

BHA announces committee positions

A new year has begun for the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) and with the new year comes new ideas to better serve the needs of Bloomingdale Homeowners. Among their New Years Resolutions is the strengthening and streamlining of the BHA committees. Accomplishing these resolutions will depend on the support of the people of Bloomingdale.

The Board of Directors has established 8 major committees: community relations, membership, mobile watch, neighborhood watch, parks & recreation, special events, transportation, and zoning & deed restrictions. These committees represent community-oriented programs and activities which the Board has either initiated or actively supports. Although each committee is assigned to a Director,

there is always a need for interested residents to take an active role as either committee chairperson or member who can assist the Director in making the committee a success.

These committees provide the community not only an invitation to serve, but also a reason to serve. As you read the descriptions about the various committees, think about

See BHA, pg. 8

The Bloomingdale Gazette

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Community Relations

The Community Relations Committee acts as a liaison between the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Board of Directors and various community organizations and individuals. They coordinate community events with various organizations and work closely with *The Bloomingdale Gazette* to publicize the information.

See COMMUNITY, pg. 8

Membership

If you paid your BHA membership dues in 1992, the BHA Board of Directors would like to thank you for your support. Sadly, you were one of the fewer than 20% of the Bloomingdale residents that supported their community through the BHA. The Bloomingdale community encompasses nearly 4,000 households, yet fewer than 800 households responded to the BHA's ongoing membership solicitations through *The Bloomingdale Gazette* and a door-to-door campaign run over the summer.

See MEMBERSHIP, pg. 8

Mobile Watch Report

by LaWayne Wyatt

The purpose of the Bloomingdale Mobile Watch is to act as a deterrent to crime and to act as eyes and ears for the Sheriff's Office. Members do not carry weapons and do not become directly involved in any altercation. All members are residential volunteers who are interested in the safety and security of their community.

See MOBILE, pg. 9

Parks and recreation

Moms, dads, grandparents, and sports fans of all types: we have seen you at the Bloomingdale West and Bloomingdale East Parks. The parks offer the Bloomingdale community a safe, convenient, family-oriented environment to picnic, exercise, meet your neighbors, and spend time with your children. We know that you enjoy and are interested in the parks, and the facilities they offer.

see PARKS, PG. 4

Special Events Committee

The Special Events Committee's function is to organize and run such events as the Circus, Fun Run, Golf Tournament, and Flea Market/Picnic. If you have an interest in the Special Events Committee as a whole, or just in a particular event, your participation will be greatly appreciated. Regardless of the role you choose, chairperson or member, the "show" is your's, guided only by the By-Laws of the BHA and the input/support from the Director and the Board of Directors.

See SPECIAL EVENTS, pg. 9

Transportation

The traffic in Bloomingdale is increasing at an alarming rate as new people and businesses move into the area. The quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Bloomingdale is

See TRANSPORTATION, pg. 8

Zoning and Deed Restrictions

The BHA recently established a committee to formally address an area that has long been both controversial and of interest to the residents of the Bloomingdale subdivisions: zoning and deed restrictions. Although these two topics are almost always discussed together, they present very different

See ZONING, pg. 9

Crime attracts national attention; concerns local residents

by Mary Karcher

New Year's Day, 1993. A young, black male, visiting the Valrico area from New York, drove to the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Shopping Center to buy a newspaper. On this particular morning, 3 white males were posed for a robbery at the shopping center. Christopher Wilson became their target.

The ensuing robbery, kidnapping, and burning have been reported in newspapers throughout the country, focusing national attention on the Valrico community. The public reaction of shock precipitated community groups to sponsor a "Moment of Reflection" on Jan. 8, where residents throughout the area reflected upon this and other crimes of hate.

Wilson, a stock brokerage clerk, is recovering from burns over 40% of his body at Tampa General Hospital. Three suspects, Jeff Ray Pellet, Mark A. Kohut, and Charles P. Rourke, were arrested on Jan. 6 after the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department received phone calls directing them to Pellet.

Bloomingdale residents are equally shocked about the crime occurring in their neighborhood. Sam and Eleanor Aiello, who enjoy walking along Nature's Way and consider Bloomingdale a safe community, are angry. "It should have never happened; they (the suspects) must have no heart, Sam comments. His wife, Eleanor wondered, "I wonder if they're going to prosecute them or let them go."

Mary Ann Lananna knows about safety in the community; she works as a crossing guard at an intersection near Alafia Elementary. "I'm shocked. It's unbelievable. . . It's inhuman. We have to be aware that these things go on; we don't like it, but there's always one or two who want to start trouble. Unfortunately, it reflects bad on the whole community."

How does the Bloomingdale community react to this crime? *The Bloomingdale Gazette* invites you to state your opinion in a letter to the editor. How will a violent crime in our neighborhood affect your actions?

Students give Central Park Lodge a candy village



Photo by Robert Greene

The candy village, created by Mrs. Kelly's fourth graders, brightened the holidays at Brandon's Central Park Lodge.

by Mary Karcher

The meaning of the old adage "It is better to give than to receive" became clear to students in Mrs. Lori Kelly's fourth grade class at Alafia Elementary School just a week before Christmas. The students' hands rocketed into the air, flying back and forth, trying to attract attention, as each waited to be called upon to share the story of the class's visit to Central Park Lodge in Brandon.

