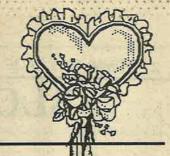


Happy Birthday, Sweet 16

Valentine's Day is the best time to wish the Bloomingdale Community and *The Bloomingdale Gazette* a happy birthday. The

newspaper was created 16 years ago by residents in the original 70 homes of Bloomingdale East. Happy Sweet 16th!



The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVI, Number 2

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

February 1996

BHA Briefs

Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 in the Community Office's new location in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. The Community Office has moved to 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, next door to Kim Hall's Dance Studio. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting. Election of officers will take place at this month's meeting.

Board Position

One board position remains open and interested residents are asked to attend this month's meeting. The BHA board is served by 10 directors. They meet once a month to discuss matters of concern to the residents.

Special Thanks

The BHA board would like to extend its appreciation to Tom Hayden and Victor Perez for separate acts of kindness.

Hayden, a Bloomingdale resident and professional painter, contributed his time to paint the interior of the new community office. He did an excellent job.

Good neighbor Perez, of Kim Hall's Dance Studio, loaned a helping hand with the move into the community office and also helped save the day when a leak caused water to accumulate and soak through the office carpet.

Good Neighbors - good friends of the BHA.

Welcome, New Residents

The BHA welcomed two new residents at last month's meeting. New to the community are the Vince Santillo family who reside in Fox Run and the Clarence Dempsey family who reside in East. It was terrific to see new residents show an interest in the community.

Mobile Watch

Mobile Watch director LaWayne Wyatt is happy with the response he has received with the recent membership drive. Several new volunteers have offered to join the mobile watch patrol. And just in time, it seems. Late night teen activity in several areas of Bloomingdale East have Wyatt and local law enforcement personnel on the lookout. The "hang-outs" show signs of illegal drinking. Residents who notice such activity in their neighborhoods are asked to notify the sheriff's office.

Membership Drive Underway

The 1996 BHA membership drive is enjoying great success. Residents of the Bloomingdale communities are still receiving packets, which are being mailed in manageable numbers. Dues are \$20 and are for the calendar year. Packets will include a notice of dues, Mobile Watch volunteer sign-up form and an informative brochure about the BHA and other area organizations. If you haven't received your membership information, it will be forthcoming in one of the many mail-outs still remaining.

What BHA Membership Gives You

Residents who take advantage of all the services offered by the BHA get their money's worth. In the last year the BHA has provided community symposiums on deed restriction and zoning violations, road and street lighting/traffic control advocacy, public safety information, a community picnic.

In addition, the BHA sponsored a parks and recreation advisory committee that continued the efforts of the 1987 board and accomplished the goal of bringing a rec center to the Bloomingdale community.

The BHA continues to support the Mobile Watch program and The Bloomingdale Gazette.

They also continue to stay on top of local government issues that affect the community and are advocates for the

Former Principal Recalls 20 Years Of Double Sessions

by Rozel Sciulli

Former Brandon High principal Orlan Briant remembers the school on double sessions when it was the only high school in the growing community east of Tampa. And he wants to tell Bloomingdale parents, some of whom are his former students, double sessions is not the monster they perceive it to be. There might even be some advantages.

"It certainly has its problems," said Briant, now an area director. "On double sessions you have to adopt the philosophy that the problems won't get in the way of education.

"Believe it or not, when we went off double sessions, Parents of 1996-97 Bloomingdale students are invited to attend a planning session concerning double sessions at Bloomingdale High on Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m. in the school auditorium. Questions and suggestions will be heard.

parents, teachers and coaches complained."

From the mid-1960s through 1985 Brandon High operated on double sessions in two separate buildings. McLane Junior High was the original Brandon High until 1971. Under pressure from parents, the school board lifted double sessions for one year when students moved to the present campus on Victoria Street, but in 1973

an enrollment of more than 2,000 forced the school back on double sessions. By the time Armwood opened in 1985, Brandon High's population had sky-rocketed to over 4,000.

Under double sessions, Brandon High was the first school in the state to win the National School of Excellence Award.

Briant explained that at Brandon, double sessions

didn't keep a student from getting required courses or from participating in extracurricular activities. Double sessions, he said, may even benefit some students who will take advantage of the school being open and its faculty being available for 12 hours from 6:30 until 6:30

"Of course, we didn't have freshmen, but it can work the same way," Briant said. "Any sophomore that needed a class, we made sure it was offered during that session, or that the student was enrolled in the other session. Students even arrived early to take a last period class in the earlier ses-

See DOUBLE, pg. 4

A Valentine's Story Of Love And Commitment



Amos and Afton Bossa

by Rozel Sciulli

Amos and Afton Bossa sit comfortably in their den surrounded by family photographs that are a loving testament to their 54 years of marriage. And although they are separated from their five children, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren by thousands of miles, the Bossa family is linked by faith and by love.

"Idon't know where the years have gone," Amos said. It was a love that began in a time of turmoil when a strapping young Air Force officer from Toledo, Ohio attended the University of Utah and met the young Afton. They were married on Oct. 9, 1941, just before the outbreak of World War II, and the honeymoon was short lived.

War was declared that December while Amos was en route to the Phillippines. He never got there. Instead, the airmen hid from the Japanese on a number of Pacific islands. After tours in Australia and New Guinea, the young officer returned home in 1944.

Afton had remained in the states living with her sister and on her own while working at Remington Ammunitions.

Making the military a career, the Bossas and their three children - Allen, Kathleen and Michael - were sent to Tokyo in 1953, during U.S. occupation of Japan. One more child, Lorraine, was born in Japan and the fifth, Norman, came after their return to the states. The last time the Bossas were all together was at Norman's wedding four years ago, but they stay in touch via an 800-number the parents had installed.

"We hear from everyone every week," Amos said, stopping to reminisce with Afton about a recent conversation with one of their daughters.

Amos, a retired Lt. Col. since 1968, and Afton looked for a sunny locale when they moved from the Washington, D.C. area. Living near an Air Force base to take advantage of the many services was a stipulation. With Allen residing in West Palm Beach, the Tampa area was a logical choice. They moved to their home in Fairway Manors in 1990.

"We didn't want to live in Sun City Center. We like See VALENTINE, page 6

Reclaimed Water Available To Residents

Special to The Gazette

Reclaimed water for irrigation in residential subdivisions is becoming popular in neighborhoods around Hillsborough County and Bloomingdale residents may now take advantage of this program.

Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater generated by Hillsborough County's water reclamation facilities. It is colorless, odorless and can be used for landscape irrigation

Residents who use reclaimed water are not subject to the watering restrictions mandated by the county.

The benefit to the environment is the conservation of drinking water supplies.

Bloomingdale has already been identified as a feasible reclaimed water service area. The service is currently in use at Bloomingdale Golfers Club.

A petition must be signed by more than 50% of the homeowners in a particular area, not 50% of all Bloomingdale.

An annual assessment is added to the property tax bill of each resident within the area and is amortized over a 20-year period. This is used to build the distribution system within the subdivision. In addition, there is a \$6 per month residential user fee and a one-time connection fee of \$40.

Residents who wish to find out more about this program

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

Randy Wolfe

NIP Report

The volunteers in the Neighborhood Involvement Program hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and we wish all a Happy New Year.

Things have been very slow during the holiday season. A few callstrickled into the BHA office. Since alot of folks had company from out of town and extra company, we didn't send out cards for parking violations, but we have started sending out notices again.

Parking Violations

Parking on any grassy area is prohibited in all divisions of Bloomingdale unless the vehicle is parked out of sight from the street. Please comply; we get alot of calls from your neighbors who don't like to confront the offenders:

Those folks who have garage sales are only allowed to have two per year, according to county code. It would also be appreciated if you would remove any signs you post on corners or on poles at the end of the sale.

Off Limits Area

The area between the homes on Sweetleaf Drive and Park West is county property with Tampa Electric Co. easement. Trespassing is prohibited. Dog walking, jogging, riding bikes or horses are not allowed in this area.

It would also be appreciated if parents would tell their children not to use the properties on Sweetleaf land Cedargrove to cut through to Park West.

Got a complaint? Volunteer!

We have two new volunteers who will be officially trained sometime this month. If you have any desire to help

out, please call the BHA office at 681-2051. We will be glad to welcome you aboard. The more volunteers we have, the better job we can do. Remember, we're only trying to keep our neighborhoods attractive and our property values up. If you have a complaint, get involved; it's a sure way to have some positive input and get things done.

Deed Restrictions Copy

If you recently moved into Bloomingdale and didn't get a copy of your deed restrictions, call your realtor and ask for a copy. If you don't have any luck, call the BHA office, and we'll see to it you get a copy.

