

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXIV
Number 12

DECEMBER 2009 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



File photo

Santa Claus is coming to town

Ol' Saint Nick will continue his tradition of kicking off Florida's Christmas season with a visit to Bloomingdale. See story, page 8.

Veteran's Day at Cimino

Children, teachers welcome America's heroes

An assembly was held in honor of those, present or past, who have served their nation. See story, page 4.

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Santa and Mrs. Claus take a break from their busy schedule to visit Bloomingdale once again this year.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Peace on earth will come to stay, When we live Christmas every day."

Helen Steiner Rice

FREE SEMINARS, CLASSES AND SUPPORT GROUPS



Brandon Regional Hospital

DECEMBER 2009

9 All Things Lungs: COPD, Asthma, Cancer

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Wednesday, Dec. 9th
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

260 S. Moon Ave.,
Classroom B, Brandon



10 Surgical Weight Loss

SEMINAR



Presented by
Alfredo Fernandez, M.D.
Bariatric Surgeon
Board Certified
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Answers your questions
about the benefits of
gastric banding and
bypass surgery.

17 SUPPORT GROUP

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weight loss procedure
or is considering one.
Join Mary, Kimberly
and others for this
informal discussion.

Thursday, Dec. 10th 6:30 p.m.

Seminar – 260 S. Moon Ave., Classroom B, Brandon

Thursday, Dec. 17th 6:30 p.m.

Support Group – 262 S. Moon Ave.,
Classroom A, Brandon

15 Robotic Assisted Surgery The Next Generation In Women's Care

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Greg Den Haese, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Tuesday, Dec. 15th
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

260 S. Moon Ave.,
Classroom B, Brandon

17 The American Cancer Society's Man to Man Support Group

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Kathryn L. Kepes, M.D.
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Brandon Campus Goes Tobacco Free January 1, 2010.

As a major health care provider in our community, Brandon Regional Hospital has decided to take a lead role in improving the health and well being of those who come onto our campus. Effective January 1, 2010, we will be a tobacco free campus. In preparation of this date we have taken the necessary action to communicate this decision and provide support to those who have needed to use tobacco products. We have every confidence that the community we serve will embrace this decision that helps us fulfill our mission that fosters 'the improvement of human life'.

Sincerely, Mike Fencel, Chief Executive Officer



HCA

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Yard of the Month

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Phone: (813) 681-2051

E-mail:

bloomingle.
homeowners@
verizon.net

Meetings: first
Tuesday each month
7 p.m.

Web site:

bloominglegazette.com

President: Stanley Lee
Vice president: Jim Harris
Secretary: Jane Lee
Treasurer: Dennis Osborn
Directors: Shelia Harris
and Myron Magedanz

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of
the BHA since 1980

Post Office Box 7221,
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Phone number:
(813) 681-2051

E-Mail:

bloomingle.
homeowners@verizon.net

Web site:

bloominglegazette.com

The gazette is published
by Sunbelt Newspapers
Publisher: Denise Palmer
202 S. Parker Street,
Tampa, FL 33606-2395
Ph: (813) 259-7479
Advertising: 627-4771

The Gazette is delivered
free to Bloomingdale
residents on the first
Saturday of each month.

Veteran's Day celebration at Cimino Elementary

By KIM WALLACE

Veteran's Day is a day to recognize those who, present or past, have served our country in the military. On Nov. 10, Cimino Elementary did that by holding an assembly in honor of all military personal and their families.

Cimino's principal, Mrs. Talley, welcomed students, teachers, and families. Mrs. Dowdy, assistant principal, introduced the four speakers, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Marasco, U.S. Marine Maj. Dickey, and Coast Guard petty officers Kaufmann and Johnson. They spoke about their duties in the service and how important it is to remember our veterans. Mrs. Minichbauer introduced the Cimino Cougar Corps, a group of 40 Cimino students who have parents in the military. They meet once a month and are involved in activities along with discussions and share their patriotic spirit. They are under the leader-

ship of Mrs. Czaja, Mrs. Gavin and Mrs. Doud. Some of these children spelled out the word patriotism and told the school what it meant with each letter. Then the Cimino chorus sang America the Beautiful and God Bless America. Tessa Monroe and Emma Czaja had a presentation of special thanks to our military speakers by reading the poem, "They Did Their Share."

Cimino Elementary has been involved in a service project called Operation Patriot. In partnership with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, they have collected items to help the veterans at Bladomero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home in Tampa. Approximately 120 veterans reside at this home. Many do not have a lot of money so donations of personal items like toothpaste, shampoo, soap, movies and Wal-Mart gift certificates are greatly



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Students spell out one of the key words concerning Veterans Day at Cimino Elementary's Veterans Day celebration.

appreciated. These students showed their giving and caring spirit by collecting more than 260 items.

