

## Coming Attractions

Next month look for  
...Back-to-school news  
...Bloomingdale's popular teen bands  
...Summer sports highlights

See Area  
Restaurant  
Guide .....Page 8

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XV, Number 7

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

July 1995

## BHA Briefs

### Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, July 11, at 7:30 in the Community Office located in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale next door to Fabric King. The agenda for the next few months, according to board vice president Rick Oros, will concentrate on the budget and membership. Homeowners who have concerns or issues they wish to bring before the board are encouraged to attend. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting.

### New Meeting Guidelines

While residents are encouraged to attend BHA meetings, board members have found it necessary to set time limitations on speakers so meetings can end at a reasonable hour. The new guidelines will be strictly adhered to, according to board vice president Rick Oros. They are as follows:

7:30 - 8 p.m. Homeowners will be given an opportunity to address the BHA board.

- There will be a 10-minute maximum time limit per homeowner, per issue and this includes BHA board response.

- Residents will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration through telephone calls will be permitted. Residents may also sign-up on a list posted outside the community office the night of a meeting. Doors will remain locked until 7:30 p.m.

- Should a group of residents attend a BHA meeting, it is recommended that one person act as spokesperson for the group.

- The board reserves the right to grant variances to the time limit, but only under special circumstances, for example, on an issue of widespread impact.

- Homeowners will not be permitted to speak unless they have paid their dues for the current year.

8:00 p.m. The homeowners' portion of the meeting will be adjourned, at which time the BHA board business will commence. Residents may remain for this portion of the meeting and may ask questions regarding issues on the table. New business may not be introduced by the homeowners at this time.

The order of business is as follows: approval of the minutes from the previous month's meeting, treasurer's report, mobile watch report, NIP report, membership report. The board will then take up special business.

Please note, should a guest speaker who has been invited by the BHA board be in attendance, the guest will speak first at 7:30, and the normal agenda will follow in order after the speaker has completed his or her presentation.

### Welcome, River Crossing Rep.

Gary Coter, president of the River Crossing Homeowners' Association, was a guest at last month's BHA board meeting. He will serve as a liaison between the BHA and the River Crossing association, with plans to attend every BHA monthly meeting. Coter's interest in attending the BHA meeting stemmed from concerns over deed restriction violations.

Rick Oros, vice president of the BHA, said that it would be a good idea if each of the smaller homeowners' associations sent a representative to the monthly BHA meeting. This, he said, would encourage greater involvement in the community as well as improve communication to the residents.

### Membership

Residents should be on the look-out for membership packets and information which will be arriving over the next several weeks. The \$20 dues are for the

## Deed Restrictions Being Enforced

by Chris-Ann Phillips

Garbage cans showing? Fences falling down? Water softener visible?

Uh-oh, chances are you received a deed restriction violation notice.

Nearly 400 residents were tagged last month in an effort to spruce up Bloomingdale's appearance and enforce deed restrictions in the various areas of the community, according to the BHA.

In the first week alone, after cards were received by residents, the community office received nearly 100 phone calls from residents who did not understand the nature of their "citation".

Residents who do not comply with the restriction after a second notice, will be sent a letter from the BHA notifying them of their options, said BHA vice president Rick Oros.

The most obvious and often repeated infraction involved garbage cans which were visible from the street. Garbage recepticals must be hidden from view, and may not be placed out for collection prior to nightfall the previous evening, and must be returned out of sight by nightfall the day of pick-up.

This means, according to the BHA, garbage cans, although removed from curbside, may not be left out in

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Date: _____	Subject: DEED RESTRICTION	
A complaint regarding the following problem has been referred to our civic association. Public records indicate that the problem is on property you own and/or rent.		
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___ Deterioration	___ Junk	___ Signs
___ Fire Damage	___ Debris	___ Inoperative Vehicle
___ Abandoned	___ Garbage	___ Commercial Use
___ Overcrowded		___ Recreational Vehicle
		___ High Grass/Weeds
		___ Car Parked on Lawn
Other Problem: _____		
Please do your part in keeping our neighborhood safe and attractive. It is in your interest to do so. We will re-check the property in 10 days. If the problem still exists, we will refer it to the DEED RESTRICTION VIOLATION COMMITTEE.		
For More Information Contact		B.H.A. HQ. 3232 LUTHERA PINELAKE RD. VALRICO, FL 32884

Some residents have already received this card notifying them of a violation of the deed restrictions in their area. Notification will be ongoing as the BHA tries to keep the community well-groomed.

front of the garage until the next pick-up.

A BHA volunteer who patrols neighborhoods said that she did not cite homeowners who had made an effort to obscure garbage cans from view, even though they may not have been completely out of sight.

"This may seem like a minor thing" she said, "but it's the little things that add that eventually make a community

See DEED, pg. 2



### Bloomingdale's Grad Facts:

Number graduating	652
College Bound	80%
Scholarships Earned	\$6 million
Honors Graduates	116

## Bloomingdale Athletics Best In State

by Rozel Sciulli

Bloomingdale High has three secretaries who sit in the main office, but who would know it? They spend their year hidden behind a countertop laden with hardware standing as mini-monuments to the feats of the Bulls' athletic teams. The year starts simply enough, only Mrs. Burnett - the one at the middle desk - is obscured from public view, usually by a cross country trophy or volleyball award. But as the months pass and teams compete for conference, district, regional and state titles the trophy line grows and Grows and GROWS.

Among the titles garnered by BHS teams this year was a state championship in boys' soccer, but the biggest and best came last month when the school became the first-ever recipient of the Floyd E. Lay All-Sports Award for Class 6A, indicative of the best high school athletic program in the state.

Bloomingdale has won consecutive all-sports awards in recent years given by the St. Petersburg Times, but not

See SPORTS, pg. 9

## Bloomingdale's Wyatt Keeps Parade In Line

by Rozel Sciulli

LaWayne Wyatt, Bloomingdale's mobile watch coordinator, has had his talents tapped by the Presidents' Roundtable of Brandon. As the parade marshal for Tuesday's July 4th Parade, Wyatt is in charge of making sure everything comes off without a hitch - except, of course, where floats and their towing vehicles are concerned.

It is Wyatt's task to coordinate 166 units of this year's parade by assigning the line-up and handling communication and traffic control. There are approximately 30 assistants behind the scenes who help make the parade a success. Included among them

taking over the marshal's job last year from former Bloomingdale resident Hal Labkon, now the parade chairman. The July 4th parade is deep-rooted in Bloomingdale. Labkon took over the job of chairman from longtime chairman and Bloomingdale resident Madeline Golletz, who passed away late last year.

Is chairmanship the next big job for Wyatt?

He would not comment.

"I enjoy it and its good for the community to have parades," he said.

It's a big job and somebody's got to do it, is more like it. While parade-

What: 37th Annual July 4th Parade

When: Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Where: Parsons north of Lumsden  
West on Robertson

What: July 4th Fireworks

When: Tuesday, 9 p.m.

Where: Viewing along S.R. 60  
between K-Mart and Home Depot



# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

**Please Note:** The Bloomingdale Gazette and the Community Office will be closed Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th.

Dear Readers,

This letter is in response to the phone calls and letters received at the community office in the aftermath of the violation cards that were sent. Residents should remember that neighborhoods, like human organisms, are subject to stress, to change, to attrition, and to ailments of mind and body. They also have another failing: a tendency for inertia. The result can be the gradual accumulation of policies and practices that, like a bad diet, overload the organs and place burdens on the members struggling to keep it alive. The NIP program is designed to eliminate this overload.

While this analogy may seem glib, it is the best way to describe a program that starts with a thorough diagnosis, carries through effective implementation of solutions, permits honest and accurate evaluation, and finally results in a permanent relation's tool for revealing trouble in the neighborhood long before it erupts.

Sincerely,

Rick Oros

## OFFICERS

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

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Rick Borling	684-2022

### Bloomingtondale 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

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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.

**Bloomingtondale 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.

**Bloomingtondale 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.

## Our Times

# Summer's Sizzling Topics

by Rozel Sculli  
Hot Topic #1

Some of you may be familiar with the television commercials starring the popular Married With Children dad as the "phone patrol". It reminded me that many residents must be on the lookout for the "garbage patrol", the phantom of the streets who goes around writing up law-abiding residents who, of all things, have left their garbage cans out at the street past curfew.

