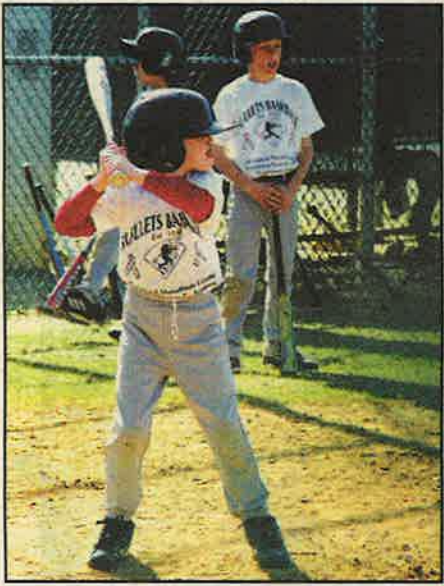


THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXVII
Number 2

FEBRUARY 2006 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

FEATURE STORY



The Bloomingdale Bullets Baseball Club recently raised \$12,000 for breast cancer research.

PAGE 15

BUSINESS

A new "make it and take it" meal prep business is really cooking in Brandon.

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LINDA CHION KENNEY/Photo

Mark West is the new principal at Bloomingdale High School, where he served on the school's charter staff in 1987.

West Returns to Bloomingdale

NEW PRINCIPAL WAS CHARTER STAFF TEACHER

By LINDA CHION KENNEY
Correspondent

Mark West was eager to point out a picture hanging in the hallway of the main office at Bloomingdale High School.

The snapshot, taken about 19 years ago, features the charter staff of

Bloomingdale, which opened in 1987 to signal the community's coming of age and to relieve the burgeoning enrollment at Brandon High School.

The charter principal was Charlie Harris, and to his right in the picture sat West, who back then was a teacher in the school's science department.

Now, West is back at Bloomingdale, taking over for the school's second principal, B.J. Stelter, who retired in

December for health reasons. She had been Bloomingdale's principal for 14 years.

West said he met with Stelter twice over the winter break and is committed to keeping alive her passion for seeing Bloomingdale succeed. He said he already has invited his predecessor to attend this year's graduation ceremonies, "especially for the seniors."

See PRINCIPAL, Page 18

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS ♦ PAGE 3

Neighborhood PRIDE Cleanup Day Is April 8

Students Can Earn Volunteer Credits

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Neighborhood Cleanup Day Set For April 8

STUDENTS, SCOUTS CAN EARN SERVICE CREDITS

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. will hold its next Neighborhood PRIDE Community Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There is no charge for this service. The event is made possible by the BHA — a nonprofit, all volunteer organization — and a Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations minigrant.

Volunteers and county workers will accept household discards on Natures Way, at the parks maintenance facility just

west of Alafia Elementary School.

Acceptable items include appliances, mattresses, water heaters, televisions, steel and other metals, furniture, computers and components, non-commercial construction debris and tires.

Some items cannot be

accepted, such as yard waste and hazardous materials (paint, batteries, propane tanks), and waste from commercial activities.

Elderly or disabled residents who need help loading and hauling items for disposal can call the BHA for help. Please call 681-2051 before 3 p.m. on

April 6 to schedule a pick-up.

More volunteers are needed to staff the collection site and help residents unload their cars. High school students and Scouts can earn community service credits for assisting with this project. To help, contact Laura at 643-2990 or laurafrazier@tampabay.rr.com.

Community Event To Benefit Families, Scholarship Fund

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. volunteer board of directors is organizing a "fun-raiser" it hopes will benefit the entire community, as well as the first annual recipient of the B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship.

The event, still in the early planning stages, doesn't have a name or a confirmed location yet, but it is set for Saturday,

May 20 and will most likely be held at one of Bloomingdale's two public parks.

In addition to a mini-links golf tournament, association president Ted Grable said the group also plans to hold a silent auction and prize raffle.

Several board members are ready to start mapping out the details, but many more volunteers are needed to make the event a success, Grable said.

"We hope to organize a significant event for the entire community, not only to raise money for the scholarship

fund."

Board member George May said the group needs at least twenty more neighbors to help out.

"We could use some extra hands on the day of the event to set up, man the silent auction, direct parking and clean up at the end of the day," May said.

"We also need people willing to work in the planning stages and meet a few times before the event."

Volunteers are also needed

to solicit raffle and silent auction items from local businesses.

With a little more help, May said, the event should prove to be a great opportunity for neighbors to get together for a good cause and have a great time doing it.

"It will be a fun, family-friendly day," May said.

The event sponsor is Leader-Board of Tampa, a golf tournament management franchise owned by Bloomingdale residents Bob and Jerilyn Gau-

dreau.

The B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship was instituted this year by the BHA board. The program honors its namesake former Bloomingdale High School principal, who retired this year after 14 years of dedicated service to Bloomingdale students and their families.

To volunteer for the planning committee or to help out on the day of the event, please call 681-2051 or e-mail bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net.

Restaurant, EPC Working With Residents To Curb Noise

FIELD TESTS CONDUCTED

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

Roger Cardroof, owner of the Po' Boys restaurant on Lithia-Pinecrest Road, says it's just as important to him to be a good neighbor and abide by the law as it is for him to run a successful business that provides good food and entertainment for Bloomingdale residents.

So when a group of Windsor Woods homeowners recently complained to him about disturbing noise levels coming from his restaurant, Cardroof said he took his neighbors' concerns very seriously.

"We had complaints coming in from several residents that the noise level on Thursday and Saturday nights, when we have karaoke or a band on our patio, was excessive," he said.

Cardroof said he and his wife purchased a decibel meter and set it up in the street in front of the area of residences

See NOISE, Page 18

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HARTline Extends 27X Route, Leaves 25X As Is

MORE STOPS FOR FISHHAWK RIDERS

A Gazette Report

After a months-long review of express route bus service in the greater Bloomingdale and FishHawk areas, Hillsborough Regional Transit Authority officials confirmed last week no changes would be made to its popular 25X express service between Bloomingdale and MacDill Air Force Base.

Bloomingdale resident Norbert Gobin, who regularly rides the 25X to his civilian job at the base, served on a panel assigned to work with HARTline officials to streamline and improve express route bus service.

HARTline originally proposed eliminating a number of stops on the 25X route, most of them in the Bloomingdale area. That concerned Gobin and his fellow bus riders, who rallied to retain the existing Bloomingdale stops and stressed the need to add even more stops in the

FishHawk area.

Gobin and other 25X riders said they were very pleased with the HARTline decision to keep the Bloomingdale stops active.

"It is great news for 25X riders and encouragement for those in the FishHawk, Boyette and Riverview areas who will ride the newly expanded 24X route."

For information about HARTline express route bus services, log on to www.hartline.org or call 254-4278.

How To Submit Neighborhood Complaints

CONTACT INFO MUST BE PROVIDED

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

For every neighborhood complaint, there is an appropriate contact or two, but it's sometimes difficult to determine who those contacts are.

Following are a few examples of complaints typically received by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. and the Gazette, along with the appropriate organizations for residents to contact.

Please keep in mind that most of these organizations will not process complaints unless a contact name and number for them to follow up with is provided.

A complaint form to register deed restriction or county code violations is provided on the community Web site, www.bloomingtondalegazette.com.

And, as always, Bloomingdale residents are welcome to contact the BHA (681-2051, bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net) and Gazette staff (643-2990, info@bloomingtondalegazette.com) for assistance in resolving ongoing issues.

Deed Restriction Violations

Neighborhood Standards: 833-0759, neighborhoodstandard@tampabay.rr.com

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.: 681-2051,

See COMPLAINTS, Page 17

Bloomingdale Library Celebrates First Birthday

COMMUNITY INVITED

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

The Bloomingdale Regional Public Library starts another chapter in its young life this month as library patrons, staff and volunteers celebrate the facility's first birthday.

