

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVI, Number 6

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

June 1996

## BHA Briefs

### Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, June 11, at 7:30 in the Community Office in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. The Community Office has moved to 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, next door to Kim Hall's Dance Studio. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting.

### Center Director Guest

Bloomingdale resident and new rec center director Donna Clouse will be the guest of the BHA board at Tuesday's meeting. With the long-awaited center ready to open in Bloomingdale West, Donna is expected to give the BHA a preview of the center's activities. The 17-year veteran of parks and recreation is eager for community input. See related story this page.

### 'Deputy Pete' On Patrol Teen Party Houses

Calls and complaints came in, but then, they always do when it comes to teens and loud parties. Only this time, the homeowner was arrested and charged as the result of a raid on his Bell Shoals home where nearly 40 Bloomingdale area youths were discovered involved in underage drinking and violating the county's house party ordinance.

Clifford Stevenson, 18, was arrested on the charges of breaking the house party ordinance and child abuse stemming from allegations he provided alcohol to minors. Those charges were later dropped and he was found guilty last month with underage possession of alcohol.

Neighbors had been calling the Sheriff's Department to report loud parties at the residence at 1413 Bell Shoals, cars parked in the street and yards, and young men relieving themselves outdoors. In February, Stevenson was issued a warning, said Pete Maurer, Bloomingdale's Community Resource Deputy. The arrest was made during a party March 8.

"None of the teenagers at the party were arrested," Maurer said. "Stevenson said he didn't know they were there. He said he came home and they were already there."

Stevenson, whose father owns the home but works out of state, is reportedly the sole occupant of the house.

Maurer asks that residents be on the alert for repeated house parties at any location and that appear to be teen hang-outs, especially with the summer months and school vacation.

He said residents should report suspicious activity to the Sheriff's office, but if it is of a non-emergency nature, a message can be left for Maurer at 247-8555 or at the Community Office, 681-2051.

### Coming in July

What kinds of summer jobs are Bloomingdale kids involved in? Catch some of them in Hot Jobs In the Summertime. Also, residents are angry about Bloomingdale Avenue as a truck route. Find out what County Commissioners have to say about it.

## Residents Breathe New Life Into Pond

Friendship Pond is now a healthy water source thanks to the efforts of Sandy Creek residents.



by Rozel Sciulli

They call her the Pond Mom.

Jenna O'Keefe just likes to think she's doing her part to save the planet.

The five-year resident of Sandy Creek Drive knew there was a pond behind her house. She just couldn't see it. Duckweed had covered the water.

What's more, the overgrown brush provided camouflage for the teens she suspected were hanging out behind her and her neighbor's houses.

"I knew they were back there because I could hear them," she said. "I just couldn't see them."

But when her son Austin was born three years ago, the eyesore suddenly became a sign of danger and O'Keefe began her crusade to clean up the pond.

"I was really angry I had to look at this and put up with the (nuisance) of the kids who were shooting off guns back there."

While this began as a one-woman campaign, it was by no means an individual effort. O'Keefe credits the residents of Sandy Creek, "even those across the street who had nothing to gain except helping the environment," with restoring healthy life to the two-acre body of water now known as Friendship Pond.

It was tough going at first. The county informed her they didn't own the pond, but it belonged to residents from South Oak on the other side.

Rather than letting that deter her, O'Keefe took advantage of the new coverage area for her campaign. She enlisted the help of the South Oak residents, and they joined in.

"They were leery at first because they thought we wanted to take over the pond," O'Keefe said. "But I kept including them in our newsletter, and soon they began to help."

In her search, O'Keefe found out about the county's Adopt-A-Pond program. She also learned there was a two-year waiting list. The program allows residents to clean up a pond with help from the county, which in turn rewards the residents with pond plants favorable to the pond's ecology.

Tired of waiting for the county, O'Keefe took matters into her own hands. She networked with neighbors who established a pond day once a month when they would chop down undesirable plants and clean up debris that included beer cans and bottles and men's magazines.

Alligator tracks through the tall grass were made visible and there appeared to be no solution to clearing the water.



Before residents adopted this 2 acre pond the water was barely visible because of overgrowth.

That's when her group came up on the Adopt-A-Pond list. With the clean-up half-way completed and one year into the project, the county arrived with heavy equipment to service the water.

The final step was planting desirable vegetation along the pond's banks.

"The county uses the plants as a carrot," said O'Keefe, who added that 15-20 homeowners helped with the rejuvenation of the pond. "We'll give you these if you maintain the pond."

O'Keefe said the vegetation consumes the fertilizer run off from surrounding properties, whereas before, the run-off was polluting the pond, which connects to Hickory Creek, a direct link to the Alafia River.

Now, the pond is surrounded by healthy vegetation and mowed banks where otters can be seen sunbathing. And while there are still alligators, being able to see them, makes them seem like less of a threat.

"There was a selfish benefit in that my property will increase in value," said the eco-minded O'Keefe, whose home is a hanging garden. She even has green carpeting. "There is a community benefit as well. We have a healthy pond."

### Friends of Friendship Pond

Pat and Steve Heckel, Lisa and Dave Fox, Tom and Lucy Pinataro, Rocky and Jenna O'Keefe, Bob and Ellen Gates, Joe and Julia Kane, Bob and Elizabeth (last name unknown), Sheila and Denise, Tony and Myrtle Court, Janice, Art and the Guibert boys, the Perez family, Chip and Paige Pearson, Dr. Alfred and Nancy Hess, James and Linda Kocnig, and Donald and Alish Durrance.

