

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVI, Number 7

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

July 1996

## BHA Briefs

### Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, July 9, at 7:30 in the Community Office in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. The Community Office has moved to 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, next door to Kim Hall's Dance Studio. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting.

### Terrific Turnout

A standing-room-only crowd packed last month's BHA meeting to address a variety of topics. First, Deputy Pete Maurer alerted the BHA to the presence of gang activity in the community (see related story p. 1) and new Community Center director Donna Clouse visited to give an update on summer activities at Park West. But the biggest turnout was from parents of West who wanted the board to hear their concerns about traffic in West following the tragic fatality that took the life of a 6-year-old.

The BHA wants to thank all those who turned out for the meeting and hopes that future meetings will bring in residents with concerns and questions.

### Reclaimed Water Update

Dick Hamilton was charged with heading up the inquiries for the residents of Fox Run and The Greens on reclaimed water as those communities get ready to vote on whether or not to accept the project. He visited the BHA to report his findings but publication of his report will be withheld until after he has presented the results to the residents of The Greens and Fox Run.

### NIP Reminder

With all the summer rain, residents need to remember to keep their yards in shape. It's always a major chore during the raining months because it doesn't seem to stop raining long enough to get the lawn mowed. Warning cards are being mailed to homeowners with high grass.

Not only is it unsightly, but it enhances the problem of mosquito control during the summer months.

### 'Deputy Pete' On Patrol

Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer has new digs. He has set up office space at the Bloomingdale West Recreation Center. Sometimes he can even be found hanging out there. More often, though, he's out and about the community.

Deputy Pete would like parents to pay close attention to gang awareness. Bloomingdale is not safe from gangs (see story this page) and the more parents are educated the more aware they will be of gang-related activity and prevention for their own children.

### Coming in August

Can it be back-to-school time already? Well, not quite, but in August parents will be thinking about preparing for the new school year. We'll take a look at what it costs to get the kids ready. Also, meet a resident

## Parents Want Changes For Traffic Control In West

by Rozel Sciulli

Parents of Bloomingdale West say the odds caught up with them.

When six-year-old Nicholas Faber was tragically killed while crossing Canoga Park Drive on his bicycle last month, the inevitable occurred, they said.

Now, they want the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association and the county to do something about the traffic problem they say has existed for years.

"Speeding at night and on weekends and drivers cutting corners wide," are two problems along Canoga Park Drive and Sandy Creek said David Eddings. "Something needs to be done so we don't have another tragedy."

Eddings and about a dozen of his neighbors have asked the BHA to petition the county for changes on their streets.

Those changes include signage, a change in speed limit, creating bike paths, and painting a dividing line down Canoga Park.

Tim Golden said he would also like to see a crosswalk to the park, a three-way stop at Garnet and Canoga Park and greater patrolling.

"We want to see something good come of this," Golden said. "The volume and speed of traffic have both changed dramatically, and now with the park the danger (to children) increases."

Golden and the others present said they wanted a commitment from the BHA to help get something done.

The BHA agreed to site the need for change and traffic control in the area and they have sent a letter to the appropriate county agencies and commissioners to begin the process of change.

BHA president Randy Wolfe indicated the need is of an emergency nature and suggested the group's immediate focus should be on signage, posted speed limits and enforcement.

Roberta Lancy agreed that enforcement is what's needed.

"Thirty to 35 mph is too fast for Sandy Creek," said Lancy, whose son survived a 60-foot skid when he was struck by a car.

Yet, Christine Eddings said enforcement is not enough. Her daughter was hit three years ago when she retrieved a

See CANOGA, page 11

## Parents urged to beware of activity Yes, Virginia, There Is A Gang In Bloomingdale

by Rozel Sciulli

Chicago. New York. Los Angeles. Bloomingdale. It's not a new T-shirt. Bloomingdale has just been added to the long list of cities and neighborhoods that have been infiltrated by gangs.

Hard to believe? The sheriff's unit on gang activity says parents need to open their eyes. It's here in the proverbial back yard.

A known gang, a set of the nationally known Crips, has taken root in the Bloomingdale community. Known as the South Side Suspects, the upstart group of teens has grown to about 30 in the last three months, said Deputy Victor Vasquez of the sheriff's Gang Suppression Unit.

"They are trying to establish themselves," Vasquez said. "Parents don't know their kids are involved."

Vasquez said gang members seek out kids who are looking for acceptance. "They join because it's cool and when they find out what's going on they want to get out."

While there have been minor gang altercations between the Bloomingdale group and another from the Heather Lakes area, Vasquez said there is nothing illegal

about belonging to a gang.

"When it becomes illegal is when there is criminal activity."

### Signs of Possible Gang Involvement

- Sudden poor grades and disinterest in school
- Withdrawal from family activities
- Use of unknown vocabulary (gangs have slang words)
- Sudden change in friends
- Evidence of drug abuse
- Sudden affluence
- Use of hand signs
- Desire for excessive privacy
- Having a new nickname
- Developing a bad attitude towards family, school, authorities
- Purchase or desire to buy clothing of all one color, style
- Wearing altered headwear (members often put gang information on the inside band of ball caps)
- Changing appearance with special haircuts, eyebrow markings or tattoos
- Use of gang graffiti on folders, desks, walls and buildings
- Staying out later than usual

So far in Bloomingdale, the most obvious sign of mischief has been what's known as tagging - painting graffiti on walls, sidewalks and signs in the community.

"It claims territory or challenges a rival group," Vasquez said.

Vasquez urges parents to look for warning signs their child may be involved.

Uniformity is the common bond of gang members. He said members of the same set all wear the same bandanas, known as flags, colored beads, hats tilted to one side, one pant leg rolled

up, a change in appearance with special haircuts, eyebrow markings or tattoos, and use of graffiti on school folders, walls and buildings. The South Side Suspects colors are the blue, black and white of the Orlando Magic professional basketball team.

See Gangs, page 6

## Rec Center Activities Under Way

If it didn't look so new it would be as if it had been here all along. The Bloomingdale West Recreation Center is abuzz with activity for children and adults.

The summer program has been under way since June 10 and continues through August 16 with daily tournaments, special events and field trips.

This week's highlights include a sandcastle contest on Monday and a Mr. Muscles contest on Thursday. Kids also can participate in crazy shorts day and hat day on Tuesday and Friday. An archery tournament and hopscotch tournament will be held Wednesday and Thursday.

