

Coming Attractions

On This Date...

This year, each issue of *The Gazette* will take time out to look at where we have come in 15 years as a community. Look for highlights from the past 15 years featured in BHA Blurbs.

Spring Fling

Look for details about the BHA Spring Picnic set for Saturday, April 22, at Park West. The BHA has a day of fun and entertainment planned for the entire family.

In February Look For

...New BHA Board
...Park workday photos
...The changing face of Bloomingdale

Special This Issue!

Bloomingdale History Pull-Out

See Pages 7,8,9, & 10

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XV, Number 1

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

January 1995

BHA Blurbs

Park East Clean-up

The BHA is seeking community-wide involvement in sprucing up Park East on Nature's Way on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Coffee and donuts as well as lunch and beverages will be provided.

Residents are asked to bring along their gardening tools and/or painting equipment. The county will mow the park, and the volunteers will be planting, spreading mulch, and painting.

Please call Wally and Gena Schaffer at 681-2051 to volunteer.

General Membership Meeting Jan. 10

Last month's annual general membership meeting and board election of the BHA was postponed until this month on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members of the BHA are invited to attend.

Six of the 12 board positions are open for a two-year term. Current board members Rick Oros, Russ Lembke, and LaWayne Wyatt are seeking re-election to the board. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the general membership meeting. Residents who would like to hold a board position need to attend the meeting in order to have their name placed in nomination.

BHA members who are unable to attend, may send in their vote by proxy. Complete the form available by calling the Community Office, 681-2051 or stop by 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 101, Valrico prior to the meeting.

Davis Joins BHA Board

Local realtor Michael Davis was named to the BHA board of directors at last month's meeting. He fills the vacancy left by the passing of long-time board member David Lees who had one year remaining on a two-year term. Davis and his wife Judy are new residents of The Greens, and Davis has been active in BHA events such as sponsoring pony rides at the community picnic.

BHA Reviews STD Project

BHA board members last month tentatively gave their support to Phase II of the STD's major landscaping plan scheduled to begin next month by offering to assist in gathering volunteers. The BHA is waiting for further information before final approval. Work will be done to enhance the entrances to the Bloomingdale communities from The Estates on John Moore to the East at Greenhollow.

A Strong Homeowners Association For An Even Stronger Community

by Ted Grable

Great communities are not places, but the people who make them up. It was and is the spirit of the people in New England that



Ted Grable

make their town meetings often quoted examples of the participative foundation of the American system. These town meetings were essen-

tial to those who built those original towns to ensure that they could establish and maintain a community consistent with the majority's desires.

Bloomingdale may have been originally settled by pioneer families who hacked the scrub back to farm this area, but the community we have today was designed and built by developers and builders. It may have been those neat neighborhoods with new homes and attractive landscaping and the promises of a well structured community that lured us here, but many of our homes are not new today and many of the promises and those who made them are long gone.

Bloomingdale's future is dependant on community resources we now have and how we manage them. Many of us are proud of what we have built out of the developers' blueprints.

In spite of a tough economy, new businesses continue to arrive to meet our needs. Our children attend great schools. Our roads are improving. We no longer have an obnoxious waste water treatment plant in our neighborhood. Thanks to the excellent work of the Mobile Watch and Sheriff's Office, Bloomingdale is a safe place to live. We have a Special Taxing District (STD) that does an ex-

See BHA, pg. 16

Before It Was Bloomingdale It Was Still Bloomingdale

by Rozel Sculli

Bloomingdale's recorded history dates back to the 1870's, although people have inhabited the area since the 1850's.

Among the early settlers was John Carney, who reportedly had served in the Seminole Indian War of 1856 under Capt. John Lesley of Tampa, before returning to farming. Carney, somewhat of a legend, was murdered in his fields by an Indian raiding party seeking revenge. He was reported to have been scalped, and his grave and tombstone can still be seen today off Stearns Road.

Capt. Frederick Worth and the Hendrix family were early settlers of the 1870's. In 1879, the Bloomingdale

Post Office opened near what was the center of the community at Pearson Road, between Durant and Bloomingdale.

During that time, Bloomingdale was a swamp like area but it was filled with beautiful flowers, food, and wild game. It was

far enough out from the already settled Tampa and its pastoral setting attracted the city dwellers who built weekend homes along the Alafia. There was plenty of fishing in the Alafia and fertile land for farming and raising dairy cattle.

One of the newcomers of the early 1880's was Ludwig Bucholz, a German schoolmaster. Unhappy with the "crowded" life in Tampa, he bought land and farmed in the Bloomingdale

See BEFORE, pg. 16



Occasionally shoppers still park their horses on the corner of Lithia and Bloomingdale.

Of Cows And A 'Primitive' Beginning

by Rozel Sculli

Bo Ryals's cows politely stepped aside when, in 1979, Criterion began developing the land now known as Bloomingdale East. The Ryals still live on Culbreath on a few acres that remain from their vast dairyland which stretched from Bell Shoals to Culbreath and down to the Alafia.

"The agreement was for Criterion to keep moving the fence back as they developed neighborhoods," recalled Fred Uphoff, quite literally the fifth resident to move into Bloomingdale East.

Sometimes, Uphoff and his neighbors would come home from work to find a stray cow in their front yards.

"We'd have to call Bo to come round

up the cow."

The fight for street lights was the first of many battles to be waged with the county, the builders, the school board, and the state over the years as these "early settlers" carved out of the Florida brush and wetlands a liveable community.

"It was very peaceful here then. There was nothing around for miles."

As the community grew, Uphoff saw a need to communicate formally with neighbors. Thus, began *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. The 8 1/2 X 11 newsletter was distributed door-to-door to 75 homes. It welcomed newcomers, kept residents informed on the latest issues with the county and develop-

ers, and served as a unifying force in this upstart community.

"It was handwritten, handprinted, and handed out," said Uphoff, the paper's first editor.

Through the new Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association, community

See BEGIN, pg 15



Fred Uphoff

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Dear Readers,

This will be an electrifying year for us at the newspaper, watch for some exciting changes. As you may or may not know we are celebrating our 15th year anniversary starting with this issue. Each issue in the coming year will have information concerning Bloomingdale over the past 15 years.

I have been involved with the BHA and *The Gazette* for almost 2 years and I am personally gratified to have a continuing role in the progress of the BHA and with the achievements of *The Gazette*.

The Gazette was a big venture for my family. My wife's job as graphic and layout artist at the newspaper, our son's and daughter's daily activities, and my businesses had always been enough to busy our lives. In March of 1993 we had an additional and big responsibility - to take care of the new member of the family, *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. I hope you have enjoyed the newspaper as much as I have enjoyed being a part of it.

The past years hold many memories for me, not only with *The Gazette* but with the community. Most memorable is the resurgence and strength of the BHA, along with the coming of age of the newspaper and the rebirth of the Community Picnic. Yes, the past 2 years have been fun and exciting, I am grateful to all of you who have participated with me to make my job as president of the newspaper and secretary of the BHA a real pleasure. The red carpet on the community office's front door step has also weathered nicely the past 2 years. It is there to say welcome, and I hope you will walk over it frequently in the coming year.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Oros

Our Times

Community Paper Here To Serve You

by Rozel Sciulli

When I was in journalism classes in the dark ages we were taught that newspapers serve six functions. These functions were up for discussion during a recent meeting, the debate being - Do newspapers educate or simply inform?

I contended that a good newspaper, besides fulfilling its four other functions, does both. Doesn't information about hurricane preparedness also educate? A five-part series on breast cancer also educates. When the Eastern European block was crumbling, there was no better educator than the daily newspaper. Certainly history books could not be updated fast enough to provide details that changed daily. So, teachers abandoned their books and turned to newspapers as an instructional resource.

A community newspaper, though, like *The Gazette*, serves primarily two functions - to inform and to act as a sentry. It is our purpose to keep residents informed of community events, school, social, religious, and business news, government matters that affect you directly, and to share with you interesting information about the people who live around you. As a sentry, *The Gazette* must stand guard at the gates to warn the community of impending change, of injustice, or of threats to your way of life.

The community newspaper must keep its finger on the pulse of the area it serves. *The Gazette*, for the most part, has been doing a good job of this for 15 years. Unlike with a metropolitan newspaper that serves the general public from many different walks, a community newspaper knows its readers. It knows them all to be farmers, or upper middle class families, or retirees.

The relationship between *The Gazette* and its readers

has been a personal one. We at *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, share your concerns, your interests, and your values. We cherish our children as

you do, and we want the best for them in education, recreation, and lifestyle. We believe in community pride and spirit. We are motivated to take action when an outside force threatens our quality of life.

We are your mouthpiece. Through *The Gazette*, county agencies have heard and heeded your wishes. School officials have listened to your concerns and acquiesced to your demands. Builders have changed inappropriate plans to ones that would be more conducive to this area's appearance.

A metropolitan newspaper is not looking out for you. Even the local weekly newspaper does not know you. *The Bloomingdale Gazette* has grown with you. It is you.

Together we are 15 years old. As *The Gazette* expands to encompass a greater Bloomingdale area, we will continue to understand and respond to the needs of our readers. We will continue to serve you as we hope you will continue your support of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.

County To Correct Muddy Mess

by Rozel Sciulli

Water and dirt make mud, and the residents of Bloomingdale Ridge who have to drive by the mess at Culbreath and Nature's Way everyday can take satisfaction in knowing that the county plans to do something about it before the next rainy season.

Labeled as "nuisance flooding" by the county, water that has accumulated at that corner has caused the ground to turn to mush. Car tires then chew up the sod, and what remains are muddy ruts.

The problem, according to county engineers, is pine needles. Those pointed pests have clogged the ditch bottom inlet in the sidewalk obstructing the drainage of water. According to a spokesman of county engineering and construction services, the department plans to flush out the underdrain system and secure the manhole cover in the sidewalk about 200 feet from the affected area to keep water from seeping out of it.

The county will then monitor the area and perhaps plan for additional underdrain if these efforts are not successful.

OFFICERS

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 101
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051

Randy Wolfe President 229-3321
Ted Grable Vice President 685-7193
Rick Oros Secretary 685-0866
Jim Wiley Treasurer 684-7825

Directors

Michael Davis 685-0016
Russ Lembke 689-2829
Patricia Radel 651-0210
LaWayne Wyatt 685-2072
Anne Underwood 653-4677

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

Peter Aluotto President 685-0727
Chris Hering Vice President 654-0235
Sue Hadden Treasurer 685-6106
Michaela Sykes Corresponding Secretary 653-0066
Fred Upoff Recording Secretary 685-3013
Sue Boucher Trustee 653-2018
Rick Pitrowski Trustee 661-1344
Greg Atkinson Administrator 759-6670

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

Core Committee
LaWayne Wyatt Coordinator/Scheduler 685-2072
John Britton Treasurer 681-1553
Steve Schneider Equipment Manager 685-8378

Members
David Guy 681-5943
Paul Kelmer 681-9701
Rick Borling 684-2022

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

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

William Grace President 685-2817

The Bloomingdale Gazette

3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 101
Valrico, Florida 33594

681-2051

Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Directors

Rick Oros Pam Liguori
Randy Wolfe Joe Liguori

Bloomingdale Homeowners

Association, Inc. Publisher
Rick Oros President
Rozel Sciulli Editor
Brian Bergren Writer
Vanessa Clark Writer

Mandi Oros Writer

June Oros Office Manager/Layout

Editor
Graphics
JoAnne Scoff Ad Representative
Shirley Farrer Distribution Manager
Circulation Assistants Rent A Kid
delivery system

Accounting services provided by: Robert Morris, 611 East
Bloomingdale Avenue, Brandon, Florida 33511

Statement of Operation

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available free of charge at area newsstands: Publix, The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, NationsBank, Mail Boxes Etc., Bell Shoals Cigo, Rainbow Mart, Kash & Karry, Nations Bank, Brandon Library, Sun Bank, Barnett Bank, and Farm Stores.

The 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.*

MEETINGS

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

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District
Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
BHA Board of Directors
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District
First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

Putting off that long overdue "Physical Exam"?



only \$139*
(reg. \$389)
Call for details
684-1777

Physician Care
and WALK-IN CLINIC
OF BRANDON

* EXPIRES 4/30/95
Insurance NOT accepted for this special FAMILY PRACTICE and INTERNAL MEDICINE
Public and Pop addressed
THE PHYSICIAN AND STAFF PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICE ARE A COMMITMENT TO THE PATIENTS AND ARE NOT EMPLOYED BY THE PHYSICIAN. THE PHYSICIAN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SERVICE OF THE PHYSICIAN OR THE STAFF PERSONNEL. THE PHYSICIAN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SERVICE OF THE PHYSICIAN OR THE STAFF PERSONNEL.

