

Always seeking to serve the needs and wants of the residents they represent, board members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are now asking for your input on the proposed state prison site in southeast Hillsborough County.

Members of a citizen's action group from Lithia opposing the prison site are soliciting the BHA's sup-

port in their fight.

Because the proposed site north of county road 672 and west of S. R. 39 is located eight miles from the Bloomingdale community, the BHA would like to know if you, the residents, have concerns about the possible impact such a facility will have on our area.

Ultimately, the question that must be answered is

"Do you want the BHA to get involved in the dispute over the state prison site?"

What are your feelings, questions, and concerns? Please call the community office at 681-2051 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 1230 p.m. to share your views. After hours, a recorded message may be left at the same number.

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XIII, Number 7

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

JULY 1994

THE GREAT COMMUNITY PICNIC



Resident Donna Clouse, a rec center director, organized games for hours.



Anna Calcagno was delighted with Katie Grable's artistic hand.



Rick Oros, BHA Secretary and Bloomingdale Gazette President gives away another one of the many door prizes.



BHA Director, Ted Grable, thanks firemen J. Hurtado, J. Trent, and K. Conatser for their participation.



Casey O'Regan smiles as she displays the "Monkey on a Palm Tree" balloon creation.



One of Bloomingdale's furry residents makes friends with Lindsey.



BHA Board Directors Russ Lembke, Jim Wiley, and La Waque Wgatt working at picnic.



Mickey the Clown entertained for hours!



BHA President, Randy Wolfe and wife Miranda brought their family.



Michael Davis conducted the pony rides. (right)



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Dear Bloomingdale Residents,

During the June's BHA board of directors meeting, a homeowners group from, Lithia Springs gave a presentation concerning the proposed Lithia Prison site located off State Road 39. The board of directors listened to the presentation and asked questions that would assist us in making a decision, to either endorse or denounce the proposed site. At this time we are asking the homeowners and residents of Bloomingdale to voice your opinion on this very important issue.

The proposed site could have an effect on our community, we as the board of directors want to represent you concerning this proposed prison site location. Working together as a community we can have our voices heard, not only on this issue but also other issues that warrant our attention.

Voice your opinion by contacting the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 100, Valrico, FL 33594, or phone 681-2051.

Rick Oros,

Randy Wolfe,

President, The Bloomingdale Gazette
Secretary, BHA

President, BHA

OFFICERS

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

Randy Wolfe	President	229-3321
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Rick Borling 684-2022

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

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

William Grace	President	685-2817
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The Bloomingdale Gazette

3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 101
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051
Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Directors

Rick Oros	Pam Liguori
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Statement of Operation

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MEETINGS

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

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District
Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

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

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District
First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

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

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, The Good

by Rozel Sciulli

The Good - What a great month for community involvement June was! The BHA got an impressive response to their picnic and most recently, Bloomingdale's River Crossing community turned out in full force to find out more about the county's neighborhood watch program.

These things are good. They're about community. They're about involvement.

Congratulations to the picnic organizers for finally seeing the need to do something about community spirit. See, guys, it didn't take an act of Congress to pull off a picnic. You just did it! Amazing!

The several hundred who attended came away talking about when there would be another one. That's a sure sign of success.

As for the River Crossing residents, they've got the fever. Let's hope it doesn't go the way of early Bloomingdale residents who let apathy infect their need for community awareness.

Fact is, the people of River Crossing had one break-in too many and they said "enough is enough. What can we do about preventing crime in our neighborhood?" Bravo!

Maybe the tide is turning back to community responsibility and concern, even if only a small step. Maybe this is a sign of good things to come.

Another chance to prove your concern would be to turn out for the public meeting on security that the STD has scheduled (see related story).

This would be good.

The Bad - Somebody - on purpose - plowed down oak trees and dug up freshly planted grass plugs on Nature's Way by

the golfers' club. The kid or adult responsible needs to get out there on a Saturday morning and replant the trees and re-plug the grass. Why would anyone intentionally be so destructive to community property?

The Ugly - Welcome to Nature's International Speed Way, where holes in walls and demolished light poles are a common sight. By its very design, Nature's Way is a race-track. Shame on the early developers who made it

so. But, shame shame on the drivers who abuse it and ignore the posted speed limits.

There have been no less than seven accidents in Bloomingdale this month - five in one week. While not all were on Nature's Way, doesn't it point to an overall sense of carelessness and irresponsibility? Perhaps one could point to the start of summer vacation putting more teenage drivers on the road during the day. NOT! Two chunks were taken out of a wall on Nature's Way last month by the ADULT driver of a Corvette. Ouch. Guess the figerglass body didn't hold out too well, either.

The Good - Those palm trees on Nature's Way and Culbreath are starting to look like palm trees. In fact, the entire beautification project of the STD is looking great. Notice, the addition of park benches - one on Nature's Way and one on Culbreath - for leg-weary joggers or walkers to sit and rest a spell. Warning - don't try it during the day. The black wrought iron will leave a brand mark on your - well, you get the idea.

The beautification will be ongoing for another year, the STD hoping to make Bloomingdale one of Hillsborough County's premier communities.

This is good.

Our Times

File Now For STD Candidacy

Special to *The Gazette*

Residents of Bloomingdale have a real opportunity to serve their community by becoming trustees of the Special Taxing District. On September 8, annual elections to select trustees to the county's 36 special tax districts will be held.

According to supervisor of elections, Pam Iorio, candidates must file with her office no later than noon on July 22. To become a candidate for trustee, an individual must be a registered voter, a resident of the district, and file a financial disclosure form. Instead of paying a qualifying fee to get on the ballot, candidates qualify by petition. Each candidate must collect the signatures of seven to 15 voters residing in the tax district. Petition forms are available from the supervisor of elections office.

Bloomingdale's special taxing district was created to assist in collecting and spending funds to maintain the subdivisions' common areas. The local STD oversees a budget in excess of \$250,000. A portion of each homeowner's non-ad valorem

taxes - \$80 - goes to the Bloomingdale STD.

Seven trustees serve the local district, and according to its president, Rick Pitrowski, all seven positions will be vacated as the board re-aligns its terms of office.

In the past, each trustee served a two-year term with four or three members up for re-election every two years. The current board, deciding that every year there was too much of a turnover, set new terms whereby two, two, and three members would each serve three years. But, in order to initiate the new system with this election - two members will have a one-year term, two members a two-year term, and three members, a three-year term. Each successive election would seat trustees for three-year terms.

