

The BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Hillsborough County's most informative community newspaper

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Let's Get Involved

BHA seeks assistance

By PAM PULLEY

Dealing with county government, homebuilders and fund-raising events is a challenge for the few who dare.

In Bloomingdale, the handful are like rolling tumbleweed in an endless desert.

Some are directors of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. Others are residents who conduct their own negotiations.

Some 1,000 Bloomingdale homeowners are members of the BHA, said USAF Lt. Col. Russ Lembke, the group's president.

There are roughly 3,500 homes in Bloomingdale and Lembke said he would like to see community involvement strengthened.

"The problem is trying to find people to support the activities," he said. "On the board, the same people do all the work."

Lembke referred to such BHA-sponsored fund-raising activities as the annual summer golf tournament and the October "Triple Header" and Roberts Bros. Circus.

The latter events are held at the two county parks in Bloomingdale.

The golf tournament cleared \$1,500 this year while the Triple Header--cycling, skating and running competitions--and circus held on successive days raised \$1,254.

Proceeds have gone toward the BHA scholarship fund and fire rescue fund.

The BHA awards college money to an outstanding senior at Bloomingdale Senior High School each year and maintains a reserve in its budget for victims of house fires in Bloomingdale.

The BHA, a non-profit association with 11 members, seeks greater participation from homeowners, Lembke said.

"The biggest frustration is getting (board) members to support activities and getting volunteers to come in and help," he said.

The golf tournament was successful. The Triple

Header suffered from a lack of volunteer coordination, Lembke said.

The circus sold out for one of two performances.

The ongoing membership drive is crucial to the survival of the 12-year-old BHA, Lembke said.

The six-month, \$10 fee per family goes into the activities which are designed as fund-raising ventures.

"Nobody is paid on the BHA board; we are in the same situation as everybody else is in," Lembke said. "Bloomingdale does have a reputation as a good place to live and it is so well maintained by the (Special Dependent Taxing District)."

BHA board members without fanfare negotiate with county officials for such amenities as increased street lighting and decreased speed limits.

Lights have gone up in the Erindale area; the county has scheduled the installation of traffic circles on congested Bloomingfield Drive; property code violations reported by residents are submitted to the county code enforcement board weekly by the Bloomingdale Community Office.

Copies of deed restrictions for all of Bloomingdale are available free of charge in the same office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center.

Deed restrictions vary from builder to builder, Lembke said. The BHA has no enforcement authority.

"We can go out and look at (a reported violation) and report it to the county and the county can put warning notices on the home," Lembke said.

The county code enforcement officials authorized to locate homeowners or mortgage holders who have abandoned their properties.

The BHA also battles builders whose construction and property lines do not conform to restrictions.

See BHA, Page 11

Involved

Meet new directors

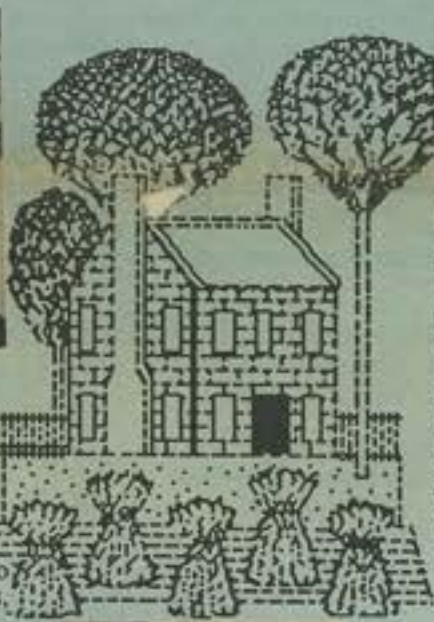
The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association recently welcomed 5 new members to the board. They are enthusiastic, visionary--and seek your input to improve the community.



Ted Grable

Age: 40
Resident: Bloomingdale West

Goals: "One of the things we need to do is increase visibility the BHA has in the community, not only to residents but to businesses, the county government, schools and churches."



Jeffrey Daniels

Age: 35
Resident: Bloomingdale East

Goals: "I want to make certain people inside and outside the community perceive it the same. I'm prejudiced because I live here but I want other people to feel the same way."



David Lees

Age: 47
Resident: Bloomingdale Estates

Goals: "We need to make certain every resident achieves some goals through the BHA. We work for the homeowners and I'd like to see them achieve their goals."



Jim Wiley

Age: 35
Resident: Bloomingdale East

Goals: "I enjoy the family atmosphere of the area and would like to help maintain it...the parks and safety of the neighborhoods."



Randy Wolfe

Age: 28
Resident: Bloomingdale East

Goals: "We need to educate the community on the accomplishments that can be made by the community as a whole by using the BHA as far as improving the standard of living and relationship between residents."

Meet Col. Russ Lembke/Page 3

'Mr. Harris' unretires/Page 8

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Statement of Operation

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

The Bloomingdale Gazette is published monthly with occasional special editions and is delivered in door-knob bags directly on the door of every residence within the area governed by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc., plus other selected areas at no charge. It is also mailed to approximately 300 recipients including public officials.

