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MAJOR LAND USE REZONING REQUEST

(See story on page 6)

Road resurfacing project underway in Bloomingtondale East and West

by Laura Frazier, Editor

The Hillsborough County Engineering Division of the Public Works Department has announced the commencement of a major Bloomingtondale area resurfacing project. Over 50 streets in Bloomingtondale East and West are slated for resurfacing over the next two months. The County has hired APEC Construction to complete the project.

Patrick Murray of Hillsborough County's Public Relations Department indicates, "As the project progresses, we will be sending out notices by mail to the residents whose streets are scheduled to be resurfaced," says Murray. "We will make every effort to notify homeowners at least a week in advance so that they can make the necessary preparations."

The work will be performed between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Signs and flagmen may be posted in areas where traffic flow is interrupted and must be re-routed. The County requires all parked cars to be removed from the street during the hours of work, and reminds residents to take extra safety precautions

with small children and pets during the resurfacing. Residents are also asked to avoid or limit the use of sprinkler systems while work is in progress since the roads must be dry to resurface properly.

The county cannot provide a specific long-range schedule due to the inevitable unforeseen delays and inclement summer weather ahead. Residents may obtain updated scheduling information by calling the Hillsborough County Public Relations Department at 272-5275. ☎

Complete list of streets to be resurfaced appears on page 22.



Members of Station #27, The Bloomingtondale Volunteer Fire Department. See story page 7.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

E-mail: BHA-INC@ALTAVISTA.NET
3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-2051

President Ted Grable
Treasurer Pam Liguori
Directors Patricia Radel, LaWayne Wyatt
Ann Underwood, Rodney Biddle, Rick Pitrowski

Property Manager, DPMI 684-6617

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District 684-6667

President, Thom Snelling 681-9186
Vice President, Tom Mackiewicz 653-4145
Treasurer, Don Cassels 681-8855
Corresponding Secretary, R. Dickey 689-2177
Recording Secretary, Alice Burlison 685-1076
Trustee, Tim Golden 653-1337
Trustee, Paul Almeida 661-2018

Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

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

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

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

Coordinator/Scheduler
LaWayne Wyatt, 685-2072
Treasurer, Paul Kelmer 681-9701
Equipment Manager, Tony Diolosa 681-1146
Membership Chairman, Steven Heckel .. 654-4266
David Guy 681-5943
Paul Warr 685-7883

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
President Bill Grace, 685-2817
Treasurer Fred Englehart
Meetings .. Second Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm
3419 Cade Lane

the Bloomingdale gazette Staff

Editor Laura Frazier
Associate Editor Mack Austin
Restaurant Critic Elton Dumont
Feature Writer Paul Almeida

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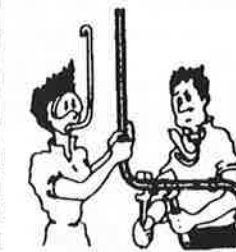
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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

By Luana Russell

SINGLE HOMEOWNERS GROWING

QUESTION: I am a bachelor apartment dweller – and I hate it. I would like to buy a small house but am a little wary about taking the big jump. What are your views on single-person home ownership?

On the plus side, it's a rare homeowner who doesn't feel pride in ownership. Also, it's a nice feeling to chop the cost of mortgage interest and property taxes off the top of your taxable income... not to mention the opportunity for a decent profit when you sell.

ANSWER: Don't be wary. Last year 20% of all mortgages on existing homes were made to single persons. The rate of single homeowners is growing annually.



FUTURE FOR SMALL HOMES

QUESTION: Does it make sense to look for a home for a young family that will last a lifetime (or until retirement) to preclude the expense of moving so often?

For perfectly sound reasons, such as advancing age, changing career prospects, changing family size and requirements, people tend to move, often in less than ten years. So plan for the foreseeable future – not for infinity.

ANSWER: Consider the stage of your family life, and how it could change within the next five to ten years. As your family numbers decrease by means of vocation, campus living and marriage, so will your space requirements.



Luana RUSSELL

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Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Property Manager's Report — March 1999

Submitted by Devney Property Management, Inc.

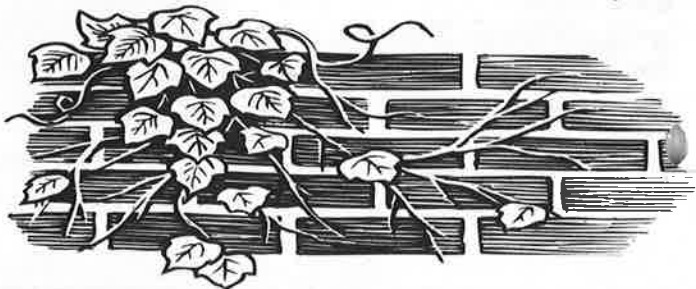
1. Irrigation: Brandon Irrigation repaired a broken zone line in the Rivercrossing system and replaced the pump control switch for the Glenhaven system. DPMI prepared diagrams and charts for the new irrigation on the south side of Glenhaven, notices were sent to five contractors to bid on this job. DPMI obtained approval from Jim Mikes, owner of the Village Center plaza on Bell Shoals and Glenhaven, to cut and patch his driveway when the STD installs the irrigation on Glenhaven. During monthly inspection tour, DPMI checked 8.5 miles of irrigation and made the following repairs: replaced 35 spray heads and 4 rotors, repaired 7 risers and 1 zone line, adjusted 14 risers. DPMI replaced 14 entryway light bulbs.

2. Landscaping: DPMI had Planscape, Inc. plant 23 more Crepe Myrtle trees on Canoga Park Drive. Yardworks installed St. Augustine grass plugs on Nature's Way from Rivercrossing Drive to Oak River Circle. DPMI conducted a joint inspection of our property with a Greenturf (our mowing contractor) representative. All services (cut, trim, edge, blow, and inspection) were done satisfactorily for May.

3. Traffic Accident Repairs: Two accidents occurred on Bloomingdale East Racetrack (also known as Nature's Way). One was car vs. tree; the other was car vs. wall. The results? Wall:1, Tree:0. DPMI is obtaining estimates for damage repair.

4. Wall Painting: Phoenix Painting completed the wall on the east side of Bell Shoals north of Greenhollow.

5. In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window: DPMI picked up 25 bags of litter, 2 shirts, 2 pair of socks (wool), 2 hubcaps, one squirt gun, a car jack, a small change purse, one towel, a deck of cards, a boat trailer hitch and 6 gallons of used motor oil. Inadvertent contributions retrieved amounted to \$2.86. The Bloomingdale beverages of choice for the month of May were as follows: beer - Bud Light, soft drink - Mountain Dew, and spirits - Gentleman Jack. ☺



Bloomingdale Community Substation Notes

by Deputy Pete Maurer

A summer to remember

Summer and vacation are times to have fun, be with friends and family and create those special memories that we can look back on. But for some folks, a few moments of carelessness in ignoring the laws that were developed to protect us can create memories of summer that are not so pleasant.

Although many years have passed, longtime residents of the Bloomingdale Community have not forgotten the terrible alcohol related tragedy that occurred when several teens were killed or seriously injured by a driver who plowed into them at the then-popular teen hangout, "the spot" on Culbreath Road. This nightmare is deeply embedded in the memories of those who lost friends or have permanent injuries due to the incident.



Several party "spots" such as this one have been identified by Sheriff's Deputies and Mobile Watch members and will be monitored closely this summer. Photo by Mack Austin.

Parties and drinking take place everywhere, but those that include underage drinking by teens at special "spots" where "no one knows what's going on" can be the most dangerous. People tend to be more active when partying out of doors, thus alcohol enters the bloodstream quickly and the revelers are likely to be drunk when they drive off. It's hot in the summer and tempers can get hot too, leading to potentially violent confrontations. For these reasons, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputies and local Community Mobile Watch members have identified many of these "spots" for special attention and additional patrols.

Adults are reminded that there are specific laws that prohibit allowing persons under twenty-one years of age to consume alcoholic beverages. Anyone having

a party at their home is responsible for insuring that the law is obeyed, and will be held liable for any violations or problems that occur as a result of not carefully monitoring and controlling the drinking taking place on their property.

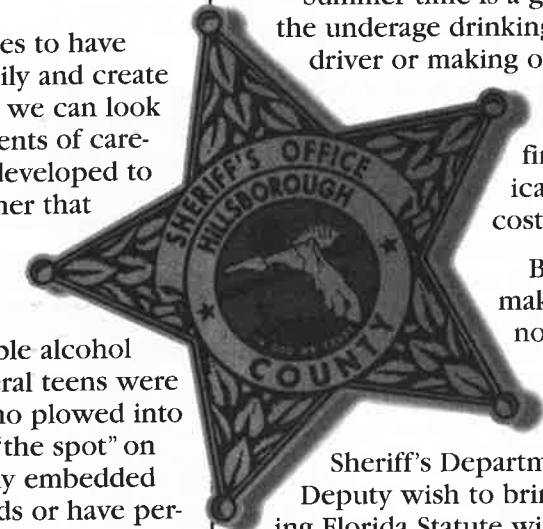
Summer time is a great time for parties. Obeying the underage drinking laws, having a designated driver or making overnight arrangements can prevent injuries and save lives, save thousands of dollars in fines, damage to vehicles, medical bills and rising car insurance costs. It just isn't worth it.

