



Bloomingfield Drive in Bloomingdale West has a lowered speed limit these days. Efforts by residents to cut down on speeders who use the road as a traffic detour resulted in the 25 m.p.h. speed limit but they are trying to get the county to take even stronger action. Some speeders, including school buses, have been clocked at over 45 m.p.h. on the street during a survey conducted by the county several months ago. The speed limit there was previously 30 m.p.h..

Finding the median age is 29 years old is one of the surprises from the BHA survey

BY ART BLEAU

One third of the homes in Bloomingdale have incomes over \$70,000 a year, and 90 percent of the residents rate life here as good to excellent, according to a survey taken by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.

Survey forms were sent to the nearly 3,000 homes under the BHA and 17.5 percent (519) of the residents responded.

The second highest income group, with only 10.4 percent, was in the \$65,000 to \$70,000 category.

On the low income side, 1.2 percent reported incomes under \$15,000, and another 1.2 percent showing incomes of between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

One fact that may account for some of the high incomes could be the number of women who work outside the home.

The survey showed that of those responding, 32 percent said the woman worked in an office. Another 1.3 percent of the women were active military personnel and 32.6 percent were homemakers.

On the male side, the survey indicated that only 50.3 percent worked in an office. Just under 9 percent of the men were active military personnel and 10.6 percent were retired.

There are 3.2 people per home in Bloomingdale with a median age of 29.4 years, the survey revealed. Each home has an average of 1.6 registered voters and 91.1 percent of the residents own their own homes.

The survey also showed that 67.7 percent of the children attend public schools in the area while 22 percent go to private schools.

An age breakdown in

— SURVEY, page 4

Parents voice concerns over proposed changes in school boundaries

BY ART BLEAU

Nearly 300 parents, many angry but most very concerned, questioned staff of the Hillsborough County School Board for over two and one half hours January 10, challenging the proposed boundaries for four new elementary schools scheduled to open in the Bloomingdale area.

Susan DeLuca, a member of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board of directors, met prior to the start of the meeting with several of the staffers to express board concerns over the boundary realignments which affect Bloomingdale West.

Ms. DeLuca presented the staff with a letter from the board expressing those concerns and a copy of detailed maps showing the difficulties with the proposed realignment for Boyette Springs and Kingswood Schools.

The BHA director explained to the school board staff that the present proposed alignment would split off small sections of Bloomingdale West children and send them to Boyette Springs School, while the larger remainder would be sent to Kingswood.

She asked on behalf of the BHA board that the staff consider changing the alignment so that all of the children in West would be sent to one or the other of the two schools.

She noted that in many instances, children who live across the street from their playmates and neighbors would be going to different schools.

The staffers assured Ms. DeLuca they would consider her concerns, which were also expressed by several other parents, and would bring back to the school board the recommendations made by the BHA board.

The staffers also indicated they had driven the area concerned prior to the meeting and noted that the proposed border went down

the center of a residential street.

Many parents became upset when staff members failed to answer specific questions about things related to schools but unrelated to the boundaries of the new schools.

Larry Martin, general area director for the school board, told the parents, "We're not here to argue with you. We are here to listen to you. We write down everything you say and we will

take it back to the school board."

He urged the parents to attend the school board meeting when the proposals are presented to voice any additional concerns they might have.

Kenneth Allen, director of Pupil Administrative Services, said the staff would try to have the proposals ready for the school board's February 4 meeting. He said he would notify principals of area schools of the exact

time and date and parents could contact the principals for that information.

Parents asked repeatedly to see a copy of the revised proposals the staff would submit to the school before the actual board meeting, but staffers either ignored the questions or referred parents to the school principals.

Some parents also asked the staff to hold a second meeting with parents before

— HEARING, page 17



Prior to the public meeting, Board of Director member and liaison to the School Board, Susan DeLuca, met with Ken Allen, Larry Martin, and other members of the boundary staff. Bringing maps of the Bloomingdale area, she explained how Bloomingdale would like to be treated as one unit.

BULLETIN: School staff alter recommendations on West

JANUARY 29. Suggestions by parents that children from Bloomingdale West and surrounding developments be kept together when new elementary schools open this fall are being adopted by the staff of the Hillsborough County School Board.

The staff announced Monday, January 29, that it has changed its recommendation about sending part of Bloomingdale West to Boyette Springs Elementary and part to Kingswood Elementary.

The proposal now rec-

ommends that all of Bloomingdale West, South Oaks, Indian Hills, River Rapids and Waterford youngsters be sent to Lithia Springs Elementary which is scheduled to open in January 1992.

The youngsters attending Lithia Springs would then attend sixth grade at Progress Village, seventh grade at Booker T. Washington School and then to Bloomingdale High School.

Sharon Beecham, of the pupil placement office at the school board, said the recommendation was changed "because parents at the

meeting said that is what they wanted."

She said parents of children in Hickory Creek and Dogwood Hills had also asked the board staff to consider keeping their children together and the staff responded by recommending those children be sent to Kingswood.

The entire record of the meetings held on the boundaries question as well as parent comments and new recommendations were given to principals Tuesday morning and will be available to parents at those schools.

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Church Directory

Astrology

All Area CLASSIFIED

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRANDON, FL
PERMIT NO. 85

857 East Bloomingdale Avenue
 Bloomingdale Square
 Brandon, FL 33511
 Telephone (813) 681-2051
 Hours of Operation:
 Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.
 Publisher

Susan L. DeLuca
 President/General Manager

Pamela Liguori
 Secretary/Treasurer

Bonnie R. Abrado
 Assistant Manager

Editorial

Interim news director/editor: Art Bleau. Staff writers: Art Bleau, Nancy Heston, Liz Fox, Barbara Ling, Ginny Wong, David Cummings, Michael Watkins.

Advertising Department

Advertising director: Doris Pence. Classified sales: Cecile Dorety. Advertising representatives: Ann Durrance, Michelle St. Pierre. Rent-A-Kid sales: Doris Pence.

Circulation

Distribution manager: Karen Ellis. Circulation assistants: Rent-A-Kid delivery system.

Business Department

Office manager: Cecile Dorety.

Accounting

Services provided by: James Laughlin, CPA, Bloomingdale Resident; 710 Oakfield Dr., Suite 101, Brandon; 651-1740.

Legal Counsel

Services provided by: John P. Holsonback, attorney; Melendi, Gibbons, and Holsonback, P.A., 228-0853.

Statement of Operation

The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc., (a for-profit corporation) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc., which is a non-profit 501(c)4 corporation. The sole purpose of The Bloomingdale Gazette is to serve as a medium of communication for the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and the residents of the Bloomingdale Community. The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc., is totally self-supporting with its revenues being generated solely by advertising funds and various fundraisers geared specifically for the newspaper.

The Bloomingdale Gazette is published monthly with occasional special editions and is delivered in door-knob bags directly on the door of every residence within the area governed by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc., plus other selected areas at no charge. It is also mailed to approximately 300 recipients including public officials. Circulation varies from 4,600 to 4,800; actual figures are available upon request.

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available for free at five area newsstands (Little Professor Book Store, Rainbow Food Mart, Kash 'n Karry, Farm Store in Erindale Plaza, & Publix in Brandon Centre South) and by subscription at the rate of \$14 per year to cover mailing and handling fees.

The entire content of The Bloomingdale Gazette is the property of The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc., and is not reproducible in any manner without express written permission from the President of The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc.

Services provided by The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc., include: Advertisement design and layout for other publications, display advertising, classified advertising, display classified advertising, business card advertisements, and delivery of inserts and circulars. Restrictions apply and discounts are available for Participating Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, advertising agencies, and other non-profit organizations. Rate cards are available upon request.

Community Telephone Directory

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

857 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
 Brandon, FL 33511 • 681-2051

- President**
 Russ Lembke 681-2051
- Vice President**
 Bill Povilus 654-4917
- Treasurer**
 Grace Lewis 681-4548
- Secretary**
 Joyce Morris 689-7019
- Directors**
 Thomas Brophy 684-0865
 Susan DeLuca 689-4972
 Carmen Forestier 685-4376
 Dave Fraser unlisted
 David Lees 681-3999
 Bill MacKinnon 684-8524
 Ron Schall 653-2170
 Alternates: Tony Interdonato, Larry Rivers.

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

P. O. Box 902
 Brandon, FL 33509-0902

- President**
 Peter Aluotto 685-0727
- Vice President**
 Joe Liguori 681-9655
- Treasurer**
 Pam Mabe 684-8924
- Recording Secretary**
 Ron Delavan 685-1711
- Corresponding Secretary**
 Wingfield Hughes 685-1946
- Trustee--Errol Whitfield** 681-7462
Trustee--Nancy Beckley 689-2810

PROPERTY MANAGER

Bobby Cole 685-2239

BLOOMINGDALE MOBILE WATCH

857 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
 Brandon, FL 33511

Core Committee

Coordinator/Scheduler
 LaWayne Wyatt 685-2072

Treasurer
 John Britton 681-1553

Equipment Mgr
 Steve Schneider 685-8378

Technical Advisor
 Paul Truesdell 653-1725

Members
 Chuck Walsh 689-9688
 David Guy 681-5943
 Chris Pheils 681-9026
 Paul Kelmer 681-9701
 Rick Borling 684-2022
 Ed Holzman 681-2548

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

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

President
 Linda Hagan 681-6223

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

857 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
 Brandon, FL 33511 • 681-2051

DISTRICT II
 Position available for a Coordinator
 T. J. Pinta, Deputy
 HC Sheriff's Department
 Crime Prevention Bureau, 247-8115

Location of the
 Bloomingdale
 Community Office
 857 E. Bloomingdale
 Bloomingdale Square



Office space donated by the
 Paragon Group

The Bloomingdale
 Community Office is open:
 Monday to Friday
 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 Closed on
 Saturday & Sunday

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office (see map on left). These are public meetings and all Bloomingdale Residents are invited.

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT MEETINGS
 Monthly Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 8 p.m.

BHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Monthly Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

BHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 Occur five times per year in September, November (elections), January, March, and May. The next meeting will be in March.

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT MEETING
 Monthly Meeting: First Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Meetings for Mobile Watch and Neighborhood Watch are on a per need basis. Watch this listing for dates and time.

Bloomingdale's "Everything you ever needed" Form

Mail or bring to: Bloomingdale Community Offices
 857 E. Bloomingdale Avenue
 Brandon, FL 33511

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Home phone _____ Daytime phone _____

I/We would like:

- To become a Participating Member in the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association: Dues \$10/year, Nov. 1 to Oct. 31.
- To make a donation to:
 _____ BHA Legal Fund
 _____ BHA Scholarship Fund
 _____ Other: _____
- To join _____ Mobile Watch _____ Neighborhood Watch.
- To be placed on waiting lists or volunteer lists for:
 _____ BHA Board of Directors
 _____ STD Board of Trustees
 _____ Committees as needed
- To report a code violation such as unmowed lots, junk cars, safety hazards, etc. (Your name remains confidential, but MUST be on this form at the top.) Call the office if the problem is not cleared up within 2 weeks of sending in this notice.

Location & nature of suspected violation--

To be contacted regarding advertising in *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.

To make a comment about:

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

PEOPLE

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Clayton Bargren has made fighting crime his career

BY DAVID CUMMINGS

In the Vietnam War, Clayton Bargren was a Green Beret, serving his country like many others who were hoping to make a difference. About 20 years ago, he became a police officer with the same intentions.

Today, Bargren is enjoying a deserved retirement from those long years of active police work but he still misses the rush he got from his job and is sometimes bored. But, he says, he's "learning to deal with it."

Bargren lives with his wife, June, in Bloomingdale East and they enjoy their community.

Bargren started his police career in New Jersey as a patrol officer in 1974, after more than four years in the U.S. Army where he began as a private in the Special Forces and moved up through Officer's Candidate School to become a lieutenant. Having spent his teen years in Tampa, Bargren moved back here after three years in New Jersey and joined the Tampa Police Department where he has remained.

Since the beginning of his career in law enforcement, his assignments have spanned everything from hostage negotiations to tactical teams.

He has worked vice control, the SWAT team, burglary and robbery investigations and many other areas. His training varies from FBI

anti-sniper and survival tactics to sex crimes investigations.

Tactical teams was Bargren's favorite, he says, because "We got to play cowboys and Indians." One instance that stands out for him was when he and other SWAT team members were pursuing a Hyde Park bank robber who had hidden in his girlfriend's attic.

The attic was loaded with blown-in insulation on that hot, sultry summer day but the officers couldn't find the suspect. Bargren got the idea to announce that he was setting loose a snake trained to find hiding suspects. The robber, obviously afraid of snakes, jumped up in only his underwear, covered with insulation, and surrendered. "He looked like a snow man," Bargren remembers.

When the suspect was confronted by a TV camera, he blurted out "I didn't rob no bank. Besides, that gun was empty," Bargren said.

During his career, Bargren has also instructed other officers in hostage negotiations, tactical driving and other subjects and he is classified as a master with virtually every rifle and pistol ever manufactured.

To most people, Bargren may sound like a real-life "Rambo" but he looks at it differently. "It's just like a regular job except you are always a target," the retired officer explains. "It's the most boring job in the world,

with 99 percent being paperwork. But that other one percent is where you could get killed."

He recalled one incident where he was operating undercover as a money man looking to buy stolen new cars. A large ring was operating for a long time in the area and had gotten cocky over their success. When the sting finally ended, Bargren was arrested, to protect his identity, along with the thieves who had just delivered a truckload of new stolen cars. While they were waiting to be processed, one of the thieves mentioned to Bargren that he was glad the other truck full of cars had broken down and been left behind on some railroad tracks.

Bargren tactfully got the thief to tell him where the truck was left and it was retrieved before a train came along and crashed into the abandoned vehicle.

The dangerous part Bargren's work is where all the training and experience comes in, he points out, because "When you're in a shootout, it's either fight or flight. It's over in seconds and you only have a millisecond to think. You just can't leave. You have to take action. That's what you are sworn to do. You can imagine the stress involved."

In June of 1986, Bargren retired from active law enforcement but his wife still remains active as a detective



Clayton Bargren

in the Tampa Police Department where she is a 13-year veteran of the force.

Bargren still works as an instructor at the Tampa Police Academy and is an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Hillsborough Community College.

He is also certified to teach law enforcement in Florida, as an instructor by the Florida State Department of Law Enforcement and as an instructor in FBI firearms and chemical agents.

He also has bachelor and master of science degrees in police science from Columbia Pacific University in San Rafael, Calif., and is currently a doctoral candidate in Clinical Hypnotherapy at the American Institute of Hypnotherapy in Santa Anna, Calif., which is affiliated with Duke University in North Carolina.

Bargren is also active in the Tampa Police Sertoma Club which is involved with needy causes nationwide. He was also a member of the Bloomingdale Mobile Watch until teaching at night made that impossible to continue.

Bargren and others like him help make Bloomingdale a great community in which to live.

Local businessman donates percent of ad to the BHA & Little League

Thomas Peterson, a resident of South Oaks and a local investment counselor, ran an ad for his business in the *Gazette* about a year ago and promised to donate part of the money generated by the ad back to the community.

Peterson had promised to return 10 per cent of the revenue generated by the ad back to the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and another 10 per cent to the Little League of Bloomingdale.

Checks for \$74.74 have been sent by Peterson to both organizations.

The community expresses a sincere "Thank you!"

Jason Gill leaves for the Air Force



Jason Lee Gill

Jason Lee Gill, 20, son of David and Susan Gill of 4309 Ellenville Place, is leaving Bloomingdale to begin basic training in the U.S. Air Force at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Tex. The 1990 Bloomingdale High School graduate will be stationed at Lackland for six weeks before going on to advanced training.

Gill worked at the Bloomingdale Golfer's Club during his last two years of school.

Chris Jernigen has become an Eagle Scout



Chris Jernigen

by Michael J. Watkins

On January 20, the Scottish bagpipes played at Troop 11's Scout meeting as part of the ceremony honoring Chris Jernigen's appointment to Eagle Scout.

The ceremony included the presentation of a variety of plaques, and an eagle statue made of marble. One of the most attractive quests of this ceremony was the live eagle. Chris has spent long days and weekends working for the Eagle Scout appointment.

He first joined Boy Scouts of America five years ago. He and his friends became interested in Troop 11 and decided to join. Troop 11 has since then taken part in many outdoor activities such as camping, rock climbing, white water rafting, and canoeing. They have also ventured on fifty mile hikes and many other exciting activities. But it wasn't all adventure that helped Chris earn his Eagle Scout.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, Chris had to meet certain requirements.

To begin with, Chris had to earn eleven required Merit badges. He also had to hold two leadership positions in the troop. In addition, he had camping trips to take,

One of the most important requirements was his Eagle Service project. Chris's project involved planting four trees and painting much of the equipment at Bloomingdale Park East. With all of these requirements met, Chris was able to be honored as an Eagle Scout.

