

the Bloomingdale gazette

Complimentary

Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association • www.bha-online.com Volume XXI, Number 7

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Oh Baby!

Megan Strynar of Bloomingdale had fun exploring the kid's playroom recently at the Campo Family YMCA while her mom Christine worked out.

**No new truck route:
See page 7.**

Brandon's Own Betsy Ross

Bloomingdale area resident Sadie Smith brings Betsy Ross to life. See page 8.



Solving the Growth Issues, see page 14.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

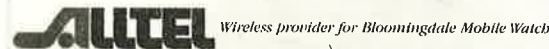
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Bloomingdale Mobile Watch



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Treasurer, Paul Kelmer 681-9701
Steven Heckel 654-4266
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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 Monday each month at 7:30 pm,
3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks



Share your news with the community!

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Phone: (813) 681-2051 • Fax: (813) 651-1129
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Recording Secretary, Alice Burleson 685-1076
Trustee, Tim Golden 653-1337
Trustee, Paul Almeida 661-2018
Property Manager, DPMI 684-6617



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

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



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Buzzards Place In AAU Championship Games

The Miltner Buzzards, a local youth baseball team, placed 2nd in the Florida AAU 12 and under State Baseball Championship held May 18 - 20 in Auburndale, Florida. The Brandon area team qualified for the National Championship to be held in Minnesota in late July. Thirty-six teams from around the state competed. The Buzzards went 5-0, before losing to the St. Petersburg Stingers in the championship game. The team is looking for sponsors to help cover a portion of the expense associated with the trip to Nationals. For information, please call Kerry Chalk at 813-654-9573. Pictured holding their trophy and silver medals are (back row) Coach Doug Chastain, Coach Dan Gildea, Coach Jack Miltner, (center row) Coach Greg Bartz, Mark Stutzman, Artie Avery, Coach Moe Morales, Emilio Salabarría, Joey Gildea, Bobby Bolling, Simpson, Chase Thompson, Justin Hickman, and (front row) Dustin Chastain, Zack Bartz, Kris Lugo, Robbie Beck, Arthur Avery, Gaby Perez, Nevin Griffin.

Hillsborough's School Music In Top 100 Nationwide

The School District of Hillsborough County was recently ranked among the top 100 programs for quality music education in a nationwide survey of public and private schools.

The second annual survey was conducted jointly by the American Music Conference, the Music Teachers National Association, the National School Boards Association, Yamaha Corporation of America, and VH1 Save the Music Foundation. Teachers, school and district administrators, school board members, parents and community leaders in all 50 states participated in the web-based survey.

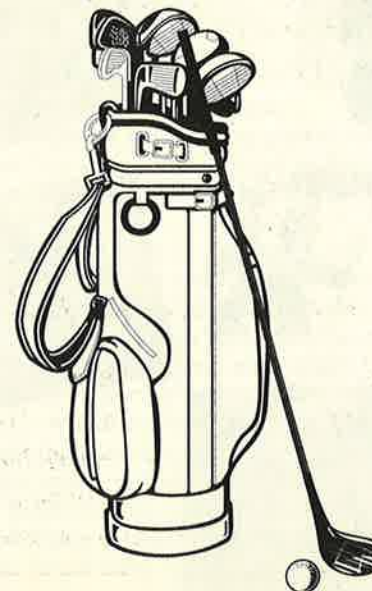
The survey included questions about funding, enrollment, student-teacher ratios, instruction time, and support for the music programs.

The School District of Hillsborough County was the only district in Florida to achieve a top 100 ranking.



Burns Middle School Band Director Kevin Lewis cues the flute section at a recent concert held at Bloomingdale High.

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Publix Plaza Approved

Submitted by the Bloomingdale Area Community Council

Bloomingdale residents have followed with concern the challenge facing homeowners living near the east side intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia Pinecrest Road. Whatever decision was made about the proposed Publix Plaza, the outcome would affect all of us in and around the Bloomingdale community.

That decision has been made. The Board of County Commissioners voted 4 - 3 to approve rezoning that allows the construction of a Publix, a bank, offices and eleven shops



Lithia Pinecrest is going to be very busy with a new Publix plaza and the Lithia Crossings Shopping Plaza being planned.

at the corner of Lithia Pinecrest Road and Bloomingdale Avenue.