We are proud of the students at Cimino Elementary for giving back

to the community, and we thank the teachers and staff for teaching our students about the importance of our military and community.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Pictured are Mrs. Minichbauer, Mrs. Talley, Mrs. Dowdy, Marine Major Dickey, Coast Guards Petty Officer Kaufmann and Johnson, Air Force Lt. Colonel Marasco and the Cimino Cougar Corps, a group comprised of children of military parents.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Tessa Monroe and Emma Czaja recited a poem for the school's military guests.

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Another Successful Cleanup

By JANE LEE

BHA Board members and community volunteers recently donated their time and energy hosting another successful Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Annual Clean-Up Day. Community resident and business owner Ray Chadderton stopped by and served the group a gourmet lunch of pizza.

Free to the public, the cleanup is made possible by BHA volunteers, a grant from the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations, residents' annual membership dues, and the Hillsborough County Parks Department.



Photo by JANE LEE

Dennis Osborn, Tyler Harris, Brian Lee, John Lanz, Austin Spagnola, Zach Liles. Front row: Jim Harris, Stanley Lee, Myron Magendanz, Ryan Chadderton and Clayton Weaver on the front-end loader. Not pictured were Jane Lee, Jolie Harris and Vi Osborn.

New Ordinance Becomes Effective To Deal With Abandoned Property

Hillsborough County will become one of 13 local governments in Florida that have a new foreclosed property registry on their books. The county's new Property Registration Ordinance became effective Monday, Nov. 2.

The new ordinance requires lending institutions to register all vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties with Hillsborough County Code Enforcement, and provide periodic inspections of the property. Each registration costs the mortgage company \$100 per property.

The new ordinance applies only to properties in the unincorporated areas of Hillsborough County, and only pertains to properties that are abandoned or vacant, and are in some stage of foreclosure.

The intent of the ordinance is to maintain a listing of these properties for periodic inspection to ensure compliance with Hillsborough County's Property Maintenance Code. Abandoned properties that develop overgrown conditions and have unsecured, accessible structures can lower neighbors' property values, foster an unsafe and unhealthy environment for children, and are an open invitation to thieves and gangs.

For information, log onto Hillsborough County Code Enforcement on the county's Web site at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce and click on "Abandoned Property Registration Ordinance" on the left side.

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Santa is coming to Bloomingdale!

By JANE LEE

Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their 22nd annual visit to Bloomingdale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12.

Visits with Santa are free, with a donation of non-perishable food item (s) for charity.

Photos will be taken and provided for free with a \$1 charge for mailing. Personal cameras are allowed.

The children may visit Santa at the Bloomingdale Golfer's Club off of Natures Way at 4113 Great Golfer's Club.

Student and Scout volunteers are needed as "elves" during the event and may be eligible to receive community service credits. For more info, call (813) 681-2051 or in-bloomingdalenews@tampabay.rr.com.

This event is free and is sponsored by the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association.



Photo by JANE LEE

Santa and Mrs. Claus are tanned, ready and rested for this year's festivities.

The holiday season has arrived!

Once again, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is hosting their annual luminary kit sales program.

The first kits of the year were sold on Nov. 7 at Family Fest, a new event sponsored by the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association.

The kits, which contain supplies to make 20 paper-bag lanterns (candles, matches, sand and bags) are \$10 each and will be on sale for purchase by calling (813) 681-2051 or by e-mailing inbloomingdalenews@tampabay.rr.com.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Community Scholarship. The objective of the scholarship is to reward and encourage high school seniors who live in the Bloomingdale community to pursue a college career, and to honor the exemplary efforts and outstanding dedication of B.J. Stelter, principal of Bloomingdale Senior High School from 1991 to 2005.

The most exciting holiday event, for the 22nd year in a row, Santa will visit the children of Bloomingdale. On Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Santa will be coming to the Bloomingdale Golfer's Club located off of Natures Way at 4113 Great Golfer's Way, Valrico. Luminary kits may also be purchased at that time.



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Christmas activities at St. Andrew's

From plays to contemporary services, the church opens its doors for the season

A staff report

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Brandon is ready to celebrate the Advent season with special services throughout the month of December.

Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m., St. Andrew's Drama Team will present "The Foolish Wiseman." This performance is free, but a love offering will be taken. "The Foolish Wiseman" is the story of Ojion, the comical and little-known, fourth wise man. Afraid of the dark, this befuddled hero has little chance of following the Bethlehem star until he runs into two thieves who believe it would be profitable to assist this foolish,

yet wealthy, man. However, what they find at the journey's end is a treasure more wonderful than they could conceive.

Sunday, Dec. 20, at the 8:30 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. services, St. Andrew's Chancel Choir will present the Christmas cantata, "The Word," with an uplifting selection of songs and readings that the whole family will enjoy. At 9:50 a.m. there will be a special Contemporary Service with extended worship time featuring the St. Andrew's praise team, sharing modernized versions of favorite classics, as well as new songs.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, St. Andrew's offers four inspiring and unique evening services. The first ser-

vice begins at 4:30 p.m., is family friendly and features participation by many children of St. Andrew's. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a wonderfully uplifting contemporary service with live band and praise team. The 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. services will be traditional candlelight services with communion, orchestra, chancel choir, and hand bell choir.

