

**Traffic Jam,  
Yellowstone Style**  
So, you think that traffic  
on Bell Shoals is bad?

PAGE 4

**Beverly Hills,  
NYC Eatery  
Comes To Town**

Sinigual ushers in a  
Mexican revolution  
in Brandon .

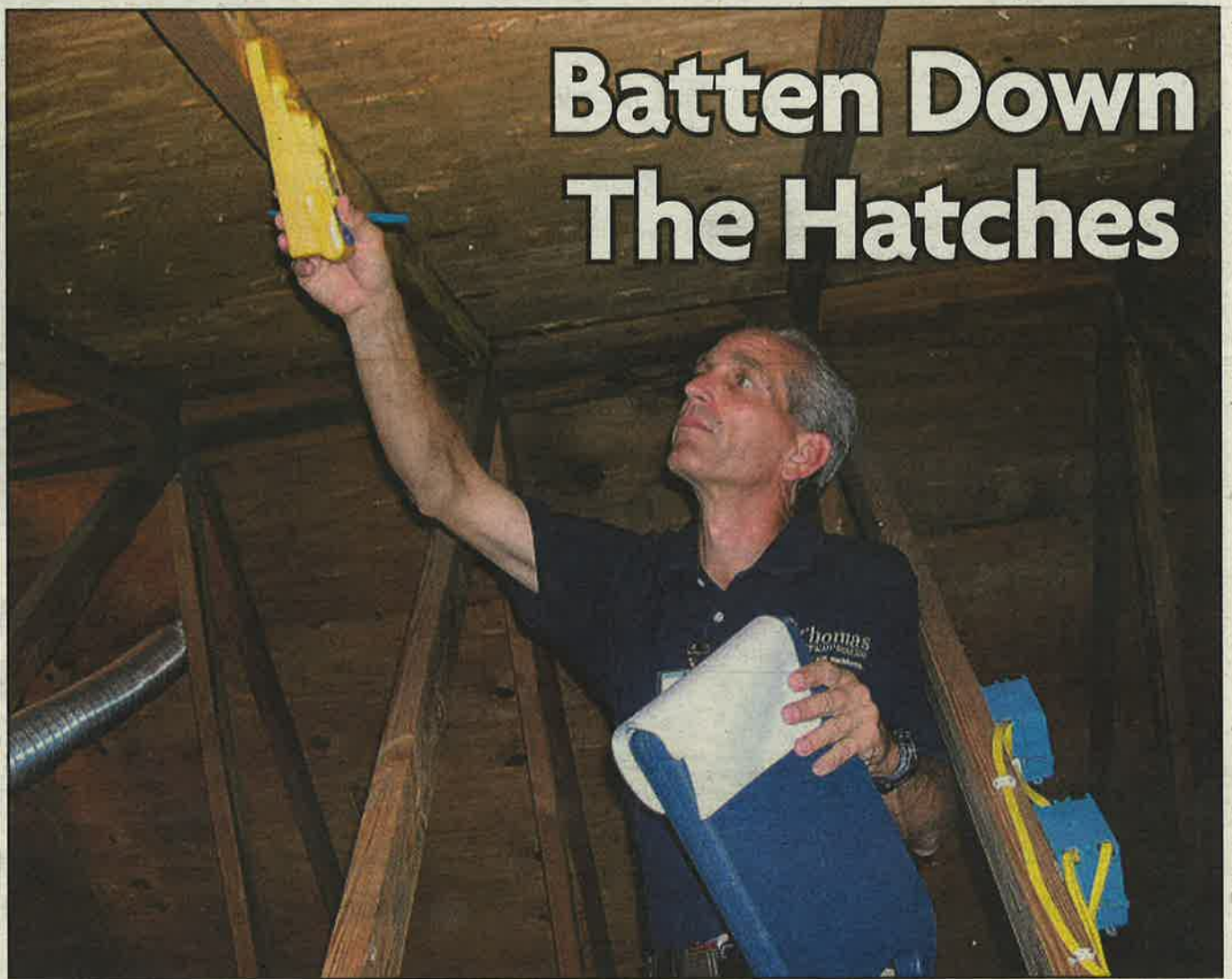
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**Batten Down  
The Hatches**

JOY BOISSELLE/Gazette photo

Bloomington resident Anthony Rojek, a state-licensed hurricane mitigation inspector, in June inspects a home in Bloomington East and recommends ways to improve its ability to stand up to storm-force winds. Free inspections, available for a limited time through the state's My Safe Florida Home initiative, could save homeowners hundreds of dollars a year on their homeowners insurance premiums. See story on page 4.

