



Smiling Faces
Meet Red Harper



Meet Dutch artist
Ronald vanRikxoort

The Bloomingdale Gazette

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July 1993

Bloomingdale Homeowners Board Outlines Goals

by Gwen Szafranski

Commitment to the community, an interest in the changes and growth in the area, and sheer enjoyment of the Bloomingdale lifestyle seem to be the unifying factors of the 1993 Bloomingdale Homeowners Board. Forming policy and defining goals are high on the agenda of the current Board of Directors, and *The Bloomingdale Gazette* takes this opportunity to introduce the Board members and invite residents to support their endeavors for the betterment of our community.

An attorney with Annis, Mitchell, Cockey, Edwards & Roehn, President Randy Wolfe moved to Bloomingdale in 1989 with his wife, Merinda, and his daughter, Christina, after attending law school at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Wolfe, who joined the BHA in January of 1992, chose this area for the climate and family orientation of the community. His young family especially enjoys using the park areas.

A firm believer in community involvement, Wolfe has developed a three alternative procedure for the reporting and handling of deed restriction violations.

"I've frequently stated goals for the direction of the Board in *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, but I would say my primary goal is to provide residents a vehicle to achieve their goals, whatever their goals may be."

Three of the newest members of the Board—Walter Schaffer, Jeff Campbell, and Rick Oros—have never been formally introduced to the community in their BHA capacity, and each has contributed time and energy to accomplish tasks in specific areas.

Walter Schaffer, who joined the Board in March of 1992, has served actively on the Brandon Transportation Plan Task Force, is an ongoing volunteer for the Mobile Watch, and worked tirelessly for the July/August 1992 BHA membership drive. His work in all three areas reflects his belief that "...we should influence the change, not have the change influence us."

A graduate of Southern Illinois University, Schaffer, who is Manager of Energy at Anchor Glass Container Corporation, particularly enjoys biking with his family in the Bloomingdale parks.

1993-94
BHA
BOARD

Randy Wolfe, President

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Rick Oros, Secretary

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Jeff Campbell

Ted Grable

David Lees

LaWayne Wyatt

A desire to have input into decisions pertaining to property values and the quality of the parks in the area prompted Jeff Campbell to attend BHA meetings and later join the organization. A graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Campbell serves as Assistant Vice President at Fort Brooke Bank on Ware Blvd. He and his wife, Carrie, chose the area for the superb school system and, as parents of two young boys, enjoy the area's abundance of young families.

Campbell encourages increased participation in com-

munity events by residents and welcomes input concerning the parks survey he is conducting and which appears in this issue. He believes that anybody who has an interest in the investment in their homes and community should come to the BHA meetings and voice their opinions on various issues and concerns. "The more people we have involved, the more it will benefit the community," asserts Campbell.

Campbell also serves on the Small Business Development Committee with the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and the Allocation Committee of the United Way.

Rick Oros offers his time and expertise as Secretary to the BHA and President of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. Oros taught philosophy at the University of Minnesota before joining General Motors as a dealership rep. Oros was GM for a rental car business and worked for Revlon before starting his own management consulting firm, Compass Business Advisors. He chose the Bloomingdale area for its accessibility to the urban centers while providing an almost rural community setting.

Oros explains his participation in the BHA this way: "I live in this community and want the quality of life for myself and my family to be as good as it can be by having a positive influence on matters that pertain to my family." Oros has lived in this area with his wife, June, a local artist, and his daughter, Mandi, and son, Rio, for the past six years. His hopes for the BHA are tied to his goals for the newspaper, which include establishing and maintaining scholarships for deserving area youths.

A seven-year resident of Bloomingdale, BHA Treasurer Jim Wiley and his wife, Diane, chose the area with their two little girls in mind, appreciating the peaceful neighborhoods. Wiley, who graduated from Western Kentucky and hales from Chicago, Illinois, lived in Pinellas County for seven years prior to his move here. He was elected to the Board and has served as treasurer since January, 1992.

Wiley, who is Regional Manager for Credit Review for the First Union Bank in Tampa, is another resident who

See BHA pg. 15

Candidates Needed for STD Posts

Residents of three Bloomingdale communities are being called to service with the need for trustees of Special Taxing Districts in this area. According to supervisor of elections Pam Iorio, the deadline for filing is noon on July 23.

Two trustees are needed to represent Bloomingdale's East and West subdivisions, and positions are also available in Bloomingdale Oaks. A district trustee normally services a two-year term, but due to vacancies, some districts have one-year terms available. Annual elections to select trustees will be held on Sept. 7.

In order to become eligible, a candidate must be a registered voter, a resident of the district, and must file a financial disclosure form. There is no qualifying

fee to get on the ballot. Instead, each candidate must secure signatures of seven to 15 voters residing in the tax district. The number of signatures varies by the size of the district. Petition forms are available in the supervisors' office, Room 195, Hillsborough County Courthouse, 419 Pierce St.

Special taxing districts were created to assist in collecting and spending funds to maintain the subdivisions' common areas. A board of trustees manages each special district. All positions are unsalaried. For further information, interested residents are asked to contact Kay Menzel at 272-5850, Nancy Kiester at 685-5466, or Bloomingdale STD President Tom Brophy at 545-9600 (work) or 653-3201 (home).

See page 6
for more
details

Photo by Tim Golden

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Dear Readers,

For some months now, we've been discussing a Letters column section in *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. I am pleased to say, starting with our August issue, you will be able to voice your ideas, opinions, concerns or complaints in the newspaper.

This is something new for us and we hope with the introduction of this new section you will enjoy reading how your neighbors feel about the subjects that concern all of us.

Your letters need not be infallible to be valuable. Even if you only get people talking, or perhaps just thinking, the letter will be worthwhile. Exposing one's own views is a bit like participating more fully in life. It usually results in getting to know one's neighbors better, maybe even liking them more.

Special attention will be given to the Letters column. We are looking forward to an abundant supply of letters. This will be our indication that the rest of the newspaper is saying something to someone. The care and handling of your letters will not be neglected. You too serve the community and invigorate the democratic process.

Sincerely,



Rick Oros

Parks survey

by Jeff Campbell

Within the next six years \$10 million will be spent on parks and related facilities throughout Hillsborough County. An unspecified amount in the low to medium six figures will be spent on the parks located in Bloomingdale East at the juncture of Natures Way and Greenhollow Drive and Bloomingdale West bounded by Canoga Park and Bloomingfield Drive.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association as well as county park officials are interested in suggestions from East and West residents concerning

the eventual expenditure of these funds for recreational equipment, facilities, and park design that best fit the needs of our community.

To date, improvement suggestions include a recreational center, repositioning of playground equipment in West Park away from the baseball field, lights on the tennis court, adjustable basketball goals for children, and additional playground equipment.

Please fill out the attached form rating items numerically with one (1) being the most important.

In the space provided please explain or make additional comments. Remember to consider you and your children's changing recreational needs over the next three to six years.

Mail completed surveys to The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, c/o Mr. Jeff Campbell, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594 or call Campbell at 623-1527 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to give suggestions or to join the Parks Committee of the BHA as an active participant.

BLOOMINGDALE PARKS SURVEY

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Number of children _____ Ages _____

Please Check (X) the park you or your family members use most often.

Bloomingdale East _____

Bloomingdale West _____

Please rank in order (one [1] being most important) the improvements you feel are most desired at the park you checked above.

- Recreational Center _____
- Playground Equipment _____
- Additional Basketball Courts _____
- Change Layout of Park _____
- Lighted Tennis Courts _____
- Covered Picnic Areas _____
- Basketball Hoops for Children _____



Comments: _____

OFFICERS

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 Valrico, Florida 33594
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William Grace President 685-2817

The Bloomingdale Gazette

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MEETINGS

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

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

BHA Board of Directors

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

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

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

Letter to Editor

He wasn't much to look at—his feet and head too large for his thin, rather scraggly body, but he taught me a lot and I loved him. His name was D.C., short for Driveway Cat, because that's where he was living upon our return to our home when my husband retired from the Army in September, 1992. He was named by our neighbor's children and they also loved him. We adopted each other and in time D.C. began to look better, but it wasn't his looks that stole my heart—it was his gentle, loving nature that thrived on my affection and that of my family.

On the morning of June 16, 1993, D.C. did not greet me at the garage door as usual, so I began to search for him. I found him lying half in the bushes by my front door, and he was dead. While it is sad that he died, it is the way that he died that is so devastating. D.C. was shot. Not with a BB or pellet gun, but with a handgun or small rifle. He was shot a few feet from our driveway and managed to crawl home—sometime between four and six a.m.. I take full responsibility for him being out and for my lack of judgment in being so trusting, but it is a lesson I will never forget. I will probably never know who would commit such a horrible act, or why—I can only pray for one who so heartlessly took a life.