Pitrowski anticipates that all current trustees will seek re-election, and they may be joined on the ballot by former STD trustee Fred Uphoff who has made known his intentions to run for a position.

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Commentary Enjoy Area Parks This Holiday Weekend

by Rozel Sculli

Tired of the backyard pool? Not enough shade trees at your house to make it comfortable outdoors? Looking to commune with nature? Try one of the area's regional parks this holiday weekend or any weekend that you just want to get away.

Residents of the Bloomingdale area are fortunate to live in close proximity to three of the county's most popular recreational parks. Each has something different to offer from camping to horseback riding to swimming. Choose the one that will make a perfect get-away for your family.

Lithia Springs

The closest to Bloomingdale, Lithia Springs is located southeast on Lithia-Pinecrest across the Alafia River. The 160-acre park features an old-fashioned, spring-fed swimming hole monitored by lifeguards. It's the coolest dip around with water temperatures staying at 72 degrees year around. The park offers picnic areas, playgrounds, and 40 camping spots with shower facilities. In addition to the swimming, there is river access for canoeing. Because it is popular, the park is often very crowded.

Edward Medard Park & Reservoir

One of the finest examples of reclaimed land, Medard Park was once a prosperous phosphate mine. It is located on Turkey Creek Road, just south of S. R. 60, and surrounds a reservoir operated by the Southwest Florida

Water Management District. Covered picnic shelters and excellent fishing make it a popular daytime get-away. The park also offers camping, swimming, a boat ramp, pier and boardwalk that leads to an observation tower which is located on a small island. The children find it fascinating. For an added bonus, nearby stables offer horseback riding through park trails. Must arrive early to get a picnic shelter. The horseback riding is great! My kids' favorite park around.

Alderman's Ford

Dotted with historical markers, this park on S. R. 39 between S. R. 60 and Lithia Pinecrest used to be a meeting place for early settlers. The ford was a river crossing which made it possible for dwellers to attend early day political rallies and social gatherings. The 1141-acre park is a popular recreational area for boaters and nature lovers. The most fascinating feature of the park is its three-mile boardwalk and footbridges that wind through the lush Florida woodlands. A modern canoe launch makes river access easy, and the picnic areas are connected by a pedestrian or bicycle path. The boardwalk is fabulous. The most peaceful and best shaded daytime outing.

Other regional parks outside the immediate area are as follows:

Eureka Springs

Located North of I-4 and U.S. 301, Eureka Springs is situated on 31 acres and is the county's only botanical garden. It features greenhouses and trellised walkways. There is a boardwalk and a picnic area.

Lettuce Lake

Just west of I-75 on Fletcher Avenue and the Hillsborough River. Two boardwalks lead to an observa-

tion tower that overlooks a cypress swamp, home to native birds and other wildlife. The 240-acre park also has picnic areas, a fitness course, and jogging trail.

E. G. Simmons

This 469-acre park and preserve near Ruskin is located on 19th St. Northwest of U.S. 41 in southern Hillsborough County. It offers picnic areas, playgrounds, camping, boating, and canoeing. There is access to salt-water fishing and boating. A beach offers swimming and white sands for sunbathing.

Upper Tampa Bay

A unique look at Florida marine life is made possible at this 2144-acre park and preserve. It features fresh water ponds, pine flatwoods, salt marshes, oyster bars, salt barenns, oak hammocks, and mangrove forest. The boardwalk offers hiking and various views of Tampa Bay and its habitat. The park is located at 8001 double Branch Road off S. R. 580 on Old Tampa Bay.

Lake Park

This 600-acre park is home to five lakes, cypress swamps and hardwood hammocks. Picnic facilities as well as boating and fishing are offered. Unique opportunities for hobbyists are available at Lake Park with its BMX track, radio-controlled car track, and archery range. The park also has equestrian facilities for the physically challenged.

Some parks require an admission fee and all close at dusk, except for campers. Remember safe boating and swimming practices. And, remember, alcoholic beverages are not permitted at county parks.

Celebrate the country's independence with your own day or weekend of freedom in the great outdoors.

Brandon The Place To Be For July 4th Festivities

World War II veteran Joe Kapraun will usher in the annual Brandon President's Roundtable Fourth of July Parade as its Grand Marshall on Monday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m. Brandon's is one of only three major parades in Hillsborough County during the year.

Featured in this year's parade are 163 units including celebrity grand marshal, Ronald McDonald. The parade will start at Parsons and Lumsden from where it will head north on Parsons to Robertson Street. There, it will turn west to its destination at Builder's Square.

Parade goers will be entertained by

23 units from the Egypt Temple Shrine including musicians, cyclists, and clowns. The East Hillsborough Marching Band is also entered, as is a long row of antique cars, the Rough Riders, and Krewe of Ft. Brooke.

The parade is the highlight of the day's events, which this year begins with the annual Rotary Pancake Breakfast and ends with a fireworks display.

After most families have enjoyed their own afternoon celebrations, residents return to town after sunset for the annual

Fireworks Display sponsored by the Presidents' Roundtable. The display is best viewed from the parking lots in and around Regency Square.

7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
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10 a.m.
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1 p.m.
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BHA Community Picnic A Great Success

by Rozel Sciulli

Rest and relaxation were the key to enjoying the renewed Community Picnic sponsored by the BHA last month at Park West. Over 400 residents spent a leisurely early Saturday evening with fun, food, and entertainment.

And the BHA hosts were so pleased with the response, that they plan to stage another picnic next spring when the new County Recreation Center is completed. With time and community response, organizers even hope to hold regular events on the rec center grounds.

The ingredients for success - BHA secretary Rick Oros explains it.

"People's need for family time and community ties.

"The success of the picnic also has to do with the tremendous support from our sponsors, the county agencies, the food and door prizes," he added.

Indeed, the residents were ready for a picnic and made a day of it by arriving well in advance of the 5 p.m. start time, some sporting athletic equipment for softball and soccer games, others with blankets and lawn chairs content to sit and watch as children participated in

the many games sponsored by the rec department. Donna Clouse, a Bloomingdale resident, who is also a rec center director, organized three full hours of children's activities.



Bloomingdale residents enjoy the community picnic.

"Everyone from parks and recreation was outstanding," said Oros, pointing out that fellow picnic planner Ted Grable was instrumental in organizing the county agencies

that sent representatives to the picnic.

Parking, which exceeded the number of cars anticipated, was facilitated by Mobile watch coordinator LaWayne Wyatt and his crew of Bob Haverstein and Wally Schaffer.

