

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume IX, Number 2

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. February 1994



Residents off Erindale and Culbreath are campaigning for traffic controls along those streets which are used as speedways by teens and adults alike. In a recent accident, a Bloomingdale teen walked away from his overturned truck in front of Erin Arbor. Motorists traveling at speeds in excess of 60mph have been ticketed along Culbreath.

It's Official: Re-zoning Of East Approved

by Rozel Sciulli

More homes, more apartments, more commercial space and wider roads are all in store for the Bloomingdale area during the next few years now that County Commissioners have unanimously voted to approved re-zoning of the remaining vacant land in East.

After months of planning and meeting the demands of residents, the county, and the state, MetropolitanLife can now sell its property to developers who plan to change the face of this community, but not cheaply.

According to the agreement approved by commissioners last month, the developers must pay anywhere from \$571 thousand to \$750 thousand for road improvements in the area before certificates of occupancy can be issued in the commercial development planned at the intersection of Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale.

This comes as a result of studies by the state Department of Community Affairs and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, which determined that the new development would

have greater impact on the roads than in the original plan for this area that was approved in the late 1970's.

Dan Santos, a senior planner with the county, said the DCA was concerned about the traffic analysis and believed that the transportation impact on seven roadway segments would be greater than perceived to be by the developers. He said the developers could have picked any roadway in the Bloomingdale impact area, but the DCA has given them only four choices.

See Zoning, pg. 12

County Steps In To Help Little League

by Rozel Sciulli

Just when it seemed that Bloomingdale Little League would have to deplete its bank account before the new baseball season even begins, the Hillsborough County Commission voted last month to allocate emergency funds to the privately owned organization, citing children's safety as the reason.

In a unanimous vote spearheaded by local Commissioner Lydia Miller, the board granted \$12,500 to the county Parks and Recreation Department to make the necessary improvements to the ball field's deteriorating facilities prior to the start of the season later this month.

According to Parks and Rec Director, Ed Radice, the county is stepping in because of the an "emergency safety" stipulation which allows the county to perform needed work on private property. Radice stated that the funds would be used to clean-up existing bathroom facilities, secure unsafe electrical wiring, dig new drain fields for septic tanks, replace rotting seat boards on the bleachers, and buy new poles to replace those in the senior's outfield.

"This facility is in despair," said Commissioner Miller. "This is the worst I've ever seen, particularly in my own backyard."

Miller told her fellow board members that the league's fund raiser last fall was successful, but added that the repairs were "beyond their financial possibilities."

Radice said his department would replace the funds out of Parks and Rec's next budget.

Bloomingdale Little League is home to over 800 boys and girls during year-round baseball and softball seasons. Last fall, the league held a fund raiser, the proceeds from which were to be used to build new bathroom facilities.

See League, page 9



by Mandi Oros

Ginny and Bruce Hassler, residents of Bloomingdale West for nine years, will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary this year. Valentine's Day is just around the corner and these two high school sweethearts are still much in love. The couple have known each other since grade school and formally met at a swimming pool in their small town. Ginny was a young 12 years old when they met and Bruce just 16.

Five years later, the two decided to pledge their love for one another and got married. Asked to give advice to today's young couples, Ginny and Bruce simply said that it is the individual's choice when to get married and often when people wait too long, they feel marriage sadly does not work.

Valentines For Life



The active couple enjoys bowling, seeing Broadway shows and plays, listening to music, watching sports, and traveling. Their travels often take them away for months, across country together in their motorhome.

Bruce worked for the Corp of Engineers for 29 years and retired in 1971, then went to work for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Ginny worked for the Federal Government for 26 years. When Bruce retired from the military, he retired as a proud Commander Sergeant Major. They both love the military and are extremely glad they got into it.

Out of their love, grew three children, three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. They have passed the test of time and through thick and thin, they have proved that true love never dies.

Welcome Neighbors: Gazette Heads South

We are pleased to welcome our neighbors to the south into the expanding distribution area of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. As of last month, residents of Oakdale Reserve began receiving *The Gazette*. This month, circulation has been extended into the South Oak community. In all, over 300 homes have been added to *The Gazette* family.



Workers complete the final phase of air quality improvements at Bloomingdale High School. After six months, the project is nearing completion with the water-proofing of the school's exterior.

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Gazette

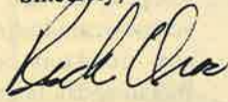
Dear Readers,

I would like to welcome the residents of Oakdale Reserve and South Oak as part of our distribution area. *The Bloomingdale Gazette* is growing and with the support of the readers and advertisers we hope that 1994 will be the most productive year in the history of the newspaper.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and *The Bloomingdale Gazette* will continue to be a major influence in creating and developing a better community for us and our children. However, we cannot do it alone. I am still encouraging you to get involved with our community. We as the community need all of you to attend the BHA meetings and take an active role in the development of the future. I am also encouraging you to use *The Bloomingdale Gazette's* letters to the editor department as a way to get you ideas or concerns about the community noticed.

Again, let me remind you the community office is open daily from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.... If the BHA or *The Bloomingdale Gazette* can assist you in any way please feel free to come into the office or call.

Sincerely,



Rick Oros
President

OFFICERS

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

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Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

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Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

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

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Accounting services provided by Bloomingdale resident:
James A. Laughlin, CPA-910 Oakfield Drive Suite 201
• Brandon, Florida 33511-651-1740

Statement of Operation

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available free of charge at area newsstands: Publix, The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, NationsBank, Mail Boxes Etc., Bell Shoals Cigo, Rainbow Mart, Kash & Karry, Nations Bank, Brandon Library, Sun Bank, Barnett Bank, and Farm Stores.

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MEETINGS

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

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District
Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

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

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District
First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

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

Preserve Bloomingdale's Name

When my husband and I were first married we used to drive to visit friends who lived on the other side of the Alafia River from Kings and Bloomingdale. We used to say that if Kings Avenue didn't dead end at the river, we could drive straight across to our friend's property. We joked about parking and canoeing across.

But, no, instead we had to take the long way around down Bloomingdale to Bell Shoals then south to Boyette and head back west again.

I remember thinking that Bell Shoals was an awfully desolate road. I used to hate driving it by myself, and wondered who would help me if I had car trouble.

Being the prophet that he is, my husband projected that one day all this land would be covered with houses. To which I, the naysayer, would always reply, "No way, who would build houses way out here?"

Not too many years later a wall went up that simply announced "BLOOMINGDALE". Bloomingdale, now that's an upscale name. The wall at the corner of Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale Avenue announced the establishment of a community - a new chapter in the growth of eastern Hillsborough County.

For a brief few years of temporary insanity or lapse of consciousness, my husband and I moved from Brandon back to Tampa. But, I kept Brandon in my heart and that "BLOOMINGDALE" wall in my mind. Someday, we'd go back, and that's where I wanted to live.

Behind the walls we found a community bigger than most small towns. It looked safe and it had a name. "I live in BLOOMINGDALE, not just south Brandon or north Brandon. BLOOMINGDALE. It was like my Tampa friends saying "Carrollwood". The wall was the landmark at the grand entrance to another part of the

county, separate from Brandon. Bloomingdale had an identity.

Residents of individual communities such as Fox Run, Oakcrest, Erin Arbor, and River Crossing still live in BLOOMINGDALE. Were it not for Bloomingdale, those areas would not exist.

Its name is used in business and in civic organizations. Shopping centers and churches carry the name. So do schools.

These names came about because of instant recognition with BLOOMINGDALE, the community, the wall.

Some letters are missing and at times the landscaping is overgrown and hides the name, but the wall stands erect and proclaims

to passersby that they are about to enter its domain.

When county commissioners decided last month to approve rezoning of the remaining vacant land in Bloomingdale East, included was the land at the corner of Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals - where the wall sits. Our name was sold-out.

Before developers erect the area's newest shopping complex at that site, the land will be plowed under, including the wall.

We will have lost our identity. Nothing will remain to announce the entrance to Bloomingdale. Our corner of south-eastern Hillsborough County will no longer stand apart.

North Dale Mabry developed to astronomical proportions, but Carrollwood entrances still bear the name.

Let's hope that the new developers will want to identify with our community and preserve its name. The wall must go, but in its place, perhaps a new landmark proclaiming the name BLOOMINGDALE.

Our Times

by Rozel Sciulli

Mobile Watch Report

by LaWayne Wyatt

During the past two months there have been several serious incidents. In December, a paroled child molester was seen in the vicinity of Park West. He reportedly picked up a 15-year-old at the Park. The individual is reported to be driving a 1990 silver Mercury Cougar with dark tinted windows.

In January, a older model green, yellow Cadillac was observed slowly cruising the general vicinity of Cedar Grove Drive and watching children playing in the area. Occupants of the car were three white males, two of whom had beards. The car was seen on at least three separate days between the hours of 3 and 4 p.m.

There are also several young teens, approximately 15 years old, who have been breaking into cars in and around our community. At least one of the cars was in an open garage.

All residents are advised to stay alert for the cars and people involved in the above incidents. In anything of a suspicious nature is seen, please notify the Sheriff's Office at 247-8200.

Other than these serious incidents, the past several months have been fairly quiet. During November, we recorded 17 events which included activity at The Spot, cars/people in the Parks after closing, teen parties at cul-de-sacs in The Greens and the Oaks, landscape theft along several streets, and a bike rider who was hit by a golf ball thrown from a moving car with three white male teen occupants.

In December we recorded 15 events. Included were stolen Christmas decorations, a suspicious person, reckless driving, illegal dumping at The Spot, breaking and entering of a home, theft from a garage, cars/people in the Parks after closing, and several teens around Alafia School at night.