A Bloomingdale "Beauty Contest" is on the agenda for the week of July 15. Tournaments for box hockey, foosball, pool/bumper pool and tetherball are all on the

agenda for the week which ends with a coloring contest.

Get those cute baby pictures out for a contest the week of July 22, and some grubby clothes for the greasy pole climb. The area's artists can show off their talents that week during the sidewalk art contest.

The last week of July brings a free throw shooting contest and lip syncing plus Olympic mural making.

Children 6-12 must be registered with the County Parks and Recreation Department to participate in the Bloomingdale summer program which also includes field trips.

The big trip in July is to Universal Studios on July 10. It's open to children 9 and older and the cost is \$27. A July 26th trip is planned to Adventure Island for ages 9 and older and the cost is \$14.



Seven-year-olds Kyle and Jonathan learn to play box hockey at the rec center.

## NEW SUMMER HOURS

MON. & FRI. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
 TUES. & THURS. 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
 WEDS. 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

For your convenience we will be opened until 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Dear Readers,

As this region has shown in the past, development and advancement generates more development and ever greater advancement. And this is the great opportunity for our community. Changes are taking place here which will equip us for the years ahead. It is up to us to grasp the opportunities which those changes are creating.

I am excited about what is happening in our community, we have a new rec center in Park West, and the prospect of a state-of-the-art YMCA. We can be sure that other communities are watching these developments too. Not with the same sense of excitement, but waiting to see if we will make the most of our good fortune.

Get involved in your community.

Sincerely,



Rick Oros

### Our Times

## Tragedy Helps Identify Latest Crisis

by Rozel Sciuilli

BHA president Randy Wolfe once wrote that the community needs to identify a crisis in advance, not wait until we are in the midst of one to do something about it.

Unfortunately it nearly always takes a tragedy before residents are aware of a crisis. Last month a young life needlessly ended on the streets of this community.

A random selection, this little six-year-old, about to begin the first summer vacation of his school years.

Parents who live in the Canoga Park Dr. vicinity thought it might happen sooner or later. After all, there had been some close calls...a little girl hit retrieving a ball, a young boy bumped in the road in front of his house. But no one was prepared for what occurred early one Saturday morning as Nicholas Faber crossed the street he lived on. He didn't see the van coming. The driver wasn't speeding. The van was just there - a bike and a van on the same patch of road at precisely the same time.

Residents attended a standing-room-only BHA meeting last month. A crisis had been identified and they were looking to the community's leaders for help.

Tearful stories were related by some, near mishaps recounted by others, but the message was clear - they want something done and they want it done now.

What parents would like to see in place are signs indicating children at play, lower speed limits along Canoga Park and Sandy Creek, bike paths like those on Bloomingfield, a center dividing line on Canoga Park, and 3-way stops at Garnet and Canoga.

The word from Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer is that the county is ready to help. A letter from the BHA should put the wheels in motion.

What's sad is this: signs, lower speed limits, and bike paths probably wouldn't have prevented the Nicholas Faber tragedy.

With the community center in place

at Park West the message should be one of awareness. Signs will make motorists aware. But parents must also make their children aware of the dangers of the road, even in our seemingly safe community.

This crisis won't be the last. Let's just hope we get better at identifying the next one before another senseless tragedy wakes up the community. ETC....

You know, I guess what really peeves me about all of this is the fact the county has been planning the rec center for two years. Where was the foresight? Didn't they know child traffic would increase. The Faber incident was in no way related to the rec center but it does give us a frightening look at what could happen with all the kids going back and forth.

Why aren't the people in the road department brought in to get the area ready for such a major change?

It's kind of like the county granting all these building permits for new homes without consulting the school board to see if the schools in the area can handle the additional students who will be moving in to the new homes. "Sorry, Mr. Builder. The schools in that area are overcrowded. You'll have to put up the money to build a new school or build your homes in another county."

How difficult would it have been for some parks person to say to the road department person, "You know we have this rec center planned in Bloomingdale. The streets are pretty busy, why don't your people go on out and have a look at the traffic situation out there and maybe make it safer for kids to get back and forth to the center?"

No, that would've been too hard. It would've been too difficult for the county road guy to come out and survey the situation and recommend, say, a bike path or some "Slow, Children Playing" signs.

An ounce prevention was just too hard.

### OFFICERS

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**Bloomington Oaks Special Taxing District**  
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### The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103  
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**NEW SUMMER HOURS:** M & F: 9:30-12:30, T & TH: 9:30-11:30, W: 9:30-2:30

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 Circulation Assistants Rent A Kid delivery system

Accounting services provided by:  
 Robert Morris, 3302 Bell Shoals, Brandon, FL 33511

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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.

**Bloomington 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.

**Bloomington 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.

## Mobile Watch Report

by LaWayne Wyatt

A considerable increase in events was reported by patrols and residents from mid-April through mid-June. Included were vandalism, speeding/reckless driving and several suspicious cars. The most significant were the following:

4/17 Yellow jeep speeding on Culbreath Road

4/24 Windows of home under construction shot with BB gun

Gang symbols painted on walls and TECO box in East. Residents should immediately report any graffiti or unknown symbols to the sheriff's office gang unit, the Community Resource Deputy and the Mobile Watch.

4/25 Green car parked in River Estates construction area

5/1 Residents reported individual pulling plants at entrance to The Greens. Found to be legitimate contractor. Nonetheless, it helps for residents to remain alert to such activity.

5/3 Two cars parked in River Estates construction area. Empty beer bottles found at same site later in evening.

Dodge pickup parked by wall near model at Somerset subdivision.

5/4 Possible activity around vacant house on Kristin Place.

5/8 Car with out-of-state plates parked vicinity Somerset subdivision and later near Alafia school.

5/11 Breaking and entering on Monte Lake Dr.

5/17 Several carload of teens cruising the East and Culbreath Road at high speed.

5/20 Gallon container thrown through window of vacant house on Rainbrook Cir.

5/22 Pontiac Bonneville hit wall vicinity Natures Way and Kingsford, then left the scene.

5/24 Bloomingdale Ridge sign letters stolen from wall by Alafia School

Dodge pickup parked by model home in Somerset subdivision.

