# June, 2001 omingdale g Complimentary

Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association • www.bha-online.com Volume XXI, Number 6

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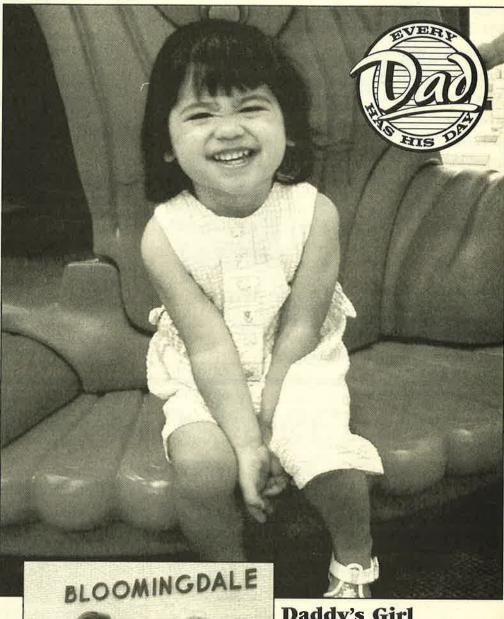
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**Library Site** Status,

See page 18



## Daddy's Girl

Zoe Donofrio, above, of Bloomingdale joins us in wishing dads everywhere a very bappy Father's Day!

### First Class Grads

Valedictorian Julia Ann Dickey and Salutatorian Christine Ann Cook lead Bloomingdale High School's 551 member Class of 2001 with more than just stellar GPA's. Story on page 6.

Canoe Launch Issue, see "Letters" on page 20.

# Your Inside Connections

## The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594 (813) 681-2051 • E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com

Web site: www.bha-online.org

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Treasurer, Paul Kelmer	681-9701
Steven Heckel	654-4266
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Paul Warr	685-7883

## Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132 **President** . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Bill Grace, 685-2817

Treasurer . . . . . . . . Fred Englehart

Meetings . . Second Monday each month at 7:30 pm. 3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks

\* \* \* \* \*

## Share your news with the community!

Write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594 Phone: (813) 681-2051 • Fax: (813) 651-1129 E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

# **Bloomingdale Special** Taxing District ......... 684-6667

Vice President, Tom Mackiewicz ...... 653-4145

Corresponding Secretary, R. Dickey . . . . 689-2177

**Recording Secretary**, Alice Burleson . . . . 685-1076

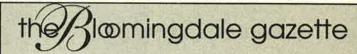
\* \* \* \* \*

## Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

**BHA Board of Directors Meetings** First Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

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



. . . . .

### The official publication of the BHA

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594 Phone: (813) 681-2051 Fax: (813) 651-1129 E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

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# the Romingdale gazette



# Steve Moran, P.A.



www.stevemoran.com

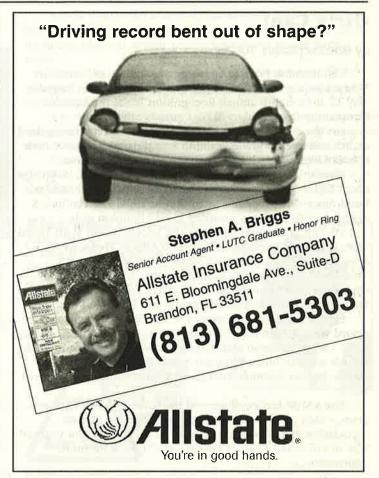
Call the Agent that has become a "House Sold Name!"



Pool home on 1/3 acre lot!

\*\*\$180,000\*\*

This home is located in the Boyette area of Hillsborough County. This new home has formal living and dining room. The family room leads out to the covered lanai and pool. The kitchen has upgraded cabinets with tile counter tops throughout. The floor is covered with Mexican tyle quarry tile and matching berber carpet. The master bedroom has cathedral ceilings with a huge walk in closet. The sparkling pool has a child safety fence and is surrounded with lush tropical landscaping. The oversized lot has a sprinkler ystem and St. Augustine grass and best of all no backyard neighbors. For more information call the agent that has become a "house sold name" Steve Moran P.A at 684-0016 or realtormoran@aol.com



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671-3311

By Barbara Reed, AAUW

The Brandon Branch, American Association of University Women honored 27 "Girls Can!" award recipients on Saturday May 12 at its eighth annual Recognition Tea at the Brandon Community Center.

For the eighth consecutive year, the branch has recognized eighth and twelfth grade Brandon area girls who achieve their school's highest grade point average in math or science.

Twelfth grade recipients were awarded a \$200 U.S. savings bond. Eighth grade girls were presented with a \$100 savings bond. Since this program's inception in 1994, \$22,100 in U.S. savings bonds has been awarded to 149 Brandon girls.

Twelfth grade girls receiving the Excellence in Math award were Heather Winger, Saida Caballero, Allison Marks, Kristy Lynn Perez, Nicole Shumaker, Megan Swindell and Leigh Thompson. Excellence in Science awards went to Courtney Nichols, Jennifer Daniels, Kimberly Haas, Emalee Heidt, Elizabeth Henderson, Lisa Milnamow and Sarah Williams.

Eighth grade girls receiving the Excellence in Science Award were Megan Fast, Caroline Dau, Courtney Miller, Justine Perry, Cirina Salmeron and Renee Sessions. Excellence in Math awards went to Jillian Primiano, Sonya Brar, Brittany Harvey, Natalie Person, Summer Rodriguez, Ashley Schultz and Amanda

The AAUW has implemented the "Give a Grad a Gift" program, which provides a year's free membership in the Association to a new graduate from an accredited four-year college or university. Contact Barbara at 671-3078 for more information.



The 2001 eighth grade "Girls Can" honorees



The 2001 twelfth grade "Girls Can" honorees



provide the best care."

Ed & Damien Von Baron

"I'm a lucky dog. I go to the Animal Medical Center of Brandon located on Bloomingdale Ave. They take care of all my medical needs. Their office staff takes good care of me. I always earn my treat after my visit. So come and visit the best vet in Brandon." - Damien Von Baron

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the Romingdale gazette

### College Senior Wins Scholarship

Swarthmore College senior Kristen A. Panfilio of Valrico, Fla., is the recipient of the prestigious Churchill Scholarship, one of only 11 awarded each year. The scholarship, which supports one year of graduate-level research in the sciences at the University of Cambridge, England, will allow Panfilio to study variation in insect and crustacean body plans. Panfilio, daughter of Wendy and Joseph Panfilio of Bloomingdale, is biology major.