This will mean more shopping, but also more trucks and traffic. Coupled with the projected increase in traffic due to growth in Fish Hawk and surrounding areas, this intersection will probably make the one at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale seem calm.

Residents of this area now have serious concerns about the potential for flooding, a situation that has not been fully resolved. This obviously affects property values.

And let's not forget the "Shops at Lithia" shopping area, a proposed Steinmart and additional shops planned just east of the Bloomingdale/Lithia intersection.

It is amazing how so much work and effort on the part of taxpayers who want planned, controlled growth can come down to one vote. Sound familiar?

Welcome to Bloomingdale!

Matthew George Masse
Born May 3, 2001 to
Teresa and James Masse

Analiene Faith Melendez
Born May 18, 2001
to Keila Melendez

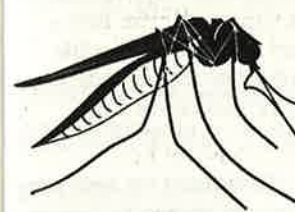
Michael James Whitt
Born May 3, 2001
to Suzanne Whitt

Alexandra Grace Pickett
Born May 23, 2001 to
Larissa and William Pickett

Julia Alise Valentin
Born May 12, 2001 to
Amanda and Rafael Valentin

Connor Cane Wolfe
Born May 31, 2001
to Melissa and Don Wolfe

The Buzz on Mosquitoes



We asked Joel Jacobson, Manager of Hillsborough County's Mosquito and Aquatic Weeds department, to clarify a few things about mosquitoes now that summertime is here and the bothersome bugs are prolific.

Q: We know that mosquitoes thrive in a hot, wet environment.

The thermometer has certainly been rising, but shouldn't the mosquito population be depleted due to our longstanding drought conditions?

A: Mosquito eggs can lay dormant in any one of their four life stages for up to seven years for some species. Exposure to precipitation or domestic water usage (like sprinklers) allows the life cycle of dormant eggs to resume very quickly.

Q: Have you had an increase in calls about mosquito control since the so-called rainy season started last month?

A: Yes, but most of the calls we've received have been domestic problems associated with standing water around homes.

Q: What are the most common domestic breeding areas in residential neighborhoods like Bloomingdale?

A: There are 60 breeds of mosquitoes in the Hillsborough County area, each with specific breeding and feeding preferences. Some prefer to deposit their eggs on certain types of landscaping plants, most notably the bromeliad. The leaves and flowers of the bromeliad are notorious water collectors, and are a common cause of infestation.

Others species prefer standing water in containers like birdbaths, car tires, pet dishes and leaf-clogged roof gutters. They will lay their eggs wherever water tends to collect, even loose fitting, sagging tarps used to cover cars, boats and barbecue grills. Although those areas might be dry now, mosquitoes instinctively know where water will collect when it rains. Container breeders rarely venture more than 100 yards from the breeding site, and they tend to feed on the lower extremities of humans. We call them ankle biters!

The Bloomingdale area's many streams, lakes, ponds and drainage ditches accommodate breeds who lay their eggs on self-made "water rafts" or vegetation, especially water hyacinths and water lettuce. Our department provides inspec-

tions and aquatic weed control services for any body of water in the county that may be harboring mosquito eggs and larvae

Q: What does your department do when people call to request assistance?

A: In order to determine what species of mosquito the culprit is, and therefore the best method of control, we need to know what time of day the bugs are most active, a description of the area they tend to congregate in, and what part of the body they are most likely to feed on.

Once we have enough basic information, we'll come out and conduct a domestic inspection. We'll bring hand sprayers to eliminate any problem areas we find, and advise homeowners about modifications they can make to reduce the problem. If the problem is ongoing or widespread, we will send our trucks out to spray between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Q: What chemicals do you use on the trucks?

A: We currently use a chemical called permethrin, a synthetic formulation of the organic chemicals found in chrysanthemums. It has a very low toxicity level for humans and pets, and is administered in very low doses. We atomize about 1/2 of a fluid ounce per acre. That's like a shot glass of liquid per acre.

