

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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## FEATURE STORY



Bloomington Deputy Pete Maurer built a portable speed monitor that can be used at speeding-prone areas throughout the community.

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## BUSINESS

A new Bloomington boutique caters to pampered pets.

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LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Valedictorian Roger Nehaul, and Salutatorian Melissa Miller, kicked off Bloomingdale's Class of 2006 graduation ceremonies at the USF Sun Dome May 24.

## Bloomington Valedictorian Racks Up Highest GPA In School History

GRADS SHARE STELLAR SCORES, COLLEGE CHOICE

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Along with his place at the top of Bloomingdale High School's Class of 2006, valedictorian Roger Nehaul holds an impressive new record at the school.

Bloomington's guidance resource specialist Alexia Shemroske said last week Nehaul's 7.32 first semester GPA is the highest average ever received by a Bloomingdale High graduate since the school opened in 1987.

Nehaul, the son of Nadira and Cecil Nehaul, was expected to finish his senior year with a 7.72 final average.

He will attend the University of Florida in Gainesville this fall, where he plans to major in pre-med biology.

Salutatorian Melissa Miller ran a close second to Nehaul's record-setting average. Miller, daughter of Dorothy and Allen Miller, earned a first semester GPA of 7.02. She anticipates a final 7.4 average once final exam results are in.

Miller will also attend UF in the fall, where she plans to major in pre-veterinary studies.

Both grads said their stellar grade point averages were attainable through a combination of extra credits earned in Bloomingdale's Accelerated Program classes, Florida Virtual School online courses, and summer classes at Hillsborough Community College.

Shemroske said 184 of the 502 Bloomingdale seniors who graduated in May commenced with honors. About 80 percent of this year's graduates reported they will attend college in the fall. More than 200 Bloomingdale seniors, Shemroske said, qualified this year for the Florida Bright Futures scholarship.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS • PAGE 3

*Tax Collector Proposes New Office Behind Bloomingdale Library*

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# BHA Asks Residents: What Is Best Use For Land Behind Library?

## TAX COLLECTOR PROPOSES NEW OFFICE

A Gazette Report

Hillsborough County Tax Collector, Doug Beldon, announced in May a proposal to build a new tax collector's office on the remaining portion of vacant, county-owned land situated behind the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library.

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association President, Ted Grable, said last week some Bloomingdale residents are concerned about the proposal.

In previous discussions about potential plans for the property, Grable said, community leaders and residents have focused on supporting development that would not restrict the expansion of

the library or the addition of other community centers and services to the site.

The homeowners association board of directors has set aside the first hour of its June 5 board meeting for Beldon and his staff to present their proposed use for the land.

Bloomingdale area residents are invited to attend the 7 p.m. presentation, at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., behind SunTrust Bank and the Citgo service station.

In an e-mail message sent last week to homeowners association board members, Grable wrote, "Our first concern is for the expansion of the already at-capacity Bloomingdale Regional Public Library."

"After only one year in operation, the Bloomingdale library is already the

fourth busiest library in the county."

The homeowners association board, Grable said, looks forward to meeting with the tax collector and his staff, and is appreciative of Beldon's proactive efforts to gather community input on the proposal.

"The Bloomingdale community united and worked very hard to have the library located at its current site, with its central location and proximity to Bloomingdale High School and the Campo Family YMCA," Grable said.

"We want to be sure that whatever else is developed there best serves Bloomingdale and our neighboring communities."

After hearing the tax collector's presentation, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will schedule a series of public workshops to identify the com-

munity's recommendation for the best use of the land.

Development plans for the county-owned land must go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Residents who cannot attend the June 5 meeting can e-mail comments or questions to [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com), or leave a detailed message at (813) 681-2051. E-mail and phone correspondence which includes the sender's full name and address (for verification purposes only) will be presented to the homeowners association board and tax collector's staff for review.

A report about the June 5 meeting will be posted later this week on [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com).

# Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority Adds Stops To South County Routes

## RIDERS: MORE BUSSES, SHELTERS NEEDED

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

The Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority, HART (formerly known as HartLine), recently made a number of changes to its South Brandon, Valrico and Lithia express bus routes serving commuters traveling to and from MacDill Air Force Base and downtown Tampa.

The 24X bus (to and from MacDill A.F.B.) now stops at two "park and ride" locations: FishHawk Fellowship Church on FishHawk Blvd., and Riverview Oaks on Boyette Rd. at US-301. A new

curbside stop was also recently added on Boyette at McMullen Road.

The 27X bus (to and from downtown Tampa), now stops at three park and ride locations: FishHawk Fellowship Church on FishHawk Blvd., Culbreath Rd. at Bloomingdale Ave., and J. C. Handy Park on Kings Avenue. A new curbside stop was also recently added in Bloomingdale East on Erindale Drive.

The popular 25X bus (to and from MacDill A.F.B.) express route will maintain its curbside stop on Glenhaven Dr. at Bell Shoals Rd. and park and ride stop at the J. C. Handy location on Kings Avenue. New curbside stops were recently added to the 25X route on Nature's Way Blvd. between Glenhaven

Dr. and Greenhollow Drive.

Both the 25X and 27X routes have a number of new curbside stops along Bloomingdale Ave., Kings Ave., and Lumsden Rd./Causeway Boulevard. "HART Commuter" signs are now posted at all new stops along the route.

Bloomingdale resident Norbert Gobin, a member of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council, recently served on a panel of citizens from various South County neighborhoods appointed by County Commissioners to assist HART in improving its local routes.

Gobin praised HART officials for working diligently to meet the needs of Bloomingdale and FishHawk area rid-

ers.

The authority has made a great deal of improvements, Gobin said, all well-received by existing and new HART commuters.

Riders of the 24X MacDill express bus like the new stop on Boyette at McMullen, he said.

In addition, HART recently installed a new shelter at the 27X bus stop on Culbreath Road.

As the number of bus riders increase — no doubt in relation to the growing population, traffic volume and gas prices, Gobin said — more busses, stops and shelters will be needed.

"This evening, the 25X was full and

See HART, Page 18



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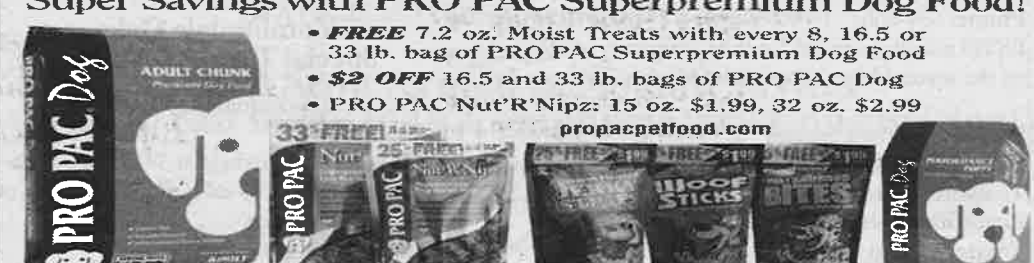
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# Bloomingtondale Neighbors Host Inaugural Block Party

## FEATURED FRIENDS, FOOD AND FUN

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Jane and Stan Lee take great pride in Chadd's Ford, their neighborhood section of Bloomingtondale. The Lees — former Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association board members — frequently get together with a few other families to socialize and chat about neighborhood improvement projects.

