

the Bloomingdale gazette

January 2001

Complimentary

Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Volume XXI, Number 1

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Holiday decoration winners

See page 4



Cara and Amy Bearison (above), visited the new YMCA site on Tile Painting Day in December. Pre-opening Cornerstone Members hand painted ceramic tiles that will become part of a permanent display at the facility.

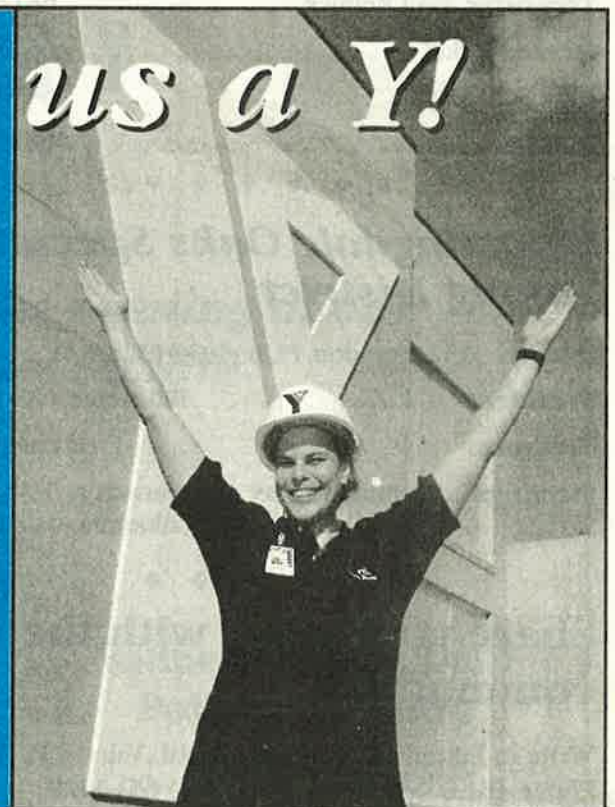
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!



Josee and Haley Chipman helped dad Matt with the Chipman family tile.

Give us a Y!

Cindy Benson, Branch Manager of the new Campo Family YMCA at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road, arrived here from Atlanta in December and is on the job, eager to get the ball rolling. The facility is in the final phases of construction this month. A ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening will be scheduled in February. For more information, call Cindy at 684-1371.



Council addresses Bloomingdale issues see page 10

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-2051 • E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com

Web site: www.bha-online.org

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Vice President Len Jaszczik
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Director Patricia Radel
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Tony Diolosa, 681-1146
Treasurer, Paul Kelmer 681-9701
Steven Heckel 654-4266
Brad Scharp 643-5000
Paul Warr 685-7883



Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
President Bill Grace, 685-2817
Treasurer Fred Englehart
Meetings .. Second Monday each month at 7:30 pm,
3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks



Share your news with the community!

Write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: (813) 681-2051 • Fax: (813) 651-1129
E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

..... 684-6667
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Corresponding Secretary, R. Dickey 689-2177
Recording Secretary, Alice Burleson 685-1076
Trustee, Tim Golden 653-1337
Trustee, Paul Almeida 661-2018
Property Manager, DPMI 684-6617



Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

BHA Board of Directors Meetings
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Special Taxing District Meetings
Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



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The official publication of the BHA

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Abdoney Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry open

By Laura Frazier



Dr. Matt Abdoney, DMD and Dr. Michael Abdoney, DDS.

Dr. Michael Abdoney, DDS and Dr. Matt Abdoney, DMD announce the opening of their new offices in the Royal Oaks Plaza at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia Pinecrest Road in Valrico. The Abdoney brothers follow in the footsteps of their father, Dr. Michael Abdoney, Sr., a longtime Tampa Bay area resident and Brandon orthodontist since 1980.

Dr. Matt Abdoney practices all phases of general pediatric dentistry, and says, "We provide caring, personal attention in a relaxed atmosphere, which is so important to the comfort of our young patients. In addition, our patient exam and treatment rooms are never off-limits to parents."

Dr. Michael Abdoney practices pediatric and adult orthodontics, and says, "In the past, braces were with rare exception only for children, and were considered a luxury. Today, orthodontic correction for children is commonplace, and adults account for a large segment of our patients." Dr. Abdoney offers the new "Invisalign" orthodontic system for adults, which uses computer imaging of the patient's dentition to create custom, removable orthodontic appliances.

The 6,200 square foot facility features 10 exam and treatment rooms outfitted with state of the art equipment, comfortably appointed waiting areas and a children's game room. For more information about pediatric dentistry, call (813) 651-0400; for orthodontics call (813) 681-1300.

ABDONEY

Orthodontics
&
Pediatric Dentistry

We are pleased to announce the opening of our new Bloomingdale dental facility.