Pat Boody, president of the Bloomingdale Friends of the Library, said in one short year, the library — reportedly Hillsborough County's fourth busiest — has already become an integral part of the community.

"We're so excited about the continued support for our programs and the demand for books and other materials," Boody said.

A birthday celebration is planned for the library Feb. 12 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The library will be decorated in a birthday theme, with balloons, cake, punch and goodie bags for children.

Birthday party visitors are invited to donate a book for the children's collection in honor of the anniversary.

Boody said the Friends group will work with the library staff in the coming months to increase the number of children's programs available at the facility this summer.

"The children's programs have been extremely popular, and we want to include as many children as possible."

The Friends group also looks forward to seeing months of meetings, discussions

and design reviews with the public arts committee come to fruition.

"We've received so many comments from local residents and will be excited to celebrate our art installations, hopefully early this summer," she said.

From the library's popular story hours to computer education classes and games, writing workshops and more, Boody said it's often standing room only at the Bloomingdale Library.

"The Friends of the Library, volunteers and staff have all contributed to the great success of our library," Boody said.

"And we have even more activities in the early stages of planning, so look for more community events in the future."

Information: 635-1644.

Murray Dale Neighbors Concerned About Pond

SITS IN PROTECTED CONSERVATION AREA

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

Homeowners in the Cypress Reserve section of Bloomingdale contacted the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

Inc. and Gazette staff last month to find out who is responsible for the maintenance of a conservation area and pond behind Murray Dale Drive.

The pond and surrounding property, one neighbor said, are overgrown and unsightly, and have been for years.

BHA board member Steve Heckel is

the homeowners association's liaison for Neighborhood Standards, the private company hired by the BHA to promote compliance with county codes and deed restrictions.

Heckel said there is no easy answer to the question of who is responsible for

See POND, Page 17

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: 681-2051 Fax: 684-2358
E-mail: Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net
Web Site: www.bloomingtondalegazette.com
BHA meetings are at the community office on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President: Ted Grable Vice President: Joe Hickel
Treasurer: Pam Liguori Director: Tony Diolosa
Director: Lydia Harrod Director: Steve Heckel
Director: Dale Kahn Director: Jane Lee
Director: Stanley Lee Director: Myron Magedanz
Director: Ken Pyse

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: 684-6667
BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President: Thom Snelling
Vice President: Russell Jones
Treasurer: David West
Correspondence Secretary: Paul Sims
Recording Secretary: Michael Buday

Trustee: David Steck
Trustee: Joe Harless
Property Manager: Al Devney

Bloomingdale Community Security Program

The Bloomingdale Community Security Program committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m..

Coordinator/Equipment Manager:

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146

Treasurer: Paul Kelmer

Patrol Member: Steven

Heckel

Patrol Member: Brad Scharp

Patrol Member: Paul Warr

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132

Phone: 685-2817

BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

President: Bill Grace

Treasurer: Fred Englehart



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Correspondent — Mack Austin
Correspondent — Leslie White
Restaurant Critic — Elton Dumont

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Advertising Manager — Tami Donaldson
Phone: 627-1322; E-mail: tdonaldson@tampatrib.com

Relay For Life Teams Forming

SET FOR APRIL 21 AT
BLOOMINGDALE HIGH

By Nancy Pursino
Special To The Gazette

Wow! It's "Relay For Life" season again. This year the Relay is on our turf — right here at Bloomingdale High School. Relay For Life of Bloomingdale will be held on April 21. All Bloomingdale residents are invited to come and support the Relay. If you have never been to a Relay For Life event, you are in for a treat.

Here's the 411 — Every year, more than 800 people gather together to

honor cancer survivors and to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Teams of ten to fifteen people camp out overnight. During those 18 hours you must have at least one member of your team walking or running on the track. There are usually themed laps, like pajama lap, purple lap, backward lap - it's a lot of fun!

Usually we have a couple of bands play. The rest of the team can participate in the all the other events, such as dancing, lip synching, face painting, competing in contests and resting up for their turn to walk. Some teams raise funds during the Relay For Life, and some have done all their fundraising and

they are just hanging out and having fun.

We open the relay with the survivors lap — to honor the heroes. There's a dinner prepared for all cancer survivors. At 9 p.m., everything stops and the lights are lowered as we light luminaries to remember those who lost their battle with cancer. There are mothers, fathers, grandparents, school friends, best friends and children of all ages who have become victims of cancer. Cancer doesn't discriminate.

The candles are placed high on the bleachers spelling out the word "HOPE".

Everyone knows someone who has

or had cancer. My husband does Relay For Life because his mother died from lung cancer at the age of 42. I never met her. My children never got to see their grandmother, and she never got to hold them.

I do Relay for Life because six of my aunts died from cancer — I don't want to be next.

Who would you do Relay For Life for? Come on — join us.

If you would like to participate, or if you are a cancer survivor or know one who would like to attend please contact the American Cancer Society at 685 0670 or online at www.cancer.org.

Trash, Recycling And Yard Waste Poll Results Are In

RESIDENTS: ROOM
FOR IMPROVEMENT

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

In response to residents' concerns about trash, recycling and yard waste collection, volunteer members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

Inc. are working closely with the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Dept. and Liberty Waste LLC (one of three haulers hired to handle solid waste in various parts of the county) to identify potential problems and improve services.

On Jan. 3 an e-mail message polling homeowners about solid waste collec-

tion services was sent to more than 800 residents signed who are registered to receive e-mails from the BHA and Gazette.

Of the 91 responses received, 35 rated overall service excellent or good. Twenty-six respondents rated the service at the low end of the scale, indicating poor or very poor service. Twenty

rated it basically satisfactory, right in the middle of the scale.

When asked their thoughts on semi-automated trash collection, currently under consideration for implementation in unincorporated Hillsborough County, 39 respondents were in favor of the change, 25 were opposed to it and

See WASTE, Page 17

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Red Cross Needs Drivers, Dispatchers

PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION TO THOSE IN NEED

A Gazette Report

The American Red Cross Tampa Bay Chapter has an urgent need for volunteer drivers and dispatchers to operate its Transportation Program in Hillsborough County.

Drivers and dispatchers are needed to

fill assignments weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Red Cross Tampa Bay Chapter headquarters, 3310 W. Main St., Tampa.

This vital Red Cross community service provides free transportation to those who have no other means of getting to critical medical and dental appointments, rehabilitation or therapy sessions. The service celebrated its 25th

year of service during 2005.

Individuals interested in volunteering must be dependable, in good health, able to devote at least five hours (one day) per week to driving or dispatching, have a good driving record, be familiar with area street systems, have an eye for detail, be willing to undergo a background check and possess a strong sense of caring and helpfulness for the

clients who use the service.

Dispatchers assist in scheduling and coordinating daily driver assignments and managing client pick-up and drop-off schedules.

For more information about becoming a Red Cross volunteer driver or dispatcher, contact Bonnie Kushlakus, (813) 348-4820, ext. 834, or e-mail kushlakus@tampabay.redcross.org.

Wild Dame Night For Women Only

ANNUAL CENTER PLACE BENEFIT

A Gazette Report

Center Place, at the Brandon Regional Library on Vonderberg Drive, will host its 15th annual Wild Dame Night, an evening for women only, Feb. 18.

The affair begins at 6 p.m. with social time and wine, followed by dinner and dessert catered by Affairs to Remember. Stages Productions will present a special performance of "The Wild Goose."

Tickets, available at Center Place, are \$50 per person. Proceeds benefit Center Place children's programs and events.