This spring, the Lees, along with neighbors Jolie and Jim Harris, planned a block party to spread the pride — and the fun — throughout their 48-home subdivision.

About 40 adults and 25 children attended the inaugural Chadd's Ford block party in May. The Lee and Harris

**Supplies and decorations: \$160**  
**Hotdogs, hamburgers, condiments: \$90**  
**Great day meeting new friends: Priceless!**  
— Jane Lee

families planned the event, and provided food and decorations for the party.

Several other families donated

basics like hot dog and hamburger buns and ice. Everyone was asked to bring a covered dish and their own chairs and beverages. Petrina Stack received raves for the cake she decorated to celebrate the get-together.

The grill masters of the bunch cooked burgers and dogs on barbecues set up in driveways. Some neighbors kicked back in lounge chairs, while others joined the kids in a succession of relay races and a balloon launch competition.

The group provided small prizes for game winners, and a steady supply of popsicles, bubbles and sidewalk chalk to



Photos courtesy of Jane Lee

Jane Lee and Jolie Harris greet neighbors with a smile and a name tag at Chadd's Ford's inaugural block party. Below left, neighbor Petrina Stack got creative with a cake she decorated for the party. Below right, in between relay races, bubble blowing and sidewalk chalk art, Olivia Harris got seriously silly with her painted knees.



keep the smallest revelers occupied.

The day before the block party, the neighbors held a group garage sale. Jane Lee estimated about a third of the homes in Chadd's Ford participated in the sale. The two events were so suc-

cessful, Lee said, the group plans to hold another sale in October, and a second block party next spring.

"Other than having beautiful weather, great food, and loads of fun, we added some new people to our core group that has been encouraging everyone to take pride in and improve our neighborhood, starting with our own homes."

"To sum it up, the day was a total success and we plan on hosting more events in the future," she said.

But the neighbors won't have to wait for the next annual event to get together.

See PARTY, Page 18



## Your Inside Connections

### The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
Phone: 681-2051 Fax: 684-2358  
E-mail: [Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net](mailto:Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net)  
Web Site: [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com)  
BHA meetings are at the community office on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

**President:** Ted Grable **Vice President:** Joe Hickle  
**Treasurer:** Pam Liguori **Director:** Lydia Harrod  
**Director:** Steve Heckel **Director:** Dale Kahn  
**Director:** George May **Director:** Tim Shuman  
**Director:** Myron Magedanz

### Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
Phone: 684-6667  
BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

**President:** Thom Snelling  
**Vice President:** Russell Jones  
**Treasurer:** David West  
**Recording Secretary:** Michael Buday  
**Trustee:** David Steck

**Trustee:** Joe Harless  
**Trustee:** Rami Hijazi  
**Property Manager:** Al Devney

### Bloomingtondale Community Security Program

The Bloomingtondale Community Security Program committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m..

### Coordinator/Equipment Manager:

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146  
**Treasurer:** Paul Kelmer  
**Patrol Member:** Steven Heckel



**Patrol Member:** Brad Scharp  
**Patrol Member:** Paul Warr

### Bloomingtondale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132  
Phone: 685-2817  
BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
**President:** Bill Grace  
**Treasurer:** Fred Englehart

## THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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**BLOOMINGDALE  
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A Gazette Report

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Disaster and declared emergency information is also broadcast on the county's government television station, HTV22, and through the county's telephone Infoline, (813) 272-5900. The Infoline is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

## CALENDAR

Send calendar items for publication to [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com).

### Bloomingtondale Homeowners Meet June 3

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Board of Directors will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 3, at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingtondale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

All meetings are open to the public. Confirmed special guests on the June 3 agenda include Doug Beldon, Hillsborough County Tax Collector (see related story in this issue).

Information: 681-2051 or e-mail [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com).

### Special Taxing District Public Hearing June 12

The Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District Board of Trustees will hold its annual public hearing to present the proposed budget for fiscal year 2007 on Monday, June 12, at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingtondale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Information: 684-6667 or e-mail [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com).

### Bay Life Church Offers Support Groups

Bay Life Church, 1017 N. Kingsway Rd. in Brandon, offers Breakthrough Support Groups on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Current groups include Divorce Care — 12 Steps to Recovery, Boundaries, Emotional Fitness, The Wounded Woman, Anger Workshop, Men's Addictions and How To Succeed at Being Yourself. Information: Genevieve LoCicero, 813-319-0813, extension 334.

### Shana Banana At Center Place June 22

"Bananimagination," a musical show for children about reading and creating good stories, will be presented by popular Florida singer/songwriter Shana Banana at 11:45 a.m. on June 22 at Center Place. Using original songs such as "If I Ate My House," and "The Turkey Shot Out of the Oven," the audience is introduced to the elements of plot, excitement, mystery, scariness and silliness. Children are kept moving throughout the production and are encouraged to participate. Tickets, \$5, must be purchased in advance at the gift shop at Center Place. Info: (813) 685-8888.

## Bloomingtondale Gazette

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BLOOMINGDALE  
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

**Good Neighbor Award Nominations Open**

QUARTERLY DEADLINE IS JUNE 8

A Gazette Report

The Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations is accepting nominations for its summer Lonnie Lea Napier Good Neighbor Award through June 8.

The award recognizes residents who continually go above and beyond the call of being a good neighbor. In addition to the quarterly award, one annual award is bestowed at the end of each year.

Individuals, neighborhood associations and community groups may make nominations at any time throughout the year. Any resident of Hillsborough County is eligible to nominate and be nominated.

Nominees must demonstrate an ongoing spirit of compassion and helpfulness to their neighbors. The 2005 annual award winners,

Melissa Mathieu and Junette Campbell, have made their homes safe havens for numerous children in their neighborhood who would otherwise be unsupervised.

The annual award comes with a \$2,000 prize to be presented to the neighborhood association serving the area in which the recipient lives. If the winner resides in an area which doesn't have an association, county staff will work with residents in the area to form one.

The award was established in May 2000 by the county commission in honor of Napier, who died after falling from a tree while attempting to rescue a neighbor's cat. Napier was well known as a good neighbor, performing deeds from helping a widowed neighbor put up Christmas lights to fighting a brush fire until firefighters arrived.

Nomination forms are available on the Hillsborough County web site, www.hillsborough-county.org, or call 272-5860.

**COMMENTARY**

**Patients Must Take Responsibility For Their Own Health Care**

**KEEP TRACK OF MEDICAL HISTORY**

By IRENE BUGGY  
Correspondent

Recent news articles in some of our local papers painted a very unflattering picture of the level of health care provided at Brandon Regional Hospital. But after a member of my family recently spent six days in the hospital, I don't think those negative stories painted a very clear picture.