620 Vonderberg Dr., Brandon



Mal Sun's SALON

Dedicated to Customer Satisfaction.
Quality full service Hair & Nail Salon.
Bloomingdale Area's Finest.

Precision Cuts Walk-ins Welcome
Specialty Perms 9am - 8pm M - F
Complete Nail Care 9am - 6 pm Sat.

681-2060

Creative Colorizing Techniques

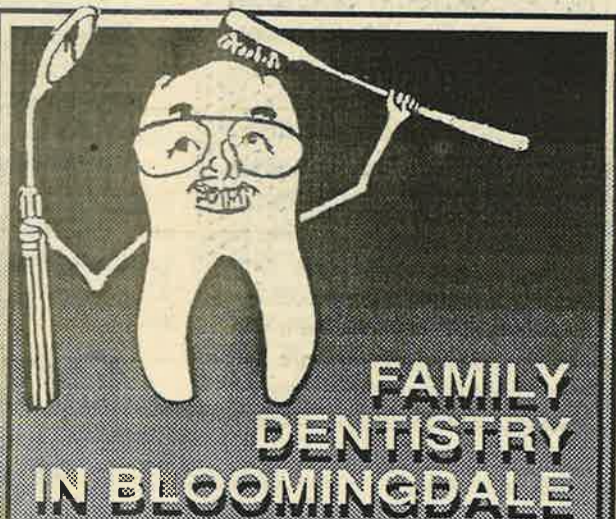
- Sun Glitzing
- Shading
- Highlighting
- Minking



New Customers...

Mention this ad for
Special Savings!

Bloomingdale Center 3507 Bell Shoals Road



FAMILY DENTISTRY IN BLOOMINGDALE

Experienced and concerned professional care for the whole family

LASER

Dr. Ray Aquilina, D.D.S., P.A.

689-1529

4320 Bell Shoals Rd.

Village Center in Bloomingdale East

Insurance • Military Insurance • VISA • Mastercard

Donna Mac

Whether Buying or Selling, Know the Difference

- Bloomingdale's Area Specialist since 1983
- Sold millions and millions
- Let my experience, knowledge, service and commitment work for you
- Degree in Advertising and Marketing



Donna MacGiffert

654-7070



In Bloomingdale Square



SOLD! Donna Mac does it again & again & again . . .

**220
~~213~~ SOLD**

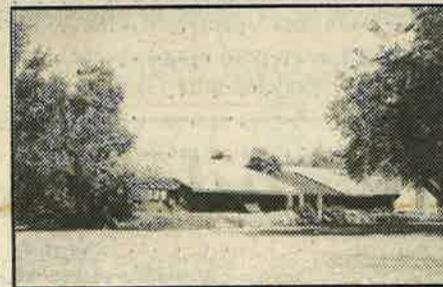
Homes in Bloomingdale



**3804 Hollow Wood - Windsor Woods
Immaculate, Bright & Airy!**



**3812 Windtree Court - Blg. West
4 Bdrm. Custom Home! Cul-de-sac!**

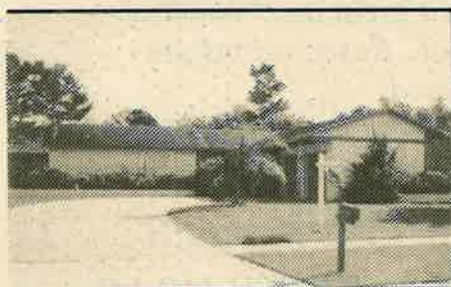


**704 Centerbrook - South Oak
Fabulous Lot, One Acre Plus, 3 Car
Garage, Circular Driveway**



**1521 Holleman Drive - Fairway Manor
Beautiful! Former Schmidt Model.**

**For further information on
these fine homes in
Bloomingdale
contact
Donna Mac
654-7070**



**524 Wynnwood - Blg. West
Caged Pool, Large Fenced Lot, Fireplace**



**4305 Ellenville Place - Blg. East
Caged Pool & Spa. Impeccable! Upgrades!**

RESERVED

**SELLING?
This Space is Reserved for Your Home.**

Mobile Watch Boasts Proud History

by LaWayne Wyatt

July, 1994, marked the 14th anniversary of the Mobile Watch which started following a series of burglaries in the new Bloomingdale subdivision. At that time, Bloomingdale only had 103 homes.

The first meeting was held in Fred Uphoff's garage and was attended by about 50 residents. During the meeting, the basic rules and procedures were developed under the guidance of then Sgt. Bennie Holder of the Tampa Police Department and a Bloomingdale resident. The Bloomingdale Security Patrol began operations under the auspices of the BHA with approximately 50 members, one hand-held CB radio, and one base station.

The name was changed to Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Patrol in March, 1983, and in November of that same year, it became the Bloomingdale Mobile Watch. Members of the Mobile Watch also assisted in starting the Neighborhood Watch program for Bloomingdale. In 1984, the Mobile Watch withdrew from the BHA and operated as an independent organization until April, 1990, when it rejoined the BHA.

Over the years, we have worked very closely with the Sheriff's Department. Information provided by members has led to the arrest and conviction of several burglary rings and solved several other crimes in the community. Members also provided traffic control assistance to the Sheriff's Department when accidents have occurred in the area.

Scheduling 50 people to conduct one patrol, three nights a week was done manually with 3X5 cards. As

membership grew and patrols were expanded, this process became unwieldy. As a result, a computerized program was developed and copyrighted by Skip Mowry in 1984. This program is still in use today.

Funding and equipment support has come from many sources during the past 10 years. Builders, the developer, the BHA, *The Gazette*, Columbia Bank, Mailboxes, Etc., and residents have all provided financial support or donated equipment to keep the Watch running. Currently, the Mobile Watch is funded by the dues paying members of the BHA.

The area covered by these patrols is approximately three miles long - John More Road to Lithia Pinecrest, and 1 1/2 miles wide, but it includes 50 to 60 miles of interior streets. The Mobile Watch also provides traffic control assistance to the BHA for many of its functions.

The Mobile Watch continues to work very closely with District II of the Sheriff's Department. The Watch currently provides District II, as well as resource officers at both Burns and Bloomingdale schools, an update of its log. This update provides them with indicators of activity in the Bloomingdale community and may provide leads to solve crimes in the area.

The Sheriff's Department has also officially recognized the Mobile Watch and has used it as a model for other communities who wish to start similar organizations.

Why not call today and volunteer? As long as the need exists, Mobile Watch will be on the streets to keep the community safe.

BSHS, Community Support Each Other

by Brian Bergren

Since its completion on July 25, 1987, Bloomingdale Senior High School has enjoyed endless successes in both academics and athletics. Initially constructed to alleviate overcrowding in the rapidly growing community's high schools, Bloomingdale quickly claimed its spot as the top school in the area. The dedication ceremony on Dec. 13, 1987, marked the commencement of a tradition of excellence at Bloomingdale.

Situated on 80 acres at 1600 East Bloomingdale Avenue, the school has served as a gateway to success for the past eight years. The doors were opened in August, 1987, and 1,265 students entered the building with awe. The two-story structure of Bloomingdale houses 291,656 square feet under its five acres of roof. A total of 900,000 bricks integrated with 800,000 blocks, were used to construct the buff facade. Modeled after Gaither

High in the northwest part of the county, Bloomingdale provides space for 93 classrooms, a 900 seat auditorium, a 2,200 seat gymnasium, and a centrally located cafeteria with a two-story glass window wall.

Still an assistant principal at the school, Mr. Bartells said, "In 1987, we made a commitment that Bloomingdale would be noted for academic excellence." This is evidenced in the millions of dollars of college scholarship money awarded annually to BHS graduates, 85% of whom go on to college.

This influx of students has caused a demand for expanded course offerings. Bloomingdale has established the largest Advanced Placement program in the county school district.

Numerous clubs and extracurricular activities initiated at BHS since its opening have also given the school a reputation of success and accomplishment. The school

See BSHS, page 5

FAST • LOW COST • COLORFUL PRINTING

10% OFF ORDER WITH THIS AD

- Flyers
- Letterheads
- Brochures
- Newsletters
- Church Bulletins
- Much More

Images Etc. at Mail Boxes Etc.
Wal-Mart Shopping Center
689-4998 or 854-8441

LA CUBANITA

Spanish Restaurant & Bakery

"The only Cuban Restaurant in Brandon"

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

M - F 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Blue Plate Special
\$3.99 Daily

661-2253
Dine in or take out

723-A Lumsden Road
S. W. corner of Lumsden & Kings

Your Neighborhood Veterinarian

Meeting the Veterinary needs of Bloomingdale Residents since 1988 with quality medicine at affordable prices.

We offer complete pet care services and invite you to come in and meet our staff.



ANIMAL
MEDICAL
CENTER

JIM ANTUNANO, D.V.M.

Vaccination Packages • Medical/Surgical •
Dental • Radiology • Laboratory Services •
Boarding/Grooming

654-6222

4338 Bell Shoals Road - Village Center

DON'T FORGET... "EVERY PET NEEDS A VET!"

Brandon Academy

PRIVATE SCHOOL

FULLY ACCREDITED BY
THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
AND
FLORIDA KINDERGARTEN COUNCIL

Academic Excellence For Over 20 Years

- Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade
- Small Classroom Environment
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Before and After School Care



Testing for 1995-1996

January 21, 1995 & February 25, 1995

Call for Applications

801 Limona Road Brandon, Florida 33510

689-1952

Teresa (Terry) Curry - Administrator

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



You are invited to River Hills Country Club!

Lunch - served Monday through Friday daily specials and soup/salad bar.

Brunch - Sundays 11:00 - 2:00. Choose from a great assortment of entrees. Reservations are suggested.

Banquets - Personal or business function capabilities for 8-200. Reserve your parties now!



RIVER HILLS

Country Club

Call 653-1554 For Reservations and Information

The Sign
of the
Times



FRANK OR REBECCA ST. PIERRE

BLOOMINGDALE'S (AND BRANDON'S)
#1 REALTOR FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS

Listings Sold To Listings Taken
Ratio In Excess Of 95%

Do You Want Your Home Listed Or Sold?

CALL
FRANK OR REBECCA ST. PIERRE
685-6510

Brandon Office
777 W. Lumsden Rd.
Brandon, Fl 33511



Joe And Pam Liguori Have Done It All

by Mandi Oros

Each month the Good Neighbors column features special community involved residents. These individuals are carefully chosen by the amount of neighborhood and community participation.

Since this month's *Gazette* is the fifteenth anniversary issue, it was decided that the Good Neighbors would have to be involved with not only *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, but also the BHA, STD, and most importantly, heavily into neighborhood projects. The residents that are the obvious choice are none other than Pam and Joe Liguori.

It all started in 1987 when the Liguori's moved to Bloomingdale from Houston, Texas, due to a company relocation. In their first couple of months here, Joe became involved with the BHA. He first served as a board member, then moved up in the ranks and became the vice-president of the BHA, for a one year term.

Currently, both Pam and Joe are active in the *Bloomingdale Gazette* as directors. As a director, Joe feels he has helped prevent the sale of the *Gazette* to a power

outside of the BHA.

The Liguori's are members of Saint Stephen Catholic Church where Joe as the current president of the Men's Club. Joe and Pam are also both heavily involved in the St. Stephen annual picnic. They helped organize the children's activities and other

events. They also were involved in the annual art auction and Las Vegas night fund raisers.

One of the most interesting projects the Liguori's have participated in together is the



Pam and Joe Liguori

BHA sponsored Santa Claus experience. For six years, the Liguori's have been Mr. and Mrs. Claus getting their pictures taken with and handing out candy to the children of Bloomingdale.

Joe has also served as a Trustee on the board of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District. Last month marked the end of his six-year career in STD involvement. Joe needed to resign his position on the board due to increased job-related responsibilities. Although his position in the STD is resigned, Joe plans to remain active in the community and continue his involvement.

BSHS, from page 4

year would be incomplete without some type of competition won by the band, choir, Crimson Dolls, chess club, or math team. Bloomingdale students are not only champions in the classroom but also on the playing field.

Athletics have always been a distinguishing factor between Bloomingdale and other area high schools. The Bulls have won the St. Petersburg Times athletic award two years in a row for over-all athletic achievement. The athletic teams consistently enjoy successful seasons, bringing home district, regional, and state titles from many of its 26 men's and women's athletic teams.

The doors of Bloomingdale Senior High School have been open for eight years, and the

Brandon-Valrico communities have been greatly affected by the institution. The Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association attributes the demand for housing in this community to the excellence of its schools. The students of Bloomingdale provide people numerous services through clubs that provide community services from tutoring elementary school children to cleaning up Bloomingdale Avenue. In some small way, it is repayment to the community for supporting the school since its opening.