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

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Community Telephone Directory

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3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.
 Suite 101
 Valrico, FL 33594 • 681-2051

- President**
 Russ Lambke 681-2051
- Vice-President**
 Bill Povilus 654-4917
- Treasurer**
 Grace Lewis 681-4548
- Secretary**
 Joyce Morris 689-7019
- Directors**
 Dave Fraser unlisted
 Ted Grable 685-7193
 Jerry Hoffman 685-2919
 Tony Interdonato 681-2051
 David Lees 681-3999
 Doris L. Pence 684-4490
 Larry Rivers 653-2660

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

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 Valrico, FL 33594

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- Vice-President**
 Peter Alutto 685-0727
- Treasurer**
 Nancy Beckley 689-2810
- Recording Secretary**
 Thomas Brophy IV 653-3201
- Corresponding Secretary**
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- Trustee**
 Joe Liguori 681-9655
- Trustee**
 Wingfield Hughes 685-1946
- Administrator**
 Bobby Cole 685-2239

BLOOMINGDALE MOBILE WATCH

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 Valrico, FL 33594

- Core Committee**
- Coordinator/Scheduler**
 LaWayne Wyatt 685-2072
- Treasurer**
 John Britton 681-1553
- Equipment Manager**
 Steve Schneider 685-8378
- Technical Advisor**
 Paul Truesdale 653-1725
- Members**
 David Guv 681-5943
- Paul Kelmer 681-9701
 Rick Borling 684-2022
 Ed Holzman 681-2548

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

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

- President**
 William R. Grace 685-2817

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 101
 Valrico, FL 33594

- DISTRICT II**
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 T.J. Pinta, Deputy
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 Crime Prevention Bureau, 247-8115

Location of the Bloomingdale Community Office
 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.
 Suite 101
 The Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale



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

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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

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

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

DUES DUE NOW
 \$10 membership dues for six months in the BHA are now due. Fill out and mail form below for membership.

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

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

VOTERS REGISTRATION
 Voters Registration is now available at Barnett Bank located at the corner of Bloomingdale Ave. and Bell Shoals Rd.

Bloomingdale's "Everything you ever needed" Form

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 Valrico, FL 33594

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To become a Participating Member in the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association: Dues \$10 semi-annually.

- To make a donation to:
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 _____ BHA Scholarship Fund
 _____ Other: _____
- To join _____ Mobile Watch _____ Neighborhood Watch
- To be placed on the waiting lists or volunteer lists for:
 _____ BHA Board of Directors
 _____ STD Board of Trustees
 _____ Committees as needed
- To report a code violation such as unmowed lots, junk cars, safety hazards, etc. (Your name remains confidential, but MUST be on this form at the top.) Call the office if the problem is not cleared up within 2 weeks of sending this notice.

Location and nature of suspected violation:

To be contacted regarding advertising in The Bloomingdale Gazette.

To make a comment about:

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Lembke asks support for BHA activities

By PAM PULLEY

Lt. Col. Russ Lembke remembers graduating from Colorado State University in 1964 with the urge to serve his country.

Lembke was a ROTC graduate. U.S. Air Force programs appeared inviting to a young man with a B.S. degree in business administration.

"The benefits that were offered were attractive. After serving 20 years you could have a pension and pursue another career. I had a desire to serve my country in some capacity," he says.

Lembke will retire from the Air Force Jan. 31 "after

27 years and five months of continuous active service," he says.

Lembke has also been president of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association for the past year. At press time, he was eager to serve a second term with the goal of increasing community involvement.

One man, and one board of directors, can't do it all.

"More time can be spent on publicizing and pushing events," Lembke says. "We need more support from people in the community."

Support has waned since 1989 when Lembke

joined the BHA's board of directors. Mobile Watch was strong with volunteers who scoured Bloomingdale each night to suppress illegal activities. Fund-raising ventures were successful. The outlook was brighter.

Lembke says he understands.

"Costs have gone up, everyone is worried about their job, people are less willing to donate their time," he says. A bad economy produces an unhealthy bottom line. "It is more difficult to get volunteers and supporters."

Such BHA-sponsored activities as the golf tour-

namment, Triple Header and Roberts Bros. Circus are fund-raisers designed to replenish its coffers.

The BHA subsidized the Bloomingdale Gazette until funds ran dry. Now the Gazette is attempting to survive on advertising revenue alone. Non-payment of accounts may hammer the final nail into the Gazette coffin.

The BHA normally awards academic scholarships to three honors graduates of Bloomingdale Senior High School each year. This year only one student was honored.

"If we can get \$1,500 to \$2,000 in the scholarship fund, we will award two or three students next year," he says.

Lembke, who works in hospital administration at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, has enjoyed an active career.

He had expected an assignment to personnel administration after enlisting in 1964.

"One of the things we were to do was write a letter on what we wanted to do," Lembke, 49, says.

"When the order came along, I was to be a medical supply officer."

Lembke served seven tours of duty in the United States and three in Saigon, Spain and Germany.