With all the new places to shop so close to Bloomingdale, we think we have a very desirable place to live. Please do your part to keep it that

OFFICERS

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road Suite 103

Valrico, Florida 33594 681-2051

President

229-3321

685-2072

681-1553

685-8378

| ick Oros | Vice Pre | sident | 685 |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|-----|
| | Direct | tors | |
| M | lichael Davis | 684-8881 | |
| - | ed Grable | 685-7193 | |
| | tan Highsmith atricia Radel | 651-0210 | |

Luana Russell LaWayne Wyatt

Anne Underwood 653-4677 ningdale Special Taxing District

684-3144

685-2072

| Diooming | date opecial raxing L | risti ici |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| IN U. O. LITTLE OF | 684-6667 | |
| Rick Pitrowski | President | 684-6667 |
| Chris Hering | Vice President | 654-0235 |
| Joe Ligouri | Treasurer | 681-9655 |
| Tom Snelling | Corresponding Secretary | 681-9186 |
| T. Szabo | Recording Secretary | 684-2547 |
| Peter Aluotto | Trustee | 685-0727 |
| Keith Wilson | Trustee | |
| Alan Devney | Administrator | 684-6617 |

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

| | C |
|-----------------|------|
| LaWayne Wyatt | Coor |
| John Britton | |
| Steve Schneider | Equ |

David Guy Paul Kelmer Rick Borling

Treasurer

dinator/Scheduler

pment Manager

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District P.O. Box 3132 Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103 Valrico, Florida 33594 681-2051

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

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. Publisher

Rick Oros President Rozel Sciulli Administrative Assist-June Oros

> ant/Layout & **Graphics Editor**

> > delivery system

Shannan Powell Writer Writer

Ellen Slovacek Ad Representative JoAnne Scoff Ruth Green Ad Representative Shirley Farrer Distribution Manager Circulation Assistants Rent A Kid

counting services provided by: Robert Morris, 3302 Bell Shoals, Brandon, FL 33511

Statement of Operation

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available free of charge at a newsstands: Publix, The Greater Brandon Chamber of Con NationsBank, Mail Boxes Etc., Bell Shoals Citgo, Rainbow Mart, Kash & Karry, Nations Bank, Brandon Library, Sun Bank, Barnet

The content of The Bloomingdale Gazette is the property of The doomingdale Gazette, Inc. and is not reproducible in any manner thout express written permission from the president of The

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.

Our Times

Talkin' Trash Is A Nasty Subject

by Rozel Sciulli

This is a trashy topic, but somebody has to address it.

Imagine taking an early morning stroll down Nature's Way toward Greenhollow. The dew is clinging to waking blades of grass. Birds are beginning to notice the sunrise. The air is fresh. There's no traffic on the streets.

Ah, the splendor of suburban living. You awaken from your daydream after stumbling over a pair of old sneakers, nearly falling and avoiding serious bodily damage. That's odd, you think, until the next sight reveals a crumpled pair of jeans and an old sweatshirt nearby. Looking for a body in the bushes, you don't find one, but you do spot a pair of socks and some underwear. Still no body.

And there won't be one, either.

The wardrobe sampling is some of the more unusual "trash" found daily on the streets of this community.

Each week, STD property manager Alan Devney collects six to eight 33-gal. trash bags full of garbage, tossed from cars driving through Bloomingdale. These aren't visitors to the community, he says. These are residents who have little regard for the property shared by all of Bloomingdale.

Commercial litter includes pop cans, beer cans and bottles, whiskey bottles, sacks from McDonald's, Taco Bell and Burger King, wrappers and cups. He has found newspapers, hub caps, brake linings

Community advertising trash is also intollerable. This includes the leftover garage sale signs and lost (or found) pet

On the nastier side, he has discovered

Oh, and one lucky find - a \$20 bill. That was one piece of trash Devney didn't throw away unlike it's original owner who must not have realized he was throwing money out the window.

If you wouldn't throw any of these in your yard, why would you throw them around the community?

If you would not permit your kids to throw their McDonald's bags in your front yard, why do they throw them in your neighbor's yard?

If you have an outdoor barbeque and 20 guests leave their trash (paper plates, etc) strewn all over your backyard - would that make you angry?

I've never understood littering whether a cigarette butt or a styrofoam coffee cup - if it's not something you would want thrown in your yard, why throw it anywhere other than in a trash

Me? I throw everything on the floor of my car - in front of the passenger's seat. Just ask anyone who has had to share the passenger's side floorboard with fast food bags, cups and old newspapers. About once every couple of weeks I clean out my car, but I can't ever say that I thought of throwing something out the window.

Guess it goes back to that litter campaign commercial that was aired repeatedly on television when I was growing up -the one of the American Indian surveying the littered highways - in closing shot we see this hulk of a man with a tear in his eye. That picture has stayed with me all these

People caught littering shouldn't have to pay a fine. Money may mean nothing to them. Community service in the way of weekend roadside clean-up - now that's a nunishment that fits the crime

STD Seeks Input On 'No Solicitation' Signs

by Rozel Sciulli

While several interior sections of Bloomingdale East have prominently posted "No Soliciting" signs at their entrances, the majority of East and all of West is open to outsiders who enter the community peddling their wares.

It may be the guy selling a miracle "specially concentrated" liquid guaranteed to remove oil stains from the driveway or children selling candy door-to-door, but the Special Taxing District would like to know how the residents feel about dealing with travelling salesmen/women.

That's why the STD is taking a survey to determine the wishes of the community. Do you want Bloomingdale to be offlimits to solicitors, they want to know?

"We want to close off the community to outsiders," said STD president Rick Pitrowski. "We don't want to keep the neighborhood children from raising money for their school, teams, or church groups. But we know who our neighborhood children are and chances are we don't mind giving donations when we know they will benefit a group in our community."

Pitrowski cited the risk of having strangers roaming the streets of Bloomingdale, and the often poor timing of solicitors.

"In communities where soliciting is prohibited, residents feel more at ease," he said. "We don't know if it will stop soliciting 100%, but posted signs will deter outsiders."

In Fox Run where No Soliciting signs are posted, residents say even if someone comes to their door, they feel they have a leg to stand on.

"I don't have a problem letting someone know that soliciting is not allowed in our neighborhood and asking 'didn't you see the sign?'," said Fox Run resident Belinda Kimbrough. "It hasn't stopped children from coming around, but we know who our kids are."

No-Soliciting Survey

Please indicate in the space below whether or not you would like the Bloomingdale communities to be Solicitation Free

YES, I would like the STD to post No Solicitation signs

NO, The STD should not post No Solicitation signs

Address Name

(you may choose to remain anonymous, but an address is necessary in order for the survey to be considered valid)

Please mail your response to the Bloomingdale STD, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, Valrico, FL 33594, or drop off your response to the STD at the Community Office in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale

Bits N **Pieces**



Local Child's Entry **Wins Mickey Mouse Contest**

by Shannan D. Powell

As the new year unfolds, Bloomingdale residents prove unfettered in their endeavors, involved in as many newsworthy events as ever.

Head wins Disney card contest

Michelle Head, a first-grade honor student at Seffner



Michelle Head

Christian Academy, was named grand prize winner of the Mickey's Stuff for Kids Birthday Card Contest, a nationwide contest celebrating Mickey Mouse's Nov. 18 birthday. Her card will be published in the March issue of Parents maga-

Chosen from more than 1,500 entrants, Head, 6, won a \$1,000 United States Sav-

ings Bond and \$1,000 in toys, games and accessories from Mickey's Stuff for Kids, plus a photograph.

"I didn't even intend to enter the card," said Kate Head, Michelle's mother. "It was just something to keep her busy one rainy day. And it was so cute, I almost kept it."

The card showed Mickey Mouse on the front with a poem and little girls inside. The girls were decorated with buttons, ribbons and lace. The poem read, "All the children of the world are happy every day, Thanks to Mickey and his ways."

"I guess art runs in the family. Her uncle is a commercial artist and my great-grandfather, Daniel Kotc, has art in the Smithsonian," said Mrs. Head.

The contest judging panel included Andrew Lawrence, star of the NBC comedy series "Brotherly Love"; Barbara Rentschler of Binney & Smith, maker of Mickey's Stuff for Kids products and Wendy Smolen, Lifestyles editor of Parents magazine. The contest was open to children between two and 10 years old.

Magnuson and Lindley to wed

Larry and Candy Magnuson, former residents of



Robert Magnuson and Miss Kelley Lindley

Bloomingdale East, wish to announce the engagement of their son Robert "Rob" Magnuson to Kelley Lindley, daughter of Lonnie and Diane Lindley of Orlando.

Magnuson, a 1993 graduate of Bloomingdale High, proposed to Miss Lindley on Dec. 27.

"He was shaking like a leaf," Miss Lindley said. "After we opened all the Christmas gifts, he brought out a big, beautifully wrapped box."