TUTOR TIME

Adventure Club

For Children 5-12

Gymnastics

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Theatre

She is also the recipient of a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellowship in Biological Sciences, which she will defer until she begins a Ph.D. program in molecular biology and genetics at Indiana University. Panfilio is a 1997 graduate of King High School in Tampa.

## **School Board Approves Policy Changes**

NOW ENROLLING

For Summer Camp

Swimming

Skating

Movies

BLOOMINGDALE AVE.

ROSEMEAD

UTOR TIME

CANOGA PARK DR. 7

The Hillsborough County School Board in May approved everal countywide policy changes.

**Small Classes** 

10 Children to 1 Teacher or LESS!

Arts & Crafts

Bowling

Sports

Kristen A. Panfilio

A new policy that addresses harassment issues, including student bullying, defines specific types of unacceptable abuse including physical, verbal, psychological and sexual harass-

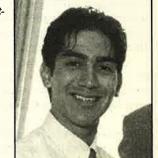
The policy outlines appropriate disciplinary actions for offenders, from letters of warning to student expulsion and criminal prosecution.

A revision to the county's dress code will allow students to wear backless or strapless shoes including sandals, slides, mules and clogs. Thong sandals or "flip-flops" will not be allowed.

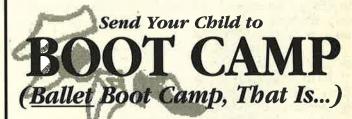
A complete list of new policy changes will be included in the 2001-2002 student handbooks sent home with children at the beginning of the new school year.

### Rios wins scholarship

Jaime Rios of Bloomingdale recently won a scholarship from the St. Petersburg Times for overcoming obstacles to excel. Rios bas a 3.8 GPA at Bloomingdale High.







Includes daily classes, plus music, dance history, mime, nutrition, videos and more!

### July Boot Camp (in 1-week sessions)

Fun Dance Program for ages 4-11 July 9th - July 27th

**Summer Dance Program** July 9th - July 27th

**Brandon Ballet Intensive Program** 

June 11th - June 29th ermediate and advanced dancer w/guest ter

Professional dance training in a controlled environment.



Brandon Ballet

in Residence at The Dance Center



### **First Class Grads**

By Laura Frazier

Ahh, brains, beauty, youth and ambition. Talk about having it all! Bloomingdale Senior High School's Class of 2001 Valedictorian and Salutatorian are shining examples of everything that's right with today's teens.

Valedictorian Julia Ann Dickey, with a GPA of 6.16, is modest about her latest accomplishment. "My goal in high school was simply to try my best. I never thought that my best could be straight A's. It just proves to me now that anybody can do well in high school if they really want to," said Dickey.

"During my first two years of high school, I didn't think seriously about class rank because I figured I would make all B's. But when I still had A's in my junior year, I thought, hey, I only have two semesters left, why not try to keep straight A's!'

Julia plans to major in industrial engineering at the University of Florida.

"I would like to immediately begin studying for an MBA after I graduate," she said. "I plan on pursuing a career in engineering management, unless family obligations prevent it, and I would like to live somewhere in the southeastern United States."

Salutatorian Christine Ann Cook, with a GPA of 5.96, had a similar experience. "I have always strived to do my best and take the courses that I was interested in," she said. "This honor was a surprise result of my hard work."

Christine plans to major in biomedical engineering at the University of Miami.

"I have been accepted into the Dual Admission Honors program, which allows me to get both my bachelor and masters degree in five years," she said. "I would like to work in research and development, particularly in the area of spinal injury treatment, which is one of the reasons I chose the University of Miami."

Both grads both speak fondly of their years at Bloomingdale High.

"All of my teachers and coaches have been great," said Dickey. "They have always been very supportive, and wanted to help me succeed."

"The teachers at Bloomingdale High really want you to

succeed," said Cook. "They are there to offer not just an education, but support all the things you do."

Both students give credit to those who helped them achieve success in their personal, social and academic lives.

"I have been fortunate to have family friends and teachers who have always stood behind me and have continued to encourage me," said Cook. "It was probably my elementary teachers at Brooker who planted the seed to love learning, and I have carried that with me through the years."

Dickey also counts family members among her biggest supporters. "I could not have done anything in high school without the support of my parents," she said. "They have been to every single track meet, swim meet and cross country meet I have been in the last four years. They also made sure I never stressed myself out. But most importantly," she said, "I could not have survived high school without my strong faith in God."

BSHS Class of 2001 Valedictorian Julia Ann Dickey, right, is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Bell Shoals Baptist youth group, varsity swimming, varsity track, varsity cross-country, National Honor Society. Mu Alpha Theta math club and the Spanish bonor society.



Julia Ann Dickey



Christine Ann Cook

BSHS Class of 2001 Salutatorian Christine Ann Cook, left, is the captain of the Crimson Dolls dance and winterguard teams, secretary of the class of 2001, National Honor Society secretary, and is a member of the LEO service club, Mu Alpha Theta. Math Team, Science Brain Bowl, chorus, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Spanish club and drama club.

# Welcome to Bloomingdale!

George "Geordie" Washington Holcombe

Born April 4, 2001 to Cynthia and Jaymer Holcombe

Dianajene Fox

Born April 5, 2001 to Celeste Fox and Michael Johnson

Janalyn Faith Stephens

Born April 9, 2001 to Stephanie and Eddie Stephens

Elizabeth Lynn Hamm

Born April 12, 2001 to Alison and Michael Hamm

Michael Valentine Rein

Born April 12, 2001 to Cynthia Fogarty and Michael Rein

Robert Charles Hall, Jr.

Born April 16, 2001 to April and Robert Hall

**Michael Vincent Page** 

Born April 16, 2001 to Karen and David Page

Tessa Rose Pignataro

Born April 18, 2001 to Michelle and John

**Zachary Ryan Sims** 

Born April 20, 2001 to Jennifer and Ronnie Sims

Hayley Sheridan Woody Born April 20, 2001 to Alicia and **Tommy Woody** 

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## YMCA/Little League Crosswalk

By Mack Austin

For many years, parents and ball players at the Bloomingdale Little League ball fields used the vacant lot across Culbreath Road for parking. That vacant lot is now the parking lot for the new Campo Family YMCA. They still cross Culbreath Road to get to the ballpark.

As part of the Bloomingdale Avenue widening project, crosswalks connecting the YMCA and the Little League fields have now been installed. This is a very dangerous area. Mixing parents and kids crossing the street with fast moving cars coming off Bloomingdale Avenue and flying down Culbreath Road is a very unsafe combination.

We are glad to see that the crosswalks have been installed by the County. But the crosswalks won't stop the cars. Parents, please use the crosswalks. Instruct your kids to use the crosswalks, especially at night.