There really is such a person (or two) who has volunteered time to keep the Bloomingdale community looking in tip-top shape. They're not out to get anybody - they're just residents who are mad as #@\*% and they're not going to take it anymore. So they enlisted to help the BHA in this "clean-up" campaign.

While the garbage can citations, of which there were over 300, may seem trivial, the message here is that this community was developed with a set of rules to insure the upkeep of its appearance. The founding fathers did this in order to maintain the value of property and homes - to keep Bloomingdale an upscale community that people will want to move into long after the builders have left.

So why did nearly 100 people call the Community Office to squawk about getting a little white card notifying them they had committed a no-no by leaving their garbage cans out? Maybe they were finally caught at something they've been doing for a long time. Some complained that notices arrived on garbage pick-up day. Ah, but if they arrived that day, wouldn't it stand to reason that they were mailed earlier because the cans had been seen out on a non-collection day? And since when is garbage picked up on Sunday, the day one of the patrols went about her volunteer work?

C'mon people, common sense would dictate action to correct the problem, simple as it was. Would have taken a lot less time

than calling to complain about having received a card. Jeez!

### Hot Topic #2

Thank goodness the school board finally has made a sensible and correct decision regarding this area's students. They recently decided it would be a bad idea for Bloomingdale High to be on double sessions in 1996. NO KIDDING!

But what a mess they may have made in the process.

Boundaries have been shifted for Bloomingdale, Brandon, Armwood and East Bay to bring fewer non-Bloomingtondale area students into the school. Then, because sixth and seventh grade centers will cease to exist in the inner city in 1996, those from this area will go to the new elementary school being built on S. Miller Road instead of going to Burns which was slated to become a middle school. Confused yet? Burns, instead will keep its eighth and ninth graders, so Bloomingdale will have only 10th-12th graders as it is now.

BHS still will have an enrollment of over 2,200, about 400 over capacity, but that's a heckuva a lot more manageable than the 3,000 they would have been faced with.

In case you haven't noticed, that beautiful junior high on Brooker Road that this community is so proud of now has a blemished appearance with the addition of portables in recent weeks. Tsk, Tsk.

What a mess.

All because the school system and the county planners couldn't foresee the growth in this area and grant permits, and charge impact fees, and manage tax rates accordingly. Before the builders are allowed to put up more homes, the county needs to make sure the facilities are in place to care for the most important inhabitants of those homes, the children.

# Mobile Watch Report

by LaWayne Wyatt

As we all know, school is out for the summer. As a result a great many teens will have a lot of free time on their hands. While most are decent law abiding people, there are some who delight in causing trouble. Sometimes the things they do are just for fun to see if it can be done.

During the week of June 12-17, there were three to four cases of golf clubs being stolen from open garages. It is believed the thefts were done by white male teens. They may have stolen the items to prove it could be done or they may be hoping to sell them. Either way, several residents have lost property.

Several lessons should be learned from these events. First, don't leave garage doors open even if you are the

only inside or in the back yard for a few minutes. It only takes 30 seconds or so for someone to enter and steal something. Second, everyone needs to be aware of anyone seen cruising the neighborhood or acting suspiciously.

Other events reported during the past two months include a daylight burglary on Callista Avenue, a white Dodge pickup with three to four occupants who were acting suspiciously on Cameo Crest, a suspicious person in the vicinity of Park East, and a 20- to 30-year old white male who exposed himself on Sweetleaf Drive.

We also found a new teen gathering spot in the woods north of the intersection at Erindale and Wrencrest Circle.

### DEED, from page 1

look run-down. We want to keep up our appearance for the sake of our property values. Nobody wants to try to sell their home and have visitors from other parts of the county or country drive down the street and see nasty, banged up garbage cans lining the neighborhood streets."

Oros took a more pragmatic look at the situation. "Residents who took the time to call and make complaints, could have used the time to resolve the problem. It's obvious by the response that over 75% of the residents who received cards said, 'I guess I better do something about this,' and then went ahead and corrected whatever was wrong."

Letters also were received by the BHA. One homeowner, for example, admitted to committing a violation for the past two years and wanted to know why the enforcement is just now coming about.

"We've been working on this for some time," said Oros. "And we finally have the

to carry out the enforcement."

Because many homeowners did not receive copies of the deed restrictions at the time they closed on their home, the BHA has found out most violations stem from lack of awareness. And because restrictions vary among neighborhoods residents who "compare notes" may be misinformed.

One example deals with chain-link fences. Strictly prohibited in some neighborhoods, they are permitted behind the front of the house in other neighborhoods. In addition, some restrictions very specifically forbid "satellite dishes and outside antennae", while others more vaguely prohibit outdoor appliances.

Oros said citations will not be issued at the same time each month, but because of follow-up visits, monitoring deed restriction violations will be an ongoing effort.

"We just want to keep a neat appearance about our community," said the volunteer. "If everyone does their part, it will

# "Donna Mac"

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**Good Neighbors:****Meet Mathew Hauer**

by Gwen Szafranski

It's a sunny afternoon in late May and groups of high school students are streaming down the street playing touch tag with bags of cookies and chips while converging on a pleasant home in a Bloomingdale neighborhood. Pool party? Graduation bash? Nope. It's Mathew Hauer's annual cookout wrapping up another successful year of the Leo Club that he sponsors with fellow social studies teacher David Brown at Bloomingdale High.

After a long school year, what students would spend a spring day with the chairman of the Social Studies Department? The answer is lots of kids who appreciate Hauer's sense of humor, straight forward approach, and sincere concern for his students and what they are about. This is perhaps the secret to his success as a teacher and one reason the Leo Club, sponsored the Lion's Club of Brandon, has an enthusiastic membership that has raised the most money for charitable causes and is the largest Leo chapter in the state.

But organizing the club's participation in the Cancer Walk, posing as Santa Clause with various domestic and exotic pets for Leo's Santa Claws fundraiser, planning Christmas parties for Headstart students, or orchestrating student tours of the Lions Club Camp for the Blind form only part of the equation Hauer balances with his role as teacher.

A Chicago native who moved to Zephyrhills as a high school student, Hauer wanted to be a teacher as long as he can remember. He graduated from Florida State University and later received a masters degree from USF. Three years in the Army working as a medic and advancing to a position as physician's assistant at Fort MacArthur, Ca. failed to lure him from his love of history and his original goal to teach.

"Students are more important than the subject you teach," Hauer responded when asked recently about his philosophy of teaching. "If a student has a problem, that's when you put the lesson plan aside and deal with the problem."

Quoting former Bloomingdale High principal Charlie Harris, Hauer added, "You treat kids as if they were your own kids. This sometimes means being a good listener when students share their prob-

lems. Sometimes teachers are the most important people in their students' lives, and they can affect the kids positively or negatively. We really have to 'be there' for the kids; we can't always 'fix' the problem, but we can listen."

While many parents and teachers rail that today's teens have radically changed in behavior, Hauer contends that it's not the kids who have changed, but the society around them. And he observes the changing nature of the family and society as a whole may be failing the kids.

"With all the changes in their lives - and their bodies - students sometimes look to teachers to provide an ethical structure or guidance that they may not get at home. Teaching takes psychology!" mused Hauer, who may have a unique perspective on this issue since he has taught both psychology and philosophy at Bloomingdale. In fact, Hauer wrote the county curriculum for the philosophy course, which he hopes will help students scrutinize their values.

"The goal of the course is to present teenagers with different views of life and reality and issues that they may have thought about, but the class can help them see from a different perspective," said Hauer, whose personal goal is to help each student reach his or her fullest potential. This may become increasingly difficult, according to Hauer, who fears that state and county wide cuts to the educational budget will undermine some of the best academic programs and have already demoralized many educators.

"I have five teachers in my department that I know of who buy their own duplicating paper by the case simply due to the budget constraints. The gifted program took some real hits with the cuts, and what is so frustrating is the apparent lack of public support for solutions to the budget problems, such as the half cent sales tax to go towards educational funding," stated Hauer, who worries that the apathy of county voters may negatively impact the current high quality of education in the Bloomingdale area. His concern is genuine since he believes in raising his own young family in the area where he teaches.

