# The Bloomingdale Gazette

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February 1997

## Sidewalk Monies Existed, Were Lost

By Chris-Anne Phillips

Bond money from the original construction in Bloomingdale West set aside for the construction of sidewalks has been lost due to time expiration, according to county officials.

"Basically the county let the deadlines on the bond mey pass and the builders took the money back," said Tim Golden, who has spearheaded the sidewalks effort. "It's called noncompliance on the bond."

For at least eight years, developers have been required to install sidewalks, rather than set bond money aside, said Mark Arnold of the county's Planning and Growth Management Department.

Arnold said when Bloomingdale was first developed. the bond money for sidewalks along Canoga Park Drive and Gamet was held "for sometime and was never followed up on." There was never bond money set aside for sidewalks along Rosemead.

When the deadline passed in some areas, Arnold said, the county attempted to find developers and have them put in sidewalks in communities that were left

"Some developers did but with others, the statute of limitations was past and still others were no longer in business," Arnold said.

He indicated under the current system, there is no longer a problem with sidewalks since developers are required to install them before a project is com-

Golden knew from the get-go that the installation of sidewalks would require a grass roots effort, but he didn't realize it would this be this painstaking.

"The clock is ticking," Golden said. "We've already lost the engineering services offered by the county sidewalks department which has been pulled off the

"Right now we still have a commitment from the parks and recreation department to install the sidewalks, but we still need \$32,000 for cement."

"I haven't found anyone yet who can tell me they have \$32,000 for the cement alone."

Just as Golden was learning about the bond money falling through the cracks unnoticed, a benefactor has emerged and is putting out a challenge to other businessmen and women in the community.

Golden said a local businessman, who would prefer not to be identified at this time, has come forward with a dedicated some of money. Golden said he would like others in a similar position to do the same. "If that's what it takes - one businessman at a time or one fund raiser at a time, we'll get these sidewalks built," Golden

## **BHA Briefs**

The Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association welcomed two new board members at its last meeting to fill all board positions.

Bloomingdale West resident Tim Golden and Windsor Woods resident Walter Glenn are the newest members to join the all-volunteer board.

While Golden's name has been synonymous with the campaign for sidewalks in West, his involvement is familiar to parents of West who have children at Lithia Springs Elementary School.

Golden is a charter member of the Lithia Springs PTA and has always served on its executive committee or on the board since the school opened in 1992. He currently serves on the schools overcrowding task force.

He is a self-proclaimed Mr. Mom and proudly shares in the duties of raising his three children -Barbara, 12, Kim, 8, and Andrew, 4 - along with wife Nancy, because Golden says being a parent is not gender-based.

At Lithia Springs, he founded the only elementary school camera club drawing on his expertise as a portrait photographer since 1984 when the family lived in Durham, N. C.

The Golden's moved to Bloomingdale nearly nine years ago, but had visited friends for five years prior to that finally deciding to relocate here.

Golden's crusade for children's safety peaked when the West Recreation Center was completed in June and a tragedy occurred unrelated to the center on Canoga Park Drive. It was then that Golden began his campaign for sidewalks to be completed along the busy road leading to and from the park.

He hopes his involvement on the board will bring greater visibility to the need for additional safety measures in the community.

'The primary issue with me now is not just sidewalks, but safety," he said. "Some things need to be done that are within the power of the BHA to do. Not everyone can do everything on their own."

One of Golden's newest projects is working toward a Park Safety Fair for pre-schoolers. He imagines it will be along the lines of the popular school bike rodeos which teach children bicycle safety.

Golden said young children will be taught things some parents may take for granted, such as watching out for cars that back up in a parking lot, and playing safely on playground equipment.

Golden began community activism in Durham when he fought a 640-unit apartment complex from being built in his community.

"The best thing we can do for our children is to set a good example," he said. "Let's take our role as parents responsibly and protect our kids. Kids are busy being kids. It's the adults who need to look out



### Karen Willis Memorial Garden

The Karen Willis Memorial Garden was dedicated at Alafia Elementary School on Jan. 21. Principal Tanley Cabrera, right, made a presentation to Richard Willis and the Willis' daughter Kendall, left. All the children and many parents were present for the ceremony which honored the school's beloved teacher who passed away last year after a prolonged battle with cancer.

## Center Job, Yake A Perfect Match

By Shannan Powell

When Bloomingdale East resident Claudia Yake assumed the position of executive director of Center

Place 14 years ago, she should have realized that she found a job she had been training for most of her life.

She studied art for two years at Ryder University in New Jersey, but graduated with a degree in education. Yake met her husband John in college and married him 30 years ago.

As the wife of an Air Force officer (now retired) for 30 years, Yake spent many years in the officers' wives clubs, volunteering at club functions and substitute teaching.

"With our being in the military, I was involved in fund raising with the wives' club," Yake said. "When we moved here an artist friend of mine suggested me for the job."

Center Place Director, Claudia Yake The artist friend was Sue Allen, another military wife, residing in Bloomingdale East.

"We met through our children," Allen said. "Our children found each other in the neighborhood and played soccer together.

"I recommended her for the job and it was a big thing for me," said Allen, an award-winning member of the experience with this type of thing in the military. This job takes a certain amount of tact and dependability, especially in serving the public and the board of directors."

> As Center Places' executive director, Yake is in touch with all facets of the activities that take place there. Center Place offers a wide array of art classes, exhibits and theatrical performances.

> This year alone, Center Place will host 92 live performances for more than 25,000 school children. More than 7,000 children and adults will enroll in art classes to study about 700 types of art.

The center is starting to gear up for its exceptional summer programs, which include an eightweek "cruise" around the world featuring arts and crafts representative of a number of countries.

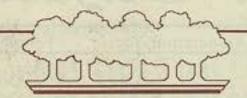
"My goal is to make Center Place known," said Yake, who would prefer to talk more about the Center than herself. "We have a lot to offer the community, both

artistically and civically."

"She is so dedicated to the work and very organized," said Gale Ruth, Center Place coordinator who has worked with Yake for all but about six months of the 14 years. "To do this you have to have the dedication."

