

Bloomingtondale Avenue, Bell Shoals - Lithia widening to begin

By Mack Austin

*P*lans for the four-lane widening of Bloomingtondale Avenue from Bell Shoals Road to Lithia Pinecrest Road are in the final stages. County officials report that the selection of a contractor should be completed by the end of February, with construction beginning shortly thereafter. Project completion time is estimated at fourteen months.

For those residents who frequently use this stretch of Bloomingtondale Avenue, the changes will be extensive. TECO has begun installing new power poles on the south side of the road. A traffic light will be installed at Bloomingtondale and Springvale Avenues. There are several areas of concern that we should pay extra attention to.

The construction will have an impact on already congested traffic. Now is the time for us to slow down and get accustomed to the inevitable driving time delays.

Both the construction and the completed widening will affect motorist and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Bloomingtondale and Culbreath where the YMCA and Little League fields are located. Construction detours and increased traffic mixed with kids crossing from the YMCA to the ball fields may prove to be a serious safety issue, one that is being addressed by the Bloomingtondale Area Community Council.

We as residents would be wise to pay

close attention to any requests by Developers to build on the vacant lots along Bloomingtondale Avenue. Progress may be inevitable, but we can have some say as to what goes in, proven by the recent successful protest against a shopping center proposed for the land next to Bloomingtondale High and the successful negotiations between Developers and



The 'old red barn' produce stand will be missed.

John Moore Road residents (see story in this issue).

The majority of construction will take place on the north side of Bloomingtondale Avenue, unfortunately necessitating the removal of the magnificent oak trees lining the road. Many Bloomingtondale residents have enjoyed getting their fresh fruits and vegetables at the "old red barn" on Bloomingtondale. Unfortunately, the produce stand sits in the path of the road widening, and will soon be relegated to a pleasant memory. Our community is growing and changing, but we can work together to achieve the end results that will produce an atmosphere and surroundings we can all be comfortable with and proud of.

Deed restrictions online, see story on page 7.

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RESIDENTS REACH AGREEMENT WITH DEVELOPER
see story on page 10.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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President Bill Grace, 685-2817
Treasurer Fred Englehart
Meetings .. Second Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm,
3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks

Share your news with the community!

Write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
Phone (813) 681-2051
E-mail LauraFrazier@Prodigy.net
Fax (813) 651-1129

Bloomingdale Special

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Trustee, Paul Almeida 661-2018
Property Manager, DPMI 684-6617

Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

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

Special Taxing District Meetings
Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

the Bloomingdale gazette

The official publication of the BHA

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Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Property Manager's Report, December 1999

Submitted by Al Devney, DPMI Management, Inc.

Irrigation

1. Brandon Irrigation repaired a broken valve at Nature's Way and Elba.
2. The following items were replaced: 18 spray heads, 4 rotors, and 1 solenoid. Three zone lines and 5 risers were repaired.

Landscaping

1. Greenturf, Inc. mulched all the flowerbeds.
2. DPMI hosted the Lawn Maintenance Contract pre-bid meeting for next year's contract. Eight contractors attended.
3. DPMI determined the quantity of creeping fig plants required to fill in gaps along the perimeter wall. 300 plans will be required and have been ordered.
4. DPMI contacted three landscape companies for bids to install the new Petunias. Two companies responded with good bids, one did not respond.
5. County Forester Bob Dir examined the root systems of three of our dead trees. His opinion was that the trees were root bound from planning, which did not allow for the development of the root system.

6. Environmental Horticulture Agent IV, Mrs. Sydney Park Brown, examined the St. Augustine grass around Greenhollow and Nature's Way to determine the reason for poor performance. Her opinion was that a combination of high PH, nematodes and other diseases could be the problem. Soil samples will be mailed to the county extension center and the USF to determine the soil content and the existence of diseases.