Many traditions have been established at BISHS in its short history. The school and community have come together and formed a mutually beneficial relationship to ensure the future success of its students.

We Are Like A Craft Show Everyday.



From The Heart



Spaces Start at \$10./mon.

Mon.-Sat. 10 am-8pm

651-9395

3220 Luthia Pinecrest Rd.,
St. # 103 & 104
Next to Winn Dixie & Pizza Hut

• Gift Certificates • Visa/Mastercard • Layaway • Crafts • Wood Furniture • Over 195 Crafters • Custom Orders Available • Low Prices • New Crafters Always Welcome



Better grades are just the beginning.

From reading to math, Sylvan gives students the skills and confidence they need to succeed. We pinpoint your child's needs, develop a personalized program and deliver it in a positive, fun and caring environment. Sylvan has already helped over a million children boost their grades and their self-esteem. Call Sylvan, today, to learn how we can help your child.

Melissa Reinstein
Brandon, FL
Enrichment Student

711 W. Lumsden Rd.
Brandon, FL
Oak Park Plaza
684-2400

Celebrating 9 Years in Brandon



SYLVAN LEARNING CENTER®

Reading • Writing • Math • SAT/ACT • Study Skills • Algebra

Church News

Church Membership Has Grown With Bloomingdale

by Donna Heinz

If you have waited at a traffic light at Bloomingdale, Lithia Pinecrest or Bell Shoals lately, no one needs to tell you how much the Bloomingdale area has grown. Not only has this growth had an impact on traffic, schools, and housing, it has also been felt in the local churches. Churches that have been around for many years have noticed tremendous growth in their congregation and new church bodies have formed all over the area.

One of the more established churches around, **St. Andrew's United Methodist Church** opened its doors in 1966. In the years that followed, 1966-1984, the church experienced steady growth building to around 600 members by 1984. Membership has doubled since then to 1200, and as a result, a new sanctuary was built in 1987.

According to longtime church secretary, Jackie Pettis, as families began to settle in the Bloomingdale area, especially Bloomingdale East and West, church membership soared.

Bell Shoals Baptist Church held its first service in 1961. In the years that followed, due to tremendous growth, a new sanctuary was built and a school added. In 1992, they added a building to house classrooms, a media center and a special events center. On Sunday mornings, two worship services are held and beginning later this month, a Saturday night service will be offered.

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay located in St. Petersburg, realized the potential for growth in the Bloomingdale area. In 1987, the **Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale** was born. It began meeting in a day care center with five families. By May of 1989, they had grown to 100 members.

According to Candy Carrie, a charter

member and church treasurer, they moved into the new sanctuary was built in 1991, and is the first of a five building complex planned for the future. One problem that they have noticed, is that this area can be a transitional one. Young families move here for a while and then are transferred somewhere else. This has caused some fluctuation in membership.

One of the busiest intersections in the area is Bloomingdale and Lithia Pinecrest, and there you will find the area's newest church, **Living Savior Lutheran church**, founded in April of 1992 in Brandon and moving to its current location last February. Pastor Christopher Kruschel says that Bloomingdale is one of the fastest growing areas in Hillsborough County.

Foreseeing this continued growth, they have developed plans for the future. Weekend seminars and CPR training classes for area residents are planned. In the distant future, Living Savior plans to purchase property for a permanent church home and school.

Perhaps the fastest growth has been experienced by **Calvary Church**. Another church that is already in the process of securing land for a permanent church home, Calvary currently meets at Bloomingdale High School with approximately 1500 in attendance for two services. Originally a dozen members began meeting at Brandon High in 1988.

Pastor Tim Wilson had a vision to develop a church that would meet the needs of those people whose needs were not being met in the traditional church. So Pastor Wilson exchanged the pulpit, pews, hymnals, robes, and choir for a casual setting featuring multimedia presentations, drama, theatrical lighting, a band, small musical groups and ensembles.

The Bloomingdale area from John Moore to Lithia Pinecrest supports 20 churches, each one offering something special. They started out in store fronts, schools, and libraries, or, like St. Andrew's, when there were only swamps in the area, but they have found a permanent home in Bloomingdale.

Ariel's
"Be A Beautiful Bride For Less!"
Sales & Rentals of Bridal Gowns & Brides Maid Dresses



40% OFF
Purchase of
**FANCY BEAD & SEQUIN
DRESSES**
Exp. 1-31-95

**Prom Dresses
Now Arriving!** **Tux Rental
\$39.95**

20% OFF PLUS SIZE DRESSES
109 E. Robertson • Brandon • 661-9626

**BOB'S
FARM MARKET**
Bananas 19¢ per lb.

We raised our roof, not our prices! Shakes, Shortcake, Hot Dogs, & full line of fruits & vegetables.

604 E. Bloomingdale Avenue
654-6266



YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH
Allstate®

We Sell Homeowners and
Automobile Insurance,
Regardless of Driving Record
or Prior Claims.

DON BUA **STEVE BRIGGS**
681-5303 **681-5303**



611 E. Bloomingdale Ave.,
(Next to Bloomingdale Square)
Allstate Insurance Co. and Allstate Life Insurance

**Is your child caught
in a Failure Chain?**

Your son or daughter may have weak study skills or poor reading or math skills. Our certified teachers help students of all ages overcome frustration and failure. A few hours a week can help them gain the Educational Edge.

**Individual testing and tutoring in Reading, Study Skills,
Writing, Phonics, Spelling, Math and SAT prep.**

BRANDON • 681-1500
**THE HUNTINGTON
LEARNING CENTER®**
© 1987 Huntington Learning Centers, Inc.


DR. RICHARD E. ROGOVIN
**Chiropractic
Physician**

*Member of the Florida Chiropractic Association
Member of the Hillsborough County Chiropractic Society
Member of the Academy of
Industrial Health Consultants*

No Charge for Consultation

- Headaches • Neck Pain • Arm Pain
- Shoulder Pain • Disc Injuries
- Low Back Pain • Leg Pain • Hip Pain
- Numbness • Tension • Sports Injuries
- Workers' Compensation • Auto Accidents
- Most Insurance Accepted

In Valrico (Preferred Physician for Travelers, Mutual of Omaha, Blue Cross- Blue Shield, Health Care Compare and Progressive)



689-6359

111 N. Valrico Rd., #G
(1 Block North of S.R. 60)



KEN FRANKLIN HOMES
a division of Franklin Development Corporation

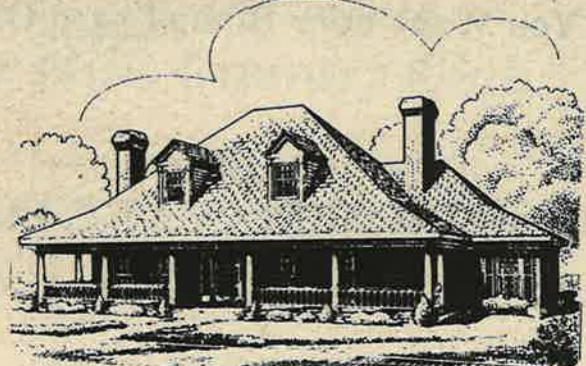
If you liked Cinnamon Trace, Country Gate, Fox Run
and Cimmaron Run, you'll love

Cambridge Cove
16 Lakefront lots
62 Wooded Lots
Within A Gate Enclosed Community

Overlooking Bloomingdale Golfers Club

Bloomingdale High School
Burns Junior High School
Alafia Elementary School

No one else can provide you with all these amenities.



Another KEN FRANKLIN HOMES Community

An elegant blend of stately custom residences and well-detailed preferred plans.

Homesites will start in the forties and may be temporarily reserved with a fully refundable five hundred dollar deposit.

Realtors gratefully welcomed.

P.O. Box 1558 • Valrico, FL 33594-1558 • Phone: (813) 681-4385 • Fax: (813) 681-1227
For a sneak preview call Bryan Thomas or Kevin McGuinness

Special Fifteenth Anniversary Edition

So Much Has Happened In 15 Years, And
The Gazette Has Been Here To Report It

Fifteen years and 4,500 households ago, the Bloomingdale area was nothing more than dairy land, oak and pine groves, and marshy wetlands. Since the beginning *The Bloomingdale Gazette* has chronicled the events that have marked the growth of this community.

1979

May: First families move in to Bloomingdale on Casaba Loop in East Bay Homes, which later became Pulte Homes, was the builder.

Nov: The Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association was established.

1980

Jan: Volume 1, Number 1 of *The Bloomingdale Gazette* was published. BHA dues are \$20 and the first president is Fred Uphoff. BHA organizes residents to see if the school buses can drive through the development so the children don't have to stand on Bell Shoals. Residents concerned about waste water treatment plant being considered for Bloomingdale.

Feb: BHA works on street lights for development. Beetle infestation found in pine trees.

March: 74 homes in

Bloomingdale.

April: Residents are informed that the planned golf course has been canceled. BHA seeks information regarding private security system for the development.

July: Bloomingdale Security Patrol hits the streets. Hal Labkon is in charge.

Aug: BHA becomes a non-profit corporation in the state of Florida. Tennis courts are locked and a key given to every resident.

Sept: BHA sponsors first yard sale, craft club and Halloween Happenings. *The Gazette* looks for an editor and distribution people.

Oct: County school bus picks up children inside Bloomingdale.

Dec: Cable TV begins running lines to Bloomingdale.

1981

Jan: 140 homes are occupied. BHA president Uphoff states his concern about common area maintenance and the increase in the number of burglaries.

Feb: *The Gazette* begins charging \$1 for classified ads placed by non-residents.

March: First display ads appear in *The Gazette* and the BHA has 102 members. Pam Labkon is the new editor of *The Gazette*.

April: BHA holds meetings in the Pulte sales office.

June: BHA holds first annual picnic. Committee formed to locate a building to be used as a community/civic center.

Aug: BHA sponsors bumper sticker contest to promote Bloomingdale.

Sept: BHA involved in Brandon's First Annual Bal-

loon Rally and Fun Festival. BHA takes out a P.O. Box number 918. BHA votes to move forward on building a community center. Water becomes a problem in the streets.

Nov: BHA holds an art auction.

Dec: Bob Knott elected BHA president. Santa visits and BHA goes carolling.

1982

Jan: YMCA plans to purchase Bloomingdale Park West from Criterion.

Feb: Proposal made to establish a special taxing district. Criterion donates \$1500 worth of radio equipment to the security patrol.

March: YMCA makes acceptable offer to Criterion for Park West. Feasibility study conducted for creation of an STD in Bloomingdale.

April: Children are warned about alligators along Bell Shoals.

July: Bloomingdale children are offered work cleaning around the community.

Oct: BHA holds a garden tour

Nov: First tennis tournament held in Park East. HARTline sets up bus route in Bloomingdale.

Dec: Criterion announces that Bloomingdale Golf and Country Club will be a reality by December, 1983. STD committee obtains 73% of residents' signatures for proposed legislative bill.

1983

Jan: Criterion sponsors a 5K and 10K race through Bloomingdale.

Feb: Second annual art auction. *The Gazette* announces restructuring to include six

positions. Circulation up to 530 and paper changes distribution from twice monthly to once monthly.

March: Security Patrol is now called Mobile Watch Patrol. Legislative delegation chooses not to vote for the STD bill.

April: Criterion donates \$10,000 for a party in the park for Bloomingdale residents.