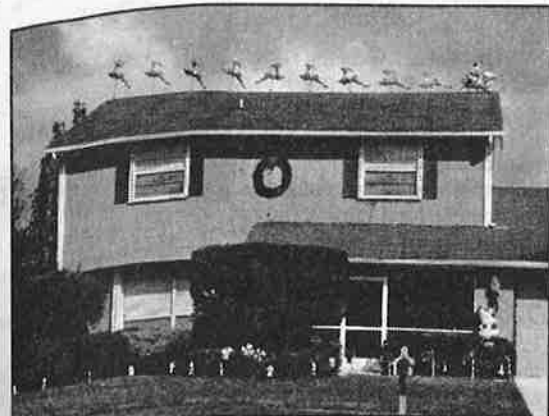
Michael Abdoney, DDS
Orthodontics
681-1300

Matthew Abdoney, DMD
Pediatric Dentistry
651-0400

2220 E. Bloomingdale Ave. Valrico, FL 33594

Most Charming
 The McRory residence
 3927 Dunaire Drive, off Natures Way

For the past 15 years, Millie and Jim McRory have helped signal the official start of the holiday season for their Dunaire Drive neighbors with an impressive holiday display. Their charming decorations change a little bit each year, and have included an assortment of animated figures, lighted lawn décor and homemade accents. One element that has remained a constant in the McRory's annual display is a classic full-size Santa and eight reindeer that grace the home's roofline, a familiar sight to passers-by traveling on Natures Way.



The McRory's holiday finery doesn't end at the front door. The couple opens their home to neighborhood children eager to see "Miss Millie's" indoor Christmas wonderland of animated figures, Annalee dolls ("they're so ugly they're cute!"), a snowman village and

Christmas train set. If you missed the McRory's Christmas display, you won't have to wait until next December to see their handiwork. Millie and Jim go all out on Easter and Halloween too. "We do it for the kids," says Millie. "And really we're just big ol' kids ourselves!"

Most Delightfully Excessive
 The Camacho residence
 2104 Crestmont Drive, Somerset

A manger scene, toy soldiers, candy canes, lighted walkways, snowmen, talking wreaths, dancing poinsettias, electronic bells, Christmas carols, animatronic figures, thousands of lights, two rooftop Santas and a fish fountain with a Santa hat... need we say more? Evelyn and Carlos Camacho displayed a glittering, chiming, wonderfully profuse exhibit at their Bloomingdale East home.

The magic continued inside with more animatronics, nutcrackers, a beanie baby tree, a Christmas village collection and more. The Camachos have made a tradition of staging a grand, touching tribute to the season. "Carlos and I were married 23 years ago on Christmas Eve, and our first born arrived on December 17, so this time of year has always been



(Continued on page 5)

very special to us," explains Evelyn. With twinkling lights of every color reflecting in her eyes, Evelyn said wistfully, "We celebrate and look forward at the end of the year, not back. Christmas for us really is the beginning of everything."

Most Elegant
 The Leslie residence
 1923 River Crossing Dr.
 River Crossing

The Leslies once again treated their River Crossing neighbors to a truly gorgeous display. Steve and Helen Leslie's holiday decorations generated several nominations, earning our "Most Elegant" award for the 2nd year in a row. The Leslies somehow manage to take the commonly displayed white icicle lights, illuminated reindeer and a Christmas tree in the window and turn their home into an awe-inspiring vision that is a joy to behold.



Congratulations to the River Crossing Homeowners Association Best Decorations winners:

1st Place: The Figueroa's, 2818 Alafia Oaks Drive. 2nd Place: The Pullaro's, 2006 Dumont Drive, 3rd Place: The Santo's, 2029 Alafia Oaks Drive, The Ramirez's, 2030 Alafia Oaks Drive, and The Ward's, 4535 Park River Circle.



Welcome to Bloomingdale!

- Samantha Nicole Kern**
 Born November 1, 2000 to Elizabeth and Michael Kern
- Madison Hunter Witt**
 Born November 10, 2000 to Kristin and Larry Witt
- Kristin Kay Reagin**
 Born November 14, 2000 to Lynn and Thomas Reagin
- Selena Lee Montague**
 Born November 16, 2000 to Gertrude and John Montague
- Jarrold Michael Fussner**
 Born November 20, 2000 to Laura and Michael Fussner
- Jordan Alexandria Jensen**
 Born November 24, 2000 to Jennifer and James Jensen

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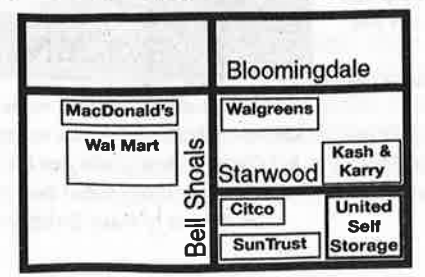


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He was here!

Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with dozens of children during their 12th annual visit to Bloomingdale. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association sponsored the visit and free photos, and collected food donations that were distributed to local charities before Christmas. Anyone who had the pleasure of seeing Santa and Mrs. Claus interact with the children can attest to the fact that this was indeed the real Santa and Mrs. Claus.



S Shannon and Connor Hickie relished their moment with Ol' Saint Nick.



Was it something he said? Santa surely brought this little one a special gift to ease her PTSSS (Post Traumatic Santa Stress Syndrome!)



The Kringles and their elves generated a little Christmas magic in Bloomingdale.

Family of 14 thrives in Bloomingdale

Just How Do They Manage?

By Mack Austin

Last October, a new family moved into Bloomingdale. They weren't the typical family with two kids and a dog. In October of 1999, they had 10 children. Today they have 12 children and a dog.

The Sampson family includes parents Skip and Susan, plus the guys: Jason 17, David, 16, Brent 15, Ben, 13, Matt 11, Kenny 9, Demetri 8, Josh 8, Chris 8, and the girls: Manisha 13, Lekha, 12 and Holly 5.