Other

1. DPMI identified and measured the walls to be cleaned this year (4,560 linear feet).
2. This Christmas season, the STD had 18 Poinsettias and 6 Christmas bows stolen, and 1 string of lights vandalized.
3. Chris Wurtzel repaired the broken wall on Bell Shoals.
4. ZK Construction will repair the broken Hickory Ridge entranceway.
5. In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, DPMI picked up the following: 18 bags of litter, 7 shoes, 3 dozen plastic forks, 7 CD's, 15 LP's, a sleeping bag, a hubcap, a windshield wiper, men's boxer shorts size 32, and \$.82 cents. The beverages of choice were Coke for soft drinks, Ice House for beer and Black Velvet for distilled spirits.

Lost and Found

1. DPMI found a black cordless telephone on Springvale and a pair of men's bifocal glasses on Nature's Way by Briarlake. Please call Al Devney at 684-6617 to claim your property.

Special Taxing District Approves new projects

A Gazette report

The following projects, as proposed by Devney Property Management, Inc. (DPMI), have been approved by the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (STD) Board of Trustees. Bids are being solicited for the following projects. Work is expected to begin within 30 days.

1. Install palm tree groupings on Erindale. Estimated cost: \$4,000.

2. Dig the Greenhollow well deeper in order to eliminate the rust stains on some of the Nature's Way walls. Cost: approximately \$3,000.

3. Pressure clean about 4000 linear feet of privacy walls. Estimated cost: \$2,000.

4. Install a new irrigation system on Callista to allow planning and watering more St. Augustine sod in the Callista area. Estimated cost: \$30,000.

DPMI also reports that a design is being developed for an irrigation project on Springvale in order to plant St. Augustine sod. The cost has not yet been determined. For more information, please contact Al Devney of DPMI684-6617 or the STD at 681-6667.

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Bloomingtondale Community Substation Notes

By Deputy Pete Maurer

Operation Just Claus

Special thanks to everyone involved in the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Christmas project, "Operation Just Claus". Community Resource Deputies identified families in their areas with special financial or medical needs. Local businesses were contacted for donations, gifts were wrapped and Santa and Mrs. Claus were contacted. Arrangements were made to meet at the families' home and deliver the Christmas gifts. The



Deputy Pete Maurer, BACC member Terry Ward and Deputy Jeff Massaro welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to Operation Just Claus.

Bloomingtondale group, made up primarily of Bloomingtondale Area Community Council members, helped Santa and Mrs. Claus deliver toys and gift certificates, provided a Christmas meal and built a gym set for some very happy kids. Thanks again. Your time and support are greatly appreciated.

Vacant homes

Bloomingtondale has several homes that are temporarily vacant, either because the previous occupants have moved and the house is for sale or rent, or the occupants left for financial or other reasons. These houses are still private property. Anyone entering them without the proper permission is trespassing. Anyone removing anything from one of these homes is committing burglary. Bloomingtondale residents with a vacant home next to them or in their neighborhood should keep an eye on them. They present several hidden dangers to curious kids, including the temptation to vandalize. Anyone noticing improper activity around one of these homes should call the Hillsborough

County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 247-8200.

Truancy

Students from local schools who decide they want to "skip" school should be aware of the special officers instructed to give priority to patrolling Bloomingtondale area businesses, neighborhoods, parks and other area



BACC members Rob Tomes (left), Valarie Faison and Terry Ward congratulate Deputy Pete Maurer as a grateful Brian Parrish admires the new gym set built for him as part of Operation Just Claus.

where truants might hang out. Many calls have been received from area homes and businesses reporting students skipping school. There are literally thousands of eyes out there. Students under 16 will be taken to the Juvenile Transport Truancy Intake Center. Those over 16 are returned to school. Anyone noticing students possibly skipping school should call the Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 247-8200.

Speed Monitor to be used by Community Deputies

Many articles have been written about the speeding problem in Bloomingtondale. The best solution lies with each individual driver and their attitude. It is a personal choice.

Coordination has been completed to purchase a high-tech speed monitor for use by our Community Deputies in monitoring Bloomingtondale traffic. Contributions have come from the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, local businesses and concerned individuals. Thanks to those who have contributed to this special project.