Bloomingdale residents, let's make this a summer to remember, not one to regret.

"Car for sale"

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department and our Community Deputy wish to bring to our attention the following Florida Statute with special regard to vehicles parked and displayed as "for sale" along Bell Shoals Road and Bloomingdale Avenue: "It is unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle upon a public street or highway, upon a public parking lot or other public property, or upon private property for the principal purpose and intent of displaying the motor vehicle for sale, hire or rental unless the sale, hire or rental is specifically authorized on such property by county regulation and the person is duly licensed as a motor vehicle dealer."

Vehicles found parked in unauthorized areas will be ticketed and are subject to being towed from the area. ☺



The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Bloomingdale Community Substation works closely with the Bloomingdale Area Community Council to identify and address issues of importance to our residents such as traffic problems, environmental protection, home security and crime prevention. Residents are encouraged to contact Deputy Maurer of the Substation at 635-8040 to express any concerns or questions they may have or would like to see addressed in the "Bloomingdale Community Substation Notes" column.

Major land use change requested for Bloomingdale Avenue

by Mack Austin

The request for a major land use change for approximately 50 acres of land east of Bloomingdale High School (west of Royal Oaks shopping center and north of the new YMCA site) has spurred the concern of Bloomingdale area residents. The request seeks to change the land use category from Residential-4 (4 residences per acre) to Suburban Mixed Use-6 (Commercial and residential). The proposed uses include a 160,00 square foot medical diagnostics building, a 170,000+ square foot Target store and several "outparcels" such as fast-food businesses.

To date two neighborhood meetings and two Planning Commission workshops have been held concerning the proposed change. The two neighborhood meetings were held at the Hillsborough County Farm Bureau Auditorium on Highway 60. Only those residents living within 250 feet of the property were notified about the meetings, in accordance with current regulations. Representatives of Bloomingdale High School were not notified, and the environmental impact of the construction on wetlands adjacent to Bloomingdale High School has not been studied. An important question, "why were the meetings held way out on Highway 60 instead of at the Community Center or one of the schools in Bloomingdale?" was not addressed by county officials at the neighborhood meetings.

Area residents expressed several concerns at the meetings. The most basic was "the fact that most had moved to this area to get away from the commercial businesses." Many are concerned about the effects of the proposed changes on their property values and the issue of increased traffic on Bloomingdale Avenue. Residents indicated that even with the planned widening of Bloomingdale Avenue, the increased traffic volume would be "unbearable." Residents fear that a proposed additional traffic light on Bloomingdale Avenue and Blowing Oak Avenue would cause significant hazards, particularly with truck traffic; there are currently no plans to change this major truck route.

The effect of having retail and commercial businesses in close proximity to a High School, Little League field and the new YMCA was also discussed. Possible increases in flooding such as those "experienced on Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals by the new Kash-n-Karry" were questioned, since the proposed contractor is the same one who completed the Kash-n-Karry project. Many residents stated they would welcome a "new community center or a community park, something everyone in the community could enjoy."

Bloomingdale is known for its' beautiful landscape and natural environment. The general consensus seems to be that most residents don't want more commercial businesses and parking lots replacing the pastures and wooded areas of Bloomingdale. Members of the community who are opposed to these changes must become active now in order to achieve the desired outcome because once the land is rezoned, it will be too late to protest the changes.



The country atmosphere of the Bloomingdale Community is being threatened by a request to put more commercial businesses next to Bloomingdale High School. Photo by Mack Austin.

Additional workshops and meetings are being scheduled with the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners and will reportedly be announced with increased publicity in the future. Concerned residents are encouraged to call the Hillsborough County Department of Community Relations at 272-5275 for further information. ☺

Welcome to Bloomingdale

We are pleased to announce the following new arrivals to Bloomingdale:

Megan Nicole Mooney
Born May 1st to Carrie and John Mooney

Laura Elizabeth Gray
Born May 8th to Shelley and Jim Gray

Colin Patrick Errity
Born May 10 to Kimberly and David Errity

Congratulations to all from the staff and friends of The Bloomingdale Gazette!

Editor's note: Do you know of a "new addition" to our community? Please call us at 681-2051 or write to The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. We would be pleased to publish your birth announcement!

Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department seeks community support and volunteers

by Laura Frazier, Editor

The Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department, serving Bloomingdale East and West and designated areas in Brandon and Valrico, has officially kicked off its' annual fundraising campaign. Station #27, located at 4705 East Bloomingdale Avenue in Valrico, is one of only seven Hillsborough County fire departments operated on a 100% volunteer basis. The station's firefighters were dispatched to 110 fire and medical emergency calls in Bloomingdale, Valrico and Brandon in the month of May alone.

The BVFD is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and relies on donations primarily to cover expenses required to staff the station during weekday business hours, when most volunteers are busy with their full time jobs. Funds collected are also used to purchase fire-fighting equipment. The station is also recruiting volunteer firefighters and members to serve on its' Board of Directors.

The Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1972, organized by a few of Bloomingdale's first residents. The original station was located on Bloomingdale Avenue just west of Culbreath, where Selph's Produce Barn now stands. Years later the station was relocated to Little Road, where a resident donated the use of a garage to house the trucks and equipment. In 1990, Hillsborough County responded to the department's request for a permanent facility and funded the construction of the present day station. The station currently has 25 volunteers and several trucks including an engine, brush truck, squad truck and Chief's 4-wheel drive vehicle. The department was able to purchase a 1996 International Squad Truck and the \$14,000 'Jaws of Life' extraction equipment with donation funds. The county owns and maintains two of the station's trucks and provides some necessary equipment.

Station #27 is linked to the county's dispatching system, a few giant technological steps above the old town siren many of us remember from our childhood. Volunteer Francis J. "Mick" Michael, President of Station #27's Board of Directors explains, "We receive radio and computer notification from the county's 911 tower in Tampa. As statistics are relayed over the radio, we receive a computer printout indicating the type and location of the emergency along with a listing

of the personnel and equipment needed from each station being dispatched." The computer system incorporates a county provided personal beeper system (similar to weather warning systems) to alert firefighters to action.

Mr. Michael understands the public's reluctance to participate in the sometimes-sketchy fundraisers we are approached with, and offers several points of distinction for our consideration. "We never conduct telephone solicitation campaigns, choosing instead to send requests for donations through the mail twice a year (in March and October). We also hire a private company to personally visit the neighborhoods that we service. Excalibur Marketing will be canvassing neighborhoods in our service area door to door from June through August. Excalibur representatives are

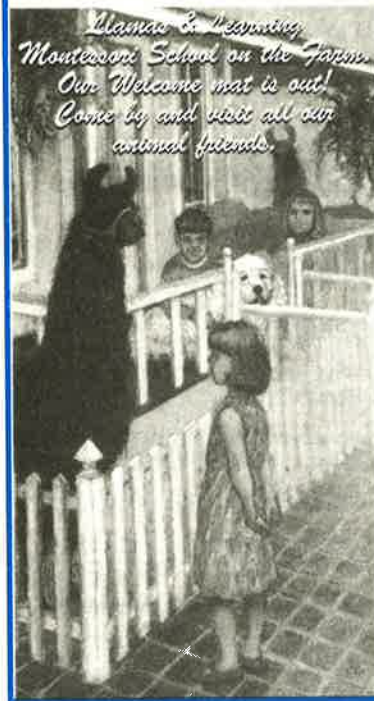
The Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1972, organized by a few of Bloomingdale's first residents.

required to carry a photo identification card. Donations of any amount are appreciated, and we will be offering a coupon for a free 11x14 portrait (to be taken at the station by Excalibur) to anyone providing a donation of \$25.00 or more," says Michael. "Donations by check are preferred, made out directly to The Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department. Residents can be assured that 100% of the donations collected by Excalibur Marketing or sent directly to the BVFD are designated exclusively for the benefit of Station #27 and the Bloomingdale area communities we serve."

Station #27 is also seeking support in the form of volunteer firefighters. Lieutenant Kenneth Rodriguez says the department is looking for a few good men and women. "Prospective volunteers should have the time and drive to perform this physically challenging and dangerous service. Volunteer applicants are administered a background check and physical examination and must pass through a series of training sessions including simulated fire situations. Basic EMS training is also provided." The station would be pleased to recruit new volunteers with a fire fighting or medical background, experience that is desirable but not required. "We offer our volunteers the best training available," says Rodriguez. The roster currently includes several paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians and other medical personnel who have gained and shared valuable experience through their service. Many former members have gone on to join the ranks of full-time paid fire fighters.