Several teens vicinity of The Spot (south end of Culbreath)

5/30 Graffiti on walls along Springvale and Natures Way. Not gang related.

Several teens have been seen entering the wooded area North of Orangepoint Dr. Some have been observed shooting paint guns.

5/31 Deputy stopped potential fight vicinity Park East.

6/1 Several carloads of teens having party on Eaglewood Dr.

6/10 Car window smashed on Eagles Nest Dr.

6/11 Old Dodge station wagon with older white male acting suspicious near young boy on Springvale Dr.

6/12 Grand Am parked by fence at Alafia School

Teen party on Caliente Dr. Teens in street impeding traffic. Glass in street. Part of same group vicinity Rec. Center in Park West.

In addition to the above incidents, there was considerable traffic in and out of both parks late at night during the last two months.

We can still use additional volunteers. Several have indicated an interest, however, due to conflicting schedules they have not been through the orientation yet. Our thanks to the following who have volunteered: Gail Golly, River Crossing, and Steve Navinsky, Oakcrest.

# STD Plans Grand Entrance(s) Project

by Rozel Sciulli

Discretionary funds of the Special Taxing District are limited this year compared to most years because maintenance costs have increased 10 to 15 percent. But that won't keep the STD board from undertaking one of its largest projects to date - creating eight grand entrances to the Bloomingdale communities.

That's what is proposed in the Fiscal Year 1997 Budget, totalling over \$300,000 and submitted to County Commissioners for approval last month.

STD president Rick Pitrowski said irrigation and wall repairs have put a strain on discretionary funds and driven the cost of maintenance up to a projected \$158,000 a year.

But the beginning of a major capital outlay project is scheduled for this year and is expected to last up to four years as the STD re-designs the Bloomingdale entryways.

"They'll look something like the Bloomingdale Ridge wall," Pitrowski said. "Every entryway is different now. The board wants something to give continuity to the community."

Brick, landscape and lighting will create upscale and uniform entrances at Erindale, Culbreath, Springvale, Greenhollow and Glenhaven in East, and at Garnet, Redondo and Bloomingfield in West.

Pitrowski said two entrances will be completed each year at a cost of approximately \$65,000, but did not say which two would be first. He noted that the Culbreath entrance by Bloomingdale Little League would probably be the last due to future construction at that location.

The entrance re-design is the culmination of a beautification project that began three years ago with the addition of oaks and palm trees, landscaping and park benches to the community.

The STD also will take on two new communities in 1997 as the build-out of Bloomingdale East and South continues.

An additional 115 homes were assessed in 1996 putting the taxing district budget over the \$300,000 mark. Homes are assessed \$80 a year in their property taxes for the upkeep of the common grounds of the community.

## Proposed Budget FY 97

DISTRICT: BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

BUDGET CATEGORIES		FY 97 BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>		
363.000	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	281,120
366.000	DONATIONS	—
361.000	INTEREST	5,500
<b>TOTAL GROSS REVENUES</b>		286,620
<b>MINUS 5%</b>		(14,331)
<b>PLUS:</b>		
384.000	DEBT PROCEEDS	—
389.000	BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	35,576
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		307,865

EXPENDITURES:		
30.31	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10,500
30.32	ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING	10,500
30.34	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	38,200
30.40	TRAVEL AND PER DIEM	100
30.41	COMMUNICATION SERVICES	600
30.42	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	250
30.43	UTILITY SERVICES	4,000
30.44	RENTALS AND LEASES	1,700
30.45	INSURANCE	150
30.46	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	158,000
30.47	PRINTING AND BINDING	50
30.49	OTHER CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS	1,395
30.51	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000
30.52	OPERATING SUPPLIES	50
30.54	BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS	50
<b>TOTAL OP EXPENDITURES</b>		226,545

CAPITAL OUTLAY		
60.61	LAND	—
60.62	BUILDINGS	—
60.63	IMPROVEMENTS	64,526
60.64	MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	—
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>		64,526

DEBT SERVICE		
70.71	PRINCIPAL	—
70.72	INTEREST	—
70.73	OTHER DEBT SERVICE COSTS	—
<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE</b>		—

NON-OPERATING		
90.93	BUDGET TRANSFERS	11,794
90.99	RESERVE FOR FUTURE CAPITAL	—
90.99	RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCY	5,000
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING</b>		16,794
<b>TOTAL EXPEND AND NON-OPERATING</b>		307,865

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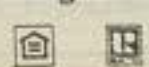
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Restaurant Review

# 'Seafood & Pasta' Offers Satisfying Fare



by Elton Dumont

When my wife and I saw an ad for the "House of Seafood and Pasta" we were a bit perplexed. The address in the Kash N Karry Plaza on Lithia was definitely familiar, but the name didn't fit. So we investigated further and found that the restaurant that had been there all these years had changed ownership and was now under new management and new name.

We decided to try it after a self-imposed four-year absence to see if the service, attention and decor had improved.

There were some significant menu changes which seem to be for the better. If you were fond of the sauce recipes of the previous owner, you will be glad to know that part of the menu offering has not changed. Unfortunately, some of the areas have not changed yet. But, the new owner is committed to doing the things that will make this a sought-after family restaurant.

There are new pictures on the wall that give guests an idea that this will be a seafood dining experience. On the other hand, some distractions still pop up. The first thing that hit me was the bullpen area in the middle of the silly fence around it. We were seated in the bullpen and found out there is still no covering on the tables. No table cloths, not even paper place mats. And the silverware is still rolled instead of placed, although it is a plus to have cloth napkins.

Our waitress was very good, and was giving us some information regarding how the service and attention will be much better than previously, and we certainly believe it. She asked for our beverage order and we were surprised to find they have a full bar.

The lighting is still dim and guests don't really get a happy feeling. While looking over the menu, I asked about specials and was told there were none, but I don't know if that's because the menu is new or because it was a week-night, but perhaps that also will change.

The appetizers were all seafood and followed a one-price policy. This was a plus that made it easier to select an appetizer. Among the selections were stuffed New Zealand mussels, softshell crabs, and a seafood spring roll.

The soups are homemade and appear very hearty. Choose from the New England clam chowder or the seafood gumbo. Once again, being a weeknight, and also being under time constraints, we did not order a soup.

The entrees were extremely varied. Statistically, there are about 65 different entrees. That is more than enough to satisfy almost anybody's desire. And it certainly was more than enough to make us happy.