The BHA underwrote the cost of the food, making it possible for residents to pay only a dollar a meal. In addition, costs were defrayed by the contributions of corporate sponsors Donna MacGiffert of Sun Cove Realty and Steve Briggs of All-State Insurance.

One of the popular attractions for the children was the pony rides, which was sponsored in full by local realtor Michael Davis of RE/Max Realty Unlimited.

According to Oros, the BHA is also appreciative to the many businesses that contributed door prizes including Dipsticks Oil Change, Smoothie King, Soccer Field, Pat & Mikes Nursery, Publix, Brandon Optometry, Mailboxes, Etc., Specs Music, and Grable Plumbing.

The BHA would also like to thank the Kiwanis-Nights Club for setting up and operating the beverage booth and to the Athletic Trainers Club of Bloomingdale High School for conducting the children's face painting.

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Security Topic of STD Public Meeting

Residents will be asked to give their input to the question trustees of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District are wanting to know - Do you want to pay for security in your community? - when a public meeting is held on August 15.

The announcement of a site is pending the response to attendance. According to STD president, Rick Pitrowski, he is looking for a site that will hold the anticipated turnout. The time and place will be announced in the August issue of *The Gazette*.

At the center of discussion will be the issue of security. And, says Pitrowski, there are only three options - no security, part-time security, or full-time security.

"We will follow the wishes of the residents," said Pitrowski, who added that the STD will listen to community input and concerns, but stated that at this time, there would not be representation from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department. "We will invite them at a later date, if we find out that the residents are interested in pursuing this project."

A recent story appeared in *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, in which residents who were interviewed stated that they feel security is a problem in the community, citing an increase in crime from petty theft to home burglaries and disturbances by juveniles. A majority of those interviewed said they would be willing to pay additional taxes to have the services of off-duty Sheriff deputies in their neighborhoods.

One way to generate the funds needed for off-duty Sheriff protection, would be to increase each homeowner's non-ad valorem taxes. This could only be accomplished by passage of a referendum in a general election.

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Allen-Fabbiani Exchange Vows

Walt Disney World's Yacht and Beach Club Resort was the fairy tale setting for the May 14 nuptials of Michelle Allen and Michael Fabbiani.

Michelle is the daughter of Darrel and Sue Allen of Bloomingdale East, and Michael is the son of Jeannie Fabbiani of Pensacola and Anthony Fabbiani of Atlanta.

Presented in marriage by her father, Michelle made her entrance to the music of a harp, violin and flute trio. She walked up a pink, brick path to a lakeside gazebo surrounded by a rose garden in full bloom.

Michelle's full length, white satin gown was embellished in pearl beads and iridescent crystals. The cut-out bodice was overlaid with lace that climbed to a Juliette collar. Pearls also dotted her chapel-length train and shoul-



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fabbiani

der-length veil, which was held in place by a crown of twisted pearls. She carried a bouquet of white orchids with purple throats. Her attendants wore cocktail-length dresses of black lace and carried a bouquet of purple orchids with cascading dendrobium orchids. Following the ceremony, the wedding party was received by 50 guests at a reception held in a banquet room of the Disney Convention Center. Michelle is a 1986 graduate of Brandon High School and a 1990 graduate of the University of South Florida. The couple will reside in Atlanta where Michael is the captain of banquets for the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and Michelle is a marketing representative for a cosmetics firm.

Nuptial Mass Unites Marose-Milo

Tradition was honored when Anne Marose and Dr. Scott Milo exchanged vows during a morning nuptial mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in downtown Tampa, July 2.

Miss Marose is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fournier of Bloomingdale Estates. Dr. Milo is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Milo of Plantation, FL.

Given in marriage by her father, Miss Marose entered the Gothic sanctuary, which was draped in white bunting and green garland, while the century-old organ pipes filled the air with the sounds of the traditional wedding march.

The bride wore a white gown with a cathedral train and fingertip veil, held by a tiara encrusted with pearls and crystals. The v-neck gown was accented by a beaded bodice, skirt and train. She carried a bouquet of ocean roses, stephanotis, and white orchids.

The bride's attendants were matron of honor Luanne Blackburn of Clearwater, the bride's sister Michelle Dyke, cousin Aimee Fox, Veresa Stewart, and Mary Reichenback. They wore tea-length gowns of teal which featured open backs, a full "Ginger Rogers-type" skirt, and rhinestone beaded necklines. Each attendant carried a miniature of the bride's bouquet.

Dr. Milo's best man was Campbell Lloyd-



Anne Marose Milo



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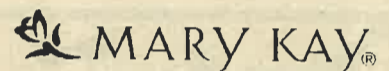
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Send your social news to *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594, or stop by our office in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza. Please be sure to include a phone number. Photographs are also welcomed.



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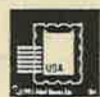
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Church and Synagogue News

by Erin Mule'

St. Stephen's Pastor Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The Reverend Patrick Irwin, pastor of St. Stephen Catholic Church in Valrico, celebrated 25 years as a priest on June 8. He will be honored by parishioners as well as special, local clergy with a mass and reception on Sunday, July 17, at 10:30 a.m.

In addition, several family members will be attending from Dublin, Ireland, including his three sisters and their families. They will then join Father Pat for his

three-week vacation traveling around Florida.

Father Pat was born, raised and educated in Ireland. Following his ordination on June 8, 1969, in Waterford, Ireland, he was assigned to the United States. He spent time in Dunedin and St. Petersburg before arriving at St. Stephen's in January, 1991.

The local pastor muses he is happy to be at St. Stephen's where he says, "I hope to make my home for a long, long time."

He says he likes this young, growing area and is especially happy to be working with the large number of children - approximately 800 - in the church. "I love working with kids," he emphasized.

This love of children is quite evident to the people of the church. Director of Religious Education, Joyce Morgan, describes her boss as "very committed to children

and the youth of the community. His love of youth is probably one of the strongest parts of his work." In fact, the youth of the parish play a very important part in the weekly 11:30 Sunday mass, at which they serve as ushers, lectors, and musicians. This stems from his interest in people and his desire to "really get to know people - not just superficially," Morgan adds.

His staff says he is "private, spiritual and easy to deal with," and the church is happy he has made St. Stephen's his home.

Since joining the parish, one of the newest in the St. Petersburg Diocese, he has seen church membership grow by the hundreds, now close to 1700 families and a paid staff of eight employees.

In other church news:

Due to the response to their Independence weekend celebration, Bell Shoals Baptist Church has scheduled a second performance of "America...Cries Out!" at 3:15 p.m., Sunday, July 3rd. The afternoon of entertainment and inspiration is a multi-media and musical production staged by the church's Celebration Choir and Orchestra. Admission is free, but an audience ticket must be obtained from the church prior to the performance (limit 6 tickets per family).

