

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVI, Number 1

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

January 1996

BHA Briefs

Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 in the Community Office's new location in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. The Community Office has moved to 3244 Lithia Pincrest, Suite 103, next door to Kim Hall's Dance Studio. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting. Election of officers will take place at this month's meeting.

New Board Members

Stan Highsmith of Bloomingdale East was newly elected to the BHA board of directors last month. He joins the following returning board members: local realtor Michael Davis, county employee Ted Grable, local businessman and Gazette president Rick Oros, homemaker Pat Radel, local realtor Luana Russell, homemaker Anne Underwood, attorney Randy Wolfe, and state employee and mobile watch director LaWayne Wyatt.

Highsmith, his wife Sharon and their sons William, 15, and Adam, 12, have resided in Bloomingdale for 16 months. While he works as a civilian at MacDill's Special Operations Command, Highsmith is retired United States Air Force having moved to Bloomingdale after three years in Cambridgeshire, England, and Germany before that. He is originally from Greenville, N.C., but has called Florida home since the 1970s. Highsmith is looking forward to settling in to the Bloomingdale community, where he and his family hope to remain "for the long haul".

One board position still remains open. Those interested in serving on the board are asked to attend this month's meeting. Board members serve a one-year term and meet once a month to discuss matters of concern to the residents of Bloomingdale.

Special Guests A Treat

A record number of children stood in line to visit with Santa Claus last month. Mr. and Mrs. Claus made a special visit to Bloomingdale as guests of the BHA. Thank you's go out to the folks at Sun Cove Realty at Bloomingdale Square for throwing out the welcome mat for Santa and his helpers.

Membership Drive Underway

The 1996 BHA membership drive is now underway. Residents of the Bloomingdale communities will begin receiving packets this month. Dues are \$20 and are for the calendar year. Packets will include a notice of dues, Mobile Watch volunteer sign-up form and an informative brochure about the BHA and other area organizations. If you haven't received your membership information, it will be forthcoming in one of the many mail-outs still remaining.

What BHA Membership Gives You

Residents who take advantage of all the services offered by the BHA get their money's worth. In the last year the BHA has provided community symposiums on deed restriction and zoning violations, road and street lighting/traffic control advocacy, public safety information, a community picnic.

In addition, the BHA sponsored a parks and recreation advisory committee that continued the efforts of the 1987 board and accomplished the goal of bringing a rec center to the Bloomingdale community.

The BHA continues to support the Mobile Watch program and *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.

They also continue to stay on top of local government issues that affect the community and are advocates for the neighborhoods of Bloomingdale.

Now isn't all that worth \$20 a year. What a bargain!

By-Laws Revised

The by-laws of the Homeowners' Association have been revised to reflect the needs of today's community. A revised copy is available for residents to review in the community office from 9:30 to 12:30 weekdays.

1995 - The Year In Review

by Rozel Sciulli

In just one year-look what's happened in Bloomingdale. What exciting news there was to report in 1995. The Bloomingdale community is well on its way to seeing those extra 1,000 dwellings that are projected by the year 2,000 when hopefully there will be a solution to the overcrowded conditions at the area's schools.

We started out the year believing that Bloomingdale High would be spared double sessions, then 12 months later were hit between the eyes with the reality of no more money to build schools. Double sessions would be the only way to house Bloomingdale's students.

A year ago, *The Bloomingdale Gazette* was cel-



Ground was officially broken for the new Bloomingdale Park West Recreation Center on Oct. 30. L to R: Larry Mitchell, Jane Burmer, Randy Stribling, Lois Kessler, Steven Clouse, Project Manager for Showcase Builders Sam Moore, Contractor Robert Gonzalez, Center Director Donna Clouse, BHA Board Members Rick Oros, LaWayne Wyatte, Michael Davis, Randy Wolfe, Anne Underwood, and Luana Russell, Project Manager for County Joel Jackson, Maintenance Supervisor Luis Gacia, holding model.

these characterized the landscape of Bloomingdale East over the past 12 months. And not only did residents have to put up with construction within the community, they couldn't

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celebrating its 15th anniversary, as was Bloomingdale, the community which began with 74 homes in Bloomingdale East in 1980. Bloomingdale East is not finished yet, now with more than 3,000 homes and new ones springing up daily.

Bulldozers, cement trucks, brick haulers and sod flatbeds, signs that read "carpenters wanted", trees marked for safekeeping by orange ribbons, sand no longer protected by low scrub brush now rises in billowing clouds -

Kids Caught Doing Good

Austin Wins State Award



Matthew Austin receives a Certificate of Achievement from County Commissioner Chris Hart and Extension Services agent Shirley Bond.

by Gazette Staff

Matthew Scott Austin was deemed the State Winner in a much publicized seat belt awareness campaign sponsored by the University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Services. He is the 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Austin of Bloomingdale East.

Matt, who enjoys working with graphic art, designed a poster depicting a cartoon character who has been injured as a result of not wearing a seat belt. He drives home a serious point with humor as the character is shown with stars circling his bumped head, googly eyes, and a

steering wheel where his mouth ought to be. The simple message, "Wear Your Seat Belt" is prominently displayed.

The annual contest asks school-aged children through 8th grade to design a public safety poster promoting the use of seat belts. This year, more than 30,000 entries were submitted through schools and extension services statewide. The top three posters in each age group are featured on a 1995-96 wall calendar.

Matthew also received a Certificate of Achievement from the Hillsborough County Commission.



Matthew Austin's state winning poster uses comedy to send a serious message. (R)



Children of all ages visited Santa Claus who was in Bloomingdale by special invitation of the BHA last month. Sun Cove Realty rolled out the red carpet for Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Emily and Ted Low prove you're always young enough to

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Gazette

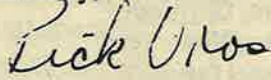
Dear Readers,

Thank you for helping The Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association and *The Bloomingdale Gazette* have one of the most successful and satisfying years in our history. As you may know *The Gazette* has just turned 16 years old and is now delivered to more homes than ever before. With the growth in our area and positive impact of the BHA, the community office had to move to a new location sooner than anticipated. This in turn will enable both organizations to offer you better service. The BHA and *The Gazette* could not have done this without the help of the residents and the loyalty of the advertisers.

So that the BHA and *The Gazette* can better understand your needs, please call the community office with any suggestions or information for 1996.