## Rec Center Set To Open; Summer Program Under Way

by Rozel Sciulli

Bloomingdale residents have waited since 1985 for a county recreation center to be built in the community. This month, the wait is over as the doors open on the new Bloomingdale West Park Recreation Center on Canoga Park Drive and Bloomingfield.

And the timing couldn't be better, said resident and center director Donna Clouse, who is expecting a full house of nearly 100 children for the center's inaugural summer camp which begins Monday and runs through early August.

not have the center ready for the first day of camp, the children will meet at J. C. Handy Park behind Kingswood Elementary School for two weeks. The Bloomingdale center is expected to open June 24.

Three full-time staff members and three recreation counselors will be on hand for the summer. Camp hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and it open to children six to 12.

The \$50 fee is for the entire summer and children must pack a lunch.

Three optional field trips are scheduled every week, including a major trip on Fridays to places like Busch

land and Lithia Springs. In addition, campers will be taken bowling and roller skating once a week.

Camp activities include outdoor and indoor games, arts and crafts and movies. An Olympic theme will feature daily tournaments and talent shows, Clouse said.

The center will be open to residents until 9 p.m. and Clouse already has two evening classes slated. Karate will be offered once a week and low impact aerobics twice a week.

A telephone number for the center was unavailable at the time of publication. For information, about summer



# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE



## NEW SUMMER HOURS

**MON. & FRI.** 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**TUES. & THURS.** 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
**WEDS.** 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

For your convenience we will be opened until 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

### Our Times

## Volunteers Man Community Tasks

by Rozel Sciulli

Every so often a phone call comes in to the Community Office from a Bloomingdale resident who will demand an immediate answer to a problem. June Oros, our office manager, must then explain that the message will be forwarded to a member of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association Board.

This will usually satisfy the caller, but never without the explanation on June's part that board members are volunteers. They, many of them, have regular full-time jobs.

This process is repeated dozens of times a week. So allow me to take this chance and space to clarify the confusion that must be addressed, oh, every year or so.

We have in this community The Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association, *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, and the Bloomingdale Community Office which houses all three groups.

The Board of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association is an elected group of residents, usually eight to 10, who meet monthly to discuss community concerns. Some of the more recent issues have been reclaimed water and the designation of Bloomingdale Avenue as a truck route.

In the past the board has lobbied the county for installation of street lights and recreational parks.

Their small budget is established through annual dues of \$20, billed to the homeowners who reside within the walls of Bloomingdale from Lithia Pinecrest to John Moore Road. The money, in the past has made possible community events such as picnics and fun runs and pays for its share of the Community Office. It also funds the successful and highly visible Mobile Watch program.

The BHA board members are all VOLUNTEERS. They enforce deed restrictions and sponsor the Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP) which cites residents who are in violation of county codes.

Again, the NIP workers are VOLUNTEERS who want to do their part to keep Bloomingdale a nice place to live. They'll let you know if your garbage cans are left out or your grass is too high, or if you have a portable building visible from the street. High grass is a problem this time of year, and boy, have the calls let us know that.

They also get a lot of calls about abandoned homes. Often it's the same home that everyone in the neighborhood is taking turns calling about. Vacant

houses run their course (any where from 6 months to a year) and they are reported to the NIP which then reports the complaint to various agencies, listing realtor, or mortgage holder. So, if a resident calls back about the same house the next day or even the next week, there probably will be no change in its status. And it's not the fault of the VOLUNTEERS.

The BHA started *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. It is *The Gazette* staff which is most often in the Community Office during morning business hours. *The Gazette* is governed by a board of directors, all VOLUNTEERS, although employees of the paper are paid from the proceeds of advertising.

*The Gazette* began 16 years ago in the living room of a BHA board member. It has grown to become the forum for community news that is 100 percent Bloomingdale.

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, or STD, is charged with maintaining the common areas of Bloomingdale (the entrances, the medians, the walls, etc.). They do this with a little more than a \$300,000 a year budget which comes from an \$80 per household assessment (part of your property taxes).

These VOLUNTEERS are elected to a board of trustees who serve a two-year term of office. The STD will contract with a property manager who is paid and a paid secretary.

They were established by the County Commission when communities such as Bloomingdale began to spring up in all parts of the county. The commissioners couldn't keep up with growing requests for maintenance and upkeep of the communities so STDs were established.

The Community Office is located in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza, at Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale. An office manager maintains regular hours 9:30 to 12:30 during the school year, abbreviated during the summer. It is her job to schedule the use of the office for meetings of the BHA, STD and Mobile Watch and any committees that branch from these organizations.

She also takes all BHA calls. She is not a VOLUNTEER. But the people she takes messages for are.

Sometimes people call because they don't like the fact they've received a deed restriction violation notice. She catches the brunt of their ire, but can only say, "I can take a message and see that one of the BHA board members gets it. No, they're not here. They have regular jobs.

"They're all volunteers."

Keep that in mind.