The trip was a culmination of multi-faceted activities which the children had completed. Mrs. Kelly's project involved reading, writing, art, and conversational skills. The students and several of their parents constructed a Christmas village with six buildings decorated with candy and frosting. They selected a background for the village

from the literature selection read to them by Erin's father, Russ Cummings, who is called their "reading dad". They chose the names of individual residents from the Lodge and wrote cards and letters to them. Some children gave presents to their resident. Lauren Heckinger even made a friendship bracelet for her resident, Bernice Garvey.

The village was a collection of six buildings which Nick Brockert described, "There was a schoolhouse; it was Alafia Elementary. There was a toy shop, a church, Moss's barn (because Moss lives on a farm), a log cabin, and a candy shop." "Moss" is Seth Moss, a fellow student in the class who lives on a farm. The church had a steeple

See CANDY, pg. 10

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

From the editor

The holidays have drawn to a close, to exist in photo albums, on video tapes, and, in the most special place, our own minds. Memories are very special. They define where we have been and why we are who we are. Sometimes memorable events happen spontaneously; other times they are planned and carefully executed. It is 1993. A time for new resolutions. This year, memories of helping others can join our mental albums. This edition of *The Bloomingdale Gazette* provides many suggestions for contributing to others. Take a moment to think about how you may add another resolution to your list. If all of us do a little, the effect will be great. A few who work very hard cannot expect to do as much as many contributing a little.

Mary Karcher

Help us help you

The Bloomingdale Gazette is asking for your help in responding to our survey. Please take a moment to complete it and return it to our office. We hope it will help us be a better newspaper for our neighbors in the Bloomingdale community. We appreciate your support.

Please give us a call or drop us a line to let us know your ideas. The February edition will focus on education. We encourage letters to the editor and articles about education. We would like to print residents' answers to this question: **HOW DO YOU THINK OUR SCHOOLS CAN**

IMPROVE? Please call our office at 681-2051 with your response. The deadline for articles, letters to the editor, and phoned responses is Jan. 18.

In March, our focus will be on "Art in the Brandon Community". All art lovers or artists are invited to submit articles. Please submit articles by Feb. 12.

The newspaper would like neighborhood representatives who can provide information about their neighborhood. If you would like to volunteer to keep us in touch with your neighborhood, please call us.

Solutions to New Year's Resolutions

by Mary Karcher

Wondering about what you should resolve to do this year? How about becoming a volunteer? There are many opportunities for helping others while adding a new dimension to your life.

Dr. T. Szabo and his wife Dorothy both volunteer their time at Alafia Elementary School which grandchildren Becky and Bret attend. Dr. Szabo is a retired optometrist who spends 3 hours a week in the school's clinic reassuring sick children. Dorothy Szabo helps out in Ms. Ruehl's kindergarten class. Dr. Szabo explains that they both "enjoy helping the kids."

Schools have a variety of ways for parent and grandparents to help out. Media centers, clinics, and classrooms all encourage parent volunteers. There are volunteers who form a "copy" team to photocopy items for teachers; volunteers who publish students' stories, volunteers who read in classrooms, and volunteers who present an art program to students. Contact your favorite school to see how you might volunteer.

The Hillsborough County Public Library System always needs literacy volunteers. To participate as a tutor, applicants must be 18 years old, have their own transportation, have a high school diploma, be a year round resident, and be willing to commit at least 1 year to the program. Tutors are trained in the Laubach method, a phonetic approach to reading. The 10 hour training course costs \$5. Tutors meet their student twice a week, for 1 1/2 hour each time, at an approved meeting spot like a library, church, or school. To become involved, call the Hillsborough county Literacy Council at 273-3650.

Libraries also need volunteers, especially since many are short-staffed. Volunteers sort books, shelve books, check-in books, and label paperbacks. Volunteers are especially needed to work during the daytime hours. At the Brandon Regional Library, Kelly Richey is in charge of volunteers, call her at 744-5630.

Center Place for the Arts also has volunteers who staff their gift shop and fold newsletters. Some of their volunteers receive hours which count toward a service organization. Call 685-8888 for more information.

Meals on Wheels of Tampa needs volunteers to perform various tasks related to delivering hot meals to the homebound. Volunteers work as drivers, kitchen helpers, bookkeepers, and map routers. Drivers pay for their own gas and deliver hot meals once a month to 7-15 people. According to Marilyn Carter, the program gives homebound people a "new perspective on life when someone cares about them." If you are interested in volunteering, call Meals on Wheels of Tampa at 238-8410 or write Marilyn Carter, 540 East Paris, Tampa, 33604.

The Humana Hospital Auxiliary trains volunteers to work at the hospital's Gift Shop, information desk, admitting, emergency room, day surgery, or on individual floors. The purpose of the auxiliary is to promote good relations with the public, help the hospital and the patients, as well as to provide a service to the community. A non-profit organization, the auxiliary donates money collected from the gift shop, dues, and newborn photos to the scholarship fund. Scholarship recipients are selected from applicants who are going into medical and other health-related fields. Interested people may pick up an application at the information desk in the lobby of the hospital. Candidates must be 18 years of age, although there is also a volunteer program as well. Call Humana Hospital at 681-5551.