Since we spent about nine hours in the emergency room before my relative was admitted, I had the opportunity to see first hand the level of care that is given at Brandon Regional. I was very impressed by the nursing staff.

I found the hospital staff to be professional, knowledgeable and extremely courteous. They even managed to show signs of a sense of humor while working long shifts.

From what I gathered, the

beds were full to capacity, which puts a strain on the entire staff. They rarely had time to stop for a break or answer their cell phone calls while trying to keep up with a steady workload that just didn't stop.

Doctors are not miracle workers. There are some who are excellent at what they do and others who finished at the bottom of their class.

Before we start complaining about health care and hospitals and medical staff, we should check our complaints at our own doorstep. As patients, we must provide the doctors with all the pieces to our own unique medical history "puzzle."

It's a good idea to keep a medical journal listing all of our allergies, surgeries and medications. These are all little pieces of the puzzle that add up to the complete picture every doctor needs to provide an educated diagnosis.

Many of us, at some point, may require hospitalization. If and when that time comes, let's hope we can help our medical professionals help us — by having all the puzzle pieces in our hands.

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BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

# Goodwill Honors Kiwanis Club Of Greater Brandon

## VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR

A Gazette Report

Goodwill Industries Suncoast recently named the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon as its Volunteer Group of the Year.

The award was presented at a recognition luncheon held May 11 in Clearwater.

The club was honored for its support of Goodwill's "BookWorks" program. Club members have read to children at Brandon area Head Start centers on a regular basis for the past four years.

Dozens of other people whose volunteer efforts have supported Goodwill's mission were also honored at the luncheon. In 2005, approximately 400

local volunteers donated more than 4,000 hours of their time to support Goodwill programs in the Tampa Bay area.

According to Goodwill Industries, the organization's local Suncoast chapter, founded in 1954, is number one among 173 Goodwill organizations in North America for the number of people placed in jobs annually. Its mission is to help people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work.

The organization's donated goods operation helps support its human services in 10 counties, including work force development and employment programs for people with all types of employment barriers, training centers for people with disabilities, five subsidized apartment communities, and community corrections programs.



Photo Courtesy Goodwill Industries Suncoast

Goodwill community relations coordinator, Jinnie Kerdi, presents the Volunteer Group of the Year award to Brandon Kiwanis Club members Eddie Jenkins, center, Helen Young and Garry Scheurer.

## BHA Transitions To New Improvement Program

### GOAL: DEED RESTRICTION, COUNTY CODE COMPLIANCE

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board of directors, at its April 2006 meeting, agreed to reorganize its Neighborhood Improvement Program, which aims to promote deed restriction and county code compliance issues throughout the community.

Volunteer BHA board of directors president, Ted Grable, said last week the new program will focus on resolving the most serious violations reported by residents. A new online database to allow residents to register and check on the status of their complaints — and mediation services pro-

vided by Hillsborough County — will be major components of the new program, Grable said.

Until the changes are finalized, residents can report potential deed restriction and/or county code violations in writing by e-mail to [bloomingtondalehomeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtondalehomeowners@verizon.net), or by U. S. mail addressed to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594, or by completing an online complaint form at [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com).

The form is posted under the "Deed Restrictions" section of the site, found on the top toolbar.

Details about the new program will be announced in an upcoming issue of the The Bloomingdale Gazette and on [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com).

## Bloomingtondale Gazette

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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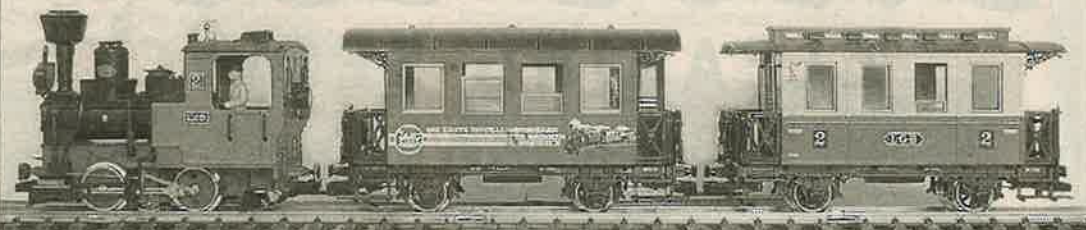
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# New Watering Restrictions In Effect

## ONCE A WEEK

A Gazette Report

New once-weekly watering restrictions for unincorporated Hillsborough County — including the entire Bloomingtondale community — went into effect May 17. The provision is slated to return to a two-day-a-week schedule on Aug. 3. Violation of watering restrictions is a civil infraction punishable with fines up to \$500.

According to the Hillsborough County Water Dept., the restrictions apply to all water sources including private wells, surface water and utility-provided water. They do not apply to reclaimed water, although those customers are encouraged to use only what they need.

All irrigation must be accomplished prior to 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. Any one zone of a property may only be watered

once during the allowable day, not both in the morning and again in the evening. The permitted days for watering are as follows:

- Addresses ending in 0 or 1 — Monday
- Addresses ending in 2 or 3 — Tuesday
- Addresses ending in 4 or 5 — Wednesday
- Addresses ending in 6 or 7 — Thursday
- Addresses ending in 8 or 9 — Friday

Locations with no address, such as common areas, entryways and those with mixed addresses (office complexes, shopping centers, etc.) may water once a week, on Friday.

For more information call the water dept., (813) 272-6680 or log on to [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water).

## Community Sprinklers Set For Fridays Only

### REPORT GLITCHES TO PROPERTY MANAGER

A Gazette Report

In accordance with Hillsborough County's current one-day-a-week watering restrictions, Bloomingtondale's property manager, Al Devney, has set all community common area irrigation systems to water on Fridays only.

Most zones are set to begin watering at about 12:15 a.m. on Friday mornings, Devney said. A few of the larger zones in various areas are set to water just after 8 p.m. on Friday evenings.

The systems sometimes malfunction, often a result of automatic system resets after a power surge or lightning strike. Residents who notice irrigation system malfunctions — or sprinklers running any day other than Friday — are asked to call Devney at 684-6667 or 431-6348.

# Bloomingtondale Water Line Break Takes 18 Hours To Fix

## 120 HOMES RECEIVED 'BOIL WATER' NOTICES

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

A 5-foot-long water line break on Bloomingtondale Avenue about 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 21, just west of Canoga Park Drive, had water department employees working overtime to fix it until about 3 a.m. Monday, May 22.

Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association board member Tim Shuman, whose home was among about 120 affected by the break, checked in on the repair work several times throughout the day.

Two county workers sent to the site, Shuman said — in order to access what turned out to be an eroded 5-foot-long

section of 10-inch wide pipe — worked diligently for hours trying to repair the break. Shuman said the ground at the site was so compacted that the soil wouldn't yield to motorized construction equipment.