"The fun thing was seeing those different places," he says. (But) it does come a lot of work to pack things up. We have been very lucky to have few things broken and few things stolen."

Lembke was assigned to MacDill in 1988 and bought a home in Bloomingdale.

"People said you get more for your money in Brandon, despite the (40-



Photo by DORIS PRINCE
Lt. Col. Russ Lembke, president of the BHA, asks for increased interest in BHA activities.

mile) commute," he says. "And the Bloomingdale area was pointed out to me as the best area to live in."

The Persian Gulf war broke out last year after Iraq's Saddam Hussein rejected NATO's order to withdraw his troops from the occupation of Kuwait.

Lembke set up a 50-bed air transportable hospital near Riyadh from Aug. 10 to Sept. 16.

"It was the greatest challenge to put up a hospital in those conditions, with the extreme heat," he says. The six weeks of battle put few demands on the hospital. "It was mostly used for illnesses; there were few casualties."

Fear of the unknown put the pressure on coalition troops.

There were daily reports of Hussein's growing forces, adjustment to life in a conservative Muslim country and the uncertainty of attack, Lembke remembers.

"Everyone was concerned about Hussein's potential use of chemical and biological weapons," he

says. Hussein's motivation and sanity have remained something of an enigma.

"I think everyone thought he was kind of crazy to take on a majority of the free world," Lembke says. "A lot of Communist and other Arab countries were not with him."

Lembke is looking to the future, not the past, not wars and military relocations. His three children live in Bloomingdale. Lembke is also looking into the job market.

"I am not totally retiring. I would like to a job in health-care administration. I am looking into other areas also," he says.

Canceling military life will bring other changes.

"The biggest adjustment will be getting up and deciding what to wear. The military does that for you. Now I have to make a con-

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STD works minus fanfare

By PAM PULLEY

The Dependent Special (Taxing) District works without fanfare in Bloomingdale.

But, if the seven-member board vanished tempers might flare. Community walls would fall into disrepair. Signs leading to various subdivisions might fade. Weeds would reach for the skyline. In their bulk, rodents would rest.

The Bloomingdale STD is one of 32 county-approved districts authorized to provide community maintenance with budgets funded by taxes assessed on each housing unit.

The annual fee is \$80 per housing unit.

The local STD was established six years ago.

Projects completed this past fiscal year which ended Sept. 30 included edging and mowing of rights of way, fertilization and pest control of rights of way, weekly entranceway maintenance and the repair of several irrigation systems.

Also, pressure-washing and painting 33 percent of community perimeter walls, installation of overhead lights at John Moore Road and Garnett Drive, replacement of frame fence with masonry wall along Natures Way in Bloomingdale East and repainting of entranceway signs at John Moore Road, Rosemeade, Green Hollow, Garnett, Chad Ford and Windsor Woods.

Property administrator Bobby Cole oversees and contracts out for all work approved by the county each year.

The STD shares a problem afflicting the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Mobile Watch and the Bloomingdale Gazette: lack of community

involvement.

Mabe said the STD has not faced an election in her 2-1/2 years on the board.

"We've never had enough people to have an election," she said. "It is a quasi-governmental agency. We have to obey rules of the county. The meetings get cumbersome."

But there is satisfaction in knowing that in our area money is being spent well and not being wasted."

Still, Mabe criticizes the absence of community involvement at meetings held the second Monday of the month, 8 p.m., at the Bloomingdale Community Office at the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center.

"I would love to have more people coming to the meetings," she said. "We are spending money and no one is watching us."

Mabe won a seat on the board when a mid-term vacancy arose.

Peter Aluotto, immediate past president, said the STD allows local decision-making "not made by the county commission. There is a great deal more certainty things will happen."

The STD net budget for 1990-1991 in tax assessments totaled \$203,000, Mabe said. The projected assessment for this fiscal year is \$205,000.

The gross figures would be some \$10,000 higher, but Mabe said county officials warn each STD that not all fees will be paid.

"The county tells us not to expect five percent," Mabe said, "because of bankruptcy or someone does not pay."

The county collects and deposits the fees in the STD's money market ac-



Photo by PAM PULLEY

Pam Mabe, president of the Bloomingdale STD, would like additional involvement in the decision-making process.

count.

Cole said projects for this fiscal year include replacement of a frame fence with a masonry wall along Springvale Avenue, upgrading and enhancing landscaping at seven entranceways, installing four irrigation systems, replacing sod at eight entranceways.

Also, planting trees on two central median strips, pressure-washing, repairing and painting perimeter walls in five areas, replacing 150-foot sunken wall section along Bell Shoals Road, continuing to mow, edge, fertilize and trim trees along all rights of way and pressure-washing "approximately" 2/3 of Bloomingdale's perimeter walls.

Pest control is also an ongoing project.

The STD is in charge of public maintenance for all areas of Bloomingdale's 3,500 homes except in The Greens, Fox Run and River Crossing and other areas where major home building remains underway, Mabe said.

The three areas are controlled by master community associations.

The STD agreed to take over maintenance for the 80-plus Windsor Woods subdivision last year when the developer and lender declared bankruptcy.