Q: Can homeowners request aerial spraying?

A: That's one of our last resorts. We will first try

hand spraying and ground spraying. If the problem is widespread and persists, then we can order aerial (helicopter or airplane) spraying.

Q: What number can Bloomingdale residents call for help in controlling mosquitoes around their homes, lakes, drainage ditches and retention ponds?

A: Call us weekdays from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at (813) 554-5025 to request assistance or if you have any further questions.



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New School Construction Starts In October

By Laura Frazier

The construction of a new elementary school in Bloomingdale East is scheduled to begin this October. The 21-acre site, on the east side of Culbertson Road, near the southern intersection of Natures Way, runs from Culbreath to Lithia Pinecrest Road.

The projected \$7,487,594 construction cost will be funded by county impact fees, levies paid by developers to support growing communities with needed facilities and services.

Batson-Cook Company will serve as construction manager for the project.

School officials anticipate opening the school for the 2002-2003 school year. New boundaries will divide the main Alafia attendance area in Bloomingdale East, and are likely to include satellite groups from Bloomingdale West and a number of Lithia Springs Elementary students whose homes are within walking distance of the Lithia Pinecrest Road side of the school.

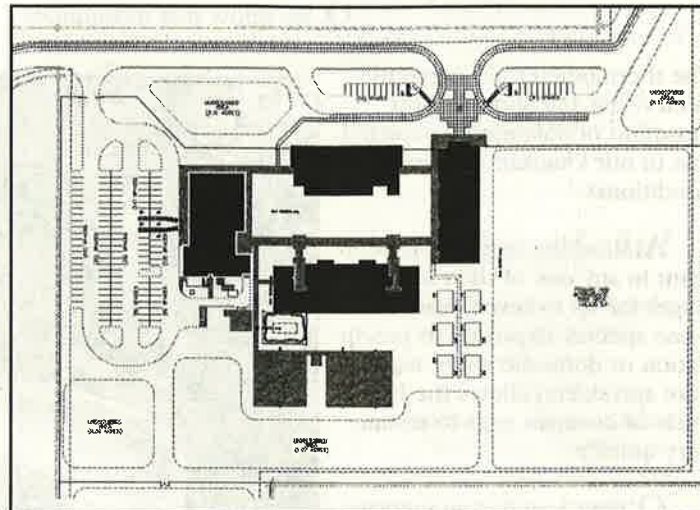
Parents are encouraged to watch news reports and check school-to-home correspondence this fall for notices about school boundary decisions. The Bloomingdale community will

also be asked to help name the school.

Additional updates include the pending installation of streetlights and sidewalks in the vicinity of the school. The streetlight installation may be scheduled for October of this year. Commissioner Ronda Storms is in support of the BHA's efforts to resolve these two safety issues as soon as possible.

Plans are also in the works to protect the area's turtle population by establishing a protected nature habitat on the fringes of the property.

Continued on next page



Hillsborough County's site plan for the new elementary school.

Further announcements about the new school will be published in the Gazette and on our community web site, BloomingdaleOnline.com.

Commissioners Say No To FishHawk Truck Route

A Gazette Report

Our County Commissioners last month voted unanimously NOT to add FishHawk Boulevard to Hillsborough's commercial truck route. Not one single commissioner voted for changes to the plan that would help to distribute truck traffic more evenly throughout the South County area.

Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road will remain on the route for at least the next three years, grossly overburdened by 100% of the area's truck traffic traveling east from I-75 and north from South Boyette and Rhodine Road. The next truck review will be held in 2004.

This was the third route review for the Bloomingdale area. We have been patient and cooperative in working with County planners to find ways to improve traffic safety in our community.

All we asked for was to share the burden. We didn't try to push the route off on our neighbors. We did not enlist legal support as the FishHawk homeowners did. We took the neighborly and cooperative way, trusting County planners and our commissioners to make a fair and reasonable decision.

Fish Hawk Boulevard is a wide-open, two-lane road with

one school on it and one residential subdivision entrance. Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road run right through areas crowded with schools, Little League fields, shopping centers and residential neighborhoods.