"They couldn't dig it out with their backhoe," he said.

"They had to use a pry bar and dig the ground out with a hand shovel."

Once workers dug down to the bad section of pipe, Shuman said, restoration efforts were stalled because pipe clamps delivered to the scene were the wrong size.

"They had it ready to clamp off at about 7 p.m. Sunday night, but when they discovered the clamps didn't fit, they had to shut it down again," he said.

The crew received the proper clamps and was able to restore water to the sub-

division about 3 a.m. Monday morning, Shuman said.

Residents in the easternmost section of Bloomingtondale West said the water department promptly went door to door early Sunday morning, issuing precautionary boil-water notices in effect until Monday morning.

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association and Bloomingtondale Gazette did not receive notice from Hillsborough County about the break or the boil water notice.

Water department spokeswoman Michelle VanDyke said last week the county only notifies homeowners associations and media outlets of water line breaks that affect "hundreds and hundreds" of homes.

"We typically only issue press releases when widespread areas make it impossi-

ble to deliver notices directly to the customers."

Shuman praised the efforts of the small crew charged with repairing the break.

"Those guys labored and sweated for many hours to get the problem resolved."

"And when the supervisor arrived Sunday evening, he put his boots on and jumped right into the hole."

South county water line maintenance staff said last week the pavement and sod dug up during repairs would be replaced as soon as possible.

The county purchases large lots of sod and concrete and sends crews out once every week or two to multiple sites requiring sidewalk and grass repairs.

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### BHA Board Seat Open

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc. has one seat open on its volunteer board of directors. The BHA is the only homeowners association that serves and represents all Bloomingtondale property owners; about 4,800 residences in 40 sections throughout the community. For more information about the BHA board, log on to [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com). To volunteer for the position, call (813) 681-2051, e-mail [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com) or attend the next board meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 5 at the Bloomingtondale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.



# Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District FAQ's

## TAX PAYS FOR MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc. and Gazette staff routinely receive inquiries from residents about the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District. Following are some of the most frequently asked questions. For more information, call 684-6667 or e-mail [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com).

### What does BSTD stand for?

Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District.

### What is a special taxing district?

Special taxing districts are created for groups of county taxpayers with a common interest that requires special funding. Special taxing districts allow groups of property or home owners to share common expenses equitably by adding a special assessment to the property tax bill of each district member.

### Does everyone in the district pay the same amount?

Bloomingtondale's special assessment is a non ad-valorem tax; every property owner pays the same amount annually,

regardless of the value of their residence.

### Why does Bloomingtondale need a special taxing district?

The purpose of the BSTD is to maintain a reserve of funds to pay for community repairs and improvements.

### How long have we had a special taxing district?

A group of Bloomingtondale residents petitioned the county in the mid 1980's to create the district. The Board of County Commissioners approved the petition and the BSTD was formed.

### How many homes are in the district?

The BSTD area includes about 4,800 homes in Bloomingtondale East and West, with the exception of River Crossing Estates in Bloomingtondale East.\*

### How much does the BSTD cost residents?

The taxing district assessment is currently \$100 per year. Just over two years ago, Bloomingtondale residents approved a \$20 increase to the previous \$80 per year tax. The \$20 boost was the first increase since the district was formed in the 1980s.

The board of trustees announced last month it would ask residents to approve

## CORRECTION: VOTE ON PROPOSED TAX INCREASE SEPT. 5

A story in the May issue of The Bloomingtondale Gazette ("Taxing District Proposes Annual Assessment Increase") incorrectly stated a referendum to increase Bloomingtondale's non-ad-valorem special assessment rate from \$100 to \$130 per home annually would appear on the General Election ballot in November. The referendum will be on the Sept. 5 Primary Election ballot. For more information about the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District, log on to [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com) or call 684-6667.

a \$30 increase in the annual assessment effective in 2007. All registered voters who own homes or property in Bloomingtondale can vote on the increase on the Sept. 5, 2006 Primary Election ballot. A simple majority is required for the referendum to pass.

Why is the BSTD board requesting an annual increase?

At its March, 2006 monthly meeting, the board of trustees agreed the community's current assessment is not enough to properly maintain and improve its common areas and entryways. Board president, Thom Snelling said for the past several years, basic maintenance costs — including irrigation, landscaping, fertilizing and painting — have consumed more than half of the district's available funds.

"Our pest control and fertilization contract is up to \$35,000 a year, and we're faced with about \$175,000 per year for basic landscaping maintenance," Snelling said.

"We're spending more than \$200,000 a year just on those two contracts."

"Added to all our other basic upkeep and operating expenses, that doesn't leave enough reserve for capital improvement projects."

Since its inception 20 years ago, and up until about three years ago, the district has managed to keep up with rising expenses by gains attributed to an average of 300 new homes constructed and added to the tax rolls each year.

With infill development nearly complete, however, Snelling said only about 50 new homes have been added to the

See TAX, Page 18



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### GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY

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MLS# T2167786 • 1,534 sq. ft. • \$260,000



### SABAL POINTE

Centrally located 2BR/2-1/2BA townhome. The kitchen features oak cabinets, plant shelves, closet pantry and a breakfast nook. Open and airy great room/dining room combination. Oversized master bedrooms with abundant closet space. Bonus area is extra large and perfect for an office/study/den or game room. Ceramic tile and carpet throughout. Plant shelves throughout. Screen-enclosed lanai. Corner unit surrounded by lovely oak trees. Offers a quick close!

MLS# T2167974 • 1,740 sq. ft. • \$230,000



### OAKCREST

This 3BR/2BA pool home features an open and airy kitchen with plant shelves and plenty of space. Formal living room and family room both have sliders to large 300 sq. ft. covered lanai. Formal dining room. Huge master bedroom and bath with garden tub, large walk-in shower and double vanity. Cathedral ceilings. Laminate wood flooring in family room, master, dining room and hallway. New roof in 2005. New A/C in 2004. Large screen-enclosed pool. Don't miss this one. It is immaculate!

MLS# T2168709 • 1,710 sq. ft. • \$265,000



### WOODBERRY

This 3-bedroom/2-bath home shows pride of ownership. The kitchen is a chef's delight with plenty of cabinets and countertops. Spacious master suite with huge walk-in closet and beautiful garden bath. Large secondary bedrooms. Combination living room/dining room with additional bonus space perfect for in-home office or playroom. Fenced backyard. Located in the gated community of Woodberry. Minutes to shopping, dining and all major roads. This one is a must see!

MLS# T2167840 • 2,186 sq. ft. • \$300,000



### FISHHAWK RANCH

4BR/3BA home offers huge office/den & bonus rm. 42" raised panel cabinets in kitchen w/lots of counter space, plant shelves & built-in desk. Art niches thru-out. Formal dining rm w/built-in niche for china cabinet. Huge upstairs bonus room. Master bath features garden tub and double vanities. Separate wing w/large bedroom, full bath & french door to lanai. Screen-enclosed lanai with pool is perfect for entertaining. Lots of privacy. Backs up to conservation. Don't miss this one. Priced to sell!