Those of us with one to three kids have our days when even the best plans go crazy. Try quadrupling that situation. Can you imagine twelve hungry kids waiting for supper, needing help with their homework, needing money for a school project, not feeling well, not having any clean socks, wanting to use the phone, deciding what to watch on TV, not wanting to go to bed, not wanting to get up, and on and on?

A family of this size must be organized, even if it is organized chaos. They have somehow learned to find unbelievable patience, love and concern for each other. They must depend on each other. They know each day will bring it's own trials and adjustments.

Susan was a teacher and Skip was a Naval Officer, so they already understood crowd control. In addition to his multitudes at home, Skip, a retired Navy officer, works with kids all day as an eighth-grade Algebra teacher at Booker T. Washington magnet School in Ybor City. Skip obviously loves kids and says he loves teaching. The ride to and from work must be very precious to him!

In addition to being a full-time mother of twelve, Susan supplements the family income by working four days a week as the Florida director of Williams International Adoptions, Inc., specializing in over-

seas adoptions and placing Florida's Foster Children into adoptive homes. She teaches adoption classes and runs the Brandon Adoption Fellowship support group for adoptive parents. And you thought your schedule was full!

If you show up on their doorstep, the house will not likely be spotless, and there may be confusion going on. This is not Martha Stewart's home, and Better Homes and Gardens will never do a photo essay on the Sampson residence, but some kids who were once very troubled are thriving there. There must be much that can be learned from this very special family- about life, living, loving, caring, organizing, helping, supporting, giving, and about learning how to get along with other people.

They've been asked many why and how questions, and they still have some questions themselves, but their experiences can surely provide ideas, suggestions and even hope for those of us who thought two kids were a great challenge. Anyone who would like to is invited to send their questions for Skip and Susan Sampson and find out just "how do they manage."

Send your questions to the The Sampsons, c/o The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. Watch for answers in future issues of the Gazette.



With a beautiful Christmas name, Holly Sampson was the one to pick out the perfect Christmas tree" as she and her brothers and sisters joined their parents in this one of many "group" projects.

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Bloomingdale Senior High School News

By Mack Austin

Volunteers

The PTSA, School Administration, and Staff would like to say a very special "thank you!" to the many outstanding volunteers who gave of their time, talents and energy to help enhance the quality of life and education at Bloomingdale High School in 2000. Your efforts truly made 2000 a great year.

New Service club

The PTSA has made another step towards increasing student involvement by announcing the sponsorship of a new service club, the Bloomingdale Students Helping Society Club, also known as "The BSHS Club." The club is the result of the dedication and hard work of Nydia Orozco-Davila and Judy Rice.

The primary purpose of the BSHS Club is to offer freshman and sophomore students opportunities to develop and implement service projects in the school and the community. The experiences and knowledge they gain will enhance their participation in service clubs during their last two years.

The BSHS Club now boasts a membership of twenty-seven freshman and sophomores. Current officers include President Michael Cummins, Vice President N. Daniela Davila, Secretary John Tenney, Treasurer Angela Naval, and Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Wiesenhart.

The club's first service project took place in November when members including Nikki Carnevale, Lauryn Oser, Elaine Higgins, Waymon Rose III, Stacey Hagyan, Daniela Davila, and Hailey Hobren bagged sand for the

Brandon Chapter of the American Association of University Women to use in their holiday luminary kits. The kits are sold to raise money for scholarships for 8th and 12th grade women who have the highest grade point averages in math and science.

Last year, 26 girls received stipends from the organization. Their own Hailey Hobren was a recipient at Burns Middle School last year. Congratulations to Hailey! Special thanks to Terry Rose, Charlea Hobren, Nydia Orozco-Davila and Judy Rice for providing transportation and support for this event. Thanks also to Ana Davila, Liz Rice and Tatiana Rose for their assistance.

The BSHS Club's next project took place on December 16, 2000 when they helped the YMCA distribute holiday gifts to migrant families at Camp Cristina. Club members experienced the spirit of the season and made many wonderful memories.

Any community organization that needs help is invited to send their request to: BSHS Club, c/o Bloomingdale PTSA, 1700 E. Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico, FL, 33594, phone 744-8018, ext. 563 or e-mail BSHSPTSA@aol.com.

General Membership meeting

The next PTSA General Membership meeting will be held in the BSHS Media Center on February 7, 2000 at 7 p.m.

Plans move forward for new Bloomingdale East elementary school

By Laura Frazier

Relief is on the way for Alafia Elementary School in Bloomingdale East. The school, built to hold 868 students, is critically overcrowded, with a current enrollment of over 1300 students. Continuing residen-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

growth could potentially bring another 300 students into the Alafia attendance area as the community approaches build-out over the next few years.

Bill Person, Hillsborough County Director of Pupil Assignment, said, "We are finalizing the land appropriation phase and hope to have the new school ready for the 2002-2003 school year." The site is located at the southern intersection of Natures Way and Culbreath road, about 2 miles south of Alafia Elementary.

The boundary area for Alafia consists largely of students residing in Bloomingdale East. A preliminary review suggests that the best plan may be to assign students from the southern portion of Bloomingdale East to the new school.

Person indicates that the Pupil Assignment Department will work closely with the community to establish attendance boundaries for the new school. Meetings with the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and the greater Bloomingdale area public will be announced in mid-2001.

In addition, the Lithia Springs Elementary School satellite group of students residing in Bloomingdale West could be given the option of being assigned to the new, closer, Bloomingdale School.

