

The Bloomingdale Gazette

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 7

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

JULY • 1992

Preserve Our Sense of Community Support BHA Membership Drive

"I urge every resident who cares about continuing Bloomingdale improvement projects, the work of the community office, and receiving a free community-oriented newspaper to get behind this membership drive - or these services will disappear!"

*Russ Lembke, President
Bloomingdale Homeowners Association*

Beginning July 11 and continuing through August 22, members of your Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) will come to your door to enlist your support for the annual BHA membership drive.

Annual dues of \$20 will be collected by volunteers under the direction of the steering committee chaired by Pam Mabe, Walter Schaffer, Nancy Beckley, and Russ Lembke.

Please be generous or our community stands to lose the many vital services that the BHA provides in uniting our neighborhoods as a viable community. Among those services are the following:

- THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE
- THE BHA SCHOLARSHIP
- THE COMMUNITY OFFICE
- NEGOTIATING FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS
- THE MOBILE WATCH
- DRIVING FORCE FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

by GWEN
SZAFRANSKI

Recently, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) has participated on the Brandon Transportation Task Force dealing with immediate transportation problems. The BHA members have testified at County Commission meetings on the widening of Bloomingdale Avenue, giving input to the Metropolitan Planning Organization towards the development of the 2010

Plan for transportation.

In the past, the BHA has been influential in working with county officials resulting in many improvements such as increased street lighting and lowered speed limits.

The Bloomingdale Community Office plays a central role in recording property code violations that are submitted weekly to the county code enforcement board.

Our many residents who enjoy nightly strolls in our safe and friendly

neighborhoods owe that atmosphere to the dedicated efforts of the Mobile Watch. Our Bloomingdale Mobile Watch is continually cited by local law enforcement officials as the main factor behind the low crime rate in our area.

The Bloomingdale Gazette is a monthly newspaper free to all Bloomingdale residents. It has served as a forum for community problems and as a mouthpiece for community news and activities. Members of *The*

Bloomingdale Gazette staff help man the community office as well, providing residents with information concerning deed restrictions. *The Bloomingdale Gazette* is a wholly owned subsidiary of the BHA. Without a strongly supported homeowners association, the newspaper will simply cease to exist!

Over the years the community has enjoyed the benefits from the

BHA - sponsored October "Triple Header" cycling, skating, and running competitions as well as the Roberts Brothers Circus.

In the near future the BHA plans to offer all its members a Homeowners discount card for services at cooperating local businesses.

Since our community has experienced tremendous growth and has a high mobility factor, many new residents may not be aware of all these activities and the need for

continued support from volunteers. These enjoyable activities may disappear. **THE FEW CANNOT DO IT ALL.**

Finally, the BHA Scholarship is a pat on the back for a deserving graduating senior from a proud and appreciative community. Don't let this honor fall by the wayside.

Perhaps the situation is best stated by a letter this editor found one morning tucked in the door of the community office:

THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Special thanks to these generous residents. These families responded to our plea for donations to help The Bloomingdale Gazette. The staff appreciates the extra effort you made and we hope to continue publishing the newspaper keeping the high standards in place.

David & Lisa Bird

Bob & Eleanor Haley

George Hedquist

Richard & Margaret Magner

Benigno Sariego

Colleen Stickeler

NOTICE: Volunteers will be knocking on doors this weekend seeking donations. If you are not contacted, please call any BHA Board member to make your contribution. Their phone numbers are listed on page 2.

Dear Bloomingdale Residents:

I was disturbed to find out that there is a possibility of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) disbanding, and The Bloomingdale Gazette being sold or closed. From my understanding, the lack of support from the community is a major factor that may cause the demise of both entities.

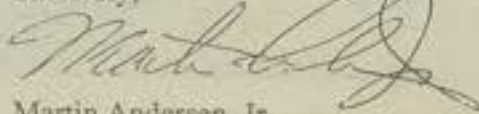
Although I no longer live in Bloomingdale, I do live nearby and I have always felt that the community had a great deal to offer the families living there. One of the unique things that set Bloomingdale apart from other like organizations was the BHA and The Bloomingdale Gazette.

As a past president of the BHA, I can assure you that it takes an organization and membership support to get action from the county. With support of an organization such as the BHA, doors open and things get done a little quicker. It takes the support of you as residents to keep the quality of life of the community at a high level.