Earning his Eagle Scout, will help Chris in his goals for the future. Chris wishes to enter the FBI.

Chris, 16, is currently a junior at Bloomingdale High School. An above average student, Chris is involved in such school activities as track, Key Club, and band. When he is not busy with school or scouting, Chris enjoys playing drums, fishing, and running track.

Few people earn this coveted appointment. It requires hard work and dedication. In return it gives you knowledge of survival and courage. Our congratulations to Chris.

BHA elects new officers



Russ Lembke
President



Bill Povilus
Vice President

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board of directors elected new officers for 1991 at its Jan. 8 meeting. Their term as officers is for one year.

Board members elected to office are: Russ Lembke, president; Bill Povilus, vice president; Grace Lewis, treasurer, and Joyce Morris, secretary.

As President, Russ will preside over the General Membership meetings plus run the business portion of the BHA. Bill, as Chairman of the Board, oversees the Board of Directors meetings which occur one time per month.

Jewish Center discusses expansion

Brandon Jewish Center and Congregation Beth Shalom will hold an open meeting at TECO Hall, Brandon February 6 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss future plans for expansion of the congregation.

The center is holding a family bowling party Feb. 24 a from 12:30 to 3:30 at Brandon Crossroads. For more information contact Sharon Green at 681-9067 or Sandra Santucci at 685-0322.

households of those responding to the survey shows that the largest percentage, 22.8 percent, are between 30 and 39 years of age while 21.3 percent are between 40 and 49. The two other largest age groups of those responding are 11 to 18 years with 16.4 percent and 5 to 10 years with 11.7 percent.

On the question of whether the Special Taxing District should provide paid security for Bloomingdale, 50.9 percent of those responding said the board should. Only 28.5 percent said no to the question and another 20.6 percent did not answer.

Asked if they would be willing to donate \$30 a year to a Deed Restriction Enforcement Fund, 42 percent of the people said they were not in favor. Just over 38 percent said they would donate to such a fund and 19.7 percent did not answer.

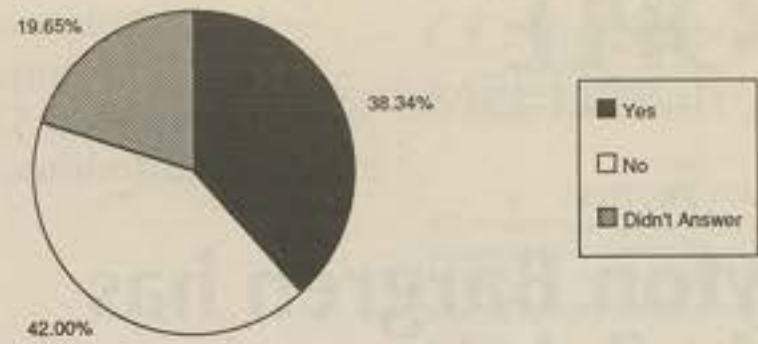
On the question of where Bloomingdale residents get their news, 387 said they read community news in the *Gazette* and 249 said they used the same source for Bloomingdale area business ads.

Behind the *Gazette* was the *Tampa Tribune* with 264 readers using it for community news and 210 using it for area business ads. Third on the list was *Brandon News* with 88 homes using it for news and 118 using it for ads.

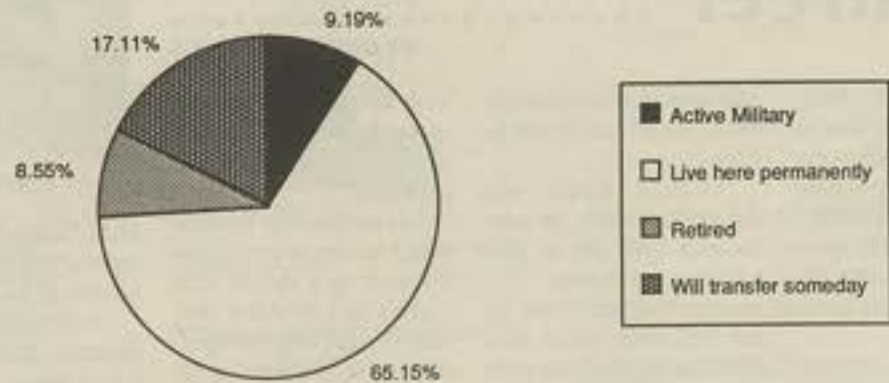
On the question of good results from ads readers found in the *Gazette*, 46.7 percent said their experience was very successful. Only 19 percent said they felt some small dissatisfaction with the businesses.

On the question of whether the *Gazette* should be published more frequently, a resounding 72 percent said leave it a monthly while only 28 percent said it should be published weekly.

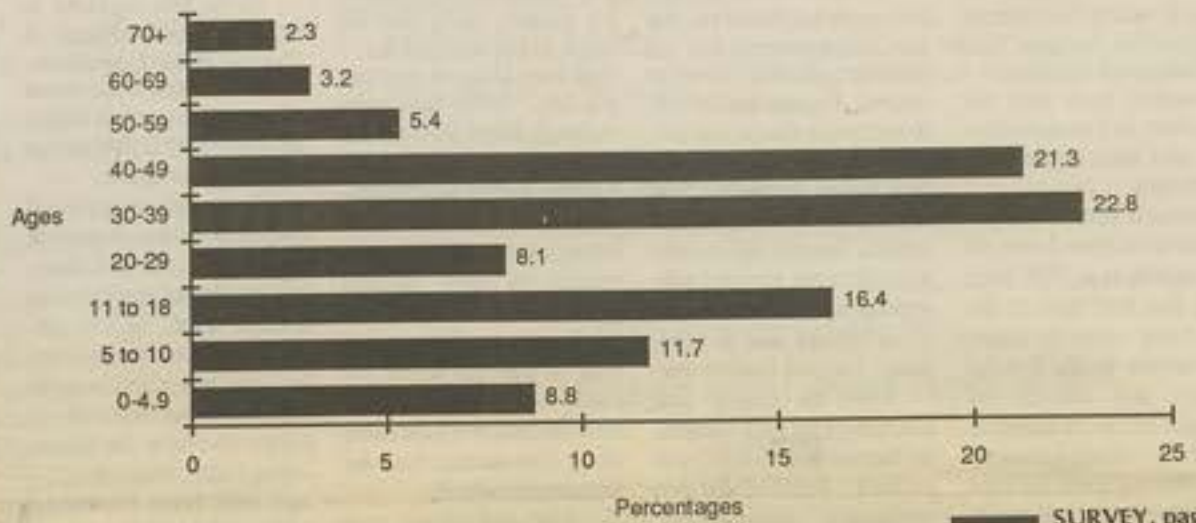
Because last year's survey was completely different from this year's, there was no basis with which to compare the annual results.



Description of Bloomingdale Families



Percentage Population by Age

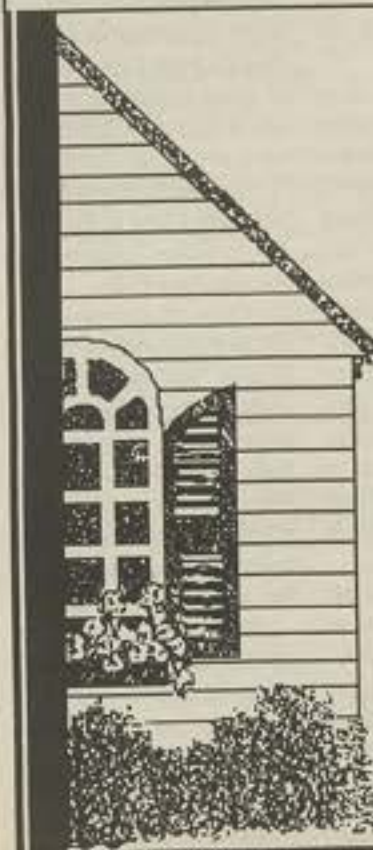


The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance in correlating the data and preparing the charts as seen on this page and page 5.

- Melissa Nickerson
- Susan DeLuca
- Bonnie Abrado
- Frankie Nickerson
- Sheila Jackson



CALL AND ASK FOR
Donna MacGiffert
681-0313 (24 hr.)



The Prudential
Florida Realty

"I've Personally...

117
~~110~~ Resales
in Bloomingdale !!!

Consistent Top Multi-Million Dollar Producer

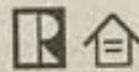
For Buying or Selling
Make the Proper Selection

Call your Neighborhood Specialists

DONNA MacGIFFERT
&
Mary Ann Schmidt

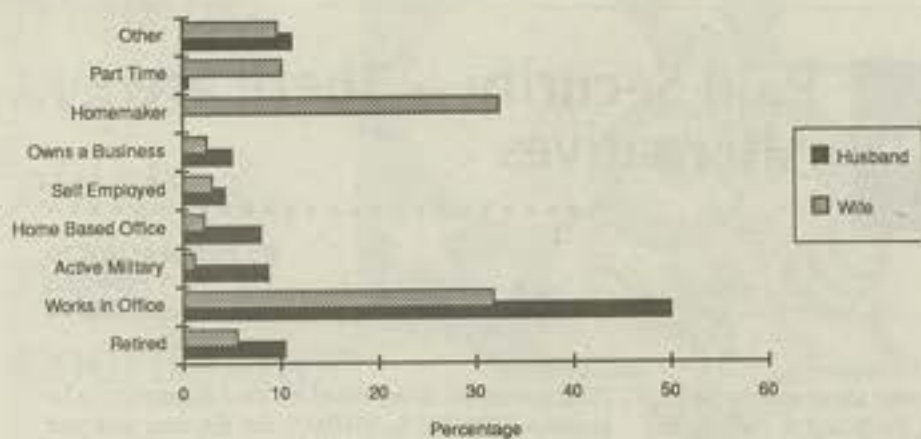
681-0313 (24 hour)
685-8617 (evenings)

- 3 years Leading Edge Society :
Top 4% of nation's sales leaders
- Consistent multi-million dollar producer since 1985: Millions & millions sold
- Proven success record in Bloomingdale
- Corporate & military relocation specialist
- Call me for a current market analysis
- 7 years in the Bloomingdale area

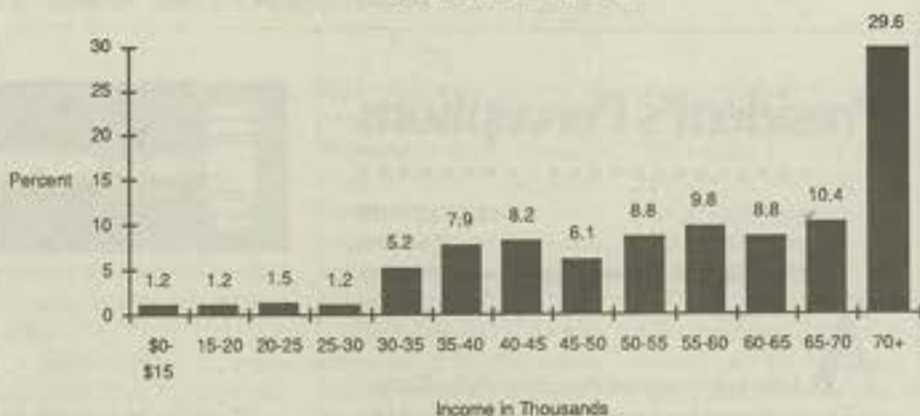


If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, please disregard this offer. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We cooperate with them fully.

Employment Patterns



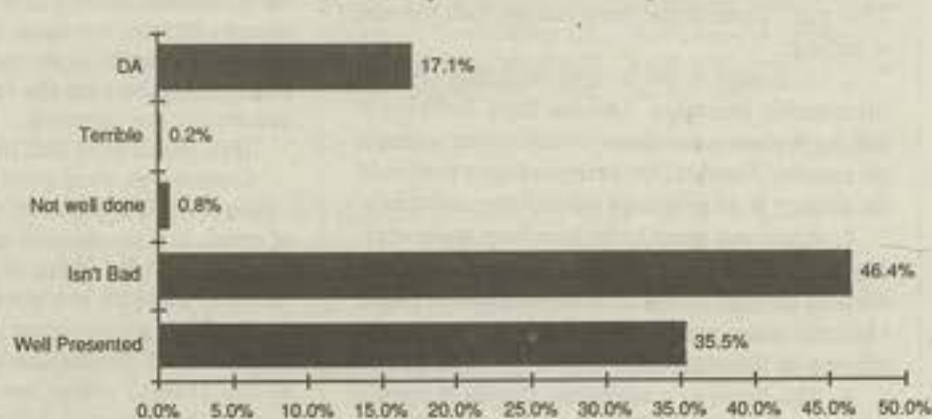
Income Levels in Bloomingdale



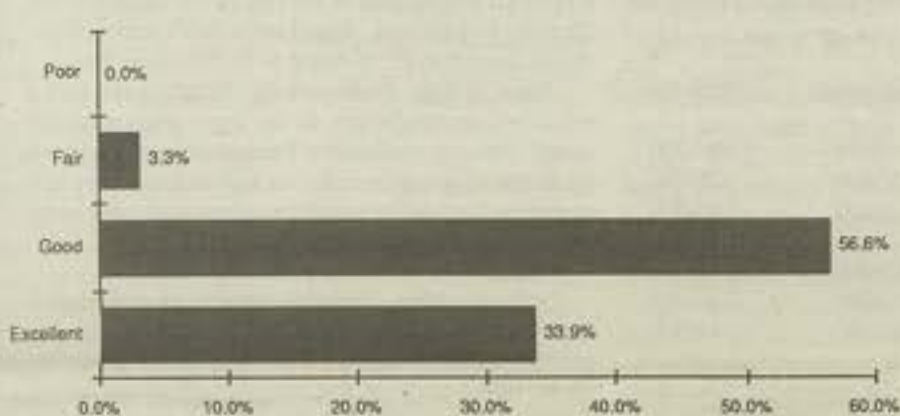
Rate the quality of advertising in The Bloomingdale Gazette



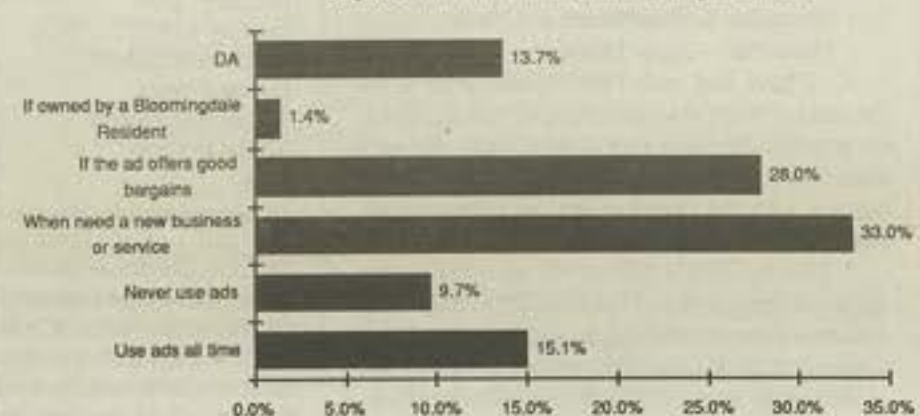
Rate the Quality of News in The Bloomingdale Gazette



How Residents Rate Life in Bloomingdale



Do you use the advertisements in The Bloomingdale Gazette?



How to receive a complete copy of the survey results

If you would like a complete copy of the results from every question of the BHA survey, send your name, address, and a check in the amount of \$2.50 made out to The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc., 857 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon, FL 33511 and a copy will be mailed to you. Or you may pick up a copy in person at the Bloomingdale Community Office for \$1.50.

BIRD RANCH, INC.
859 W. Bloomingdale Ave.
689-7737

- AMAZONS FROM \$100.00
- COCKATOO'S FROM \$150.00
- YOUNG BLUE GOLD MACAW ... \$999.99
- YOUNG CONGO AFRICAN GREY \$499.99

African Greys are one of the best talking birds and hold the Guinness World Book of Records

10 Gallon Starter Set

\$19.99

- All glass tank - Air pump
- Undergravel filter - 10 pounds gravel
- Gang valve stress coat - Airline tubing

BAY AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF EXOTIC BIRDS
PET Supplies Dog - Cat - Bird - Tropical Fish

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- Cockatiels from ... \$ 35.00
 - Lovebirds from ... \$ 35.00
 - NANDAY CONURES ... \$ 119.99
 - HALF MOON CONURES ... \$ 149.99
 - Double Sunday CONURES ... \$ 299.99

\$1 OFF House Cockatiel or Parrot
Our finest birds and seed mix!

We clip wings and trim nails
\$3 small birds - \$5 large birds

Kings Row Shopping Center - CORNER OF KINGS AND BLOOMINGDALE



New Hope Antique Mall
"Recycling Is Our Business"

12 dealers provide a wide variety of antique furniture, pottery, linens, lamps, primitives, glassware, etc.