Bloomingdale residents interested in supporting the Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department by contribution or volunteering to serve on the Board of Directors or as a volunteer firefighter are invited to call the station at 744-5906. ☺

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Broad Stripes and Bright Stars

Kids of all ages love a parade — to watch or be part of. These ideas will help you plan how you can join the fun this year with your family, friends or neighbors.

Independence Day is a time to celebrate America. Maybe you'll go to a parade or a carnival, or have a picnic. After sunset, watch in wonder as fireworks burst open in the summer sky. Here are some great ideas for making it a day to remember.

Here Comes A Parade!

If there isn't an Independence Day parade in your neighborhood, organize one yourself. Invite a few neighbor kids to participate, then line all of the parents along the sidewalk to watch. Here are a few suggestions:

- ★ Invite the best in-line skater to carry the flag.
- ★ No need for a live marching band. Just carry a portable cassette player or boom box. Play a tape of patriotic marches.
- ★ Older kids can pull smaller children in wagons.

TO BLOOMINGDALE

Bright Stars

- ★ Put a ribbon on your cat or dog and lead it on a leash.
- ★ Dress up in a dance recital costume and cartwheel or twirl a baton along the parade route.
- ★ Have a bike-decorating contest. Invite a parent or teenager to be the judge.
- ★ At the end of your route, have refreshments available for parade participants and make some extra for the audience. ☺



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Teresa (Terry) Curry - Administrator

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Bloomington Avenue's Best Kept Secret – The Green Boutique

by Laura Frazier, Editor

Pssst. At 1014 Bloomingdale Avenue, just east of Bell Shoals on the north side of the street, lies a sultan's trove of treasures. Set slightly back from the bustling traffic, beyond the fence and down the sandy drive sits an inviting cottage, wherein the treasure awaits.

Roz Creager is often delighted by the reaction of customers crossing the threshold of her shop, The Green Boutique, for the first time. "We so often have the pleasure of greeting new customers who tell us they've lived in the area for several years and, once they spotted or heard about the shop, had meant to stop by for quite awhile. They are always amazed at the size of the store and the amount and diversity of the merchandise," she says. Frequently she hears, "I'm so glad I finally stopped by!"

The Green Boutique features a fascinating array of unique gifts, home accents and decorative accessories, displayed in breathtaking fashion throughout the charming 6-room cottage style house. Every corner inside is filled to capacity with beautiful and interesting items for sale. China teapots, decorator pillows, custom silk arrangements and collectibles line the tables and shelves. Books, lotions, jewelry and candles are among the potpourri of items offered. Truly the shop and its contents are candy for the eyes. But the store's appearance hasn't always been so sweet, at least not to Roz and her husband Mark.

Once upon a time, the Creagers made their home in this shop. "We bought this little house out in the country (Bloomingdale Avenue was a little less traveled then, she reminds us), "and it was dilapidated!" The Creagers stripped the 1950's house down to the trusses, completely re-wired and re-plumbed the property, installed a new well and windows, knocked down a few walls and added a new kitchen. They gradually settled into their new old house, and got to work on their next venture; running

a nursery business in their backyard. Mark kept his full-time job with the Pipefitters Local in Lakeland while Roz kept up the house and the nursery. After 8 years, business had expanded to the point where Mark could come aboard full time. The Creagers raised their son Matt, now 21 and an English Major at USF, in the house and his favorite playground, the nursery. The family had designs on someday building a new home on their property, but when the owner of an adjacent lot built a home and put it up for sale, the Creagers took that opportunity to make their move, just a few hundred feet away.



Roz Creager invites her Bloomingdale neighbors to visit The Green Boutique.

After settling into their new home, the Creagers gradually set up shop in the old house, deciding on "The Green Boutique" as its name. Roz and Mark continued to run their nursery and landscaping business, offering gift baskets for sale in the house and growing plants and flowers in the greenhouse. The couple dedicated a few more years to the labor-intensive Florida nursery business, babying plants through droughts and rainy season, keeping watch during freezes. "We really enjoyed the nursery business but when faced with an opportunity to have more time to do things together and less worry and vigilance about caring for the merchandise, well let's just say it's a lot easier to take care of inanimate objects. At the end of the day, we just close the door and go home!" Scouring the markets for unique gift items, decorating the shop, creating custom silk arrangements and greeting customers has proven to be a welcome change from hefting flowers and trees in and out of the greenhouse during frosts.

The nursery's greenhouse now serves as The Green Boutique's antique shop. Mark Creager handles the procurement, restoration, refinishing and sales of antiques. The inventory naturally is constantly changing and has included in recent months such treasures as an early 1900's pine kitchen cupboard, cottage-style

Victorian bedroom set and a 1920's vanity. Roz confidently states that this is no ordinary antique shop. "We have had so many comments from customers indicating that it has been rare to find such a large quantity of good quality antique furniture in one place. Mark is very picky about choosing only those items in good condition and is absolutely meticulous about repairing and refinishing his finds." The 1100 square foot shop features an impressive selection of mahogany, oak and walnut furniture and accessories.

Brandon and the Bloomingdale area have been home to the Creagers and many of their immediate and extended family members for more than 20 years. Roz grows wide-eyed when asked if she's noticed any changes in the area. "It used to be very quiet and very dark at night here on Bloomingdale," she reminisces. "I had a horse that I used to ride out on John Moore and that old dirt road, Lumsden Boulevard!" Roz recalls frequenting the "Dog & Suds" restaurant as a teenager and shopping at the only department store in town, McCoggins. The old Publix in Clayton Plaza on Brandon was the sole grocery store in town. There have been many changes around Bloomingdale over the years, and they're not quite over yet.

"I am not particularly looking forward to the widening of Bloomingdale Avenue," Roz says of county plans to widen the road to four lanes from Bell Shoals to Lithia Pinecrest, a section that includes The Green

Boutique's frontage. "But the county really seemed to do a good job with the road blocks and waving cars through," she recalls from the last section widening project, "and I found Bloomingdale to be easier to navigate while it was under construction than when it was two lanes!"

The Creagers intend to weather the road widening construction in good shape, and will continue to offer their handsome antique furniture and amazing array of gift and home accessory items from their current location for as long as they can foresee. "We just love the Bloomingdale area. We have so many friends and family here, and feel very fortunate to have been able to run a successful business, doing the things we love to do, in the place that we call home."

Roz and Mark Creager would like to extend an invitation to their Bloomingdale neighbors to stop by and browse The Green Boutique gift shop and antique shop. Business hours are 9:30 - 5:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call The Green Boutique at 685-9494. ☺

Editor's note: Roz will be off to market, "on a quest for unusually beautiful items with unquestionable value," from July 6 through July 19th. The shop will re-open on July 20.

MacDill Family Support Center opens in Brandon, seeks permanent location

by Mack Austin

MacDill Air Force Base has opened a temporary Family Support Center in Brandon at 349 Pauls Drive, North of Lumsden Avenue near the Millennium Center. The Center will offer a variety of services to the thousands of local residents, both military and civilian, who work at the base. Services to be offered include immunizations, school/sports physicals, Chaplain services, legal services, internet access, video conferencing, Health Benefit Advisors, transportation management counseling, spouse employment, transition relocation assistance, personal finance advisors, and family readiness advisors.

The Center is actively seeking the donation of a permanent facility with approximately 2000 square feet of office space, parking for several cars and good security. Utilities and other bills would be paid by the Center. Volunteers will also be needed to help coordinate activities at the Center.

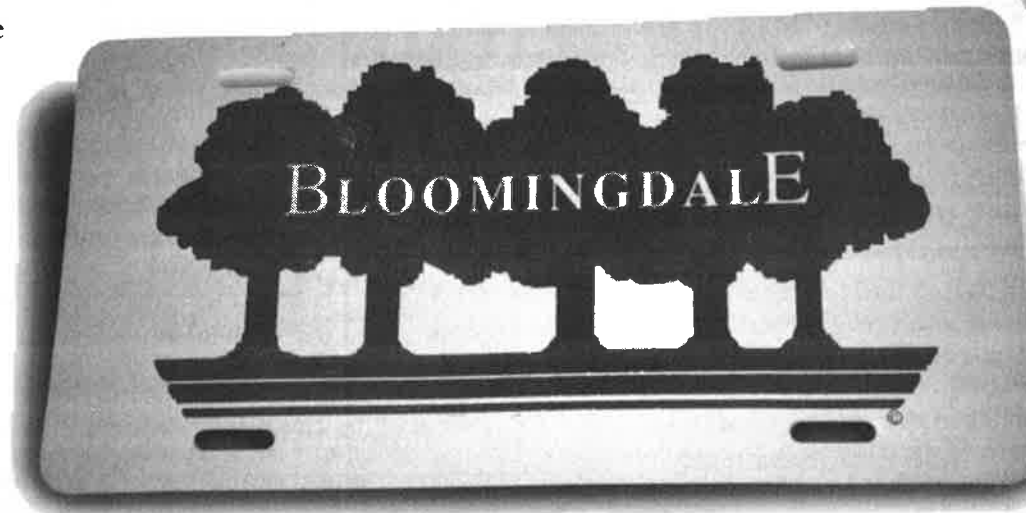
A Family Support Center in the Brandon and Bloomingdale area is a critical need for our community. Let's help this Center find a permanent local facility where the needs of our military families and MacDill employees can be met. Anyone with information on a facility which meets the criteria required, and those interested in volunteering at the center, are asked to contact Facility Project Officer Lieutenant Colonel Mario Mastrandrea, at 828-3383. ☺



The MacDill Family Support Center has opened a temporary facility in Brandon. The search continues for a permanent location. Photo by Mack Austin.