OFFICERS

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

Russ Lemble	President	689-2829
Ted Grubb	Vice President	685-7193
Jan Wiley	Treasurer	684-7825

Directors

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Les Horn	681-2031	Steve Rost	657-0879
David Lees	681-3999	Randy Wall	684-0079
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Peter Alonzo	Temporary Trustee	685-0727
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David Ouy	681-5943
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Ed Holman	681-2548

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
P.O. Box 3132
Brandon, FL 33509-3132

William Green	President	685-2817
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THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 101
Valrico, FL 33594
Telephone (813) 681-2051
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Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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Rate cards available upon request.

MEETINGS

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

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

Second Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

BHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
First Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

MEETINGS FOR MOBILE WATCH & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS FOR BLOOMINGDALE PARKS

ATTEND THE BHA - SPONSORED
COMMUNITY MEETING WITH THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FEB 9 AT 7:30 p.m.
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BHA MONTHLY MEETING

681-2051

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT COUNTY SPENDING UNDER THE
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION BOND PROGRAM

Ecology-minded student cleans up pond



Photo by Roger Groff

Carson Groff even fished out old chairs during his pond clean-up.

by Carson Groff

Carson Groff, a seventh grader at Booker T. Washington, decided to look in his own backyard when his Geography teacher, Mr. Curry, put students to work on an ecology project. Their assignment was to do any project that would improve the environment. Groff, a resident of Bloomingdale West, decided to clean up a pond that runs through his backyard.

Carson has a special interest in this pond because during the past four years he

has spent many hours in his boat fishing and enjoying the wildlife around it. He takes a special interest in Life Science and would like to see the environment protected. During his cleanup efforts, he has retrieved cans, wood, plastic items, various other pieces of trash, and even old chairs! Groff says from now on he will clean up the pond whenever he sees trash and will not wait for a Geography assignment. He hopes everyone will do the same.



Contest winners declared

Michael Davis, RE/MAX Realty Unlimited, presented prizes to the winners of his "Help Michael Decorate His Tree" Christmas coloring contest. The entries were judged in three age categories. Ms. Jane Hillman, Children's Pastor of Living Waters Church, chose the finalists based on originality and creativity. Winners are Lauren Valentine, 6, Megan Valentine, 8, and Marcello Calderalli, 4. Davis wishes to thank all the children who participated and is elated by all the talent expressed in their artwork. "Christmas is very special to me and my family, and we want to share our Christmas joy with the families in our community," said Davis.

Photo by Judy Davis

Contest winners Lauren Valentine, Marcello Calderalli, and Megan Valentine receive prizes from Michael Davis.

Resolutions? I resolve to preserve my sanity!

by Marlene Horn

Good, you're reading this; you have made it through another holiday season. Okay, so now what, right? Well, just between you and me, I thought the glitter and gilt of the holidays was as bad as it gets. Wrong again, the New Year is barely two weeks old and we have broken most, if not all, of our resolutions. What the heck, let's just recycle them NEXT year and we'll be saving our sanity, or environment, or something.

Unless you're one of those... "it's October, and I'm all finished shopping for Christmas..." freaks, you probably got through the holidays pretty much the same as we did in my household — with the best of intentions. Every year, it's the same for us... "It's gonna be different this year."

I have figured it out though. I now know (although I admit I have no proof) that there is a conspiracy going on. The card and gift shops lobbied for all these "joyous occasions" in order to stay in business. I have every intention of getting my so-called act together for those year-end holidays and doing them up right, except immediately after the hangover is over, I'm faced with hearts and candy everywhere I turn. Then I'm dying eggs at midnight on Saturday and buying a bunny at Eckerd's on Easter Sunday. I could go on, but I think you get the idea.

Let's face it, if I'm ever going to be ready for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's I've got to skip all the holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries in between, because before I can mail my "Seasons Greetings" cards, I've got to spend at least six months organizing my house so I can find all the little pieces of paper with everyone's addresses. Then I have to spend the next six months cleaning the study so that I can walk into it to get to the computer to type the mailing list. Hey, at least I don't have to take a computer course to learn how to use the word processor, or worse, I don't have to take a typing course before I learn the keyboard. After all, I haven't been wasting my entire life, I've been busy; just don't ask, "Doing what?"

That about sums up my general attitude around this time of year. If only I could get away with a generic "Thank you for the lovely gift, sentiment, dinner", "Congratulations, Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary", "Seasons Greetings", etc. I'd be the first to experience the acronym of the beginning of these last five paragraphs.

Ad Reps Wanted for the Bloomingdale Gazette - for more information call 681-2051

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Personal Tax Savers

by Robert J. Morris, CPA, CTP

There are still many deductions available to the average individual, however, the tax benefit derived is continually eroding when compared to pre 1987 laws. Still, careful attention must be given to all expenses so as not to overpay your tax. Some examples to reduce taxes are as follows:

- You can deduct education expense if it improves the skills required for your job or meets new standards of an existing job. You cannot deduct this if it only meets the minimum requirements of current employment or trains you for a new trade or business skill.