I will never look at Florida or this neighborhood the same way again. The rising crime and complete disregard for others is frightening. While there are those who do not like cats or pets in general and there are those who would say "he was only a cat," D.C. never harmed anyone. I hope that the next time this happens we don't have to hear "he was only a child."

D.C. taught me that it's what's inside that is important, not looks, and he taught me about a part of my life. I know that I am a better person because of him.

Please protect those you love. We don't get a second chance, and it's a very sad lesson to learn.

Sincerely,

Donna Holden,

Correction

We apologize to Tom Navarro, store manager of Winn-Dixie Marketplace for incorrectly identifying him in last month's issue.

Ships Take Dutch Artist on Life's Voyage

Ronald van Rikxoort, whose works are on display at Fields Art & Framing, was a recent houseguest of Bloomingdale residents Anne and David Madden and their son, Rich. The Maddens met the artist while they were stationed with the Army in Limburg in the Netherlands, where Mrs. Madden took lessons from the artist through City Colleges of Chicago.

Accompanying van Rikxoort on his recent visit were his wife, Emmy, and daughter, Daniella.



Photo by Tim Golden

"The most important thing is to give your impressions, what you see and what you feel," he said in an interview. "You can make every line, like a photograph, but that is not getting the thing itself."

To immerse himself even more in the truth of his subjects, he once worked on a barge which supplied water ships. "You get to see them from the water level, then," he said. "A much different, but equally true, perspective than what you get from seeing them from land or a dock."

Harbors, he says, "are

an ever-changing world. I go in. I look. It's nice."

The sea and ships have challenged men for centuries. The challenge they present Rikxoort as an artist is of a different sort, but no less difficult: catch and hold several elusive and opposing elements - the play of light and shadow, the eternally changing sea, and the serene yet vibrant dichotomy of ships.

His watercolor, "Bismarck," displayed during his exhibition here, is a prime example of his ability to translate these vibrant forces to a two-dimensional surface. In the midst of battle, the grand old ship cuts through the waves. The artist's carefully thought-out composition makes the Bismarck seem a monument to all battleships, the angered sea a testament to its power, and the blazing guns splashing the sky with red a reminder of the horrors of war.

His search for the soul of his subjects and his ability to convey his feelings have not gone unnoticed by major shipping companies and collectors. Rikxoort's work can be found in collections from Hong Kong to the United States and throughout Europe. Two books containing collections of his work have been published. "Rotterdam: Port on the Move," is an in-depth examination of the port, its facilities and the ships which visit the port.

Rikxoort lives with his wife, Emmy, and their daughter, Danielle, in Landgraaf, in the southern-most province of The Netherlands. But his work has taken him to England, Ireland, France, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Israel and California. Like his favorite subjects, to Rikxoort all the world is home-as long as there is a port, a sea and a ship.

Irene Stephens is a free-lance writer based in Brandon.

by Irene Stephens

They have carried men to the farthest corners of the earth and to watery graves. They have opened new worlds and been the building blocks of globe-straddling empires. Silk came to Europe in their holds; slaves came to America. Cities have risen where they found safe harbors and civilizations have fallen when they laid seige to ports. Men have re-formed the earth itself to allow their passage. Stars have guided them.

They have carried men to triumph and to tragedy - and they have taken Dutch artist Ronald van Rikxoort on a voyage of discovery and delight. They are ships.

Rikxoort does not take rudder in hand when he sets out on a journey. Nor does he look to the stars to guide him. He grasps instead brushes and pens, and steers his craft by the light of his artistic insight. Working in watercolors and ink, he fixes his impressions of the maritime world on paper.

Rikxoort's watercolors and pen-and-ink-drawings can be seen at Field's Art and Framing in Royal Oaks Plaza, where he had an exhibition in June.

Born in The Netherlands, the 42-year-old artist found his fascination for the sea early in life during the many visits to his grandparents' home in Rotterdam, Europe's largest port. At the Art Academy in Maastricht, The Netherlands, he honed his artistic talents. Combining his love of ships with his native abilities, he focused on maritime art: sea-going vessels, port scenes, harbor facilities. Cargo ships, passenger liners, lifeboats, battleships, tugs - all captured by him in his paintings and drawings.

Greatly influenced by the impressionists, Rikxoort reaches inside himself to find the truth of his subjects.



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Exchange Student Shares Thoughts On Life in the United States

by Tanya Szafranski

"It's big," she said, smiling and sipping some iced tea. Shinobu Arakawa, known affectionately as "Bu" by her host family and friends, attempted to explain her first impression of the United States. "There was so much space. . . it was just big." She also noted the immediate language barrier—although she had taken four years of English at her school in Japan before becoming an exchange student. Naturally, this barrier led to a few mix-ups.

"At the beginning, I went shopping at Pace with my host family. I didn't know what it was. I saw things like six boxes of macaroni and cheese in the same package, and I didn't understand. I thought it was a regular store, like Publix, and I thought, 'Americans eat a lot.'"

Shinobu has since learned the true nature of Pace, and she has grown more accustomed to other aspects of American culture. . . with a little help from her friends, of course. Going out with her American friends has been both very important and extremely fun. She credits her American friends, including her host brothers and sisters, with the key role in the cross-cultural socialization process. They have introduced her to American styles, malls, boys, things much like those in *Seventeen* magazine which first piqued her interest in the United States.



Shinobu Arakawa

"I saw certain things that were interesting to me. I liked American clothes, and I liked the schools. I wanted to choose my own classes and wear my own clothes, not uniforms."

In Japan, uniforms must be worn in all schools. Shinobu herself attends a private, Baptist-run school where English is mandatory as a foreign language. However, all Japanese state rules still apply. Students must pass exams in order to proceed from junior high to high school, and again to go from high school to college. Shinobu feels that this practice puts unneeded pressure and stress on teenagers. Shinobu feels that the same stress does not exist among American teenagers.

Shinobu did miss her Japanese family and friends throughout the course of the year, although one of her friends came to visit her in the spring. Shinobu is somewhat anxious to get back to her parents and her brother, but cites several American things that she will miss: Disneyworld, Seaworld, and especially Christmas. Being Buddhist, Shinobu does not experience the Christmas season in Japan the same way she does in America. When asked what she liked best about the

holidays, she replied, "Presents. . . presents. . ." Some aspects of American culture were not as pleasant. Although she enjoyed the free environment overall, she was less than impressed with the frequency of teenage

smoking. However, she considers it as a facet of a generally fast-paced society.

Shinobu was genuinely thrilled at the opportunity to study English in the United States. Even though she did not "fit in" immediately in terms of language, her abilities have improved greatly and her spoken English is now very good. She considers English a relatively easy language to learn, Japanese being a quickly spoken, tonal language with literally thousands of written characters. Shinobu would someday like to become an English teacher in a Japanese school.

Shinobu traveled to the United States through the exchange organization YFU, or Youth for Understanding. She has lived for almost a year with the Duclos family of Providence Lakes, and she attended Bloomingdale High School where her host mother teaches drama.

She would someday like to return to the United States, and she encourages anyone interested in visiting a foreign nation to do so: "It's wonderful!"

Seniors offer parting thoughts

by Tanya Szafranski

In June we dedicated the majority of our issue to the graduating seniors of Bloomingdale Senior High School. Before these young men and women left to enjoy their summer activities, face college, jobs, and new challenges in the fall, we asked them to share some lasting memories of their high school years. We thank Bloomingdale guidance counselor Mrs. Harris, who was extremely helpful in this endeavor, as well as the responding graduates all of whom we wish happiness and bright futures.

Alisha Cummings explained: "Bloomingdale [is] a place where I've learned. . . to attain any goal I set for myself. The friends and faculty at Bloomingdale will be cherished high school memories."

Although **Kevin Tweedy's** high school experience was mostly a preparation for college, he acknowledged, "I believe Bloomingdale. . . has matured me mentally, socially, and physically. I am definitely a better per-

son leaving the high school than when I came."

Victoria Little felt that her Bloomingdale experience has made her "ready to continue on and strive for higher education," and this feeling was mostly because of "an unbelievably caring faculty" with "teachers [who] take time after classes to help."

Jennifer Cvitovich said that "[Bloomingdale's] environment has prepared me for what I hope will be a very successful future" which includes "four years of hard work at Florida State."

Kelly Dupre explained the endless care of Bloomingdale teachers by citing the devotion of Ms. Brummer: "I was out of school, sick, for many weeks, and she worked with me for hours to get me back to where I should have been."

Audi Bock thought the same about Ms. Sutherland, who taught her many "valuable lessons": "She taught me how to go out and get what I want in life."

Jeni Stark com-

mented, "Teachers set the foundations for us to grow from, and now it's our turn to show them what we can accomplish."

Mark Zihmer believed that the excellent faculty at Bloomingdale helped him achieve his academic goals: "Graduating from Bloomingdale with high stature is a difficult and challenging accomplishment. I am proud to say that I am on the Honor Court of the 1993 graduating class, because if you can succeed here, you can succeed anywhere."