Sixteen events were recorded through January 19. Included were kids prowling around homes, suspicious cars and people, theft from several cars, activity at The Spot, and a brush fire.

In past years, our community has enjoyed a fairly safe environment. In fact, we have had one of the lowest crime rates in the county. This low crime rate has been partly attrib-

uted to those residents who have taken an active interest in their community by volunteering their time to patrol our streets.

We have, at times, had a relatively large number of volunteers, however, at present we only have approximately 85 active members. Currently we have six volunteers each from Cold Creek Dr. and Bell Grande Dr.; four each from Cedar Grove Dr., Springville Dr., and Eagle Bluff Dr.; three each from Sandy Creek Dr., Holleman Dr., Isleton Dr., Pine Knot Dr., and Callista Ave. Eleven other streets have two volunteers each and 24 streets have one volunteer each. This means only 45 of 159 streets in our community are represented.

If we were able to have only one volunteer from the 114 unrepresented streets then additional patrols could be put on the road. How about it? Do we maintain our safe environment or let it fall by the wayside for lack of interest?

Our thanks to Kim Wells, South, who recently volunteered.

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It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We cooperate with them fully.

BHA Elects Officers, Lists Plans For 1994

Randy Wolfe was re-elected to a second term as president of the board of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association at last month's meeting. He will be assisted on the board by newly-elected vice president Ted Grable, and returning officers, Rick Oros, secretary; and Jim Wiley, treasurer.

During his first year at the helm of the board, Wolfe led the group out of dire financial straits that threatened the board's continuing existence. By frugal management of board funds and the growing success of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, once financed by the BHA and now self-supporting, the organization has a carry-over of funds with which to benefit the community.

The monies will make possible a discretionary fund to assist homeowners who wish to take legal action against another homeowner in the event of a deed restriction violation (see related story). In addition, the board hopes to have in place by summer, an individual to take up concerns of the BHA on a daily basis.

Yet another major undertaking of this new year will be the publication of a brochure that will be mailed to each homeowner and newcomer to the area with important information about the BHA and deed restrictions, including the course of action a homeowner may take when a violation has occurred.

Wolfe, who joined the BHA in 1992, is an attorney in Tampa. He and wife Merinda reside in Bloomingdale East with daughter Christina. It was Wolfe who designed the

three-alternative procedure for reporting deed restriction violations. These will be stated in the new brochure being published by the BHA that will be sent out with this year's membership packet.

Grable, familiar to the community through his work for many years on the BHA Scholarship Committee, first became a board member in 1992. Grable has been a Bloomingdale resident for eight years and is a Hillsborough County employee. As vice-president, Grable will continue in his role as membership chairman, and he will also represent the BHA on the Brandon President's Roundtable. Grable and his wife Mary have three children. Besides dealing in memberships, Grable's interests lie in generating more community activities.

Oros, president of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, will continue in his duties as BHA secretary. Oros has resided in Bloomingdale West for six years with his wife, June, and two children. Oros has campaigned for greater visibility for the BHA, through coverage of BHA news in *The Gazette* and through involvement in the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce.

One of his pet projects is to create a park setting at the pond on Bell Shoals and Rosemeade.

Wiley and his wife Diane have resided in Bloomingdale with their two daughters for seven years. He has held the position of treasurer since 1992, and he is employed by First Union Bank in Tampa. Wiley was happy to report BHA funds in the black for the end of the 1993 year, a goal he helped the BHA achieve.



Wolfe



Grable



Oros



Wiley

BHA Kicks Off Membership Drive This Month

by Rozel Sciulli

Residents will begin receiving their 1994 BHA Membership form in the mail this month, according to chairman Ted Grable. The mail-outs are sent in stages with continuing members receiving their applications first, he said.

Included in this year's packet will be a new information pamphlet produced by the BHA to familiarize residents with procedures for reporting deed restriction violations. The packet will also include a zoning summary of the area and a residential traffic control survey.

According to Grable, deed violation complaints were the "hottest topic" last year among homeowners. "The BHA is placing itself in the position of assisting homeowners to the extent that it is legally possible," he said, referring to a special fund being set up by the BHA to defer legal fees of homeowners who take action against a violator (see related story).

Membership dues are \$20 for the calendar year. Grable explained that membership is not for 12 months from the time dues are paid, but only for the 1994 year. Forms are mailed to

homeowners, but current residents might not be the addressee.

New homeowners should correct the addressee information before sending in their form. Grable explained that if the resident is a renter, the form should be forwarded to the homeowner. Apartment or home renters may join the BHA, but must make application at the community office, he said.

The BHA, through the work of its board, is an advocate for the community. They work with Hillsborough County government to increase and improve services to this area. One recent example

of their work resulted in the new recreation center scheduled for construction in Park West.

In addition, the BHA helps fund the mobile watch program, they provide a community office, and they are owner and publisher of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.

The BHA increased its membership to 665 last year, and showed a 20% increase in revenue, according to Grable. He added that the board will discuss the possibility of renewing the practice of issuing membership cards.

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who reside in Bloomingdale. All dues go back into the community.

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Fund To Aid Homeowners

by Rozel Sciulli

In an effort to help fight deed restriction violators, the BHA board has established a discretionary fund that they hope will encourage homeowners to carry out their complaints.

The board will set aside \$100 a month to be awarded to homeowners who have a legal battle on their hands over a deed restriction dispute.

"The first step is to work out the problem amicably," said BHA president Randy Wolfe. "But sometimes, the courts have to settle issues and some residents won't carry it that far because of the costs involved."

"As a voluntary organization, the BHA itself cannot take action against a homeowner," said Wolfe. "However, we can help by offering an interpretation of the deed restriction and by mediating a dispute between residents. And, now to give

our input additional substance, we are offering \$100 to cover court costs incurred by residents who pursue the most serious violations."

Wolfe explained that the funds would cover court costs if the homeowners did their own legal work. In addition, should the plaintiff win, the court may award court costs and attorneys fees, in which case, said Wolfe, the BHA would be reimbursed.

He explained that the \$100 would be granted to one case per month, and it would be up to the board to determine which case is the most serious. According to Wolfe, should the funds not be used, the amount would accrue in a discretionary fund.

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Taking Charge Of Latest 'Crisis': A Letter To The Community

by Randy Wolfe
BHA President

The Board of Directors of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association, Inc. (BHA) has come to recognize that, like most other corporations or organizations, the Bloomingdale Community operates under the theory of "crisis management".

An excellent recent example of this principle at work is the fine efforts of Rick Pitrowski's group, "Bloomingdale Homeowners for Quality Living", and the remarkable concessions which BHQL obtained from the owner and developer of a significant portion of the remaining undeveloped acreage in Bloomingdale East. This highly-motivated group of homeowners identified and took action to avert a crisis which could have had significant negative repercussions on property values, traffic and general quality of life in the Bloomingdale Community.

Based on recent articles in *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, it appears that all matters regarding the rezoning and development have been settled with the exception of street improvements, which issue is being addressed by Hillsborough County, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the State Department of Community Affairs.

In the opinion of the BHA's Board of Directors, the plan negotiated by the BHQL with the owner/developer is a reasonable and positive plan for the build-out of a substantial portion of Bloomingdale East, and the community will benefit from the development. We encourage all of you to support the completion of the development as planned.

The issue for the Community now becomes which crisis should next be addressed. Depending on your level of tolerance, there are several issues which might be considered to currently constitute a "crisis", (e.g., traffic flow, maintenance of streets, park improvements and

education). However, based on the feedback the BHA has received from the Community, we perceive the current crises to be crime and rampant deed restriction violations.

With regard to crime, we must remind ourselves that the Bloomingdale area has one of the lowest crime rates in Hillsborough County, and that any "crisis" is only perceived as such due to the fact that we have zero tolerance for any criminal activity in our Community. In any event, we would strongly encourage any of you who place the "crime crisis" at the top of your list to volunteer for Mobile Watch by contacting LaWayne Wyatt at the telephone number set forth in the "Community Page" of this newspaper or volunteer to organize or participate in the Neighborhood Watch program in the Community or any portion thereof.

With regard to the "deed restriction violation crisis", the BHA has instituted various programs which will be described in a brochure to be sent to all residents with their 1994 Statement of Annual Dues. We are particularly enthusiastic about the new deed restriction enforcement program which will select, on a monthly basis, the most egregious deed restriction violation reported by a resident during the month and reimburse the reporting resident for up to \$100 of court costs and filing fees if the resident is willing to file a lawsuit against the violating resident.

Quite simply, the BHA cannot force a resident to comply with a deed restriction if the resident refuses to do so, but other residents in the Community willing to file a very simple legal action can obtain a Court order mandating compliance with the deed restrictions. We welcome the input of the residents regarding the foregoing and other methods of enforcing deed restrictions to ensure the continuing beauty of the Bloomingdale Community.

If it takes a crisis to motivate this Community, so be it. For the benefit of the Bloomingdale Community, identify your crisis now, and strive for its resolution.

They're Baaaack: Hump Debate Not Over

by Chris-Ann Phillips

Just when residents thought they had heard the last on the Bloomingfield humps, up comes the county with another meeting. This time it will be to determine if the humps fall under the guidelines of "old installations" or "new installations" of traffic control devices.

According to Bob Gordon of county traffic engineering, if the humps were installed under "previous criteria", it is possible that a limited speeding

study could be conducted. If they fall under the category of "new installations", then they may have to stay put for at least three years, before the county will consider a new traffic study for changes.

