

FEATURE STORY



Santa and Mrs. Claus pay a special visit to Chadd's Ford.

PAGE 6

COMMUNITY YEARBOOK

Take a look back at some of the neighborhood news stories that made headlines in 2006.

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BHA President Ted Grable, with Vice President Joe Hickle and board member Dale Kahn, also chairman of the association's scholarship committee, led the baggie brigade to assemble paper lantern kits.

Neighbors, BHA Bag Scholarship Assistance

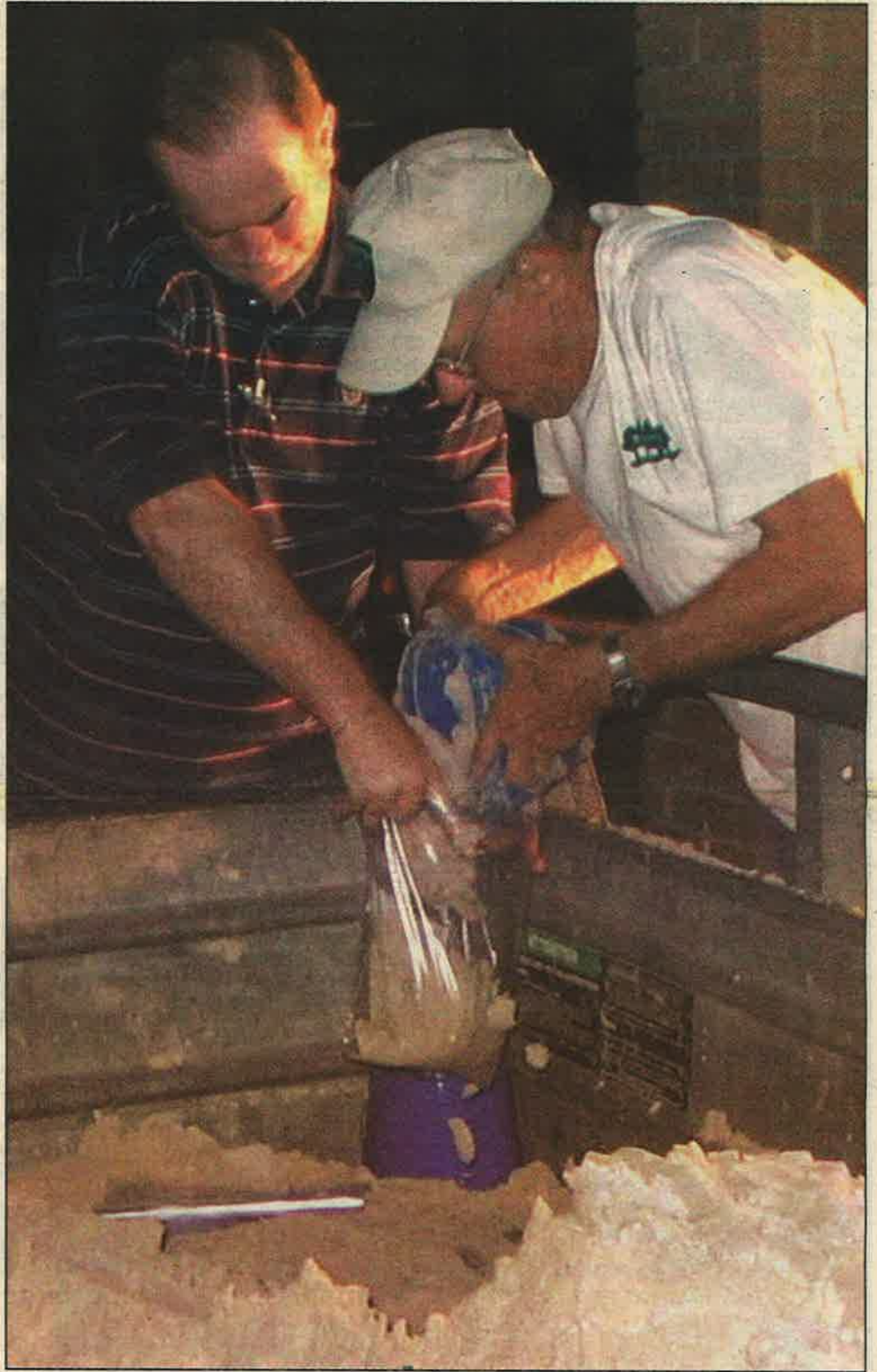
PAPER LANTERN SALE PUMPED UP AWARD

A Gazette Report

Bloomington Homeowners Association board members and neighborhood volunteers assembled, packaged and sold more than 100 paper lantern kits during the BHA's luminaria fundraiser and contest in December.

Neighbors in the Chadd's Ford section of Bloomington East purchased the highest percentage of luminarias per home to claim the contest grand prize — a neighborhood visit from Santa and

See **SCHOLARSHIP**, Page 15



BHA board members George May and Myron Magedanz help scoop a truckload of sand into plastic bags for more than 200 luminaria kits the group assembled.

SPORTS ♦ PAGE 11

Bullets Baseball Marathon Set For Saturday, Jan. 6

Proceeds To Benefit Brandon Community Foundation

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B L O O M I N G D A L E L A W E N F O R C E M E N T

Community Asked To Help Stop Crimes, Vandalism

MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS

By LAURA FRAZIER
Editor

A wave of vandalism recently hit Bloomington and left, in its wake, more than \$4,000 in community property damage and a dubious gallery of graffiti. The upsurge in criminal mischief prompted Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies and community groups to ask the public to help identify the culprits.

Al Devney, property manager of the Bloomington Special Taxing District, said vandals in November broke dozens of floodlights and spotlights at the entrances to Cambridge Cove, River Crossing, Bloomington Cove and Somerset. In addition, community directory signs posted on Culbreath Road at Natures Way and at Erindale Drive were destroyed.

A rash of graffiti also spread throughout Bloomington in early December. Devney and hired helpers spent weeks cleaning up and covering the graffiti, which was painted on block walls and buildings all over the community.