Marlo Cervi and **Amanda Johnson** attributed their success to the guidance department, most notably Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Sikes.

Tamara Shamburger considered high school "bittersweet." She felt that "everyone should conquer [high school], or at least try to. . . because if people try, they'll be 100% ahead of those who didn't."

Lexi Thomas encouraged underclassmen to "live their high school lives to the fullest," because they're "only there once."

She attributed her full, "happy memories" to "teachers with positive attitudes like Mr. Hauer, Mr. Saviot, Mrs. Herzog, and Mrs. Riley" who helped bring out her best.

Jeni Stark offered the idea that "high school is a stepping stone into the 'real world.'" **Erica Rogers** stated simply, "As I leave Bloomingdale, I go with motivation to succeed and memories to last a lifetime."



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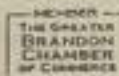


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Friendly Faces: Meet Red Harper

by Gwen Szafranski

Strains of Jo Stafford's "Jumbalaya" sung by a melodious north Georgia voice occasionally tumble through the P.A. system these days at the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Winn-Dixie. Chances are shoppers pick up their pace in time to the music, hum along while enjoying a memory from the past, or simply smile at the catchy tune. Few are prepared for the fact that the friendly voice reaching out to them with down home advice mixed with weekly seafood specials is not just a canned promotional gimmick but their first introduction to the store's real live seafood department manager, Red Harper.

Harper developed his unique style while working at the deli in a Sebring, Fla., Winn-Dixie. Finding himself short-handed on a busy day (with customers' tempers even shorter), Harper joked and sang his way

through the tough spot, and soon his good humor and genuine caring for people earned him the managership of the seafood department in that store.

"Take people seriously," Harper cautions, adding "you should always build people up, not tear them down." He honed his philosophy from personal experience from a difficult childhood in Athens, Ga., to life in a street gang in Ft. Wayne, Ind. A stint with the Marine Corps in Vietnam was another sobering experience. Harper bagged and processed the bodies of soldiers for their last trip home to the States. At this point in his life, Harper turned to the Lord.

Life soon became positive for Harper, who married and moved to Wauchula, Fla., where he worked for two companies

before starting his own trucking company. At this time he began serving as children's minister for the Assembly of God Church after receiving a B.A. in religious education with the International Bible Institute. Harper worked mainly with migrant and street children.

"God doesn't care about labels; God cares about the heart," Harper affirms.

God certainly tested Harper's faith since he lost his business, his marriage, and the support of his church in



Photo by Tim Golden

Red, the singing fish market man, makes time for all his customers. Here he coos one of his original tunes to Brittany Barbee.

quick succession. Believing that "out of adversity comes good," Harper met Sebring Winn-Dixie manager Rick Robbins at a prayer meeting. Robbins gave Harper the deli job, and Harper soon gained local celebrity as a motivational speaker at schools, Boy Scout meetings, and Chamber of Commerce functions. He even developed a version of the "Achey/Breaky" song for a troubled youth who began to come to Harper for advice and soon improved his behavior as well as his grades.

"I want my life to give hope—if God loves me, He can love you and give you what you need to overcome the bad in life," professes Harper, who was transferred to the Valrico store last February.

Stop by the store and meet the man behind the voice. Enjoy his seafood samples, cooking demonstrations, and generous dollops of good will as well as getting quick to prepare seafood recipes like the one on this page.

Red's Linguine Special

- 1 lb. peeled, deveined shrimp
- 1 cup of onions
- 1 cup fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 tsp. Garlic Powder
- 1 tsp. dried parsley
- 1 tsp. milk
- 1 Tbs. butter
- Fresh Parmesan cheese

- 1 pkg of linguine
- 1 cup bell peppers
- 2 Tbs. Olive Oil
- 1 tsp. of basil
- 1 can (16 oz.) evaporated milk
- 8 oz. sour cream

Sautee' vegetables in one Tbs. of butter. Add Shrimp and cook until pink. Cook linguine in olive oil while simmering vegetables and shrimp. Drain pasta. Put in a bowl adding parsley and a bit more olive oil or butter to taste. Mix it all up and ladle linguine onto platter. Top with shrimp sauce and sprinkle with fresh Parmesan cheese.

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Little League names All-stars

by Rozel Sciulli

Outstanding baseball and softball players at Bloomingdale Little League were honored when they were named as All-Stars at closing ceremonies held recently at the league's complex.

The young athletes will represent their league in District 13 competition beginning Monday, July 5, at various parks around the county.

Bloomingdale's major girls, ages 11 and 12, are defending their District 13 title. Last year's major girls were the undefeated champions of District 13 and Section 3 which covers all of central Florida. The talented team finished third in the state.

Only two players, Mindy Laing and Candace Duci, return to this year's team, which will be coached by Mel Laing and Trish Keim. The other Major All-Star softball players are Erin Bowles, Chrissy Conrad, Lauren Gasparino, Jackie Juzysta, Shannon Lee, Karen Mir, Erin O'Brien, Jessica Ortiz, Mary Kate Owen, Lauren Rainey, Jackie Spears, and Jennifer Wittebort. The major girls face Sulfur Springs on July 5, at 8 p.m. at the Land O Lakes Little League complex.

The opening day match-up at North Brandon Little League pits Bloomingdale's Senior girl All-Stars against Sulfur Springs at 5:30. Pam Buchanan and Ray Deckert coach this year's team which boasts returning players Heidi Buchanan, Marcia Garvin, Mary Ann McDowell, Alissa Montgomery, Rachel Peterson, and Layne Walters. The Senior team is rounded out by Dori Carson, Deanna Davies, Natalie Deckert, Shannon Krouse, Jaime Melton, Tristan Seley, and Stacy Silverstein.

The Senior Boys All-Stars are Dan Byam, Danny Carlin, Mike Davis, Brad Guagliardo, Marco Kanahan, Galen McClelland, Brian Merkle, Chris Milam, Omar Montessinos, Akil Moorehouse, Tim Rutledge, Henry Safer, Jeff Spears, and Chris Yaney. The team is coached by Tom Bahlow.

Representing the league at the Senior-Minor level are

13 year-old players Mike Augello, Patrick Barrett, Mike Calandro, Josh Cervi, Brandon Crossland, Robert Doty, Donnie Freeman, Mike Gasparino, Gaby Kapp, Rob Larken, Rick Martin, Hunter Peil, Jeff Sarnowski, and Jeremy Sourbeer. The team, whose games begin Monday at Land O Lakes, is coached by Tom Crossland and Robert Doty.

Bloomingdale's 11 and 12 year-old boys begin play Monday at Southeast Tampa Little League. Randy Tarter coaches the team made up of Brian Ambrose, Travis Brown, Steve Clouse, Pat Cox, Phillip Hart, Courtland Hunt, Brian Kohler, Scott Launer, Doug Revelle, Jon Sanders, Keaton Smith, Brian Snyder, Mike Sober, and Kris Tarter.

In tournaments already completed, Bloomingdale L.L. fielded teams in Minor All-Stars and Major 9 and 10 year-olds.

Ted Gawron, Larry Johnson, and Dave La Fountaine coached this year's younger major division players. Included on the team were Kevin Adkins, Chris Belcher, Ryan Buchanan, Robert Eaton, Mike Garcia, Ted Gawron, Ben Hester, A. J. Johnson, Lyle LaFountaine, Chris Mestre, Chris Roman, and Mike Simonetti.

Minor 9 and 10 year-old players include Michael Andreas, David Batson, Brett Blondell, Brenton Burns, Nick DiMarinis, Javier Fiallo, Seth Foley, Michael Jones, Jared Knight, Richard Long, Jason Nicholas, and Billy Stenger. The team was coached by Bill Fells, Bill Stenger, and Greg Batson.

Completing the line-up of Softball All-Stars are minor division girls, Beth Ann Adams, Lindsay Brogdon, Maura Brosnan, Erica Duci, Shawna Fletcher, Crystal Ihm, Beth Milan, Alex Morales, Amy Perkins, Courtney Rainey, Danielle Riveiro, and Laura Smithers. The team was coached by Frank Duci and Butch Harris.



Hoping Bloomingdale will bring home championship trophies this year are All-Stars (back L-R) Kris Tarter, Pat Cox, Mindy Laing, Rachel Peterson, (front L-R) Ted Gawron, and Nick DeMarinis.

4th of July Parade and celebration held July 5th



"The Unforgettable Fifties" is the theme for the 35th Annual Brandon 4th of July parade to be held on Mon., July 5th. The following is a list of activities to follow the parade, which is sponsored by The President's Roundtable of Brandon.

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Rotary 86 Club Pancake Breakfast at Picadilly Cafeteria
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PARADE

POST PARADE ACTIVITIES AT BUILDERS SQUARE

12:30 p.m.