Inside the box was a little Teddy bear with the velvet box containing the ring.

Both juniors at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Magnuson is a marketing major and Miss Lindley is a

religion major. They plan to be married May 6, 1997, at Pinecastle United Methodist Church in Orlando and will reside in Washington.

Fox Run holiday dinner progressive

The residents of Fox Run held their annual holiday progressive dinner Dec. 9. Thirty-five couples participated in the event organized by Linda Cacioppo and Pat Hanly, down from 48 couples in December, 1994.

The couples gathered at the home of Ellen and Craig Gesell for a cocktail hour and then broke into nine groups for dinner, proceeded to one of the nine dessert homes and reunited at the home of Tim and Karen Maguire for

"Everybody seems to enjoy it," Mrs. Cacioppo said. "This is one of the best events (the social club) has all year."

Hockey fans in Boston

Bloomingdale residents Alan and Mary Devney and son Tom along with John and Rose Profetto had the time of their lives in Boston last month. The couples attended the National Hockey League All-Star game and the trip also provided the chance for the Devneys to visit with daughter Ann who works for the NHL.

Devney said they withstood the bitter cold which still found snow on the ground from the January blizzard. They watched ice skaters on the commons and saw the Ducks on the Green. But the rest of the weekend was devoted to hockey as they watched the Friday night skills competition and the big game on Saturday.

"A great time was had by all," said Devney, who was glad to get back to the Florida warmth.

Crafts Competition

Bloomingdale adult residents may join others in Hillsborough County who will participate in the Neighborhood Village at the Strawberry Festival in Plant City. There are no pre-entry or entry fees.

Entries are now being accepted in the following departments: needlework, sewing, toys, knitting & crochet, food preservation, pictures, heritage arts and genealogy. Entries may be submitted at the Festival grounds on Thursday, Feb. 22 from noon until 7 p.m. All baking and cake decorating entries must be submitted Tuesday, Feb. 27, from noon to 7 p.m.

For information call 677-8536 or 744-5519 and refer to the Neighborhood Village.

Whether Buying or Selling Your Home Sweet Home Call:



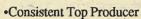


"Donna Mac"

Celebrating 13 Years as Your **Bloomingdale Neighborhood Specialist**







- Bloomingdale's Area Specialist & Resident Since 1983
- Sold Millions and Millions in Brandon/Bloomingdale
- Degree in Advertising and Marketing
- •#1 Sun Cove Realty Agent of the Year for 3 Consecutive Years
- Call One of Hillsborough County's Top
- Let my 13 Years Experience, Knowledge, Service and Commitment Work for You
- ·Whether Buying of Selling Call Your Neighborhood Specialist "Donna Mac" Today!



Donna MacGiffert

654-7070

toll free 1-800-825-2683



1403 Holleman-Fairway Manors







Featured Home of the Month:





SUN COVE REALTY, INC

In Bloomingdale Square

3803 Hollow Wood-Windsor Woods





4132 Moreland-Oakcrest

Restaurant Review Dinner Cruise Three-part Pleasure

by Elton Dumont

As you can tell quickly from the name, this is not your typical restaurant, so it defies a standard review. However, a group of us took this wonderful dinner cruise on a recent Saturday night and I wanted to tell you about. It is one of the best kept entertainment secrets in the Tampa Bay area.

The Starlite Princess Riverboat is an authentic paddlewheeler built in 1986 by Patti Shipyard in Pensacola. From the moment we boarded, we were treated warmly. There are three areas of enjoyment on-board -dinner, dancing with live entertainment and the 3 1/2-hour cruise.

The lower deck of the boat has the main dining room and the bigger of the two dance floors along with the stage for entertainment. This level is all enclosed, very quiet and climate controlled. The draped windows and upholstered seats add warmth. The second deck can be used for private parties or as an addition to the lower dining room. This deck also has a dance floor with a view to the lower deck. The third deck is open to the night sky and has benches, tables and chairs for spectators to sit and enjoy the great view of the surroundings of Upper Tampa Bay.

First, we were served a dish of hot appetizers of bacon wrapped scallop, barbecued chicken filet strip, a miniature pastry quiche and a mushroom stuffed with crabmeat. My first thought was that the food would be so-so since food was probably not their main calling card. I was wrong. The food was very, very good.

As the paddlewheels began to churn, salad was served with a choice of Italian or ranch dressing. It wasn't a typical lettuce salad. It appeared to be a crisp romaine that was properly chilled complemented by cucumber, tomato, grated carrots and purple cabbage. We have been in some fine restaurants where the salad was not as appealing. Fresh, crisp French bread with real butter was served on the side.

There were six entree choices including seafood Alfredo, chicken Marsala, seafood of the day, Starlite filet, chicken Grillade, and a garden harvest of fresh vegetables. Since

in a sauce of creamy parmesan with a slight indication of garlic. The chicken Marsala was a tender breast in a mushroom and wine sauce. The catch of the day was salmon, prepared perfectly with a special sauce. Finally, the Starlite filet was a tender premium cut served with Bernaise sauce. A squash and zucchini medley was enjoyed rather than left on the plate, a testimonial in itself. The meal was capped by New York style cheese cake with an amaretto flavor. It was more than a normal sliver.

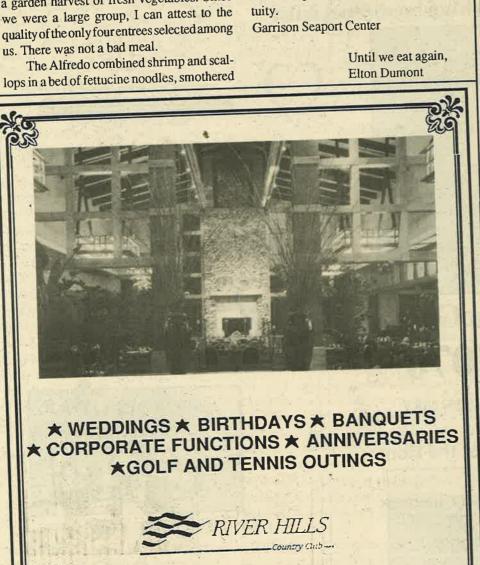
It was a terrific meal from a group that obviously takes pride in food prepa-

The second area that bears comment is the dancing and entertainment. On this night, the music was supplied by Eric Enfield who had enough electronic equipment to turn his one-man show into an orchestra, and vocalist Kris Teran who sang show tunes, pop and oldies. From waltzes to the electric slide, there was music for dancing, dining, conversation

The third area was the cruise itself. The tour of Tampa Bay takes site-seers around downtown with its lighted skyline, the blue-domed aquarium, the underconstruction ice hockey arena, Harbor Island, Davis Islands and the Tampa Convention Center. In between dining and dancing, a visit to the upper deck provided a wonderful view.

And now for the cost. Would you agree that a 3-hour cruise around Tampa would be reasonable at \$15 a person? Would you also agree that a four course dinner in a fine restaurant with good service would be worth around \$30 to \$35 a person? And would you say that visiting a lounge with live entertainment and drinking just coffee all evening would cost about \$10 a person and a cover or a minimum charge?

Well, I must repeat that one of the best kept secrets in Tampa is the Starlite Princess, which gives you all the above for \$35 a person, including tax and gratuity.



Call 653-1554, Ext. 39 For

Operation S.W.A.K

According to Sue Hardbridge, Mail Boxes Etc.® is proud to launch its fourth annual Operation: S.W.A.K. (Sealed With A Kiss) promotiuon. This program provides FREE, first class postage (\$.32) for Valentine cards and letters sent to U.S. military service personnel overseas and to veterans in VA hospitals.

Deadline is February 7 for cards and letters to be sent to an APO or FPO address to troups assigned to military posts outside the U.S. and to veterans in VA hospitals.

For further information you can contact Mail Boxes Etc. ® at 689-4328 or just drop off your letters to participating Mail Boxes Etc.® Please address your envelope to: For Army Any Service member Operation Joint Endeavor-Peace Hero APO AE 09391

Any Service member Operation Joint Endeavor-Peace Hero FPO AE 09392

For Navy and Marine Corps Any Navy or Marine Corps Service Operation Joint Endeavor APO AE 09398

DOUBLE, from page 1

sion. There are many options."

Briant cited marching band as an example. It was offered last period of the morning session so both groups of students could participate. In fact, he said, student athletes weren't practicing until 6:30 p.m. Practices were held after the first session and athletes were home by 3:00 or 4:00 p.m.

"Kids will live at the school," Briant said. "The top 10 to 15 percent of the kids will take advantage of labs and the availability of the media center. Some (at Brandon) even took seven classes for credit - six during their session and one at the end or beginning of the other session. That was a good way to get in those electives.