Those who choose to speed should be aware that the monitor will soon be in use. So, now is the time to start slowing down and save that speeding ticket money for something good.

Bloomingtondale Rec Center News

The Bloomingtondale Rec Center is located at Bloomingtondale Community Park, Canoga Park Drive, in Bloomingtondale West. For more information, call Recreation Director Donna Clouse at 744-5907 weekdays 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Tennis Lessons

Session: 8-weeks, February 8 - March 30, 2000.
Registration: Call the Center or Coach Steve at 657-0775.

Age	Days	Time	Cost
3 - 5	Thursday	11:30 - noon	\$1.50/Class
6 - 8	Tues/Thurs	3:30 - 4:30	\$3/Class
9 & up	Tues/Thurs	4:30 - 5:30	\$3/Class

Adult Basketball League

Meeting at the Rec Center on February 2 at 7 p.m.

T-Ball/Softball

Session: starts the 2nd week of March and runs through May.
Registration: Runs through the month of February, call the Rec Center.

Volunteers needed: Parents are needed to coach and serve as team Moms or Dads

Ages: 3 - 14.

Days: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Time: 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

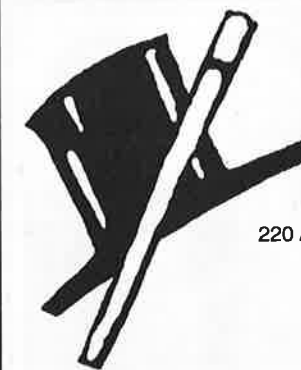
Cost: \$20/Player (includes uniform, mouthpiece and trophy).

Track

Session: starts February 2.

Day: Wednesday.

Time: 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.



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The Bloomingdale Gazette and Brandon Regional Hospital are pleased to announce the following new arrivals to our community:

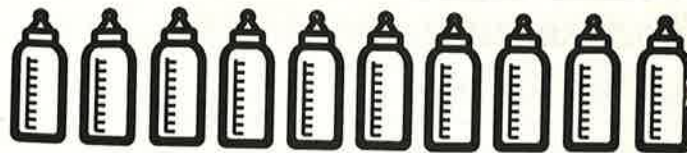
Emilee Nicole Dallas
Born September 28, 1999 to Heather and Christopher Dallas

Jett Patrick Davis
Born November 9, 1999 to Mindy and Jack Davis

Dakota Aloysius Brady
Born November 15, 1999 to Lisa and Robert Brady, Jr.

Zachary Palmer Hinson
Born November 12, 1999 to Melissa and Michael Hinson

Bailey Ryan Hoffmeyer
Born November 26, 1999 to Annette and John Hoffmeyer



Cole Daniel Eskine
Born November 30, 1999 to Marlene and Scott Eskine

Jacob Taylor Drews
Born December 6, 1999 to Sara and Jason Drews

Elizabeth Rose Thatcher
Born December 8, 1999 to Susan and Bryan Thatcher

Mackenzie Claire Vance
Born December 16, 1999 to Kimberly and Richard Vance

*Congratulations from the staff and friends of
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*Do you know of a "new addition" to our community?
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Bloomingdale Senior High School News

By Mack Austin

Congratulations and Good Luck

The Bloomingdale High School PTSA, School Administration, and Staff would like to congratulate BSHS Science Department Head Charles Tommeleo on his recent nomination for a special award from the State Departments of Education and Environmental Education. Representatives of the Departments visited BSHS in January to review Mr. Tommeleo's program, "Planet Bloomingdale," as part of a statewide program promoting "sharing success in environmental education." As soon as the statewide visits are completed, winners will be selected.