Opening Ceremonies
National Anthem and Memorial
All American Karate - Lee Jacobs
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Italian Ice - Bloomingdale Athletic Boosters



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There's no place like home — another option for educating your child

by Jeri Beel

Attend even one PTA meeting and you're bound to encounter a wide variance of thoughts, beliefs, and goals regarding public education. Many parents, in pursuit of the best possible education for their child, work hard to improve the system. Others opt for private schools. However, there are a growing number of parents following a path once traveled long ago, and educating their children at home.

For parents panic-stricken by the thought of occupying children just for the summer months, the idea of having them home year round might seem overwhelming. But Emma Miller, a Bloomingdale resident with three children, began homeschooling her 12-year-old son, Brent, last year and has no regrets. She believes that homeschooling brought them closer together while offering Brent the most individual attention and personalized curriculum, with the least amount of peer pressure and negative socialization.

Emma, a graduate of Kentucky's Georgetown College with a degree in Education, first learned of homeschooling while living in Japan during her husband's military assignment there. When she discovered that a friend was teaching her daughter at home, Emma wondered how the woman could do it. "At the time, it was the farthest thing from my mind," Emma explains.

However, the homeschooling idea resurfaced several years after the Miller's returned to the States. Brent attended Alafia Elementary for five years, but Emma questioned the choice of public school once she realized that the sixth grade center was in a separate area. "I worried that I wouldn't be able to be as involved with Brent's education at the sixth grade center, and was looking for another option," said Emma.

That option became evident when Emma visited Bryan Park one day with her five-year-old daughter, Sarah. "There descended on us a mass of homeschoolers," Emma recalled. She knew several of the people from her church, and they suggested she explore homeschooling. After researching the subject thoroughly at the library, the Miller's decided, with Brent's input, to try homeschooling.

The most difficult aspect of launching the at-home education process was not, surprisingly enough, red tape from the State. Rather, Emma found selecting the curriculum materials very confusing. "There's so much to choose from," she says. After reviewing several programs, she selected material from the Calvert School, a textbook-based curriculum with 160 lessons. At a cost of \$450 which included the lesson plans, textbooks, papers, pencils, and even crayons needed for the year, Emma felt that homeschooling proved considerably less expensive than private school. "Of course," she adds, "My salary isn't that much either!"

To be both teacher and mother, Emma prioritizes her workload and allots much less time for housework and involvement in outside activities. Each day, Emma and Brent set aside a block of time from around 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for classes conducted from deskspace in the kitchen. Phone calls are generally not accepted during this time (the answering machine takes over), and only extenuating circumstances alter the schedule. Often, Brent studies supplemental material on his own for an additional hour in the afternoon.

With Brent's curriculum, Emma insists an education degree is not a necessary requirement for the instructor. "Each lesson tells you exactly what to do," she says. Daily lessons include composition or grammar, math, and reading, while subjects like science and geography are covered about twice a week. There have been a few times when Emma could not teach Brent on a given day, but she called in a substitute — Brent's grandmother. And unlike some substitutes scared off by traditional classrooms, Brent's grandmother made a subsequent appearance.

Though Brent's academic day is shorter than that of his peers in public school, both he and his mother insist they are getting as much, if not more, quality learning time. In the beginning, though, Emma was not entirely certain and kept asking Brent, "Are we spending as much time on lessons as you did in school?" He assured her that they were. More support came from a friend who taught 2nd grade in the public school system. She told Emma that in a class of 30, she could spend no more than 15 minutes in one-on-one teaching with each student. In contrast, Emma spent at least four hours a day with Brent as her only student. And when she begins feeling pressured, Emma reminds herself that, "There is no one cracking the whip over me to get things done. I just do the best I can."

According to Brent, Emma's best is pretty darn good. He feels she is completely objective in evaluating his work, and leans toward the strict side. "She doesn't let me get away with anything," he says with a grin.

One of the most unique aspects of homeschooling is the elimination of undue competition. "At school," Brent recalls, "kids would finish tests early and you'd look



Photo by Tim Golden

Emma Miller oversees her son Brent's personalized curriculum, one of the benefits of home schooling.

around and notice who was already done, then try to get your test done in a big hurry." But the way his lessons are structured at home, he is often able to take tests over a two-day period. The State of Florida sees to it that Brent does learn necessary material, as Emma must keep records of his progress and provide for year-end testing or evaluation under the supervision of a certified teacher.

Brent definitely appears very comfortable with homeschooling, and says the best part is that he gets to be with his mom. But what about friends, extra-curricular activities, and social development? Both Brent and Emma feel this aspect of his education is complete as well.

Last fall, Brent played football with the Brandon Bears, developing positive peer relationships while getting a good workout. One of the best avenues for developing socialization skills comes from his involvement with Bell Shoals Baptist Church. Each Wednesday evening he spends time with friends in both church choir and a group similar to Boy Scouts, called the Royal Ambassadors. Piano lessons add to a well-rounded educational experience.

Brandon Homeschool organizes Thursday morning gatherings at the park and sponsors various field trips for homeschoolers, which gives children exposure to other students. Brent also took part in a tutoring program at Mintz Elementary where he helped 2nd and 3rd graders with their math and English course work.

Still, some people contend that parents who homeschool their children are attempting to hold onto and shelter them for too long. Regarding this sentiment, Emma relates an analogy of plants in a greenhouse. "Young plants that are not strong enough to weather the elements are sheltered by the greenhouse, where they are nurtured and cared for until they grow strong enough to plant outside and stand on their own." Children who are being schooled at home, she feels, are protected from much of the negative social aspects of school and early peer pres-

See HOME, pg.12

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See Michael's real estate article on p. 12

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CRAZY WINGS

Fun, family dining in Bloomingdale has to start with Crazy Wings located in Bloomingdale Square. Manager Don Keneshea is a 25-year veteran of the restaurant business and will soon be the new owner of Crazy Wings. When that happens, there will be some changes including a possible name change, but the tasty edibles patrons have come to enjoy will remain the same.

Crazy Wings expanded its menu to include salads, appetizers, soups, cold and hot sandwiches, and, of course, wings. The menu will soon offer pizza and home delivery. Crazy Wings is more fun than just eating out; there are electronic games, five television sets, and tournament pool tables. Karaoke on Friday and Saturday nights keeps Crazy Wings jumping.

Crazy Wings is open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday until 1 a.m., and Sundays from noon until 10 p.m.

LUCKY'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

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

Already recognized for its popular \$3.95 daily buffet served between 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Lucky's also offers an extensive lunch and dinner menu featuring Mandarin, Cantonese, and Szechuan style entrees reasonably priced between \$3 and \$4 for lunch items and \$5.25 and \$8.75 for dinner.

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



LELY'S HOUSE OF PASTA

The House of Pasta has been in business for nine years serving our patrons quality foods made the old fashion way at affordable prices in a quiet atmosphere with prompt service.

Lunch prices range from \$3.85 to \$4.95 and dinner from \$4.55 to \$10.95. Jojo makes different special dishes each week to tempt your taste buds. Ask anyone who's been to the House of Pasta for their recommendation.

Atmosphere is casual and your children, 10 and under, are able to eat at half price, Monday through Thursday from the children's menu.



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Living Guide



CARVEL ICE CREAM BAKERY

A New Carvel Ice Cream Bakery is now open for business at 927 E. Bloomingdale Avenue in Bloomingdale Square. Carvel's managers, Mary Ann Sierra and Mark Ackerman are available every day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. to customize any order.

Don't forget Carvel for those special occasions. We offer a variety of ice cream desserts including classic cakes, celebration cakes, fruit swirl cakes, and even strawberry yogurt pie.

Whether it's an ice cream brownie, Fudgie the Whale, or our new ice cream candy apples, customers will be convinced that "EVERYTHING SHOULD BE MADE OF ICE CREAM!"

Stop by and meet Mary and Mark or call them at 681-1908. Carvel is open daily from 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

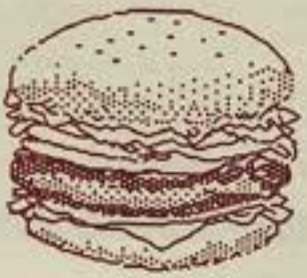


TADPOLES

Come visit old friends and meet new ones at Tadpoles, Brandon's newest watering hold. Greeted at the door by the croaking frog welcome mat, customers enjoy hearty grilled sandwiches, fresh garden salads, homemade soups and made-to-order Black Angus burgers in a homey, comfortable atmosphere. While sipping 16 oz. drafts for \$1.50 (\$1 at Happy Hour), patrons, relax in a unique atmosphere created by an antique piano, tackle box napkin holders, tables inlaid with fish hooks under a tin roof canopy as well as walls decorated with frog and fishing paraphenalia.

Lunches and dinners range from \$3 to \$6. "Polliwogs" will be delighted by our special children's menu and variety of video games. Happy Hour is 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week with a special VIP Club for late night patrons.

Tadpoles's hours are 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 3 a.m. on Sundays.