The community is invited to come and celebrate the joy of Christmas with us this season. St. Andrew's is located at 3315 Bryan Road at the corner of Bloomingdale and Bryan. For more information call (813) 689-6849 or visit www.standrewsbrandon.org.



Photo provided

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church has many offerings for the Advent season.

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Second Family Fest draws big crowd

By LESLIE WHITE

The Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association recently held its second annual Family Fest at Bloomingdale Golfer's Club, drawing the biggest crowd yet for the event. BHA President Stan Lee was pleased with the turnout.

"We're happy to see so many of our community residents come out and delighted we also had so many new businesses join us this year" he said.

The Family Fest event was the inspiration of BHA board director Jane Lee and she put in many hours to help make the event a reality, but not without help.

"Ray Chadderton has been really instrumental in helping me put together Family Fest the last two years," she said.

See FEST, Page 11 »



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Brothers Dylan 8, and Dakota Brakob, 10, had fun taking in all the activities at the second Annual BHA Family Fest held at Bloomingdale Golfers Club.



Photo by JANE LEE

Seems that Bloomingdale has a few dancers...as does SportClips!

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FEST

Continued From Page 10

Chadderton, a local realtor, as well as many other local business owners, set

up tents, tables and displays to inform Bloomingdale residents what services are offered by the local business in their community.

Hundreds of families came out as a result of

seeing the signs on Nature's Way inviting them to the event. Denise McConoughey was on her way to take her grandsons, Alex and Nate, to the park when she saw the big "Family Fest" sign. "They're loving it!" she said.

Anni Brakob brought her sons, Dakota, 10, and Dylan, 8, saying, "It's just a fun thing to do on a Saturday. Dakota said, "I liked the raffle tickets and the free stuff," while brother, Dylan preferred the bouncy castle.

The event was free to community members, and throughout the day, more than 600 people flowed through Family Fest enjoying all the activities. Visits from local fire and sheriff's departments, hula hoop contests, balloon artists and even a putting contest hosted by the Bloomingdale Senior High School Cross Country team were just a few



HCSO Crime Dog and his co-partner "Rusty" found a place in the shade to talk to Bloomingdale children about how important it is to "Take a Bite out of Crime"

Photo by JANE LEE

Photo by JANE LEE

Madison Mixon of Bloomingdale East was showing off her new shades and beautiful smile while enjoying herself at Family Fest



of the events that kept both children and parents busy. Lunch was treated on the patio, treating guests to burgers and hot dogs and

for dessert, bake sale goodies were available. Many residents got a jump-start on their Christmas decorating by purchasing traditional lu-

minaries, which benefited the BHA Community Scholarship Fund in honor of Bloomingdale's former principal B. J. Stetler.

YOU ARE Invited TO CHRISTMAS AT BELL SHOALS

The Holidays are such a special time of the year, but too often we can get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season that we miss the true meaning of Christmas. Come hear the Good News of Christmas as together we celebrate the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Listed below is specific information about Christmas activities for people of all ages - Preschoolers to Senior Adults.

It is our prayer that you have a most joyous Christmas Holiday Season.

The Bell Shoals Family

Christmas Sermon Series

November 29 - December 20, 2009

A Christmas Carol: Making the Most of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Sunday Mornings 9:30 & 11:00

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 - 4:00 p.m.

Gather your family together for a time of worship as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Singles - Christmas Celebration Dinner

December 4 - 6:30 p.m. - Special Events Center

Tickets available on-line at bellshoals.com (keyword: singles)

Join singles of all ages from throughout our community for the Sixth Annual Christmas Celebration event.

Senior Adults - Candy Cane Christmas Dinner

December 10 - 6:30 p.m. - Special Events Center

Deadline to register is December 7

Call 689-4229, ext. 506

All ages 55 and up are welcome to join us in celebrating the most important birthday of all, Jesus.

Children's Christmas Gift Workshop

December 11 - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Cost: \$12

Registration required & deadline is Wednesday, December 2.

Register online at bellshoals.com (keyword: gift)

Since 1st-6th graders can't go shopping on their own, this workshop allows the children to make and wrap four Christmas gifts to give to family or friends. Dinner is provided.

Christmas Worship Celebration

December 13 - 6:30 p.m. - Worship Center

Choir and Orchestra Concert - "A Night of Hope"

Come experience "A Night of Hope" as we celebrate Christmas with an extraordinary evening of worship. Enjoy music, drama, and more as we commemorate the true reason for the holiday season.

Preschool Celebration

December 20 - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party. Preschoolers, ages six weeks through Kindergarten, will learn the true meaning of Christmas in a festive and fun atmosphere. No advance registration is needed for this free event.

