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*Featured Story:*

**PRIDE: Next cleanup is Aug. 16**  
*see page 8*



Photo courtesy Bloomingdale MOMS Club

**Club Welcomes New "MOMS"**

The MOMS Club of Bloomingdale, Moms Offering Moms Support, in June welcomed a new managing board for the club's 2003-04 year, from left, Shay Thornton, Janice Cox, Nicole Cloyd, Meghan Foster and Amy Ball.



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

**Students sharpen skills**

Bloomingdale residents Peyton and Logan White enjoy doing a few workbook pages a week to help keep their academic skills up to par over the summer. See story, page 6.



## Laura's Last Licks

THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE!

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Please allow me to take this opportunity to express what an honor and a privilege it has been to live, work and play in the community of Bloomingdale and the greater Brandon area.

Shortly before moving here from Sarasota 12 years ago, my husband, Mike, and I took our inaugural drive down Bloomingdale Avenue. As a 28-year old, Brooklyn-born, Long Island-bred city girl, my first reaction was to shriek, "You expect me to live in this cow town? They don't even have a mall!"

The only signs of civilization then along the two-lane stretch of Bloomingdale Avenue from U.S. 301 to the corner of Bell Shoals Road were open fields, ramshackle homes and shops, and cows.



EMILY FRAZIER/Photo  
Mike and Laura Frazier

Lots of cows. The only light at the end of the tunnel was Bloomingdale Square. And so I cried.

How things have changed in 12 years! Back then I never could have imagined what an interesting and exciting experience it would be to watch firsthand as a sleepy little community flourished into full suburban bloom. Bloomingdale and the greater Brandon area have really come of age.

One lesson I will take with

me from my experiences with the Bloomingdale community, The Bloomingdale Gazette, The Brandon News and The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. is the importance of giving every citizen a forum to voice their concerns and ideas about local issues like growth and development, neighborhood involvement, law enforcement, public education, charitable causes, civic and social opportunities, and the promotion of small businesses within the community.

Through my association with organizations like The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc., Special Taxing District, Mobile Watch and Community Substation, as well as the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, School District and Board of County Commissioners, I have learned that there are volunteers and professionals in place who are eager to help resolve every citizen's con-

cerns and ideas. Many times, all it takes is one resident to make a phone call, send an e-mail, write a letter to the editor, sign a petition or attend a public hearing or homeowners association meeting to get the ball rolling toward a better quality of life for everyone.

I believe that when God closes one door, He opens another. I will pray that the door to the Frazier family's life in Brandon remains ajar. Our children especially leave behind a number of dear, lifelong friends with whom we plan to visit soon and stay in touch with.

In closing, I would simply like to thank all of you who befriended and worked alongside Mike, myself, Will and Emily while we made our home here in Brandon. This summer, as we drive down four-lane Bloomingdale Avenue heading out of town, I know I will cry again. And cows will have nothing to do with it.

# Gazette Bids Farewell To Editor

*The Bloomingdale Gazette is saying farewell to its longtime editor, Laura Frazier. Staying on top of the happenings in and around Bloomingdale while working under monthly deadlines has only been a part of the impressive job Laura has done. She has become a community leader whose absence will be felt.*

*As members of the community, The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc., and staff of the Gazette, we would like to take this opportunity to show Laura how much her work has been appreciated, and to wish her and her family well in their endeavors in North Carolina.*

## Farewell Editor, Friend

By MACK AUSTIN

As we go through life sometimes we have the great privilege of meeting folks that are making a positive difference in the lives of others. This kind of experience is one to be treasured because it's very

Several years ago, when I found out I was interested in writing and getting involved in my community, I had no idea what was to follow.

I met Joe Liguori, a quiet, reserved man, who eventually became the executive director for our community paper, The Bloomingdale Gazette. Joe introduced me to a nice young woman named Laura Frazier, who had a talent for writing and editing newspapers. Thus, the three of us became the foundation for The Bloomingdale Gazette.

Working with Laura over the years I have learned what it truly takes to be an editor. Even though The Bloomingdale Gazette is "only" a community newspaper, it still demands the dedication and attention of any major newspaper.

Joe supplied the direction, guidance and organization we needed. I contributed some articles and photographs, and used some of my contacts for current information. But it was Laura that provided the dedication, tal-

ent and perseverance it took to put out a product that the residents of our community would read and enjoy.

Laura would take the inputs available, coordinate content with various correspondents and contributors, decide on the final layout, spend numerous hours collecting information, taking photographs, writing articles and working with the publisher to get the paper out on time. Then she would catch her breath and start planning for the next month's paper. This she did over and over again, each time making The Gazette better and better.

Why would a busy mother and wife want to take on such a time-demanding, frustrating, never-ending task? Well, it's because she truly cares about her community, wants to make a positive difference, and is genuinely concerned about the quality of life for her family, her friends and her community.

Just such a person is my friend and editor, Laura Frazier.

Now, just as the Lord brought her into lives our for a while, so He now has decided that she and her family must move on to new adventures in the great state of North Carolina.

Laura, it has been a great honor to know you and to work with you. I never tell anyone goodbye. I wish you and your family the best. Please keep in touch.

Next submissions ready to go!

## More Thanks

"The BHA board is extremely sorry that Laura Frazier will be leaving her post as editor of The Bloomingdale Gazette. We wish Laura, her husband, Mike, and their family the best as they move to a new job and new home in North Carolina. We have no doubt that Bloomingdale's loss will be Greenville, North Carolina's

gain.

Laura has done an outstanding job for five years as the editor of The Bloomingdale Gazette. Her enthusiasm, energy and commitment to the Bloomingdale community assured all of us that each month's edition of The Gazette was better than the previous.

She also did an outstanding job managing the BHA's Web site, [www.BloomingdaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingdaleGazette.com). The board invites Bloomingdale residents to send Laura a thank you as she heads up to the Tar Heel state by sending her a note at [News@BloomingdaleGazette.com](mailto:News@BloomingdaleGazette.com). She will appreciate it."

— Ted Grable,  
president,  
Bloomingdale  
Homeowners Association

"Laura, your outstanding professional skills will be

sorely missed in our little corner of the world, but more importantly, I will miss the warmth of your personality and your character. Keep those beautiful green eyes of yours smiling! Godspeed throughout your life."

— Ronda Storms,  
Hillsborough County  
commissioner, District IV

"Laura's people skills and professionalism, along with a solid journalism background, is in large part the reason why the Gazette is so well read."

— Joe Liguori, executive director,  
Bloomingdale Gazette

"Laura, you have been excellent to work with and a strong advocate for Hillsborough County Schools and public education. I know I speak

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E-mail: [Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net](mailto:Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net)

Web Site: [www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com)

BHA meetings are at the community office on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

**President** — Ted Grable  
**Vice President** — Joe Hickle  
**Treasurer** — Pam Liguori  
**Director** — Tony Diolosa  
**Director** — Steve Heckel  
**Director** — Cheryl Kehrmeyer  
**Director** — Michele Caballer  
**Director** — Billy Hightower

### Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594  
(813) 684-6667

BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

**President** — Thom Snelling  
**Vice President** — Russell Jones

**Treasurer** — Dale Kahn  
**Recording Secretary** — Alice Burleson  
**Correspondence Secretary** — David West  
**Trustee** — Myron Magedanz  
**Trustee** — Michael Buday  
**Property Manager** — Al Devney

### Bloomingtondale Mobile Watch Coordinator/Equipment Manager —

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146  
**Treasurer** — Paul

Kelmer, 681-9701

**Patrol Member** —

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654-4266

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### Bloomingtondale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132. (813) 685-2817

BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**President** — Bill Grace  
**Treasurer** — Fred Englehart

## THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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# Taxing District OKs Increase

## \$20 RISE TO APPEAR ON 2003 TAX BILLS

By SHANNAN D. POWELL  
Correspondent

The Bloomingtondale Taxing District on June 9 held two public meetings to address the special assessment passed by voters through referendum in September 2002.

Facing an increase from \$80 to \$100 annually, more than 70 residents filled the Bloomingtondale community office to voice their concerns. Foremost was the issue of the exact amount of the increase. While the taxing district advertised the change, hosted four public meetings and mailed letters to residents, the wording of the notices left many residents with the impression that they were facing a more substantial \$100 increase, instead of the

## June 2003 Meeting Minutes, Abridged

A Gazette Report

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District was called to order at 9:02 p.m. June 9. All trustees were present. President Thom Snelling announced that most of the agenda would be tabled until the

July meeting because of the late hour. The minutes, financial report and fiscal year 2004 would be the only agenda items this evening.

The 2003 minutes were approved without any additions or corrections. Vince Ferraro of Ferraro, Higgin-

See MINUTES, Page 21

actual \$20.

Some said they did not know about the increase, though the referendum passed by a 63 percent vote of residents late last year.

According to resident Joe Liguori, a former board member who attended the meeting, the overall sentiment was, "Don't raise my taxes - period."

The Bloomingtondale Taxing

District uses the assessments to maintain the growing number of common areas in Bloomingtondale, including painting and landscaping. The increase will also fund projects to update neighborhood entryways.

The first meeting convened at 6:45 p.m. with an explanation from taxing district president Thom Snelling, and an opportunity for residents to

speak. A motion to set the assessment at \$100 was made at 8:30 p.m., followed by a vote of the trustees, who approved it. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The assessment approval was forwarded to the office of the Hillsborough County Tax Collector to be recorded on the residents' TRIM notices and tax bills, which are mailed out in November. No payment is due until tax bills are mailed.

The second meeting of the evening was to be the taxing district's regularly scheduled monthly meeting, though many actions were tabled until July's meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is July 14, 7 p.m. in the community office at 3509 Bell Shoals Road. All meetings are open to the public. For information, call 684-6667 or e-mail [BSTD@BloomingtondaleGazette.com](mailto:BSTD@BloomingtondaleGazette.com).

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# Summer Practice Helps Students Sharpen Skills

## ACADEMICS NEED REINFORCEMENT

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

Summer break is a good time for beach trips, vacations to see family and fun times at amusement parks. But summer break can also be perilous to academic skills. All year long, students hone reading, writing and math skills, but during the summer, a lot can be forgotten.

Karen Elton, a fourth grade teacher at Cimino Elementary School in Bloomingdale, suggest parents encourage kids to spend at least 30 minutes a day on keeping skills fresh.

"Read daily!" Elton emphasized.

"Get them writing daily. Study the skills we taught them all year long."

*"Keeping on top of these keeps their attitude up, too. They want to go in strong to their next grade level."*

**KAREN ELTON**  
Teacher, Cimino Elementary

Even younger children should read or be read to each day, Elton said. A concentrated effort four to five days a week can make all the difference when school resumes in August. "Keeping on top of these keeps their attitude up, too. They want to go in strong to their next grade level," she said.