Hauer, who taught 11 years at Brandon High and eight years at Bloomingdale, claims that teaching is never boring to him because the kids are never boring. "It's a



**Matt and Liz Hauer, with children Michael, Mathew, and Luke, are committed to their family, their community, their schools, and their church.**

nine-to-five job; there's something different happening every day," said Hauer, who enjoys seeing former students around town and catching up on what's happening in their lives.

There's ample opportunity to encounter former students since Hauer and his wife, Liz, volunteer many hours to the community through their work with various programs at Nativity Catholic Church in Brandon where they serve as Eucharistic Ministers and have devoted 10 years to the Marriage Encounter program. They have also enjoyed their involvement with the church's "Evenings for the Engaged" program which acquaints young couples with the everyday realities and responsibilities of married life.

Hauer also is proud of the accomplishments of the members of his family.

Liz teaches EMH students at Riverview Elementary and recently received a grant to implement an innovative program for students called "Lights, Camera, Action!" Daughter Michael is an 8th grader at Nativity School and a member of the track and volleyball teams there. She and younger brother Mathew, a 5th grader, recently participated in a production sponsored by the Valrico Village Players. Youngest son, Luke, will attend kindergarten at Nativity in the fall and takes his duties tending the family's pet black Lab puppy very seriously.

A strong sense of values permeates the Hauer household along with the desire to participate in and give back to the life of the community. These might be the very factors that attract so many students to the courses Hauer teaches.

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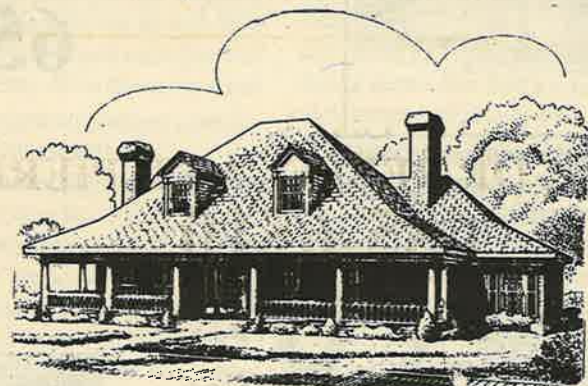
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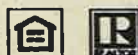
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## Grant Will Make 'Time Travel' Possible

by Laura D. Frazier

Alafia Elementary School teachers Judy Golden and Kelly Gomolak have been awarded the AmSouth Bancorporation Fund for Educational Excellence in the form of a \$10,000 grant. Time Machine is a year-long American History curriculum developed by the fifth grade teachers to integrate a variety of subjects including math, science, literature, art, music, and computer skills. The goal of the program is to have students demonstrate an understanding of how the forces of culture, location, environment and geography influence the past, present and future.

During the initial conception and blueprinting stages of their Time Machine project, Golden and Gomolak knew they had hit on an exciting and unique curriculum for their students. Officials of AmSouth agreed and have made the teachers' visions a reality by presenting the educators with the largest single amount awarded out of 1500 applicants nationwide.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of AmSouth Bancorporation in backing this project," said Golden. "We are also very fortunate to work in such a supportive climate here at Alafia."

"Our principal Susan Lizer, computer teacher Karen Willis, media specialist Gayle Rooks, our dynamic PTA and parent volunteers, and many of our fellow teachers have been instrumental in getting the Time Machine together and qualifying for this substantial grant."

The funds have been designated for the purchase and installation of a multimedia computer system featuring networking capabilities and on-line services. "The computer set-up is unique in that it will allow us to link the computers to the classroom televisions," Gomolak explained. "The system then becomes a re-

source and display to be used with the entire class at once, as opposed to the computer screens being used by one or two children at a time."

Historical resources such as novels, teaching aids, and the recruitment of mentors and guest speakers will also be possible through the grant.

The Time Machine project is currently in its final planning stages. When the program is implemented in the classroom this fall, students will participate in diverse



**Mrs. Golden and Ms. Gomolak were awarded a \$10,000 grant to develop their Time Machine program, an exciting curriculum for Alafia's 5th graders.**

activities revolving around six major time periods - Early Native America, The Revolutionary War, The Westward Movement, The Industrial Revolution, Our City Today and finally The Future - Our City in the Year 3000.

Students will explore time periods with a multimedia approach, using literature, art projects, role playing, problem solving and research. The teachers hope to inspire students school wide, not just fifth graders, with their yearlong project.

"At the end of each time period unit, a celebration will be planned that will involve the entire school community in the traditions of that time," said Gomolak. "For instance, the closure of our Native American unit might be to have our fifth graders organize a Thanksgiving feast as Indians and invite the kindergarten classes to come dressed as pilgrims."

The Time Machine curriculum will culminate with a future problem solving activity wherein students will design and build a model of "Our City in the Year 3000" to reflect their views of the future.

It is the vision of Golden and Gomolak that the innovation, team work and dedication of Alafia Elementary faculty, PTA, parent volunteers and local government and business leaders will work together to make the project a great success.



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## Life In These Times

## Make Family Memories On Vacation



by Daniel Farrer

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages...Welcome to summer vacation! Yes, Mom and Dad, it's that time of year again. School's out and it's time to begin the sacred grueling American ritual called vacation.

Did you ever wonder why they call it "vacation"? Webster defines it as, "a period of exemption from work granted to an employee for rest and relaxation". Well, tell the truth, when was the last time the family went on one and you felt rested or relaxed? For many of us vacation involves greater amounts of work and exertion than we can fairly classify as relaxation.

My observations over the years as our family has trekked the thousands of miles across the country have been both humorous and memorable. Perhaps you can find some similarities to your own summer vacations of the past.

The real work of a vacation usually starts a few days before you leave. The house cleaning gets done early on so the neighbors who come in to check the house while you're gone don't get the impression you're refugees from a garbage dump. The calm discussions between all the family members about what to take and not to take is developed. The route is carefully planned, finances arranged and the car is checked out at the garage.

The last item is obviously a very important one that can cause the demise of any well-planned vacation. I remember one particularly hot July morning in Virginia when I walked out of the house the day before our departure and found antifreeze running out from under my car at

about the flow rate of Niagara Falls. Lucky me spent the next 10 hours changing a broken water pump in 90 degree heat in my driveway. Other occurrences have found me changing broken fan belts, bad spark plugs, leaky hoses, flat tires and an assortment of other minor vehicle ills on the side of America's great interstate highway system.

After the house and car are taken care of, the next step is what I fondly call "The Loading". This usually takes place the night before and for our family is an experiment in trying to violate the laws of physics. You know, the rule that states only one object can occupy the same space at a time. I'll always remember the time I stuffed the baby buggy in the trunk of my old Chevy. My wife's justification was, "just in case we need it." Two weeks later it had never left the trunk.

I believe men by nature like to travel light. Perhaps it's a genetic thing that goes back to a primeval time when our ancestors had to travel light on those hunting parties. Thankfully, in spite of my genetic shortfalls, my wife has the good, common sense to pack the right stuff that makes the trip enjoyable.

Departure time usually finds us sneaking out of the neighborhood in the wee hours of the morning. You know, so you can beat the traffic. It never fails that some semi is overturned on the highway or the construction crews decide to start work early. Another good reason to start early is so the kids can get some sleep and not have to stop for the inevitable bathroom break for at least 30 minutes.

It's a known fact that when kids get in a car their

bladders automatically shrink 50 percent. One friend told me his kids are so conditioned, they begin to scream every time they see one of the blue rest stop signs.

Rest stops are really great. They are traps for kids because of all the candy and soda machines that are strategically placed. Of course, it wouldn't be fair not to mention the bathrooms...toilet paper rolls that don't roll, so soap in the dispensers, and of course the ever famous hot air hand dryer - very sanitary and ecologically friendly.

The instructions on the top of the machine say something like, 1. Push button. 2. Hold hands under blower. 3. Rub hands together until dry. On one I saw at a rest stop in Tennessee, a veteran traveler had scratched the following additional instruction: "Rub hands on pants."