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." LUKE 2:10-11

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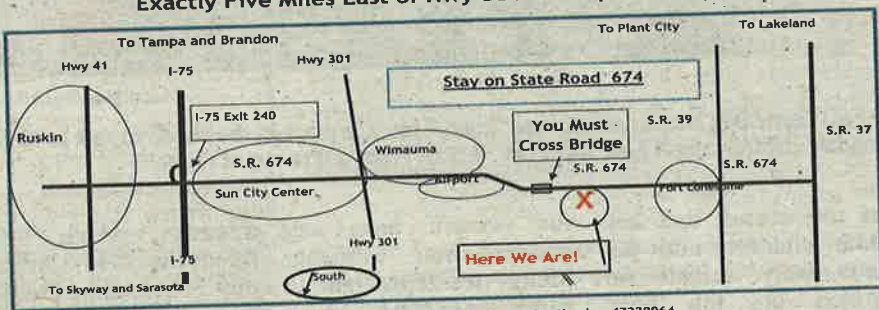
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['tis the season]

The following holiday events are open to the public:

Saturday

BENEFIT STROLL AT PALMER HOUSE: Palmer House Bed and Breakfast, 2221 Hinton Ranch Road, Lithia. The community is invited to a Christmas Stroll at Palmer House from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 with all proceeds to benefit Women's Resource Center of Tampa. The evening will include decadent desserts, wonderful wassail and Christmas carolers. Tickets cost \$10 per person and are available at www.wrctampa.org or call (813) 220-1829.

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY: Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301 N., Tampa. Cracker Country will host Christmas in The Country from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday Dec. 5. Families will have a great day experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of an old fashion country Christmas. Learn how the holiday traditions of the 19th century differ from those of the 21st through hands-on historical interpretations, carols, making

traditional decorations and more.

Admission for adults is \$6; children age 6 to 12 and seniors \$5; and youngsters 5 and under are admitted free. Parking is free for this event. Call (813) 627-4225 for information or go to www.crackercountry.org.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT: First Baptist Church of Brandon, 216 N. Parsons Ave., Brandon. The music ministries of First Baptist Church of Brandon and Tampa Baptist Church are joining together to present Christmas by Candlelight from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday Dec. 6. This powerful and upbeat celebration of the birth of Jesus featuring a cast and crew of more than 200 is under the direction of David Shennig. Everyone is invited and there is no charge for admission. Doors open one hour before the program begins. For information call (813) 689-1204.

CHORUS CONCERT: Newsome High School Auditorium, 16550 Fishhawk Blvd., Lithia. The student chorus will present holiday music in a free concert at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Dec. 8. For information call (813) 740-4600.

Upcoming

NETWORKING BENEFIT HOLIDAY PARTY: Cheddar's, 11135 Causeway Blvd., Brandon. Brandon Networking Holiday Party from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday Dec. 10 will help support the Emergency Care Help Organization, also known as ECHO, the local food bank. Cost is \$8 for great munchies and happy hour pricing. Wear your holiday attire. The event is hosted by Sendoutcards by Michelle Burgess. RSVP to Bonnie Tekampe at (813) 689-1845 or e-mail bonnie@wordomouthreferrals.com, or Michelle Burgess at (813) 310-9518.

WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM:

Kings Avenue Baptist Church, 2602 S. Kings Ave., Brandon. Travel through a living replica of Bethlehem at Christ's birth from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday Dec. 10; 6:30 to 10 p.m. Friday Dec. 11; 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday Dec. 12; and 4 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday Dec. 13. Ad-

See HOLIDAY, Page 13 »



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PHOTOGRAPH BY

HOLIDAY

Continued From Page 12

mission is free. For information call (813) 685-3095.

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR: The GFWC Brandon Service League will host its 17th annual Holiday Home Tour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Dec. 12. The tour features three exquisitely decorated privately owned homes in the Brandon area.

The custom decorated homes featured this year are located in South Oak and Country Gate. Visitors are guided through each home by Service League members. Guests are served free refreshments and will have the opportunity to purchase homemade gourmet holiday treats baked by league members.

Tour tickets are \$12 each and available from any league member or by

contacting Judy Darsey at (813) 651-1240. Proceeds from the event are donated to local community service organizations.

CHANUKAH FESTIVAL AND HOLIDAY BAZAAR:

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon, 706 Bryan Road, Brandon. The community is invited to join Congregation Beth Shalom for the festivities which will include music, games, prizes, Chanukah Gelt, crafts, a Menorah contest, singing and more. Free Latkes and festive holiday treats from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. There will be vendors selling merchandise as well. The admission is free. For information contact Carol at mondeyandwife@yahoo.com, or Amy Weinstein awine007@msn.com, or Rudina Richter drgfi@aol.com. You may also call the congregation office at (813) 681-6547.