MR. HO'S

Enjoy casual dining in a refreshing tropical atmosphere at Mr. Ho's on John Moore Road, just north of Bloomingdale Road. Take a break from weekday stress and experience superb chinese cuisine served buffet style from 11:30 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday, \$3.95 or bring the family in for dinner; sample the grand buffet Friday and Saturday evenings for \$7.25 and from noon on Sundays for \$5.99. In addition, Mr. Ho's extensive menu, including chef's specialties and combination platters, are sure to please everyone.

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Open for lunch and dinner, B.C.'s prices range from under \$1 to \$6.95 for a whole chicken. Eat in or take out seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sundays through Thursday, and until 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturday.

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Campers . . . Beware of Stings and Things

In response to repeated requests from Bloomingdale residents, THE GAZETTE asked local physician, Jerry Wishik, to update his article of last summer on the dangers that lurk outdoors.

by Jerry A. Wishik, M.D., P.A.

Every year thousands of kids from the Tampa Bay area attend some form of camping situation. Camps for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, horseback riding, space exploration, sports and religious venues expose campers to new and sometimes unexpected environmental insults. Although camping remains an all-too-necessary, enjoyable and rewarding experience, certain precautions should be taken. In addition, a modicum of knowledge can be extremely valuable in this regard.

Before your child trots off to camp:

Update his or her immunizations - often, this simply means a "Tetanus-Diphtheria" booster shot. A person should have this booster every ten years after the age of 4 or 5, (i.e. if your child is 15 years of age - he probably needs one). Maybe mom or dad are also due for theirs. Check with your doctor.

Highly allergic children should be "prepared": If your child has developed severe reactions, such as shortness of breath or generalized hives, to insect stings or to particular foods in the past, your physician may wish to prescribe a special kit containing Epinephrine (auto-injection) and antihistamines, which your camper can take with him or her, should a severe allergic reaction occur.

Make sure the camp has a complete medical history: Food, medication, animal, insect and environmental allergies should be documented in your child's medical records, along with pertinent medical history (such as asthma, previous seizure activity, anemia, and all previous surgeries).

What to be on the "look-out" for:

Swimmer's ear - Otherwise known as "external otitis," this painful ear canal infection occurs frequently after prolonged exposure to water (swimming, showering). Apparently the normal skin lining breaks down, allowing bacteria to penetrate and start an infection. A solution of rubbing alcohol (90%) plus white vinegar (10%) flushed into the ear canal after swimming or showering will usually prevent the infection altogether. However, once an infection is active, antibiotics are required.

Tick Bites/Lyme Disease - In 1975, a condition known as "Lyme Disease" was recognized (in Lyme, Conn.) as a potentially severe three-stage disorder transmitted to humans via ticks, usually transferred by white-tailed deer, white-footed mice or birds. These ticks harbor a syphilis-like organism known as Borrelia burgdorferi. The good news is that a tick usually has to be present for some time on your body to transmit the disease. The bad news is that the condition may be on the rise, is under-reported and may progress to stage three disease:

Stage One - A rash occurs in 75% of cases (within 3 to 20 days after a tick bite), characterized by a red, raised area which spreads out from the bite site. The center of this rash may clear. Fever (up to 103°), chills, malaise, stiff neck, headache and backache may occur as well.

Stage Two - After one week to four months, one or more joints may become painful and inflamed (arthritis). Knees, shoulders, elbows, ankles and wrists may be involved. Heart, central nervous system (brain), muscles, and lymph system may also be involved.

Stage Three - If symptoms last greater than one year, this is considered stage three disease.

The most effective treatment for this disease is early antibiotic therapy. The most effective prevention is wearing protective clothing which covers all extremities, tick insecticides, looking for ticks on the skin and removing the tick in entirety as soon as possible.

Fish Stings - Jelly fish, portuguese man-of-war and sea anemones (dead or alive) possess "toxin-containing" barbs on tentacles which may be ejected into the skin upon contact with a human. Scuba diving, walking on the shore, or snorkeling may predispose a camper to these stings. Treatment should include removal of tentacles with a "gloved-hand" only. Do not rub area (more toxin may be released). Vinegar may inactivate the toxin. Lionfish and scorpion fish have "spines" which cause local intense pain, but this can be controlled with non-scalding hot water (for 30-90 minutes) effectively inactivating a "heat-labile" toxin. Professional medical attention should be sought as soon as possible.

Spider Bites - Although many species of spiders exist, only two really deserve comment.

1. Brown Recluse - distinguished by brown and fuzzy body hair and a violin or pearshape on back of its body. A bite by this spider usually causes local pain and skin destruction over one to two day period. Fever, chills and nausea may occur two or three days after the initial bite. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

2. Black Widow Spider - commonly characterized by shiny black body and a red hourglass-shaped marking on abdomen. The Black Widow is found around houses, in dry, dimly-lit places. A bite by this spider may feel like a pin prick, but within one hour, abdominal pain and muscular rigidity may occur, as well as fever, chills, nausea, vomiting, sweats and respiratory depression. Seek immediate medical attention.

Snake Bites - There are more than 8,000 snake bites annually in the United States. Of these, approximately 12 people die each year making snake bites a medical emergency. The venomous (poisonous) snakes can be divided into Pit Vipers (massasaugos, rattlesnakes, cottonmouths, copperheads and pigmy rattlesnakes) and Coral Snakes.

1. Pit Vipers - Soon after a Pit Viper bites, local pain and swelling develops, followed by muscle fasciculations, tingling,

numbness around mouth with a metallic, minty or rubbery taste. Weakness, fainting, vomiting, chills, sweats and occasionally bleeding may occur.

Immediate treatment includes placing a broad constricting band (not a tight, thin tourniquet) proximal to the bite and splinting to immobilize the affected body part. Because identification of the snake is important, bring the dead snake (if able to safely capture), to an emergency facility. Anti-snake venom may be given in some cases.

2. Coral Snakes - Bites by Coral Snakes may cause abrupt symptoms but sometimes findings will be noticeable 10 hours later. Locally, pain may occur, and more generalized complaints such as drowsiness, shortness of breath, muscle incoordination, twitching, salivation, swallowing problems and occasional seizures may occur. Medical attention should be sought as soon as possible.

Wild Animal Bites Human and domesticated animal bites can be problematic in terms of infection control and pain, but "wild" animal bites epitomize fear of the unknown, especially if the animal is unable to be captured for observation or analysis.

Human Rabies, a disease often characterized by irritability, breathing problems, disorientation, seizures and death, is probably the most dreaded complication of a wild animal bite. However, only 0-5 documented human rabies cases occur per year in the United States. In fact, on a local level, the last case of human rabies in Hillsborough County was 1948.

The following wild animals are to be considered rabid until proven otherwise: Bats, racoons, skunks, coyotes, bobcats, and other carnivores.

These may be rabid and should be reviewed in a case-by-case basis: Dogs and cats.

These animals are not usually considered capable of transmitting rabies: Squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats mice, and other rodents, rabbits, hares, and livestock.

If treatment is needed for rabies, post-exposure vaccination consists of five injections (spaced over 28 days) given in the arm or thigh muscle.

Make sure your child is aware of potentially rabid animals!

Contact Dermatitis - Many campers will be exposed to poison oak, poison ivy, poison sumac or a similar "contact allergen". This itchy, blistering, allergic reaction is usually easy to diagnose and treat. Characteristically, these exposures show "linearity" (or blisters in a line), due to skin "brushing" against an offending leaf. Cortisone-like creams and antihistamines are usual treatment options, but shots or pills are sometimes required in extensive cases.

Hopefully, the information provided in the preceding paragraphs will assist campers and their parents in having a safe as well as a fun-filled summer vacation.

(Jerry A. Wishik, M.D., P.A. is a Florida-licensed and Board Certified Internist, practicing in the Brandon area as Medical Director of Physician Care Walk-In Clinic.)

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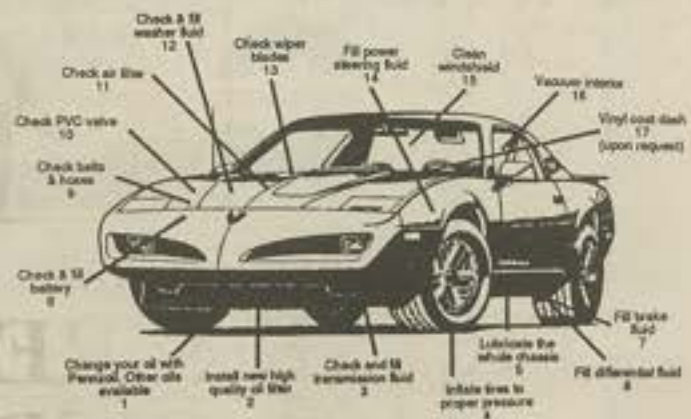
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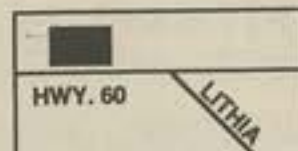
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Biz Notes

by Melanie Plesce

This summer Bloomingdale and Brandon offer a number of exciting new businesses not only for your dining pleasure, but also for your shopping convenience.