Commissioners will make that decision at a meeting scheduled for Feb. 16.

In a workshop last month, commissioners determined that a traffic control would have to be in

See Humps, pg. 12

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Military Review

Local Grads Join Armed Services

by Yolanda Boronell

This column is a new monthly feature that will carry MacDill AFB news and information about military personnel residing in the Bloomingtondale area.

Bloomingtondale is home to many military families. Public Affairs personnel at MacDill Air Force Base say that a significant number of the 3900 military personnel stationed there, and their families, make Bloomingtondale and surrounding areas their home.

People in the military influence the community socially and economically, and they have had a positive effect on the young people living in this area.

Recently, area young men and women have decided to

serve their country by enlisting in the Armed Services. Among them are several Bloomingtondale High School graduates.

Stephen Taylor, a 1993 graduate, and Michael T. Thorman, a 92 graduate, have enlisted in the United States Air Force. According to local USAF recruiters, both will enter their six-week basic training at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, TX. Upon completion, they will receive technical training in their selected career areas. Both Taylor and Thorman will earn credits toward associate degrees through the community college of the Air Force.

While MacDill houses mostly Airmen, it is home to men and women of many branches of the military. A large number of Marines are stationed at the Base and the Marine Corps recently recruited some Bloomingtondale graduates.

Local USMC recruiters report that Mike Polacek, a 1993 graduate, Scott Lievano, a 1992 graduate, are currently in three months basic training at Parris Island, S.C. Afterwards they will receive formal training in their chosen career fields.

Steven Cousins, Matthew Bishop, Aaron Hardy, Mike McIvor, and Troy Gray are all BSHS graduates on

active duty in the Marine Corps. Currently, Gray is stationed at the Tampa Reserve Unit. Troy Wydra and Donnie Lamb are presently in the delayed enlistment program and will soon be leaving for basic training.

All branches of the Armed Forces have had success recruiting in this area. Local Army and Navy recruiters report that large numbers of Bloomingtondale youths have enlisted into their programs.

If you have military news about a family member, please send it to The Bloomingtondale Gazette, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101, Valrico 33594.

Bits N Pieces

Around Bloomingtondale



Celebrate Valentine's Day On A Budget

by Marcy MacKenzie

It's that time again, when good ol' Cupid points his arrow and shoots you straight through the heart. You've been hit! You are in love and all is grand.

Well, all right, Cupid got you years ago and your beloved is still the one you dream of. Through the years you have accumulated two kids, a dog, house, of course (who could for-budget. You are a family of you're like most include your dog and cat to make for six. You are filled to capacity with the responsibility of caring for and raising your children.



Just when Christmas expenses pass, here comes another gift-giving holiday. St. Valentine's Day just somehow isn't what it used to be. The kids haven't dampened things, they have deepened things. And together, your family can have a wonderful Valentine's Day, sharing the love and joy that mom and dad first found in each other.

There are many fun ways to celebrate Valentine's Day as a family, inexpensively. A great way to start your Valentine's morning is by giving homemade Valentine's cards. Tuck them into lunch boxes and brief cases. These

cards are made very easily with a little construction paper and lots of love. (A more elaborate card could be dressed up with paper doilies and glue). A little creativity and poof! A Valentine's Day creation from the heart. A great idea to try with older children is to set up secret pals. Children love to give, and a homemade card to their secret pal is just what Cupid ordered.

A Valentine's Day treasure hunt is always fun. First you need a box of Valentine's cards, similar to the ones the kids give to their classmates. In each card, write a special note and a hint to find the next one. Hide these all over the house, with the last one bearing special treats. Our family always gave candy as the reward, but you can use any gift that fits your budget. (Psst! Mom and Dad, this too is a great way to give your Valentine a special gift once the kids are in bed).

Perhaps a warm touch to your evening as a family would be to gather and tell of how Mom and Dad met. Tell your children about your first date. Share with them how much you love your valentine.

Spending time with your children this Valentine's Day is the best gift you could ever give. Being together as a family, sharing feelings and thoughts can open the door of communication with your children in the days to come. After all, they are the creation of a love shared by the two of you.

If you have questions about planning a wedding reception, anniversary celebration, or graduation party, write to Marcy at The Bloomingtondale Gazette, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 101, Valrico 33594

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Eat Right For Oral Health

by Diane Raggard Wright, DMD

Brushing and flossing regularly without paying attention to proper nutrition can lead to a frustrating battle with chronic dental problems, reports the Academy of General Dentistry.

"The effect of nutrition and diet on oral health can be potentially devastating," says AGD spokesperson Elwood Streeter, DDS. "Not only are too many sweets damaging, but taking in too little protein and carbohydrates can lead to vitamin deficiencies that significantly contribute to dental decay."

The importance of eating right to prevent tooth decay and gum disease applies to everyone, says Dr. Streeter. However, some people are especially susceptible to nutritionally-induced dental problems.

•Are you susceptible to diet-related dental problems?

•Is your diet lacking in vegetables, whole grains, fish, and dairy products?

•Do you typically eat snacks high in sugar, chew gum, or suck on mints and cough drops?

•Do you have four or more new cavities between annual dental visits?

•Do you have gum disease?

•Do you wear dentures?

"People who experience a great deal of dental decay should first consult a dentist and then a physician or nutritionist

to see what they can do to improve their overall health," says Dr. Streeter.

Minding your ABCD and K's

People who are not getting enough of the right vitamins run the risk of oral health disorders. Some of the effects of vitamin deficiencies are the following:

Vitamin A Deficiency: Speeds up gum disease, reduces the flow of saliva and increases susceptibility to cavities. It can contribute to abnormal tooth development, size and shape, and lead to crowding of the teeth. It also can contribute to more serious conditions such as cleft lip or palate and oral cancer.

Vitamin B Deficiency: May cause lips to crack and yellow crusting to appear at the corner of the mouth. It can cause the tongue to burn, swell, turn red or purple and blister. It can also make the tissues that line the cheeks tingle, burn, blister, and redden.

Vitamin C Deficiency: Leads to swollen and red-blue gums which will bleed easily. It can cause teeth to loosen and can slow down the healing process for people undergoing oral surgery.

Vitamin D Deficiency: Can lead to a failure of bone wounds to heal after oral surgery, osteoporosis, and the weakening and loss of the bones that hold the teeth in place.

Vitamin K Deficiency: Causes gums to bleed.

Church News

Odds and Ends Keep Members Busy

by Erin Mule'

St. Andrew's United Methodist

The Campus Ministry along with parents of college-age students remembered their children away at school with boxes of cookies sent as care packages last month during exams. Church members baked the cookies and parents provided the postage - a nice way to let the church's college students know they are thought of and supported.

Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale

The 49ers (plus) group will present their first Super Sandwich Luncheon Theater on Feb. 13 following the 10:30 worship service. The public is invited to join this family fun. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. Anyone past the 49 mark is invited to join the group for fellowship and charitable work. They meet the first Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. for a brown bag lunch.

St. Mark's United Church

The church has said a sad farewell to the Brandon Outreach Clinic sponsored by the local Kiwanis Clubs and given space on the church grounds. Since both the clinic and the church were in need of additional room, the clinic moved to its

new location at the corner of Parsons and Clay Street.

Members will hold a rummage sale on the church grounds on Feb. 12 at 8

a.m. In conjunction with this, the Men's Breakfast Club will present an all-you-can-eat breakfast for \$3. The breakfast and rummage sale are open to the public.

The Women's Fellowship is meeting on Feb. 22 at 12:30 at the Whistlestop for coffee and fellowship.

Congregation Beth Shalom

Services are held in the social hall of Apostles Lutheran Church, 200 N. Kingsway. Plans are now underway for their annual

Purim Carnival to be held Feb. 27 at 11:30 a.m. This month's services are on Feb. 11 and 25 at 8 p.m.

The sisterhood of the congregation is sponsoring a Shabbat Service and Dinner on Feb. 11. The service will be at 6:30 followed by dinner at 7:30. The 1/4 chicken dinner will cost adult members \$5 and non-members \$6. Child members up to 12 years old will be charged \$3 and non-members \$4. Reservations are required by Feb. 7. Those interested may call Robin Rogovin at 654-1650 for reservations.



Members of St. Stephen's parish donated memorials to the church to make possible this new Nativity scene that was on display throughout the holiday season. Local artist Candace Knapp carved the pieces out of wood. Pieces will be added each year as memorials are made.

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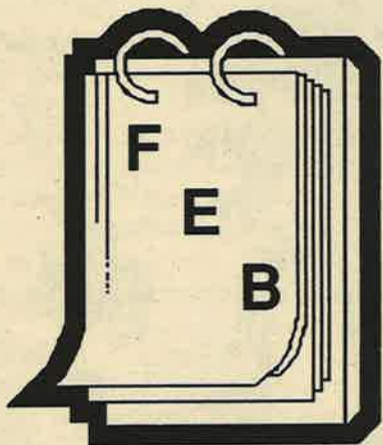


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Kids Kalendar Rated G

Kids' Classes At Center Place

A variety of children's art classes will be offered at Center Place this month. "Drawing For Kids" will be held on Thursdays for six weeks beginning Feb. 17. Class time for children ages 8 to 10 is 6 to 7 p.m., and children 11 and up will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. "Creative Fun For Kids" is designed for children in grades first through fifth. The class teaches drawing and painting skills and will meet every Wednesday in February from 3:30 to 5 p.m. "Just For Kids" will be taught to first through fifth graders on Tuesdays beginning Feb. 8, from 3:30 to 4:30. "Kids Clay" is being offered on Mondays Feb. 14 and 28 for children ages 7 to 12. Class time is from 4:30 to 6 p.m. There are member and non-member fees for each class. These fees include supplies. Call Center Place at 685-8888 for further information.