Bloomingdale residents, be very careful when you're driving in our area, especially for the next three years. Watch out for the trucks, and expect increased through-traffic on Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals, courtesy of the growing population of FishHawk Ranch.



Notice how wide-open Fish Hawk Blvd is with its wide shoulders and almost no traffic. County Commissioners unanimously voted not to add this road to the truck route plan!

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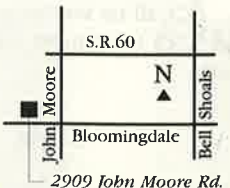
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Brandon resident brings Betsy Ross to life

By Laura Frazier
Special to Community News

Longtime Brandon resident Sadie Smith was born and raised in the French country bayou area of Louisiana, in the days of Victrolas, milkmen and working cotton plantations. But an important part of her life today began in Philadelphia in 1776, when a Quaker seamstress named Betsy Ross was called upon to create the first American Flag.

Mrs. Smith, known affectionately as Miss Sadie to her many friends and acquaintances, has flown the flag locally for Betsy since 1998, when she was asked to participate in a Christmas program hosted by the Alafia River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

A long-standing member of the Brandon Poets and Artists Guild, she chose to research the life of Betsy Ross and to portray her in an originally scripted, period-dress performance. The audience was captivated by her faithful and charming first-person narrative.

After that first acclaimed performance, Mrs. Smith just couldn't put the flag down. She has accepted invitations to present Betsy's life story to dozens of civic and religious groups throughout Hillsborough County over the past three years.

"It all struck a chord within me of deep respect and a desire to tell others of Betsy's life," she said.

"Betsy gave two husbands to the Revolutionary cause, which were very painful times in her life."

There are common civic, patriotic and romantic threads that somehow connect the 20th century girl from the French country to the 18th century seamstress from Philadelphia

After attending the Universities of Louisiana and Tennessee, Miss Sadie was a high school teacher in Louisiana. During World War II, she joined the faculty of the University of Louisiana teaching Foods, Nutrition and Institutional



Miss Sadie at age 15, already flying the flag!



Betsy Ross, aka Sadie Smith of Brandon

Management. She was Head Dietician for a unit of 500 U.S. Navy sailors stationed at the University and under strict military discipline.

"I felt a tremendous responsibility safeguarding, through diet, the health of the men eating in our mess hall. Some were bound for active assignments, and others were home for R & R. I especially remember those home from Guadalcanal badly in need of a rest."

During this time, Miss Sadie met a young sailor named Marion F. Smith. "He stole my heart," she lovingly recalls. Mr. Smith was bound for active duty in the South Pacific. Upon his safe return, the young couple married. Miss Sadie smiles as she

Continued on next page

counts their life together. "We had a long and happy married life together for 47 years, and were blessed with two wonderful sons." Miss Sadie speaks proudly of her grandson, a writer for the Journal News sports department in White Plains, NY, and her granddaughter, a second year college student interested in the theatre.

Miss Sadie continues to be active in the Brandon Poets and Artists Guild, and is a member of the First Baptist Church of Brandon. She enjoys writing both spiritual and humorous poetry, and reading by invitation. Last year, she even took Betsy along on a foray onto the Internet, in a live, worldwide netcast produced at Hillsborough Community College.

Miss Sadie has been asked on occasion if she would ever consider setting Betsy's life story aside to devote time to writing the story of her own life. In recalling the blessings of her life, she replies, "Not at this time. But if I ever should, the title would most certainly be 'He Led Me All the Way'."

Alafia Gators Are In The House!

For the 2000-2001 school year, Alafia Elementary achieved a 95% or greater attendance rate in August, September, November, December and February.

The Hillsborough County School Board reports that attendance rates are up at almost every school in the district.



Alafia fifth graders celebrated the bittersweet last day of the 2001-2002 school year.