Bloomingdale License Plates Available – Free!

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and the Sheriff's Substation present a terrific opportunity for residents to show our community pride by displaying the exclusive Bloomingdale license plate on our cars... free of charge! The first 250 Bloomingdale residents to respond will receive one free plate per household. A \$2.00 donation is requested for each additional plate.



To take advantage of this offer, bring the completed coupon below to the Bloomingdale Community Substation, located in the Village Center Plaza, corner of Bell Shoals and Glenhaven. The substation is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 - 5:00 pm, phone 635-8040. Please note that this is a limited offer; only 250 plates are available at this time. ©

BHA Free License Plate Offer - Bring this form to the Community Substation, corner Bell Shoals & Glenhaven

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Free Plate Received Additional Plate Received

Brandon Junior Women's Club presents "Teen Forum '99"

The Brandon Junior Women's Club extends an invitation to Bloomingdale area young women ages 10 - 14 to attend a "Teen Forum" camp on July 19 - 23 at First United Methodist Church in Brandon. The week long camp, held daily from 9:00 am - noon, will offer girls a variety of fun, educational activities including arts and crafts, dance and cardio kickboxing. Segments on self defense, fitness and nutrition will be featured. Clinique will present make-up hints and skin care advice, and Picture This Photography will stage a glamour photo shoot for all attendees. Barbizon representatives will field questions about modeling and provide etiquette and fashion advice for the girls. Tuition for the camp is

\$55 in advance, \$65 at the door, if available. All proceeds from the "Teen Forum" event will be distributed to local charities.

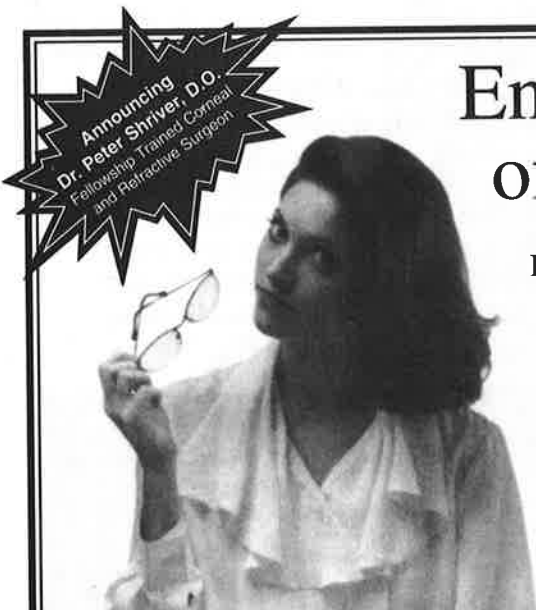
The Junior Women's Club, a community service organization for women ages 18 and up, participates in a number of community service functions, including the local Special Olympics program, the national Child Reach organization and the crafts program for physically and mentally challenged adults at First Baptist Church of Brandon. Member profiles range from single professionals to stay at home moms and women combining careers and motherhood. Marilyn Cooper,



Brandon Junior Women's Club officers (L-R) President Lezlee Pardo, Secretary Becky Goble, VP Membership Marilyn Cooper, Treasurer Amy Lee and Past President Robin Wallace.

Vice President of Membership, extols the benefits of membership in the club. "Our association offers an outlet for women to explore community service, friendship and networking possibilities."

"Our biggest annual event," Cooper explains "is our Children's Holiday Party." In cooperation with guidance counselors (continued on page 19)



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Dr. Richard J. Robinson

Bloomingtondale Yard of the Month

by Paul Almeida



Special thanks go out to those of you who have phoned in your suggestions and nominations for the Yard of the Month award. Your input is so valuable to this feature; keep those phone calls coming! Residents are invited to contact Paul Almeida at 661-2018 with their suggestions and nominations.

One such phone call led us to the home of this month's winners. Joyce and Richard Brown of 1219 Lornewood will receive a \$25 gift certificate and the opportunity to display the Yard of the Month sign for the month of July.

Joyce is the "outside specialist" and does virtually all of the work (even the mowing?) to keep this yard looking so great. The Browns have lived here for 12 years and the property boasts a full and mature look. The color and mixture of plants and shrubs compliment the large oak trees and add continuity to the landscape.

Cala lilies and purple bridal bush balance out the color scheme, accented by blue plumbago and yellow daisies. The border has well manicured ivy adding to the overall beautiful, lush appearance. In addition to day lilies and a sago palm, the area is also adorned with hibiscus and white roses.

The "island" in the front has several charming and unique features, including a post lamp with a horse-design weathervane and antique farm implements such as a wagon wheel and plow.

Congratulations to Joyce and Richard Brown! ©



BHA Elects New President

ongtime President Randy Wolfe is moving.

by Laura Frazier, Editor

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Board of Directors has elected a new President to lead the community of Bloomingtondale into the next millennium. Tampa native, longtime Brandon and Bloomingtondale resident Ted Grable was elected President at the June 8, 1999 Board of Directors meeting. Former BHA Comptroller and Board member since 1991, Grable fills the position vacated by longtime President Randy Wolfe who will be relocating to Brandon this year.

Wolfe joined the Board of Directors in 1991 and has served as President since 1993. "The people that I have worked with on the BHA Board are some of the finest people you could ever hope to meet. I am proud of the accomplishments we have achieved together, and will miss seeing them at our monthly meetings," he says.

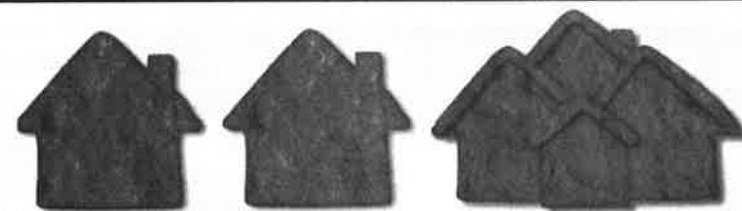
The BHA has made great strides during Randy Wolfe's term including lobbying for community interests, raising awareness of deed restriction and county code violation procedures, support of the Mobile Watch committee, Neighborhood Involvement Program and Sheriff's Substation and the expanded

publication of the Bloomingtondale Gazette. In March of 1998, the efforts of the BHA were notably the single most effective factor in convincing the Hillsborough County School District to keep Bloomingtondale West in the Bloomingtondale Senior High School District.

Ted Grable looks enthusiastically and optimistically to the future of the BHA and (continued on page 19)



New BHA President Ted Grable presents outgoing President Randy Wolfe with a plaque commemorating his many years of service to the community of Bloomingtondale.



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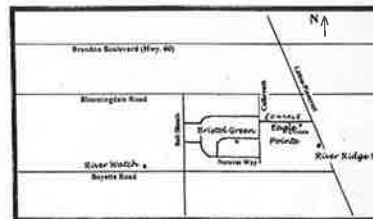
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*T*ired of your wallet being drained dry when you stop to fill up at the pump? There are ways to drive and maintain the family car to conserve fuel and save money. The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, a nonprofit group that certifies the competence of automotive technicians, offers these steps to keep that gas gauge from dropping toward empty so quickly.

Don't Be Idle

Shut off the engine if you have to wait more than a few minutes. Modern vehicles are designed to warm up fast, so forget those 10-minute warm-ups in the morning.

Stay In Tune

Dig your owner's manual out of the glove compartment and read it. Look up the service schedule listed in the manual and follow it. Replace fluids and filters as recommended and have engine performance problems, such as rough idling and poor acceleration, corrected. A well-tuned engine that has had regular maintenance runs smoother and burns less fuel. Today's high-tech engines usually require high-tech service technicians, so check credentials and ask about training if mechanics are ASE certified.

Lighten Up


Remove unnecessary items from your car or truck. In other words, don't use the trunk to store your golf clubs all winter. Less weight means less fuel burned.