The BHA is used as a model association for others. The Mobile Watch is one that the Sheriff points to as a model to follow. The BHA grew from a small group of concerned citizens wanting to protect their homes and property during the 1970's. The Bloomingdale Gazette grew from a one or two page mimeographed flyer to a newspaper that kept the community informed.

I would hate to see Bloomingdale become just a group of homes in south Brandon. I ask you to become involved. Join the BHA, support it and support your community. Don't think that the other person will take care of it. Remember, to your neighbor, you are that other person.

Sincerely,



Martin Andersen, Jr.
Past BHA President

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

Officers

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.
Suite 101
Valrico, FL 33594 • 681-2051

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Vice President
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Treasurer
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Jeffrey Daniels 654-1593
Jerry Hoffman 685-2919
Walter Schaffer 654-6651
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Valrico, FL 33594

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Valrico, FL 33594

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Members
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Paul Kelmer 681-9701
Rick Borling 684-2022
Ed Holzman 681-2548

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
P.O.Box 3132
Brandon, FL 33509-3132

President
William Grace 685-2817

MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office, located in The Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Shopping Center. These are public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
Monthly meeting: Second Monday of the Month, 7:30 p.m.

BHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Monthly Meeting: Second Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 p.m.

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
Monthly meeting: First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

MEETINGS FOR MOBILE WATCH & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
are on a per need basis.
Watch this listing for dates & times.

The Special Dependent District

will hold its regular monthly meeting at the Bloomingdale Community Office Royal Oaks Shopping Center 7:30 p.m.
Monday, July 13, 1992

all are invited to attend

VOTERS REGISTRATION

Voters registration is available at Barnett Bank located at the corner of Bloomingdale Rd & Bell Shoals Rd.

Bloomingdale Gazette
3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.
Suite 101
The Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale
Valrico, FL 33594
Telephone (813) 681-2051
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Bloomingdale Homeowners
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Publisher

JOAN POYNTON
General Manager

GWEN SZAFRANSKI
Editor-in-Chief
TONYA SZAFRANSKI
Asst. Editor

JANINE B. NICKERSON
Office Manager

COLLEEN ROSE
Sales Manager

Editorial Dept.
News Staff Writers:
Gwen Szafranski, Barbara Ling,
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Circulation
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Business Department
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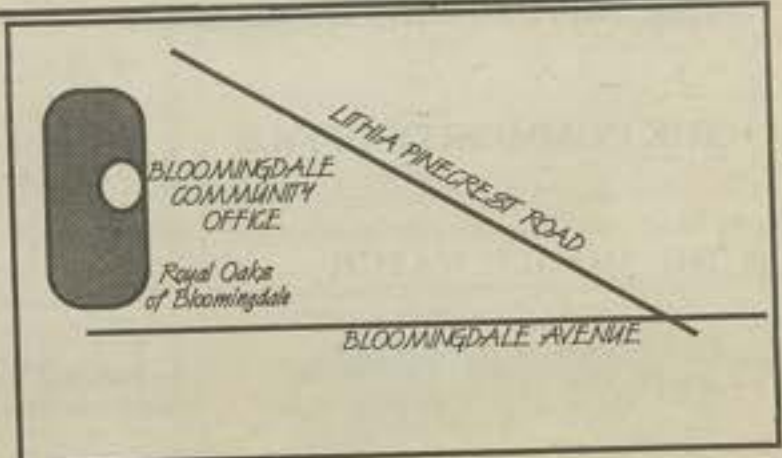
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The Bloomingdale Gazette is published monthly and delivered in door-knob bags to every residence within the area governed by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc., plus other selected areas at no charge.

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available free of charge at area newsstands (Rainbow Food Mart, Kash 'n Karry, Farm Store in Erindale Plaza and Publix in Brandon Centre South and Bloomingdale Square) and by subscription at the rate of \$15 per year to cover mailing and handling fees.

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Services provided by the Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc., include: display advertising, classified advertising, display classified advertising, business card advertisements and delivery of inserts and circulars. Restrictions may apply. Rate cards available upon request.



Lindsey Hicks of Brandon, and Bret Henry of Tampa, played in a three piano concert May 17 at Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Both are students of the Suzuki Method.



L to R: Heather Ferguson, Laura Spangler, and Lori Kensel performed at the Burns Jr. High School band concert on May 28.



Mrs. Bowers first grade class at the Spelling Carnival at Bell Shoals Baptist School.