Please accept our heartiest wishes for a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Rick Oros

OFFICERS

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 103
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051

Randy Wolfe President 229-3321
Rick Oros Vice President 685-0866
Ted Grable Member 685-7193

Directors

Michael Davis 684-8881
Russ Lembke 689-2829
Patricia Radel 651-0210
Luana Russell 684-3144
LaWayne Wyatt 685-2072
Anne Underwood 653-4677

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

684-6667
Rick Pitrowski President 684-6667
Chris Hering Vice President 654-0235
Joe Liguori Treasurer 681-9655
Tom Snelling Corresponding Secretary 681-9186
T. Szabo Recording Secretary 684-2547
Peter Aluotto Trustee 685-0727
Keith Wilson Trustee
Alan Devney Administrator 684-6617

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 Kalmer 681-9701
Rick Borling 684-2022

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District
P.O. Box 3132
Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051

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Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.
Rick Oros Publisher
Rozel Sculli President
June Oros Editor
Gwen Szafranski Administrative Assistant/Layout & Graphics Editor
Ellen Slovacek Writer
JoAnne Scoff Writer
Ruth Green Ad Representative
Shirley Farrer Ad Representative
Circulation Assistants Distribution Manager
Rent A Kid delivery system

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Statement of Operation

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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.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: The views expressed here are the writer's, not necessarily those of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, or the BHA.

Our Times

by Rozel Sculli

THIS is my space. This is MY space. This is my SPACE.

Within the confines of decent speech - I can write whatever I want in my space.

This is the ONLY space where I can express an opinion. Objectivity is not the rule, here, as it must be in a news article.

Sometimes the opinions about which I write are not shared by all the readers. That's okay. That's why we give you YOUR SPACE, too. It's over there to the right. That's where we run Letters to the Editor, that's me.

The president of the paper, Rick Oros (the stuff he writes up top can be opinion, too) decides which letters are published.

Truth be known, we are not bombarded with letters every month, so when I received one last month, I was delighted.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear on this page today. Not because we refuse to grant the writer space to express his opinion, but rather to save him embarrassment.

Apparently the malcontent, an honor student at Bloomingdale, was miffed by the column I wrote last month referencing a nameless dim-witted resident for not knowing that a recreation center was under construction in Park West. Now, how many of you REALLY thought such a person existed?

The letter writer judged me libelous and unethical in my name-calling. Had this "McFly" actually called with similar questions, he would certainly know I was writing about him, now wouldn't he.

The entire essay was tongue in cheek. It was a ruse. But young scholar apparently has never read satire. Take note gifted English teachers at Bloomingdale. You've done this young man a terrible injustice. No, young scholar, I was not being merciless and cold-hearted, nor was I being unethical. I was merely having some fun

name appears as writer of the letter, but whose originator was obviously an adult with other motives.

On To Lighter Matters...

The Bloomingdale Gazette needs a social columnist. In the spirit of small-town publications, it is our mission to publish the social news of the community.

We have done this surprisingly well in the past year by keeping our eyes and ears open. But we need community participation in this effort.

First, we need a writer. Someone to gather and write the social news once a month.

Second, we need the residents to bring in their social news.

Many years ago, when I was editor of a small-town weekly, residents brought news of social events through our doors daily. We were flooded with birth announcements, engagement and wedding notices, anniversary celebrations and club news.

Now, I haven't heard of any social clubs that exist in Bloomingdale (and if there are some, please let us know), but we do know that babies are being born, kids are going off to college, and nuptials are being performed.

The local daily newspaper now charges for wedding announcements like advertising, but not so with us. We'll even print a full length photo and tell all the wedding particulars including a full description of the bride's gown, bridesmaid's and usher's names and reception details. It's the way weddings have always been treated in community publications.

Likewise, we ask that you bring us news of events such as family reunions, neighborhood gatherings, Super Bowl parties, surprise birthdays and vacation stories. And, of course, photos are always

STD Plans More Beauty For Your Bucks

by Joe Liguori
BSTD Treasurer

Have you noticed the benches and palm trees in the community as well as the new wall and entryways? The Special Taxing District Trustees have received county approval to continue these projects and institute new ones in Fiscal year 1996.

Special Taxing Districts were established by the county so communities could maintain their own common areas such as landscaping perimeter roadways and entryways. Funds for these projects are acquired through non-ad valorem taxes paid by every homeowner in the district. In Bloomingdale, the tax is \$80 annually.

The STD Trustees hope the residents will be pleased to hear that plans are underway to expand the bench program. Five to 10 benches are planned this fiscal year, with the corresponding palm trees at locations in East and West that are as yet undetermined. Residents who have any thoughts as to preferred location for the placement of the benches, please pass your suggestions on to the STD.

Another major expense this year is the continuation of the irrigation and well program. Residents may have noticed, the trenches along the thoroughfares. These are for the sprinkler systems and wells that will support the irrigation. years ago, the STD relied on county water to irrigate Bloomingdale and the district paid the same

install wells to allow the district to convert from county water to irrigate the common areas and not have to pay the BOCC with taxpayers' money every month.

Although initial well costs are expensive, the STD anticipates recovering the financial investment in three to five years at which time the funds will be redirected in other areas or a lower annual assessment could be realized.

The STD has budgeted more than
See STD, page 11

DISTRICT BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DEPENDENT DISTRICT

BUDGET CATEGORIES	FY 96 BUDGET
REVENUES	
363.000 SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	\$277,280
366.000 DONATIONS	\$1,120
361.000 INTEREST	\$2,500
TOTAL GROSS REVENUES	\$280,900
MINUS 5%	(\$14,045)
PLUS:	
384.000 DEBT PROCEEDS	\$0
389.000 BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$56,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$322,855

EXPENDITURES:	
30.31 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$12,500
30.32 ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING	\$9,000
30.34 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$35,000
30.40 TRAVEL AND PER DIEM	\$100
30.41 COMMUNICATION SERVICES	\$200
30.42 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	\$200
30.43 UTILITY SERVICES	\$10,000
30.44 RENTALS AND LEASES	\$3,500
30.45 INSURANCE	\$500
30.46 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	\$117,000
30.47 PRINTING AND BINDING	\$100
30.49 OTHER CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS	\$800
30.51 OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$750
30.52 OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$100
30.54 BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS	\$50
TOTAL OF EXPENDITURES	\$189,800

CAPITAL OUTLAY	
60.61 LAND	\$0
60.62 BUILDINGS	\$0
60.63 IMPROVEMENTS	\$116,414
60.64 MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	\$0
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$116,414

DEBT SERVICE	
70.71 PRINCIPAL	\$0
70.72 INTEREST	\$0
70.73 OTHER DEBT SERVICE COSTS	\$0
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$0

NON-OPERATING	
90.93 BUDGET TRANSFERS	\$11,641
90.99 RESERVE FOR FUTURE CAPITAL	\$0
	\$0

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escape it out on the highway, either, as expansion continued along Bloomingdale Avenue.

And still, no matter how big we've become, there was still time for community and service through the second annual BHA family picnic and later, a Park East clean-up.

Yes, 1995 was quite a year for Bloomingdale, and on this and the next few pages, the Top 10 stories of the year are highlighted. Stick around for more in 1996. If 1995 was any indication, this ought to be a banner year.