Children's Theater

"Two Tiny Tales" will be presented by the Eckerd Theater Company on Thursday, Feb. 17, at 9:30 a.m. at Center Place. A traveling troupe of actors in on its way to present a play to the kind, but they can't agree on which one to perform, "Snow White" or "Rumpelstiltskin". With assistance from the audience both stories are acted out to decide which is better suited for royalty. Tickets are \$2.50 per person and must be purchased in advance

at the office. The show is sponsored in part by Kiwanis Club of Brandon.

Cartooning For Youth

How does Charley Brown make that sad face or Lucy laugh? A look at the history of story-telling through pictures will help children understand how simple lines on paper can express mood or suggest movement.

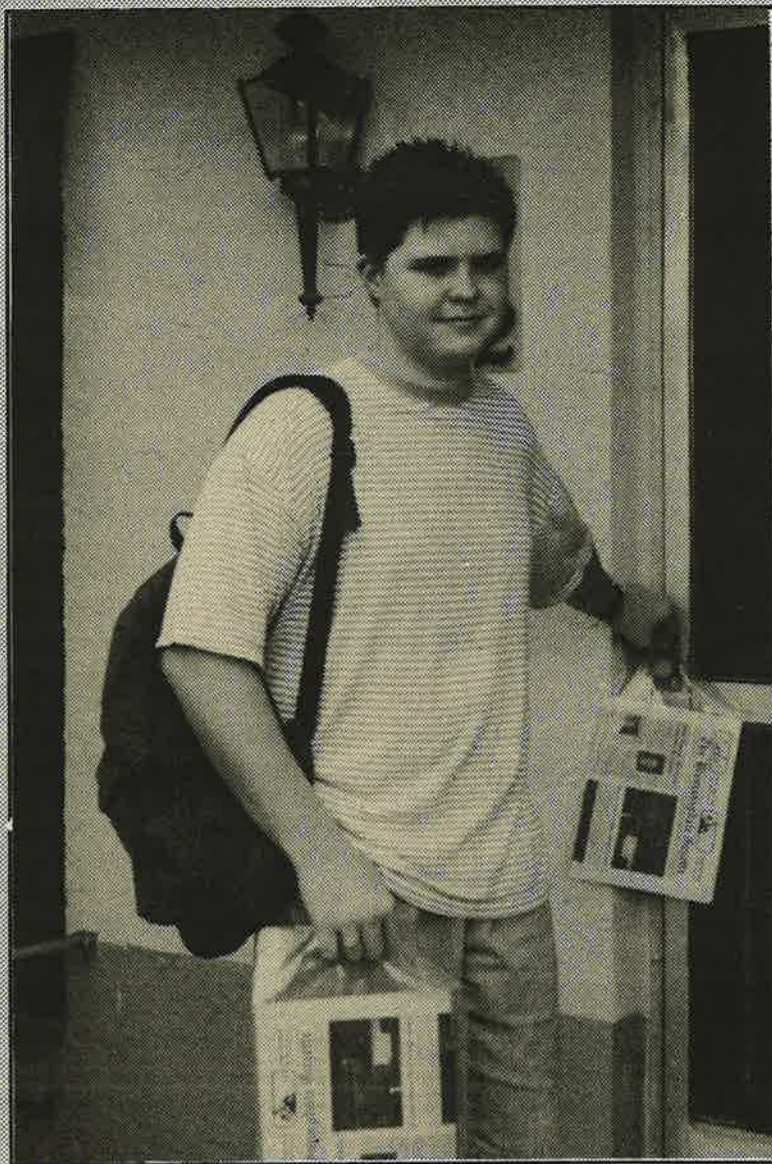
The University of South Florida Division of Lifelong Learning is offering a class entitled "Cartooning For Youth" on Saturdays, Feb. 12 through March 19, from 10 a.m. until noon on the USF Campus. In this class, children will create their own walking, talking cartoon friends.

For further information, call 974-2403, Ext. 45.

Fair Day For Kids

Students in grades 1-12 can receive free admission to the Florida State Fair on Monday, Feb. 7, by presenting a coupon from Wavy Lay's Potato Chips available at Circle K stores. In addition, for \$15, students can have unlimited access to rides from 10 a.m. until closing. Other unlimited ride days are Friday, Feb. 11 and 18, from 6 p.m. until closing.

Kids Kalendar Rated G is a monthly feature listing children's classes and cultural events in the Bloomingdale, Brandon, and Tampa Bay areas.



Bloomingdale East resident, Jason Bryant, delivers *The Bloomingdale Gazette* as a member of Rent-A-Kids.

Booker T. Names Student Council

As student councils go, the group at Booker T. Washington has been very busy so far this year. Led by president Luke Morris, the council has sponsored a variety of activities.

During school-wide elections in October, each student had an opportunity to operate a Hillsborough County Election booth. In their community, the council provided services to Tampa Metropolitan Ministries during a Thanksgiving canned food drive, and they were involved in Toys for Tots and Change for Kids dur-

ing the recent holidays.

Under the sponsorship of Mrs. Renae Smith, the council also participated in the Red Ribbon Day for Aids Awareness, Safe Kids Awareness Week and Safe Pledge Card Contest at Busch Gardens.

Other student council officers are Adrian Washington, vice president; Natalie Connelly, secretary; Latoya Williams, Danielle Ziss, and McKenzie Gerum, reporters; Kristen Gaffney, treasurer; Linda Thomas, parliamentarian; Emily

White, Suzanne Miller, and Chris Fleming, marketing and advertising.

Homeroom representatives are Tammy Newport, Yinka Alega, Brian Goodman, Diana Jun, Becky McFarland, Scherriece Chin-Quee, Jennifer Wade, Thomas Webster, Heather Williams, B. J. Allen, Chad Stokes, Mark Bright, Jason Hutchinson, Joseph Magaudog, Travis Crossland, Rollie Lewis, Chari Land, Gerald Hudson, Shaya Smith, Gina Webb, and Brandon Baker.

How The Saint Got His Day

From "Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things" by Charles Panati

Valentine's Day traces its origin back to 5th century Rome. In the fourth century B.C. the Romans celebrated a young man's maturity by paying homage to the god Lupercus. The names of teenage women were placed in a box and the eligible young man would draw the name of the woman who would be his companion for one year. Often the man and woman married.

The Catholic Church found this act sinful and wanted to put an end to the 800-year-old practice. The church fathers wanted a "lovers" saint to put an end to the worship of Lupercus. They found their saint in a bishop named Valentine who had been put to death 200 years earlier.

It seems that in the year 270 A.D., Valentine had angered the emperor Claudius, who had issued an act forbidding marriage. Claudius felt that married men made poor soldiers, because they would not want to leave their families.

Despite the emperor's orders, Valentine secretly married hundreds of couples who were in love. He earned the title "friend of lovers". The emperor was so angry that he ordered Valentine put to death. But, while Valentine was imprisoned, he fell in love with the daughter of the jailer. Before he was to be put to death, he signed a farewell message to

her "From Your Valentine", a phrase that lives on today.

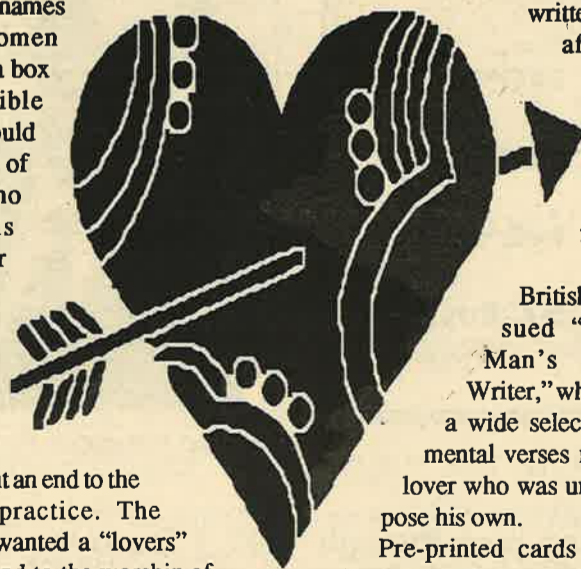
Traditionally, mid-February was a Roman time for men and women to meet and court. Young men wishing to court a particular woman would issue handwritten greetings of affection on February 14. The cards acquired St. Valentine's name.

In 1797, a British publisher issued "The Young Man's Valentine Writer," which contained a wide selection of sentimental verses for the young lover who was unable to compose his own.

Pre-printed cards were called "mechanical valentines" and by the 1800's these were less personal and were mailed instead of hand-delivered.

XXX stands for kisses comes from the days when few people could write. Their signature was an "X", but to emphasize the sincerity of the signature in a contract, for instance, the signer often kissed the mark, as a Bible was kissed when an oath was taken. It was this practice of kissing the "X" that led to its becoming a symbol of a kiss.

Cupid, the naked cherub armed with arrows dipped in love potion, became a popular valentine image. He was associated with the holiday because in Roman mythology, he is the son of Venus, goddess of love and beauty.