"For the students who needed extra help, tutoring was available during their

Briant remembered there was community and parent concern about students with idle time. "It was a problem then and it will be a problem now. No doubt a freshman or sophomore will be apt to skip school if he doesn't have to come until 12:00, and that students who get out at noon and get a job and want to buy a car will find earning money more attractive than attending school.



MAIL SERVICE

8-7 M-F

MAIL BOXES ETC:

WE DO. IT'S HOW WE DO IT?

Great Beginnings...

OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY & INTERTILITY

MOHAMED I. ABDEL-AZIZ, M.D. Board Certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology

721 W. Robertson . Suite 106 **Buckingham Place** Brandon • 654-3200

Hours: Mon.-Fri 8:30-5:00 All Major Health Plans and Champus Accepted

PACKING SUPPLIES

Bloomingdale Square 813 E. Bloomingdale Ave.

(Wal-Mart Shopping Ctr.) 689-4998 / fax 689-4328

WESTERN MONEY
INION TRANSFER

UPS Authorized Shipping Outlet





Happy Valentines Day

There's one sure way to get your money fast!



Electronic filing

Fast. Easy. Certain.

Because it's your money. **EXECUTIVE** TAX SERVICE H&R BLOCK

879 East Bloomingdale Avenue Brandon, FL 33511 (813)681-9379

Schools Select This Year's Best Teachers

Bonnie Herzog (standing) enjoys lead-

ership training as part of her teaching

day at Bloomingdale.

by Rozel Sciulli

In Bonnie Herzog's spacious Bloomingdale office, Abraham Lincoln shares wall space with actor Harrison Ford. Bulletin boards and shelves are covered with 12 years worth of student photographs. And bumper stickers proclaiming women's rights let visitors know that this pintsized teacher stands tall on her convictions.

Herzog is one of four teachers who touch the daily

lives of Bloomingdale students and who have been honored as their school's Teacher of the Year. The others are Suzie Janss from Burns, Karen Willis at Alafia, and Kelly Brocato from Lithia Springs. They will be honored along with others in the county at a banquet Feb. 15 when the Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year will be named.

A original Bloomingdale faculty member, Herzog has been teaching American history and government for 12 years, coming to the local high school from East Bay. She and her husband Edward moved to Brandon from Kentucky, and their son Robert is a senior at Bloomingdale.

It was a book on Harry Truman that led Herzog to a teaching career in history.

"I had no idea what I wanted to do (after high school). I didn't even think about college," Herzog said, who spent time working as a veterinary assistant. "Then I read a book on Harry Truman and I thought 'I'd like to know more about this'."

Herzog attended and graduated from Northern Kentucky University while raising a toddler and absorbing all the history books and movies she could fit into her hectic

"In history I want to bring people alive to the students. I've never been one to have the students read a chapter and answer the questions at the end," she said.

Instead, she has her students sit in "trenches" while studying World War I, so they know what it felt like for the soldiers.

"I like to think that the enthusiasm a teacher has for (a subject) transfers to the students."

Herzog also is Bloomingdale's Student Government sponsor. Under her direction, the student leaders stage Carnibull, Homecoming, pep assemblies and their

current blood drive project. It's Herzog's mission to instill in her students a sense of individual and social responsibility. She does this by emphasizing life skills in her teaching and in student government projects such as providing a motivational speaker who will address the entire student body prior to Prom Night in an effort to avert carelessness and irresponsibility.

Suzie Janss also is an American history teacher who has taught in Hillsborough County for 12 years. She is an original faculty

member at Burns which was built prior to the county's technological updates.

"Burns was computer poor," Janss said. So she set out to help remedy the situation. Her interest in technology inspired a fund raising campaign in the school's social studies department that in two years has raised \$24,000 for technology.

She is a member of the middle school committee as Burns prepares to welcome sixth and seventh graders. Part of that preparation is a pilot program in which several teachers, including Janss, are carrying out the philosophy of middle school teaching this year.

Janss, who was raised in a military family, has lived "all over" the United States and brings her love of history into the classroom.

"I enjoy getting the students excited about American History," she said.

Karen Willis is Alafia's computer instructor. She has taught in the county for 18 years and is an original member of the Alafia faculty.

She is the only teacher at Alafia who touches base with all 982 students through computer classes. But there's more to this former second grade teacher.

See TEACHERS, pg. 7





Tampa Bay's Most Affordable **Active Adult Community**



Homes From The \$30s - \$70s Custom Designed - Quality Built

Two Large Clubhouses Plus...

- Two Pools Indoor & Outdoor
- Woodworking & Ceramic Shop
- Security Gate Activities Director
- Convenient Location Country Setting
- Much, Much More!

I-4 to I-75, then south to Hwy. 60 (Brandon area) and east 6.5



Visit Our Models Today. Call For **Information And Directions:**

(800) 344-8995 (813) 689-9423

A Blair Group Community Bringing You Quality Florida

Personal Injury & Wrongful Death

The insurance company has a lawyer, so should you.

CURRY & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

A Full Service Law Firm

ACCIDENTS, DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS. MALPRACTICE



No charge for initial consultation on injury cases.

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

Church and Synagogue News

by Ellen Slovacek

Valentine's Day is right around the corner and I can't help but think of that oft quoted scripture in John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you..."

With that scripture in mind, I want to relate to you an experience I had a couple of weeks ago. I won't bore you with all the details, but I happened to meet a kind-faced, well-dressed woman who at first seemed nice enough until she found out that I was not of her faith.

She then proceeded to tell me that my church was inconsistent in its teachings with the Bible, and that my religious leaders were "immoral and probably going straight to hell." Interesting, I thought, that this woman would know so much about the doctrines of my church.

I asked her where she got her information. A pamphlet. Oh, yeah. That makes a lot of sense. To my further amusement/ exasperation/amazement, she tried to tell me that I didn't know the true doctrines of my church because my church leaders purposely keep the congregation "in the dark". Wow, that's a new one.

I teach the gospel doctrine class in Sunday school, and so far, I have not attended a "Keep Them in the Dark" seminar. But who knows? Maybe this pamphlet-reading-therefore-I-know-all-about-your-church woman is in the know. Maybe there is such a seminar and it's only for narrow-minded women that wear nice clothes and like to irritate the general church-going populace because we are not of their faith. If those are the qualifications, count me out. I'm too sloppy a dresser.

But going back to "Love one another"...It has always seemed strange, even incongruent to me that some people who claim to be Christian, are not. Indeed, their very actions speak of intolerance and narrow-mindedness.

I am reminded of the time I was nearly run down in the Walmart parking lot by a truck bearing the bumpersticker "I Love Jesus". Or, on a more serious note, the people who kill medical doctors in the name of Christian values. Murder is murder.

I guess you could call it selective Christianity...love others only when they share your beliefs. All others, be intolerant.

I know I'm speaking of only a very small group of people. But we all suffer from intolerance on some level. So here's a Valentine's Day challenge for people of all faiths: For just one day, try to see things from the other person's perspective. Then maybe we will be able to truly love one another.

Now here's what's happening:

The Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale has received great news from its sister church in Guatemala. Two students from that country are furthering their education with the scholarship money

made available to them from the Bloomingdale church. Lijia Ayola recently received her degree in accounting and Donald Cruz has successfully completed a year in college. For these two students to receive so much education in this poverty-stricken country is amazing and quite an accomplishment. The church welcomes donations to the scholarship fund. Contact Ellen Abramson at 621-2213 for more information.

Congregation Beth Shalom has arranged a special Scout Shabbat service for Friday evening, March 15. The service will give religious recognition to Boy and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Explorer Scouts. All the scouts are asked to be in uniform for the 8 p.m. service with Rabbi Goodman officiating.

Ribbons and badges paid for by Congregation Beth Shalom will be presented to the scouts that evening for meeting the requirements of such religious recognition. The special service is open to non-members and is being coordinated by Robin Rogovin. She should be contacted at least one month prior to the service at 654-1650.

Armed with huge bolts of sturdy cotton fabric and a vast array of scissors and sewing machines, an army of women from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints cut, sewed, appliqued, and painted their way into the hearts of children in need. The idea came to Bloomingdale Ward member Daphene Roland after speaking with representatives from Human Resources services. Daphene was saddened to hear that hundreds of children without families in Hillsborough County travel from foster home to foster home with nothing more than a garbage bag to house their belongings.

"These kids take what precious few items they have and transport them in a black garbage bag. My heart went out to them. It was sad enough they were being moved from home to home, but the garbage bag made it seem all the more pathetic," Daphene said.

And that's when she and the women of the Bloomingdale ward moved into action. For over two months, they measured, but and sewed 150 tote bags for the foster children. For the finishing touches, they added paint and applique. The project was completed just before Christmas, so for extra good measure, they sponsored a toy drive and filled each bag with new toys for the children.