For more information, please call the office of Superintendent Earl Lennard at (813) 272-4000.



The newly established BSHS Club began their service to the community by providing assistance to American Association of University Women.



The BSHS Club helped pass out gifts to migrant families at YMCA Camp Christina in Riverview.



C. Cole Jeffries, Jr., Daniel W. King, Frank J. Nivert, Clifton C. Curry, Jr.

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Happy New Year!

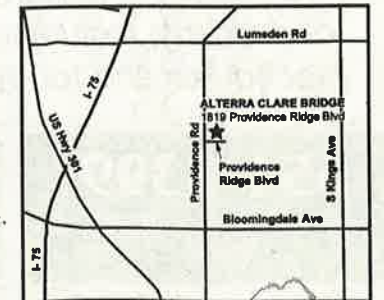


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Community Council addresses Bloomingdale issues

By Mack Austin

The volunteer member Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) addresses concerns reported by residents of the Bloomingdale community, including critical issues like traffic congestion, growth and construction. Past experience has proven that an informed community with concerned residents actively monitoring and coordinating the major activities within it can significantly improve its quality of life. That is the purpose of the BACC.

Following are the current projects being monitored by members of the BACC. Residents noting other concerns they believe should be monitored should contact their local homeowner's association or Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer or Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano at the Bloomingdale Community Station on Bell Shoals Road at (813) 635-8040.



The BACC is monitoring the completion of the sidewalks on Canoga Park Drive near the Rec Center, a critical pedestrian safety issue.

Bloomingdale Avenue widening - Due for completion in mid-2001. Will offer some relief to traffic flow.

YMCA Crossover - Enhanced crossover between campo YMCA and Bloomingdale Little League Park is awaiting completion of Bloomingdale Avenue widening and funding.

Sidewalks -sidewalks on Canoga Park Drive in Bloomingdale West pose a major safety concern. Kids have to walk in the street to get to Culbertson Recreation Center. Funded, but then rolled into a joint project with another unfunded sidewalk project.

Springvale traffic signal - included in Bloomingdale Avenue Widening project.

Intersection improvements - Intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road. At one time rated the second most dangerous intersection in Hillsborough County. Improvements included in Bloomingdale Avenue widening project.

Erindale and Lithia-Pinecrest traffic signal -no project planned as of this date.

Truck route review - Many trucks speeding on Bloomingdale

Alafia Elementary traffic - Some new measures put in place. Vote on new school on Culbreath Road approved.

Culbreath Road street lights - South end of Culbreath Road. Very dark, dangerous area. Rejected by residents on east side of Culbreath.

Alafia River canoe access - County Parks recommends southeast side of Bell Shoals Road. Residents reject due to security concerns.

Garnet and Bell Shoals Road - Needs turn lane or traffic signal. No project as of this date.

Dumont and River Crossing - 4-way stop requested. Turned down by County.

River Crossing bus stop - corner of Natures Way and River Crossing. Under consideration.

MacDill Family Support Center - Needs new facility.

Speeding - Increased use of new radar speed monitor. More citations written. Must have cooperation of all drivers.

Rezoning: Taking away the rural atmosphere residents want and endangering wildlife.

Thirty-one acres on Springvale - Attempt to rezone for residential. Being sold. Possible solution would be purchase by County.

Proposed grocery store shopping center at Lithia-Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Avenue - County

Commissioners requiring the developer to increase the buffer zone. Thirty-one acres by Bloomingdale High (east side) - Attempt to rezone for commercial use stopped. Now open. Great location for new library and community park.

Construction: Continues along Bloomingdale Avenue. Increased traffic congestion.

MacDill Federal Credit Union - Estimated completion early 2001. YMCA- Estimated completion early 2001. Much needed.

Homes and apartments on west side of BSHS - Reduces land for school expansion.

Bloomingdale Executive Park - Estimated completion mid-2001. New post office - No date set.

Projects needed:

As growth continues and land disappears to commerce, the Bloomingdale community is losing the land for much needed projects including:

- Community park
- New recreation center
- Library

Improvements needed:

- Widen Bell Shoals Road - No plans as of this date.
- Improve Bloomingdale East Park - under consideration.

Ongoing projects:

- Support Bloomingdale High School's Enhanced Reading program - Donate magazines and provide reading volunteers.
- Support the "cases for kids" program with TPD - Donate suitcases and backpacks for kids.



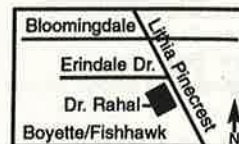
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Burns Middle School News

Volunteers of the Month

Big thanks to Bea Tomlinson and Jan Ehr Gott, our October and November volunteers of the month. Mrs. Tomlinson and Mrs. Ehr Gott both work on the copy team. The teachers truly appreciate all you do for them.

PTSA Members needed

In order to have 100% membership, 75% of our total enrollment must join our PTSA. We are about 75 members away from our goal. If you have not joined yet, please do. Your membership supports your student and the school. The Burns PTSA pays for all kinds of things ... homework hotline, incentives, books and parties, and much more. PTSA members are also eligible for membership in the Suncoast Schools Credit Union. We will have a Suncoast representative at Burns in January. If you'd like to join the Burns Middle School PTSA, please send \$5 for adults and \$3 for students in an envelope with your name, student's name and homeroom teacher.