In spite of all the headaches and hassles in preparation and getting there, it's still worth the effort. Whether it's a family reunion at the grandparents, the Rockies, or the seashore, vacation is still the best way to make family memories. Years from now when you sit together and talk of times past, the words, "remember the time we went on vacation to..." will bring your thoughts and hearts together again.

I saw an article the other day that stated a national highway travel agency had estimated the cost for a family of four to travel on vacation this year is about \$213 a day. I guess I must be doing it wrong.

Have a great vacation and drive safely.

## Church and Synagogue News

### Guest Speakers Headline Summer Series

by Donna Heinz

Summer splendor will be celebrated by the members of **Bell Shoals Baptist Church** during the month of July with three special guests. Each guest presentation will be followed by something fun for the whole family. On Monday, July 17, at 7 p.m., Dr. Danny Akin, dean of students at Southeastern Theological Seminary, will speak. Following his lecture, the church grounds will be the sight of a watermelon eating contest.

Another guest speaker, Dr. Jimmy Draper, will address the members and guests on July 24 at 7 p.m. Dr. Draper is president of the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday school board. Following Dr. Draper's address, families are invited to "build your own sundae."

The month will end with a visit from Dr. Johnny Hunt, senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Woodstock,

Ga. He will speak on Monday, July 31, at 7 p.m., followed by a desert social featuring a men's baking contest.

Each event is free and open to the public.

The Women's Ministries will offer Fruitful Hands craft classes during the summer months. "Christmas in July" will be the theme for the classes scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., or Thursday, July 13, from 7 p.m. until 9:30. Projects will include a wooden spoon reindeer, spool santas, chunky Santa, and an antique angel. Helping Hands classes in August will be on the 8th from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and on Thursday the 10th from 7 to 9:30 p.m., and will feature decorative hangers and bath oil bottles. Child care is available for daytime classes, however, reservations must be made one week in advance and pre-paid.

**South Brandon Baptist** will soon welcome a new senior pastor. The Reverend Paul Rose, formerly of First Baptist Church, Pahokee, FL., will officially join the South Brandon Baptist family on Sunday, July 9. That evening at 7 p.m., the singing group, "Pure River" will be in concert.

Dr. Philip Makari, pastor of the **Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale**, will hold Bible studies

on Thursdays at 7:30 throughout the summer. These studies will be entertaining and informative, according to Dr. Makari.

While their friends head for fun in the sun at the beach, a group of youth of **St. Andrews United Methodist Church** will head east on a mission work project. Eighth grade and older youth will join teens from St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Melbourne for a four-day mission work project building houses for Habitat for Humanity, Melbourne. Under the direc-

tion of summer youth director, Tim Wright, the group will spend their mornings helping build houses and their afternoons having fun. They will leave Brandon on July 23.

St. Andrew's members have a history of working with Habitat for Humanity. For the past two years, the United Methodist Men have sponsored a run for Habitat to benefit the Tampa chapter. This year's 4-mile Run will be held on Sept. 23.

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# Bits N Pieces



## Spotlight On Local Talent

by Gwen Szafranski

Strains of "Getting to Know You," the popular show tune, will soon be floating on warm July breezes thanks to a local theater production of *The King and I*, and as our residents, old and new, get to



Bridget, Brian, Shannon Cecchini (L to R) joined dad, Maurice, in 1981 production of *The King and I*.

know each other, they are discovering the wide range of talents their Bloomingdale neighbors possess and share with the community. In coming months, we are looking forward to highlighting the accomplishments of other talented residents as well as celebrating the events and occasions that brighten our daily lives.

### Resident Reprises "King" Role

It has been 13 years since Maurice Cecchini first portrayed King Phra Meha Mongkut in a military community production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I* in Germany with his own children playing three members of the king's brood. Time hasn't dulled his zest for the part of the feisty ruler of Siam, and Cecchini will reprise his role when Plant City Entertainment, Inc., presents the play Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, July 13-15, July 20-22, and July 27-29.

Performances will be held in the Hillsborough Community College Audi-

torium, Plant City Campus, where cast members and crew are busy constructing sets designed by Cecchini, who adapted his plans to meet the constraints of the college stage. Jennifer Jackson directs the play, which includes a cast member as young as four, who has been quite a scene stealer in rehearsals of the "March of the Children."

Although Cecchini marvels at the musical talents of this cast, he urges more men to try out for roles in the future. "We have some marvelously talented young ladies in this production, but we always need more males for roles. Acting is like salesmanship: if you have the ability to present ideas and proposals believably, then you have the ability to act."

Other area residents adding their talents to the cast are **C a r m e n Laverghetta**, who plays a dancer and royal wife, **Tyler Leavitt** as Lun Tha, **Erica Baker** as Princess Ying Yao Lac, and **Brittany Cox** as yet another royal wife. Advanced tickets are available at Hardee's Fashions

in Plant City. Tickets can also be purchased at the door and cost \$6.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for students and senior citizens. Performances begin at 8:00 p.m.

Cecchini, a retired Air Force officer and resident of Bloomingdale Oaks, has directed and performed in plays throughout his military career while he was stationed in Iceland, Germany and Korea. Roles in *Paint Your Wagon*, *A Man for All Seasons*, and *Camelot* number among his credits. Cecchini also has performed locally with the Valrico Players.

### Local Model Meets Connie Stevens

Television viewers watching the Home Shopping Network last May might have recognized actress/model and Bloomingdale West resident, Marilyn Martin, who appeared in segments on the seventh of that month demonstrating actress **Connie Stevens'** "Forever Spring" cosmetic and skin care products.



1st row, L to R: Christopher Blount, Bradley Prudente, and Corey Cochran. 2nd row: Joey Barbarossa, Beth Mayers, Julie Cochran, Megan Anderson, and Stefanie Rogers. 3rd row: Kyle Houske, Lauren Wilt, Jamie Goodman, Whitney Wierzbicki, Stephanie Stroh, Julie Westenzweig, Melanie Scott, Michael Kolton, Sandra Youch, Kimberly Gottleib, Ashley Wierzbicki, and Matthew Vassalotti.

"Connie was so sweet and down-to-earth and very cordial to the models," reported Martin, who was also impressed with how the hosts and celebrity guests ad lib the live, unscripted commercial segments. "They really have to work under pressure to make it look so smooth with only a little help from the teleprompter."

Marilyn was thrilled to phone her mother in Louisiana to watch the 2 p.m. segment, which was Martin's first commercial for the network. The following week, Martin demonstrated a hip and thigh machine for a "Bodies by Jake" commercial



Marilyn Martin, Connie Stevens, and Anita Vincent.

and concedes that "...it was enough exercise to last a lifetime!" Understandable since the live commercials run for 15 to 20 minutes at a time several times each day. Viewers may have also spotted Martin in Nordic Track and Bob's Carpet Mart ads, which have been aired on other local stations.

### Piano Duo Captures State Honors

Two young Bloomingdale piano students, **Erika Barry** and **Rachelle Lybbert**, were state winners with their piano duo, "Dreams We Share," at the Junior Convention of the Florida Federation of Music Clubs held in Avon Park last April. Rachelle joined **Kerri Kaelin** in a rendition of "Shenandoah," which also won top state honors for the piano duet.

Barry, Lybbert, and Kaelin are all students of piano instructor **Lydia Fox Wright** and members of the Junior Friday Morning Musicale in Tampa.

### Students Perform In Recital

Twenty piano students from the Bloomingdale area performed their graduation recital last month at St. Mark United Church. They are all students of Fox Run resident **Sue Scott**. Included in the group were two pre-schoolers, **Christopher Blount** and **Bradley Prudente**.

"Including the pre-school pupils was new for us; both boys performed beautifully," observed Scott, who teaches out of her home. Scott enjoys teaching all levels of students and employs a gentle approach, incorporating popular music into the curriculum as well as instruction in rhythm instruments and keyboard to maintain students' interest.

### Valrico Student Chooses MIT

Among the area's academically talented graduates this spring, **Ben Boehm** of Valrico certainly stands out having maintained a 5.52 GPA at Hillsborough High where he was an International Baccalaureate student. The son of **Anne and Ron Boehm**, Ben will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on an Air Force ROTC scholarship and major in engineering, which is not surprising since he received the Yale Science and Engineering award and the USF Center for Excellence Award in Math. He recently won recognition as the Tandy Technology Scholars Outstanding Student and the Excellence Award for Top Senior both in mathematics and science.