Carvel Serves Up Chilly Treats

Carvel Ice Cream Bakery opened June 3 at 927 E. Bloomingdale in Bloomingdale Square between Bealls and Wal-Mart. A perfect debut for the summer, Carvel has something for everyone including eight flavors of hard ice cream, sugar free low-fat yogurt, cakes, pastries, and fountain items. If you're planning a Fourth of July party or would just like something special, Carvel will be decorating Fourth of July cakes for this upcoming holiday. Carvel is a great place to stop in and experience at least temporary relief from the Florida heat.

Chicken Is Their Specialty

If you're looking for a good family restaurant then try Brandon's new Boston Chicken, a fast-food restaurant specializing in rotisserie chicken, which has opened at 1401 West Brandon Boulevard next to Spec's and across the street from Steak 'n' Shake. In addition to this specially cooked chicken, customers have 18 different side dishes to choose from including anything from a chicken Caesar salad to pasta with honey mustard. The restaurant is ideal for those who wish to eat out, but a pick-up window is also available for the convenience of those who wish to eat at home.

Boston Chicken, which originated in Boston and whose home office is located in Chicago now has 100 different locations in Florida, this location being the seventh to open in the Tampa area. Also, look for one to open in the Bloomingdale area in the early fall. With its good food and reasonable prices, Boston Chicken is ideal for chicken



Photo Tim Golden

Matthew and Jenna Morris, children of Bloomingdale residents Karen and Paul, take a break from the summer heat at the newly opened Carvel Ice Cream Bakery in Bloomingdale Square.

lovers or for those who would just like a taste of something different.

Teddi's: New Name, Familiar Place

The adults in the family might enjoy getting away to Teddi's Sports Bar and Grill located at 3503 Bell Shoals across the street from Wal-Mart and behind Citgo. Teddi's Sports Bar and Grill, owned by Teddi and Walt Keaton, has replaced the previous Frankie D's. With reasonable prices ranging from as low as 1.95 up to 9.95, Teddi's serves appetizers, wings, sandwiches, dinners, and salads. For those who prefer eating healthy they have a grilled fish dinner, a grilled chicken sandwich, and they also serve baked potatoes.

Besides good food, Teddi's has entertainment including pool tables, a golf game, live music on Wednesday and Friday nights, and karaoke on Saturday nights. The hours are Monday through Thursday, 11:00A.M. to 1:00A.M., Friday and Saturday from 11:00A.M. to 3:00A.M., and Sunday from 1:00P.M. to 1:00A.M. Teddi's is ideal for families and people of all ages, but sorry, no one under 21 is admitted after 10:00P.M. The date of the grand opening

is not yet definite, but it will be a Thursday night either at the end of June or the end of July. Dave Campbell will be there along with a Miller Monster truck, so come join the fun at Teddi's Sports Bar and Grill.

Coffee For Discriminating Tastes

Coffee-lovers will be delighted to learn of the newest and only opening of a coffee store in Brandon. Whistle Stop Gourmet Coffee Company is located at 110 N. Montclair Avenue adjacent to Forever Yours Antiques just off of Highway 60. Not only does this delightful shop carry 82 varieties of regular gourmet coffee and 79 varieties of decaffeinated gourmet coffee, but they also carry desserts such as New York Cheesecake, Keylime Tart and drinks including Ice Cap Cappuccino and Flavored European Soda. Those who enjoy tea will be glad to know that Whistle Stop Gourmet Coffee Company also carries tea, with Cinnamon Orange being their highly recommended flavor. Store hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:00A.M. to 9:00P.M., Friday, 7:00A.M. to 10:00P.M., Saturday, 10:00A.M. to 10:00P.M., and Sunday, 12:00P.M. to 8:00P.M. So for business or pleasure, the Whistle Stop Gourmet Coffee Company is a perfect place for coffee, tea, or dessert.

New Ideas In Sleep Comfort

A unique store, The Source, Futon and Wallbeds opened in Brandon on May 21 at 2108 W. Brandon Boulevard across the street from Pier 1. Owned by Rodney Carrasquillo and his brother Ralph, this store is a division of R&R Interiors and carries futons, frames, and accessories. The Carrasquillo brothers also own the same store located in Tampa at 4625 N. Manhattan, Suite C.

Brandon is fortunate to receive this new business because this store is the first in the area that carries futons and wallbeds, which are most convenient for the Florida lifestyle. They are comfortable, flexible, and versatile, and they go with any decor from contemporary to traditional. Store hours are 10:00A.M. to 6:00P.M. on Monday through Thursday, 10:00A.M. to 5:00P.M. on Friday and Saturday, and by appointment on Sunday. You can find hot summer savings in their grand opening sale which runs through the end of July. So if you're looking for the lowest prices with the biggest selection, come discover The Source, Futon and Wallbeds today.

Wal-Mart Grand Re-Opening

Bloomingdale Wal-Mart employees huddled around store manager Dave Waller on May 5 as he led them in a Wal-Mart cheer celebrating the new fixtures and expanded floor space in the 6 1/2-year-old store. Located in Bloomingdale Square, the store added nearly 30,000 square feet of floor space, new tile, carpeting, paint, and the latest in automated check-out equipment. The store also boasts a new cosmetic section, and larger garden, sporting goods, and health and beauty sections.

District manager Oscar Stotts and Florida regional manager Bob Hart addressed the employees and thanked them for their dedication to the company and for the pride they have shown in their store.

E & S Balloons: Business Takes Off!

E&S Balloons, formerly of Brandon Crossings on SR 60, recently relocated to the Erindale Shopping Center on Lithia Pinecrest Road. Their balloon sculptures are appearing throughout Bloomingdale at weddings, baby showers, birthday parties, and over-the-hill parties.

Family-owned by Sheryl Hollingsworth and her parents, Goldie and James Brooks, the business boasts that its customers are only limited by their creativity because husband James can "build anything." Recently, he constructed a balloon sculpture with 50 candles floating in a pool.

The business also provides balloon bouquets for hospital deliveries, and features gourmet food and candy which can be used in customized gift baskets for any occasion.

Look For These July Business Openings:

Nature's Medicine Chest will open July 16. Featuring herbs for health and gourmet cooking, aromatherapy, relaxing CD's, motivational audio tapes, and calligraphy art, the store is owned by Cathie Mitchell and John JohannesMeyer and is located on Lithia Pinecrest Road in front of the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale.

Window Fashions and Decor, the third and newest store owned by Zisimos Markopulos, opened this month at 3248 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103. Featuring window fashions, the store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon. through Fri. and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sat. Markopulos plans a ribbon cutting ceremony later this month (see pg. 12 for pic.).

Cassidy's, a popular restaurant in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale, will have a grand re-opening in August. Owner Bill Cook has a number of activities planned for the celebration, so look for details in the Aug. edition of *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.

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Woods & Water Hosts Cousteau

On Saturday, July 10, 1993, Jean-Michel Cousteau will be visiting at Woods & Water Outdoor Sports Center in Brandon to celebrate the 50th anniversary of SCUBA. Cousteau's father, Jacques-Yves Cousteau, invented the Aqua-Lung with Emil Gagnan in 1943. Since then, millions of outdoor enthusiasts have enjoyed diving.

Cousteau will be at the dive shop from 10 AM to 12 noon and again from 2 PM to 4:30 PM. Bring your camera or have the on-hand professional photographer take a picture with Cousteau for a nominal fee of \$4.50. Woods & Water is located at 1339 W. Brandon Blvd., Brandon, FL 33511.

Woods & Water will also be hosting a film show, lecture, and discussion by Jean-Michel Cousteau at the Tampa Theatre (711 Franklin St., Tampa) beginning at 7:30 PM. This is a fund-raising event for the benefit of Ocean Futures—a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to preserving the oceans of the world for

future generations. This event will feature Jean-Michel personally narrating film clips of his most recent research. This footage has never before been seen by the public. In addition, he will be personally narrating segments of his research on Florida Manatees and Dolphins. He will also present a movie history of the Cousteau family. Jean-Michel says that he will present a special surprise at this event.

Chavez on the Mall (across the street from the Tampa Theatre in the TECO building) will be catering a reception for Jean-Michel and the attendees of the film event. This reception will be an opportunity to meet the man who will carry on his father's undersea legacy. Tickets for this event are \$25 for the film/lecture/discussion, \$15 for the catered reception, tax deductible, and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, the Tampa Theatre box office, professional SCUBA centers throughout the area and at Woods & Water. For more information call (813) 684-0122.



Photo by Tim Golden

Barbar Leugers is one of the qualified staff able to assist you at newly opened Window Fashions and Decor at Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale

HOME from pg. 7

sure until they become "independent thinkers, not peer dependent."