The \$4,000 repair expenses incurred by the taxing district were a big hit to its already tight reserves, Devney said. He

hopes residents will come forward with any information they might have about the destruction.

"The taxing district, and ultimately Bloomington residents, pay to fix or replace damaged community property, unless the (vandals) are caught and restitution is made," Devney said.

The taxing district is one of several public entities asking for help from neighbors to stop the crimes.

Pete Maurer, Bloomington's community resource deputy, urged residents to report all acts of vandalism to the sheriff's office and the substation. Even if people have limited information, he said deputies want to hear from them.

In a heavily populated residential area like Bloomington, Maurer said someone had to have seen or heard something.

"We need to know what's going on out there to prevent this problem from continuing or escalating."

In addition to marking walls throughout the community, vandals used black and gold spray paint to deface buildings at Cimino Elementary School, Bloomington High School and Bloomington Regional Public Library.

Along with the letters "c" and "vc," the word "crip," the widely-known name of a gang syndicate prevalent in

Los Angeles appeared in the graffiti. Letters on the marquee sign at Alafia Elementary School were re-arranged to spell out the gang moniker. The familiar tag alarmed neighbors who saw the markings before officials had a chance to remove them.

The incidents are still under investigation, but Maurer said deputies have no reason to believe the damage was done by anyone other than neighborhood kids.

"We've definitely seen an increase in these types of activities lately, but we don't see any evidence of organized, violent gang activity."

The spike in vandalism and criminal mischief was reported to the sheriff's office gang unit task force as a matter of policy, Maurer said.

"But at this point, we believe these are neighborhood kids, ranging anywhere from elementary school-age to teenagers, out looking for trouble."

A host of vandalism and criminal mischief incidents were reported in recent weeks, including a spate of outdoor holiday decoration thefts in December. Most of the acts occurred in the same general area of Bloomington East. However, it is not yet clear if some or all of the incidents are directly related.