The event is sponsored by William K. Belton, Jr., D.M.D — Art & Science of Dental Care; Dynamic Printing; Platinum Bank; Kathryn L. Kepes, M.D. — Center For Radiation Oncology; TECO, Durkin & Mason, C.P.A.'S, P. A.; Jennifer L. Murphy — Wachovia Valrico State Bank; Tammy Holmberg — Chick-Fil-A At Lake Brandon Village; and Stages Productions.

For more information, call 685-8888.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to laurafrazier@tampabay.rr.com or mail to Editor, The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. All letters are subject to editing and are published on a space-available basis.

Where's your AED?

If someone collapses in your restaurant, community center, church or work place, will there be an AED (automated external defibrillator) available?

Is there anyone among your staff, coworkers or group who know how to do CPR and use the AED?

While most cardiac arrests happen at home, many occur in public places such as restaurants and churches. When someone collapses and goes into cardiac arrest, time is critical. CPR and AEDs can make all the difference in the world.

There are now more than 800 AEDs in our community but this is not nearly enough. While

many businesses, homeowner associations and churches have stepped up and purchased AEDs and then received training in their use, many more have not. These devices are much more affordable than in years past and have become even simpler to operate.

Our community's survival rate to cardiac arrest could be vastly improved if more AEDs were available, and more people were trained to use them and perform CPR.

For assistance in placing an AED in your business, organization, or other venue, please contact the American Heart Association at 1-800-275-0448 or e-mail the Heart and Stroke Director, Deborah Tamargo at deborah.tamargo@heart.org.

David Travis
Rescue division chief for Hillsborough County Fire Rescue

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Bloomington High Band Prepares For Annual Benefit

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

A Gazette Report

The Bloomington High School Rajun' Bull Band is asking local businesses and families for donations of items to sell at its 19th annual Band Booster Benefit Auction.

New products, services, gift certificates and gift baskets will be auctioned off at the Feb. 25 sale, set for 5:30 p.m. at the school. Auc-

tioneer Rob Hennessee will delight guests with his skills.

Antiques and unique, pre-owned items of exceptional quality may also be accepted.

Proceeds will help offset expenses for the group's spring trip to a regional band competition in Atlanta.

To mail or deliver items to the school, or to arrange for pick up, call Lynne Walther, 654-0013 or Michelle Colesanti, 681-8889.

Say you saw it in the The Bloomington Gazette



Photo courtesy of Lynne Walther

Bloomington Families Welcomed Special Guests

Bloomington High School class of 2005 graduate Kara Walther, center, and her family hosted two of about 130 Japanese students who traveled to the U.S. last month. Members of the Inagakuen Wind Orchestra, many of the students — including 17-year-old Yui Fukuhara and Momoko Kawai, pictured — stayed with the families of Bloomington's Rajun' Bulls Band members during their tour. The group performed at the Tampa Convention Center and EPCOT. Lynne Walther called the experience "awesome" and said, "I only wish they could have stayed longer."

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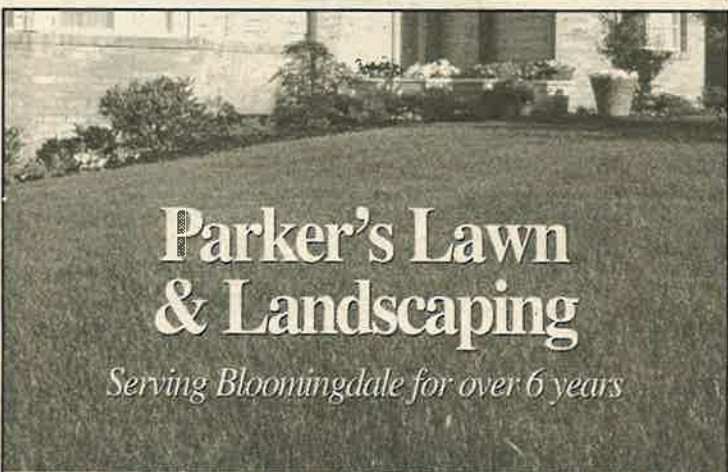
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Property Manager Starts Annual Bid Process

LANDSCAPING, PAINTING PLANNED

A Gazette Report

Bloomingle Special Taxing District property manager Al Devney reports the following projects underway or completed in January, and those scheduled to take place this month. To contact Devney, call 684-6667 or e-mail bloomingle.homeowners@verizon.net.

DPMI Requests Contract Renewal

The property manager sent a letter of notification to the taxing district board indicating that Devney Property Management Inc. wishes to renew its

existing contract for an additional year as of April 1, 2006.

Wall Painting Completed

United Painting Service was scheduled to finish its painting contract last month. A joint inspection was conducted. Any deficiencies will be corrected before the final bill is forwarded to the taxing district board. The estimated cost is \$29,900, which is below the budgeted amount.

Bid Request For Sign Painting Mailed

Requests for proposals to paint entryway signs scheduled for maintenance this year were mailed to sign painters. The estimated cost is \$3,360, based

on last year's costs.

Landscaping Plans Exceed Budget

The evaluation for maintenance and improvement needs for shrubs, bushes, creeping fig, flowers, and St. Augustine grass sod were finalized and the bidding process has begun. The current requirements exceed the \$64,800 budget by \$21,000. Some areas will therefore have to be deferred until next year. In addition, a review of the landscape maintenance and fertilization contracts was completed. The property manager's recommendations will be delivered to the taxing district board prior to its February meeting. The property manager also plans to host the pre-bid meet-

ing for the landscape contract in February.

Decorations Packed Away

The community Christmas decorations were removed, inventoried and stored.

Accident Site Repairs Completed

Repairs at accident sites on Natures Way and Elton, Erindale and Lithia Pinecrest, and Bell Shoals and Greenhollow were completed. There were 16 accidents resulting in property damage in 2005.

Residents Request Trash Bin At Bus Stop

A trash receptacle will be installed on Glenhaven next to a bus stop, at the request of

several residents.

Creeping Figs To Climb Walls on Glenhaven, Natures Way

The planting of 680 creeping fig plants along the wall on Glenhaven and the east side of Natures Way from Callista to Moondale will be completed in February.

Eat, Drink, Pitch Out The Window

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, in January, 12 bags of litter were picked-up, in addition to a discarded metal bat and a traffic cone. Six American flags, eight yellow ribbons and 21 flood lights were replaced. The beverages of the month were Diet coke, Cervesa and Jack Daniels.

Bloomingle Taxing District Trustee Seat Open

GROUP MANAGES TAX DOLLARS

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingle Special Taxing

District has one seat open on its volunteer board of trustees.

The board manages the expenditure of taxing district funds collected annually by the county (\$100 per home, added to homeowners' property tax

bills).

The trustees, all Bloomingle homeowners living within the district, hold open meetings once a month at the community office to plan maintenance and improvement projects.

There are currently seven members serving on the board.

For more information about the taxing district or open trustee seat, call 684-6667 or e-mail bloomingle.homeowners@verizon.net.

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Substation Celebrates Eighth Anniversary

COMMUNITY POLICING PROVES EFFECTIVE

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER
Bloomington Community Resource Deputy

Can you believe it? Eight years have passed since the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Bloomington Community Station opened on Bell Shoals Road. That was 1998.

Since then, progress has continued to make your community a safer and more secure place to live and raise your family.

Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee has already started incorporating several new programs that continue to put emphasis on community policing. Your community deputy now works directly under a sheriff's detective (see related story in this issue).

The reorganization has already improved communication and coordination in solving crimes. We all continue to need your help and support in improving the quality of life in your community. Please help us help you!

All Motorized Scooters Are Illegal, Dangerous

To those parents who purchased motorized scooters as gifts for their kids this Christmas, please note the vehicle regulations that cover motorized scooters and skateboards are misunderstood by many residents.

"Go-peds" and similar gadgets are considered motor vehicles under Florida statute 322.01(26) and require a driver's license under Florida statute 322.03.