Immunizations Required For School Registration

Children entering kindergarten or any other Florida public school grade for the first time must present the school with a health exam and immunizations certificate prior to enrollment. Special certification forms are available through your family doctor or pediatrician's office. The exam must be performed less than one year prior to enrollment. Immunizations required at each grade level are listed below. The vaccines listed for each grade are total lifetime doses required by that grade level, additional doses required for every student. Parents are encouraged to contact their pediatrician to determine if the child's vaccinations are up to date:

Students entering kindergarten and first grade:

- 5 doses DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus);
- 4 doses polio vaccine (IPV, OPV);

2 doses MMR (measles, mumps, rubella); a second dose of measles (preferably MMR) is required for students in grades K-10 in the 1999-2000 school year; in each subsequent year thereafter, the next higher grade is included;

3 doses Hepatitis B vaccine (HBV) given over a six month period; the Hepatitis B series is required for students in kindergarten and second grade in the 2000-2001 school year; in each subsequent year thereafter, the next highest grade is included.

Students entering second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade:


- 5 doses DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus);
 - 4 doses polio vaccine (IPV, OPV);
 - 2 doses MMR (measles, mumps, rubella).
- Seventh, eighth and ninth grade students:
- 5 doses DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus);
 - 4 doses OPV (oral polio vaccine);
 - 2 doses MMR (measles, mumps, rubella);
 - 3 doses Hepatitis B vaccine (HBV) given over a six month period;

1 dose TD (tetanus, diphtheria). A second dose of measles (preferably MMR), the Hepatitis B series, and a TD booster (within the last five years) are required for students in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades in the 2000-2001 school year.

- Tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students:
- 5 doses DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus)
 - 4 doses OPV (oral polio vaccine)
 - 1 doses MMR (measles, mumps, rubella).

Source: Hillsborough County School District web site, sdhc.k12.fl.us

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Community Organizations Need Residents' Support

Submitted by the Bloomingdale Area Community Council

Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) volunteers address concerns and issues brought to them by members of the community, including traffic congestion, uncontrolled growth, overcrowded schools, construction, rezonings and depleting water supplies. An informed community with the active support of its residents can significantly improve its quality of life. This is the purpose of the BACC.

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) and the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) are volunteer organizations dedicated to safeguarding and improving our community. But do Bloomingdale residents care enough to support the causes these organizations work to address?

Two recent Bloomingdale area projects, the selection of the site for a new library and the revision of the County truck route, were monitored and addressed by residents actively involved with the BACC and the BHA. But support in the form of public meeting attendance and written, verbal or electronic communications from the rest of Bloomingdale's 4000+ residents was minimal, to say the least.

Other communities banded together with legal support in

numbers sufficient to convince County Commissioners and the Library Board that their requests should be granted. As a result, our community has apparently lost on both issues (see related articles in this issue).

FishHawk Boulevard will not be added to the County's truck route, a decision that offers no relief to heavily traveled

Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road. Although a final decision on the new library site has not been reached to date, the most recent Library Board vote supports site #2 in Lithia, adjacent to the community of River Hills.

Following are some of the current projects being monitored by the BACC. All Bloomingdale residents are encouraged to review this list. Note the issues you're concerned about, stay informed, and support the efforts of the BHA and BACC by submitting your views in writing to the appropriate officials and attending public meetings whenever possible.

Contact Deputy Pete Maurer at the Bloomingdale Community Station on Bell Shoals Road (635-8040) with your concerns and support. Visit the BHA website at BloomingdaleOnline.com for the latest neighborhood news and information, or call the BHA (681-2051). Contact our County Commissioners by phone (272-5660) or e-mail (linked to hillsboroughcounty.org) to make them aware of your con-

Continued on next page



cerns and interests.

Bloomingdale Avenue widening: Due for completion in October 2001.

Enhanced YMCA and Little League Park crossover: Awaiting funding and completion of Bloomingdale Avenue widening.

Sidewalks on Canoga Park Drive in Bloomingdale West: Previously funded, but then rolled into a joint project with other unfunded sidewalk projects; a major safety concern. Kids have to walk in the street to get to Culbertson recreation center.

Springvale Avenue traffic signal: Included in Bloomingdale Avenue widening project.

Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road Intersection: At one time rated the second most dangerous intersection in Hillsborough County. Improvements are included in the Bloomingdale Avenue widening project.

Erindale and Lithia-Pinecrest traffic signal: No project planned to date.