**A Harmonious Honor**

The county commission honors the only public school group in the nation invited to perform at an orchestral celebration at the 2008 Beijing Olympics – Bloomington High School Orchestra. See page 10.



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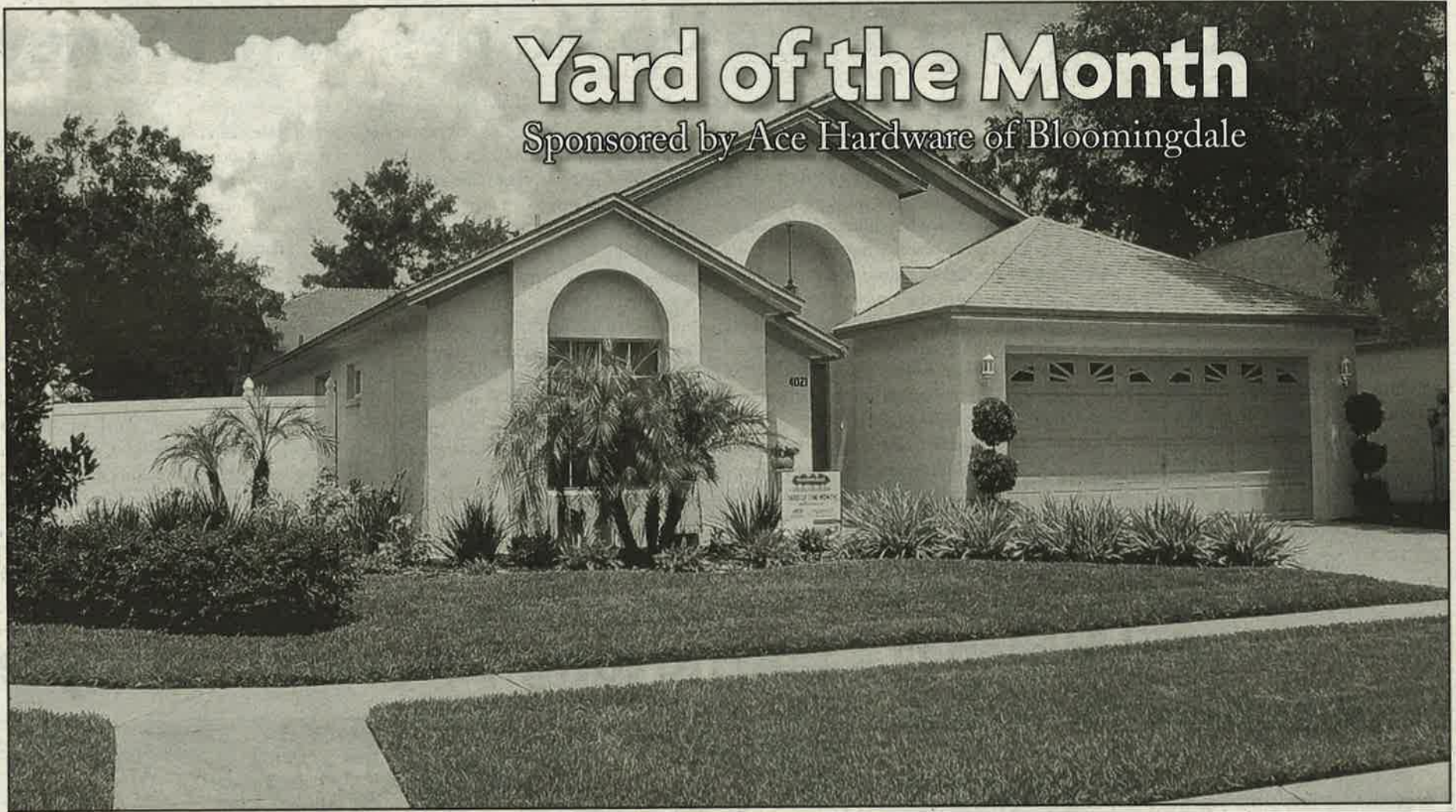
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# Yard of the Month

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**Deborah Badertscher**  
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Send Yard of the Month nominations to [bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net) or call (813) 681-2051. Winners receive a \$25 gift card courtesy of Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale.

