



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

First Class Grads

Bloomingdale High School valedictorian Nicolle Rodriguez and salutatorian Crawford Hampson graduated at the top of Bloomingdale's Class of 2002. See story on page 11.

Cougar Pride

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association president Ted Grable, center, presents a \$500 contribution to Cimino Elementary School PTA president Debby Duncan, left, and principal Sandra Frost. Parents and Students approved a school mascot and school uniform policy. See page 3.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo



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Little League, YMCA Celebration

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SEE OUR SPECIALS ON PAGE 7

Welcome To Bloomingdale

Bloomingdale area birth announcements courtesy of Brandon Regional Hospital.

March 31

Nevin Saahil Hirji

Son of Shyrose and Amyn Hirji

April 7

Kylie Marie Walker

Daughter of Heather and Jeffrey Walker

April 10

Tyler Jordan Garcia

Son of Jessica Smetana and Michael Garcia

April 13

Jerrel Wayne Estredge

Son of Peggy Bullard and Jerrel Estredge

Riley Aaron Kristjanson

Son of Amy and John Kristianson

Ashleigh Madison Lantry

Daughter of Pamela and Sean Lantry

April 15

Kaylee Jane Dulysz

Daughter of Mona and Michael Dulysz

April 17

Kate Anne Rowlands

Daughter of Joanne and Andrew Rowlands

April 24

Sofia Maria Bilbao

Daughter of Angelina and Israel Bilbao

April 26

Kaylee Lynn Dempsey

Daughter of Jessica and Kam Dempsey

May 3

Clarisa Nicole Ramirez

Daughter of Brandi and Jose Ramirez

May 7

Yulanda Monique Minnifield

Daughter of Teshia and Kevin Minnifield

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Cimino Gears Up For Cougar Pride

School Chooses Uniforms, Selects Mascot

By LAURA FRAZIER

What do you get when you cross an alligator with a lynx? A cougar, of course.

Students transferring from Alafia and Lithia Springs this fall to the new Cimino Elementary School in Bloomingdale East elected their new school mascot, the Cimino Cougar, in April.

The school is presently under construction on Culbreath Rd. and is scheduled to open for the 2002-03 school year.

Cimino Principal Sandra Frost said a local artist is currently working on the cougar logo, and will soon be ready to unveil the new insignia.

"We had to come up with a sketch that depicted a cougar who wasn't too mean or too bofy, but I think we finally nit on the right design," Frost

said.

The school colors will be navy blue and gold.

Cimino parents also approved a mandatory uniform dress code for the school.

"We surveyed parents in March, and the response was overwhelmingly in favor of uniforms," said Frost.

Out of 450 survey responses received, Frost said only 47 were not in favor of uniforms. A great majority of Alafia and Lithia Springs Elementary School parents - the two schools Cimino will draw attendance from - have opposed the uniform policy in the past.

Frost thinks uniforms are a good idea, and attributes their approval this time around to the exciting, "fresh start, new beginning" atmosphere of a brand new school.

Students may wear either navy or khaki shorts, slacks or skirts. Color choices for shirts include navy blue, hunter green, white or yellow.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association president Ted Grable, center, presents a \$500 donation earmarked for Cimino's Parent-Teacher Association to school principal Sandra Frost, right, and PTA president Debby Duncan.

Official school uniforms are available at local department stores, and the Cimino PTSA will offer logo shirts for sale.

Frost said the continued support of transferring Alafia and Lithia Springs parents, teachers, PTA volunteers and community and business

groups will enable Cimino to emerge as a top-rated school.

"We will have the same outstanding instructional programs (as Alafia and Lithia Springs), and I am confident that we will contin-

See CIMINO, Page 14

Cimino Parents Address Safety Issues

Crossing Guard Jobs Available

By LAURA FRAZIER

Cimino Elementary School Principal Sandra Frost was scheduled to meet with a group of concerned parents and school, county and law enforcement officials in May to discuss student walking and bicycling safety. The school is scheduled to open for the 2002 - 03 school year.

School district officials have indicated that bus service will not be provided to students residing less than two miles from the school, and that the construction of sidewalks on the east side of Culbreath Road is not a possibility in the foreseeable future.

For details from the meeting, held after the Gazette's June press date, visit www.BloomingdaleGazette.com.

Frost said crossing guards are still needed in the area of Cimino, and district-wide.

Luz Guadalupe, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department coordinator of community relations, said elementary school crossing guards generally work from 7:10-8:25 a.m. and 2-2:45 p.m. each day, at a starting pay rate of \$8.38 per hour.

An eight-hour training course is required for new guards. Applications and information are available at the Sheriff's Ybor City station, 2008 E. 8th Ave., Tampa.

For more information, call Guadalupe at 247-8123.

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Your Inside Connections

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(813) 681-2051. Fax: (813) 651-1129
E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com
Web Site: www.BloomingdaleGazette.com

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

President — Ted Grable
Vice President — Len Jasczak
Treasurer — Pam Liguori
Director — Patricia Radel
Director — Michele Caballer
Director — Tony Diolosa
Director — Joe Hickle
Director — Jim Jeup
Director — Sheryl Kehrmeyer
Director — Steve Heckel

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

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

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

President — Thom Snelling

Treasurer — Don Cassels
Recording Secretary — Alice Burleson
Trustee — Russell Jones
Trustee — David West
Trustee — Dale Kahn
Trustee — Myron Magedanz
Property Manager — Al Devney

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Coordinator/Equipment Manager —

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146

Treasurer — Paul Kelmer, 681-9701
Patrol Member — Steven Heckel, 654-4266

Patrol Member — Brad Scharp, 643-5000
Patrol Member — Paul Warr, 685-7883

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District
P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132. (813) 685-2817

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

President — Bill Grace
Treasurer — Fred Englehart



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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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Valrico, FL 33594

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Publisher — Carla Rockwell

Bloomingdale Substation Notes

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER
and CSO SANDY CAPITANO

School's Out

Yes, school is out. This means more free time for students, more driving time for new drivers, and for some - more time to get into trouble. Parents, know where your kids are at all times. This is for their own personal safety and to help keep them from getting into trouble. Idle time is dangerous time. Work with your neighbors to keep an eye out for those kids that may be home alone. Set some rules and guidelines for your kids to follow.

Home, Auto Security

With school out, many Bloomingdale residents will be taking their first of many summer vacations. Protecting your home and autos while you're away is serious

business. Don't get that dreaded call about a burglary. One way to add to the security of your home is to request a Vacation Security Check through the Bloomingdale substation. Forms are available at the station and can be used for vacation only. It does not guarantee the safety of your property, but does provide additional surveillance. Other personal actions are required to improve the security of your home and possessions, including securing all doors and windows, stopping newspapers and mail or having a neighbor collect them, putting lights on timers, having someone mow your lawn, securing valuables inside and securing any vehicles left outside.

Travel, Kids, Car Seats

As you make plans for travel and vacations during



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Fire-Rescue professionals from Bloomingdale Station #7 respond to another call for help. They can only get to those in need when drivers obey the law and get out of their way.

the summer months, take the time to protect your youngsters. Do this by calling the station to find out about special car seat checks in our area, or make an appointment to have yours checked. Over 90% of the car seats checked are found to be incorrectly installed. Hundreds of young kids are killed annually in improperly installed car seats. Get yours checked now!