Clerks at the post office in Valrico in November received reports of mail tampering in Bloomington East. In addition, residents told the Bloomington Homeowners Association at least a dozen mailboxes in the Oakcrest section were destroyed the same week, in broad daylight, during school hours. In December, five days before Christmas, deputies discovered several dozen opened envelopes, cards and small packages dumped at a county park on Deepbrook Drive.

Some neighbors are also concerned about teens trespassing and loitering well after midnight in a wooded conservation area that backs up to Moreland Drive in the Oakcrest section of Bloomington. The Bloomington Homeowners Association determined in December the county-owned pond and surrounding property fall under the jurisdiction of the storm water division of public works. Homeowners association volunteers are working with county staff to determine if a fence could be installed to block access to the area.

The spate of illegal activity concerns BHA President Ted Grable, who called on the community to help stop the crimes.

See CRIME, Page 14

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B L O O M I N G D A L E L A W E N F O R C E M E N T

Simple Steps Thwart Criminals, Tragedy

PLANS PROTECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER
Community Resource Deputy

As 2007 begins, Officer Capitano and I would like to wish each and every resident of Bloomingdale and the surrounding communities a very safe and secure New Year. Sandy and I would also like to thank those of you who provided support to us during this past year.

The safety and security of the residents of our community is the reason we're here at the substation. Working with concerned residents, we have been able to make Bloomingdale a safer and more secure place to live and work and enjoy life.

Those of us with the sheriff's office do our best to help keep you, your families, your homes and businesses safe and secure. But the one person who can do more than anyone to keep you and yours safe and secure is ... you.

Some recent incidents in our community bring this point out very well, including a serious early-morning fire that happened in December at a home not far from the substation. Several engines from Hillsborough County Fire-Rescue and numerous deputies responded. Damage to the home was very severe. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured in the fire, but one pet did not survive. Obviously, the family was emotionally distraught by the loss.

The outpouring of assistance and concern and offers of help were out-

standing. This shows the type of community we live in.

Several residents said it was a wakeup call for them. They said they were going to have smoke detectors installed, purchase fire extinguishers and have family members become familiar with how to use them, and to develop and practice an escape plan. All of these are critical steps that must be taken before a fire starts. These steps do save lives.

The holidays are over now, and residents are enjoying the nice gifts they received, everything from new bikes to new cars. Now is the time to take the steps to protect these special gifts and not let criminals take them. These steps include ensuring your garage doors are locked, outside vehicles are locked and all valuables removed from them, and

other valuable items like bikes are secured inside. They will walk away.

When you are away, make sure your home is secured. For extended periods of absence, make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to get your mail and paper, or have them stopped until you return.

We all hear these safety and security steps over and over every year. The simple fact is that until you take action and do them, you leave your family and your property open to tragedy and criminals.

Make 2007 a safe and secure year. Take personal responsibility for your property, your home and your vehicles. No one will miss them more than you. Also, be a good neighbor by watching out for your own neighbors.

B L O O M I N G D A L E N E I G H B O R H O O D N E W S

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEWS

A Gazette Report

County Hires New Director of Planning and Growth Management

Hillsborough County has hired Peter Aluotto as Director of the County's Planning and Growth Management Department. Aluotto has 30 years of experience in comprehensive planning, economic development and redevelopment.

Previously the director of Planning and Zoning in Escambia County, Florida, Aluotto also headed the Develop-

ment Services Department for the city of Daytona Beach.

Aluotto has 13 years of experience in Tampa and Hillsborough County, in public and in private sector planning and development. He has masters' degrees in urban planning and public administration.

Aluotto will start with Hillsborough County on Feb. 19. He will manage a staff of 336 employees and a \$36 million budget for the county.

Refusal To Pay Watering Fines Could Result In Steep Penalties

Under a new system adopted by Hillsborough County Dec. 1, homeowners who refuse to pay lawn watering penalties will be summoned to appear before a code enforcement special magistrate, who could impose a fine of as much as \$1,000 a day until the original penalty is paid. In extreme cases, the magistrate could choose to levy a one-time fine of \$15,000. Under the new system, fines are \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the

second and so on, leading up to \$500 for the fifth and succeeding violations. The county also has the authority to place a lien against property owners who refuse to pay fines for violating water restrictions.