**ACE TIPS**

By Chris Korte

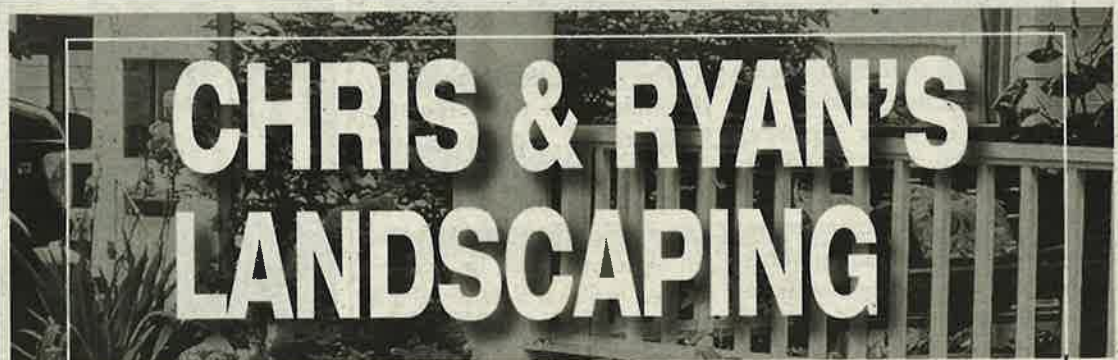
Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale

Have mower blades sharpened regularly during rainy summer months. Clippings should be cut, not shredded, to keep your lawn green and healthy.

Plan ahead before you leave on summer vacation. Turn off water supplies, clean out the fridge and leave a spare key with a trustworthy neighbor in case of emergency.

Mosquitoes breed in water. Keep buckets, trash cans and planters free of standing water.

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# Inspections Help Shore Up Homes, Save Money

By JOY BOISSELLE

Hurricane season is here, and many Floridians no doubt have reviewed their personal emergency plans, stocked their emergency kits, tested their generators and secured valuable personal paperwork. How many, though, have taken the time to prepare, or in hurricane-speak, to harden their homes? How many know that by doing so, they could save hundreds of dollars on their homeowners insurance?

To help Florida homeowners prepare for the next "big one," state legislators in 2006 created the \$250 million My Safe Florida Home program. The initiative aims to help Floridians strengthen their homes against hurricanes and to reduce property losses. One goal of the program is to provide free inspections for at least 400,000 single-family, residential homes. Since its inception, more than 325,000 homeowners

have had their homes inspected and, according to program officials, nearly 2,000 new inspection requests are made daily.

The home inspection, performed by state-licensed hurricane mitigation inspectors, determines what mitigation measures are already in place, what improvements may be needed to reduce a home's vulnerability to hurricane damage, and if homeowners insurance premium discounts are available. The agency reports nearly 60 percent of homeowners who received an inspection are eligible for annual savings that average \$220.

Bloomington resident Anthony Rojek, a state-licensed hurricane mitigation inspector, said he performs six to 10 inspections a day. The inspections, free for a limited time to homeowners under the My Safe Florida Home program, take about 45 minutes and vary depending on home size.

"The inspection can help people understand the wind-worthiness of their homes, as well as the vulnerabilities of the home and how to improve them," he said.

Seven key areas are inspected, Rojek said, including roof covering, roof deck attachment, roof-to-wall attachment, roof geometry, wall construction type, secondary water resistance, and opening protection. A few weeks after the inspection, the homeowner will receive a report detailing the home's hurricane wind resistance rating based on a scale from zero to 100. The higher the rating, the better the home is expected to perform when exposed to storm-force winds.

The report also identifies recommended improvements, related cost estimates and possible insurance savings, which are applied annually or until recommended improvements (such as a new

roof, installation of hurricane-rated doors, etc.) have been completed. The inspection report is valid, for insurance purposes, for a period of five years.

"This inspection can help give you peace of mind," Rojek said. "You will know the capabilities of your home and what it can withstand. It will also help you make decisions about evacuating or staying put."

According to the My Safe Florida Home Web site, free inspections will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis until the legislature's goal of 400,000 inspections has been met or when the program ends in June 2009. Once the free offer ends, the agency estimates inspections will cost about \$150.

For more information, go to [mysafe-floridahome.com](http://mysafe-floridahome.com). Anthony Rojek can be reached at (813) 833-0223.

## Once-A-Week Watering Restrictions Extended

A Gazette Report

Hillsborough County announced in June that residents of unincorporated Hillsborough County will remain on once-a-week watering restrictions for at least another three months.