An unofficial survey revealed the following observations, so please note them and take extra care when crossing Culbreath Road:

Very few park and YMCA visitors use the crosswalk located by the new Senior ball field.

Some park visitors used the second crosswalk located near Bloomingdale Avenue.

Most visitors crossed Culbreath Road by the old bridge, just like they have for over twenty years.

There are no stop signs for cars exiting the YMCA parking lot. Many don't even slow down.

Cars coming off Bloomingdale Avenue speed up and cannot stop quickly enough to miss a visitor crossing the street.

Watch out for them!

Parents, if you see a problem in this area, please bring it to the immediate attention of either the Bloomingdale Little League President or the YMCA Director so they can have it addressed. The safety of our kids is our first priority. County officials have been contacted to request a possible re-evaluation of the crosswalk locations. YMCA officials have been contacted to request stop signs for the parking lot exit points. Sheriff's deputies will be patrolling the area for speeders. All of this is good, but nothing beats being cautious and keeping an eye out for all the kids crossing this dangerous area.



Two crosswalks have been installed connecting the Bloomingdale Little league Park and the new YMCA.



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

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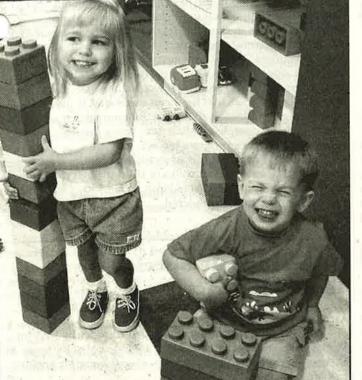
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**Building Good Memories** 

Tyler Zameroski and Ilyana Webb stacked up the fun recently the Campo Family YMCA's children's play area. The facility ovides up to two hours of free fun and supervision for member families each day while mom or dad works out.

## **MacDill Family Resource Center**

The MacDill Family Resource Center is located at 710 Oakfield Drive, Suite 119 in Brandon. Center staff and volunteers work in partnership with the greater Brandon community to provide support for families of active duty and retired military members of all branches of the service.

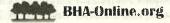
May programs offered at the center include a kid's playgroup, time management class, "Feed Your Kids Right" parenting coffee, a stress management class and Red Cross training. For more information, please contact James Warren at 655-9281.

### **BHA Meets Every 1st Monday**

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Board now meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, in the Citgo/SunTrust Bank plaza. Meetings are open to the public and all Bloomingdale residents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call (813) 681-2051.

### Free E-Mail News From the BHA

Bloomingdale residents, register for free e-mail news updates from the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at bha-online.org. E-mail updates include news of public issues that hit close to home, like crime advisories, school boundary changes, rezoning notices, public hearings, etc. For more information, call the BHA at (813) 681-2051.





## Limited Offer! Deadline is Monday 10 am!

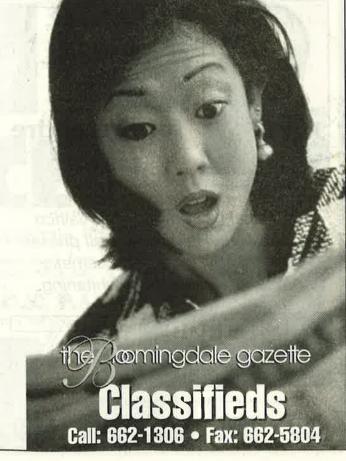
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## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



By Hillsborough County Commissioner Ronda Storms

Over the past several years, my office has received numerous phone calls regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalk installations. The next area of focus will be the Bloomingdale area, and it seems fitting to share the program with you at this time, with the help of Jeffrey Herndon, Hillsborough County's Capital Improvements Manager. Thanks,

Ronda Storms

As required by the ADA, the Hillsborough County Board of

Commissioners has established a program to modify existing sidewalks to ensure that they are accessible to everyone. The program was established in 1995 and is managed by Hillsborough County's Public Works Department. It typically involves constructing ADA ramps and curb modifications.

Usually if a sidewalk exists on all four corners of an intersection, two ramps are required on all four corners. At a "T" type intersection, where sidewalks exist on all three legs of the intersection, two ramps are required on each corner of the intersecting roads, and one ramp on the opposite side of the

In previous years, the work has been performed in Northwest Hillsborough County, Sun City Center and Brandon, in the Providence Lakes and Heather Lakes areas. This year's

program was started in the Buckhorn Springs Manor area, and has now been completed in Buckhorn Springs Manor. Oakwood Ravine, Burlington Heights, and Bloomingdale Oak

Work is currently being performed in Bloomingdale East along Peachfield Drive. The construction crews will work their ligginbotham and Hayes, presented the financial report. Total way west along Natures Way, retrofitting each subdivision section on the north and south sides of Natures Way, until this year's budgeted \$525,000 has been expended. If the funding runs out before all sidewalks in the Bloomingdale East subdivision have been completed, then next year's program will pick up where this year's program left off.

It is anticipated that this program will continue every year. until all of the existing sidewalks in Hillsborough County have been retrofitted to federal standards. So far, 540 of the planned been completed. 900 ramps have been completed.

## **Bloomingdale Special Taxing District**

April 2001 Meeting Minutes, Abridged

The April BSTD meeting was called to order by V.P.Tom Mackiewicz. Trustees in attendance included Mrs. Burleson, Mr. Dickey, Mr. Golden and Mr. Almeida. Absent were Mr. Snelling and Mr. Cassels.

The March minutes were read and approved. The next order of business was opening and awarding of the wall paint-the vacancy on the Board of Trustees. ing contract. Seven painting contractors submitted bids. The low bidder was Gemini, Inc. with a bid of \$2.75 per linear fo for both sides and top, and \$1.95 per linear foot for street side at 684-6667.

nd top only. A motion was made to award the contract to nini, contingent upon a due diligence reference check. The ustees voted three to two in favor of Gemini.

• Mr. Ferraro, from the accounting firm of Ferraro, ash on hand was \$316,843.17. Projected tax revenues to late were \$350,000. Total tax collected to date was \$343,

• A budget workshop for fiscal year 2002 was scheduled r May 14 at 6:30 p.m.

• Mr. Devney, President of DPMI gave the Property Manager's Report. The survey for the sidewalk projects has

• Mr. Pitrowski, from Communities of America, gave a folow up report on the demo landscaping he did at the Erindale

• Mr. Dickey read two preliminary loan proposals from Platinum Bank and AmSouth Bank. The bid spec package has not been completed. It was recommended that it be completed, reviewed by an attorney, possibly get County input and hen announce the bid.