For information on restrictions, call 275-7094 for a recorded message, visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water or call the Water Conservation Team, 274-6800.

Source: Hillsborough County News Press Releases

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: 681-2051 Fax: 684-2358
E-mail: Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net
Web Site: www.bloomingtondalegazette.com
BHA meetings are at the community office on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President: Ted Grable Vice President: Joe Hickle
Treasurer: Pam Liguori Director: Lydia Harrod
Director: Steve Heckel Director: Dale Kahn
Director: George May Director: Tim Shuman
Director: Myron Magedanz Director: Shelia Harris
Director: Stanley Lee

Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: 684-6667
E-mail: Bloomingtondale.district@Verizon.net
BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President: Thom Snelling

Vice President: Russell Jones
Treasurer: David West
Recording Secretary: Michael Buday
Trustee: David Steck
Trustee: Joe Harless
Property Manager: Al Devney

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Bloomingtondale Area Substation

Bloomingtondale Village Center, Bell Shoals Road.
Open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Community Resource Deputy: Pete Maurer
Non-Emergency Calls Only: 635-8040

Bloomingtondale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
Phone: 685-2817
BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
President: Bill Grace
Treasurer: Fred Englehart

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980
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Editor — Laura Frazier
Correspondent — Mack Austin
Correspondent — Leslie White
Correspondent — Dawn Zamanis
Restaurant Critic — Elton Dumont

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Chadd's Ford Lights The Way For Santa

SECTION WON FUNDRAISER CONTEST

A Gazette Report

Misty, rainy skies this Christmas couldn't keep Santa Claus from finding his way to Chadd's Ford in Bloomingdale.

Residents of the 48-home neighborhood lined the sidewalks of their section with hundreds of glowing paper lanterns on Christmas Eve to light the way for Santa's arrival.

The neighbors purchased the lantern kits in December during the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's luminaria fundraiser contest.

On Dec. 16, the group enjoyed the contest's grand prize—a personal neighborhood visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Dozens of kids and kids-at-heart cheered as Santa and Mrs. Claus drove through Chadd's Ford in their "sleigh"—a shiny new Ford Mustang convertible piloted by "elf" George May.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

See SANTA, Page 14 Dozens of children in Chadd's Ford clamored for a nod — and some candy — from Santa and Mrs. Claus Dec. 16.

All Aboard!

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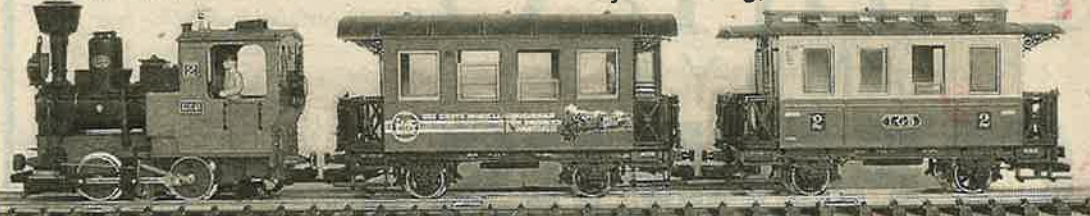
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Bloomingtondale Community Yearbook: 2006

New Fire Chief On Board

Raul Velasquez has climbed his fair share of ladders during his career as a volunteer firefighter. Velasquez was promoted to assistant chief at Bloomingtondale Volunteer Fire Department in 2005, then served as acting chief when Teddy Beisecker resigned in 2006. A Velasquez was named chief of BVFD in the summer of 2006.



Photos and story excerpts reprinted from Vol. 28 of The Bloomingtondale Gazette 2006. Bloomingtondale takes a look back at just a few of the many memorable community events and news items featured in the Gazette over the past year. For more archived stories and photos, log on to www.bloomingtondalegazette.com. See more photos, page 12.