ADVENT SEASON AT ST. ANDREW'S: St. An-

drew's United Methodist Church, 3315 Bryan Road, Brandon. St. Andrew's will celebrate the Advent season with special services throughout the month of December.

• 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 16 and 7 p.m. Friday Dec. 18, St. Andrew's Drama Team will present "The Foolish Wiseman." This performance is free, but an offering will be taken. This is the story of Ojion, the comical and little-known, fourth wise man. Afraid of the dark, this befuddled hero has little chance of following the Bethlehem star until he runs into two thieves who believe it would be profitable to assist this foolish (yet wealthy) man. However, what they find at the journey's end is a treasure more wonderful than they could conceive. The three-person cast includes Wally Golding, John Riding, and Rachel Parejko.

• 8:30 a.m. and 11:10

a.m. services Sunday Dec. 20, the St. Andrew's Chancel Choir will present the Christmas cantata, "The Word," with an uplifting selection of songs and readings that the whole family will enjoy. At 9:50 a.m. there will be a special contemporary service with extended worship time featuring the St. Andrew's praise team, sharing modernized versions of favorite classics, as well as new songs.

MISSION COOKIE

WALK: Central Baptist Church, 402 E. Windhorst Road, Brandon. Central Baptist Church will host its fifth annual Mission Cookie Walk from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17. Participants are invited to fill a holiday box with their choice of handmade and decorated holiday cookies and treats for \$5 per pound. The tables in the gym will be filled with thousands of festive cookies.

Each buyer will be provided with a holiday box to fill with their selections. All proceeds will benefit the Lottie Moon Missions. For information call (813) 689-6133.

CHRISTMAS BAND

CONCERT: Grace Community United Methodist Church at FishHawk, 5708 Lithia-Pinecrest Road, Lithia. The community is invited to a free Christmas concert presented by the Eastern Hillsborough Community Band at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17. Musicians of all ages and levels of experience are also invited to join the new community concert band. The band practices from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays at Grace Community Church. For information, call (813) 864-0287 or e-mail community-band@me.com.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

EXTRAVAGANZA: Southside Baptist Church, 415 W. Lumsden Road, Bran-

don. Southside Baptist Church will host a free to the public Country Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday, Dec. 19. Dinner will be from 6 to 6:45 p.m. and music from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted for dinner. Holiday music and Christmas story will be provided by young and old. For information call (813) 689-6049.

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From cheerleader to teacher and coach, Beach is a bull

By LESLIE WHITE

For the Bloomingdale Senior High School boys' cross country and girls' track teams, life's a beach, due in large part to dedicated coach Jennifer Beach.

"I have been coaching for Bloomingdale High School for eight years and teaching for five years. I love Bloomingdale and try to involve myself as much as possible! It really is an awesome school," she said. Beach also teaches American History, Psychology I, Psychology II, and Women's Studies, and is part of the Reading Leadership Team.

Beach has been a Bull since she cheered at Bloomingdale during her

high school years. During that time, she also ran track and started coaching cross country and track while in college.

"I can actually thank my family and George Garner for getting me into coaching," explained Beach. "My younger brother, Michael, ran cross country for Coach Garner. While cheering my brother on at a race, Coach Garner approached me about coaching the (Bloomingdale) girls' team as the position had just opened. After talking with my family, I decided to join the Bloomingdale athletics staff and haven't looked back since."

"My high school track coach, Phil Carr, also was

an inspiration. I wanted to be as good of a coach as him. I coached one year for the Burns Middle School track team as a volunteer coach before joining Bloomingdale High School. Other than that, I have always been a Bull!" said Beach.

Coaching has been very fulfilling to Beach.

"I love how I get to see a different side to the students at Bloomingdale High School," she said. "Our school is very strong academically and it's nice to see the same dedication given in athletics. I develop a bond with my athletes, especially after coaching them for all four years at Bloomingdale. We

See BEACH, Page 15 »



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Jennifer Beach's journey at Bloomingdale Senior High School has taken her from student and cheerleader to coach and teacher.

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BEACH

Continued From Page 14

end long, arduous hours running and working out together and I am so proud when I see that hard work pay off in meets. I am truly fortunate to be a high school teacher and coach."

One challenge she faced as a coach this year were the realignments of the

districts.

"We were placed in one of the toughest districts in the state, and we didn't qualify for regionals but I am proud of the team's performance regardless," she said. "I have such a young team (only one senior varsity girl is graduating; the rest of the team will be back next year) and many of my varsity runners are freshmen and sophomores so we will be very strong in the seasons

to come."

Though the team didn't qualify at districts, many of Beach's athletes set personal records there. Those athletes are: Michael Johnson 20:25; Cormac McCarthy 19:58; Albin Santiago 20:35; Eliana Clemmer 22:29; Kendall Hayes 21:52; Elizabeth Hinckley 21:44; and, Aissa Martinez 23:04. The standout female runners in the 5K were: captain Gretchen Kauffman, senior; co-cap-

tain Sarah Waller, junior; Kendall Hayes, freshman; and, Aissa Martinez, freshman. Standout male runners were: Ian Ludden, freshman; Kelvin Alexander, freshman; Cormac McCarthy, sophomore; and, Drew Double, sophomore, all of whom ran a sub-20 minute 5K.