The funding for maintenance came from a \$10,000 line item originally offered to Hillsborough County on a matching basis for improvements to two parks in Bloomingdale East and West.

The proposed allocation was returned to the budget when the county, locked in funding cutbacks, refused the offer.

The Windsor Woods tax base generates only 52 percent of the funds required for upkeep of the common areas on an annual basis. The subdivision is not built out enough to generate a larger tax base.

What was the key to grabbing a tiger by the tail?

Community involvement. Several Windsor Woods home owners saw the potential for a crisis if the public areas were ignored. The STD, with a budget surplus, agreed to shoulder the responsibility.

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STD to consider 'circle' proposal

By PAM PULLEY

Bloomington's Special Dependent Taxing District may finance the landscaping of three traffic circles Hillsborough County has approved for congested Bloomington Drive.

Pam Mabe, president of the STD, said the support likely will be included in next year's budget which goes into effect Oct. 1.

The county must approve all STD budgets before they are valid.

Bobby Cole, STD administrator, said three cost estimates suggest the STD might approve an initial expenditure of \$7,500 to landscape each island with native, drought-tolerant plants.

Maintenance for plant replacement, weeding, fertilization and pest control would be budgeted at \$120 per month, Cole said.

The overall cost is "just an estimate," he said. "It could be \$1,000 more or less."

Installation of the traffic islands is scheduled for eight to 10 weeks beginning in late summer, said Wayne Kirby of the county's traffic engineering department.

Traffic circles--or roundabouts--have long been a source of speed and traffic control in Europe.

The installations are scheduled for Paddlewheel Court, Sweetleaf Drive and Rosedale Drive roughly 1,000 to 1,200 feet apart at a cost of \$36,000 to the county.

Traditional controls

such as speed humps, traffic diverters and stop signs were considered before the decision was made to install traffic circles at each of the three intersections with Bloomington.

Traffic circles simply move motorists in a circle to the north, south, east and west exits.

Kirby said stop signs will be installed for six months to familiarize motorists with the European system that is enjoying success in other areas of the United States.

Installation of the traffic circles on the 28-foot wide roadway should not demand the seizure of additional rights of way, said county traffic engineering manager Greg Prytyka. Radius of the traffic circles is expected to be 19.5 feet.

"Where sidewalks are not presently at the rights of way, they may be moved back," he said.

The county would plant grass or build a concrete cap for each traffic circle if the STD does not choose to absorb the cost of landscaping, Prytyka said.

"But as I understand it, there is a desire to have it landscaped," he said.

School bus drivers should have no trouble negotiating the 8.5-foot-wide roadway around the traffic circles, Prytyka said.

The busses will enter and exit on Bloomington without traveling the full circle.

The speed limit is slated for 10 miles per hour.

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Patronize ads, please

By PAM PULLEY

The Bloomingdale Gazette is your passport to community news--news comprehensive enough to defy strong competition from other Hillsborough County publications.

The Gazette does not reflect nationwide or international issues. Its circulation is Bloomingdale East, West and Heather Lakes.

The Gazette helps to solve residential problems through fair--and objective--reporting.

Crime is rampant in the upper-middle class neighborhoods. You know where you live. The Mobile Watch and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office tell it like it is in the Gazette each month.

The Gazette's offerings are like the bowl of rice that never empties: News from such community public schools as Alafia, Bloomingdale, Brooker and Burns...informational columns...advertising that is the only financial resource of this 12-year-old community newspaper.

The Gazette is automatically hung in a protective plastic bag on the front door knob of each home monthly at no charge.

Complacency can set in. And a valued gift that is taken for granted may disappear.

The link with neighbors would be broken. The bond to community news and activities would be cracked.

There would be no tending.

Rising publication costs in a tight-fisted economy has endangered the Gazette. Mortality is rearing its ugly head. Only through increased advertising linkage can the Gazette expect to survive.

"The Gazette needs the cooperation of the community to sustain itself," said Doris L. Pence, the newspaper's president and general manager.

She urges residents to patronize advertisers buying space in the newspaper. Only then, Pence added, can all sides benefit.

Advertisers throughout Hillsborough County could reap the rewards of Bloomingdale's mobile population.

"People shop in Tampa and throughout Hillsborough County," Pence said. "They dine out frequently; their favorite spots may be in the Bloomingdale area--or they may prefer to dine in Carrollwood, Plant City, Tampa, Clearwater or Temple Terrace."

A recent survey conducted by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association concluded that an overwhelming majority of residents read the Gazette from cover to cover.

"This newspaper is the deal vehicle for advertisers," Pence said. "With such intense readership, advertisers are destined to increase their profits from the Bloomingdale area."

The Gazette reaches the hands of 11,000 readers. Bloomingdale and the Ga-



Doris Pence seeks increase in advertising.

The Gazette and the Bloomingdale Gazette are partners in growth--but only the Gazette absorbs the spiraling growth of production expenses.

"The Gazette is a free paper, but it costs money to produce, package and deliver," Pence said.

The part-time staff is small.

