

# the <sup>PS</sup> Bloomingdale gazette

February, 2001

Complimentary

Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association • www.bha-online.com Volume XXI, Number 2

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**Springvale rezoning issue**

See page 10

### Commissioner Storms to attend Community Meeting

County Commissioner Ronda Storms will attend a Community Meeting in conjunction with the March meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Board.

Commissioner Storms serves as our district County Commissioner, and has been very supportive of local efforts to promote residents' interests involving safety, growth and rezoning issues.

Bloomingdale area residents are encouraged to attend the meeting, to be held at the Culbertson Community Center at Bloomingdale West Park on Tuesday, March 13, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. The BHA Board Meeting will convene with an abbreviated agenda immediately after the Community Meeting.

Residents who are unable to

attend are invited to send their comments and questions to the BHA via e-mail at [bha@cyberrails.com](mailto:bha@cyberrails.com) or by mail to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. The BHA Board will present the residents' concerns to Commissioner Storms for her comments.



County Commissioner Ronda Storms (3rd from left) joined Deputy Pete Maurer and Bloomingdale residents at the River Crossing Homeowners Association picnic last spring.



The newly established BSBS Club began their service to the community by assisting with the American Association of University Women's holiday luminary project. More Bloomingdale High School News on page 8

**Portable classrooms at Alafia, see page 6**



# Your Inside Connections

## The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594  
(813) 681-2051 • E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com

Web site: www.bha-online.org

- President ..... Ted Grable
- Vice President ..... Len Jaszczik
- Treasurer ..... Pam Liguori
- Director ..... Patricia Radel
- Director ..... Ann Underwood
- Director ..... Rodney Biddle
- Director ..... Tony Diolosa
- Director ..... Joe Hickle
- Director ..... John Benson



## Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

- Coordinator/Equipment Manager  
Tony Diolosa, ..... 681-1146
- Treasurer, Paul Kelmer ..... 681-9701
- Steven Heckel ..... 654-4266
- Brad Scharp ..... 643-5000
- Paul Warr ..... 685-7883



## Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

- P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
- President ..... Bill Grace, 685-2817
- Treasurer ..... Fred Englehart
- Meetings .. Second Monday 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 • Fax: (813) 651-1129  
E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

## Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

- ..... 684-6667
- President, Thom Snelling ..... 681-9186
- Vice President, Tom Mackiewicz ..... 653-4145
- Treasurer, Don Cassels ..... 681-8855
- Corresponding Secretary, R. Dickey .... 689-2177
- Recording Secretary, Alice Burleson .... 685-1076
- Trustee, Tim Golden ..... 653-1337
- 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

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
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## AN ELECTION TO REMEMBER

By Mack Austin

State Representative Johnnie Byrd and his staff played important roles during the historical year 2000 election. Our special thanks as a community goes out to Representative Byrd and his staff for their long hours and dedication in helping to make this most precious of privileges we have as Americans work.

Representative Byrd was selected to serve as Chair of the Procedural Council in Tallahassee. His primary responsibility was to direct the passing of a legislative bill required to ensure that Florida had representative electors in the Electoral College. He was caught right in the middle of the Florida Supreme Court's rulings and those of the United States Supreme Court. Needless to say, his task was challenging.

Representative Byrd and his Legislative Assistants Jessica Corcoran and Edward Howlette fielded a multitude of media requests and coordinated meetings in Tallahassee while maintaining their Plant City office. Representative Byrd said, "With the 24-hour coverage by the media,



State Representative Johnnie Byrd and staff members Jessica Corcoran and Ed Howlette will long remember the historical November 2000 Election.

our typical work day was non-stop. Representative Byrd said that the most memorable moment came when word was received that the U.S. Supreme Court had made the decision to end the long, drawn-out process.

"This particular election was one with special historical significance," said Byrd. "A lot was learned about our election process, our legislative process, our court system, and about the people involved in the process. We have seen first hand the importance of becoming involved in our local government, registering to vote, and voting for the candidate's principles and not for a person."

Representative Byrd will remember one very discouraging fact that resulted because of the confusion with the military vote. "My daughter, a cadet at the United States Naval Academy, voted absentee like hundreds of other military members. They'll never really know if their vote counted," he said. Looking forward, he said, "Now that the process is over, we can get on with the business at hand in our community."

Representative Byrd holds satellite meetings at the Bloomingdale Community Substation to hear the concerns of his constituents. Residents are

invited to contact his office at (813) 707-1998 for information and meeting schedules.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

By Mack Austin

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) is composed of volunteers from area subdivisions who meet monthly at the Bloomingdale Community Substation at 4342 Bell Shoals Road. BACC members discuss current issues that have been brought to the attention of a council member, Deputy Pete Maurer or Officer Sandy Capitano.

The objective of each meeting is to find solutions, and to improve the safety and quality of life in our community. Any resident with concerns should contact the community substation at (813) 635-8040 so their comments can be added to the next agenda.

The November meeting of the BACC was held on November 16, 2000. The following items were discussed:

Deputy Maurer noted that the Sheriff's Office has responded to several calls regarding "party houses" and drug-related problems. He emphasized that any resident who notices parties or drug activity should immediately contact the Sheriff's Dispatch at (813) 247-8200.

Plans are being finalized to set up a permanent Park Deputy in Bloomingdale West park.

A South Oak resident inquired about the increase in burglaries in their community. Deputy Maurer noted that Bloomingdale is a target rich environment, and that all residents must insure their homes and vehicles are properly locked, especially garage doors.

A few residents have noticed homeless people wandering on Bloomingdale Avenue. Deputy Maurer noted that a few more have been seen as the city of Tampa pushes to clean up downtown for the Sun Bowl. Any resident noticing a stranger in their area should call

the Community Station at (813) 635-8040.

The BACC is coordinating with Bloomingdale High to have teens serve on the council.

Additional meetings are being planned to improve the traffic around Alafia elementary school.

Some disturbances in the Oakdale Reserve subdivision have calmed down due to meetings between residents and the parents of teens causing the disturbances.

Speeding continues to be a problem. Deputy Maurer wrote ten citations in one day. Bloomingdale Mobile watch signed up 30 new volunteers but still needs more!



The BACC purchased this radar speed monitor in 2000 to be used by deputies patrolling our community. Use of the monitor has been increased. So, if you insist on speeding watch out!

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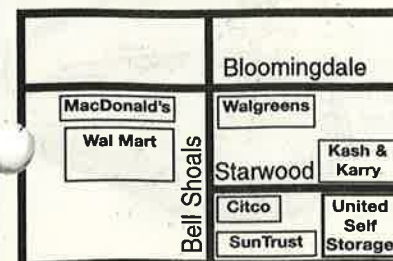


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## STATE LAW WON'T REDUCE ALAFIA'S NEED FOR PORTABLES

By Laura Frazier

New state guidelines for the use and condition of modular classrooms aim to eliminate a majority of the 1,200 portables currently in use in Hillsborough County schools. An estimated 40,000 Hillsborough County public school students attend classes in portables each day.