### OFFICERS

**BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road  
 Suite 103  
 Valrico, Florida 33594  
**681-2051**

Randy Wolfe President 229-3321  
 Rick Oros Vice President 685-0866

#### Directors

Michael Davis 684-8881  
 Ted Grabie 685-7193  
 Stan Highsmith 661-9359  
 Dave Lowe 258-8855  
 Patricia Radel 651-0210  
 Luana Russell 684-3144  
 LaWayne Wyatt 685-2072  
 Anne Underwood 653-4677

#### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District 684-6667

Rick Pitrowski President 684-6667  
 Chris Hering Vice President 654-0235  
 Joe Ligouri Treasurer 681-9655  
 Tom Snelling Corresponding Secretary 681-9186  
 T. Szabo Recording Secretary 684-2547  
 Peter Aluotto Trustee 685-0727  
 Keith Wilson Trustee 621-6619  
 Alan Devney Administrator 684-6617

#### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

Core Committee  
 LaWayne Wyatt Coordinator/Scheduler 685-2072  
 John Britton Treasurer 681-1553  
 Steve Schneider Equipment Manager 685-8378

#### Members

David Guy 681-5043  
 Paul Kelmer 681-8701  
 Rick Boring 684-2022

**Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District**  
 P.O. Box 3132  
 Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

### The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103  
 Valrico, Florida 33594-681-2051  
**NEW SUMMER HOURS:** M & F: 9:30-12:30, T & TH: 9:30-11:30, W: 9:30-2:30

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. Publisher  
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 Rozel Sciulli Editor  
 June Oros Administrative Assistant/Layout & Graphics Editor  
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 Ellen Slovacek Writer  
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#### Statement of Operation

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available free of charge at several statewide Public, The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, National Bank, Mail Boxes Etc., Bell Shoals City, Rainbow Mart, K&K & Kary, Nations Bank, Brandon Library, Sun Bank, Bannock Bank, and Farm Stores.

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### MEETINGS

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

#### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

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

#### BHA Board of Directors

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

#### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

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

#### Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

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



## Letters To The Editor

### Problem With Reclaimed Water Proposal

Dear Editor:

Before the trumpeting gets too loud on this (reclaimed) water issue, some of us would like to voice some words of caution...And I hope the opportunity to get some space in your paper to present a differing view.

The entire proposal from the county is so full of loopholes that whatever we sign up for is in reality, an open-ended commitment to cover all the escalation costs. I've listened to a couple of county pitches on the recycled water and there are no, repeat, no guarantees that it will not be use-restricted in the future or what the monthly charges will be.

We are expected to sign on, incur a lien on our property and then let the county start digging, laying pipelines land providing water as promised. No, thanks. Until we have some definite answers and Mr. Holland said even after feasibility studies there's no guarantees on what the ultimate cost could be.

I for one remain to be convinced.

Regards,  
 David N. Suban  
 Bloomingdale Ridge

Editor's Note: *The Gazette* would like to hear from those who have already met with county officials on the issue of reclaimed water, prima-

rily residents of Fox Run and The Greens. Please share your impressions with fellow residents of Bloomingdale who have not yet met with the county and to whom the proposal of reclaimed water is very new.

### Community Spirit Benefits All

Dear Editor:

Thank you for (the) "thank you" in *The Gazette*. It is a pleasure to be able to help but especially for people who care and appreciate. You are absolutely right about the fact that this is our community and we all benefit from the efforts of those who care and do. In this case a new conveniently located YMCA is just what the doctor ordered.


Thanks for your efforts.

Best Regards,  
 Jim Harbridge  
 Mail Boxes Etc.

### Letters To The Editor:

Letters to the editor should be mailed to *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, Valrico, Florida 33594.





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## Top Grads Rate Student Rankings



**Pamela Frysz**  
 Valedictorian



**Melanie Taylor**  
 Salutatorian

**GRAD FACTS**

Number: 647  
 College-bound: 70%  
 Scholarship dollars earned: \$5 million  
 Honor graduates: 138

by Shannan D. Powell

Bloomingdale High's valedictorian and salutatorian, the school's two highest ranked students, hold differing views on academic ranking.

Class valedictorian Pamela Frysz feels there is a need for the honorary ranking.

"It doesn't mean much when you leave, but it is something special," she said.

Melanie Taylor, class salutatorian, does not like the idea of ranking students.

"People were taking classes for the honors credits, not classes that were fun, that they'd enjoy, like yearbook," she said.

"And I don't like the way, as a sophomore, they pointed out who were the top five in the class then. It's taking the fun out of just doing well."

At the beginning of this school year, Frysz knew she would have to work hard. But the obstacles she met were not just grades - during the year she had to deal with the death of a close friend and co-worker.

The 1996 Bloomingdale High valedictorian had made a lot of good friends and made it a point to keep all of them together. She also learned not to take things so seriously - even graduation.

"Graduation should be a fun, happy time," she said. "Everyone takes it so seriously."

So Frysz said she planned to attend the "solemn, honored" ceremony with rainbow-colored hair.

Frysz, who has maintained a 5.52 grade point average,

received a \$100 savings bond and plaque during a May 22 school awards ceremony.

She has been a member of the math league, LEO service club, the debate club and several honor societies.

Frysz plans to continue to work at Celebration Station through the summer and then attend the University of Florida in the fall to pursue a degree in child psychology.

Her message to younger students: "Don't take things too seriously. It will all work out in the end."

For Melanie Taylor, the 1996 BHS salutatorian, academic success runs in the family. Her brother, Sean, was the 1995 class valedictorian.


Throughout her years at Bloomingdale, Taylor has been a member of several honor societies, the golf team and the cross country team, while maintaining a 5.50 GPA.