Members of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church will hold its Vacation Bible School from July 11-15. "Beneath the Storytelling Tree - Parables Jesus Told" is the theme of this year's camp, which will be held from 9 a.m. to noon that week. Registration forms may be picked up in the church office.

The children of Immanuel Lutheran Church will "Explore God's Kingdom" during their Vacation Bible School

Bell Shoals Baptist Church will hold "Trail of Treasures" the week of August 1-5, for children in kindergarten through 6th grade from 9 a.m. until noon.

Living Savior Lutheran Church will offer a program for the entire family each night from 7 to 8:30 p.m., during the week of August 8-12.

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Tiffany Winston designed this masquerade mask in her performing arts class during summer school.

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The menu offers only the freshest ingredients. All meats are prepared and made fresh daily. Ybor City bakery supplies the bread that is baked daily. And, for those of you who are conscious of what you eat, Backdraft fries all products in 100% canola oil.

The casual family restaurant offers reasonably priced meals. Some worthy items to mention from the menu are (but not limited to): Backdraft Gourmet Burger, 10 oz. \$5.95 & 5 oz. \$4.25, New York Steak, 8 oz. \$6.70, Grouper Sandwich (fresh gulf, not frozen), 7-8 oz. \$5.70, Italian Sausage (hand made daily from Ybor) on Cuban bread \$4.70, and Ybor City Cuban, 9 oz. meat, 10 in. for only \$3.75. Backdraft also offers items for the "Little Fire Fighter".



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Smoothie King is open Monday through Fridays 9 - 9, Saturdays 9 - 8, and Sundays 1 - 7.



Spaghetti Warehouse

The Spaghetti Warehouse offers a unique family dining experience. Set in the heart of Ybor City, this restaurant has an unforgettable atmosphere. From tables made out of old fashion bed posts to a whole dining section **inside a trolley car**, one could definitely say this eatery has a relaxing family atmosphere, yet sophisticated enough for business lunches.

The prices are surprisingly inexpensive, especially considering the very generous portions that are given. Unlimited fresh bread and a bowl of soup or salad start off the meal. There is something for everyone at the Spaghetti Warehouse. One of the highlights is, of course, the spaghetti. An ample variety of sauces are yours to choose from.

So, get away and experience the flavor of Ybor City while you dine at this delightfully historical setting.

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ing Guide



Lucky's Chinese Restaurant

Oriental vases and delicately framed fans accent the blue and white decor of Lucky's Chinese Restaurant, owned and operated by Hop Shi and Margaret Leung and located in Bloomingdale Square.

Already recognized for its popular \$3.95 daily buffet that offers an extensive variety of dishes, served between 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Lucky's also offers an extensive lunch and dinner menu featuring Mandarin, Cantonese, and Szechuan style entrees reasonable priced between \$5.25 and \$8.75 for dinner.

Mr. Leung personally recommends the spicy Szechuan dishes Kung Pao Chicken and Shrimp Cashew. Combination dinners, half prices for children, and speedy take-out orders are other features customers will appreciate.



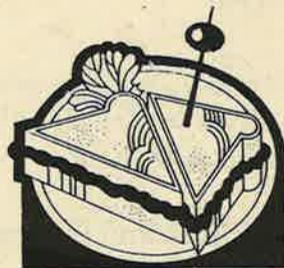
Tadpole's

Come visit old friends and meet new ones at Tadpole's, Brandon's favorite neighborhood eating and drinking establishment. Customer's enjoy hearty grilled sandwiches, fresh garden salads, homemade soups and made to order Black Angus burgers, along with two daily specials, in a warm comfortable atmosphere. While sipping on an ice cold 16 oz. draft for only \$1.75 (\$1.25 Happy Hour), patrons relax in a unique environment created by antiques, tackle box napkin holders, tables inlaid with fishing paraphernalia, under a tin roof canopy. All of this complemented by walls decorated with a whimsical antique sign collection.

Lunches and dinners range from \$2.95 - \$5.75. "Polliwogs" (children 10 and under) will be delighted by the special children's menu and variety of video games. Happy Hour is 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and again from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. everyday.

Tadpoles is located at 913 Lithia Pinecrest Road in the Lithia Square Plaza across the street from the new Brandon Indoor Soccer Arena.

The hours are 11 a.m. (noon on Sundays) to 3 a.m., seven days a week.



Romano's Macaroni Grill

The magic of Romano's Macaroni Grill places you in the casual environment of an Italian kitchen where a delicious array of authentic Italian dishes are freshly prepared and an unequal sense of energy and enthusiasm abounds.

As guests enter the restaurant, they are greeted with display cases filled with fresh meats and homemade pastas. Exposed stone walls reach to a ceiling hung with strings of lights. Wine in jugs is served on the honor system and tables draped in white clothes offset the cement floor. Stacks of glasses and fresh gladiolas line the wait stations. Italian music--coupled with an occasional operatic song from one or more of the servers--fills the air and mixes with the aroma of garlic and rosemary adding to the festive environment. Served in generous portions, seasonal menu selections include pastas, veal dishes, seafood, pizza baked in wood burning ovens, steaks, chicken roasted over a mesquite flame, breads, soups and desserts.



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Summer School Adds Enrichment

by Rozel Sciulli

Children at Alafia Elementary just couldn't stay away from school for the summer. They have been busy in a variety of enrichment classes which will culminate on July 19 in a summer school-ending Extravaganza, a showcase for the children's accomplishments and talents.

More than 350 students are involved in the summer program at Alafia - quite a stimulating challenge, according to Assistant Principal, Alice Loeb.

One of the most popular programs is the Science/Math Camp, which explores various aspects of the two subjects

through experiments and investigation for third and fourth graders. In addition, primary pupils are participating in a conversational Spanish course, while fifth graders put their imaginations to work in Enterprise, Inc., an entrepreneurship course in which children develop and market a product.

"We are teaching the good old American work ethic," said Loeb about Enterprise. "We teach the children if you work you get paid."

Children in this class operate a snack bar and will sell arts and crafts that they have made. Each has bought "stock" in their company, and the dividends will be taken home at the end of the summer program.

Special classes for students in the county's gifted programs are also being offered at Alafia, where children will learn about aquatic vertebrates or participate in the areas of performing or visual arts, video production, young architects, junior detec-

tives, ET explorers and experiences with Legos.

