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FEBRUARY
1984

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOL. V
NUMBER 4

A PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

THOUGHTS ON BLOOMINGDALE

As I embark on my voyage as the editor of the "GAZETTE", I am introducing a new column for editorial comment about the issues which face our community.

This month's column is about our community's need for the Special Taxing District. The bill submitted to the county legislative delegation will give us the opportunity to vote in a special referendum. That referendum if passed by a majority of the registered voters in Bloomingdale will create the STD, not the bill. It is the will of residents expressed at the voting booth which will decide the issue.

The legislation merely gives us the opportunity to vote, and describes the mechanism for administering the STD. Many of the arguments advanced against the bill state that we don't need a special tax for maintenance of our community. Criterion, the developer, has more to lose if the community deteriorates. Let Criterion do it. The walls of Bloomingdale are a silent testimony to Criterion's concern for appearances which may affect their balance sheets. The plain truth is maintenance costs money and a business will do only what it must.

Even Criterion seeks to transfer the burden to the residents through it's own corporately controlled "Master Community Homeowner's Association." Which is involuntary to new residents and gives very little voice to the membership who must pay the bills. Because of the late start MCA has it will be some time before sufficient capital is generated to successfully maintain Bloomingdale's common areas and parks.

Why not vote on our destiny, rather than have it decided for you. REGISTER, if you haven't, and then contact your local legislator and tell him you support the STD bill. There is much yet to do to make Bloomingdale the community it was meant to be.

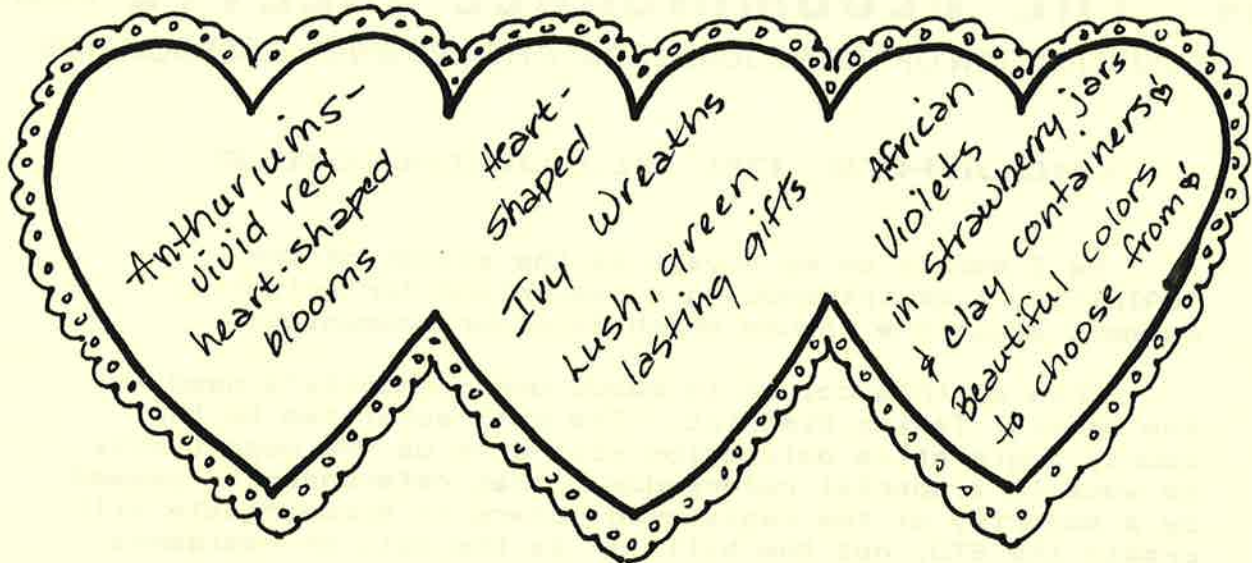
Les

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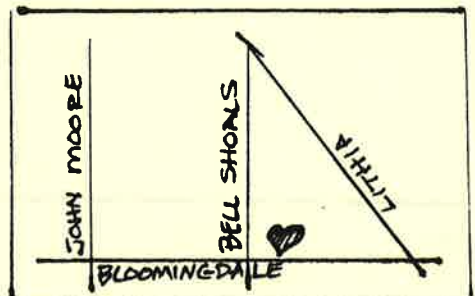


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OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR STD

NARNI CAHILL

When Bloomingdale residents were needed to "stand up and be counted" -- they did ... and in large numbers. When State Representative S. L. "Spud" Clements called the STD hearing to order on Monday night, Jan 30th, there were about 400 Bloomingdale residents in attendance!