I chose the salmon because our server promised it was fresh. And also because the new owner has other seafood restaurants and apparently has excellent contacts with fishing fleets to ensure freshness. I turned out to be an

excellent choice, but more of that later. My wife ordered the chicken Alfredo and it also was a very satisfying selection.

Some of the seafood entrees like the salmon, grouper, snapper or mahi mahi are offered charbroiled, grilled (with or without cream sauce), and blackened. I had my salmon charbroiled. Some of the other entrees include Dungeness crab clusters or Alaskan king crab.

The pasta entrees available are spaghetti, fettucini, linguini or angelhair served with marinara sauce, clam sauce, ricotta or sausage, just to name a few. In addition, there are ravioli, manicotti and cavatelli.

The special entrees (13 in all) include seafood with tomato cream sauce, Cajun seafood and shrimp Alfredo.

While we were at the salad bar, fresh Italian bread and butter were served in ample portions. On the down side, the salad bar has not changed and therefore needs a major upgrading if the restaurant wants to be upgraded.

My salmon was actually an oversized salmon steak, indeed as fresh as any I've had recently and charbroiled to perfection. It was neither gamey nor fishy, but very tasty and absolutely flakey. The vegetable medley included fried potatoes, broccoli, mushrooms and carrots. A major point was just how great these vegetables were prepared. Just the right amount of spice and not just thrown in, but served with care. It also was served with a side of spaghetti.

The chicken Alfredo was moist and creamy with plenty of Alfredo sauce and very large chunks of tender chicken. Not shredded, but chunks.

The oversized portion of Alfredo and large portion of salmon will help the House of Seafood and Pasta build a reputation quickly as having great food served in large portions. Not a bad way to start a food business. We had enough left to make another evening meal.

Since there was no dessert on the menu, I inquired. Yes, there was dessert. If you like canoli, order it. If you want anything else, forget it. Once again, a temporary condition, I hope. But the canoli was fresh and good.

They do have a children's menu with prices from \$3.75 to \$5.50. Our total including tax and gratuity was under \$25. A solid value.

And so the verdict? In spite of some flaws that I hope will be corrected, we do plan to go back. The quality and service will get us back, and if some changes are made, we will return often.

Rating (based on 5 stars)  
 Food \*\*\*1/2  
 Ambience \*\*1/2  
 Overall \*\*\*

Until we eat again,  
 Elton Dumont



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## Bits N Pieces



by Shannan D. Powell

Summer has arrived and Bloomingdale residents are slowing down for the heat, grabbing glasses of lemonade and diving into their pools. It's the season for relaxation and catching up with the neighborhood news.

### Fall date set for Artfest

The Brandon League of Fine Arts has scheduled its annual Fall Artfest on Sept. 14 at Regency Square. Bloomingdale artists are invited to submit applications to exhibit their work in the juried show and sale.

Artists can win cash awards for first through third places in six categories, in addition to awards for Best of Show and the Marge Long Award for best realistic art.

Applications can be obtained by writing the League at P.O. Box 451, Brandon, 33509-0451.

### Dutch artist to visit



*The Passenger Ship* By Dutch artist Ronald van Rikxoort

Bloomingdale East residents Anne and David Madden will welcome Dutch maritime artist Ronald van Rikxoort and his family into their home this summer.

Van Rikxoort's work, praised for its romantic im-

pressionistic style and found in collections all over the world from Europe to Japan, will be on display at Center Place throughout August.

Since van Rikxoort must return to the Netherlands at the end of July, the Maddens will host a reception for the artist at the Gallery at Frame Crafters, Inc. in Ruskin, which the couple owns. The public will have an opportunity to meet the artist on July 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Madden family met van Rikxoort, who last visited Bloomingdale in 1993, while they were stationed with the Army in Limburg in the Netherlands. Anne Madden took lessons from the artist.

Three books of his work have been published, revealing his passion for the sea, including all types of sea-going ships, ports and facilities that service ships. Van Rikxoort is traveling with his wife, Emmy, and their daughter, Daniella.

"He is a very open person," Anne Madden said. "he enjoys talking about the sea and his work. We have gotten to be good friends over the years."

### Bloomingdale grows with 4 recent births

Raymond James and Barbara Ann Chenoweth of River Crossing welcomed Raymond Albert into their family on May 12, which was Mother's Day. Their son was born at Columbia Brandon Regional Medical Center and weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces.

The new baby was welcomed by his sister, Alyssa Lauren, 3. The paternal grandparents are Raymond and Jackie Chenoweth of Apollo Beach and the maternal grandmother is Catherine Rasche of Evansville, Ind.

Ron Allen and Tamra Suzanne Pauley, formerly of The Greens, also had a wonderful Mother's Day gift when Colt Martin was born at Columbia Brandon. Colt, who weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, has one big sister, Quel Deanna. His paternal grandparents are Martin and Bess Pauley of Collinsville, Conn. His maternal grandparents are Richard and Deanna Sulick of Bradenton.

Natalie Ann was born to Bloomingdale Oaks residents Tom and Rhonda Loos on May 10 at Columbia Brandon. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was welcomed by her brother Jason, 2, and sister Kaitlyn, 6. Her paternal grandfather is Jim Loos of Brandon. Her maternal grandparents are Jim and Nyaline Sugent of

Brandon.

Rob and Debbie Condon of Bloomingdale Estates welcomed Tyler Robert on May 8. Weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces, he is the couple's first child.

### 9 graduate from Mary Help

Nine Bloomingdale area boys were among the 36 eighth grade students graduated from Mary Help of Christians School.

In special ceremonies held on the campus on May 31, Brandon and Valrico residents Christopher Bauer, Adam Frenz, Lucas Gordon, Jonathon Holmes, Daniel Kelly, Adrian Madhosingh, Garrett Oakes, Andrew Quarles and Matthew Skelly graduated from the private Tampa middle school for boys.

### Colonel speaks at memorial service

Bloomingdale East resident Col. Roland J. Tiso, Jr. was the honored guest speaker during a Memorial Day observance at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens in Palm Harbor on May 27.

Col. Tiso is Chief of War Plans at the J5 Division of Central Command at MacDill AFB.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Ranger Tab and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

### Good neighbor missed

Family and friends mourn the loss of longtime Bloomingdale East resident Cleve A. Wilson III, who died of natural causes at his home May 23.