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STD ADOPTS NEW BUDGET

by PETER ALUOTTO

On May 11, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. the Bloomingdale Special District held a public hearing to adopt a budget for FY 92-93. For the sixth consecutive year the Board of Trustees voted to fix the assessment at \$80.00 per unit. At this rate, projected income from assessments, interest, and prior year's fund balance (less 3% for prepayment discounts and 5% required by law) is estimated to be \$312,254. This represents an increase of approximately 4.1% over last year and is attributable exclusively to the increase in new homes.

Projected Expenditures are grouped into three categories: Operating Expenses, Capital Outlays and Non-Operating Expenses. Operating expenses include

such items as: Legal Services, Accounting Services, Management Services, Secretary, Rentals, Leases, Fees, Maintenance and repairs, Office Supplies, etc. For FY 92-93, this category amounts to \$201,320, or 16.6% more than last year. This increase is due largely to changes in the Repair and Maintenance, and Utilities line items. Beginning next year, the district will be assuming the maintenance responsibilities of Windsor Woods and River Crossing. As time goes on, these line items can be expected to grow in direct proportion to the District's geographic responsibilities.

Capital Outlay Expenses include such things as Land, Buildings, Improvements Other Than Buildings, Equipment and

Machinery. For FY 92-93, this category amounts to \$57,292, or 29.8% less than last year. This is explained in part by the fact that our previous major capital improvement projects, the wall construction on Nature's Way and Springvale Dr., have been completed. Next year's capital budget contemplates the following seven projects:

1. Landscape improvements to Chadd's Ford
2. Landscape improvements to Oakcrest
3. Landscape improvements to Fortuna Drive
4. Extensive tree planting on common areas
5. Wells (as part of a comprehensive irrigation system)
6. Sign replacement at Bloomingdale and Culbreath Road

7. Landscaping of Traffic Circles to be constructed by Hillsborough County on Bloomfield Drive.

Non-operating expenses include such items as County fees and Reserve Accounts. These items are budgeted for a total of \$53,642. Of this amount, \$10,142, is mandated by the County and \$29,000, is a reserve account for the first quarter of FY 94. On a separate note, I would like to extend an invitation to all Bloomingdale residents to participate in their District's affairs. Of course, you are always welcome to attend the meetings. A better way would be to become a candidate for the Board of Trustees. The Board needs you now more than ever as several retirements are expected this fall. For further information, please call the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections at 272-5850.

An Open Letter

Dear Bloomingdale Neighbors:

We homeowners on a pond bordered by Nature's Way, Dunaire and Callista have been using the services of a lake management company for two years. Our present maintenance program includes the introduction of Triploid Grass Carp. After a year of waiting for the permit, our lake has been stocked and is governed by the Florida Game and

Fresh Water Fish Commission.

We would like to make you aware that it is unlawful to catch and not release Triploid Grass Carp. We understand there can be a \$1000 fine imposed. Also, this is private property and we homeowners pay to maintain it. We hope you will respect our privacy and allow our maintenance program to work effectively.

Thank you.



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"Kiddie Tax" Explained

by **ROBERT MORRIS, CPA**
 There is a so-called Kiddie Tax where minors under the age of 14 who have interest and dividends in excess of \$1,200 are taxed at the higher parents rate. To escape this tax, some parents should put the child's funds in investments that are either tax-free or tax-deferred.

One such option is municipal bonds and municipal bond funds. The interest is tax-free for federal tax purposes.

Growth stock (funds) are investments with little current income but are expected to appreciate over time. This will defer the tax until the child sells the ownership after age 14.

U. S. Savings Bonds also can defer interest earned until the bond is cashed, which most likely should occur after the child is 14. Also, parents purchasing series EE bonds (after 1990) to be used as payment for higher education, allows the interest to be tax-free.

After the child reaches age 14, you can then shift the income to the child where the tax bracket is 15% and lower than the parent's rates of 28% or 31%. This will help build a larger pool of funds for use on education expenses. You can give up to \$10,000 per year in appreciated stocks and investments to each child each year.

Also, you may want to consider buying a house or condo near campus in lieu of renting an apartment. You reduce your monthly expense and may even yield a profit on selling it after graduation. Secondly, if it is your only second home, the mortgage and taxes are fully deductible each year. If you rent some of the space to other students, then all expenses of the residence are prorated deductible also. You can then hire your child to manage the property where the first \$3,600 of earnings may be tax-free to the child and deductible to you.