MLS# T2167817 • 3,116 sq. ft. • \$468,000



### RIVERHILLS

Professional landscaping & a waterfall greet you as you enter this 4BR/3BA pool home. The kitchen features oak cabinets w/crown moulding, plant shelves, granite countertops and pendant lighting over the bar area. The work island provides plenty of extra space. The family room has built-in entertainment and cabinets. Picture windows and glass sliders provide lots of natural light. Formal dining room. The living room features a ventless fireplace and glass sliders leading to the lanai. Chair railing, crown moulding and art niches throughout. Huge master suite w/laminate wood flooring and tray ceiling. 24" porcelain tile throughout. Oversized pool and spa overlooking golf course. This one is a must see!

MLS# T2170847 • 2,660 sq. ft. • \$470,000

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

# New Landscaping To Be Closely Monitored

## SPRINKLERS SET FOR FRIDAY

By AL DEVNEY  
DPMI Property Management Inc.

### May 2006 Property Maintenance

Planscape installed red and lime Coleus at John Moore, Garnet and Rosemead entrances, repaired a leaking irrigation mainline on Lornewood Drive, and evaluated three irrigation systems composed mostly of rotors to convert them to spray systems for better coverage and less sidewalk spray.

TruGreen ChemLawn installed bushes and shrubs in 35 different locations. The goal was to replace old bushes and add some color in the arrangements. This completes the landscaping for fiscal year 2006.

Specialty Pressure Cleaning finished cleaning the walls on Bell Shoals, Erindale and Lithia Pinecrest. This completes the wall cleaning of fiscal year 2006.

Six Jatropha trees were stolen from the bed on Natures Way near Elba. Additionally, there were 40 sprinkler heads broken; 20 at Erindale and Culbreath and 20 at Culbreath and Bloomingdale. The cost to replace the trees and the spray heads is approximately \$550.

The inventory of the Creeping Fig was completed. There is about 23,350 linear feet or 4.42 miles of fig on the walls in our area.

Areas with no grass, dead grass or chinch bugs damage were inventoried. There is about 95,310 square feet of areas that need St Augustine grass. The

cost at 70 cents a square foot is \$66,717.

Raymow continues the mulching program. As of mid-May, the March mulching programs had not been completed.

Cardinal Landscaping completed landscaping the south corner of Natures Way and Culbreath. They planned to complete the entrance at Erindale in May.

In the land of eat, drink, and pitch out the window, there were 22 bags of litter picked-up and 30 lights replaced. There were no items of interest and — again — no coins. The beverages of choice were Sprite for soft drinks, Natural Light for beer and Jim Beam Black for distilled spirits.

DPMI will continue to pick-up trash, check the lighting, supervise the contractors, check the billing and respond

to residents.

### June 2006 Property Maintenance

The irrigations timers will be reprogrammed to meet the county's one day a week watering requirement. Most zones will be set to water about 15 minutes after midnight on Friday mornings. About a half dozen large zones will be set to water at about 8 p.m. Friday evenings. The new landscaping will be monitored closely to ensure the irrigation is functioning as efficiently as possible.

A program to inventory and create "as builds" for each of the 27 irrigation systems will be started.

DPMI will continue to pick-up trash, check lighting, supervise the contractors, check the billing and respond to residents.

# Erin Arbor HOA: Lithia-Pinecrest Traffic Is Noise Nuisance

## SUGGESTS WALL, LANDSCAPING BUFFERS

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Some homeowners in the Erin Arbor section of Bloomingdale East say standard block walls and landscaping are no longer enough to keep the roar of traffic on Lithia-Pinecrest Rd. down to a bearable level.

A group of Erin Arbor Homeowners Association representatives attended a recent meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District to discuss their ideas to help mitigate the noise, and to

inquire if taxing district funds are available to pay for the upgrades they propose.

Jim Holland, Erin Arbor Homeowners Association board member, said the group has studies — and ideas — to help reduce the noise.

"We could enhance the (neighborhood perimeter) walls with some new technology that has come about," Holland told the taxing district board.

"It's a shield that would help angle noise away."

Terri Fochler, Erin Arbor Homeowners Association president, said the noise has increased along with the growing traffic volume on Lithia-Pinecrest.

"The sound has gotten so bad that, those of us who have pools, we can't even sit by our pools and talk. The noise is a roar."

The residents also suggested landscaping enhancements could help absorb some of the sound.

"As they (Hillsborough County workers) have done the road improvements along Lithia-Pinecrest, a lot of the landscaping has been diminished. Even though landscaping doesn't resolve the problem, it does help buffer the noise," Holland said.

The group also reported that changes made to the grade of several sections of Lithia-Pinecrest (after county workers

recently installed reclaimed water line on the road for FishHawk Ranch) have resulted in backyard flooding problems for some Erin Arbor residences.

Special taxing district president Thom Snelling, told the group exceptional upgrades to walls and landscaping in any section of Bloomingdale would be difficult to fund in the foreseeable future.

The taxing district is facing a budget shortfall this year due to increases in fuel prices, contractor materials and labor costs, and community build-out resulting in few new homes being added to

See NOISE, Page 1

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Photo Courtesy of Bloomington Homeowners Association

## BHA Awards Inaugural B. J. Stelter Scholarship

Graduating Bloomington High School senior, Michael F. Cocchiola II, center, accepts the inaugural B. J. Stelter Bloomington Community Scholarship Award from the school's former principal, Stelter, and Ted Grable, president of the Bloomington Homeowners Association. The homeowners association presented Cocchiola, the son of Elizabeth and Michael Cocchiola of Bloomington East, with a \$1,500 college scholarship. Cocchiola will attend the University of Florida in Gainesville this fall, where he plans to major in business. The homeowners association established the annual scholarship this year. Its objective is to reward and encourage Bloomington area high school seniors at Bloomington Senior High School to pursue a college career, and to honor the exemplary efforts and outstanding dedication of Stelter, the principal of Bloomington Senior High School from 1991 to 2005. Applications for the annual award are available year round at the school, on [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com) and at the Bloomington Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

# PTSA Honors Teachers, Staff At Annual Luncheon

## THANKS VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS

A Gazette Report

Bloomington High School's Parent-Teacher-Student Association held an appreciation luncheon May 11 for 165 teachers, teacher assistants, guidance personnel and administrators.

The PTSA holds the annual luncheon to thank teachers and staff members for their efforts in educating their high school students.

Each teacher received a coupon for a free car wash and had the opportunity to draw for one of 75 donated gifts ranging from sports bags to restaurant gift cards. To supplement the professionally prepared sandwiches, wings and pizza, PTSA volunteers furnished casseroles, salads, veggie trays and two beautifully decorated sheet cakes.