Bloomingdale PTSA Board Welcomes New Members

The PTSA Board would like to extend a special welcome to two new members. Filling the two positions of Second Vice-President and Public Relations is Rhonda Baer. Assuming Ways and Means Committee Chairperson is Michelle Walters. There are still some positions available that need dedicated, concerned parents to fill. Call 744-8018 Ext. 263 to join this essential part of Bloomingdale's school program

Magazines and volunteers needed for Reading Program

Many great magazines have been donated for the BSHS reading program, but more are needed for male students, especially those with car and sports themes. Magazines can be dropped off with Deputy Pete Maurer and Officer Sandy Capitano at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Community Station on Bell Shoals. The students really enjoy reading them, and progress is being made with Reading Test Scores. One special note - please remove any mailing labels.

Volunteers are also needed to listen to and assist students with their reading. Reading is scheduled each week on Monday/Wednesday/Thursday during second period (8:30-9:30am) and fifth period (12:50 - 1:50pm). Every Tuesday, volunteers in the school cafeteria exchange candy for magazines. Call 744-8018, EXT 563 to volunteer to be a Reading Program volunteer.

Business sponsors needed

BSHS Reading Program Director Linda Weronik is developing an incentive program to motivate students to read more and develop a life-long interest in reading. Any local businesses willing to sponsor a Pizza or Ice Cream Party for classes identified as having the most active participants can contact Ms. Weronik at 744-8018, Ext. 563.

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Residents reach agreement with Developer

By Laura Frazier, Editor

For over two years, a local group of residents actively voiced their opposition to Developer Dimitri Artzibushev's bids to rezone 71 rural acres off John Moore Road. Residents of Bloomingdale, Dogwood Hills, Hickory Creek, Hickory Ridge, Wooddale Drive, Hickory Highlands and Camelot Woods were concerned that the proposal to replace the pastureland with high-density residential development would be incompatible with the rural character of their neighborhoods

"Urban infill should fit seamlessly into the existing neighborhoods."

- Randy Hollingworth, Urban Design Architect

and further impact existing drainage and traffic problems on Bloomingfield Drive. Three times the Developer offered revised plans to the residents and the Commissioners; three times an agreement could not be reached.

Minutes prior to a final County Commission hearing scheduled on January 11, the Developer and the residents were finally able to find common ground. Residents accepted Artzibushev's modified plans, which include reducing the number of planned homes from 135 to 82, replacing a planned perimeter wall along John Moore Road with wrought iron railing, and limiting the number of homes built along the boundaries of the existing Hickory Highlands and Hickory Creek subdivisions. Dogwood Hills resident Jeanette

Figari acknowledges that it would not be possible to please 100% of the residents, but says, "On the whole, everyone was satisfied. We believe that this will be a project we can live with."

Figari is a member of the resident's group, UNDO - United Neighbors, Dedicated Opposition, credited for successfully negotiating with the Developer, County Commissioners and the County Planning and Growth Management Department. The group organized shortly after the developer's initial proposal, at first holding meetings and conducting research, later collecting contributions door-to-door and hiring expert professional help. "We were fortunate to have had some residents in our group who helped us get started, including a Planner and a Civil Engineer. We hired a Land Use Attorney to educate us on the legal process and an Urban Design Architect to provide us with options," said Figari.

The group estimates expenditures of over \$15,000. Members found the process "extremely frustrating, not user-friendly." One change to the system the group would like to see is the availability of a Citizen's Advocate at the County level to help guide the taxpayers through the legal maze of protecting their rights, their investments and their communities.

The Architect hired by UNDO, Harvard graduate Randy Hollingworth, summed up the resident's viewpoint precisely, stating, "Urban infill should fit seamlessly into the existing neighborhoods." Artzibushev has indicated that construction will commence as soon as he is able to obtain permitting. Undoubtedly, neighboring residents will be watching to see that those seams are neatly hemmed in.