Dealer Space Available
We Also Buy
Nancy Heston, Owner
Bloomingdale Resident

681-9592
Mon-Sat 10-5
202 E. Robertson
(between Parsons & Lithia)



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Complete, gentle care for women of all ages.

402 Noland Drive
Brandon, Florida 33511

681-6625

President's Perceptions

BY RUSS LEMBKE
President

Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

As the newly elected President of the Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc., I would like to welcome the new Board of Directors and the volunteers who have assumed officer positions. I am looking forward to representing the Bloomington Community in the same outstanding fashion as did my predecessors.

Already your Board of Directors is in high gear with many functions and changes planned for the 1991 year. Some of the items you can look forward to include:

1. A change in the Bylaws regarding General Membership Meetings. Director Jerry Hoffman is looking at plans to revise our current system so that at the monthly Board of Directors meetings a portion of the meeting is set aside each time for the community.
2. Roads and speed limits have been under scrutiny by Director Larry Rivers. He is currently addressing the high speed limits on roads such as Lithia Pinecrest where numerous accidents have occurred adjacent to Bloomington.
3. The Board as a whole has already devised a calendar of events for the entire year. Specifically they are:

- March 30 — Easter Egg Hunt
- April 20 — Community Garage Sale
- Summer — Bloomington Sports Festival
- Sept/Oct — Robert's Bros. Circus
- November — Flea Market and Picnic
- December — Santa House

4. I have met with Peter Aluotto who is the President of the Bloomington Special Taxing District. He is enthusiastic with a lot of good ideas. He and I discussed ways that the two Boards can work closer together with the common goal of enhancing the quality of life in Bloomington.

5. Director Bill MacKinnon has agreed to become the liaison between the STD and the BHA. Beginning with their February meeting, he will be in attendance to represent the BHA and the community as a whole.

Just as the Board of Directors consists of volunteers, each of the activities and functions planned requires volunteers to help them be successful. Contact the Bloomington Community Office at 681-2051 if you can donate 3-5 hours.

Extending beyond Bloomington to the Saudi Arabian desert we are steadfast in our support for our friends and loved ones who are serving their country in operation Desert Storm.



Paid Security -- There are Alternatives

BY PETER ALUOTTO

President

Bloomington Special Taxing District

There has been much discussion about security lately. As part of its regular duties, the Board of Trustees has investigated the possibility of providing paid security services for the residents of the District.

Over the course of the past 3-4 months, much data has been collected and the findings suggest that such an undertaking would not be advisable at this time.

Why not? First, the crime data do not support the need for it. Second, the cost to the District for public or private security services in relation to the expected benefits would not, in the opinion of the Board, justify the expense. And finally, there are probably better, less expensive means to accomplish this objective.

THE NEED FOR SECURITY

Everyone at some point in his life either becomes a victim of crime or knows of someone who has been a victim of crime. It is not an issue to be taken lightly. Sometimes however, the perception of crime looms larger than the reality from which it originates.

Yes, there is crime in our neighborhood as there is in any neighborhood. The question is a matter of degree. According to Jim Hargan, public safety planner for Hillsborough County, the crime rate in Bloomington (census tract 134) is the second lowest in Hillsborough County. Consider the most recent data below:

Crime Category	Bloomington	Hills. Co.
<i>Property Crimes</i>		
Burglary (1)	9/1000	18/1000
Larceny (2)	22/1000	37/1000
Motor vehicle theft	1.5/1000	7.6/1000
<i>Violent Crimes</i>		
Aggravated Assault	1.5/1000	5.1/1000
Armed Robbery	0.4/1000	2.2/1000
Rape	0.4/1000	1/1000

(1) Home and business intrusions. (2) Includes miscellaneous theft, shop lifting, gas drive-offs etc.

In each case, the crime rate in Bloomington is less than half the County wide rate—a ratio considered by law enforcement to be extremely low. While it may be of little comfort to the victim of crime that he or she actually lives in a low crime area, it is also unrealistic to believe that any security system could be devised that would make everyone feel safe all of the time. Nonetheless, there remains the perception that something more needs to be done.

BENEFIT/COST EVALUATION

The area which comprises our special district closely resembles the geography identified by the Sheriff's Department as a patrol sector. This sector already has a sheriff's deputy assigned to it day and night. The Sheriff's Department can not and will not assign another deputy to this area at County expense. The cost of an additional deputy at

District expense is estimated by the Department to be between \$124,000 to \$310,000 for the first year and between \$82,000 and \$210,000 for each subsequent year depending upon the desired hours of coverage. This sum does not guarantee that the added patrolman will always be available to the District when he is needed. He would be subject to the same demands of his Department as any other patrolman and could be called out of the District at any time to pursue criminals elsewhere. The Sheriff's Department concedes that hiring more deputies will neither prevent crime nor result in the apprehension of criminals in the act of crime. At best, the most we could hope for is the deterrent effect of higher police visibility in the community. The question now becomes: can we purchase that visibility less expensively? The answer is yes.

The district has received several unsolicited inquiries from private security firms. The prices offered by these firms ranged from a low of \$27 to a high of \$180 per home per year. Please bear in mind, that these were not official bids but rather, ball-park estimates. Although they cannot realistically be compared because of differences in specifications, I am reporting them here only to give you a general idea of the cost in comparison to the Sheriff's Department. Based upon 2500 homes, these figures equate to \$67,000 and \$450,000 respectively.

There is little doubt that the Board could find a security firm somewhere in the lower portion of this range. However, the Board of Trustees ultimately rejected the notion of private security because as a rule, they lack complete training, experience, equipment, and most importantly, the power of arrest.

COMMUNITY BASED ALTERNATIVES

Dollar for dollar, I believe community based alternatives hold out the best promise for achieving greater security in Bloomington. Such alternatives might include: hiring a full or part-time Neighborhood Watch Coordinator to work with the existing Bloomington Neighborhood Watch Program; underwriting some of the cost of training, operating and maintaining the night time Crime Watch patrols; and, underwriting some of the cost of a public crime prevention education program for adults and children. The theory behind these community based alternatives is that only neighbors can make their neighborhood more secure. If you want to have a neighbor look out for you, you have to look out for him. Are you willing? Then join your neighbors in the Neighborhood Watch, get on the telephone network and volunteer for the Crime Watch. Your District is prepared to help you help yourself.

Bloomington Business

Woodrow and Dolores Wadsworth of Bloomington Florist in Brandon attended a computer and accounting seminar recently in Oklahoma City presented by AFS Flowers-by-Wire.

The Wadsworth's studied how a computer can be a productivity tool in the flower shop and how using Rosebud can save time and money for busy florists.

Central Park Lodge Brandon, a retirement community featuring a skilled nursing facility, Alzheimer's Care Center and assisted living apartments, opened its doors in late January with a preview session for invited guests.

The lodge will hold its grand opening Sunday, Feb. 3 when visitors will get a chance to look at the facility

between noon and 3 p.m. Complete facility tours, refreshments and light food will be served at the grand opening.

The lodge, located at 702 S. Kings Ave., features a 90 apartment assisted living center, a 120-bed nursing care facility, with 22 of those beds in the Alzheimer's Care unit.

Jack Freeman is the executive director of the facility and Bloomington Resident Yrene Waldron is the admissions coordinator and assisted living facility administrator.

Linda St. Clair, who has been with Primary Prep Preschool for two and one half years, has been promoted to an office position at the learning center, the facility has announced.

She will be teaching the four-year-old class in the mornings but will switch to office work in the afternoons and closing the school several times a week.

Dr. Helena Richman, an OB-GYN physician, has joined Obstetrics and Gynecology Associates in Brandon.

She is a 1981 graduate of Adelphi University Medical School in Buffalo, N.Y. and interned at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. She worked at the center from 1985 to 1987, where she was director of ambulatory services. She was also in private practice in Wooster, Mass. from 1987 to 1989. She was board certified in 1987.

Video To You president James Boyle received national recognition for its unique service in VSDA Reports, a publication of the Video Software Dealers Association recently.

Video To You features home delivery of the latest video movies, free member-

ship, movie reservations and free Lock Box for pickup and delivery services.

Floral Decor, a full-service florist, has recently opened at 4342 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico.

The shop is owned by Kathy Bingham who has studied floral design in Chicago, San Francisco and London, England. She is a senior designer with 10 years professional experience in fresh and silk arrangements.

Ms. Bingham also teaches a class in flower arranging for Hillsborough Community College.

Postal rates increase starting Feb. 3 and residents with 25 cent stamps will be forced to purchase those 4 cent stamps until present supplies of the old rate are exhausted.

There are three places in Bloomington Square where stamps can be purchased.

There is presently a post office sub-station in Bealls Clothing Store where most postal services can be con-

ducted, including purchasing stamps, sending special letters and packages.

Stamps are available at Publix supermarket but no other postal services are available at that location.

Mail Boxes Etc. Inc. provides complete postal services, as well as packaging and private shipping. They do add a small service

charge for their postal activities.

To ease the transition to the new 29 cent first-class rate, the Postal Service has issued two new non-denomination stamps. The new flower stamp is valued at 29 cents. The second stamp is a "make-up" stamp with a text on it describing its value, which is 4 cents.

Eviction hearing delayed

The court hearing into the possible eviction of Rainbow Food Mart from its location at Bell Shoals and Glen Haven Drive has been postponed until February because of the illness of one of the attorneys.

Rainbow owner, Paul Moffit is fighting claims by shopping plaza owner James Mikes of St. Petersburg that Moffit violated the terms of the lease when he bought out the existing store on the

property, Convenient Food Mart, and reopened it as Rainbow.

Moffit insists that there was no lease violation since he is the same operator of the store that originally opened in that location four years ago.

The hearing had been scheduled to conclude Dec. 14 but the illness of Moffit's attorney caused the county court proceeding to be delayed indefinitely.

Mobile Watch elects a new coordinator



A Mobile Watch Monthly Report

BY LAWAYNE WYATT

The Mobile Watch has lost another of its original members. Hal Labkon moved out of Bloomingdale in December. Hal was one of the original 50 residents who formed the Mobile Watch in June 1980. He was the first base station operator and instrumental in expanding the organization to its present strength. He was also responsible for keeping the organization together through some difficult times. Hal's leadership and community interest will be missed.

The Core Committee met on December 6 to elect a new Coordinator. Yours truly was elected to fill Hal's shoes. Hopefully, I will be able to keep the organization running as smoothly as Hal did. With the help of the Core Committee and the rest of the volunteers in the organization I'm sure we will continue for many years.

The December log contained 28 events in the Bloomingdale area. These included several occurrences of speeding/reckless driving, teens speeding and drinking, several disorderly teens, a loud party, teens partying in undeveloped areas, a report of shots fired in the woods around River

Crossings, cars parked at Alafia School late at night, the break-in of several cars in the West, damaged mailboxes and vandalism to Christmas decorations. Luckily the vandals were caught and arrested after an alert resident saw the four teens involved and obtained a description of their vehicle. The vehicle was later seen in Bloomingdale Square and identified to the Deputy working at McDonalds.

The January log was comparable. As of the 18th we have recorded 16 events. These included speeding, suspicious vehicles, cars in the Golf Course area after dark, a new party site just outside Bloomingdale, cars with teens at The Spot, brush fires in the vicinity of The Spot, cars in the Parks after hours and several boys throwing rocks at a house under construction.

Over the past several months we do not seem to be receiving as many calls from residents concerning problems in the Bloomingdale area. Hopefully, this means there is very little activity of which we are not aware.

The Mobile Watch attempts to maintain a log of all suspicious and criminal activity in Bloomingdale. This enables us to determine if there are areas in which we need to concentrate our patrols. A copy of this log is also sent to Major Terry, Commander of the Sheriff's

Office District II, for his review. Even though he may already be aware of some of the events, this enables him to see if trends are developing in our community and may also provide information which will solve outstanding cases. If you are aware of any suspicious or criminal activity please let us know so we can record it in the log. Of course if it is a crime in progress or the crime has just occurred, call the Sheriff's Office first.

We are still in need of new volunteers. We lost three members in January and six went inactive. Even though we gained 17 new members in January we still had to cancel patrols on one night during the week. Part of the reason for this is that many members have indicated they are only available on weekends. We appreciate their position and welcome their support but would like to see more volunteers who are available during the week.

Thanks to the following who volunteered in January: Robert & Amy Benza, West; Lawrence & Patricia Rivers, Erin Arbor; Robert Whitehead, West; Brian & Margaret Watson, East; Ernie & Nancy Colvin, West; Skip & Diane Larson, West; Robert Waterman, Windsor Woods; Joe White, East; Cliff & Sharon Vanderburg, The Greens; Daniel & Kimberly Bishop, Oak Crest.

Hal Labkon resigns

For a lot of people, the term "Mobile Watch" is synonymous with Hal Labkon, who recently resigned from the crime-watch group, where he has been serving as coordinator, after moving out of Bloomingdale.

Hal was one of the organizers of Mobile Watch and a part of the core committee that was formed to oversee the group. That was 10 years ago when there were only about 110 homes in Bloomingdale.

But in one night five homes were broken into jolting concerned residents into action, with Hal in the forefront of the movement.

Since then the operation

has been running steadily, if not always smoothly. "Manpower is the greatest issue at hand," Hal says. Since we started, we gained communications systems and computer access but the volunteers vary."

Hal noted that if people who lived in Bloomingdale volunteered just three hours one night a month, "we would be running smoothly on manpower. That's all we ask."

Pointing out that the group now covers 3,000 homes, Hal adds, "If only 10 percent of those residents would get involved the amount of time needed for volunteers would decrease."

Hal believes the watch

group performs a valuable service for the community. "We mainly act as a deterrent to crime. We give information to the police and have assisted in stopping many break-ins."

Since only Bloomingdale residents can be involved in Mobile Watch, Hal's relocation has forced him to drop out of the group he served for a decade. He would like to thank all of the core members and volunteers of Mobile Watch for their help and participation over the years.

The residents of Bloomingdale send their thanks and best wishes to Hal for his 10 years of dedicated and faithful service.

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You can volunteer to be a Sheriff's Deputy

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department is looking for volunteers to serve as Reserve II deputies.

Reserve II is a volunteer organization that serves as a uniformed support group and is open to all persons 19 years of age and older.

Volunteers work along side regular deputies in various assignments and are required to serve a minimum of 20 hours per month. Among their many responsibilities, reserve deputies ride with regular patrols, serve at the county jail during visitations and assist in traffic control at parades and other functions. They are often called upon to assist with stake-outs, secure crime scenes, render aid during natural disasters join search parties as well as accompany K-9, Aviation and Marine Patrol units.

Each applicant receives 120 hours of law enforcement academy accredited training.

Upon graduation, reservists receive an additional 24 hours of training at Sheriff's Communications Center to become familiar with handling telephone complaints and radio procedures. After this, they are assigned to regular patrol for 200 hours of field training.

Reserve II deputies wear the same basic uniforms as regular deputies with collar brass and shoulder patches displaying the words "Reserve II". Uniforms are furnished as well as holsters and leather gear. Like regular deputies, reservists must purchase individual service firearm and shoes or boots complying with sheriff's office procedures.

"Citizen volunteers have been a cornerstone of our society throughout history and we take pride in the civic spirit and unselfish dedication displayed by Reserve II deputies," said Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich.

Persons interested should call the Sheriff's Office at (813) 247-8184 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays and ask for the Reserve II Coordinator.

STD closes book on paid security

BY ART BLEAU

Should the Special Taxing District provide paid security for Bloomingdale?

The board of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District all but locked the door to possible paid security for Bloomingdale at its monthly meeting in December saying the crime problem in Bloomingdale is "more perceived than actual."

The board placed on file its Crime Committee final report looking into suggestions that the STD pay for extra sheriff's surveillance or private security coverage of the area.

Most board members indicated during discussion on the issue that they did not believe Bloomingdale has a crime problem because no one ever shows up at their board meetings to complain about the situation.

"I think the perception is a lot more than the actual crime that has been committed," board member Joe Liguori told the panel. Liguori added, "Therefore I would think it's a closed issue..."

The report, prepared by board president Peter Aluotto, states that the Sheriff's department cannot by law assign more personnel to cover Bloomingdale. Such additional personnel could be assigned at STD expense but it would cost

between \$124,000 and \$310,000 for the first year, the president reported.

The district could hire a private security firm but costs for that would range from \$27 to \$180 per home per year for that coverage, he said.

On a question of whether additional security is needed, Aluotto said it was "doubtful." He said the Sheriff's department reported Bloomingdale's crime rate is half that of the county with nine burglaries per 1,000 homes and 22 larcenies per 1,000 while Hillsborough has 18 and 37 per 1,000 respectively.

