

## This Month In History

In March, 1987, the BHA began to push for the widening of Bloomingdale Avenue. The project began two months ago. And in March of 1991, the school board announced that forced busing of students would end in 1994 when a new cluster plan would be implemented allowing children to remain in their neighborhood schools. Bloomingdale students will still be bused next school year.

See The  
Changing  
Face of  
Bloomingdale  
on Page 9



# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XV, Number 3

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. March 1995

## BHA Blurbs

### BHA Chooses Officers

For the third consecutive year, Randy Wolfe will lead the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association as its president. Rick Oros leaves his post as two-year recording secretary to assume the duties of vice president, and Jim Wiley remains the board's treasurer. According to Wolfe, the board is currently considering paying a part-time secretary to handle board correspondence and minutes of the meeting.

Wolfe, who agreed to a third term as president, resides in Bloomingdale East with his wife Merinda and two daughters Christina and Elizabeth. Oros, in his second term as a BHA board member, he is president of *The Bloomingdale Gazette* and owns his own business. He and wife June reside in West and have two children, Rio and Mandi. Wiley and his wife Diane have two daughters and have resided in Bloomingdale for nine years. He has been a board member since 1992.

"The power of the BHA lies in the size of the community we represent," said Wolfe. "We should not underestimate the impact we can have on the destiny of our community. My personal goal for the BHA during the next year is the more effective use of this power to enhance the quality of life and property values in Bloomingdale." Wolfe's comments on the "state of the community" can be found on this page.

### Gazette Board Elected

The 1995 Board of Directors for *The Bloomingdale Gazette* were elected at last month's BHA meeting. *The Gazette* will once again be headed by Rick Oros as its president. Returning to their positions on the board are Joe Liguori, Pam Liguori, and Randy Wolfe. Newly elected board member Ted Grable was chosen to fill the seat vacated by the passing of David Lees. *The Gazette* is a for-profit corporation, of which the BHA is the sole shareholder.

### Come One, Come All

The second annual Renewed Community Picnic is almost here. Start making plans now to attend what promises to be a fun-filled afternoon of food and entertainment at Park West on Saturday, April 22. Educational and county exhibits will be featured along with games for kids and adults, entertainment, pony rides, and lots of food and beverages.

### NIP Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the Neighborhood Involvement Program sponsored by the BHA. Members contribute only an hour or two a month reporting incidents of county code violations in their neighborhoods. The highly successful program has had favorable results in cleaning up unsightly property. If you have always wanted to get involved in the community, but felt it demanded too much time, this is the perfect opportunity to do something worthwhile by devoting a minimal amount of time.

Please call the community office at 681-2051 to give your name and phone number. It will be passed on to the NIP coordinator.

### Did You Know...

Deed restrictions for most areas of Bloomingdale prohibit

1. The construction or placement of a temporary structure, such as a shed, on the property
2. Parking motor vehicles, boats, campers, trailers, etc. anywhere but on the paved parking area which was installed as part of the original construction of the

## BHA President's Annual 'State Of Community' Report

by Randy Wolfe

In the February, edition of the Bloomingdale Gazette, I wrote an open letter to the Bloomingdale Community challenging the residents to identify priority needs in the community and strive for the fulfillment of those needs. The basic premise of that letter was that, like most other corporations or organizations, the Bloomingdale Community operates under the theory of "crisis management", i.e., action is taken only when the need rises to the level of a crisis. In retrospect, it is interesting to review the issues identified as "crisis" in the Bloomingdale

Community in February, 1994, and to compare their February, 1994 status to their present-day status.

In the months leading up to February, 1994, the Board of Directors of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. ("BHA") received clear input from the residents that the perceived crises in the Bloomingdale Community at that time were (i) the proposed build-out of a significant portion of the remaining undeveloped acreage in Bloomingdale East, (ii) crime and (iii) deed restriction violations. The subsequent events regarding each of these

See PRESIDENT, pg. 15



Randy Wolfe

## Bulls Soccer Two-Time State Champs



Members of the State Champion Bull's Soccer team are (kneeling l-r) Kevin Bateman, Bubby Leasure, Rob Brown, Rich Steinestel, Tommy Nicholson, Ryan McCoy, and Coach Dave Tennian. (Standing l-r) John Crawford, Katie Grable (trainer), Jeff Yarbroough, Andy Carlton, Chip Atkins, Shaun Dugan, Donny Walker, Kevin Davis, Alex Ruiz, Jeff Prugh, Mike Rodon, Rob Hill (with state trophy), Gray Gain, Rob Rudes, Scott Kasprzyk, Erik Edwards, Matt Carpenter, Lee Rodon, Sean Edwards, Brian Zilka, Lucille Dillin (trainer), Lee Sanders, Steve Grote, and Randy Harris.

