

Bloomingdale Opposes Proposed John Moore Road Development

by *Marta Zarrella*

Residents in this part of Hillsborough County are not ones to sit quietly and see unacceptable things take place. In the recent past there was the redistricting of some of our children by Hillsborough County schools. A very organized lobby was put together, under the leadership of Ted Grable. This group negotiated with Hillsborough County Public schools and established a dialog between the school system and residents that was unprecedented in the county. There was also the issue of sidewalks along Canoga Park drive and traffic lights on Bell Shoals road into Bloomingdale West, which was successfully fought by a group led by Tim Golden. Obviously, people out here care about our community!

There is a new issue that this community will not sit idly and watch happen. Developer Dimitri Artzibushez would like to develop 71 acres of land to the south and west of Bloomingdale Estates. This property at 4202 John Moore Road is currently zoned as ASC-1, which means that under current zoning it could only be subdivided into one-acre lots. While this property is just outside the boundaries of "Bloomingdale," this rezoning petition affects everyone in the Bloomingdale community. According to Civil Engineer and Hickory Creek Resident David Kemper "when you take into account road easements and wetlands areas they will probably be able to develop only about 60 acres." While the thought of 60 new families moving in is not unwelcome, the developer has proposed a Planned Development which, in its current form, would put 135 homes on this property. Under this proposal you have 135 families with potentially 270 more cars on the road - how many of those cars will use Bloomingdale Estates as a shortcut east, can the speed bumps handle it? You have another couple of hundred students affecting our already over crowded schools - do we redistrict these children again? You add that volume to Bloomingdale Little League - already the largest little league in the county. What about the owls, hawks, fox, armadillo, turtles, and other wildlife that live here, with 135 more new homes, where will they go? Etc., etc., etc. Enough is enough!

The neighbors have united, get ready for another fight! Residents all along South John Moore Road have banded together calling themselves UNDO (United Neighbors, Dedicated Opposition). The mission of this group is to maintain the integrity of the existing 1-acre zoning. A petition drive and letter writing campaign are under way. We encourage all Bloomingdale residents to get involved! Administrative

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Your inside connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3240 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103
Valrico, FL 33594

Voice Mail: 681-2051

E-mail: bloomingdale@juno.com

BHA Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/bhainc/>

Randy Wolfe, President	681-2051
Ted Grable, Comptroller	685-7193
Walter Glenn, Secretary	681-2051
Patricia Radel, Director	681-2051
Luana Russell, Director	662-1610
LaWayne Wyatt, Director	685-2072
Ann Underwood, Director	681-2051
Pam Liguori, Director	681-9655

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District 684-6667

Rick Pitrowski, President	684-6667
Tom Mackiewicz, Vice President	653-4145
Joe Liguori, Treasurer	681-9655
T. Szabo, Corresponding Secretary	684-2547
Fred Uphoff, Recording Secretary	685-3013
Tom Snelling, Trustee	681-9186
Sue Meyers, Trustee	689-1514
Alan Devney, Administrator	684-6617

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

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Paul Kelmer, Treasurer	681-9701
Tony Diolosa, Equipment Manager	681-1146
Steven Heckel, Membership Chairman	654-4266
David Guy	681-5943
Paul Warr	685-7883

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District PO Box 3132 Brandon, FL 33509-3132

Bill Grace, President 685-2817
Fred Englehart, Treasurer 685-3638

Meetings

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

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District
Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

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

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
at 3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks

Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch
meetings are held when special concerns arise

the Bloomingdale gazette
The Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association



Published by USAd, Inc.

220 W. Brandon Blvd., Suite 102 Brandon, FL 33511

Eric Robinson	President & Publisher
Deb Courtney	Managing Editor
Suzy Dixon	Production

Phone: (813) 654-1919

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Cal Henderson Visits Bloomingtondale

On Thursday, May 21, members of the Bloomingtondale Area Community Council (B.A.C.C.) and local residents listened as Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson gave an overview of the Community Policing Concept.

Sheriff Henderson opened by quoting some statistics representative of this policing concept. He said there are 29 targeted neighborhoods or communities in the county that will be covered by a local community station. To date, 18 are currently up and running, and he anticipates that all 29 will be open by the end of calendar year 1998.

The Community Policing Concept has been in place in Hillsborough County since 1988, but funding and grant considerations have delayed full implementation until now. It has become a high-profile policy for the County Sheriff's Department.