Aluotto suggest three alternatives to hiring additional deputies or a private security firm. He suggested hiring a full-time neighborhood watch coordinator to work with the existing Neighborhood Watch program; underwriting some of the cost of training, operating and maintaining the nighttime Crime Watch pa-



The above chart represents the response from over 500 Bloomingdale Residents who submitted survey answers to the recent survey created and tabulated by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

trols; or underwriting some of the cost of a public crime prevention education program for adults and children. Board member Ron Delavan made a motion for a one man committee to continue checking on the attitudes of residents as to their willingness to pay for added security but the motion died when no other board member would second it.

Delavan had noted that he questioned 18 of his neighbors and 16 of those indicated a willingness to

pay for the additional security.

Aluotto said the matter was not closed out entirely and could be reopened by any board member if additional information was available.

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District meets monthly at the Bloomingdale Community Office at 857 E. Bloomingdale Ave. The meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at begin at 8 p.m.

Cars broken into and no one call the Sheriff

Mobile Watch officials reported last month that some 20 automobiles had been broken into in Bloomingdale West during the month of November but Hillsborough County sheriff's deputies received only seven reports of such incidents during the period.

Police theorize that many residents failed to report the incidents because the deductible amounts on their insurance policy would eliminate the possibility they could recover any losses from the incident.

Lt. Bruce Hoffman asked that anyone who has car or home vandalized, even if their insurance will not cover the damage, or if they are the victim of any other crime, to report the crimes to the sheriff's department.

"We need to know," Hoffman said, "so the department can keep records

of where crimes are occurring, increase police coverage of the area, and develop leads on possible suspects.

"Any little piece of information may be a valuable link in developing leads in these cases," Hoffman said.

Vandalism to cars and mailboxes resumed over the holiday period. In one incident, a vehicle was broken into and a radar detector stolen despite the car being parked in the driveway of the home with four others.

In another incident a car parked at the high school had all its windows smashed out.

In both East and West, several residents have reported mailboxes randomly being smashed.

Anyone with any information on these incidents should report it to the sheriff's department.

Beautify Hillsborough -- Adopt A Road

The Hillsborough County Road and Streets Department is looking for groups, businesses and individuals who want to beautify their community by "adopting" a road.

Under the new "Adopt-A-Road" program, the department provides safety equipment, training, signs, plastic bags and trash collection to groups agreeing to pick up litter at least four times a year along designated roadsides and medians.

The program is ideal for community organizations, neighborhood associations, service clubs, scout troops, churches and businesses, according to program coordinator David Fountain. Participants should be at least 12 years old.

The department asks participants to adopt a two-mile section of roadway for two years. Signs displaying the group's name will be posted at each end of the project's boundaries.

More information about the project may be obtained by calling Fountain at 272-6760.

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New school boundaries outlined at meeting

BY ART BLEAU

Hillsborough County School officials are struggling with elementary school realignment caused by court ordered desegregation plans, school overcrowding and the explosive population growth in recent years in Brandon and Valrico.

Many Bloomingdale and Heather Lakes families will be affected by the changes being made in the school district lines as seven new elementary schools are opened, either in September or January 1992.

The only community in the area which reportedly will not be affected is Bloomingdale East, where all youngsters will continue to attend Alafia Elementary,

according to Sharon Beecham, an official of the department who is working on the realignment.

"Nobody in Bloomingdale East will be changed," she said, and high school assignments for youngsters will not be affected.

A public hearing on the proposed changes, shown in the map, was held January 10 at Bloomingdale High School where the changes were explained to parents.

Six of the new schools are in the Southeast portion of the county which includes Bloomingdale and Brandon. Five of those affect the Bloomingdale-Heather Lakes areas.

Ms. Beecham pointed

out that the department is attempting to ensure that it is not simply creating new over-capacity schools with the realignment. "We don't want to put too many kids in new schools because this is still a growth area."

Asked how the department determined the proposed boundaries for the new districts, she said that natural borders, such as rivers, railroad tracks, and major roads were used to try an eliminate splitting a community in half.

According to figures released by the department, Alafia presently has an enrollment of 1,093 students in a facility designed to house 847. The projected student enrollment under the program would be 866.

Brooker presently has 1,089 students in a school built to hold 770. The proposed enrollment would be 783.

Kingswood presently has 1,182 students in a school built for 640. The proposed enrollment would be 827.

At Progress Village, 1,029 students attend a facility built to hold 777. Under realignment it would have 640 students.

Shore now has 410 students, was built to house 480 and will have an enrollment of 435 under the proposed plan.

The new schools which will affect area children are Cypress Creek, Boyette Springs, Mintz, Bing and Lithia Springs Elementary schools.

Under the original proposed plan, Boyette Springs would have received a large number of West youngsters, splitting the development with Kingswood.

Under the new recommendation proposed by school board staff January 29, all of Bloomingdale West, down to Waterford, will be attending Lithia Springs School, scheduled to open in January, 1992.

Lithia is designed to hold 847 pupils, and will have a membership of 740 when the school opens if the proposal is accepted by the board. The school will receive 176 white, 15 black and 33 kindergarten children from Brooker, 150 white, eight black and 22 kindergartners from Alafia and the remainder from Buckhorn, Pinecrest and Temple Terrace.

This was a change requested by the BHA board on behalf of its members and parents from other developments seeking to keep children from those developments together in the same school.

(It should be noted that all students being moved are not necessarily children of Bloomingdale residents.)

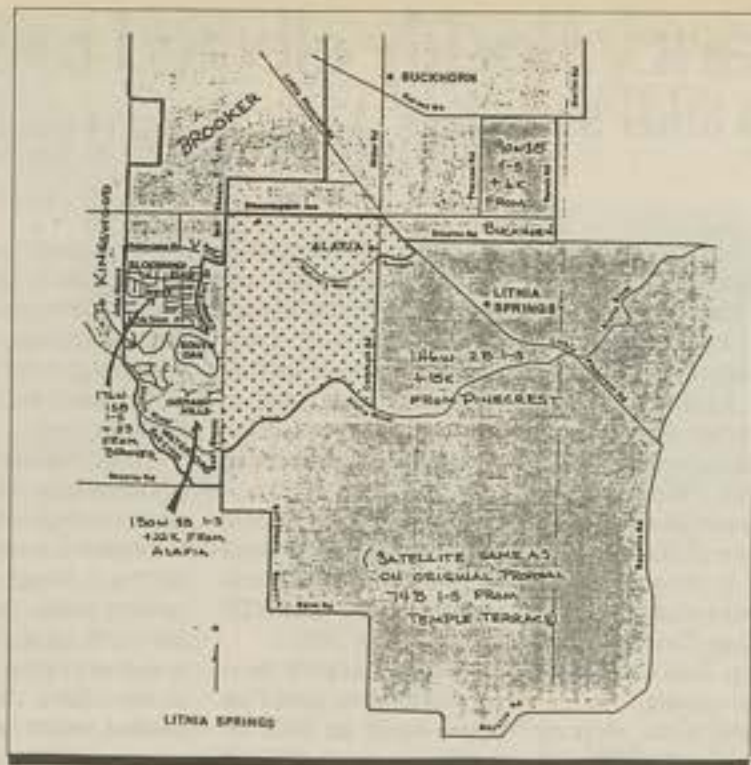
Cypress Creek, with a proposed enrollment of 540, will receive 44 black 1-5 satellite students from Brooker.

Mintz, with a proposed enrollment of 639, will receive 371 white and 25 black 1-5 students and 72 kindergartners from Kingswood. Under that plan Kingswood would receive the students mentioned above from Brooker.

Bing, with a proposed student population of 692, will receive 80 white and 12 black 6th graders and 34 kindergartners from Progress Village's Kingswood Feeder Area and 98 white and 5 black 6th graders from the Brooker Feeder Area.

Boyette Springs School is located on Sedgebrook Place off Boyette Road; Cypress Creek School is located on 19th Avenue north of Sun City; Mintz School is on Heather Lakes Boulevard, Bing School is located on 36th Avenue near 78th Street and Lithia Springs is on Lithia Pinecrest Road, south of Bloomingdale Avenue, near the River Hills/Arvida subdivision.

School officials have emphasized that the proposed changes "are not etched in stone," and may be changed before the final proposal is approved by the county.



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Meeting set on fate of 6th, 7th grade centers

BY ART BLEAU

The Hillsborough County School Board voted at its Jan. 16 meeting to hold public meetings to let the parents of elementary school students voice their opinions on whether to do away with sixth and seventh grade centers.

The board is looking for public input on a proposal to do away with the centers, which would include Prospect Village, Bing and Shore, the three such centers affecting Bloomingdale and Heather Lakes students.

Under the present sys-

tem, inner-city youngsters are bussed to outer reaches of the county to predominantly white schools while sixth grade students from those suburban schools are bussed to the inner-city centers.

Meetings will be held at Brandon High School on Feb. 14 and at Bloomingdale High School Feb. 20.

The board intends to limit discussions at these meetings to the proposal to eliminate sixth and seventh grade centers.

Nancy Beckley elected to STD Board

plus other STD news

BY ART BLEAU

The Special Taxing District Board of Trustees board decided at its December meeting that no amendment to its budget was necessary to pay for the addition of Erin Arbor maintenance which has already begun.

Board president Peter Aluotto said there was sufficient money in the present budget to cover the additional cost of about \$7,870 for the year. The board voted to accept Erin Arbor at its October meeting.

Bobby Cole, property manager for the STD, said he has already begun mowing lawns in Erin Arbor.

The board also decided that it appears the wall

around the development is on the property line and therefore will be maintained by the STD as well. Criterion, the developer for Erin Arbor, has been asked to furnish the STD with documentation about the location of the wall.

The group also agreed to take over the maintenance of Pine Grove condominiums as of the next STD budget year in 1992.

Aluotto said at the January meeting that, since Pine Grove meets the STD requirements, the board will consider in April picking up the maintenance from May, when the developer drops out, through October when

the next budget year kicks in. Otherwise, the county will pick up the maintenance through October, he said, even though it will not meet the standards the STD normally requires.

Aluotto said at the January meeting he will ask the board's attorney, Cliff Curry, to prepare a resolution for the next board meeting spelling out the criteria for the STD taking on new maintenance areas. Included in the criteria, the board decided, would be that the common areas be in a condition acceptable to the district, the revenues be sufficient to cover the expenses or if the developer or

homeowners' association can demonstrate that the development is 50 percent plus one occupied. An exception to the criteria would be that the developer could demonstrate to the board its inability to fulfill its responsibilities because of such actions as bankruptcy. Any such assumptions of maintenance would require board approval regardless of the development meeting the criteria, the board said, and the assumption would take place at the start of the next fiscal year, which for the board is Oct. 1.

In other business, Trustees elected Nancy Beckley of Fairways Manor to fill a

vacancy on the board.

Ms. Beckley, one of four people who asked to be considered for the seat, is the director of marketing for the Rehabilitation Center of Tampa General Hospital.

Aluotto told the board that he felt it was time the STD ask the people in the community what kinds of improvements they would like to see the STD make and what they think the cost might be.

He suggested using the *Gazette* or the BHA to circulate a survey or questionnaire to residents. He said he was looking for "Project-specific" kinds of things.

Aluotto asked board members for any ideas they had and Joe Liguori responded that he didn't feel it was a good idea.

He said he felt using the *Gazette* would simply be a duplication of effort since the newspaper sends out a survey annually and publishes the results.

The *Gazette*, however, does not send out an annual survey. The BHA prepares the questionnaire and conducts the survey and the results are then published in the paper.

Liguori further stated that he was concerned that they were opening a "Pandora's Box" with the residents not fully understanding what the STD does.

Aluotto responded that he didn't agree with that. "I just think that we need to do some positive outreach out there."

Ms. Beckley suggested that rather than a survey or a form published in the newspaper, the board might consider a flyer that would be dropped off door-to-door to encourage people to participate in STD activities.

On another topic, the board voted to pay \$350 for half the expense of rebuilding the collapsed brick wall near Bell Shoals and Greenhollow Drive.

Bobby Cole, property manager for the STD, said the wall collapsed New Year's Eve when a nine-year-old boy climbed on it to watch the fireworks. He said the boy jumped off before the wall fell and was not injured.

He added that the original builder of the wall has agreed to pay half the cost, even though the guarantee had run out, and would supply any bricks and steel-reinforcing rod needed to reconstruct the wall.

The board's next meeting will be Feb. 11.

Trucks to dump dirt

Contractors widening Lumsden Road began January 14 dumping excavated dirt from that project onto open land behind the wastewater pumping station near Alafia Elementary School.

Richard Schnaare, section manager for the county's public utilities department said the trucks will avoid the streets around Alafia School by entering the county land using a roadway off of Bloomingdale Avenue.

He said the trucks will be dumping the fill at the county site from 8 a.m. to about 5 p.m. weekdays and the project could take up to six or seven months to complete.

Schnaare said the fill will be used to smooth out dips and gullies on the property to help eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitoes.



Workmen from Central Florida Landscaping repair the brickwall at Bell Shoals and Greenhollow road after it was knocked down on New Year's Eve.

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Realtor claims prankster placed sign on Bloomingdale East property

BY ART BLEAU

A Lakeland real estate agency claims vandals have apparently played a prank with the agency's signs by planting one at Green Hollow and Nature's Way that belongs several miles away.

The *Gazette* investigated the situation after spotting a sign at the corner property in Bloomingdale East advertising the piece as "20 Acres zoned 400 units." Interested parties were advised to contact Higgenbotham Realty.

The *Gazette* tried for two months before finally reaching someone at Higgenbotham who would

comment on the situation.

In the interim, the newspaper contacted the Greater Tampa Association of Realtors about the problem after checking records at Hillsborough County offices which showed that the property where the sign was standing was actually a six acre site that is zoned neighborhood commercial. County officials assured the *Gazette* there was no condition under that zoning for six acres that would allow 400 units of any type structure.

Max Hudson of the Association of Realtors told the paper the board doesn't regulate where brokers put their signs.

Hudson also said he believed it would be proper for a Realtor to put a sign for one piece of property on a more conveniently located site as long as the owner of the sites were agreeable.

A spokesman for the Florida State Real Estate Commission took a different view, however, noting that the advertising would be permitted if it was directional



This sign appeared on the commercial property at Greenhollow and Nature's Way in East.

in nature, indicating where the actual property for sale was located.

The spokesman said the commission did regulate "fraudulent, deceptive or misleading" advertising by real estate agencies.

Asked if the signage at Nature's Way and Greenhollow would fit that description, the spokesman said, "It could be considered false and deceptive if it does not indicate that is not the property being offered."

Tom Haney, the Higgenbotham agent handling the Nature's Way property, thanked the newspaper for bringing the sign to his attention and insisted

that the 20 acre sign belonged on property in the area of U.S. 301 and SR 60.

He said he couldn't understand why the owner of the property where the sign had been removed had not notified his office. He assured the *Gazette* that he would take care of the situation immediately.

"It must have been done by someone as a prank," Haney insisted.

The proper sign advertising the Nature's Way commercial property had been knocked down and was laying in brush on the site when checked by the *Gazette*.

When and where you can display signs and banners

BY ALLEN FRANKEL
Code Enforcement Officer



Businesses and residents in Hillsborough County who wish to display pennants, streamers, banners or balloons for advertising should be aware that zoning permits must be obtained for their use.

According to zoning ordinances, pennants, streamers and banners will be allowed only in districts zoned C-1, C-2, C-3, C-3A, H-C, M-L, M-H, M-1A, M-1, PD-C(C), PD-C(R), PD-C(H), and PD-I.

They shall be attached to poles designated expressly for that purpose and shall not be affixed to vehicles, buildings or utility poles. The height shall not exceed 18 feet.

Banners may be displayed for 30 consecutive days but no more than 60 days in a calendar year. Pennants shall be uniform in dimensions throughout, shall not contain written copy,

may be displayed on an annual basis and must be made of mylar material.

Balloons may be displayed for 10 consecutive days but no more than 20 days in a calendar year. They shall not be allowed on a roof of a building.

When applying for these permits, applicants must provide a copy of the legal description and tax folio number of the property, a site plan drawing showing the property dimensions and where the pennants, banner or balloon will be placed, and a drawing or picture showing what the pennants, banner or balloon will be attached to and how high they will be.

Permit fees are: \$35 for permanent pennants, and \$30 for temporary banner or balloon.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Kim King at 272-5292.

Allan Frankel is a code compliance investigator for the County Codes Enforcement Department and picks up Bloomingdale area complaints one time per week. (See page 2 of this newspaper to report a code violation.)

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There's not much you can do if a builder doesn't finish building a house

Are you annoyed by the partially completed house on the lot next to your home?

According to county building officials, your going to have to remain annoyed, probably until the economy and the real estate market improves.

While checking on a complaint about a foundation being left incomplete for over six months on Carrie Wood Dr., the *Gazette* learned that builders can cease activity on a site for an indefinite period of time without violating any building codes.