"What I'm thankful for" essay contest winners

The winners of our November "What I'm thankful for" essay contest are Andrew Bottoms, Kyle Sweatnum and Anthony Lobascio. Andrew, Kyle and Anthony, all 5th grade students at Alafia Elementary, will receive Party Land gift certificates courtesy of the Bloomingdale

Homeowners Association. Thanks to all the children who entered our contest. You shared so many wonderful things with us that you are thankful for. Choosing just a few winners was very difficult. Here are a few excerpts:

"The first thing I'm thankful for is the Lord. Why? Here's why. Let's say there was no Lord. There would be no big bang, no universe, no earth, no oxygen, no human beings, or better yet no animals. Nothing, repeat nothing, would exist... Oh yeah, and if there was no Lord, the devil would take over Heaven and Heck!" Andrew Bottoms

"I'm thankful for my life. I mean, sometimes I take advantage of it. Everyone does, but most of the time by the time you notice it, you have already done it." Tiffany Gunn

"I'm thankful for mi babe harmono (my baby brother) Aaron for making me laugh, for coming into my life, for being my baby brother." Anthony Lobascio

"One of the things I am thankful for is my freedom. In the U.S., I can say what I think, write what I want to write. With my freedom, I can do what I think is right." Kyle Sweatnum

"First, I'm thankful for my family. If you didn't have family, you would be an orphan, and no one wants that." Connor McNeal

"I am especially thankful for my dog, cause he makes me feel like I have responsibilities, and he takes my sister's place when she is gone at school." Juan Carlos Sanchez

The Bloomingdale Community Expresses our heartfelt sympathy To the family and friends of Jessica Waterford

Restaurant Review

By Elton Dumont

Exclusive to The Bloomingdale Gazette

Joey's Famous Philly Steaks
921 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico
Next to Gold's Gym
(813) 662-5300

I am voting early in the 2001 "Best of Brandon" contest. With no dimples, chads or undercounts, I'm stating right now that Joey's has the best Philly Cheese Steaks in Brandon!

Owner Joey Viscomi is from South Jersey, also known as a Philly suburb. He has family and relatives in the central Philly area, and he proved to me that he knows the real definition of a great cheese steak sandwich.

I had the Cheese Steak with the Works, with grilled onions, peppers, mushrooms, cheese and the best tasting shaved steak I've had in years, for only \$5.30. Other sandwiches include a plain cheese steak with grilled onions, Pepper Steak, Mushroom Steak, Hoagie Steak and the Pizza Steak with provolone cheese and pizza sauce, all under \$5.

My wife had a grilled Philly Chicken and Cheese (\$4.80) with no onions. The all white meat is marinated and then sliced just as thinly as the steak. The good wife actually pestered me into committing when we're going back because she enjoyed it so much. There's also the

Italian Chicken (\$5.00) and the Philly Chicken and Cheese with the Works (\$5.35).

Specialty sandwiches, all under \$6, include turkey and veggie hoagies, Italian roast pork or roast beef, homemade meatballs, parmesan breaded chicken and homemade tuna salad. Other choices and sides include batter dipped onion rings, jalapeno poppers, mozzarella sticks, breaded fried mushrooms and shrimp in a basket.

One neat idea is the pepper bar, where you can help yourself to whole or sliced pepperoncinis, cherry peppers and jalapenos. They have homemade soup daily, and featured Mushroom Bisque on the day we were there. A kid's menu offers a \$3.75 choice of chicken fingers, PBJ, grilled cheese and shrimp in a basket.

And of course, the desserts. They change every day, and may include fresh homemade canolis, applesauce muffins, 6" chocolate chip cookies, Italian chocolate cake and real (I mean very real) homemade apple pie. They also have specialty seasonal desserts, and so on our December visit, they featured a Christmas tree chocolate cake.

And finally, remember to pick up your punch card. Once you buy 12, you get the 13th free. I suggest you visit soon. The long lines are about to start for their quality items.

Until we eat again,

Elton Dumont



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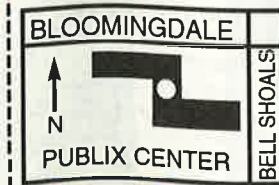
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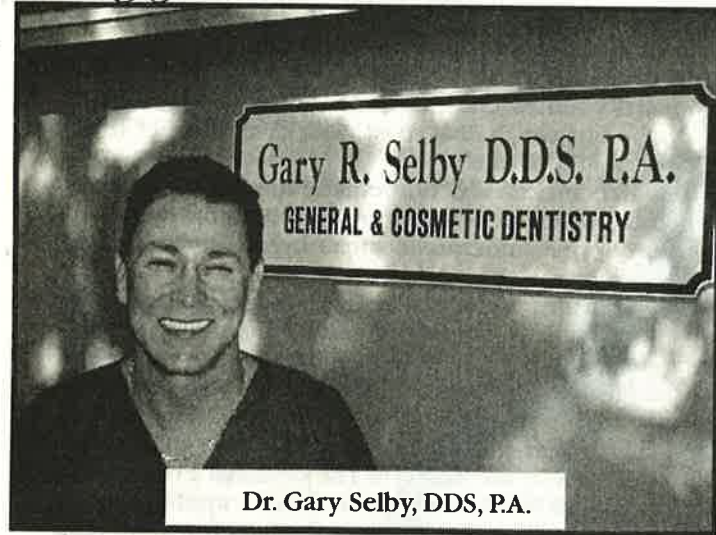


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Dr. Selby opens new office

Dr. Gary Selby, DDS, P.A., announces the opening of his new office at 410 West Bloomingdale Avenue, immediately east of Paul Sanders Park at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Kings Road in Brandon.