Pence directs the daily operations of the Gazette and tries to balance the budget.

Office manager Joan Poynton is in charge of billing, classified advertising and secretarial duties. Poynton is also secretary of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.

Anita Thompson and her Rent-A-Kid assistants package and deliver the newspapers to homes in Bloomingdale and Heather Lakes.

Joe Vance, a new college graduate, is the advertising graphics designer. His staff, Colleen Rose and Gwen Szafranski, hit the pavement daily in search of advertisers.

Pam Pulley is news editor. She writes and does page-layout while directing the news-gathering activities of correspondents who donate their time.

Correspondents are Kathy Dotson, Chuck Frenz, Robert Morris, Dr. Diane Raggard Wright, La Wayne Wyatt, Barbara Ling, Ginny Wong, Geneva Boner and Dorothy Brodeur.

The Gazette staff does not enjoy top wages.

"When advertising exceeds the cost of production, I would hope we all can expect salary increments," Pence said.

The \$6.60 per-column inch advertising rate is the least expensive in the county, Pence said.

To foster stronger advertising and robust patronage, the Gazette needs to be recognized as a top-quality monthly newspaper throughout Hillsborough County.

The Gazette sponsored a tabletop Christmas tree in the recent Festival of Trees celebration at the Florida State Fairgrounds.

Participation in other civic and community activities is stalled due to the burgeoning responsibilities put in the hands of the staff.

"We need to be more actively involved, to make the Bloomingdale Gazette a household word, to make the newspaper a beacon of respect throughout the county," Pence said.

"I wonder if there would be volunteers in our readership to help us out?"

The Gazette phone number is 681-2051.

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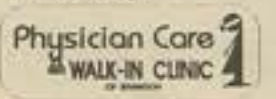
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Deadlines for February Gazette:

News: Jan. 22

Ads: Jan. 24

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November, December crime rate takes holiday

By LAWAYNE WYATT
 of the Mobile Watch
 November finished with 36 reported events, down by 13 from October.
 Included were a male, 16, harrasing a resident, three smashed windows, two small fires ignited in the middle of streets and cars located in the parks after closing.
 Also, activity at the Spot, speeding/reckless driving, kids throwing items at cars, appliances found in a partially de- ped area and a sus- .ous car.
 During December, 40 events were reported.
 Included were nine complaints of cars or peo-

ple in the parks after dark, a vehicle accident, two cars parked in isolated areas, four speeders/reckless drivers, a suspicious car and two armed robberies.
 Also, one report of teens driving on lawns, four breaking and enterings of cars, a stolen car found parked at a vacant house, several reports of vandalism to cars, three cars on the golf course late at night, two broken windows in a home.
 Also, there were reports of activity at the Spot, one car at Alafia Elementary School late at night, one runaway male, a stolen sports bag, vandalism to Christmas decorations and an attempted breaking and entering of a

home.
 We continue to see many garage doors open late at night, despite the warning of Det. Ivan Hernandez of the county Sheriff's Office in the last edition of the Gazette.
 In many cases, the lights have not been extinguished and numerous valuable items can be seen. Closing garage doors will help remove the temptation of threat.
 Mobile Watch attempts to maintain a log of all illegal events in the Bloomingdale area. The completeness depends in part on residents reporting the activities to us.
 Reporting incidents alerts us to problems that may be developing. It also provides an overall picture to the Brandon District 11 Sheriff's Office which receives a copy of the log.
 Thanks are extended to those who have called with reports. In many cases, I have received reports on my answering machine -- many without names and telephone numbers which would have enabled us to follow up on the activities.
 Please do not leave a message concerning suspicious activities in progress.
 Instead, please telephone the Sheriff's Office at either 911 or 247-8200 to report the events.
 Thanks to Eric and Ted Grable, West, and Scott Hyatt, Windsor Woods, for volunteering in December.



LaWayne Wyatt needs volunteers for Mobile Watch.

mingdale Homeowners Association, is regulated by a core group that sets policy and operating procedures.
 Financially subsidized by Mailboxes Etc. in Bloomingdale Square, Mobile Watch is able to purchase such needed items as radios, car signage, antennae and administrative materials.
 Unfortunately, what Mobile Watch needs most can't be purchased with money.
 "Out of 174 volunteers, 120 of them are active," Wyatt said. "We need a total of 200 people to cover all of Bloomingdale effectively."
 Mobile Watch currently is divided into three zones with three cars on patrol each night, seven days weekly, Wyatt said.
 While most home owners are security-conscious, Mobile Watch urges all residents to follow a few simple tips:

activities
 "Vandalism to mail boxes and car windows, construction thefts and suspicious cars are the most common logged activities by the patrol watch," Wyatt said.
 Youngsters entering the two parks after dark also is a frequent occurrence.
 Wyatt said maintaining a good working relationship with local law enforcement officials helps keep a handle on crime.
 Wyatt, a Bloomingdale West resident since 1985, worked his way up through the Mobile Watch ranks starting as a member of the patrol watch.
 From there, he served on the core committee, then was nominated and elected coordinator.
 Wyatt, a native of California, is retired from the U.S. Army and currently works for the Hillsborough County Board of Education.
 When asked why he chose Bloomingdale to be his home, he answered quickly, "I liked this area," then added with a chuckle, "My youngest daughter also had an interest in attending the local high school."