Ed Rahal, DMD

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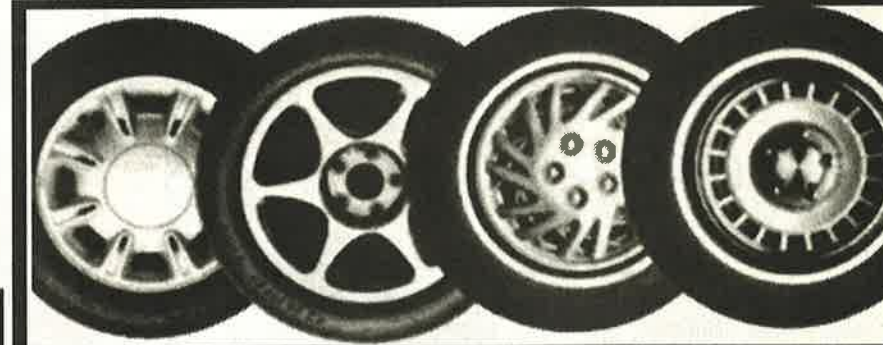
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MONSTERS UNDER THE BED: Dealing with childhood fears

By Arlene E. Jacobs, M.S.

Alone. It's dark. Your heart's racing. What's that noise? The call goes out — "Mom-meeeee!"

I can still remember that feeling. Mother would come and hug me, then crack the bedroom door open "just so." Childhood fears, often trivialized by adults, may have lasting effects on an individual. Every child goes through them to some degree, and when your child experiences them you may wonder what is normal, what to do to help ease the anxiety, and how to teach your child to cope.

According to John Gottman, Ph.D., & Joan DeClaire in their book *The Heart of Parenting: Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child*, parents can be "Emotional Coaches," who, like athletic coaches, teach children strategies to deal with life's challenges. Gottman & DeClaire list 5 steps that parents can use in Emotional Coaching:

1. Be aware of the child's emotion
2. Recognize the emotion as an opportunity for intimacy and teaching
3. Listen empathetically, validating the child's feelings
4. Help the child verbally label emotions
5. Set limits while helping the child problem-solve

A multitude of anxieties peak in early childhood according to Gottman & DeClaire, such as the fears of abandonment, death, parental conflict, powerlessness, imaginary creatures and darkness. Parents can help children discern legitimate fears from imagined ones and learn to respond appropriately.

Fear of abandonment is a focal concern of most children under age seven according to Jonathan Kellerman, Ph.D. in *Helping the Fearful Child*. Because this childhood fear is so real and pervasive, Gottman & DeClaire warn parents against using this as a way to discipline or even "joke" with their children. Instead, reassure them that their needs will always be met and that they will be loved and well cared for.

The dark may represent the "great unknown" — where all the child's fears and monsters lie. According to Gottman & DeClaire, it is perfectly reasonable that young children should seek the comfort of light.

Steven P. Shelov, M.D., FAAP, in *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child: Birth to Age 5* assures parents that security (transitional) objects such as blankets or soft toys are necessary parts of a child's emotional support system and are not signs of weakness or insecurity. Shelov also notes that thumb and finger sucking is a normal, natural way for children to comfort themselves. Eventually they will give up both the transitional object and the sucking as they mature and find other ways to cope with stress.

While childhood fears may be normal, parents can teach their children coping skills, as well as provide emotional support. The ability to bounce back from stress can serve children well throughout childhood and beyond.

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For more information or to reserve a preview slot for your child, call 653-1700. Space is limited to 12 children per class and reservations are required to preview.

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PLAY AND MUSIC
• Brandon • North Tampa
653-1700

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All New Batting Helmet	Sale \$9.99 Reg. \$12.99
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You Just Have To LOVE Them

At Primary Prep we recognize that working with children is a special challenge. Sometimes the hours are long and the rewards are few. But through it all, we've learned over the years, that you just have to love them.

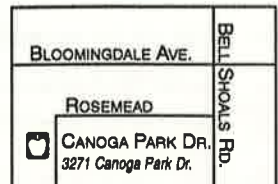
- ♥ When the children are good and when they've forgotten what good means...
- ♥ When they're overly tired... or very full of energy...
- ♥ When they're engrossed in a learning activity... or more interested in teacher-distracting...

...We continue to love them. It's what sets us apart.
Happy Valentine's Day from Primary Prep

654-1942 3721 Canoga Park Dr.