Emergency Vehicles

With school out there

unfortunately will be more emergencies. This means more emergency vehicles needing to get through busy traffic.

Pay extra attention when you're out driving. Put down your cell phone. With new vehicles so well constructed, outside sounds are literally blocked out.

Be prepared to move over and let the EMT's and fire-rescue workers get through. It's the law, and it may mean saving a life.

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Restaurant Review

By ELTON DUMONT
Exclusive to The
Bloomington Gazette

Bloomington's International Food Plaza

One Friday a couple of weeks ago, I asked my wife if she would like to go out for lunch. No occasion, just the two of us. Well, she thought it was a wonderful gesture and gave me a quick "okay!" I thought the challenge was over, but then came THE question... "Where do you want to go?"

Hmmm ... always a difficult decision, but especially difficult now, because it was an afternoon with my best friend. After considerable thought, about 30 seconds, I did what most dutiful husbands do. I answered her question with another question.

"How about driving to

Bloomington's international food plaza?"

Now it was her turn to ask questions.

"What do you feel like eating in Bloomington's international food plaza?"

I was able to put together a declarative sentence by thinking out loud, "Chinese, Italian, American, Thai, Japanese, Cuban, deli, fast food or even quick grill." She made her decision and off we went.

But the real message here is that all these international foods are available in our own back yard at Bloomington's international restaurant plaza, better known as Bloomington Square. That's right, the same shopping plaza that boasts Publix, Wal-Mart, Beall's and Ace Hardware also has restaurants specializing in all these foods.

Still not convinced? Let

me help you... There is Ling Express (Chinese), New York Times Square Pizza (Italian and pizza), Little Caesar's (pizza), Cherry's (American), Simply Thai (Thai), Sushi Ninja (Japanese), Subway (deli), the Publix Deli, McDonalds (fast food), Latin Café (Cuban), and even Wal-Mart's Radio Grill (quick grill).

Did you forget about at least one of them? Have you not gotten around to trying them all? As a restaurant reviewer, I can tell you that I've eaten at virtually all of them and have even reviewed a couple of them in past issues of the Gazette. Until I've tried them all however, it wouldn't be fair to pick my favorite, so I'll withhold my judgment for now.

On the other hand, it's not unfair for you to tell your fellow Bloomington residents which one you like the best

and why. So why don't you sit down and drop us a note, or an e-mail, and let us know what you like best about your favorite Bloomington Square restaurant. Is it the food, the service, price, variety, hours, or something else that keeps you going back?

While you're at it, let us know what type of dining establishment is really missing from the greater Bloomington area. The most frequent requests I hear are for a Jewish deli and a steak house, in that order.

E-mail us at Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com, fax to 651-1129 or write to Elton Dumont, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594.

Your faithful gastronomical truth seeker,

Elton Dumont

The "Truth" About Exercise

The following Q&A was forwarded to the Gazette by a reader.

If you have an amusing or poignant e-mail item to share with your neighbors, send to Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com.

Q: I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it. Don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will NOT make you live longer. That's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and corn — what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism

of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken.

Beef is also a good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable).

Q: How can I calculate my body fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body, and you have body fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: You aren't listening! Fried foods are cooked in vegetable oil. In fact, they're permeated in it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not. When you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger. You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.



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Watch For Symptoms Of Teen Drug Use

By SHARRON K. COSBY
Co-Founder, Wake-Up Call
Inc.
Coordinator, COMMUNITY
Works

Your child sneezes. Then comes a cough. Their temperature is elevated. Diagnosis? Dr. Mom says, "Probably just a cold."

What are the symptoms of drug and alcohol abuse? Unfortunately, they might not be as obvious as a cold or sore throat.

The most common symptoms of teen drug use are changes in attitude, grades (usually downward!), and friends, style of dress, and secrecy and avoidance of family time. But other symptoms may be drug-specific.

The presence of eye care products such as Visine may be a warning your child is

smoking marijuana.

Marijuana causes the eyes to become red and irritated so your child may start keeping Visine or other products handy to clear their eyes before coming home.

Another red flag is the presence of painter's masks, mentholated products (Vicks Vapo-Rub) glow sticks, pacifiers, and suckers. These are items used in the rave scene and may indicate the use of Ecstasy, a stimulant and hallucinogenic drug.

Using mentholated products enhances the euphoria produced by Ecstasy.

The product is smeared on the inside of the mask and the kids wear them and breathe in the mentholatum.

Pacifiers and suckers are used to help control the tension or jitters in their jaws from the drug's effects.

The glow sticks are part of the visual stimuli that enhances the drug's effects.

If you begin noticing the telltale odor of gasoline or other petroleum products, your child may be huffing or sniffing. This is a very dangerous and potentially fatal activity.

Your child is not using drugs — he or she is inhaling chemicals which may do irreparable brain and lung damage. Although different in makeup, nearly all abused inhalants produce effects similar to anesthetics, which act to slow down the body's functions.

When inhaled via the nose or mouth in sufficient concentrations, inhalants can cause intoxicating effects that can last a few minutes or several hours if taken repeatedly.

Sniffing highly concentrat-

ed amounts of the chemicals in solvents or aerosol sprays can directly induce heart failure and death.

For more information about inhalants, visit the "Street Drugs" web site at www.streetdrugs.org.

Parents need to become aware of the trappings of the drug culture and be aware of changes in their child's dress, behavior and friends. Checking out web sites dedicated to specific drugs can increase awareness for parents.

Dan Cosby, CAAP-1, a substance abuse counselor at Overcomers Counseling Center, and his wife, Sharron, CAP Intern, are founders of Wake Up Call Inc., and can help you learn more about teen and family substance abuse problems.

Call 626-5394 for more information.

Bloomingtondale Offers Weekly E-Mail News

A Gazette Report

Bloomingtondale High PTA president Diane Clare announced in May the debut of the school's new e-mail announcements program.

Bloomingtondale is the first Hillsborough County high school to participate in the district's "Listserve" pilot program. Other participating schools include Benito Middle, Stewart Middle, Gorrie Elementary and Burnett Middle.

Listserve enables schools to send general news, announcements and notices via e-mail to Internet users who sign up for the free service. Clare, who in addition to her duties at Bloomingtondale will serve this year as president of the Hillsborough County Council of PTA's, said she's excited about the new program.

"We hope parents will take advantage of this service to

become more informed and involved at their student's school."

Sara Brewster, Bloomingtondale assistant principal for curriculum, said the weekly e-mails include calendar items like exam schedules, sporting events, general meetings, special activities and more.

"The system is a one-way communication tool to inform parents, students, business or community persons of events at Bloomingtondale. We hope this will be a useful tool for anyone interested in receiving school news and announcements in a timely manner," Brewster said.

Free registration for the e-mail service is available on the school district's web site at apps.sdhc.k12.fl.us/sdhc2/mail. For more information about the program, call the district's public relations office at 272-4055.

Letters

Send questions or comments to Letters@BloomingtondaleGazette.com or Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594. All letters are subject to editing and will be printed on a space-available basis.

Resident Wants Fairway Manors Association

Is there any way to start a homeowners' organization in Fairway Manors?

We had one years ago, but there doesn't seem to be much done now to promote property values or to speak to people whose yards are gone and who are parking in their front yards.

Have you heard from oth-

ers with the same concerns?
**Name withheld
Fairway Manors**

We checked Hillsborough County's list of neighborhood associations and did not find any contacts listed for Fairway Manors.