According to Elton, such simple things as multiplication flash cards for five minutes a day makes a significant difference. Skills aren't forgotten that are practiced

## Bloomington Schools Make The Grade

Staff Report

The Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc. extends a round of applause to Bloomington community schools for earning straight A's this year! Alafia Elementary, Burns Middle and Bloomington Senior High School

all earned an A rating for the 2002-03 school year. We'll look for Cimino Elementary, the community's newest school, to join the A list when it becomes eligible for rating after its second year of operation in 2004.

Way to go teachers, students and parents!

regularly.

Everyday math, or "mental math," as Elton calls it, can strengthen a student's understanding of mathematical concepts in a practical way. For instance, on trips to the mall, Elton suggests discussing with your child how to spend money, or how much they could purchase with the dollar amount they have. Conversational education can take place in the car, on long trips, when kids say, "How much longer?", you teach them how to compute trip mileage.

Reading comprehension is another area where having a simple conversation with your child will build his understanding. Ask your kids about what they're reading. Get them to make predictions, and then revise them as things change in the story. Have them retell the story in their own words. That shows

their understanding.

Elton says it's OK to let kids read what they like, via all types of mediums. They don't necessarily have to be reading list books, "as long as they're reading about 20 minutes a day," she said.

With such an emphasis on writing in schools, Elton believes that journal writing will keep skills sharp over the summer. Being a teacher, she notes, "writing skills really fall off very quickly." She emphasized the important role parents play in ensuring their kids are ready for the beginning of school.

"Unless you have the parents behind them, they won't do it on their own," she said.

For parents who need a little guidance, workbooks are available at area bookstores that are age and grade appropriate, and will help bridge the summer gap from one school year to the next.

Look for your neighborhood news  
*The Bloomington Gazette*

## School Board Notebook

# Making The Grade Is Big Business

## BLOOMINGDALE SCHOOLS EARNED STRAIGHT A'S!

By JENNIFER FALIERO  
Hillsborough County School Board  
District IV Representative

Congratulations to Bloomington schools Alafia Elementary, Burns Middle and Bloomington Senior High School for earning an A rating.

High parental involvement, mentoring programs, after-school programs and dedicated educators have all helped Bloomington community schools to achieve such dramatic results.

Other Valrico and surrounding community schools receiving As were Bevis,

Buckhorn, Brookers, Riverview and Symmes Elementary, Progress Village Middle Magnet and Randall Middle School.

Other good education news came this week from the 2002 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Florida experienced more dramatic learning gains than did the nation as a whole. In fourth grade reading, Florida improved its score by eight points (from 206 to 214), while the national average improved by only four points (from 213 to 217). In eighth grade reading, Florida improved its score by six points (from 255 to 261), while the national average only improved by two points (from 261 to 263). Reading is the backbone of student

achievement and NAEP scores in this week show Florida's students are becoming better readers.

So what do these good grades mean? Under the governor's School Recognition Program, funding at \$100 per student will be awarded to those schools

that earned an A or improved a letter grade. It also means that students who were in the lowest level of reading and math also made improvements. These schools are not only challenging high-achievers, but also are teaching and reaching those children at

the lowest level of reading and math.

Accountability measures seem to be working. A child is less prone to fall through the cracks because the results will show up in the individualized school scores. To obtain a copy of your school's individual report card, visit the Florida Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.fldoe.org>.

Schools are receiving big bucks for good grades; however, how a school spends its Recognition Money has proven to be contentious and divisive among faculty and staff members. Some teachers have said they would prefer the state redirect recognition money and spend it on

See SCHOOL, Page 19



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# Neighborhood PRIDE Program Needs YOU!

**Next Cleanup Set For Aug. 16**

By CHERYL KEHRMEYER  
BHA Director

Do you want to help keep your Bloomingdale community shining?

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood PRIDE Program needs volunteers to help the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. get this valuable program implemented this quarter in six new neighborhoods.

We already have many volunteers working hard in their own neighborhoods, but now it's your turn to get involved. If you live in the neighborhoods listed below, contact the BHA office 681-2051 or e-mail [bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net). Help us make changes for the better in your respective neighborhoods through the BHA PRIDE Program (People of

Bloomingtondale Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying our great community).

It's the BHA's goal to have the PRIDE program in every one of Bloomingdale's 40 sections by year-end, and you can help us do just that.

This quarter, we'll be helping the Neighborhood PRIDE Program get off the ground in Erin Arbor, Heritage Park and sections C3, C4, E and I west of Bell Shoals Road (see participating street names below). These areas include more than 950 homes.

Now that we have selected more neighborhoods, we need you to make this happen. We need volunteers from the selected sections to call or e-mail our office and become PRIDE neighborhood team captains. The BHA will provide you with training and resources on how to lead the residents in your neighborhood and how to implement

## Bloomingtondale PRIDE Good Neighbor Tip

Take pride in Bloomingdale's A-rated schools. Congratulations to our schools, teachers, parents and students for a job well done.

the program.

In July, the BHA will send letters to every residence in each selected neighborhood listing the selected street names, what items can be disposed of on cleanup day, and the details of the program, including neighborhood training session dates.

At these valuable sessions, we will provide each neighborhood team captain with a PRIDE Resource Manual that includes tips and ideas on forming a team, organizing volunteers, running a neighborhood cleanup day and getting helping hands from the community (Boy Scouts, church youth groups, high school service groups, etc.).

In August, the cleanup day will occur and the Neighborhood PRIDE Program will be rolled out to more neighborhoods. We'll have large disposal bins at a specified location and each individual Neighborhood PRIDE team may decide on additional activities as well, such as a big end of cleanup day neighborhood barbecue. What a great way to celebrate a rewarding day of improving our homes, yards and streets.

We need volunteers now for this quarter's neighborhoods, and it's also never too early to get your neighborhood signed up for next quarter's cleanup. If you'd like to get involved or if you have any questions, please call the BHA office at 681-2051 or e-mail [Homeowners@Verizon.net](mailto:Homeowners@Verizon.net). We look forward to hearing from you.

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## Property Manager's Report

By AL DEVNEY

*Al Devney, Bloomingdale property manager and president of Devney Property Management Inc., can be reached at 684-6667. Excerpts of the latest monthly Property Manager's Report are as follows.*

### Irrigation

Thunder Irrigation repaired a broken zone line and added one spray head in the Garnet system, and also repaired a broken zone line in the Links system. Brandon Irrigation replaced the run and start capacitors in the Gotham system pump control box. DPPI inventoried the Garnet system and updated the Master Irrigation Book. During the monthly maintenance inspection, 59 spray heads and five rotors were replaced, and 14 risers were repaired or replaced. Additionally, there

were 35 light bulbs replaced.

### Landscaping

Neighborhood Pest Control spread LESKI 24-2-11 with Telstar and sprayed the crape myrtle trees with Orathene and Dacomel.

An additional application of sulfur was applied to the area around Greenhollow and Natures Way. DPPI met with Nelson Martinez, Greenturf Landscaping, and discussed the palm tree, mulching and fluffing provisions of the contract.

### Walls and fences

ZK Construction repaired the broken wall on Glenhaven. DPPI painted the wall on Glenhaven, six new wooden slats on the fence on Natures Way, and five sections of wall on Natures Way and Hickory Ridge.

### Lights

Russell Electric replaced a defective light at the Pine Grove entrance, a defective breaker for the Gotham irrigation system and replaced and relocated two light sensors.

### Accidents

There was a car versus tree accident on Natures Way and Lornewood. The tree won, and again the driver was very fortunate that the tree was not hit square.

### County, construction

DPPI contacted the Hillsborough County Road and Street Department in reference to two large holes in the right of way on Bell Shoals Road. The Hillsborough County Water Department was contacted in reference to a 36-inch force main to be installed under Culbreath

from Groveway to Erindale and down Erindale to connect at Lithia-Pinecrest. It is estimated that the project will begin in three to four months (see related story in this issue).

### Eat, drink and pitch out the window

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, 27 bags of litter were picked up, along with two windshield wiper assemblies, four pairs of shorts, a bicycle chain guard, a baby seat, an arm rest for a truck, a timing belt, a stapler, six feet of drain pipe, a pair of boxer shorts, a muffler and catalytic converter assembly, and 43 cents. The beverages of choice were Coke for soft drinks, Corona for beer and Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum for distilled spirits. Yo-ho-ho and adios, All!



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## Bloomingtondale Substation Notes

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER and OFFICER SANDY CAPITANO

The Bloomingtondale Community Substation, at 4342 Bell Shoals Road, near Beef O'Brady's restaurant in the Village Center Plaza, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Information: 635-8040. For immediate assistance, call the sheriff's office at 247-8200 or 911 for emergencies.

### Enjoy The Summer — Safely

It is great to be living in Florida in the summer time. With the beautiful weather, beaches, parks, fishing, tourist attractions, baseball, tennis, golf and swimming, the activities are endless. You can actually vacation right here in the state you live in. But living here does require some special steps to insure you and your family can enjoy your leisure time having fun, not spending it in an emergency room or at the



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Traffic data shows that auto accidents due to speeding or drinking and driving increase in the summer time, especially on winding roads like Natures Way.

Falkenburg jail.

### Preparation Is Key

Many of you will be going on vacations. We've reminded you about preparing your homes to insure they stay safe and secure while you're gone. Two of the other most important items you can prepare are yourselves and your vehicles. Plan your trips ahead enough to allow time to really enjoy yourself. Driver exhaustion is one of the primary causes of vehicle

accidents. You also don't want to spend your time on the side of the road, so have your vehicle thoroughly checked before taking it on the road.

### Buckle Up

Seat belts are a priority! With some vehicles traveling more than 80 mph on the interstates, there is no time for reacting in an emergency. When an accident happens, either you and your passengers are buckled up or they are not. Seatbelts make the difference between an injury and a death. Using seat belts is the single most effective thing that can be done to save lives — maybe yours. Current data shows that young people in the age range 16 to 25 learn more by example than by education. Set the example — buckle up.

Remember that Florida law requires all children less than 6 years old must be properly restrained. Children through age 3 must be secured in a separate carrier or integrated child safety seat. Children ages 4 and 5 should be in a separate carrier, integrated child seat or a safety belt. If you notice a child riding unsecured in a vehicle, simply call the Buckle Up Hotline at 1-800-699-SAFE. Note the license tag number. The driver will receive special information on the requirements for properly restraining children.