She said she most enjoyed being on the cross country team because it gave her something to focus on other than academics. She knew she wasn't the best so she could relax and have fun running.

Her main goal has been to get good grades and to strive to be at the top of her class. She was also rewarded with a \$100 savings bond and a plaque from the school.

Taylor will carry the same goals with her to Dartmouth in New Hampshire this fall when she hopes to study politics, government or history.

Taylor's message to younger students: "I would just encourage them to have fun and not worry too much about good grades. They'll just come if the students are having fun."



**by Sonia M. Ruiz, M.D.**  
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# Church And Synagogue News

by Ellen Slovacek

June is always an exciting time of year. Graduations, weddings, anniversaries all take place in June. The month becomes sort of a rite of passage. From singlehood to, as Paul Riser puts it, couplehood; and usually more often than not that leads to parenthood. The month of June also affords us the opportunity to honor our fathers on the third Sunday of the month.

When I think about fathers, I think of my own wonderful Dad who dedicated his life to his family. Even at age 75, he is still busy "taking care of business." Granted this business has changed from making a living to playing with his grandchildren, but he takes on this responsibility with the same vigor and energy he had years ago for his own children.

Fathers today are busier than ever. Some try to juggle careers with the sole responsibility of raising their children. Many spend their free time working another job in order to give their families a little more security.

What I learned from my own hard-working Dad was that he never lost sight of why he was working so hard. He always took time out at the end of his busy day to talk to his six kids. As I look back on it, it must have been a real task for him when we were all teenagers to make sense of what we were saying. (I'm experiencing that right now with my own four teenagers).

I'm grateful for dad and the legacy he has given to me and my family. It's a legacy of love and dedication. A legacy of what a family is all about. Here's to gathers everywhere. May we carry on what they have so valiantly worked for - love at home.

## Now, here's what's happening...

The Sunday School pre-schoolers at **Congregation Beth Shalom** were recently asked to think about things that teach them love, kindness and honesty. Here are a few commandments they came up with to ensure those virtues:

"Do not hit. Do not fight. Listen to the teacher. Do not bite. Do not bite people or clothes. Do not say bad words. Do not try to kill anybody. Do not splash in the bathtub. Listen to your parents. Do not sweep under the rug. Only eat in the kitchen. Only pee in the toilet. Ask permission. Don't play with glass or other things that break. Do not write on anybody, only on paper. Do not pull hair."

Pretty sage advice from pre-schoolers.

Remember your New Year's resolutions? Well, if you are having a little trouble with that goal of becoming physically fit in '96, **St. Andrews Methodist Church** may have the answer for you. It's called **First Place**.

**First Place** is a Christ-centered health program with an emphasis on weight control. The program consists of daily Bible study and commitments to prayer, exercise and proper nutrition. Men and women in these classes have lost a total of 414.5 pounds and they are willing to share their secret with others.

Openings are now available in classes held on Tuesdays, 10-11:15 a.m. and 7 to 8:15 p.m. The next session begins June 18 and continues through September 3. The cost is \$75 for the initial registration fee, \$25 for returning members.

Participants must attend one of the orientation meetings. For information call 689-6849.

For years they hit their alarm clocks at 5 a.m. and quickly dressed for school. What made these kids get up so early? They attend early morning seminary, a Bible study group, before school starts at **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**.

For four years, Monday through Friday, these high school teenagers would drag themselves and their Bibles to the church in the dark hours of the morning for some spiritual instruction before their school day began. But all that is behind them now. On May 19, a graduation ceremony was held for these kids who are striving to become scripture scholars. Before a congregation of over 250 friends and family, the early morning seminary students received their diplomas.

Included on the program were **Bloomington High senior Preston Bernhisel and Barry Pope**. Both young men plan to attend **Brigham Young University** in the fall.

**The United Methodist Church** at 408 Limona Road announces a new program for children. **Kids Construction Zone** is a seven-week program for children ages four and older in elementary school. The program includes music, crafts, videos and recreation.

Classes will be held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 to noon beginning June 17. The cost is \$90 for the entire summer.

"Finding Contentment" is the focus of the new young adult group at the **Presbyterian Church of Bloomington**. Babysitting is available if needed. Call 653-3503 for information.

The **Brandon Day Women's Aglow** will sponsor Joan

McSpaddin at **Center Place** on Wednesday, June 12 at 9:30 a.m. in a seminar entitled "What Your Mother Never Told You About Men."

Topics include finding the right mate, courtship after marriage, intimacy, handling crisis, fighting fair, forgiveness and other pertinent aspects of relating to that significant other.

The event is free and open to the public and includes complimentary brunch and child care.

For information, call Linda Green at 677-7041 or Anita Murphy at 689-2578.

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## A Moment In Time

by Ellen Abramson

Mother's Day was yesterday and yesterday and yesterday....

The memories live on and one...

I turned to Mother's Bible for comfort

and discovered the tiny scrap of paper.

It said, "You look so nice!"

She had added her not in the corner,

"Ellen slipped this to me in church July 22 '62.

Precious to her, doubly precious, the lesson to me...

Remember to seize the moment.



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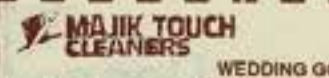
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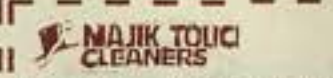
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# Bits N Pieces



## Blanchard Named Outstanding Leader

by Shannan D. Powell



Kimberly Blanchard

Bloomingtondale resident **Kimberly Blanchard** was recently chosen Outstanding Graduating Female Leader by a University of Florida faculty

and administration committee. She was honored with a plaque during commencement ceremonies on May 4.