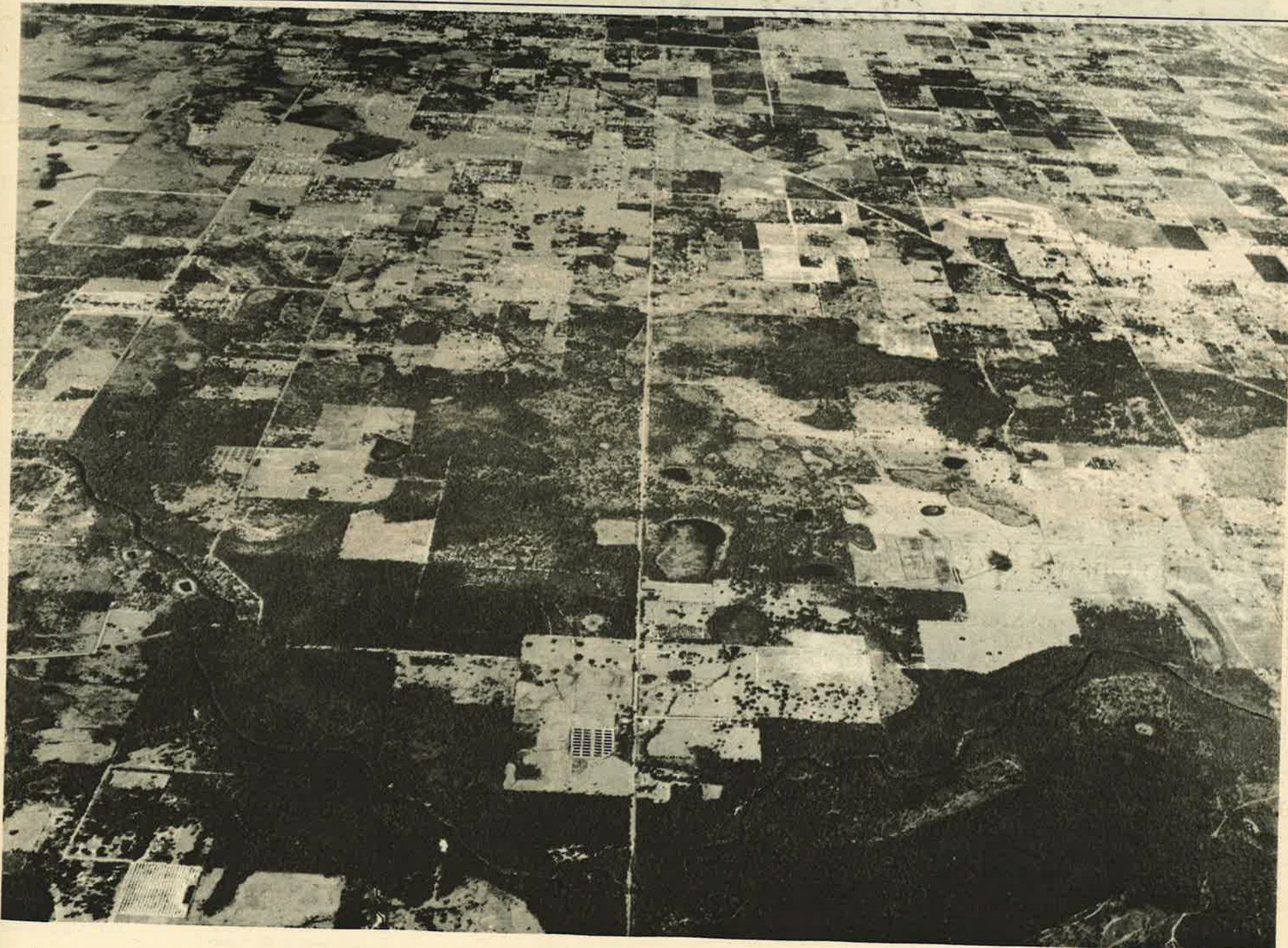
May: Park East becomes a permanent reality.

June: BHA works with Criterion to review the idea of a master community association.

July: Nami Cahill is new *Gazette* editor, circulation up to 700, and full page ad rate is \$32.

Oct: Residents voice opposition to Criterion's master association.

Bloomingdale 1970



Nov: Mobile Watch assists in the formation of a Neighborhood Watch program. The idea of an STD is once again undertaken.

1984

Jan: 400 residents attend a meeting with 90% in favor of forming an STD. Basketball courts and public picnic areas added to Park East.

Feb: Les Butler becomes editor of *The Gazette*.

March: Neighborhood Watch is established.

May: *Gazette* circulation reaches 1,110 homes. STD bill killed. As a result of failed bill, Criterion severs all relations with the BHA.

June: BHA secures street lights for West.

July: Criterion awaits approval from the VA for their master homeowners association. BHA hits low point as multiple general membership

president.

Oct: Junior Bloomingdale Recreational Association is formed for teens. BHA makes a \$2,000 profit at Balloon Festival. *The Gazette* puts severe financial strain on the BHA.

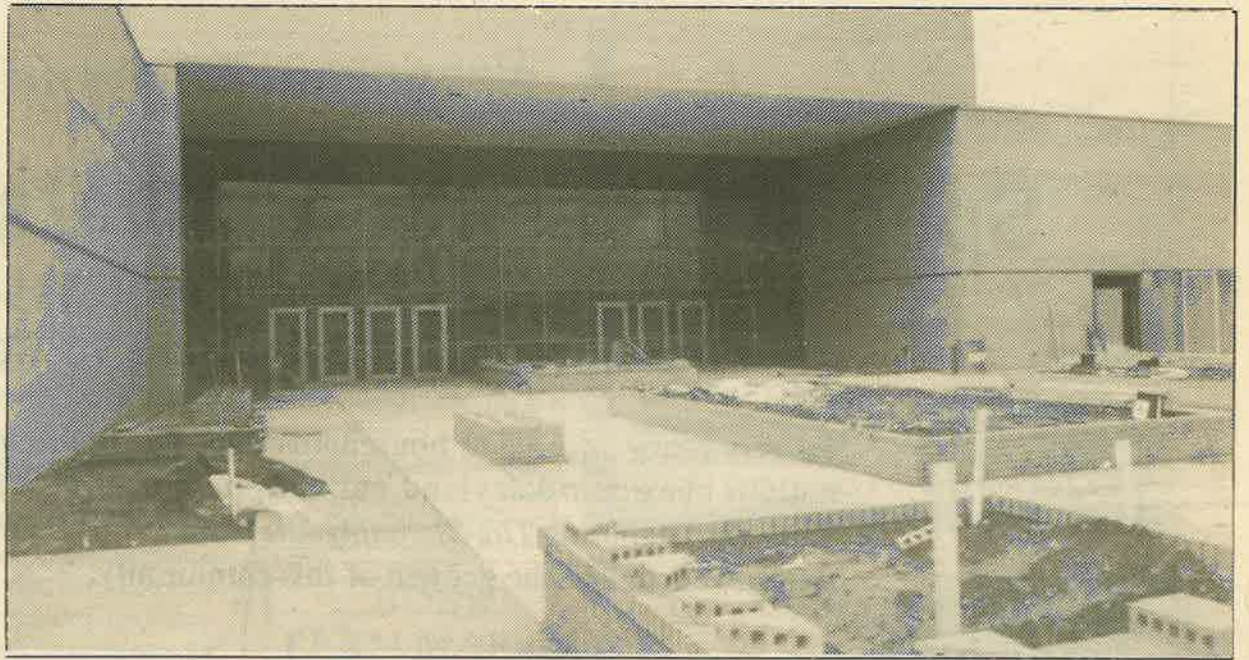
During the year, the BHA was successful in petitioning the county for a traffic signal at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale. Mobile Watch pulls out from under the auspices of the BHA and forms its own organization.

1985

Jan: Membership in the BHA has dropped to 27 out of 1300 homes.

Feb: Application is made for a convenience type store with an alcoholic beverage license at the corner of Greenhollow and Natures Way.

March: Susan DeLuca becomes editor of *The Gazette*, which becomes self-supporting.



The construction of Bloomingdale High School took nearly 18 months, and it opened in 1987, just in time to house the students of the growing Bloomingdale area population.

Sept: Rent A Kid delivery system established.

Nov: STD petitions signed by 70% of Bloomingdale. *The Gazette* staff has grown to

West over to the County.

1986

Jan: Criterion pulls bid for a master association. STD board of trustees holds first meeting.

to the County with restrictions in place to protect the residents.

May: Construction begins on Bloomingdale Woods Apartments. *The Gazette* becomes a for profit business.

June: BHA holds first 5K Fun Run. Bloomingdale Oaks residents seek relief from sewage treatment plant. Speeding on Bloomingfield in West becomes an issue.

July: Village Center at Glenhaven and Bell Shoals opens. STD submits its first budget for \$121,000. Gulfland tears down parts of the wall on Bell Shoals. It takes one year for county zoning to act on it.

Aug: Mobile Watch threatens to fold.

Sept: First BHA oldtimers and newcomers picnic held. Wal-Mart opens.

Oct: Paragon installs \$10,000 worth of free sidewalks on Bell Shoals at the request of the BHA.

Nov: Within a two week period, 736 residents join the BHA. *The Gazette's* circulation is 1800. Fire and Disaster Fund used for the first time. McDonald's opens.

Dec: Bloomingdale Oaks becomes part of the BHA. Criterion holds a 26-mile marathon in Bloomingdale.

1987

Jan: STD hires first property manager. NILIC turns over all general maintenance duties to the STD. *The Gazette* begins paying staffers for services. Henry Brosnahan is BHA president.

Feb: County builds second waste water treatment plant in Bloomingdale. STD begins wall painting for the first time.

March: BHA begins to push for the widening of Bloomingdale Avenue. BHA requests the installation of a crosswalk and lowered speed zone on Bell Shoals Road. BHA holds first annual tree sale. *Gazette* circulation is at 2,044.

April: *The Gazette* hires its first professional journalist. BHA meets with School Board regarding unsafe walking conditions to Alafia, bus routes are developed. BHA works with traffic engineers to synchronize Bloomingdale's stoplights. BHA meets with the BOCC to insure Bloomingdale's participation in the county budget.

May: *The Gazette* purchases all new typesetting equipment paid for from donations from the community and a loan from the bank. BHA awards first of many college scholarships. First Bloomingdale flea market held. Bloomingdale men's softball league established.

June: Through a ballot procedure, Bloomingdale residents choose the field house they wish to have built in Park West. STD proposed budget is \$175,000.

July: The BHA speaks at, assists, and starts up one of many new homeowner's associations in the surrounding area. BHA gains tax-exempt status.

Aug: Alafia Elementary and Bloomingdale Senior High open. Deed restrictions and the problem of their enforcement come to light and is fully explained.



Community garage sale.

meetings fail to attract a quorum.

Aug: NIPIC becomes the major developer in Bloomingdale and takes over maintenance in Park East and West. BHA starts meeting at Circle M. Bloomingdale told a new elementary school is coming. Advertising pays for 50% of *The Gazette* and the BHA absorbs the rest. Brenda Manning becomes BHA

April: Fire and Disaster Fund is established. BHA begins meeting at Bloomingdale Community Church. BHA voices opposition to alcoholic beverage license application.

June: BHA assists developer to insure construction of Bloomingdale shopping center at Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals.

August: The idea of an STD undertaken again.

eight and circulation is 1,450. Bloomingdale becomes one street lighting district.

Dec: Bloomingdale STD is unanimously approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Residents concerned about odors from the waste water treatment plant. Mobile Watch asks for volunteers or will cease to exist. New BHA president is Ted Keiser. BHA works with Criterion to turn Park East and

Fred Uphoff is first president.

Feb: Paragon Group purchases shopping center at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale.

March: *The Gazette* becomes a tabloid newspaper with a distribution of 1600.

April: Construction begins on Bloomingdale Plaza at John Moore and Bloomingdale. Park East and West are deeded

Bloomingdale's Fun Run



Sept: County commissioners tour Bloomingdale at the BHA's request. BHA and adjacent residents stop the building of a car wash in West. *Gazette* circulation is 2,628. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company purchases all undeveloped property in Bloomingdale and becomes the major developer. Brookside Manor Apartments opens.

Oct: A master landscaping plan is drawn up by the STD.

Nov: Chris Pheils becomes President of the STD and then resigns when the Air Force deems it a conflict. Neighborhood Watch telephone chain catches a burglar. By-laws were changed so that all residents of Bloomingdale are members of the BHA.

Dec: The BOCC votes to add a postage stamp area to Bloomingdale South over the objections of the BHA.