Under a statute established by the Florida State Legislature in 1998, half of the portables in each school district statewide must be phased out over the next five years. As of July 1, 2001, modular classrooms that remain in use must be upgraded or replaced to meet stringent guidelines.

With costs to bring each portable up to code ranging from \$4,000 to \$14,000 per unit, the school district has opted to remove hundreds of portables from campuses across Hillsborough County over the summer. Without the extra space that portables provide, administrators and teachers will be brainstorming for creative solutions to better utilize the space they have until new schools can be built.

With 17 portables in active use, continuously growing enrollment and plans for a new school still being finalized, Alafia Elementary School in Bloomingdale East won't be eliminating portables for the 2001-2002 school year. Built to handle 868 students, Alafia's current enrollment tops 1300.

Plans for a new elementary school at the southern intersection of Natures Way and Culbreath in Bloomingdale East are in the land appropriate phase. School district officials hope to have the school ready for the 2002 - 2003 school year, and say they are expediting the process to relieve crowding at Alafia as soon as possible.

Alafia Principal Sylvia McMillan said, "We will be removing some of the older units and replacing them with newer models, but we will continue to operate with portables at least until the new school is built."

Boundaries for the new school have not yet been established. An initial review suggests that the best plan may be to assign students from the southernmost portion of Bloomingdale East to the new school. Alafia is expected to receive a good measure of relief, making it possible for the school to perform at or around capacity for the first time in over four years.

"Our teachers and staff, our parents and students, everyone at Alafia does such a tremendous job in spite of our overwhelming enrollment numbers," said McMillan. "Just imagine how incredible this school will be when the numbers are more manageable."

Many schools, including Alafia, will expand their team-teaching

### Portable Classroom Requirements

After July 1, 2001, portable classrooms must meet the same standards applied to permanent facilities under the Uniform Building Code for Public Educational Facilities. The code incorporates minimum requirements for the safety and stability of construction and installation, fire and moisture protection, air quality and ventilation, wind resistance, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Portables must also provide access to the same technologies available to classrooms within the main school facility, and must be accessible by covered walkways. Inspection reports must be filed with the district school board and posted in each portable classroom.

Source: Florida Statute 235.061

and combined class programs to accommodate growing numbers of students. Teachers of special classes like music and art may travel between classrooms in order to free up more regular classroom space.

The proposed Unitary Status Plan, approved by the School Board last year, may also offer crowded schools some relief. The plan calls for the restructuring of the district's current 18 clusters into seven regions, initiating controlled choice within seven choice zones, eliminating satellite attendance areas and expanding all magnet schools.



Alafia Elementary Principal Sylvia McMillan

The plan is scheduled to go before the U.S. District Court in early 2001 and is expected to be approved.

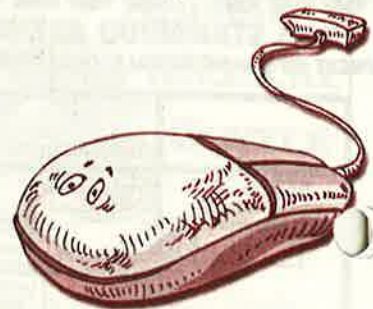
To further help districts accommodate growing attendance numbers, "The state has dramatically increased the availability of new school funding," said Bill Person, Hillsborough County Schools Director of Pupil Assignment. "This plan will help us put new schools in place in a more timely manner, and should put an end to the use of portables as a long-term solution."

"With five new schools opening in Hillsborough County for the 2001-2002 school year, and plans in the works for several others, including the new Bloomingdale school, we are already seeing the positive effects of this legislature."

### BLOOMINGDALE ONLINE!

bha-online.org

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## BLOOMINGDALE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

By Mack Austin

### February PTSA Meeting

The PTSA will hold the first general membership meeting of the new semester on Wednesday, February 7, 2001, at 7 p.m. in the Media Center. All parents are encouraged to attend. Your support is needed to continue the improvements being made at BSHS. Share this time with your teens before they graduate. It truly is a rewarding experience.

### Help needed to transport magazines

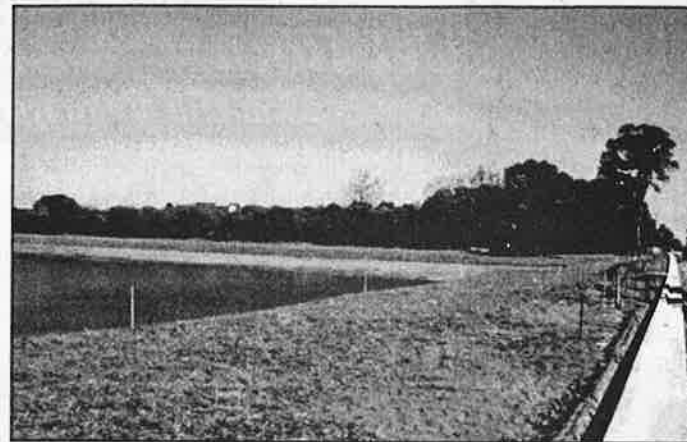
Magazines for our very successful Reading Program continue to be dropped off at the Sheriff's Substation on Bell Shoals Road, where Deputy Maurer and Officer Capitano collect and store them temporarily until volunteers pick them up for delivery to the school.

But the volunteers who used to pick them up have moved, and now Deputy Maurer and Officer Capitano must take time from their primary duties to deliver the magazines to the school. There is a critical need for volunteers to transport the magazines from the substation to the school, usually once a week, depending on donations. This would be a great project for a service club.

Special permission is required any time a student leaves the school grounds, but it could be done after school hours. Any parent, member of the community or service club member who is willing to help is asked to contact Deputy Maurer or Officer Capitano at 635-8040 or drop by the Substation. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

### New neighbor for BSHS

Wonder what's going on the West side of Bloomingdale High local developer received zoning modification approval and plans to build an office complex with 77 homes. It will include 29,500 square feet of business and medical offices on Bloomingdale Avenue, 37 townhomes to the North along the school's driveway and 40 single-family homes at the Northern boundary. This is quite a change from the assisted living facility with acreage donated to Bloomingdale High that was originally scheduled; another example of the changes taking place in this area. Our community must continue to carefully monitor any proposed plans to develop the 31 acres on the East side of the school. After this land is gone, there will be no room for expansion.



Land formerly proposed to be an assisted living facility and a practice field for BSHS will now be an office complex with town homes and apartments.



C. Cole Jeffries, Jr., Daniel W. King,  
Frank J. Nivert, Clifton C. Curry, Jr.

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## REC CENTER ACTIVITIES

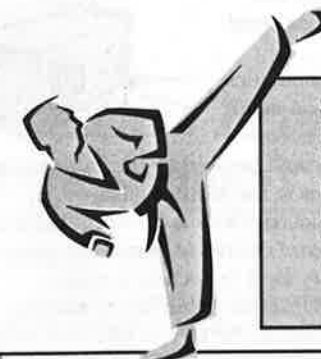
The Stephanie Culbertson Community Center is located at Bloomingdale West Park on Canoga Park Drive in Bloomingdale West. For more information, please call Recreation Director Donna Clouse at (813) 744-5907 weekdays after 2 p.m.