Luncheon coordinators, Beth Nobles and Thyra Hayes, would like to thank their fellow PTSA members who helped

with the event: Bev Snelling, Bernice Rach, Carla Downie, Cathy Forest, Connie Lay, Cristine Lybbert, Dale Wozniak, Dianne Johansen, Ginny Otero, Janelle Perkins, John Hayes, Kathy Shalosky, Linda Gordon, Margaret Tingley, Maria Payton, Pam Brooks, Patty Zatkovich, Robin Rogovin, Roxanne Herman,

and Susan DeRossee.

The group would also like to thank local businesses who provided food and gifts: Albertson's (Riverview), Beef O'Brady's Sports Pub (Bell Shoals), Beef O'Brady's (SR 60, Valrico), Beth Nobles, Bloomington Florist, Buffalo Wild Wings, Cherry's Bar & Grill (Bloomington Square),

Dunkin Donuts, Entenmanns, Great Clips (Lithia Pinecrest), The Green Boutique, The Honeybaked Ham Company, Lancôme, Longhorn Steakhouse, Lucy's Hair Design, Mellow Mushroom, M J Barley Hoppers, Moe's Southwest Grill, National Air Cargo, The Oaks Bar & Grill, Olin Mott Tire Store, Party Land of Bran-

don, Payless Shoe Source, Peck's Flame Broiled Chicken, Po' Boys (Valrico), Publix Super Markets Inc., Publix Super Market (Bloomington Square), Shape Express, Southeast Atlantic Distributors, Subway (Bloomington Square), Tijuana Flats Burrito Co. and Winn-Dixie Store (Bloomington Ave.).

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BLOOMINGDALE LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Deputy Built New Speed Monitor For Bloomingdale

PORTABLE FOR USE  
THROUGHOUT  
COMMUNITY

By MACK AUSTIN  
Correspondent

Many drivers traveling through Bloomingdale East last month were surprised — and some very pleased — to see a new speed monitor set up on the side of the road, at the corner of Natures Way and Dunaire Drive.

The portable, solar-powered monitor tracks and displays the driving speed of approaching cars.

Bloomingdale's Community Resource Deputy, Pete Maurer, with the help of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office traffic unit, built the monitor specifically to bring awareness to neighborhood speeding.

Since the Bloomingdale Community Substation opened eight years ago, Maurer has worked very hard with the Sheriff's Office, Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and



Photo Courtesy Bloomingdale Substation  
Maurer, pictured here in his home workshop, spent more than 50 hours of his own time designing and building the device.

Bloomingdale Area Community Council to try and get residents' attention to do one simple thing — slow down.

It has been a frustrating battle, Maurer said. Drivers in the community all seem to be in a hurry, even around schools and on major roads.

The exploding traffic volume — and the recent serious increase in deadly accidents in our area — inspired Maurer to try a new tactic.

On his own time, with his own skills and with pure determination, Maurer built Bloomingdale its very own speed monitor.

The deputy spent more than 50 hours designing and building the device. Cpl. Mark Clark and Capt. John Marsicano provided engineering advice and suggestions.

The system is portable, sets up in less than ten minutes and can be tailored to fit the needs

of any location. It can be programmed to display maximum or minimum speed limits, to flash at oncoming vehicles, and to operate during specific hours.

"I really hope this speed monitoring system will raise the public awareness for drivers in our community," Maurer said.

"In a community with such high traffic volumes, drivers must realize the importance of obeying speed limits, using their seat belts and driving safely."

Clark helped Maurer obtain a solar-powered speed monitor system normally designed to be mounted on a pole. Maurer said the pole-mounted system was good, but not easily portable. Bloomingdale, he said, needs a monitor that can easily be moved and set up at various speeding 'hot spots' throughout the community.

Maurer, who has a degree in aerospace engineering and worked 17 years as a helicopter mechanic and fabrication tech, used his own expertise and

skills learned from his father — an auto mechanic — to design a trailer-mounted monitor system that features ease of use, flexibility in movement and improved monitoring capabilities.

Maurer funded parts of the project with his own money. One of his neighbors donated a trailer axle, and he used a salvaged pole to mount on the trailer.

Residents can call the Bloomingdale substation to report problem areas where the monitor would be put to good use, Maurer said.

"We would also appreciate everyone keeping an eye on the equipment, since it was very expensive to build. It would be a great loss if it were damaged or vandalized."

Residents who observe anyone tampering with the monitor should call dispatch at 247-8200.

To suggest a set-up spot for the monitor, call the substation, 635-8040.

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B L O O M I N G D A L E L A W E N F O R C E M E N T

# Felon Arrested On Several Firearm Charges At Park East

## PREVIOUS CONVICTION: ARMED ROBBERY

A Gazette Report

Bloomingtondale Community Resource Deputy, Pete Maurer, reports Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office deputies

arrested a convicted felon and suspected gang member about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25 at Bloomingtondale East Park on Natures Way.

Maurer said Corinthianus Seth Fowler — whose current residence is listed as 1416 Holleman Drive — was apprehended at the park after citizens

who observed the suspect removing a handgun from his vehicle called the police.

Fowler, previously convicted for armed robbery, is now jailed on charges including grand theft of a firearm, possession of a firearm and dealing in stolen property. His bond is set at

\$182,000.

For information about local arrests, log on to the Sheriff's Office Web site, [www.hcso.tampa.fl.us](http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us). Click on the "Inquiries Online" link and select "Arrest Inquiry" from the menu. Call the Sheriff's Office public information office, (813) 247-8058.

## Security Checks Offered For Vacationing Residents

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE MUST RECEIVE REQUEST 3 DAYS IN ADVANCE

A Gazette Report

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office "Security Check" program allows vacationing residents to request security checks of their residence while they're out of town. Residents must fill out a "Request For Security Check" form and deliver it to any community substation or district office at least three days prior to departure. Faxes and e-mails will not be accepted. Vacation watches are limited to a 30-day maximum.

Forms are available at any HCSO substation or district office, on the Sheriff's Office Web site, [www.hcso.tampa.fl.us](http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us), and on [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com).

## Motorized Scooters, Mini-Bikes, Go-Carts Illegal On Public Property

### PROHIBITED ON ALL STREETS, SIDEWALKS

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association and Bloomingtondale Substation routinely receive complaints from residents concerned about the use of motorized scooters, mini-bikes and go-carts on neighborhood streets and sidewalks.

The BHA and substation deputies remind residents that it is illegal to operate the aforementioned vehicles on any public property, including streets, sidewalks, parks and common areas.


Gazette staff received recent reports of children driving go-carts in the street on Culbreath Rd. in Bloomingtondale East; a very young boy riding a mini-bike around Bloomingtondale West Park; and an adult female on a recreational scooter cruising recklessly past driveways along sidewalks in Bloomingtondale West and Bell Shoals Rd.