On a recent morning, she prepared to greet 600 chil-

## **BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE**



## Notice!

### Your 1997 Dues Notice Is Being Mailed To You This Month

Please Join The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. (BHA)

### Devney Is A HANDY Man

By Rozel Sciulli

He's not a bug man. Though he has probably come across an assorted variety.

He's not a lawn chemical sprayer. Though the tank he often totes in the back of his pick-up might suggest he is.

He's not on security patrol. Yet the yellow flashing light on the top of his red truck could signal wrong-doers to stop their

He's just Alan Devney who goes about doing the tasks many of us might find distasteful in an effort to keep Bloomingdale

Devney is the property manager hired by the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District. Though he is paid for the work he does, a lot of services he performs are not in any job description he has seen in two years.

Case in point, Devney recently came to the aid of a resident whose car went kaplooey one day. He retrieved her husband and even drove him to pick up the necessary part to fix

He didn't have to. He could've just gone about his daily chores of picking up trash thrown from cars the night before, stomping sod back into the ground that has been dug up by wheelies, hoisting illegally placed signs, or painting and repairing.

Bet here, is, you didn't know most of what keeps your community looking so nice is the effort of one man.

He's out there before dawn making sure kids aren't kicking letters off the entrance walls. And when he misses one of the rascals, he's out there picking up the crumpled pieces left behind.

His military background, old-school morals, and Christian beliefs dictate the order of his life. And Devney admits he has little tolerance for folks who don't abide the rules. Even less for folks who don't teach their kids to follow the rules of society - especially the one that preaches respect for others and their

If he could clone himself he'd stand at every bus stop or entrance to Bloomingdale, to prevent mischief because Alan "knows who's doing it."

He's certain it's those dad-blamed, uncontrollable, disrespectful kids.

So he toils at his daily routine, painting over graffiti, collecting fast food restaurant bags and wrappers, and yanking garage sale signs off palm trees.

It's a thankless job.

Thankfully, Alan Devney is doing it.

So if you see him to dling around in his red pick-up with "Caution Frequent Stops" sign on the tailgate and funky yellow light on top - tilt your cap to him. Maybe even get out

of your car and help him if you have the

Even a "Hey, thanks, Alan" shouted out the window would mean more than any sum of money to this East resident dedicated to keeping Bloomingdale in tip-top shape.

Hey, thanks, Alan.

### Little League Volunteerism

Recent phone calls and newspaper articles have pointed out the concerns of parents who were surprised to find out it would cost them \$150 for their kids to play Little

What they should know, of course, is that they will receive \$30 back after volunteering services to the league, which is the largest in the county. Those services cannot include concession stand duties already required of every parent.

They'll also get another \$20 back if fund raising tickets are sold.

That boils the registration cost down to \$100, still high, but not out of line with many other leagues around the county which have the benefit of being on county property and can make use of county services.

Bloomingdale continues to be the only privately operated Little League in the county. The task of operating the league is a project of Olympic proportions considering most of the handful of volunteers also have regular day jobs.

The task falls on its president Allen Trovillion, who has valiantly taken up the charge of leading the league for a second

Allen is the parent of young children. To tap his energies so early may make them unavailable when his ball players are in the older levels. Like so many Little League parents, the eagerness to become involved turns into apathy after a couple of years have been spent doing "all the work".

So the league had to resort to forcing people to volunteer by hitting them where they feel it most - in the pockets. While there are parents who volunteer as coaches, at schools, in scouting, and in other rec leagues, they often pick up the slack for all those parents who just sit and watch or fail to go out to the ball park at all.

As the new Little League season begins, let's hope that more parents will dedicate themselves to doing more than just holler at umpires.

If \$30 at registration time is so much to get fired up about, then it should make them want to get it back real badly.

### **OFFICERS**

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road Suite 103 Valrico, Florida 33594

681-2051

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Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District P.O. Box 3132

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Bit Grace President Fred Englishart Tressurer

### The Bloomingdale Gazette

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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 7:00 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.

### Letter To The Editor Resident Applauds Property Manager

631-1553

681-1146



Alan Deveny paints walls and benches among other duties Bloomingdale.

Dear Editor:

This letter is intended to commend Alan Devney for his assistance to my family. On Friday, January 10th at 2 p.m., the car my wife was driving had a mechanical mishap on Bloomingfield Avenue and Canoga Park Drive. A local resident (Mr. Stan Gordon) diagnosed the problem. Alan drove by and stopped to assist. He permitted me to use his portable phone to make me aware of the situation; drove to pick me up and take me to Goodyear to purchase the necessary part and returned me to the site of the mishap. Stan Gordon installed it and within an hour we were on our way. Speaking of neighbors - it doesn't get any better

I've always appreciated the effort of our administrator - seeing him pick up litter is very humbling to me. And now he has performed this good deed - not in the job

Again, Jeannette and I, George Besa, express our thanks to all of you who volunteer so faithfully to assist our community of Bloomingdale.

George Besa

## NOTICE

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (STD) is asking all who are interested in running for a board vacancy to either call the office at 684-6667 or attend the February 13 meeting at 7 p.m. in the community office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, suite 103. The vacancy will be filled at that time.



## Brod, Mero **Are Teachers** Of The Year



Joe Brod

### By Shannan Powell

Mi

A while back, Joe Brod was asked by four of his physics students at Bloomingdale to sign a piece of paper. Before he knew it, he and his students were sitting at an awards dinner in Washington, D. C. during an all-expense paid, three-day trip.

"Probably the most memorable moment for me," Brod said. "I did very little, but just being able to work with that caliber of students is my reward."

In signing his name, Brod had agreed to sponsor the four - ranked first, second, seventh and 10th in their 1996 graduating class - in "Exploravision," a competition sponsored by the National Science Teachers Association and the Toshiba America Corporation. Out of 3,000 entrants nationwide, Brod's students placed second, each bringing home a \$5,000 savings bond.