Registration for spring T-Ball and Softball for kids age 3 through 15 is underway. Cost is \$20, times and days will be announced. Register at the Rec Center weekdays from 6 to 9 p.m.



The Rec Center's T-ball season opened last year with over 250 players ages 3 to 9. Registration for the 2001 season is underway.



Class	Age	Day	Time	Cost per month
Kids Ceramics	5 & up	W	4:30 - 5:30	\$25*
Karate	5 & up	T/F	4:45 - 5:45	\$24
Pee Wee Tennis	4 years	F	11:30 - 12:00	\$12
Pee Wee Tennis	5 years	F	12:00 - 12:30	\$12
Youth Tennis	5 - 8	M or W	3:00 - 4:00	\$16
Youth Tennis	9 - 12	M or W	4:00 - 5:00	\$16

\*One-time fee

### Bloomingdale golfers Club open to the public



Bloomingdale Golfers Club Head Golf Pro Alan Hiers says, "We receive calls daily from Bloomingdale residents asking if they have to be a member to play at BGC. We'd

like the residents to know that Bloomingdale Golfers Club is now open to the public seven days a week, with tee times booked five days in advance."

The club, purchased by Evergreen Alliance Golf Limited (EAGL) in May of 1999, has gradually shifted from a semi-private to fully public course over the past year. EAGL has made a number of major improvements to the facility, including improved grounds, new cart paths on every hole, and renovations of the parking and staging areas and Legends Bar and Grill.

The club welcomes group tournaments including fundraisers, corporate outings, and employee appreciation and team building events. Rental clubs are available, and residents are invited to use the driving range featuring a 1-acre putting green and short game practice area from 7 a.m. until dark. Range balls are available for rent.

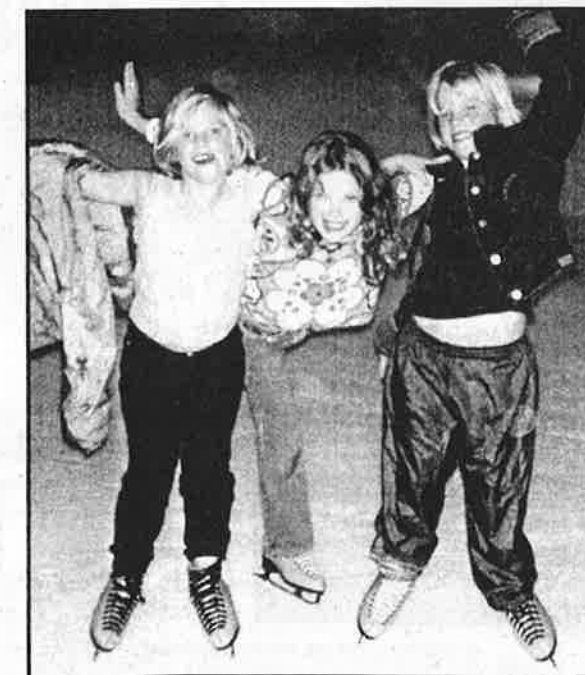


Alan Hiers,  
Head Golf Professional at  
Bloomingdale Golfers Club

Rates of play through April 15 vary according to days and times, and range from \$22.50 + tax from 2 p.m. until closing Monday through Thursday, to \$45.00 + tax from opening until 11 a.m. on weekends and holidays. Rates include 18 holes of golf with a cart. For complete rates, information and tee times, call (813) 655-4653. Tee times may also be reserved online at bgcgolf.com.

### Fun at the Ice Sports Forum

Bloomingdale area kids love to bundle up and head to the Ice Sports Forum in Brandon for open skating, lessons, team ice hockey, cheering and dance classes, video games and more. Birthday party packages are available. For more information, call (813) 684-7825.



Julia and Lakkin Harris and Tiffany Leggett strike a slippery pose.



## SPRINGVALE REZONING REQUEST UPDATE

By David Yake

I spoke with Dave Johnson in the Hillsborough County Real Estate Department on January 13, 2001. Mr. Johnson has received a preliminary request for the County to vacate the drainage easement at the Springvale conservation area. This means that the property owner is asking the County to relinquish ownership of the easement. The owner intends to apply for single-family housing zoning once the drainage easement is vacated by the County.

If the property owner's request for the County to vacate the easement is approved, it would then go to a Zoning Hearing Master for a final rezoning decision. Once the request to vacate the easement is approved, the Zoning Hearing Master can approve the rezoning request. The vacate easement process usually takes 90 - 120 days from the County's receipt of the request, so the February 27, 2001 hearing may need to be continued.

It appears that the only recourse to try to prevent the rezoning approval is for homeowners to express their private interests. We strongly urge all residents opposing the proposed rezoning to express their opposition in writing to County Commissioner Ronda Storms and/or County Project Manager Brian Grady, County Center, 601 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33601.

Comments may be faxed to Commissioner Storms at (813) 272-6068, e-mailed to Commissioner Storms' office at canneya@hillsboroughcounty.org or e-mailed to Brian Grady at gradyb@hillsboroughcounty.org. Please reference PRS 00-1248 in all correspondence. For further information, contact David Yake at

685-7998 or by e-mail at jyval@aol.com.

Please note that the County is not required to post public notice or notify homeowners of a request to vacate easements.

## LIVE FROM BLOOMINGDALE...WBHA?

By Rodney Biddle, BHA-Online Webmaster

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) is currently exploring the opportunity to sponsor a community radio station. License applications for low power 100-watt FM stations in Florida come up in January.

Low power stations allow communities to broadcast their own neighborhood radio stations. The BHA is approaching this concept as an interesting project that could be used by the community, schools, and non-profit organizations in the Bloomingdale area.

The BHA Board is taking a preliminary look at the costs and benefits of such an undertaking. If the Board decides to pursue the project, community participation is necessary for it to become a reality.

Any residents who would be interested in leading or assisting with the WBHA project are invited to call the BHA at 681-2051, contact Rodney Biddle at rbiddle@cyberrails.com, or visit the BHA website at <http://BHA-Online.org> for more information.



## MACDILL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER RELOCATES

The MacDill Family Resource Center has relocated to 710 Oakfield Drive, Suite 119 in Brandon. The Center works in partnership with the greater Brandon community to provide support for families of active duty and retired military members of all branches of the service who reside in the Brandon area.

Center staff and volunteers hold free monthly events, seminars and classes for military members and their dependents. Recent offerings have included a six-week couples communication course, financial planning seminars, anger management classes and a kid's playgroup.

For more information or a schedule of classes, services and events, please call Resource Center Manager James Warren at (813) 655-9281.