Neighborhoods Clean Up Nicely

Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association board members and neighborhood volunteers helped residents unload and dispose of an estimated 150 cubic yards of household junk and discards at a community cleanup day in September. BHA board member Lydia Harrod, who volunteers to organize the twice-annual event, said traffic flow was smooth at the fall cleanup. After the site closed, volunteers conducted about a dozen pick-ups for senior citizens and disabled residents who called to ask for help. Funding and equipment for cleanup days are provided by the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations, under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners. The event is organized and manned by BHA board members, neighborhood volunteers and parks department staff. Future cleanup days will be announced in the Gazette and on www.bloomingtondalegazette.com.



Top Grad Earns Highest GPA In School History

Roger Nehaul, valedictorian, and Melissa Miller, salutatorian, stood at the head of Bloomingtondale Senior High School's class of 2006. Nehaul, the son of Nadira and Cecil Nehaul, finished his senior year with a 7.72 average, the highest on record since the school opened in 1987. He currently attends the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he planned to major in pre-med biology. Melissa Miller ran a close second to Nehaul's record-setting average. The daughter of Dorothy and Allen Miller, she earned a 7.4 average. Miller also planned to attend UF last fall, with a major in pre-veterinary studies. On May 21, 2006, 184 of 502 graduating Bloomingtondale seniors commenced with honors. About 80 percent planned to attend college. More than 200 seniors in the class of 2006 qualified for the Florida Bright Futures scholarship.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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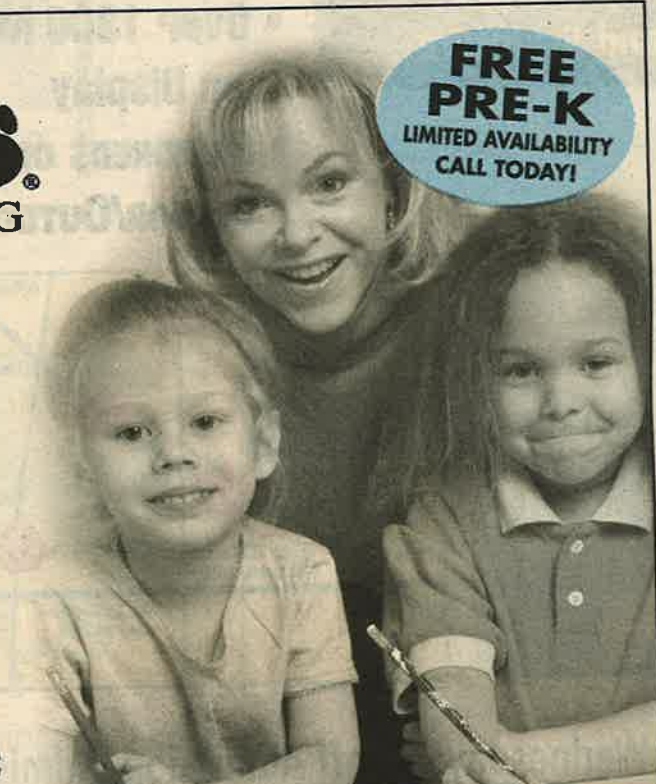
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Girl Scouts Seek Mentors

NEED BUSINESS, LIFE SKILLS ADVISERS

A Gazette Report

The Girl Scouts of Suncoast Council is looking for mentors to guide girl scouts through the organization's annual cookie sale program.

The group needs mentors throughout the Suncoast Council area, which includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Through the mentor program, girls learn teamwork, goal-setting, money management and many other essential business and life skills.

Mentors will assist girls through the cookie sale program, which begins in January and concludes in March. For more information, call Rhonda Collins, 281-4475, Ext. 203.

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Bloomingtondale Regional Library Is Wi-Fi Hotspot

FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

A Gazette Report

The third largest circulation rate in the county and jam-packed public pro-

grams aren't the only reasons Bloomingtondale Regional Library is a bonafide hotspot.