This year Brod has been named Bloomingdale's Teacher of the Year, sharing an honor also earned by Mary Mero of Alafia Elementary, Linda Terrell of Lithia Springs and Susan Calhoun at Burns Middle School. They will be honored at a banquet this month when the Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year will be announced.

"I most enjoy passing on my limited knowledge to the young minds who want to listen to it," said Brod, who has only been teaching at Bloomingdale for fours years after a 20-year Air Force career.

Brod enjoys teaching the willing minds he finds in his honors and advanced placement physics students.

"They are the ones responsible for putting the learning into their minds. I want to encourage them to always remember that what they learn comes from what they do, not what the teacher does."

Giving the same quality instruction to four or five different groups in the same day is what Brod considers most challenging, as well as dealing with the limited class time dictated by the school's double session structure.

"It's hard to continue with the same enthusiasm five times. You have to keep yourself motivated to keep the students motivated," Brod said. "And I really don't like giving up 10 minutes a day. We have to teach the same thing in 17 percent less time. I can't offer the individual time that I'd like."

In spite of his own quick success at Bloomingdale, Brod doesn't take the credit for his students' accomplish-

"When a student has decided to learn, it doesn't matter who the teacher is."

#### Alafia's Teacher of the Year

Mary Mero has been a third grade teacher at Alafia for the last nine years of a 24-year county teaching career.

Over the years, Mero has witnessed changes in the schools and demonstrates a willingness to keep up with them

"One of my goals is to learn new strategies and methods of teaching each child," Mero said. "The amount of information the children have to learn has increased. We're moving out of the traditional methods and are more interested in the skills involving critical thinking at a younger age."

She finds her biggest challenge is being able to challenge and motivate each child in a class of so many different ability levels.

"I want each child to be able to enjoy school and learning, and look forward to coming to school," she said, pointing out an eagerness to learn that she has found among Bloomingdale area children. "Education seems to have value to each family."

Mero's love of children steered her to a career in teaching. She also enjoys reading and traveling, having visited cities throughout the United States and England.

"My next goal is to visit Alaska," she said. "I've always wanted to go there."

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## Bits N **Pieces**

### Social Events Ring In New Year

By Shannan Powell

After a two-month break, Bits N Pieces returns with more neighborhood news than ever. This month's column will look back at notable events from the holidays, as well as look forward to events in our neck of the

#### Fox Run serves it up

The highlight of every year for the Fox Run Social Club is its annual holiday progressive dinner. This year, 23 couples participated in the Dec. 14 event organized by Linda Cacioppo and Pat Hanly.

Residents began the evening at the home of Hank and Jo Sheraw for hors d'oeuvres. The couples then separated into smaller groups for dinners, which included entrees like prime rib and chicken, and for desserts. Nightcaps were served at the home of Colleen and Carl Stickler.

The social club welcomes new residents Kurt and Karen Shader, Brett and Brenda Bailey and Kevin and Sherry Smith to this year's dinner.

While many Fox Run residents look forward to this event each year, the number of participants has declined - down from 37 couples in 1995 and 48 in 1994. A decline in most other social club activities is leading the group to consider disbanding for lack of interest.

The strength of any community depends on the relationships fostered through activities such as those sponsored by the social club. These organized events provide a wonderful opportunity for residents to get to know one another. Any Fox Run residents interested in keeping the social club together should contact some of the community leaders mentioned here.

### Dance club has residents waltzing

The Nativity Catholic Church Dance Club is hosting a dance Feb. 8 to benefit the Food Pantry, an organization that feeds the needy. The dance, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. is open to the public and tickets are available at the door.

Bloomingdale Westresidents Walt and Martha Hardy and Chuck and Corrine Schram are just two of the couples participating in the dance club. Members gather monthly to brush up on or learn dances such as the cha-cha, waltz, rumba, meringue

February's meeting is Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. in the church social hall with the theme "Learning to Waltz." Annual memberships are \$25, some of which benefits the Food Pantry. Singles are always welcome.

### Kids bowled over by party

Bloomingdale West resident Joseph Castellanos, son of Joseph and Maria Castellanos, celebrated his 8th birthday Jan. 12 with a party at Oakfield Lanes in Brandon.

Several of Joseph's friends from Bloomingdale were in attendance including Brent and Chaz Lewis, sons of Creed and Towarda Lewis; Jonathan Hobren, son of Michael and Sharlea Hobren; and Kristofer and Kaelyn Castellanos, brother and sister of the

The children enjoyed an afternoon of bumper bowling and birthday cake. Running group names social director

The Brandon Running Association named Susan Glickman the group's social director. Glickman has been running for more than 16 years and has been with BRA for almost two.

Several Bloomingdale residents, including BRA's vice president Larry. Bass, are member runners, and can be found running most Sunday mornings on Nature's Way in East. Bass also organizes track workouts for the group.

The BRA Christmas Party was held Dec. 5 at Camp Florida with a catered dinner of chicken marsala and prime rib. About 40 people attended, including winners and sponsors of the association's Dec. 1 Florida Wireless Half Marathon, the group's largest and most popular annual event.

Glickman scheduled a bowling party for BRA members and their families on Feb. 2 at Oakfield Lanes. About 25 people took up four lanes for the afternoon.

BRA's next social outing will most likely be a half-day kayaking trip on the Alafia River in March, Anyone interested in joining the group can meet at the Colorado Cattle Company restaurant on the third Tuesday of each month. BLFA installs new members

The Brandon League of Fine Arts installed new officers for 1997. They are Anne Drewry, president; Doreen Myers, first vice president; Cheryl Jorgenson, second vice president; Suzanne Sargent, secretary; and Bob McAnespie, treasurer. In addition, 11 new committee chairmen were named.

BLFA is gearing up for its spring show. The Brandon Festival of Fine Art, a juried show, will be held April 12-13 at Regency Square Mall. Applications are due by March 1, with an entry fee of \$60, juror's fee of \$10 and two slides representative of work to be entered. Categories include watermedia, works on canvas (oil and acrylic used like oil), three-dimensional works including sculpture, pottery, glass, fina jewelry, decorative fabric art, etc, and open media including mixed media, graphics, pastel, pen and ink and photography.