Blanchard received a bachelor's degree with honors in psychology. She is a 1991 graduate of Bloomingdale High and the daughter of L. B. and Roberta Blanchard.

Blanchard kept very busy during her time at UF. She was a hall director for the Division of Housing, Camp UF Director, as well as holding several other positions for the school's preview orientation program and student director and peer counselor at the University Counseling Center.

She acted as Personal Host of the University President, research assistant and volunteer coordinator, senior teaching assistant and board member on the student recreation and fitness centers

board of directors.

While Blanchard plans to travel in the near future, she is currently back on the UF campus researching and co-authoring a paper with other students and professors. Later this year, she intends to pursue a graduate degree in counseling psychology or educational leadership.

## Sutton-Goodwin Nuptials

Sidne Sutton and Michael Goodwin



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Goodwin

were united in marriage at Nativity Catholic Church on June 1 in a double-ring ceremony.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore an off-the-shoulder, long-sleeved, beaded gown with a crown veil. She carried a bouquet of stargazer lilies, white roses and lilies of the valley.

Her matron of honor was Shea Huet, sister of the bride, of Valrico. The bridal attendants were the bride's nieces Jennifer and Jami Belt and friends Missy Cannon, Susan Leigh and Mary Boling.

The best man was Chris Goodwin, brother of the groom. The ushers were the groom's cousin, Tim Merwin, brother-in-law Mike McAvoy, and friends Rob Howard, Todd Lodico and Jeff Enga.

The bride is the daughter of Sid and Sue Sutton of Bloomingdale Estates. She is a graduate of Brandon High and is employed by American Home Sales.

The groom is the son of Joe and Nancy Goodwin of Ankeny, Iowa. He is a graduate of the DeVry Institute of Technology and Keller School of Management and is employed by Telco Systems.

Following a reception at the Ramada Inn in Apollo Beach, the couple spent a week in Cancun.

They will reside in Lee Summit, Missouri.

## Duo land 'odd' roles

Bloomingtondale West resident Tisha Goble and Oakdale Reserve resident Mary Smith will be appearing in Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" - the female version - in Dinner Theater at Centre Place, a production of the Stage Door Community Theater of Brandon.

Smith will be making her community theater debut in the lead role of "Florence," the obsessively neat, drive-everyone-nuts roommate of "Vera", a



Tisha Goble and Mary Smith

dimwitted, naive friend played by Goble, who is appearing in her second community theater show.

The play, directed by Wayne Otto, will run for four performances, June 21 and 22 with dinner at 7 p.m. and the show at 8 p.m.; June 23, dinner at 5 p.m. and show at 6 p.m.; and June 29, dinner at 7 p.m. and show at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 a person, including dinner, and can be reserved by calling 685-8888. Centre Place is located at 619 Vonderburg Dr., off Parsons between Lumsden and Oakfield.

## Church Group Takes To High Seas

Several Bloomingdale residents joined other members of St. Stephen Catholic Church for a week-long cruise aboard the Carnival Cruise ship SS Tropicale.

Between April 21 and 28, the group toured Georgetown in the Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Mexico and New Orleans.

Bloomingtondale residents in the group included Billie and Lewis Ankney, Mike and Mary Bosler, Richard and Lisa Collins, Joe and Pam Liguori, Marilyn and T. J. Martin, Diane and Wayne Schoeffel and Susan and Thomas Schott.



Dressed for a cruise night theme party are Bloomingdale residents Wayne Schoeffel, Mike and Mary Bosler and Pam and Joe Liguori.

The had many highlights including...

- naming Mike Bosler to the "Royal Order of the Fork" when he finally figured out which forks to use during the formal dinners...
- sending their pastor a postcard from a town in the Grand Cayman called Hell...
- snorkeling in both Grand Cayman and Cosumel...
- touring the Mayan ruins on Cozumel, some by taking the bus and one, Marilyn Martin, who braved the six-mile trip through the jungle on horseback...
- enjoying Cajun cuisine in the French Quarter.

See BITS, page 11

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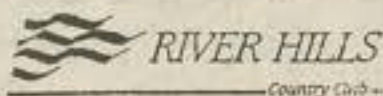
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# Here Come

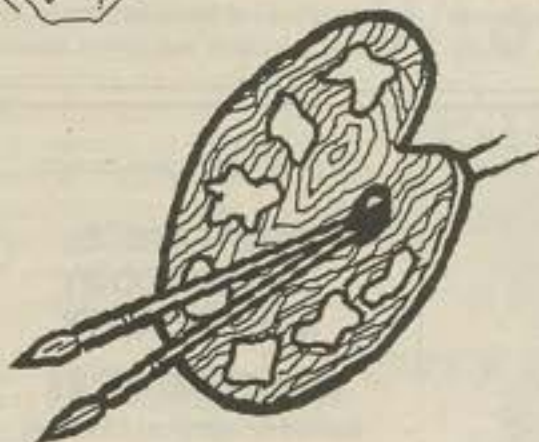


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Drawing.....	11 & up
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Creative Fun.....	6-10
Cartooning.....	6-12
Cartoon Mural.....	6-12
Cartoon T-Shirt.....	6-12
Cruise the World.....	6-12
Discover Hour.....	4-6
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### Summer Begins At The Library

This month registration is required for what the library is calling **Special Activities** June 11 and 12. Both days at 3 p.m. children will have an opportunity to make interesting crafts to take home. Tuesday's activity is for children 5-8, while Wednesday's event is for those 9-12. There is a limit of 20 to each class.