Laptop and wireless device users can connect to the library's wireless network for free anytime during regular library hours.

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The Bloomingtondale library is open Monday — Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Information: 273-3652.

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BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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A Gazette Report

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Company reps will answer questions and distribute equipment at the Bloomingdale Regional Library on Friday, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 1-888-832-4314. Walk-ins are welcomed.

Foundation Plans Golf, Poker Tournaments

BENEFITS BRANDON AREA CHARITIES

A Gazette Report

The Greater Brandon Community Foundation will host its annual Brandon Charity Golf Classic Feb. 8-12 at River Hills Country Club in Valrico, and a Texas Hold 'Em Charity Poker Tournament Feb. 9 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

The golf classic features a Celebrity Pro-Am tournament and a First Tee Invitational tournament of champions.

The Celebrity Pro-Am is set for Feb. 10 at River Hills. A concert

featuring local and national talents, sponsored by Dallas Bull and WQYK, will take place Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person.

The First Tee Invitational, sponsored by Lexus of Tampa Bay, is set for Feb. 12 at River Hills starting at 9 a.m.

Registration for the Texas Hold 'Em tournament at Hard Rock on Feb. 9 starts at 2 p.m. The tournament begins at 3 p.m. The entry fee is \$250 per person.

A variety of auction items and additional sponsors are welcome to join the fundraising effort. Autoway Nissan has donated a 2007 Nissan Altima. Chance draw-

ing tickets are offered with a suggested \$100 donation. The foundation is offering 1000 chances to win. The drawing will be held Feb. 12.

All proceeds from all of the events will benefit the Greater Brandon Community Foundation, which serves to provide a link between those with resources and those who need help, to mobilize individuals to become active partners in the building of a better community and to be a permanent resource for the needs of the community's future.

Information: www.brandon-foundation.com.

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B L O O M I N G D A L E S P O R T S

Baseball Marathon To Benefit Brandon Foundation

100 INNINGS IN ONE DAY

A Gazette Report

The Bullets Baseball organization, in partnership with the Hillsborough County parks department, will host its third annual marathon baseball game fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 6.

The fundraiser will take place at Bloomingdale Little League, 2215 Bloomingdale Ave. Games will begin at 9 a.m. with a minimum of 100 innings played. Proceeds will benefit the Greater Brandon Community Foundation Inc.

The Brandon Foundation is a core

non-profit organization serving the Brandon area. It coordinates available resources, funds and volunteers, and allocates them to other select local charities that help put their mission into action.

The foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life and shape the future of the community by creating public awareness, developing resources and supporting initiatives that address local needs.

Each Bullets player will solicit donations for the event. Last January, the group raised \$12,000 to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer

Foundation. In 2005, the marathon netted \$7,500, which the team donated to the Disaster Relief Fund of the American Red Cross Tampa Bay Chapter, to benefit the victims of the 2004 hurricanes.

The Bullets were formed in the spring of 1998 by Coach Sal Giardina and Mike Lancaster as an 11-and-under team that featured their sons, Nick Lancaster and Carmine Giardina. Currently the league consists of nine teams ranging in age from 8 to 18.

For information, call (813) 661-4525 or e-mail angels1100@aol.com.

Arts & Crafts Fair At Port City Java Sunday, Jan. 7

ARTISANS AT LARGE

A Gazette Report

Artisans At Large, a group of local artists and crafters, holds art fairs at Port City Java on the first Sunday each month, from noon to 5 p.m.

The group will host its fair this month Jan. 7. Participants include The Bejeweled Faerie, offering original adornments in crystal and stone, and Ambient-Arts.com, offering a variety of unique, handmade creations.

Port City Java is at 3330 Lithia-Pinecrest Road in Valrico, at the corner of Lithia-Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Avenue.

For information e-mail Rebecca@bejeweledfaerie.com.