Applications may be obtained by writing to the League at P.O. Box 451, Brandon, 33509. For further information, call 681-2064 or 684-3319.

### BHS students perform at book

Members of Bloomingdale High School's Poetry Club can be seen the fourth Thursday of every month sharing their talents with patrons at Barnes & Nobel Bookstore at Brandon TownCenter. The club conducts public readings in the store's cafe. January's theme was "Jazz Poetry and Lyrics."

In addition, CK, the classical quartet from BHS, performs frequently in the cafe. On Dec. 6, the group performed classic Christmas carols. For further information on upcoming performances, call Barnes

and Noble at 661-9883.

Area families greet new arriv-

Tyler Jason Thomas was born to Bloomingdale Woods residents Krista and Jason Thomas on Jan. 8. Their first child was born weighing 10 pounds,

Casey Lynn Garcia was born to Oak Crest residents Kerri and Anthony Garcia on Jan. 7, weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces. Casey joins big sister Danielle, 15 months. Maternal grandparents are Joan and Larry Snyder of St. Petersburg, Paternal grandparents are Joann and Bruce Cronin of Key West.

Tyler Scott Forero was born Jan. 11 to Kristina and Alvaro Forero of Bloomingdale East. Tyler, who weighed 9 pounds, joins brothers Kevin, 6, and Ryan, 18 months. Maternal grandparents are Robert and Mary Wallace of Ocala. Paternal grandparents are Jose and Dora Forero of Brandon.

Keagan Olivia Bogart was born to Oakdale Reserve residents Michele and Michael Bogart on Nov. 25. Keagan, who weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, joins sister Makenzie, 3, Maternal grandmother is Deborah Durrett of Seffner, and paternal grandparents are Paul and Rena Bogart of Brandon.

Kaitlyn Marie Grice was born Nov. 23 to Patti and Scott Grice of Oak Crest. Kaitlyn, who weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, is the Grice's first child.

See BITS, page 5

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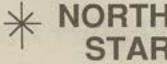
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### Church and Synagogue News

## **Author Says Simplicity Key To Inner Peace**

By Ellen Slovacek

My sister called me the other day all excited about a book she bought as a Christmas present to herself. (Sound familiar?) Anyway, this book, she claims, is changing her life. She insisted that I go out immediately and buy it, and being the dutiful younger sister that I am, I did,

She's right. It's a great book. With your permission, (and my editor's, of course) I would like to take an excerpt out of it for this month's column. The name of the book is SIMPLE ABUNDANCE by Sarah Ban Breathnach. The excerpt is from Jan. 15.

> 'Tis a gift to be simple, 'Tis a gift to be free, 'Tis a gift to come down Where we ought to be and when we find ourselves In the place that's right 'Twill be in the valley Of love and delight.

-19th Century Shaker Hymn

"Is there a person today who does not yearn for a simpler life? But for what do we yearn? To chuck it all in and open up a bed and breakfast in Vermont? Or could it be something more fundamental like the pleasure of concentrating on one task at a time?

Once we take stock of our lives and let gratitude begin its transformative work, the next step on the path unfolds naturally. When we appreciate what we have, we feel the urge to pare down, get back to basic, and learn what is essential for our happiness. We long to realize what's really important. Many people believe that simplicity implies doing without. On the contrary. True simplicity as a conscious life's choice illuminates our lives from within. True simplicity is both buoyant and bountiful, able to liberate depressed spirits from the bondage and burden of extravagance and excess. True simplicity can elevate ordinary moments and dreary

Less can mean more for those of us on the Simple Abundance path. Today just think about how appealing simplicity can be. Trust that through the balm of simplicity your frazzled and weary soul can discover the place where you ought to be. Every day offers us simple gifts when we are willing to search our hearts for the place that's right for each of us."

Now, here's what's happening:

DivorceCare, a receivery seminar and support group for divorcees, meets at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on Thursdays at 7:30 beginning Feb. 13. This seminar/support group offers divorced or separated persons the opportunity to receive weekly emotional support and valuable instruction. Participants may ioin at any time.

DivorceCare features national recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing Your Anger", "Facing Your Loneliness", "Depression", "New Relationships", "KidCare", and "Forgiveness."

There is a \$10 registration fee. Child

care is provided for children through the fifth

Call Vic Johnson at 689-6849 if you have any questions, or if you would like more

Aglow International, Brandon Day Chapter will hold its monthly women's meeting and breakfast Feb. 12 from 9:30 a.m. until noon at Center Place. The event is free and includes breakfast and child care.

Following the breakfast, singer, songwriter and teacher Selia Darlene Bervine will be the guest speaker. She is dedicated to reaching others in essential areas of personal development including parenting, youth character and life management.

For information, call Linda Green at 677-7041.

The Women in Focus Ministry of the Bell Shoals Baptist Church, 2102 Bell Shoals Road, would like to invite all area women to their Tuesday morning Fruitful Hands Craft class. A different craft is made each week. Sample crafts and supply lists are available at the display board located in the concourse near the Special Events Center. Child care is available at no charge with reservations being made one week in advance. Call Cynthia Alford at 661-5561 for more information.

Also available at Bell Shoals is a step aerobic class for women. Classes are offered on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$24 for a six-week period, or \$3 for a drop-in class. For information, call Susie Widell at 684-5825.

Calling all moms! SCRIBBLES

PLAYTIME is offered to all women who could use a little adult fellowship while their children play. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., SCRIBBLES participants meet at Paul Sanders Park located on the corner of Bloomingdale and Kings Ave. in Brandon. Newcomer's information and registration begins at

There are monthly "Fun-time Field Trips" to places such as Grandma Huggins Farm, Create-N-Play, Lowry Park Zoo, Davis Park, and Lithia Springs Park. The field trips take place on the first Wednesday of each month. There is no charge to join the group.

For more information or to sign up for the field trips, call Angela at 671-0720.