Drive Easy

Avoid jackrabbit starts and jam-on-the-brakes stops. And don't speed. It's safer and saves gas. Click on the cruise control on the highway to keep a constant speed. Anticipate starts and stops so you can change gradually. That will save gas and make your engine and brakes last longer.

Consolidate Trips

"Is this trip really necessary?" is a question drivers should ask before turning the key in the ignition. If the answer is yes, try to combine several trips into one and travel when traffic is light to avoid stop-and-go driving. Plan your route as carefully as if you were heading off across the country to keep from running back and forth across town.

By changing your driving habits and practicing routine car care, you will get better gasoline mileage, help the environment and extend the life of your car or truck. 

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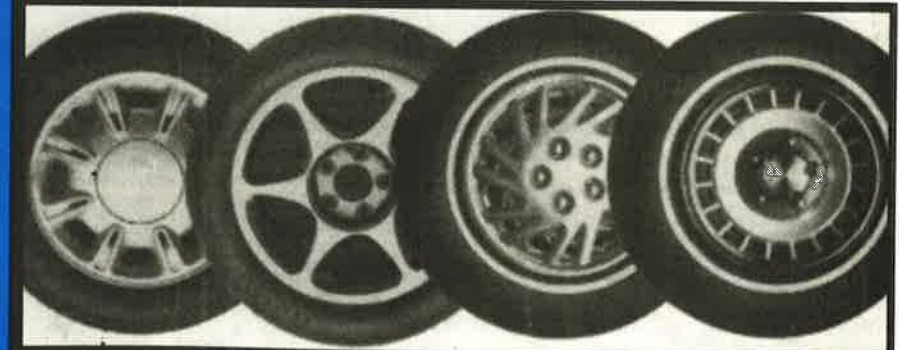
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USF Graduate Students Envision "Brandon Main Street"

by Laura Frazier, Editor

Students of the University of South Florida's School of Architecture and Design presented their vision of Hillsborough County's proposed "Brandon Main Street" to a captivated audience of about 50 Brandon residents on May 19 at Center Place. The exhibit was hosted by the Brandon Presidents' Roundtable and Founders' Square. The Hillsborough County Planning and Growth Management Department designates the project as "a master plan for an unspecified area of 80 acres in Brandon, embracing the basic elements of new urbanism to create a mixed use Main Street area with civic and commercial sites."

The students, under the direction of Professor James Moore, Ph.D., identified several potential sites at which to base their architectural concept drawings and 3-dimensional models. Franklin Sebastian and Cris Briceno built their Main Street around Brandon Town Center mall. "We eliminated the vast sea of parking," Briceno said, referring to the acres of parking lots surrounding the mall. "We installed convenient and space efficient parking garages, and made them attractive by using store frontage, such as shops and fast-food restaurants, on the structure facing." Tree lined sidewalks lead from the mall to a community theatre, library, post office, town hall, movie theatres, parks, commercial and retail businesses. The outlying residential areas are densely populated and described as convenient and walkable, a feature all the students seemed to strive for. "When people have to drive everywhere they go, they miss the details and the nuances of their surroundings that foster a sense of permanence, a sense of accord," explained Dr. Moore.

Most of the students' plans incorporated a large degree of mixed-use zoning, with residential areas melting imperceptibly into the Main Street area, and



Brandon's Honorary Mayor Vince Ferraro presents James Moore, Ph.D. with an Award of Excellence, thanking the doctor and his students for their "impressive vision and excellent work."

commercial, retail, civic and entertainment facilities co-existing side by side with apartments and town-houses. Dr. Moore is outspoken in his beliefs that, "... more cooperative dialogue is needed between local government officials, developers and residents before any progress can be made toward a community project of this magnitude." He refers specifically to several paradoxes. "The public's desire for smaller schools is made difficult by the rejection of tax increases and proposed sites targeted for that need. The desire for pedestrian-safe streets is hindered by public resistance to lowering speed limits. The call for more parks, recreation and civic areas is made increasingly difficult as developers take advantage of the consumer trend towards larger homes built on bigger lots in private, secluded neighborhoods. This phenomenon, this modern day 'new urbanism' dilemma of how to pull those

residents together to create a sense of community, is not unique to Brandon," says Dr. Moore. "There are other communities like Brandon, enormous suburbs, blossoming all over our state. The students gave it a good run, but I think we can all agree that it is a very tough issue."

The Main Street Steering Committee, a county appointed committee of civic, business and neighborhood groups, includes representatives from various businesses, churches and homeowners associations. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will represent the Bloomingdale area, giving our residents an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions about the project. A representative of the BHA will attend future planning meetings of the steering committee to participate in the review of market analysis reports, possible components and site location.

Shirley Gersholowitz, a manager with the county's Planning and Growth Management Department indicates that the project is "still in the very early stages of development." The county has budgeted approximately \$25,000 for visioning and site selection and \$100,000 for creation of a master plan. Future Steering Committee meetings will be held at times and locations to be announced, and will be open to the public. ☺

(Continued from page 13) from Hillsborough County Schools, the club sponsors underprivileged children from each school in the county. Members provide clothing and gifts for the children, presented at the Holiday Party. Refreshments and entertainment including a visit from Santa Claus make the party a memorable treat for children who might not otherwise have an opportunity to participate in such a celebration.

The Women's Club pledge is a testament to the mission of the group; "I pledge my loyalty to Junior Club Women by doing better than ever before what work I have to do, by being prompt, honest and courteous, by living each day trying to accomplish something, not merely to exist." The club's officers invite all Bloomingdale area women interested in exploring membership opportunities to attend one of the club's open meetings at TECO Hall in Brandon. For meeting dates and times, please call Cooper at 661-0957 after 6:00 pm.

For more information about the Teen Forum or to register for the event, contact Anne Koss at 684-7663. ☺


(continued from page 15) the community of Bloomingdale, reflecting on the work to be done and calling upon members of our community who are willing to work "just a little" to make Bloomingdale better. "In order to maintain the qualities of this community that convinced all of us to make it our home, we must plan the continuation and growth of the Neighborhood Involvement Program (which helps enforce city codes and deed restrictions), our Mobile Watch Program and our community newspaper," says Grable. "We must also continue to improve communications with the County Commission, Sheriff's Department, School District and the Special Taxing District to ensure that Bloomingdale continues to be a premiere address."

Grable reflects on Wolfe's departure, "On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire community of Bloomingdale, I would like to thank Randy Wolfe for his outstanding leadership over the past six years," he says. "Randy's accomplishments as President have been impressive, and he has left the BHA in a very good position to face the future." ☺


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Restaurant Review

by Elton Dumont
Exclusively for The Bloomingdale Gazette

In the June issue of the Gazette, I was pleased to review a new Italian restaurant in our area. Now it turns out that we are fortunate enough to have another fine Italian restaurant open up in our neighborhood.

Cozzoli's franchise owner Al Carapella had owned and managed the Cozzoli's Restaurant in the Regency Square shopping center for over two years before moving his restaurant to the new location, in the Winn Dixie Marketplace shopping center on Bloomingdale Avenue.

If you've ever been to the Regency Square location, all you need to know is that Cozzoli's new location is every bit as good. When the sign went up, I received many, many inquires as to when it would open. As a matter of fact, when opening day did arrive, Al told me that, "I was slammed beyond my highest expectations." As a result, Cozzoli's has had to play catch up from the beginning. But in spite of that, the food and the service has been really quite good.

A unique menu item at Cozzoli's are the wings, which were very well received at the Regency Square location. Another standout feature is the mini game room. For those of you that have young children, these video games will help keep the antsy kids occupied until their food arrives. But, just as important, the game room is not in the way of the dining area, so it is not distracting by any means. Al even thought of your comfort as he had four televisions installed, one in each corner, so you can watch a sporting event or even Jeopardy as you enjoy his excellent Italian food. The menu is very easy to read, with the sections being Wings, Pizza, Philly Cheese Steaks, Sides and Salads, Heroes, Pizza Pals (kids menu), Dinners, Desserts and Beverages. Okay, so how's the food?

I ordered the Chicken Cutlet Parmigiana. It was tender and tasty, with a wonderful salad and mini garlic rolls. The salad is worth mentioning because of the vast quantities of mushroom and red bell peppers that were in it. All of this was worth much, much more than that \$7.95 price. I have paid almost twice that for Chicken Parm that was not as good. My wife had the Baked Ziti. She ordered it a special way and it was no problem; it didn't take any additional time. It was

very good, also served with a salad and mini garlic rolls. Her fare was only \$6.50.

Some of the unusual menu items include a White Pizza, Stromboli, 7 choices of Philly Cheese Steaks and the Eggplant Rolitini dinner. Also offered is the standard New York style pizza (which meets or exceeds the very exacting New York gravity test), Calzones, hot and cold Heroes, Lasagna and Spaghetti with Meatballs dinners. They do have a beer license (what's better than a pizza and a beer?). Desserts include three distinctive Italian favorites; Cannoli, Tirimi-Su, and Zeppolies.