Mr. Clements, candidate for re-election this year, opened the meeting by stating that in spite of the flyer from his office announcing the hearing, his position was neutral. But, the right thing to do is not just to let us vote on the issue. He wanted to get to the bottom of this before we spend taxpayers money on an special referendum. Hence the meeting and debate, he also stated that if the meeting produced a consensus for the bill then he would personally take it to the legislature.

Fred Uphoff, Chairman of the BHA'S STD committee, spoke on what an STD is and the history of BHA's search for a vehicle that would provide maintenance to the community's walls, parks, and common areas after Criterion announced three years ago that they planned on divesting themselves of the responsibility. Mr. Uphoff said that even though the development is only 20% (by some estimates) complete, we want to start now as setting up takes time and the longer we wait the more extensive the repairs and the shoddier our neighborhood will look. Property values will drop for all of us

Don Luke, a member of the MCA and designated as member of the MCA Board of Directors spoke against the STD and for the Master Community Association (MCA). Mr. Luke placed the burden of proof on the sponsors of the STD Bill, challenging them to prove that the STD is wanted, needed, have adequate funding and proper management. Mr. Luke asked what can we expect from an STD and how well will the area be maintained. He also stated that the STD lets the developer off the hook for heir responsibilities to the community.

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During rebuttals, comparisons of both plans (Criterion's MCA and the STD) were presented. Mr. Luke was asked to defend the MCA using the same questions he had challenged Mr. Uphoff to answer on the STD.

One of the best questions of the evening was addressed to Rep. Clements when he was asked-- Why do the state and county governments permit a developer to build walls and parks without providing for maintenance? Shouldn't the developer submit along with the community plan some method to fund for the maintenance. Rep Clements agreed that it should be a developer's responsibility while remarking that he had learned a lot about developers during the debate and discussion.

After the question and answer period. Rep Clements called for a straw vote asking those in favor of the STD to move to the right of the Brandon High School Auditorium. Those against were asked to move to the opposite side. As a wave of humanity moved to the right leaving about 20 opposing votes, Rep. Clements accepted the mandate and promised to take the bill before the county legislative delegation for approval and to sponsor the bill in Tallahassee.

IT'S THE LAW

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- All dogs over the age of four (4) months must be vaccinated against Rabies by a Licensed Veterinarian.
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COMPARISONS OF STD AND MCA

	STD	MCA
1. Membership	All Residents	New residents must join at Closing Current residents may join
2. Maintenance responsibility	All walls, parks and common areas	All Parks Common areas and walls in new sections Common areas and walls in in old sections after a set per-centage of the residents join MCA
3. Fees	Paid by all residents and Developed lot Owners	Paid by MCA members only
4. Management	Nine residents	Five person Board Three Criterion Employees Two resident members
5. Chosen by	County Commission during first two years. Elected by residents (registered voters)	Criterion during first two years. Elected by membership (one vote per lot) Criterion's vacant lots count
6. Fees	\$84.00 maximum	\$ 50.00 Maintenance \$100.00 Special Capital Improvements
7. Paid By	Resident Taxpayers	Members who own Developed lots Criterion makes up Shortfall
8. Fees Changed by	51% of Registered voting residents	51% of the voting lots
9. Budget authority	Resident Board	MCA Board
10. Budget approval	Public Hearing County Commission	MCA vote Criterion
11. Dissolved by	51% of Registered voting residents	Establishment of an STD

Gardening

- 7 -

This month's column will be on a subject that is, unfortunately, topical to all of us...freeze damage to our landscapes and what can be done about it. As most of you are aware, Christmas Eve and Christmas night were two consecutive nights of temperatures in the 20's and below. This freeze ranks as one of the all time worst, preceded as it was by mild temperatures and excessive rainfall. These two factors combined to produce lush growth on nearly every type of plant and tree, increasing the susceptibility of even normally hardy plants.