The Women's Ministry of First Baptist Church of Brandon, invites you to "Joy in the Morning" and "Joy in the Evening" Bible studies. This semester the Bible studies will include the following: A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place; Spiritual Mothering: A Heart Like His; Experiencing God for Women; Becoming a Vessel God Can Use; and Making Peace With Your Past.

Joy in the Morning meets every Tuesday at 9:15 beginning this month. Joy in the Evening meets every Thursday at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 689-1204, ext. 235.

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### BITS, from page 5

Maternal grandparents are Tom and Wilma Meyferth of Brandon. Paternal grandparents are Julius and Carol Grice, formerly of Brandon and now residing in Gulf Shores, Ala.

Samantha Nicole Kierce was born Oct. 25 to Anne Marie and Thomas Kierce. She weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was welcomed home by brothers Jacob, 2. and Brett, 11. Her maternal grandparents are Bud and Shirley

Longstreth of Dayton, Ohio, and paternal grandparents are James and Bobbie Kierce of Winter

Kevin Thomas Ginn was born to Gina and Clay Ginn of Oakdale Reserve on Nov. 19, weighing 9 pounds, 12 ounces. Kevin joins big brother Michael. 3. Maternal grandparents are Vic and Betty Sciortino of Hammond, La. Paternal grandparents are Kerry and Joy Ginn of Corinth, Miss.

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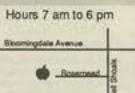
What You Want

samples of their work daily. But, parents, is this what you really Instead you might be concerned about the people caring for your children. How long have they been on staff? How do they treat the children? Are the children happy? Are they secure in

their surroundings? Are they stimulated? Yes, education is important. But giving children a solid start in areas of self esteem and emotional well being can set the stage for

continued learning the rest of their lives. Parents, let's ask questions about the things that really matter.

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## Kids Calendar Rated G



At The Library

"Celebrations" is featured as an after-school program at the Brandon Regional Library Feb. 12 at 3:30. One allencompassing program of stories, songs and creative dramatics will celebrate President's Days, Valentine's Day and African-American History Month.

The program, which is free, is appropriate for children 6-12.

Bedtime stories will be featured Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. for ages 2-5 and their parent or guardian. Children are encouraged to take their favorite stuffed toy and wear pajamas as they listen to soothing bedtime stories.

#### Children's Theater

Stages Productions will perform a rendition of the "Three Little Pigs" on Feb. 28 at 9:30 a.m. at Center Place. Tickets for the play, which is recommended for chil-

dren 3 and up, are \$2.50 a person and must be purchased in advance.

### Coloring Contest

Children 4 to 12 may enter the third annual American Heart Association's Valentine's Day Coloring Contest.

The deadline is Feb. 28 and coloring sheets may be obtained by calling 662-1514 and from local realtor Luana Russell's office (662-1610), 889 E. Bloomingdale Ave.

Russell is providing gift certificates for toys to be awarded as prizes in various age group categories. First through third place winners will be given certificates of \$50 or \$25 in groups 4 to 6, 7 to 9 and 10 to 12.

The colored pictures may be mailed to the American Heart Association, 1411 Westshore Blvd., Suite 211, Tampa

### MOSIMAX

Viewers can go on a whale-watching expedition wh Whales! migrates to the screen through June 26.

The stars include Blue whales in California, Hurr back whales in Alaska and Hawaii, and Right whales Patagonia - with a supporting cast of orcas, dolphins, be eagles and elephant seals. Share the lives of the Earth largest creatures as they swim, breach, feed, court and si in life-sized wonder.

Whales! surrounds audiences with the dramatic sigl and sounds that engulf whales throughout their amazi lives. The watery world of the whale is dominated by sou rippling through the vast corridors of oceanic cathedra To whales, these vocalizations are not only a means communication, but also of literal survival - guiding whal in their long migrations, organizing hunting activitie attracting mates and challenging competitors.

## **County Offers Rebate** On Sprinkler Switch

As of Oct. 1, all automatic sprinkler systems in unincorporated Hillsborough County (including Brandon and Valrico) must have a rain shutoff switch installed.

To make compliance easier, the Water Department is offering rebates of up to \$50 for the switch and its installation.

In 1991, the Florida Legislature passed a law to require rain sensors to be installed on all newly installed automatic sprinkler systems. To protect its water resources, Hillsborough County Commissioners adopted legislation in 1994 to require all properties in the county with electronicallycontrolled sprinkler systems to install the rain sensing switches by Oct. 1, 1996.

"Essentially, the device tells the sprinkling system when rain has provided sufficient water and prevents irrigation when not necessary," said county spokesperson Michelle Oldack.

Without the rain sensor, the irrigation system will continue to turn on at the predesignated times regardless of how wet the ground is.

The sensor can save the homeowner money be reducing the monthly water bill. It also protects landscaping from over-watering, Oldack said. According to nursery operators, more plants are killed over-watering than under-water-

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Mail the wedding information along with your address and phone number or call The Blooming dale Gazette, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 103, Valrico, FL 33594, or call the Community Office at 681-2051 and leave your name and address. We will mail a form to you immediately.



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## Lithia Lynx

### Teacher Wins Grant For Greek Studies

By Ron Pogorzelski

Ann Marie Courtney-Bacon, a fifth grade teacher at Lithia Springs Elementary School, was awarded a \$300 grant from the Temple Terrace Junior Women's Club under the sponsorship of the Hillsborough Education Foundation.

Her grant request entitled "It's Not Greek To Me!" was the recipient of one of the Very Special Arts Grant program. Mrs. Courtney-Bacon's class, along with Mrs. Guggino's class will participate in a study of ancient Greek civilization.

Part of the study includes going to the Florida International Museum in St. Petersburg to see the "Alexander the Great" exhibit and on to Tarpon Springs, a predominantly



Trophy winning first place finishers for Lithia Springs Elementary Science Fair are, sitting in the front row: Morgan Smith, Andrews Lashlee, Christa Rocco, Thomas Taylor, and Kristen Bornick. Second row: Brittaney Gek, Danielle Faber, Samantha Kicak, Alyssa Casey, Autumn Neely. Back Row: Alexadra Whit, Lauren Rocco, Daniel Narup, Chelsey Dichristofar, and science teacher Mrs. D. Demmi.