There are over 40 individual neighborhoods in Bloomingtondale and many, but not all, have individual associations headed by professional property management companies and run by a board of volunteer residents.

The specific concerns that you mentioned, overgrown yards and cars parked in county codes.

The county's Code Enforcement Office provides an inspection system to ensure that housing meets certain standards.

You can file a complaint and request an inspection by calling 744-5568, Ext. 110.

If the Fairway Manors neighbors wish to form a new association, the Hillsborough County's Office of Neighborhood Relations provides assistance with leadership training, recruitment strategies, newsletter formation, meeting organization, event planning, project development, etc. "Organizing Neighborhood Associations" information is available at www.hillsboroughcounty.org, or call 272-6333.

In addition, please feel free to bring any questions or specific concerns you might have to any one of the monthly Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association meetings, held on the first Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

BHA volunteers may be able to help you resolve any current deed restriction or county codes violations, and can help you and your neighbors get started in forming

your own association if desired.

The next meeting is set for Monday, June 3. Information: 681-2051.

Street Sign, Sidewalk Repairs Needed

During the construction of sidewalk improvements near my residence, it was necessary for the workers to remove and relocate our street sign to accommodate the new sidewalk.

When the sign was replaced, it was installed out of plumb and is leaning heavily.

Where do I turn to get the sign installed correctly?

**James Parsons
Bloomingtondale East**
See LETTERS, Page 10



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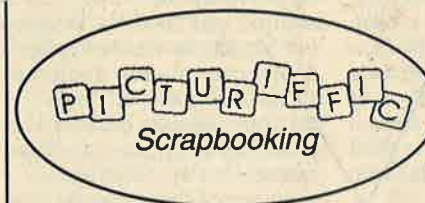
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LETTERS

From page 9

The sidewalk on Springvale beside Pinegrove Reserve was broken by the builder's trucks while the community was under construction.

Later, after they completed the wall, they left the remains of a bag of white sand on the broken sidewalk.

This has created a dangerous and unattractive sight. Whoever is responsible should repair the sidewalk.

**Lois Kennedy
Pine Grove
Condominiums**

Hillsborough's South County Public Works unit is responsible for repairs and maintenance to Bloomingdale area sidewalks, roads, street signs, storm water systems, and mowing and tree trimming within the public right of ways.

To request repairs or maintenance, call 671-7619, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.



Girl Scout Troop 954 completed their Bronze Service Award project by landscaping around the Culbertson Recreation Center in Bloomingdale West.

Scout Project Beautifies Park West

By MACK AUSTIN

In this day and time when so much attention is given to the negative things young people do, it is an honor to report on the positive things they are doing. One such project involved the Girl Scouts of Troop 954.

The troop saw a need for improving the landscaping around the Culbertson Recreation Center in Bloomingdale West. The center was named in memory of Stephanie Ann Culbertson, a Bloomingdale teen who died in a tragic car accident two years ago.

Now, anyone who has ever done landscaping knows it takes planning, preparation and hard work to make a project work.

Their first step was to plan the entire landscaping project. They coordinated getting the materials, tools, plants and mulch from local businesses like The Home Depot and Brandon Plumbing. This was also a great example of support to our community by local businesses.

Then came the hard work - over twenty five hours of digging, pulling weeds, laying down a weed barrier cloth, adding new mulch, planting flowers, ferns and bushes, and making a butterfly garden for everyone to enjoy. They turned an eyesore into an area everyone in Bloom-

ingdale can be very proud to visit. Hundreds of Bloomingdale residents and especially kids visit the recreation center every week.

Recreation center supervisor Donna Clouse said, "We are very grateful for the hard work and long hours this wonderful group of Girl Scouts accomplished for the improvements they made around our facility. To show our gratitude we have placed a concrete plaque dedicated to the members of Troop 954 for their Bronze Service Project. Each girl wrote their name in the concrete as a memory of their special project."

Troop leaders Kathy Brown and Chris Kelly noted, "The Bronze Service Award is the highest award you can earn while being a Junior Girl Scout."

The project was best summed up by Jewel Brown, president of Girl Scout Troop 954. "It took many hours of sweating and getting dirty, but in the end it was worth it," Brown said.

The Bloomingdale community extends its congratulations to Troop 954 - Marlin Alfonso, Jewel Brown, Kristen Kelly, Aly Morgan, Christine Myers and Kelly Wheeler - for a job well done. Keep up the good work. Continue setting a great example for others to follow. Stephanie Ann Culbertson would be very proud.

Bloomingdale Duo Deemed "Most Likely To Succeed"

By LAURA FRAZIER

Their stellar grade point averages tell the tale, as does the forecast of their peers. In addition to being honored as Bloomingdale High's Class of 2002 valedictorian and salutatorian, Nicolle Rodriguez and Crawford Hampson were each voted "Most Likely To Succeed" by their classmates at the school prom in April.

After nine years of attending various schools across the United States, Nicolle Rodriguez was thrilled to enroll as a freshman at Bloomingdale High in 1998.

The nomadic military lifestyle, and enrollment at a succession of Department of Defense schools from Georgia to Hawaii, was strenuous for Rodriguez, the daughter of Wanda and Ret. Army First Sgt. Ervin Rodriguez.

When the family finally put down roots in Brandon, he said, "I was so excited to finally be able to attend a normal public school and just be an average teenager."

This month, Rodriguez graduates at the top of Bloomingdale's 548 member Class of 2002 as valedictorian, with a 6.13 weighted GPA. She will attend USF in the fall and plans to become a neurosurgeon.

"I've always wanted to be a doctor and I think brain surgery is very interesting," she said.

During her years at Bloomingdale, Rodriguez said she relished the variety of academic, extracurricular and social opportunities the school offers.

"There are so many choices at Bloomingdale. They have so many classes and clubs, and a lot of great teachers that all played a part in my accomplishments," she

said.

Rodriguez's accomplishments include Advanced Placement classes, National Merit Scholar finalist, National Hispanic Scholar, New Jerusalem Christian Church worship team and Sunday school teacher, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology program graduate.

Like Rodriguez, Crawford Hampson said his atypical early school experience left him wondering if he'd make the grade when he enrolled as a freshman at Bloomingdale High. Hampson was home schooled through grade 8.

"I expected to be way behind academically, but I worked hard and did better than I expected," he said.

Hampson graduates Bloomingdale this year as salutatorian, with a 6.08 weighted GPA. He will attend Princeton University in New Jersey, and plans to major in aerospace engineering.

"My dad went to Princeton, so I've been hearing a lot of stories from his college days," said Hampson, the son of Nora and Jack Hampson of Brandon.

He hasn't pinpointed a career goal yet, but plans to continue his commitment to his studies and soak up the Ivy League atmosphere at Princeton.

He said the whole graduation experience has been great, but a bit surreal.

"It's hard to believe that this is the end of my high school career, but I'm excited about the future."

Hampson's accomplishments include Advanced Placement classes, National Merit Scholar finalist, swim team captain, Ambassadors show choir, chamber choir and National Honor Society.



Bloomingdale High Class of 2002 salutatorian Crawford Hampson and valedictorian Nicolle Rodriguez were each voted "Most Likely To Succeed" by their classmates.

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Bloomingtondale Area Community Council Update

A Community Council Report

The Bloomingtondale Area Community Council, composed of volunteers from area subdivisions, works with local law enforcement and county officials to research issues and concerns brought to the attention of council members, Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer and Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano.