### Lost Pets

Many of us have experienced the panic and heartbreak that occurs when a spe-

cial pet has wandered off and can't be found. Our first reaction is to quickly make signs and post them all over our neighborhoods. However, there are rules for posting signs. The rules are not meant to be cruel but are necessary. Other alternatives are to make a large sign and post it with a photo in your yard, possibly with flyers available to give to neighbors. Most pets won't wander off too far. Placing an ad in the paper and contacting the county Animal Services Department are two other means for locating your lost pet.

### Party Legally

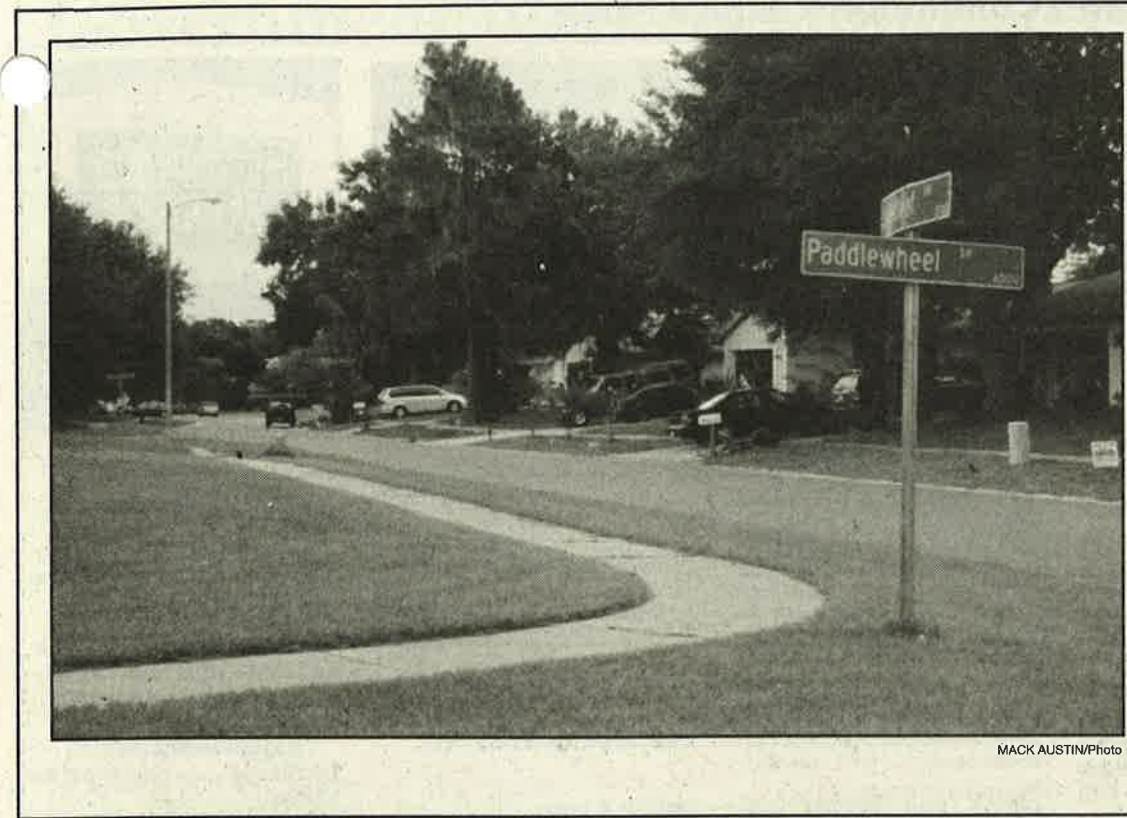
With teens out of school, the nice weather, lots of friends around and time to hang out, parties will take place. There are, however, precautions and rules that must be followed to be sure everyone has a good time and gets home safe. Parents, it is your responsibility to insure no one under age is drinking. This begins with not furnishing teens with alcohol or drugs. There are also specific guidelines that must be followed concerning noise. Have fun but don't disturb your neighbors. Last but not least, remember that Florida statutes make the possession of fireworks illegal.

### You Drink, You Drive, You Lose

A very sad fact is that Florida ranked third in alcohol-related deaths in 2001 with 1,264. That's 1,264 lives plus the thousands of other lives directly affected by those deaths.

A national campaign begins Friday to crack down on DUI deaths. Florida law enforcement agencies including those in Hillsborough County will utilize checkpoints and saturation points throughout the year to catch those drivers who voluntarily put others at risk.

The campaign's title says it all — You Drink, You Drive, You Lose.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

### Drivers Must Slow Down

Speeding in Bloomingtondale neighborhoods continues to be a problem. More residents are checking into the County's Residential Traffic Calming Program, including residents living on Paddlewheel Drive in Bloomingtondale West.

## Sewer Project, Repaving Could Back Up Roads

By MACK AUSTIN

A special sewer line construction project for our area is currently in the planning phases.

The line to be constructed will begin at an existing line near the Steinmart store on Lithia-Pinecrest Road, run along Lithia-Pinecrest Road to Erindale Drive to Culbreath Road south across the Alafia River to FishHawk, and will terminate west of Randall Middle School. All road areas affected by the construction will be repaved.

The schedule for the project shows construction to begin in mid-July with a 250-day projection for completion.

While this is a developers project and not a county project, representatives from several county departments are involved in all phases of the project including planning, construction, safety, security,

and environmental concerns. County departments involved include Planning and Growth Management, Public Works (Traffic Engineering), Water, Environmental Protection, Sheriff's Office, and School Safety. Access to critical areas such as Cimino Elementary will be maintained.

The developer involved is Newland Communities. The development is in Fish Hawk. Newland is required to construct an offsite force main to connect to the county's wastewater transmission system. The county requires an oversizing agreement, and will pay to have a larger force main installed to serve future connections.

The county's Planning and Growth Management office is responsible for reviewing and permitting the project, and will also inspect and give final acceptance for its completion.

## How's Retirement Treating You?



Learn to live, work and play on your terms!

Edward Jones is pleased to welcome former 20/20 television host, author and retiree **Hugh Downs** for an insightful discussion on how you can live a more active, involved and fulfilling retirement. From managing your retirement income to discovering new talents, we'll offer guidelines to help you live, work and play on your terms now and well into the future.

To reserve a seat for you and a relative or friend, please call or stop by. If you are unable to join us for this free video presentation, please ask about other viewing opportunities.

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## Bloomingtondale Area Community Council Notes

By MACK AUSTIN

Volunteers with the Bloomingtondale Area Community Council, also known as the BACC, meet monthly with local law enforcement and county departments to research and resolve neighborhood issues and concerns. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the community station. For information, call Bloomingtondale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer or Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano at 635-8040.

The council addressed the following current projects at its June 2003 meeting:

### Traffic

Truck traffic on Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Bloomingtondale Avenue — signs have been posted. Deputies are continuing to monitor and work with companies to improve the situation.

Drivers running red lights — The sheriff's office has increased monitoring.

Illegal parking at Alafia Elementary School — On hold for the summer.

Speeding in neighborhoods — Residents from several neighborhood sections are working with the county's Traffic Calming Program.

Enhanced crosswalk — Coordination is in progress with Hillsborough County to provide funds for an enhanced crosswalk on Culbreath Road between the



MACK AUSTIN/PHOTOS

The community council closely monitors new construction such as this subdivision under construction on the south end of John Moore Road. Plans call for a gated community named The Shoals. The developer plans 16 upscale homes constructed in a cul-de-sac format with no through-access to Bell Shoals Road.

YMCA and Bloomingtondale Little League park.

New traffic signal — Thanks to county Traffic Operations, the new traffic signal at the east entrance to Bloomingtondale High on Bloomingtondale Avenue is now active.

Crossing guards and bus drivers — there is a continuing need for both guards and drivers.

### Homeland Security

Support for troops — Support continues with the completion of Operation Yellow Ribbon and care packages

sent to troops.

Support law enforcement — All residents are asked to report suspicious persons, vehicles or activities.

Business Watch, Church Watch and Citizens Academy — information on these programs has been published and residents have been encouraged to participate.

### Growth & Construction

Bloomingtondale Avenue and John Moore Road — Closely monitoring next requests by developers.

South end of John Moore Road — Two major projects under construction.

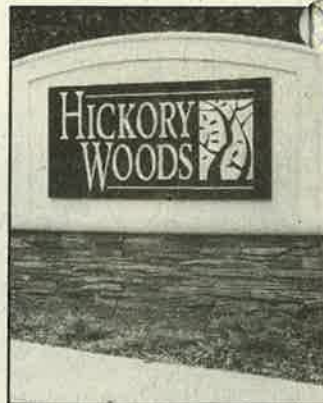
Property near Bloomingtondale High School — monitoring building.

Lithia-Pinecrest and Bloomingtondale Avenue intersection — changes coming.

Dog park — Possible site off Natures Way, working access off Springvale and coordination for Park Deputy on site.

### Security

Home burglaries, auto burglaries, vandalism — Sheriff's office monitors data and informs residents.



Construction is nearing completion on this subdivision south of Bloomingtondale Avenue on John Moore Road. The community council monitors new construction and increased traffic flow.

Mobile Watch — New, updated program in the works. More participation needed.

Neighborhood Watch — Increased participation needed.

Crime Stoppers — Support for law enforcement needed.

### Safety

Sidewalks — Coordination continues to complete sidewalks along Culbreath Road near Cimino Elementary School.

Car seat program — Active.

Sexual predator program — Close monitoring continues.

Fire stations — Monitoring county plans for additional stations.

School bomb threats — Continuing investigations; parental support needed.

### Library

Expansion — County approved expansion to 15,000 square feet.

Name — Closely monitoring decision.

### Legislation

The council continues to work with state Rep. Johnnie Byrd and his staff on critical legislative issues such as school budgets, growth transportation, homeland security and health care.

# Government Workers Honored By YMCA

By SHANNAN D. POWELL  
Correspondent

The Tampa Metro Area YMCAs are showing their appreciation for government employees throughout July. City, county and federal employees who have not joined yet the YMCA will be provided with a complimentary five-visit pass and a special offer.

As always, government employees also qualify for discounted membership fees. For more information on this opportunity call the Campo Family YMCA at 684-1371.

With summer most decidedly here, the Campo Family YMCA is offering several activities for kids of all ages.

shirts and trophies.

Registration runs July 7-27. The cost is \$45 for facility members and \$65 for program members. There will be a new parents orientation August 14 at 7 p.m.

There will be eight games played on Saturdays, with practices one night a week. For ages 6-17, the season will run August 6 to October 4. The season for ages 3-5 runs August 16 to September 20. For more information, contact Damon Dye at 684-1371.

### Teen Night and Midnight Basketball

July's event will be July 25, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., for ages 13-17. The cost is \$1 for members and \$5 for guests.