County truck route plan: Review completed in June 2001. Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road were not dropped, and remain on the truck route. FishHawk Boulevard was not added to the route. Boyette Road is under further review.

Alafia Elementary traffic: Some new measures put in place. New school on Culbreath Road has been approved.

Streetlights on south end of Culbreath Avenue: Scheduled to be added as part of the new school construction.

Bell Shoals Alafia River Canoe access: County Parks recommends approval. Awaiting funding.

Garnet and Bell Shoals turn lane: No project to date.

Glenhaven and Bell Shoals Road traffic signal: Added to county's intersection review plan.

Bell Shoals Road and Lithia Pinecrest Road widening: Not scheduled for twenty years.

MacDill Family Support: Needs new facility. Prospective property on Erindale has been sold. **Speeding:** Increased use of new radar speed monitor. More citations written. Must have cooperation of all drivers.

Thirty-one acre property on Springvale Avenue: - Attempting to rezone for residential. Property is listed for sale. Possible solution would be purchase by county.

Publix at Lithia-Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Avenue: Commissioners voted 4 - 3 to approve rezoning.

Fifty-acre property east of Bloomingdale High School: Five acres identified as zone #5 for the new library, one of two being considered by the Library Board. Awaiting final decision.

Homes and apartments on west side of Bloomingdale High: Under construction.

Bloomingdale Executive Park: Estimated completion mid-2001.

Bloomingdale Avenue Post Office: Midsummer completion.

Projects needed: As growth continues and land disappears to commerce, the Bloomingdale area is losing the land for much needed projects including a community park, a new recreation center and a library.

Bloomingdale East Park: Improvements under consideration.

Bloomingdale High's reading program: Residents are needed to donate magazines and provide students with reading assistance. Call the school or drop magazines at Car Wash on the Greens or the Bloomingdale Community Substation.

Cases for Kids: Tampa Police Department's program asks residents to donate suitcases and backpacks for kids in crisis. Drop donations off at the Bloomingdale Community Substation.

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch: Critical program for the safety and security of our program. Volunteers are needed. Call Tony Diolosa at (813) 681-1146.



C. Cole Jeffries, Jr., Daniel W. King, Frank J. Nivert, Clifton C. Curry, Jr.

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We're looking for a few good yards!

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association invites all Bloomingdale homeowners to nominate their friends and neighbors (or themselves!) for the Bloomingdale Yard of the Month award.

If you have a beautiful or unique yard, or know someone who does, please complete the entry form and mail to:

Yard of the Month, BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, e-mail to frazier1@tampabay.rr.com or fax to 813-651-1129. Winners will be presented with a \$25 Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift certificate.

Bloomingdale Yard of the Month nomination

Homeowner's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Landscape features that stand out _____

YARD OF THE MONTH



The Gorgoglione Home
747 Fortuna Drive

Homeowner Paul Gorgoglione says, "something's blooming all year," in the family's Bloomingdale West home. The Gorgoglione's yard has a distinct "old Florida" feel, with established, low-maintenance plantings, and a concrete walkway that winds its way around the yard, offering a showy view of many healthy and beautiful maintained plantings.

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Solving the Growth Issues

Story and Photos By Mack Austin

Growth and the many factors that go with it is a major concern of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council (B.A.C.C.) and the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA). Several special meetings have recently been held to discuss how to solve many associated issues including County redistricting, proposals to create single-member County Commissioner districts, rezoning, schools, traffic, roads, public safety and adequate water supplies.

At a recent community meeting, Commissioner Ronda Storms commented that growth in our area is primarily caused, "by people moving into our area because they visit and like it, and by people having babies." Immigration also contributes to the increased growth. With the increased population comes more traffic, the demand for more affordable housing, the need for more schools, more law enforcement and fire stations, more dependable water supplies and one of the most critical elements, the effective management of all of the aforementioned issues.

The school issue is very critical. Growth means more kids and the need for good schools. One bill brought before the Florida Legislature would have required County planners, the



Continued growth means more new homes for families who will need more schools, water and places to shop.

School Board and developers to work together when planning new developments. But this bill was turned down. You would think these professionals wouldn't need legislation to work together!