When retired parents need extra monthly funds, consider buying your parents' home and lease it back to them for the fair rental value. Arrange the installment payments to be larger than the lease to accommodate the necessary

cash to your parents. You can afford the extra cash due to the possible added tax breaks you receive from the property. The parents can use the \$125,000 exclusion and remove the asset from possible estate tax.

The top federal estate tax is now at 60% and anyone with an estate over

continued on page 11

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Mobile Watch

by **LAWAYNE WYATT**

Based on reports from patrols and residents 29 events were logged for the month of June. Included were cars in the Parks after closing, a B&E of a vacant house, activity at The Spot, speeding/reckless driving, cars parked in partially developed areas, several suspicious cars, vandalism, possible construction theft, and an attempted hub cap theft.

Several other items warrant additional comment.

A youth was observed driving a go-cart on Nature's Way one evening. This is not only illegal,

it's very dangerous, considering the way some people drive on Nature's Way.

Several teens were reported to be shooting joggers and walkers with super soaker water guns. This can also be very dangerous since the victim may react in a way which puts both parties at risk of injury.

Several youths were observed to be lighting firecrackers in front of cars on Springvale Drive. Another very dangerous activity. The youths scattered before they could be asked about this activity but they are believed to live on Casaba Loop.



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Hospice Opens in Brandon

by EDIE GROSS

While Hospice of Hillsborough has provided care for patients in their homes since 1983, this summer marked the first time an actual hospice facility was opened in the county.

The Hospice Lodge officially opened its doors on June 7 at Central Park Lodge, 702 South Kings Avenue in Brandon, giving hospice patients who can no longer be treated in their homes a comfortable place to go.

"We have beds in conjunction with a lot of hospitals, but this is our first designated hospice unit," said Anne Thal, executive director of Hospice of Hillsborough.

"We should all be moving toward care that is patient oriented. With the opening of Hospice Lodge, the people at Central Park Lodge have moved us toward that vision," Thal said.

Hospice of Hillsborough provides a variety of services for terminally ill patients with the highest priority placed on a patient's comfort, said Tawnya Knierim, nursing home program coordinator at Hospice of Hillsborough.

"The majority of our patients live in their homes, being cared for by family and friends," Knierim said. "[The Hospice Lodge will] provide a home-like environment for those patients who can't remain

in their homes."

To qualify for care by Hospice of Hillsborough, a patient must reside in Hillsborough County, have a life-limiting illness of six months or less, and need a caregiver. If family or friends cannot provide enough care for the patient, the patient can then obtain a room at the Hospice Lodge, where care is available 24 hours a day.

Hospice services include visits by nurses and certified nursing assistants several times a week, counseling for both the patients and their families, and the companionship of volunteers.

Jack Freeman, executive director of Central Park Lodge, feels that the new facility will only increase the benefits already offered to hospice patients.

"It's a very, very nice environment. The staff was more open. Hospice has a facility they can begin to focus on," he said. "We're experimenting -- blazing a new trail so to speak."

Hospice of Hillsborough, a non-profit agency, was founded in November 1983 by community leaders who felt that terminally ill patients might be more comfortable in home-like environments rather than in hospitals. While the organization used to serve between 35 and 40 patients a day, it now cares for about 300 patients daily.

Serving this many people throughout Hillsborough County requires a large staff of both paid workers and volunteers. Nurses, social workers, and members of the board of directors and advisory committees are among the paid employees at Hospice of Hillsborough, but the organization relies heavily on more than 600 volunteers who provide patient/family care and handle office work, special events and speaking engagements.

"A lot of our volunteers are people who hospice may have involved in taking care of a family member or a friend," Thal said. "A lot are just fine, good people who want to do something that is meaningful volunteer work."

For patients who are terminally ill, mounting medical bills can become a problem. The fee for staying at the Hospice Lodge is \$84 a day, and for patients with Medicaid coverage, hospice care is paid for. However, when a patient cannot afford the hospice care, Hospice of Hillsborough finds the money through fund raising and donations. The organization provides about one million dollars in charity care per year.

"We do a lot of active fundraising," Thal said. "We will not turn anybody away for inability to pay."