Many landscape plants of standard use were hard hit, such as ligustrum, viburnum, pittosporum, sprengerii fern and so on. Most plants of a tropical nature were nearly annihilated in our area. Plants virtually disappeared overnight. If you covered your plants or banked them with mulch, you may be thinking that your efforts were in vain. Do not despair and do not start acting on the assumption that your plants are dead. Even though they may appear to be brown and lifeless, there could yet be a spark of life within.

As a rule of thumb, continue to water on a normal winter schedule.. anywhere from weekly to every ten days depending on what you have planted and what your plants are used to. Refrain from any pruning until the fifteenth of March and do not replant until then. Of course this does not apply to those items which should be pruned and planted at this time, such as deciduous trees and shrubs and coniferous evergreens such as junipers and pines. No matter how many warm, sunny days we are blessed with between now and March and no matter how strong your urge is to reconstruct your landscape, try to resist disturbing even the most lifeless looking items. If you must do something, work on preparing your spring annual beds, establishing new beds or enlarging existing ones. For the past several years we have had sub-freezing temperatures well into March and this is why you should be prudent in what you attempt to do between now and then. In my March column, I will talk more specifically about treatment of damaged material.

I would like to preface my native plant section with a word about cold-hardiness and a tropical looking landscape. Although Florida is not truly tropical, many people moving here desire a tropical environment in their own yard.

After a harsh winter such as this one, they throw up their hands in despair over their frozen hibiscus and pygmy dates, give up on ever having a tropical appearing landscape and start planting junipers



Eric Wilds

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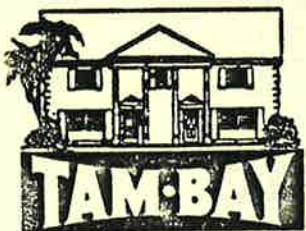
9am-9pm Mon-Sat.

Located in South Brandon

GARDENING (continued)

and holly. Remember, you can create that lush, eternally green look you desire without bankrupting yourself each spring replanting. By carefully choosing your plant material and learning which palms, flowering vines, ground covers, etc. will thrive here, you can have the "Florida look" year round. And even though I want to encourage you to plant native flora, you are not necessarily restricted to native plants. The Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension office can assist you in this and so can any competent professional.

The native plant of the month is the needle palm. Found usually in moist, dark soils in oak hummocks, the needle palm is a handsome palm forming dense clumps of dark green foliage with a silvery green underside. The trunk is fibrous, dark brown and consists of many sharp spines, hence the name needle palm. A thick clump of this palm is virtually impenetrable and it makes a great barrier plant. Slow growing, it may eventually achieve a height in the shade of fifteen feet, slightly less in the sun. It is well suited to either shade or sun, but does grow much faster in a moist, highly organic soil. Mulching is of great benefit. Virtually problem free, the needle palm is among my favorite of all palms and is a boon to any landscape in which it appears.



859 W. BLOOMINGDALE AVE.
BRANDON, FLORIDA 33511

Hi there neighbor,

The three of us would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you. Our names are Nancy Bullington, 3919 Briarlake Dr., Ph. 681-7286; Donna Hurley, 750 Caliente Dr., Ph. 681-3342; and Gwen Adams, 3910 Sabal Palm, Ph. 689-0842. Our office phone is 681-4455. We are representatives of Tam-Bay Realty, Inc.

We will be representing homeowners in our neighborhood and we will be by soon to meet you personally.

Best Regards,

TAM-BAY REALTY, INC.

Nancy Bullington 681-7286

Donna Hurley 681-3342

Gwen Adams 689-0842

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MOBILE WATCH LOG

Even though the mobile watch still patrols at night, incidents unfortunately occur during the day. A group of school age children in Bloomingdale East were harassed by 2-4 teenage boys. These boys chased a second grader, verbally harassed sixth to eighth grade girls, and tried to talk a fourth grader into their car. They have been seen in four different vehicles; an older faded yellow car believed to be a chevy nova, a medium blue pick-up, a white pick-up and a brownish Camaro Z-28. Frequently, they have been seen driving recklessly through the neighborhood. Please warn your children to be alert for these vehicles, not to go near anyone in a strange vehicle and to tell you immediately. If you see these boys please call the sheriff and a mobile watch base station. Be sure to tell the sheriff previous reports have been made. Let's watch our children, especially going to and from bus stops.