**Summer Reading** will be on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. beginning June 19. Stories, games and creative dramatics are designed for children 6-12. There is a limit of 50 on a first come, first served basis.

**Bedtime Stories** will be told June 20 at 7 p.m. for children 2-5. Children should wear their pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal.

**Toddler Time and Story Time** continue at the library on Tuesdays at 9:20, 9:50 and 10:30 a.m.

### First Aid, Child Care For Kids

Columbia Brandon Regional Medical Center will offer classes in first aid, girl talk and babysitting on various dates this summer.

**FAB (First Aid Basics for Kids)** will be taught to children in second through fifth grades on Saturday June 15 from 9 a.m. until noon. Other classes will be July 27 and Aug. 24.

**Girl Talk** is a parent and daughter class designed to foster communication about growing up. The class is July 13 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 and is designed for girls 9-15.

**Babysitting Basics** is offered to boys and girls ages 11 and older who will be taught to be an effective, safe and fun babysitter. Three different classes will be offered Saturdays, June 15, July 27 and August 24 from 9 a.m. until noon.



# Lithia Lynx



## PTA Named Best In County

by Ron Pogorzelski

The Lithia Springs PTA went home from the 14th Annual Awards for Hillsborough County Schools with recognition in three prestigious areas.

It was honored as the best PTA in the county, receiving the PTA Achievement Award of the Year. Outgoing president Gayle Turner accepted the plaque on behalf of the membership saying, "We knew we had worked hard to bon the school, children and parents, but this award caps a wonderful year for a lot of dedicated volunteers."

Lithia Springs also had the PTA Person of the year in Kerry Chalk, a working mother who was fourth vice president of the PTA. She had arranged her work schedule so she could spend Tuesdays and Thursdays at the school. She coordinated the volunteer activities in 11 ongoing programs and nine special projects. Never critical, always ready to serve when asked, enthusiastic about making things better for children, Chalk is described as "What PTA is all about."

Suzanne Livingston was selected as one of two outstanding persons to receive the Cultural Arts Program Award. She engineered the Reflections program at Lithia Springs that melded administrators, teachers and parents to hold a one-week seminar on the arts. Working for months, she recruited 11 local artists in dance, sculpture, photography, music and story-telling to lecture and demonstrate to all the children in the school. As a follow-up, children were encouraged to submit their own efforts in art and literature. "She was driven to make Reflections a really special event for children."

In addition to these top three awards, the PTA also won eight honors in membership and programs.

"It was an outstanding year," Turner said, "and the best is yet to come."



Six members of the Lithia Springs winning PTA show off their plaques, certificates and check at the Hillsborough County PTA Awards luncheon. From left, Gina Robinson, recording secretary; Barb Sievers, homeroom representative and Lithia Springs Volunteer of the Year; Gayle Turner, president; Kerry Chalk, fourth vice-president and PTA Person of the Year for Hillsborough County; Suzanne Livingston, Reflections Chairperson and winner fothe county's cultural arts program award; and Mary Kay Boeyen, second vice-president. (L)



\$1600 worth of aluminum was collected by Lithia Springs children this school year, and three students were awarded for doing the best job. From left, annual winners were Paul McClay, third grade; Jeffrey Anderson, first grade, the overall winner of a \$500 Savings Bond; and Megan Daniel, first grade. Paul and Megan won new bicycles.

# Hornet's Nest



## Booker T. Honor Students Named

Students named to the Principal's Honor Roll for the third grading period at Booker T. Washington Junior High are as follows:

Alexandra Acevedo, Christine Armstrong, Christopher Bancroft, Patrick Bolchoz, Sara Boraiko, Christine Cook, Erin Cox, Annamaria Csobanczi, Valeri Dahl, Kari Donaldson, Tara Escribano, Myairsa Gatewood, Michael Gorham, Deloras Haefling, Allyson Hartley, Stephen Hathaway, Emily Hawkins, Anu Jacob, Tracy Johnson, Laura Kochansky, Diana Lau, Matthew List;

Also Heather Maley, Michael McDonald, Halie McGowan, Rachael McIntosh, Lisa Milnamow, Courtney Nichols, Ryan Palmer, Kristy Perez, Jessica Robledo, Peter Ruiz, Kimberly Schrader, Christopher Sclafani, Michael Scott, Metta Smeed, Nanecia Smith, Andrew Shite, Heather Winger, Kristin Wray and Jane Yates.

# Gator Tales



## New PTA Officers Named

by Ruthe Brunson

School is out and summer activities are already beginning. Although school functions are over, the PTA is already planning for next year. The board gathered for brunch June 3 for the installation of officers.

The new officers are Michelle Colesanti, first vice president, volunteers; Janet Ponichtera, second vice president, ways and means; Kathy Hamm, third vice president, administrative support; Sharon Stoutenburg, fourth vice president, membership; Robin Rogovin, secretary; and Susan Abdel-Aziz, treasurer. The position of president remains open.

Congratulations to the new board and to all the other chairpersons who will be working hard for Alafia's children.

The PTA would like to thank all of the 299 volunteers who worked at the school this year. These volunteers and board members logged over 20,000 hours of service.