#1-Finally Rec Center Ground Is Broken

BHA president Randy Wolfe at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Rec Center in Park West said this board could not take all the credit for bringing about something that was begun in 1987. That's how long it's been since a recreation center for Bloomingdale has been in the works.

After nearly two years of formal planning, ground was finally broken October 30, 1995. When completed later this spring, the 3,500 square foot facility will be staffed by four county employees and will feature a community meeting room, kitchen, arts and crafts room and indoor game room, plus new playground equipment outdoors.

The daytime only park will be a blessing to parents who can avail themselves of the park's after-school and summer programs.

Not only has Bloomingdale been waiting for this, but none are happier than East resident Donna Clouse who will be the center's first director. Currently at Turkey Creek, she can't wait to come home.

#2 -No Tax For New Schools

Bloomingdale residents voted like others around Hillsborough County when a proposed half-cent sales tax was presented to the public in September. They said, "read our lips. No new taxes!"

Instead, voters sent a message to school administration to spend their money more wisely.

And the message school administrators shot back was two words long "Double Sessions".

Bloomingdale will be one of two high schools in the county to go on double sessions next fall. That's because it's student population is expected to approach 3,000.

#3-NIP Put Bite On Violations

A busy group of volunteers has spent much of 1995 patrolling the streets of Bloomingdale East and West looking for and reporting violators of county codes. They are part of the county-sponsored Neighborhood Involvement Program.

Their job is to issue an initial citation for violation of a county code, such as an inoperable vehicle in the yard. The resident is then given a specified amount of time to correct the problem. Should the problem continue, the matter is handled by the county.

An outgrowth of the NIP was the deed restriction enforcement program. The same volunteers also began looking for violations of deed restrictions. Since it was often confusing which offenses violated county code and which ones were violations of deed restrictions, it made the most sense to give all the calls to the same volunteers.

The results have been phenomenal. The volunteers report having received in excess of a 75% favorable response to the citations.

The result - a more beautiful Bloomingdale.

#4-Community Resource Deputy On Duty

Residents were introduced to Deputy Pete Maurer in August. Deputy Maurer is Bloomingdale's own Community Resource Deputy - it's own "cop on the beat".

Keeping in line with a national trend toward community policing, Hillsborough County implemented the CRD program over a year ago and Maurer is its 26th.

He described his role as community troubleshooter and has already worked to resolve problems facing residents such as late-night vandalism.

More important, Maurer has formed a community council, a group of 15 residents and community leaders to be a pipeline between Bloomingdale and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department.

"If there's a problem that exists in the community," he said, "we can put our heads together to come up with a solution or determine how to begin to find the answer."

#5-Brush Fire Rallies Neighbors

On Feb. 18, dense smoke clouds spilled onto Dumont Drive and burned a path to backyard fences less than one



year after a similar fire broke out in the conservation area west of Nature's Way at the north end of River Crossing. The blaze scorched approximately 30 acres of dry brush as well the bordering privacy fences of several perimeter homes.

There were not reported injuries, but firefighters and one teenager were treated for smoke inhalation at the scene.

Community spirit abounded as neighbors helped keep each other's roofs and back yards wet to ward off the quickly spreading flames some reaching 20 to 30 feet in height.

#6-How Wide Can It Go



Road construction along Bloomingdale Avenue has become a way of life for residents inconvenienced by rush
See REVIEW, pg. 4

Happy New Year!

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REVIEW, from page 3

hour back-ups and those infuriating "Slow" and "Stop" signs. The latest stretch is between Bell Shoals and John Moore. When it's finished, it should resemble Bloomingdale between John Moore and Kings Ave. The intersection at John Moore has already been improved. The widening at Bell Shoals will be worth the temporary 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. headaches once completed.

Now, if they'll just do something about the length of the left turn signal on Bell Shoals.

#7-BHS Athletics Chosen Best

The best high school athletic program in the state is right here in Bloomingdale. So says the Florida High School Activities Association which awarded BHS the first ever Floyd E. Lay All-Sports Award for Class 6A, indicative of the best high school athletic program in the state. No other Hillsborough County 6A school finished in the top 10, and there were two ninth place finishes by Plant and Berkeley in other, smaller classes.

Contributing to the title, based on points determined by each team's placement at regional and state level, were the state champion boys' soccer team, the second place girls cross country team, and the third place volleyball team. Twenty-two Bulls teams went to district competition, earning the school additional points.

#8-Twice Is Nice

The Bloomingdale Bulls earned their second soccer championship in three years by defeating Tallahassee Lincoln, 1-0.

For six Bulls players state victory was just as sweet the second time around. Goalie Bubby Leasure, Ryan McCoy, Tommy Nicholson, Rich Steinestel, Rob Brown and Kevin Bateman were all sophomores on the school's. The 1995 Bulls compiled a 25-1-1 record, and Leasure allowed only 10 goals all season.



BSHS Soccer Team

#9-Community Office Moves



After residing in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale for all of the 1990's, the Bloomingdale Community office took up new space still in the Royal Oaks but closer to Bloomingdale Avenue. The expansion of the Winn Dixie into a Marketplace required more square footage, so the Community Office and two other businesses were moved to other vacant spaces within the center.

The Community Office houses the offices of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association, the Special Taxing District and *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. The shell of an office had to be built out to create separate offices for the three groups.

#10-Yes, You're Moving - No, You're Not

Such was the case for Bloomingdale Little League where rumors ran faster than kids around the bases about the future of the league's location. With construction going on all around Bloomingdale East, the one area that's not being developed is at the end of Culbreath Road. That's because it's in the county's flood plan and permanent structures like homes cannot be built on such land.

So what better use of the 52 acres than recreational fields, specifically baseball fields to house the teams from Bloomingdale Little League, the largest in the county? Sounded like a good idea to the property owner, even sounded like a good idea to the league. But the county turned thumbs down when they learned "no permanent structure" also meant no concession stands, bathrooms or paved parking lots.

At last report, the league and county have met and have found property elsewhere. The location has not yet been released.

WANTED: *Rent-A-Kid*

The Bloomingdale Gazette has openings for delivery routes in the areas of Isleton Drive and Stratford Trace. Anyone interested can call Ms. Farrer at 651-1897 or the community office at 681-2051.