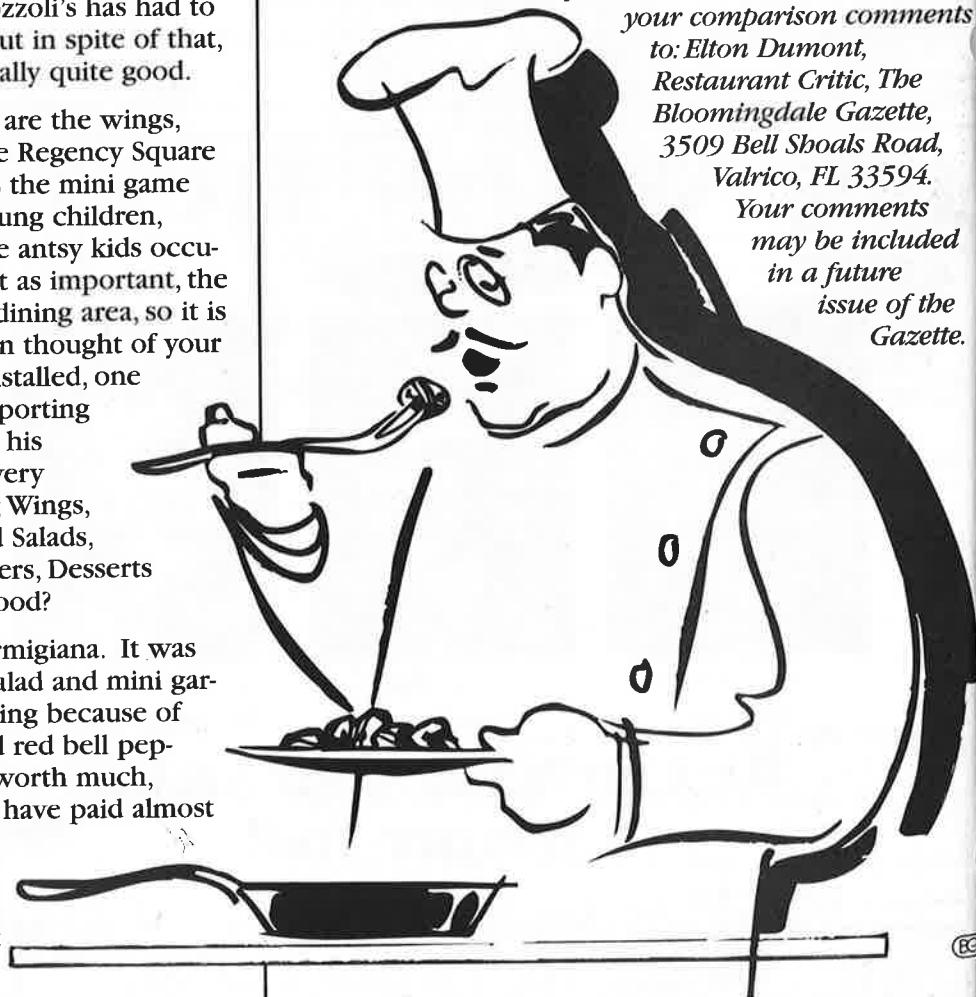
Once again, we got away with under \$20 for dinner and beverages for two. If you stop in, please say hi to Al. He'd love to meet you.

Cozzoli's
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Brandon, FL 33511
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Until we eat again,

Elton Dumont

Note: If you've tried both restaurants, drop me a line and tell me which one you liked best and why. Send your comparison comments to: Elton Dumont, Restaurant Critic, The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. Your comments may be included in a future issue of the Gazette.



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Expires Aug. 1, 1999

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Sunday is Ravioli Day!

Bloomingtondale area roads scheduled to be resurfaced

Street name	From	To	Street name	From	To
Applegate Cr.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	Bayfield Dr.	Herlong Ct.	Canoga Park Dr.	cul-de-sac
Bayfield Dr.	Applegate Cr.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	Hidden Lake Dr.	Holland Dr.	Dead End
Bessemer Cr.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	Hollister Pl.	Herlong Ct.	Redondo Dr.
Bloomingtondale Dr.	John Moore Rd.	Canoga Park Dr.	Hollow Oak Pl.	Hidden Lake Dr.	cul-de-sac
Briarlake Dr.	Greenhollow Ln.	Natures Way Blvd.	Kerlien Pl.	Sandy Creek Dr.	cul-de-sac
Briarpark Way	Orangecrest St.	Springvale Dr.	King Palm Way	Manilla Palm Way	cul-de-sac
Britton Ct.	Sandy Creek Dr.	cul-de-sac	Laurel Tree Way	John Moore Rd.	cul-de-sac
Butternut Ct.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	cul-de-sac	Oakmoss Dr.	Shady Nook Dr.	Shady Nook Dr.
Buttonwood Ct.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	cul-de-sac	Orangecrest St.	Greenhollow Ln.	Casaba Loop
Casaba Loop	Greenford St.	Orangepointe Rd.	Orangefield Pl.	Eastridge Dr.	Briarlake Dr.
Cloverhill Ct.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	cul-de-sac	Orangepointe Rd.	Greenhollow Ln.	Casaba Loop
Curran Ct.	Sand Creek Dr.	cul-de-sac	Paddlewheel Ct.	Sweetleaf Ct.	Bloomingtondale Dr.
Denage Ct.	cul-de-sac	Cedar Grove Dr.	Paddlewheel Ct.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	cul-de-sac
Eastridge Dr.	Briarlake Dr.	Nature's Way Blvd.	Redondo Dr.	Rosemead Ln.	Bloomingtondale Dr.
Ellenville Pl.	Lornewood Dr.	Carriewood Dr.	Rosedale Dr.	Applegate Cr.	Bloomingtondale Dr.
Emberwood Dr.	cul-de-sac	Sweet Leaf St.	Rosemead Ln. - 1	Canoga Park Ave.	To Be Announced
Fenner Ct.	Hollister Pl.	cul-de-sac	Rosemead Ln. - 2	Canoga Park Ave.	To Be Announced
Fieldstone Dr.	Encina Dr.	Canoga Park Dr.	Sabal Palm Ct.	Applegate Cr.	cul-de-sac
Forest Bridge	Hidden Lake Dr.	cul-de-sac	Sandy Creek Dr.	Tyndale Dr.	cul-de-sac
Garnet Dr.	Canoga Park Dr.	To Be Announced	Shady Nook Dr.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	Canoga Park Dr.
Garnet Dr.	To Be Announced	Bell Shoals Ave.	Sweetleaf Ct.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	cul-de-sac
Greenhollow Ln.	Bell Shoals Ave.	Nature's Way Blvd.	Sweetleaf Ct.	Emberwood Dr.	Bloomingtondale Dr.
Green Rock Pl.	Orangepointe Rd.	cul-de-sac	Van Reed Manor	Paddlewheel Dr.	Sweetleaf Dr.
Greenford St.	Briarpark Way	Orangepointe Rd.	Wasco Ct.	cul-de-sac	Hollister Pl.
Greenmark Ln.	Eastridge Dr.	Briarlake Dr.	Windtree Ct.	Bloomingtondale Dr.	cul-de-sac
Greenstone Pl.	Casaba Loop	cul-de-sac	Wynnwood Dr.	Sandy Creek Dr.	Sandy Creek Dr.

Where is the new Bloomingtondale community Office?

Our community office, home of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Special Taxing District, Mobile Watch and the Bloomingtondale Gazette, is located at 3509 Bell Shoals Road, across Bell Shoals from Walmart. The office is just north of SunTrust Bank behind the Citgo station (next to Papa John's Pizza and Majik Touch Cleaners). All residents are invited to attend the monthly BHA and STD meetings held at the community office. For more information, call 681-2051. ☎

School District seeks residents' input about integration

The Hillsborough County School District has scheduled meetings at local high schools to involve citizens in the development of the federally ordered long term integration plan.

According to Superintendent Earl Lennard, the district's threefold plan seeks to inform, ask for input and share the suggestions collected.