Wilson, a retired Air Force major, was senior partner in the law firm of Wilson and Associates in Brandon. He was an active member of St. Stephen Catholic Church and several civic and business organizations including the Chamber of Commerce.

Wilson had devoted 20 years to the Air Force. He was a graduate of Austin Peay State University, University of Tennessee Law School and George Washington School of Law.

He is survived by his loving wife Shirley, daughter Mara, son Jason and daughter-in-law Deena.



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**Church & Synagogue News**

**Freedom Begins With Commitment**

by Ellen Slovacek

Keeping America free is everyone's responsibility. I'm not talking about army tanks and learning to use powerful weapons, though military strength does certainly play an important part in keeping our land free. No, I'm talking about something that each of us can do, right here and now.

By keeping the commandments of God, we as a nation can be blessed with peace and prosperity.

How does that work? Well, think about it. Let's start with the basic Ten Commandments. These are about as basic as you can get, yet how many of us live all of them? And what would happen to our society if we all chose to keep even just the following few?

Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness (in other words, lie). Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not covet. And my personal favorite (being a parent of three teenagers and a pre-teen), Honor thy father and thy mother.

These are just six of the big 10 and yet what a utopia we would be living in if no one would kill, steal, lie, covet, commit adultery and if everyone (even teens) would honor their parents. There would be no need for personal security devices, alarm systems, divorce lawyers, door locks, juvenile detention...well, you get the picture.

Centuries ago a promise was made to an ancient prophet from the Lord concerning America. "Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land. And if it so be that they shall serve Him according to the commandments which He hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them."

What a beautiful promise. And what's neat about it, is that it's something you and I can do individually to help keep our country strong and free. If we increase our own personal righteousness, we will be doing our part. Our country will be blessed because of us.

As we celebrate our nation's birthday renew your commitment to keep the 10 commandments and watch our community increase in peace and prosperity. You'll see, the blessings will flow.

Now here's what's happening:

The Women in Focus Ministry of Bell Shoals Baptist Church, would like to invite all area women to their Tuesday morning Fruitful Hands Craft Ministry and Fellowship. There you can express your creativity by making a different craft each week and making new friends as well.

Fruitful Hands will only meet once a month during the summer. An evening class will be offered on Thursday, July 11 from 7 to 9:30. There is no child care for the evening class. Sample Crafts and supply lists are available at the church's Fruitful Hands display board located in the concourse of the special events center.

For information, call Cynthia Alford at 661-5561 for daytime classes, and Linda Donahue at 677-0599 for evening classes.

The Women's Ministry at Bell Shoals invites moms to Scribbles Playtime every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is a time of adult fellowship while the children play. Newcomer's information and registration begin at 11 a.m. The group meets at Paul Sanders Park at the corner of Bloomingdale and Kings.

For information call Angela at 671-0720 or Vicki at 681-6040.

**Gangs, from page 1**

Any one of these characteristics alone is not enough to suspect involvement, according to Vasquez. But a combination of several traits is sufficient warning.

"It's all about being part of a group," Vasquez said. "These kids are proud to claim who they are and they're going to show it."

Less overt signs of gang involvement might include sudden poor school grades, withdrawal from family activities, sudden change in friends, a desire for excessive privacy and having a new nickname.

Vasquez and others of his unit are involved educating elementary aged children through special programs in the schools and by meeting with educators at the middle and senior high school levels to make them better able to spot activity in their schools.

While school dress codes keep gangs from identifying themselves, covert communication using hand signs or wearing a certain color may signal a challenge to a rival gang.

"Schools are neutral zones because they know they'll

get suspended or expelled," Vasquez said.

Bloomington High administrators have stated in the past there is no outward evidence of gang activity at their school. But, Vasquez said, the beginning of the school year is prime recruiting time.

It all falls back on the parent, said Vasquez.

"Parents are always the last to know their kids are involved. You have to know who your child is associating with and be alert to changes in behavior."

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### Getting Their Kicks

Children in the summer program at Bloomingdale Park West play kickball with coach Matthew Stump.

## Planet Bloomingdale

Bloomingdale High School's "Planet Bloomingdale" was a finalist for the 1996 Governor's Environmental Education Award.

The Bloomingdale environmental team was honored as the only high school in the

state to be a finalist in the "Partnerships" category at an awards ceremony held at EPCOT on April 27. Their program was judged with those at the university level.

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## Local Dancers Accepted In National Ballet Programs



Several young dancers from The Dance Center in Bloomingdale Plaza will have opportunities to showcase their talents nationally this summer as they have been accepted to various programs around the country. They are, from front, Allison Floor, Jessica Higgins, Alyson Dilin and Courtney Hardwick who were accepted to the Joffrey Ballet summer program in New York City and Heather Sack accepted a scholarship to the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet summer program.

## Bruin Beat



### Award Winners Announced

Burns Junior High held its annual awards program May 23 and the following students were recognized for their outstanding achievements.

Departmental awards were given for academic excellence achieved by eighth and ninth graders in language arts - Monica Belford and Joy Griffin; mathematics - Natasha Bello and Shih-Shan Lang; science - Erika Barry and John Tanner; and social studies Allison Remely and Megan Roworth.

Awards in the electives were given in art - Danika Maddocks and Takumi Yoshimoto; foreign language - Paul Michalak and Joy Griffin; health - Divya Patel; journalism - Shari Land and Sunny O'Connor; media - Hunter Daniel and Brian Northup; and family and con-

sumer sciences - Outstanding student - Rachael Mikaelson; and FHA state recipients Trae Harris, William Highsmith, Rachael Mikaelson and Allison Weiser.

Special Awards were presented to Steve Batson, American Legion; Kristhal Meono, Dreamers and Doers; Kellie Evans, Jessica Higgins and Kevin O'Hallaron, Mathematics AJHSME; Andrew Kuo, Math League; John Tanner, Mu Alpha Theta; and Christopher Mansfield, Turnaround Achievement.

Parents recognized for outstanding volunteer service are Bill and Donna Reck, Ginger Sposaro and Cathy Tatum.

In addition to these awards, the following students were recognized for making the Principals Honor Roll for at least three grading periods - Erika Barry, Monica Belford, Natasha Bello, Andrew Emery, Kellie Evans, Joy Griffin, Jessica Higgins, Andrew Juo, Colleen Ladner, Shi-Shan Lang, Nathan Morrow, Mary Rhey and Benjamin Valentine.