"It made all of us feel good inside knowing we filled a need for these kids," said Bloomingdale Relief Society president Shirley Farrer. "I particularly enjoy the fact that these tote bags will be used for many years to come."

Bravo to these good women and many others of you who give so selflessly of your time and energy in helping others.

Happy Valentine's Day!

VALENTINE, from page 1

being near young families," Afton said. "This area has been delightful."

Their church also is an integral part of their lives. As members of the Bloomingdale Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Bossas feel they are among family.

"I'm glad that we lived and raised a family when we did," Amos said. "I can't imagine raising a family today when over 50% of marriages fail." While both held jobs while raising children, the Bossas made sure there was always one parent home at all

lifetime commitment," Amos said. "The romance fades when there's hardship."

And the secret to their success in marriage...

"We're pretty good sparring partners," he said with a chuckle. "But no episode goes longer than three minutes. And we've never been moved to anger."

Afton likes to think it's because she and Amos are such good friends. "We do everything together."

The couple hopes their example has led to successful marriages for their children and grandchildren.



Read them a story. Give them a dream.

For more information call The Read Tampa Bay Hotline 1.800.433-3499

Is your child caught in a Failure Chain?

Your son or daughter may have weak study skills or poor reading or math skills. Our certified teachers help students of all ages overcome frustration and failure. A few hours a week can help your child gain the Educational Edge®. Individual testing and tutoring in Reading, Math, Writing, Study Skills, Phonics, Spelling, SAT and ACT Prep.

Brandon•681-1500 THE HUNTINGTON LEARNING CENTER® SAT Course begins Feb. 11th

YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH

Allstate°

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

DON BUA 681-5303 STEVE BRIGGS

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

Allstate Insurance Co. and Allstate Life Insurance

KEN FRANKLIN HOMES

a division of Franklin Development Corporation



Parade of Home Awards:

Winner of 1995 B.A.G.T. Grand Prize Award Best Custom Home Design \$450,000 and up Winner of 1995 B.A.G.T. Merit Award Best Custom Home from \$250,000 to \$350,000

If you liked Cinnamon Trace, Country Gate, Fox Run and Cimmaron Run, you'll love

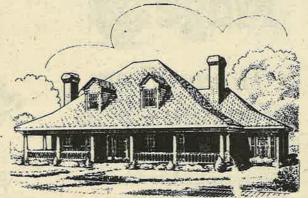
Cambridge Cove
16 Lakefront lots

62 Wooded Lots

Within A Gate Enclosed Community
Overlooking Bloomingdale Golfers Club
Bloomingdale High School

Burns Junior High School
Alafia Elementary School

No one else can provide you with all these amenities.



Another KEN FRANKLIN HOMES Community

An elegant blend of stately custom residences and well-detailed preferred plans.

Homesites will start in the forties and may be temporarily reserved with a fully refundable five hundred dollar deposit.

Realtors gratefully welcomed.



WALL COVERING SALE!

FLORIDA PAINT CENTERS, INC.

"Your Computerized Color Center"
Select Patterns

30-50% OFF Sale Ends Feb. 28th

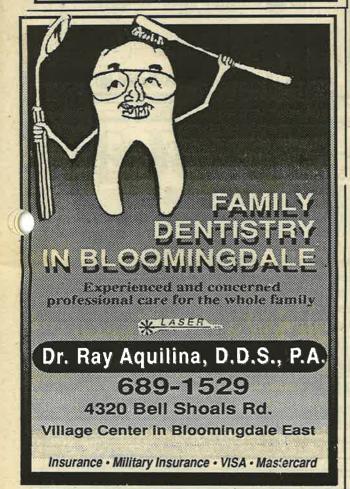
BLONDER WALLCOVERINGS.

Open Mon-Fri 7:30am-5pm Sat 8am-12 noon Closed Sun

PITSBURGH

302 W. Robertson (Next to Brandon Twin) 689-5661

Devoe Paint



TEACHERS, from page 5

Because she missed having "my children (it's hard with 1,000)", Willis initiated the Gator Gazette, a school publication that 25 of her students put out each month. That inspired her and several parents to write a grant for which they were awarded funds to start up the Gator Community, a working town complete with bank, store and post office, which has been in operation now for three years.

Willis also trains teachers in computer skills and makes all the technological purchases for the school.

"I love Alafia and the community," Willis said.
"They have been perfect for me. They are like family."

Kelly Brocato has been teaching second grade at Lithia Springs since the school opened. Prior to that she taught at Palm River Elementary coming from Pittsburgh where she received her degree as a K-3 math specialist.

Brocato is involved in training for teachers and parents and this year is organizing a two-day Math Carnival at the school, a hands-on math activities event.

Brocato also is involved in a pilot program in the county called the Portfolio Program which is an ongoing assessment of teacher performance.

Traditionally teachers undergo a Florida evaluation based on the principal's observations. Under the Portfolio Program, Brocato explained, teachers set goals to achieve all year.

"The teachers at Lithia Springs are outstanding," she said. "I feel so honored to have been selected to represent this wonderful group."



by Ellen Abramson

John Scali, a nice Italian boy, had been my classmate and friend.

War, marriage and distance had separated us; but I watched his career unfold as a sensitive journalist in the newspaper and T.V. world.

I was so proud of him when he was appointed U.S.Ambassador to the United Nations.

Recently I read he had been contacted by a KGB officer during the Cuban missile crisis. John warned the officer that "President Kennedy would retaliate against Moscow, not Cuba, if any missile were fired." Over lunch, steps were outlines for the Soviets to dismantle the missiles. John delivered this to the President; the crisis was defused; but the President would not allow John to tell the story.

After Kennedy's assassination, the Los Angeles Times published the information, scooping John on his own "once-in-a-lifetime" story.

That nice Italian boy deserved better than that. John Scali, 1918-1995.



Kids Kalendar - Rated G

Children's Theater

Patchwork Players will present "The Ugly Duckling" on Thursday, Feb. 22 at Center Place. The 10:45 a.m. show is recommended by children ages 3 and older and requires a reservation.

In March, Stages Productions will present a family night performance of "Three Little Pigs" on Friday, the 15th at 7 p.m. A daytime performance at 10:15 will follow on March 18. Not the traditional story, the three unique pigs find themselves "home alone" when a certain well known wolf invites himself to dinner. Through the use of creative dramatics, the children help the actors.

Tickets for both performances are \$2.50 a person and must be purchased in advance at Center Place.

Coloring contest slated

The second annual American Heart Association's Valentine Day Coloring Contest for children 4-12 will take place throughout February.

The event is one of several activities being celebrated during this month, also known as American Heart Month.

Members of the school site committee for the Brandon Division of the Heart Association will do the judging. Beverly MacKenney is the chairman and Windsor Woods resident Luana Russell has coloring sheets available in her Sun Cove office in Bloomingdale Square. Parents, teachers and other interested in coloring sheets may write to Mrs. Russell with self-addressed stamped envelope or call Woody Russell at 685-8545 for more information.

Entries must be received at the Heart Association, 1411 N. Westshore Blvd., Suite 211, Tampa 33607 or Mrs. Russell's office before March 1.

The three prize categories are for youngsters 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 years of age. First place winners will each receive a \$50 gift certificate, with \$35 and \$25 certificates going to second and third place finishers. Honorable mention winners also will receive toy prizes.

"With this serious problem and challenge, it is never too early for children to know what they can do to live healthy lives. The fun-filled activity is something adults can use to help enforce better eating habits for the young," Mrs. Russell said.

MOODUK KWAN® (STOP CONFLICT - VIRTUE - SCHOOL) SOOBAHK DO® (EMPTY HAND WAY)



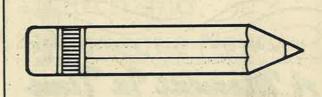
Meaningful Martial Arts practice for all ages. Sorry no "deals" or "specials", colorful uniforms, or a window full of trophies. The Moo Duk Kwan organization has 50 years of history, with over 35,000 Black Belts worldwide, under the guidance of Grandmaster Hwang Kee its original founder. We emphasize self defense and character building. We hold to the highest standards. Instructors and schools certified by Grandmaster. Oh and we do have fun.....

Call us at 684-7805 or visit us at our new facility at;

Moo Duk Kwan 50th anniversary Seoul Korea, Sept 1995



Grandmster Hwang Kee (seated), Master Arthur Pryor, Instructor George Papabeis.

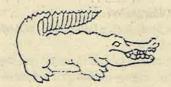


School Days Off

February Student Holidays

Thursday, 15th Half-Day Dismissal Students' Day at State Fair Friday,16th **Professional Planning Day** Monday,19th

Gator **Tales**



Walk-a-thon To Benefit P.E.

by Ruthe Brunson

Congratulations to the six students at Alafia who will have their Reflections entries go on to State Competition. They are Kristin Jones, Matthew Hamm, Mike Wiesenhart, Kara Walther, Caleb Forde and Ashley Novitske who has two entries.