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Owner/Operator
Christine Terrell
Owner/Operator
Gail Smallwood
Director

Lic. # C-HC-193

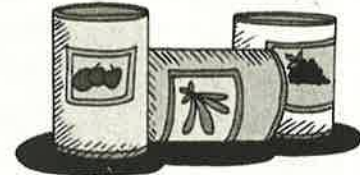


Tucked away but right near the intersection of Bell Shoel's and Bloomingdale.

BHA and Santa team up for ECHO

A Gazette report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association sponsored a "Visit with Santa Claus" in December, offering free visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus with a canned food donation. The program was extremely successful. The donated food and several monetary contributions were delivered to Brandon's Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO).



Bloomingdale resident and ECHO Executive Director Joyce Uphoff said that Bloomingdale's donations "helped make Christmas a little better for the people that come to us at this time of year." Ms. Uphoff reports that ECHO provided emergency food and clothing supplies to over 3,500 clients in 1999, 1844 of which were children.

ECHO gladly accepts offers of assistance and contributions throughout the year. For more information, contact Joyce Uphoff at 685-0935.

Bloomingdale High School Students recognized

A Gazette report

The Hillsborough County School District has announced the names of 153 High School seniors as participants in the 1999-2000 National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT) and the Pre-Scholastic Achievement Test (PSAT), recognizing the following Bloomingdale High School seniors.

National Merit Semi-finalists

Daniel J. Abbot, Robert H. McCowan, Erika H. Barry, Devon K. Nunnely, Frank M. Walsh.

National Merit Commended students

Kelly J. Birth, Andrew B. Emery, Eric S. Gardner, Nathan E. Morrow, Kevin P. Smithers, Yousef P. Danak, Phillip C. Garcia, Samantha Kane, Jessica L. Poole, Laura E. Smithers.

National Hispanic Scholar Award Program Semi-finalists

Chelo L. Canino, Phillip C. Garcia, Frank M. Walsh.

Congratulations!

Bloomingdale Yard of the Month



Address: 2204 Hickory Ridge Drive

Section: Fox Run

Homeowners: Engelen and Ernst Hawck

Landscaping features: liriope grass, palms, holly, hibiscus, impatiens, azaleas, camellias, gardenias, jasmine, Indian Hawthorne and 13 orange trees!

Gardening tip: "The Indian Hawthorne is nice because it requires so little care. We fertilize three times a year with a mixture of 6-6-6 and 4-8-16 to keep everything green and blooming."

Please send your nominations for the Yard of the Month to the Gazette address, e-mail, phone or fax as seen on page 2.

County services resources

A Gazette report

Newcomers and longtime residents alike may have had some difficulty adjusting to an area where so many community services are provided by the County, as opposed to the cities or towns they relocated here from. Hillsborough County has only three incorporated cities; Tampa, Plant City and Temple Terrace. Everyplace else, including Bloomingdale, falls into the catchall category of Hillsborough County's "unincorporated areas."

Virtually all of our community services such as police, fire, water and local government are provided by Hillsborough County. The County services provided to Bloomingdale residents are very highly regarded, and we are fortunate to have a great County staff in our area. For more information on individual services, the following resource materials are available free to Hillsborough County residents.

Hillsborough County Information Web Site
www.hillsboroughcounty.org

Fact Finder Directory

This pamphlet tells of a 24-hour automated Information System that answers commonly asked questions about Hillsborough County government. Call 272-6500.

Directory of Services

This 80-page booklet gives a brief overview of all the

(continued on page 17)



A doctor's eyes are very important

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- Rudy Liddell, DDS
Brandon Dental Care



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The Doctors LASIK Choice

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Where: Brandon Eye Associates
1463 Oakfield Suite 113

Call today seating is limited (813)684-2211



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& Same-As-Cash
Until April 1, 2000



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BRANDON/PLANT CITY
2805 S.R. 60 West
813-737-1660

*Subject to approved credit. If the balance is not paid in full by the end of Same-As-Cash promotional period, interest will be assumed from original date of purchase. Other special rates and terms may be available, including installment financing for commercial use.