The once-a-week schedule, mandated by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, was scheduled to expire on June 30. Swiftmud's governing board voted unanimously in June to extend the water shortage order through Sept. 30.

Even though the summer rainy season is well under way, experts said the region is still struggling to overcome a two-year drought. According to Swiftmud, all 16 counties under its jurisdiction are experiencing below-normal groundwater conditions, lakes are two to five feet below the bottom of normal ranges, and regional public supply systems remain at risk because of low storage.

Under the once-a-week schedule, residents may water established lawns and landscaping on the following days: Mondays for addresses ending in 0 and 1, Tuesdays for addresses ending in 2 and 3, Wednesdays for addresses ending in 4 and 5, Thursdays for addresses ending in 6 and 7, and Fridays for addresses which end

with 8 and 9. Locations with no address, such as common areas, and mixed addresses, such as shopping centers, also can water on Fridays.

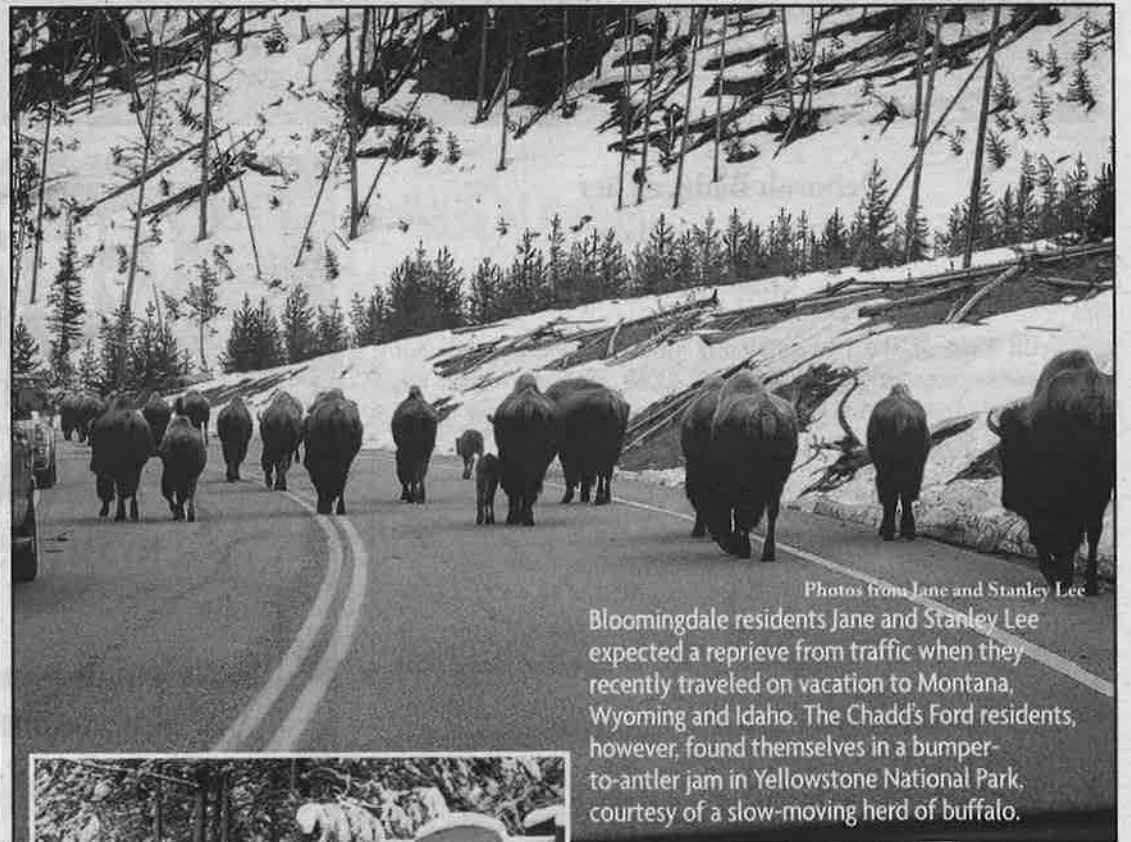
The restrictions apply to all residents of unincorporated Hillsborough County - not just Water Resource Services customers - and most water sources including private wells. All watering must be accomplished before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. Reclaimed water customers are exempt from the watering restrictions, although these customers are encouraged to use only what they need.