### Youth and Teen Fall Basketball League

Children 3-17 can register for the YMCA's basketball program, which focuses on skill development and competition. The program is run the "Y way," promoting teamwork and good sportsmanship while teaching rules, fundamentals and team dynamics. The season includes individual jersey t-

### Middle School Madness

The Campo YMCA will host Middle School Madness July 12 and Aug. 9 from 7 to 10 p.m. Middle schoolers will be able to dance with a DJ, try cosmic climbing and enjoy hanging out with friends. The Y will provide supervision, music, pizza, snack and fun. The cost is \$4 for members and \$6 for guests.

## Recycle Ink Cartridges At Community Office

A Gazette Report

Bloomingtondale residents who wish to recycle their spent computer ink cartridges to benefit our neighborhood schools are invited to use the collection box in the Bloomingtondale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

The office is at the rear of the SunTrust Bank/Citgo gas station just south of Bloomingtondale Avenue, and is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tina Pietrzyk, a Bloomingtondale resident and representative of A Smart Choice of

Florida recycling company, will collect the cartridges and issue checks to Bloomingtondale area public schools including Alafia Elementary, Cimino Elementary, Burns Middle and Bloomingtondale High, or the private school of your choice.

The most commonly used cartridges will yield from \$1 to \$7 each.

Residents can indicate the school they wish to contribute to by placing the cartridge in a baggie and marking it with the school name.

If you have questions about the recycling program, contact Pietrzyk at 625-9450.

### Youth in Government

YMCA Youth in Government is a program for all future senators, lobbyists, press corps, congressional representatives, state governors and presidents of the United States.

Participants will join a proactive speech and debate club that carries out all positions of legislature and United Nations in conferences at the capital in Tallahassee.

The Campo YMCA has two active clubs. One meets at Bloomingtondale High School and includes Bloomingtondale students.

The other meets at the Campo YMCA and includes members from other area high schools and home-schooled students.

The registration deadline is Sept. 15.

For more information, contact Shon Torgeson at 684-1371.

### July Calendar of Events

July 4 — Campo YMCA closed of Independence Day

July 7 — July Program session begins

July 7 — Fall basketball registration begins

July 10 — 6 p.m. Family Night

July 11 — 7:15 to 11 p.m. Parents Night Out

July 12 — 7 to 10 p.m. Middle School Madness

July 14 — Fitness Challenge begins

July 17 — 6 to 10 p.m. CPR class

July 18 — 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. (July 19) Lock-in/Sleepover

July 24 — 12 to 3 p.m. Young at Heart Potluck Lunch

July 24 — 6 to 10 p.m. First Aid Class

July 25 — 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Teen Night and Midnight Basketball

July 26 — 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Stroke Clinic (swimming ages 16 & older)

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## Dancers Cut A Rug At Campo Family YMCA

CHA-CHA, RUMBA,  
FOX TROT, WALTZ!

By SHANNAN D. POWELL  
Correspondent

Triple-step, triple-step, rock step.

Tonight's lesson: An eight-count, three-step swing.

Seven couples and four instructors cover the floor at the Campo Family YMCA during Walter Hardy's Ballroom Dancing class. Held on Friday evenings, 7-8 p.m. for advanced students and 8-9 p.m. for beginners, the class allows its students the opportunity to conquer their fears on the dance floor.

According to Hardy, a Bloomingdale resident, dancing gives people confidence in social settings, as well as providing couples the opportunities to spend time together and exercise at the same time.

"Think of all the people who have been to bar mitzvahs or weddings or cruises and not known how to dance," said Hardy. "It helps to build up confidence, and it gets couples out together. The most important thing of all, is it's fun."

Hardy has been ballroom dancing for about 20 years. He has been a certified instructor for Fred Astaire and Arthur Murray, and even owned his own independent studio for three years in Georgia.

When he moved to Florida several years ago, Hardy ventured into advertising, but worked part-time at Fred Astaire and started the Dance Club at Nativity Catholic Church. Currently, he is a senior account executive for WEDU, but manages to fit in two weekly classes at the YMCA.

When Hardy began teaching at the Campo Y a year ago, it was at the request of friend and co-founder of the Nativity Dance Club, Chuck



Bloomingdale resident Walter Hardy cuts a rug with co-instructor Helen Watson during the advanced class at the Campo Family YMCA, while students Brian Bingaman and Cheri McLeod work on the day's lesson in the background.

Schramm. At first, he taught just a six-week beginners class, but it proved popular. With couples returning for more and more sessions, Hardy decided to add an advanced class.

Now, with the help of Schramm and his wife Corrine, Hardy's wife Martha and fellow instructor Helen Watson, the classes have gone out to test their moves at dance clubs, and sometimes even meet for practice at each others' homes.

"We're like a club within the YMCA," said Hardy, who added that the Y is a perfect place to learn to dance.

"It's the perfect environment," Hardy said.

Brian Bingaman and Cheri McLeod have been dancing for a year.

"When we first started dating, we became interesting in ballroom dancing," said Bingaman. "I ran into Walt and he encouraged us to sign

up and try it out."

Though it took several tries to move to the advanced class, Bingaman and McLeod are having a lot of fun.

The YMCA and Hardy prefer to see couples join, though singles are allowed. But getting couples is not as easy as it sounds. Hardy said it is usually more difficult to convince men to take ballroom dance classes.

"Once they get out there, though, they love it more than the women," Hardy said.

One drawback for men trying ballroom for the first time is muscle stiffness. According to Hardy, as men age they become stiffer from their knees to their ribs. Though using muscles they haven't used in a long time causes a little discomfort in the beginning, soon they start loosening up.

Hardy focuses on teaching mainstay dances like the cha-

cha, rumba, fox trot, waltz, swing, mambo and Argentinean Mambo. The most popular seems to be swing.

"A lot of those dances, contrary to popular belief, are night club dancing," said Hardy, as long as the beats per measure match up.

"You don't need a big dance floor to rumba or waltz. You can do these dances in any setting."

"These dances have stayed in the mainstream. I did the mashed potato and the hustle, but those fad things fall by the wayside."

The next session of ballroom dancing begins July 11. Classes, for ages 18 and up, cost \$5 per class per person, and half price for a partner. To participate in the advanced classes, students must be recommended by the teacher. More information about Ballroom Dance is available by calling 684-1371.

SHANNAN D. POWELL/Photo

## Pottery Patch Offers Creative Kids Camps

ADULTS, PARTIES  
ALSO WELCOMED

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

How many summer camps do you go to and actually bring home a one of a kind masterpiece? Well, you can at The Pottery Patch.

Throughout the summer, kids ages 6 to 14 can spend a day or two, or even the entire summer, creating a different themed project. Camp sessions are from 10:30 to 12:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except for July 8 and July 10. Owner Wendy Pettys has planned a broad range of workshops that will have kids painting everything from lamps, to clocks, to their very own set of dishes.

The Pottery Patch opened this past November in the new Kash n' Karry shopping center on Brandon Boulevard East. Pettys had dreamed of opening her own pottery painting business, and found that Brandon didn't have anything like it.

"We aren't like other studios. There is no hidden studio fee, and the price is all



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Putting finishing touches on their pottery clocks are, from the left, Alex Kerr, Andy Kerr, Brittany Carver, Anna Williams, Katie Norris, Meghan Brooks, Wendy Pettys, Lauren Brooks, Kaitlin Denning, Casey Walters, Summer Wilson, and Cailin Hasson.

inclusive."

Shelves line the studio filled with potential projects, so even the most unskilled painter can create a work of art.

Pettys and her staff aid in the process, but creative license belongs to the painter.

There are idea books to help spur the imagination, as well as stamps, stencils and sponges for those who choose

to use them. With a wide variety of colors available, and the broad selection of pottery, you can create a unique piece that will be

The Pottery Patch is at 2551 State Road 60 E. For information, call 643-0014.

## La Leche League Welcomes Babies, Dads

A Gazette Report

The Brandon La Leche League, a nonsectarian mothers' group that meets to discuss breastfeeding and parenting, welcomes all parents, prospective parents and healthy babies to its monthly meetings.

The evening group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. in the community room of

Morris Chiropractic Center, 207 Kingsway Road. The next evening meeting is July 9.

The daytime group meets the third Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon in the Family Life Center of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on Bloomingdale Avenue and Bryan Road. The next daytime meeting is July 16.

For information, call 932-3664.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE  
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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE





Bloomington resident and artist Denise Brooks pleases patrons by painting anything "Under the Sun."

LESLIE WHITE/Photo

## Bloomington Artists Decks The Walls

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

Denise Brooks paints anything under the sun. And that's not just her talent; it's also the name of her business — "Under the Sun."

With a degree in Commercial Art and Advertising from Tampa Technical Institute, Brooks has the skill to back her creative mind. After working in the field of advertising, Brooks took some time off to raise her daughters. Under the Sun came to be when more and more people started coming to Brooks to paint wall murals.

It started with friends' kids' rooms here and there, until this past year when her mom, who volunteers at Brandon Regional Hospital, encouraged her to put her bid

in for the mural in the hospital's pediatric wing at. In February, Brooks was chosen from among all the entrants to create a vibrant safari/rainforest themed mural covering six panels, each measuring 13 by 4 feet.

Brooks says of her work, "Wall murals are really popular right now. Most people have an idea already of what they want. Sometimes they've seen something I've done and want the same thing."

Aside from placing her artistic skills on the wall, Brooks has painted glass bottles, tile, faux finishes and stained glass. She's currently helping design Cimino Elementary's 2003-04 Spirit Shirts.

Burns Middle School has also commissioned her to do

an ink rendering of their school that they'll use on note cards, stationary, or anything else that comes to mind.

The principal at Burns saw Brooks' ink rendering of Cimino Elementary on the dedication invitation and tracked her down, saying that she'd been looking for someone to do the same for their school, but didn't know whom to call.

When asked why the murals are a much sought-after decorating trend, Brooks replied, "People are thinking more about their houses now, and making them a home. They're making it more cozy."

She's even painted the tile surrounding a garden tub.

Nothing is off limits. When a homeowner calls Brooks

wanting a mural, Brooks takes the time to visit the home, and take in their color scheme and their style.

With everyone knowing specifically what they have in mind, she does a sketch to scale on paper using watercolors, giving guidance on color choices when necessary.

"I believe that you should see it visually before it goes on the wall."

Homeowners then get a realistic idea of what the finished mural will look like, and at that point any revisions are made. For a large wall mural, Brooks might devote up to 30 hours or more.

And for that time, she feels like she's part of their family.

To make an appointment with Brooks, call 601-5216.