However, the vehicles themselves do not have to be licensed or registered.

This can be confusing.

The law is designed to protect younger children. They don't know traffic laws and rules, and they drive all over the place, in and out of traffic.

Parents who allow their kids to operate these vehicles face the possibility of criminal action.

Special Assistance To Protect Babies

One of the most effective programs offered through your community sta-

tion is car seat checks.

These are free of charge, but appointments are recommended by calling the station at 635-8040.

There is no substitute for all drivers using their seat belts. An unbuckled parent who is seriously injured because they are not buckled up will be unable to provide help to their children or other passengers.

So, the rule is short and simple, "Buckle up."

Traffic Blitzes Continue

For those drivers who haven't noticed, the sheriff's office has several unmarked vehicles with deputies conducting traffic blitzes (spot checks) to stop drivers who blatantly disobey the law.

Very expensive citations are being written.

Run a red light, speed in a construction zone, pass a stopped school bus or speed in a school zone and you will write one very big check. Don't waste your hard earned money. Just slow down and pay attention, not dollars.

COMMENTARY

Personal Promise Prompts Patience On The Road, At Home

SAVOR THE MOMENTS

"The very last ride we take is probably the slowest one we'll ever make."

By IRENE BUGGY
Correspondent

A week into the New Year, my husband noticed there was a tin of holiday cookies still sitting on our kitchen counter. It had a card on it from us to our next door neighbors. It seems I had never gotten around to delivering the gift during the busy holiday season. I had thought about doing it several times, and once even got all the way to their door and knocked only to find no one was home. And so, the cookies were still sitting on our kitchen counter on Jan. 6.

The forgotten cookie incident prompted me to make a New Year's resolution — to slow down. This might not seem like it would take much effort, but when you actually try, you realize how diffi-

See COMMENTARY, Page 17

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GOLF COURSE BEAUTY

This 4 BR 2 1/2 BA home is a golfer's delight! The kitchen features wood cabinets w/plant shelves, tile backsplash & recessed lighting. Kitchen nook overlooks the back yard. The family room is open & airy with glass sliders that open to the large screen enclosed lanai. The family room offers a beautiful view of the golf course, laminate wood flooring in the dining room, family room & laundry room. Ceramic tile in foyer, kitchen & baths. Decorative paint throughout. Beautifully landscaped yard, located in prestigious River Hills.

MLS# T2140782 • 2016 sq. ft. • \$315,000



MOVE IN CONDITION

Pride of ownership shows in this 3 BR 2 BA Cardel home. Wood cabinets w/plant shelves and a gas range in kitchen. The breakfast nook has a built-in desk and overlooks the open & airy family room. Master suite is spacious & has crown molding, plant shelves and a walk-in closet. Tile in kitchen, family room & baths. Laminate wood in all bedrooms. Landscaped yard w/decorative borders. Located in Covington Park, minutes to I-75.

MLS# T2140299 • 1200 sq. ft. • \$210,000



BLOOMINGDALE POOL HOME

This 3 BR 2 BA pool home won't last long! Kitchen is open & bright, features plant shelves and track lighting. Open family room has remote control ceiling fan and glass sliders that open to the screen enclosed lanai. Formal dining room. The master suite is huge and has sliders leading to the lanai. The master bath has a jacuzzi jetted tub and a double pedestal sinks. New carpet. New interior and exterior paint. Neutral colors make this home a delight for the new buyers. Extra privacy with the fenced yard.

MLS# T2139447 • 1602 sq. ft. • \$245,000



CANTERBURY OAKS

Pride of ownership shows in this 5 BR 4 1/2 BA home. The kitchen features oak cabinets, plant shelves, granite countertops, flat top range, built-in desk, work island and mitered glass windows in nook overlooking lanai. All formal areas. Spacious master suite. 18 x 18 tile in all the right places. New carpet. Fresh interior paint. The downstairs bonus room w/bath is huge w/hardwood flooring, separate sitting area and glass sliders leading to the pool. The screen-enclosed pool is perfect for entertaining w/two lanai areas. Den/office. Beautiful huge corner lot. Don't miss this one!

MLS#T2127954 • 3675 sq. ft. • \$560,000



THE GREENS OF BLOOMINGDALE

This 4 BR 3 BA home is located in the heavily sought after neighborhood of the Greens of Bloomington. The kitchen is light and bright and has lots of counter space, plant shelves, a ceiling fan and a new dishwasher. The family room is open & airy and features a built-in entertainment center with a tiled fireplace and has glass sliders that open to the screen enclosed lanai. Large master suite and master bath has garden tub. Mature landscaping with oaks and St. Augustine grass. Minutes from shopping and dining and a short walk to the YMCA.

MLS# T2140124 • 2460 sq. ft. • \$350,000



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'Natures Speedway' Frequent Accident Site

HIRED DEPUTIES, 3-WAY STOPS SUGGESTED

By MACKAUSTIN
Correspondent

Bloomington Special Taxing District property manager Al Devney all too often sees first hand the destruction caused by careless drivers whipping around the curves and corners on Natures Way in Bloomington.

Devney inspects each accident site to determine the extent of community property damage incurred. He logged 32 reported accidents in 2005, including 17 that resulted in property damage.

"Of the (crashes) that caused property damage, most were very serious," Devney said.

"One had a total of almost \$10,000 in damage to the driver's vehicle, the community wall and a resident's property.

This doesn't even include the time wasted and additional problems caused by the accident."

Deputy Pete Maurer, Bloomington's community resource deputy, said it's only a matter of time before a resident out walking, jogging or biking is killed by a dangerous driver on what is known as "Natures Speedway."

Cpl. Don Balaban, the Sheriff's Office District IV detective supervisor, at the Bloomington Area Community Council's February meeting, offered some suggestions to help decrease the speeding problem.

"Increased motor patrols can help, and many communities hire off duty deputies to monitor traffic and write citations. Some citations have averaged around \$400."

Balaban also suggested that major intersections along Natures Way could



Photo Courtesy of DPMI Property Management

This car vs. wall accident — one of 17 reported in 2005 — cost the driver \$5,000 in vehicle repairs and resulted in \$2,000 in damages to a resident's property.

be changed to three-way stops to help with traffic flow.

"It would take the assistance of (District IV) Commissioner Ronda Storms to have traffic studies conducted and improvements made. It will save lives."

Maurer said parents also need to monitor their teens to ensure they are obeying all traffic laws.

"More and more teens are being killed in auto accidents right in their own neighborhoods," he said.

Detectives, Deputies, Residents Make Great Team

BLOOMINGDALE RETAINS LOW CRIME RATE

By MACKAUSTIN
Correspondent

The BACC, Bloomington Area Community Council, is a volunteer group of residents from various homeowners associations in the greater Bloomington area. The council works with law enforcement, county and state government representatives to help improve safety, security and the quality of life in the community.

The group meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Bloomington substation on Bell Shoals Road. All interested residents are invited to attend. For information call 635-8040.

Cpl. Don Balaban, the Sheriff's Office District IV detective supervisor, attended the council's January meeting. Bloomington's Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer introduced the corporal, noting that all station community resource deputies are now working under the direction of Balaban's unit.

Balaban said, "With this organizational change, resource deputies and detectives will be working closely as a team to prevent crimes and solve cases."

Balaban said community resource deputies and service officers are an outstanding source of information about what is happening in the community.

Using current crime statistics for the Bloomington area, Balaban showed council members the direct affect of this team concept.

"The crime rates in the Bloomington area are much lower due to the cooper-

ation of law enforcement and residents."

Balaban suggested that increasing Mobile Watch programs would be an excellent way to further reduce crime in our community.

"Use the wealth of talent that the retired residents of Bloomington have. Get residents watching after their own community. Sun City residents do this and crime is almost non-existent there."