Alafia is also home to a pilot program in the county called Future Problem Solvers. In this class, children in third through fifth grade work on world problems that could come up in the future. They are also discussing what to anticipate in becoming

future leaders of the country. During the six-week course, the students have worked on individual projects such as developing an underground city.

Tim Aardrup's students in the aquatic vertebrates class have already dissected sharks and

later this month they will visit Cockroach Bay, the county's marine wildlife preserve. According to Loeb, Aardrup, who is a certified scuba instructor as well as a classroom teacher, is bringing the children to a higher level of understanding of marine life. "He

goes out and collects specimens to bring into class," she said.

Fifth grade teachers Lisa Glass and Judy Golden have offered their students an active role in the performing arts. The children have experimented with puppetry and will show off their talents at the Extravaganza.

ET Explorers are investigating prospects of space exploration, while junior detectives are kindergarten through second graders who are receiving a heightened awareness of the dangers to animals and their habitats. This popular class enrolled five units with over 80 children who have been targeted for the county's gifted program.



Enjoying Spanish conversation this summer are first graders Emily Dodenhoff, Ryan Jones, Kayleigh Goodrich, and Steven Partin



Michael Madison and E. J. Diaz are two students in Trends in Technology. The two are writing a book to which they will eventually add illustrations and sound.



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Military Review

by Yolanda Boronell

The annual Awards Ceremonies at Bloomingdale Senior High School was the first step to promising military careers for many graduating seniors. Colonel "Doc" Holladay, JROTC instructor, presented the military awards and this year, Cadet Major Tom Burke won top honors as the Distinguished Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet for 1994.

Cadet Captain Talibah Long received the Reserve Officers Association Award for her outstanding military

and academic achievement, and David Watkins also achieved honors by earning the Air Force's Math and Science Award for excellence in these areas.

Boldly stepping in to the future, Chris Baird and Ryan Boyle, have accepted an Air Force ROTC scholarship and an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. They were only two of 4600 scholarships offered nationwide out of 11,400 applicants, according to Col. Holladay.

Others off to bright futures include Robert Holcomb, selected from among numerous applicants for an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point; Matt Laverghetta, who has accepted an appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy; and Bryan Van Brunt, who has accepted the Falcon Foundation and Air Force ROTC scholarships and will attend the preparatory school this fall in the hopes of attending the Academy the following fall.

Chris Cassem has accepted an Air Force ROTC scholarship and will attend the University of Florida, while Andres Diaz has accepted a Navy ROTC scholarship and plans to enroll in Jacksonville State University. Laurinda Powles earned an Air Force ROTC scholarship and will attend Illinois Institute of Technology.

Col. Holladay is proud of the cadets in the program, but makes it clear that not all recipients of military awards were enrolled in the JROTC program. "There are many kids in the school who are not associated with the JROTC program, who are still interested in the military and have applied through the guidance office for the scholarship opportunities and have been selected.

"Some of these really sharp kids get offered a number of scholarships," he said.

Congratulations to all these outstanding achievers as they step into the future with honors.

Educational Edge



Learning Can Be Fun During Summer

Summer vacation from school offers a unique opportunity for parents to keep their children learning while enjoying close family experiences.

How does planning a vacation or baking cookies with your child teach valuable skills necessary for proper learning? Performing tasks and doing chores together are great opportunities to teach the process of learning. With an objective to meet and a sense of responsibility, most children will find the challenge irresistible.

"Parents should find jobs which are fun and encourage family togetherness," says Dr. Raymond Huntington. "Activities such as cooking, baking, and setting the table require following step-by-step directions," explains Huntington. "When complex tasks can be broken down into simple achievable steps, a child's self-confidence is enhanced. Accomplishing something encourages a child to move on to the next challenge."

Dr. Huntington suggests the following:

*** Have your child participate in family decision-making.** For example, ask your child to help plan an outing or vacation. First, look at a map and have your child find your start point and your destination. Then, together, find the best route to take. Planning the route teaches geography.

Again, ask questions: According to the legend on the map, how many miles is this route? At an average speed of 50 mph, how long will it take to reach our destination? We'll have to make stops along the way. Where and when should we stop? Figuring the number of miles and when to stop

teaches a time and distance relationship.

*** Help your child see how what he learns fits into the real world.** If your child is trying to master fractions, for example, bake cookies from scratch. He can practice figuring out how many half cups of flour and sugar are needed to make the recipe. Next time, double the recipe and let him do the multiplication.

While you're baking, keep up a gentle dialogue. For example, how many cookies will this recipe make? How many dozens is that? If we use two cups of flour to make 48 cookies, how much flour is in each cookie.

*** Summer is a great time to learn time management skills.** You can make a Weekly Activity Schedule for each week of the summer. First block out the time your child will spend at pre-set activities such as camp, vacations, music lessons, etc.

Then let your child fill in some choices for what to do each day during each week. Have him schedule required chores, such as mowing the lawn. This will show your child that with proper planning, there's time to fit in everything that he wants to do.

Scheduling like this is a valuable skill that should be continued when school starts in the fall. In this way, homework as well as leisure activities will have their own "priority" time slots.

*** Have your child put together a scrapbook about his summer.** It can be accompanied by a written description of the activities featured. This will help him practice writing skills and organizing information.

Dr. Huntington cautions parents to remember that learning is progressive and that all children develop at different levels. "Climbing the ladder step-by-step is the best way to insure success," he says.

Dr. Huntington notes that vacations from school and work are more than just days off. "Vacations give us the time to do the things we enjoy. Parents can read stories with their children, asking questions, encouraging them to think. Use these experiences to strengthen a child's attitude toward learning."

Educational Edge is provided by Anne Kilcline.

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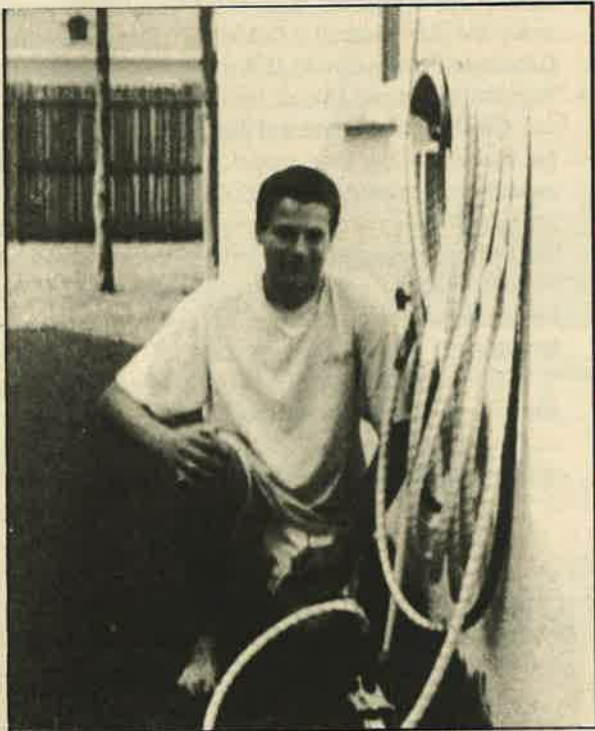
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Enterprising Youth Makes A Difference



Teen inventor Grady Gosselin has come up with a new twist on lawn sprinkling.

by Jolene Riley

Grady G. Gosselin is a quiet and polite 16-year old whose unique ability sets him apart from the rest.