## Brandon Singles Offers Fun, Friendships

By CHRIS TUCKER  
President, Brandon Singles  
Special to the Gazette

Brandon Singles is a group for fun loving singles who want to meet other singles through planned activities.

A non-profit, member supported and run group, Brandon Singles was formed by a River Hills Realtor named Cookie Stevens. Originally called Activities Unlimited, the name was changed to Brandon Singles this year.

The name change, overwhelmingly approved by the membership, was to make it easier to find us while doing a computer search. And, since over 125 of our 140 members are single, and we live in Brandon, the name was a no-brainer.

Unlike some singles groups, we do not kick members out if they meet someone. On the contrary, we are proud of all the couples that we've met in our group. We're even more proud of the lasting friendships that have sprung from this group.

Many of us didn't like the bars, gyms, dating services, or other "meet markets." Some of us tried church singles groups, but found them to be little more than church on a weeknight.

Some have tried computer



Photo courtesy Brandon Singles

One activity some Brandon Singles members enjoy is tubing down the Alafia River. Members can pick and choose from a variety of monthly activities.

dating and other avenues to meet new people. Most of us are just looking to hang out, and have friends to do things with. Doing things by yourself isn't much fun.

Our Web site, www.BrandonSingles.com, features an online calendar with upcoming events for the month. These events are entirely member sponsored.

We always have four planned happy-hour mixers at bars and restaurants in the Brandon area every Friday, and a singles house party every month in a mem-

ber's home.

We go camping, canoeing, boating, fishing, have picnics, go on weekend trips, beach outings, poetry reading,

board games night, etc. Any activity a member wants to do, we will do it!

The more members we have, the greater diversity of things to do.

We are comprised of fun loving member in their 30s, 40s, and 50s.

Since we are member supported and non-profit, our annual dues are only \$25.

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of every month in the comedy club room of Brandon Brew House, on the corner of Lumsden Road and Kings Avenue in Brandon, where we plan our events for the next month. The social hour starts at 6 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7.

There is no obligation to join, and we encourage people to attend one of our events for free to check it out! For more information visit our Web site or call 655-8777.



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MACK AUSTIN/Photo

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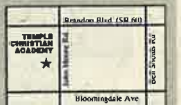
Just when you thought you'd have to drive nearly two miles (gasp!) to get to the nearest drug store, your problem is solved. With the recent opening of this new Walgreens drug store on Boyette Road, the Bloomington community now has two pharmacies at both ends of Bell Shoals Road.

### TEMPLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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## Scrapbooks Preserve Memories, Family Time

WORKSHOPS SET  
FOR JULY 11, 25

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

With all the summer activities going on — family vacations, summer camps, reunions, beach trips galore — it's hard to remember all the details unless you capture them in photographs. One Valrico mom has a great idea for how to organize those pictures and create a special scrapbook that will tell the story of your family's summer.

Denise Dittfeld is a full time mom, a full time RN for the past 16 years, and recently became a part time Creative Memories consultant.

Dittfeld said she got started in Creative Memories when she realized how important it was for families to preserve their time and thoughts for the future.

"As busy as we are, we take our family time for granted," Dittfeld said.

"This is such a nice way to slow down and cherish the times we've spent together as a family."



Denise Dittfeld shares a special birthday album she designed for her son, David.

Many of us take countless pictures of various activities, yet years later forget the special and funny things that happened that might not have made it into the picture. That's something scrap booking solves by blending the pictures with journaling, so that the end result is a storybook of your family's memories, complete with a personal narration via hand-written storytelling.

"It's really cool," says Dittfeld, "to watch your husband's and kids' faces light up when they relive these memories." That's what gave her the idea to host two separate workshops this summer; the first a Patriotic theme where you can take your Fourth of July photos and organize them into a 7 by 7 scrapbook with stars and stripes on the cover; the second a beach theme that encases pictures in the same size scrapbook with a summer-scene cover.

mer-scene cover.

Both albums are special edition Creative Memories albums and will only be available for a short time. With all the military families in Bloomingdale, many of whom have someone deployed, the patriotic themed album can take on significant meaning this year.

Dates are tentatively set for July 11 and July 25. Participants pay one price for the album, instruction and access to multiple cutting tools, stickers and paper to help enhance the look of the scrapbook. About 30 to 50 pictures can be brought from home and cropped at the workshop. Each person will go home with a completed themed 7-by-7 Sentiments album.

"This is a great thing to do with the kids in your downtime," says Dittfeld.

"And if you're just starting out, it's easier to get your thoughts organized and something produced if you're focused." For more information on creating your own patriotic or beach themed album, email Dittfeld at ditttrn@aol.com.

### Shoppes at Lithia Taking Shape

Now that Lithia Crossings is near completion, construction across Lithia-Pinecrest Road is progressing. New businesses are beginning to appear in the new Shoppes at Lithia plaza, including a new Bank of America.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

## Restaurant Review

# 902 East Serves Up Great Food, Service

By ELTON DUMONT  
Exclusive to the Gazette

Rating, based on 5 stars:  
Food ★★★★★  
Service ★★★★★  
Ambience ★★★★★  
Overall ★★★★★ 1/2

I've been in the area long enough to remember when the restaurant at 902 E. Brandon Boulevard was called "The TownHouse."

My earliest recollection is 1986, and from then until now, this location has had six or more names and cuisine changes.

The difference with its latest reincarnation — aptly named 902 East — is the wonderful service, decor and quality. New owner David Chapdelaine has experience in the TGI Fridays chain and also has a Davis Island tery named 220 East.

Capdelaine's 902 menu says it all, and it's all true: "From-scratch cooking served in a friendly and casual environment at reasonable prices."

We stopped in for dinner recently and were immediately impressed at the investment the owner made in ren-

ovating the interior. It has the warm, casual atmosphere today's diners are looking for in an informal setting.

Appetizers start with Tuna Sashimi, sushi tuna rolled in sesame seeds and pan seared in sesame oil. It is served with ginger, wasabi and soy sauce. Other appetizers include Chinese dumplings called Pot Stickers (\$5.95), fried calamari (\$5.95), crab stuffed mushrooms (\$6.25), or baked brie (\$7.50).

We passed on the appetizers, but I decided on a cup of French onion soup (\$2.95), which was quite good with croutons and baked provolone cheese.

My wife chose a "Make your own" pasta entree. She had to decide between penne, bow ties and fettuccine, topped with either marinara, Alfredo or garlic and olive oil sauce. The winner? Penne with Alfredo and grilled chicken for \$10.75.

As I scanned the entree offerings, the Shrimp Hawaiian with pineapple slices and wrapped in bacon (\$15.25), the fresh salmon filet sautéed in white wine with lemon and butter (\$14.95) and the Steak Al Forno New York strip with

garlic and rosemary (\$17.95) looked particularly appetizing.

Although I'm not a big a mushroom fan, I selected the Earth and Turf (\$13.95). This was a charbroiled chicken breast with a grilled portabella mushroom, red and green peppers, zucchini, yellow squash and covered with a roasted pepper sauce. It was colorful and delightfully tasty. And I must comment that the wine list with more than 70 selections is quite respectable.

Homemade desserts include key lime pie, tiramisu, chocolate velvet cake and Three Berry Shortcake ala mode. They range from \$1.50 to \$4.25. We selected the upside down apple pie ala mode with two forks.

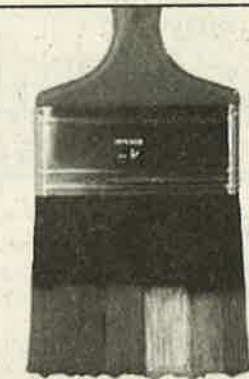
The lunch menu includes

quiche (\$6.50), fish and chips (\$6.95) and an ample sandwich board featuring anything from the old-fashioned burger (\$5.95) to the Blue Moo half-pounder with bleu cheese crumbles (\$6.95) and the sirloin steak char grilled (\$7.50).

902 East is open six days a week from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., closing at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. They are closed on Sundays. An interesting part of their menu is the Sunset Specials served from 3 to 6 p.m. And yes, they do offer a children's menu.

Our total bill before gratuity was around \$35. We went extra on the tip because of the good service we received. 902 East is definitely a top candidate to visit again and again.

For information, call 653-1902.



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## SCHOOL

From page 7

other programs.

From a policymaker's perspective, as the number of student achievement continues to rise, the number of schools eligible for the Recognition

Program will require additional dollars and school boards will have less discretion to use those dollars on other needed programs, such as raises for our employees. This will most likely become a peppery political issue for

the 2004 Legislature, as dollars for programs are further stretched.

For more information on school grades and education legislation, contact the Public Affairs Office at 272-4602.

Editor's Note: In accordance with Hillsborough County School District policy, Cimino Elementary School will be graded after its second year of operation, the 2003-04 school year.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE  
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



# Garage Doors Can Be Dangerous

By MACK AUSTIN

One of the most frequently used yet overlooked items in our homes is the garage door.

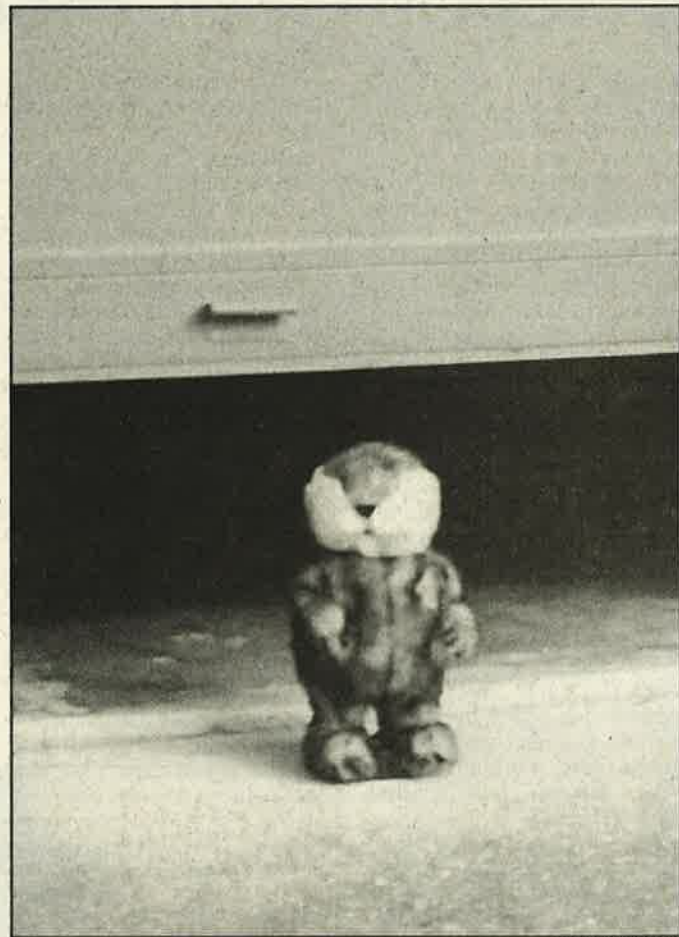
The garage door is in fact the largest and heaviest moving object in our homes, most weighing in excess of 400 pounds. They hang over our heads, our children's heads and our expensive vehicles. Most people do not take the time to insure that their garage door and openers are working properly and safely.