The May meeting was one of the most productive and informative meetings the BACC has ever held.

Having so many professionals present offered a rare opportunity for members of the council.

The council is grateful to those who took of their time to attend and participate.

BACC meetings are held on the third Thursday each month at the Bloomingtondale Community Station on Bell Shoals Rd.

Residents with concerns should contact the station so their questions can be added to the agenda.

Call: 635-8040. At the May council meeting, members were privileged to have several key local law enforcement and school representatives present, including Cimino Elementary Principal Sandra Frost, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Deputy Commander for District IV Captain Jerry York, Bloomingtondale Senior High School Resource Officer Harrison Bashner, and District IV Detective Phil Raschiatore, Burglary Division.

Having this professional group of community leaders meet with the BACC prompted a lot of productive discussion and exchange of information, one of the primary goals of the council.

The following topics were discussed.

Building Projects

Proposed building projects discussed included the new subdivision planned for the end of John Moore Road and



Capt. Jerry York, detective Phil Raschiatore and Deputy Pete Maurer met with members of the council in May to discuss local law enforcement issues and concerns.

the proposed Target store near Bloomingtondale High.

Traffic

Continuing problem areas around the intersection of Bell Shoals Road and Bloomingtondale Avenue were discussed, especially turning points out of the shopping center.

Capt. York noted that deputies would give special attention to drivers running red lights, speeding and driving aggressively.

Heroic Effort

Deputy Maurer noted the recent tragic home fire in Bloomingtondale East and acknowledged the courageous life-saving act by Hank Garcia, our local Hillsborough County codes inspector.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are still a very critical safety concern on Canoga Drive by the Culbertson Recreation Center in Bloomingtondale West, and

along Culbreath Road near the new Cimino Elementary School.

Cimino Principal Sandra Frost expressed serious concern for the safety of young students walking to school without sidewalks in this very high volume traffic area. Frost also noted a critical need for crossing guards for this area.

Anyone interested in becoming a crossing guard can call 247-8115 for information.

High School issues

Bloomingtondale High School Resource Officer Harrison Bashner noted several issues concerning BSHS and students, including the fact that there are two full-time truancy officers assigned to our area.

Bashner said the school has a human relations specialist on campus to work with students, that hot spots for gatherings have been identified and are being monitored, that the school expects

an increase from 2800 to 3100 students, and that parents must keep a close watch on their teens during the summer months when many get into trouble.

Bashner also said parents must pay attention for signs of their teens using over-the-counter cough medicines, and that students must realize that bomb threats are taken very seriously and can result in criminal charges.

Law Enforcement

Capt. York noted that it is active involvement in the community by its residents that makes a community "a better place to live and a better place to work."

He explained the Sheriff's Crime Information Strategy System, used to coordinate and communicate detailed information about current concerns and situations with deputies in all communities.

York also noted that the Sheriff's Office is constantly

See UPDATE, Page 15

Scouts Receive Thanks From Afghanistan

By LAURA FRAZIER

This March, Brandon Brownie Troop 1254 staged "Operation Enduring Cookies," an effort to send care packages of Girl Scout cookies to military members stationed in Afghanistan.

Dozens of Brandon area cookie customers purchased 250 boxes of the treats earmarked for delivery to the Army's 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan. The cookies were delivered to the outfit shortly after the completion of Operation Anaconda.

The girls affixed special stickers to each box reading, "Thanks for being there so we can be safe here. Brownie Troop 1254, Brandon, Florida."

The scouts and troop leaders were pleasantly surprised when, in April, they received a personal note of thanks from one cookie recipient, Brigadier General Mike Jones, a former Brandon resident.

Gayle Richard, whose daughter Maddy participated in the project, said, "I am not sure the girls fully understand the significance of the note or who General Jones is, but hopefully when they get a little older they will understand the impact of their project."

Richard's transcript of the General's hand-written note is as follows.

"Dear Brownies of Troop 1254,

I would personally like to

thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful cookies you sent to our soldiers here in Afghanistan. These Samoas are my favorites and I could not have been more pleased to receive them.

As you all know, we have been in a very big fight with the Al Quaida/Taliban terrorists in Shai Kout and our soldiers performed superbly. But I want you to know that you too have done a great service as Americans by sending this great gift of support. Many men and women have sons and daughters who are Brownies too, and I am sure you hold a special place in our hearts.

Please feel safe at home because we are doing what our Commander in Chief, President Bush, has asked us to do. Our greatest hope here is for you great examples of leadership to know that the price of freedom is not cheap and that it takes us all as a great nation to stand up for the values we hold so dear; that all men and women are created equal with certain unalienable rights, and those are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I was assigned to Special Operations Command at MacDill AFB in Tampa, and my family lived in Brandon during our tour. My children were young then and went to Yates Elementary school and we loved the community. We also were members of Brandon Baptist Church.

So in closing I would like to thank you again for this wonderful gift you all have pro-



Photo courtesy Troop 1254

Brandon Troop 1254 Brownies Ashley Booker, Jamie Kamp, Bianca Lopez, Samantha Holsten, Jessica Jones, Hayley Dircks, Maddy Richard and Aurora Moore sent 250 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to U. S. military troops stationed overseas.

vided us.

You are all doing exactly what our President has asked us to do, and that is doing something good and kind for a neighbor. I think we call that love. Again, you Brandon Brownies are my heroes; keep up the great work and do well in school.

Your friend and supporter forever,

Brigadier General Mike Jones
Deputy Commanding General,
Combined Joint Task Force Mountain, Afghanistan"

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County Releases Annual Report

A Gazette Report

The Hillsborough County Clerk of Circuit Court, Richard Ake, has released the county's annual report summary for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2001.

The report indicates total revenues for Hillsborough County jumped almost 9 percent to \$1.325 billion.

Property taxes increased 9.5 percent, while sales taxes (including state shared revenues) stayed the same. Fees, fines, forfeitures and special assessments increased 10 percent. Water taxes were increased by 13 percent.

Total expenses increased 12 percent to \$1.146 billion. The biggest increases were in transportation — 31 percent, human services — 22 percent, and culture and recreation — 34 percent.

According to the report, Hillsborough County had \$1.221 billion in revenue in

2000, with expenses of \$1,020. In fiscal year 2001, the county has \$1.325 billion in revenues, and \$1,146 billion in expenses.

Hillsborough County's population is now 6.3 percent of Florida's total population, making it the fourth most populated county in the state.

In the last decade of the 20th century, Hillsborough's population grew by 19.8 percent. At this growth rate, the projected population of Hillsborough County by 2005 should reach almost 1.4 million.

Although we have a diversified tax base, the top 10 percent of ad valorem taxpayers pay 9.25 percent of the total taxes levied.

For a copy of the annual report summary, write to Richard Ake, Clerk of Circuit Court, P.O. Box 1110, Tampa, FL 33601-1110, or call 276-8100.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

President's Roundtable Honors Ray Campo

Ray Campo, left, accepts the Brandon Presidents Roundtable 2002 Alice B. Tompkins Community Service Award from last year's recipient, Kay Sullivan. Campo was honored at the Roundtable's annual public affairs dinner in May for the many contributions he and his late wife Josie Campo have made to the Brandon community over the past 30 years. Most notably in the Bloomingdale area, the Campo family donated countless volunteer hours, financial support and land necessary to develop and improve Bloomingdale Little League and the Campo Family YMCA.