With an armful of pvc piping, he has managed to come up with a low cost and low maintenance sprinkler system that needs no electricity and effectively waters several parts of a yard, or only the flower beds with just one twist of the hand. By easily controlling the few valves that are centered around the outside spigot and garden hose, the homeowner is able to decide how much or how little is to be watered at each given time. The sprinklers pop up with only the pressure of the water and then descend on their own when the water pressure is turned off.

"I watch a lot of home improvement shows," Grady said, explaining briefly that he just came up with the idea one day. "I wanted to surprise my mother, so I just began digging the holes and laying the pipe."

Grady admitted that his mother was a little nervous at first, "but when the final project was completed, well she liked it a lot."

His entire Oakdale Reserve neighborhood seems to appreciate his fine efforts too. Since his own system was installed, Grady has completed several other homes with more on a waiting list. This has kept the Bloomingdale High School junior very busy.

Hats off to a fine young man for his aspiring resourcefulness and ambition.



Kids had a great time With Mikey The Clown at the Bloomingdale Community Picnic July 11th.

Kids Kalendar Rated G

Three Productions This Month

Members of the Brandon Youth Theatre will stage three productions later this month when they present "Tom Sawyer", "Sherlock Holmes", and "The Poems of Shel Silverstein" at Center Place.

Mark Twain's beloved novel comes to life in the musical version of "Tom Sawyer" on Friday July 29 at 8 p.m. and again on Saturday, July 30, at 2 p.m.

In an unprecedented second summer production, the youth theatre children will present "Sherlock Holmes" on Saturday, July 30, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 31, at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for and are available at Center Place. Children ages seven through nine are the group's

"rising stars". They will be featured in "The Poems of Shel Silverstein," on Sunday, July 31, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and a reception will follow the performance.

Aladdin, Rapunzel on Stage

The Stages theatre group will present Aladdin on Wednesday, July 20, at 10:45 a.m. at Brandon's Center Place. The show, filled with slapstick humor, uses audience participation and is recommended for children ages four and up.

Rapunzel will be presented by the Patchwork Players on Thursday, Aug. 4, at 10:45 a.m. The enchanting medieval fairy tale is also for children 4 and up.

Tickets for both shows are \$2.50 per person and must be purchased in advance at Center Place.

Travel America Kids Workshop

Five weeks remain in the Travel America children's workshop at Center Place. Featured are arts and crafts for children ages six through 12, with each week's activities revolving around a different state. The class meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week from 9:30 to 12 noon through the week of August 2.

Kids:

Do you need a part time job? *The Bloomingdale Gazette* is looking for some delivery people for weekends only.

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Business Notes



Backdraft Opens

As its name suggests, the latest eatery to open in Bloomington is owned by a firefighter, Tim Colla, an 11-year veteran of the Tampa Fire Department, and his partners Anthony Recchio and Jay Fleshman. They offer the area a combination of food, drink, and music with years of family restaurant business behind them including some of Tampa's most famous dining establishments.

This weekend, Backdraft, located in Bloomington Square, will hold its grand opening. The restaurant offers casual dining with selections including burgers, salads, chicken and fish sandwiches, and Ybor City-styled Cuban sandwiches and devil crabs.

According to Colla, Backdraft will feature live Blues,

Jazz, and Top 40 music on Friday and Saturday nights. The 61-inch T.V. screen is one of seven televisions in the restaurant, which is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m., and Sundays from 12 noon to 1 a.m.

New Owners Expand Craft Shop

Crystal Cumbie has always enjoyed creating crafts. Her sister Kelli Messick has always wanted to own a business. The two put their talents and wishes together and bought From The Heart, a unique craft shop which features various artisans in the Royal Oaks of Bloomington Plaza.

Lifetime area residents, Cumbie and Messick have plans to expand the shop by early July. Taking on the adjacent suite, the owners will offer additional space for displayers as well as adding a wide selection of hand-made, country furniture.

From The Heart originally opened one year ago as an indoor craft show. This concept has been popular with

area residents who are patrons of the shop as well as displayers. The owners have established new store hours from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Blockbuster Video Opens

Seeing the need to expand to this area, Blockbuster Video has opened its second store in Brandon at Bloomington Square. The new store is managed by George Barlow and features a selection of over 12,000 videos. The store hours are 10 a.m. until midnight, seven days a week.

To The Rescue

Can't find the time to stand in line for your tags? Too much to do and not enough time to do them?

Residents of Bloomington might find area's new business To The Rescue helpful to help organize your day by providing a wide range of services, leaving you more time to do those things you enjoy.

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Real Estate Moves: Predict The Future!

Do you invest in the stock market? If so, how do you pick the stocks you will buy? If you want stocks that pay dividends and provide income, look at their past history. Have they been paying dividends consistently in the past?

If your interest is long-term company growth, examine the growth over the past few years. Does it show strength? Are company objectives being met? Although you cannot predict the future performance of stocks, their past performance does provide insight into future possibilities.

When selling your home, the future performance of your real estate agent and brokerage company are also important. How can you make a judgement about the likely success of the agent and company you choose? Ask for information about their past successes.

When choosing an agent, ask how properties have been marketed for other property owners. What promotional methods have been used to attract buyers? Can the agent provide extensive

historical suggested sale price? How many listings have expired without selling?

Another indicator that may influence the sale of your home is the degree of past cooperation between your agent and other agents working the same market area. An agent who has a history of exposing listed properties to other agents and companies, understands it is critical that they know about your home too.

When choosing an agent, look for enthusiasm, a high knowledge level, keen awareness of market conditions, and a history of success in real estate. The individual you choose will be representing your best interests, thus it is vital that the agent be firmly committed to achieving success.