## MACDILL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION OPENS

By Mack Austin

To better serve the thousands of active duty and retired military residents living in the Bloomingdale area, MacDill Federal Credit Union recently opened a new branch on Bloomingdale Avenue, just east of Bryan Road. It is the largest of the credit union's fifteen branch

offices.


According to representative Joan Burt, the branch has six drive-through lanes, six tellers, two ATMs and will employ forty employees. Credit union members can use this branch to obtain free or low-cost checking accounts, personal and auto loans, mortgages, consumer loans, direct deposit on their paychecks and special auto-buying services. Online services are also offered.

A new Operations center is also being constructed on the site, with completion scheduled for this summer. Records and data processing equipment will be moved to this site from the main branch at MacDill Air Force Base.

With this welcome new business comes increased traffic in the area. Drivers should use extra caution as plans are being reviewed to improve traffic flow in the area.



Military members in our area are glad to see the MacDill Federal Credit Union offices open. The Operations Center is scheduled to open this summer.




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Sat 9-5

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(Multiply Monthly Pmt. Per 1,000)

\* APR Subject To Market Conditions & Approval



## We're looking for a few good yards!

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association invites all Bloomingdale homeowners to nominate their friends and neighbors (or themselves!) for the Bloomingdale Yard of the Month award. If you have a beautiful or unique yard, or know someone who does, please complete the entry form and mail to: Yard of the Month, BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, e-mail to frazier1@tampabay.rr.com or fax to 813-651-1129. Winners will be presented with a \$25 Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift certificate.

### Bloomingdale Yard of the Month nomination

Homeowner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape features that stand out \_\_\_\_\_

## XERISCAPING 101

A free class on Xeriscaping will be held at Brandon Regional Library on Tuesday, February 6 at 7 p.m. The class is offered by the Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service, a service of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and the University of Florida.

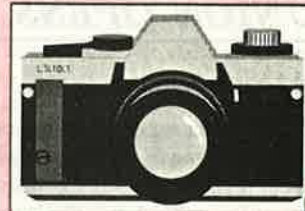
Xeriscaping, a new word coined from the Greek "xeros," meaning dry, and the word "landscape," was originally conceived in the southwestern United States, inspired by the gardening traditions of Spain, north Africa, and the middle East.

Xeriscaping involves plant selection and placement based on compatibility with the climate and environment of the area. Plants are grouped together in beds or islands, based on their needs for soil quality, sunlight and water. Xeriscaped yards thrive with fewer, more concentrated parts of the yard requiring regular irrigation.

For more information about xeriscaping or other classes offered, call the Extension Service at (813) 744-5519, extension 145, or visit their web site at [www.ifas.ufl.edu/Hillsboro/](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/Hillsboro/).

### Found camera lens

Camera lens found near Bloomingdale West Park. Call Fred at (813) 681-6211.



## RESTAURANT REVIEW

By Elton Dumont  
Exclusive to *The Bloomingdale Gazette*

**Italian Kitchen**  
6915 US 301 South, Riverview  
Kash N Karry Shopping Center  
(813) 671-0953

Whether you've been in Florida one month or 15 years, some of us still miss the atypical dine-and-dash Italian deli we once frequented for afternoon or evening meals. Well, fear not... I've found one! This little Café-Deli-Bakery is nestled on 301 South in Riverview, just north of the river.

You know it's authentic by the tell-tale signs; the huge cheese, dried peppers and garlic hanging from the ceiling, the wet mozzarellas and trays of olives and artichoke hearts in the display case, and the Italian cold cuts offered including capicola, prosciutto, sopressata, Genoa salami and pepperoni.

Choose from sandwiches that include meatballs (\$3.95), Giovanni's Special (\$5.95) with ham, prosciutto, capicola salami, provolone and mozzarella cheese. I had an unbelievably authentic sausage and roasted peppers (\$5.95), which I swear tastes like everybody's Italian mother or grandmother used to make.

Entrees offered for \$6.95 include Braciolo, Rolled Stuffed Flank Steak, Roasted Loin of Pork with Rosemary, Chicken or Eggplant Parmigiana, Lasagna and Baked Ziti. Specials change daily, and on our visit they offered Veal Marsala. My wife selected the Chicken Parm and gave it a definite thumbs up.

Desserts include (hold on now!) Cassata, Chocolate Cheese Cake, Cream Puffs, Chocolate Mousse, Regular and Chocolate Éclairs, Cannolis, miniature Cannolis, Tiramisu, Crème Brulee, Anisette Toast, Almond Biscotti, Sfgliatellas, Butter Cookies and Tarts. Since everything can be packed to go, we took home a slice of Cassata, an Éclair, a Cannoli and a Cream Puff.

Remember, everything is made fresh, so you run the risk of them selling out if you don't call ahead or get there early enough. The Italian Kitchen is open 7 days a week, Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. To paraphrase an old Italian adage, a meal without Italian food is like a day without sunshine. *Bon Appetit!*

Until we eat again,

*Elton Dumont*

**PARTY LAND**  
*"Where fun parties begin"*

Happy Valentines Day

Great Selection of  
Mardi Gras,  
St. Patrick's  
& Valentines  
Day Supplies!

Balloons for  
Any Occasion!

**20% OFF**  
Your Entire  
Purchase

Excluding rentals, candy, custom invitations and balloons. One coupon per customer per visit. May not be combined with any other offers. BG Exp. 3/6/01

**653-3333**  
**BLOOMINGDALE PLAZA**  
(next to Winn-Dixie)  
**169 E. Bloomingdale Ave.**  
**Brandon**

**TERMITES**  
to ants & every pest in between...

- Uniform Technicians
- 28 years Experience in Florida
- Customized Programs to Fit Your Needs & Schedule
- Outside Perimeter Treatment at **No Additional Cost!**

YOUR PEACE OF MIND PEST CONTROL COMPANY

**ONCE-A-YEAR INSIDE PEST CONTROL PROGRAM**

**\$35.00 OFF**

Valid with coupon only. Not Valid with other offers. Expires 2/28/01

**PESCO, Inc.**  
Pest & Termite Services  
*We Control 'em ALL!*  
Lic.#2158

**\$100.00 OFF**  
SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE TREATMENT

Valid with coupon only. Not Valid with other offers. Expires 2/28/01

**LICENSED INSURED GUARANTEED!!!**

**ANY TREATMENT \$25.00 OFF**  
with Any Start-Up Pest Control Service  
Valid with coupon only. Not Valid with other offers. Expires 2/28/01

685-5349

AJO BARNES

BICYCLE EMPORIUM  
*"Old Fashioned Service"*

**Top Brand Bikes**

- Gary Fisher • GT
- Giant • Bianchi
- Powerlite • Dyno

Sales • Service • Repairs • Accessories

Scooters In Stock!

685-2453 (BIKE)

Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm  
Sat. 10am-5pm

881 E. Bloomingdale Ave.  
Brandon

EXPERT BIKE TUNE-UPS

20% OFF

Valid with Gazette coupon only. Not valid with any other special or coupon.  
Expires 2/28/01

"Your bike is welcome here, no matter where you bought it."