Greek community, to sample some traditional food.

A panel of experienced tutors and school administrators will share ideas and techniques for successful tutoring at a Town Hall meeting at Yates Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 26.

Lithia Springs tutors or those interested in becoming tutors are encouraged to attend this special session by reserving space by calling 872-5254.

Black History Observance Month, throughout February, is a long-standing tradition for Hillsborough County Schools. Activities at Lithia Springs in this observance include the following:

Creation of special bulletin boards, plays, biographies and stories.

Special lessons and activities revolving around noted African American leaders such as King, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver.

Discussions of current African Americans as role

Art themes relating to African American culture. One such project will be the African Adinkrp clothes, a kind of batic fiber idea.

A special performance by the "Musical Steel Drums" group from the Trinidad and Tobago Islands.

At a general assembly, noted local black historian Patricia Casimir will speak to students on cultural music, dance, dress and story-telling.

Contests also are included with essay writing on famous African Americans.

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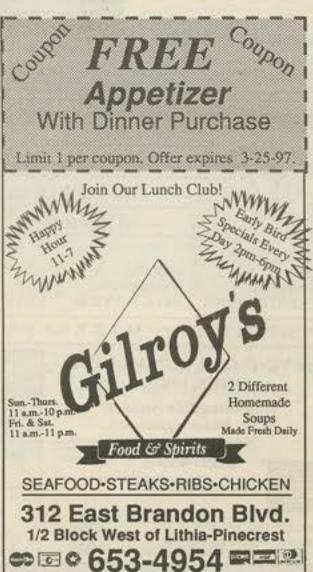
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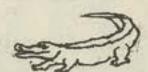
RESTAURANTS



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## Gator Tales



### Send Your Sweetie(s) A Valentine By Phyllis Berlacher

Alafia's Gator Community Post Office is open and wants your business.

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, Alafia parents are encouraged to send their children Valentines through the school mail.

"We expect volume to be heavy, so mail early," says second grade teacher Hope Carter, whose grade is in charge of the community post office.

Valentines mailed by Feb. 10 will be delivered Feb. 13 as school is closed on the 14th.

For parents' convenience, a student directory and stamps are located in the media center and on the PTA volunteer table in the office.

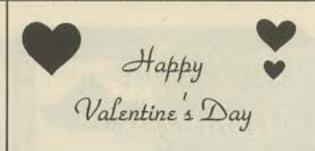
In other news, don't forget to pencil in these dates... Tuesday, Feb. 11, is the next PTA general membership meeting. Deputy Lisa Bish of the Hillsborough County

Sheriff's Department will discuss personal safety - in the home, car and public - as well as appropriate personal safety devices. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Also at this meeting, a vote will be taken to approve the purchase of a new playground as the PTAs primary gift to the school this year.

Thursday, Feb. 13, is "Donuts with Dad." Alafia dads are invited to join their children for a complimentary breakfast of donuts, coffee and juice. This PTA-sponsored event takes place in the cafeteria from 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Look for details in an upcoming flyer.

Those interested in serving on the PTA nominating committee are asked to call Michelle Colesanti at 681-8889 or attend February's general membership meeting. The nominating committee selects a slate for the 1997-98 PTA executive committee, which includes the president, four vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and parliamentarian positions.

And last but not least, don't forget to send in those General Mills cereal box tops. For each box top you give to the school, Alafia receives 15 cents as part of GMs Box Tops for Education promotion. Proceeds will be used to purchase much-needed maps and atlases. Box tops can be turned in to your child's teacher, or can be placed in the box located at the volunteer table in the main office.





## Playgroups Offered

Playgroups are offered throughout Hillsborough County by Parent's Network, Inc. New playgroups also are forming as well as book groups both for adults and children.

PNI is a membership organization for families with young children and offers many activities throughout the year for members. There are playgroups located in Brandon for children to age 5.

Other PNI activities include speaker meetings on parenting issues, family parties such as a Father's Day Barbecue and Fall Festival, participation in the Gasparilla Children's Parade and more.

For information, call 870-4666 or the group's publicity chairman, Carolyn Cawthon who is a Brandon resident. She can be reached at 628-8233.

## **Bulletin Board**

The Hillsborough County Elementary Mathematics Council is sponsoring a Math Extravaganza at Lowry Park Zoo Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a scavenger hunt, carnival boothes, prizes and fun. There is a special admission price of \$3.50 for elementary school students Next holiday - March 26th begins spring and up to two accompanying adults,

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH

Report Cards - Secondary Feb. 13 Half-Day Students' State Fair Day Feb. 14 Feb. 17 Planning Day - Students off

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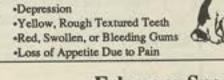
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- Peridontal disease is the most common and serious pet dental problem
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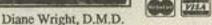
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## Real Estate Moves - Home Selling Tips

By Michael Davis

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of homeselling tips provided by Bloomingdale resident and local realtor Michael Davis.

Selling your home is one of the most important steps in your life, and you need to be equipped with essential tips you must know...

Tip No. 4: Go home shopping yourself

The best way to get to know your competition, identify features that are popular and learn what turns buyers off is to check out other open houses. Plan on spending a few weekends touring other homes on the market to learn what other sellers are asking. Be sure to make note of the floor plan, condition, appearance, size of lot, location and other features.

If you visit enough homes and pay close attention to the details (and what other "buyers" are saying), you'll develop a good understanding of how different features affect pricing. And then you can apply what you've learned to the task of setting your price. But don't forget to include in the equation what homes are actually selling for, not just simply what people are asking. And remember, if you're serious about getting your home sold quickly, don't be more expensive than your neighbor. Tip No. 5: Know when to get an appraisal.

Sometimes you can use a good appraisal to your benefit in marketing your home. And if you get a VA or FHA appraisal, you can use it to let prospective buyers know that your home can be financed. However, an appraisal costs money. It also has a limited life. And you may not like the figure you hear.