Selling your home will not occur by magic. To make it happen takes a lot of hard work by a knowledgeable real estate professional.

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Winners of the Tournament of Champions major division are (kneeling) Nick Lawson, A.J. Johnson, Chris Mestre, Jake Stein, Josh Ussery, and Jason Hendrix. (Standing) Ben Ruggero, Brian Snyder, Coach Larry Johnson, Juan Camacho, Manager Dave Brown, Nick Smith, Hector Roman, Travis Brown, and Coach Ray Mestre.

Major Boys Win County Championship

With a team that has been groomed for three seasons and behind solid pitching and powerhouse hitting, the major boys Yankees (ages 10-12) of Bloomingdale Little League captured the county championship for the first time in the league's history in last month's Presidents' Tournament of Champions.

The Yankees were undefeated in the double elimination tournament that was threatened by gunfire at Belmont Heights Little League and by daily downpours that delayed the championship game for nearly one week.

In that decisive Game 5, Travis Brown's grand slam homer helped Bloomingdale sail past East Point 10-3. A.J. Johnson drove in what would eventually be the winning run.

Bloomingdale opened the tournament with a near-scare as they squeaked past North Seminole 5-4. Only an error by the third baseman allowed Brown to score the winning run. Hector Roman contributed with a homer in the opener.

Pitching dominated the remainder of the Yankees' games and never was it more lethal than in games two and three. Bloomingdale blanked the host Belmont Heights team 6-0 behind the 13 strike-out pitching and two-run homer of twelve year-old Brian Snyder. His performance was followed by a no-hit shutout on the arm of Brown. A Nick Smith homer helped lead Bloomingdale to a 10-0 blasting of East Bay.

Three homers highlighted Bloomingdale's Game 4 win over Land O Lakes. The 6-1 score was boosted by homers off the bats of Chris Mestre, Ben Ruggero, and Smith.

League's All-Stars Begin Play Tuesday

by Ansley Sciulli

Little League All-Star competition begins next week at the district level ultimately arriving at the national level, of which the most well known is the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

Bloomingdale's players ages 9-15 begin District 13 play-offs July 5, at various sites around the county. The league will be represented by 98 athletes at different levels. All-Stars were selected by their peers and coaches, and were announced June 18.

Defending the league's District 13 championship title, the junior All-Stars (age 13) are lead by manager, Tom Crossland and coach, Steve Clouse. The members of the All-Star team are Scott Austin, Kasey Chunn, Steve Clouse, Nick Desch, Scott Hundley, Saul Jimenez, Scott Launer, Brad McDonald, Justin Montgomery, Mike Sober, Stephen Briggs, Kyle Sciulli, and Vincent Sposaro. Tournament play will begin July 7 against North Brandon at East Bay Little League.

Representing the Senior Boys All-Star team (ages 14 and 15) are Mike Kurek, Steve Albro, Matt Smith, Jeff Hill, Jason VanHuele, Jason Burt, Emilio Rivera, Kevin Steinil, Brad Guagliardo, Brandon Cox, Bo Stock, Gabby Kapp, Craig Contos, and Mike Gasparino. The Senior All-Star team is managed by Tom Bahlow and coached by Mark Stock. They face North Seminole at Temple Terrace Little League on July 7.

Selected to the Senior Girls All-Star team are Heather Wright, Natalie Deckert, Jamie Melton, Heidi Buchanan, Tristan Seley, Dori Carson, Stacy Silverstein, Katie Judge,

Kammie Spence, Ginger Burke, Karen Hassler, Missy Laing, and Marcia Garvin. The girls begin play on July 6 at Temple Terrace and play East Bay. The girls are managed by Ray Deckert and coach Sam Garvin.

The Major Boys (11 and 12) begin their tournament July 5 at South East against Belmont Heights. They are led by manager, Dave Brown and coach, Dave LaFountain. Team members include Brian Ambrose, Tony Bruington, Travis Brown, Adrial Fiallo, Michael Giglio, Johnathan Holmes, Bobby Hassler, Nick Lawson, Lyle LaFountain, Eddie Owens, Hector Roman, Brian Snyder, Ryan Spence, and Travis West.

Chosen to the Major Girls team were, Lindsay Reid, Maura Brosnan, Shawna Fletcher, Allison Murphy, Kelley Birch, Jessie Ortiz, Laura Smithers, Vickie Brzezinski, Heather Bedford, Angie Reginelli, Lyndsey Heine, Kayte Stanbery, Erin O'Brian, and Jackie Juzysta. Jim Juzysta is the manager and Fred Heine, coach. The tournament begins July 7 at Land O' Lakes and they face South East.

Representing the 9 and 10 year-old boys' All-Star team are Michael Andreas, Brian Batson, Brenton Burns, Morgan Courty, Robert Eaton, Michael Esposito, Javier Fiallo, Tim Fusco, John Gawron, A.J. Johnson, Chris Kemper, Christian Madson, Jake Stein, and John Ussery. Tournament play begins July 5 at South Brandon against Sulphur Springs. The team is managed by Ted Gawron and coach Greg Batson.

The Minor Girls begin their tournament July 6 at Land O' Lakes. They are led by manager Robin Buchanan and coached by Frank Duci and Dave McPeak. Team members include Laura Bedford, Lindsay Brogdan, Shana Buchanan, Jamie Carter, Kristen Clouse, Erica Duci, Lynda Fletcher, Catie Hartling, Crystal Ihm, Debbie Kraunelis, Melanie Laing, Aimee Perkins, Courtney Raney, and Melanie Scott.

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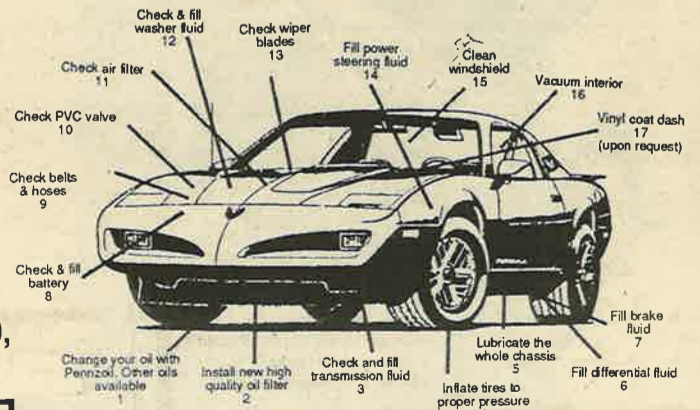
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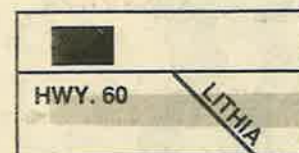
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BHA Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be Tuesday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101.