- If you own an unincorporated business, hire your child who will be in a lower tax bracket and the first \$3600 will be tax-free. If the child is under 18 there also is no social security or unemployment tax expense.

- There are numerous tax-free funds for your investment. Consider gifting other funds to your child for future college expenses. Part of the interest and dividend will be tax-free and the rest most likely will be at a lower tax rate than yours.

- Using your car for charitable functions allows you a mileage deduction that often is overlooked. Consider donating property to your favorite charity and deduct the value of the property at the time of contribution. Hosting a foreign exchange student or supporting a foster child allows for limited deductions. The cost and upkeep of a uniform for charitable

functions also is deductible.

- Homes are not selling as fast as we would like but in most cases you will not lose established tax breaks. You can even rent the home for the interim period as long as the primary goal is to sell the home, and the rental period is deemed both temporary and necessitated by the adverse market conditions. In most cases you can still take the two year replacement rule or one-time exclusion rule tax break.

- Most of your family vacation expense is deductible when combined with a business trip. Even a cruise, when on a U.S. flagship with all ports of call within the United States or its possessions, is deductible with a \$2000 maximum. Baseball, football, theater, and other business entertainment may be fully deductible by meeting the "associated with" test that a bona fide business discussion directly preceded or followed the event.

Of course, these are by no means a complete listing of deductions available and should any of these appear to apply to you, consult with your qualified tax adviser for further details. The best way to reduce your taxes is to be conscious of potential deductions, prepare documentation as needed, and try not to be "under the gun" by waiting until the last minute to organize your information.

PARKS, from pg. 1

If we are to insure the quality of our community parks, we need your help! The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) needs volunteers to participate in a parks and recreation committee. This committee will consist of concerned residents who will be the voice of the Bloomingdale community. Their goal will be to define, focus, and communicate our needs and concerns to the Hillsborough county parks department.

This is an all-volunteer committee which will be sponsored by the BHA. The only requirement to participate is to have an interest in the community and be a Bloomingdale resident. You know first hand what our parks need; you are the expert. Please consider sharing your input, and help to maintain and improve our parks. Any comments, questions, or concerns will be greatly appreciated.

No involvement is too small — volunteer and be a part of your community.



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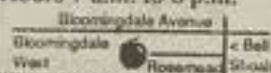
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The Overhead

Tennis tip of the Month
by Pete Stecher



The majority of club players and juniors have weak overheads. The overhead or smash takes more timing than any shot in tennis. Club players and juniors usually practice the overhead less than any shot in tennis.

The answer to weak overheads is easy. Before every match during the warm-up, take at least 10 to 15 practice overheads. Beginners can start by just blocking the ball back; the experienced players should use a very abbreviated service motion similar to a football quarterback throwing a pass. In a couple months time the club player and junior will start to become far more comfortable with the

smash. With intensive practice the overhead can be turned from a chronic weakness into an intimidating weapon.

Pete Stecher is the Director of Tennis at Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club.

Bloomingdale Real Estate Report

Chuck Frenz
Realtor

Bloomingdale Box Score

		SOLD (CLOSED)
Nov. 15, 1991	Dec. 15, 1991	12
Nov. 15, 1992	Dec. 15, 1992	10

While these figures are believed to be accurate, they are not guaranteed by Prudential Florida Realty, the Tampa Board of Realtors, or The Bloomingdale Gazette, and do not necessarily include listings not published at the request of the seller, listing of lessees who are not members of the Board or M.L.S., unlisted properties, new constructions, rental properties, etc. The information contained herein is the source commonly considered to be "Bloomingdale."



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Keep New Year's resolution to start exercise program

by Sherry Price

I love the spirit of the holiday season. I also love the food of the holiday season. It seems that there is a nonstop eating frenzy from Thanksgiving to New Year's. And, with all the activities surrounding this time of year, who has time to exercise? But, after New Year's, when you try to get into your jeans, you discover that the holidays bring more than good cheer, it brings extra pounds. The initial thought is, "I have to lose this weight as fast as I can." So, you starve yourself and exercise to extremes. Yes, this may last for awhile, but the burnout comes quickly and the frustration is great.

It is important that you diet and exercise sensibly. The key word to remember is **moderation**. Starving yourself

and exercising to extremes may take the weight off for the moment, but, in most cases, it will not last.

- It is in your best interest to have your physician's approval before beginning any exercise program.
- **Think moderation.** Upon beginning your exercise program, set practical goals for yourself. For instance, set aside 30 minutes to 1 hour of aerobic exercise time at least 3 times a week. This will help you achieve a cardiovascular benefit, as well as help you burn calories and fat. (Keep in mind, it takes your body approximately 20 minutes of continuous aerobic activity before your body begins to burn fat.)



exercise with a friend. You can motivate each other as well as have fun.

- **Have fun!** Concentrate on an exercise that you enjoy as well as one that will give you a cardiovascular benefit, such as bike riding, walking, skating, tennis, jogging, etc.
- **Stay motivated!** Try to

that you should never eat anything fattening, just don't make it a habit! It's okay to treat yourself every once in awhile, as long as it is done in moderation.