If you have detailed information about adults or children driving these vehicles in our community, please contact Deputy Pete Maurer at the Bloomingtondale Substation, 635-8040. The substation, in the Beef O'Brady's plaza at the corner of Bell Shoals Rd. and Glenhaven, is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Bloomingtondale Gazette

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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# Boutique Caters To Pampered Pets

STOCKS DECADENT, PRACTICAL ITEMS

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

A new boutique in Bloomingtondale caters to discriminating clients with a penchant for chic clothing, opulent furnishings, luxurious personal care products and gourmet desserts.

The store's target customers just happen to be those with four legs and a tail.

Valrico resident, Melanie Gambrell, opened her specialty pet boutique, Dapper Doggie, last week. The shop, next to Ace Hardware in Bloomingtondale Square, features products designed for the most pampered pets.

A storefront display showcases gourmet dog bones, frosted cookies — and even pies — that look good enough for people to eat. And, Gambrell said, they are.

"Our treats are all natural, human-grade products, so you could eat them if you wanted to."

Finely tailored pet clothing and accessories — everything from polo shirts and baseball caps for Fido, to formal gowns and birthstone jewelry for Fifi — are organized into various

display sections in the 1,800 square foot shop.

Can't decide on an appropriate outfit for your canine companion? Gambrell's own Havanese puppy, Lexi, is happy to model anything from satin party dresses to bikinis.

"I brought (Lexi) home as a souvenir from a trip to New York," Gambrell said.

"She came from a shop on Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, so I named her Lexi."

If dressing your dog seems a bit too extravagant, there are plenty of pet care products, treats and toys to be had at Dapper Doggie.

Consider a 'Chewy Vuitton' squeaker toy in the shape of a designer purse.

Or perhaps a fine vintage of Napa Valley catnip — packaged in a champagne bottle, of course.

In addition to the whimsical pet strollers, luxurious canopy beds and decadent Swarovski crystal-encrusted collars Gambrell stocks, a few practical items can be found.

Soap-free, honey-scented pet bath, she said, while imparting a sweet smell and a dusting of silver sparkles, won't wash away topical flea



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Melanie Gambrell, owner of Dapper Doggie, showcases a lavish buffet of pet treats in her Bloomingtondale Square storefront. Lexi, at left, a 1-year-old Havanese, and Patches, an 8-year old Shi-Poo, keep Gambrell company at the shop and model pet clothing for customers.

See PETS, Page 17

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BLOOMINGDALE BUSINESS

# Hair Salon For Men, Boys Sports New Owners

## OFFERS MVP SERVICE

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Square Sports Clips hair care salon for men and boys was recently purchased by Tom and Evy Riedhammer. The couple will also open another salon in Riverview this July.

A total remodel of the store began in May and was expected to be completed early this month. The Riedhammers plan to offer an expanded line of services and products once the remodeling is complete.

Their "MVP" haircut experience includes a hot towel facial massage, scalp-massaging shampoo, haircut and a neck and shoulder treatment.

All Sports Clips locations are stocked with sports memorabilia, a big-screen TV in the reception area, and TV's tuned to sports programming at every station.

Appointments are not necessary. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: (813) 571-0701.



Photo Courtesy Sports Clips Inc.

Sport Clips Inc. the hair care franchise for men and boys has a new owner for its Bloomingdale store. The store is the second one owned by Tom and Evy Riedhammer, who as well will be opening a third store in Riverview in July.

Say you saw it in The Bloomingdale Gazette

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LINDA CHION KENNEY/Photo

**Volunteers Collect More Than 85,000 Pounds of Food**

Melanie Hoos, a sophomore at Bloomingdale High School, participated in last month's "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, run by the National Association of Letter Carriers in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service. Letter carriers from the Brandon, Valrico, Seffner and Riverview post offices collected food left by businesses and residents at their mailboxes May 13. Hundreds of volunteers and volunteer drivers helped transport the food to various drop-off points in the greater Brandon area. The group estimated it collected donations in excess of 85,000 pounds of food. "It's going for a good cause," Hoos said, "and it's fun because you get to meet new people and make new friends."

**Vet Renews Accreditation Status**

**AMONG 12 PERCENT ENDORSED NATIONWIDE**

A Gazette Report

Animal Medical Diagnostic Center of Valrico recently completed a comprehensive practice evaluation required to maintain its longstanding endorsement by the American Animal Hospital Association.

The evaluation includes a review of the hospital's facility, medical equipment, practice methods and pet health care management.

According to the American Animal Hospital Association, only 12 percent of all small animal veterinary practices in the U.S. have earned this accreditation. In order to maintain accreditation status, practices must continue to be evaluated regularly by the association's trained consultants.

The American Animal Hospital Association, established in 1933, is an international organization of more than 36,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals. For more care information or a referral to an AAHA hospital, visit the association Web site [www.healthypet.com](http://www.healthypet.com).

Animal Medical Diagnostic Center is at 111 E. Bloomingdale Ave. For information, call 681-6222 or log on to [www.amdcvet.com](http://www.amdcvet.com).

Say you saw it in The Bloomingdale Gazette



## NOISE

Continued From Page 10

the district each year.

Snelling asked Bloomingdale's property manager, Al Devney, to contact county staff to ask for assistance in replacing or refurbishing landscaping that may have been damaged during recent construction projects on Lithia-Pinecrest.

In addition, Snelling referred the Erin Arbor reps to county offices responsible for correcting any road grade or flooding problems determined to exist.

The homeowners said they would like to be involved in the selection of any upcoming landscaping improvements in their area.

Snelling said last month the taxing district currently has just enough funds to accomplish routine maintenance and landscaping.

There are about 4,800 homes presently regis-

tered in Bloomingdale's special taxing district. Each property owner currently pays \$100 a year across the board — regardless of the value of their home — for common area maintenance and improvements.

The taxing district board will ask the community this fall to approve a \$30 annual increase. Registered voters who own property or homes in Bloomingdale can vote on the referendum on the Sept. 5 Primary Election ballot. A simple majority is required for the increase to pass.

"The modest \$30 per year proposed increase," Snelling said "is needed to pay for capital improvement projects like entryway and common area landscaping upgrades throughout the community.

"We absolutely must upgrade our entryways."

For more information about the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, call (813) 684-6667 or log on to [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com).

## PETS

Continued From Page 14

and tick protection medicines.

A specialty line of hypoallergenic food and grooming products help meet the needs of pets with sensitive skin and digestive systems.

Proffered in the store's 'pet loss' section are satin-lined urns to hold the ashes of dearly departed friends, along with picture frames and knick-knacks to remember them by.

Gambrell perused dozens of pet boutiques on her travels throughout the country before

designing her own store.

"I wanted to create what I personally was searching for," she said.

"The best thing is that my customers are telling me it makes them smile when they come into the shop."

"We're already getting so much positive feedback."

For store hours and information, call 662-0560.

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**TAX**

Continued From Page 9

district annually in recent years.

Will I receive a bill for the assessment?

The assessment is added to each homeowner's annual property tax bill.

Who decides how to spend the money?