"The entire coaching staff, including volunteer coaches Bateman, Littleton, and Kleist, is so proud of our team!" said Beach.

Bloomington Track Schedule

Jan 25 First day, practice everyday, 3:15-5 p.m.
 Feb 23 Home vs. Durant, Newsome 5 p.m.
 March 2 Away vs. Plant City 5 p.m.
 March 6 Nash Higgins (@Leto) 7 a.m.
 March 13 Charles Johnson (@King) 7 a.m.
 March 19 Jack Rice Invite (@East Bay) 3 p.m.
 March 23 Home vs. Brandon, Tampa Tech 5 p.m.
 March 27 Manual-Griffen Relays 7 a.m.
 March 31 or April 1 Western Conference Time TBA
 April 23 Florida-Pepsi Relays, Gainesville Time TBA
 April 6 Vernon Kohnr County Championship Time TBA
 April 10 Distance Carnival at Univ of Tampa Time TBA
 April 22 or April 23 DISTRICTS Time TBA
 April 28 or 29 Regions Time TBA
 May 7-8 State Championships Time TBA

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[just say no]



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Crimson Dolls perform with the drum line from Bloomingdale for Alafia Elementary School's Just Say No To Drugs event.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Varsity cheerleaders from Bloomingdale Senior High School perform for students at Alafia Elementary School's Just Say No To Drugs event. The cheerleaders wrote cheers about not doing drugs.

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[just say no]



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Alafia students are in awe of the Bloomingdale High School students who came to talk and perform for Just Say No To Drugs.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Teachers at Alafia reunite with students once taught during the Just Say No To Drugs pep rally. Left to right, Kathy Engle, Courtney Tournade, Alex Nauert, Bethany Wallace and Liz Pletcher.

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Photo by KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Minichbauer Guidance Counselor of Cimino is reading to McHale's Kindergarten class to help them Focus on Reading, Not Drugs during Just Say No To Drugs Week.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Ryan Marshall and Andrew Scannell from Bloomingdale High School Band get the kids pumped up about the pep rally.

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[bloomingdale senior night]



Photo by KIM WALLACE



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Bloomington High School senior football players and cheerleaders pose for the last game of the season and their school days.

Senior band members enjoy their last season game of the season singing the school's alma mater song.



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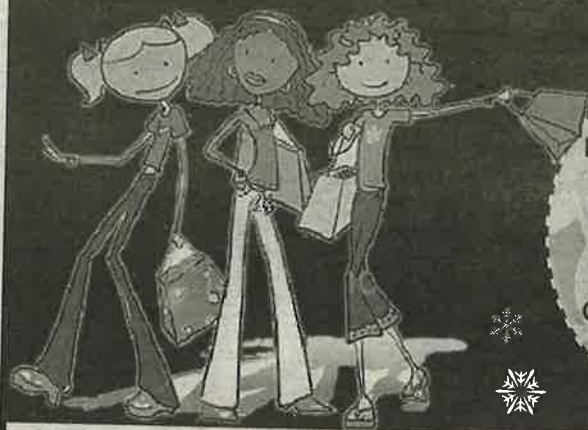
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[on real estate]

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Unlike before, as long as the property is under contract by April 30, 2010, buyers will have an additional 60 days to close by July 1, 2010. The credit applies to single family homes, condominiums, townhomes and co-ops.

The qualifying income limits have been increased as well, up to \$125,000 for individuals and \$225,000 for couple filing jointly. If an individual makes up to \$145,000 or a couple up to \$245,000, the credit can still be claimed, but at a reduced percentage. Any incomes over those amounts won't qualify.

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Ray Chadderton

proximately two million people are expected to take advantage of this buying opportunity, so jump to action before the April 30 deadline!

Ray Chadderton of Keller-Williams Realty can be reached at 601-0597.

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Second Family Run & Walk a success

By LESLIE WHITE

The Bloomingdale High School PTSA held its 2nd Annual 5K Family Run & Walk in November, bringing community members, parents and some of the student body together to keep fit while at the same time benefit a very worthy cause.

"The reason we started this last year was for the Bloomingdale Library attack victim," said Bloomingdale Principal Mark West. "This year we're putting together care packages for our troops. It's all about giving back to the community." PTSA President Catrina Miller said, "We do it together, as a team."

Also together as a team that day were friends of a Central Florida college student who had lost her life just weeks before in a motorcycle accident. Friends of Francesca



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Friends and family of Francesca Martino ran the 5K in her memory and honor, wearing shirts bearing her picture above which was written, "Always challenge yourself."