CIMINO

From page 3

ue the same high level of parent and community involvement," she said.

The PTA of Alafia Elementary, increasingly referred to as Cimino's sister school, recently donated \$3,000 to the Cimino PTA. In addition, The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association presented Frost and newly elected Cimino PTA president Debby Duncan with a \$500 contribution in May.

Grable welcomed Cimino Elementary into the Bloomingdale family of schools. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association has in the past supported Alafia Elementary, Lithia Springs, Burns Middle School and Bloomingdale High School and, Grable said, will continue to do so.

"The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is pleased to help the Cimino PTA get off to a good start. We know

this will be a wonderful school that continues the tradition of academic excellence we've seen at Alafia and Lithia Springs," said Grable.

While construction continues on the school, a temporary administration trailer is set up on the site. The office is open weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for information and student registration.

Frost hopes to be settled into her permanent office in mid-July. She can be reached at 740-4450.

An open house will be held for parents and students Tuesday, August 6 (times to be announced), the day before the new school year begins.

Duncan said PTA board positions are still open, and she'd be happy to speak with interested parents. For information, call Duncan at 654-1851.



Photo courtesy Marisa Cooley

Columba Bush, right, congratulates Bloomingdale High senior Amanda Cooley for earning the Florida Alliance for Arts Education's \$1,000 Scholarship of Excellence.

Bloomingdale Grad Performs At Governor's Mansion

Bloomingdale High School Senior Amanda Cooley was invited to perform a solo piano recital in March at the Florida Alliance for Arts Education luncheon.

The luncheon was at the governor's mansion in Tallahassee.

Cooley, who graduated third in her class at Bloomingdale this year, played her award-winning original jazz/classi-

cal composition for an audience that included Columba Bush and Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan.

The alliance is a statewide organization that works to promote arts in education.

Cooley was one of 24 students selected statewide to receive the organization's \$1,000 Scholarship of Excellence.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE
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College Notes

Send announcements to News@BloomingdaleGazette.com or mail to The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594.

Girard Graduates From UCF
Christopher J. Girard, son

of Mrs. Marilyn Girard and the late Ronald J. Girard, graduated this spring from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's in computer engineering.

Girard, a 1997 graduate of Durant High School, is employed by Adaptec Inc. as an ASIC design engineer.

UPDATE

From page 121

monitoring the actions of all sexual predators in our community.

down repeat criminals.

Crosswalks

The council discussed continued concerns for the safety of all pedestrians crossing Culbreath Avenue between the YMCA and Bloomingdale Little League.

Coordination is in progress with state Rep. Johnnie Byrd to acquire funds for this critical need.

Burglary Data

Detective Raschiatore and Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano explained the new computer data fingerprint collection system used by the Sheriff's office to monitor burglaries and other crimes in local areas to identify and track

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Little League, YMCA Celebrate Accomplishments

By MACK AUSTIN

Do you remember where you were in 1969, 33 years ago?

Ed Radice, director of Hillsborough County's Parks and Recreation Department, does. He was at the Bloomingdale Little League Park giving instruction on score keeping to a small group of dedicated parents wanting to start a Little League.

Radice returned to the park many times over the next 33 years, and just last month paid a special visit to the "Celebration of Dedication" sponsored by the Bloomingdale Little League and the Campo Family YMCA.

The purpose of the celebration was to recognize the unbelievable dedication put forth by hundreds of community leaders, county workers, parents, grandparents, volunteers, and ball players — young and old.

Their unselfish determination and personal dedication is what it took to make the park one of the showplace ballparks in the county.

For most of its history, the park has totally depended on volunteers to maintain it and keep it open.

Thanks to the professional assistance and guidance of county workers like Jeff Mauch and his hard working maintenance crews, the park was able to keep its plumbing and electrical facilities in working order.

They literally kept the



Ed Radice, Hillsborough County Parks Director, accepts personal recognition from past-president Allan Trovillion for his role in making Bloomingdale Little Park what it is today.

stands from falling down.

A long list of Little League presidents and board members have kept the league organized, finances available and schedules on time.

Leaders like past presidents Allan Trovillion and Tim Malloy, and current president, Bill Russell, all had a dream for a great park.

They and many others, both professionals and volunteers, kept the park functioning and insured that the winter and spring seasons were never interrupted during major renovation projects.

Making the dream come true took the personal sup-

port and quality leadership of a man like Ray Campo.

His guidance, direction and hard work are what made the completion of the park and its neighbor, the new YMCA, possible. Campo and his late wife, Josie, gave of their time and talents to make the park and the YMCA become realities.

A special dedication was made during the celebration officially naming the senior ball field by the YMCA, "The Josie Campo Senior Field."

Josie Campo passed away seven months ago, but Ray Campo said at the ceremony, "Josie is here with us today!"

What made hundreds of people over these many years give of their time, talents and hard work - literally blood, sweat and tears?

If you really want to know, visit the park on a Saturday. Start with a T-ball game, watch part of a girl's softball game, and finish up with a senior's game.

Note the amazing progress made by the players in their abilities and teamwork.

They are the hundreds of reasons for the past dedication and the continued dedication given to make dreams come true.

School Board Meetings Televised

Hillsborough County School Board meetings are televised live on The Education Channel, Time Warner Cable channel 18, 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each

month, and 3 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Board meetings are also rebroadcast at 1:30 p.m. on Fridays.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Russell, Morris Join Keller Williams

A Gazette Report

Realtors Luana Russell and Susie Tate Morris have joined the Brandon Market Center of Keller Williams Realty.

Russell has received numerous awards and designations during her 26 years in real estate, and has consistently been recognized among top realtors nationwide.

Keller Williams managers said Russell has been appointed as a board member and business partner, and will play a key role in directing the growth of the compa-



Russell

A California native, Russell moved to the Brandon area in 1986 and currently resides in Valrico.

She is a member of Bell Shoals Baptist Church.

Susie Tate Morris joined Keller Williams in May. Morris is a native Floridian and currently resides in Valrico. She is a mother of five grown children, member of Bell Shoals Baptist Church, the GFWC Jr. Service League of Brandon and Bloomingdale High School Booster Club.

Morris said helping other families to establish Brandon as their home is an important task that she takes seriously.

Keller Williams Realty is at 510 Vonderberg Dr., Suite 200, in Brandon. Russell and Morris can be reached at 684-9500.



Morris



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

It's Alive!

Animal breeder Mark Hicks, owner of It's Alive Pets at 401 S. Parsons Ave. in Brandon, tends to a brood of baby monitor lizards. The store offers a wide variety of wholesale to the public USDA certified exotic animals including prairie dogs, sugar gliders, hedgehogs, skunks, iguanas, boas, cockatiels, sun conures, scorpions and ferrets. Grooming for dogs, cats, rabbits, reptiles and birds is also available. Information: 655-6791.

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Bloomingtondale Resident Bids For County Commission Seat

By LAURA FRAZIER

Bloomingtondale Oaks resident Arlene Waldron won the ersatz title of Honorary Mayor of Brandon in July 2001.

Waldron said she enjoyed the contrived "election," sponsored by the President's Roundtable of Brandon, in which candidates vie for the honorary title by competing to raise money for local charities.