The taxing district's board of trustees — all volunteers living in the community — plan and budget for community maintenance and improvements throughout the year. Once the annual budget is approved by the Board of County Commissioners, it is put in line for capital expenditures approval, a process that can carry over into the next fiscal year. The board holds open meetings once a month; all Bloomington homeowners and property owners are invited to attend with questions or suggestions for the board.

There are currently seven board members: Thom Snelling, president; Russell Jones, vice president; David West, treasurer; Michael Buday, recording secretary, and trustees David Steck, Joe Harless and Rami Hijazi.

Who oversees maintenance and improvement projects?

Bloomington's property manager, Al Devney of DPPI Property Management, Inc., serves as a project coordinator for maintenance and improvements approved by the board of trustees. Devney also provides regular inspections of Bloomington's common areas, entryways and irrigation systems.

What are the responsibilities of the BSTD?

The taxing district is responsible for the main-

tenance of and improvements to the community's common areas including landscaping along collector roads (Natures Way, Culbreath, Bloomingtonfield, Canoga Park, etc.), perimeter walls, major and most minor entryways (except those maintained by sections with mandatory homeowners associations or separate taxing districts), landscaping, irrigation, etc. The district is not responsible for county-owned property such as roads, parks, sidewalks, street signs, etc.

Is the taxing district a division of the homeowners association?

The Bloomington Special Taxing District and Bloomington Homeowners Association operate independently of each other. For more information about the homeowners association, call (813) 681-2051 or visit www.bloomingtongazette.com.

How can I report a maintenance or improvement need to the BSTD?

Bloomington residents are invited to attend special taxing district meetings on the second Monday each month, 7 p.m. at the Bloomington Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Call the district at (813) 684-6667 or e-mail info@bloomingtongazette.com. For immediate or emergency maintenance needs (broken irrigation systems, graffiti, car accident damage, etc.) call the property manager, Al Devney, (813) 436-6348 or e-mail info@bloomingtongazette.com.

\* River Crossing Estates was built in the mid 1990s on a parcel of land that was not identified on the original Bloomington plats used in the 1980's to determine the taxing district area.

**PARTY**

Continued From Page 4

Another new neighborhood tradition was recently born when the Lees purchased a small neon "OPEN" sign they found at Sam's Club. They put the sign in their front window one Friday night, set up camp on their front lawn, and invited any neighbors who stopped by to join them to chat and watch the kids play outside.

"The sign is making its way around the neighborhood now," Lee said.

Anyone is welcome to borrow the sign and display it in their window. The impromptu parties, however, are limited to front yards and driveways, and the bring-your-own-beverage, snacks and chairs rule applies.

That means no one has to stress out about getting their homes party-ready or shopping and cooking for the masses.

"There are no schedules or obligations. It's just very casual, and a lot of fun."

**HART**

Continued From Page 3

had nine riders standing," he said last week.

Many commuters using the South County express routes, according to Gobin, say additional shelters are needed countywide, particularly at the 25X and 27X park and ride stop at Lowes Hardware on Causeway Blvd.

Along with more busses to accommodate the increase in passengers on some routes, shade and

shelter are high priority needs in many areas countywide, Gobin said.

"Fortunately, it has been rather dry lately."

HART is proposing numerous other route changes and additions in the growing South County area. For routes, schedules and maps — and to take an online customer survey — log on to www.hartline.org.

**BHA Helps Neighbors Plan Group Activities**

The Bloomington Homeowners Association — a voluntary, non-profit organization that serves and represents about 4,800 homes in 40 sections of the community — offers assistance to residents who wish to plan a neighborhood section or block event.

If you would like to host a cleanup day, garage sale or block party, the BHA's Neighborhood PRIDE Committee is ready to help. Need to know where to apply for permits to close off your street? Want to advertise your event for free in the Gazette or on www.bloomingtongazette.com? Need help paying for flyers, signs or supplies?

E-mail info@bloomingtongazette.com or call 643-2990 for details.

Visit [bloomingtongazette.com](http://bloomingtongazette.com)



HEATHER MARTELLO/Photo

Jason Pennybaker, right, and Nicki Hurst makes Ron Asher and his son Jordan an ice cream cone at Carvel Ice Cream. They announced the store's grand opening May 5. They offer home-made cakes, 18 hand-dipped ice creams and four flavors of soft-serve ice cream. Franchise owner Rebecca Gottlieb and Connie Garvey will oversee the store.

# Carvel Ice Cream Opens In Brandon

## 2 MORE SLATED FOR RIVERVIEW, LITHIA

News Report

Carvel Ice Cream has opened in Brandon at 117 W. Bloomingdale Ave. The store is the ninth in the Bay area.

Five more are to open in the coming months, including one in Riverview and Lithia. The two south county stores will be opened by the same franchisees as the Brandon store, Rebecca Gottlieb and Connie Garvey.

Brandon store hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday,

and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The 71-year-old company is currently undergoing a national expansion. There are more than 540 franchised locations and Carvel products are sold in more than 8,500 supermarkets nationwide. The company is based in Atlanta.

Carvel's menu includes soft ice cream, floats, sundaes, shakes and ice cream cakes. The company also offers its products for fundraising events, hosts birthday parties and office parties and sells ice cream for wholesale to other businesses. Call 571-7841 or go to [www.floridacarvels.com](http://www.floridacarvels.com).

# County Law Requires Residents To Pick Up After Pets

## WASTE IS NUISANCE, HEALTH HAZARD

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and Gazette staff frequently receive complaints about residents allowing their dogs and cats to roam the neighborhood, answering the call of nature whenever — and wherever — the urge strikes.

This practice, in addition to being a violation of Hillsborough County's Animal Ordinance, is a nuisance according to neighbors — and a genuine health hazard according to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

According to the EPA, hookworms and other parasites commonly found in pet waste can be transmitted to children playing in the grass, or even to adults strolling out barefoot to grab the mail.

In addition, storm water

runoff washes over yards, the right of way, the curb — and decaying pet feces — eventually making its way into storm drains and surface water systems.

Under Hillsborough County's Animal Ordinance, adopted in June 2000, pet owners who allow their dogs or cats to

roam free on public property or (without consent) the private property of others, and those who do not immediately pick up their pet's waste in those areas, are in violation of the law.

The law also requires dogs and cats on public streets, roads, parks or other public

property, to be under the direct control of the owner.

Under the ordinance, pet owners may allow their animals to defecate in their own yard and in front of their own home on the public right of way. However, using the grassy area between the sidewalk and road in front of other people's

homes violates the ordinance.

Violators could face up to \$500 in fines and a mandatory court appearance.

To file a complaint, call Hillsborough County Animal Services, 744-5660. For more information about the ordinance, visit [www.hillsborough-county.org/animalservices](http://www.hillsborough-county.org/animalservices).

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- Clean counters
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- Load dishwasher

### Bathrooms

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- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

### All Rooms

- Pick up and straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

### Windows

- Clean entry window & one set of patio door windows
- Clean window over kitchen sink

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