David Slazas, the county's chief building inspector, said building permits are issued for six-month periods and the permit must be posted on the site.

Slazas added that construction can be stopped and just "allowed to remain indefinitely as long as it's not a hazard" if the builder chooses. Before work can resume, however, the builder must update his permit to continue construction, the official explained.

Overgrown grass was the largest number of complaints to the BHA

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association processed more than 165 complaints of residents about possible county code violations during 1990.

The association accepts complaints from residents and then makes formal complaints to County Code Enforcement officers, thus allowing anonymity to residents who feel violations exist.

Complaints can be made by writing the association, stopping by the Community offices at 857 E. Bloomingdale Ave. (in Bloomingdale Square next to Publix) or by calling the office during business hours at 681-2051.

Possible violations include such things as overgrown lots or yards, trash and debris in yards, set-back line violations, signs, vehicle problems, including abandoned and inoperable vehicles, recreational vehicles,

fence problems, livestock, commercial use of dwellings and others.

During 1990, the largest number of complaints received by the BHA was for overgrown areas, mostly in vacant lots. The BHA receives 67 of those complaints.

The next largest category was vehicle complaints, including vehicles on blocks, unremoved for months, blocking sidewalks and parked to close to property lines. There were 29 of those complaints.

Next on the list was 24 complaints about recreational vehicles. Most of these concerned the parking of boats and trailers or motor homes.

Next came nine complaints each on abandoned houses and nine more on trash and debris littering yards and lots.

There were also three

complaints concerning swimming pools, three concerning property line disputes and two regarding improper signs.

The remainder of the complaints were in various other categories and covered such things as a business being conducted from a home, structures being built in a backyard or garage without a permit, chain link fence being erected, barking dogs kept in backyard pen, individual rooms being rented out in a home or more than one family living in a home, and several regarding skateboard ramps built in backyards or being left to obstruct sidewalks.

Any Bloomingdale residents who believe a county code is being violated should contact the BHA so a complaint can be made to code enforcement officers.

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ABOVE: This young lady found that she could still tell Santa her wishes from her Daddy's lap. (She was just a little bit scared.)



ABOVE: This young lady and young man wore their beautifully decorated hats and shirts to see Santa.



ABOVE: Not everybody was overjoyed to see Santa.



ABOVE: Chairperson Susan DeLuca welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Claus to Bloomingdale on behalf of the children.

BELOW: "Now tell Santa what you would like for Christmas."

BELOW: Peeking over Mrs. Claus's shoulder, this young lady found this the best way to talk to Santa.



Santa Claus made the Bloomingdale event again this year, and 132 youngsters who personally ask the specific gifts this year.

Santa was joined by Mrs. Claus who assisted the reindeer for the holiday by passing out gifts and books to all the children, whether or not they were old enough to sit on Santa's lap.

Susan DeLuca, general manager of the Homeowners Association, is chairman of the event, which is sponsored by the Homeowners Association.

The Bloomingdale Department provides a special gift for Santa while his trip is tuned up for the long journey.

Youngsters and their parents waited patiently in some of the lines for their chance to talk to Santa between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Santa's helpers, Susan DeLuca, Carrie Peterson, all of whom helped with the orderly flow of youngsters during their visit with Santa.

The BHA also thanks Joe and Pat Peterson for their extra special contribution to the visit. The association thanks McDuffs Super Store, Book Center and Nursery for their contribution to the day's activities.

v, and He conquered

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ART BLEAU

his annual visit to Community Office to the delight of got a chance to jolly old elf for r. y his lovely wife suited symbol of out candy canes he youngsters, ey were brave ta's lap. president and he Gazette was event Dec. 15, Bloomingdale ation.

Volunteer Fire d transportation sleigh was being g Christmas Eve

ir parents waited es long lines for sit with Santa 5 p.m.

included Roby rado and Erin helped with the gsters in for their

ds out a special Liquori for their tion to the Santa on also thanks Little Professor Pat and Mike's tributions to the



UPPER LEFT: This young man brought a teddy bear gift for Santa!



ABOVE: Only the brave fireman are able to go to the North Pole with their fire truck to get Santa Claus for his yearly visits.

LEFT: No matter how small, Mrs. Claus extended her warmth.



BELOW: Once Mr. & Mrs. Santa arrived, they threw candy to the waiting children at Bloomingdale Square.



ABOVE: Even grownups were caught up in the excitement as they hurried to see Santa with their young ones.



LEFT: Candy canes taste great when you are stuck in a stroller.

RIGHT: Anxious children wait in line at the Bloomingdale Community Office for their turn at a private talk with Santa.



Terrific Kids...Valentines to Saudi...Brookers
Winners...Burns Scores...Progress Village Plays...

Letters sent to Saudi Arabia

ALAFIA--Four of Linda Grote's fourth graders at Alafia Elementary School have fathers in Saudi Arabia. All four were very happy when their friends joined them in writing Christmas letters to their dads.

Each child brought in goodies—shampoo, candy, peanuts or hand-made items—and four boxes were filled and mailed along with their letters sending best

wishes.

The students were delighted when they received letters in reply that said, "Your letters were appreciated," "I have read each letter several times," "I have put your letters up on the wall here where I work in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia," and "Your thoughtfulness has helped me feel closer to home."

One of the letter recipients also sent along U.S. Central Command stickers to each of the students.

Saudi Arabia is now very real to these students and they are proud to display their stickers.

Santa "spoke" during visit

BROOKER--Santa made a special surprise visit to meet the hearing impaired students at Brooker Elementary School during the holidays.

Santa shared a Christmas breakfast with the students at the invitation of Mrs. Mary Agdamag, the 5th and 6th grade hearing impaired teacher.

The children, ages 3 to 12, welcomed Santa and shared their breakfast of Snowmen pancakes, eggs, bacon, toast and juice. While they ate, the students sang a variety of songs for Santa, a.k.a., Dr. Jerry Crittenden, professor of Communicology at the University of South Florida.

To accommodate each child, Santa wore a Telex, a small

pocket-size device, which allowed him to turn on to different frequencies allowing each child to hear him. He clearly spoke to each child with the aid of the Telex. Oral communication is used in class and the students are encouraged to use it in the mainstream and outside of school rather than sign language.

The curriculum for the hearing impaired students follows the same series that is adopted by all of Hills-

borough County. Though teaching methods are sometimes edited, and a multi-sensory approach with more visuals is used, the students complete the same curriculum objectives as their mainstream peers.

The Christmas visit concluded with Santa listening

to individual requests from each child. As he passed out candy canes, several children took the opportunity to give Santa gifts and cards they had made for him for Christmas Eve. He also received big hugs as he said his farewells.

BY



GINNY WONG



BARBARA LING

With contributions by Norma Marsh and Art Bleau

Teachers "to-be" learn how

ALAFIA--Alafia Elementary has played host to two University of South Florida interns for the winter semester.

Kelly Robbins, SCATT intern, is with Mrs. Betty Baker in fifth grade. Kelly says, "I have been impressed with Mrs. Baker's techniques. I would like to achieve the same 'altogether

attitude' she has."

Patti Riggins is with Mrs. Gloria Julian in fourth grade. She thinks, "It's amazing how the teachers have their individual techniques for maintaining discipline. I am so impressed with the teachers in this school. I have been made to feel so welcome and comfortable here."

Classes help the needy and send Valentines

ALAFIA--Mrs. Carmen's fifth grade class at Alafia collected toys and helped make Christmas brighter for two needy children.

They secured the names of the children through a K-Mart sponsored program and they now realize that giving can be as exciting as receiving.

The same students are writing valentines to military personnel in Saudi Arabia.

They wish to convey the message "We love and miss you and our warm thoughts are with you."

Three cards by Kiran Mir express that sentiment: "You have gone away but you must know we think of you each and every day," "War is on the mind but we'll support you always, and always be so kind," and "Our dearest love we send, And we will be by your wide until the very end."

Cub Scouts donate tree

BROOKER--Cub Scout Pack 690 presented a live tree to Milton Lovelace, principal of Brooker Elementary School during the

holidays. The tree was planted on the side lawn of the school outside the cafeteria windows.

The 7-foot cedar, valued

at \$75 was donated to the scouts by Cedar Tree Farms, a local nursery.

Remembering their ecological concerns, the boys elected to decorate the tree with all natural foods and

ornaments they crafted themselves. The scouts strung popcorn and cranberries, hung birdseed feeders and birdseed ornaments which were enjoyed by local creatures great and small.



Don't walk ON the walls!

ALAFIA--Alafia school officials are cautioning parents of students that many youngsters have been seen walking on the concrete walls along Natures Way as they walk home from school.

Officials are asking parents to make their children aware of the dangers associated with such activities.

The school also reported that many of its lawn sprinkler heads have been removed by vandals on weekends. The school is asking community help in stopping the vandalism by reporting suspicious activities at the school when the facility is closed.

Terrific Kids for November

ALAFIA--Kindergarten: Lindsey Huner, Scott Forshee, Jessica Brown, Brett Honegger, Brett Jenkins and Jessica Scott. First Grade: Christopher Roberson, Jessica Watts, Kristin Friedery, Lanamar Blanco, Jason Zocchi, Lauren Boehm, Kristen Baltzer and Monica Revelle. Second Grade: Lisa Milnamow, Amy Lambert, Jaime Irving, Katie Livingston, Brenda Kaleb, Ryan Burk and Matthew

Uhle. Third Grade: Jeffrey Beetz, Eddie Owens, Adam Frenz, Osa Winter, Jennifer Clement, Andrea Barber, Nick Holliday and Marrese Crump. Fourth Grade: Brandon Petty, Michelle McKenzie, Oscar Chu, Kristen Seibel, Jessica Sills, Tom Mills, Jamie Fernandez and Jason Guincho. Fifth Grade: Erin Peterson, Jeff Ayers, Jennifer Weilbacher, Aaron Gosselin, Stephen Foglesong, Joey Fintak and Lee Gainer.

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Two students win top honors

BROOKER--Two talented Brooker Elementary School students, Joey Pradera and Kristin Meeks, were selected as winners of the Flowers' Story Writing Contest for their outstanding essays.

Sponsored by the Flowers' Co., the contest was open to entrants on two age groups. Category A, ages 8-12, has to write a 200 to 300 word story about "How My Life Would Be Different If I Couldn't Read or Write." Category B, seven years and under who had to write 100 to 200 words on "Why I Enjoy Learning at School."

Joey, a second grader, was the first prize winner in the age seven and under group. Joey explained his enjoyment of learning by focusing on friendships. He

said establishing friendships with peers and getting to know his teachers were essential to a good learning environment. He concluded his essay by saying, "My dreams of tomorrow are made from thoughts of today."

Joey was a first place winner last year for his grade level in the Hillsborough County "Say No to Drugs" essay contest.

Kristin, a fifth grader, was a third prize winner in the other category. Her essay centered on the effects illiteracy would have on her health, safety, ability to acquire knowledge and her future place in the world. Kristin's Applied Language Arts class had been assigned the essay as a writing assignment by their teacher,

Mrs. Joyce Gregory.

The stories were judged on imagination, creativity and how well the stories applied to the contest subject. The final judging was done by a panel of judges and the Communications Works, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final.

John Coate, plant president for the Flowers' Co., presented the Brooker students with educational toys from Texas Instruments. Joey received Super Speak and Spell, Super Speak and Read and Computer Fun. Brooker will also receive the same three learning instruments in recognition of Joey's accomplishments.

Kristin received a Super Speak and Spell for her fine work.

Math team scores high marks

BURNS--The Burns Junior High School Math Teams were in Ft. Myers, January 12, competing in the first Mu Alpha Theta regional competition. Over 500 students from 28 schools from all over southwest Florida competed.

In the Algebra I Division the Burns team of Ben Boehm, Sara Grossman, Brett Kellner, and Sean Taylor placed third against a field of 21 teams. Ben Boehm was fifth in the individual competition.

In the Geometry Division the Burns team of David Watkins, Steve Forinash, Steve Miller, and Andy Brogdon won first place honors against a field of 24 teams. In the individual geometry competition, David Watkins was third, Andy Brogdon was fourth and Steve Forinash was eighth.

Cheerleading tryouts

BURNS--A mandatory orientation meeting will be held Tuesday, February 19 for any student interested in trying out for the 1991-92 cheerleading at Burns Junior High School. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Burns gymnasium. Each student must be accompanied by at least one parent. Tryout practice will begin March 4, and final judging will be March 15. If you need more information, please call Karen Snapp at 685-2398.

Bring your Publix receipts to the Bloomingdale Community Office

Publix grocery stores have begun a repeat of last year's campaign Apples for the Students. Once again parents, relatives, and friends will be able to help the school of their choice, simply by collecting register tapes, which may then be redeemed by the school for computers and software. This year the tapes are canary yellow and the program is slated to end February 6, 1991. Tapes can be turned

in at the Bloomingdale Community office and will be evenly distributed to all area schools attended by Bloomingdale's children.

As a result of last year's program, 17,000 pieces of software and 9,000 pieces of equipment were placed in public and private schools throughout Florida. Publix has allocated \$2 million for Apples for the Students this year. According to Susan

McNeill, coordinator of the program for Publix, some of the equipment has been upgraded and receipts from other parts of the state will be accepted--these are about the only changes from the first year program.

McNeill stated, "Community response has been wonderful. Last year we had 53% of all register receipts turned back in to Publix."

PROGRESS VILLAGE...

SUSAN DELUCA



Matt Lovejoy of Bloomingdale is patted on the shoulder by a fellow actor during one of a series of plays presented Dec. 20 by the Language Arts classes at Progress Village.

Auction March 2

BSHS--Bloomingdale High School's Rajun Bull Band Boosters will hold its annual fund raising auction Saturday, March 2 at the high school.

A preview of all of the items going up for bids will be held at 6 p.m. and the auction will begin at 7.

Items offered for auction will include: small appliances, gift certificates, tools, new items, sports equipment, antiques, jewelry, garden supplies, toys and games and auto supplies.

Door prizes will also be awarded.

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South on Bell Shoals, right on Boyette to Hwy 301, right on 301 and ET's on the left in the Riverview Plaza Shopping Center (across from U-Save)

677-5492

Prices are born here, and raised elsewhere!

School NewsBeat

Students brighten holidays for elderly

BSHS--A group of students from Bloomingdale Senior High School, looking for a way to do something good for the community, made Christmas a little brighter and happier for about 120 elderly people.

The students, members of the Automotive Chapter of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America at BSHS, decided they wanted to do some community service for this year's holiday season and decided to call around to see what was needed, ac-

ording to Greg Yaple, the auto mechanics teacher at the school.

The local VICA chapter has done other community service in the form of giving auto mechanics instructions to residents at local civic clubs. But the group wanted to do something a little special and one of the students suggested they check area churches to see if there were any elderly who needed something.

The group learned that The Village at Brandon, a

local nursing home, had begun to put up its well used artificial Christmas tree only to discover that it was falling apart.

The students immediately took on the project, contacting Silk Greenhouse which donated a 10-foot artificial tree. The students then purchased electric lights to put on the tree as gathered up unused ornaments from home to also use to decorate the tree.

The students arrived at the home at about 5 p.m. and

by 6:30 had completely set up and decorated the tree, much to the delight of about a dozen residents who watched the work.

Besides Yaple, those taking part in the project were: Mrs. Mary Yaple, students Tom Keyes; Calib Hunt; Amy Fagan, a Bloomingdale resident; Adrian Cook; Tim Lee and Steve Finley.

The students returned to the Village at Brandon Jan. 7 to take the tree down for another year.



Members of BSHS chapter of VICA decorate a Christmas tree the club donated to the Village at Brandon nursing home. The club members provided all the decorations as well as the tree and returned to the home on January 7 and took the tree down.

The Bulls Corner

BY BARBARA LING

BSHS--The long holiday has ended with good feelings for those who participated in the season's activities. New Years resolutions abound at BSHS and seniors are now closer than ever to their goal. Dead week and Exams are over.

Clubs and organizations reached out during the holidays as students attempted to make times a little brighter for others.

The Leo Club, affiliated with the Lions Club International, took a tour of Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa accompanied by their sponsor, Matt Houer. Their annual service project takes them there before Thanksgiving to participate in an effort to feed those in need and help the homeless.

DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) collected toys for the Salvation Army and adopted a family from HRS for the holidays.

The Student Advisory Committee (SAC), with the help of Abraham Chevrolet, provided food baskets for needy families at Thanksgiving. Their Christmas projects included a schoolwide collection of canned goods, toys and new and used clothing and the group sang Christmas Carols in the children's ward at Humana Hospital of Brandon, where they gave a toy to each child.

SAC, with the help of guidance counselors Juan Saye Harris and Esther Christian, and Human Relations Specialist Nancy Trathowen have formed a support group for students

who have relatives in the Middle East. They meet once a week to discuss their concerns, doubts, fears and anguish over the separation. The meetings help students realize their feelings are normal and shared by others when there is a separation from loved ones.