A well-rounded student, Ben is an Eagle Scout and participated in the orchestra, cross country, and Foundation Service Club as well as being involved in his church youth activities. This summer, Ben will compete in the Mu Alpha Theta National competition in Maine. Good luck, Ben!

If you know someone who deserves recognition for a talent or academics, or if you have social news about reunions, engagements, weddings, special birthdays or anniversaries, new neighbor greetings or longtime neighbor departures, please send the information to Bits N Pieces, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, Valrico, 33594, or call 681-2051. Photographs are also welcome.

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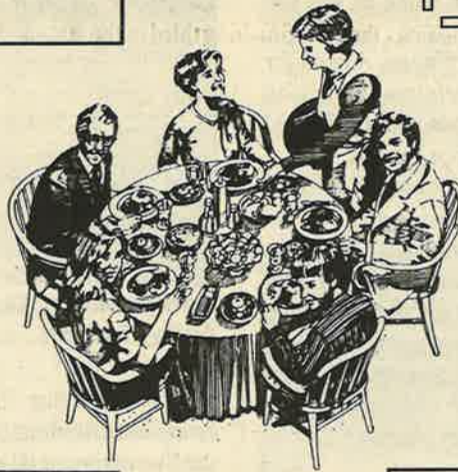
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Mr. Lewis, Burns Junior High's popular band director, also has the most popular summer program in the county. Over 200 students are enrolled in his summer school band classes making it the largest among the district's schools.

### Educational Edge Take Time This Summer To Encourage Creativity

by Ilene Davidoff

Part of the magic of childhood is the ability to engage in creative play such as "make believe" or fantasy games. As adults, we tend to lose the ability for such free-flowing imagination. Perhaps we are afraid of ridicule, or may be we fear the consequences of losing touch with the real world. But the truth is, a healthy dose of creativity goes a long way in nurturing intellectual development and igniting enthusiasm for the learning process.

During summer vacation why not work at encouraging your child's creativity? Not encouraging this creative spark may actually hinder your child's growth in learning. The development of innovative ideas and procedures starts with creative thinking.

The generative process, as it is referred to by scientists, is when new ideas and concepts challenge our old perceptions. This battle necessitates alternative and innovative thought processes. For example, a child who normally gets around by bicycle is forced to think of an alternative if the bike breaks down. Learning involves developing new methods to replace old or failing ones.

As parents, you will want to encourage your child's creativity so that it can be fully utilized in everyday learning experiences. Here are some skills to encourage in your child to help foster creativity.

**Retain fleeting inspiration.** Often, the development of creativity begins with the ability to grab onto a fleeting image or idea. If you wait too long, it may be lost. Try having your child utilize an "idea box" in which he may write down ideas that enter his mind during the course of the day. In this way, your child will better be able to hold onto brief flashes of inventive thoughts.

**Recognize the value of new ideas.** Even seemingly meaningless bits of nonsense may have future value. Encourage your child to give free range to her imagination. Many great artists and writers find inspiration from doodles and scratches jotted down on the run.

**Accept the challenge.** Tackling new problems breeds creativity. As an exercise in creativity, have your child tackle fantastical problems that don't necessarily have a solution. This will stimulate his imagination and inspire some interesting thinking.

**Develop many areas of interest.** Broadening your child's field of knowledge will give her more material to work with. Often, the best new ideas come from bits and pieces of old information and experiences. Encourage your child to pursue her hobbies and interests.

**Create stimulating surroundings.** It is difficult to foster inventive ideas in a stagnant, dull environment. Instead, try being creative in your home. Now that the spring holidays are approaching, try to work on some home projects with your child. Even simple changes such as rearranging the furniture will contribute to the development of new ideas.

Teaching your child the joys of creativity will be one of the most rewarding lessons he or she will learn. Fostering the development of new ideas and inventive thinking will teach the benefits of self-learning, and the rewards and challenges of reaching ever-greater heights.

### SPORTS, from page 1

since the mid-80's has a school been recognized by the Florida High School Activities Association.

Based on a point system, the award assigns value to standings through 8th place by all the boys and girls teams in a school. Bloomingdale earned 370 points. Their nearest competitor was Orlando Dr. Phillips which finished 25 points behind.

With the boy's soccer team's state championship, the Bulls' earned 50 points. They picked up another 45 points for the girls' cross country team's second place in the state and a third place finish by the volleyball team gave the school another 40 points. No other Hillsborough County 6A school finished in the top 10. And only Plant (4A) and Berkley Prep (3A) represented the county in other categories, both finishing ninth.

Bloomingdale also earned five points for every team they fielded in district competition, which in the Bulls' case was all 22 teams. Winning districts were the girls basketball team, girls track team, girls soccer team, and both golf teams - the girls finishing third in the state and the boys placing fourth. Top 10 finishes by the swimming teams also added to the school's point totals.

The school year is over and the trophies won will take a prominent place in the display cases by the gymnasium. Anyone who wants to catch a glimpse of Bloomingdale's main office secretaries better do it during the summer, because come fall, construction will begin on the monuments of 1996.

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# SCHOOL NEWS



Some of Alafia's 3rd through 6th graders will light the lights this summer in Ms. Glass's performing arts class. Students are exploring many aspects of theatrical production including script writing, set construction and costume design, all of which they will put to use in their summer-ending performance for parents and guests.

## Gator Tales



### Summer School Fun And Exciting

Special to *The Gazette*

Summer school isn't all hard work. Kids at Alafia Elementary are having creative fun in a variety of challenging classes.

A large enrollment participates in the popular math and science camp. Open to students in grades three through five, the hands-on, minds-on activities are designed to nurture skills and concepts through discovery and invention.

Even kindergarteners get into the summer school fun with Junior Detectives. The class, which is open to first and second grader, explores shelters for animals and people. By using blocks, tenting and weaving supplies, the children will build shelters and more. Parents will enjoy the class's "Shelter Expo" at the end of summer school.

And just to make sure they have that summer get-away, students in E.T. Explorers plan and chart a journey to an unknown destination in another time and place. When they "arrive" they will establish a colony in their strange, new world. The class involves students in technological simulations, lab

experiences, and futuristic bioengineering.

Playing with Legos is also part of the summer curriculum. In Experiences with Lego students in third and fourth grades are building simple machines used in everyday life. Problem solving while learning practical physics challenge the students.

Kids Illustrated provides a setting for budding journalists. Students in fourth through sixth grades are creating original publications while exploring many aspects of publishing including interviewing skills, writing, copy editing, art design and advertising.

Fourth through sixth grade students are also involved in video productions learning about cameras, editing, sound mixing and animation.

Young architects are creating original floor plans and elevation-view drawings. Problem solving strategies are taught as the 5th and 6th graders learn to use tools of an architect to create 3-dimensional drawings.

Children in the primary grades are practicing Spanish conversation in a special program called "Spanish and Its Place in Our Culture. Students are also gaining knowledge of customs, goods and clothing of Spanish-speaking countries.

Alafia's summer school principal is Mrs. Lobe. In addition to their own children, Alafia has welcomed the students from Kingswood Elementary this year.

## Bloomingtondale's Geo-Probe Wins EDDIE Award

Special to *The Gazette*

Tack on one more award to the list of accolades received by Bloomingtondale High's innovative Geo-Probe Environmental Center. Its most recent honor came in late May, when the center's teachers were given the Visionary Award during the county school's annual EDDIE (Excellence, Dedication, and Devotion in Education) presentations.

Maintained and operated by Charles Tommelleo and Carla Bruning of the science department and Richard Albertson of the agriculture department, the Bloomingtondale Geo-Probe Environmental Center represents a school, business, and community partnership.

When Bloomingtondale High opened in 1987, Tommelleo, chairman of the science department, envisioned an educational use

for the trees, ponds, and adjoining land that surrounded the campus. The site encompassed 13.6 acres of woods, grass fields, ponds, shrublands, and adjacent agricultural areas. Resulting from early dialog on the feasibility of such a venture, Cargill Fertilizer became a partner with Bloomingtondale. The wetland area was found to be state protected, so the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission became involved.