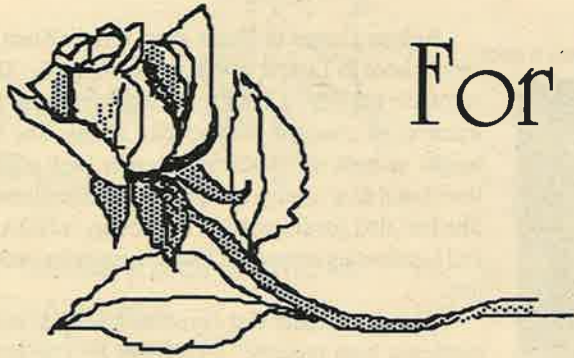
'Birdie' Cast Announced

The Brandon Youth Theatre announced its cast for their upcoming production of "Bye, Bye Birdie", a 60's Broadway musical about an English teacher turned songwriter and promoter for an Elvis-type character.

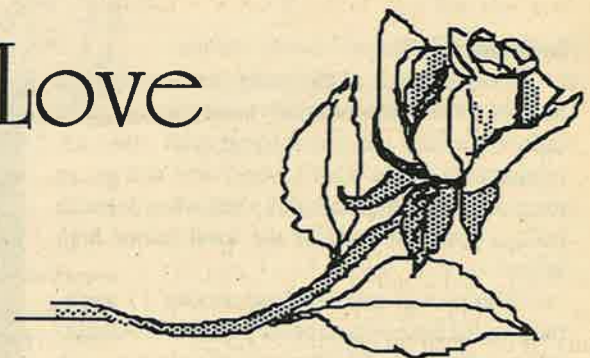
Carrie Daks and Stephen York have been cast in the lead roles of Rosie and Albert. Other main characters are Rachel Schonacker as Kim, Keith Panfilio as Harvey, Kurt Richter as Conrad, Dean Perry as Mr. MacAfee, and Stephanie Navarro as Mrs. MacAfee.

The remaining cast includes B. J. Johnson, Lindsie Oyon, Jackie Lejeune, Amy Temple, Melissa Reinstein, Stephanie Ogden, Indira Zamor, Billy Nabakowski, Rebecca Houck, Michael Feldman, Sara Nelms, Amy Rutledge, Logan Stine, and Stephanie Hamilton.

The musical, directed by local voice instructor Carolyn Scheuer, will be presented Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23, at Center Place.



For The One You Love

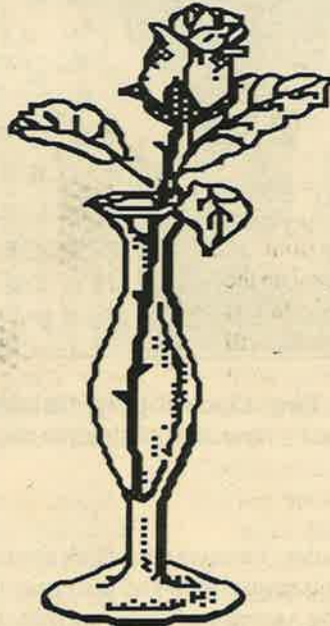


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Amore Pizza and Restaurant offers fine dining at reasonable prices, with New York style pizza, whole or by the slice. Affordable menu prices make this a great place to take the whole family! An authentic Italian restaurant welcomes you to dine-in or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

Amore now offers different dinner specials every Friday and Saturday nights, along with their homemade deserts such as; moose pie, cheese cakes, chocolate suicide cakes and Italian ices.

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



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90 Years Of The Florida State Fair

Special To The Gazette

The Florida State Fair has come a long way in the last 90 years. Like so much of Tampa's history, the fair was the brainchild of railroad tycoon, Henry B. Plant.

Plant wanted to provide entertainment for guests of his grand Tampa Bay Hotel. The hotel is now Plant Hall at the University of Tampa. It remains a famous landmark with its opulent silver minarets shining over downtown Tampa. In 1898 Plant staged horse rides and exhibits near his hotel and called it The Tampa Agriculture Racing & Fair Association.

The fair took place every year with the exception of a couple of years during World War II when it seemed inappropriate for a festive occasion. Until 1976 the fair took place on a mere 27 acres near downtown Tampa, then as Hillsborough County celebrated its 200th Birthday, the fair moved to its current site. The fair can now spread out across 325 acres at the intersection of Interstate 4 and Highway 301, just north of Brandon.

Last year, nearly 1.4 million guests visited the Florida State Fair, which features a midway, live entertainment, a circus, an early Florida village and over 200 commercial exhibits. In addition, the fair

showcases county exhibits from around the state. There are live television broadcasts daily, horticulture and livestock judging and exhibits, a petting zoo, and arts and crafts.

These are things one would expect to find at a state fair, along with all the food, of course.

But, what about...a one-man band...a giant, two feet taller than Shaquille O'Neal...alligator wrestlers (okay, so one would expect this in Florida)...a hot dog eating contest...state cheerleader competitions...lumberjack logrolling (in Florida?)...a "Happy Cats" show...life-size robots...a "Mooternity Ward" featuring daily deliveries of newborn calves...a wildlife exhibit...wine tasting competition...and Clark Gable's Harley Davidson...

Imagine the Ink Spots and the Coasters on the same stage with The New Xavier Cugat Orchestra, and Rheba McEntire?

The Fair opened this weekend and runs through Feb. 20. Expect admission fees for parking, gate admission, and midway rides. The Fair does feature daily discount specials for various groups from FFA members to senior citizens. There are also several all-you-can-ride-for-one-price days.

League from pg. 1

Estimates on new buildings surpassed the \$50,000 mark, according to building committee chairman Terry Morehouse. And estimates to renovate and enlarge the existing facilities were over \$30,000, nearly double what the league had anticipated spending.

At Morehouse's and Miller's request, county representatives including Radice and health and safety personnel toured the facility on more than one occasion citing potential hazards.

What they found were bathrooms that could not be used, exposed electrical wiring, light poles that have been burrowed by woodpeckers, and bleachers where wooden seats were either rotten or missing altogether.

Because the league sits

on privately owned property, the county has never before been permitted to work on the site. They do, however, pay the league's electricity and provide clay and dirt for the in-fields.

"When it comes to the kids, my department will do anything," Radice said in an earlier interview. "We would love to do more for Bloomingdale Little League. We are well aware of the situation that exists there. Our hands are tied because the property is privately owned."

Bloomingdale is the only privately owned Little League in the county. But the county stepped in on an emergency basis when a soccer facility in northern Hillsborough needed assistance, thus setting the precedent for approval of funds for Bloomingdale.

Administrative Resource Teacher New Parents' Contact At Burns

by Rozel Sciulli

Keeping track of the goings and comings of nearly 1400 students on a daily basis is an awesome task, especially when combined with other administrative duties. That's why Burns will get an extra set of helping hands this week when Jeanette Billups joins the staff of the local junior high school.

Billups was selected from among 17 applicants to fill the newly-created position of Administrative Resource Teacher, one of only two such positions at junior high schools in the county.

According to Burns principal, Linda Kipley, the student enrollment does not warrant the addition of a third assistant principal, but the numbers are high enough to account for additional assistance in the administrative area.

Billups will be in charge of all students' tardies and absences, as well as day to day contact with parents. "This will enable better and more positive communication with parents," said Kipley, pointing out that much of Billups's work will be of a preventative nature, working with parents and students to improve attendance and punctuality. In addition, she will serve the school in other supervisory capacities.



Burns principal, Mrs. Linda Kipley, welcomes Mrs. Jeanette Billups, the school's new administrative resource teacher.

Billups comes to Burns from Grady Elementary School in Tampa where she has been the SED resource teacher, a liaison between parents and teachers of children with special needs. She has taught at both the junior and senior high school levels and at a county exceptional student center. She has also participated in the county's GOALS and Leadership programs for aspiring administrators.

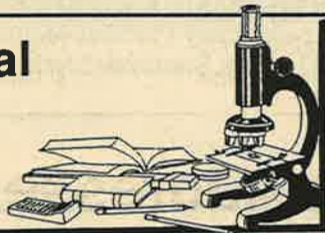
"Her personality displayed an ability to communicate with parents," said Kipley. "She has a sensitivity to the needs of children that was apparent."

"I want the parents to become familiar with Mrs. Billups, because they will be in contact with her regarding their student."

While Billups does carry a Master's degree, the position is still that of teacher and not administrator. However, to be eligible for the position, applicants had to have been screened and eligible for appointment to an administrative position in the county.

"This is a great opportunity for administrative experience (for Billups)," said Kipley, "and at the same time help alleviate some of the administrative workload. We're very happy to have her."

Educational Edge



Teaching Children To Remember What They Learn

How well children do in school is determined not only by intelligence, but also by the methods, or strategies, that they use to master all the facts, ideas and concepts that they must learn. Children need strategies because effective learning required their active participation.

There are five effective strategies parents can teach their children for active learning:

Asking Questions: Self-questioning forces the student to think about the material in order to answer the questions. When listening to lectures or reading textbooks, it is helpful to students to think about the topic and make up questions that will focus their attention and improve concentration.

Making inferences: Making inferences involves thinking about the information, ideas or opinions students hear or read about, and trying to draw conclusions from this

new information. Learners must think about the material, thus making it more meaningful and easier to remember.

Creating Analogies: Parents can help children create analogies by encouraging them to relate things they know to the new information by looking for similarities or making comparisons. Creating analogies is a way of building temporary mental bridges between what is already known and new information.

Finding the Main Idea: New information, whether in class or in a textbook, usually includes a number of main ideas or facts, and a lot of material to support them. As students read and listen, they must often ask themselves, "What's the point here?" If students constantly look for the main idea, they will be concentrating on the important material, and will be actively involved while studying.