The sheriff has requested we notify him if two young men selling "all-purpose" cleaner are seen in the area. One is a white male with blonde hair and the other is a black male. A resident in the Estates refused to buy the cleaner and the salesman damaged the resident's car. The Bloomingdale resident called the manufacturer of the cleaner in Arizona to complain, but the answering service said the owner had not been in for two weeks.


Mailboxes are still a favorite target for irresponsible juveniles. The latest incident occurred about 2-3 AM and resulted in damage to a mailbox belonging to one of our newest residents.

the Mobile Watch is now out 5 nights per week and still needs volunteers to go to 7 nights. If you can donate 3-4 hours per month call one of the base stations. Donations of money or equipment are also needed.

- Base Stations
- Hal Labkon 681-6853
 - Dick Lannoye 681-4204
 - Art Hollows 681-5199
 - Chuck Loomis 681-4835
 - Skip Mowery 689-4212
 - Joe Drawdy 689-7618

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EXTRACTS FROM THE SHERIFF'S NEWSLETTER NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NOTES

BILLS PASSED BY 1983 LEGISLATURE

Bycycle Safety: Amends safety regulations for bycycles with regard to hand signals, yielding right-of-way, riding on sidewalks, etc.

Burglary penalties: Increases the penalties for attempting, soliciting or conspiring to commit a burglary.

Drug Sniffing: Spells out the drugs and chemicals that it is against the law to inhale, and prohibits driving while under the influence of these substances.

Child Pornography: Makes it a felony to employ or induce any child to engage in any sexual conduct in a performance, motion picture, play, dance, or photograph.

Burglary & Battery: Provides that burglary is a first degree felony if battery is involved, and a second degree felony if it is not.

Abusing Elderly Persons: Provides that any person who knowingly or wilfully abuses, neglects or exploits an aged or disabled person and, in so doing, causes bodily harm, permanent disfigurement or permanent disability is guilty of a felony. Any person who knowingly or wilfully abuses, neglects or exploits an aged or disabled person is guilty of a misdemeanor. (No disfigurement or disability need result under the misdemeanor section.)

Obscene Materials: Amends the law that prohibits distribution of obscene materials to minors by changing the definition of "minor from anyone under 17 to anyone under 18." Also broadens the definition of obscene to include material that is "considered as a whole, without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for juveniles.

CAT BURGLARIES

We have had several burglaries in Northwest Hillsborough County where burglars pulled screens from windows and then crawled through the open/unlocked windows. Several of these victims were new residents to the area and stated they didn't know there was a crime problem. We encourage you to contact your Block Captain for a security survey by a S.C.A.T. Deputy.

STATISTICS

(October '82 - September '83)

These figures will be for every 1,000 residents. If you want area figures please call your Block Captain.

60.75 Felony Crimes
18.42 Burglaries
32.56 Thefts

During the winter, not only do the tourists arrive but also the Bunco artists, pseudo carpenters, roofers, painters, you name it - they are all coming to make the fast buck and disappear.

Don't be taken in by their fast talk apparently low prices, or their hard luck stories. There are plenty of legitimate tradesmen, duly licensed, bonded, and insured. Above all, they are skillful and available to respond to complaints. The least you can do is ask for an occupational license. A check of the telephone book and Better Business Bureau should give you some clue as to their reliability. You can protect yourself by carefully investigating before entering into any contract.

CONTINUED ON PAGE

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NOTES (CONTINUED)

Special programs are available from the Neighborhood Watch Association. Some of the available programs are

1. Child Abuse
2. Drug Abuse
3. Latch Key Kids
4. Gun Safety in the Home
5. Sexual Assault
6. Awareness Program for Women
7. Credit Card Fraud
8. Con Games
9. Driving Safety
10. Special Speakers

Let your Block Captain know if you would like to have a special program.