A grand opening was held in November, 1992. The 13.6 acres the EPC permitted for educational use now contains 1/2-mile of trails with six selected sites hosting open air amphitheaters with

See GEO, page 11



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# Bulls Eye



## Seniors Honored At Awards Night

by Gazette Staff

When Bloomingdale High held its annual Awards Night in late May, various top graduates were honored by

the school, community service organizations, and local businesses.

Erin Johnson received the night's highest honor - The Principal's Leadership Award. She was also named to the U.S. Senate Youth Program and was named the DAR Good Citizen.

Class salutatorian Katherine Brunny was honored with the Brandon Junior League's Sandra Waldron Memorial Scholarship. She also received a scholarship from Wal-Mart. Other scholarships went to Phil Rivera from Channel 61; Karmyn Laverghetta, Kiwanis; Carrie Grote, Tampa New Auto Dealers; and Ami Borchik, Nancy Hernandez, and Marissa Maggir, Brandon Hospital. Nancy Hernandez was also named the PTSA Outstanding All-Around Senior.

Other awards winners were Lori Kensel, USF Center for Excellence in Math and Science; Kristy Jarrard, Century III Leaders; Kristen Dupre, Skateland Service Award; Gretchen Lindsay, Junior League Volunteer Youth; Sarah Dorfman, Kristy Jarrard, and Tracey Pavlishin, Elk's Teenagers of the Month; and Katrina Cologranesco, Hillsborough County Turn-around student.

Subject awards went to Travon Lewellen, social studies; John Reich, math; Carolina Cantu, science; Jill Revelle, language arts, Karmyn Laverghetta, Spanish; Jennifer Wangerien, French; Lisa Johannsen, German; John Reich, Latin; Jennifer Dages, Liz DeCamp, Kristen Loyde, visual arts; Jeff Wallace, physical education; and Chuck Adcock, business.

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# Bruin Beat



## Burns Inducts NJHS Members

By Gazette Staff

Burns students were honored during the last month of school in a special awards ceremony that named "potential key scholars" and during which 76 students were inducted in the National Junior Honor Society.

Those named as potential key scholars were Megan Allen, Valerie Bryan, Ted Burke, Kirston Capps, Alexander Coughlin, Robert Eisenberg, Daniel Elkins, Meagan Galinger, Adam Grafton, Aju Jackson, Erica James, Jessica Moats, Sarah Mueller, Sandra Nickerson, Meisa Owen, Michael Rhey, Vivian Ryan, Erin Shaw, Katherine Teel, and Amanda Wetherington.

The new NJHS members are Ashley Anderson, Krista Anderson, Jed Arain, Michaele Austerman, Jennie Barber, Steven Batson, Elizabeth Bauer, Emily Baster,

Jason Beatie, Calvina Bostick, Christopher Brink, Megan Carter, Alexander Coughlin Douglas Currier, Ryan Delaby, Steven Dvorak, Fabian Fernandez, Erin Field, also

Nikki Flaming, William Flowers, Nicole Funk-Caballer, Megan Galinger, Darcie Gaudreau, Sean Gillman, Mitra Gobin, Matilda Grady, Joy Griffin, Lauren Hammond, Janice Heald, Shea Helmle, Emily Honsberger, Scott Hundley, Ty Hurner, Bridgette Kelly, Erin Lancaster, Ryan L'Homme, Jennifer Lemar, Ashley Lipphardt, also

Leonard Livingston, Brian Lorch, Rachelle Lybbert, Christopher Mautino, David Merkle, Jennifer Mitchell, Mark Parish, Krista Parrish, Amber Pearson, Justin Pearson, Sarah Pickett, Stephanie Powers, Orlando Rameriz, Douglas Revelle, Robin Richardson, Karla Rosario, Jeffery Routmas, Stan Salvador, Paul Sanders, also

Laura Smedley, Robert Smeed, Melissa Smith, Michael Sober, Helena Sorenson, Andrew Spangler, Kathleen Spears, Jenniver Lee Spiker, Jason St. Pierre, Michelle Streufert, Lindsay Thompson, Jessica Toska, Krista Umbarger, Heather Visker, Cheryl Wayson, Christy Williams, Jennifer Williby, Amanda Wilson, and Cara Waronicki.

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### GEO, from page 10

a seating capacity of 50 students each. The EPC awarded a 1995 grant of \$12,700 for the construction of a new boardwalk and viewing platform in the swamp and the purchase of a Geosphere dome to be constructed next to an agriculture shade house and new land lab.

The project to date has comprised over 5,000 volunteer hours of students, parents and community groups such as the Boy Scouts. Cargill provided grant monies of \$4,500 for tools, construction materials, educational materials and volunteered to construct the dome. IMC Fertilizer build a \$5,000 bridge to an island, constructed another amphitheater at that site, and will work on the land lab.

This project is an academic and vocational environmental study area for not only Bloomingdale students, but also local schools and community groups. Programs are provided by Bloomingdale agriculture and science

students. Over 4,100 visitors walked the trail just last year. Ecology students monitor the water and soil within the wetland as part of an EPC cooperative project.

Bloomingdale students are now permitted each year to gather seeds of state protected mangroves and grasses. These will be grown under the dome and replanted in area restoration sites. Presently over 3,000 mangrove seedlings are being grown.

The project has received numerous awards including, a 1st place environmental award in 1992, best of show at the Florida State Fair in 1993, the state vocational use award in 1993, State Sharing Success in Environmental Education Award in 1994, the TANDY Teacher of the Year Award for Mr. Tommelleo in 1993, and a 1995 Future of the Region Award from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

Secondhand smoke is one of the most common forms of indoor air pollution. Children who breathe secondhand smoke have more ear infections and are more likely to develop asthma. Don't allow anyone to smoke around your children; have smokers leave the room or go outside.



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# Kids Calendar Rated G



## July 4th Parade

Brandon will celebrate the Fourth of July in traditional style Tuesday with its annual parade and fireworks. The parade begins at 10 a.m. and fireworks get underway at 9 p.m. See the front page story for details.

## Library Activities

The Brandon Branch Library will be buzzing with children's activities during July which features a special visit and program by the Florida Aquarium. The free program is open to all ages on Saturday, July 8 from 10 until 11 a.m. Florida Aquarium instructors will present a lesson on Florida's waterbirds with guest Rich Paul, manager of the Tampa Bay Sanctuaries. A field trip to Tampa Bay's Bird Islands is planned from 1:30 until 3:30. Space is limited and reservations are required by calling 273-4519.

Also in July, children ages six to 12 are invited to "Once Upon A Tale" on Wednesdays July 5, 12, and 19, at 3 p.m. The 45-minute session features stories, games and crafts about fairy tales, folktales and legends. A special two-day craft session for ages 9-12 is offered July 11 and 13 at 3 p.m., and on July 18 for ages 5-8. Registration begins July 1 and is limited to 20 participants.

The Mashed Potato Players will present "On the Trail of a Tale" on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 3:30 p.m. All ages are invited to the "grand finale" of the library's summer program. Tickets will be available at the reference desk beginning July 17.

## Children's Choir Song - Fest

The Tampa Bay Children's Chorus and the University of South Florida School of Music invite boys and girls ages 8-14 to participate in Song-Fest, a week long summer music experience in singing/Orff instruments and musi-

cianship. Daily sessions are Monday through Friday July 17-21, from 1 to 5 p.m. with a final concert on Friday, July 21, at 7:30 p.m.

No previous singing experience is necessary. Registration is required along with an \$80 fee. Registration forms are available by calling 988-8936.

Daily sessions include large and small group choral rehearsals and instruction in singing, musicianship and Orff instruments. The final concert is the culmination of the week's work and is open to the public. Classes will take place at USF, Fine Arts Building FAH 102.

The Tampa Bay Children's Chorus is comprised of children ages 8-16 who are selected by audition and who come from all parts of Hillsborough County. Auditions are currently being held. For more information, call 988-8936.

## MOSI Addition Opens With Beakman's World Star

The Museum of Science and Industry tripled in size today to become the largest science center in the Southeast

with the completion of the new four-story structure located adjacent the MOSI's existing building.