To learn more about volunteering at Hospice of Hillsborough or about

making a contribution, please call the Hospice Educational Center at 877-2200. The next volunteer training session begins on August 4.

TRAVEL TIPS

by JAY KITTLE

Did you know that you can order special meals from the airlines? Whether you want a low fat/low cholesterol meal, vegetarian meal, seafood or one of several other options, depending on the airline, all you have to do is request one when you book your flights with your travel agent. Now that you know that it can be done, here are a few tips to make sure that you actually get your meal.

1. Make sure the travel agent mentions the special meal request when reading back your itinerary.

2. Ask your travel agent to have the special meal request printed out on your itinerary so you have proof of the request.

3. One or two days prior to the flight either have your travel agent call the airline or call them yourself to reconfirm your meal request.

continued on page 10



Central Park Lodge's Jack Freeman, Groucho (Mark Simpson) from Universal Studios, and Anne Thal, Executive Director of Hillsborough Hospice.

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PLAYGROUND DESIGN

by JOHN OKUN, MD
(Part Two of Three)

Last month we talked about proper materials for surfaces to minimize injuries sustained in falls at playgrounds. Equally important is the proper design of playground or other recreational facility.

A playground that is well designed will offer activities that encourage development of both perceptual and physical skills. These include running, walking, climbing, swinging, sliding, throwing, dodging, catching, pulling, and pushing. A safe playground will have separate areas for active play such as digging in a sand box. Preschoolers and toddlers should be kept separated

from older, more active children.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends a "safe zone" being established around each type of equipment with adequate space and paths allowed for entry and exit. Open areas should be provided so children can run freely without colliding with other children or playground equipment. Areas set aside for popular activities should be separated from others in order to avoid overcrowding. There should be adequate pathways between each area that allow for easy travel between the areas. Sight or visual lines should be un-

obstructed to allow proper adult supervision.

Playground safety can be improved by carefully planning activity location, playground surface and equipment design. The following are additional recommendations of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons:

- Avoid hard playground surfaces (as discussed last month).
- Separate play areas by age group and activity.
- Type of Equipment and maintenance.

- Link areas to allow easy access and good visibility.

- Allow adequate space to exit swings, merry-go-rounds, monkey bars, and slides.

- Be sure to separate the playground from adjacent streets and sidewalks with fences or other barriers. This will minimize the risk of a child running into the street and also help maintain the security of our children, protecting them from abductions or molestation.

- Avoid any equipment made with angles or openings that could trap a child's head or other body parts. Any elevated platform should have ap-

propriate guard rails to guard against falls.

- Finally, hand grips should be sized and shaped so that children of various ages can easily grab them for safety.
- These simple precautions and proper design

will certainly help to keep playground accidents and injuries to a minimum.

(Dr. John Okun is in private practice in Brand specializing in Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery.)

TENNIS TIP of the MONTH

BY PETE STECHER

A player without a drop shot is a player severely handicapped. The drop shot is the thinking man's shot. Against a player properly positioned on the court, one can only run an opponent a little more than 13 and a half feet to either sideline but one can run an opponent 40 feet or more up and back. With a good drop shot, one can run the out of shape player, the older player, the slower player,

the tired player, and the overheated player into the ground. A drop shot is required to take advantage of an opponent's weak backhand volley, weak forehand volley, weak backhand smash, weak forehand smash, or any combination of net stroke deficiencies. In tennis, especially in the amateur ranks, weak strokes at the net are far more common than weak ground strokes.

It is a common mis-

See Page 11

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Alice R. Becker

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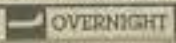
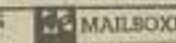


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Providence Christian School (PCS) is a ministry of Providence Baptist Church. The school was founded in 1965 and is accredited through the Florida Association of Christian Schools. PCS has a preschool program for three and four year olds as well as a challenging academic program for grades K-12. PCS has a full sports program for both boys and girls and is a member of the Florida Christian Conference.

The mission and purpose of Providence Christian School is to assist the Christian home in providing a sound education for its children, both academically and spiritually, in a Christ-honoring and caring atmosphere.

PCS is located at 5416 Providence Road, just a quarter of a mile north of Bloomingdale Ave. Call us for more information about this exciting option for your children at 689-7127.

Heritage Learning Center

What is Montessori? Montessori is a philosophy with the fundamental tenet that a child learns best within a social environment which supports each individual's unique development.