Homeschooling is not for everyone, cautions Emma. But if you're interested in this option, she stresses you must make your child's education a priority. She attributes much of her first year's success to the strong and loving relationship she enjoys with Brent, and to assistance from local support groups. Each situation is different, however, and requires evaluation. It worked with Brent, but Emma acknowledges that, "He's older, and we can

reason with each other to resolve differences."

This fall, Emma will take on a second student, her daughter, Sarah, with a first grade curriculum. Teaching two children will be more difficult, she supposes, but she has already selected some of Sarah's materials and is thinking how she can incorporate on Sarah's level some of Brent's studies. And though she expects her 15-year-old son, Dennis, will continue at Bloomingdale High School next year, homeschooling is not totally out of the question for him.

Several organizations, both on a local and national level, have cropped up to serve the needs of homeschoolers. For more information on getting started in this area, Emma suggests contacting Joan Elam, the publisher of a local homeschooling newsletter, at 610 Angelica Place, Brandon, FL 33510.

Combining the role of parent and teacher is not always easy, as Emma attests, but it can be extremely rewarding. With all the pressure placed on our children to grow up

too fast, Emma receives great satisfaction knowing homeschooling "has allowed Brent to be a child again, and avoid the constant peer pressure to do things he's not comfortable with."

Certainly, we are not all equipped physically, emotionally, intellectually or financially to take on the sole responsibility for educating our children. But homeschooling may be a very viable option for many families. In the Miller household, it's been an educational experience worth repeating.

Real estate moves

Buy now or pay later!

by Michael Davis

Have you ever heard friends or associates lamenting about a missed opportunity in the stock market? They may have said "If I had only known then what I know now!" It's called "hindsight", and while it makes for good conversation, it doesn't change the past.

A similar situation occurs in real estate. The real estate market ebbs and flows based on three key factors: price, interest rates, and the demand for housing. As prices and interest rates rise, demand slows. As demand decreases, prices moderate or fall. The decreased demand means fewer mortgage loans which, in turn, causes interest rates to drop.

When prices, interest rates and demand are all low, or near the bottom of the cycle, housing is viewed as affordable by the buying public once again. Demand then returns, beginning a new cycle.

Keep in mind, these factors do not change overnight. Real estate cycles may last from eighteen months to six or seven years. What is important when deciding whether to purchase a home, is to recog-

nize when the high or low point in the cycle has been reached.

Where are we right now in the real estate cycle? Here are three clues:

- interest rates are the lowest they have been in about twenty years
- the country is beginning to recover from the latest recession
- inflation rates have been in the low single digit range for several years

Making the decision to purchase a home today may be no better than making that same decision a week from now. What is important is to make the decision very soon. Those who don't may find themselves humming that familiar refrain... "if I had only known then what I know now."

Before you begin looking for a home, ask a real estate specialist for details about the financing alternatives available in our local market. Get the facts before you begin house-hunting, then take advantage of the best real estate market in years!

(Michael Davis is affiliated with RE/MAX Realty Unlimited.)

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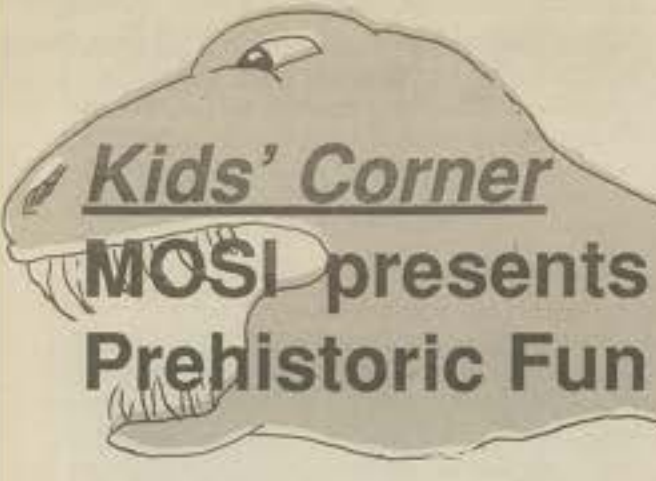
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THINGS YOU WILL NEED

- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- 1 envelope unsweetened soft drink mix
- a small bowl
- clear plastic wrap
- 3 cups cool water

WHAT TO DO

1. Gently tap the hard-boiled eggs all over until the shells have lots of hairline cracks in them.
2. In a small bowl, combine the soft drink mix and water.
3. Gently place the eggs into the liquid.
4. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and place it in the refrigerator for 1 - 2 days.
5. Remove the eggs from the bowl and throw away the colored liquid. Peel the shells off the eggs.
6. Your fossilized dinosaur eggs are ready to eat!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Pack up your troubles, grab your passport and join us at MOSI for a Jurassic Dinosaur Journey. Nineteen lifesized, robotic dinosaurs roam modern city streets creating a science fiction fantasy. Hands-on activities include: Rub-A-Dino, Dig-A-Fossil, Paleontology Corner, Participatory Storytelling, and Passport Stamping. Meet MOSI's Time Traveler, KRONOS, who just returned from visiting the prehistoric past in his Beyondosphere! It's a romping, stoping, roaring good time! Bring a current month's U-Save receipt for purchases of \$10 or more and receive one free child's admission to MOSI (\$2 value). Not good with any other discount offer.

MOSI is located at 4801 E. Fowler Ave. just one mile north of Beach Gardens and is open Sunday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for Florida residents, \$2.00 for children ages 3-15 and children under 3 are free. Group rates are available for parties.



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BHA Meeting

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, July 13, 1993, at 7:30 in the Community Office located in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. BHA members are invited to attend.

Vacation Bible School

St. Mark United Church of Christ on Lithia Pinecrest at Guiles Rd., invites children from pre-school through grade 6 to participate in Vacation Bible School from Aug. 2 through Aug. 6, 1993. Classes are from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Parents can call 685-0998 to register.

Cheerleaders Wanted

The Brandon Steelers Youth Football League still has a few openings for girls who would like to cheer for the boys' football squads this fall. Girls must be at least seven and no older than 15 by Aug. 1, 1993 for eligibility. Sign-ups are scheduled for Saturday, July 17 and again on July 24, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Steeler Complex, located on the west side of Providence Road, two blocks north of Bloomingdale Ave. Girls must furnish a copy of their birth certificate in order to register. For further information, call Debbie Mager at 685-7952, or Jackie Jarrard at 685-3838.

Free Tennis Clinic

Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club is offering a free doubles tennis clinic every Wednesday morning at 10:15 at the complex on Miller Road. According to tennis director Pete Stecher, the clinic's emphasis will be on doubles strategy and having fun.

Little League Winter Sign-ups

Bloomingdale Little League will hold sign-ups for its winter baseball and softball programs on Saturday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Bloomingdale Civic Center located east of the park. Boys and girls ages six to 15 by July 31, 1994, are eligible for participation. A birth certificate must be shown at registration. The winter instructional league runs from mid-September through late November.

"The Sound of Music" To Be Performed

The Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center will offer "The Sound of Music" July 8-11. Tickets are on sale now for \$8, \$10, and \$12. Performances are Thursday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.. Sounds of Summer subscriptions are available at the Center Box Office for \$16, \$18, and \$20 and include "The Sound of Music" and the August production of "Oklahoma." For information call the office at 221-1045 or 1-800-955-1045, or visit a Ticketmaster outlet.

Computer Course Offered at Lithia Springs Elementary

A basic word processing course using Macintosh LCII computers is offered free to adults at Lithia Pinecrest Elementary School July 1, 2, 6-9, 12-16, and 19-22 from 10:40 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. in the school computer lab. Enrollment will be limited to 22. Registration forms are available at the school. Those interested can call the school at 744-8016.



Photo by Tim Golden

Little Professor Book Center and owner Pat Miller welcomed Clifford the Big Red Dog last month during their first anniversary celebration. A delighted Jennifer Szekely gives the special guest a hug.

Hats Off

Nancy Maldonado joins five other Florida students as part of the Florida Team who competed at the Sixth Annual Panasonic Academic Challenge at Walt Disney World, June 25-28. The academic bowl featured teens from 39 states. Nancy recently graduated from Bloomingdale High School.

Charles Tommelleo, head of the Bloomingdale High School science department, has distinguished himself by winning an Outstanding Teacher Award through the Tandy Technology Scholars program.

Congratulations to Golden and Silver School Award winners for 1992-93. Golden Schools included Alafia, Brooker, and Buckhorn, as well as Bloomingdale High School. Bloomingdale also garnered a Silver Schools award. Recognition is planned for Tues-

day, October 12 at Annwood High School.

Booker T. Washington students selected by the annual Duke University Talent Identification Program include the following: Megan Allen, Kristin Anderson, Shannon Brewer, Ryan Bulger, Ted S. Burke, Robert Eisenberg, Daniel Elkins, Ceren Ercen, David Friedman, Diane Hurt, Robert Jones, Daniel Lorch, Beth Miller, Michael Reynolds, Michael Riley, Vivian Ryan, Melissa Scheeren, Kristen Sheraw, Amanda Wetherington, and Kelly Wicklund. Seventh grade students recognized for the program have received standardized test scores of 97% and above and have taken the SAT college entrance exam. Students were honored at a June 3rd ceremony at the University of Florida.