Categorizing Information: When students have many items of information to learn, it helps to group them into categories. All items in a category must have one or more similar characteristics. For example, in science class animals are divided into groups such as reptiles, mammals, fish, etc. It makes the learning task more manageable by breaking it into smaller parts.

Parents can help children succeed in school by talking to them about the five different learning and memory strategies and making sure they understand and are able to use them.

Educational Edge is provided by Huntington Learning Center of Brandon.

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Bulls Eye



Pressure For Seniors Continues

by Michele Lager

With semester exams over and seniors releasing a final sigh of relief, it is obviously time for that famous disease, senioritis, to set in. However, just because the school days are winding down and summer is just around the corner, does not mean the pressures for seniors are quite over.

Many seniors find themselves running to the mailbox each afternoon hoping to find a thick envelope from his or her college choice, while others frantically begin the search for money through scholarships, financial aid, or student loans. Still other college-bound seniors begin the search for part-time jobs to help pay for future expenses.

Seniors still have to worry about good grades, although colleges may not be looking as closely at grades at this point, they are always keeping a watchful eye on performances. Another important factor is seniors need to have a "C" average or better and a good conduct grade in order to be exempt from final exams.

Finances and grades are not the only worries for seniors. Many upcoming functions that are held at the end of the year can create stress. Finding a date and/or a dress for prom can be a mission in itself. There are Grad Night activities, graduation parties, and summer trips to plan and pay for.

As all these events get underway, students will begin to reflect on their time

with friends and faculty at Bloomingdale Senior High School. As seniors take that final walk toward academic achievement and graduation, the end of this high school chapter will be over and a whole new one will begin.

Wrestlers Make Their Move

by Shelia Anderson

The Bloomingdale Wrestling team has much to boast about. At mid-January the varsity and jayvee teams have a 7-1 record. The team of 48 bulls takes pride in wearing down and controlling their opponents, which, so far, has resulted in nothing but victory.

The Bulls are known for their take-downs, but are the first to admit that their "bottom man move" maneuvers need improvement.

The team has not broken any records yet, but the next tournament could yield spectacular results. The team's most competitive rival is the Brandon Eagles, whose unbroken winning streak the Bully will try to break.

Wrestlers can expect to practice every day except on Sundays. This takes true commitment. To remain in shape, the wrestlers do a bit of running and weight lifting. One of the most difficult challenges is maintaining their weight classification throughout the season.

In the history of the school, Bloomingdale has a record of 73 wins and 13 losses. There are 13 matches each season and two tournaments before Districts, which is followed by Regionals, and then State competition, for which an individual can qualify even if the team does not.

The 1993-94 wrestling season will end later this month, and Coach Scot Tipton's hopes for the team are that they will continue to be very strong.

Bruin Beat



by Kira Slovacek

The Burns Lady Bruins basketball team earned the title of County Champions last month when they defeated the girls from Greco 30-18 at Armwood High School.

The Lady Bruins, led by Coach Bradley, won the Eastern Division Champion title and went on to conquer Greco, the Western Division champions. Prior to the county championships, both teams had undefeated records, each with six wins and averaging 34 points a game.

"It was a thrilling experience to win another championship," said 9th grader Mandy Smith, one of the top scorers of the season. "The girls were great this year and I wish them continued success in the future."

The team's other leading scorers included 8th graders Ashley Anderson and Christina Canelli.

County Band Members

Burns musicians who auditioned for and made County Band gave a concert last month at Chamberlain High School in Tampa. Burns

was represented by Rob Currier, French horn; Vivian Ryan, French horn; Kiran Mir, bass clarinet; Mike Ames, alto sax; Brandon Crossland, bassoon; Angela Covington, flute; Robie Eisenberg, percussion; John Chapin, trombone; Sara Mueller, clarinet; Erin Porter, oboe; Krista Lewis, alto clarinet; Matt Thompson, trumpet; Kevin VanBrunt, trumpet; Amanda Wetherington, clarinet; Maggie Willman, clarinet; Cathy Childs, baritone; and Diane Standaert, clarinet.

February Calendar

- 7th - No School - Fair Day
- 9th - Chorus Performs at State Fair
- 10th - Track vs. Turkey Creek 5:30
- 12th - Honors Orchestra Concert
Math Counts at Jefferson
- 16th - Jazz Band Performs at State Fair
- 17th - Track vs. Dowdell at Bloomingdale 5:30
- 22nd - Track - Shirley Keene Relays at Turkey Creek
- 23rd - Club Day - Early Dismissal
- 24th - All County Honors Chorus
Track - Ray Escoben Relays at Gaither 5:30

Lithia PTA Addresses AIDS

by Sue Narup

"How To Talk To Your Kids About AIDS" was the topic of last week's PTA meeting at Lithia Springs Elementary School. The well-attended program was prepared by the National PTA and developed and produced by the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

The emphasis of the evening was to make sure that parents give their children correct information. Two videos were presented, one showing parents and children discussing the difficult subject of AIDS, providing models on which parents could base conversations with their own youngsters. The second video addressed the controversial topic of casual contact. Through panel discussion, parents were informed that children with the HIV posed no threat to other students or staff through normal school contact.

Following the videos, parents had an opportunity to ask questions of a local physician and a public health nurse.

According to Lithia PTA spokesperson Gail Turner, the PTA believes that children must be educated about AIDS. "The only way to prevent AIDS is through education," she said.

She pointed to the grim statistics in Hillsborough County alone where over 10,000 people have fallen victim to HIV. Tampa Bay alone ranks 19th in the United States in the number of AIDS cases alone.

"A few years ago most of us didn't know anyone with AIDS. Today, sadly,

most of us know a number of people living with the AIDS virus, and many more are dealing with the loss of family members and friends to AIDS related illnesses.

"Most parents have a hard time talking with children about sex, death and drugs," said Turner. "These topics will come up in talking about AIDS. Nervousness is not an excuse for not talking to children about AIDS."

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends that education about AIDS begin in elementary school. Children five to eight years of age begin to learn about health, sickness, death, and sex. They are able to understand that AIDS is a serious, rare health problem, that it is caused by a virus, and that their chance of contracting AIDS is very small.

Children nine through 12 years of age think a lot about their bodies. According to the National PTA, it is important for pre-teens to get correct information about sex. They should also be warned about the dangers of casual sex and IV drug use.

The PTA suggests television messages as a starting point for discussion. They urge balancing what is shown on TV with what a families personal beliefs and values are.

"It is also important to find out what they already know and correct misinformation," Turner said.

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Gilroy's Worth A Return Visit

by Elton Dumont

Gilroy's is one of Brandon's newest restaurants. It is located across Brandon Blvd just west of Lithia Pinecrest. When my wife and I decided to try it on a recent Friday night, the results were kind of a mixed bag - some very high marks and some areas that need a little more attention.

At any rate, it was extremely busy the night we went, which is usually a good sign. Although we were told there would be a 20 minute wait, we were seated in 15 minutes, once again, a good sign. The arrangement of tables and booths is comfortable within a pleasantly modern setting.

We really didn't know what to expect. Will it be a hamburger restaurant or a dinner haven? As it turns out, it is both and done very neatly, I might add. Their alcohol license is for beer and wine only, with a nice selection of both, including more imported than domestic beer.

One of the more intriguing appetizer choices was something called "Jalapeno Poppers". As the name indicates, it is a half-dozen jalapeno peppers stuffed with Wisconsin cheddar cheese, a potato breading, and served with sour cream. We ordered the cheese dip with chips and found it to be one of the best in the area. The cheese queso

(a mixture of meat, cheese, and beans) is served in a deep crock, which makes it a very ample portion. This will be one of the few times that your dip will actually outlast the chips.

For dinner, we ordered top sirloin steak and fried shrimp, although broiled was also offered. Dinners come with baked or French fried potatoes or rice and a choice of soup or salad. While the soup of the day was potato cheese, we opted for salad, a very good choice.

Everything about the salad was positive. The mixture of iceberg and Romaine lettuce, crisp tomatoes, cucumbers and two types of shredded cheese was served at the right temperature, chilled as opposed to room temperature that so many places try to get away with. A variety of dressings was available, but I'll give the edge to the honey mustard bacon. You must try this dressing.

Gilroy's described its sirloin steak as marinated in special seasonings. On the plus side, absolutely tender, not even the slightest bit of "stringy". Just a great steak! On the down side, either the seasoning is very light or it wasn't included at all. Until salt and pepper were added, it was a tad bland. The potato was really baked and a good size.

The fried shrimp dinner was probably a C-. Although large and butterfly, they were more breading than shrimp. It was my impression that they were not fresh breaded to order. The rice that accompanied it was very tasty.

All dinners include bread and butter, according to the menu, but we never did get any. Just another little thing that should be noted as they work out their kinks.