"It (the mayoral race) was so much fun. We thoroughly enjoyed pretending and making things up as we ran our 'campaigns,' and in total we raised over \$60,000 for Brandon area charities," she said.

Waldron acknowledged that her latest campaign is sure to thrust her into reality, and said she's ready for it.

This spring, the lifelong Bay area native announced her bid to run as a Republican candidate for the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners District IV seat. District IV includes Brandon, Valrico, Riverview, Plant City and Sun City.

A vice president and business banker at Bank Atlantic in Brandon, Waldron said her campaign focus is to bring

people together to address the unique concerns of each segment of the district.

It takes a unified effort from county commissioners to address district concerns and to create effective solutions. I'm just not convinced that we have the effective leadership in place to make the right decisions."

Waldron said the recent public access television debate spearheaded by county commissioner Ronda Storms, her District IV incumbent opponent, is ineffective at best. "I personally agree with Comm. Storms that it is totally unacceptable to fund the programming content in question with taxpayer money," Waldron said.

She added, "But the commission is legally bound to uphold the laws, including the freedom of speech. You can't fight the legalities of this issue. It's been tried and tried again."

Waldron said there are more effective ways for taxpayers to oppose and change legislation. She encourages and would support grass roots efforts to modify laws for the benefit of the community. She also voiced her support of the Brandon Main



Arlene Waldron

Street project.

"Main Street will give Brandon an identity. In addition to providing Brandon residents with a one-stop

center for government services, it will be a gathering place to stage festivals and community events."

Improvements to Brandon Blvd. also rank high on her list of priorities.

"Brandon Blvd. is the front yard of our community. When people drive through Brandon, their first impression of our city is Hwy. 60. It hasn't made a great impression for quite some time, and we need to work on that."

Growth issues are also on Waldron's agenda.

"When I grew up in Brandon, it was such a sleepy little family neighborhood. It's still very laid back, still a wonderful community, but at this point, we do need to slow down and examine the growth process."

Waldron said the Brandon community would benefit

greatly from a little more managed growth, vision and planning. "I grew up here and I hope to see my grandchildren raised here someday. Brandon's vision should include continual planning for schools, residential and business development, and public safety," she said.

"We want Brandon to be the kind of place where our kids can graduate from HCC or USF and settle into the attractive quality of life and job opportunities right here in Hillsborough County."

Waldron is a past board member of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, past chair of the YMCA board of directors, and a current board member of the Seffner Chamber of Commerce and the Brandon Outreach Clinic. She graduated from Brandon High School in 1975 and currently resides in Bloomingtondale Oaks with her husband John.

Waldron's District IV opponents include incumbent Commissioner Ronda Storms (R), Willens Levasseur (R), and Tony Pawlisz (D).

The primary election takes place on Sept. 10, and the general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Commissioner's Corner

Brandon Needs July Fourth Celebration

By HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSIONER RONDA STORMS

Watermelon, popsicles and parades. Corn on the cob, Uncle Sam, grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. Flags, flags, and more flags. Ice cream, marching bands and Kool-aid mustaches. Softball tournaments, swimming, and fireworks ... loud, colorful, sky-splitting fireworks!

Fireworks provide the perfect cap to an exciting day. Tired, but happy kids with shining eyes and excited smiles staring up into the night sky ... memories are woven out of such golden threads.

For generations, the Brandon community celebrated July Fourth with fireworks.

However, for the last couple of years, Brandon was not able to raise the money necessary to put on a show, and so the tradition died.

This year is different ... we have already raised a little more than \$10,000, which will give us a 10-minute show. Of course, we would like to have a 30-minute show, so we're trying to raise more money, about another \$10,000.

Fireworks are so much more than colorful puffs of color that fill the night. They celebrate the majesty of America, the beauty of Her people, the splendor of Her freedoms, the blood sacrifices of Her sons and daughters. Fireworks mark July Fourth as a day distinct from all other summer days.

Fireworks sing patriotism and whisper honor into the memories and character of our children. In this year, especially this year, we should have fireworks for our children, our people, our country, our hopes, our fears and our courage.

If you would like to help, please contact the President's Roundtable c/o Michael Carducci at 662-9694, 1427 Clarion Drive, Valrico, FL 33594; or mjcarducci@aol.com.



Commissioner Rhonda Storms

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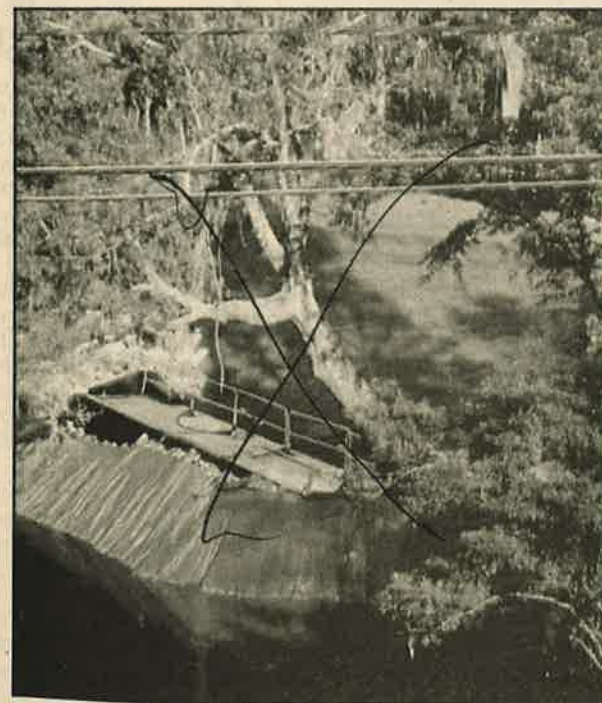
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Outstanding yard features ...



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

UFO or H2O?

No, it's not a secret military project on the Alafia...it's part of Tampa Bay Water's Alafia River project. Water from the river will be pumped to locations in Northern Hillsborough and Pasco County.

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Derek Smethurst, Technical Director

GIRLS U9, U10, U11, U12, U13 & U14 ... 9:00am - 11:00am U15, U16, U17, U18 & U19 11:00am - 1:00pm

Rain Date - Monday, June 10 U9 to U14 at 6:00pm / U15 to U19 at 7:30pm

BOYS U9, U10, U11, U12, U13 & U14 ... 3:00pm - 5:00pm U15, U16, U17, U18 & U19 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Rain Date - Tuesday, June 11 U9 to U14 at 6:00pm / U15 to U19 at 7:30pm

Additional Tryout Dates & Times Announced at 1st Tryouts

- Registration for Valrico's Developmental League for Recreational Players Ages U5 - U13 on June 15 & 22 from 10am - 2pm.
TRSA Registration for Traveling Girls Recreational Soccer League Ages U8 - U12 on June 22 from 10am - 2pm.

For field directions or additional information, call 813.689.5689 or visit our website www.ValricoSoccer.com



Bloomingdale Property Manager Al Devney

LAURA FRAZIER/PHOTO

Property Manager's Report

Excerpts from the April 2002 Bloomingdale Special Taxing District property manager's report, submitted by Al Devney, president of DPMI Property Management, Inc., are as follows. Information: 684-6617.

During the monthly irrigation system maintenance check, DPMI replaced 31 spray heads, 4 rotors, 39 light bulbs and 1 receptacle, and repaired 4 risers and 2 broken pipes.

J.B.D. Construction Inc. started the reconstruction of the Garnet entrance.