If you would like further information about the SHS meeting or other scheduled meetings, please contact Melissa Thompson of Hillsborough County Public Schools Community Relations office at 272-4466. ☎

Deed Restrictions

The largest volume of calls directed to the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association concern deed restriction covenants and potential deed restriction violations. An upcoming issue of the Gazette will include a feature detailing the background of our community deed restrictions, what the Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP) is doing, and the support of County Code Enforcement officials and financial aid available from the BHA in assisting residents taking legal action to remove violations. The BHA can be reached at 681-2051. ☎

Trash Service

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association has received a number of calls regarding the level of trash and recycling service in our area. Ted Grable, the newly elected President of the BHA, indicates that part of the problem may be that there have been recent owner and management changes in the three different hauling companies that are franchised in Hillsborough County. If you have a suggestion or complaint about your trash or recyclable materials hauler, please call James Ransom, Hillsborough County Public Information Officer at 276-2938. Ransom works with county residents in rectifying problems with the county's trash and recycling haulers. ☎

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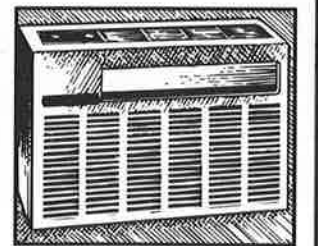
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Seven Steps to Safer Sunning

by Paula Kurtzweil, FDA

Put away the baby oil. Toss out that old metal sun reflector. Cancel your next appointment to the local tanning salon.

These are new days with new ways of sunning, and the practices that traditionally have gone into obtaining the so-called "healthy tanned" look are on the verge of fading into history.

In their place: safer sun practices that preserve people's natural skin color and condition.

The following recommendations come from various expert organizations, including the American Academy of Dermatology, American Cancer Society, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Skin Cancer Foundation, American Academy of Pediatrics, National Cancer Institute, National Weather Service, and Food and Drug Administration. FDA regulates many items related to sun safety, including sunscreens and sunblocks, sunglasses, and sun-protective clothing that makes medical claims. The agency also sets performance standards for sunlamps.

Here are seven steps to safer sunning:

1. Avoid the sun.

This is especially important between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., when the sun's rays are strongest. Also avoid the sun when the UV Index is high in your area.

2. Use sunscreen.

With labels stating "sunscreens" or "sunblock," these lotions, creams, ointments, gels, or wax sticks, when applied to the skin, absorb, reflect or scatter some or all of the sun's rays.

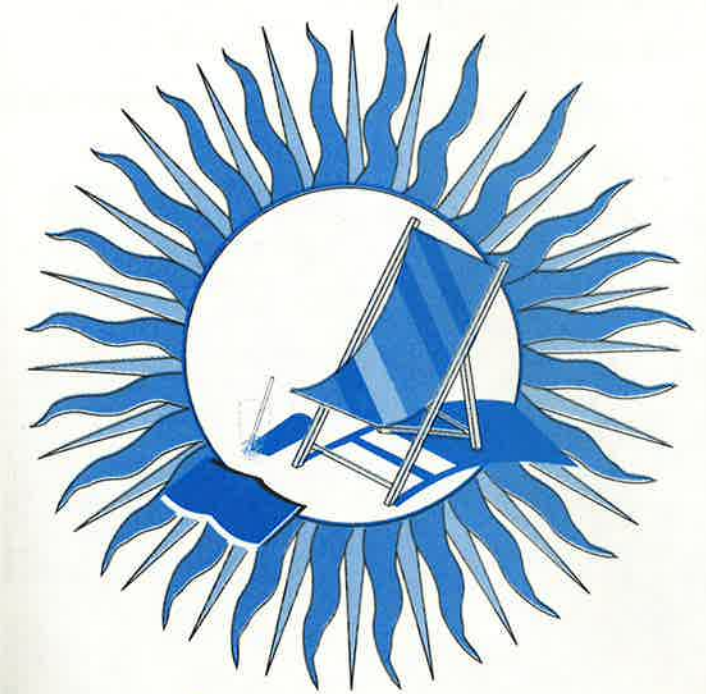
3. Wear a hat.

4. Wear sunglasses.

The ideal sunglasses don't have to be expensive, but they should block 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation.

5. Cover up.

Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts, pants or long skirts as much as possible when in the sun.



6. Avoid artificial tanning.

Many people believe that the UV rays of tanning beds are harmless because sunlamps in tanning beds emit primarily UVA and little, if any, UVB, the rays once thought to be the most hazardous. However, UVA can cause serious skin damage, too.

Two tanning products, bronzers and extenders, are considered cosmetics for external use. Bronzers, made from color additives approved by FDA for cosmetic use, stain the skin when applied and can be washed off with soap and water. Extenders, when applied to the skin, interact with protein on the surface of the skin to produce color. The color tends to wear off after a few days. The only color additive approved for extenders is dihydroxyacetone.

Although they give skin a golden color, these products do not offer sunscreen protection. Also, the chemicals in bronzers may react differently on various areas of your body, producing a tan of many shades.

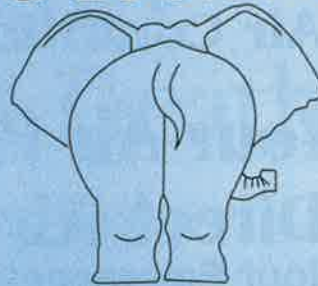
7. Check skin regularly.

You can improve your chances of finding precancerous skin conditions. Signs to look for are changes in size, texture, shape, and color of blemishes or a sore that does not heal.

If you find any changes, see your doctor. Also, during regular checkups, ask your doctor to check your skin.

The more of these practices you can incorporate into your life, the greater your chances of reducing the damage sun can cause. ©

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Bloomingdale anglers gather 'round "The Fishin' Hole"

by Laura Frazier, Editor

Ray Mobley is a man of many hats. Fishing hats, that is. The self-proclaimed, "owner, manager, rod builder, chief, cook and bottle washer" of The Fishin' Hole set up shop about four months ago at 2226 Bloomingdale Avenue, across the street from the Little League Field.



Ray Mobley, owner of The Fishin' Hole on Bloomingdale Ave.

Items offered for sale at the shop include custom rods, new reels, knives and artificial bait. Services offered include custom rod design, reel lining and rod and reel repair.

Mobley, a native of North Carolina and Valrico resident for the past five years, says his customers vary from high school kids who "just want to drop a line with a worm on it anywhere there's a puddle" to "members of local fishing clubs like the Pond Jumpers Bass Club" to deep sea fisherman. Whatever the fisherman's interest, Mobley can hook him up with the right equipment to bring in the fish. "I can build anything from fly rods to big deep sea fighting rods," he says. "If the customer can describe the type of rod he wants, I can build it to his satisfaction." Custom rod prices vary greatly and can run anywhere from \$40.00 to \$400.00. Custom orders can usually be filled within a week.

Mobley plans to offer live bait (worms and crickets) for those Bloomingdale weekend fishermen seen dropping a line in the community's many ponds. He offers some inside advice to those weekend fishermen. "To catch catfish, chicken livers or catfish bait works best, actually anything that stinks," he says. "And for bass, we have bass tube which works pretty well, and artificial multi-colored bait." And where would he send these novice fishermen for some local action? "Medard

Park is a great place to go for catfish and bass, and there are even some hybrid stripers out there," he says. "Drop a line off the bridge at Medard or off one of the ramps located near the picnic areas," he recommends. But let's keep this under our collective fishing hat; we wouldn't want this little fishin' spot to get too popular!

The Fishin' Hole is open Monday - Friday 11:00 - 6:30 pm. Ray takes his wares to the Big Top Flea Market in Tampa on the weekends, and can be reached at 655-3489. ☺

Bloomingdale West Rec Center News

Flag football teams and cheerleading squads for children ages 3 - 12 are now forming at the rec center. The cost is \$20 and includes a tee shirt, shorts and trophy. The season runs from July 6 through August 13. Registration (by check or money order only) is available at the rec center weekdays from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Volunteer parents are needed. For more information contact Donna Clouse at 744-5907. ☺

Mr. Willy's Family Hair Care



Mr. Willy's Barber and Styling Shop, a Bloomingdale institution for almost 15 years, has a new name and a new owner. Stacey Allen, a former employee of the shop in Erindale Plaza at 3624 Lithia Pinecrest Road, is the new owner of "Mr. Willy's Family Hair Care." Stacey and the shop's stylists will continue the tradition of "great haircuts at reasonable prices," says Allen. Services available include cuts, styling, perms and color. New product lines offered include Paul Mitchell, Joico and American Crew. Appointments are taken but walk-ins are always welcome. For hours and appointments, call 685-3361. ☺

Bloomingdale High PTSA celebrates first anniversary

by Mack Austin

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) of Bloomingdale Senior High School finished its' first year of existence with an impressive list of accomplishments and a firm foundation laid to continue its' positive, effective presence at Bloomingdale High. With only eight months to work out the details, the first PTSA Board completed all the requirements for School Board standards and procedures and will return next year with an experienced group of members.

The accomplishments of this year included the establishment of a full-blown Membership Program, the coordination and completion of an effective Volunteer Program, and laying the groundwork for an ambitious business and individual Sponsorship Program. Members and parents were active throughout the school participating in fundraising and school activities such as CarniBull, conference nights, chaperoning, the school's Sustained Silent Reading Program and Teacher Appreciation Day. A positive academic difference was made this year as evidenced in the outstanding results on the required High School Competency Tests.