'Watch' needs YOU

By KATHY DOTSON
 Bloomingdale residents who survived the 1991 year without an incident of vandalism can give much credit to one group--the Bloomingdale Mobile Watch.
 Made up of 174 residents who volunteer free time year 'round, the Mobile Watch can be seen patrolling the streets seven evenings a week.
 According to Mobile Watch Coordinator LaWayne Wyatt, "Mobile Watch is extremely valuable to the community. We act as a deterrent to keep crime and troublemakers out of the area."
 Mobile Watch, a committee of the Bloo-

- Close garage doors after dark.
- Be aware of crime and suspicious activities in your neighborhood.
- Telephone the Sheriff and Mobile Watch (685-2072) to report suspicious

Want to join
 Mobile Watch?
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January 18, 1992 The Bloomingdale Gazette

Petition pushed Harris to stay

By BARBARA LING

BSHS--BSHS principal Charley Harris would have retired by now had it not been for the petitions gathered by seniors.

The students wanted him--and no one else--to hand them their diplomas June 4.

Many of the holiday cards he received in December expressed relief that he would be there to participate in graduation ceremonies with them. The following expressed one student's happiness:

"Dear Mr. Harris,

I am so glad that you postponed your retirement, you don't know how much it means to me!

You've been my principal since 10th grade and I will definitely miss you when I graduate. But, in the meantime let's enjoy the rest of this year.

I hope you and your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Day.

Janeth"

Harris is pleased with the overwhelming response.

"I am looking forward to working with the seniors for their last semester and hoping for lots of scholarships on their behalf," Harris said.

He called the class of 1992 a "great group" of seniors.

"It was such a nice thing to receive a petition wanting me than one that didn't" he added.

Harris will be putting a hold on traveling, fishing, gardening and furniture refinishing to don his cap and gown one more time.



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HEATHER LAKES CHRONICLE

Let's watch

KATHY DOTSON
 Couldn't it be coming to know that people in your neighborhood were going out for your best interests?
 Those "ideal" neighbors would watch your home in your absence or call the Sheriff's Office if they observed suspicious activities?

This sounds too good to be true, they you haven't heard of the Neighborhood Watch program.
 Fortunately, not every neighborhood is lucky enough to have such a security network. In Heather Lakes, the Woodbridge area is the only area that has taken advantage of the opportunity to set up such a program.

In a community, we do our part to keep it safe at a minimum by participating in a Neighborhood Watch program throughout Heather Lakes.

What that's required is a coordinator selected for the neighborhood area. All residents living in the neighborhood or all residents living on Foxboro Drive.

The coordinator then selects a minimum of 75 percent of the neighbors to agree to keep an "eye" on their fellow neighbors.

A telephone chain can also be established and registered with the Sheriff's Office as well.

Time in our neighborhood is not someone else's time; it can happen to us. Neighborhood Watch may be the answer. If you are interested in coordinating your neighborhood area, call Karen Every at 654-8182.



Photo by Kathy Dotson

New board members for the Heather Lakes Community Association are, left to right standing, Joe Dotson, John Hasselback, Vic Pinson, Tom Leavitt and Janice Parker. Seated, left to right, are Jean Brook, Dan Buechner and Paulette Lussier.

New HLCA president looks ahead

By **JEAN BROOK**
HLCA President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Heather Lakes residents who have demonstrated their interest in continuing to develop a quality lifestyle by renewing their membership in the Heather Lakes Community Association.

I also want to thank my fellow board members for the confidence they have demonstrated by electing me president.

I sincerely will make every effort to earn that confidence.

There are several areas in which the board needs to improve and/or provide service to the community. Following is a list of standing committees, their missions and the chairperson

of each. If you have a special interest or talent that can support any of the areas, please come forward.

WAYS & MEANS: Explore resources for revenue other than membership, i.e., arts and crafts fair, fall festival, community cookbook, Heather Lakes Community Director, etc. Janice Parker, 684-0094.

MEMBERSHIP: Develop membership goals, campaigns and incentives such as the merchant discount program. Dan Buechner, 689-9582.

CRIME WATCH/MOBILE WATCH: Extending the Crime Watch program into all sections of Heather Lakes and continuing to develop and administer the Mobile Watch. Wally Parker, 684-0094.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS:



Jean Brook, new president of the HLCA, looks forward to busy year.

Seek out news items of interest to Heather Lakes residents, i.e., the Crosstown developments, Mintz Elementary School events, status of building permits in Heather Lakes and communications between U.S. Home and Hillsboroug

County affecting drainage problems in Heather Lakes. Kathy Dotson, 685-4962.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Deed restrictions coordinator. Liaison between the mandatory association deed restriction violations authority and residents to help us differentiate between violations addressed by U.S. Home and county code violations which will be enforced by the county. Joanne Buechner, 689-9582.