• Mr. Mackiewicz expressed his hope that the package be eviewed, revised and sent to an attorney in time for the May

• Trustee Golden advised that FDOT has surveyed sidewalk reas, and that the construction of new sidewalks will be done

• It was announced that there have been no responses to

 The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. \*For information on the FY02 budget, please call the BSTD

## PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

For The Month of April 2001 Submitted by Al Devney, DPMI President Devney Property Management, Inc. (813) 684-6617



### Irrigation

DPMI rebuilt the irrigation at Hickory Ridge Kingsford Place and the Springvale entrances.

Thunder Irrigation moved several main lines at the Hickory Ridge entrance. DPMI replaced 49 sprinkler heads and two rotors. Eight zone lines and one main line were repaired. Sixteen lights were

### Landscaping

Neighborhood Pest Control sprayed areas for weeds and chinch bugs

### Miscellaneous

ZK Construction refinished a section of wall on Natures Way and Elton, replaced the missing bricks on Natures Way and Culbreath and repaired the damaged wall on Erindale. Hillsborough County cut down six dead oak trees on John Moore. Russell Electric replaced a defective light timer at John Moore. DPMI painted 40 feet of wall on Erindale and prepared and distributed a notice to homeowners that the wall painting was beginning.

### Eat, drink and pitch out the window

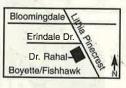
DPMI picked up 31 bags of litter, a hat, a pipe, two radios, three shoes, a pair of mittens, half a bucket, a Winn Dixie cart full of whiskey bottles and \$.38 cents. The beverages of choice were Pepsi for soft drinks, Natural Light for beer and Smirnoff Vodka for distilled spirits.



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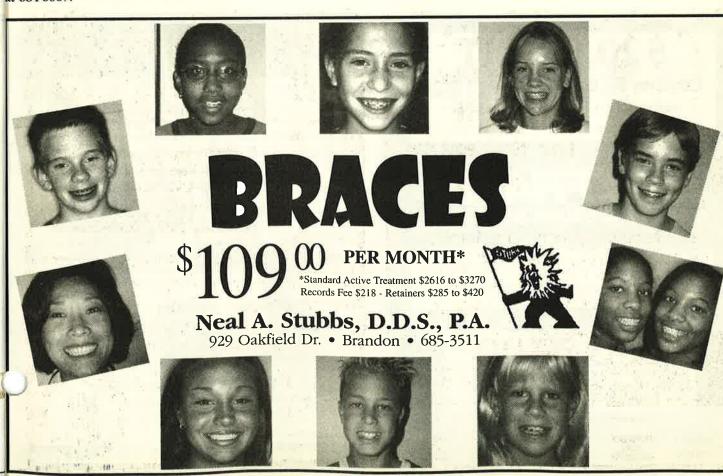
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### **Community Polls Prove** Effective, Popular

By Laura Frazier

BHA-Online webmaster Rodney Biddle launched a new electronic polling system in March of this year to help the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) board get a better feel for the opinions of our residents on public issues that hit close to home.

The polls have proven to be an effective means of surveying Bloomingdale homeowners' viewpoints.

Residents have responded in good numbers to surveys regarding the site location of the proposed South Brandon library, the prospect of a new Publix grocery store on Lithia-Pinecrest Road, and traffic calming efforts in the Fox Run section of Bloomingdale East.

"The BHA board makes decisions in support or opposition of public issues based on what we believe the majority of the community wants," said Biddle. "But everyone is so busy these days that it's difficult to get good attendance at public meetings or timely responses back from our residents.

"We have had some success in the past with BHA e-mail broadcasts, but the polling system automatically stores and presents the responses."

After a disappointing turnout of Bloomingdale residents at the county's library siting meetings held in March, the BHA board submitted poll results to Hillsborough County Library Director Joe Stines.

Stines says the poll results were presented to the library board along with records of residents' e-mails, faxes and phone calls.

"This kind of input [electronic polls and e-mails] is very useful to us," said Stines. "We received an equal amount of conmunications in support of both locations. A good deal of it was issues that affect our neighborhoods. Comments are posted transmitted electronically, perhaps due to a high percentage of anonymously, identified only by the participant's neighborhood homeowners in the [Bloomingdale, River Hills and Fish Hawk] area with home computers."

"This technology is moving things along very differently," said Stines. "I personally think the electronic polling system would be very useful to other county departments seeking citi

Anyone visiting the website may participate in the polls. Basic information, including the user's e-mail address, is required for validation purposes and will not be disseminated.

"We obviously are not going to reach everyone since not everyone uses a computer or the internet," said Biddle. "But if residents with computers, we can gather a good sampling of the community."

Homeowners registered for e-mail updates from the BHA will be advised via e-mail of new polls as they come online. To register for the free updates, visit the web site at bhaonline.org.

Residents who would prefer to receive a paper version of the polls by regular mail are invited to leave their name, address and phone number on the BHA voicemail system at (813) 681-2051.

### And the survey says...

Community Poll Results

BHA-Online polls are a simple, quick and convenient way

for Bloomingdale homeowners to make their opinions and sugstions count. More than just a "check the box" survey, the olls invite residents to post specific comments about public section or subdivision. To view or participate in the polls, please visit bha-online.org. To receive a paper version of the surveys by regular mail, leave your name, address and phone number on the BHA voice mail system at (813) 681-2051. Here are some excerpts of comments posted to the site in April and

### South Brandon Library Site

The poll asks residents their favored choice of five sites identifled as potential locations for the new South Brandon Library. we can reach the estimated 50 to 60 percent of Bloomingdale As of May 15, out of 108 respondents, 42 chose site 2 west of Bloomingdale High, 41 chose site 5 east of Bloomingdale High, 9 chose site 3 east of Albertson's on north Bloomingdale Ave., 9 chose site 4 east of Alafia Elementary School and 7 chose site 1 on Lithia Pinecrest near River Hills Elementary School, Please see the related article in this issue.

"I believe it is grossly unfair that Bloomingdale residents who initially petitioned for this library are now being so casually side-tracked so future residents of Fish-Hawk can benefit. Besides, this is the South Brandon branch and Fish Hawk is a good five to seven miles south of Brandon. Maybe Fish Hawk residents should petition for their own library and earn one the hard way just as we are in the process of doing" - Bristol

"I firmly believe we need a library in this area and feel that it should be kept in the Bloomingdale area as this is

where it would be a centralized location for South Brandon."-Oak Crest

"I strongly support a Library in the Bloomingdale area. I feel that along Bloomingdale, there will be much more use by residents both North and South of the library in the higher density areas. The problem with Site #1 is that it will not pull as much traffic from the current Brandon Library. Also there will be a good chance that Fish Hawk will receive a library in the future once the population is higher." - Bloomingdale Ridge

### **Proposed Lithia Pinecrest Publix**

The poll asks, "Would you like to see a supermarket go in at this [Lithia Pinecrest and Erindale Road] location?" As of May 15, out of 40 respondents, 29 answered "no," and 11 answered, "yes."