Our Kids Are At The Top of Their Class!

- Top rated academic program
- Versatile enrichment programs: drama, music, outdoor study, sports
- Spanish K-8, international travel for middle schoolers
- New 5,000 sq. ft. Media Center: Library, 2 computer centers, art classroom

Administrator Terry Curry and Media Specialist Debora Crawford

Before & After School Care  
Fully Accredited by the Florida Council of Independent Schools and the Florida Kindergarten Council

Private School  
K-8  
Low Student-Teacher ratio  
Over 30 Years of Academic Excellence

Brandon Academy

801 Limona Road • Brandon, FL 33510  
**689-1952**

The Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.

Limited Openings for 2000-01 School Year



## COMPLYING WITH THE NEW ANIMAL ORDINANCE

By Katy Grable



Katy Grable is a Bloomingdale West resident and Veterinary Technician at Care Animal Hospital.

The new 23 page animal ordinance that went into effect January 1 can be found at

[www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animsvcs/ordinance/ordinance.html](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animsvcs/ordinance/ordinance.html). It proceeds with great detail to explain the rules that animal owners must now abide by. But to most of us with a beloved pet or two, the details can be confusing. The important point to remember is that the county initiated it to help our pets stay safe, and to keep our children safe from animals owned by irresponsible owners.

There are a few easy steps to take to comply. One of the most emphasized issues regards the spaying or neutering of pets. The health benefits of these routine procedures prolong your pet's life and reduce the number of abandoned and euthanized pets every year. Animal services and some area clinics offer reduced priced surgeries.

While rabies licenses are required for cats, dogs, and ferrets, microchips are an excellent way to bring your lost pet home safely. Their cost is usually under \$30 and can be implanted without anesthesia in a matter of seconds. Most microchips are affiliated with a national database. The AKC companion retrieval service, which can be

contacted through [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org), will register any microchip number, tattoo or cuff.

The regulations regarding cats on someone else's private property offer several means to compliance. While written permission can be gained from neighbors to have you pet on their property, the safest way to protect your cats is to confine them to your house and outing on leashes. Cat-specific harnesses and ultra light leashes can be purchased at most pet stores. Screened porches also offer a safe experience of the outdoors. Even adult cats can adapt to these changes if you persist with patience and their well being at heart.

## COUNTY FUNDS AVAILABLE

Hillsborough County is now accepting applications from private non-profit organizations interested in receiving funding for social and public services.

Applications are available from the Management and Budget Department, 26th floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Boulevard in downtown Tampa, or on-line at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/mbd/pub.html](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/mbd/pub.html).

The deadline for applications is February 5, 2001. Applications will be opened on February 6. For more information, please call (813) 272-5890.



Hillsborough County Florida

## BLOOMINGDALE BUSINESS

Briggs and Associates, Inc.  
Allstate Insurance Company



611 East Bloomingdale Avenue, Brandon  
(813) 681-5303

Steve Briggs, a Brandon resident since 1984, has operated his Allstate insurance agency on Bloomingdale Avenue, just west of Bloomingdale Square, for the past 15 years. The full service insurance agency offers auto, homeowners, life and commercial coverage.

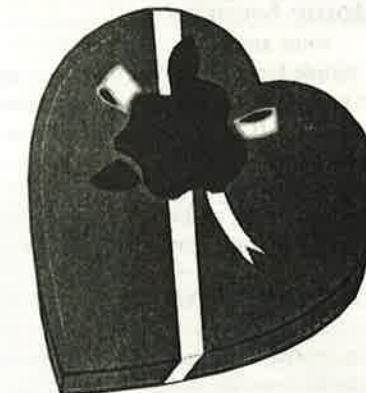
Briggs and Associates was recently named as Allstate's 2000 Agency of the Year, an honor that Steve credits to the customers, clients and friends he has met and done business with over the past 25 years.

Briggs and Associates staff includes Life Specialist Herb Wagner, Licensed Insurance Advisor Mark Huff, Customer Service Assistant Keri Donaldson and Customer Service Specialist and Office Manager Carolyn Maris.

"We are dedicated to providing distinguished customer service and complete customer satisfaction," said Briggs.

## SUGAR-FREE CHOCOLATES FOR YOUR SWEETHEART

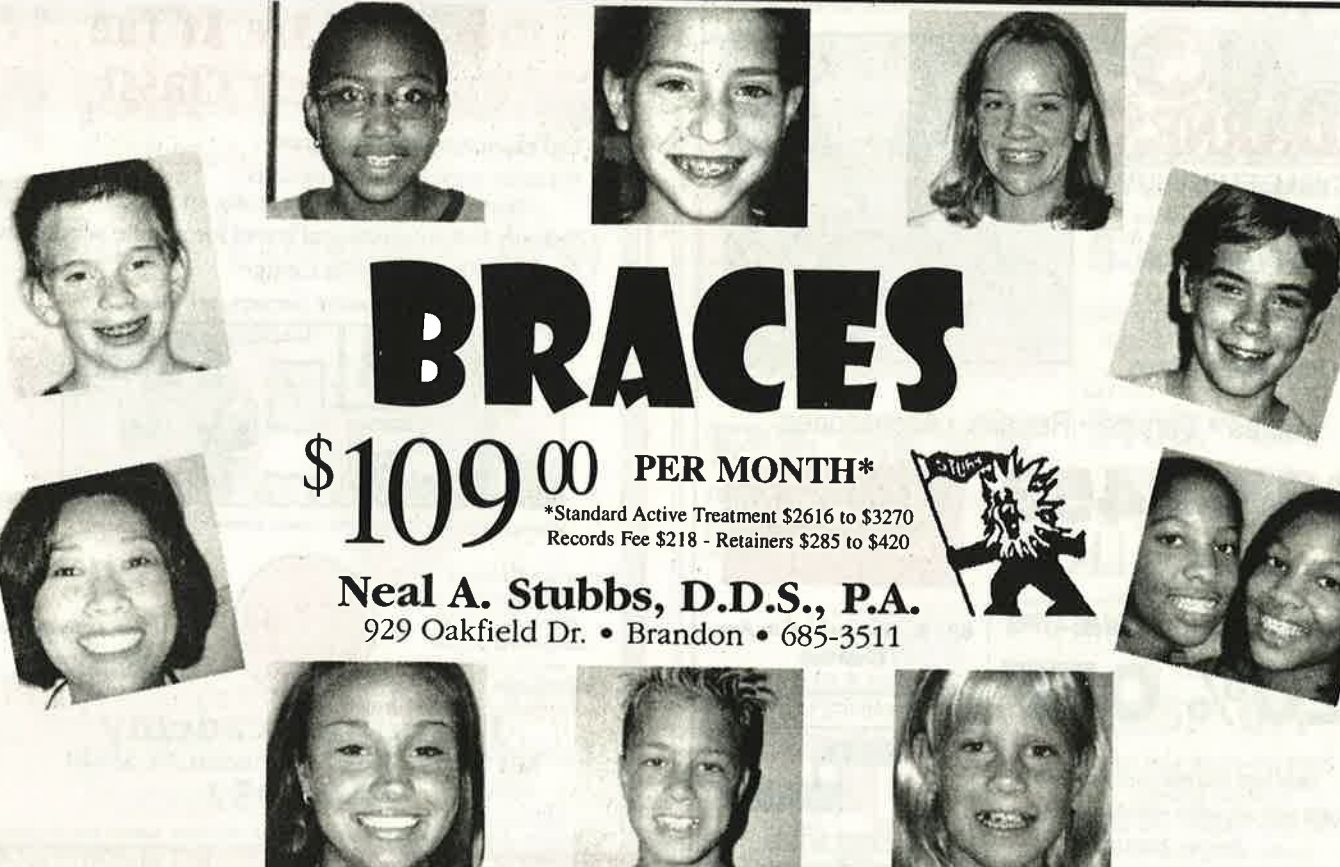
The Chestnut Tree Café and Chocolate Shop in Brandon offers an exquisite selection of gourmet sugar-free chocolates and truffles for Valentine's Day. Both sugar free and traditional confections are offered by the pound or accompanied by teas, novelty candies, cookies, gourmet products and holiday treats in custom made gift baskets.