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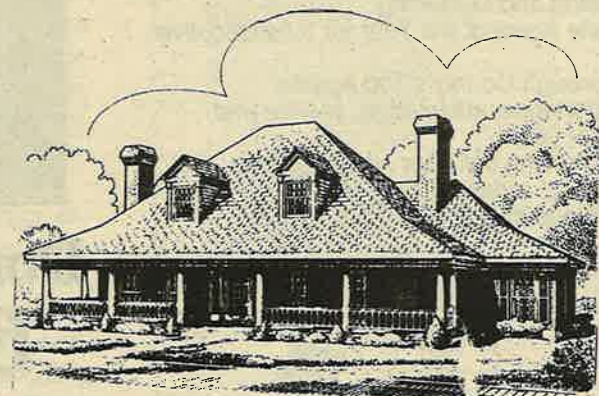
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A Moment In Time

The Last Good-bye

by Ellen R. Abramson



or a fleeting moment

My soul soared with hers
Across the heavens
looking
down

On quiltpatch green hills,
the gray satin'd old homestead,
the silent red schoolhouse,
the pristine white church.

Then came my tears -
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Bits N Pieces

Around Bloomington



For the past year Donna Heinz and then Gwen Szafranski have brought social news about the talented and interesting people who reside in our community. They have told of births, weddings, engagements, and anniversaries - events intrinsic to any social column. But they also brought our readers news about the talents of our residents - the actors, musicians and artists - and about the camaraderie in the neighborhoods of Bloomington. Here are some of the more memorable announcements of the past year.

Alfred Taylor, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Brown of Fairway Manors, earned his Eagle Scout. For his service project, the Bloomington student organized a blood drive at his church.

Other gifted students were Bloomington's National Merit finalists - Ami Borchik, Jeffery Jacoby, Michael McKinley, Tanya Miguel, John Reich, Jennifer Wangerien and Maria Williamson.

We were all proud of the Bloomington High marching band when it was announced in March that they would represent county schools at the opening ceremonies of the Florida Aquarium. Appropriately, they played about "all the little fishes in the deep blue sea" in Three Dog Night's "Joy to the World".

Among our area's talented residents, Cheryl Jorgensen emerged as a best of show and first place winner for still life watercolor at the Florida Strawberry Festival.

Cheryl was to be the first of many talented residents you would read about in 1995.

For example, local artist Sue Allen was the recipient of the "Spud Clements Award" given annually to the individual who has given of themselves and their talent to Brandon's Center Place.

Readers were introduced to a stage artist, Maurice Cecchini, Bloomington's own King of Siam. Cecchini would introduce other residents to the local amateur stage. Karmyn Laverghetta, Tyler Leavitt Erica Baker and Brittany Cox appeared in *The King and I* with him. Maurice later was active in forming Stage Door Community Theater of Brandon. Their first show featured two Bloomington residents in the leads, Doreen Myers and David Hickie.

Two young piano students Erika Barry and Rachele Lybbert were state winners at the Junior Convention of the Florida Federation of Music Clubs. Kerri Kaelin also won top honors at that event.

Talented teens ran the gamut from pianists to rock n roll artists. In August, readers were treated to stories about two local rock groups, Allison with One featuring local organizer Matt Jeanes. Other local members include Bryan Meng and Esther Langan. The second group, My Pal Trigger did extensive travelling and played regular weekend gigs at clubs from Tampa to Fort Pierce. The band featured local musicians Jack Butts and Thomas Ellison.

The Dumont neighborhood was always bustling. Residents held July 4th bash/block party. It was organized by Sharon and Berry Wright and Carolyn and Al Lopez. Several residents of Dumont also were on the organizing end of a Carnival Fun Cruise sponsored annually through St. Stephen's Catholic Church.

Not as far as the tour islands but definitely more

studious was Jennifer Campbell daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Campbell of Bloomington West. The New College student went on a dig in the Appalachicola River Valley in North Florida. Katie Jeanes and Hollie Nygaard went to the Bahamas with their church group which held three-day Bible study groups for Bahamian children. And talk about far away... Jared Trent returned home in time for the holidays after a two-year mission to Uruguay.

Neighborhoods living it up included the always social Fox Run families who planned events for their children such as a Halloween costume parade and for the adults, like a progressive dinner during the holidays. Not to be outdone, residents of The Greens enjoyed a family picnic and fun day at Medard Park.

1995 was a busy year, but these residents made us stop and take notice of some of the wonderful things the people of Bloomington are involved in.

Editor's Note: *The Gazette* is seeking a writer who knows Bloomington and its residents and who would be interested in continuing the good news brought to our readers in Bits N Pieces. If you are interested in writing this column once a month, please call 681-2051 between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 Monday through Friday.

You never know who you'll meet.

If you know of any social Bloomington news we would love to hear from you. You can call us at 681-2051 or write us at *The Bloomington Gazette*, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, Valrico, Florida 33594.

Hats Off



Local Poet Published

Special to *The Gazette*

J. W. Mauldin III of Bloomington East has just had original poetry published in "Beyond the Stars", a treasury of today's poetry compiled by The National Library of Poetry.

The poem is entitled Death's Call and the main subject is man's self-destruction. Mauldin has been writing for 10 years and his favorite subjects and ideas deal with the inner feelings and mysteries of man.

His entry received the Editor's Choice Award and was judged as being among the best 3 percent of all entries judged for 1995.

Educational Edge

Involved Parents Key To Children's Success

Special to *The Gazette*

When parents and families get personally involved in education, their children do better in school and grow up to be more successful in life. This may sound like common sense, yet parental involvement is the most overlooked aspect of American education today.

The fact is, many parents don't realize how important it is to get involved in their children's education. As one dad said when he began to read to his daughter every day and discovered that it improved her learning, "I never realized how much it would mean to her to hear me read."

Many parents would like to be involved, but have trouble finding the time. All parents and family members should try to find the time and make the extra effort to work with their children.

According to Sonja Moyer, educational director of The Huntington Learning Center in Brandon, "A child's attitude toward learning begins in the home. Research shows that when families get involved, their children get better grades and test scores, graduate from high school at higher rates, are more likely to go on to higher education, and are better behaved and have more positive attitudes."

Family involvement is also one of the best investments a family can make. Students who graduate from high school earn, on average, \$200,000 more in their lifetimes than students who drop out. College graduates make almost \$1 million more.

Most important, all parents and families can enjoy these benefits. It doesn't matter how much money you have. It doesn't matter how much formal education you've had yourself or how well you did in school. Family involvement also works for children at all grade levels.

Family involvement in education can mean:

- Reading a bedtime story to your preschool child
- Checking homework every night
- Getting involved in the school's Parent-Teacher organization
- Discussing your child's progress with teachers
- Voting in school board elections
- Helping your school to set challenging academic standards
- Limiting your child's TV viewing, especially on school nights

See EDUCATION, pg. 11

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Church and Synagogue News

English Was Greek To Egyptian

by Ellen Slovacek

Imagine being born and raised in Egypt, coming over to the United States understanding very little of our culture or our English idioms, and while looking for something to eat, you come across a hot dog stand. When you look through the eyes of an Egyptian, suddenly hot dogs, translated literally, are not very appetizing; and hush puppies and catfish take on a whole new meaning.