In addition, Balaban said residents must do their part by locking up their vehicles and homes.

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New Studio Promotes Health, Fitness

CONTROLLED OUTCOMES, REASONABLE EFFORTS

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Losing weight was the number one resolution of 2005, according to Newstarget.com.

Joe Raymond, director of services and personal trainer at the new CORE Fitness Studio at 160 E. Bloomingdale Ave. in Alafia Oaks Plaza, said, "Millions of people dive head-first into exercise in the first two weeks, but 70 percent don't follow through with their New Year's resolutions within 90 days."

A discouraging percentage? Raymond says it doesn't have to be.

CORE stands for "controlled outcomes, reasonable efforts," which Raymond says are the keys to long-term success in improving overall health and fitness.

The studio is owned by Health Fitness Associates, a company which uses personal training to promote physical and ergonomic safety. Their management is trained to promote safe body mechanics for specific jobs.

On a smaller scale, CORE Fitness Studio works one on one with individuals seeking to improve health and fitness, which Raymond explains are each integral parts of the other.

"What we do here is encourage people to incorporate a new way into their life, making the individual solely responsible for themselves," he said.

The first thing CORE does is assess, the theory being, "If you don't know where you're at, you can't know where you're going."

Medical screenings and several in-studio assessments help trainers gauge the current condition of the client's body.

"Success," said Raymond, "comes from thorough assessment of strengths and weaknesses to set appropriate goals."

Fitness, he said, is about 75 percent dependent upon nutrition. Although a person could be working out all week, they might not achieve their goals because of poor nutrition. CORE works with dieticians and doctors to help clients develop a healthier regimen, which is documented in a daily journal along with exercise.

The other 25 percent of fitness is exercise, Raymond said, an important activity many people say they can't fit into their schedules.

"If you're going to fight your schedule, you're going to fail," he said. Individuals can do exercises anywhere, in 15 minutes or less, and get a lot out of it.

"Our major emphasis is on periodization training, where you train for periods of time, breaking down the phases of the program."

The studio has exercise equipment to target specific areas of the body, and Raymond emphasizes, "Every program involves some kind of 'core' conditioning."

Each individual program is tailored in content, frequency and duration, depending upon the needs derived from the personal assessment and an individual's goals and schedule.

CORE works strictly by appointments, and will work with either individuals, buddy teams (two participants, same session) or groups (three to six participants, same session).

Beginner's Personal Pilate's group classes will also be offered.

CORE also works with post-therapy and pre-surgery patients. Raymond is certified to work with doctors and their patients with movement disorders, such as stroke victims, MS or Parkinson's disease.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 681-3000.



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Mary Beth Purtell works her fitness routine into her schedule, exercising on her lunch hour at CORE Fitness Studio.

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Now We're Cookin' In Brandon

PREPARE 24 ENTREES
IN TWO HOURS

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

It was that all too familiar late afternoon quandary — “What’s for dinner?” that inspired Scott and Michelle Whitt to create Now We’re Cookin’ in Brandon, a meal preparation business.

Michelle admits she didn’t always have an answer to that daily inquiry, inspiring she and her husband, along with several of their friends, to drive to a do-it-yourself meal preparation business in Tampa to try a “make it and take it” approach to dinner-time. The experience was so helpful, Whitt said, that many in the group agreed, “Brandon needs something like this.”

And thus, a new business was born.

Now We’re Cookin’ in Brandon offers the benefits of a home-cooked meal, with all the shopping, preparation and cleanup done for you, allowing you to prepare and package family meals in a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen complete with on-site staff to assist in the process.

It might not be surprising to realize that forty percent of meals consumed in America today are eaten outside the home. In addition, according to a 2005 ConAgra Foods nationwide survey, seventy percent of parents experience some level of stress associated with dinnertime.

Now We’re Cookin’ strives to de-stress dinnertime and make it what the Whitts believe it should be — enjoyable time spent with family around the traditional dinner table.

The Whitts even work to de-stress your experience in their well-stocked commercial kitchen by providing light food, drinks and music during the preparation process.

Here’s how it works.

Upon arrival at Now We’re Cookin’, guest cooks, armed with aprons and their pre-selected menu choices, are guided to the first preparation station. Each station is set up with a step-by-step recipe, all necessary utensils, spices and ingredients accordingly prepped and chopped. If someone has questions during the process, staff members are on the floor to help out. A regular size entrée can feed four to six



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Scott and Michelle Whitt, owners of Now We’re Cookin’ in Brandon, practice what they teach. “This is all we eat for dinner now,” they said of their prepared-in-advance family style dinners.

people, but entrees can be halved into two containers for smaller meals.

Whether customers come alone or with a group, within two hours, 16 to 24 entrees — depending on the serving sizes chosen — can be assembled and ready to take home.

A rotating selection of 14 entrees is available. All recipes are tried and tested by in-house chef George Russo, who brings with him over 15 years’ experience as an executive chef.

The Whitts offers a new menu every month, with favorites reappearing according to customer demand. Vegetarian alternatives are also available. One of the most popular dishes is the pecan-encrusted chicken.

Either eight or 12 entrée selections can be assembled in one two-hour day, evening or weekend session.

After each entrée is assembled, the disposable dish containing the ingredients is taken to the wrapping station, where the dish is foil-wrapped for freezing, complete with a label for thawing and cooking at

home, and suggestions for compatible side dishes.

Now We’re Cookin’ hosts groups and individuals, and is available for events like ladies’ nights or baby and wedding showers. Gift certificates are also available.

Schools can designate a particular night with Now We’re Cookin’ and purchase pre-made entrees, with 10 percent going back to the school. In addition, any school group that books a private party can raise 5 percent of the night’s earnings for their school.

Special Mom & Me sessions are held the first Saturday of every month. Kid-friendly stations are set up for youngsters to make their own macaroni & cheese dish while mom or dad works on the family entrees.

For more information or to schedule a session, call 684-FOOD or visit www.cookininbrandon.com. Now We’re Cookin’ in Brandon is at 4377 Lynx Paw Trail, across the street from Lithia Springs Elementary School.

Baby Boomers Seek Denture Alternatives

FUNCTION, LOOKS
CAN BE RESTORED

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Dentistry today is a whole new ballgame from what baby boomers saw their parents go through decades ago.

Not so long ago, when teeth started to take a turn for the worse, the suggested solution was dentures.

Dr. Roger Anderson of Dental-Health.com, a boomer himself, writes, “There was little emphasis on prevention when we were younger, and we escaped the typical ‘oral hygiene motivational lectures’ of today.”

Now, due to advances in preventive dentistry, a major overhaul may not be necessary. Possible solutions to dental problems are implants, partial bridges, crowns or veneers.

The ADA, American Dental Association, estimates that 110 million people are missing one or more teeth. Currently, out of 35 million Americans who report that they wear dentures, 21 million say they have problems including lack of stability and retention.

Today’s dental implants offer permanent replacement teeth, which are surgically inserted in the patient’s jaw. Implants provide a much more stable and natural looking alternative to dentures.

In addition to implants, boomers are also spending money to replace old fillings.

Dr. Scott Arnold, of

See DENTAL, Page 16

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B L O O M I N G D A L E B U S I N E S S

Elton Enjoys Rib Stickin', Mouth Waterin', BBQ

DINE IN, CARRY OUT, BULK ITEMS

By ELTON DUMONT
Exclusive To The Bloomingdale Gazette

Having lived in Texas for years, another BBQ restaurant opening in the Bloomingdale area was initially not of any real interest to Mrs. Dumont and I.

But, upon a recommendation from a friend, we decided to give the new Jaymer-Que restaurant in Albertson's plaza on Lithia-Pinecrest Road a try. We were delighted.