Dr. Selby relocated his office from Bloomingdale Square Plaza, where his practice was based for eleven years. Dr. Selby has 27 years dentistry experience and practices general, cosmetic and restorative dentistry, promising "Technology with a tender touch."

For more information, call (813) 654-0037.

Thank You Chris!

Thanks go out to Chris Martin for her efforts on behalf of the community as she resigns from her position of Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Recording Secretary. Bloomingdale resident Joe Liguori said, "Chris has certainly been a great plus to the BSTD as well as very helpful to the Gazette and the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association." We wish Chris and Leonard Martin well, and thank them for their help and support over the past 3 years.



Lassie came home!

Proof positive that pet ID chips, and caring neighbors, come in handy

By Laura Frazier

Bloomingdale East residents Suzanne Palmer and Rick Lamarre were heartbroken when they returned from work one day in December to find that their 7 year old female collie, Celtie, had dug her way under their backyard fence and disappeared. The couple often gave Celtie the run of the yard during cool, sunny fall days, which the dog relished.

During her two-day trek, the adventurous canine somehow made her way across busy Bell Shoals Road into Bloomingdale West, where several neighbors spotted her. Luckily for Celtie, she happened upon Bloomingdale West resident Katy Grable, pet lover and veterinary tech at Care Animal Hospital.

"She (Celtie) followed us home that evening, where we fed her. Then my dad (Ted Grable, President of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association) issued a BHA e-mail broadcast seeking her owner." The BHA had not received any e-mail responses by the next morning, and Celtie remained stationed at the Grable's home.

That afternoon, Katy borrowed Care's pet ID chip scanner. A scan indicated that an ID chip was indeed implanted in the dog. Katy remembers scanning over it several times to be sure.

"There are different types of chips available, but the scanners are universal," she said. "I called the toll free hotline, the operator took the number and my information and forwarded it to the owner."

About 15 minutes later, the dog was back home, none worse for



Celtie is back home with Suzanne Palmer and Rick Lamarre, thanks to a pet ID chip and Katy Grable.

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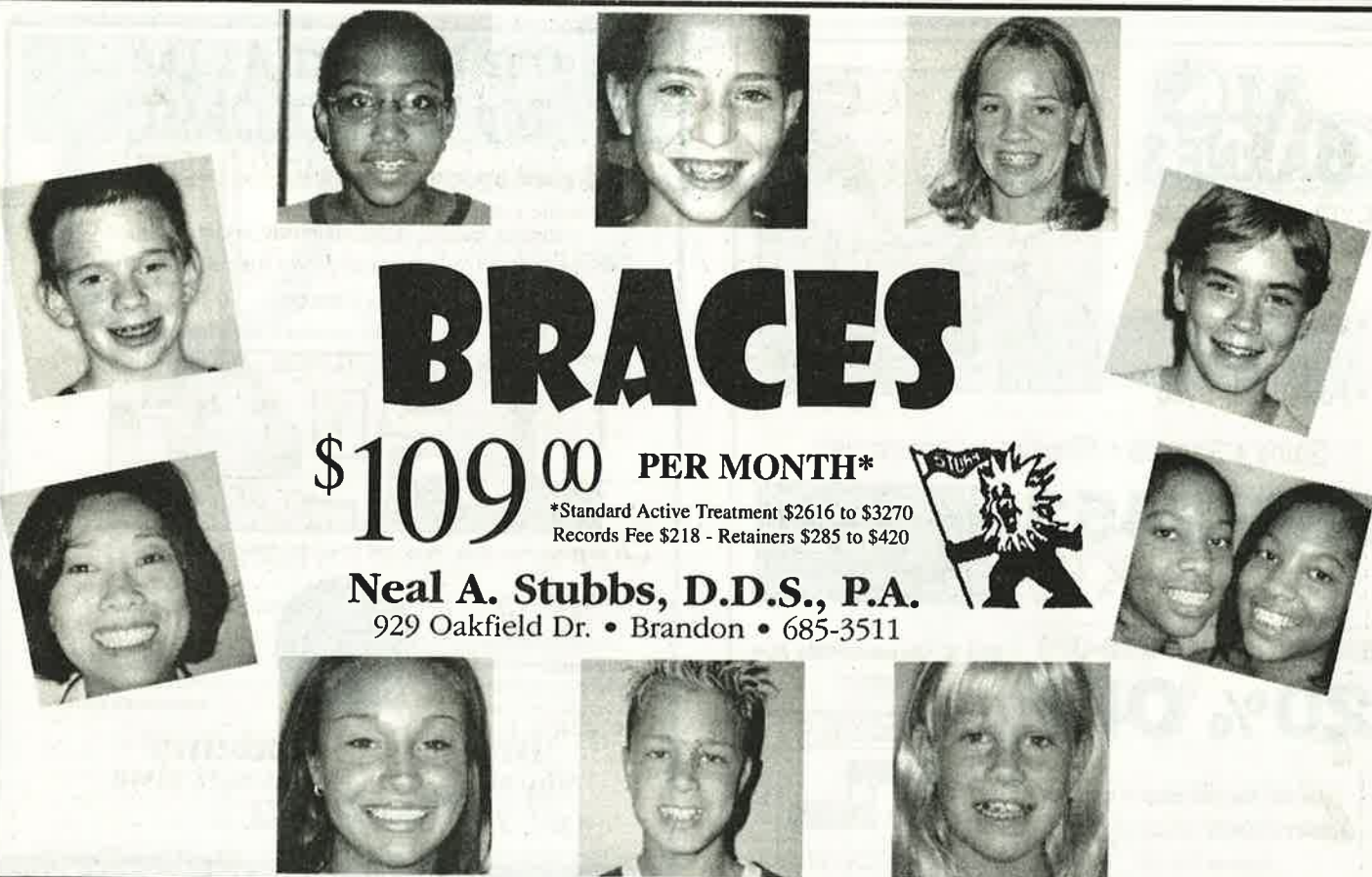
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Substation Notes