According to Sheriff Henderson, the County has 1.6 officers per thousand residents, as compared to the 3.1 per thousand maintained by the City of Tampa. The county patrols an area that is 8 times larger than the city. In spite of this, Hillsborough County's Community Policing program is so successful that the National Sheriff's Association uses it as a prototype for other areas throughout the country.

Community Policing calls to mind a time when law enforcement officers used to "walk the beat." When Sheriff Henderson began his career in 1965, he walked a beat in Ybor City. In today's version of the concept, officers use cars, but that is necessary to accommodate the large distances officers travel.

The current philosophy is for deputies to get to know the residents, and for the residents to get to know the local deputies. This allows the local deputies to respond to problems that are unique to each community.

To Sgt. Nelson Zalva, whose community station covers Sun City, Ruskin and Wimauma, this makes sense. He pointed out that the overall problems in Wimauma are much different than those of the individual residents.

The key to the continued success of this program is what Sheriff Henderson calls "empowerment." Each

Cal Henderson, cont.

deputy is empowered to make decisions that are right for their community without going to headquarters for approval.

Our local Resource Deputy, Pete Maurer, is very emphatic that he has the flexibility to respond quickly to matters that are unique to the Bloomingtondale neighborhood. Pete says that the biggest volume of complaints he receives are related to traffic problems. As a result, Pete was instrumental in obtaining the new access routes in and out of the Wal-Mart shopping center.

Pete is also trying to get a date positive for the traffic light at Bell Shoals and RoseMeade. He will also assist in setting up portable speed "controls" at various locations in the community to help slow down drivers.

Call Pete Maurer or Sandy Capitano to discuss specific community-related problems or needs, at 635-8040.

B.A.C.C. meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at the Community Station, 4342B Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, 33594. Residents are encouraged to attend and take an active role in solving community problems.

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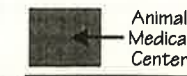


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Continued on page 5

Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

Regular Monthly Meeting • May 11, 1998
3240 Lithia Pinecrest, #103 • Valrico, FL 33594

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE: T. Szabo, Rick Pitrowski, Joe Liguori, Tom Mackiewicz, Fred Uphoff

PUBLIC: Tim Golden, Scott and Tonya Beddow, Neil Ludwig

ABSENT: Sue Mallon, Thom Snelling

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District was convened by President, Rick Pitrowski at 7:00 p.m. There were enough trustees present to establish a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

MOTION: Trustee Uphoff moved to accept the March minutes as read. Trustee Mackiewicz seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

BID OPENING

Trustee Uphoff stated that copies of the pre-bid meeting are in all trustees mailboxes. He stated that one company attended the meeting which was Cross Environmental Services.

Company	Amount
Cross Environmental Services	\$124,400 (Greenhollow)
	\$131,200 (Garnet)
	\$255,600 (Both)

Trustee Pitrowski asked Trustee Uphoff why there was only one bidder. He stated that the contractors that he spoke with were booked with projects and were not looking for more work. Trustee Pitrowski asked Trustee Uphoff for his recommendations. Trustee Uphoff stated that we should reject this bid. Trustee Liguori stated that we should put this motion on the table. Trustee Uphoff stated that we should not send each part out for individual bids due to the cost. Trustee Pitrowski stated that the options would be to: a) re-design b)reject c) pay it d)table and delay e) delay project a year or two. Trustee Liguori made a motion to reject Cross Environmental Services' bid. Trustee Mackiewicz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Liguori stated that we should have Thom Schaub come to the June meeting. Trustee Uphoff stated that he would call him on this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Vince stated that the budget amendments have been recorded. He stated that the Emerald account balance is \$306,000. He stated that the Unrestricted Fund Balance is \$121,751. Total revenues for the year are \$293,000 which we have \$319,000. The money market account at Barnett Bank has \$5,121. Total Assets are \$323,068. Trustee Liguori made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Trustee Szabo seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Holiday Decorations - Trustee Pitrowski stated that he attended the BHA meeting to request they match our \$1,500 for Christmas Decorations. He stated that we will have \$3,000 for Christmas Decorations this year.

County Meeting - Trustee Pitrowski stated that there is a county meeting regarding snipe signs which will be held next Tuesday. He stated he would attend and report back next month.