The Chestnut Tree celebrates its 4th anniversary on Saturday, February 10 with a complimentary product tasting featuring St. Armand's baked goods and new gourmet products including a white zinfandel jelly and orange barbeque sauce, and owner Melody Kossow's specialty ("It's to die for!") chicken salad.

The Chestnut Tree is located in LaViva Plaza, at the corner of Lumsden Road and Kings Avenue. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, please call Melody at (813) 689-3798.

The Chestnut Tree




# BRACES

**\$109.00 PER MONTH\***

\*Standard Active Treatment \$2616 to \$3270  
Records Fee \$218 - Retainers \$285 to \$420

**Neal A. Stubbs, D.D.S., P.A.**

929 Oakfield Dr. • Brandon • 685-3511





## MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

**"EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE"**

Apollo Beach 220 Apollo Beach Blvd. 645-1499	Bloomingdale Royal Oaks Shopping Ctr. Lithia Pinecrest Rd. 654-8113	Bloomingdale 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Just S. of Bloomingdale 654-9292	Brandon Oak Park Plaza 717 W. Lumsden 654-9541	Brandon 913 W. Brandon Blvd. Builders Square Plaza 684-4499
Riverview Goolsby Point 11697 Boyette Rd 672-1832.	Brandon Lake Brandon Village 11393 Causeway Blvd. 643-6944	Seffner North Grove Plaza 1515 S. Parsons 684-5897	Valrico Valrico Square 1985 E. Brandon Blvd. 654-2324	North Brandon Kingsway Plaza 1213 Kingsway Ave. 653-4535

\$1.10

EACH

**SHIRTS LAUNDERED**  
With \$5.00 Minimum Dry Cleaning Order,  
No exceptions, Limit 10.  
Blouses, Polo & Boxed Shirts extra

COUPON EXPIRES 03/15/01

\$5.00

OFF

**ANY DRYCLEANING ORDER OVER \$25.00**  
Valid on Incoming Orders Only -  
No exceptions. Valid only with coupon.  
Not valid with other coupons.

COUPON EXPIRES 03/15/01

20%

OFF

**WEDDING GOWN, DRAPERY CLEANING, BEDSPREADS, COMFORTERS, BLANKETS, ALTERATIONS**  
Valid on Incoming Orders Only -  
No exceptions. Valid only with coupon.  
Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 03/15/01

\$3.00

OFF

**ANY DRYCLEANING ORDER OVER \$15.00**  
Valid on Incoming Orders Only -  
No exceptions. Valid only with coupon.  
Not valid with other coupons.

COUPON EXPIRES 03/15/01



**SUBSTATION NOTES**

By Deputy Pete Maurer

**Home Security**

Some areas have seen an increase in criminal activity. Don't make it simple for a criminal to ruin your day by leaving your car unlocked or packages piled in the back seat. Take the time to carefully secure your home (CLOSE and LOCK your garage door) before you head out for even a short errand. Report in detail any unusual activity or strangers patrolling the area, especially in vans, as soon as possible. If you are leaving on vacation, a "Request For Security Check" can be completed at the Community Station. Drop by for details.

**Truancy Patrols Increased**

The number of Hillsborough County Truancy Deputies covering our area has been increased, and they need your assistance. Be sure your students are in school when they should be. If you notice any school age kids hanging around shopping areas or fast food restaurants, call the Sheriff's Dispatch at 247-8200. Truancy Officers will be notified to get the students back to school and contact their parents. These kids get bored and usually get into trouble, sometimes very serious trouble.

**Homeless In Our Area**

In the months leading up to the city of Tampa's preparations for last month's Superbowl, we began to see an increase in the number of homeless people wandering around the Brandon area. Residents are advised to treat the situation as you would with any stranger. Contact the Sheriff's Dispatch at 247-8200 with a detailed description. It is best not to approach any stranger. Talk to your kids about this situation, especially if they explore some of our wooded areas where these visitors might have camps. As always, use caution when answering your

door, and keep your autos locked and your garage doors closed. These are not panic measures, just standard security precautions.

**BB Gun Safety**

Anyone who purchased a BB or pellet gun for their kids for Christmas should become familiar with the rules and regulations covering firearm safety. Take the time to discuss proper handling and firing procedures with them. Bring them to the Community Station and I'll cover the rules with you and them. Remember that you are totally responsible for the use of the weapon. It is a misdemeanor to violate State statutes covering firearm use. Anyone under 16 years of age must be supervised when using the weapon. This means being right with them, not inside your house. Hunting in our wooded areas or yards is not allowed. Deputies have had very serious confrontations with kids using the new realistic BB and pellet guns.

**Scooter Safety**

Many kids in our community have been seen using both the motorized and kid-powered varieties of scooters. Unfortunately, not all of them are using safety gear. A new County ordinance to regulate the use of motorized scooters is currently being processed through legal channels. It would require the wearing of helmets. Riders have been reported speeding on our streets. The motorized scooters have already proven to be deadly in our area. A truck hit two teens riding on one two days before Christmas; one was killed instantly and the other is in fair condition. Scooters simply cannot compete with autos; the riders are open targets.



Deputy Pete Maurer can be reached at (813) 635-8040.

**PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

December 2000

Submitted by Al Devney, DPMI President  
Devney Property Management, Inc.  
Phone: (813) 684-6617

**Irrigation:**

Brandon Irrigation repaired two broken zone lines and located all 14 valves in the Garnet system. DPMI replaced 17 spray heads and four rotors. Two zone lines and five risers were repaired and four spray heads were added. Six lights were replaced. DPMI rewired the timer at Hickory Ridge and programmed all the timers that watered the poinsettias.