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# Kids Kalendar Rated G

## Summer At The Brandon Library

When you visit the Brandon Regional Library this summer, don't be surprised if you hear a little background music. The Library, 619 Vonderburg Drive, will be rocking to the beat during the 1996 Florida Library Youth Program, "Rhythm and Books: Feel the Beat" on Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

This year's theme combines music and stories to create lively programs designed to foster children's enjoyment of reading. School-age children 6-12 are invited to share stories, games, creative dramatics and fun. Groups must register in advance.

**Summer Reading** is every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Stories, games and creative dramatics are designed for children 6-12. There is a limit of 50 on a first come, first served basis.

**Toddler Time** is Tuesdays at 9:20 and 9:50 a.m. for ages 24-36 months, with a care giver present. Stories, songs and fingerplays are presented during the 20-minute session. There is a limit of 25 on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Story Time** continues on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for 3-5-year-olds who are mature enough to participate in a group by themselves. Story times, which last 30 minutes, are limited to 50 children and there is no registration required.

**Bookin' with Ronald McDonald** is a special summer attraction July 11 at 3 p.m. Children will learn Ronald's reading tastes during this imaginative performance that explains with fun the importance of reading and offers tips on how to use the library. Ronald will visit with children after his performance.

**Crafts** will be made July 16 and July 23 at 3 p.m. This activity is open to ages 5-8, and registration is required.

**Bake-Off** - Brandon is having its annual bake-off to see whose dessert is the cream of the crop on July 24 at 11 a.m. Judging begins at 11 and the tasting party is at 3 p.m.

The main branch Downtown Library at 900 N. Ashley Drive in Tampa, will host a Children's Film Festival July 13 at 2 p.m. Adults may be accompanied by a child.

On July 19, the main library will host a Magical Movie Story Time at 10 a.m. for

children 3-5. The program lasts 30 minutes and registration for groups is required.

For information call 273-3652.

## Youth Theater

The Brandon Youth Theater will present two productions this summer. "The Hobbit" and "The Mouse That Roared" will be performed July 26 and 27 at 7:30 and July 28 at 3:00 and 7:00 at Center Place. Tickets are \$5.

**Theatre workshops** will be given by Rick and Terri D'Onofrio who have directed, choreographed and performed throughout the southeast. The workshops, for youth 8-12 and teens 13-18, will be held July 8-19 at Center Place. To register, call 685-8888.

**Sinbad** will be presented by the Patchwork Players on Aug. 2 at 10:45 a.m. at Center Place. The play is recommended for children 3 and older and the cost is \$2.50 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

## Center Place Kids Art

**Cruise Around The World**, a summer art program which features a different country each week, continues for four more weeks. Classes are for children 6-12 and meet Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of each week from 9:30 to noon. The remaining weeks will feature art projects from Mexico, week of July 9; Africa, week of July 16; Japan, week of July 23; and Hawaii, week of July 30.

**Discovery Hour** for children 4-6 continues for six more weeks. The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 and combines art and nature in unique projects. Subjects for the remaining weeks beginning July 10 are Down Clown Alley, Native to America, Flutter by Butterfly, Beach Party, Marble Magic and Wild Beasities.

For cost information and to register for classes, call Center Place at 685-8888.

## First Aid, Child Care For Kids

Columbia Brandon Regional Medical Center will offer classes in first aid, girl talk and babysitting on various dates this summer.

**FAB (First Aid Basics for Kids)** will be taught to children in second through fifth grades on Saturday July 27 and Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. until noon.

**Girl Talk** is a parent and daughter class designed to foster communication about growing up. The class is July 13 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 and is designed for girls 9-15.

**Babysitting Basics** is offered to boys and girls ages 11 and older who will be taught to be an effective, safe and fun babysitter. Three different classes will be offered Saturdays July 27 and August 24 from 9 a.m. until noon.

## Summer At MOSI

**Kids in Charge** is a specially designed 2,700 square foot hands-on gallery for children ages five and under to have fun exploring science concepts with an adult. The gallery

features eight exciting areas including a Tot Lot where children can test, touch, bounce, drive, climb, build and imagine.

**Classrooms for the Future**, the final phase of MOSI's \$35 million expansion, will be site of summer day camp through Aug. 16. More than 150 classes are available for children through 8th grade. The Classrooms include two discovery rooms, a technology resource center and labzone.

"Antarctica" opened last month and will run through Jan 12. The exhibit includes penguin dioramas, a mummified seal, video programs, ice and wind sounds, 3-D models of Antarctic ice features and objects used by people who have lived and worked on the South Pole. For information, call 987-6300.

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# Sports Stop

## Sports Salute

### Missy Paterson Honored

Bloomington High graduate **Missy Paterson** was named to the first team NCAA Division II All-South Atlantic Region softball team.

Paterson, a freshman pitcher at Coker College in South Carolina, completed a 26-0 season and becoming the first pitcher in NCAA Division II history to go undefeated in 25 or more decisions.

#### Outstanding Athlete

**Garrett Oakes**, formerly of Bloomington, has been named the Outstanding Athlete at Mary Help of Christians School for the 1995-96 school year. The eighth-grader received a plaque at the school's annual sports banquet on May 16.

Oakes was selected based on his participation as co-captain of three varsity teams during the school year - basketball, baseball and soc-

cer - and for his demonstrated sportsmanship and dedication to his teammates.

"Garrett is one of those rare finds who has great athletic ability, yet is unselfish and cooperative," Athletic Director Rick Stowell said. "He's going to become a standout athlete in whatever sport he chooses to devote his time to.

#### BSTC Gymnasts

The Brandon Swim and Tennis Club Suntwister Gymnastic Team competed at the Level 8 Regionals in Greensboro, N.C. last month. **Allison Gordon** placed first on beam and seventh all-around. **Amie Kelleher** placed fourth on beam and 14th all-around. **Laura Kochansky** placed fifth on bars and **Jodi Friedberg** placed 10th on bars and 10th on beam.

## Sports Spots

### Sign-ups Set For Rec Center Classes

Registration forms are available for several classes - Junior Team Tennis, Karate and Aerobics - at the new Bloomington West Recreation Center.