Residents may hand-water plants and shrubs, or use a drip irrigation system in landscaping beds at any time. Hand-watering of lawns and grass is allowed only on the designated day and times for irrigation of established lawns. There are also special rules for watering new sod.

For complete information, call (813) 275-7094 for a recorded message, go to [hillsborough-county.org/water](http://hillsborough-county.org/water) and click on the "Restrictions & Conservation" button, or call the Water Conservation Team (813) 274-6800 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Source: Hillsborough County Press Release

## Traffic Jam, Yellowstone-Style



Photos from Jane and Stanley Lee

Bloomington residents Jane and Stanley Lee expected a reprieve from traffic when they recently traveled on vacation to Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. The Chadd's Ford residents, however, found themselves in a bumper-to-antler jam in Yellowstone National Park, courtesy of a slow-moving herd of buffalo.



During their tour of Yellowstone, the Lees visited the Old Faithful geyser and saw grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, elk, eagles, wolves and coyote in the wild "up close and personal," Jane Lee said. "Yellowstone is a wonder... we will definitely go back the first chance we get!"

Bloomington residents, share your best summer vacation photos with your neighbors. Send JPEG file attachments to [lfrazier@tampatrib.com](mailto:lfrazier@tampatrib.com). Please include a contact name and phone number or e-mail address with submissions.



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3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594

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Fax: (813) 684-2358

E-mail: bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net

Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Meetings: first Monday each month, 7 p.m.

Web site: www.bloomingdalegazette.com

President: Joe Hickie

Vice president: Stanley Lee; Treasurer: Pam Liguori

Directors: Shelia Harris, Jim Harris, Don Grevert Sr.,

Jane Lee, Myron Magedanz, George May and

Dennis Osborn

## BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594

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Fax: (813) 684-2358

E-mail: bloomingdale.district@verizon.net

Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon

Meetings: second Monday each month, 7 p.m.

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Vice president: Russell Jones

Treasurer: David West

Property manager: Al Devney

Trustees: Joe Harless; Joe Liguori and James Laughlin

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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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### Lightning Strikes Twice for Hillsborough County Dispatchers 2nd Baby Delivered Over the Phone

Sarah Elliott, a 5-year employee with Hillsborough County, became the second county emergency medical dispatcher to deliver a baby over the phone in the past six months. This is the second baby that Ms. Elliott delivered in her career.

The call came in at lunch time from the Aetna Building, 4630 Woodland Corporate Blvd., off W. Waters Avenue. Ms. Elliott helped the mother's co-workers bring a new baby girl in to the world at 12:51 p.m.

Hillsborough County paramedics arrived on-scene just as the baby was born.

Last January, dispatcher Wanda White, talked a couple through the birth of their new baby girl. The baby was born in the family's bedroom.

Hillsborough County dispatchers are highly trained. All County dispatchers are certified through the National Academies of Emergency Medical Dispatch before they are allowed to answer any 911 calls.

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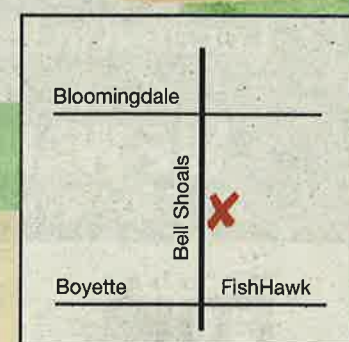
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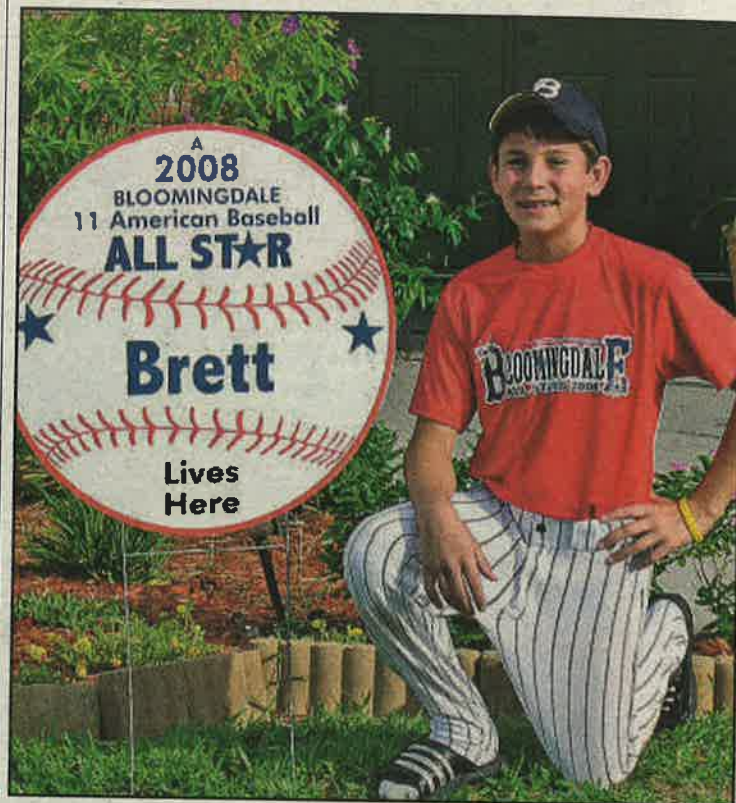