Quill and Scroll members have undertaken a project to write to soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Students from the Automotive Chapter of VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) made the holiday brighter for about 120 elderly at the Village at Brandon nursing home by donating a 10-foot Christmas and all the decorations to the home for the holidays.

Six students and automotive instructor Greg Yaple arrived and had the tree up and decorated in about 90 minutes. They also returned to take the tree down on Jan. 7.

On the academic side, in DECA's district competition, Patty Barnett placed 7th in general retail merchandising and Darron Elmore placed 13th in quick service restaurants. Both students now qualify for the February state competition in Jacksonville.

This year's DECA officers are: Shannon Marin, president; Tonya Brown, vice president; Althea Hall, secretary; Aarik Karlson, treasurer and Keith Kennedy, photographer.

BSHS members of Mu Alpha Theta, a national mathematics honor club, participated in the County Math Bowl competition in

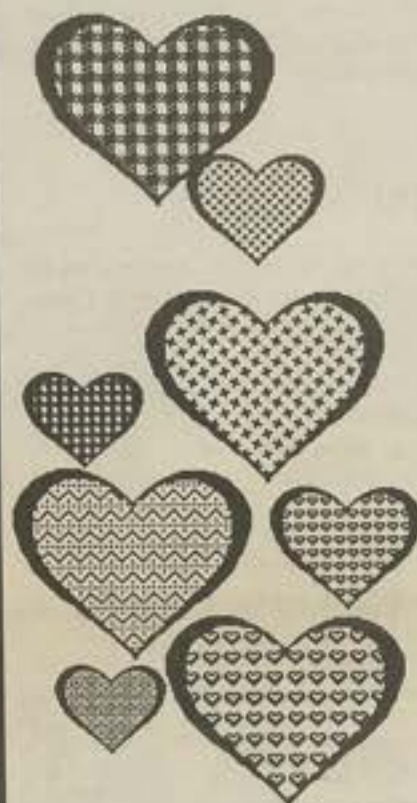
December and placed first in the Sweepstakes Award.

The Algebra II Team had three individual winners: Charles Boettger, first place; Chris Laduca, second place; and Steve Kuhlman, fifth place. These three team members, along with Janet Castle placed first in the county with a landslide victory.

The pre-calculus team also had three individual winners: Rathish Moorthy placed fifth, Allison Guagliardo placed eighth and Joel Cameron placed tenth. These three, along with Casey Wilson, placed fifth in the team competition.

The calculus team of Danny Grossman, Scott Kruger, Song Ko and Mike Roberts placed third in the county. Danny Grossman was the first place individual winner in the calculus category.

The club also participated in the Brandon Chamber of Commerce holiday window painting competition. They had one of five prize-winning windows.



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FREE income tax preparation

As a public service by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association in conjunction with the IRS, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) will provide free tax preparation at the

Bloomingdale Community Office every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning Feb. 6 to April 11.

For more information call 681-2051. No appointment is necessary.

the proposal was taken up with the school board but Martin said the parents should attend the school board session and ask the board to order such a meeting.

Allen assured parents that the junior and senior high schools children are now scheduled to attend will not change because of the realignment. He pointed out that the Alafia River is the boundary for the junior and senior high schools and that would not be changed for several years, when another new junior and senior high school will have to be built.

Since Boyette Springs and Lithia Springs School are not scheduled to open until January 1992, many parents complained that the whole school year of the youngsters would be disrupted. They asked the staffers and school board to consider waiting until August 1992 to open the two schools to cause as little disruption as possible.

Staff members did explain that students scheduled for those two schools would be grouped together for the first half of the year in their present schools and that when they did move in January 1992, their same teachers and principals would move with them.

Many parents of youngsters who will be attending Boyette Springs also complained that their children will be bussed over 20 miles to the Shore 6th grade center in Ybor City and would have to drive right past Progress Village and Bing Elementary 6th grade centers to get there.

Staffers insisted that they were being forced by a federal court ordered desegregation plan to do that bussing.

Martin explained that under the federal mandate, inner city 1st through 5th graders had to be bussed to schools in the Brandon area while 6th graders in Brandon had to be bussed into the inner city to achieve a racial balance in the schools.

Martin said the board would be given the parents' recommendation that Boyette Springs children be sent to either Progress Village or Bing instead of Shore for the 6th grade.

The staffers finally called an end to the hearing at 9:45 p.m. when only about 75 parents were left in the high school auditorium asking mostly questions on areas that had already been covered.

Even by the end of the meeting it was not clear what the staff's procedure would be for presenting a proposal to the school board. But staff members did insist throughout the meeting that all of the concerns and recommendations voiced at the hearing would be relayed to the board prior to the actual meeting on Feb. 4.



Family support extends even into the high school where this group of students who have family in Saudi Arabia met.

When you can and can't put out trash

Everyone likes to get their trash out to the curb early. It certainly beats chasing the garbage truck down the street. "Early" will now have a specific meaning to County residents.

According to the County Solid Waste Department, Ordinance 13-35 reads that trash is not to be placed at curbside earlier than 12 hours prior to 6 a.m. of the pickup day.

Example—If pickup is Monday, trash should not be placed outside before 6 p.m. Sunday.

Complaints of noncompliance will be forwarded to the County Code Enforcement staff through the BHA Community Office. It is hoped that this will reduce the problems of broken trash bags and the mess involved.

What are the "Watches"

The Bloomingdale Mobile Watch is an organization of volunteers who are interested in the security of the community. They donate one evening a month to drive throughout the community and watch for suspicious activity or anything out of the ordinary. They do not carry weapons or become directly involved in any altercation. They act as eyes and ears to report activity, via radio, to a base station who can then call the Sheriff if needed. They are also called upon to assist with traffic control for some community events. To become involved, call the BHA office or any of the Core Committee members listed on page 2.

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Watch is sponsored by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department and the BHA. It relies on observation by residents of their community and then reporting suspicious activity directly to the Sheriff's Department. Telephone chains linking the Bloomingdale Community are created by Block Captains which are then put into action by either the Sheriff's

How to report truancy

Department or the area coordinator thus enabling quick notification of any resident within an affected area. Ray Serrano is the Coordinator for the Neighborhood Watch and is listed in the Community Directory on page 2. Funding for both the Mobile Watch and the Neighborhood Watch is currently provided by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. Efforts are currently underway to provide permanent funding for both organizations in the form of underwriting from interested parties.

Students who skip school may find themselves in a situation much worse than a typical day of school. The Sheriff Truancy Operation Center, or STOP, is designed to make it so.

Sheriff's deputies are now able to take truant kids to the center at 4901 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Parents are then called and asked to pick the student up and return him or her to school.

The number to call if this needs to be reported is 247-8200.

We want your Community News!

Because we are a small, community newspaper, the birth of a baby is BIG news for us. So don't keep it from us. If you know of some type of happening, let us know!

Examples might be:

- ...Engagements and Weddings with photos
- ...College-bound students
- ...Promotions both military and civilian
- ...Athletic notices
- ...Social affairs such as block parties, card parties, and other get togethers
- ...Births and deaths

We want to print all these things under a column called Community News. But we can't unless you tell us.

Submit your information by mailing to:

The Bloomingdale Gazette
827 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
Brandon, FL 33511

OR...
by calling us with the information at:

681-2051.

If it is after hours, you are welcome to leave the information on our answering machine.



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ASTROLOGY

Tax law changes for 1991

BY TOM PETERSON



Although the "1990 Revenue Reconciliation Act" will not have a major effect on the average Bloomington-area resident, most of whom will experience some increased taxation as a result of the passage of this new bill. It should prove interesting, therefore, to take a look at those changes.

Changes effecting "Individual" taxpayers include: (1) The implementation of a 31% marginal tax bracket which now applies to taxable income of approximately \$49,200 for single taxpayers; \$82,050 for joint taxpayers. Prior to 1991, this was the level at which a 33% marginal tax bracket became effective. While it would seem that the new "deal" is a tax reduction - and it is for some - the fact is that once you hit this 31% bracket you stay there. The previous tax law reduced your marginal bracket back down to 28% after attaining certain thresholds.)

(2) The "Capital Gains" tax rate - which in recent years has been the same as that for "ordinary income" - will now be taxed at a maximum rate of 28%. This would prove to be of benefit to those who find themselves in the new 31% bracket; and, in fact, will be a full 5% deduction off 1990's top marginal rate.

(3) Itemized deductions will be reduced for some high wage earners. The new formula requires that de-

ductions be reduced by an amount equal to the lesser of: 3% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income in excess of \$100,000; or 80% of the otherwise allowable deductions. Additionally, exemptions will be phased out for this "high income" group. Practically speaking, the combined reduction in exemptions and deductions will put many of the "31% bracket taxpayers" back into a 33% marginal bracket!

(4) While the FICA (Social Security) tax remains at 7.65% - with an employer match at the same rate - the wage base on which this tax is levied increases in 1991 to \$53,400. One major change however is that wages earned in excess of \$53,400 - up to \$125,000 - will be subject to "Medicare Hospital Insurance" tax at a rate of 1.45%. (For those of you who are self employed, you will use the same wage base - but DOUBLE the percentages...)

(5) Few of us will escape the tax rate increases on alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and gasoline. For those of you who purchase an automobile which fails to meet certain mileage criteria, be prepared for a 100% increase in the "gas guzzler" tax.

(6) A new "Luxury" Tax (a flat 10%) will apply to the excess of the sales price of: Automobiles over \$30,000, Boats and Yachts over \$100,000, and Aircraft over

\$250,000. (There is an exception for boats and yachts used exclusively for business and aircraft used at least 80% for business.) The Luxury Tax also applies to furs and jewelry which costs in excess of \$10,000.

What does all of this mean from a "Financial Planning" standpoint? For most of you, a deduction will be of no greater value in 1991 than it was in 1990. In fact, it could be worth less due to a reduced marginal tax rate.

The primary implication is that taxes will continue to increase. Therefore, it would seem that the Planning process should include investments that provide preferential tax advantages for growth and income.

Is there a subject you would like to see covered in this column?

If so, write to Tom c/o of the Gazette!

Tom Peterson is a resident of South Oak and the President of First Financial Capital Planning Corporation, a financial planning agency.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and should not be considered an endorsement by The Bloomington Gazette or the Bloomington Homeowners Association.

Bloomington home sales up by 25% over 1989

BY CHUCK FRENZ



Here's what you can put into the recycling box

Bloomington Box Score

Sold (Closed) (resale homes only)	1989	1990
	121	152

Sales have increased 25.6 percent over 1989. Currently Listed For Sale: 126 houses

Hillsborough County Box Score

Sold (closed)	1989	1990
	5,227	5,797

Sales have increased 10.9 percent over 1989.

Sales in Bloomington are more than twice as much as in the rest of Hillsborough County.

While these figures are believed to be accurate, they are not guaranteed by Prudential Florida Realty, The Tampa Board of Realtors or the Bloomington Gazette, and do not necessarily include listings not published at the request of the seller, listings of brokers who are not members of the board or its MLS, unlisted properties, new constructions, rental properties, etc. The information contained herein is for streets commonly considered to be "Bloomington."

If you've been confused about what items you can put into the recently established recycling program in Bloomington, you're not alone.

Many residents have contacted the BHA since the program began this summer regarding what kinds of items are accepted by the curbside sorting program.

According to Gretchen Fulmer, recycling coordinator for the county program, instruction booklets were distributed to all households at the start of the program which outlined what items would be acceptable and what days the recyclables would be picked up.

Ms. Fulmer pointed out that right now the program in Bloomington takes only newspapers, with all the slick or shiny paper ads removed, glass jars and bottles and aluminum softdrink and beer cans.

Newspapers should be placed in paper bags or bundled with a string before they are placed in the blue recycling box to keep them separate from the other items.

Glass bottles and jars can be in any color, should have metal caps removed and should be rinsed to remove

food residue from them before they are placed in the blue box.

Aluminum cans are those which have no seam on the side and which will not attract a magnet if it is placed next to it. Tin cans which hold food stuff, pet food, many fruit drinks, etc. are not recyclable through the curbside program in Bloomington.

Ms. Fulmer explained that those tin cans are incinerated with other trash but the metal is magnetically extracted for recycling.

She also pointed out that private recycling centers take other papers, plastics, metals and used oil, but those must be brought to the centers by the homeowner.

If you don't know when recyclables are picked up in your neighborhood, remember that it is always done on a regular trash pickup day so look around at your neighbor's trash on those days. If you see the blue box sitting out at the curb, then that's your day.

If you still have questions about what can be recycled or what day your pickup is, you can call Ms. Fulmer at 272-6674 for additional information.

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(At Balm-Riverview Rd.)

808 W. Bloomington Ave.
Brandon
685-4332
Lic #C-HC-052
(At Kings Ave.)

Las Brisas and Random Oaks

**EDITORIAL
Residential Perspective**

BY LAUREEN POWERS
President
Las Brisas Civic Association

With the dawn of the new year, I hope that we all can come together as a group to start 1991 off with a bang. Our neighborhood Christmas party was a great success. We had great food, lots of fun and Santa Claus (John Gundlock) arrived as scheduled. After he handed out the homemade stockings

stuffed with candy (made by Dawn Gundlock) a group of us accompanied Santa around the rest of the neighborhood and we were greeted by many excited children and their mothers with cameras. We hop that this will be the first of many neighborhood Christmas parties.

EDITORIAL

Heather Lakes Hotline

BY TOM LEAVITT
HLCA President

Last month I introduced you to the objectives that the Board of Directors has set for 1991 on behalf of the Community Association. This month I would like to take this opportunity to address the first of those objectives—the increase of membership in the association.

My appeal a month ago has not changed today. What do we need? YOU. There are a couple reasons that you have been important to the success of this organization in the past and are even more important today.

The association has established a budget based on a membership of 240. This budget covers the general operating requirements of the association, provides for the operation of the mobile and crime watch, and covers social events.

In December 1989, the association purchased the 300 luminaries placed at the three entrances at Christmas time, as well as purchased the snowmen placed at each entrance.

The association also sponsored a flea market and second annual Fall festival. Some of the gifts were purchased by the association as

awards and gifts for prize winners.

And it happened because you were a member and the association had the resources to make it all happen.

Many of you have served on the board, helped organize and carry out community functions. You have made the mobile watch successful, you shared your time to entertain our children at the Fall Festival and you were there to decorate Heather Lakes at Christmas. It was YOU who made it all happen.

As of mid-January, we have 50 members. Fifty out

of 700 homes.

We need two things: 1) your membership renewal; 2) Your time. If you don't have the time I would like to encourage you to renew your membership.

So what do you get for your \$10 membership? Think about what happens if you don't. What happens to the newspaper you are reading? What if the mobile watch ceases to exist? Do we give up on the social activities and forget our children? Will we have to forfeit the Christmas awards,

— **HOTLINE**, see pg 20

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Cliff and Judy Clark of Acapulco Drive bring holidays to life

BY JULI MCGILL

LAS BRISAS—Anyone who has lived in Las Brisas long undoubtedly has decorated the front yard with a \$10 Acapulco tree full of lights of all ages, hanging up decorations for Halloween, Easter, Christmas.



It's a family tradition for the Clarks—Cliff and Judy, their eight children and eight grandchildren. Their Christmas scenes this year were set up for their six sons and two daughters, ranging in age from 24 to 40, as well as their grandchildren who enjoy the holiday spirit as much as anyone.

Cliff is retired from the road where he toiled for 25 years. Judy has had a time job raising her children but "she decorates for everything," according to Cliff.

Neighborhood kids were amazed this year to find the magical new addition to the play of "Santa's Workshop."

"Judy had been after me for three years to build it and I'd tell her if she got the lumber I'd do it," Cliff explained. "I never thought she'd get it but she went to the neighbor's across the street and I got it."

The workshop has handmade wooden reindeer and sleigh and Santa. Inside the shop are train sets, dolls and old fashion dishes, as well as paints for the Elves use in making the toys. Each day, Christmas music

was played from the workshop too. The macrame Santa on top of the shop was made by Judy's sister. The lights around the shop were provided by the Clarks, who have had them for 15 years.

The Clarks have lived here for more than 10 years, long before there were any others on their street and when there were only about

three homes in all of Las Brisas. Cliff remembers going to the pasture land at the end of his street to pick blackberries with his family. The berries and the pasture land are long gone.

As for hobbies, besides the decorating, Judy enjoys bowling and Cliff likes to fish.

The family also has two pet cats and a Basset Hound named Sally.

Las Brisas residents are happy to have such caring neighbors as the Clarks who give so much joy to so many in the neighborhood.

Next year, our civic group is considering a Christmas decorating competition between the streets.

I'm certainly glad the Clarks are on my street.