What makes Montessori Education unique? The "whole child" approach. The primary goal of a Montessori program is to help each child reach full potential in all areas of life. Activities promote the development of social skills, emotional growth, and physical coordination as well as cognitive preparation. The holistic curriculum, under the direction of a specially prepared teacher, allows the child to experience the joy of learning, time to enjoy

the process and insure the development of self-esteem, and provides the experience from which children create their knowledge. Please call 689-7409 for more information on our unique learning program.

Kinder Care

Kinder Care Learning Center, Inc., located at 4304 Bell Shoals Rd. in Bloomingdale East, has been serving our community for the past five years.

Kinder Care accepts children from six weeks to 12 years, runs year-round, offers breakfast, lunch and snacks, full educational programs for all ages and regularly scheduled field trips for four-year-olds and older. It is open from 6:15 AM to 6:30 PM and is noted for its fine reputation throughout the country. The staff is fully trained in each age-appropriate program. Many of the teachers have been with the company for several years.

The Klubmates (5-12-year-olds) attend area schools and are transported to and from Kinder Care by van. The summer program is always a lot of fun, well-planned with great trips three times a week.

Kinder Care offers several extra-curricular activities in addition to field trips. Weekly there is dance/tumbling, music, gymnastics, karate, and computers.

Tuition rates are competitive with discounts available for families with more than one child and for current families referring new ones. Feel free to stop by and visit or call Ms. Sue Torony, Director or Ms. Mercy Ontengo, Assistant, at 654-0572.



Kid Kountry

Even though we are busy with our fun-filled summer program, our thoughts and plans are towards our pre-school and fall programs at Kid Kountry.

Pre-school at Kid Kountry is fun-filled with the Beka program which is geared towards the 2, 3 and 4-year-old children. Learning is made easy and fun.

We at Kid Kountry believe in the importance of children learning at their speed, and we want our children to look forward to kindergarten with knowledge and also the judgment of school being a great place to learn.

We are taking registrations for the pre-school program now.

Kid Kountry picks up at all local public and private schools in South Brandon.

We welcome all parents and their inquiries at both of our centers, where our ideals and standards are equitable.

La Petite Academy

For 20 years, La Petite Academy has provided children with enriching and enjoyable learning activities.

As a Parent's Partner™ our approach is based on the idea that children learn by doing. A combination of interest centers and play areas is the core of our "Learning Center" concept for early childhood education.

This education Journey™ begins with our toddlers, whose program makes the most of their developmental milestones.

Preschoolers experience our newest program, which integrates the elements of a child's development through the use of interest centers.

Our Superstar Club is a special way for elementary children to have a snack, spend time with their friends, play games, and do their homework. Days off and summer programs are filled with field trips, sports and special events.

See for yourself how the Journey™ begins at La Petite. Visit our centers for details or call 684-3528.

Post Sunshine Ranch

If you want your children to have a planned, enjoyable and well-balanced day while you're working, enroll them at the POST SUNSHINE RANCH, located at 1350 John Moore Road (just south of Lumsden Road) in Brandon.

Each child receives personal attention here and planned exercise programs are scheduled throughout the day. They have three safety-oriented playgrounds, each of which is geared to the requirements of a particular age-group. Well-balanced hot meals are prepared daily, and your child will be taught proper table manners and the value of proper nutrition. They also feature a number of stimulating learning activities such as a petting area with small farm animals.

Contact owners Bill and June Post (B.A., M.A. Early Childhood), for an appointment. Full day and after-school club-house is offered, and small classes and qualified teachers assure you of the best attention for your child. You'll appreciate their economical fees. Pre-tots to 2 years is \$69 a week, 3-4 yrs is \$67 a week and private kindergarten is \$71 a week. Compare their rates! Call 689-3242.

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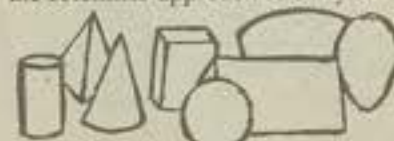


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Restaurant Review



Mr. HO's Polynesian Restaurant

by **ELTON DUMONT**

Mr. Ho's Polynesian Restaurant at 3318 John Moore Road, just a few yards north of Bloomingdale Avenue, is the newest restaurant to open in the Brandon area. My wife and I attended on the third night after its opening. Despite the "newness" and a few minor glitches, the total experience went rather well.