The opening is part of a four-day celebration July 1-4 that will feature Paul Zaloom, better known as Beakman on the critically acclaimed children's television show, "Beakman's World." Zaloom will give four Beakman performances each day during the



BHS students Pamela Frysz, Ryan Kangas, Lori Kensel and Kimberly Madison accepted their 2nd place Nation Science Award in Washington, D. C. last month.

festivities and will be available for autographs.

Permanent exhibits will include The Amazing You, Florida and the environment, flight and space, and magnetism. Expansion also features a new Science Store, a county public library branch, 3.5

miles of nature trails, and an IMAX Dome theater.

The nature trails - 47 acres of "back woods" - features special water conservation elements and various outdoor interactive environmental exhibits including compass trails and a boardwalk. The IMAX Dome seats 350 guests and houses an 82-foot hemispherical movie screen.

The library is the first to open in a science center and will give public access to a collection of printed and electronic science material. A children's library containing specially designed materials will give children access to science and natural history in the framework of their lives and a primary research center offers students materials associated with Bay area industries and MOSI's growing collection of industrial and technical prototypes.

The \$35 million expansion was funded through Public Education Capital Outlay Grant money, a county revenue bond, and a capital campaign by the MOSI Foundation.

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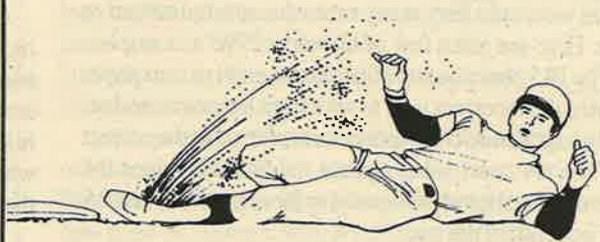
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# SPORTS NEWS



The Bloomingdale Classic, a 5k run staged in early June, attracted over 350 participants from around the state who ran, roller-bladed, or walked around Nature's Way. The annual charity event was sponsored by the Builders Association of Greater Tampa's Sales and Marketing Council and produced \$3,500 for the YMCA in Brandon.



## Bloomingdale LL All-Stars Announced

by Gazette Staff

Bloomingdale Little League will be represented by six teams in all-star baseball and softball competition this month. Two teams began play in June at a tournament being hosted by Bloomingdale. The local league will also host the senior division tournament this month.

All-stars are selected by players and coaches based on their performance during the regular season. In the minor boys division, Bloomingdale, like six other Little Leagues in District 13, fielded two teams so more boys would have an opportunity to play.

Results were not available by press time, but both minor boys all-star teams began play June 26.

**Minor Nationals:** Ken Johnson, manager; John Dobie, coach; Jonathan DeCamp, Jared DeVirgilis, Andrew Dickison, Steven Flositz, Joe Frances, Shawn Hirsch, Ryan Collins, Josh Dobie, David Mannschreck, Kyle Miller, Michael Roland, and Michael Wood.

**Minor Americans:** Milt Ambrose, manager; Gary Widell, coach; Kyle Adkins, Bobby Alfano, Jason Ambrose, Steven Boggs, Matt Eaton, Ryan Hill, Ross Jackson, A.J. Kime, Ryan LaFountain, William Long, Anthony Thomas, and David Widell.

**Major Boys:** The major boys are the defending District 13 champions and they begin play July 5 at Lutz - Larry Johnson, manager; Dave LaFountain, coach; Jason Nicholas, Mike Andreas, Chris Belcher, Lyle LaFountain, Bucky Gawron, Kevin Adkins, Seth Foley, Richard Long, Chris Roman, Mike Esposito, Matt Heinz, A. J. Johnson, Chris Mestre, and Nick Smith.

## Sports Spots

### Gym Open For Summer

The Burns Junior High gymnasium is open for school-aged kids during July and early August. Gym hours are 2 to 10 p.m. and supervision is provided by county staff. Burns is one of the only school summer gym sites in the county to house the program sponsored by Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation.

Indoor games and, of course, basketball are available. Registration is not required, however, coaches may have students complete emergency information cards.

### Basketball Clinics

Phil Zimmerman, Bloomingdale High basketball coach, will conduct two basketball clinics at the BHS gym this month. The first is July 17-21 for boys age 8-12, and the second is July 24-28 for ages 13-17. The clinic will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. and the cost is \$40.

Zimmerman, in his 8th year as the Bulls' coach, said fundamentals will be stressed including ball handling, shooting, defense and rebounding. Participants will have an opportunity for game play and individual competition.

### Sports Salute

## Bloomingdale Bulls' Valdes Top Prep Player

Mike Valdes, Bloomingdale's standout pitcher, received the Saladino Memorial Award last month presented annually to the county's best high school baseball player. And in doing so, became the first Bloomingdale player to receive the coveted trophy.

Valdes, 10-2 on the mound this year, including a no-hitter against King, had earlier been named the MVP of the Saladino Tournament, a showcase of area talent held each spring. During the tournament, he pitched two of the Bulls' wins, including the championship game, a 5-hitter, against Hillsborough. It was the second year Valdes contributed to a Saladino Tournament title for his team, the first in Hillsborough County to win back-to-back championships. Yet another MVP honor came from the Florida Athletic Coaches Association for District 13.

All this for a surprising candidate who three seasons ago was hoping to make a young Bulls' team after developing his early skills playing Little League ball at Bloomingdale. Under the guidance of his father, Butch, Valdes turned his 5'10" frame into a pitching machine with seemingly effortless throws. During his senior year, he threw 74 innings during which he fanned 100 opponents and ended with an incomparable 0.92 ERA.

Valdes, who will attend the University of Tampa on a baseball scholarship, is the 25th anniversary winner of the Saladino Award. He joins a prestigious group of Bay area talent, among them Bloomingdale area resident and Hillsborough High graduate Mike Heath, a major-leaguer for 15 seasons, plus current major-leaguers Garry Sheffield, Dave Magadan and Tino Martinez.

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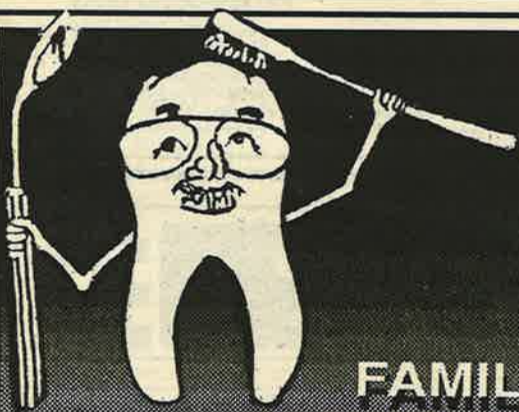
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**Tax Topics**

# Surprise - IRS Doesn't Always Win

by Robert J. Morris, CPA

Sometimes the IRS loses in tax court, although not as often as we would like, many times due to administrative errors. Here are just a few of the early 1990's examples.

The IRS sent a notice of tax assessment to a taxpayer but listed the incorrect year to which such taxes were due. Even though future correspondence referred to the correct year. The tax court sided against the IRS and, since the statute of limitations had expired in the meantime, the IRS could not collect the tax.

The IRS had assessed back taxes on Ms. S stating it did not have a record of ever receiving the taxpayers return. Later in tax court, Ms. S had shown the court a copy of the return and sufficient records to verify she received a refund that year. The tax court sided with Ms. S stating it was sufficient evidence as proof of filing and does not owe any additional tax.

The IRS assessed penalties for late filing and late payment of his taxes for a particular year. Mr. H was able to show he was medically incapacitated as a resident of a drug rehabilitation center, and the court ruled he had a

reasonable cause for filing late. The penalties were dropped.

The IRS filed a summons to a bank to acquire the records of Ms. R due to an investigation going on with another couple. Ms. R, upon hearing of the summons to search her records, filed in court to stop the IRS. The court ruled the IRS has a right to collect third party records only when such person has an interest or financial dealing with the first party. The summons was ended.

When addressing the IRS in matters of tax be sure you have the necessary documents readily available to support your position. Good documentation is the basic requirement in handling any response or appeal. Always remember there is a fine line between being aggressive and committing fraud. There is no crime in being aggressive when it comes to preparing or defending your tax returns. Your documentation and defense support is of the utmost importance when appearing aggressive. Be sure you have a competent tax advisor representing your interest when you are in doubt of how to handle any situation.