**Tennis Camps** are currently under way for boys and girls 5 and older. Three sessions remain the weeks of July 8 and 22 and Aug. 5. Camp days are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8:45 or 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. and the cost is \$15 per student.

In addition, Junior Team Tennis is now available to players of skills levels 2.0 to 5.0 in five age groups - 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under, and 18 and under. Players will participate in local tournaments USTA sanctioned tournaments.

For information call 744-5907.

**Karate classes** for boys and girls 5 and older are being offered Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30. The form of karate is Japanese Yoshukai and it is being taught by Robert Hughes, a 4th degree blackbelt. The uniform fee is \$25 and the registration fee is \$3. For information, call Hughes at 931-8933.

**Low-impact Aerobics** will be taught by Tracey Schriver every Wednesday and Friday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Rec Center. The cost is \$3 a class and child care is available for children 5 and older.

#### Baseball Camp

Charles Perdomo will hold his annual Baseball Camp at South Brandon Little League Complex July 8-12, July 15-19 and July 20-26. Camps are from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for ages 6-16. The cost is \$95 per session. For information, call 681-5428.

#### Basketball Camp

**Bloomington Bulls Basketball Camp** for boys 14-17 will be July 8-12 from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Cost is \$40. For information, call 744-8018.

#### Cheerleading Camp

An NCA Junior Cheerleading Camp will be held at Brandon Swim and Tennis Club July 13-14 from 9 a.m. to 3:30. The camp is open to boys and girls 7-14 and the cost is \$60. For information, call 689-0908.

#### Senior Golf

Since early May, the Bloomington Golfers Club has hosted a Swingin' Seniors Wednesday. The program will continue through Oct. 30. Each Wednesday begins with a 9 a.m. start with an 18-hole point quota system.

Fees are \$26 for non-members, \$21 for associate members and \$17 for members. Fees include greens fees, cart, post-round buffet and prizes.



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## Business Notes



### Papa Johns Pizza Coming

The third Papa Johns Pizza to open in Brandon this year will open on Bell Shoals in the shopping center next to SunTrust Bank early this month. It is the 10th franchise store of Jordan, Nicholas, Elliott, Inc. to open in the Tampa Bay Area.

Papa Johns offers hand-tossed pizza with a choice of 15 toppings for either take-out or delivery. They also have bread sticks and cheese sticks. Management says their sauce is made fresh daily and pizzas are topped with 100 percent mozzarella cheese, rare for fast-food pizzas. And, they say that because they don't diversify with other kinds of food, they are able to devote all their interest to making their pizza "the best".

Store hours will be 11 a.m. to 12:30 Mondays through Thursdays; 11 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and noon to 11:30 p.m. Sundays.

### Odum Shares Expertise

Bloomington resident Mary Odum, a top producing associate with Coldwell Banker Real Estate, spoke to more than 100 of her fellow associates as a roundtable leader at a corporate-sponsored event recently.

One of nine leaders, Odum was chosen based on her performance as one of the top realtors in the Coldwell Banker Brandon office. She spoke about real estate technology and fielded questions from her peers.

Odum is a member of the Coldwell Banker President's Club and Million Dollar Plus Club. She also is a graduate of Coldwell Banker University and serves on the company's Education Advisory Council.

### Donna Mac Tops

Longtime resident and local realtor Donna MacGiffert was named as the top agent for the month of June with Sun Cove Realty, Inc. MacGiffert, who prides herself in being a Bloomington "specialist" sold \$1.1 million last month.

### Realtor, Staff Move

Realtor and Bloomington resident Luana Russell, a top professional multi-million dollar producer, has joined

Tam-Bay Realty, Inc. at 1755 W. Brandon Blvd.

Joining her are her husband Woody Russell, also a realtor, and her staffers - buyer specialist Chelita Houston, administrative assistant Linda Genco and licensed coordinator Diane Schoeffel.

The Russells were the first husband and wife "team" to serve buyers and sellers in this area. Luana has sold more than 1,000 homes and provides free reports and videos to people with real estate needs. She holds a Graduate, Realtor Institute (GRI) and Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) designations and is involved in real estate market trend studies and programs.

Luana Russell is a board member of the Bloomington Homeowners Association and the Brandon Division of the American Heart Association.

### Investment Book Discussion

Liz McKenzie of Raymond James and Associates will lead a discussion on the book "Beardstown Ladies Investment Guide" at the Brandon Regional Library on July 16 at 7 p.m. The bestseller is about a group of women who formed an investment club. Their book has inspired other groups to spring up across the country. Their successful investment methods and techniques will be discussed.

## Tax Topics

### Tax Planning For 2nd Marriages

by Robert Morris, CPA

Thousands of dollars can be saved under certain circumstances when two previously married people consider marriage once again. The timing of events and the marriage may mean the difference.

When both have incomes and children, then consider marrying in January rather than December. Most likely both filing as head of household will have less taxes paid than filing jointly. However, if one spouse has little or no income, then filing jointly will most likely save taxes.

In one, but not both, have a 401K or qualified plan, then taxes may be reduced this year because of IRA contribution deductibility for the one who has no coverage. You may want to postpone the date.

Senior citizens need to beware of the taxability rules of social security and how jointly filed returns will affect their previously untaxed benefits.

Sales of residences may have a huge break if you are over 55 such as the exclusion of \$125,000 in gain. Even more so if both own houses and both are over 55. Selling these houses before marriage entitles up to \$250,000 to be excluded from taxes instead of the \$125,000 after marriage. This could mean a savings of up to \$35,000.

If your decision to marry in the fall season is not set in stone, then consider meeting with your tax advisor who knows your situation and discuss the possibility of deferring the wedding until January.

It may pay for the entire honeymoon.


Total Sold	53	High cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$83.10
High Sale Price	\$273,000	Low cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$45.20
Low Sale Price	\$76,500	Median Cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$56.80
Median Sale Price	\$110,000	Median Age	1987
		Median Home Size	2,039
Number of Units Sold by Price Range		Median Days To Close	Median Home Size
Under \$70,000	0		
\$70,000 - \$100,000	22	128	1,619
\$100,000 - \$150,000	25	106	2,200
\$150,000 - \$200,000	4	109	2,523
\$200,000 - \$250,000	1		
\$250,000 - \$300,000	1		
Over \$300,000	0		

This neighborhood analysis is a community service provided by local realtor and Bloomington resident Michael Davis. All data was taken from the Multiple Listing Service and is presented as accurately as possible, but it is not guaranteed. For further information, call 684-8881.