Such was the case for Dr. Philip E. Makari, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale. Dr. Makari has many more examples of English idioms that threw him for a loop when he first arrived in the United States. Just reading about them will tickle you pink.

Once when speaking with a woman, she laughed and said, "You're pulling my leg." Dr. Makari was nonplussed. "I didn't touch you!" he exclaimed. Another time, another woman told him that if he ever needed anything, to "just give her a ring". His reply was something to the effect, "I'm sorry, but I don't know you that well."

Think about it. We park in a driveway and drive on a parkway. The kicker was when his wife's purse was lost. Afraid that someone would use his checking account, Dr. Makari called the bank. "Don't worry, we'll freeze your account," the bank officer told him. Dr. Makari didn't know what to think about a frozen bank account, but when the purse was later returned, he called the bank and asked them to defrost his money.

How did this man who was born and raised in a country where only 1 percent of the population are Christian become a pastor of Presbyterian church?

"My father was a Presbyterian minister," Dr. Makari said.

When he reached the age of 18, he was encouraged to continue his studies in religion. And so he did, earning a Bachelor of Theology in Cairo, Egypt, and a Master of Divinity as well as a Doctorate of Divinity at the Columbia Seminary in the United States. In 1981, Dr. Makari met his wife, Vickey Whalen of Clearwater. Through the years, the two have worked together to better the community through the ministry. Dr. Makari views our society today as one that is on a moral decline. He cites a rise in drug and alcohol abuse, as well as child and spouse abuse, pre-marital sex, and abortion as indicators of our sliding social mores.

"I sympathize with families trying to make ends meet," he said. "But families need to pay equal attention to the spiritual needs of their children, as they provide them with their physical needs. No matter how rich, nor how poor, a relationship with God gives you peace."

We are fortunate to have such a delightful and sincere pastor working in our community. Now here's what's happening in January:

A 12-week "God's Children in Worship" series begins Jan. 7 at St. Andrews United Methodist Church. The series is designed to answer children's questions about worship, and to introduce them to gospel basics such as hymn singing and bulletins, creeds, the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and baptism. A related three-week series will also be offered for parents of the participating children. For more information, contact Lois Polstra.

If you are ready to lose a few of those holiday pounds, then St. Andrews may have the program you are looking for. Beginning this month, a step exercise class will be offered at the church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The one-hour and 15-minute program includes warm-ups, aerobics, cool-down, weights, abdominals and stretches. It's a great way to tighten and tone those

muscles. Bring or borrow a step and get ready to start the new year on the right foot. Call Teddie Berry at 661-4740 for more information.

The Women in Focus Ministry of Bell Shoals Baptist Church, 2101 Bell Shoals Rd., invites area women to a five-week course entitled "Hidden Keys to Successful Parenting." The classes will include videos by Gary Smalley, one of America's best selling authors and most popular personal and family relationships. The course is being offered Wednesday evenings at 6:45 beginning Jan. 10, or Friday mornings beginning Jan. 12 at 9 a.m. The course fee is \$10 which includes childcare. Registration is required by calling Bell Shoals at 689-4229, ext. 172.

Women in Focus will also sponsor "Feminar" a seminar for women offering 24 topics of interest. Women from the community are invited to have a breakfast then attend three topics of their choice on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 8:45 until noon. Tickets of \$5 go on sale today at the church. For more information, call Mrs. Ronnie Lipka at 689-4229, ext. 172.

Brandon Day Women's Aglow is sponsoring a breakfast with a motivational speaker on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 9:30 a.m. at Center Place. Guest speaker Karen Kronen will share her experiences of accomplishing extraordinary things through small acts of kindness. Call Linda at 677-7041 or Anita at 689-2578 for more information.

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Water Use On The Rise

Special to The Gazette

The dry season is upon us and the Hillsborough County Public Utilities Department as detected a trend of increasing water use.

In this time of seasonally lower rainfall, the water needs of plants likewise decrease. This means water consumption should be declining. Many lawns, trees and shrubs may only need watering every two weeks until spring.

The department's water conservation team members also are noticing an increase in the number of violations of water use restrictions. This may be the result of winter residents who may have forgotten about the restrictions or think they have been eased or lifted.

To curtail this trend of rising water use, the department is augmenting its education and enforcement efforts. Additional water conservation team

members will be patrolling unincorporated Hillsborough County to enforce mandatory water restrictions and provide water conservation assistance.

For those new to the area or those who may have forgotten, the water restrictions are as follows:

• No irrigation - Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays nor between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on any day.

• Irrigation IS permitted on Tuesdays and Saturdays for addresses ending in an even number or the letters A-M. Watering is permitted on Wednesdays and Sundays for addresses ending in an odd number or the letters N-Z or locations with no address (such as common areas or medians).

• Irrigation with reclaimed water and low-volume watering devices such as drip or soaker hoses is not restricted.

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Bruin Beat



Students Earn Honor Roll

Students named to the Principal's Honor Roll at Burns Junior High earned straight A's for the first nine weeks.

They are eighth graders Erika Barry, Monica Belford, Natasha Bello, Elizabeth Darby, Andrew Emery, Kellie Evans, Laura Hammett, Jessica Higgins, Brian Kurmmerich, Andrew Kuo, Coleen Ladner, Danika Maddocks, Akshata Marballi, Nathan Morrow, Mary Rhey, Nathan Sheffield and David Taylor.

The ninth graders are Michelle Austerman, Jennie Barber, Justin Dethier, Emily Gambrell, Meghan Goodspeed, Joy Griffin, Shih-Shan Land, John Tanner, and Benjamin Vlaentine.

Bulls Eye



Honor Students Named

The following students were named to the principal's honor roll for the first quarter at Bloomingdale Senior High.

Tenth graders - Megan Allen, Elizabeth Bauer,

Denise Beiswenger, Robert Eisenberg, Daniel Elkins, Meagan Galinger, Jessica Moats, Melissa Owen, Kathryn Reese, Michael Rhey, Vivian Ryan, Helena Sorensen, Amanda Wetherington and Kelly Wicklund.

Eleventh graders - Elizabeth Menietti, Christine Nachols, Jacqueline Sprowl.

Twelfth graders - Christy Barnes, Patricia Berry, Wendy Borwn, Melissa Bryant, Lisa Bugni, Scott Decelles, Pamela Frysz, Roman Gorelik, Lina Rose Grady, Abbie Graham, Derek Inoruchi, Ryan Kangas, Lori Kensel, Jocelyn Lockhart, Lori Mayers, Angel Nemath, Shannon Newbill, Kristine Owen, Jeffrey Petty, Katherine Prinzbach, Scot Rouse, Melanie Taylor, James Vasilakos, and Josiah Vencel.

Student Spotlight

Sean Q. Jett of Valrico was honored as a Black Scholar Award winner at the University of South Florida during the fall term. He is the son of Philip and Joyce Jett.