Owner Jaymer Holcombe was born in San Antonio, Texas. He and his wife Cyndi absolutely know BBQ ... rib stickin', mouth waterin', mesquite flavorin' real Texas BBQ.

You can order Pulled Pork by the pound for easy heating at home for \$8.79, or a Pulled Pork sandwich for \$4.29. My wife had the dinner plate; a half pound of pork, two side items and bread.

The Beef Brisket was packaged for take home at \$9.39, \$4.49 for a sandwich and \$7.39 for a dinner plate. I ordered the brisket chopped and, like the pulled pork, it was wonderful.

Both entrees were as good as any authentic Texas BBQ we ever tasted. And, oh my, the Texas style ribs! A full rack was \$17.50, half rack \$10.25 and a Rib Dinner was \$6.99. Jaymer gave us a sample of the ribs and they disappeared in a nanosecond. Plus they also have Pulled Chicken, Kids Meals, and some-

thing called a Butt-Load Burger.

Side dishes include Baked Beans, Homemade Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Cut Corn, Broccoli and Garlic Mashed Potatoes. I chose the beans and slaw (as any self-respectin' Texan would). They were made with care and quite delicious.

My wife had the pasta salad and the beans and said both were very good. But I really didn't pay much attention to her, as I was just immersed in home-style Texas BBQ once again.

Desserts are offered but change often, so you have to check when you go or call in your order.

I will caution you that the seating area doesn't have a lot of tables, but we did dine in with no problems. Our next ven-

ture will be for take out (I suggest you call ahead because I predict they will get very busy).

Jaymer-Que also caters special event and plans a "Friday Rib-Fest" and a "Saturday Steak Out" to be prepared on their patio grill.

It was a thoroughly delightful dining experience and surprising light on the pocket book. Mr. and Mrs. Elton Dumont give it a hearty "thumbs up."

Restaurant hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed on Sunday and Monday. For more information call 657-4227 or visit jaymer-que.com

Until we eat again, I remain your humble gastronomic servant, Elton Dumont.

Talent Group Seeks All Desperate Housewives For Acting Workshop

DISCOVER YOUR INNER ACTRESS

A Gazette Report

Act One Talent Group will hold a "Desperate Housewives" acting work-

shop geared towards stay-at-home moms this month at its studio, 1308-10 E. Lumsden Road in Brandon.

Jill Killian, actress and owner of Act One Talent Group is offering the class on Mondays in February from 12 to 2 p.m. Child care is available.

The class will be taught by Killian, along with New York actor and comedian, Artie Fletcher. Fletcher currently appears in the television show "Law & Order C.I."

The class is a Level 1 Introduction to

Acting where improvisation, scene study, character development and stage presence will be discussed.

To register or for more information, call 653-1584 or visit www.act1talent.com.

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Fresh Market Offers Produce, More

Brandon Fresh Market, at the corner of South Parsons Ave. and Mason St. in Brandon, is open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Owner Olga Santamaria offers up fresh produce, flowers, plants, herbs and orchids, along with homemade fudge, candy, pet items and unique arts and crafts items. Pictured, stained glass artist Beth Kauffman of Valrico displays her wares at the market. Santamaria said her customers enjoy live music and children's entertainment every week. "Shopping at the market feels like a great adventure," she said. For information, call 684-6806.



Photo courtesy of Brandon Fresh Market

Club Brings Sports, Social Activities To Brandon

PROMOTES HEALTHY LIVING, GIVING

A Gazette Report

A new local club promises to bring a whole new energy to the Greater Brandon Area in 2006.

Tampa Sports and Social Club provides its members with a variety of adult sports leagues, social parties and events, volunteer opportunities and affordable mini-adventure vacations.

The club's mission is to provide an exciting, socially active lifestyle to all adults, and to organize volunteer opportunities in the community.

Club members have participated in benefits to collect holiday gifts for non-profit organizations such as St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and ECHO, Brandon's Emergency Care Help Organization.

An annual fee of \$35 entitles members to a variety of activities including flag football, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball and golf. Discounts are offered for groups, neighborhood and corporate team sign-ups.

For more information call (727) 793-PLAY or visit www.playtampa.com.



Photo Courtesy of Tampa Sports and Social Club

Club members choose from a variety of adult league sporting events, including soccer, held at various locations throughout Hillsborough County.

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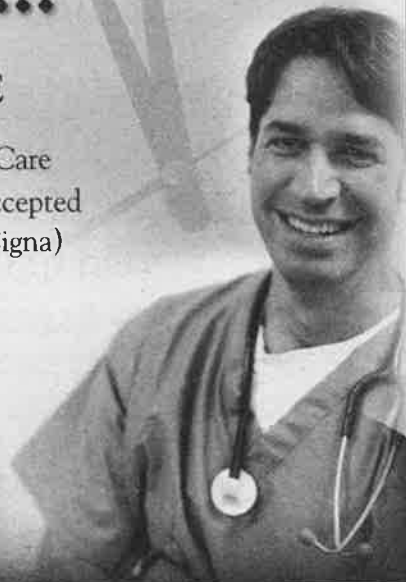
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BLOOMINGDALE BUSINESS

Prudential Tropical Realty Expands Bloomingdale Location

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A Gazette Report

Prudential Tropical Realty announced in January the expansion of its Brandon/Valrico office at 3248 Lithia Pinecrest Road in the Royal Oaks Shopping Center. The newly expanded office opened in December.

The new facility features 5,200 square feet of office space that accommodates 50 professionals. It also features a 1,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art training facility that will be used to train sales associates new to the company in eastern Hillsborough County, Polk County and the South Tampa area.

"We've experienced such tremendous success in the past two and a half years that it was time to expand," said branch manager Louise Key.

According to the National Association of Realtors, despite three major storms, the south saw the strongest third-quarter annual increase in existing-home sales of all four national regions, with an increase of 8.2 percent from the third-quarter 2004.

Prudential Tropical Realty has 12 residential offices located throughout Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Polk counties, and is ranked the No. 2 real estate company in the region. Locally owned and operated since 1959, the company offers residential, commercial, property management, relocation, title, and mortgage services.

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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BLOOMINGDALE SPORTS

Bullets Raised \$12,000 For Cancer Foundation

TEAMS PLAYED 100
INNINGS, 14 GAMES
IN ONE DAY

By MACK AUSTIN
Correspondent

In this sometimes "gimme" world, it is very encouraging to find young people who are given the opportunity to learn the importance of putting the needs of others first.

Anyone who has enjoyed the great sport of little league baseball knows it takes a tremendous amount of time, motivation and energy to play the game. But one local little league club recently went leaps further than making those sacrifices for personal success.

The Bloomingdale Bullets Baseball Club, formed in 1998 by Coach Sal Giardina and Mike Lancaster, held its annual charity fundraiser in Bloomingdale last month.

Organizers put together teams of different age groups, picked a cold day in December and then — just for kicks — had all teams play 100, yes, that's one hundred innings — the equivalent of more than 14 consecutive games.

And they did it all for a great cause. At the end of the day, the team presented a big check for \$12,000.00 to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Bullets coach and co-founder Sal Giardina gives a final thank you to team members who participated in last month's charity fundraiser baseball marathon.

The Bullets club is made up of about 50 players ranging in age from 8 to 14. The Bullets have some advantages over many other little league organizations. They get to play together for several years, and they play with older, more experienced players. They also keep many of the same coaches from year to year. This continuity has proven to be very effective. More than 80 percent of the players who stay on wind up on high school teams.

And the Bullets now have bragging rights for their first player who's moved on to college baseball — Carmine Giardina, the son of the club's head coach and co-founder, is now on the roster at the University of Texas.

Giardina said, "We want these young players to learn to love baseball and get good at playing, but we also want them to learn the importance of giving. One of the ways we do that is through our annual community charity events. Our special projects include a Thanksgiving and Christmas activity and an annual baseball marathon to raise funds for special needs."