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# Note To Readers

The planned story on Bloomingdale as a truck route will appear next month. It was originally scheduled for this issue of *The Gazette*, but breaking news on gang activity in Bloomingdale and the traffic situation in Bloomingdale West took precedent.



### BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, July 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

### STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, July 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

### Recycle Computers

The county has begun a program, "Computers for Kids," that involves collecting computers to place in recreation centers and later in libraries for kids to use during after school and summer programs.

Since the program began in April, donations have

dropped off. There is no certain type of computer that the county is looking for. Software and programs also are acceptable donations.

Computers can be dropped off at the Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance unit on 78th St. and the Crosstown Expressway or at any of several libraries including the Main Library downtown at 900 N. Ashley Drive. For information call 744-5815 or 273-3652.

### Senior Volunteer Program

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for volunteers 55 and over in every neighborhood of Hillsborough County. Seniors may choose between many non-profit agencies in their community for volunteer activity. RSVP are covered with supplemental accident and liability insurance and are eligible to receive limited travel and meal allowances.

Volunteer opportunities exist with the Hillsborough Association for Retarded Citizens (providing transportation or assisting classroom teachers); Hillsborough Correctional Institute (tutoring and providing guidance to inmates in a minimum security facility); Community Care for the Elderly (visitation and light chores for homebound elderly); Head Start (teacher assistance in child care and development program); Senior Adult Day Programs (an activity and developmental program for elderly); and Suncoast Community Health Centers, Inc. (general office assistance, medical filing, processing mail, typing and stuffing envelopes.)

For further information call RSVP at 272-5031.

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### Canoga, from page 1

ball that had rolled into the street gutter in front of their house.

"Speed isn't the problem, awareness is," she said. "We need to make our children more aware."

Discussion of sidewalks was also brought up since there is not a completed path to the Recreation Center. Wolfe explained the county is obligated to put in sidewalks on property the county owns, but that developers are responsible for sidewalks in front of their subdivisions.

Golden said he would like to see a grassroots effort to build the sidewalks along Canoga Park.

"The county process is lengthy," he said. "It's not going to get done this way. We'll have to do this ourselves."

Golden agreed to begin inquiries and obtain information that could spearhead a community effort to construct sidewalks.

"This needs our attention now," he said. "Something needs to be done now."

## Classifieds

### FOUND:

Pair of man's glasses found in Bloomingdale. Call the Community Office at 681-2051.

### JUDY CLEANS:

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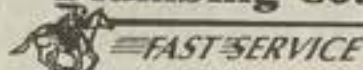
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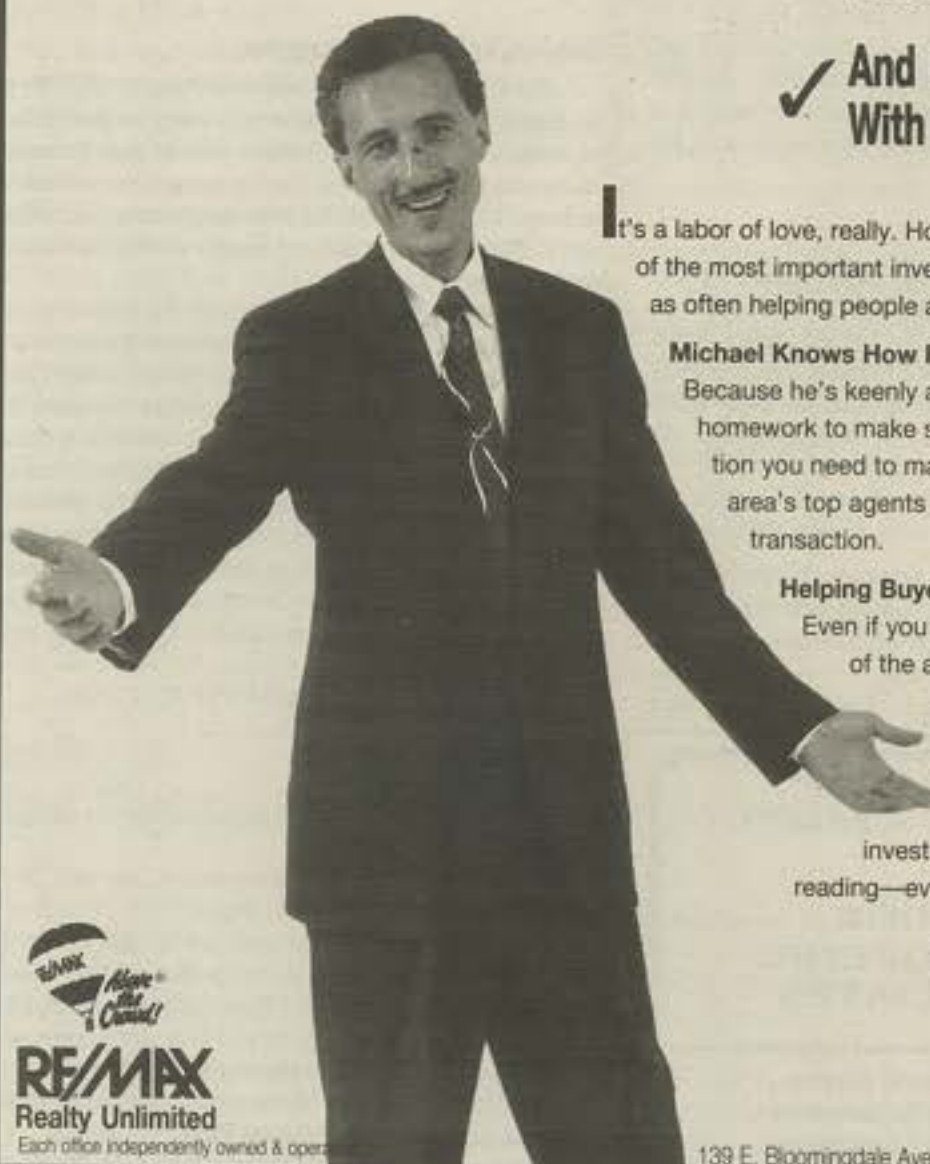
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