"The intersection as it is constructed today is too small to handle additional traffic. There are already more than enough grocery stores in the immediate area." - Somerset

"Enough is enough! I do not want to end up living in a commercial area. This is why I chose Bloomingdale 12 years ago!" - Oak Crest

"How many supermarkets do we need in a five mile radius? We need other stores [or] services before another food store." - Fairway Manors.

"Traffic is so heavy, you cannot exit off of Erindale in the mornings onto Lithia Pinecrest to head toward Bloomingdale Ave. This area cannot handle another high traffic business. Additionally, the back of our homes next to Lithia Pinecrest would decline in value due to noise, higher traffic and view." - Erin Arbor

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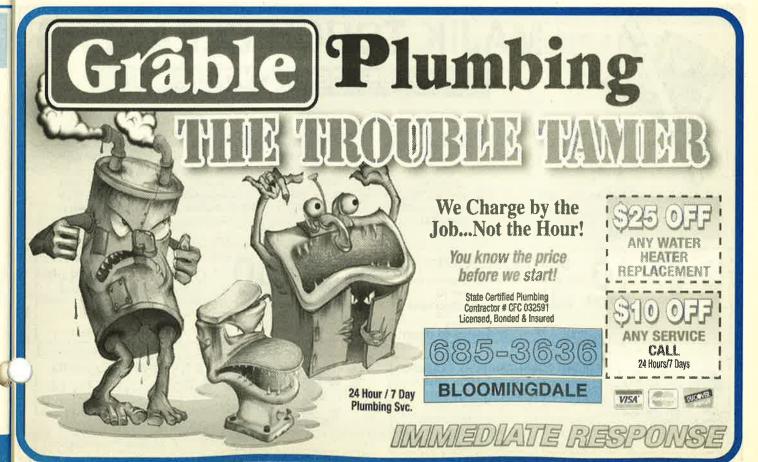


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Keep The Lights On

## We're looking for a few good yards!

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

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

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

# Bloomingdale Yard of the Month nomination Homeowner's Name Address Landscape features that stand out

## YARD OF THE MONTH

Kathryn and Gary Pickword 4509 River Close Blvd.

Kathryn and Gary Pickword, residents of the Somerset section of Bloomingdale East, spend most weekday evenings unwinding from their busy work schedules by tendng to their yard, and it shows.

Gary recently took two weeks off from his job as a computer software writer to devote his full attention to totally revamping the yard. "We completely destroyed it."

he says, referring to the previously grass-laden landscape. The vard has been semi-xeriscaped with native plants thriving in moisture-rich. mulch-covered beds beautifully outlined by low brick retaining walls the couple created.

The centerpiece of the front yard is a beautiful stone fountain depicting an ethereal mermaid and dolphins. Stone birdbaths and a sundial add architectural interest. Kathryn is especially pleased with the yard's nighttime lighting effects.

We wondered if tech-savvy software writer Gary used any of the new landscaping programs available for do-it-yourself landscapers.

Turns out the Pickwords planned their new yard the old fashioned vay; with paper and pencil and a whole lot of imagination.

"When I get home at the end of the day, I stay as far away from the computer, television and phone as I can," said Gary.



Call TECO with the utiliabove to report streetlights that are out.

Residents can now help provide safety and security in our neighborhoods by contacting TECO by phone or e-mail when we see a streetlight out. Let's keep the lights

Residents can visit www.tampaelectric.com for an online form for reporting streetlight or area light malfunctions. You need to write down the streetlight pole number found on a green plate on the pole so you can complete the form.

For those who would prefer to ty pole number as shown phone in the information, the number is (813) 223-0800. Again, you need the pole number.

It usually takes seven to ten working days to complete the repair, depending on how busy

they are. TECO does have some crews that check for lights out. TECO also offers tree care service information on the web site, and an online form to report tree limbs that may be growing too close to power lines. Remember, as you look at lines running off a power pole, the bottom lines are usually cable and

telephone lines and you would need to contact Verizon or Time

Varner about those. The lines across the top are power transssion lines. Always use caution if you're working around any of these lines. They can be deadly.



If you see someone illegally dumping trash in our community, please call the Bloomingdale Substation at 635-8040.

### **Home Safe Home**

The Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department will accept household chemicals for disposal on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at a new South County collection location, 13000 Highway 41 south in Gibsonton.

To get to the new collection site from the Bloomingdale area, take Bell Shoals Road south to Boyette Road, cross over highway 301, and drive over I-75 to highway 41 South, to the South County Transfer Station.

Materials accepted include paints and solvents, automotive products, household cleaners, pool chemicals, lawn and garden supplies. Materials not accepted include explosives, flares biomedical material. Absolutely no commercial waste will be accepted. For information call 272-5680.

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643-6944

Bloomingdale 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Just S. of Bloomingdale 654-9292

Seffner

684-5897

Brandon Oak Park Plaza 717 W. Lumsder 654-9541

Brandon 913 W. Brandon Blvd Builders Square Plaza 684-4499

Valrico North Grove Plaza Valrico Square 1515 S. Parsons 1985 E. Brandon Blvd. 654-2324

North Brandon Kingsway Plaza 1213 Kingsway Ave. 653-4535

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COUPON EXPIRES 07/15/01

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

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

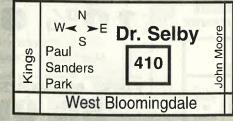
If you should have special medical treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation to the head and neck region, your dentist should be consulted prior to these treatments. Many dentists denote signs of tobacco use during their examination and educate their patients of the risks they are taking.

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

Source: AGD, Academy of General Dentistry

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## BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY SUBSTATION NOTES

By Deputy Pete Maurer



Deputy Pete Maurer

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

### Radar Speed Monitor Available

A recent accident in Bloomingdale involving speeding and drinking resulted

in minor injuries and property damage. It is chilling when we think about what could have happened with simple changes in the area where it occurred; kids playing, someone walking their dog or a resident out jogging. Unfortunately, there are drivers in our community who purposely break the law. Their speeding and drinking does kill and injure and it's usually the innocent that get hurt. That's why there are speed limits and they will be enforced.