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Bloomingtondale Community Yearbook: 2006



West Returns To Bloomingtondale

Bloomingtondale High School Principal Mark West is relaxed as he walks around campus, pointing out features of interest. It's as if he's always been there. In a way he has. West came on board as principal in January 2006, but his photograph been hanging on the wall since 1987. He helped open the school, teaching physics for five years on the charter staff. "This is a great school because we have great people," he said. "I've got a caring staff, really committed to the kids. Plus we've got some fine traditions. We're committed to excellence and we want the kids to succeed." Pictured, BHA vice president Joe Hickle, right, presents West with a plaque for the school to commemorate annual recipients of the B.J. Stelter Bloomingtondale Community Scholarship award.

'Aunt T' Inspires Niece To Think Pink

Bloomingtondale residents turned out in full force at many fundraisers held in 2006 to raise money for cancer research and survivor programs. Pictured, 9-year-old Lindsey Hauer, standing in back, joined by her friend Taylor, at left, cousin Haley, at right, and aunt Tammy Woodhall, set up shop on Culbreath in October to sell pink



lemonade and lollipops to benefit the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The Cimino Elementary School student was inspired to help the cause by Woodhall, her "Aunt T," a breast cancer survivor.



Santa Returns

Bloomingtondale's own Santa and Mrs. Claus made their 17th annual visit to the community in December 2006. Pictured with eight-year-old brothers Kaleb and Kolin Boje, the couple visited with more than 100 children and collected a sleighful of food donations for local charities. The annual visit is just one of many stops the couple makes in various spots throughout Brandon and Valrico each year.



Patriotic Fun

Representatives of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Inc. and friends joined in the patriotic fun at Brandon's 46th annual Fourth of July Parade in 2006. The group rode in golf carts provided courtesy of Bloomingtondale Golfer's Club. Pictured at the wheel, Joni Hickle, a Bloomingtondale resident and former community office manager, treated her friend, Adel Kluger, to a ride along the parade route.

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Salon Jennifer Open In Bloomingdale

Jennifer Taylor, left, with Margarita Licker, welcomed clients to the December grand opening of Taylor's new business, Salon Jennifer, at 3507 Bell Shoals Road, next door to the Bloomingdale Community Office. The full-service salon welcomes walk-ins or appointments. Information: 681-6364.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Video E-Mail Greetings Sent Around The World

Bob Reina, at his Kingsway Road office with Shadow, one of seven dogs he owns, is CEO and founder of Global Video Talk, a proprietary software product and service business. In December, the company produced and distributed — for free — dozens of e-mail video messages to military and service member families separated at the holidays. Reina is also an active supporter of local non-profit animal help groups PAWS, Big Cat Rescue and Florida Veterinary Specialists' Hope Fund, which provides financial assistance to people who can't afford medical care for critically ill pets. This month, Reina plans to launch a charity division of his company. He'd like to help Brandon area non-profits market themselves more effectively by e-mail using his product technology. Information: www.globalvideotalk.com or call 315-2111.

Apply For School Choice, Magnet Programs

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A Gazette Report

The Hillsborough Choice application period for magnet programs and school choice began Dec 1 and lasts through Jan. 23.

Under Hillsborough Choice, students can apply for a magnet school or another school with available space within Hillsborough County. A student who wishes to remain at their current magnet or choice school, or prefers to attend their attendance area school, does not need to com-

plete an application.

School choice is available for students entering kindergarten through 11th grade. Magnet schools are available for students entering first through 12th grade.

Hillsborough Choice Application Guides were mailed to students' homes in mid-November. The guides provide information on magnet programs, school choice options and an application.

Applications are also available online at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/choice. Parents with questions about the programs can call the Choice Information Line, 272-4692.

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LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Jolly George May piloted Santa's "sleigh" through Chadd's Ford.

SANTA

Continued From Page 6

The Windsor Woods section came in second place, with 15 kits purchased. Other participating sections whose neighbors purchased five or more sets are Cambridge Cove, Fairway Manors, Sandy Creek Manor and Bloomingdale Estates. Augusta Village and Dogwood Hills also participated.