Merchants give discounts to HLCA members

The following merchants have agreed to honor Heather Lakes Community Association cards and give a 10% discount:

- Shutterbug Studio, Brandon Center Shopping Center
- Video View, Oakfield Plaza Shopping Center
- All Florida Sod, Inc., Providence Avenue
- Brandon's Finest Nursery, Providence Avenue

Any business wishing to be included in the discount list should call one of the HLCA board members.

The Carnes and Boyce families share first place

BY BOB SMITH

Christmas Eve in Heather Lakes was a contrast in light and dark. Several streets showed the labor and ingenuity of residents who strung lights, put out signs, arranged manger scenes and just generally made the place festive.

Foxboro Drive was aglow with lights and luminaries. The top three prize winners were all on Foxboro. First place was shared by Bob and Cindy Carnes, 1430, Foxboro and John and Linda Boyce, 1432 Foxboro.

Second place went to 1433 Foxboro and Ken Lingg. Third place went to Noland and Jean Brook of 1331 Foxboro.

Because of the difficult judging, there were 15 honorable mentions. They were: 1035 Pine Ridge, 1010 Pine Ridge, 1049 Axelwood, 1106 Bluefield, 1129 Bluefield, 1138 Bluefield, 1308 Foxboro, 1010 Red Oak, 1413 Foxboro, 908 Pine Ridge, 1010 Bridlewood, 1016 Bridlewood, 1072 Bridlewood, 1038 Bridlewood and 1325 Mohrlake.

Congratulations to all those who made the effort.

News Editor wanted

We are looking for a news editor for the Heather Lakes portion of *The Gazette*. The only requirement is the interest in doing it.

The job takes about six to eight hours a month, gets people to talk to you, and lets you take pictures of such things as the board, school activities, holiday activities. A knowledge of writing and English is helpful but *The Gazette* staff will be ready to assist you. All in all it's a fun job and one where you can have an impact on the community.

The job calls for collecting news from the HLCA board, scouting out a couple other newsy items, taking a few photos and getting all of this to *The Gazette* office by a monthly deadline.

Anyone interested in the position should contact Tom Leavitt at 681-9470 or Joanne Buechner at 689-9582.

The HLCA Board for 1991



Back row from left: Mark Freeman; Joe Dotson, VP; Pat Dwinell; Joanne Buechner, Financial Sec'y; and Tom Leavitt, Pres. Front row from left: Tony DellaSalle, Treas.; Bob Smith; Janice Parker, Recording Sec'y; Jean Brooks and Joanne Pirolozzi.

Looking for News

If any Heather Lakes resident has a community news item, wants to write an article or column or just has a question about something that might be newsworthy, please call Tom Leavitt at 681-9470. We are writing for the Heather Lakes community so you are the news.

HOTLINE, from pg 19

luminaries and snowmen? What will Heather Lakes be without these things?

This year we plan to continue the above programs plus provide local merchant discounts. But we can't continue without your renewal.

Fill out the membership application that appears in this section whether you are a new member or a renewal. Mail it with your check or drop it off with one of the officers of the board. Whatever you do, do it today. We need your support. Help us to meet our goal and

keep the association alive. We Need you!!!

On the lighter side, thank you for your support in putting out the luminaries and lighting up Heather Lakes. Congratulations to all the winners and honorable mentions in the house decorating contest. You all made Christmas special.

We all know someone serving in the Middle East. This is the time they need us most. Please give your support and prayers. This will be the time we will all need to stick together.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Tom Leavitt, he's from Ohio

Name: Thomas "Tom" Leavitt
 Age: 43
 Job: credit manager, Ringhaver Equipment Co., Riverview.
 Family: wife, Carol; daughter, Karen; sons, Buddy and Chris
 Former Home: Cincinnati, Ohio
 Heather Lakes: 8 years
 Community activities: president of the Heather Lakes Community Association Board of Directors; Mobile Watch participant.



Area Classes

Clubhouse Kids

Clubhouse Kids Production, Inc. of Central Florida are presently holding auditions for classes to result in a special performing group for children ages 3-12, and for several Television Productions to be produced in the Tampa area in 1991. Classes and auditions are to be held in Carrollwood, Downtown Tampa, and the Brandon/ Bloomingdale area.

The children auditioning need not have experience in the areas of drama, voice and movement, all children are welcome! Prices vary for the classes, please call 651-1462 for an audition appointment.

Brandon YMCA

The Brandon Branch of the YMCA, in conjunction with the Family Stress Clinic, will be conducting another Stress Management Weekend Workshop, to be held Friday, February 15, 6:30 to 9:30 PM and Saturday, February 16, 10:00AM to 4PM. The location will be the Brandon YMCA located at 3097 N. Kingsway Ave., in Brandon. The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$60.00 per couple (great for dual career

couples). Topics covered include "Evaluation of Current Stress Level, Stress Reduction Techniques, Relaxation Techniques" and many more.

Enrollment is limited and pre-registration at the YMCA front desk is required. Call the YMCA (685-5402) or the Family Stress Clinic (681-2485) for more information.

Free Safe Boating Course

A free boating skills and seamanship course will be taught by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 starting March 18.

Enrollment in the course, which will be given at the Brandon Shrine Club building on Skywood Drive, Valrico, can be accomplished beginning at 6:30

p.m. on the first night of class. A nominal fee will be charged for the text book and student guide.

Preregistration is a must for the court and may be accomplished by calling 689-7697. An answering machine is used on the line when no one is available to answer the call. If you leave a message, your call will be returned.

RESTAURANT REVIEW
 BY ELTON DUMONT

American Pasta and Grille
 1941 SR60 (Brandon Blvd.)
 Valrico, FL 33594
 (813) 653-4009

This delightful restaurant is in Valrico Square, at Valrico Road and Brandon Blvd. Although it has been open for about six months, they recently expanded and now offer banquet facilities.

As the name indicates, pasta entrees are varied and numerous, but they also have an extensive selection of steak and seafood offerings.

We went on a recent Friday night and found them quite busy, which was a good sign. We were greeted and seated quickly and found the decor to be low key and inviting. They do have a full lounge and adequate wine list, to please even the gourmet.

The menu changes regularly and please pay attention to the specials which change nightly. We passed on cocktails and appetizers but they do offer miniature pizzas, including vegetable, as an appetizer which we previously found to be delicious.

When we attended the specials were Roast Pork dinner and whole broiled Maine Lobster. We opted to order from the regular menu. I ordered a Szechuan Stir Fry for \$13.95 while my wife ordered Angle Hair Pasta with roasted red pepper sauce, Feta cheese and either almonds or pecans for \$7.95. For a slight additional charge, you can get steak or chicken strips. She opted for the chicken.

The salad arrived quickly and the server offered 6 different dressings. My wife ordered creamy Italian while I decided to try the Honey-

Mustard. I was very impressed with my choice, which was sweet and dill at the same time. I must add that the Creamy Italian was a close second.

The bread seemed like a miniature sourdough loaf and was exceptionally good. It was served cold, however, which did detract a little from the overall meal.

The Szechuan Stir Fry was a very big and pleasant surprise, with ample amounts of rice, celery, mushrooms, almonds, carrots, red and green bell peppers,

The angel hair pasta was very delicious, with a pureed' roasted red pepper sauce that is extremely unique.

corn, chicken breast chunks and whole butterfly shrimp in a tasty sauce.

The angel hair pasta was very delicious, with a pureed' roasted red pepper sauce

that is extremely unique. The chicken strips were char-broiled and added to the flavor.

The reasonably priced meal came to \$23.11 before gratuity, and included the meals plus two ice teas.

Since we did not bring our full appetites that night, we passed on dessert, but the restaurant did offer a splendid dessert.

The service was a tad inattentive, but I'll chalk that up to being busy. The owner did make it a point to visit all the tables and solicit comments about this fine restaurant. I might also add that his interest seem genuine.

We do plan to return here to explore other entrees, the wonderful appetizers and the splendid desserts.

As an added bonus, the restaurant is open for lunch with a full luncheon menu as well as subs and sandwiches and a truly delicious pasta salad.



County workers spent a few hours recently near the Rosemead Lane entrance to Bloomingdale West cutting down a pine tree. The tree was removed and the site cleaned up before the workmen left.

Heather Lakes Community Association
 P. O. Box 1256
 Brandon, FL
 34299-1256

HLCA 1991 Board of Directors

- President:**
 Tom Leavitt...681-9470
- Vice President:**
 Joseph Dotson...685-4962
- Treasurer:**
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- Recording Secretary:**
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 Joanne Buechner...689-9582
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 Pat Dwinnell...684-1834
- Community Service:**
 Mark Freeman...685-5946
- Directors:**
 Robert Smith...684-5758
 Joann Pirolozzi...684-0890
 Jean Brook...684-2989
 Randy Cardwell...681-8215
 Linda Boyce...684-0128

Heather Lakes Association
 Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
 Pat Dwinnell...684-1834
 Heather Lakes Association Mobile
 Watch Coordinator
 Wally Parker...684-0094

Heather Lakes' "Everything you ever needed" Form

Mail to: Heather Lakes Community Association
 P. O. Box 1256
 Brandon, FL 33509-1256

Name _____
 Address _____
 Home phone _____
 Daytime phone _____

I/We would like:

- To become a Participating Member in the Heather Lakes Community Association: Dues \$10/year; Nov. 1 to Oct. 31.
- To join:
 _____ Mobile Watch
 _____ Neighborhood Watch
- To be placed on waiting lists or volunteer lists for:
 _____ HCLA Board of Directors
 _____ Community Reporters
 _____ Committees as needed

To make a comment or ask a question about:

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Advertising in The Bloomingdale Gazette is the best bargain in town! Check it out... call us at 681-2051

You and the IRS...its forms and its audits

BY ROBERT J. MORRIS, CPA

The IRS has made great improvements over recent years in its dealings with the public. The Tax Pay Bill of Rights had a lot to do with this attitude change. Nevertheless, the IRS is still known to dig into its bag of tricks now and again.

The IRS seems able to track down almost anyone when back taxes are owed but it seems to have trouble

locating taxpayers who are due refunds. If you are entitled to a refund, be sure the IRS has your correct address. Send official notice of change of address on form 8822, which you can get by calling the IRS, if a refund is due you and you recently moved.

If you are audited, the IRS will probe deeply to discover unreported income

but if additional deductions are found, auditors will normally give you a deaf ear. You should insist the auditor arrive at your proper tax liability even if it means a refund is due.

The IRS has a new habit of redirecting refunds to payment of back taxes, child care payments, student loans, as well as SBA loans and others. If you do not want your refund applied to other past due accounts, then you should manage your withholding and estimated payments to break even at year end and not have an overpayment situation.

Since deductibility of interest expense now has strict limitations, you should keep adequate records that allow you to track loan proceeds when funds are used for business, investment or home improvement. The use of the funds is normally the determining factor in establishing deductibility.

Most business travelers fail to keep receipts and adequate documentation for out of town travel expenses. It is advisable to maintain a log and file for receipts and at the end of the year you can determine if the actual expense exceeds the daily travel rate allowance. In many cases the daily rate is too low and if you use the

allowed rate once during the year then you are stuck with it for the entire year.

Whenever there is a tax deficiency, it appears the IRS automatically assesses a negligence penalty even if its inappropriate. Don't be shy about requesting the penalty to be abated. It is very commonly reduced upon receipt of an adequate excuse.

Auditors assume all receipts are taxable income unless proven otherwise. If you can't pinpoint the non-taxable source of some receipts and deposits, then you may end up paying unnecessary taxes. Such items as transfers between accounts, gifts and loan proceeds may end up being taxed after being audited. You should document the source of each deposit in your check register as you make them to defend against such problems.

The IRS has improved on its track record for giving advice this past season over previous years but it is still far from acceptable. As a general rule, the IRS is not bound by the advice it gives unless you have it in writing. You should seek help from your tax advisor on matters of importance.

Being audited by the IRS is not the worst experience one can imagine happening in your lifetime. It is best, however, to rule yourself out as a representative to appear before the auditor unless the issues to be reviewed are very straightforward, the amount of tax liability is

The IRS has improved on its track record for giving advice this past season over previous years but it is still far from acceptable. As a general rule, the IRS is not bound by the advice it gives unless you have it in writing.

minimal, and you have well documented records and receipts. The auditor can ask a seemingly innocent question that could have, unknown to the average person, significant ramifications for the deductions or other areas on your return. Only a tax professional with significant experience dealing with the IRS will be able to foresee the effect of the trap questions. At the very least, you should have a certified professional review the audit request and your underlying documents to advise you where you appear weak and what can be done. Some undocumented allowed expenses can be reconstructed in an acceptable manner to pass an audit. Above all, never let your representative go to your defense where you have not disclosed all the pertinent facts of your case. He cannot defend an auditor's findings if he does not know the circumstances and it hurts credibility for the response to be "I don't know." A good representative can-

not be intimidated by the IRS and most likely the opposite may be true, but surprises must be at a minimum.

You are not required to teach auditors how to understand more complex and sophisticated accounting book entries. The more appropriate time is when the agent has reached a conclusion that is contrary to facts and is proposing to assess taxes erroneously.

Tax audits can be swift or can seem to take forever. Your ability to convince the auditor to close the case quickly can work to your benefit and diminish their focus on other items. If the agent determines you are well prepared, your information seems complete, your credibility improves and there is little incentive for them to pursue any additional time on your audit. Also, in September, 1990, employees were notified they must reduce overhead and will be anxious to close your case to work on more lucrative possibilities.

We're proud of our American Armed Forces

25% Discount on Income Tax Returns

For Military Personnel, their families, and All Bloomingdale Residents

Electronic Filing


ACCUTAX 654-7200

503 Eichenfield


Owned and operated by Bloomingdale Residents

Sunday Lunch At Jesse's

You asked for it. And now it's here. Sunday lunch at Jesse's. With all your favorite foods... Homemade soups, salads and sandwiches, those addictive Jesse's burgers, fresh seafood, our famous charbroiled steaks, and the same great service. But there's a Sunday bonus. Jesse's magnificent prime rib that fills your plate and challenges the bravest appetite. For just \$9.95. So if you're looking for a better Sunday lunch, you'd better Jesse's!



JESSE'S
NOON - 10 PM SUNDAYS
524 W. Brandon Blvd.
685-2381



SUNDAY PRIME RIB ALL DAY - NOON-10 P.M.

\$9.95 Full 16 oz. - Served with choice of potato, fresh-cooked mushrooms, Jesse's salad & crisp-hot bread loaf.

FREE PRESENT THIS COUPON FOR A FREE BEVERAGE OR COCKTAIL (Excluding frozen cocktails)

Sundays only, with prime rib only. One order per person, per coupon. Valid only with coupon. Not valid on special items nor with other coupons. Coupon expires March 3, 1991.

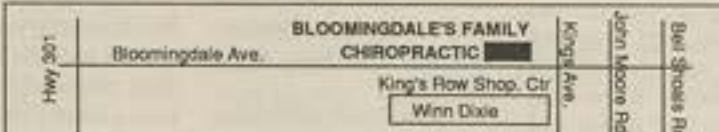
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OFFICE HOURS:
MON.-FRI. 9 am - 7 pm
SAT. 9 am - NOON

Introductory Offer
Consultation, Exam, and 2 Screening X-rays at NO CHARGE (\$125.00 Value)

Our Policy is: The patient and any other person responsible for payment has a right to refuse to pay, cancel payment, or be reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination or treatment which is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free, discounted fee, or reduced fee service, examination or treatment.

Area Churches

Apostles Lutheran
200 N. Kingsway, Brandon
689-2571
Mary & Tim Canniff-Kuhn
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 8:30 am & 11 am

Bell Shoals Baptist Church
2102 Bell Shoals, Brandon
689-4229
Pastor: Dr. Bob Reccord
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10:55 & 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study: 9:30

Bloomington Community Brethren Church
1310 E. Bloomington Ave., Valrico
681-2790
Pastor: David L. Stone
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10:30 & 6 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30

Brandon Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
910 S Bryan Road, Brandon
689-4021
Rev. Larry L. Chambers
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Christ Community Church
1310 John Moore Road, Brandon
685-6786
Pastor: Clifford Bassett
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 11:00 & 6 p.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

First Christian Church of Brandon
207 New Hope Rd, Brandon
689-1457
Minister: Larry Delks
Assoc. Minister: David Watts
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10:45 a.m. & 6 pm
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

First Pentecostal Church
2207 Lithia-Pinecrest Rd., Brandon
685-4827
Pastor: F. E. Goldsberry
Sunday Worship 10 am & 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Holy Innocent's Episcopal Church
Valrico Road at Front St, Valrico
689-3130
Pastor: Stephen L. Rudacille
Sun. Worship 8/10:30 a.m.
Christian Ed Class 9 a.m.
Nursery available all morning
Wednesday Eve 7:15 p.m.