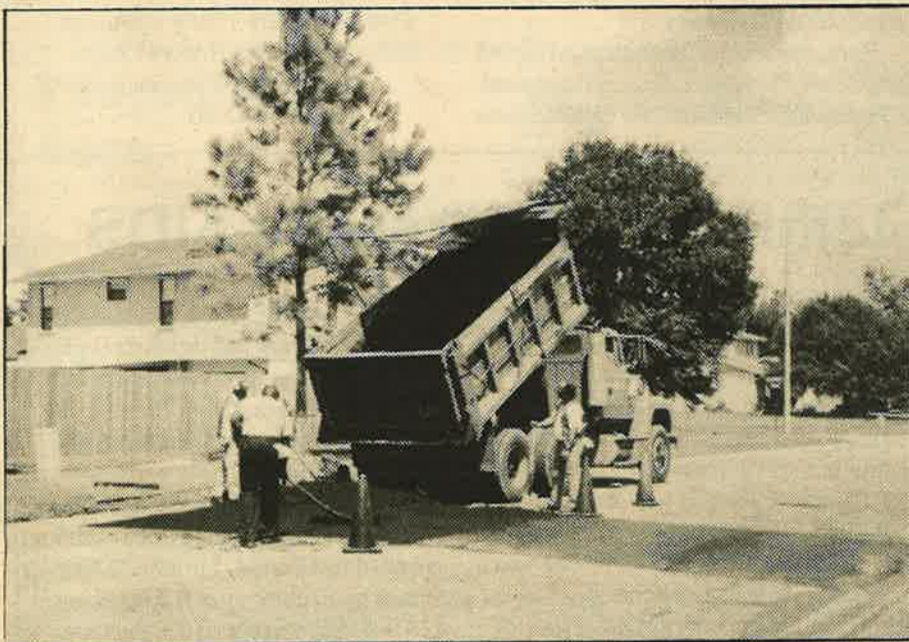
Some of the other dinner entrees include NY Strip, pork chops, or baby back ribs, and from the sea, fresh grouper, a seafood sampler, or a steak and shrimp combination. Chicken is offered charbroiled or Hawaiian, or a chicken and ribs combination. None of the dinners is over \$9.95, a very reasonable rate with all that is included.

There is a lighter fare that includes sandwiches, and although we passed on the dessert, Key lime pie and chocolate cheese cake are among the selections. The children's menu offers meals from \$1.99 to \$2.50, so you can take the kids and not go broke. This is obviously a plus.

Our total bill including tax and tip was under \$24. And, yes, we do plan to go back hoping that Gilroy's will do a better job on some of the minor points of service.

Based on 5 Stars
Food.....***
Service.....*1/2**
Ambience....***
Overall.....***

Until We Eat Again,
 Elton Dumont



Residents still have concerns about speed humps installed by county crews on Bloomingfield late last year.

Humps, from pg. 5

place for at least three years before a change would be considered. But, that decision came after the Bloomingfield humps were installed under previous guidelines.

According to Gordon, residents who would want changes would have to begin the county process all

over again - circulating a petition, gathering a certain percentage of residents' approval, and going before a hearing master. But, said Gordon, a problem would have to exist to warrant the request.

Gordon's office continues to receive calls from residents in West who complain of the inconvenience of travelling over

the humps, from other residents who are happy with them just the way they are, and from one Bloomingfield resident who thinks the humps should be higher and spaced closer together.

"It's impossible to make everyone happy," said Gordon. "We like to believe we've done the best thing we could."

Zoning, from pg. 1

One option would accelerate an \$8 million capital improvement project which would widen Bloomingdale from Bell Shoals to Lithia Pinecrest. This would cost the developer \$750,000, and would complete the widening of Bloomingdale Ave.

The developer's second choice would be to finance the design of the widening of Bloomingdale from Bell Shoals to Lithia Pinecrest, a project that would not begin until October, 1994, and would be completed by April, 1997. The cost to the developer - \$571,000.

Yet another option would allow the developer to finance the design of road improvements to Bell Shoals from Bloomingdale south to Greenhollow. Santos said this could include geometric changes, such as alteration of the center left turn lane, to installation of traffic signals.

Finally, the developer may choose to develop any one of the roadways with "regionally significant impact."

According to Santos, certificates of occupancy can not be issued for the commercial center at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale before June 30, 1995, unless the four lanes from John Moore Road to Bell Shoals are in use. Already delayed three months, the widening project is expected to

begin this month with a projected completion date of May, 1995.

Ron Weaver, attorney for developers Jim Shimberg and Glenn Cross, said his clients are eager to begin obtaining permits and begin building the last 1000 homes in Bloomingdale.

In addition to the 172,000-square-foot commercial center, major zoning modifications were also approved for two parcels of land. Additional apartments are planned for the 15 acres behind the Bloomingdale Woods Apartments on Springvale, and not more than 52 single family homes are planned for land at Lithia Pinecrest and Erindale. A portion of that land may also be reserved for municipal (county office) use.

Residents in Oakcrest won a small victory when developers agreed to insure a 30-foot buffer behind the homes that would back up to the residences on Wrencrest.

Minor zoning changes were also granted for all the remaining vacant land in Bloomingdale East, where in most cases, housing density was decreased from the original plans for this area.

According to Weaver, Shimberg/Cross is eager to continue its work with the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association.



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Tax Tips

New Rules For Home Office Expenses

by Robert Morris, CPA, CTP

For the self-employed individuals who have included a room(s) in their home as a business deduction, be aware of new criteria to satisfy the deduction.

Last year, the Supreme Court overruled the Soliman case which allowed a deduction based on very limited criteria. The court, in their wisdom, stated two primary considerations would be scrutinized in determining the deduction.

The first would be the relative importance of the activities performed in the office as compared to outside the office. Secondly, the amount of time spent in the office compared to outside the office.

In general, if your business requires you to meet with clients or deliver goods to clients, then the place where you meet and

or deliver your service is deemed to be the primary location of business. If that happens to be outside the home, then the IRS will disallow the deductibility of the home office.

For most providers this will be true, but discuss it directly with your tax consultant to determine the effect on your case. Also, be aware, to claim the deduction you must file a Form 8829 specifically identifying you as a home office deduction (more commonly referred to as a "flag") and may subject your return to additional scrutiny by the IRS or maybe even an audit.

You may still deduct your supplies, depreciate your fixed assets and other normal expenses, but probably not your house portion of space and utilities. This is effective for all of 1993 which is your current filing year.

Real Estate Moves: Stir The Emotions

When selling your home, is the offered price the most important consideration? Do buyers always purchase the home with the lowest price?

While price does play a key role in the sale of a home, buyer emotions are much more important. It has been said that "buyers make their decision during the first five minutes they are in a home, then spend the rest of the time justifying their decision."

If you own a home now, think back to when you purchased it. Did it "feel" right to you? Did it have a special warmth, or a unique feature that you could imagine yourself enjoying every day?

Buyers will not pay more for a home than it is worth, just because it feels good to them, but it must fit into a predetermined range of acceptable prices. Once a variety of homes in that range are identified, buyers will let their emotions take over.

At that point, given a choice of five homes, the winner will inevitably be the one that offers the most

comfort, is in the best condition, and reflects a high level of present owners' pride of ownership.

When selling, then be sure to price your home at fair market value. Ask your agent for information upon which to base your decision. Once price has been addressed, spend the rest of your time and effort making your home inviting and attractive to buyers. Appeal to their emotions from the front door to the deepest, darkest closet in your home.

Ask your agent to do a "walk-through", a visual inspection of your home, then be sure you make all needed repairs. In addition, clean up, brighten up, and organize every square foot of space.

This may be the most important preparation you can make to help your home sell quickly and at top dollar. Do it before the first prospect comes through your door!

Michael Davis is affiliated with RE/MAX Realty Unlimited of Brandon.

Business Notes



Nostalgic Nails Opens

A touch of the romantic past awaits clients who visit Nostalgic Nails inside Monroe and Bogie's Salon at 4332 S. Bell Shoals. Co-owners Velvet Powers and Stephanie Martin say they enjoy pampering their clients. The experienced nail artists not only feel their prices are competitive but also say their work is guaranteed.

Besides offering full sets of nails and fill-in's, the staff at Nostalgic Nails specializes in manicures, pedicures and waxing.

Both nail techs were in business locally before deciding to open their own shop. They are open Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 6.

Valrico Postal Station

After their first month of business, Luis and Chelo Canino of Bloomingdale East, knew they had made the right decision to open a mailing and packaging business.

When Valrico Postal Station opened at 3311 Lithia Pinecrest, they had over 1500 clients in their first month of operation, and Canino attributes it to Valrico Postal Station's convenience and low prices. "We give the customers what they want," he said.

"In most small towns, there is a place where people gather to sit and talk. We want people to feel comfortable coming here and not be rushed."

The Caninos offer a full range of mailing and packaging services. In addition, they have an inventory of office and school supplies, greeting cards, FAX and copy availability, and a selection of daily newspapers.

Canino said he will offer more services as they grow. Valrico Postal Station is open until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Pinch A Penny Moves

Pinch A Penny Pool Patio and Spa store has changed locations from Erindale Plaza to the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale on Lithia Pinecrest. Owners Margaret and Wayne Walker explained that the new location gives their store, which is situated at the far end of the plaza, better exposure. Pinch A Penny specializes in pool supplies, patio furniture, solar heat and heat pumps. The store hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Columbia Bank Offers Tax Help

As a service to the community, Columbia Bank will offer free tax preparation service in all of its five locations beginning this month and continuing through April 15. This service is provided by volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons who have been trained in cooperation with the IRS. This service is targeted at the low to moderate income and the elderly, however, the group has resources available to assist all taxpayers.

Two volunteers will be available from 10 to 2 Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at different branches. Appointments must be made by calling the nearest branch.

Free Pharmacy Home Deliveries

Winn Dixie Marketplace on Bloomingdale and John Moore now participates in a free home delivery service of prescriptions and other pharmacy related items. Working mothers or people too ill to leave the home and the elderly may now take advantage of this same day service free.

Customers and physicians can place an order by calling or faxing to a toll free number 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Orders are delivered M-F during the hours of 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 8:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Payment may be made by personal check, credit card, and approved insurance programs.