STD Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District board of trustees will be Monday, July 11, at 7 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinerest Road, Suite 101.

Kiwanis Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale/Valrico Kiwanis Club meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12 noon at the Bloomingdale Golfer's Club.

Art Show Applications

Area artists and artisans are invited to submit applications to exhibit their work in the Brandon League of Fine Arts annual Fall Art Fest. The juried show and sale will be held Saturday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Regency Square. Application forms may be obtained by writing to the League at P.O. Box 451, Brandon, FL 33509.

Cash awards will be provided for first through third places in five categories - oils and acrylics, watercolor, three dimensional art, original designed crafts, and open media.

Parenting Class

A class entitled the "Be Happy Attitudes of Parenting" will run for four weeks on Tuesdays beginning July 5, from

7:30 to 9 p.m. in a meeting room of St. Stephen Catholic Church. In it, parents will learn how to alleviate the sometimes stressful relationships between themselves and their children. Call Dr. Bob Kalle at 685-5685 for details.

HIV, AIDS Support Group

Victims of HIV or AIDS and their family members are invited to attend support group meetings held every Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m. at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church at Front Street and North Valrico Road. Call Debbie at 978-8683 for further information.

Town Hall Meeting

U.S. Rep. Charles T. Canady will hold a public town hall meeting on Saturday, July 9, at 10 a.m. at the Hillsborough County Farm Bureau, 100 S. Mulrennan Road in Valrico. Bloomingdale residents should take Bloomingdale Avenue east to a left hand turn on Pearson, which becomes Mulrennan Road. The Farm Bureau is located at the corner of Mulrennan and S.R. 60. Constituents will have the opportunity to discuss the issues coming before Congress with Congressman Canady.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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WRITERS: Freelance writers wanted. Call *The Bloomingdale Gazette* at 681-2051 btwn. 9:30 am and 12:30.

PAINTING/PRESSURE WASHING: Interior/exterior; Free estimates, reasonable rates. 20 years experience; References upon request. Bloomingdale resident. Call 689-9192. 9/94

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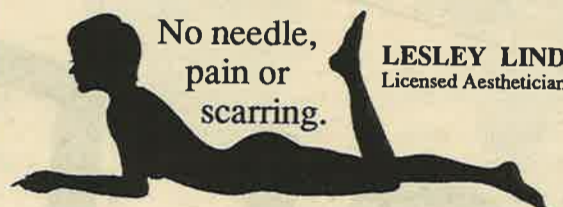
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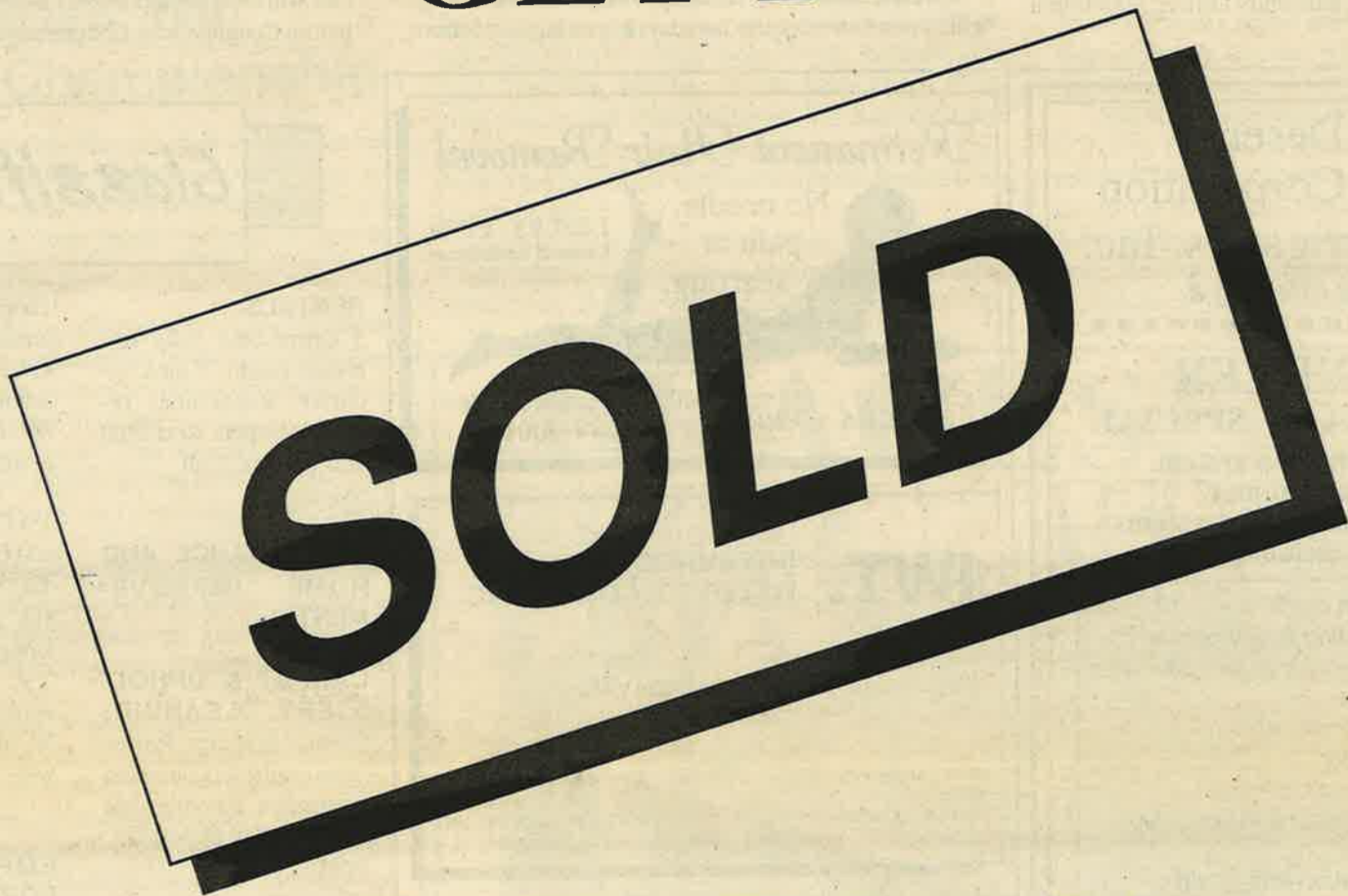
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