1988

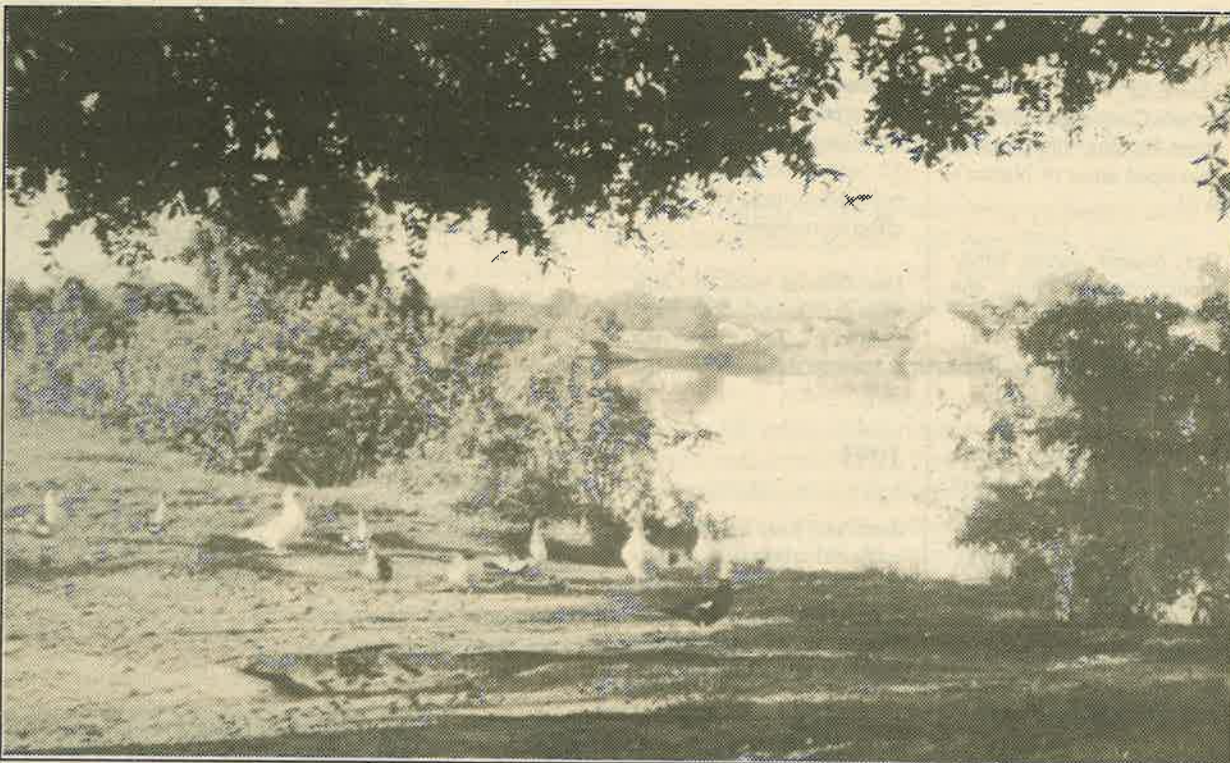
Jan: Mike Kelly is elected

June: Bloomingdale Oaks residents squelch already signed petitions to join the Bloomingdale STD. The drinking water has particulate matter in it and the use of bottled water grows. BHA awards second annual college scholarship.

Aug: Paragon donates office space to the BHA and the community. Teens are killed at The Spot.

Sept: Mobile Watch and Neighborhood Watch launch a major recruiting drive together. BHA works with county to get turn arrows installed on Bloomingdale Avenue. Residential speeding continues to be addressed.

Oct: Correspondence begins with Pulte Company to try to replace the fence in East along Nature's Way. A method of reporting zoning violations is set up with the county. The annual picnic is held. The BHA in conjunction with the merchants of the Village Center sponsor a haunted house.



Bloomingdale's 'Duck Pond'.

March: Major crime wave hits Bloomingdale.

April: The Flea Market and Easter Egg Hunt were the theme of the month. The BHA begins the long process ending in a lawsuit against the BOCC, to have zoning laws obeyed in Bloomingdale South on Monte Lake Drive.

May: Community informed that 24-hour EMS service is not available. Due to pressure, the EMS service to Bloomingdale is now available.

June: BHA files its lawsuit against the BOCC. Three college scholarships are awarded and the Fun Run is now called the Bloomingdale Summer Sizzle. Bloomingdale Senior High graduates its first class.

Sept: The STD proposes a budget of \$184,000.

Oct: More than one "Spot" is identified by Mobile Watch with evidence of guns being used. The BHA annual picnic was rained out for the first time.

Nov: Process of tearing down Bloomingdale Waste Water Treatment Plant begins. The county promises to build the long sought after field house in Bloomingdale West Park.

Dec: *The Bloomingdale Gazette* has a circulation of 3,400 with approximately 46 paid and unpaid employees. Ron Serrano is the new director of Neighborhood Watch, and Mobile Watch discusses coming back under the auspices of the BHA. Both "Watch" groups are funded by *The Gazette*.

1990

Jan: *Gazette* publishes its 10th Anniversary Edition. Mobile Watch volunteers capture young thieves in Fairway Manors. County builds four miles of sidewalks along Nature's Way.

Feb: Wastewater treatment plant finally gone. Residents warned about illegal dumping in undeveloped areas.

March: Street lighting approved for River Crossing. East development continues with expansion of Fairway Manors.

April: Residents upset that Criterion institutes two master homeowners associations with an assessment of \$90 in three sections of East - Erin Arbor, The Greens, and Fox Fun. BHA has won first two rounds of litigation against the BOCC.

May: Mobile Watch becomes an officially sanctioned unit of the BHA. Mobile Watch signs and bumper stickers are circulated to make residents more aware. Windsor Woods residents fight back against crime. Hartline bus service returns to area. New fire station opens on Little Road. *The Gazette* publishes its first Summer Activities special section.

July: First ever Bloomingdale Sports Festival features six events. BHA board member Tom Brophy named to County Code Enforcement Board. Efforts begin to stop speeders along Bloomingfield. "The Spot" claims another life. Residents become concerned about declining property values.

Aug: *Gazette* announces expansion into Heather Lakes, and gives that community its own section of the paper. Residents unite to find missing child.

Sept: Annual picnic and flea market held. Many

Bloomingdale families separated by Middle East conflict.

Oct: BHA sponsors first ever Circus. David Lees is new BHA president. Peter Aluotto is new STD president.

Nov: *Gazette* goes international with copies sent to residents in the Middle East. Community office distributes red, white, and blue ribbons. Residents raise first questions about water quality and its relation to plumbing leaks. Commercial development increases along Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale.

Dec: Bloomingdale home sales in 1990 were up by 25% over the previous year. Military families celebrate Christmas without loved ones still in the Middle East.

1991

Jan: Two new elementary schools raise boundary concerns for parents in Bloomingdale West. The County decides to send all West children to the new Lithia Springs school rather than cross the river to Boyette Springs.

Feb: BHA survey shows median age of residents is 29! *Gazette* circulation surpasses 3,000. Russ Lembke is the new BHA president. LaWayne Wyatt takes over Mobile Watch. "Burger Wars" heat up with the opening of Burger King across the street from McDonalds.

March: The school board announces that busing will stop

in 1994 and a cluster plan will be implemented. Bloomingdale children are still being bused and the cluster plan in this area will not be in effect until 1996. A citizen's group recommends \$63 million be spent on local road improvements.

April: Following an announcement that this area's crime rate is 50% below average, three Bloomingdale teens are arrested for burglarizing five homes. First of many road improvements to come - turn lane and light in front of Bloomingdale High.

May: Criterion officially "out" of Bloomingdale, abandons properties it was maintaining.

June: STD budget surpasses \$322,000. Plans to widen Bloomingdale from Kings to John Moore are announced.

July: Last year's sports festival becomes this year's BHA Golf Classic. Construction begins on Wall Project along Nature's Way and Springvale in East where wooden fencing is being replaced by community-wide standard stucco walls.

Aug: School board approves middle school cluster plan that could send West students to the new "South Plant City" high scheduled to open in 1995.

Sept: Susan DeLuca steps down as *Gazette* president and general manager. During her tenure, *The Gazette* doubled in



Beautifying our streets.

BHA president. Illegal dumping becomes an issue. Lines are painted on Nature's Way. BHA budget for the year is \$8,000.

Feb: BHA publishes the results of the first annual survey - crime prevention is most important and social functions the least. STD and BHA co-sponsor a Bloomingdale logo contest.

March: BHA president sits on the Metropolitan Planning Board. Meetings are held regarding residential speeding.

April: BHA Board members tour and meet with Sun City Board members to observe and learn. Graffiti and vandalism reach all-time high. A major house fire in East has residents concerned about fire protections services.

May: STD begins the first of many entrance re-landscaping projects. The STD proposes a budget of \$162,000. *Gazette* distribution is 2,923.

Nov: *The Gazette* wins a third place award at the Florida Press Club state awards banquet. Mailbox bashers are caught red-handed by residents and Mobile Watch. Errol Whitfield is the new STD president.

Dec: Bloomingdale Oaks establishes its own STD.

1989

Jan: *The Gazette* prints a copy of every deed restriction in Bloomingdale. Martin Andersen is elected BHA president. BHA general membership meeting was standing room only for the first time in many years. A \$12,000 budget was approved.

Feb: HCC begins holding classes at the BHA office. BHA survey results show crime prevention still number one with political involvement showing a strong second. Social functions were still last. Bobby Cole is hired as the new STD property manager.



size, staff, circulation, and advertising and won state awards. County approves new street lighting along newly developed areas of Nature's Way.

Oct: Second annual BHA-sponsored circus rolls into town in conjunction with a 5K run, bike-a-thon and 4-mile skate meet. Pam Mabe is elected STD president.

Nov: Community Office moves to Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale on Lithia Pinecrest. Traffic circles okayed for Bloomingfield. Bloomingdale East residents who claim their homes are victimized by inferior construction meet with builder Pulte Home Corp.

Dec: Pulte okays repair work on homes in East.

1992

Jan: Petition prompts Charley Harris, first BSHS principal, to postpone retirement. BHA makes plea for community involvement.

Feb: County makes improvements to Parks East and West. Advertisers applaud success with *Gazette*.

May: *Gazette* features first salute to BSHS graduates, and drops Heather Lakes section.

June: Bloomingdale High, the fastest growing school in the county, will lose 20 teachers in the fall due to budget cuts.

July: Community buzzes about possible dissolution of the BHA and the sale of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. BHA board members Joe Liguori, David Lees, and others spearhead move to block the sale of *The Gazette* to Sunbelt Publications.

Aug: Lithia Springs Elementary School opens. Susan Lizer is new principal at Alafia Elementary. BHA awards college scholarship.

Sept: Area churches spearhead relief to Miami's victims of Hurricane Andrew. Tom Brophy is new STD president.

Oct: BHA sponsors third annual circus.

Nov: Traffic circle completed on Bloomingfield at Rosedale. Its purpose - to force motorists to slow down to the posted 25 mph speed limit. Its completion marks a 2 1/2 year effort by residents.

Dec: *Gazette* takes on a new look for the holidays when June Oros creates first Christmas cover from the advertisers.

1993

Jan: New Year's Day brings national attention to the community when a black male visiting in Windsor Woods is abducted from a local shopping center and is

May: Bloomingfield residents want traffic circle removed and speed bumps installed. One year project to improve air quality at BSHS begins. *The Gazette* grows from 12 to 16 pages and has a circulation of 4,500.

June: Deterioration of interior roads is brought to county's attention.

July: Metropolitan Life Real Estate Investment, owners of remaining undeveloped land in Bloomingdale East, announces it seeks zoning changes for two large parcels.

Aug: Residents form citizen's action group to fight rezoning



1994 Community Picnic.

left to die in a rural area after being set on fire. Two new principals, B. J. Stelter and Linda Kipley, are named to area schools when Charley Harris retires from BSHS and Billy Pate retires from Burns.

March: The county announces that Bloomingdale Parks East and West will benefit from the \$20 million bond issue passed by voters. March 13th storm rips through Bloomingdale uprooting trees, downing light poles, and toppling signs.

April: Randy Wolfe is the new BHA president. Rick Oros is named President of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.

petition by Metropolitan Life.

Sept: Residents whose property backs up to Park West want the county to erect a fence to keep out trespassers. County concerned about impact on traffic if property at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale is rezoned for commercial use. Speed humps installed along Bloomingfield in West.

Oct: *Gazette* investigates causes of faulty plumbing and pipe corrosion. Bloomingdale Little League announces it needs to raise \$20,000 for capital improvements.

Nov: County announces new Recreation Center will be

contested for the holidays. Rick Pitrowski is the new president of the Bloomingdale STD.

1994

Jan: County approves rezoning of Bloomingdale East. County steps in to assist Little League. Work continues on air quality improvement at BSHS.

Feb: Met Life announces plans for remaining undeveloped land in Bloomingdale East that will eventually result in the addition of over 1000 new homes. STD contracts with new property manager, Greg Atkinson. Commissioner Lydia Miller and road engineers visit several areas in East where roads need repair.

March: Work to repair over

opens.

July: Developers Shimberg-Cross begin clearing land on Nature's Way around the Golfer's Club for 68 estate-type lots.

Aug: STD holds public meeting to discuss security. Residents discuss growth, traffic at town hall meeting held by county planners.

Sept: BHA survey indicates crime and safety are residents' greatest concern with quality of life a close second. County Commission Chairman Joe Chillura visits BHA meeting to speak about neighborhood rights. Neighborhood Improvement Program gets results. Residents turn thumbs down on the STD getting involved in security.



built at Park West. BHA announces House Decoration

20 interior road surfaces begins. STD begins construction of walls along Canoga Park in West and gives nod to major landscaping and irrigation project.

April: STD takes up issue of paying off duty deputies to patrol Bloomingdale. BSHS can claim its first NFL draftee. First palm trees planted in East.

May: Neighborhood Improvement Program is initiated to stop county code violators. BHA kicks off membership drive with informative pamphlet on deed restrictions and county code violations.