Martino, a former award-winning track team member from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, came together when they heard about the 5K run at Bloomingdale.

"Francesca really enjoyed running and her last race was a 5K, so

we want to do as many as possible in her honor," said friend Andrea Hernandez. The team of 12 ran and walked the course as Francesca's mother waited at the finish line to cheer them in. The devotion paid off in a first place time in the adult male



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Bloomingdale teacher George Garner, Emily Campbell, Julie Roggerman, Carl Cunnann and Josh West, along with the Bloomingdale Bull basking in the post-race glow.

category for Francesca's boyfriend, Carl Cunnann, coming in with a time of 22.26.

Coming in first in the Bloomingdale student female adult category was Julie Roggerman with a time of 22.49.

See RUN, Page 27 »



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Water customers have a new place to pay bills

By **SHERRI LONON**

After years of greeting its customers out of leased space in the Brandon Crossings Shopping Center, Hillsborough County Water Resource Services finally has a home of its own.

The county agency responsible for delivering potable water, reclaimed water and sewer services to thousands of customers officially opened the doors on the new \$11.5 million Brandon Support Operations Complex Nov. 9. The two-building facility at 332 N. Falkenburg Road, houses the customer service center, support staff, warehouse space and oth-

er auxiliary operations, said Michelle Van Dyke, spokeswoman for the department. The complex replaces not only the Brandon Crossings customer service office, but also several others the agency was using in lease situations. The facility will serve as the hub of customer service operations for Lithia, Brandon, Sun City Center and other parts of southern and eastern Hillsborough County.

The 32,000-square-foot office building that fronts Falkenburg Road was designed from the

See WATER, Page 27 »



Photo by SHERRI LONON

Water Resource Services' Kirsten Chesser works on a computer at the new customer service center location in Brandon. The new facility replaces multiple leased spaces in the area.

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[basketball team golf fundraiser]



Photo by KIM WALLACE

The Bloomingdale basketball team helped out with a golf fundraiser for their team at Bloomingdale Golfers Club



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Coach Willis congratulates golfers for their wins during the fundraiser for his basketball team. They had 88 golfers that day to help raise money for their team.



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Photo by KIM WALLACE

Patsy Farnsworth, Misty Feist and Terry Coffey, helped with Bloomingdale basketball golf fundraiser, from setting up, getting food, and prizes donated and golfers to play to help make this tournament a success for their boys team.



Photo by JANE LEE

Magical mystery tour

Robert Horning of Cards & Stuff Magic, Inc kept a steady crowd throughout the day making his creative balloons



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[dinner@6]

Holidays are usually filled with an abundance of food, fun, family and friends, but one thing we definitely don't have an abundance of this season is time. With the holidays come the parties, celebrations and family visits that tighten the grips on an already tight schedule.

This month's dinner@6 is not only easy to pull together, but cooks quickly, is healthy and plates beautifully with an array of very festive colors. You'll find this dish a delicious detour from the ordinary during the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

Simple. Satisfying. Savory...and seasonally sensational. That's this month's dinner@6! Until next month...

Leslie White can be reached by emailing: lwhite.bloomingdale-gazette@yahoo.com. For more recipes visit dinner@6 online at www.dinnerat6-lesliewhite.blogspot.com. Readers are invited to share their quick and easy meal solutions, comments and ideas.

Chicken Fajitas

3 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken tenders
1 red, 1 yellow and 1 green bell pepper, sliced into strips

Marinade

½ cup butter, melted
Juice of 1 lemon
¼ cup Worcestershire sauce
¼ cup soy sauce

Mix all marinade ingredients in plastic, zippered bag and blend. Add chicken tenders and toss to coat. Let sit for several hours so chicken fully absorbs flavors.

Heat skillet to medium-high heat. Discard marinade and cook tenders 4-5 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Add peppers and cook until tender.

Ingredients and garnish

Flour tortillas, heated
Sour cream
Grated Monterey Jack or Cheddar cheese
Salsa



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[law enforcement]

Our goal – a safe 2009 holiday season

Thanksgiving is history and Christmas and the New Year are just around the corner.

We in the Sheriff's Office hope that you will continue to make your holiday seasons safe and secure when you are away from home. Whether you're traveling or just running errands, be aware of your surroundings and lock up your valuables. Follow the "30 Second Rule." Remember that in less than 30 seconds a thief can shatter your car window, reach inside and remove valuables.

These valuables can be as little as an old CD or some pocket change. It

isn't always holiday packages. Thieves can also access any personal information you leave in your car.

So, slow down, take the time to protect yourself and your vehicle and enjoy the holidays.

SAFETY WHEN TRAVELING

Many of you will be traveling this holiday season, either for shopping, going to holiday parties or visiting friends and family out of town. Remember that during the holidays the volume and number of drivers increases. So allow extra time.