George A. Donahue installed the entranceway packages at Murray Dale and Orangepointe. Camarra's Landscaping installed Indian Hawthorne bushes on Springvale, and Planscape, Inc. installed 2 azalea and 2 loretum beds on Springvale.

Hillsborough County cut down four dead pine trees at Rosemead and Bell Shoals.

DPMI had the school bus benches pressure washed and painted.

C.B. Welding installed a new gate at the Bristol Green entrance on Natures Way.

DPMI determined the costs to run the BSTD for the remainder of 2002 and prepared the data for the accountant along with a budget for 2003.

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, DPMI picked up 22 bags of trash, a cell phone, a hubcap, an Easter egg, 3 gloves, a 12 foot valance, a lost New York visitor and .07 cents. The beverages of choice were Heineken for beer, Coke for soft drinks and Windsor Woods for distilled spirits.

Projects to be completed for the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2002 include; the Garnet entranceway, the landscaping of Springvale, painting the walls on Culbreath, Natures Way, Glenhaven and Garnet, and pressure cleaning the walls on Glenhaven.

CommUNITY Works Meets June 11

Group Has New Coordinator
A Gazette Report

The greater Brandon area anti-drug abuse coalition, CommUNITY Works, meets monthly at the Campo Family YMCA in Bloomingdale. Meetings are open to anyone interested in promoting the prevention, intervention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse.

Coalition members and visitors generally include concerned parents and students, and representatives of local law enforcement, government, schools, businesses, clubs and non-profit agencies.

The next coalition meeting

is set for June 11 at 6:45 p.m.

The coalition celebrated its first anniversary in April, and announced the appointment of Sharron Cosby as the group's new coordinator. Founder and original coordinator Ellen Gates, who is moving from the Brandon area this year, will continue her involvement with the group for as long as possible.

Gates said Cosby's personal and professional experience make her well-suited for the leadership position.

Sharron and her husband, Dan Cosby, a substance abuse counselor at Overcomers Counseling Center in Brandon, are founders of Wake-Up Call Inc., a non-profit organization designed to help families and teens prevent and combat substance abuse.

For information about CommUNITY Works, Cosby at 672-0375 or e-mail PRVB3111@aol.com.



Sharron Cosby

WELCOMES



Luana Russell
Realtor®

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
OF BRANDON
510 Vonderburg Drive
Suite 200
Brandon, FL
684-9500
or
685-8545

Keller Williams Realty of Brandon takes pride in announcing that Luana Russell and her 5-Star Team have joined the Brandon Market Center! Luana has been licensed in Florida since 1983. She has earned the following designations: CRS and GRL. Her 5-Star Team consists of Buyer's Specialist, Debra Edwards; Team Manager, Linda Genco; and two Client Care managers, Diane Schoeffel and Susan Ciardiello. Luana resides in Valrico and is a member of Bell Shoals Baptist church. Ms. Russell hails from Los Angeles, California and moved to Brandon Florida in 1982.

Luana is excited about teaming up with the fastest growing Real Estate company in the United States. Luana joined Keller Williams Realty because of the tremendous growth potential, sterling professional reputation and the profit sharing benefits. She has been appointed to the position of Board Member and Business partner and will play a key role in directing the growth of the company.

Ms Russell has 26 years of real estate experience, is in the top 1% in the nation and has received numerous prestigious awards throughout her real estate career. You can call Luana and her 5-Star Team at Keller Williams Realty of Brandon at 813-684-9500 or call direct at 813-685-8545.

079513

Commercial Zoning Sought For 5.9 Acres

By LAURA FRAZIER

The owner of 5.9 acres of vacant land currently listed for sale at the corner of Bloomingdale Ave. and John Moore Rd. will present a land-usage rezoning request to county officials in July.

County planner Dyan Backe said the request is for a planned development with 22,000 sq.ft. of general commercial use buildings. Under county zoning guidelines,

general commercial usages may include typical retail and general business, financial institutions, neighborhood convenience stores, car wash facilities and supermarkets. The property is presently zoned ASC, which permits both agricultural usage and/or 1 conventional single family home per acre.

A zoning hearing master is scheduled to review the request at a July 8 public hearing. At press time, the

property owner had asked for a July 9 continuance. If the hearing master gives preliminary approval to the request, the matter will be brought before the Board of County Commissioners at a later date for a final decision.

Residents opposed to the rezoning request may submit a letter of objection to Zoning Hearing Master, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 20th Floor, Tampa, FL 33601 or fax to (813) 272-5348.

Letters personalized with the sender's name and address must include the zoning request number (RZ-02-0797), and must be received at least two days prior to the hearing to become a party of record. Residents may also speak before the zoning hearing master at the meeting in July.

To confirm hearing dates and times, or for more information, call Backe at (813) 307-4507.

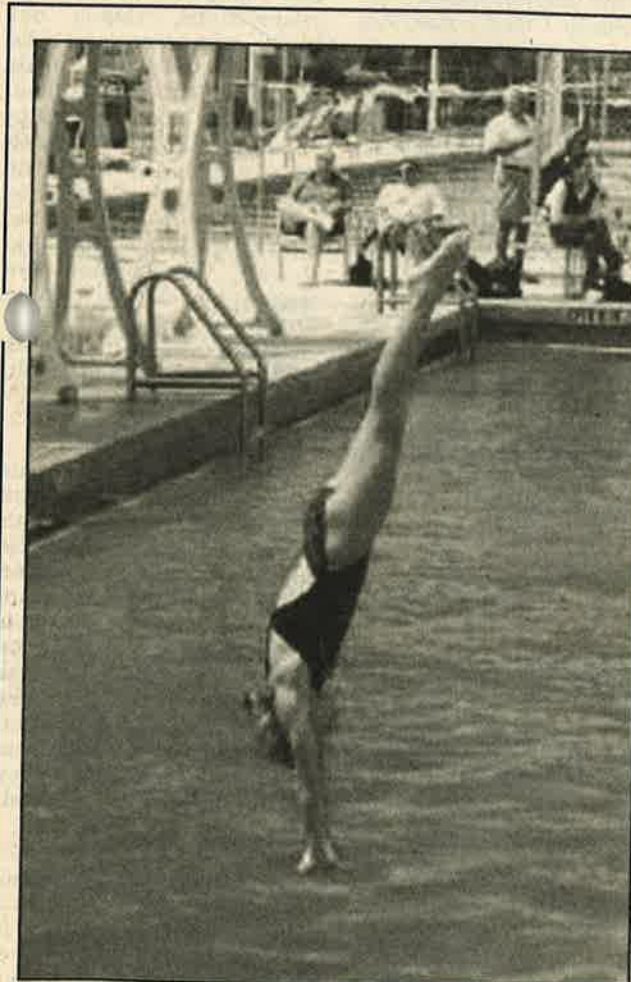


Photo courtesy Jetstream Divers

Lepech Dives Into Gold

Alli Lepech, a 10-year-old Jetstream Diver from Brandon Swim and Tennis Club, dove her way to two gold medals at the recent Suncoast Diving Invitational. Lepech won first place on both the 1- and 3-meter springboards at the diving meet in Largo on May 18. The Jetstream Diving Team will be competing at summer regionals in Orlando, July 5-7, and hope to win and proceed on to zone championships in Athens, Ga., and finally to nationals in Stanford, Calif., in late-July.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com

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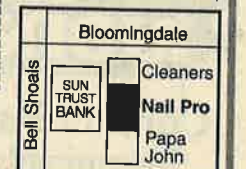
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655-8406**



247827



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

The Hillsborough County Public Works Department South Service Unit maintains the roadways in our area and trims trees like this one.