June: Renewed community picnic is held in Park West and is highly successful, bringing together county agencies, residents, and local businesses. Parents learn that all students who reside inside the walls of Bloomingdale East and West will remain at Bloomingdale High when the new Durant High School

Oct: *Gazette* circulation hits 5,000. Residents in West seek relief from county after streets flood following heavy rainfall. BHA membership drive most successful ever. Peter Aluotto becomes new STD president.

Nov: Residents seek final plans for new rec center in Park West. East resident Donna Clouse is named rec center director. County begins work on Bloomingdale Avenue which will now be widened from Bell Shoals to John Moore.

Dec: The BHA brings back Mr. and Mrs. Claus to delight children as the holiday shopping season kicks off.

1995

Jan: *The Bloomingdale Gazette* celebrates its 15th Anniversary with a special issue.



**SPORTS MEDICINE
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY**



**BRANDON
ORTHOPEDIC
ASSOCIATES**

Laser • Arthroscopic Surgery
Hip & Knee Joint Replacements
Knee • Hand • Foot • Back Surgery
Mini-Incision Carpal Tunnel Release
Sports Medicine

John D. Okun, M.D.
Board Certified

Robert J. Maddalon, M.D., M.S.
Board Certified

Lance T. Sisco, M.D.
Board Certified

684-3707

Hours By Appointment
721 Robertson Street
Brandon, FL 33511

**Bulls
Eye**



by Gazette Staff

Bloomington's Nature Trail and Ecological Preserve got a big boost recently when it received a \$12,700 grant from the Environmental Protection Commission. The trail, which opened in 1992, is a cooperative environmental effort of the science and agriculture departments headed by Mr. Tommelleo and Mr. Albertson respectively.

The grant will provide funds for construction of a boardwalk from the current Nature Trail into a wetland swamp and allow the construction of a GeoSphere Dome.

This year, students have been introduced to a new course called GeoProbe, which integrates required objectives and concepts from many science, vocational, and agriculture courses presented in a practical every day approach. GeoProbe is the only such course in the state. Construction plans include a Biosphere Dome and two laboratory buildings outside the Nature Trail area in conjunction with the environmental education effort.

Since it opened, the 13.6 acre trail has hosted over 7,000

students and visitors attending programs extending from environmental awareness to specific laboratory investigations of wetlands.

Last month the Spanish Honor class students hosted a Christmas pizza party for 150 migrant children from Dover Elementary School in the Bloomingdale cafeteria and auditorium.

Each migrant child received a Christmas present from their Bloomingdale sponsor and over \$400 which the students raised was used to buy other needed personal items for the children, according to Dilia Fernandez, foreign language department head.

Leo Club members and their sponsor, Mr. Hauer, also hosted a service event intended to enhance the holiday experience for many children who would otherwise do without presents and festivities. The children in the Headstart programs of Robinson and Springhead Elementary Schools were treated to a Christmas party last month.

The children, with the help of their teachers and parents, wrote letters to Santa describing their wants and needs. Club members were able to make some of their wishes come true. The Community Foundation of Greater Tampa provided the Leo Club a grant of \$500 in order to fund transportation for the activities and for a follow-up field trip to visit these same children in the spring.

**Gator
Tales**



by Gazette Staff

For the second year, Alafia Elementary School has received one of Tampa's Business Partnership Challenge Grants. Alafia was awarded \$3,589 to expand the "Gator Community", a business development that includes *The Gator Gazette*, a post office, school store, bank, and travel agency. With the grant, they will add a mobile library program to develop a more literate work force, and they will add modems to connect the other businesses to the "global superhighway of information."

Alafia was awarded its first grant in the summer of 1993 with the condition that local businesses had to participate with either cash or "in kind" contributions, which

means providing materials or training.

Currently the school is involved in fund raising with the hopes of providing a MacIntosh computer to each classroom in an effort to receive a grant that would allow Alafia to be networked with other schools. Eight Hillsborough County schools received "Retrofit" grants to make this possible. Alafia just missed out on the \$400,000 grant because of the age of their computers, according to Mrs. Willis.

The school will need 50 computers, as well as a printer, table, and software in each classroom. The cost, according to Mrs. Willis, is \$2200 per classroom. They hope to raise \$7,000 by the end of this school year. Students are collecting General Mills cereal labels and bar codes and there was a penny drive in December.

Date To Note: Alafia's PTA will host a Spaghetti Dinner catered on Thursday, Jan. 26. Look for more details that will be sent home with the students this month.

by
Sonia M. Ruiz, M.D.

Pediatrician

Featuring the finest medical care for:

- Infants
- Children
- Adolescents

Most health plans accepted.

684-1881

4316 Bell Shoals Road
Village Center

**Lithia
Lynx**



by Donnamarie Kibler

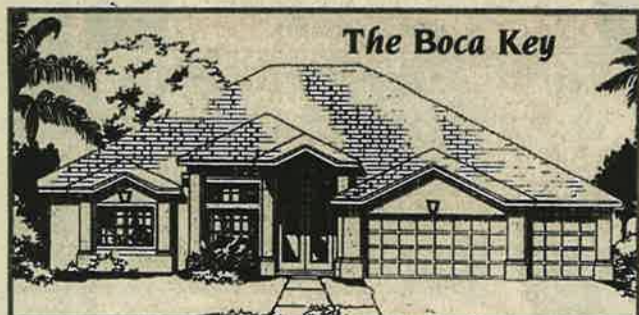
Last month the Lithia Lynx third through fifth graders were treated to a showcase of several local artists to kick off the National PTA Program "Reflections". This program encourages children to express their individuality through photography, visual arts, literature

or music. This year's theme is "Dare to Discover..." and the creative juices were flowing as the children saw each artist display their unique talent.

Our thanks to Alan Darcy, saxophonist; Bob McAnespie, watercolorist; Rus Wooton, cartoonist; Aunt Peggy and Jay Smith, storytellers; and Ronda Paramoure, songwriter; for making "Reflections" a success.

It's time to gear up for the second annual "Safety Sensation", Lithia's free bike rodeo and safety fair. All area students are invited to "ride the rodeo" on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Lithia Springs Elementary School. The family event is designed to teach children the importance of bicycle safety.

**Golf Communities Have a
New Standard to Live Up To**



**Pre-Opening Prices
Starting From \$159,900**

- Single Entry Community with Guard House
- 2360 sq. ft. to over 3000 sq. ft.
- 3-Car Garage
- Beautifully Landscaped Homesite with Large Oak Tree
- Bloomingdale Schools: The Preferred Hillsborough Co. School District
- Minutes from Brandon Town Center Mall



P.O. Box 2161 • Brandon, FL 33509
Phone (813) 681-7795 or (813) 685-9889 • Fax (813) 681-9522

**The Links
of Bloomingdale Ridge**



Brandon Blvd. to Lithia Pinecrest, South to Erindale (next to pink Farm Convenience store). West to Culbreath Rd., South (800 yds) on Culbreath to Model Center at the Greens.

**Sue Babulski
Realtor**



**Selling Your Home?
Let Sue get it
SOLD!**

Better Service - Better Results

684-0016
Ask for Sue Babulski

Re/Max Realty Unlimited
151 East Bloomingdale Avenue
Bloomingdale Plaza



Santa Visits Bloomingdale

Clanging bells and blaring sirens heralded the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus last month at Bloomingdale Square. Brought in for an exclusive engagement by the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association, the head toy maker and his Mrs. delighted children for several hours as they sat in a specially decorated room at Sun Cove Realty.

Before granting any wishes, Santa quizzed the children on their behavior this past year, verifying with moms and dads that they had, in fact, behaved, eaten all their vegetables, gotten along with their brothers and sisters, been kind to their pets, and kept their bedtimes.

Each child left with a photograph and a candy cane and a very special memory of their private visit with Santa.



Santa and his elves arrive at Bloomingdale Square courtesy of the Volunteer Fire Department.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus prepare to greet the children who were lined up at the Sun Cove Realty Office awaiting their individual turn with the head toymaker.



Five-month old Maggie Watts, could not exactly tell Santa what she wants, but parents Susan and Tim Watts of Bloomingdale probably went all out for their baby's first Christmas.



Santa pays close attention as Susie tells her wish list.

Primary Prep
Quality Learning Environments

Are You Happy?

- Does your preschooler wake you at 4 a.m., anxious to get to preschool?
- Do they come home happy and stimulated, talking about their day?
- Do they talk about their friends they play with at preschool?
- Are they reluctant to leave when you go to pick them up?

If you've answered no to two or more of these questions, it's time to make a change!

Primary Prep has been in operation for over 5 years now and is full of preschoolers whose parents answer yes to all the above questions! Come see for yourself. Drop in on us and observe our happy, stimulated children and take advantage of our **New Year Enrollment Special**.

It's time for you to feel good about your preschool. And what better time to make the change than in a fresh new year.

We'll be waiting . . . to make you and your preschooler happy.

● **Free T-Shirt with new enrollment**

Hours 7 am to 6 pm

Bloomingdale Avenue



Rosemead

Bell Shells

654-1942

Owner: Christine Terrell
Director: Gail Bjornson
LIC # C-HC-193

Primary Prep Pre-School
3720 Canoga Park Drive

Enrollment Special
50% OFF

first time enrollments
now through Jan. 1995

GO FOR THE GREEN!

River Hills Country Club has overseeded the Greens Fairways Tees

for a superior playing surface over the winter seasonal months.



Enjoy golf as it was meant to be! Why play anywhere else when you have the opportunity to play the finest manicured golf course in our area.

"Serving you exceptionally is our purpose".

RIVER HILLS
Country Club

Call 653-3323 for starting times. 48 hour advance.

Happy 1995!

Tax Topics Filing Deductions And Your 1994 Tax Return

by Robert J. Morris, C.P.A.

Beginning with filing your 1994 tax return, you will not be able to deduct a separate donation of \$250 or more unless you have a written statement from the charitable organization on their stationary. A cancelled check is no longer acceptable evidence. You also must obtain their substantiation before the due date of filing your return.

The IRS may even treat a series of payments totaling more than \$250 as a single payment if they are made within a relatively short period of time. You do not need this if the qualified charity submits a return with the IRS reporting such information to them (difficult to assume it is done) or if you receive an intangible religious benefit in return and provide a written statement of the benefit you received. Check your records early and request substantiation before 4-15-95.

There is good news for Lions Club and other public service organizations, but bad news for golfers, exercise and flyer clubs. You may not deduct your 1994 dues and


or expenses for any club organized for business, pleasure, recreation or social purposes if a principal purpose is to provide entertainment or access to entertainment facilities. This disallows club dues to country clubs, golf, athletic, airline, hotel and luncheon clubs.

It, providing entertainment is not a principal purpose, is not treated as a club and therefore is deductible. Those allowed include business leagues, trade associations, civic or public service groups such as Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary and Bar associations. Even if dues are paid to an allowable organization, you may deduct dues only if you use the facility more than 50% for business reasons prorated by the portion used for business. Also, only 50% of your allowable cost for qualified meals and entertainment at such facilities is deductible for 1994 and thereafter.

If any of the above appears to apply to your unique situation, you should meet with your tax advisor to clarify your individual tax consequences.

ERA ROBERTSON REALTY, INC.
Each office independently owned and operated

JOHN C. LOGAN, GRI
BROKER/SALESPERSON
"JOHN SERVES"
424 S. Kings Ave. • Brandon, FL 33511
813-685-5522 Office
1-800-633-6158 Toll Free
813-6854119 Fax
653-6241 24 Hr. Voice Message



Joseph Aversa
Owner

FL (813) 689-9192
Beeper (813) 873-6639
Fax (813) 651-4685
Licensed • Bonded • Insured

EXCEL SERVICES

One Call Does It All

Services:

- Pressure Washing, Painting, Carpet Cleaning, Carpet Sales and Installation, Janitorial
- Truck Mounted Equipment for carpet cleaning
- Painting: Res./Comm.

Real Estate Moves Create A Model Home

by Michael Davis

Imagine yourself walking into a pricey department store to purchase expensive clothing or jewelry. Now imagine your surprise when you find the store lighted with a few dim 40-watt bulbs hanging from the ceiling.

Would you be impressed? Would you pay the prices marked on the merchandise? Unable to tell navy blue from black, or diamonds from zircon, might you feel that the store was playing in the "wrong league"?

What if, across the street, another store offered merchandise that really dazzled your senses? Brilliant diamonds in crystal clear showcases are spotlighted to grab your attention. Striking mannequins are adorned with the latest fashions, just begging to be taken home. Which store would get your business?

Now pretend you are selling your home. Will buyers

see a bright, freshly painted exterior and neatly trimmed yard? Inside, will their senses be bombarded by the aroma of fresh baked bread or cinnamon rolls? Will sparkling windows flood your house with bright sunshine?