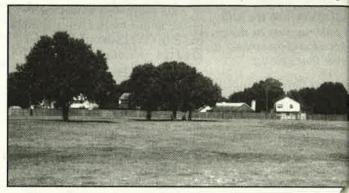
Any Bloomingdale residents noticing speeders in their neighborhoods or other areas should contact the Bloomingdale Community Substation and request that the radar speed monitor be set up in their area. The more specific information you can provide will assist us in scheduling a speed monitoring. This information should include a point of contact, specific locations, times or dates when speeding is noticed and any particular vehicles that are speeding. The main purpose of the radar speed monitor is to improve safety in our community.

Working together with residents this goal can be reached. Calried where they can obstruct vision or pose a hazard to 635-8040 to request monitoring.

### No right-of-way parking

We've all noticed cars parked with "For Sale" signs on the With school out, many Bloomingdale residents will be on the County right-of-ways and in shopping center parking pading out on vacations. One way to add to the security of lots. Any vehicles parked on the right-of-way or property not aur home is to request a "Security Check" through the their own will be subject to a ticket for violating parking ordinomingdale Community Station. Forms are available at the nances. Yes, this does include shopping centers. Vehicles parked in unsecured areas have been vandalized or stolen. Only those persons with legal auto dealer licenses can displayace. Other measures that should be taken include securing autos for sale and then only on their sales lots. Individuals may doors and windows, stopping newspapers or having a display autos for sale on their own property but not on a

Continued on pg.



The residence of a new Park Deputy for Bloomingdale West Park will be located behind the Culbertson Recreation Cente

bunty right-of-way. This prevents individuals or dealers from ng autos on private property and keeps autos from being ivers. No warnings will be issued.

### ome Security Check

ition and can be used for vacation only. It does not guarantee e safety of your property, but does provide additional surveilighbor collect them and your mail, putting lights on timers, lying someone mow your lawn, securing valuables inside and uring any vehicles left outside. Take the precautions. Enjoy ir vacation.

### pomingdale West Park Deputy

A resident Park Deputy has been selected for omingdale Park West. Pending the successful completion of required coordination and residency requirements, the perty behind Culbertson Recreation Center will be preed for setup. Further updates will be furnished as they come available.

### **Mobile Watch Seeks Volunteers**

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch is an organization of residents who work with our Community Substation and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department as a deterrent to crime in our neighborhoods. Volunteers are currently needed in several areas of our community to maintain and expand the existing patrol schedule.

Mobile Watch volunteers patrol an assigned area one night a month for three hours, with the objective to observe and report any suspicious or unusual activity to the Sheriff's Office. Volunteers do not become involved in stopping or apprehending anyone.

A recent community survey showed that over 80% of the respondents indicated that Mobile Watch was an important factor in maintaining safety in our

neighborhoods. The Sheriff's Office has recognized our Mobile Watch program as a model that can be used by other communities who wish to establish similar organizations.

For further information, or to volunteer for the Mobile Watch team, please call Coordinator Tony Diolosa at 681-1146 or e-mail amdio@gte.net.



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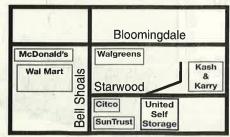
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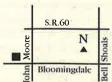
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### Library Site Selection Hinges On **Budget Decision**

By Laura Frazier

Site advantages and taxpayer preferences all tolled, the location of the new South County regional library has come down to a matter of dollars and cents.

County staff and library board representatives are working to select a site for the new library, designed to serve southeastern Hillsborough County. Two sites under final consideration for the project are site #1 off of Lithia Pinecrest Road, adjacent to Lithia Springs Elementary in Lithia, and site #5, on Bloomingdale Avenue, adjacent to Bloomingdale High School in Valrico.

County Real Estate Director Mike Kelly is in the process of meeting with the owners of both sites to prepare a financial analysis to be presented to the library board this month. County Commissioners will have the final say on where the library will be placed.

Both sites are less than two miles apart on the map, but homeowners in the Bloomingdale and River Hills/Fish Hawk area have drawn a great divide between the two locations. Residents of both areas have appealed to the county to place the new library in their own back yard.

River Hills, Fish Hawk Ranch and Fish Hawk Trails homeowners showed support in great numbers for Site #1 at several county library siting meetings held earlier this year. Bloomingdale residents deluged the library board with e-mails and community poll results outlining the advantages of the site next to Bloomingdale High School.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) issued a formal letter in support of the Bloomingdale Avenue site in April. BHA President Ted Grable said, "This site's proximity to the new Campo Family YMCA creates an ideal center for education and family activities. More importantly, the demand for this library is driven by people living today in Bloomingdale, Buckhorn and South Brandon, not the future residents of new subdivisions to the south."

Many Bloomingdale residents have commented that site #5 is more centrally located to the established communities of Bloomingdale East and West and surrounding South Brandon neighborhoods. But library board director Joe Stines says the planned facility is a regional, as opposed to neighborhood,

"The library board and county staff could work equally well with either site," said Stines. "Parking, access, visibility and expansion potential have proven to be more or less equal at both sites. The next important consideration is a financial one."

Stines said the library budget is the tightest it has been in ten years, due to numerous major building projects in progress or being planned.

Bloomingdale residents maintain that a facility adjacent to the high school would allow students to walk to the library after school. But Stines says the board's experience with sites next to schools indicates a much higher usage by elementary and junior high students.

"So many high school students rush off to activities and part-time jobs after school that we don't see a big increase in usage by high school students [at libraries located near high schools]," said Stines. "The board has also documented increases in discipline problems and student automobile traffic at facilities near high schools.

"We are finding that when high school students want

access to the library, they want it by way of the web."The library community. recently launched the availability of periodicals and publication online, and the system's new "e-books" feature allows electrocheckout of a variety of materials from technical publications to classic literature.

"It's always good to have as much community input as possible to help us make siting decisions," said Stines. "Many valid concerns about both sites were first brought to our attention by the residents, allowing us to address those issues throughout the Reservoir plans flowing selection process. We have read every piece of e-mail and have addressed each issue brought to our attention by the taxpayers."

"But this is not a beauty contest. Assuming both sites continue to measure up comparably, it now comes down to a budgeting decision."

"No matter which site is selected, half of the people who are actively involved are going to be disappointed. But we are working diligently to serve all south county residents, within the budget."

Residents who wish to submit their concerns and opinions about the library site may e-mail Joe Stines at stinesj@thpl.org or phone (813) 273-3660.

### Summer, Kids and Safety

By Mack Austin

The gates have been opened. School is out for another summer. Kids are everywhere. Some are busy; some are already bored. All of them need our protection.