Photo from the Lindbeck family

Brett Lindbeck was voted 2008 All Star in his Bloomingdale Little League division by his peers and coaches. Brett plays for the Bloomingdale Orioles and lives in Chadd's Ford in Bloomingdale East with his parents, Robyn and Tyvan Lindbeck.

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# Rewarding Goals



Photo from the Brandon Leaguerettes

The Hillsborough County Umpires Association at an All-Stars tournament held in Lutz May 18 for the Leaguerettes, a girls' recreational soccer league organized by the Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Dept., presented a \$500 scholarship to Britton A. Holley of the Brandon Titans. Britton is a 2008 Durant High School graduate with a district GPA of 4.81. Pictured from the left are Titans coach Ray Stubbs, Britton Holley, her mother, Teri Holley, Leaguerettes president, Kim Stubbs and umpires association president Mark C. Vargo, Sr.



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# Harmonious Honors

Photo from County Commissioner Al Higginbotham

The Hillsborough County Commission in June presented an honorary proclamation to the Bloomingdale Senior High School orchestra, the only public school group in the nation invited to perform in an orchestral celebration in August at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Commissioner Al Higginbotham presented representatives of the group with a key to the county to be offered to the youth of China, and a proclamation. Pictured with Higginbotham at the presentation at County Center are, left to right, Stephanie Worley, orchestra director SuLing Chao Caballero, Bianca Caballero, Alex Johnson and Jeanine Johnson.

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Photograph by Stephanie Dubsky

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# Oak Trees Trimmed, Coleus Planted

By AL DEVNEY  
Property Manager

*Al Devney, property manager for the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, oversees maintenance and improvements to community common areas such as entryways, landscaping and irrigation. To report maintenance needs or concerns, contact Devney at (813) 684-6667 or bloomingdale.district@verizon.net.*

In the month of May 2008, the property manager photographed, covered and reported to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office yet another incidence of graffiti on Canoga Park Drive.

Signs by Mineo replaced a vandalized sign at the Kingsford Place entrance at a cost to taxpayers of \$330.00.

ZK Construction repaired one section of wall on Garnet Drive and five sections on Natures Way Boulevard.

Shuman Handy Hands painted the above repairs and graffiti.

The property manager and Nick Schriver of Decorating Elves surveyed the major entrances for possible Christ-

mas decorations. His company installs, removes and stores decorations. The possibility of installing just the big red bows on the 284 light poles was also discussed. Schriver will forward in the near future a proposal with the costs and proposed installation and removal dates.

Cardinal Landscaping installed 1,728 yellow and burgundy coleus as required by their contract.

Thunder Irrigation repaired a vandalized pump control box for the Allwood system and repaired damages incurred when workers installed fiber optics and repaired sidewalks.

The Hillsborough County Road and Street Dept. was called to re-install two "No Parking" signs on Culbreath Road, remove three dead trees on Lithia-Pinecrest Road near the Eagle Pointe subdivision and to fill some deep holes on Lithia-Pinecrest.

Valley Crest Companies trimmed 130 oak trees on Natures Way and Green Hollow Lane. The contract called for the canopy to be raised to meet Dept. of Transportation requirements and to balance the trees and remove dead limbs.