Just as a department store is likely to merchandise their wares to appeal to your senses, you must do the same with your home to attract serious buyers. Home buyers comparison shop, just as you do in the department store. To be chosen, a home must reflect pride-of-ownership and the greatest possible value for the price.

To capitalize on the condition of your home when selling, ask your real estate agent to "walk-through" giving you ideas to improve its curb appeal. The list you make might include needed repairs, as well as cosmetic improvements, and ideas for brightening its overall appearance.

Once you have a list, make all improvements before the home is shown to buyers. Remember, you never get a second chance to make a good first impression. A home offered for sale in model home condition can actually create competition among buyers for its purchase.

In Need of Counsel? Going Through a Divorce?

Make sure you know your rights under Florida law concerning domestic problems.

CURRY & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

FAMILY LAW:
DIVORCE
CUSTODY
ADOPTION
MODIFICATION
& SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT



La Viva Professional Center
750 W. Lumsden • Brandon **653-2500**

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.



SMILE WRIGHT 653-1455

Cosmetic and General Dentistry
• Porcelain Veneers • Bleaching
• Cosmetic Bonding • Crown & Bridge
All performed in a safe, comfortable, gentle setting.



We follow strict infection control standards

BEAUTIFUL SMILES!
710 Oakfield Drive, Suite 251
Brandon, FL 33511

Diane Wright, D.M.D.



Evening Hours by Appointment



DAHLIA INSURANCE DIVISION OF DAHLIA CORPORATION

"We want your Homeowners Business"

AUTO * HOME * BUSINESS
LIFE * HEALTH

DICK RUSSO
President

RICK RUSSO
Vice President

CHARLIE THURMAN
Life/Health

SHIRLEY MARTIN
Auto/Home



(813) 685-0861
FAX (813) 685-6393
223 LITHIA PINECREST ROAD
BRANDON, FL 33511



Athletic Calendar

Jan. 9	G. Basketball vs P.C.
Jan. 10	Boys Soccer at Hillsboro Wrestling vs East Bay B. Basketball at East Bay
Jan. 12	G. Basketball vs Brandon
Jan. 13	B & G Soccer vs King Wrestling at Chamberlain
Jan. 20	B. Basketball vs Chamberlain B & G Soccer vs Brandon Ippolito Wrestling Tourney
Jan. 23	B. Basketball at King
Jan. 23-27	G. Basketball vs. Leto Girls Soccer Districts
Jan. 24	Boys Soccer at Plant City Wrestling vs Gaither
Jan. 27	B. Basketball at Plant City Boys Soccer at Plant Wrestling at King
Jan. 30	B. Basketball vs Brandon
Jan. 31	G. Basketball at Chamberlain
Feb. 2	B. Basketball at Gaither
Feb. 3	G. Basketball vs King B. Basketball vs Leto

Burns Plays For County Title

The girl's basketball team from Burns will defend its county championship title on Wednesday, Jan 11, at 6:30 p.m. when they play Buchanan at Jefferson High School located on West Cypress and West Shore.

Burns's girls repeated as eastern division champs when they defeated Turkey Creek last month to remain undefeated in two seasons.

Bloomington Little League Registration

Bloomington Little League will be holding registration on Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Jan. 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. for spring baseball and softball players ages 5-15. Registration will be at the Civic Center on the corner of Bloomington Ave. and Lithia Pinecrest Rd. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required. For more information contact Tom Crossland at 654-0350.

CAT HOTEL A COUNTRY CAT HOUSE



Rates \$6.00 - \$8.50 per day

Let us pamper & care for your family's cat. We have everything cats love.

- Large units with huge windows overlooking gardens (for lizard, bird & squirrel watching).
- Aquarium views - 3 level treehouses.
- Soft music, daily playtime, 24 hr. attendants.

Come see our beautiful hotel before making your cat's care arrangements. It's worth your peace of mind.

M-F 9-5 Sat. 9-3 Closed Sun.

654-2287 (654-CATS)

15501 Boyette Road or call for brochure

THE GOLF SHOP AT

INSTANT REPLAY SPORTS



King Snake
3 - PW
\$149.00
others from
\$119.00



684-0300

771 W. Lumsden Road • Oak Park Plaza
Next to Coyotes just west of U-Save

Tip of the Month

Tennis Anyone?

by Scott Coleman

Even the best players in the game need regular coaching to work out trouble spots. Regular or occasional 30-minute or one hour lessons or clinics make you a better player, not only by teaching you new techniques

and strategies, but also by catching and correcting bad practices, which could lead to injury. But don't expect miracles. A teaching pro can point you in the right direction, but to truly improve your game takes practice, practice, practice.

BRACES



Neal A. Stubbs, D.D.S., P.A.
929 Oakfield Dr. • Brandon • 685-3511

No
Down
Payment
\$ 79
per mo.

Standard Active Treatment \$2,149 to \$2,449
Records Fee \$158 • Retainers \$245 to \$325
#08450 #08550 #08750

Grable Plumbing Co.

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

STATE CERTIFIED PLUMBING CONTRACTOR #TC02594 BOUND-BROOKED



FAST SERVICE

7 - DAY - 24 HOUR

PLUMBING SERVICE

- Hot Water Heaters, Repaired or Replaced Same Day
- We Service All Makes and Brands
- New Toilets, S.S. Sinks
- Garbage Disposals, Faucets
- Emergency Sewer and Drain Cleaning Machines
- Main Sewers Replaced
- Sump Pumps, Septic Problems
- Underground Leaks
- Repipe Specialists

ULTRASONIC LEAK DETECTION

Using the most advanced ultrasonic equipment we locate underslab leaks with pinpoint accuracy.

NON DESTRUCTIVE LOCATING
One Day Service

\$5 OFF with this coupon



RADIO DISPATCHED

685-3636



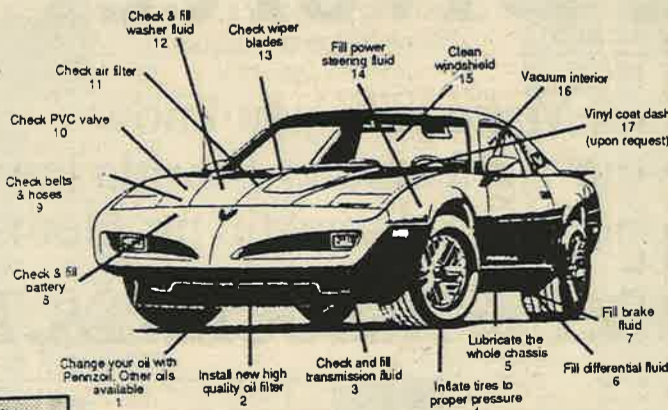
Diasticks OIL CHANGE

17 POINT OIL CHANGE

\$21.95

(SEE COUPON BELOW)

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR YOUR CHOICE OF OIL
PENNZOIL 30WT, 10W30, 10W40, CASTROL GTX 20/50,



Diasticks OIL CHANGE

\$3.00 OFF OUR FULL SERVICE OIL CHANGE REG. \$21.95

With Coupon \$18.95

PRICE INCLUDES CHOICE OF OILS: PENNZOIL 30W, 10/30, 10/40, CASTROL GTX 20/50

COUPON EXPIRES 1-30-95

BALANCE & ROTATE TIRES

\$20.95

Aluminum Wheels \$24.95

COUPON EXPIRES 1-30-95

BRAKE SPECIAL \$49.95 (PER AXLE) (MOST CARS)

- INCLUDES: ✓ NEW BRAKE PADS OR SHOES ✓ RESURFACE DRUMS & ROTORS ✓ REPACK WHEEL BEARINGS ✓ INSPECT & ADJUST HYDRAULIC SYSTEM ✓ SPECIAL SEMI-METALIC PADS ARE EXTRA

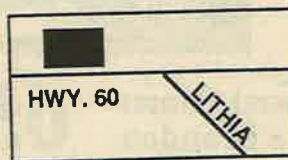
Valid only with coupon. Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.

COUPON EXPIRES 1-30-95

- Transmission Fluid Change
- Differential Fluid Change
- Radiator Flush
- Fuel Injection Service
- Brake Service
- Tune - Ups
- Belts & Hoses
- Valve Cover Gaskets
- CV Boots

314 E. BRANDON BLVD. 684-8705

ACROSS FROM SCOGGINS



HOURS: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Owned and Operated by a Bl. Resident

JACKSON NATIONAL LIFE

Our Lowest First-Year Premium With Top Guarantees!

Jackson National Life's Yearly Renewable Term to Age 100 (Preferred) offers the protection you want, with the guarantees you need-- at a cost that's hard to beat! Check it out.

**\$250,000 Face Amount
Initial Annual Premiums**

Issue Age	Male		Female	
	Nonsmoker	Smoker	Nonsmoker	Smoker
30	\$ 247.50	\$ 295.00	\$ 247.50	\$ 290.00
40	297.50	465.00	252.50	302.50
50	430.00	942.50	337.50	607.50
60	875.00	1,830.00	557.50	1,200.00

We guarantee premiums for 5 years!
For more information, call today!

**Carolyn J. Jones
628-9680**

Stated rates are based on Jackson National Life's Yearly Renewable Term-100 #1600A. Slight yearly increase. Premiums may be paid annually, semiannually, quarterly, or through a monthly bank draft. Guaranteed convertible to age 65, to any permanent, level-premium life policy offered for conversion by the Company. Premiums must be paid to keep the policy in force. Home Office: Lansing, MI



BHA Meeting

A general membership meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be held Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying BHA members are invited to attend.

STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be held Monday, Jan 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. The meeting is open to the public.

Park Clean-Up

A community workday will be held Saturday, Jan. 21, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Bloomingdale Park East on

BEGIN, from pg. 1

spirit grew. There were picnics and block parties, activities for children, a security watch was started, neighbors went carolling at Christmas, and a 12-ft. tree floated in the middle of the pond on Bell Shoals during the holidays.

The BHA was also the driving force behind the formation of the Special Taxing District. Turned down twice by the state legislature, the STD became Hillsborough County's first under home rule in 1984.

Nature's Way. Food and beverages will be served to all volunteer workers. Residents are asked to take gardening tools and/or painting equipment.

More Landscaping On The Way

Phase II of the major landscaping project of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District is scheduled to begin next month, and the STD is looking for volunteers in order to cut back costs.

According to STD trustee Rick Pitrowski, originator of the plan, the project will include additional palm and oak plantings as well as bedding and plantings around all the palm groupings. He expects that a majority of the project will be completed by spring.

A new twist this year will be the use of volunteers from around the community, will use volunteer man hours to save on the costs of labor, which often can consume up to two-thirds of a budget.

The STD hopes to round up volunteers from among the residents with the assistance of the BHA, but they also plan to get the word out to Scout troops, church youth groups looking for community projects, and school service clubs.

For more information call 681-2051.

As the community grew, so did *The Gazette*. The newsletter became a full-fledged newspaper, operating now out of an office instead of someone's dining room.

"Susan DeLuca took *The Gazette* to a new level," said Uphoff.

A community office was established in Bloomingdale Square, and there *The Gazette* conducted the business of putting out a tabloid size newspaper. It was the voice of the BHA and the STD. Businesses relied on its popular readership to bring in customers. And the paper won state press awards.

There are no cows in front yards, but new obstacles will present themselves as Bloomingdale continues to grow. The experience of those who came before will make it easier for current community leaders to maintain Bloomingdale's quality of life.

Classified

LOST COCKATIEL:

The man who found a cockatiel (Rick's nephew) please call Carol at 654-8041 (hm) or 878-3523 (wk).

JUDY CLEANS: Give yourself a break! Let Judy clean your home, office,

condo, or apartment; reasonable rates, references available. Wkly/bi-wkly. Call anytime 681-5609. License #80356

TUPPERWARE: Parties, replacement pieces. Call Susan Dickison at 681-5650.

HELP WANTED: AD REPS: *The Bloomingdale Gazette* is now hiring ad reps. P/T or F/T, call now at 681-2051.

WRITERS: Part time, free lance writers needed. If you have always wanted to try your hand at writing, this is a great opportunity. Call 681-2051.

CARNIVAL HELP: Must travel, 18 yrs old. Start immediately. Sleep quarters available. 677-1517

Residents who are...

BABYSITTERS: Dustin Braswell (16) 689-8555
Angela Reiser (18) and Kimberly Reiser (15) 684-6006.
Erin (17) and Beth (14) Schlossnagle 653-0453

AVON REPRESENTATIVES: Ruth Calandro, 689-0212.