The restaurant's interior is cozy and comfortable. We were seated quickly by our server, an enthusiastic lad named Jeff.

The menu offered a fine selection of appetizers and soups. My wife ordered an egg roll, and the dough was light and fresh - similar to a pastry wrap - while the meat, vegetables and spices inside were above average. I chose the traditional egg drop soup and was very satisfied with the flavor. If you are adventurous, ask for the Chinese hot pepper sauce, which is prepared and served in hot oil. I put a few dashes in the soup. Other entrees include crab rangoon and seafood soup.

The entrees are served with either fried rice or pasta, hot tea and dessert included. In addition to standard Oriental fare, there is a wide selection of non-traditional choices such as General Tzo chicken, Mandarin peel beef, and Sam Shee Mi Young seafood platter.

We ordered two excellent choices: Hawaiian chicken grilled in a tangy sauce with mixed vegetables, and shrimp with lobster sauce Lo Mein. The Hawaiian chicken was a

heavenly dish, and the lo mein noodles - sturdy cousins of angel hair pasta - really made the shrimp dish.

I strongly recommend that you save room for dessert! Dessert at Mr. Ho's is not standard stuff. In addition to standard dishes, there are desserts such as pineapple coconut cream cake and turtle cheesecake. Be prepared for a pleasant surprise.

The food was more than my wife and I could eat, so we asked for a "doggie bag." The entree had been served in a black, shell-like plate. The doggie bag is formed by snapping a clear top half-shell to the bottom half, and there is a sealed package to go. Pretty neat idea.

The price - includ-

ing tip - is reasonable, our bill having come to about \$23. As of now, Mr. Ho's does not serve wine or cocktails.

Mr. Ho's also has a take-out menu, although it does not include every entree on the "dine-in" menu. Mr. Ho's delivers after 5 PM, but I suggest you call first. I predict that some of us will use the delivery service on a regular basis. To Victor and his chefs and staff, "Welcome back to Brandon."

RATING BASED ON 5 STARS:
 Food ****
 Service ***1/2
 Ambience ***
 Overall ***1/2

Until we eat again!

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shock the pool and it doesn't get rid of the algae. With our temperatures rising, the daily rain showers, and the ponds and trees we have, POLLEN is dropped into our pools and algae grows.

Therefore, we must allow our pumps to run 12 hours daily to circulate and filter the water. Shock your pool every week to kill the bacteria in the water. Test the pool chemistry at least 2 times a week. Maintain the

chlorine levels at about 2.5, the pH will vary from day to day. Your test kit will tell you how much Muriatic Acid to add. In addition to treating the pool chemically, brush and vacuum it at least once a week. Clean and back wash your filter at least once a week. This regimen does not take too long to do. Bring a sample of your water to your pool supply store to have it tested at least every

2 weeks, and they will test for calcium hardness, total alkalinity and stabilizer in addition to the PH and chlorine levels. It's not as difficult as it sounds. We at Clean & Clear Pool Services will help you in every way we can. Stop in at our location off Bloomingdale Avenue and let us get acquainted. We will be happy to answer your questions on pool maintenance and solar needs.

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Phillip's Releases Album

by EDIE GROSS

Wayne Phillips had a slight problem.

Every time he would get on the highway to drive somewhere, inevitably he would wind up on the side of the road. But he was not having car troubles.

"I spent more time pulling off the road, explaining to other people that I was not broken down, but writing the words to a song—usually on a napkin," said Phillips, who admitted that driving inspires him to write music.

The purchase of a hand-held recorder put an end to lyrics doodled on napkins, and now Phillips can create an original tune while traveling clear across town without having to pull over even once.

These days, though,



Wayne Phillips and his daughter Stacey.

Phillips, who lives in Bloomingdale West, is taking his music farther than just across town. The carpenter-turned-gospel musician released his first album, aptly titled "Wayne Phillips," earlier this year, and he has been performing in churches along the east coast from Florida to Virginia. His

wife of 11 years, Laura, a CPA, and their 9-year-old daughter Stacey, a fourth grader at Grace Christian, travel with him whenever possible.

"I love to write, and I love to play," Phillips said. "I'm glad there are people who enjoy it."

Phillips, who taught himself to play the guitar, the fiddle, and the mandolin, has been singing and composing country and gospel music for 15 years. It was not

until last fall, though, that he decided to record an album.