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Families Committed To Junior Lightning Hockey

by John Watson

Whether gained on the frozen ponds of Central Europe or on the asphalt of local tennis courts, the love of ice hockey has struck in the Bloomingdale community. For two Valrico families, the route to the ice was different, but the outcome the same. For one family, the love of hockey seemed to be in the blood, for the other, it was an acquired taste.

This love is not without its hardships, however. While the rest of general populace slumbers on in the wee hours of a weekend morning with the sound of the alarm still hours away, these two families and others like them roll out of bed at three or four a.m. to hit the ice an hour's drive away.

The life of a Tampa Bay Junior Lightning Hockey family is not easy. "It is a major commitment of time and money," says hockey mom, Harriet Gombos. She and her husband Jack shuttle their two young ice warriors, James and Chris, to and from arenas in Clearwater and Oldsmar for practice and games a couple of times a week.

"Getting ice time is difficult and we have to take whatever time slot is available, even if it is at five or six in the morning," says Harriet. "Interest in Junior Lightning hockey has doubled in the past year alone, so there is a desperate need for more ice in the local area." The program features both recreational and competitive teams and spans four age groups.

Hockey dad and coach, Peter Galgay, emphasizes, "It is a family commitment, to be sure." He and wife Toni also have two sons dedicated to the sport. "The time pressures and adjustments to our weekly schedule are a real sacrifice," he adds. "You really have to allow four hours of your time for one hour practice session - when you consider the driving time and the (dressing and undressing) of all that equipment. And sometimes a session on the ice for one child will be early in the morning and a game or practice for the other will be in the evening. Then the day is shot."

This routine continues for five months of the year.

To outfit a player with all the necessary protective gear, uniforms, sticks, and skates is a minimum of \$450, twice that for a goalie.

So, why do they do it?

That's best answered by the players themselves. For Peter and Brian Galgay,

who began playing hockey on the ice in Germany, the lure is the fast-paced action and checking (aka hitting). "It's exhilarating!" exclaims 15-year-old Peter. Brian, a center, adds, "The fun part is shooting on goal. But it's hard when the other team is trying to stop you." At age 10, he'd like to someday play for the Rangers.



Local members of the Junior Lightning hockey team are (standing) Peter Galgay, James Gombos, (kneeling) Brian Galgay, and Chris Gombos.

Graduating from the ranks of street hockey, the Gombos boys, James and Chris, share a love of the "fast and rough" that is ice hockey. James, a 15-year-old wing, finds his greatest happiness in life when he has just scored a goal. Chris, a 7th grader and aiming for a slot with the Boston Bruins one day, loves the competition, the support of his teammates, and winning. "Winning...it's better than losing," he said. Chris looks forward to it "even when it means getting up in the middle of the night". To a man, these players agree that hockey is number one in their lives.

"It's great watching your children grow in a sport and see all that enthusiasm," Coach Galgay says. His wife calls it "passion". She feels strongly that easy access to healthy recreation will go a long way to help solve the problem of crime in this country.

Harriet likes the camaraderie that develops in a team and says her love for the sport has grown over the two seasons her boys have been involved with the program. "It's become a focal point of our family activity."

Galgay explains that the goal of the league is that the players have a good time and a learning experience, not just in developing their skills, but in the personal growth areas of sportsmanship, leadership, and the discipline and commitment to become better as players and individuals.

Young Chris summed it all up best when asked what one word best described ice hockey. A big smile swept across his face.

"Awesome!" he said.

Parents of children who are interested in becoming involved with the Junior Lightning hockey program can call the Sun Blades Skating Rink at the ICOT Center in Clearwater, 536-5843.



The Burns Bruins girls basketball team is number one in the county after defeating Greco last month and posting an undefeated record for the second year in a row. The team has all but three players returning next year, when they will make a run for a three-peat.

Tennis Tourney At BSTC

Special To *The Gazette*

Kerry Szymanski has joined the staff of Brandon Swim and Tennis Club as the new Director of Tennis, and brings with her some exciting programs for children and adults. She is a certified USPTA professional and a graduate of Syracuse University. She has coached nationally ranked juniors at a tournament training camp at the University of Virginia. After teaching for Four Star Tennis and at numerous clubs in the Northeast, Szymanski brings experience and enthusiasm to Florida tennis.

The club will hold a member's Clay Court Championship Feb. 19 and 20 at BSTC. According to the club pro, it will be a men's and women's singles draw and there will be a consolation round. The registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 14.

Szymanski is hoping her new "singles"

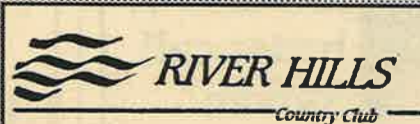
tennis program will gain popularity. Mixed doubles competition for single men and women will be held the first Saturday of each month. Matches begin at 7 p.m. and are open to members and non-members.

In addition, Szymanski is actively involved in bringing tennis instruction to children and teens. She offers clinics in the Champions Tennis Program and Young Champions Tennis Program. Classes meet at various times.

The Young Champions program is open to students ages three through 12. According to Szymanski, it is designed for beginners and juniors who would like to learn tennis. For the more advanced player, there is the Champions program, which is designed for juniors who are already playing tournaments and who are participating on their junior or senior high school teams.



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BHA Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association Board of Directors will be held Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the community office at the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center. Members of the BHA are invited to attend.

'Phantom' Tickets Still Available

It's true! Some tickets still remain for the Tampa Bay premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of The Opera", which runs Feb. 26 through April 9 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. According to a TBPAC spokesman, some small (2-4 people) group tickets are still available for some of the dates. Ticket prices range from \$16 to \$61, and may be obtained at the box office or any Ticketmaster outlet.

Strawberry Festival Tickets Available

Advance discount tickets to the 1994 Florida Strawberry Festival, scheduled March 3 through 13, will be available through Feb. 18 at the Greater Brandon Community Directory offices, 110 Central Drive in Brandon.



Sales Representatives Wanted

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

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

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

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

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

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Tickets are \$4 each, as opposed to the regular \$5 gate admission price. Children 10 and under are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Admission tickets give festival-goers access to all stadium shows and on-ground entertainment on a first-come basis.

Tickets can be obtained by calling ahead at 689-1588, then picking them up between noon and 6 p.m. any day.

"Responsible Child" Classes Set

Hillsborough County will offer a new series of classes on "Raising a Responsible Child" at various locations around the county. The local class will be held Wednesday, Feb. 9, at Brandon High School from 6:20 to 9:30 p.m.

The course is a widely used parenting education program entitled "Systematic Training for Effective Parenting." Teaching methods include readings, videos, discussions and activities. The program gives parents a "how-to" guide for raising responsible, self-reliant and cooperative children. Participants learn how to best encourage their children and how to redirect their children in a positive way.

For more information and to register for classes, call 264-3807, ext. 128 or 130.

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Hats Off



Area Teachers of the Year will vie for the title of Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year at this month's annual banquet. The teachers of the year are honored by their individual schools and at the banquet they receive special gifts including cash awards. Those who teach students from Bloomingdale are Teachers of the Year from Alafia, Rose Girard; Lithia Springs, Penny Varnum; Progress Village, Juanita Hill; B.T. Washington, Bruce Koontz; Burns, Kathleen Nanns; and Bloomingdale, Carla Bruning.

Girard teaches Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) at Alafia. She has taught in Hillsborough County since 1986. Varnum is a first grade teacher at Lithia Springs. The Lithia resident has taught first graders for six years, coming from Buckhorn School. Hill, a teacher at Progress Village sixth grade center, is a seven-year veteran of the school system.

Koontz, a teacher in the gifted mathematics program at Washington, has been in the classroom for 17 years including two years in Guatemala. The Seffner resident enjoys 7th graders and tells his students "the process of learning expands the brain." Bruning, with the county schools since 1985, is a teacher of biology and marine biology at Bloomingdale Senior High School.

Marianne Aluotto, a sixth grader at Progress Village School, won second place and a \$75 prize in the "Living the Dream" essay contest, a commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., sponsored by Hillsborough County Schools. Marianne is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Aluotto of Bloomingdale. Last month she was honored along with the other winners from around the county at the school system's annual Talent Showcase, where the students received their cash prizes and trophies.

Classified

Maintenance and Home Improvements

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING: Steam-cleaning; References available; guaranteed satisfaction. Bloomingdale resident. Call 689-9192. 2/94

PAINTING/PRESSURE WASHING: Interior/exterior; Free estimates, reasonable rates. 20 years experience; References upon request. Bloomingdale resident. Call 689-9192. 2/94

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

AD REPS: The Bloomingdale Gazette is now hiring ad reps. P/T or F/T, call now at 681-2051.

WRITERS: Part time, free lance writers needed. If you have always wanted to try your hand at writing, this is a great opportunity. Call 681-2051.

HOUSEKEEPER/NANNY: M-F, after school until 6:15 p.m. Start time anywhere btw. 2:30 & 4pm (negotiable). Start dinner, no heavy

housework. Two girls 8 & 9 yrs., one boy, 14. Must have reliable transportation, be mature, & very patient. Competitive salary. Call Susan DeLuca, evns. 689-4972.

Residents who are . . .

BABYSITTERS: Angela Reiser (18) and Kimberly Reiser (15) 684-6006. Ansel Sciulli (13) and Crystal Sciulli (13) 681-7065. Stefanie Skubina (12) 681-9496 7/94

AVON REPRESENTATIVES: Ruth Calandro, 689-0212. 6/94

MARY KAY CONSULTANTS: Kathy Holcomb, 681-5130

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PIANO TEACHER: Children and adults. Beginners thru advanced, 15 yrs. experience. M. A. T. Gentle teaching approach. Call 661-5322 3/94

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