South County Unit Maintains Roadways, More

By MACK AUSTIN

Most Bloomingdale residents have seen Hillsborough County roadway maintenance crews working in our area at one time or another. Many have called the South County service unit to report potholes needing repair and other roadway maintenance problems.

As our area grows, the number of vehicles traveling our roads increases, the volume of needed repairs rises, and the amount of work for the South County roadway maintenance unit continues to increase.

The South County service unit is one of five special units with the Hillsborough County Public Works Department. These units maintain roads and stormwater systems in unincorporated areas, including road surfaces, sidewalks, roadside ditches, stormwater drains, mowing and tree trimming within the right-of-ways. The South County service unit's area of responsibility runs roughly east-west between Hwy. 39 and Tampa Bay, and north-south between Bloomingdale Avenue and Hwy. 674. Needless to say, they have a very big area to continually monitor and maintain.

The South County unit has provided outstanding service to the Bloomingdale community. There is a never-ending task. Just imagine having over 6,000 square miles of roadside to finish mowing, only to start all over again -

makes maintaining your lawn seem pretty small!

To help the unit complete their work, it is a good idea for residents to become familiarized with some of their tasks and restrictions. Maintaining the areas in and around Bloomingdale is a joint effort between the South County unit and the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District.

The county maintains sidewalks, and new sidewalks are contracted. They also repair streets, sweeps intersections, cleans out drains, trims trees and mow right-of-ways on Bell Shoals Road and John Moore Road. Culbreath Road is maintained by the BSTD, with some assistance from the county. The South Service unit will trim trees in the right-of-ways to a minimum of 14'6". Homeowners are responsible for trimming trees that hang over owner's property. Trimming around streetlights is coordinated through the County's Citizens Action Center, 272-5900.

Residents with repair requests or information requests can call the South Service unit at 671-7619. Be sure to have the required information available - exact location, point-of-contact, phone number, etc. The unit's hours are weekdays 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For after hours emergencies, such as a fallen tree, call the Sheriff's dispatcher at 247-8200. They will contact the unit's standby workers.

Look for your neighborhood news
The Bloomingdale Gazette

Summer Riding Camp

(ages 7-14)
June 4-7, 11-14, 18-21
Mini camps (ages 5-6)
June 25-28



Paragrim has hosted summer camps for over twenty years. We owe our longevity to a philosophy that learning must be fun.

PARAGRIM RIDING ACADEMY

Contact Patsy at (813) 689-1814
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233679

Big Rigs On Lithia, Bloomingdale

Bloomingdale residents are concerned about load limits allowed for trucks on Lithia-Pinecrest road. Many of the trucks end up on Bloomingdale Avenue. County staff is currently conducting traffic studies while the county attorney's office works the legal issues on this concern. Their reports will go before the Board of County Commissioners on July 24 at County Center. Watch for further updates in the Gazette and on www.BloomingdaleGazette.com.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

CLASSIFIED

The Bloomingdale Gazette classified office is located in the Brandon News building at 1401 Oakfield Dr., Brandon FL 33511

TO PLACE AN AD	RATES	GENERAL POLICIES:	AD DEADLINE
call: Ashley Hager or Ruby Brooker at: 689-7764 or fax to: 689-9545	SUPERSAVERS: Private parties may run a three line ad free of charge for merchandise under \$250 (price must appear in ad). Not available to businesses. Other restrictions apply. Free ads must be submitted in writing, by fax or in person. Five ads per person per month on a space available basis. RATES: Five lines for \$7, additional lines are \$1.40 per line. Ask about our discounted rate available if you advertise in the Brandon News, Plant City Courier and Shopper or other Sunbelt publications. HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.	CANCELLATIONS: Cancellation numbers are issued at the time of cancellation. It is necessary you have it in the event of any misunderstanding or adjustments. Ad deadlines are applicable to cancellations as well. ADJUSTMENTS: Please check your ad for errors the first day it appears. Sunbelt Newspapers will not be responsible for errors, except to the extent of the cost of the first insertion, and then only for that portion of the ad that may have omissions of copy. Corrections of errors must be made within the above ad deadlines also. CREDIT: Some classified categories require payment in advance.	to place cancel or change an ad is Friday, 5 P.M. 1 week prior to publication.

2 Found

TABBY CAT male, gold, 3 yrs old, neutered, all shots, FIV pos. 243-1243

19 Legal Svcs/ Non-Lawyer

TAX PROBLEMS?
Free initial consultation
Brenda H. Undeland,
enrolled agent. 657-4775

40 Cemetery Lots

SUNSET MEMORY GARDENS, Lot B., Unit 3132, Section 4F, Honor Turf Top, \$1,000 each. Call (813) 689-3565

212 Condominium

BRANDON, seeking roommate w/friendly dog to share 3/2 lake home, \$460/mo. incl. util. 661-6658

CLASSIFIED WORKS

215 Mobile Homes

VALRICO 1Br & 2Br, clean, small park. No pets. Awning. 813-689-6845

320 Medical

MA, full time, front and back. Apply in person at 302 Bryan Rd. suite 1

370 Sales

MEDICAL DISCOUNT CARD EXPLOSION!
Earn a large weekly income marketing a leading medical discount card that saves consumers 25% to 50% on doctors, hospitals, dentists, prescriptions and more. Work part-time or full-time. Call now for details! 813-684-8554 ask for Jim.

Classified Ads - Prices well within sight. A selection that's just right!

380 Employment General

LIVE-IN House Parents FT/PT sm private group home. 6 young ladies, all employed. 813-643-7704

402 Antiques/ Collectibles

House of Two Sisters. Antiques & Tea Room. DEALERS WANTED. Consignments Taken. 813-258-8220. 204 S. Howard Ave. Tpa

649 Automobiles For Sale

MERCEDES 1979, baby blue, body in excellent condition, garage kept, motor needs work. \$1200. 813-643-1836.

SADDLED WITH HORSES? Advertise in class 626 and buyers will gallop to your stable!



You have many ways to place your classified ad in the Bloomingdale Gazette:

- **by phone:** call Ruby or Ashley at 689-7764
- **by fax:** 689-9545, attention: Bloomingdale Gazette
- **in person:** The Brandon News, 1401 Oakfield Dr.
- **by mail:** The Bloomingdale Gazette, c/o the Brandon News, 1401 Oakfield Dr. Brandon, FL 33511

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Bloomingtondale Gets Five-Star Service



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Homes Recently Listed In Bloomingtondale

2322 Timbergrove Dr.	\$229,900
611 Sweetleaf Dr.	\$134,900
527 Sandy Creek Dr	\$121,900
3604 Elk Ridge Ln.	\$239,900
2303 Colusa Ln.	\$187,500
3715 Murraydale Dr.	\$139,900

Homes Recently Sold In Bloomingtondale

1507 Nittany Ct.	\$200,700
4504 Portobello Cr.	\$184,600
2309 Delamere Ct.	\$258,000
1007 Cameo Crest Ln.	\$165,900
3709 Murraydale Dr.	\$127,000
2607 Vinedale Av.	\$175,000

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