Automatic garage doors are safe, reliable and convenient. But without proper maintenance, and when used carelessly, they can result in tragedy. According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, at least 68 children have died from accidents involving electronically operated garage doors since 1973. In 1994 alone, the CPSC estimated that there were approximately 20,000 injuries related to garage doors and openers.

Garage doors must be used properly and maintained regularly. The following are some do's and don'ts that can prevent injuries or death:

### Garage Door Do's:

- ♦ Respect the power of your garage door and opener. They are potentially dangerous.
- ♦ Remove all ropes, hooks and other items from the



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

tracks of your door. These can catch on a child's clothing or pet's collar, causing serious injury.

- ♦ Disable the lock on the garage door if it has a door

opener. This will prevent damage or injury caused by someone accidentally locking the door and then trying to use the opener.

- ♦ Keep all fingers and

Garage doors are an essential part of our homes, but they also can be very dangerous (no stuffed animals were harmed during this demonstration).

hands away from the garage door section joints when lifting or lowering the door, or while it's moving.

- ♦ Read the garage door and opener owner's manuals and file them for future reference.

♦ Know how to disengage your automatic garage door opener in case of an emergency.

♦ Wait until the door has stopped before proceeding into or out of the garage.

♦ Be sure all the proper warning labels are installed in the correct location.

♦ Test the door's automatic reverse setting and adjust as required.

♦ Replace your pre-1993 garage door opener with the newer type that have non-contact infrared safety sensors that are U.L. listed.

♦ Properly maintain the door's tracks by lubricating or have a professional service the door and tracks.

### Garage Door Don'ts

♦ Do not allow children or teens to play games with the door.

♦ Don't adjust or replace the door springs, cables or other hardware yourself.

♦ Don't open or close your automatic garage door if it is out of your sight.

# Doggie Doos ... and Don'ts

PAPER OR PLASTIC?

By JOE HICKLE  
BHA Director

Keeping Bloomingdale beautiful is a goal we all share. The Homeowners Association's PRIDE program is founded in that. If you own a dog (I have two), you can do your part at a very basic ground level, literally.

Buying those "Mutt Mitts"

plastic bags is expensive. I got to thinking about the "paper or plastic" question you probably hear weekly at the grocery store. Those plastic grocery bags work great to pick up after your dog.

So when you hear "paper or plastic," think of it as a free way to help keep Bloomingdale beautiful. Your neighbors will love you, and you won't have to look embarrassed when your dog ... does what dogs do!



Photo courtesy Joe H

Freeway loves to play in the grass and go for walks, and when he does, his owners are sure to tuck a plastic grocery bag in their back pocket before they leave the house.

# Church Offers Summer Concert Series

NEXT CONCERT IS JULY 12

A Gazette Report

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church will host a Saturday night outdoor concert series in July that kicked off Saturday, July 5 with a family barbecue and an evening of fun and music provided by the St. Andrew's Youth Praise Band and DownHome Sounds, a local bluegrass band.

In a celebration of Methodist unity, the free concert series will continue each Saturday night in July with music from 6 to 8 p.m. Each concert will feature a different music group from various area churches.

On July 12, music will be provided by the praise band of Grace United Methodist Church. Then on July 19, the Youth Praise Band of Riverview United Methodist Church will get things started, and the St. Andrew's Praise Band will keep the music coming for the remainder of the evening. On July 29, the praise band from Brandon First United Methodist Church closes the concert series with their performance. Food and soft



Photo courtesy Cheryl Kehrmeyer

Saturday night outdoor concerts through July 29 are free and open to the public at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church.

drinks will be available for purchase at the concerts.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church is at Bloomingdale Avenue and Bryan Road. For more information, contact Barbara Herr at 689-6849, Ext. 205, or visit the church's Web site — [www.standrewsbrandon.org](http://www.standrewsbrandon.org)

## MINUTES

From page 5

botham and Hayes, passed out the May financials. The total assessment for 2003 was \$373,360. As of May, collections were \$346,373. That left a shortfall of \$26,987. The taxing district will contact the county tax collector to see if they can offer an explanation about the shortfall.

The fiscal year 2004 budget was discussed next. With the approved assessment set at \$100 per household, the district voted to accept 475,200 as the total assessment. Line items passed in the budget include renovating the Greenhollow Entry Way at \$46,000, and putting

in a new section of irrigation for \$17,502. Other major expenditures included lawn maintenance — \$137,000; landscape maintenance — \$24,000; fertilization — \$21,000; wall and general repairs — \$8,500; and pressure washing — \$6,500. The total for operating expenses and capital outlay is \$430,782.

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Bloomingdale community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 684-6667.

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# Daughters Don Hats, Raise Funds

A Gazette Report

Junior members of the Alafia River Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution chapter hosted a "Hats Off to Juniors" High Tea May 24 at the Tampa Club in downtown Tampa to raise funds for their projects.

Thirty-five guests attended and were entertained by the members, ages 18 to 40, who modeled vintage hats.

Chairman Dolly Brown and her assistant, Leigh Anne Brown, created colorful spring flowered wreaths for table decorations and displays of vintage hats. The serving tables were laden with hot and cold teas, scones, sweets, clotted cream, and other delightful treats.

Dr. Mary Standaert, chapter regent, greeted those in attendance, and Elizabeth McNair, chapter vice regent, gave the prayer. Ms. Dolly Brown introduced guests and



Members of the Alafia River Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution hosted a "Hats Off to Juniors" tea in May. Photo courtesy Nell Trull/DAR

served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

A large basket of spa items was awarded to Mrs. Beth Walz for wearing the hat chosen as best of the day. Her

husband had visited Paris and returned with this gift to his wife, a large, sheer-brimmed spring-colored face-adorning hat.

The young women will use

their funds to assist with their participation in the Brandon Fourth of July parade, where the theme will be red, white and blue patriotism.

# Bloomingtondale's Barnes Tours USS Enterprise

By JOE LIGUORI

John Barnes, a Bloomingtondale resident and retired Navy senior chief petty officer spent Fathers Day visiting family in the Norfolk, Va., area, where he also toured the USS Enterprise — one of the Navy's nuclear powered aircraft carriers.

Barnes said there were a large number of ships at the Norfolk Naval Base, including four carriers. The Enterprise, also known as "The City," returned recently from the Persian Gulf.

According to the bio on the Enterprise, the total crew with the air wing is more



This photo of the USS Enterprise was taken from the ship's bridge. Photo courtesy John Barnes

than 5,000. Of the 3,000 sailors, there are more than 200 officers and 170 chiefs. There are about 70 aircraft on deck, and the total operat-

ing budget exceeds \$50 million, with the annual payroll close to \$6 million.

While deployed, the Enterprise serves 11,300 meals

daily. There is enough electricity generated to power Minneapolis. The ship's store sells \$3 million worth of items each year, while the laundry cleans 8,400 pounds per day.

When measured in horsepower, the Enterprise has more than 280,000. There are two anchors weighing 30 tons each; four propellers and four rudders.

It is powered by eight nuclear reactors, has four catapults for launching aircraft. The flight deck covers 4.47 acres.

As Barnes and his wife Ona said, "There were a lot of stairs and a lot of decks!"

Say you saw it in  
The Bloomingtondale Gazette

## Commentary

# How To Straighten Up And Fly Right

By MACK AUSTIN

For many people, the war in Iraq is all but over. No constant coverage, no interruptions of TV programming to bring us live events, and no detailed interviews with embedded reporters.

But for those who remain in harm's way and their families and friends, the war is far from over. To date, more than 40 U.S. soldiers have been killed since the war was declared over.

This means that until every U.S. soldier, sailor, airman, Marine and Coast Guard member is home safely, they need our support. One way we show our support is by proudly flying our colors, displaying them properly and with respect.

The fundamental rule of flag etiquette is to treat all flags with respect and common sense, in accordance with a few simple rules.

The Stars and Stripes take precedence over all other



MACK AUSTIN/Photo  
Let's fly the Stars and Stripes with respect, and keep our troops and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

flags when flown in the United States. It should not be flown lower than any other flag, nor should it be smaller than any other flag flown with it.

When different flags are displayed or flown together, the point of honor is on the extreme left when observed from the front or the flag's right. The Stars and Stripes should be the first flag on the

left. The Stars and Stripes can be flown at night but it must be well lit.

No flag should be flown during weather that might damage it, although there are some "all-weather" flags. Just use common sense.

When a flag no longer has a dignified appearance or cannot be repaired it should be properly destroyed in a dignified way - burned or sealed in a box or bag before being disposed of. Organizations such as the VFW and Boy Scouts will also render proper courtesies and dispose of flags.

The "canton" of the flag (the blue field with the 50 stars) should always be to the observer's left, except when displayed on a casket, when displayed as a decal on the right side of a vehicle or when

worn as a patch on the right arm. However, use on the left arm is preferable.

It is not illegal or improper to fly any flag alone, but it is always preferable to display the Stars and Stripes at the same time.

A salute (hand over the heart for those not in uniform) should be rendered when the flag is raised, lowered or carried by during a parade, when the Pledge of Allegiance is recited and when the national anthem is played, unless the flag is not present.

Lastly, with all the patriotic items for sale these days, folks should consider the traditional rule that when red, white and blue form the pattern of the Stars and Stripes, they should be flying with respect, not worn as clothing or other personal items.

## EDITOR

From page 3

for many who will miss you and miss reading your articles in the Gazette and The Brandon News. Best wishes to you and your family."

— Jennifer Faliero,  
Hillsborough County  
School Board, District IV

"Working with Laura has been great. I always thought she was a great investigative reporter. She always asked the right questions. She did good things for the community, and got into issues of real concern to people. She was pretty impartial, though she kept the community's interest at heart. We're going to miss her."

— Deputy Pete Maurer,  
Bloomingtondale Community  
Substation

"The time I have worked

with Laura, although brief, has been a pleasure. She has been professional, knowledgeable and helpful, even commiserating with me on the challenges of writing from home. Thank you, Laura, and don't loose your fuzzy slippers in the move!"

