing the same thing.

113 Citations Issued BLOOMINGDALE CRASH CORRIDOR

A Gazette Report

On Friday, Nov. 4, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic enforcement initiative concentrated along what officials refer to as the "Bloomingtondale Crash Corridor."

One covert vehicle was used to observe violations at several locations, including the corner of Bloomingtondale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road. The heavily traveled corner was recently identified as having the highest rate of vehicle crashes in southeastern Hillsborough County.

The one-day detail resulted in 113 citations, as follows: 57 for speeding, 11 for running a red light, five for failure to wear seatbelts, four for loud radios, three for driving with a suspended license, two truants, 1 for driving under the influence and 27 other miscellaneous violations.

Through her pictures, and her journaling, Fox tells the story of how God used that time to grow her and change her and give her a new purpose.

"People don't see God unless they're looking for him," she said.

Classes take place at Bell Shoals Baptist Church and are free to anyone interested. Each class has a 20-minute explanation on different aspects of faithbooking, an exchange of ideas and challenges for attendees to incorporate their faith into their scrapbooking. All beginners need to bring are their pictures and some paper to take notes on.

The class takes place on the first Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon, and on the third Monday of the month from 7 to 10 p.m., in the multi-purpose center. Free childcare is available during the Monday evening classes only, with reservations required one week in advance by calling 689-4229, Ext. 501.

For more information on the ministry, call Fox at 681-9434.

LIBERTY

Continued From Page 3

tomter service from both Liberty and Hillsborough County Solid Waste Department employees.

Laverty, a former route worker, acknowledged and apologized for the problems, attributing them to recent personnel and equipment problems he said Liberty is working to correct throughout its southeastern Hillsborough service area.

Its customers should expect, and Liberty will work towards providing, "attention to detail in completing the job in the way it's supposed to be done," he said.

Greer, a new Liberty hire who came onboard last month, said he is dedicated to resolving Liberty's customer service issues on a community-by-community basis, beginning with two of the most vocal complainants, Bloomingtondale and Sun City Center.

Detailed notices about service problems reported by the BHA and Bloomingtondale residents were placed in route workers' payroll envelopes last week, Greer said. In addition, the notices were prominently posted at the company's dispatch headquarters.

"We are feverishly working towards resolving the reported problems," he said.

Greer will monitor the progress of improvements in Bloomingtondale's service on a weekly basis, and expects to make a formal review sometime over the next three months.

The County Commission recently renewed Liberty's contract for three more years.

"It's going to be a continuous process," Greer said.

BHA representatives worked closely with Greer in November to compile a list of solid waste collection frequently asked questions. The FAQ's are posted on www.bloomingtondalegazette.com, and will appear in a future issue of the Gazette.

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My 5-Star Team and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours joy, love and peace, not only as you celebrate the holiday, but each day in the new year! We also thank everyone who has contributed to our success in 2005! We look forward to continuing old and forging new friendships in the years ahead!

May your heart and home be warmed with all the beauty there is at this season. May this beauty shine in your heart all year!



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

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