Once you begin an exercise program and stay with it on a regular basis, exercising will become a way of life. You will feel better both mentally and physically. Not only will you notice the difference in yourself, everyone else will notice too!

KEEP YOUR RESOLUTION FIRM.



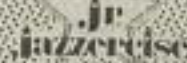
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NEW YEAR WELLNESS

by Greg Heitpas

The new year has arrived and we have survived the holidays. Now it is time to get on with taking better care of ourselves. Resolutions abound with renewed hope for a healthier new year.

I see mental health as

being a part of the total wellness package. Wellness includes six dimensions: physical, occupational, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. I further view the wellness package as being on a continuum of health. Good/bad, right/wrong, guilt inducing, shame based decisions are replaced with healthier vs. less healthy choices. The overall goal then becomes to move slowly to a healthier life.

To start, list in a column form the six wellness dimensions. Then assess what percentage of importance (time/energy) over the past year you have devoted to each, to total 100%. Take your time. Reflect. Think! Then have one or two people who know you well (spouse, parent, best friend) list their percentages on you. Others are often able to see things we overlook or take for granted. List their numbers next to yours. Finally list the percentages you are willing to work toward. Yes, WORK! This is not done by

magic or osmosis.

Congratulations, you have completed step one of the guidelines for change, awareness of how you are when you begin. The guidelines are:

- be aware of how you are when you begin
- have clear, concrete, specific goals
- change one thing at a time
- make changes in small steps
- offer rewards/incentives
- find and utilize supports
- use positive imagery and positive self-talk
- accept failures or relapses

Remember that this is a year long program for growth. The good feelings and success we achieve in one area are fuel for the next hurdle.

Finally, try to remember how a man named Edison described his feelings when another attempt to make a light bulb failed, "I feel the percentages you are successful. I've come one step closer to finding the correct way."

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Photo by John Odom
 Bloomingdale Oaks Church and Child Care Facility's new building is located on Bloomingdale Ave.

Business Notes

The International Gourmet Coffee Company, Inc. recently opened the first and only coffee shop in the Brandon area. The coffee company shares space with Taka-Way Gourmet at 528 Oakfield Dr. Ann Hubbard, owner of the International Gourmet Coffee Company, boasts that they offer 84 varieties of coffee at a very reasonable price. Varieties include chocolate flavored coffees; lighter-flavored coffees, such as strawberry and cream or peaches and cream; exotic coffees, such as Hawaiian macadamianut; and after-dinner, non-alcoholic coffees, such as amaretto, Irish cream, or Grand Marnier. Hubbard's coffee, which is fresh roasted in Tampa, is sold by the pound, half-pound, and quarter-pound. 80 out of 84

of her coffees are also available decaffeinated.

The Bloomingdale Oaks Church has opened its new building on Bloomingdale Avenue. It includes a child care center licensed to accommodate 180 children. Pastor John Odom boasts that the 2500 square foot facility, which holds church services on Sunday, reverts to a day care facility for the rest of the week. Director Diann Fields has previous experience as a kindergarten teacher, an assistant day care director, and a day care director. Reba Belderer, the assistant director, also has previous child care experience. Pastor Odom says, "We're committed to excellence; we want to have the best child care facility in Brandon."



Hospice of Hillsborough, Inc. support groups
 The Brandon Hospice support group will meet Tuesdays, Jan. 19 - Feb. 23, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Central Park Lodge, 702 S. Kings Avenue. Pre-registration is required for all groups; call Lola Heffner at 877-2200. The mission of Hospice is to allow individuals living with life-limiting illnesses to be cared for at home or in a home-like setting.

Tennis club rebuilding courts
 Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club announces that construction to rebuild the 4 tennis courts has begun. Work is expected to be completed before the end of January.

Donation drop-off point announced
 The Spring of Tampa Bay, a support group for victims of domestic violence, has a new drop-off point for contributions. The First Presbyterian Church of Brandon at 121 Carver Ave. is accepting donations on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Urgent needs include diapers, hairbrushes, deodorant, sample size toiletries, teething medicine, diaper rash medicine, generic aspirin, baby wipes, and adhesive bandages. Call The Spring at 626-0005 or the church at 689-4567 for more information.

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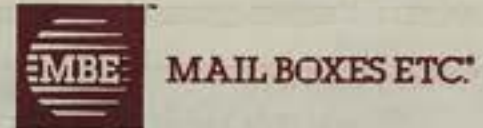
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Bruins News:



Burns Junior High

University of Alabama. He has contributed to education since 1959.

Burns principal retires

by Julie Norwood

On the night of Dec. 16 most of the faculty of Burns Junior High School attended a retirement reception on behalf of Mr. Billy M. Pate. Mr. Pate has been the principal of Burns since it was established in 1986.

A native of Tusculoosa, Alabama, Mr. Pate graduated from the

The reception consisted of remarks from Joe Newsome, who is from the Hillsborough County School Board; D.E. Bailey, who is a retired principal from Bryan Elementary School; Larry Martin, an area director for Hillsborough County schools; Ron Frost, the principal of Turkey Creek Jr. High; and Burns's assistant principal, Mrs. Brenda Nolte. In appreciation, they gave Mr. Pate and his wife a cruise to the Bahamas.