Tip No. 6: Your tax assessment means almost nothing.

Some people look to tax assessments to assign a value. The problem here is that assessments are based on a number of criteria unrelated to property values, so they often don't necessarily reflect the true value of your home. Have you ever heard of two identical homes in the same neighborhood with dramatically different assessed values because one was purchased more recently than the other? Well, it happens quite often.

Tip No. 7: Find a good Realtor...

will be shared with you the next time we meet in Real Estate Moves. If you would like a copy of the complete report "29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar)", please call 681-2051 and ask for this report offered as a community service.





### **Business** Notes



### Tax Help

If you have questions about your income tax forms, the Brandon Regional Library will have volunteers available throughout the month to help you wade through the paperwork.

Volunteers in Tax Assistance will offer free assistance on tax return preparations every Saturday during February from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

In addition, the American Association of Retired Persons will be available to assist each Thursday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The service is available on a firstcome, first-served basis, and there is no charge.

### Financial Issues Topic

"Financial Review" will be hosted by the Brandon Regional Library on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. Liz McKenzie of Raymond James and Associates will offer a discussion on a variety of financial issues and financial book reviews.

### Russell Tops Again

Local realtor and Bloomingdale resident Luana Russell was recognized as the Top Associate in various categories for Tam-Bay Realty, Inc. During November, she led the team in sales and closings, then followed in December as the leader in listings and sales.

Russell, who has moved more than 1,000 families through her 5-Star Service Real Estate Program, has been in the business for more than 20 years. She holds Realtor GRI and CRS credentials.

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## **Sports Salute**

### Flag Football Champs

Like the Green Bay Packers, the Bad Boys regained their super bowl title after winning the first-ever flag football super bowl four years ago.

And they did it the hard way.

Advancing through the loser's bracket of the 22-team league, the Bad Boys played three games Jan. 19 to become the champions of Flag Football Super Bowl IV at the Bloomingdale West Park Recreation Center.

They defeated the Mud Hens twice en route to the title. But first they had to de-throne the two-time defending champions Hit Men, 26-13, to advance out of the loser's bracket.

The Bad Boys, led by tournament Most Valuable Player Mike Crawford, then defeated the Mud Hens 20-6 to bring about a third and deciding game, in which they shut out the Hens 26-0.

In addition to wide receiver Crawford, who received the championship game ball, other MVP awards went to Mud Hens' quarterback Scott Conner and Hit Men quarterback Rusty Longdaerger. The Bay Boys' center, George Ferguson, earned honorable mention.

This was the most successful season of flag football sponsored by the county's department of parks and recreation. More than 260 men participated in the adult league which played games at both Bloomingdale and Brandon rec centers on Sunday afternoons since September.

A meeting was held last week to discuss the flag football program and to make plans for the next season. The preseason meeting will be held Aug. 20.

### Winter Sports Leaders

Junior midfielder Chris Gatlyn led all Bloomingdale winter sports players as the county's most prolific goal scorer of the regular season. Gatlyn ended his 20-game season with 30 goals and 7 assists, giving him the highest points total (67) in the county.

The Bulls placed other soccer team members in the county's top 20. Gatlyn is joined by Matt Lepley (27 points), Chip Atkins (25 points) and Andy Carlton (24 points). Carlton also led the county's public and private school players in assists with 16 in 20 games. Justin Wilson (22 pts.) also made the list of county leaders.

Keeper John Gustafson's .62 goals against percentage was second best in the county.

In girl's soccer, Koryn Bateman and Jennifer Colavito finished No. 1 and 2 as the county's best goal-keepers. Bateman finished with a .30 goals against percentage, while Colavito was a fraction behind at .33. Ashley Ott led the way for the Bulls with 43 points on 17 goals and 9 assists in only 10 games. But that is only half what the county's leader Tara Minnax (86 pts) of Chamberlain had. Other Bulls to make the county's leader's list are Maggie Willman (28 pts), Jana Escribano (27 pts), Lauren Danielik and Kelly Yarborough, both with 26 points.

In basketball, Ashley Anderson was the only Bulls listed among the points leaders. The junior guard averaged 14 points a game through the last week of the regular stresson.

In wrestling, Josh Latham is the only undefeated middleweight in the county. The state finalist was 20-0 at presstime. Other wrestlers among the county's leaders were lightweights Mike Geisert (18 4) and Jeff Lorch (19-2) and heavyweight Chad Saibi (15-4).



The Bulls drill before their district title game against Manatee.

## **BHS Boys, Girls Win Districts**

By Gazette Staf

Manatee got a double dose of Bulls when both the girls and boys teams defeated the Hurricanes to defend each of their district titles.

Hosting Manatee, the boys shut out Manatee County's leading goal scorer Taylor West, to take a 3-0 victory, while the girls claimed their title with a 4-1 win as the visitors.

Bloomingdale's defense began deep in the midfield with close marking of West to the last line of defense Eric Edwards stood poised to keep forwards out of striking zone. And on the few times the ball got past and John Gustafson was pulled out of goal, Edwards was there to make the save behind Gustafson.

Bloomingdale, coached by Dave Tennian, held on to a 1-0 lead on a header by Chris Gatlyn, who ended the regular season as the county's points leader.

But the field referee had already called three yellow cards on the Bulls, so they restrained their attack in the second half, playing defensively instead.

That was just until a Gatlyn break-away resulted in a Paul Sanders goal and Andy Carlton finished off the Hurricanes with a final score behind the Manatee keeper as the final seconds wound down. Another standout season for the Bulls found them go undefeated (24-0-1). In addition to districts, they were champions of the Western Conference, the prestigious Diadora Tournament, and the Bayshore Tournament.

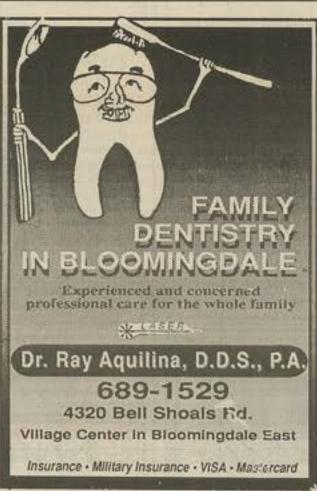
The only blemish on the boys record, was a seasonending tie with King, which also won its district title. If both win regionals on Tuesday, they could meet in the state Class 6A finals.