Not all kids will be out wandering the neighborhoods, p ing in the parks or on the neighborhood sidewalks, or swimming in backyard pools. Some will be riding buses to summer school. Remember that when you see buses on Bloomingdale Avenue and you're either approaching them from the rear or you're in the opposite lane, you must stop. Traffic rules state that, "...without a solid median dividing the four lanes of traffic, cars in both directions are required to stop when approaching a school bus, and [must] not proceed until the bus does."

Many of the kids in our community will have fun riding their bikes or the new motorized scooters. Florida law requires bicycle riders to wear a helmet. A recent bill requiring the use of helmets for motorized scooter riders did not pass this time. Ironically, it was listed as, "died in messages."

A recent tragedy occurred in which the rider of a bicycle in our area was thrown from his bike, hit his head and later died. He was not wearing a helmet. It only took a few seconds for his accident to take place. I know his family and friends wish he had worn a helmet. Parents, please take responsibility and insure your kids wear bike helmets whether or not the law requires it. The law won't protect them, but the helmet will.

Some of our kids have received BB or pellet guns and will be using them more during the summer months.

Any parent whose kids have one of these weapons and yes. they are considered weapons, should become very familiar with the rules and regulations covering firearm safety. Discuss the proper handling and firing procedures with your kids. You as the parent are totally responsible for the use of the weapon. It is a misdemeanor to violate state statutes covering firearm use Anyone under 16 years of age must be supervised when using the weapon. This means to be right beside them, not inside your house. Hunting is not allowed in the wooded areas or yards in

Continued on next page

We all want our kids to have a lot of fun this summer. A safe summer is usually the one that has the most fun in it. No trips to the emergency room at the hospital. No time layed up with an injury, unable to join friends or having to miss that special trip. Make it a safe summer!

# through arbitration

Plans for the proposed South County Reservoir were given a thumbs up in May by an independent arbitration panel, and were approved by Hillsborough County and the Environmental Protection Commission. The next step required in the permitting process is a review by the Department of Environmental

Jerry Maxwell, General Manager of Tampa Bay Water, called the arbitration a victory for the governance process, and a win for Hillsborough County.

"We received a decision in about one-third the time of a typical Chapter 120 challenge, and because the decision is binding, the region will save money on costly appeals."

The 1,900 acre proposed site is located in Lithia, in the vicinity of Lithia Pinecrest Road and State Road 39. The 15 billion gallon reservoir will allow storage of excess surface water captured from the Alafia and Hillsborough Rivers and the Tampa

Pass Canal, potentially boosting available county drinking r supplies from 25 million gallons per day up to 60 million gallons per day.

Some South County residents fear that the reservoir would exhibit the same propensity for sinkholes and well water contamination that Riverview's man-made Lake Grady has.

Mandy Rice, Project Manager for Tampa Bay Water, says the proposed reservoir and Lake Grady are, "two very different ani-

Rice says the developer of Lake Grady did a poor job constructing a dam across a stream on completely unstable land that was prone to sinkholes, unlike the site selected for the reservoir.

Tampa Bay Water spent two years and \$2 million conducting extensive studies, using methods like boring and ground penetrating radar, to confirm that the clay layer between the water table and the Florida aquifer is stable and consistent.

"We are very confident that we're not going to have any sinkholes," said Rice.

Residents are also asking questions about the potential for flooding in the event of a breach in the structure or an overcapacity spill over.

Tampa Bay Water says pressure sensors built into the structure would be electronically monitored 24 hours a day, and physically inspected at least once a week. The Department of Environmental Protection would be required to inspect the facility on an annual basis.

"The design exceeds many requirements for strength and safety," said Rice. "The earthen embankment is very forgiving, lending itself to gradual settlement and changes, allowing ample time to catch and correct any changes before they become prob-

Rice said design, monitoring and operation standards of the reservoir leave no potential for over-topping of the facility. Since the reservoir is free standing and off stream, with no contribut-

Calling all BMX enthusiasts!

See Reservoir, page 21



Reach 5,000 Bloomingdale Residents each Month Call Andy Fonfara at 964-1919



### Letters

Please send letters to The Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, fax to (813) 651-1129 or e-mail to frazier1@tampabay.rr.com.

### **Group Seeks Support For Canoe Launch**

Dear Bloomingdale residents,

I am writing to you to ask for your support for a project that the Hillsborough County Commissioners will be asked to provide funding for at the County's budget hearings on June 14 and 21. The project is the Bell Shoals canoe and kayak launch on the Alafia River, where the Bell Shoals Bridge crosses the

Some residents in the area have strong feelings against the site because of fears, real or imagined, that the access site will become a haven for people up to no good. This site, like any county managed property, will be controlled and monitored by appropriate county authorities. In addition, the proposal to fund the establishment of this site also asks for two new Park Rangers to control and manage the site along with the entire Alafia River state canoe trail.

Many of the organizations that use the canoe trail, such as the Boy Scouts, support the establishment of this access point. We believe this increased recreational access will also have a positive impact on area property values, just as the Campo family YMCA has and the new public library will. Any negative impacts that such an access site may have are marginal, and are outweighed by the significant benefits that will be enjoyed by the greater community.

We ask for your support in contacting the Hillsborough

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Board of County Commissioners asking for their support to fund this canoe and kayak access site. If you have any ques tions, please feel free to contact me any evening at (813)

Respectfully, Ron McClain Public Outreach Coordinator Alafia River Basin Stewardship Council (ARBSC)

Editor's Note: The County budget hearings on June 14 and 21 are public meetings open to all Hillsborough County residents. Those who wish to express their support or opposition of the canoe launch are invited to attend the hearings or contact the Board of Commissioners at (813) 272-5660 or by e-mail as linked to hillsboroughcounty.org. For more information about the project, call regional parks section manager Phil Evans at (813) 975-2160.

Walt Molkenthin has owned property on the banks of the Alafia River since 1942. The Molkenthins are among those Bloomingdale area residents with serious security and traffic concerns about the proposed canoe launch.



Photo by Mack Austin.

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## Fife Jackets Save Lives

By Kay Lori U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 75 Ruskin

In 1999, 734 people lost their lives in 7,900 boating accidents. Florida led the nation in fatalities with 1300 accidents. In nine out of ten deaths, the victims were not wearing a life jacket.

People drown every day because they were not wearing their life jackets when they entered the water suddenly and without warning. Florida law requires all children to wear a life jacket on all small vessels underway. Life jackets are also required for all jet ski operators, their passengers and people being towed on devices.