— Shannan Powell,  
Gazette correspondent

"Thank you, Laura, for the chance to write for the Bloomingtondale Gazette. You opened the door for me, and encouraged me all along the way with your contagious enthusiasm. And though we've only worked together for a short time, your presence will be missed. Best of luck to you and your family in your move."

— Leslie White, Gazette  
correspondent

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1425 Monte Lake Dr .....	\$174,900
4410 Swift Cr .....	\$265,000

### Homes Recently Sold In Bloomingtondale

1228 Carrie Wood Dr .....	\$160,000
1406 Buckner Rd .....	\$181,000
3805 Scovill Ln .....	\$183,500
4320 Swift Cr .....	\$250,000

  
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# Campo YMCA Club Fits The Bill

By D'ANN WHITE

In this club, arguing is no problem. In fact, it's encouraged.

Students learn to write, review and debate bills in realistic legislative settings in the Campo Family YMCA Youth in Government club.

Club members recently returned from the national conference in North Carolina after walking away with 22 awards at the state conference in Tallahassee in February.

In addition to the awards, club President Jon Doozan was appointed to be a senior justice in the mock Supreme Court for the Florida conference. And member David McEachnie was elected pro tem of the House.

The YMCA's Youth in Government program has been around since the 1930s. The program was brought to Florida in 1957 to allow high school students to participate in the democratic process by acting as model legislators, judges, attorneys, lobbyists and members of the press corps.

Valrico mother of seven and club sponsor, Tammy Valentine, was among those who got involved in the program as a teen and later brought the program to the Campo Family YMCA when it opened two years ago and serves as its sponsor.

Today, the Campo club has about 35 members, all home-schooled students although the club is open to any high school student. Club leader Shon Torgeson is in the process of starting a club for middle school students and also leads a club at Bloomingdale High School, the only high school in east Hillsborough County to have a Youth in Government club.

Following strict parliamentary procedure, the Campo club meets the second Tuesday of the month at the YMCA at 7 p.m.

There, club members host



From left, Campo Family YMCA Youth in Government club members attending the national conference included, from left, Jon Doozan, Kathryn Valentine, David McEachnie, Lauren Valentine and Alex Shoucair.

guest speakers, including state and local politicians, discuss legislation they're writing in the hopes of taking it to the state conference and practice debating the pros and cons of an argument.

It's a commitment they don't take lightly.

"At the meetings, we conduct business just as a real government committee would," said Doozan. "We take minutes and follow Robert's Rules of Order."

Outside the meeting room, members are equally committed. They comb through newspapers, television programs and the Internet to research the bills they're writing and then amend them repeatedly based on comments from fellow club members.

"You have to do a lot of research and be prepared for anything when you debate," said Lauren Valentine, 16.

Five Campo club members, part of a 25-member Florida delegation, attended the Conference on National Affairs, held at the YMCA Blue Ridge Retreat Center in North Carolina, and had an opportunity to meet hundreds of other students from 32 states, review bills and participate in more heated debates.

"That was the best part — meeting people from around the country," said Doozan.

"It's a week long (as opposed to the weekend state conference) so you actually have time to get to know people, to hear their views," said Kathryn Valentine, 14. "It's very exciting."

"It's exhilarating," said Alex Shoucair, 15, who qualified to attend the national conference by being named best statesman at the state conference.

"Everyone's very passionate about what they're work-

ing on."

Whether they decide to go into politics or not, the students say the Youth in Government experience has been invaluable.

"I'm glad I've been involved in this," said Lauren. "I used to be such a shy speaker. It's really a growing experience."

"It's something that will serve you the rest of your life in your personal relationship and the business world," said Kathryn.

Other members representing Campo at the state conference were: Zach Albaugh, Joe Bingham, Brenna Burkhardt, Shea Cooney, Zac Flowerree, Tim Hoskins, Jessica Lynes, Kylee Morgan, Anthony Reysen, Mandy Schwalm and Alex Shoucair.

For information on the Youth in Government club or on the new club for middle school students, call Torgeson at 684-1371.

## YMCA NEWS

### Middle school madness

The Campo YMCA will host Middle School Madness Aug. 9 from 7 to 10 p.m. Middle schoolers will be able to dance to music provided by a DJ, try cosmic climbing and hang out with friends. The Y will provide supervision, music, pizza and snacks. The cost is \$4 for members and \$6 for guests.

### Youth in government

YMCA Youth in Government is a program for all future senators, lobbyists, press corps, congressional representatives, state govern-

ors and presidents of the United States. Participants will join a proactive speech and debate club that carries out all positions of the Legislature and United Nations in conferences at the capital in Tallahassee.

The Campo YMCA has two active clubs. One meets at Bloomingdale High School and includes Bloomingdale students. The other meets at the Campo YMCA and includes members from other area high schools and home-schooled students.

The registration deadline is Sept. 15. For more information, contact Shon Torgeson at 684-1371.

## Immunizations Required

### News Report

Hillsborough County Superintendent of Schools Carl Lennard is encouraging parents to have their children immunized as required by the state before school starts Aug. 6.

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade who are making their initial entry into a Florida school must present a record of a physical examination completed within the last 12 months. For students entering kindergarten, first and second grades, the immunization record must show that the student has met the following minimal state requirements:

- 5 DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus)
- 4 Polio
- 2 MMR (measles, mumps rubella)
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Chickenpox vaccine or have had the disease

For students entering third, fourth and fifth grades, the immunization record must show that the student has met the following minimal state requirements:

- 5 DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus)
- 4 Polio

- 2 MMR (measles, mumps rubella)
- 3 Hepatitis B

For students entering sixth grade, the immunization record must show that the student has met the following minimal state requirements:

- 5 DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus)
- 4 Polio
- 2 MMR (measles, mumps rubella)

For students entering seventh through 12th grades, the record must show that the student has met the following minimal state requirements:

- 5 DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus)
- 4 Polio
- 2 MMR (measles, mumps rubella)
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Td booster (tetanus, diphtheria)

Immunizations are provided free of charge. Contact your physician or the Hillsborough County Health Department. All Health Department Clinics are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call the district's Student Health Services office at 273-7020.



Photo by SHAWN YEBBA

Major contributors to the recently concluded YMCA Annual Giving Campaign recently gathered to celebrate the campaign's success at the Campo YMCA. The YMCA marked the occasion by unveiling a plaque for its Benefactors Club, those donating \$5,000 or more to the campaign each year. The largest donation of \$12,000 came from Apex Mortgage president, Roy Williams. JCPenney, the Seffner Women's Council, Cargill and Brandon Regional Hospital all donated \$5,000. From left are Pat McGruder of Nationwide Insurance and the Seffner Women's Council, Susan Saunders of Brandon Regional Hospital, Jack Bailey from JCPenney's, Christine Smith of Cargill and Star Amick of Brandon Regional Hospital. Not pictured are Roy Williams of Apex Mortgage and Arlene Waldron of BankAtlantic and the Seffner Women's Council.

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**PRIDE**

From page 11

ity, electronics or hazardous waste such as paint, household chemicals, batteries and propane tanks. (See article on county collection dates for these items.)

We will implement the Neighborhood PRIDE Program in the following neighborhoods — almost 1,000 residences — and we still need volunteers to help.

If you live in these areas, we look forward to hearing from you and helping you. Call the BHA office at 681-2051 or e-mail us at [Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net](mailto:Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net)

**Section A**

BRIARPARK WAY  
CASABA LOOP  
GREENFORD STREET  
GREENROCK PLACE  
GREENSTONE PLACE  
ORANGECREST STREET  
ORANGEPOINTE ROAD  
SAND PEBBLE DRIVE

**Section B**

BRIARLAKE DRIVE  
EASTRIDGE DRIVE  
GREENMARK LANE

**PRIDE Good Neighbor Tip**

As the new school year starts, remind your children not to litter as they wait for their school bus. Remember, "every litter bit hurts" our community.

HIGHGROVE COURT  
ORANGEFIELD PLACE

**Section C3 and 4**  
CALIENTE DRIVE  
FORTUNA DRIVE

**Section E**  
BLOOMINGFIELD DRIVE (#s 606 to 714)

CLOVERHILL COURT  
OAKMOSS DRIVE  
SHADY NOOK DRIVE  
SWEETLEAF COURT  
WINDTREE COURT

**Section I**  
BRINTON COURT  
CANOGA PARK DRIVE (Even #s 4102 to 4126)

CURRAN COURT  
KERLIEN PLACE  
SANDY CREEK DRIVE (#s 623 to 657)  
TYNDALE DRIVE

**Section J and K**

KALEWOOD PLACE  
KANTREL PLACE  
KENTFIELD PLACE  
KINGSFORD PLACE  
KIRKMONT PLACE  
KITMORE PLACE  
KNOBCREST PLACE  
MURRAY DALE DRIVE  
PEACHFIELD DRIVE

**Erin Arbor (Section JJ)**

COLUSA LANE  
ELK RIDGE LANE  
SEQUOIA WAY  
SPRINGVILLE DRIVE  
WARMSRING WAY

**Heritage Park (Section LL)**

CLARESIDE DRIVE  
SIENA WAY

This month, the BHA will be mailing letters to every residence in these selected

neighborhoods, providing more details on the Neighborhood PRIDE program. Also, we invite you to attend our August PRIDE Committee meeting so you can see how the BHA and you can work together to help your neighborhood. (We will provide each Neighborhood PRIDE team captain with a PRIDE Resource Manual that includes tips and ideas on forming a team, organizing volunteers and implementing neighborhood-based community improvement projects. Additionally, we will talk about being good neighbors, deed restrictions and county code compliance.)

Volunteers are still needed. For more information on the Neighborhood PRIDE Program, including meetings scheduled, call the BHA office at 681-2051 (or send e-mails to [Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net](mailto:Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net) Attention: PRIDE coordinator). We look forward to hearing from you, and helping you improve your neighborhood.

**SAFETY**

From page 11

and solvents, automotive products, household cleaners, pool chemicals, lawn and garden supplies, other toxic items found in the home and garden.

Unacceptable items (not limited to the following): explosives, smoke detectors, radioactive or bio-medical material, commercial/business-related material.

Sheldon Road Collection Site  
9805 Sheldon Road (North Maintenance Unit)  
First Saturday of each month

South County Collection Site

13000 U.S. 41 south, quarter mile north of Big Bend Road  
Second Saturday of each month

East County Collection Site  
County Road 579, quarter mile north of Interstate 4, Exit 10  
Third Saturday of each month

Household electronics collections (no household chemicals will be accepted)  
Limit: five items

East County Collection Site  
County Road 579, quarter mile north of Interstate 4, Exit 10

Saturday, Oct. 25

Acceptable materials include: televisions, VCRs, computers (CPUs, laptops, monitors, keyboards, hard drives, printers), microwaves, cell phones, power supplies, other small household appliances.