That's right, stop by any of the four Bay area Southern Lawn and Turf locations, make your selection and make no payments until APRIL 2000. Choose from the full line of John Deere residential equipment, from walk-behind mowers to powerful Lawn and Garden tractors.

Hurry though - offers like this don't last forever.



Restaurant Review

By Elton Dumont

Exclusive to The Bloomingdale Gazette

The Chestnut Tree

LaViva Plaza

796 Lumsden Road, Brandon

(813) 689-3798

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

We noticed a restaurant ad in the December Gazette offering "light breakfasts, luncheon specials beginning under \$5, plus the finest gourmet chocolates, novelty candies and sugar free chocolates." That was all the temptation we needed to try The Chestnut Tree, a restaurant and shop in LaViva Plaza off Lumsden Road. What a splendid experience! The Chestnut Tree is open for breakfast and lunch. We chose the former and, based on our breakfast, I plan on returning for lunch very soon.

We entered the quaint restaurant and sat in the rear dining room. It was a charming setting, with lattice ceiling and room dividers, tablecloths and flowers. Coffee and tea are served in fine china sets, adding to the charm. We made our breakfast selections from a menu board, each ordering the bacon and egg sandwich on a Kaiser roll (\$1.95) and sharing a 1/2 order of biscuits and gravy (1/2 order \$2.25, full order \$3.25). Other selections included 2 poached eggs and rye toast (\$2.00), veggie sandwich made with cucumber, onion, cream cheese and sprouts on toasted pumpernickel (\$2.95), plus various bagels, pies, cakes and Cuban toast.

The lunch menu includes a gourmet tuna salad sandwich with celery, olives, carrots and homemade low-fat dressing (\$4.50). The white turkey sandwich is made with 97% fat-free turkey, served with lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise (\$4.50). The Ohio style Coney Island dog is a 1/4 pound all-beef hot dog with homemade Sloppy Joe sauce on a hoagie bun (\$2.95). The "Untidy Joseph" features homemade Sloppy Joe sauce on a fresh Kaiser bun (\$3.75). There

Letters to the Gazette

Q: I noticed some work being done in the old Kay-Bee Toys unit at Bloomingdale Square. Is there a new store going in there? - A Bloomingdale East resident

A: Dollar Tree, a company based in Norfolk, VA, will be opening their Bloomingdale location on or around February 15. The vacant unit was recently divided to accommodate the expansion of the neighboring Coldwell Banker Real Estate office..

Q: When will the Bloomingdale Avenue widening construction be started? - A Bloomingdale East resident.

A: Construction is scheduled to begin this month. For more information, see Mack Austin's story, "Bloomingdale Avenue, Bell Shoals - Lithia widening to begin" in this issue.



Chestnut Tree owner Melody Kossow offers a variety of sweet (and sugar free) treats.

are many more selections including soups, salads and daily hot lunch specials. All sandwiches are served with potato chips and a pickle.

Desserts included a fresh carrot cake and homemade Key Lime pie. A friend of the owner brings the key limes in fresh from South Florida. Speaking of the owner, when you visit, ask Melody about the large and attractive display of sugar free and regular chocolates. I bought a half-pound of the sugar free chocolates, which included chocolate mint truffles and cherry cordials. Melody also sells assorted gourmet gift baskets such as "Java Joe for Coffee Lovers," which has 3 packages of flavored coffee and one pound of gourmet chocolates. The "Wee One's Fun" includes mint chocolate fohorns, Chummy Chums lollipops, hot chocolate mix, a pound of chocolates and a designer Bubble Buddy.

So, whether you want breakfast, lunch, dessert, a gift basket, specialty teas, gourmet chocolates or knick-knacks, The Chestnut Tree should be your first thought for a unique experience.

Until we eat again,

Elton Dumont

Q: Where can I get a copy of my neighborhood Deed Restrictions? - A Bloomingdale West resident.