Follow the important rules we all know that can help keep you and your family alive. Make sure ev-

eryone in your car buckles up and give 100 percent attention to your driving. Don't be distracted by passengers or cell phones – talking or texting. As the driver, your responsibility is to get everyone to their destination safe.

Of the millions of drivers traveling our roads over these holidays, there are some who need your special attention. Watch out for the following:

SLEEPY DRIVERS: According to the National Sleep Foundation, over half of the nation's drivers – 51 percent – admit to driving tired or drowsy, especially during the holidays.

One special group is drivers 18 to 29 years old. Nearly one-quarter (24 percent) of this group reported actually falling asleep at the wheel. These drivers are also impatient, drive faster and feel more stressed.

DISTRACTED DRIVERS: With cell phones and texting and other technological advances, more drivers are allowing themselves to be distracted. These drivers have become a serious problem. Many law enforcement officers will now note "driver distracted" on accident reports.

The types of distractions noted could fill a book and many are just

crazy. They cover everything from cell phones to eating, putting on make-up, changing clothes, talking to passengers, reading, shaving and now even watching videos or working on a laptop computer.

Concentrate on your driving like your life depends on it. It does.

DRUNK DRIVERS: These are some of the most dangerous drivers. More than 40 percent of all traffic fatalities are alcohol related. They are unpredictable, can be aggressive and usually aren't the ones that get seriously injured.

Watch for the common signs displayed by this



Pete Maurer
 Bloomingdale Community

Resource Deputy

type of driver – weaving back and forth, driving very slow or even driving in the emergency lane.

If you can, avoid them and contact local law enforcement when you see them. And please, don't be one of them.

AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS: The holidays can be stressful and some drivers take that stress with them. If you are driving near an

See LAW, Page 27

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LAW

Continued From Page 26

aggressive driver, do not confront them or aggravate them. You don't know if they are armed or drunk or on drugs. Back up, avoid eye contact, and don't show any aggression.

Avoid all of these driv-

ings from all of us at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, have a safe holiday season.

Special BACC meeting notes

At the November BACC meeting Deputy Tim Pen-

RUN

Continued From Page 21

placed first in the female student category with a time of 22.27, and Josh West came in as first

nenga joined members in discussing area traffic problems. He noted that one major problem is distracted drivers, especially those talking or texting on cell phones. Speeding, running red lights and driving aggressively are some of the other problems.

Deputy Maurer discussed the new traffic cameras installed at Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road. He stated that, "The main reason this intersection was chosen was because of the very high number of accidents recorded by the Sheriff's Office."

male student, finishing in 21.04 minutes. Josh is on the Bloomingdale Cross Country team and is also the son of principal Mark West, who also ran in the 5K. George Garner, a teacher at Bloomingdale

Deputy Pete Maurer noted some incorrect information has been put out about the new rules on intersections. These include:

The correct courtesy period for the red light cameras is Dec. 29.

No citations will be given if a vehicle's front tries to cross the white line, but it will be given if the driver goes through the intersection on a red light.

Citations will not be given when a driver does not come to a complete stop but will be given if the vehicle is moving more than 15 mph and turns on red.

and former track coach, congratulated all 62 participants, encouraging all to stay active. "Hopefully we'll see you all back next year at this annual event," he said.

George Garner, a teacher at Bloomingdale

WATER

Continued From Page 22

ground up with department and customers' needs in mind, Van Dyke said.

"We have a building designed for what we're using it for," she said. "It's specifically for our needs."

Customers are likely to notice a few new features designed to make their lives easier, Van Dyke said. In addition to a large lobby with window service, the building also offers a night payment box and drive-through service, which is a first for the utility. Plus, Van Dyke said, there is plenty of office space available to ensure support staff is on hand to assist clients with needs that go beyond basic bill payment, and account openings and closings.

While there are many advantages to the new

building, the drive-through window is likely to be the biggest hit with customers, said Gary Hunter, the operations manager over customer service.

"I think that will catch on very quick with the customers," he said. "They can get in and out in no time."

In addition to the office space, the complex also has a 46,000-square-foot warehouse in the back. This building will house not only parts, but will also serve as a home to meter readers, pump maintenance operations and more.

The new buildings are owned by Water Resource Services and enable the department to get out of multiple lease situations, which is ultimately hoped to help save the county money. In addition to the savings, Van Dyke said the move enables the department to consolidate staff serving the

Brandon area into a single location.

"This will allow us to do what we do more efficiently and effectively," she said.

Getting rid of leases isn't the only savings the department hopes to enjoy in its new digs either. The new buildings also receive electricity directly from the county's Resource Recovery Facility, which is located next door. This arrangement is hoped to save the department an estimated \$9,300 a month on its electric bill.

The new office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, minus holidays. It also offers drop off boxes for night payments. Bills can still be paid online at hillsboroughcounty.org/water or by calling (813) 276-8526.

Sherri Lonon can be reached at slonon@media-general.com or at (813) 731-1976.

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