A major topic of concern addressed at several recent meetings was where our essential water will come from.

Commissioner Storms explained how Tampa Bay Water, "controls all of our water rights. They can direct where the water goes!" This left many residents feeling uncomfortable knowing that one group has control of our water. Hillsborough County does have the highest cost for water in the state. Makes you wonder why, and just how it is managed.

The County's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) recently visited our community with a special planning survey. Members of the BACC were asked to comment on how they would like to see transportation in our area in 25 years. The MPO is tasked with future infrastructure planning and it is good that they are getting input from the community.

One member commented, "Future planning is needed, but shouldn't we be concentrating on our transportation needs 3 to 5 years out, then 10 years? I probably won't even be driving in 25 years!"

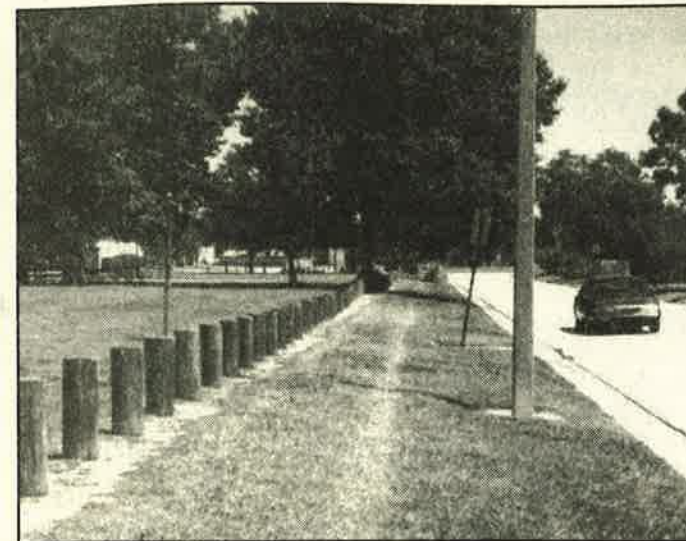
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Another major topic addressed at recent meetings has been redistricting. There is a requirement every ten years for the County to reallocate voting districts based on the U.S. Census. This is a very delicate and passionate issue. The BOCC Public Hearing to adopt their final selection is July 12 at 6 p.m. County Center.

Along with the redistricting plan is another proposal called F.A.I.R. (Fair Action in Representation) that was developed by local residents. The group is lobbying for seven

single-member districts. Timing is critical with this issue, and Senator Tom Lee and State Representative Johnnie Byrd are directly involved since a bill to place a referendum on the 2002 ballot is being considered.

As always, the residents of Bloomingdale appreciate the time and effort given by Commissioner Storms and other County departments to involve the residents of our community in solving these very challenging issues.



Residents of Bloomingdale West have been waiting for years to have this critical section of sidewalk completed to provide safety for children going to the Culbertson Rec Center.



Proper planning is needed to insure our roads can handle the inevitable increase in traffic.



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I've already written an article on the well documented relationship between periodontal disease and some forms of heart disease, but did you know that many forms of ill health show up intra-orally? More than 90 percent of all systemic diseases have some oral symptoms associated with them. Of major concern is oral cancer which now takes more lives annually than cervical or skin cancer.

Consider how poor digestive processes can lead to intestinal problems including irritable bowel syndrome and other problems associated with poor nutrition. Some of the more noteworthy diseases that show up in the mouth include diabetes, leukemia and kidney disease.

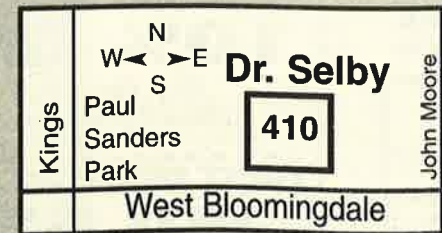
If you should have special medical treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation to the head and neck region, your dentist should be consulted prior to these treatments. Many dentists denote signs of tobacco use during their examination and educate their patients of the risks they are taking.

I would like to invite the readers of this regular article to submit any questions they would like answered to me at 410 W. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon, FL 33511. I'll do the best I can to answer each of them.