The association hopes to make the luminaria sale and contest an annual event.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community scholarship fund. Information: bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net, 681-2051.

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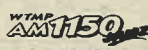
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Brandon Bears Youth Football, Cheerleading Sign-Ups Set

**NEW, RETURNING
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A Gazette Report

The Brandon Bears youth football and cheerleading organization will hold registration for returning players only on Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Feb. 18 from 1 p.m.

to 3 p.m.

A parent or legal guardian must be present and must bring the child's birth certificate and registration fees. Open registration will be held Saturday, March 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, March 4 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For information visit www.brandonbears.com or call Charlotte Danish, 829-9511.

Property Manager's Challenge: Keep Up With Vandalism Repairs

\$5000 TO FIX DAMAGES

A Gazette Report

Al Devney, Bloomingdale Special Taxing District property manager, had no trouble keeping busy during the last two months of 2006. Devney had his hands full trying to keep up with a slew of vandalism that cost the taxing district — and ultimately Bloomingdale residents — close to \$5,000 to fix.

In November, Devney reports, Specialty Pressure Washing cleaned graffiti off brick walls on Culbreath Road, Natures Way and Bell Shoals Road.

Russell Electric repaired the vandalized entrance lights at Cambridge Cove, River Close, Oak River, Grove way and Ellwood.

Shuman's Handiwork painted over graffiti on Canoga Park

Drive and Natures Way, and painted a repaired wall on Greenhollow Drive.

DPMI Property Management painted over graffiti on Natures Way, Bell Shoals Road and Canoga Park Drive.

In addition to the vandalism repairs, ZK Construction rebuilt a damaged wall on Greenhollow Drive, the third car-vs.-wall accident reported in 2006.

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, there were 24 bags of trash, 42 political signs, the normal "for sale for rent, garage sale, lost car, lost dog" signs, four large pieces of Plexiglas, a windshield wiper, a ping pong ball and 29 cents. The beverages choice were Coke for soft drinks, Bud Light for beer and the same old standard — O.G. Grand Dad — for distilled spirits.

CRIME

Continued From Page 3

"The problem of vandalism and criminal mischief requires the combined efforts of the sheriff's office and the people who live in Bloomingdale," Grable said.

"The entire community needs to be very observant in order to help identify the problem, and diligent in reporting what we see or hear to the sheriff's office. That's what helps solve crimes."

Grable said the homeowners association would accept anonymous comments and tips through its community Web site e-mail address, info@bloomingtondalegazette

.com.

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council, a volunteer group dedicated to helping resolve crime, safety and security concerns, plans to address the criminal mischief and vandalism problem at upcoming meetings. The council meets 7 p.m. on the third Thursday each month at the sheriff's office Bloomingdale substation.

Anyone with information urged to contact the sheriff's office, 247-8200, and the Bloomingdale substation, (813) 635-8040. Callers may remain anonymous.

The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomingdale residents along with The Tampa Tribune on the first Saturday of each month.



Former Bloomingle High School Principal B.J. Stelter, left, with BHA President Ted Grable, presents the community's inaugural college scholarship award to Michael Cocchiolo II in 2006. Below, Bloomingle residents Jan and Debbie Coppi, with BHA board member Lydia Harrod, seated, helped wrangle thousands of candles, bags and match books into neat kits.

SCHOLARSHIP

Continued From Page 1

Mrs. Claus (see story in this issue).

Bloomingle resident Joni Hickle volunteered to organize the fundraiser. Net proceeds will benefit the B.J. Stelter Bloomingle Community Scholarship Fund. Hickle said the group hopes to make the luminaria sale and contest an annual event.

The BHA established the scholarship in 2005 to honor Stelter upon her retirement as princi-

pal of Bloomingle High School, which she led from 1991 to 2005. The objective of the scholarship is to reward and encourage Bloomingle High School students to pursue a college career.

Scholarship information, eligibility criteria and application forms are available at the high school, at the community office and on www.bloominglegazette.com.



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