## Gardeners Corner: Darn, Those Bugs

The Gazette welcomes a new feature and new writer. Vicki Holsonback is a Bloomingdale resident, and she will provide gardening tips to homeowners monthly.

by Vicki Holsonback

Chinch bugs, mole crickets, lace bugs, aphids, ants - help, I'm being invaded! Here are just a few of the insects you will come across here in Florida that will play havoc with your lawn and gardens.

**Chinch Bugs** - they just love St. Augustine grass and will wipe out an entire yard in a short span of time. Keep a close eye on your lawn and if you see brown patches appear - run, don't walk, to your nearest store. Diazinon and Dursban work very well on taking care of these pests. Another way to help fight chinch bugs is to keep your lawn healthy and watered. They tend to attack more when the lawns are dry.

**Mole Crickets** - go after Bahia grass. They are light brown, about two inches long. A good sign of mole crickets in your yard besides the dead bahia is tunnel areas in the lawn. Diazinon works well on taking care of these pests.

**Aphids** - feed under the leaves on your plants and they just love roses and hibiscus. Diazinon works well here, again. A more organic approach would be to spray

the leaves with a mixture of ivory soap and water (3 oz Ivory to 6 gallons water). Another alternative would be to plant some garlic or spearmint in the flower bed as aphids do not like these plants.

**Lace Bugs** - also feed under leaves. They love azaleas, oaks, avocados, sycamores, and elms. Two applications (7 days apart) of malathion, diazinon or orthena will take care of these pests. Last year, I sprayed mine with the Ivory soap and water mixture and it took care of the problem. So, that might work if you don't like to use insecticides.

A good source to call for any questions and information is the Agricultural Office of the County Extension Services at 5339 County Road 579, Seffner. They can be reached at 744-5519. They publish many different information packets on Florida gardening that can be picked up at the office.

If you have a particular subject that you would like me to address, just leave a message at *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, 681-2051.

*Until next time -  
Happy Gardening.*

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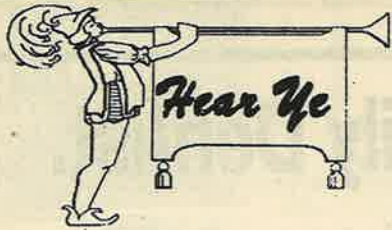
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**BHA Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be Tuesday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza. Homeowner concerns and issues are always welcomed. The meeting is open to all dues-paying members and all newcomers are invited to attend.

**STD Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustees will be Monday, July 10, at 7:30

p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza. The meeting is open to all Bloomingdale homeowners.

**Kiwanis Meeting**

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Brandon Nights meet every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Game Day Grill, Oak Park Plaza on Lumsden and Kings. President of the organization is Bloomingdale East resident Mark Leytze. The group sponsors the Terrific Kids program in the local elementary schools.

**Rep. Johnson Sets Visit**

A staff member from Florida House of Representatives Buddy Johnson's office will be on hand to answer questions on Wednesday, July 12, at Bike Works located in the Kings Row shopping center from 1 to 3 p.m. Constituents who have problems with local or state agencies or who wish to express views on state issues are encouraged to attend.

**Citizen's Assistance**

Is there a pothole in your neighborhood that needs to be patched? Do you need a map of downtown Tampa? How about information on Hillsborough County services?

This information and much more is available at the Citizens Assistance and Information office located on the ground floor of the County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. It is the county's one-stop information and referral agency. County representatives can take complaints or requests for service, as well as provide telephone numbers and referrals to dozens of public and private non-profit agencies. Also available are free brochures and booklets.

**PARADE, from page 1**

and crew are up marking the parade route and checking in participants as early as 8:30 a.m.

"The line-up is the hardest part. There are breakdowns, some arguing about position within the parade, and the heat."

The work behind-the-scenes doesn't make it impossible for Wyatt to view the parade. In fact, once the line-up is complete, he rushes in a courtesy van up to the front of the parade and gets to see the entire thing.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the corner of Parsons and Lumsden. It will proceed north on Parsons to Robertson. From there, the parade will turn west on Robertson and finish at the Publix/Builder's Square parking lot. A reviewing stand will be located on Robertson at Noland Drive, where there will be a viewing area for handicapped persons

This is the largest parade ever for a non-election year, said Labkon, who expects 30,000 to 50,000 spectators. The 37th annual parade's theme is "Celebrate America '95." Sheriff Cal Henderson is the Grand Marshall; the Celebrity Grand Marshall is Ronald McDonald; and Honorary Grand Marshalls are Dr. Richard Kane and Donald Pate, Brandon's Small Business Leaders of the Year. Others on hand include the Shriners motorcycles, clowns, and funny car units, the Rough Riders, and krewe of Fort Brooke; plus marching units, dance groups, antique vehicles, and horse troops.

Parade awards will be presented at the reviewing stand at the conclusion of the parade when the winner of Brandon's Honorary Mayor Race also will be announced.

The Presidents' Roundtable will sponsor a fireworks display scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. Viewing is recommended from parking lots along S.R. 60 from Home Depot to K-Mart.

Labkon said parking will not be permitted in the Sam's Club front lot, the actual fireworks site.

Reserved parking will be sold for \$3 per car beginning at 6 p.m. for the Rooms To Go and Sam's Club side parking lots. Labkon said refreshments also will be sold at these locations.

Proceeds from the reserved parking will go to the Roundtable to help defray costs and to a local veteran's organization, Labkon said.

**Traffic Note:** East and west traffic on Lumsden between Kings and Parson closed beginning 8:15 until last parade unit clears the intersection of Parsons and Lumsden. Parsons from Lumsden to S.R. 60 will be closed from 9:45 until 12:15. Robertson between Parsons and Kings will be closed until 2 p.m.

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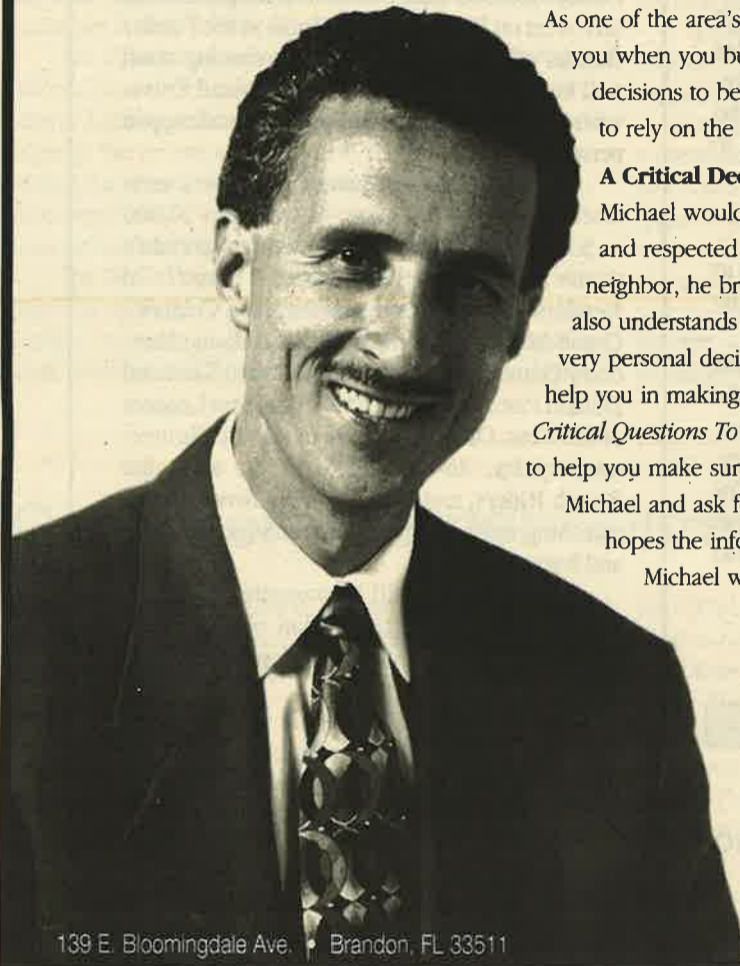
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