TECO RADIO WATCH

TECO employees are participating in a Neighborhood Radio Watch. The program assists law enforcement agencies countywide. TECO vehicles will be marked with special decals as a way of alerting the public that TECO employees operating the equipment are trained by law enforcement to report any emergency or suspicious situation directly to their dispatcher. The dispatcher will call the proper agency. If you need assistance for law enforcement or first aid, please utilize this valuable program.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NOTES These extracts are taken from recent editions of the Sheriff's Newsletter. Contact your Block Captain if you would like to read them. The Gazette will publish extracts each month as a regular feature.

LOST AND FOUND

REWARD - BROWN, BLACK AND WHITE 8 YEAR OLD FEMALE SHELTYE (MINATURE COLLIE). ANSWERS TO MOLLIE. DISAPPEARED JANUARY 7. CALL MARY STARK 689-2460



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\$11.50 members
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Time: 6:30 Cocktails (cash bar)
7:30 Dinner - "Lotsa Pasta"
8:30 Show

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YOUR DOG'S HEALTH

MARGARET WISSMAN, D.V.M.

HEARTWORMS

Many of you who have moved here from the North may not realize the dangers of heartworm disease in this area. As you may know, heartworms are 5-14 inch long worms that actually live in the right side of the heart of infected dogs. They are transmitted by mosquitoes, which are present in Brandon year-round. When a mosquito bites an infected dog, along with blood, the insect ingests microfilaria, the microscopic, immature larval worms usually found circulating in the blood of dogs with heartworm disease. Inside the mosquito, these larvae change to a form that can infect other dogs. When the mosquito bites a dog, these microfilaria are injected into the tissues, where they migrate and grow for about six months before settling into the heart and pulmonary vessels. These adult worms then produce microfilaria that circulate freely in the blood vessels.

These worms increase the work done by the heart, and can restrict blood flow to the lungs, liver and kidneys. Damage to the heart muscle and the valves may be permanent. This disease is progressively fatal to many dogs.

In the early stages of this disease, the dog may be symptom free. The clinical signs may vary, but these are some of the more common symptoms: 1. dry cough 2. exercise intolerance 3. labored breathing 4. weakness 5. pale gums 6. weight loss 7. fluid build-up in the abdomen.

In most cases, the diagnosis is easy. A sample of blood is taken, filtered, and examined under the microscope for the presence of microfilaria. Occasionally, a dog may not have circulating microfilaria, but does have adult heartworms, and then special diagnostic tests can be used to confirm the diagnosis.

(Continued on page)

Fred G. Guida
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YOUR DOG'S HEALTH

In most cases, it is possible to treat the dog for heartworms, but first tests must be run to evaluate the dog's condition, and the treatment is expensive and risky. However, it is much better to prevent heartworm disease than to treat it once it has occurred. In Florida, heartworm preventative, which comes in chewable tablet, pill and liquid forms, must be given year-round. It must be taken regularly to prevent this disease. The dog must be blood tested and found to be heartworm-negative before starting the preventative, since it may cause fatal reactions in heartworm-positive dogs. Puppies under six months may be safely started on the preventative without a blood test.

There are over 70 species of mosquitoes that can transmit heartworms, and in Florida the threat of heartworm disease is constant. If your dog is not protected, please contact a veterinarian to start on a preventative program. No dog is immune. Even indoor dogs can be bitten by mosquitoes. It is estimated that about 60 to 70 percent of the dogs not on preventative will get heartworms, in this area. Please don't let your dog become a statistic-- it's such an easily preventable disease.

Editor's note: Dr. Wissman resides at 622 Ephrata Drive and her office number is 689-1228. And one of our pet owning residents asked me to remind everyone to obey the leash law.

BHA EDITOR

The Editor of the BHA Gazette is Leslie "Les" Butler, 3816 Cloverhill Court, 681-5367. Everyone in the community is invited to submit articles, letters, or ads to the editor no later than the first Saturday of each month. The Gazette will hit the streets by the 15th of the month. These new publication dates will allow publication of the results of the BHA board prior to the BHA general membership meeting. You may have noticed that there were no letters to the editor this month. Send your letters to the Editor or to the BHA.