Jett, a graduate of Bloomingdale High, was among more than 120 African-American USF students showcased by the Division of Undergraduate Studies at the 14th Annual Black Scholars Award Ceremony.

Jett carries a 3.6 grade point average and is a business major. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the Future Business Leaders of America. He won first place in the state oratorical contest for the Florida Public Service Association and second place in the state of Mr. Public Service for the Florida Association.

Philip Rivera from Bloomingdale High was among 27 incoming Hispanic students with outstanding academic credentials honored for the fall term at USF's third Hispanic Scholarship Award Ceremony.

Rivera, a freshman majoring in international affairs, graduated with a 4.2 grade point average. He was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and was a church volunteer. Rivera received the Channel 61 Hispanic Scholarship and has been on mission trips to Guatemala.

Bloomingdale Athletic Calendar

Basketball

- Jan. 8 Girls host Hillsborough
 - Jan. 11 Girls at Brandon
 - Jan. 12 Boys host Brandon
 - Jan. 13 Girls at King
 - Jan. 19 Boys at Gaither
 - Jan. 22 Girls host Jefferson
 - Jan. 23 Boys host Durant
 - Jan. 25 Girls at Durant/Boys at Tampa Bay Tech
 - Jan. 26 Boys at Plant City
 - Jan. 27 Girls at Gaither
 - Jan. 29 Girls host King
 - Feb. 2 Boys at Brandon
- Jr. Varsity begins at 6:30 - Varsity at 7:45
Saturday games at 1 p.m.

Soccer

- Jan. 8 at Plant
 - Jan. 9 at Plant City
 - Jan. 19 at Chamberlain
 - Jan. 22-26 Districts
- Single games begin at 7 p.m., Doubleheaders at 5 and 7 p.m. or 6:30 and 8:30 on Fridays - Saturday games at 1 p.m.

Wrestling

- Jan. 9 hosts Brandon
 - Jan. 23 at Hillsborough
 - Jan. 26 hosts Armwood
 - Jan. 27 hosts Chamberlain
- Matches begin at 7:15
Saturday matches at 1 p.m.

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Skating Added To 3rd Bike Rodeo

by Ron Pogorzelski

Because bikes and skates are popular Christmas presents, the 3rd Annual Bike/skate Rodeo and Safety Fair is especially timely.

Scheduled for Feb. 10, the event is jointly sponsored by the Lithia Springs PTA and Arvida River Hills. The Rodeo is a full filled family day with demonstrations, exhibits, refreshments, and safety instructions. The growth of

Roller Blades convinced the PTA to add skating safety to the program.

There will be nine rodeo skills stations open from 9 a.m. until noon and a fun bike/skate from the school through River Hills to the Clubhouse and return. All families with children who bike or skate are invited. Costumed characters, fire engines, and special displays of safety equipment will add to the fun.

Parents and children should register for this free event as they arrive for drawings and prizes and to ensure that each child has a bike and skate helmet.

Not well known, but nonetheless true, is that more children die in bike accidents each year than from falls,



Lithia Springs Elementary teachers received \$4,659 in grant money from Arvida River Hills. The money will be used for 11 special projects at the school. Teachers receiving grants are Dr. Ken Richter, Ann Marie Bacon, Lita Dobrazanski, Maria Carvalho, Vicki Carman, Monique Corrao, Phyllis Lofreddo, Lisa Durant, Maryanna Grace, Julie Lacy and Mary Ellen Houghton. They are pictured with River Hills sales manager Louis Ludwig and Lithia principal Constance Gilbert.

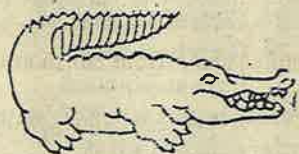
accidental poisonings and firearm injuries combined.

While Hillsborough County has one of the worst bicycle-motor vehicle crash rates in the country, many more children are seriously injured by simply falling off their bikes and hitting their heads.

Never buy a bike or skates for your child without buying a helmet to go with it. Making your child wear the helmet could be a life-saving decision.

NOTE: Lithia Springs Elementary PTA has a great need for volunteers for clerical help, special projects, events and classroom programs. Only a few hours a month can go a long way to helping a school run smoothly. Get involved. If you can help, call Kerry Chalk at 685-2319.

Gator Tales



Alafia Performs Community Service

by Ruthe Brunson

We hope everyone had a nice holiday break and is ready to start the second half of the school year. Alafia PTA would like to thank all those parents and volunteers who helped to make the first part of the school year a success. It's never too late to jump on board and get involved as a volunteer. There is always something to do and many activities taking place.

The children at Alafia have been busy with community service themselves. They have helped with the United Way, Red Cross, and the Thanksgiving and Christmas canned food drives. Not only did the Student Council visit the Integrated Health Services Nursing Home, but the kindergartners made ornaments, place mats, decorations and cookies for the nursing home patients. The fifth grade donated items, too. The first through 4th grade students donated toys and books to other area children for the holidays. It's great to see our children get involved in doing for others.

Congratulations are in order for Karen Willis, Alafia Teacher of the Year; Rachel Driggers, Non-Instructional Employee of the Year; Windell Campbell, nominated for the Ida S. Baker Distinguished Minority Educator; and Alafia PTA for receiving the Local Achievement Award, Volunteer Award and Program Award given by the Hillsborough County Council of PTA/PTSA.

A Reflections Reception will be held Jan. 7 at the University of Tampa's Plant Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. Market Day pick-up is Jan. 23. And the Alafia PTA will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Jan. 25 in the school cafeteria from 5:30 to 7:30. Look for additional information to be sent home with the children.

Kids Calendar

Children's Chorus Auditions

Auditions for new choristers wishing to join the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus will be held in early January. Girls and boys with unchanged voices, ages 8-16 are invited to audition. No special preparation is necessary. To schedule and audition, call 988-8936.

The Chorus, in its 7th season, has more than 135 singers, including several from the Valrico area. During weekly rehearsals, the children develop vocal skills and musicianship through singing and studying a diverse selection of traditional and multi-cultural music.

The group has performed with the Florida Orchestra, at Carnegie Hall in 1993 and in Washington, D.C. in 1994. Many TBCC members have participated in honor choruses throughout the United States. This year's Touring Choir has been selected to represent the State of Florida at the "American Salute to Austria" in July.

Family Adventure

HCC is offering as part of its ongoing Family Adventure Series a class entitled Sharing Nature with Children through Games. The class will take place Saturday, Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Upper Tampa Bay Park. Parents and children will learn environmental games and hands-on activities to better discover and enjoy the wonders of nature. The cost is \$9 for adults, and two children may attend free with each adult.