We are proud of them and all the students who participated in the Cultural Arts Program sponsored by the National PTA. Alafia had 227 entries which is great considering we do not have an art teacher.

 The general membership PTA meeting will be Feb.13 in the school cafeteria. The topic will be the New Discipline Procedures - Stop and Think. This social skills training program is geared to teaching children classroom survival skills that will prepare them for the real world.

 The PTA will sponsor a walk-a-thon fundraiser Feb. 14. Valentine's Day. The profits will benefit the P.E. program by providing funds to purchase equipment. A kick-off assembly was held Jan. 29 when students received pledge sheets. Students will walk for 25 minutes during school. One class from the kindergarten through second grade and one class from the third through fifth grade collecting the most money based on the number of students will win a Taco Bell and sundae party. The teacher from the winning class will receive a gift certificate to Tia's Tex Mex Restaurant.

• On the same day, children in the kindergarten classes will hold a midieval festival at 8:30 a.m. concluding with a feast at 12:30.

· Discount tickets to the Florida State Fair are available in the school office.

· A big thank-you to the December volunteers of the week, Beth McDonald and Pamela Smith and to the January volunteers for the first half of the month, Betty Sherman and Theresa Eaves.

• Market Day pick-up is Feb. 20.

 The National PTA will recognize Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness Week during March 4-8. Each child at Alafia will receive a Hershey's Hug to represent hugs not drugs. On March 6, the students will be wearing their clothes backwards for Turn Your Back on Drugs Day.

Golden Photography



" Tina "

You don't take great wedding photographs. You ask to borrow them. Quietly.

Tim Golden Itinerant Image Maker 653-1337

(Ask about our PTA Special)

School Spotlight

by Gazette Staff Spaghetti Dinner

Immanuel Lutheran School will host a Valentine Spaghetti Dinner on Feb. 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. Area families are invited to attend the fundraiser sponsored in part by Macaroni Grill of Brandon.

Prices are \$4 for adults land \$2.50 for children for a dinner than includes spaghetti, salad and garlic bread. Guests may stay to eat in the gymnasium or may pre-order for takeout. Call the PTO at 684-0726 or the school cffe at 685-1978 to place orders

Immanuel Lutheran School is located at 2943 S. John Moore Road, less than one mile north of Bloomingdale.

Student's Works go to State

The works of area students are among the 93 pieces of work that will represent Hillsborough County at the state-level of Reflections, a PTA-sponsored Cultural Arts Program.

Alafia, a school without an art instructor but where parents volunteer their talents, will be represented by the most students

from Bloomingdale. Caleb Forde will have a literature entry and Kristen Jones will have an entry in the visual arts category. Three Alafia students - Matthew Hamm, Mike Wiesenhart and Kara Walther - have photography entries, and Ashley Novitske has an entry in the music category.

Lithia Springs will be represented by Mary Catherine Schugel in the music category.

Mini-Grant Winner

Alafia Elementary was the winner of a PTA Mini-Grant for its Art Smart program. In Art Smart at Alafia, PTA volunteers bring art monthly to classrooms. They show a style of art, give a brief biography of the artist and then lead the class in an exercise using that artist's genre. The grant will help fund the program and was one of four awarded in the county.

Funds were made available through a partnership with the Florida State Fair Authority where proceeds from advance midway ticket sales benefited the council.



SMILE WRIGHT 653-1455

Cosmetic and General Dentistry

 Porcelain Veneers
 Bleaching Cosmetic Bonding
 Crown & Bridge All performed in a safe, comfortable, gentle setting.



infection control standards

We follow

strict

Wisa

BEAUTIFUL SMILES!

710 Oakfield Drive, Suite 251 Brandon, FL 33511

Diane Wright, D.M.D. Evening Hours by Appointment



PRIVATE SCHOOL

FULLY ACCREDITED BY THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

FLORIDA KINDERGARTEN COUNCIL

Academic Excellence For Over 25 Years

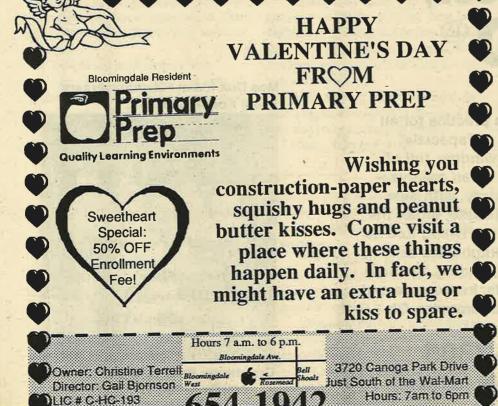
- Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade
- Small Classroom Environment
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Before and After School Care



Now Accepting Applications for Testing January 20 & February 24, 1996

801 Limona Road • Brandon, FL 33510 689-1952

Teresa (Terry) Curry-Administrator



Sports Salute

Mitchell Wins Award

State champion cross country runner Katie Mitchell was awarded the Dr. Ben Walker Award last month. The award is presented annually to the most valuable cross country runner in the county.

Mitchell made it matching state championships for her family. Her twin sister Jen won the 6A title in 1994. Katie, an honors student, will be headed to the Air Force Academy.

Janss Headed to SMU

Bloomingdale soccer standout Emily Janss has committed to play at Southern Methodist University. She led the Bulls with 24 goals during the regular season. The girls were 14-1 headed into district competition last week and were ranked in the top 10 in the state's Class 6A.

Boys Soccer

Attempting to defend their state title, the Bulls' soccer team entered district competition with a 16-3-1 record and ranked 3rd in the state. But districts have never looked so gloomy for Bloomingdale in their new pairing with Sarasota and Manatee county schools. Bradenton Manatee defeated Bloomingdale early this season. Manatee has made a habit of defeating defending state champions - they also beat Jesuit and Berkeley Prep.

The Bulls have been led by Jeff Prugh with 13 goals

during the regular season plus 12 assists; Rob Hill with 15 goals; and sophomore Chris Gatlyn with 15 goals.

Baseball

A large group of returning players welcomed veteran coach K. B. Scull to his first year at Bloomingdale. Scull has Windsor Woods resident Brian Merkle returning to the line-up. Merkle made the All-Saladino Tournament team last season as the designated hitter and finished the season hitting .400-plus. In addition, one end of Bloomingdale's battery will be solid with the return of junior Mark Rogers. The action on the mound is untested and could be the Bulls' only area of weakness. Other top returners include Brad Guagliardo, Kevin Steinestel and Neil Tatum.

Bulls' Athletic Calendar

Baseball & Softball

Feb. 27 at Tampa Tech

Mar. 2vs. Chamberlain*

*Home Opener at 1 p.m.

Feb. 6 Boys vs Jefferson

Feb. 8 Girls vs Chamberlain

Feb. 12-16 Boys/Girls Districts

Golf - Home matches at RiverHills Feb. 12 vs. Leto/Hillsborough

Feb. 20 at Armwood

Feb. 24 at Gaither

Basketball

Feb. 5 Girls at Plant

Feb. 9 Boys at Plant



 Large units with huge windows overlooking gardens (for lizard, bird & squirrel watching).
 Aquarium views-3 level treehouses. Soft music, daily playtime, 24 hr. attendants Come see our beautiful hotel before

making your cat's care arrangements. Its worth you peace of mind.

M-F 9-5 Sat. 9-3 Closed Sun. Call for a tour or brochure 15501 Boyette Road

(813) 654-2287 (654-CATS)

Booster Meeting Changed

The 7th also is the night a planning session will be held at the school for parents of current and prospective students who have concerns and questions about double sessions at the school next year. The boosters meeting will be held in conjunction with the planning session, according to school administration.

Sports Spots

The February meeting of the Bloomingdale High Athletic Boosters Club will be held Wednesday, Feb 7, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. The meeting was previously slated for Feb. 14.



Down Payment per mo.

No

Neal A. Stubbs, D.D.S., P.A. 929 Oakfield Dr. • Brandon • 685-3511 Standard Active Treatment \$2,136 to \$2,670 Records Fee \$178 • Retainers \$245 to \$340 #08450 #08550 #08750

The Place to Really Live! **NOW PRE-LEASING!** At The Manors you'll enjoy spacious apartment homes featuring luxury amenities inside and out; a wide range of recreational facilities; an ideal location; professional on-site management; state-of-the-art security and more.