BABYSITTING CO-OP

I received a number of calls from Mothers who are very interested in establishing a co-op. If you think you might want to participate please call Sherry Hopkins 689-5767 or Narni Cahill 685-9215. We want to set-up a meeting soon so the Mothers can meet each other and share ideas. A co-op is a super way to provide yourself with child free time and at no cost. Talk to a neighbor, a friend and join together--then you can ask someone close to you to sit without feeling guilty.

Narni

BHA BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met February 7 at Gloria Dyke's home. Fortified with some super angel food cake, the board decided to raise the advertising rates for the Gazette effective with the May issue. Our circulation now is over 950 homes and printing costs have become too high for the current rates. Regular advertisers will receive a letter explaining the new rates. New advertisers should contact the editor for the rates. In other action, the board agreed to a request for a variance to the covenants in the Estates. Criterion has the final say. Issues facing the board in the coming months will be the STD and a rewrite of the constitution and by-laws. Two members of the board are in violation of the by-laws, and the Secretary was directed to inform them that the board intends to take appropriate action under the constitution.

Editor

TUTORING

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LABKON INSURANCE AGENCY: Dental, Life, Health & Annuities. For a free insurance review call your neighborhood independent agent at 681-6853 for an appointment.

CROCHETED DECORATIONS AND GIFTS: Barbie clothes, collars, shawls, etc. Orders taken for special items. Call Joyce Uphoff at 685-3013 or visit 3715 Casaba Loop.

FOR SALE: Crib with mattress, white wood \$35, matching dresser \$30, oak play pen \$20, changing table \$20, ping pong table \$50. 685-8296

TUPPERWARE PARTY: How about a Tupperware Party. Lot's of games and gifts. Call Marlene 685-0885.

MUM'S CLUB: Anyone interested in a Mom's Club? Need a night out away from kids? Call Marlene: 685-0885.

WANTED: Baby Sitter in West. Who wants to sit? Pays \$1.25 hr. Call 685-0885.

CATERING SERVICES: Parties, Dinners Baked Goods. Call Wynella at 681-6011.

NEW CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Effective with May Issue

Classified AD's	\$ 1.00
Business Card Ad's.....	\$ 4.00
Babysitting Listing.....	\$ 1.00
Children under 18 Free	
Lawn Service/Yard Work	\$ 1.00
Children under 18 Free	

Classified Ads in the GAZETTE are still the best bargain. 950 homes covered every month.

*** Babysitting/Yard work listing will only be Published Quarterly ****

- Amy Barnes, 15, 681-7375
Certified Sitter
- Corinne Betowski, age 23
685-1402
- Missy Carlin, age 15
689-1496
- Chris Carlin, age 18
689-1496
- Erin Conway, age 15
689-8744
- Kathy Campbell, age 15
681-4106
- Kathy Fawcett, age 16
681-5803
- Pam Greeley, age 23
681-9306
- Tina Graves, age 17
681-5501
- Kevin Knott, age 15
685-0011
- Tom Knott, age 17
685-0011
- Scott Travis, age 14
685-2196 \$.75 hr

YARD WORK

- Scott Frey, 681-3739
- Alex Algarin, 689-3127
- Don--reasonable, 685-4273
- Martin, age 18, strong,
do any work, 685-1843
- Patrick Conway, lawns &
car wash 689-8744

FEB.

-15-

What's Going On?

MAR.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
FEB. 12	13 GASPARILLA NO SCHOOL	14 	15	16	17	18
19 "I RAN BLOOMINGDALE" RACE	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY NO SCHOOL	21 B-H-A MEETING 7:30 @ ILTE MODEL CTR BULKHOEN PTA 7:30	22	23	24	25 STRAWBERRY CLASSIC RUN (PLANT CITY)
26	27	28	29	MAR. 1	2	3
4	5 CRAFT CLUB JEAN HOPE 685-6584	6 B-H-A BOARD MTG	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 BRANDON PRESIDENTS' ROUND- TABLE 7:30 @ CENTER PLACE	15	16	17

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