SPECIAL DEPENDENCY: Pursue avenues to address establishing a Special Dependent District that would serve all of Heather Lakes. Mark Freeman, 685-5946.

The board and I look forward to achieving our goals this year.

Plans for the Crafts Fair are underway and the cook-

book subcommittee is researching its areas as well.

Wally Parker is excited about expanding the Crime/Mobile Watch programs. Plans for the Special Dependent (Taxing)

Plans for the Special Dependent (Taxing) District must proceed. Code enforcement is a new area that needs exploration and input. The membership committee is promoting the merchant discount program among local businesses.

We wish to thank people who have participated in the past and hope to see many new faces joining the ranks.

We especially want to encourage neighbors who are members of the mandatory association to join the efforts of the HLCA.

Joy of victory

By **KATHY DOTSON**

On Christmas Eve, Heather Lakes glowed with holiday spirit as streets and driveways were lighted with luminaries and homes were alive with Christmas decorations.

Don and Lynn Weaver of 1105 Bluefield Ave. were winners of the House Decorating Contest sponsored by the HLCA.

The Weavers received dinner for two at O'Charley's Restaurant in Brandon.

Two runnersup were selected: Gary and Michelle Hilbert with their son, Christopher, of 1101 Bridlewood Way, and Candie Broxson of 1017 Pineridge Circle.

The runnersup received movie passes to the AMC Theater in Regency Square.

Honorable mentions were: 1129 Bluefield Ave., 1036 Pineridge Circle, 1072 Bridlewood Way, 1220 Barnere Lane, 1430 Foxboro Drive, 1432 Foxboro Drive, 1433 Foxboro Drive, 1413 Foxboro Drive.



Photo by PAM PULLEY

Don and Lynn Weaver of 1105 Bluefield Ave. won first place in the house decorating contest in Heather Lakes. Three decorated trees were part of the exterior motif.

Heather Lakes Community Association

P.O. Box 1256
 Brandon 34299-1256

- President**
 Jean Brook...684-2989
- Vice President**
 Tom Leavitt...681-9470
- Treasurer**
 Alexandra Rice...653-0673
- Recording Secretary**
 Janice Parker...684-0094
- Corresponding/ Financial Secretary**
 Dan Buechner...689-9582
- Community Service**
 Mark Freeman...685-5946
- Directors**
 Scott Barnes...689-7344
 Joe Dotson...685-4962
 John Hasselback...653-4434
 Ann Keefe...661-1304
 Paulette Lussier...689-5512
 Vic Pinson...685-0996
- Neighborhood Watch Coordinator**
 Karen Every...654-8182
- Mobile Watch Coordinator**
 Wally Parker...684-0094

HLCA meeting

The Heather Lakes Community Association Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. All HLCA members are invited.

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BHA director, family injured in Tennessee car accident

By PAM PULLEY

BHA director Jerry Hoffman and his family are recovering from injuries sustained in an automobile accident near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Hoffman, a Bloomingdale resident for six years, said by phone that his car veered on rain-soaked Interstate 24 Dec. 28 into a guard rail where it was slammed by a semi-truck.

The car rolled over four to six times, he was told.

The family is with the parents of his wife, Loretta, in Murfreesboro.

Medical attention continues.

Hoffman received 200 stitches in his forehead and another 60 between his eyes and nose, he said.

Loretta Hoffman is recovering from a compound fracture of the right arm, broken rib, slight fracture

Jerry Hoffman said he and his family are recovering from the injuries because of "God's plan" and the prayers and support of friends.

to the pelvic bone and "numerous stitches and plastic surgery on her face," he said.

Katy, 3-1/2, lost the tip of one finger and medical doctors are monitoring the progress of two others, Hoffman said.

The other two children suffered less extensive injuries.

Jennifer, a fifth-grader at Alafia Elementary School, suffered a sprained right ankle and nine stitches to her forehead.

Joe, a first-grader at Alafia, was wearing a pad-

ded football uniform and escaped serious injury, his dad said.

Hoffman said he thanks the Lord and the support and prayers of friends for his family's survival.

At press time, Hoffman, Jennifer and Joe planned to return to their Bloomingdale home this weekend.

Katy and Loretta Hoffman will remain in Murfreesboro for another month under the supervision of their doctors, Hoffman said.

Hoffman, who has undergone plastic surgery on his face, said law enforcement authorities have filed no charges in the 8 a.m. accident.

"At this point, there are no charges," he said. "It has been attributed to weather conditions on the road."



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RECESSION-PROOF BUSINESS: Build your own recession-proof business with one of America's fastest growing companies. Call 654-

1126 for information or attend free seminar.

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

SHAMROCK LAWN AND GARDEN: Organic fertilizers our specialty; mowing, mulching, planting, pruning, landscaping, xeriscaping. Very competitive rates. Call Shamrock Lawn and Garden (684-7682) for free estimate. (Bloomingdale res.)

B AND R LAWN SERVICE: Cutting is our business; residential and commercial; free estimates; lawnmower blades sharpened. Call 671-2014.