See Bruins, pg. 11



Photo by Charlie Baker

Billy Pate listens as educators pay tribute to his 33 1/2 years in education.

School happenings

Alafia Elementary School

News anchor John Wilson spoke to parents and educators at the Jan. 12 PTA meeting. He encouraged parents to voice their opinion when television negatively affected their children.

The Alafia PTA is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Jan. 21 at the Alafia On The Green Cafeteria. Food is also available for carry-out. The Olive Garden Restaurant is providing the spaghetti. Tickets, which cost \$5 for adults and \$3.75 for children, will be sold at the school.

Brooker Elementary

Fourth graders were treated to a tour of the human heart thanks to the Tampa General "More Health" program and a federally-funded grant. On Jan. 5, Ellen Simpson presented a fun, fast-paced program about the heart. She brought a giant painted cloth heart to illustrate how blood

flows through the heart and lungs to the body. Children represented cells, and lungs, as well as a giant drop of blood which traveled through the chambers and blood vessels. This and other programs are available by calling SERVE, the school volunteer organization, at 872-5254.

Lithia Springs Elementary

"Building Your Child's Self-Esteem" will be the focus of a Parent Workshop on Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. Joe Pergola, Hillsborough County Extension Family Life Specialist, will discuss how to build children's self-esteem and how to communicate with children through the pre-teen years. Anyone interested in registering should call the school's Parent Education Chairperson, Sue Narup at 654-4333.

Janice Lancaster and Tommy Green received a grant through the Hillsborough Education Foundation for a Spring musical to integrate music and art based on the Renaissance.

See SCHOOLS, pg 10



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BHA from pg. 1

how each committee improves the quality of the life in Bloomingdale and as you make your list of New Year's resolutions, consider

People interested in participating as a chair-person or a member of a committee should contact the Bloomingdale Gazette and Community Office located at 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 101, telephone number 681-2051.

TRANSPORTATION from pg. 1

dependent on a well-planned transportation infrastructure. However, many decisions regarding street planning and traffic control are made by Hills. Co. employees who do not live in Bloomingdale and are therefore unfamiliar with the area. If you are concerned about the future development of the Bloomingdale area and the response to increased traffic in the coming years, then the BHA has the position for you: Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and Street Lighting.

As Chairperson, you will be able to design your own program and priorities regarding Bloomingdale and its streets, and you will be able to utilize the reputation and authority of the BHA in implementing your program and getting your voice heard by the Hills. Co. officials. Significant issues which may be addressed within this program include street maintenance and repair, bus routes, alternative forms of public transportation, traffic signage and signals, speed control devices, widening and relocation of streets, and obtaining additional street lighting. In addition, there is an ongoing debate regarding the extension of the Crosstown Expressway, and the Brandon community has several citizens lobbying for either the cancellation of the extension or the realignment of the proposed route. If Bloomingdale does not have a voice with Hillsborough County, the possibility exists that the Crosstown Expressway extension could be realigned in a manner which will negatively affect the Bloomingdale.

If you are concerned about these issues, please be the voice of The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association as the Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and Street Lighting.

COMMUNITY from pg. 1

Committee members are involved in various activities from the BHA Scholarship to attending meetings with various civic groups and organizations such as The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce. Members of the Community Relations Committee have one goal for our community, to provide access to information and events that are of particular interest to our community.

The Community Relations Committee works closely with the other BHA committees receiving and providing information relevant to committees events or upcoming meetings. In addition, the Community Relations Committee will coordinate information from all committees when appropriate to do so and pass the information along to *The Bloomingdale Gazette* for publishing.

As a member of the Community Relations Committee, your effort can be focused in one area such as scholarships or you could choose to represent the BHA at a particular organization or event. Whatever you choose, a great way to get involved in our community is to join one of the BHA Committees.

MEMBERSHIP from pg. 1

Many residents are probably not aware of what the BHA does or why they should be members since the dues are voluntary. Hopefully, the articles on these pages will provide a better understanding of what the BHA does. While monetary support in the form of annual dues is important, it is equally as important for residents to volunteer a few hours of their time to support the activities of the BHA. In order for the BHA to maintain the community office, represent your community, promote activities within your community, and deal with the issues that are important to Bloomingdale residents, we must find ways to increase our active membership.

If you have ideas on how to increase the number of members, then the BHA's board position as Membership Director is right for you. The primary responsibility of the position is to plan and coordinate the annual membership drive. This includes designing the method of solicitation, enlisting additional volunteers as needed, and overseeing the entire process.

A second responsibility of the position is to maintain a current membership list on a PC based system. Our current membership list is maintained on the Macintosh PC in the community office. We are presently working on converting to an IBM compatible database which will enable us to merge addresses from tax rolls. You do not need to be a computer genius to fulfill the responsibility of maintaining the membership list.

If you are interested in being nominated for the Membership Director's position, or participating on the membership committee, please call a BHA board member today.