For more information, call the county at 272-5680 or visit the Hillsborough County Web site at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/solidwaste/chemical.html](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/solidwaste/chemical.html) or [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/solidwaste/cesqg.html](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/solidwaste/cesqg.html) for commercial/business hazardous waste collections.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN  
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

**Commission To Host Town Meeting**

**News Report**

Hillsborough County commissioners will head to the mall next month as they take their next Town Hall meeting to an unusual location - a Shoppingtown.

The meeting, which will offer residents an open-mike forum to ask questions about county services and voice their concerns about community issues, is scheduled Aug. 7 at Westfield Shoppingtown Brandon.

The Town Hall meetings, which also feature displays by county departments and are attended by staff who can

answer questions on the spot, are held quarterly at locations across the county. Typically, they're held in community centers and school auditoriums and cafeterias. This is the first time one has been held in a shopping mall.

Communications Department Director Mike Foerster said the meeting is being held at the invitation of the mall, and that employees there are going out of their way to ensure the event will be a success.

"It's something new we're going to try," he said. "We appreciate the mall's interest in working with govern-

ment." The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. inside the main entrance on the west side of the mall (look for the county fire trucks parked outside.) Exhibits inside the mall will be set up by 5:30 p.m.

The meeting is being held especially for residents of the greater Brandon area and surrounding communities. Those who can't attend can watch the meeting live on HTV22, cable channel 22. During the broadcast, viewers can also phone a special number — 272-5275 — with their questions and com-

ments. The messages will be read throughout the meeting, in between comments and questions from the audience.

A newsletter summing up the evening's discussion will be mailed to everyone who attends.

All meeting facilities are accessible in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any additional necessary accommodations will be provided with a 48-hour notice.

For more information, call Steve Valdez, communications department, at 272-5275.

**Offerings**

**Yard sale**

St. Stephen Catholic School Senior High Youth will have a yard sale Saturday, Aug. 9 from 8 a.m. to noon. The sale will be held on the church grounds on Bell Shoals Road in Valrico. Proceeds will help the youth group fund their trip to Houston, Texas, to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference.

**Music classes**

Members of choirs and soloists will learn to read intervals, strengthen vocal

ability, read basic rhythms and understand musical terms at the summer music classes at Bloomingdale Oaks Community Church through Aug. 20 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Call: 684-4673.

**Bingo fundraiser**

The St. Stephen Parent-Teacher-Community Organization will host its Bingo Night Aug. 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Catholic Church. The cost is \$15 for 20 games with a possible jackpot of \$225 plus door prizes and refreshments. Call: 689-4900.

**SOLDIER**

From page 3

Donna Ballou's Mediflex co-worker Jeannette Worrell. "But he's doing quite well, considering."

To help offset the cost of Donna Ballou and Anderson flying to Washington to be with Mark, co-workers at the Mediflex have organized a benefit golf tournament Aug. 9 at Bloomingdale Golfers Club.

The four-person scramble will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. It will include

a mulligan, longest drive, closest to the pin and putting contest. The cost is \$65 per person and includes greens fees, cart, range balls and lunch.

The organizers also are looking for hole sponsors for \$100 per hole or \$400 corporate sponsors.

Worrell said there are 10 to 12 openings in the tournament yet to fill. For information, contact Worrell at 654-3604.

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## LOCKE

From page 2

taught first and intermediate grades at Limona Elementary School beginning in 1972. After teaching for 10 years, she became the primary specialist for Limona and Yates elementary and then later became assistant principal and principal at Limona.

She left the school in 1994 to become the elementary language arts and reading supervisor for the school district.

"We did a lot of work but the project I'm most proud of is introducing reading coaches into the schools four years ago," she said. "Reading is an area that can be controversial. Many people have written about it and offered solutions. But they've found that reading coaches who help

teachers become experts on reading have had a great deal of affect on reading in the early grades."

She said an evaluation of the program showed dramatic results in all the schools with reading coaches.

"It's one of the best things we've done in the district," she said.

Now she has a chance to see the project work on a different level. For the first year, Alafia will have its own reading coach, which it will share with Buckhorn Elementary School. "The goal is to have a reading coach in all the schools eventually," Locke said.

Although she found her work at the district level rewarding, Locke said she missed the one-on-one con-

tact with the teachers, parents and students. So, when Sylvia MacMillan announced her retirement as principal at Alafia, Locke jumped at the opportunity to oversee the A school.

"It's good to be back," said Locke, who lives in north Brandon. "This is where it's really happening. It's been an interesting adjustment but I've met so many wonderful parents and teachers here at Alafia. This school has such a high level of involvement from its parents. This is such a school of excellence."

Locke will be joined by Alafia's new assistant principal, Mike Dugan, who lives in the Bloomingdale area and has taught for a number of years. "Everybody's really excited to have him here,"

said Locke. "His experience and knowledge of this area will be invaluable."

Following the opening of Cimino Elementary School last year, Alafia, which was overcapacity for years, has reduced its enrollment to about 750 students.

When she isn't at Alafia, Locke said she enjoys crafts, reading and playing with her long-haired dachshunds, Buttons and Bows. Her current favorite children's book is "The Kissing Hand," by Audrey Penn, an ideal book for parents whose children are having a hard time saying goodbye as they head off to school. The Lockes have one daughter, Amy, who was a Hillsborough County teacher and now works as a trainer at Disney World.

## MAYOR

From page 12

Leadership Brandon Alumni sponsored Magruder as its first-ever candidate.

The owner of the Patricia A. Magruder Nationwide Insurance agency in Brandon, she selected the Brandon Outreach Clinic, the Hillsborough Education Foundation and YMCA outreach programs as her charities.

"It's been very exciting because I've had so many people who've offered their support and I've developed some good friendships," she said. "It's also really good because it gave Leadership Brandon some great exposure."

As president-elect of the Suburban Unit of the American Cancer Society, Creager chose the Brandon-based organization as her designated charity. The Junior Woman's Club of Brandon sponsored her candidacy.

"It's been awesome," said Creager, the owner of The Green Boutique in Valrico. "The biggest thing for me is supporting ACS and the new people I've met, especially those who want to volunteer for ACS."

Although there are no "official" duties required of the new "mayor," the majority of former honorary mayors set the stage early on by appearing as goodwill ambassadors at a variety of community events throughout their terms.

Grita Perry, the 2002-03 honorary mayor, said her reign was a learning experience as well as a lot of fun.

"I didn't have a clue what I was getting myself into, but Maj. Steve Saunders, Sandi Cassell and the chamber's ambassadors helped me a lot," said Perry, a Hillsborough County Sheriff's

deputy.

Even though her term has ended, Perry still has high hopes of getting Christmas decorations installed along Brandon Boulevard from Interstate 75 to Valrico Road, one of her goals as mayor.

"I'm going to put together an information packet and see if we can find people to sponsor this project," she said.

"Going forward, I'd even like to see the same thing happen along the Lumsden Road and Bloomingdale Avenue corridors."

Jordan's name will be added to a plaque at Stowers Funeral Home in Brandon that lists all of Brandon's honorary mayors. Nat Storms, the top name of that list, was Brandon's first person "elected" to the position in 1959.

every community. And I think what the homeowners association is doing with the PRIDE program is tremendous," said Claudia. PRIDE stands for People of Bloomingdale Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying our great community. "I like to see people taking more pride in their home and community."

"You're seeing fewer rentals here and more people

putting new siding on their homes and landscaping, taking care of their homes" said John, adding that he especially appreciates all the hard work of the BHA, an all-volunteer organization. "I think Ted Grable (BHA president) does a great job. I think he's strengthened and added a lot of credibility to the homeowners association, which is one of the strongest in the county."

His hope is that Bloomingdale residents will remain vigilant about protecting their community.

"Because of the popularity of the area, it attracts a lot of growth. We need to welcome growth, but we need to make sure we have input into how growth occurs. We need to express our opinions so that growth is controlled and appropriate," he said.

## PRIDE

From page 1

proactive role in keeping the community clean. As a result, the county's Office of Neighborhood Relations is now using Bloomingdale as a model for a program it hopes to institute in neighborhoods throughout the county.

Grable has been invited to attend the Florida Association of Neighborhoods conference Sept. 11-12 to discuss Bloomingdale's proactive stance in maintaining its community.

"Every week we have success stories," said Grable, noting that the BHA office keeps a log of all the complaints about deed restriction violations and follows up on each complaint.

BHA director Michele Caballer said the BHA is taking another step toward maintaining the community. Concerned that some rental homes aren't being kept up, the BHA has identified 170 rental properties in Bloomingdale East and West and plans to hold the owners accountable for overgrown grass, peeling paint and other deed violations.

"We want them to be good homeowners like everyone else," said Caballer.

At the same time, good maintenance isn't just a matter of pride.

Grable noted that, with portions of Bloomingdale approaching 25 years old, some homeowners are aging and aren't able to maintain their homes as well as they'd like.

"We want to identify the genuine hardships and connect them with community groups, like Paint Your Heart Out, that can help them."

In fact, Grable said the BHA plans to enroll in the

Paint Your Heart Out program, which provides paint and supplies to spruce up aging homes of low-income, elderly residents.

In the meantime, BHA director Cheryl Kehrmeyer is organizing Bloomingdale's second PRIDE cleanup Aug. 16. During the April cleanup, volunteers collected 80 cubic yards of debris from 1,800 of Bloomingdale's 4,600. During that first cleanup, the BHA covered the cost of Dumpsters for the trash. This time around, Shelley Blood of the Office of Neighborhood Relations said the county has agreed to cover the cost.

"Shelley was very complimentary of Cheryl and is very happy to have us as their poster child," said Grable. "We're going to keep at this until this becomes a way of thinking in Bloomingdale."

He said the BHA board is also lobbying for tougher county statutes that would give the BHA more code enforcement authority.

The BHA received more good news at the July meeting. Three additional residents have agreed to serve on the board, bringing the total to 11. Approved unanimously to serve were Jane and Stanley Lee and Lydia Harrod.

Grable reported that the BHA has now received \$20 dues from 1,764 homeowners.

There are 4,987 homes eligible for membership including 107 new homes in Bloomingdale East, 114 homes in Dogwood Hills, 68 homes in Hickory Creek, 184 homes in Bloomingdale Oaks and 21 homes on Butler Road off John Moore Road.



D'ANN WHITE/Photo

Laura Frazier accepts a plaque of appreciation from Bloomingdale Homeowners Association President Ted Grable for her work as editor of the Bloomingdale Gazette. Frazier and her family are moving to North Carolina.

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