The 1999 - 2000 school year will bring both challenges and opportunities. Positions are still open on a variety of committees where parents can become active in these very important years. If you are interested in helping to make a positive difference, call Diane Moseley or Linda Townsend at 744-8018, ext 563. ☺



Members of the 1999 - 2000 Bloomingdale High School PTSA Board (R-L), Linda Townsend (1st Vice President-Programs), Linda Applegate (Recording Secretary), Lee Mayer (Corresponding Secretary), Kathy Steed (3rd Vice President-Volunteers), Diane Moseley (President), Tamara Volt-Zanoni (2nd Vice President-Membership), Ted Grable (2nd Vice President-Ways and Means) and Charnel Williams (Treasurer). Photo by Mack Austin.

Bloomingdale resident honored as PTA President of the Year

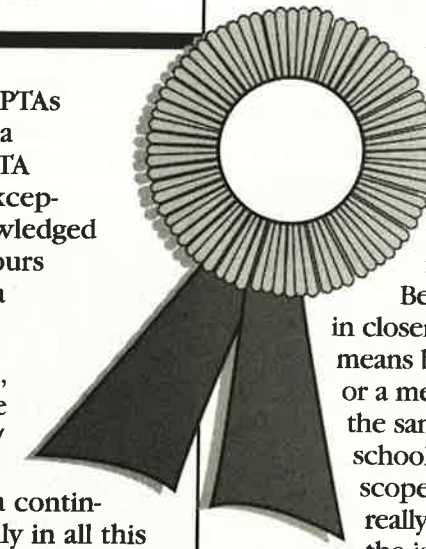
The Hillsborough County Council of PTAs has named Tim Golden, President of Lithia Springs Elementary PTA, as Elementary PTA President of the Year. Among a field of exceptional peers, Golden was officially acknowledged for his dedication, hundreds of service hours and commitment to the students of Lithia Springs Elementary.

Lithia Springs PTA nominated Golden, citing in their letter of nomination, "There are 4 Vice Presidents and 30 Committees/ Chairpersons whose projects and events cause a bevy of activity at the school on a continual basis. The nominee thrives wonderfully in all this madness, lending considerable wit, talent and support to an otherwise unenviable job... (Tim Golden) goes beyond promoting (the mission of the PTA); he's living it and re-writing the book as he goes! As he moves on at the end of this year, the (PTA) Unit's

big dilemma is going to be where to find another President as dedicated, talented and loved."

Golden has fulfilled the two year term limits of the position but will continue to be involved in the school in other capacities. He says his PTA experience has been rewarding, and would like to encourage other parents of Lithia Springs Elementary to explore the benefits of PTA involvement. "School is a major part of our children's lives. Being involved with the PTA puts parents in closer touch with their child. Whether that means being PTA President, a read-aloud mom or a member of the copy team, the benefits are the same. Being actively involved with the school allows us to stay informed beyond the scope of report cards and conference night, to really know what's going on at school, what the issues and concerns are."

The staff, faculty, students and parents of Lithia Springs Elementary, along with the entire community of Bloomingdale extend congratulations and thanks to Tim Golden for a job well done. ☺



Special Taxing District News

STD Proposed Budget

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District has sent the proposed fiscal year 2000 budget to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners for final approval. Although assessments have been increased by about 100 new homes, the fiscal year 2000 budget is actually less than the fiscal year 1999 budget, due in part to the "carry over" (beginning fund balance) totaling less this year than last year. A recap of the proposed budget that begins October 1, 1999 is as follows:

Legal and professional services	10,000
Accounting and auditing services	10,000
Other contractual services	42,000
Travel and per diem	750
Communication (phone)	1,250
Utilities	11,000
Rentals and leases	17,750
Insurance	150
Repair and maintenance	193,500
Printing and binding	250
Other charges and obligations	1,375
Office supplies	1,350

Mosquito control

by Mack Austin

It's that time of year again; the bloodthirsty pests are everywhere! So, what can we do to minimize the trouble these pestiferous and disease-transmitting insects cause?

There is a great deal of standing water in the Bloomingdale area that serves as breeding grounds, and The Hillsborough County "Mosquito Control" unit is needed to control the pest population. The county utilizes special ground and aircraft equipment and chemicals to spray for both the larvae and adult mosquitoes. When you see the "Mosquito Truck" in your area, it is recommended that you remain inside, keep children and pets inside and let the spray settle. Spraying is done on a priority basis as determined by the number of calls received. Spraying can be requested and "not spraying" can also be requested. According to the county Mosquito Control unit "the chemical used, 'Baytex', has been well tested and found to be safe."

But before you call the Mosquito Control unit, take these simple precautions: Check your property for any containers or areas where water can collect. When you are outdoors, wear light colored clothing. Also, avoid using strong perfume or after-shave, which tend to attract the pests. These steps will provide a good deal of preventative control. For further information or to request spraying call 554-5025. ☺

Operating supplies	25
Books and publications	100
Improvements	115,241
Budget transfers	9,840
Reserve for contingency	5,000
Total Budget Expenses	\$ 419,581

STD Entryway Renovation Project

In addition to increasing expenses for mowing, fertilizing, painting, pressure washing, wall painting, etc., the STD is ready to embark on a major entryway renovation project. The multi-year project will include all 8 major entryways in Bloomingdale East and West, incorporating various landscaping and architectural elements in an effort to update and beautify our entryways. The STD has received several contractor proposals for this project, including a flowing water design.

All Bloomingdale residents with questions or suggestions about the proposed budget or the entryway renovation project are invited to call 684-6667, and are encouraged to attend the next STD meeting on Monday July 12, 7:00 pm at the Community Office. The office is located at 3509 Bell Shoals Road, across Bell Shoals from Wal-Mart, in the plaza behind the Citgo station and SunTrust Bank. ☺

BSHS athletes honored at "Bull Pride" Awards Festival

by Mack Austin

The Bloomingdale Senior High School "Bull Pride" Awards Festival was created to recognize and honor student athletes from all sports teams with a GPA of 3.5 or above.

This year's "Bull Ring" included three state champions: David Mason (Wrestling), (continued on page 30)



Bloomingdale Senior High School's coaching staff is recognized at the annual "Bull Pride" Awards Festival. Photo by Mack Austin.



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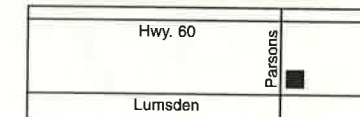
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BHA supports successful Sheriff's "Pay Plan Proposal"

In May of this year, Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson submitted a "Pay Plan Proposal" to the Board of County Commissioners in an effort to provide our County Deputies with a pay increase reflecting parity with other law enforcement departments across the state of Florida.

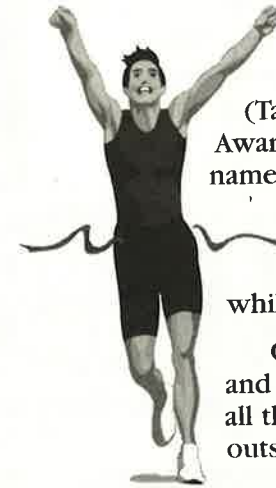
The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, along with many of our Bloomingdale residents, supported the modest proposal and sent a letter to the BOCC with signatures of petitioners in support of the plan. The BHA's letter indicated that as our community continues its' tremendous growth, we will have an increasing need for expanded training and resources for our community substation and all Community Resource Deputies who provide police protection and security to Bloomingdale neighborhoods..

The consensus of the County Commissioners was unanimous in favor of the proposal. Starting in October, most Sheriff's Office employees will receive a 3.5% merit increase.

The BHA, The Bloomingdale Gazette and the residents of Bloomingdale want to let our officers know that we appreciate their efforts and are pleased to have had the opportunity to respond to their call for support. For further information on this issue, please call Mack Austin of the Bloomingdale Gazette at 681-2051. (B)

(continued from page 28) Amber Littleton (Cross-Country) and Chelo Canino (Track). Four athletes placed in the State's top five individually for their sport, and a State runner-up team and fourth place team were also honored. The men's soccer team was ranked #5 in the Nation. In addition, there were four Regional Championship teams, six District Championship teams and five Western Conference Teams. The "Crimson Dolls" cheerleaders won the highest level of competition - "Back-to-Back" Western Conference Champions.

Bloomingdale athletes received numerous awards and special recognition including the Tampa Tribune/ St. Pete Times 1st Team, the Ben T. Walker Outstanding Senior Female Cross Country Runner (Tanya Solana) and the Jose Alvarez Awards. Forty-three athletes were named to Western Conference 1st Team and there were forty-seven "All Academic" seniors who lettered in one or more varsity sport while maintaining a 3.5 GPA.



Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches and a special thanks to all the parents who supported this outstanding athletic program. (B)

CRC039350

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684-4499

Brandon
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643-6944

Seffner
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684-5897

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