Budget Workshop - Trustee Pitrowski stated that our budget workshop meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

Banking Change - Trustee Liguori stated that he has not changed to another as of yet because there is a possibility that Tallahassee will take our funds through the state government and give us a higher rate of return. He stated that he does not have all of the information put together yet.

continued on page 11



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Solving the Speed Problem

The following is an open letter dated April 30, 1998, from Mack Austin and the Bloomingdale Area Community Council to Commissioner Dottie Berger.

Commissioner Berger :

I am writing this follow-up letter as a member of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Bloomingdale Area Community Council. After a near-fatal accident, I contacted your office in April of last year regarding a serious traffic safety problem in front of the Bloomingdale Senior High School. I was referred to engineers at the County Traffic Engineers Office. Following are the results of their surveys, traffic accident data for this area furnished by the Sheriff's Traffic Department and additional information for your review:

PROBLEM : The current speed limit on Bloomingdale Avenue from Lithia Pinecrest Road to Bell Shoals Road is 45MPH. This traffic area includes a Little League Park, a daycare center, two churches, Bloomingdale Senior High School - which is also used on Sundays by Calvary Baptist Church, a future YMCA, a nursing home to be built on the east side of BSHS and the four major intersections at Lithia-Pinecrest Road, Culbreath Road, Springvale Drive and Bell Shoals Road.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS : (1) According to the Bloomingdale Senior High School Resource Officer, there are approximately 2,200 students with drivers licenses and limited driving experience. With the current double sessions, traffic flow is spread out over four different peak times. However, with the plans for single sessions next year, the traffic flow peak times will be reduced to two, thus significantly increasing the traffic volume.

- (1) The high traffic accident rate of 132 from 1993 to 1997 on this section of Bloomingdale Avenue involved over \$422.4 thousand dollars, not including work/school/personal time lost. This includes an increase from 10 accidents involving 33 people at a cost of \$45.6k in 1993 to 38 accidents involving 189 people at a cost of \$127.7k in 1997.
- (2) Additionally, there is a significantly higher volume of truck traffic flowing to and from increased construction sites and the mines in Eastern Hillsborough County.

TRAFFIC ENGINEER'S SURVEY RESULTS: Mr. Gary Tate from the Hillsborough County Traffic Engineers Office



Photo by Mack Austin

had two surveys conducted last year, one in May and another in October. According to Mr. Tate, after the surveys were completed, the speed of 80 of each 100 vehicles checked was used to determine an average speed. Twenty percent of the 100 are already considered speeding. The average speed for May was 49.9 MPH and for October was 51.5 MPH. Mr. Tate stated the, according to F.D.O.T. guidelines, the speed limit must be set at the nearest speed -8 or +3 MPH above or below the average speed. No mention was made regarding consideration for specific conditions or safety requirements, such as schools, parks or churches.

RECOMMENDATIONS : Considering all the factors listed above, it is recommended that :

- (1) The speed limit on Bloomingdale Avenue from Lithia Pinecrest Road to Bell Shoals Road be lowered to 35 MPH.
- (2) The speed limit in front of Bloomingdale Senior High School be lowered to 25 MPH during peak traffic flow times and that two solar warning lights be installed on Bloomingdale Avenue, East and West of the school's entrances.

The above information and recommendations are forwarded for your review. Our first and foremost concern for the safety and protection of anyone driving or walking this very dangerous area. Since speeding and dangerous drivers are inevitable, we ask your assistance in providing protection and improving safety in this area which has already had one fatality too many.

Respectfully,
Mack Austin, B.A.C.C. Project Coordinator

please turn to response on page 11

Taxing District, cont.

Wall Painting - Trustee Uphoff stated that a resident on Greenhollow was concerned with the way that the painting company was patching the wall. The resident stated that it was not a good job. Trustee Pitrowski stated that the wall looks fine. Trustee Pitrowski stated that Trustee Mallon should be notified since she has been handling this project since the beginning.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Fountains - Trustee Pitrowski stated that someone had mentioned installing water fountains in the community. Trustee Uphoff stated that this would be a high-maintenance item. Trustee Liguori stated that this would be another target for kids to destroy. Trustee Mackiewicz stated that he had no great desire to see water fountains installed and that we could spend our money more wisely.

Fence and bench painting - Trustee Pitrowski stated that two fences and some benches are in need of painting. He stated that he has asked Mr. Devney to get some specs put together for this project. He stated that we would be doing the fences and benches at the same time.

PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Devney gave

PUBLIC - Scott Beddow stated that he attended a meeting in December concerning the entryway project and that it was going to be addressed pretty quickly. He stated that he wanted to find out about the project. He stated that someone was supposed to contact him concerning a wall in his backyard which is cracked. He also stated that he received a phone call two weeks ago that someone was going to be painting his wall on the inside and he wanted the gate open for the painter. He stated that it has not been completed yet. Trustee Pitrowski stated that Trustee Mallon will be contacted about this wall. Mr. Beddow stated that he would be willing to tear down the wall himself and he will be willing to use a bulldozer in his yard to do this job.

Neil Ludwig stated that he is concerned about the problems at the entrances at Rivercrossing. He stated that kids are hanging both entrances while waiting for the school bus. Trustee Pitrowski stated that we have tried to resolve this problem where we could. He stated that we have put in school benches and found they were not being used. He stated that this issue caused many problems with parents. The parents were upset that we would ask their children to step 30 feet down the sidewalk away from the entryway. He stated that we received a lot of phone calls too. He stated that we replant the beds, we replant all the benches, but we cannot come up with a way to keep kids out of the beds. He asked Mr. Ludwig to go to the school to help find a solution. Mr. Ludwig suggested changing the design of the entranceway. Trustee Uphoff stated that no matter what the kids will destroy the beds.

Tim Golden - stated the weeds are growing in the gutters. Trustee Pitrowski stated that this is being taken care of. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Speed, cont.

Response: Dottie Berger forwarded Mr. Austin's letter to Daniel Kleman, County Administrator, and to Sheriff Cal Henderson. This is the response thus far:

(excerpted from a letter to Mack Austin, from Bernardo Garcia, Director, Public Works department, dated May 18, 1998)

The Traffic Section will review accident records of the Sheriff's Office and the Florida Highway Patrol to determine

if speed related accidents are occurring on the subject section of Bloomingdale Avenue. The Sheriff's Office Traffic Accident Reporting System (T.A.R.S.) is a summary of all reported accidents. The only way to identify if there is a correctable problem is to review each individual accident report.

We expect to complete our review by June 19, 1998. Gary Tait, of our Traffic Section, will contact you with our findings at that time.

B.A.C.C. Bloomingdale Ave Project Accident Data

LOCATION	Number of :	Accidents	Drivers/Passengers	Injuries/Fatalities	Cost
1993 - 1997 BL/SV/CU/BK		132	310 204	40 1	\$422.4
1996 - APR 1998 BL/BS		24	49 33	5 0	52.8
1996 - APR 1998 BL/LP		16	34 19	3 0	54.8
Total		172	393 256	48 1	530K

Dollars are expressed in thousands. BL = Bloomingdale; SV = Sprimvale; CU = Culbreath; BK = Blowing Oaks; LP = Lithia Pinecrest

Cover story, cont.

Chairperson and Hickory Creek Resident Marta Zarrella said "The County Commission and County Staff have to realize that communities are more than just "cartops and rooftops," what they do directly affects our quality of life. They have maps, rules, and numbers, they have no idea what kind of environment or lifestyle we have out here. That is why Hickory Ridge, Dogwood Hills, Hickory Creek, Wood Dale Road, Hickory Highlands, Camelot Woods, and John Moore Road all have representative "Chairpeople" on this multi neighborhood committee.

Mark Vargo and Ted Grable are the Bloomingdale reps. We have people investigating the cost of hiring a lawyer whose expertise is in rezoning so there may be some fundraising going on. With elections around the corner, there will be some political lobbying of Commissioners and Commission candidates by our politically connected neighbors. We have people checking in with County staff weekly so that nothing slips by, and we are hoping to get the letter writing and petition signing campaign into other neighborhoods, not just those of us along John Moore Road.

Anyone interested in helping out should talk to someone in one of these neighborhoods or contact Marta at 681-7093, Mark Vargo at 681-4313 or Ted Grable at 685-7193.

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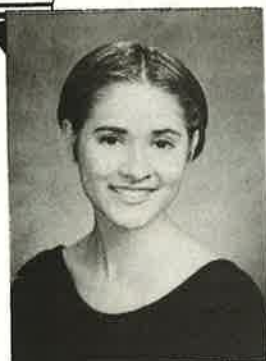
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