This year the team chose to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Giardina's mother is a cancer survivor, and he said many team members have friends and loved ones fighting the disease.

These players and their par-

See BULLETS, Page 18

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'Medicare Matters' Workshops Open

HELD AT RUSKIN SERVICE CENTER

A Gazette Report

"Medicare Matters" workshops, sponsored by the National Council on Aging, will be Feb. 7 and Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hillsborough County Ruskin Neighborhood Service Center, 201 14th Ave. in Ruskin.

The workshops, open to the public, are intended to help Medicare beneficiaries review and select a Medicare prescription plan. Each workshop will have several trained volunteers on hand to go through the plans on-line with each individual.

For more information call Dee Fridella, manager of the South Hillsborough Region Health and Social Service Dept., 671-7647, Ext. 222.

Web Site Details Medicare

EXPLORE, COMPARE PLANS

A new Web site offers a comprehensive, national education program to help Medicare beneficiaries and their families understand the new prescription drug coverage, assess their personal situation, understand their choices, compare plan options and make the enrollment decision that is right for their health and their financial situation.

The site is sponsored by The National Council on the Aging and the Access to Benefits Coalition, with support from pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

The Web site address is www.mymedicarematters.org.

Wild Exhibit At Tampa Museum Of Art

THE WORK OF MAURICE SENDAK

A Gazette Report

The Tampa Museum of Art will feature a special exhibition, "Wild Things: The Art of Maurice Sendak," from Jan. 29 through April 23.

The exhibition examines the prolific career of award-winning illustrator and author Maurice Sendak, best known for such children's classics as "Where the Wild Things Are" and "In the Night Kitchen."

Sendak's art has been widely enjoyed by children and adults for more than 50 years.

In addition, his work includes set and costume design for opera and ballet.

Organized by The Jewish Museum in New York City, it is the largest exhibition of Sendak's work in more than a decade and one of the largest ever mounted, includes 144 drawings, artwork for posters, theatrical sets, as well as costumes for opera and ballet performances.

For more information, call 274-8130 or visit www.tampamuseum.com.

HTV-22 Adds Five New Programs To Lineup

NEW COUNTY UPDATE, MAGAZINE PROGRAMS

A Gazette Report

Hillsborough County's television station — HTV22 — is launching its new and improved look this year. HTV-22 now offers five new magazine-style programs, each featuring an assortment of five-to-seven minute segments highlighting specific county events, programs, departments and services.

The station's new flagship program, Inside Hillsbor-

ough County, will air two shows a month. It features short, timely stories about different county departments and agencies.

Other monthly programs featured include S.A.F.E. and Sound, focusing on public safety concerns, and Traditions, which covers topics about Hillsborough County's cultural affairs.

County Update will cover breaking or time sensitive stories and recap information from board meetings.

Held over from the station's current lineup will be the Message Board, Informes Latino (En Español) and the documentary series, Timeline.

DENTAL

Continued From Page 12

Arnold Dentistry in Bloomingdale, said, "Some of those fillings have been in 20 years or more. At that point they can start to crack the teeth, even microscopically. Over time, the tooth becomes damaged." In addition, older fillings could possibly have decay or bacteria underneath, and should at least be checked out.

Many patients are choosing to change out their old silver fillings for tooth-colored fillings, for two reasons. One is purely aesthetic — composite fillings look natural. Another is that the resins which make up the composite fillings are said to be safer and longer-lasting.

The ADA says that 43 percent of dentists believe maintaining good oral hygiene/preventive care is going to be the primary oral health issue facing the baby-boomer generation.

However, 80 percent of the same dentists report that whitening/bleaching is the service that this generation is most likely to request versus other age groups, followed by other cosmetic dentistry (69 percent).

Why such a large percentage? Representing 29 percent of the U.S. population, boomers make up the vast majority of the work force. At this time in their life, an empty nest means a little more expendable income, according to Elizabeth Albritton, a certified dental hygienist with Arnold Dentistry.

And by all accounts boomers are doing everything they can to maintain their youthful appearance.

Reality shows like "Extreme Makeover" have spotlighted cosmetic dentistry, making "smile makeovers" a must-have.

But aside from aesthetics, the ADA and dentists encourage patients to pay attention to their oral health. Albritton offers some suggestions.

"Find a dentist you're comfortable with and whom you trust. Ask your friends and neighbors who they see and how they like them," she said.

As boomers mature, issues can arise that they're not aware of, and regular visits to the dentist can prevent deeper problems.

"All the focus on aesthetic dentistry has brought people into the office and helped dentists address the necessities first, before dealing with the cosmetic issues," Albritton said.

**Say you saw it in the
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POND

Continued From Page 4

maintenance of the pond and property, and no simple way to get the job done.

Because the property surrounding the pond is a protected conservation area, Heckel said no one — not even the surrounding property owners or county crews — can legally make changes to the site, including trimming or clearing of overgrowth and underbrush.

Any maintenance or improvements to the pond and conservation area must be approved by the appropriate authorities, Heckel said. He suggested concerned residents look into Hillsborough County's Adopt-A-Pond program for help.

The Adopt-A-Pond program offers county residents the opportunity to participate in a free pond restoration and maintenance program.

COMMENTARY

Continued From Page 9

cult it is. We live in such a fast-paced world that we think if we go faster we will accomplish more things. That seems logical, but we tend to make more mistakes when we go into warp speed, so the truly logical thing to do is to slow down.

Have you noticed that people are driving around Bloomingdale like they are in the Indianapolis 500? Drivers swerve in and out of lanes like they have to be someplace an hour ago. They run red lights and in some cases causing accidents and harm to pedestrians. You hear about cases like that in the news all the time, but that still doesn't keep people from pushing that accelerator to the floor.

The need for speed also carries over into other things we do daily. People are always knocking into others while in stores or at the bank or supermarket. The only place you ever see people going slow anymore is in a funeral

The county provides the machinery and manpower necessary to accomplish the initial clearing of the pond banks, and enlists the help of neighboring residents to weed out and replant aquatic vegetation, all at county expense.

In order to qualify for the program, some residents must agree to actively participate in the pond makeover, and all property owners with homes adjacent to the pond must agree to allow access to the property.

However, since the Murray Dale pond is surrounded by a protected conservation area, there may be some additional hoops to jump through. Authorization may be required from, for example, the Environmental Protection Commission.

Any residents interested in improving the appearance of the Murray Dale pond — or other ponds in the Bloomingdale area — should contact Adopt-A-Pond program coordinator Jason Mickel at (813 307-1787 or e-mail mickel@hillsboroughcounty.org.

procession. How ironic that the very last ride we take is probably the slowest one we'll ever make.

I am not trying to be lazy, or to procrastinate or to get out of doing things. I'm merely trying to relish the things I do at a slower pace, and it's already starting to have some affect on me.

I feel calmer. I'm not as worried about getting things done at a certain time. I know some of you will say that you could never get things done if you slowed down. I am not saying to move at a snail's pace, but find a happy medium between a snail and a racecar driver.

The way I see it, the only people who should be concerned about going fast are marathon runners and Olympic athletes. As for me, I plan to spend 2006 moving slower than the year gone by, stopping to enjoy not only the flowers but everything else that comes across my path.

WASTE

Continued From Page 5

12 were undecided. Even those in favor of the service asked for more details about the system and expressed an interest to "see how it goes in the (recently semi-automated) city of Tampa first."

The most frequent complaints about service were loose trash and yard debris left in the street after pick-up, cans and lids thrown in the street and/or driveways, and sporadic failure to pick up types and amounts of yard waste that are within allowable limits.

"(I would like to see) more consistency in what they will accept with yard waste and bulk items. Some weeks they refuse to pick up the same items they picked up the week before," one respondent said.