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BHA Board of Directors Elects New Members

by Mary Karcher

The board of directors elected six board members at their Dec. 15 meeting. New board members are Jeff Campbell, Ian Horn, Ronda Paramoure, and LaWayne Wyatt; re-elected members are Russ Lembke and Steve Rose. The board of directors is comprised of 12 members who serve for a two year

term. Other business conducted focused on encouraging community involvement in the Homeowners' Association. The board submitted articles, which are included in this month's *Bloomington Gazette*. See BHA BOARD, pg. 11

ZONING from pg. 1

challenges to the BHA and property owners. For many years the BHA Community Office has operated a referral service to the Hillsborough County Zoning Enforcement Office for residents who have had problems about possible violations of County zoning ordinances. Although this has been a popular service, it is a difficult role for the BHA.

On the other hand, deed restrictions are not a matter of public policy and therefore not one solved by public officials. Deed restrictions are a private matter between property owners who share common agreements on the usage of their property that are tied to the property deed. In the Bloomington area there are a number of different developments with various property restrictions. Unlike zoning matters which can often be easily resolved by official notice, deed restrictions may often involve individual initiative, even civil action in a court of law.

The BHA has long been an advocate of compliance with local zoning and deed restrictions. It is these laws and covenants which define many of the characteristics that we identify with as Bloomington. Strict, but fair enforcement of these requirements enhances property values and gives everyone an equal access to the lifestyle around which this area was established.

The Zoning and Deed Restrictions Committee can provide the BHA with the input and resources to provide strong community leadership in this area. With a consensus of the entire community, no individual property owner stands alone on these issues.

The BHA must be careful, however, not to tread on individual rights or intrude into matters of public law. With a consensus of the entire community, no individual property owner stands alone on these issues.

The BHA must be careful, however, not to tread on individual rights or intrude into matters of public law. With an active Zoning and Deed Restrictions Committee, however, the BHA can provide assistance and education to Bloomington residents, and help ensure that neighbors respect each other and that Hillsborough County government will continue to address offensive code violations.

SPECIAL EVENTS from pg. 1

The opportunity exists for individuals who like a challenge and want to support their community in

fun-type activities. If you are that person and want to have a role in supporting the BHA and the Special Events committee, please call the Bloomington Community Office.

MOBILE from pg. 1

Bloomington. In 1984 the Mobile Watch withdrew from the BHA and operated as an independent organization until April, 1990 when it rejoined with the BHA.

Initially, one patrol was scheduled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and covered 1 1/2 miles of streets on Eastridge Dr., Briarlake Dr., Highgrove Ct., Orangepointe Dr., Greenrock Pl., Greenstone Pl., and the west part of Casaba Loop. In late 1980, Bessemer Circle and part of Applegate Circle in the Estates was opened so the patrol drove through the "wilderness" to also cover these streets.

During the early days, the Mobile Watch worked very closely with the Sheriff's Office. Information provided by members has led to the arrest and conviction of several burglary rings and solved several other crimes in the community. Members also provided traffic control assistance to the Sheriff's Office for accidents in the area.

Scheduling fifty people to conduct one patrol, three nights a week, was done manually with 3 x 5 cards in 1980. As membership grew and patrols were expanded this process became unwieldy. As a result, a computerized program was developed and copyrighted by Skip Mowry in 1984. This program is still in use today.

Funding and equipment support has come from many sources during the past ten years. Builders, the developer, the BHA, *The Bloomington Gazette*, businesses and residents have all provided monetary support or donated equipment to keep the Watch running. Currently, the Mobile Watch is funded by the BHA and donations from residents.

As Bloomington has grown, so has the Mobile Watch. Membership has been as high as 214. Today we have approximately 160 members with five base station operators. These members, all volunteers, donate one evening a month to drive throughout the community and watch for suspicious activity or anything out of the ordinary. The area covered by these patrols is approximately three miles long: John Moore Road to Lithia Pinecrest Rd.; and 1 1/2 miles wide and includes 50 - 60 miles of streets. The Mobile Watch also provides traffic control assistance to the BHA for many of its functions.

The Mobile Watch also continues to work very closely with District II of the Sheriff's Office. We currently provide District II, the Bloomington High School Resource Officer and the Burns Junior High School Resource Officer an update of our log. This update provides them with indicators of activity in the Bloomington community and may provide leads to solve crimes in our area. The Sheriff's Office has also officially recognized the Mobile Watch and will use it as a model for other communities who wish to start similar organizations.

In the future, as Bloomington grows so will the Mobile Watch. Unfortunately, society today is a very mobile one. Therefore, we continually need new members to replace those who move. We also need to add more patrols as more and more homes are built. Why not call today and volunteer one evening a month. As long as the need exists, we plan to be on the streets to keep our community safe.



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CANDY, from pg. 1 and stained glass windows; the school had a school bell; and all the buildings were surrounded by sugar cone trees decorated with candy. Rashell Davis said, "I worked on the log cabin. I put some of the orange slices on the side. I put white licorices on the chimney so it looked like brick."