Presbyterian Church of Bloomington
3212 Lithia, Valrico
N. of Bloomington Ave
654-3699
Pastor: Reid B. Isenhardt
Sunday Schedule:
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Church School: 9:15 a.m.

Resurrection Community Church
3225 Bell Shoals Rd., Brandon
685-6377
Pastor: Wayne Radd
Sunday Schedule:
Worship: 10:30 a.m. & 7 pm
Childrens Church & Nursery: 10:30 a.m.

St. Andrews United Methodist Church
3315 Bryan Rd. at Bloomington, Brandon
689-6849 or
Preschool 689-1207
Pastor: Robert A. Hahn
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School 9:40; Youth 5:15;

St. Mark United Church of Christ
2914 Lithia-Pinecrest Rd., Valrico
685-0998
Pastor: Garry A. Scheuer, Jr.
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10:45
Church School 10:45

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
5049 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico
689-4900
Mass Schedule:
Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am
Weekdays Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.

South Brandon Baptist Church
4929 Bell Shoals Road
681-1045
Pastor: Al Browder
Sunday Schedule:
Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

South Brandon Community Church
Office: 406 E. Bloomington Ave, Brandon
653-2317
Pastor: Ed Ross, 653-2417
Youth Pastor: Jeff Dunn
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10:30 a.m. at Bloomington High School
Youth, Singles, Home Bible Studies, Softball, Volleyball, Fellowship Groups Offered

Tampa Bay Christian Center
3920 S. Kings Ave, Brandon
689-9497
Pastor: Dr. David Blomgren
Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10:30 & 6 p.m.
Mid-week Service:
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Bell Shoals Church of Christ
2908 Bell Shoals, Brandon

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
2913 John Moore, Brandon

Westminster Presbyterian Church
402 E. Lumsden, Brandon

Synagogue Listing
Jewish Community Center of Brandon will be holding reform services in the social hall of the Apostles Lutheran Church, 200 N. Kingway. The services will be held on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 7:15 p.m. For more information call 681-9680 or 645-3759.

The information in this directory has been provided by the churches and synagogues listed. If your's is not listed or has only a partial listing, please submit the information in full to this newspaper and we will gladly add it.

CLASSIFIEDS

Child Care

FAMILY HOME DAY CARE has opening for full time and after school care in Bloomington East home for infants and up. 653-0631. Lic #FHC309 (feb)

CHILDCARE: Loving mother will care for your little one in my home. Drop-ins welcome. 684-6073. Lic #FHC-132.

Delivery Service

FLYERS DELIVERED DOOR TO DOOR IN BLOOMINGTON: The *Bloomington Gazette* Rent-A-Kid delivery system is available for hire at the rate of 7¢ per delivered piece. Call 681-2051 for details.

For Sale

35 FEET OF ROLLED OAK. Selling for \$5 per foot. This would make a beautiful bar. Call 684-6617. (Feb)

MODEM: 300 To 1200 Baud Hayes compatible. Brand new, only used twice. \$75 Call 681-2051. (r)

FOR SALE: crib - high chair - car seat like new \$100 total 654-7449

SALE: FISHER COMPONENT SYSTEM, MC 705 AM/FM, tape deck, remote speakers \$100 654-7449

55 GALLON AQUARIUM with stand, underground filter, hood, lights and accessories. Fish included. \$175 653-0631. (feb)

GOLF CLUBS FOR SALE: Ping Eye 2, 3 thru sw, putter. Taylor made metal woods 1-2-5, large bag \$55 ea. 654-7449

Gifts

LONGABERGER BASKETS & POTTERY: Beautifully handcrafted. For free color brochure and information on our hostess program, call Irene 685-3807. (Feb)

Health & Beauty

BEAUTY CONTROL COSMETICS at 20% discount. Call 689-1180. (Feb)

L'AROME INTERNATIONAL "ECHOES" FRAGRANCES: Expensive top quality Perfumes at affordable prices. GIFTS with a lasting impression. HOME PARTIES: Earn Free products and gifts. INCOME OPPORTUNITY: Become a L'Arome distributor. Call today for information: Roy & Phyllis Peplin 689-9151. (Feb)

Help Wanted

NEWS DIRECTOR/EDITOR: Responsible for writing, editing, photography, and supervision of staff reporters for *The Bloomington Gazette*. Part time, flexible work schedule. Experience preferred. Call office for submission requirements. 681-2051.

REPORTERS WANTED: for *The Bloomington Gazette*. No experience necessary, but must have a strong interest in the community with the ability to write well and meet a monthly deadline. Monetary compensation will be considered based upon experience. Call 681-2051.

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: Part time for *The Bloomington Gazette*. Service new and old accounts. Need to be outgoing, self starter. Commission. Flexible schedule. Call office for submission requirements. 681-2051.

DELIVERY PERSONS WANTED for *The Bloomington Gazette* for the substitute list. All ages are welcome to apply. Call Karen Ellis, Distribution Manager, at 684-4723 and leave a message.

COORDINATOR, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: Contact Russ Lembke, President of the BHA to volunteer. 681-2051.

Astrology by Renee

Happy Birthday to Capricorn and Aquarius

CAPRICORN'S YEAR AHEAD

December 22 to January 21
You begin the year reviewing your past accomplishments and stepping forward with a different perspective of where you have been and where you are going.

You will be taking a look at your current relationships and allow yourself more freedom by expanding your sense of self. Knowing just how much to expand and where to cut back may prove a bit frustrating initially but you will be much more decisive after September. At this time you will also feel a greater sense of self confidence as you shift your awareness to the impact you can have on others. You will also be able to more easily recognize those areas where you have room for improvement and also where you are quite good.

You may decide you have been carrying too much of the load, and begin to delegate some of the responsibilities you have placed on yourself. First make a list of priorities though, if you are going to delegate, don't criticize.

You will soon realize that if you have lost your sense of direction it may only be because of your attempts to control the actions of others. By opening your awareness you will feel more creative and may replace your rigid structures with more flexibility which will teach you just how many wonderful options exist!!! EXPRESS YOUR TRUE SELF!!!!

AQUARIUS'S YEAR AHEAD

January 21 to February 20
This year brings you the opportunity to eliminate all

those obstacles which may have kept you from actualizing your dreams. Many of those obstacles were mainly fears!

Juggling between staying focused on your new potentials and still carrying out your responsibilities may pose a bit of a problem, but you can sort it all out by staying in touch with what is most important at the time.

Try not to over-commit yourself, your time and your energy by accepting too much through September. Prioritize your interests and act accordingly. Explore ways to feel better about your inner worth and try to radiate positive confidence and optimism, however be cautious not to confuse this with arrogance and extravagance.

You will need to balance your desire to move beyond current boundaries and the needs for discipline, focus and consolidation.

It may be that you will

feel more spiritually attuned by simply "simplifying" your lifestyle and avoiding the overwhelming feeling that can come by wanting to experience and be all the things life can throw your way. Be selective and choosy!! Do I really need all those material things?

This is the year to discover what really motivates you, and stop trying to do everything else. Look deep inside and travel deep within you. You may just experience a beautiful healing, after you let go of all those things you have really outgrown. All this will prepare you for the major changes coming your way in the next few years. Enjoy your rebirth!

HELP WANTED

NEWS DIRECTOR/ EDITOR WANTED

Responsible for writing, editing, photography, and supervision of staff reporters for *The Bloomington Gazette*. Part time, flexible work schedule. Experience preferred. Call office for submission requirements. 681-2051.

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

Part time for *The Bloomington Gazette*. Service new and old accounts. Need to be outgoing, self starter. Commission. Flexible schedule. Call office for submission requirements. 681-2051.

CLASSIFIEDS

COORDINATOR EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM Duties finding 15-20 host families, teaching class, activities, person needs community contacts, be enthusiastic. 757-0112

TELEMARKETER, Experience preferred. Full or Part time to work from home. Appointment setting only, no sales involved. Call 681-1822 and leave message. Salary negotiable.

TELEMARKETER: Experience preferred. Work from home. Call 689-9192 for details. (r)

HOME COMPANION for elderly, prefer evenings or weekends. Call between 5 and 6 p.m., leave message 681-5364

Homes for Sale or Rent

GOVERNMENT HOMES AVAILABLE in Bloomingdale and Brandon. Only \$6,000 down - Call Tony 681-8853 - First Brokers, Inc. (Feb)

VACATION IN THE MOUNTAINS at Maggie Valley, North Carolina. Completely furnished home sleeps six. \$297-\$351 weekly. Call 685-1235 (Feb)

BLOOMINGDALE RENTER wants to lease purchase 4 bedroom home in area or assume non-qualifying mortgage with low down payment 684-3005

FOR RENT: INDIAN ROCKS CONDO. On the water. 2 bedrooms/2 baths, pool, jacuzzi, dock. \$1,100 by the month. 654-3055. (Apr)

House-cleaning

\$25 FIRST TIME CUSTOMER SPECIAL. I'm so confident you'll appreciate my services that I will clean your home for \$25 the very first time. Call Melinda at 685-9057 today for an appointment. (Feb)

RESIDENTIAL CLEANING SERVICE: Customized estimates. Available Saturdays, evenings or in a pinch. Bldgl. Resident, call *Have Broom Will Travel* 681-1682. (Feb)

MOTHER AND I CLEAN. We try harder to clean better. Call for an honest cleaning. (Mother) Mary 681-9049. (I) Debbie 689-6181 (after 3 p.m. please). (Feb)

Job Opportunities

\$40,000/yr! READ BOOKS and TV Scripts. Fill out simple "like/don't like" form. EASY! Fun, relaxing at home, beach, vacations. Guaranteed paycheck. FREE 24-hour recording. 801-379-2955 Ext. FE213B. (dec)

Lawn and Garden

LAWN MAINTENANCE: Mowing, edging, trimming, yard clean-ups and mulching. Free estimates. Great Prices! Bldgl. Res. 681-1682. (Nov)

LAWN MOWER BLADES SHARPENED: A sharper blade means a healthier lawn and easier mowing job. Ted Fliegell, (East) 689-5116 (ps)

APOLLO LAWN & POOL CARE: Lawn Maintenance \$55 per month, Pool Maintenance \$58 per month including chemicals and weekly service Call 689-5197 (Mar)

YARD SPECIAL: Bushes Trimmed, flower beds weeded, yard clean-ups free estimates, reasonable rates. Bloomingdale resident. 681-1682. (Feb)

Lost and Found

LOST-20 IN. BOYS BMX BIKE Black, has "CIRCUIT" written on handlebars and frame. Missing chain guard. Last seen Nov. 5 Bloomingdale East behind park. 684-6006

Maintenance, Repairs, Home Improvements

ECONO PRESSURE CLEANING: Home Exteriors: Driveways, patios, walkways, decks and roofs. Free estimates. Call 681-3656, day or evening-7 days. Vince Sidoti. (Apr)

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING: 10% Bloomingdale Resident Discount. Discover our proven root extraction method. Most carpets dry in 2 hours. Teflon stain guard available. Call now for Appt. 653-1176. Las Brisas Resident. (Nov)

STAINED GLASS: 5 years experience stained & beveled glass windows and panels custom made for your home. Call Tom or Tim at 685-0661 (Feb)

PAINTING: Interior/Exterior. Bldgl. Resident. Free estimates-reasonable rates. 20 years experience, references upon request. 689-9192 (May)

BURGLAR & FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS: Complete Safety Services, Inc. 20 years experience. Home or Business. State License #EF0000137. Member Alarm Assoc. of Florida. Bldgl. Resident 681-1822 (PS)

SOLAR - QUALITY SOLAR SYSTEMS: Embrace the Sun for year around enjoyment. Conveniently located at 819 E. Bloomingdale, with Clean & Clear Pool Supply. 685-4419 (dec)

PATIO SERVICE: Pressure clean and resurface river rock and cool deck, etc. Reasonable rates. Free estimates. Call 685-4419 and ask for Kevin. (dec)

Miscellaneous Services

HAVE AN UNFORGETTABLE BIRTHDAY for your child at Pandy's Playhouse. Many themes to choose from! Call 654-8223 for more information. Open 7 days a week. (Nov)

COOPER'S YARN Baby gifts, afghans, lessons. Quality yarn at affordable prices! 9848-B U.S. 301 S Riverview, FL 33569 677-5713 (Apr)

"YARN IT ALL": Yarn and Accessories. Sales, Instruction, and Networking Services. 3016 Wister Circle Valrico, FL 33594-5639. Call Marie at 685-2084. (Feb)

LET'S CELEBRATE: Rent giant 8 foot greeting cards for all occasions. Celebrate in a "BIG" way. Reserve one today: 689-9151. (Dec)

CAR & TRUCK PIN STRIPPING. Many styles and colors to choose from. Bloomingdale Resident. DeeDee Corley 685-9581 (Feb).

Petsitting

HOME PET WATCH: Professional petsitting service dedicated to quality in home pet care. Licensed, bonded and insured. Call anytime 654-PETS. (Feb)

Printing

WHAT YOUR MIND CAN CONCEIVE, we can print. High quality and professional with free pickup and delivery from your Bloomingdale home or office. Call Creative Communications at 689-4972 (answering machine). Affiliated with Insty Prints. (Feb)

Resume/Typing/Typesetting, etc.

TYPING, TYPESETTING, Graphic Designs, Camera-Ready materials of all kinds: Resumes, brochures, flyers, books, correspondence, letterhead, business cards, and more. Excellent rates and professional quality. Creative Communications 689-4972 (leave message). (Mar)

HOW TO CONTACT THE BLOOMINGDALE MOBILE WATCH

Have you ever wondered how to contact the Mobile Watch? Maybe you've seen something suspicious or you've had something you want them to know about, such as vandalism or a crime at your residence. It's really very easy. Just call one of the Core Committee officers listed on page 2 of The Bloomingdale Gazette. If you don't keep your copy, cut out this article and put it by your phone or on the refrig. The following will take your info or direct you to the current base station operator.

IF IT'S A CRIME IN PROGRESS OR JUST OCCURRED, CALL THE SHERIFF FIRST.
LaWayne Wyatt... 685-2072
Steve Schneider... 685-8378
Chuck Walsh... 689-9688
David Guy... 681-5943
John Britton... 681-1553
Paul Warr... 685-7883
Rick Borling... 684-2022

Bloomingdale Residents who are:

AMWAY REPRESENTATIVE: Phyllis Peplin 689-9151 Carol Renfroe 684-0833

AVON REPRESENTATIVES: Ruth Calandro 689-0212 Delaine Heyman 681-9407 Colleen Rose 651-0879

DISCOVERY TOYS: Midge Walsh 684-7011

LONGABERGER BASKETS: Beth Jones-Schall 653-2170/681-7787

MARY KAY COSMETICS: Candy Cary 654-1695 Jan Ellis 654-1126 Rosemary Rhodes 684-7058

NEW BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA: Midge Walsh 684-7011

TUPPERWARE DEALERS: Sandra Roberts 684-6361 Colleen Rose 651-0879

WORLD BOOK/CHILDCRAFT EARLY WORLD OF LEARNING: Joe Malnic 685-9318

BABYSITTERS

Kelly Pheils, 16 681-9026 (dec)

Angela Reiser, 15 684-6006 (mar)

L.J. Walker, 13 681-2354 (nov)

Classifieds are \$4 for 20 words
\$2 for BHA Members
681-2051

Fall Cleanup HOMEOWNER SPECIAL
(Does not include up to 1/2 acre; price based on basic maintenance)

Lawns cut, bagged & trimmed w/ line trimmer, edge & blow off sidewalk, road & driveway **\$25**

Edge flowerbeds & clean up all edge clippings **\$10**

Mulching, flowerbed clean-up, shrubbery trimming, etc.

Free Estimates Upon Request
FREE Removal of Lawn & Bed Clippings with Our Service

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South Brandon Community Church
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Bloomingdale High School
Auditorium
653-2317

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3905 Kristin Place
Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-4548

Bloomington Resident

Bloomington Resident
Lic #C-HC-189

DAYS OF JOY

Child Care Center & Preschool
6001 Christy Lane
Riverview, FL 33569
Corner of Bloomington Ave & Christy Lane

DEBORAH SCOTT, OWNER
LINDA THOMAS, DIRECTOR

Phone
628-0541

The Prudential



Florida Realty

1101 West Brandon Boulevard
Brandon, FL 33511
Bus. (813) 689-8102
Fax (813) 685-2482
Pager (813) 681-0313
After Hours (813) 685-8617

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100% Guaranteed



(813) 654-0572

SUSAN TORONY
Center Director

4304 BELL SHOALS RD., VALRICO, FL 33594

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• FREE Water Analysis •

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Motors • Solar • Solar Blankets
• Complete line of accessories



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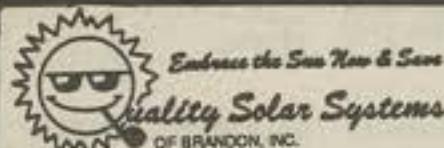
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