- 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom
- **Apartment Homes**
- · Washer/Dryer • Ground Floor Private
- **Entries** Large Climate Controlled
- Solariums Oversized Swimming Pool with Spa/Hot Tub
- Fully Equipped Clubhouse
- Entrance
- Gated Community

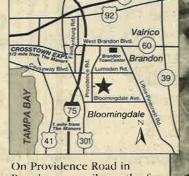
Garages w/Door Openers

Call now for pre-leasing information: (813) 685-0699

PRE-LEASING OFFICE Brandon Centre South Shopping Center - 1929 W. Lumsden Rd.



Brandon's Distinctive New Apartment



Feb. 15 Boys host Durant Feb. 20 Boys vs. Plant City & King at Walden Lakes Feb. 21 Girls vs. Chamberlain Boys host Brandon Feb. 26 Boys host King Feb. 27 Girls vs. Plant City & Brandon at Walden Lake Feb. 29 Girls vs. Leto at B'dale Tennis - Home matches at B'dale East Park Feb. 22 Boys at Armwood Girls host Armwood Feb. 29 Boys host Brandon Girls at Brandon (BSTC)

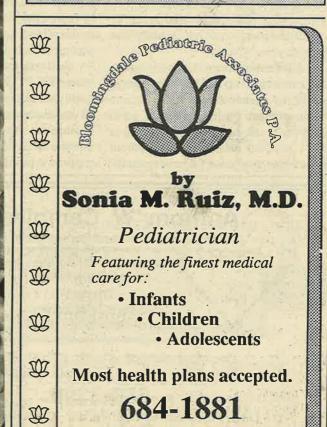
Track

Feb. 20 at Brandon

Feb. 27 host Durant

Wrestling

Feb. 9-10 Regionals at Chamberlain Feb. 16-17 State at Bayfront Center





by Gazette staff **Fine Furniture Connections**

Information - everybody needs it. Time - not everyone has enough of it. It was through these concepts that Fine Furniture Connections was born.

Jeanie Stagliano of Bloomingdale established Fine Furniture Connections to serve customers by saving them both time and money. "We eliminate the hassles of purchasing furniture by locating the lowest price possible as well as place your orders for you," Stagliano said.

The idea of a personalized shopping service arose when Stagliano was looking for a dining room suite. She experienced what she calls "Severe sticker shock." Unwilling to yield to the high mark-ups, Stagliano began an intensive search that took two weeks and calls to more than 120 furniture stores. She found what she was looking for for \$1200 less than the original

Stagliano said she guarantees 30-60% off the price of over 500 furniture manufacturers. She also guarantees that if Fine Furniture Connections can't find what the client is looking for, their service

Tax Help at Columbia

Columbia Bank will once again offer free tax preparation services at all branches including the one in Bloomingdale at Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Avenue.

Beginning Feb. 1 and continuing until April 15, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons who have been trained in cooperation with the IRS will provide the service to individuals of low to moderate income. Two volunteers will be available from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the different branches.

Call the Bloomingdale branch at 654-4464 to set up an appointment.

Chad's World Opens

A family fun and entertainment center has opened on Bell Shoals next to Beef O'Brady's. Chad's World appeals to arcade fans 12-24 and features video games, darts, fooseball, air hockey and pool. The adult-supervised center prohibits smoking and drinking, but offers a snack

Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 2-11 p.m., Fridays 2 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Davis No. 1 for 1995

Michael Davis, a real estate professional for RE/MAX Realty Unlimited, was designated the No. 1 sales agent for the Bloomingdale office for 1995. Davis, who resides in Bloomingdale, has served the Brandon area for the past 15 years.

"I love helping people find the home of their dreams and I take very seriously the importance of this investment as probably the largest one most people make."

Davis is one of the leading area professionals to provide essential information to prospective home buyers and sellers. He has compiled a variety of reports, such as 29 Essential Tips that Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar) that Davis sends out free. For further information about these reports, call 684-8881.

Online Homes for Sale

More than 2,000 homes for sale in west central Florida are now available to the 40 million people worldwide who "surf" the Internet, according to Coldwell Banker.

Coldwell Banker Online along with Home Facts, their interactive phone line, offers exposure 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until the property is sold. The home page allows computer users worldwide to instantly access information on the homes available for sale in Sarasota/Manatee counties, Tampa Bay and Orlando, as well as all homes listed by companyowned Coldwell Banker offices throughout North America.

Coldwell Online can be reached at http://www.coldwellbanker.com.

Santa Calls a Success

Santa Claus and his wife received an avalanche of mail from Hillsborough County children asking the couple to call them. Brandon Sun Cove Realtor Luana Russell helped schedule the free telephone calls from the Clauses' home in the North Pole from mid-November through Christmas Eve.

Santa made calls to those from one to 77 years. In most cases the children, parents, other relatives or friends wrote Russell asking for calls. Several telephoned Russell.

Real Estate Moves

Selling Own Home **Takes Commitment**

by Michael Davis

Selling your home soon? Will you be able to find a buyer? More importantly, will buyers be able to find you? If you plan to sell your home alone, without the professional assistance of a realtor, staying at home should also be included in your plans.

At first, when you begin running advertisements and place a "For Sale" sign in your yard, you may receive many phone calls from prospective purchasers. They may also come to your front door to ask questions - unannounced. That is good, however, it places responsibility squarely on your shoulders to be there at all reasonable hours to graciously show the home at their convenience.

You may say to yourself. "I'm home most of the time, and if I do happen to be gone, my telephone answering machine will take their call." Yes, some will leave a message or call back - the ones with plenty of time on their hands.

You will probably encounter two types of buyers, the not-so-serious "time-wasters" and the sincere buyers, motivated to make a purchase. In the first case, if you are not home when they call or come by, don't worry. They will call back. They like to look at homes and are in no hurry to buy. They like to call people selling "by owner"

because they will not have to deal with a realtor who may ask them qualifying questions before showing the home.

The second group of buyers, those motivated and prepared to make a purchase right away, will rarely call a second time or return if you are not home. They intend to buy - plain and simple. If you have your home "for Sale" and are not home, they will probably go to homes which can be seen with little notice, usually those listed with a local realtor.

To purchase a home, buyers must first see the home. To be sure your home is exposed to the wide variety of potential buyers, at their convenience, seek the representation of a realtor. You benefit from the convenience, and your best interest are protected.

Tax Topics

You May Qualify For **Earned Income Credit**

by Robert J. Morris, CPA

A refundable earned income tax credit is available to certain deemed low-income taxpayers who meet certain criteria. You must have "earned" some income, have adjusted gross income limitations and properly complete the correct form and request the refund.

It is possible to not have paid in any tax at all and not be required to file but still. be able to receive a refund from the IRS. This is where some people who do not file or fail to report income may actually lose the refund.

Married persons must file a joint return and can receive up to \$3110 this year in additional refunds due to earned income credit with two qualified children, up to \$2094 with one qualified child, and up to \$314 with no children. Single parent households can receive the same amounts.

The credit is based on earned income including wages, tips, other compensation and self-employed income as well as some nontaxable compensation from military subsistence allowances, parsonage, meals and lodging and excludable employer paid child care. This credit is refundable if it exceeds the tax owed.

You may also elect to receive advance payment of the credit through your employer by completing form W-5. This entitles you to the refund each pay period instead of waiting to file your return.

So if your total earned incomé does not exceed \$26,673 you need to calculate if you qualify for this refund. To properly request all your tax credits you should be sure to see a competent and qualified tax preparer. Be sure you are paying the least tax that you are required to pay this and every year.

"EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE"



MAIN OFFICE - For Information - 654-2323 APOLLO BEACH - 220 APOLLO BEACH BLVD..... BLOOMINGDALE - ROYAL OAKS SHOPPING CTR - LITHIA PINECREST RD...... 654-8113 BRANDON - PUBLIX/BLDGS SHP SQ CNTR - 913 W. BRANDON BLVD..... ELFERS - PASCO SQUARE - 7307 S.R.54..... NORTH BRANDON - KINGSWAY PLAZA - 1213 KINGSWAY AVE..... SEFFNER. - NORTH GROVE PLAZA - 1515 Parsons Ave., S.....

MAJIK TOUCH SHIRTS LAUNDERED

BLOUSES, POLO & BOXED SHIRTS EXTRA

Valid only with coupon.

Not valid with other coupons or on sale items. **COUPON EXPIRES 3-10-96**

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

Valid only with coupon.

Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 3-10-96

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

Valid onlywith coupon.

Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 3-10-96

WEDDING GOWNS DRAPERY CLEANING, BEDSPREADS, COMFORTERS/BLANKETS

VALID ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY.
Valid only with coupon.
of valid with other coupons or on sale items.