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

CARPET & UP-HOLSTERY CLEANING: Steam-cleaning; ref. available; guaranteed satisfaction. Call 689-9192. (Bloomingdale resident)

BURGLAR & FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS: Complete Safety Services, Inc. 20

years experience. Home or business. State License #EF000137. Member Alarm Assoc. of Florida. Bloomingdale resident 681-1822.
QUALITY SOLAR SYSTEMS: 100% financing available. No money down. 819 E. Bloomingdale-Clean & Clear Pool Supply. Call Kevin at 685-4419.

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

MacDONALD PLUMBING CO. \$24 per hour. No overtime rates. Weekend and evening apps. Drain cleaning, re-pipe specialists, water heaters, new faucets. Lic. #CF051643. 681-2626.

FATHER AND SON QUALITY PRESSURE CLEANING: Walls, driveways, decks, houses. Free estimates. Satisfaction guaranteed. Bloomingdale Resident. Call 689-9287.

CARPENTRY: Nights & weekend work. From concrete forms (sidewalks) to kitchen cabinets, shelves and doors. Free estimates. Call Bob. 654-3272.

BRANDON RE-MODELING AND MAINTENANCE - Home repair, painting and patios. Call 654-1048.

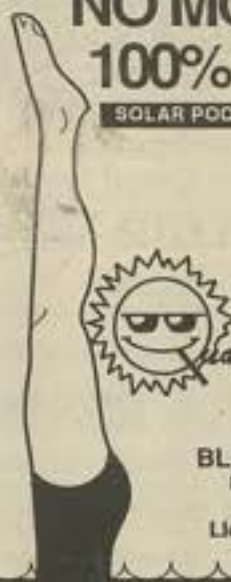
SOLAR POOL AND DOMESTIC HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS: repairs; 9 years established in solar business; call 885-3539 for more information.

PAINTING/PRESSURE WASHING: Interior/exterior; Free estimates, reasonable rates; 20 yrs. exper.; ref. upon req.; Bloomingdale resident; call 689-9192.

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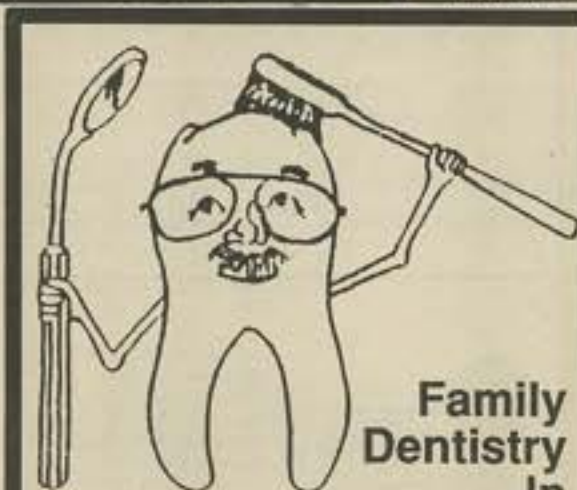
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DISCOVERY TOYS: Midge Walsh 684-7011

GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK: (discounted long distance service) Andrew Scalfani 654-2403

MARY KAY COSMETICS: Candy Cary 654-1695 Shelly Oakes 685-9492 Rosanne Westenzweig 685-6542

Nancy Ayala 654-0099 Kathy Holcomb 685-1505 Dawn Wisowaty 653-1817

Maree R. MacKenzie 685-3471

MELALEUCA, INC.: Colleen Kreft 653-1309; Bing S. Curioso 685-2835

NEW BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE: solve it before going to the county," Lembke said.

THE BHA earlier this year lost a costly lawsuit against the county and Atlantic Homes regarding violations of setback restrictions.

EDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA: Midge Walsh 684-7011

PRINCESS HOUSE CRYSTAL: Mae Davies, Consultant 684-3674

TUPPERWARE DEALERS: Colleen Rose 651-0879

WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA AND CHILDCRAFT, THE HOW AND WHY LIBRARY; Joe Malnic 681-6465

THE EARLY WORLD OF LEARNING (Pre-School educational program); Joe Malnic 681-6465

MAINSTREET ALLIANCE INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Greene, 689-0913

BABYSITTERS: Rosa Hernandez, 654-0682; Kimberly Reiser (13) and Angela Reiser (16), 684-6006.

tatively planning a skate-a-thon at Nature's Way early this year.

Lembke appears to be excited by the prospect.

Roller skating has enjoyed a rebirth of popularity in recent years.

"Skaters like to skate around (the 4.2-mile loop of) Nature's Way," he said.

"It has an ideal setup for those events. It is inside a housing development and you don't have to shut down major thoroughfares. Mobile Watch can control the traffic."

And, a breakfast designed to unite the Bloomingdale community with corporate executives in the area is planned for the spring.

The intention is to solicit contributions or sponsorships for activities. Lembke said.

In exchange, the donor would be recognized at events.

Lembke is serious about improving the livelihood of the BHA.

His home phone number is 689-2829.

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BHA

From Page 1
"If there is any kind of problem we try to re-

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The church news will return in the February issue of The Gazette

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