## Eat, Drink and Pitch Out The Window

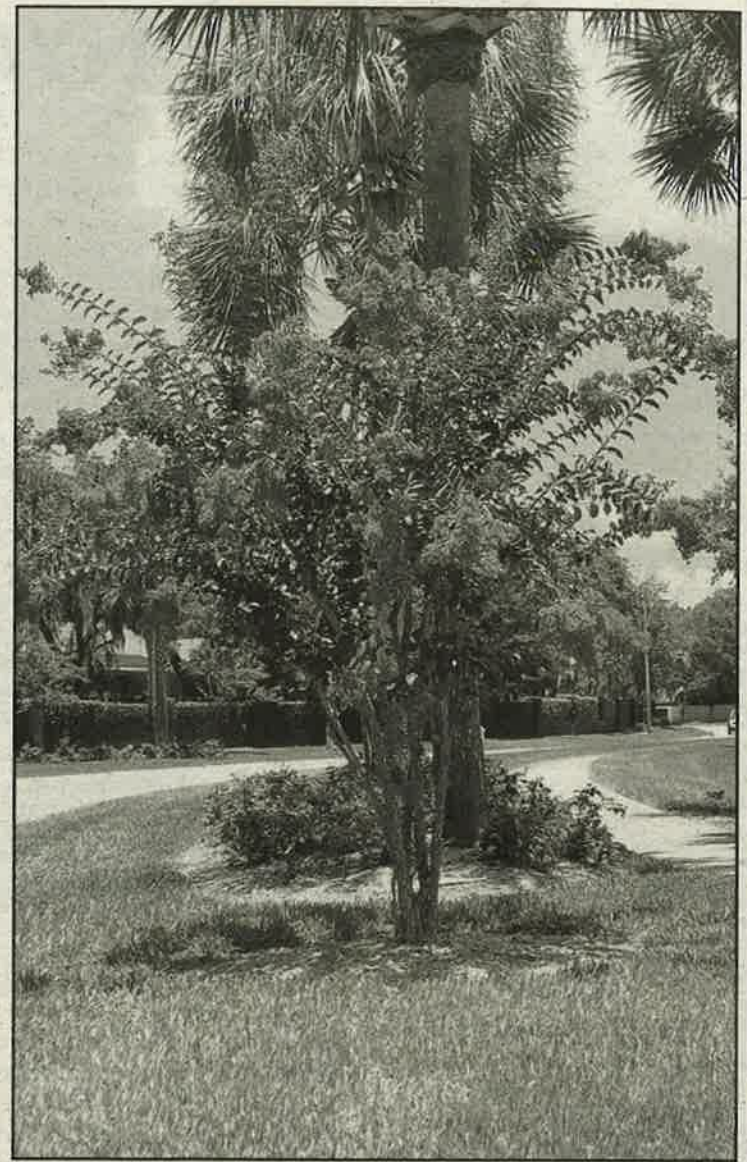
In the month of May, in the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, the property manager retrieved 10 bags of litter, a large plastic container, three hub caps, 15 illegal "snipe" signs and five cents. The beverages of choice were Mountain Dew for soft drinks, Natural Light for beer and Absolute Vodka for distilled spirits.

Al Devney

Morningstar Electric upgraded lighting at the John Moore Road entrance by adding halogen lights to illuminate the signage and flood lights to accent the palm trees.

The property manager completed the survey of the remaining 14 irrigation systems with 4-inch pop up sprinklers that need to be replaced. There are approximately 1,976 to be changed out over a distance of 6.5 miles.

Nine lights and four light receptacles were replaced



JANE LEE/Gazette photo

Al Devney, property manager for the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, oversees maintenance of the community's landscaping, such as the crepe myrtle trees now in full bloom in Bloomingdale East and West.

## Studio Shoots Instant, Affordable Pix



LAURA FRAZIER/Gazette photo

Diane and Paul Iaria recently opened DigiPix digital portrait studio at 155 E. Bloomingdale Ave. at John Moore Road, in the Winn-Dixie shopping center. The Iarias specialize in portraits of families, babies, grandparents and pets. They also offer passport photos and personalized photo novelties such as mugs, magnets and pens. Customers may choose to have portraits sent to a lab for processing or have them printed at the studio immediately after their sitting. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, closed Monday. Information: (813) 657-1020 or digipixsite.com.

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# Have Fun, Stay Safe This Summer

By **PETE MAURER**  
Bloomingdale Community  
Resource Deputy

## TIGHTEN YOUR BELTS

Gas prices may be unbelievably high, but that won't keep millions of families from heading out on the highways this summer to enjoy their time together. Millions of visitors and Florida residents will be out in full force on the interstates and our local roads. To help insure you and your family enjoy your time together, please drive safely, obey all traffic laws, use your seat belts and don't drink and drive. Summer time can hold great memories. Make them good ones!