A: This month, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) is launching the first available on-line version of Deed Restrictions on our web site at www.CyberRails.com/BHA/. If you do not have Internet access and would like a copy of your Deed Restrictions, please first refer to your closing documents to verify the name of your section (Rivercrossing, Suarez East, Fox Run, etc.), then call the BHA at 681-2051.

Q: My neighbors keep their trashcans in front of their garage, in plain view. Is this against Deed Restrictions? - A Bloomingdale West resident.

A: Please refer to the question preceding yours for information about obtaining individual section Deed Restrictions. Many of the sections have restrictions requiring residents to store trash containers in areas that are "fenced in, hidden by shrubbery or otherwise not visible from the street."

County and State Representatives address Bloomingdale issues

By Mack Austin

As Bloomingdale continues to grow, so do the number of important community issues requiring research, coordination and resolution efforts by residents and our county and state representatives.

Over the past years, Bloomingdale has had outstanding assistance from our County Commissioners and their staff, most recently under the direction of Commissioner Ronda Storms. Several of Ms. Storms' staff members have attended monthly meetings of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council during 1999 to become better acquainted with the specific areas of concern facing our community.

One of the greatest areas of concern for our community is the constantly growing traffic problem, which produces unique safety issues such as the intersection of Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue. Hundreds of pedestrians, primarily children, will be crossing Culbreath Road to get to the YMCA or the Little League Park. Providing the maximum traffic control available is a critical safety issue requiring effective communication and coordination with our County representatives.

Commissioner Ronda Storms and her aide, Audi Bock, along with County engineers and State Representative Johnnie Byrd's personal aide, Ed Howolette, recently met personally with members of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council in order to find out first hand the details and concerns about our traffic issues. Commissioner Storms



County Public Works Department Engineers Jeff Herndon and Richard Sanders (seated), Ed Howolette (back), aide to Representative Johnnie Byrd, Deputy Pete Maurer, Audi Bock (back), aide to Commissioner Storms, Commissioner Ronda Storms and BACC members Rufus Brown and Terry Ward. Photo by Mack Austin.

reviewed the current County funds and possible options available. The County engineers recorded information provided by council members and others present, and will follow up with available solutions.

This is a great example of how serious community issues can be solved. Detailed research, effective communication and timely coordination are required in a joint effort to make our community safer and improve our quality of life. Our special thanks to Commissioner Storms, our County representatives and Ed Howolette for their time and assistance with this critical issue.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Bloomingdale residents in the Military

By Mack Austin

The Bloomingdale Gazette and the BHA would be proud to recognize our residents serving in the Armed Forces at military stations around the globe. We would like to let all our residents know who and where they are, perhaps opening an opportunity to renew old friendships. Please fill out the following form and submit, with a photo if possible, to: The Bloomingdale Gazette, "Keeping in Touch", 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594. Submissions will be published as space allows.

Name:

High School/Year Graduated:

Military Branch:

Unit:

Specialty:

Military Address (optional):

E-Mail Address:

Additional Information:

(continued from page 15)

County departments and services. Write to: Board of County Commissioners, 601 East Kennedy Blvd., P.O. Box 1110, Tampa, FL 33601.

County Commissioners

This pamphlet pictures all the County Commissioners, provides background and contact information and a map of the Commissioners' districts. Call 272-5660.

County Animal Services

This publication answers questions about household pets and the function of our County animal shelters. Call 744-5660.

Directory of Neighborhood Services

This 12-page booklet serves as a quick reference guide to the many services available to neighborhoods and neighborhood associations. It outlines the Office of Neighborhood Relations and how they will partner with organizations to better a neighborhood. Call 272-5860.

Outdoor Watering Restrictions

Call 272-6680 or write: Public Utilities Department, 925 E. Twiggs Street, Tampa, FL 33602

Hidden Treasures of Tampa Bay

The Parks and Recreation Department provides this map of County parks and rec facilities. Call 975-2160.

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