By Deputy Pete Maurer

As we begin a new year, Officer Capitano and I would like to wish each and every resident of Bloomingdale a very safe and prosperous 2001. 2000 was a very successful year for us and our fellow officers who work in and out of your Community Station.

Crime prevention programs were very effective. The new speed monitor proved effective in slowing traffic in some areas. Increased motor patrols were initiated. A very successful "Cease Fire 2000" removed dangerous weapons from homes with children. Numerous community improvements were made through positive coordination with County Departments.

These improvements were possible only with the dedication and support of the many volunteers from our community who worked together. From the Bloomingdale Area Community Council members who met, monitored projects and made progress with them, to the "Cease Fire 2000" volunteers, and the many residents who donated magazines to the BSHS Reading Program or suitcases and gym bags to the TPD "Cases for Kids" Program, much progress was made in our group effort to improve our community.

Growth continues in the form of many County and commercial projects in our community. One of the most critical areas of concern is traffic. When one driver gets in a hurry and speeds, cuts off another, runs a stop sign or passes a stopped school bus, we're all affected. We may have kids on that bus. We may be approaching that intersection. We may be in front of the speeder or the driver committing road rage.

Those of us who work in law enforcement see the results. We make the call to 911, call for the helicopter, help the EMTs as they remove the

bodies or have to tell a family member the bad news. All of this because someone just had to get somewhere in a hurry. I'll never understand why. I always thought life was more precious than saving a few minutes going home.

There are some areas that need all drivers to give special attention to, including the construction zones on Bloomingdale Avenue, Natures Way, the stop signs in front of Publix, Canoga Drive near the Culbertson Recreation Center, Culbreath Road near Alafia Elementary and the intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road by the YMCA and Bloomingdale Little League Park, and all of the exits around the Bloomingdale square shopping center. Speeding, road rage and other traffic violations will not be tolerated.

As your Community Resource Deputy and Community Resource Officer, Officer Capitano and I resolve to continue our service to you in 2000. We would also suggest that you make resolutions that will make our community safe and secure. Resolve to drive safer, use your seat belt, insure that others with you use their belts and most importantly insure that all children are buckled up in their properly installed child or booster seats.

Slow down. Enjoy life. Don't ruin your life and someone else's just because you're in a hurry. Make 2001 the year you decide to drive responsibly and safely.



The area around the Wal-Mart garden shop and entrance to the Bloomingdale square shopping center require extra cautious navigation.

New County animal ordinance in effect January 1

Effective January 1, 2001, a new Hillsborough County animal control ordinance calls for new restrictions on domestic cats, including the confinement of felines to the owner's property. Guidelines for the new ordinance are as follows:

- All dogs must wear identification tags when outside. Cats must wear tags around the neck or on the ear, or have a tattoo or microchip.
- All outdoor cats must be spayed or neutered.
- An existing policy for dogs will be extended to cats. Cats won't be allowed to go onto private property without the landowner's consent.
- Veterinarians must have rabies tags available and will display information on the new rules.
- Anyone selling more than 20 dogs or cats a year must register with the county to obtain a permit.
- Anyone striking or interfering with a service animal may be cited.
- Fines may rise for some infractions, and fines will be added to a number of violations that do not currently have them.

For more information, please call the Hillsborough County information line at 272-5900.

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Property Manager's Report

November 2000

Submitted by Al Devney, President
 DPMI Property Management, Inc.

Irrigation:
 Brandon Irrigation repaired the cycling problem in the Callista 1 system and replaced the defective timer on the Kendal system.



Al Devney, President, DPMI Property Management, Inc.

Landscaping:
 Planscape replaced 6 dead palm trees on Erindale and installed 1400 poinsettias in Bloomingdale East and West, Greenturf trimmed all the palm trees, Neighborhood Pest Control fertilized the area with granular 15-0-22 with Dursban and sprayed for weeds and insects with Tolstar and Dacomil.

Miscellaneous:
 Terry Russell repaired the broken lights at the Pine Grove entrance, Communities of America installed the Christmas bows on the light poles, DPMI installed the Christmas lights and bows on the Bloomingdale signs, Hillsborough County Road and Street continues to repair the hazardous sidewalks in our area, the Public Works Department is looking into the wheelchair access problem we have at Culbreath and Natures Way and at the Elba and Holleman entrances.

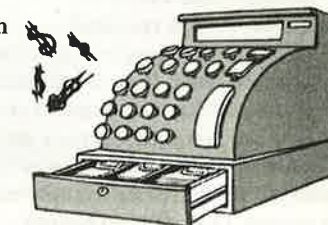
Damage Control:

There were four accidents in the area this month; car vs. rock at Bell Shoals and Garnet, car vs. lake on Natures Way, car vs. wall on Natures Way and car vs. wall part 2 on Natures Way. In all cases, the car lost and excessive speed was the problem.