Source: AGD, Academy of General Dentistry

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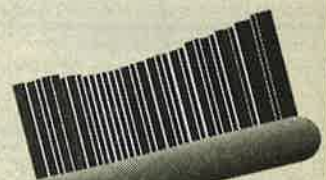
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John Moore



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY SUBSTATION NOTES

By Deputy Pete Maurer



The Bloomingdale Community Substation is located at the corner of Bell Shoals Road and Glenhaven Drive, in the Village Center Plaza. Station hours are weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Deputy Maurer can be reached at (813) 635-8040.

Deputy Pete Maurer

Fireworks in Hillsborough

With the serious drought conditions still present in our area, an executive order may be issued by Hillsborough County declaring a state of emergency banning the sale, use or discharge of fireworks. The use or discharge of fireworks under this order is a second-degree misdemeanor. Watch the news for updates. They are usually short notice. Even with recent rains, the undergrowth and trees in our area are still extremely dry, and the fire danger is at a critical high. One spark can be devastating.

Canoe Launch Considered

Final decisions are being made on the controversial canoe launch proposed for construction just off Bell Shoals Road. It was considered at budget hearings held in June. Park department officials are recommending funding for two ranger

positions to patrol the entire canoe trail. Possible plans to use Tampa Bay Water's driveway off Bell Shoals Road are being considered. Although the request was not in the current recommended budget, commissioners could still fund it. Bloomingdale residents with special concerns or interest in this project can contact Phil Evans, County Parks, at 903-2258 for current information.

Car Seat Checks

Car seat checks are now available at the Bloomingdale Community Station at 4342 Bell Shoals Road (next to Beef O' Brady's). Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano has received special training in checking the child seats. Due to limited resources, all checks must be by appointment only. Call 635-8040 to have your child seats and booster seats checked.

Driver's Handbook

When was the last time you looked at the handbook you used to get your Florida driver's license? Many drivers in our area drive like they have never even seen it. Drivers following too closely or not signaling properly are two of the most common causes of accidents in our area. Get a current copy of the handbook and review the rules. You'll probably be surprised at how much you have forgotten, and you may just save yourself an accident.

Bell Shoals' Bike Lane

A diamond-shaped emblem identifies the bike lane on Bell

Continued on next page

Shoals Road. Bike path signs have been requested from the county traffic department. Be extremely careful. These paths are very narrow, and it is easy to weave over into them. Do not use them as a passing lane. School is out and kids are using them!



Tampa Bay Water's driveway off Bell Shoals Road may be used for public access to the proposed canoe launch. TBW's Alafia River water supply project is due for completion in October 2002.



Use of the Bell Shoals bike path by bikers and joggers has increased this summer.

Varsity Subs All Star Deli Scores With Lunch Crowd

By Laura Frazier

Bloomingdale residents can fuel up in more ways than one this summer at the Bell Shoals Road Citgo station just south of Bloomingdale Avenue.

Mark and Michelle Blaiwes opened Varsity Subs All Star Deli in January of this year. The Blaiwes and their staff prepare a variety of high quality homemade subs, sandwiches, salads and sides, offered at modest prices.

The Blaiwes, lifelong Bay area residents, have lived in Bloomingdale East since 1999. Mark has over 15 years of experience in the restaurant management business.

Little League families may be familiar with Varsity's lunchtime fare. Last season, Varsity's popular Italian subs, turkey subs and Cuban sandwiches were offered at the Bloomingdale Little League field concession stand.

The deli's most popular items include a barbeque beef sandwich, which Blaiwes marinates himself and slow cooks for 10 hours. Customers say Varsity's homemade three-potato salad, with white, red and sweet potatoes, is as good as it is unusual. Most sandwich and side item orders are under \$5.

The deli is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call ahead orders are accepted, and a small café seating area is available. Varsity has a full catering menu, featuring regular deli items and party platters, as well as hot foods including lasagna and chicken tetrazini.

For more information or to call ahead with your order, phone (813) 662-7827



Mark Blaiwes (center) and his staff hope to bit a home-run with the Bloomingdale area lunch crowd.

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