**Landscaping:**

Planscape relocated the three white crepe myrtles on Canoga Park, installed 60 Indian Hawthorne bushes on Erindale and nine Burford Holly bushes at the Timbergrove entrance, and modified the landscaping at the Golf Manor entrance. Greenturf mulched the beds. DPMI inventoried 230 Crepe Myrtle trees to determine the location and quantity for a proposed pruning contract. DPMI transplanted 14 Nandina bushes that were removed from the Golf Manor entrance to various locations.

**Damage control:**

DPMI painted sections of the wall on Eastridge, Springvale and

Erindale. There were 42 poinsettias stolen and 15 destroyed by vehicles this season. There was another car versus wall on Glenhaven, the fifth such accident in the last six weeks. As always, the car lost and speed was the problem. In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, DPMI picked up 32 bags of trash, two traffic cones, three shoes, three hubcaps, a map, a conch shell, a tailpipe, a broom, a mop, a wallet and \$.61 cents.

The beverages of choice were Coke for soft drinks, Michelob Light for beer and Ever Clear Grain Alcohol for distilled spirits.


**Thank you:**  
Many thanks to Olga and to all the residents who help Mr. Devney pick up the trash. You really do make a difference.



DPMI President Al Devney

**The Chestnut Tree**

We offer an exquisite selection of gourmet sugar-free chocolates and truffles for Valentines Day. Both sugar-free and traditional confections are offered by the pound. **Join us on Sat. February 10th as we celebrate our 4th Anniversary with complimentary product tasting!**



The Chestnut Tree • Cafe & Chocolate Shop  
796 W. Lumsden Rd. • Brandon  
(813) 689-3798  
Mon-Sat 9 am - 3 pm

Sugarfree Chocolates • Gift Baskets • Gourmet Chocolates

*Live Well,  
Laugh Often,  
Love Much at Park Club of Brandon*



Judy Martin and Kathy Claar of Park Club of Brandon

**Kathy:** I can't believe January is almost over already and that is has been so cold!

**Judy:** Our Valentine's Ball on Feb. 14 is sure to warm the hearts of our residents.

**Kathy:** Stop by The Park Club for some heart warming fun!

PARK CLUB OF  
**BRANDON**  
ASSISTED LIVING  
700 S. Kings Ave.  
Brandon, FL 33511-5959

**813-662-0255**

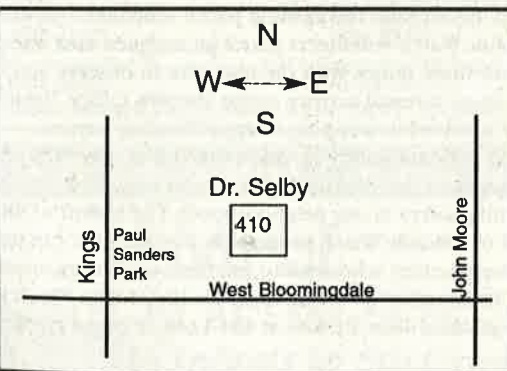
Lic#0007656 

**How 'Bout That!**



**Our New Location!**

Normally, I try to write an article about dentistry that will answer some of the questions I am frequently asked by my patients. Today however, I would like to invite you all to visit our new office located approximately 50 yards east of Kings on the North side of Bloomingdale immediately next to Paul Sanders Park.

Hopefully, this location will provide more convenience for you. Our new facility will also allow for us to serve your needs in a perfectly clean and spacious setting. We know you will enjoy the same careful attention, designed to give you what you want as well as what you need. For long time Brandon residents you will recognize the building as the one that had a large boat out front. For newer residents a map has been included below.



For your Dental Questions or Problems, Please Call:  
**GARY SELBY, DDS, P.A.**  
410 W. Bloomingdale Avenue  
**654-0037**



## Welcome to Bloomingdale!

### Quentin Michael Wells

Born December 6, 2000 to Nicole and Reginald Wells

### Camryn Trinette Starling

Born December 7, 2000 to Carla and Jeffrey Starling

### Julia Alexis Mann

Born December 9, 2000 to Holly and Darrin Mann

### Haylee Jean Nixon

Born December 14, 2000 to Donna Partin and James Nixon, Jr.

### Abraham Felix Crespo

Born December 20, 2000 to Nicolle and Abraham Crespo

### Emily Noelle Gomez

Born December 21, 2000 to Maria and Michael Gomez

### Jordan Lee Odermatt

Born December 23, 2000 to Leeann and Gordon Odermatt, Jr.

### Christian Michael Brown

Born December 30, 2000 to Megan and Charles Brown

### Kalista Haron Richards

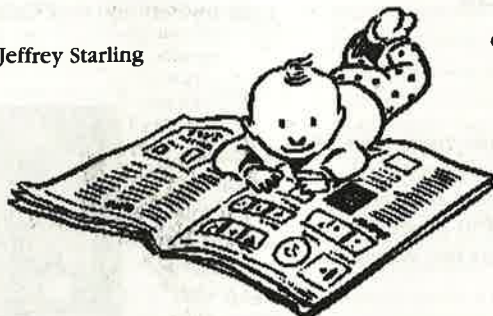
Born January 1, 2001 to Dana and Ricky Richards

### Kayla Nicole Lawonn

Born January 3, 2001 to Cynthia and Geoffrey Lawonn

### Dylan Kristopher Gillespie

Born January 4, 2001 to Kris and Bob Gillespie



### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch seeks volunteers

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch is an organization of residents who work with our Community Substation and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department as a deterrent to crime in our neighborhoods. Volunteers are currently needed in several areas of our community to maintain and expand the existing patrol schedule.

Mobile Watch volunteers patrol an assigned area one night a month for three hours, with the objective to observe and report any suspicious or unusual activity to the Sheriff's Office. Volunteers do not become involved in stopping or apprehending anyone.

A recent community survey showed that over 80% of the respondents indicated that Mobile Watch was an important factor in maintaining safety in our neighborhoods. The Sheriff's Office has recognized our Mobile Watch program as a model that can be used by other communities who wish to establish similar organizations. For further information, or to volunteer for the Mobile Watch team, please call Coordinator Tony Diolosa at 681-1146 or e-mail amdio@gte.net.

### "Home Safe Home"

**Hillsborough County Household Chemical Collections  
South County Collection Site**  
626 Golf & Sea Boulevard  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, February 3, 2001

Materials accepted include paints and solvents, automotive products, household cleaners, pool chemicals, lawn and garden supplies.

Materials not accepted include explosives, flares or bio-medical material. Absolutely no commercial waste will be accepted.

For additional information call the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department at 272-5680.

### BHA Board Meeting minutes Abridged notes December 12, 2000 meeting

The December 12, 2000 meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Board of Directors was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by BHA President Ted Grable. Directors present were Ted Grable, Pam Liguori, Tony Diolosa, Pat Radel, Len Jaszczak, Joe Hickle and Ann Underwood.