The following students were recognized as Terrific

Kids for the month of May at Alafia Elementary School: Emily Mann, Karin Thatcher, Dana Cohen, Stephanie Haines, Kindergarten; Joshua Freedman, Daniel Miller, Loranosha Barnes, Elizabeth Brockert, Cary Szczepanski, Jaime Stanaland, First Grade; Michael Woolshlager, Addie Hutcherson, Billy Fels, Megan Malone, Heather Livingston, Matthew Biron, Second Grade; Courtney Traynom, Jessica Anglin, Deanna Hussamy, Sarah Doss, Jonathan Snyder, Ashley Porton, Misty Gottlieb, Third Grade; Katherine Sullivan, Joey Vandebrook, Brandy Leonard, Zach Volpi, Ben Wright, Fourth Grade; Cari Steele, Lois McCalla, Buck Francis, Justin Seenath,

Carlene Jones, Fifth Grade; Amy Rodgers, EMH; and Tamara McCauley, PEP.

Congratulations are in order again for Bobby Lentz,

who was drafted by the Montreal Expos. Lentz will attend Edison Community College in Fort Myers before joining the Expos.

Lentz's former teammate Terrence Freeman is also due kudos. Freeman was recently picked up by the California Angels.



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Dentists Warn: Don't Smoke

by Diane Raggard Wright, D.M.D.

While most dentists encourage a daily routine of brushing and flossing, many are urging their patients to break another habit - SMOKING.

Two out of three dentists counsel their patients who smoke to stop. One in three dentists offers counseling, stop-smoking information or referral to appropriate clinics.

The Academy of General Dentistry encourages dentists to be alert to the special need of their patients who smoke and to be prepared to help them stop when they are ready.

Dentists have first-hand information on the bad effects of smoking. The dentist sees it first: the stained teeth, bad breath and bleeding gums.

Every dental office is a cancer detection station. Cancer of the lips and mouth is four times more common in smokers than in non-smokers. Cigarette smoking leaves a sticky covering on the teeth, which gives plaque a head start on decay.

Many smokers have poor oral health because smoking has a host of negative side effects, including dehydrating cheek and palate tissue, and receding gums. Dentists can monitor how smoking accelerates the deterioration of teeth and gums. Dentists are encouraging patients to stop smoking to improve their overall health.



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BHA from pg. 1

attended a Board meeting and decided to join. He perceives the BHA's goals to be to increase the awareness and participation of the community, to keep up the appearance of the neighborhoods, and to provide more community activities for residents.

Although he worked for five years on the BHA Scholarship Committee, Ted Grable was elected to the Board as recently as January of 1992. A graduate of the University of Florida, Grable is a fifth generation Floridian whose family moved to Brandon in 1956.

A job in medical supplies took Grable to Asheville, North Carolina, where he eventually became Director of Purchasing for that city. Grable has been a resident of Bloomingdale for 8 years and has served as Director of Purchasing and Contracts for Hillsborough County for 6 years. He is currently directing the membership drive for the BHA and creating a data base that reflects the distribution of memberships, resident owners, renters, and absentee property owners.

Since one third of the properties in Bloomingdale are not owned by residents, Grable feels one BHA goal should be involving non-resident property owners and renters in identifying more closely with the Bloomingdale commu-

nity and its concerns. However, Grable feels the first goal is the revitalization of the BHA and a redefinition of its identity through electing the best set of directors, encouraging citizen participation, and advocating zoning and deed restrictions.

Finally, Grable would like to see a renewal of the community activities, such as annual picnics and fun runs, that he and his wife, Mary, and three children—Eric, Katie, and Sarah—have enjoyed in the past.

A native of Indiana, LaWayne Wyatt travelled extensively with the military before retiring from the Special Ops Command at MacDill. Currently involved in managing the statewide data base for the Florida Department of Education, Wyatt has lived in Bloomingdale since November of 1984. Wyatt is well known for his dedication to the Mobile Watch which he joined in 1985 and now coordinates, firmly believing that the organization aids in keeping the community safe and secure.

Wyatt would like the BHA to organize events that help to bring the community together like the flea market and picnic-in-the-park that he, his wife and two children enjoyed over the years.

Past president and current vice president of the BHA, Russ Lembke is currently working as Project Manager at

Primus Clinic in Brandon after serving on the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. Lembke utilizes 27 years of experience in hospital administration with the Air Force in his current position.

Lembke extolls the recreational virtues of Bloomingdale where bike riders, roller bladers, walkers and joggers make ample use of Natures Way. He is hopeful the BHA will lead the community in organizing activities that will continue to enhance the quality of life in Bloomingdale.

"I believe you have to put something into a community to get something out of it," commented David Lees on why he joined the BHA. He continued that he felt he wanted to help shape the quality of life in this relatively new residential area. Lees, who is Administrator to the Presbyterian Villas at Manhattan Place, settled here in 1982 with his wife, Donna, and three children when he was transferred by the military to U.S. SITCOM at MacDill AFB.

Lees cites manning the waterhole for the YMCA Crosstown Runathon as an activity that unites the community in a show of spirit and fun. In a more serious vein, his goals for the BHA include keeping apace of the new ideas flowing into this growing community and pulling together to overcome obstacles and correct problems in order to keep the community vital.

ROAD WORK BLAMED FOR MERCHANTS' LOSSES

by David Bernhardt

Congested traffic on Bloomingdale Avenue due to road construction has some business owners up in arms, with several unable to wait until the proposed November completion date to arrive. Construction between John Moore Road and Kings Avenue and along Kings from Bloomingdale to Lumsden Road has crippled merchants in the Kings Row shopping center for the past eight months.

Owners say the work is taking too long and things need to change soon. "Location, location, location. Business must be convenient for the customer," emphasized Dave McClelland, acting manager of the Olan Mills portrait center located in Kings Row. McClelland claims that customers want to stay away from the road work, which runs directly in front of his business. "Many customers postpone or cancel appointments," he said, adding that he estimates his losses at about \$3,000 per week.

McClelland also thinks the road work is the reason several vacant store fronts have remained empty. The shopping center was hurt first last February when the Winn Dixie store moved to Bloomingdale Plaza and the Sun Bank closed its branch.

Ann Williams, owner of Guys and Dolls hair styling salon, which has been in business in the King's Row center for 16 years, said that her customers cannot find their way into the center easily because the two main entrances have been blocked for three to four weeks. A mound of dirt blocks the front entrance to the center from Bloomingdale Ave. Customers who live close by the center must go out of their way to get to the salon. Williams says the construction crews are being "very inconsiderate" of the local business people. She foresees no problems for business after the

work is completed.

While Williams remains optimistic about her business, Ted Steddum, co-owner and manager of the Bloomingdale Sew and Vac, says he is considering moving the business to Route 60 because of the loss of customers due to the construction. Steddum has noticed a sharp decline in business since mid-March and has not seen a recovery. Because he has lost 20 to 30 percent in revenues since road work began, Steddum said he is considering going after some compensation for lost profits although he is unsure how to go about it or who to contact.

Some merchants say that they have been told that work on the road will be completed ahead of schedule, but they also feel that is little relief for the losses already suffered. "The crews work a little here, a little there," said Olin Mills' McClelland. He just wishes the workers and planners would "get it done."

In other road related issues, although the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) rejected plans for an elevated extension of the Crosstown along Route 60 at their May 26 meeting, the idea could be brought back in the future if the MPO decides there is a need for it.

Walter Schaffer, a BHA board member, fears that if a decision is not made soon, the state Department of Transportation will step in and go ahead with plans to widen and improve roads. Schaffer agrees that the Crosstown is not efficient and says the MPO is trying to "avoid the inevitable" by taking so long to make decisions about change.

Schaffer blames the Beauracry and "bickering" for having slowed the decision-making process considerably. He says that "ample opportunity" has passed to decide on a definite course of action. "The growth of the Brandon community will not stop and the longer the delay, the worse the traffic problem will become."

Mobile Watch Report

by LaWayne Wyatt

We continue to have little activity in our community. April had fifteen events, May ten events and June had five events through the 16th. Included were several cars cruising through the East and West in a suspicious manner, speeding/reckless driving, trash dumping at The Spot, cars parked in partially developed areas, construction theft, activity at a wooded party site on Springvale Drive, cars in the Parks and Alafia School late at night, and several smashed mailboxes.

Even though there has not been a sig-

nificant amount of activity, everyone still needs to stay alert and take the necessary precautions to protect his or her property. Suggested precautions include not leaving items in yards at night, closing garage doors, not leaving items in cars, and ensuring cars are locked when unattended.

For those going on vacation, we can put you on our list of homes to watch, or you can call the Sheriff's Office and ask to be placed on the Vacation Watch program.

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