Once the village was complete the students invited the whole school to view it. Then the day arrived to take it to the Central Park Lodge. Even though the visit was scheduled for after school hours, nearly all the students made the trip. Many parents accompanied their children. Derrick Virgil's mother even left work early so Derrick, who lives in Tampa, could go.

Their arrival at Central Park Lodge was a little scary for some of them. "I think when we got there," Mrs. Kelly explained, "it was a little intimidating for us because the residents, and there must have been at least 30 of them in this room, . . . all these people [were] looking at us. And at first, I looked at the children's faces and some had smiles on them and some were a little bit confused about where to start." But it didn't take long before the children were shaking hands and talking to the residents, eagerly looking for the residents they had selected.

Their stories were touching. Corey Gosselin said, "I

met my first resident and she had tears in her eyes when she met me and she had a real big smile on her face and I was real happy. My first resident was Edith Hancock. My second [resident] was Mary Souther. She was pretty tall; she was in real good health and she liked to have fun." Katie Barker said, "It was a heartwarming and very emotional time for me and the residents there. I wish we could do something like this everyday." Teia Bryan described one of her residents, "She [Minnie Slaughter] was a teacher for a very long time. I told her 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year' and she started to cry." After a moment, Teia added, "She had all her real teeth, too!"

The children also sang Christmas carols with the residents. Pianists Shelley Loadwick and Katherine Siemionko accompanied the rest of their classmates as



Photo by Jan Heckinger
Lauren Heckinger and resident Bernice Garvey share a special moment.

they sang "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Adrian Schneidt wrote, "The best thing about our project was when we were singing because all of the old people were crying. They look so happy when we met our residents." The children brought happiness to the Central Park Lodge, but the Central Park Lodge gave the children an experience they will always remember.

SCHOOLS from pg. 7

The PTA volunteered to work at Eastlake Mall's Broderick "Sandman" Thomas Giving Tree. The group facilitated the purchase and tagging of gifts for children in great need by manning the Giving Tree booth.

Erwin Technical Center

For the third consecutive year the Floral Design class from Erwin Technical Center has won in the Festival of Trees contest. The 1992 theme was "Christmas in Tara". The floral class is a one year course covering the very basic to the most advanced designing techniques, marketing, merchandising, and display.

Erwin Technical Center does have an auto program, a greenhouse, and a beauty salon with services available to the public. Call 231-1827 for information.

Students sing at Disney

Cheridon Rasmussen sings with fellow "Elite" chorus members at Disney World. Elite is a 12 member group from the Bloomingdale High School Chorus. Other Elite members include (l to r) Lynna Rawls, Scott Harden, Laura Allen, Julie Frasier, and Brett Graham.



Photo by Steve Allen

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**Bruins from pg. 7
 Canned Food Drive**

by Julie Norwood
 Dec. 8, Burns Jr. High began a school-wide canned food drive. For the past week, homerooms have been donating non-perishable food items to the needy of Tampa Bay. Overall, Burns has collected 1203 items.

Feliz Navidad

by Ashley Ussery
 Students for the Spanish classes at Burns are providing their pinata projects to underprivileged and sick children. This idea was formed by Mrs. Delaney, mother of Melissa Delaney, a ninth grade student. She is responsible for filling the pinatas with candy and distributing them to these children. The National Junior Honor Society was also involved in this project.

BHA BOARD from pg. 9
 describing the committees which maintain and improve the quality of life in Bloomingdale: community relations, membership, mobile watch, neighborhood watch, parks & recreation, special events, transportation, and zoning & deed restrictions.

Additionally, the directors discussed the 1993 membership drive, which begins this month with a mailing to all residents. The mailing will explain the programs and aspirations of the BHA, which can be realized through the communities' support.

**Kids' Corner
 MOSI Presents Family Fun Science Activities**

Try this activity brought to you by the Museum of Science & Industry.

TOOTHPICK PUZZLES:

Problem-solving has always been an essential part of man's development. In ancient times, these skills were used for survival. Today, we face problems ranging from solving the daily crossword puzzle to cleaning up our polluted environment. Test your problem-solving skills with these tricky Brain Teasers.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED:

a box of toothpicks, a flat surface, an agile mind

WHAT TO DO:

Triangles:

1. Make figure (A) with 12 toothpicks.
2. Remove four toothpicks and leave three triangles
3. Move four toothpicks and form three triangles

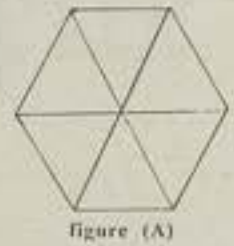


Figure (A)

15 Sticks

1. Arrange 15 toothpicks according to figure (B).
2. Remove six of them to leave 10.

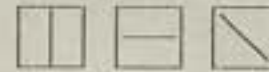


Figure (B)

hints:

1. There is more than one way to represent 10.
2. Can you SPELL 10 in English?

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit MOSI's latest traveling exhibition "BRAIN TEASERS" and try your hand at each of the 21 mind-bending puzzles on display from Jan. 28 through March 28. This brightly colored display appeals to visitors of all ages and is sure to challenge even the most accomplished problem-solver. Also on exhibit during this time is a display exploring the life and inventions of Leonardo da Vinci using graphics panels and models of his creations.

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