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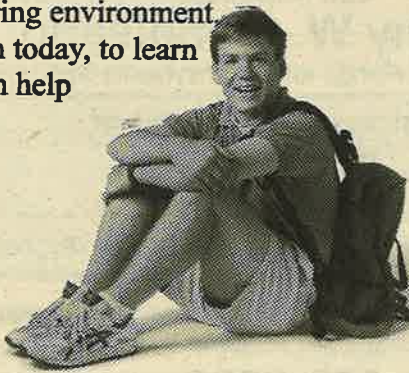
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by **Rozel Sciulli**

Three Bloomingdale residents are members of a select soccer team that recently won the Osceola Thanksgiving Classic, but there are loftier goals still ahead.

Coached by West resident Richard Oros, the South Hillsborough Red under-15 boys defeated Bonita Springs, 4-0, to win the championship in the 78-team tournament. They won four games en route to the championship.

Team members from Bloomingdale are Ben Bailey, Steve Dvorak and Rio Oros, and from South Oak, Michael Guarnieri.

Although sponsored by the South Hillsborough Soccer League the team is comprised of boys who attend not only Bloomingdale, but also Durant, East Bay, Chamberlain, King, Hillsborough, Jesuit and Tampa Prep. They have played together now for three years.

Their amazing streak includes only three losses in league play and only one loss at home.

In that time, the team has advanced from a Division III team to a more competitive Division II team in the USA-GYSA organization.

As a result of their first place finish in Division III, the team advanced to Division II last year when they finished second in the division and second in the prestigious Brandon Cup Tournament.

This year, as their league's inaugural under-15 team,

the Red captured first place in Division II which includes teams from Hudson down to Venice.

Although the league is in mid-season break to allow the high-school season to take place, league play begins again in March and if the Red continue their winning ways, advancement to Division I could be in their future.

The team's asset has been their camaraderie for the past three years. It has made them work smoothly as a unit, each player able to anticipate the other's move and who will be in position to take a pass.

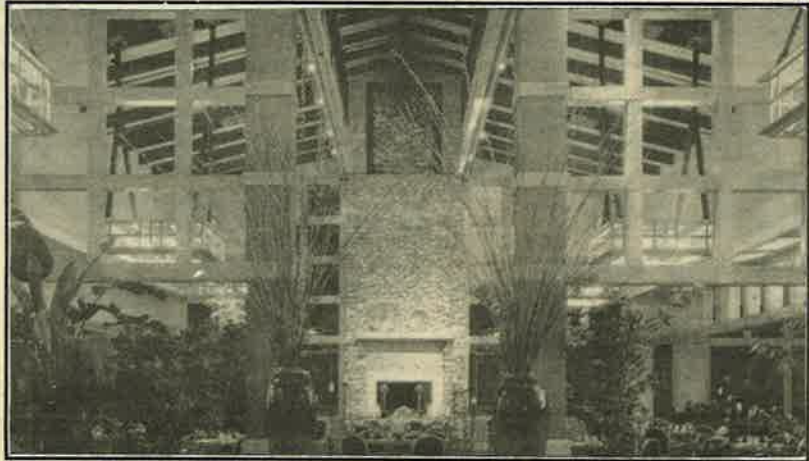
"Skill level has been their biggest improvement," said Coach Rick Oros. "I teach the kids how to strike the ball and control the ball. It sounds mundane, but that's what we've done for three years and we can probably strike better than any under 17 team.

Oros' goal for his team this year is to advance to the President's Cup in Tallahassee. To do that, they must win their Region in April. The double elimination tournament features teams from Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties.

"I believe we can win this year," Oros said. "We've planned for this. We know what to expect."

Other team members include Andrew Morris, Peter LaBarbera, Joe LaBarbera, David Orvosh, Chris Hopkins, Fabian Beyer, Andrew Peter, Matt Cipriano, Adrian Washington, and Andrew Staller.

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Tax Topics

What...No Receipts!

by Robert J. Morris, CPA

The IRS does require documentary evidence of business expenses for travel, meals, entertainment or gifts but up to October, 1995, actual receipts were needed for expenses in excess of \$25. Recently, the IRS announced beginning Oct. 1, 1995, these de minimis expenses require receipts when in excess of \$75.

This is the first adjustment to this threshold since it was introduced in 1962. Without such a receipt, the IRS will consider the excess expenditure as unsubstantiated and therefore non-deductible.

Now that de minimis expenses are considered below \$75, this probably will reduce the amount of documentation businesses (and individuals) will be required to accumulate to support deduction in audits. Some employers may want to re-evaluate their procedures to determine whether there is cost saving in amending their reimbursement criteria.

However, beware that not being required to save the receipt does not

interpret the same as not keeping contemporaneous records. You still will need to establish each expenditure as to its business purpose, the amount, time and date occurred as well as who, what, where, when and why. Gifts must also establish the business relationship of the person(s) receiving the gift.

Where a company has a qualified accountable reimbursement plan most businesses will still rely on the "adequate accounting" rules provided in IRS regulations. As part of the overall review of that which resulted in the change, the IRS is inviting public comment on possibly changing the criteria here as well. Also, please be careful that the \$25 threshold is still required for the first nine months of 1995 through September 30, 1995.

If you may be affected by this change, you should contact a reputable tax advisor to further define the new criteria as it relates to your particular situation.

Legal Matters

Why You Need A New Durable Power Of Attorney

by Anthony Campisano
Attorney at Law

A Power of Attorney is a document whereby a person (the Principal) delegates to another person (the Donee) the right to perform acts on the Principal's behalf. Powers of Attorney are either Limited (i.e. the Donee's authority only extends to certain acts) or General. Powers of Attorney are normally created for situations where the Principal may be unavailable or unable to act in his or her own right. For example, the Principal may be out of town or incapacitated.

A General Power of Attorney is an extremely broad and powerful document. There have been many instances of past abuses by Donees. The Donee of the Power of Attorney does not always have the best interests of the Principal at heart and there have been many examples of attempts to transfer the Principal's assets to the Donee, often after the Principal has lost his or her mental capacity.

As a result of these past abuses, many third parties (usually banks, brokerage companies and real estate title companies) have been sued for honoring Powers of

Attorney that later turn out to be not effective. As a result of this litigation, many third parties began to refuse to honor all Powers of Attorney.

The Florida legislature recognized this as a major problem and significantly amended the Statute that created Durable Powers of Attorney. The amendments were effective Oct. 1, 1995, and only apply to Powers of Attorney executed after Oct. 1, 1995.

The main thrust of the amendments was to protect third parties who rely upon Powers of Attorney from litigation. If third parties are assured that they will not be sued for relying upon Powers of Attorney, they will be more apt to honor them.

However, unless your Power of Attorney was executed after Oct. 1, and complies with the amended Statute in all respects, it will not be afforded the protection provided under the amended Statute. Consequently, you should replace your old Power of Attorney with a new Power of Attorney that complies with all of the recent changes in the law.