MARY KAY CONSULTANTS: Barbara Borchers, 653-2509

Carol Williams, 689-8076
PORTRAIT ARTIST: Children/Adults, Pencil, Pastels, Watercolor. J. Oros, 689-2087
Classes in drawing, colored pencil, pastels available 12 yrs. and up. 689-2087

ST. JUDE NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jusus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, Worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Help of the Hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. W. W. (paid for advertisement)

NEED A DOCTOR?

Physician Care
WALK-IN CLINIC
OF BRANDON

620 Vonderberg Dr., Brandon

JERRY A. WISHIK, M.D. (Board Certified Internal Medicine)
Mon 9-5 Tues 9-5 Wed 9-5 Thurs 9-5 Fri 9-5

Call for details
684-1777

FAMILY PRACTICE and INTERNAL MEDICINE

SCHOOL SPORTS PHYSICALS \$22 WITH THIS AD.

COMPLETE PHYSICALS \$139 REG. \$389 WITH THIS AD. Includes EKG, Chest X-ray, urinalysis, 40 lab tests, stool blood screen, physical exam

SAVE OFF YOUR NEXT VISIT \$5 WITH THIS AD.

FLU SHOT 1994-5 VACCINE \$10 WITH THIS AD.

*not valid for special promotions or insurance
**one patient per coupon
***high school physicals and under; any lab additional
****insurance NOT accepted for the special/pedic exam & pap additional

THE PATIENT & 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.

"EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE"

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

MAIN OFFICE - For Information - 654-2323

- APOLLO BEACH - 220 APOLLO BEACH BLVD..... 645-1499
- BLOOMINGDALE - ROYAL OAKS SHOPPING CTR - LITHIA PINECREST RD..... 654-8113
- BLOOMINGDALE - 3509 BELL SHOALS RD.(JUST S. OF BLOOMINGDALE AVE)..... 654-9292
- BRANDON - OAK PARK PLAZA - 709 W. LUMSDEN RD..... 654-9541
- BRANDON - BEHIND BLOCKBUSTER - 901 W. BRANDON BLVD..... 684-4499
- ELFERS - PASCO SQUARE - 7307 S.R.54..... 376-7307
- NEW PORT RICHEY - CHELSEA PLACE - 1420 SEVEN SPRINGS RD..... 372-1185
- NORTH BRANDON - KINGSWAY PLAZA - 1213 KINGSWAY AVE..... 653-4535
- PALMA CEIA - PUBLIX SHOPPING PLAZA - 1211 S. DALE MABRY..... 254-8676
- SEFFNER - NORTH GROVE PLAZA - 702 N. GROVE PLAZA..... 684-5897
- VALRICO - VALRICO SQUARE - 1985 E. BRANDON BLVD..... 654-2324

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS SHIRTS LAUNDERED

99¢ each

VALID ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY; LIMIT 10.
BLOUSES, POLO & BOXED SHIRTS EXTRA
Valid only with coupon.
Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.
COUPON EXPIRES 1-30-95

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

\$5.00 OFF

ANY DRY CLEANING ORDER OF \$25 OR MORE ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY
Valid only with coupon.
Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.
COUPON EXPIRES 1-30-95

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

\$3.00 OFF

ANY DRY CLEANING ORDER OF \$15 OR MORE ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY
Valid only with coupon.
Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.
COUPON EXPIRES 1-30-95

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

20% OFF
WEDDING GOWNS, DRAPERY CLEANING, BEDSPREADS, COMFORTERS/BLANKETS
VALID ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY.
Valid only with coupon.
Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.
COUPON EXPIRES 1-30-95

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

20% OFF
ALTERATIONS
VALID ON INCOMING ORDERS ONLY.
Valid only with coupon.
Not valid with other coupons or on sale items.
COUPON EXPIRES 1-30-95



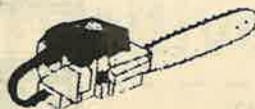
KEN HOPE AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING, INC.
RIVERVIEW, FL
STATE CERT #CAC043887

671-2107

FREE SECOND OPINIONS

BLOOMINGDALE RENTAL

All your rental needs at your LOCAL Rental Store.



- Airless Paintgun
- Lawn Equipment
- Rug Doctor Carpet Cleaner
- Propane
- U-Haul
- Chipper/Shredder
- Chain Saw
- Pressure Washer
- Power Pruner

10% OFF ANY Rental
with ad - Jan. only
U-Hauls not included

Hours: M-S 7:30-5:30 Sunday 10-2

684-4070

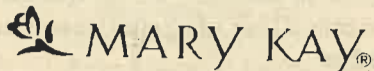
11104 West Bloomingdale Avenue

**Ricco's
Homemade Italian Dinners**

Lasagna for 4 to 6 only - \$9.95

Dinner Includes Loaf of Italian Bread, Tossed Salad, Dressing, Plus Extra Sauce

Call 685-3447 • Free Delivery



Barbara Borchers
Independent Skin Care Consultant

4111 Quail Briar Dr.
Valrico, FL 33594
813-653-2509 or
1-800-755-4850



BRUCE JORDAN
1303 N. Burton Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
(813) 759-8109

Reduce Drying Time • Reduce Dryer
Damage & Maintenance Costs • Save
Energy • Reduce Potential fire Hazard

GRACE C. LEWIS, CPA

Tax & Accounting Services

3905 Kristin Place
Valrico, FL 33594

(813) 681-4548
FAX 684-1608

**IWT™ INTERNATIONAL
WATER TREATMENT, INC.**

RONALD J. DELAVAN
CONSULTANT

3908 Santee Way
Suite 100
Valrico, FL 33594

Bus. (813) 653-1957
Res. (813) 685-1711
Fax. (813) 653-1957

Paddlewheel Drain Work Scheduled

by **Rozel Sciulli**

Hillsborough County will begin a stormwater drainage project in January to alleviate flooding along Paddlewheel Drive in Bloomingdale West.

According to John Martis of county engineering and construction services, about 800 feet of pipe under Paddlewheel will be replaced along the south and west sides to control high groundwater after a rainfall.

The project, which will cost an estimated \$40,000, will take two months to complete and will impact the residents along Paddlewheel, including the driveways, mailboxes and landscaping of 11 homes.

Poor drainage of rainwater has resulted in damage to the roadway on Paddlewheel where water has been leaking up through the soil and asphalt cracking the surface of the street.

Martis said the old underdrain is not working effectively and will be replaced and upgraded to current Florida Department of Transportation standards. A rock filtration bed will surround the underdrain pipe to allow subterranean water to flow through the system. Once the drainage system is in place, the roadway will be re-surfaced.

Because most of Bloomingdale's streets were con-

structed at about the same time 15 years ago, this problem is likely to surface in other neighborhoods, according to Martis, who said his department is already aware of other trouble spots.

Two months ago, *The Gazette* reported the problems of high groundwater flooding the street and yards of residents who live in the curve of Sweetlead and Emberwood, an area to the south of Paddlewheel.

Johnson explained that after the article appeared in *The Gazette*, a county engineer visited her, and following preliminary analysis of the drainage problems, indicated that they were of a more complex nature than she had previously been told. The county is aware of the flooding that occurs on Emberwood, but a spokesman said that a study has not yet been ordered.

Martis explained that the review process for all funded projects begins with an investigation team first visiting the sight and then making a recommendation as to the type of project it is to become - Capital Improvement or maintenance. The project is then evaluated on a point system that takes into consideration danger to persons and health hazards. If the project is highly rated, he said, it will be chosen as a CIP project.

BHA, from page 1

cellent job maintaining the common areas of our community.

Most of this was made possible because dedicated people came together to form the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association (BHA) to work, to lobby, and to sometimes fight for a quality community. The BHA is you and exists only to serve you and your neighbors. It has been strongest when the challenges were highly visible. Today's needs are more subtle. There may not appear to be a single great cause to raise our banner against. In many ways, however, there are many issues that together can threaten the greatness of Bloomingdale far more than any large single issue.

Almost every neighborhood has seen at least one vacant home waiting for a buyer; often the yard and house are not maintained by the absentee owner. Many areas are still not built out. What kind of homes will be built next to yours? Our neighborhood streets are aging and cracking - will they be repaired? Will school districts be maintained along the lines of our neighbor-

hoods? What kind of businesses will we see in our community? Does our community meet the needs of our children and young adults? Are our parks meeting our recreational needs? Is the sheriff and fire protection adequate for today and the future. Will new roads and roadway expansion be consistent with our visions of Bloomingdale? Do you and your neighbors meet zoning or deed restrictions? The list goes on. Can you deal with these issues along? Who will listen if you raise your voice alone?

If you really care about the future of your neighborhood and your community, then you must become involved in charting its course. We are not lucky enough to have town meetings to decide how our community is run. You can make a difference by participating in your community organization, the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association. When the BHA speaks for the residents of Bloomingdale, it speaks for over 3200 households.

The BHA is a volunteer organization made up of the residents of Bloomingdale. It is funded by donations and is guided by a 12 member Board of Directors. This month, six seats will be open for election. The work is not hard and takes only a few hours a month. If you are not comfortable with a director's chair, there are many committees and special interest groups that need your assistance.

To become an active participant in your community, call the Bloomingdale Community Office at 681-2051, or mail your name, address, and area of interest to the office at 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, Valrico, 33594.

**Doctor Clean
Pressure Cleaning**

We Remove: From:

- Mildew
- Algae
- Rust Stains
- Cobwebs
- Mudwasps
- Loose paint
- Chalk
- Dirt
- Roofs
- Walls
- Driveways
- Mobilehomes
- Decks
- Gutters
- Commercial Buildings

We Specialize in
"Radical Needlectomy"
(Removing Pine Needles From
Pool Screens)

Satisfaction Guaranteed

Brandon Lakeland
Plant City Winter Haven
Steve Sagraves Paul Sagraves
813-752-5726 813-858-0852

BEFORE, from page 1

area. In 1884, he and neighbors built the town's first public school. Bucholz became its first teacher and his accomplishments led him to become Hillsborough County School Superintendent in 1887. That same year, he founded Florida's first teacher training school in Bloomingdale.

There were four churches in Bloomingdale in 1885, and one of the oldest still in existence is First Baptist Church of Bloomingdale, east of Lithia Pinecrest. The church cemetery recalls the names of those early settlers and those that followed who shaped a peaceful life here.

The center of town gradually moved to the corner of Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale. There, merchants set up shop. One of the early families, the Emerines, established a feed and dry goods

store where the silk plant shop is today. The Emerine family, whose closest descendant now lives in Brooksville, owned the land south of Miller Road where the Buckhorn homes, golf course, and club house sit today.

The property on the north side of Miller where the golf course is laid out, was owned by the Mulrennan family, who still reside in the area today watching over their hundreds of acres of orange groves on Mulrennan and Pearson Roads.

Dairy cattle once grazed on the land where most of modern Bloomingdale's houses were built. Ryals Dairy was one of the most prosperous in the area. Until the 1970's, the area now known as Bloomingdale was zig-zagged with horseback riding trails and the area where

RiverHills was built was once completely underwater when the Alafia River spilled its banks.

Bloomingdale eventually lost its postal district and was taken in by the Valrico post office, which was established in 1890 when the railroad was also completed. Few residents who have sent their address to family and friends across the country really know where the center of Valrico is - north of S.R. 60 and less than a mile west of Valrico Road.

**Mail Boxes Etc.® is
The Post Office
Alternative®**

You can trust the experts at MBE to handle your postal, business or communications needs.

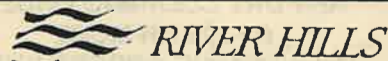
COPIES	SHIPPING	STAMPS
PACKAGING	OVERNIGHT	OFFICE SUPPLIES
MAIL SERVICE	FAX	PACKING SUPPLIES

MBE MAIL BOXES ETC.®
It's Not What We Do, It's How We Do It.
Bloomingdale Square
813 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
(Wal-Mart Shopping Ctr.)
689-4998
fax 689-4328

Hours
8-7 M-F
9-5 SAT.
12-4 SUN.

UPS Authorized Shipping Outlet

"The fastest way to send money"



Afternoon Junior Tennis Clinics

Programs	Days	Times
Pee Wees (4-6)	T & Th	3:30-4
Future Stars (7-12)	T & Th	4:00-5
Advanced (tournament level)	T & Th	5:00-6
Pee Wees (4-6)	M & W	3:30-4
Future Stars (7-12)	M & W	4:00-5
Intermediate (13-17)	M & W	5:00-6

Sessions
Jan 9 - Feb 2
Feb 6 - Mar 2
Mar 6 - Mar 30
Apr 3 - Apr 27
May 1 May 25

653-3776

Pee Wees \$25 \$40
Future Stars \$45 \$65
Beginner and Int. \$45 \$65
(Members & Non-Members)