## PREPARE YOUR HOME

Hopefully you've all started making your preparations for hurricane season, which began June 1 and lasts through November. We've already seen the unbelievable power of water in the flooding that has occurred along the Mississippi River and how thousands of lives were drastically changed in just a few days.

There are other dangerous storms to prepare your home for. They're called burglars and vandals. They love the summer storms, which give them great cover for burglaries, especially when homeowners are on vacation. You work hard all year to pay for and keep your home secure, so before you finally take that much-needed vacation, prepare your home to withstand both storms and criminals. Make special arrangements to have your yard cared for, your



JANE LEE/Gazette photo

State Representative Rich Glorioso, center, at the June meeting of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council, reminded council members how recent state budget cuts have seriously affected the county's budget and many public programs and services. Glorioso told the group, including pictured from the left, Deputy Pete Maurer, Cindy Gang, Heather O'Connell and Todd O'Hehir, he wants to make a positive difference in our community and our state. He said he and his staff intend to keep the council informed about upcoming events such as elections and proposed amendments so voters could be properly informed. The council meets monthly at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office substation on Bell Shoals Road. Information: (813) 635-8040.

mail held or picked up, and ask your neighbors to keep watch while you're gone. You can also complete a "Security Watch" form at the Bloomingdale Community Substation to help keep your home secure during your vacation. Information: (813) 635-8040.

## KEEPING KIDS SAFE

Too many incidents of children becoming the victims of sexual predators are happening. Summer is a prime time for the predators to come out. They know your kids are outside more often, playing at the park, shopping at the mall – and alone more than they normally would be.

Now, more than ever, is the time to be vigilant and to teach your kids about their own safety. You can't be with them every minute, so be sure they know what to do and what not to do. Take the time to teach your children how to be careful and how to look out for one another. It only takes a few minutes for a tragic event to occur.

## PARTY ON – SAFELY

Summer parties can be very cool, but if they end up in confrontations and folks getting arrested, the party is over. Parents, it is your responsibility to make sure that no one underage is drinking, and that no one is using drugs at your home. Do not purchase or furnish teens with any type of alcohol. One parent recently in the

news will be serving two years in jail for not following these rules. Also, make sure all medications are properly secured. One of the latest teen trends is to experiment with prescription medications. And please learn the specific guidelines that must be followed concerning noise. By all means, have fun...but be safe and respect your neighbors, too.

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## Fund To Benefit Library Attack Victim

A fund to benefit the victim of the violent sexual assault that occurred in April at Bloomingdale Regional Public Library has been established at SunTrust Bank. Authorities said last week the young woman is still in and out of consciousness and doctors do not yet know the extent of her injuries. For more information, or to make a donation, residents may wish to stop by the bank's Bloomingdale branch at 3511 Bell Shoals Road or call (813) 651-4510.

# College Students Need Host Families

A Gazette Report

Host families are needed for eight of 20 Latin American and Caribbean students set to arrive in Tampa August 13 to participate in a technical, cultural and educational training program at Hillsborough Community College.

Men and women ages 18 to 24 enrolled in the Cooperative Association of States program attend junior college full-time for two years. They live with host families for nine months, then transition to independent living in apartments for the rest of their stay.

Local project manager Mery Young said in addition to traditional academic studies, the

students take courses in manufacturing technology to help them enter and excel in the workforce of their native countries.

"They also gain command of the English language and an understanding of the people," Young said. "It is a huge opportunity for the students and a door that will open business between the U.S. and other countries."

The cooperative is a joint venture of the U.S. Agency for International Development and Georgetown University's Center for Intercultural Education and Development. Host families receive a small monthly stipend to offset expenses. For information, call (813) 259-6593 or e-mail myoung20@hccfl.edu.

# At Your Service



LAURA FRAZIER/Gazette photo

At the official grand opening of the Brandon Regional Service Center on June 6, County Administrator Pat Bean welcomed staff, politicians and Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce representatives to the \$4.2 million, 18,000 square foot building at 311 Pauls Drive. "Isn't this a beautiful facility?" Bean said. "It has been worth the wait." Services offered there through satellite offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Property Appraiser include processing of civil and criminal cases such as traffic citations; collection and disbursement of court-ordered child support; mortgage foreclosure and tax lien sales; issuance of marriage licenses and jury summons. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Information: Clerk of the Circuit Court, (813) 276-8100 or hillsclerk.com; Property Appraiser, (813) 272-6100 or hcpafl.org.

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