"You can reach somebody through music that you might not be able to reach otherwise. It's just another form of ministry," Phillips said. "It's just recently I feel like this is what I'm supposed to do."

In September of 1991, Phillips and musician friend David McMillan got together in McMillan's Tampa recording studio and "started knockin' songs out," said Phillips.

Phillips did not use a back-up band, so each song was recorded several times over as he played one instrument at a time. Phillips is the primary musician on the album, while McMillan accompanied him on keyboard and once on the fiddle. Phillips composed

all but one of the album's songs, which was written by fellow musician Rick Truett.

In February of 1992, artist and friend Jim Coloross created a cover design, and the 8-song album was sent to a duplicating company in Tennessee where copies were made.

Since then, Phillips has been travelling to various churches, singing his songs and selling his tapes at \$7 each. With several hundred albums sold, Phillips has gained quite a large following. His music can be heard on the radio station 88.5 FM, and he has appeared on a channel 22 program called "Together Again." He will perform a second time on the show this month. In addition, gospel artist

Bill Murk and singer Ricky Skaggs will include one of Phillips' songs, "The Carpenter," on an album they are now recording in Nashville.

However, fame is not what Phillips is after.

"My main goal is to carry the ministry from place to place on my own," Phillips said. "I don't have to wind up being well-known. It never has to get any bigger than it is right now."

Influenced by singers Gordon Lightfoot and Jim Croce, Phillips describes his music as "easy listening" with "a country taste." His songs retell the New Testament's stories of faith, healing, and love. The music of the string instruments blends with Phillips' deep, soft voice, instilling in his

songs a rhythm usually reserved for country and folk music.

While Phillips splits his time between writing songs and selling wood carvings—his sculptures are on display at Center Place for the month of July—eventually he hopes to devote himself full-time to the ministry of his music.

"When I sing somewhere and see the reaction of the people, not because of my voice—but because of the words—that's the most rewarding," Phillips said. "That's confirmation to me each time that I'm doing what I'm supposed to do."

If you would like a copy of "Wayne Phillips," send \$7 plus \$.50 for postage and handling to 120 Bessemer Circle, Brandon, FL 33511.

TIPS from page 5

4. When you get on-board the airplane, tell the flight attendant that you have requested a special meal to help insure they don't give it to someone else by mistake.

5. If you change seats before the meal, make sure the flight attendants know or the meal will be delivered to the person sitting in your original seat.

Follow these procedures and you should get your meal.

If you always fly out of the same airport on the same airline you will probably get the same meal if you order, say, a vegetarian meal, every time you fly. For variety, ask about some of the other interesting options like Hindu, Buddhist, or Asian meals, or even a simple fruit plate.

Finally, if none of the above sound interesting, brown bag it.

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River Hills Country Club is the site for the Monday, August 10 golf tournament to benefit The Rebekah Home now located in Bloomingdale West.

ten girls, may be extended to at least 24 children of all ages. Presently, the home shelters teenage girls who have run away from home or have suffered abuse or neglect.

Directors Bill and Robin Marshall will utilize the proceeds to complete the purchase of 40 acres of land so that the services of the home, which now accommodates

Golfers wishing to aid this worthy cause may call Jack Sauer at River Hills Country Club 653-3323 or The Rebekah Home 653-0714. Interested golfers are asked to donate a \$100 entrance fee.

River Hills Offers August Sports Camp

River Hills Country Club is offering an all Sports Camp throughout August for children ages 5 to 18. Tennis, basketball, volleyball, arts & crafts, swimming, and golf will

be offered. Cost is \$115 per week. Classes are scheduled for 9 AM to 3:30 PM. Call Scott Smith at 653-3776 for additional information.



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TENNIS from page 6

conception that the drop shot is a low percentage shot. The drop shot is in some circumstances the highest percentage shot possible. The closer one is to the net the better the odds against a smart or experienced player getting to the ball. The farther one is back, the more backspin is needed to prevent the ball from bouncing towards one's opponent and the more difficult the shot becomes to time and place.

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TAX from page 4

\$600,000 should be concerned about this potential estate tax. Consider transferring some assets while alive by giving or selling them to your children. Annual gifts of up to \$10,000 per child by each parent adds

up to reduced estate tax over the years.

These and other considerations may serve to greatly reduce your overall taxes and if you feel some may apply to you, then you should consult with your tax advisor about your particular situation.

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