653-3399 116 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 100 • Brandon, Florida 33511

Free initial consultation in our offices or your home (including evenings and weekends by appointment)

Law Office of Anthony W. Campisano Member of Florida and Pennsylvania Bars

Business & Real Estate Law

Wills/Living Wills

 Trusts Powers of Attorney Administration of Decedents' Estates (Probate)



BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza. This month's meeting will consist of election of board officers. Homeowner concerns and issues are always welcomed. The meeting is open to all dues-paying members and all newcomers are invited to attend.

In Need of Counsel? Going Through a Divorce?

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

CURRY & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

A Full Service Law Firm

FAMILY LAW: DIVORCE CUSTODY **ADOPTION** MODIFICATION & SUPPORT **ENFORCEMENT**



La Viva Professional Center 750 W. Lumsden-Brandon

653-2500

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

WE DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustees will be Monday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza. The meeting is open to all Bloomingdale homeowners. The trustees are seeking input from residents on the "no-soliciting" issue.

Landscape To Be Topic Next STD Meeting

STD president Rick Pitrowski is calling it "Landscape III" and it will be the topic of discussion at this month's meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, Monday, Feb. 12 in the Community Office.

"Landscape III is a continuation of the aggressive beautification projects we've had going on in Bloomingdale the last two years," Pitrowski said. "But now we are approaching a more upscale appearance such as you find in Tampa Palms."

Pitrowski would not hint at what these "upscale" plans include but photos taken in Tampa Palms reveal tropically landscaped entryways, fashionable entrance signage, and wooden interior street signs.

Residents are encouraged to attend this and all STD meetings on the second Monday of each month.

> **SPORTS MEDICINE** ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Double Sessions Meeting

Parents of students who will attend Bloomingdale High next year are invited to attend a planning session concerning double sessions Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the BHS auditorium. Flyers were sent home to current and prospective students with a form to be returned to their current school no later than Feb. 2. Parents should have indicated questions, concerns and suggestions on this form.

BLFA Seeks Artfest Entries

The Brandon League of Fine Arts is seeking entries to its Spring Artfest at Regency Square on April 20. Fine artists are invited to submit applications to exhibit their work as a part of the juried show and sale. Cash awards will be provided for first through third places in five categories including Oil and Acrylic, Watercolor, Three-dimensional Art, Original Designed Crafts and Open Media. Cash awards also will be given for Best of Show and Most Realistic Art.

Applications may be obtained by writing to the League at P.O. Box 451, Brandon, FL 33509.

FOUND:

Pair of man's glasses found in Bloomingdale. Call the Community Office at 681-2051.

FOUND:

Cockatiel, call 684-5796.

LOST:

Cockatiel, cinnamon color, very missed. Call 684-5796

WANTED:

FULL TIME FEMALE BABYSITTER/ NANNY:

For 2 & 7 year olds. Hrs. approx. 7:30am-4:30pm. References required. Experience helpful but not required Call 654-7526.

FOR SALE:

Waterbed (bedroom set), king size, mirrored, canopy, honey pine finish, dresser, nightstand - \$800. Call 689-1741 for more information.

DAYCARE:

Christian mom with home day care has an opening for infant to 4 yr. old. Bloomingdale West area. \$85./wk. Call Mrs. Johnson at 654-6226.

Need child care? Call Gretchen at 661-1525 for a loving Christian environment.

SITTER WANTED:

After school sitter needed for 5 & 9 yr. olds. Call 684-0534.

LESSONS:

Piano and flute lessons 16 years teaching experience. \$15 per hour, in my home, day or evenings. Sharon Stout, 684-2027.

RESIDENTS WHO ARE:

Babysitters Dustin Braswell, 689-

8555 Angela Reiser and Kimberly Reiser, 684-6006 Erin and Beth

Avon Representatives: Ruth Calandro, 689-

0212

Schlossnagle, 650-0453

Mary Kay Consultant: Barbara Borchers, 653-2509

Magician: Magic by Rio Parties for children 5-10 years of age, magic and

fun! Call 689-2087. **Art Classes:** Drawing, colored pencil or pastel classes, ages 14

to adult. Call 689-2087.

To place a classified ad call 681-2051.

ROBERT MORRIS C.P.A., P.A.

"Professional **Accounting & Tax Service"**

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

WITH OVER 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE

3302 BELL SHOALS

(01 11/1

SKEET'R BEAT'R



The Revolutionary **Automated** Roll-up Screen

Motorized and Remote Controlled

Convert your garage into an extra room. SKEET'R BEAT'R lets cool breezes in and keeps bugs out! One button does it all.

654-1111

SAVE MONE 24 HOURS - 7 DAYS PLUMBING SERVICE Gräble Plumbing Co. #AST SERVICE "Always A Truck in Your Neighborhood"

TOP QUALITY WORK AT COMPETITIVE

PRICES... Better, Cleaner, Faster Sewer & Drain Cleaning

- · Ultrasonic Leak Detection
- Repipe Specialists
 All Plumbing Repairs
- Guaranteed Same Day Water Heater Repair/Replacement
- Backflow
- High Pressure Sewer Jetting/ Video Taping
 - Preventers Installed, Tested & Repaired
 • Lift Stations 1/2 Through 25 H.P.
- **ULTRASONIC LEAK DETECTION** Using the most advanced Ultrasonic equipment

we locate underslab leaks with pinpoint accuracy.

e Certified Plumbing Contractor #CFCO32591

BRANDON ORTHOPEDIC ASSOCIATES

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

> > John D. Okun, M.D. **Board Certified**

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

> Lance T. Sisco, M.D. **Board Certified**

684-3707

Hours By Appointment 721 Robertson Street Brandon, FL 33511

It's A Wonderful Day In The Neighborhood!

Realtor® Michael Davis Loves His Job. And He Loves The Neighborhood Where He Lives And Works.

> You know your neighborhood very well. You live there, after all. That makes sense. It also makes perfect sense to call Michael Davis when you need to buy or sell your home in this neighborhood. Why? Because he lives here. In fact, he not only lives here like you do, it's where he works as well.

Michael Knows Where You Live

As one of the area's leading real estate professionals, Michael has amassed an extensive knowledge and expertise of the area and its people. He knows the community's personality and characteristics. He is well versed in its school systems, shopping and dining facilities,

recreation—all the key things that make this area such a fantastic place to live. And this is information that is critically important when it's time to buy your home or put it on the market.

Helping Buyers And Sellers

So, if you live on the same street as Michael, or you live several blocks away, Michael Davis is the neighborhood Realtor® who understands you and your family's special needs and concerns when it's time to buy or sell your home. Even if you don't end up working with Michael, he would like to share his knowledge of the area's real estate market with you. If you have any questions about this dynamic market, feel free to give Michael a call and he'll be glad to answer your questions. He also invites you to call for a free copy of his special report, How To Sell Your Home For The Highest Price Possible. It's filled with valuable information to improve your return on investment when you sell your home. Essential reading-even if you don't intend to sell right now.

684-8881 (24 hrs.)

Michael Davis Is Your

Rely On His Expertise!

Neighbor And Your

Realtor.® You Can

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



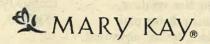
139 E. Bloomingdale Ave. • Brandon, FL 33511

AUTO-HOMEOWNERS-MOBILE HOMES-BUSINESS **BOATS**•MOTORCYCLES

> CHARLIE LIVINGSTON **INSURANCE AGENCY** FULL SERVICE INSURANCE AGENCY

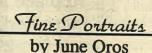
Brandon, FL 33511 684-1023

210 C South Kings Ave. 12002 Martin Luther King Blvd. Seffner, FL 33584 689-9128



Barbara Borchers Independent Skin Care Consultant

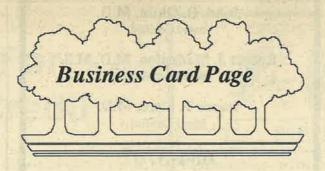
> 4111 Quail Briar Dr. Valrico, FL 33594 813-653-2509 or 1-800-755-4850



Call to review portfolio 689-2087

The Bloomingdale Bazette

681-2051 call for advertising rates



For Advertising Information 681-2051

Family Hair Care



Mr. Willy's Barber & Styling Salon

From Perms to Side Burns And Every Style In Between Open Tues.-Fri., 9am-6pm Sat. 9am-5pm

685-3361

Erindale Plaza



VAUGHN ALI PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER

Phone: (813) 654-9097 Fax: (813) 654-9310

Lawn & Garden Equipment Power Tools Tile Cutters Plumbing Tools

Generators

Compressors Ladders
Plus much more.

WE ALSO SELL & SERVICE SNAPPER, ECHO AND BRIGGS



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

CHIROPRACTOR

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

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

GRACE C. LEWIS, CPA

Tax & Accounting Services

3905 Kristin Place Valrico, FL 33594

(813) 681-4548 FAX 684-1608



RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

70m Hayden Painting and Pressure Washing

"Let Us Color Your World"