Real Estate Moves

by Michael Davis

Less than a week ago, the "For Sale By Owner" ad for your home appeared for the first time in the local newspaper. After several showings, a family has shown interest in buying your home. In fact, they just called you back to say that want the house. Hooray!

They plan to see a mortgage lender right away and have asked you to hold the house until a week from Thursday. They say they will be "in touch" soon. What do you do now?

As a rule, agreements for the sale of real estate must be in writing to be enforceable. Such an agreement states the purchase price, details of financing, a closing date, the date of possession and identifies any personal property to be included in the sale, and other information. At the time an agreement is signed, it is also customary for the buyer to provide an earnest money deposit, a sum of money acceptable to the buyer as proof of the buyer's serious intent.

As long as both buyer and seller are in perfect agreement, a verbal agreement to sell real estate could be consummated. If, on the other hand, either the buyer or seller disagree on any one point, the transaction would not be enforceable, and there would be no sale.

Consider this...sincere buyers, who truly intend to keep their end of the bargain, would have no qualms about signing a written agreement spelling out the specific terms agreed upon. If they hesitate to sign such an agreement or will not offer an earnest money deposit, you might ask yourself whether they are really serious buyers in the first place.

The sale of your home is a business transaction. A realtor can represent your best interests by qualifying buyers and preparing an appropriate agreement of sale. Marketing your home at the best possible price and terms is important too. A realtor understands the local real estate market and is able to provide buyers qualified to purchase your home. Take no shortcuts. To sell your home, call a realtor.

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BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza. This month's meeting will consist of election of board officers. Homeowner concerns and issues are always welcomed. The meeting is open to all dues-paying members and all newcomers are invited to attend.

STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustees will be Monday, Jan. 8, at 7:30

p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza. The meeting is open to all Bloomingdale homeowners.

Kiwanis Meeting

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Brandon Nights meet every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Game Day Grill, Oak Park Plaza on Lumsden and Kings. President of the organization is Bloomingdale resident Mark Leytze. The group sponsors the Terrific Kids program in the local elementary schools.

Christmas Tree Recycling

This is the last weekend to contribute Christmas trees to the county's recycling program. Locally, trees will be accepted from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Brandon Recreation Center, Sadie Park, 510 E. Sadie St. in north Brandon.

Recycled trees are chipped into mulch which is used primarily in public parks on trails and for landscaping. Each residents will also receive a free pine seedling with planting instructions.

School Open Houses

There will be two Open Houses this week for parents of 8th graders interested in attending Magnet Schools in the fall. The Academy of Health Professions and the Academy of Engineering Technology, both at Tampa Bay Technical High School, will hold Open House for prospective students Jan. 9 and 11.

Also on Jan. 9, King High will host parents and students who wish to apply to the International Baccalaureate Program.

Call 276-5627 for IBP information and 744-8360, ext. 48 for information on health and engineering careers.

BHA, from page 1

New Meeting Guidelines

While residents are encouraged to attend BHA meetings, board members have found it necessary to set time limitations on speakers so meetings can end at a reasonable hour. The new guidelines will be strictly adhered to, according to Oros. They are as follows:

- 7:30 - 8 p.m. Homeowners will be given an opportunity to address the BHA board.
- There will be a 10-minute maximum time limit per homeowner, per issue and this includes BHA board response.
- Residents will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration through telephone calls

will be permitted. Residents may also sign-up on a list posted outside the community office the night of a meeting. Doors will remain locked until 7:30 p.m.

- Should a group of residents attend a BHA meeting, it is recommended that one person act as spokesperson for the group.
 - The board reserves the right to grant variances to the time limit, but only under special circumstances, for example, on an issue of widespread impact.
 - Homeowners will not be permitted to speak unless they have paid their dues for the current year.
- 8:00 p.m. The homeowners' portion of the meeting will be adjourned, at which time the BHA board business

will commence. Residents may remain for this portion of the meeting and may ask questions regarding issues on the table. New business may not be introduced by the homeowners at this time.

The order of business is as follows: approval of the minutes from the previous month's meeting, treasurer's report, mobile watch report, NIP report, membership report. The board will then take up special business.

Please note, should a guest speaker who has been invited by the BHA board be in attendance, the guest will speak first at 7:30, and the normal agenda will follow in order after the speaker has completed his or her presentation.

STD, from page 2

\$50,000 for landscaping improvements. This could mean anything from shrubbery at entryways to palm trees to more oak trees and, yes, unfortunately, to replacing the dead oak trees. Specifically, different plants and shrubbery at all of the entrances will be marked for improvement this fiscal year.

Once again, resident input to help Bloomingdale become a more attractive community would be well received. All residents need to do is attend the STD's monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month.

A new challenge for the STD in FY 96 will be the lighting of certain entranceways to continue the beautification programs started in Bloomingdale by the STD some years ago. Some of these considerations include inground lighting as is currently seen in some areas, or over-the-wall lighting which is not common in Bloomingdale but is a factor in making Bloomingdale a more beautiful community to live in.

Finally, the STD is aggressively installing new signage that will indicate specifically named areas of Bloomingdale.

The Augusta Village signage and the Stratford Trace signage already are up in East and will give residents some idea of what the signage plans are for the entire subdivision.

These are the primary capital projects the STD Trustees would like to accomplish in FY 96 and are in addition to the ongoing programs such as mowing, fertilizing, edging and trimming the common areas; and the wall pressure washing and wall painting program.

There also is a large budgeted amount for ongoing maintenance including repairing existing sprinklers, replacing damaged signs and repairing walls, entryways and signs that are vandalized. A unique program in the last 24 months has been the theft of some trees and shrubbery.

Residents should now have a better understanding that the \$80 in taxes is paying for both existing projects and planned future projects.

Once again, residents are invited to attend the monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103. For further information, call the office at 684-6667.

EDUCATION, from page 5

- Set a good example by reading for pleasure and limiting your own TV viewing
- Getting personally involved in governing your school
- Becoming an advocate for better education in your community and state
- Insisting on high standards of behavior for children

Or, family involvement can be as simple as asking your children, "how was school today?" But ask every day - this will send your children the clear message that their schoolwork is important to you and you expect them to learn.

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Magician:

FOUND:
Pair of man's glasses found in Bloomingdale. Call the Community Office at 681-2051.

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Cockatiel, call 684-5796.

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Cockatiel, cinnamon color, very missed. Call 684-5796

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So if you live on the same street as Michael, or you live several blocks away, calling him before you make your next move may be the best move you'll ever make. But whether or not you decide to use his services, Michael would like to send you a copy of his free special report, *29 Critical Questions To Ask A Realtor® Before You List.* It will supply you with key questions to ask potential agents, and it will help you get the answers you need to select the right agent for your needs.

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