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# Bulls Eye



## Top Graduates Honored

The annual Bloomingdale High Awards Night honored students at all grade levels of academics and paid special tribute to the graduating Honors Court.

Among the highest awards given was the Principal's Outstanding All-Around Senior Leadership Award, presented this year to Michael Allegretti, who served as student government president among other activities.

The top junior honored was Christine Nichols who received the Princeton Book Award presented annually to the top incoming senior.

### National Merit

Bloomingdale has more National Merit Finalists than any high school in the county. They are Gayle Freeman, Pamela Frysz, Susan Gardieff, Lina Rose Grady, Lori Kensel, Kimberly Madison (also named an Outstanding Negro Achievement Finalist), Jeremy Ozog, Christopher Pearson, Krista Thornton and Matthew Umbarger.

### Honor Court

The school's honor court consists of the top five percent of the class or those students who have a 4.0 cumulative GPA. They are as follows:

Hebah Abdel-Aziz, Llana Algarin,

Michael Allegretti (student government president), Nicole Astrike, Mark Austerman, Melissa Bader, Charity Bailey, Neepa Bakarania, Joshua Baldwin, Christy Barnes, Kyle Barrett, Heather Barton, Marc Bernhisel, Patricia Betty, Patrick Bingaman, Richard Boettger, Matthew Bonnett, Danielle Bradford, Wendy Brown, Melissa Bryant, Robert Buggy, Lisa Bugni, Ryan Carlock, Jennifer Carter, Peter Choquette, Kelly Collier, Lisa Colligan, Jennifer Conley, Kimberly Connelly, Vivian Cortes, Laura Coyle, Matthew Creager, Jennifer Cripe, Michael Crofford, Scott Decelles, Timothy Doane, Carl Dobrzanski;

also Christopher Dunlop, Cynthia Ekle, Robert Ellis, Christopher Eppler, Brian Evans, Brian Farrington, Heather Ferguson, Cheryl Fernandes, Kristopher Fillon, Kobi Finley, Kelly Foster, Bruce France, Bradford Frank, Gayle Freeman, Lara Freeman, Pamela Frysz, Susan Gardieff, Marcia Garvin, Daniel Golden, Roman Gorelik, Lisa Rose Grady, Abbie Graham, Joseph Greaser, Christina Griffin, Lindsay Groover, Jessica Hartling, Katherine Harvell, Michael Hawkins, Kenyatta Henderson, Robert Herzog, Stephen Hopkins, Cory Hrvatin, Derek Inokushi, Michael James, Elizabeth Jones, Ryan Kangas, Lori Kensel, Peter Kniess;

also Matthew Lawson, Leslieann Lewis, Erik Lundberg, Justin Lyons, Daniel Madden, Kimberly Madison, Rimothy Markey, Krista Martocci, Michelle Masiello, Kristine Matynlak, Lori Mayers, Morgan McCabe, Jamie

McGuinness, Sean McKim, Mark Menendez, Melissa Merkle, Suzanne Nignone, Tammi Miller, Jennifer Mitchell, Katherine Mitchell, Robert Mitchell, Annie Morris, Scott Murray, James O'Donnell, Sean Odenwald, Scott Odom, Brian Okay, Kristine Owne, Jeremy Ozog, Christopher Pearson, Jennifer Pergola, Skye Perry, Rachel Peterson, Jeffrey Petty, Barry Pope, Katherine Prinzbach, Jeffrey Prugh (senior class president), Shawn Rich, Sarah Richter;

also Meredith Rogers, Scot Rousse, Michael Sankey, Kristina Sappington, Laura Spangler, Douglan Staples, Adam Sterritt, Keri Sutterfield, Gabrielle Szafranski, Melanie Taylor, John Tesmer, Edward Thompson, Krista Thornton, Michael Tomas, Matthew Umbarger, Jeremiah Vencel, Josiah Vencel, Justin Welty, Clifton Wiggins, Kenneth Williams, Scott Wilson Anne Worthington, Ida Wynn and Stephen York.

### Academic Awards

Academic excellence awards were given to the top student at each level in each subject area.

Social Studies awards went to senior Brian Okay, also junior Brad Stevens and sophomore Fabian Fernandez.

Mathematics honors were presented to Christy Barnes, 12th; Geoffrey Brown, 11th; and Daniel Elkins, 10th. Science awards went to senior Lara Freeman, junior Christine Nichols and sophomore Kathryn Reese.

Nicole Astrike also received the Spirit of Science Award presented to the student

who best demonstrated a consistent love for science, discovery and involvement in the workings of science.

Language arts awards went to Clifton Wiggins, senior English and Literary Magazine; Jennifer Zivorio, junior English; Fabian Fernandez, sophomore English; Kobi Finley, drama and Literary Magazine; Stephen Hopkins, yearbook; Bruce France, forensics; Tony Luckett, T.V. production; Krista Thornton and Kathie Bullard, newspaper.

Foreign language honors were presented to Lori Kensel for Spanish, Heather Barton in French, Katherine Prinzbach for German, and Scot Rousse for Latin.

The recipients of visual arts awards were Craig Beck and Steve Donovan. And physical education awards went to Jim Szalay, 12th; Joe McMenamin, 11th; and James Duval, 10th.