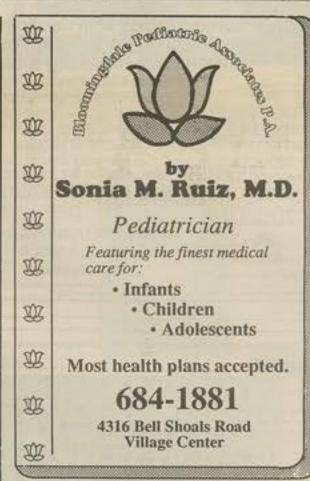
The girls also won Western Conference and the inaugural Diadora Tournament. En route to their fifth consecutive district title, they defeated Sarasota Riverview and Bradenton Southeast.

In the final against top-seeded and state fifth-ranked Manatee (27-1), the Bulls rallied in the second half to shut down the Hurricanes who had gone ahead 1-0.

Bloomingdale (18-2) was led by freshman Allison Gilman who tied the score at the 47 minute mark, but the clincher was booted in by Jana Escribano on a penalty kick. Lyndsey Novitske and Christie Pollock sealed the victory with two more goals.

With a host of seniors and a Parade All-American on their team last season, the Bulls were expected to take it all but it's this year's young team that has been the surprise.







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### **BHA** Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

### STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, Feb. 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

## Personal Injury & Wrongful Death

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### Walk Coming to Nature's Way

On Saturday, Feb, 8, Bloomingdale East's Nature's Way will be the site of the American Cancer Society's Annual Making Strides Against Cancer.

Striders will be walking to and from Bloomingdale East Park along Nature's Way beginning at 9 a.m. Making Strides is a 5-mile move-along-athon that celebrates life through cancer survivorship.

For information, contact the American Cancer Society office at 685-0670.

### **Book Discussion**

Sacred Cows and Other Edibles, a book by Nikki Giovanni, will be discussed at the Brandon Regional Library on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 2:30 p.m.

Giovanni, the most widely read living black poet, shares this collection of autobiographical esays and articles of her life experiences. Her wry sense of humor and genuine affection for and understanding of a much beleaguered humanity shines through. Copies of the book are available at the branch.

### Low-Impact Aerobics

Tracey Shriver teaches low-impact aerobics at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center. Classes meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. and the cost is \$3 per class. Child care is provided for children 5 and older. Shriver explains there is no jumping or jogging involved. With low-impact aerobics one foot is always on the ground. Light weights and floor work are also used.

For information, call 744-5907.

### Spanish Lessons

Conversational Spanish classes will resume at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center in January. Classes will meet every Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m.

For information call 744-5907 after 1 p.m.

### Parents Help Group

Parents Anonymous is a self-help group for parents who have lost, or feel they are losing control of their children. Groups meet in Valrico on Thursdays evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at area churches, The meetings are free. For information call 251-8080.

### Recycle Computers

The county has begun a program, "Computers for Kids," that involves collecting computers to place in recreation centers and later in libraries for kids to use during after school and summer programs.

Since the program began in April, donations have dropped off. There is no certain type of computer that the county is looking for. Software and programs also are acceptable donations.

Computers can be dropped off at the Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance unit on 78th St. and the Crosstown Expressway or at any of several libraries including the Main Library downtown at 900 N. Ashley Drive. For information call 744-5815 or 273-3652.

### CENTER, from page 1

dren arriving for a performance of "Jack and the Beanstalk." That's a part of the job she enjoys most, personally welcoming and dismissing the children.

During and after the performance, she takes care of other necessary functions. There is the paperwork and accounting that she relies most on Ruth to handle, people pop in all day long to purchase tickets, sign up for classes, rent the grand room for social functions and visit the gift

"It's not a nine to five job," Yake said. "But that what's fun, too - meeting the people. This job is never boring."

"She very much likes meeting the community," Allen said. "She understands the needs of a community and she works hard. Claudia likes the creative part of the job. She really loves coming up with original ideas and makes Center Place more interesting and more people-friendly."

In addition to the arts, Yake finds pleasure in reading, going to the beach and traveling. Her daughter, Jennifer, 20, is a 1990 Bloomingdale graduate who now lives in Louisville, Ky. Since her husband's retirement, the Yakes have taken a Caribbean cruise every summer and spend time visiting relatives in Oregon.

While John Yake was in active service, they lived in places like the Philippines and Turkey. Her worldly travels have had quite an effect on Yake.

"There is so much history out there," she said. "It not only reminds us how young the United States is, but what a great life we have and how much we have to be thankful for."

One of the things she says she was thankful for was McDonald's.

"When we lived in the Philippines, we didn't have a McDonald's. The closest one was in Hong Kong. So whenever anyone visited there, we'd save our wrappers and take them back to brag."

Taking advantage of learning the culture and history of the places she has been has influenced her work in providing those kinds of opportunities for visitors to Cen-

"Center Place is very hands-on. For adults we have art and dinner theater. For a young family, we have the whole gamut," Yake said.

"I hope people will come in to see what's going on, find what they're looking for and tell their neighbors about this great place."

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### NIP(Neighborhood Improvement Program)

Volunteers needed for BHA (Bloomingdale Homeowners Association) program. Call the community office at 681-2051 for information.

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Michael's Free Special Report Michael understands all too well how vital a role the information and preparation he provides his clients really is. Information is the seller's best friend, and most

important ally. That's why Michael decided to put together a special report to help prospective home sellers. This special report, entitled 29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast-And For Top Dollar, is provided free, as a community service.

What You Will Learn Michael's special report, 29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast-And For Top Dollar, provides 29 important things you should understand before you put your home on the market. It'll give you information that will help ensure you are the most prepared seller you can be-both mentally and emotionally.

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