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window - DPMI picked up 20 bags of trash, 2 pillow cases, 3 towels, 2 shirts, 3 hub-caps, a training wheel, a shovel and 18 cents. The beverages of choice were Sprite for soft drinks, Ice House for beer and Leningrad Vodka for distilled spirits.

Sales tax increase effective February 1

Hillsborough County sales tax jumps from the current 6.75% to 7% on February 1, 2001, a month earlier than originally anticipated. The increase reflects a new 1/2 cent accrual earmarked for the Indigent Health Care Fund, established by Hillsborough County to provide health care for impoverished County residents.



According to the Hillsborough County Communications Department, 6 cents is allocated to state taxes, and 1/2 cent is allotted each to the Community Investment Tax Fund and the Indigent Health Care Fund.

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Scooters recalled

Many kids received a scooter for Christmas. The following two brands of scooters were recently recalled because of faulty handlebars that caused riders to lose control:

Kent International – Kent Kickin' Mini Scooter 90,000 recalled.

The handles can come out of the steering column if the clamp holding them is not tightly secured. These were sold at Toys-R-Us stores from May through September. Call Kent International to receive a free replacement handlebar. 800-451-5368.

Kash-N-Gold Ltd – Racer X20 – 7,500 recalled.

Plastic joint connecting the handles to the steering column can break. Sold at Discovery and Mervyn's stores (not local) and on the Discovery web site in August and September. Return scooters to the stores for a refund or new scooter. Contact Kash-N-Gold at 800-354-8785.



They're fun, and dangerous! Scooter riders should wear appropriate safety equipment including helmets.

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Education Profile



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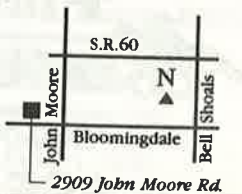
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Canoe access across Bell Shoals Road?

By Mack Austin

County officials have proposed a new location for access to the Alafia River that canoeists have been requesting for several months. The new location isn't very far from the now closed unofficial site that canoeists sought to reopen; in fact it's just across Bell Shoals Road.

Phil Evans, regional parks section manager for Hillsborough County's Parks and Recreation Department, presented the new proposal for this controversial project at a meeting last month at the Stephanie Ann Culbertson Recreation Center. Opinions hadn't changed much since the last meeting.

Canoeists from the Alafia Basin Stewardship council want access to the Alafia River at this site because it is at the lower end of a state designated canoe trail. There is no other location nearby for them to load and unload their canoes and equipment.

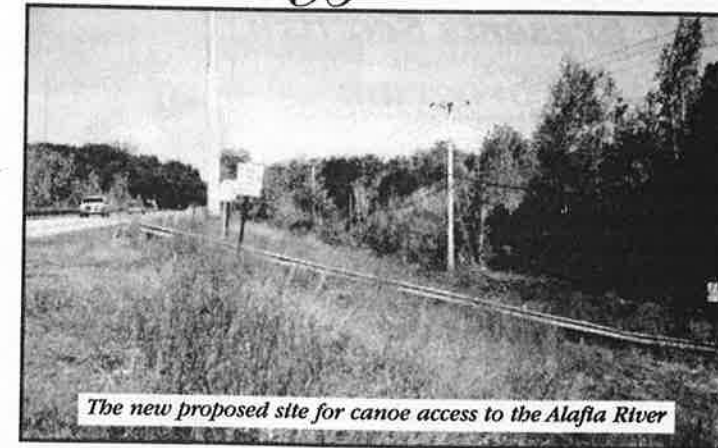
Residents who live near the proposed site and along the river expressed concerns about the potential for illegal parking, a lack of security, vandalism and more traffic congestion. One resident mentioned that drivers would have to slow down on this extremely busy road to turn into the site. They noted the site is already

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

being considered for a water intake structure on the river. The proposed site would cost around \$30,000 and would consist of a shell-paved driveway and parking for eight to ten cars. Some issues remain open, including how to secure the site, what the access hours would be and who would open and lock the gates (Parks and Rec staff could possibly handle this concern).

Residents wanted some definite assurance of a security plan. The unofficial canoe launch on the northeast side of Bell Shoals had all-night parties, trash and crime that caused it to be closed by the Sheriff's Office. Nothing definite was decided at the December meeting. Anyone, canoeist or resident, who would like information on this project can contact Phil Evans at 903-2258.



The new proposed site for canoe access to the Alafia River

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DAR presents Scottish heritage program

John Bruce, President of the Scottish St. Andrews Society of Tampa Bay will present a program on Scottish heritage at the Alafia River Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) January 4 meeting. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at Brandon First Baptist Church, Parsons Avenue at Sadie Street in Brandon. Hostesses for the meeting are June Patton and Melba Mobley. Guests are welcome. Please contact 684-0843 or 689-3438 for more information.



Cruisin' together

Realtor Luana Russell, with Re/Max ACR Group, Inc. in Brandon, celebrated an outstanding year of 5-Star Service by taking her Team Manager Linda Genco (l), and Service Manager Diane Schoeffel (r), on a cruise to the Bahamas. The trio enjoyed three fun-filled days aboard Carnival's Fantasy Fun Ship. Relaxation, entertainment and pampering were eagerly enjoyed by all.



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