The precaution of wearing this simple device would save thousands. Technology has improved the design of jackets so they are more comfortable for everybody to wear.

While boating is a great source of enjoyment, to the unprepared, it can be a risky sport. Knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment making for a safe, comfortable and rewarding experience.

Florida offers numerous waterways that accommodate a wide variety of recreational boating opportunities, with a wide variety of boating demands; weather conditions, inlets, rivers, lakes, manatee protection zones, commercial traffic, offshore fishing and congested maritime areas.

Not knowing and obeying the rules of operation and the state and federal requirements for safety equipment; drinking alcohol or taking drugs while operating a boat, not wearing a

jacket and improper handling of the boat are all examples of ck of good judgment that can lead to big trouble. By taking a safe boating course, you reduce the chances of becoming a sta-

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tistic. For more information on enrolling in a safe boating class, call Dottie Engel, Public Education Officer, at (813) 671-4772.

Lifeguards Needed

The Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting applications for qualified summer lifeguards at Lithia Springs, Medard Park and Simmons Park, All candidates must be at least 16 years old and have a Red Cross Life Guarding Certificate. Lifeguards work open water swimming areas from Memorial Day through Labor Day. For job applications or more information, contact aquatics director Kevin Church at (813) 903-2260.

## Wanted - your news and events

Bloomingdale residents, send your news and events by the 15th of each month to: The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, fax to (813) 651-1129, or e-mail

Reservoir continued from page 19

Plans call for an eight-foot maximum allowable distance between the water level and the top of the embankment. "Those eight feet can handle 40 inches of rain in 24 hours, and sustained winds of 110 miles per hour, conditions that have never been in 24 hours, we would have much bigger problems (than the

Call Andy Fonfara at 964-1919

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ing basins of water, the only uncontrolled water that can flow into it is rainfall. Even in the most extreme weather conditions, Rice said, "We can handle any possible storm events."

documented in Florida," said Rice. "If we have 40 inches of rain reservoir) to worry about."

### Letters

Please send letters to The Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, fax to (813) 651-1129 or e-mail to frazier1@tampabay.rr.com.

### **Group Seeks Support For Canoe Launch**

Dear Bloomingdale residents.

I am writing to you to ask for your support for a project that the Hillsborough County Commissioners will be asked to provide funding for at the County's budget hearings on June 14 and 21. The project is the Bell Shoals canoe and kayak launch on the Alafia River, where the Bell Shoals Bridge crosses the

Some residents in the area have strong feelings against the site because of fears, real or imagined, that the access site will become a haven for people up to no good. This site, like any county managed property, will be controlled and monitored by appropriate county authorities. In addition, the proposal to fund the establishment of this site also asks for two new Park Rangers to control and manage the site along with the entire Alafia River state canoe trail.

Many of the organizations that use the canoe trail, such as the Boy Scouts, support the establishment of this access point. We believe this increased recreational access will also have a positive impact on area property values, just as the Campo family YMCA has and the new public library will. Any negative impacts that such an access site may have are marginal, and are outweighed by the significant benefits that will be enjoyed by the greater community.

We ask for your support in contacting the Hillsborough

Board of County Commissioners asking for their support to fund this canoe and kayak access site. If you have any quest tions, please feel free to contact me any evening at (813) 244-3265.

Respectfully, Ron McClain **Public Outreach Coordinator** Alafia River Basin Stewardship Council (ARBSC)

Editor's Note: The County budget hearings on June 14 and 21 are public meetings open to all Hillsborough County residents. Those who wish to express their support or opposition of the canoe launch are invited to attend the hearings or contact the Board of Commissioners at (813) 272-5660 or by e-mail as linked to hillsboroughcounty.org. For more information about the project, call regional parks section manager Phil Evans at (813) 975-2160.

Walt Molkenthin has owned property on the banks of the Alafia River since 1942. The Molkenthins are among those Bloomingdale area residents with serious security and traffic concerns about the proposed canoe launch.



Photo by Mack Austin.

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People drown every day because they were not wearing their life jackets when they entered the water suddenly and without warning. Florida law requires all children to wear a life jacket on all small vessels underway. Life jackets are also required for all jet ski operators, their passengers and people being towed on devices.

The precaution of wearing this simple device would save thousands. Technology has improved the design of jackets so they are more comfortable for everybody to wear.

While boating is a great source of enjoyment, to the unprepared, it can be a risky sport. Knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment making for a safe, comfortable and rewarding experience.

Florida offers numerous waterways that accommodate a wide variety of recreational boating opportunities, with a wide variety of boating demands; weather conditions, inlets, rivers, lakes, manatee protection zones, commercial traffic, offshore fishing and congested maritime areas.

Not knowing and obeying the rules of operation and the state and federal requirements for safety equipment; drinking alcohol or taking drugs while operating a boat, not wearing a

jacket and improper handling of the boat are all examples of lack of good judgment that can lead to big trouble. By taking a safe boating course, you reduce the chances of becoming a sta-

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tistic. For more information on enrolling in a safe boating class, call Dottie Engel, Public Education Officer, at (813) 671-4772.

Lifeguards Needed

The Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting applications for qualified summer lifeguards at Lithia Springs, Medard Park and Simmons Park. All candidates must be at least 16 years old and have a Red Cross Life Guarding Certificate. Lifeguards work open water swimming areas from Memorial Day through Labor Day. For job applications or more information, contact aquatics director Kevin Church at (813) 903-2260.

### Wanted - your news and events

Bloomingdale residents, send your news and events by the 15th of each month to: The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, fax to (813) 651-1129, or e-mail to frazier1@tampabay.rr.com.

Reservoir continued from page 19

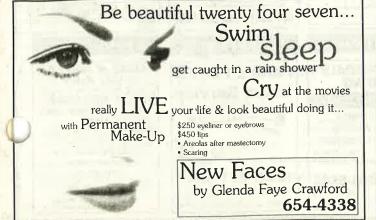
ing basins of water, the only uncontrolled water that can flow into it is rainfall. Even in the most extreme weather conditions, Rice said, "We can handle any possible storm events."

Plans call for an eight-foot maximum allowable distance between the water level and the top of the embankment. "Those eight feet can handle 40 inches of rain in 24 hours, and sustained winds of 110 miles per hour, conditions that have never been documented in Florida," said Rice. "If we have 40 inches of rain in 24 hours, we would have much bigger problems (than the reservoir) to worry about."

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### Sassy Lassies

The Sassy Lassies Dancers warmed up the "Senior Prom" beld at the Brandon Recreation Center in May. Over 300 particlpants of Hillsborough County's Senior Adult Day Care Centers attended the event. The program provides bealth,



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