### Honor Roll

Principal's Honor Roll students for the third grading period at Bloomingdale High are as follows:

10th graders - Megan Allen, James Duvall, Andrew Hooker, Aju Jacob, Jessica Moate, Gina Pantoja, Kathryn Reese, Michael Rhey, Vivian Ryan, Helene Sorenson, Amanda Wetherington, Kelly Wicklund and Jennifer Williams.

11th graders - Peter Galgay, Elizabeth Menietti, Christine Nichols and Williams Stephens, III.

12th graders - Christy Barnes, Patricia Berry, Danielle Bradford, Wendy Brown, Ronald Duvall, Ryan Kangas, Lori Kensel, James O'Donnell, Christopher Pearson, Jill Perrella, Jocelyn Redmon and Josiah Vencel.

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## Business Notes



### Fields To Open New Shop, Gallery

Jerry Fields has been waiting for this day for a long time. The owner of Fields Art and Framing has served the area for nearly six years out of a store front in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale, but the retired officer's wish of owning his own building will come true when the doors of his new gallery open later this month at 3407 Lithia Pinecrest, across from Bloomingdale Animal Hospital.

Fields has expanded his business by only 500 square feet in an effort to maintain an intimate gallery of original art and framing.

"It's going to have a little more ambiance to it," Fields

said. "People will feel good to be there. It will be more personal."

Fields said he is hoping to have the works of three or four artists on display, but added the gallery is primarily to give his clients framing and decorating ideas.

A moving sale is ongoing at Fields Art and Framing current location, and he said clients should watch for his grand opening announcements.

### Winn Dixie Re-Opens

The newest Winn Dixie Marketplace opened May 9 in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center. The newly remodeled 48,000 square foot supermarket features Winn Dixie's latest design, new and enlarged specialty departments, a full-service pharmacy and a unique deli/cafe.

The deli/cafe is unique to the Marketplace. A professional chef offers made-to-order dishes, ranging from hot entrees to cold salads and advise to customers on their own food preparation. In addition, the deli/cafe area has a special

seating area for those customers who want to eat in.

Other new services include a floral department, dry-cleaning service, photo processing, an in-store ATM machine and Western Union and Money Order availability.

The services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. However pharmacy hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

### Davis Offers Home Selling Tips

Local realtor Michael Davis announced he is offering a report, "29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar)", as a free community service to anyone selling a home in the Bloomingdale area.

Davis provides information on today's real estate market based on his 15 years experience as a real estate professional.

For information, residents may call the Community Office at 681-2051.

## Tax Topics

# Know Rights If Faced With Audit

by Robert J. Morris, CPA

The average citizen is afraid of the IRS Auditor due to many over-publicized horror stories. If you are confident with your return as filed and know your rights as a taxpayer, then you will not be intimidated by an upcoming audit.

First, never file your current tax return while you are being audited for a previous year. This will not allow the auditor to expand the audit to the current year. You should postpone filing with an extension or additional extension until the audit is concluded. However, you must pay any tax, you estimate you owe, with the extension to avoid complications in the future. If you pay the entirety with the extension there will be no late penalties assessed.

Read publication No. 1, your rights as a taxpayer, to be aware of what you can and cannot do in preparing for the audit. If the time and place scheduled is inconvenient, then ask the IRS to reschedule to a date and place to give you time to more accurately accumulate your data. Reasonable requests are allowed as long as it does not appear as a tax evasion procedure. If the audit location is at a distant office because you moved, then ask it to be reassigned to the IRS office nearest you.

If the IRS has examined you in the past two years, they cannot make you have a repeat audit of the same items as long as the previous audit resulted in no adjustments. You can have the audit cancelled. Also, the IRS cannot have the same auditor in consecutive audits.

You don't have to go to an audit alone and can have your tax advisor accompany you. It is even preferable you

don't go at all but let the CPA go as your Power of Attorney since he/she will understand the reason behind each questions and be better prepared to respond on your behalf. Having a representative appear on your behalf usually is well worth the cost. The representative may be able to keep the audit from spreading to new areas and can help avoid surprise questions by delaying the audit when to your advantage.

If you appear by yourself, deal with the audit in a calm, business-like manner. Antagonizing the auditor can sometimes be a very costly tactic. Never volunteer information not requested in the notice.

If your exam report appears the auditor made mistakes, your first step is to call or meet the auditor to discuss the errors. If this agent refused to correct them you should discuss it with the audit supervisor. Should this end unsatisfactorily you can protest the results to an appeals officer. This officer's job is to settle cases and the officer has the power to negotiate a settlement if the case is deemed weak.

Lastly, keep accurate records and documents which will be helpful should you be audited. Too many taxpayers pay large assessments because they did not keep adequate records and were ill-prepared for an audit.

The choice is yours but the use of a competent representative can save large assessments in many cases.

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The participation fee is \$12 in advance and \$5 on race day. The first 400 applicants will receive T-shirts.

For information, call Diane Flagg at 664-1100 or Kathy McKnight at 681-4279.



### BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

### STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

### Public Hearing

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District is conducting a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding its proposed FY 97 budget. The proposed assessment is \$80 per improved parcel of residential property. The trustees will vote on the budget and assessment. The hearing will be conducted at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road., Suite 103, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza, June 10, 1996 at 7:30 p.m.

In accordance with Chapter 286, F.S., the public is advised that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Trustees with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim reference of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

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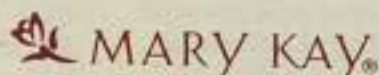
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