One Eagle Ridge homeowner sent a detailed letter outlining specific complaints he wished to relay on behalf of his neighborhood section.

The complaints echoed those from other parts of the community, including consistency of service, courtesy of service and cleanliness. The Eagle Ridge residents also reported frustration with leachate left behind from garbage trucks they said are sorely in need of service or replacement.

"It is a routine occurrence that upon completion of Liberty's collection route through the Eagle Pointe community, a discharge of either hydraulic

fluid or leachate has occurred. The condition of the Liberty vehicles and equipment should be improved and maintained," the respondent wrote.

"The Eagle Pointe community has recently spent nearly \$10K in assessment monies to have our street resurfaced. Now with the releases from Liberty vehicles, it appears has been negatively impacted."

Several respondents offered positive comments about solid waste collection services, and noted a recent improvement in services.

"Since the county and Liberty began working with the homeowners association to address our concerns, I have noticed a definite improvement in Bloomingdale West. There is far less trash left behind, most cans are returned upright to the curb, and the trucks rarely enter the neighborhood before 6 a.m.," wrote one Bloomingdale Estates homeowner.

A Cambridge Cove resident wrote, "I personally give them a high mark. No complaints."

Another comment was, "Collection has improved over the past year. They seem to be more accepting of larger yard debris items, and leaving less mess."

The BHA plans to continue working with Liberty to address all residents concerns and improve service to the Bloomingdale area.

For a list of FAQs visit www.bloomingtongazette.com.

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NOISE

Continued From Page 3

whose owners called to complain about the noise. "We registered between 44 and 46 decibels, and the EPC allows 64 to 66 decibels, so at least from the front yards, we are in compliance," he said.

Admitting that the noise levels could be higher from the back yards of the homes in question — which face Lithia-Pinecrest Road — Cardroof said he went a step further than taking decibel readings.

"We redirected the (outdoor) speakers to face a block wall, and recently installed sheets of heavy-duty plastic opposite from the wall to hopefully catch some of the sound."

Cardroof said since he installed the plastic barrier, he has received no complaints from homeowners or the Sheriff's Office.

But some neighbors in Windsor Woods say the sound level is still unacceptable.

Marvin Blount, chief of field investigations for Hillsborough's Environmental Protection Commission, said a team of EPC investigators was scheduled to take readings in Windsor Woods last week on the residential property lines closest to the noise source — the homeowners' back yards.

Reading results would be available a few days after the test, Blount said. The results, not available at Gazette press time, will be published on www.bloomingtongazette.com.

Cardroof said he would do whatever it takes to resolve the problem amicably.

"We don't want to break the rules, and we don't want to make the neighbors unhappy. We want them to come to our restaurant."

COMPLAINTS

Continued From Page 4

bloomingtonhomeowners@verizon.net
Deed restriction requirements vary among Bloomingdale's 40 neighborhood sections. Some violations may also breach Hillsborough County codes and/or ordinances. To search for your section's deed restrictions online, log on to www.bloomingtongazette.com and click on the "Deed Restrictions" button at the top of the page. Use the electronic complaint form on the Web site, or call Neighborhood Standards or the Bloomingdale community office.

County Code, Ordinance Violations

Neighborhood Standards: 833-0759, neighborhoodstandard@tampabay.rr.com
Hillsborough County Code Enforcement: 274-6660

Report potential county code violations to Neighborhood Standards and/or the Hillsborough County code enforcement office. Examples of potential county code violations (some of which are also deed restriction violations) include noise and nuisance issues, illegally parked cars, boats and RV's, loose animals, and homes and yards in serious need of main-

tenance and repairs.

Law Enforcement Issues

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Dispatcher: 247-8200
Bloomingdale Community Substation: 635-8040

Non-emergency law enforcement issues such as the use of motorized scooters on public property, "party" houses, disorderly conduct and any potentially illegal activity can be reported to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office District IV dispatcher. For help with ongoing, unresolved law enforcement issues, Bloomingdale residents can also call Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer at the Bloomingdale substation for assistance.

County Service Issues

Hillsborough County Citizen's Action Center: 272-5900

To report complaints about county-provided services, such as trash collection, road construction, parks and recreation, school issues, senior services and more, call the county's Citizen Action Center.

BULLETS

Continued From Page 15

ents braved a cold December morning and gave up their Saturday for a great cause. They had a lot of fun, and ended the day with a talk about giving. You just can't ask for better than that for our kids. These

young men are sure to carry this experience with them throughout their lives. No doubt, the Bullets' players and the people they meet throughout their lives will be better for it.

Say you saw it in the
The Bloomingdale Gazette

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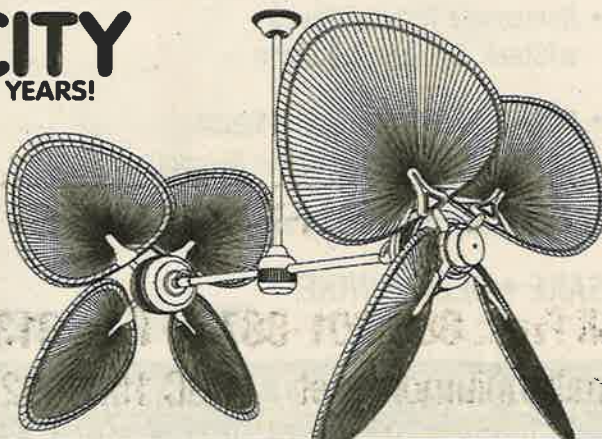
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PRINCIPAL

Continued From Page 1

"Mrs. Stelter ran a wonderful school," West added, noting that because he is coming in mid-year to the school, "my main concern is to meet as many people as I can."

West's first day on the job involved meeting with teachers at Bloomingdale and then the students a day later as they returned from winter break.

But he also spent part of both days at Turkey Creek Middle School — where he had been the principal for the past seven years — due to a tragedy that struck that community Christmas Eve morning with the death of Turkey Creek school resource officer Robert "Chris" Carrega, 48.

Carrega died when his pickup truck crashed into a utility pole on Pless Road in Thonotosassa.

"I felt it was important for me to be there (at Turkey Creek) the first day back just to show my face," West said.

"Chris was the kind of guy who absolutely loved the kids. He was definitely very well-liked by the students and the staff."

West's experience includes a stint as science department head at the Middleton Middle School, a magnet school for science and technology that was renamed Ferrell Middle School after the 2000 opening of Middleton High School. He also was the science department head at Turkey Creek and an assistant principal at Middleton Middle School.

West said being a principal, especially at the high school level, is a great job if "you love it and you enjoy it and you love the kids."

He added that he made it a point on his first day back at Bloomingdale to attend Bloomingdale's soccer and girls' basketball games at other high schools. In his early days at Bloomingdale, West had helped coach the girls and boys basketball teams.

West's goal is for every Bloomingdale student "to do the very best they can" and for every parent to stay involved with their child's education.

He, too, wants to be visible in their lives.

"The only way you can affect change with kids is to meet them and get to know them and get them to know you," West said. "They've got to believe that you're real."

On the home front, West has three boys: Josh, Christopher and Luke, ages 13, 10 and 3, respectively. He lives with his kids and his wife, Laura, in Riverview.

"Education has always been a passion with me," West said.

"My mother was a teacher and I saw the passion that she had for the job and the benefits that can come from being a good teacher. Kids love you, parents love you. It's a great life. It really is."

Many years have passed since West helped to open Bloomingdale High School — an experience he said was very exciting. A lot has changed since those early days, but West, in his office the first week back at school, focused instead on what remains the same.

"We were excited when we opened this brand new school in Bloomingdale and we wanted to be involved in kids' lives," West said. "And I still see that excitement and that's a great thing."

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