President Grable submitted balances from the BHA checking account, money market account and CDs. Director Len Jaszczak agreed to head the Government Service Committee. Director Mary Cummings resignation was regrettably accepted by the BHA.

President Grable distributed a letter outlining the BHA position opposing the (Springvale) rezoning request for PRS 00-1248. The letter was approved and will be sent to the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners and Department of Growth and Management. The BHA and its representatives plan to be at the February 27th meeting (note: see story on page 10 of this issue).

AllTel has donated four cell phones and free local airtime to be used by Mobile Watch.

President Grable discussed the needs of Bloomingdale High School PTSA in the areas of academics, arts, sports and community service. A motion was made by Tony Diolosa to donate \$1,000 to the PTSA. It was seconded by Joe Hickle and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

## Education Profile

# TUTOR TIME

Where children learn to feel good about themselves.

**Location:** 374 Canoga Park Dr. Bloomingdale West  
**Phone:** 651-0779

**Ages:** 6 weeks to 5th grade

**Philosophy:** We believe in an inclusionary program. All 2 to 5 year olds from every class take part in special weekly activities: computers, tumbling, music, dance and Spanish. Cost for these programs are included in tuition - there are no extra charges.

**Curriculum:** Developmentally appropriate curriculum is focused on each child's individuality. For example, when we introduce a new letter to 4-year-olds, some youngsters will recognize the letter. Others will know the sound associated with it and for some it may be their first exposure to the letter. Our curriculum is cus-

tomized to children at all stages of learning. We are able to do this because we have lower than average student to teacher ratios.

**Enrollment:** Currently licensed for 160 youngsters, with expansion planned for 200 children.

**Facility:** Beautiful, 10,400 sq. ft facility that opened October, 2000. Conveniently located in Bloomingdale West, next to the Bloomingdale Recreation Center. Hours of operation are 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.

**Owners:** Locally owned and managed by Riverview residents Susan and Joe Miller.

**Accreditation:** In October 2001, we anticipate accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Florida Association of Child Care Management (FACCM).

## Llamas and Learning

"Montessori on the Farm"

Pre-School • Kindergarten • Grades 1-4  
23 Acre Farm

13227 Boyette Rd. • Riverview, FL 33569  
(813) 651-0653

3221 S. Bryan Rd.  
Brandon



Opal Gierschke  
Director

Infants through After-School Age

685-0833

- Before/After School Transportation
- Developmental - Appropriate Curriculum
- 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

Accredited through:

Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment (APPLE)

## CENTRAL

### BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



1st-8th Grade

689-6133

402 E. Windhorst  
Brandon, FL  
(between Kingsway  
& Parsons Ave.)

20 years of  
providing...

"A Bible  
Emphasis with  
Academic  
Excellence"

- After-School Sports Program K5-8th
- Before & After-School Care
- A BEKA & other Quality Curriculum

- Advanced Middle School Programs
- Foreign Languages
- Karate
- Music, Art & Drama

- Physical Education Program
- Accredited School
- Low Student/Teacher Ratio
- Qualified Faculty
- 15 Acre Campus

For additional information call Mary McCullagh, Principal

# TUTOR TIME

Where children learn to feel good about themselves.

NOW OPEN

3733 Canoga Park Dr., Brandon,  
813-651-0779



### The Right Place For Kids

Toddlers, Twos, Pre-School and After School

**Bloomingdale West**

685-4332

808 Bloomingdale W.  
LN: CHC-052

**Bloomingdale East**

684-3528

1011 Greenhollow Lane  
LN: CHC-110222

Serving Bloomingdale families for over 15 years.

NOW ENROLLING

## TEMPLE

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SCHOOL  
Enrollment in Infants to 8th Grade



6:30am-6:00pm  
After School Pick-up  
A Beka Curriculum  
Computers  
Music

Small Class Size  
Individual Attention  
689-7190



Give Your Child A Better Head Start.



## DEED RESTRICTION FAQs

By Ted Grable, BHA President



Ted Grable, BHA President

### What is a deed restriction?

A deed restriction is a legally binding covenant upon land that prohibits, regulates, or otherwise limits the uses of or activities upon the property. There are over 40 individual sections of Bloomingdale East and West (i.e. Fox Run, Bloomingdale Estates, The Greens, etc.), each with their own set of varying deed restrictions. Restrictions that pertain to one section may not be applicable to another, and include for instance the construction of additional

structures, parking commercial vehicles overnight, selection of particular color for the exterior of the home, types of fencing, visibility of solar panels, etc.

### How do I know what the restrictions are on my property?

Deed restrictions are a matter of public record and are maintained in the County Courthouse. A copy of the deed restrictions should be included with each homeowner's closing documents. Restrictions for many Bloomingdale East and West neighborhoods can be viewed on our community web site. Visit the "Our Neighborhoods" section of bha-online.org to determine the legal name of your section

and to download deed restriction documents.

### How do I report a deed restriction violation?

Complaints to the BHA about alleged deed restriction violations should be made in writing. Residents must identify the neighborhood section in which they reside, and must cite and provide a copy of the specific deed restriction with the complaint. Many of these provisions may be downloaded from our community web site, and all may be obtained at the County Courthouse.

### What action does the BHA take with complaints?

Residents registering a complaint may choose one of three alternatives for assistance from BHA volunteers - written interpretation by the BHA of the deed restriction at issue; a letter from the BHA giving notice of complaint to the breaching resident, or mediation of the dispute by the BHA Deed Restriction Subcommittee.

### How are deed restrictions enforced?

Because the BHA is a voluntary association, it has no legal standing in enforcing deed restrictions. A homeowner or group of homeowners living in the same section as the deed restriction violator may choose to seek legal action. The BHA has adopted a new program to select on a monthly basis the most overt deed restriction violation and will provide some funding to help defray the cost of litigation. Fortunately, most deed restriction violations are resolved with the assistance of BHA volunteers before legal action becomes necessary. Some deed restriction violations are also violations of County laws or ordinances that can be enforced by various Hillsborough County agencies.

For further information about deed restrictions, please visit our web site at bha-online.org, e-mail bha@cyberrails.com or call the BHA at 681-2051.

## FREE CLASSIFIED ADS IN THE GAZETTE AND BHA-ONLINE



Classified ads for personal items priced under \$300 are free to Bloomingdale residents. To place a classified ad in the Bloomingdale Gazette, call Arlene Jacobs at 662-1306. To place an ad on our community web site, BHA-Online, call Rodney Biddle at 681-2051.

## WHERE TO GET THE GAZETTE

If you are a Bloomingdale resident and do not receive the Gazette by mail, please call the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at (813) 681-2051. Copies are available at the Bloomingdale Square Publix, the Village Center Radiant Food Mart and the Citgo station on Bell Shoals Road. Look for the Gazette in newsstand boxes at the Royal Oaks Plaza Winn Dixie and the Winn Dixie Marketplace on Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road.



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