For the second time in three years the Bloomingdale Bulls' Soccer Team has been crowned State Champions. By defeating Tallahassee Lincoln 1-0 in Cocoa Beach, the Bulls were the first of three Hillsborough County teams from different divisions to win state titles on the same weekend.

For six of the Bulls' players, state victory was just as sweet the second time around. Goalie Bubby Leasure, Ryan McCoy, Tommy Nicholson, Rich Steinestel, Rob Brown and Kevin Bateman were all sophomores on the school's first state championship team two years ago.

The team's 25-1-1 record speaks to its defensive domination. The Bulls and Leasure in particular, allowed only 10 goals all season.

## Youth Leagues To Acquire Culbreath Land

by Rozel Sciulli

In a joint effort by Hillsborough County and developers Shimberg-Cross, area youth will benefit from recreational land at the end of Culbreath in the area once known as The Spot.

According to Ed Radice, director of Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation, and developer Glenn Cross, the two parties are negotiating a land deal which would provide additional playing sites for the Bloomingdale Little League, a lighted practice field for the Brandon Bears youth football organization, and a passive park along the river.

Zoned for recreational use, the land is part of the county's 25-year flood plan and is not conducive to housing construction. Shimberg-Cross, which purchased most of the remaining undeveloped land in



Fire that charred nearly 30 acres of land south of Dumont came perilously close to dozens of backyard fences.

## Brush Fire Threatens Homes In East

by Laura D. Frazier

Lightning may not strike twice in the same place, but fire can and does, as residents of East's Augusta Village and River Crossing subdivisions have learned. On Feb. 18, dense smoke clouds spilled onto Dumont Drive and burned a path to backyard fences less than one year

Way, at the north end of River Crossing. The flames scorched approximately 30 acres of dry brush as well as the bordering privacy fences of several surrounding homes.

There were no reported injuries, but several firefighters and one teenager were treated at the scene for

# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

## The Bloomingdale Gazette

Dear Readers,

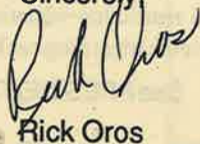
This is an open invitation to the entire Bloomingdale community to participate in the **BHA Community Picnic**. The picnic will be held on April 22, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Bloomingdale Park West (on the corner of Bloomingfield and Canoga). The BHA is expecting the amount of people to double over last years picnic.

This picnic is, in the true sense, a community event. The BHA is giving you the opportunity to greet your neighbors, to meet local dignitaries, to visit with the employees of the attending governmental agencies, and to participate in the games that will be going on all day. This is a day for you and your families to celebrate living in Bloomingdale.

On behalf of the BHA and *The Gazette* I would like to thank Gina and Wally Schaffer for their outstanding leadership role in the Park East clean-up held in January.

Hope to see all of you at the picnic.

Sincerely,



Rick Oros

### OFFICERS

**BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road  
Suite 101  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

Randy Wolfe	President	229-3321
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Ted Grable	Membership	685-7193
Jim Wiley	Treasurer	684-7825

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Patricia Radel	651-0210
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Rick Borling	684-2022

#### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P. O. Box 3132  
Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

William Grace	President	685-2817
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### The Bloomingdale Gazette

3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 101  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

#### Directors

Rick Oros	Pam Liguori
Randy Wolfe	Joe Liguori

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#### Statement of Operation

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### MEETINGS

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

**Bloomingdale Special Taxing District**  
Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

**BHA Board of Directors**  
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

**Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District**  
First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

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

## Our Times

### Of Friends And Rivalries

by Rozel Sciulli

*To your Saturday or Sunday afternoon snack, add these tidbits...*

#### Deeds Large and Small

Mr. and Mrs. John Barnes of Dumont were on their way home on Feb. 18, when they saw billowing smoke rising from an area they thought might be close to their home. As they approached the neighborhood, they soon realized how accurate their guessimation was - the brush fire was threatening their back yard. Were it not for the efforts of a good neighbor known only to them as Tony, the Barnes's worst fears might have been realized.

Tony, who neighbors say lives on Lukow, was just one of the heroes of the two-hour panic that struck the Augusta neighborhood on February 19, when for the second time in less than a year, a wind-aided brush fire sped across 22 acres behind Dumont and Queensberry in East.

Tony, along with other neighbors, and even visitors to the neighborhood, used garden hoses to keep rooftops and backyard fences wet enough to ward off the darting embers.

Residents worked not only to save their own homes but those of neighbors who were away at the time of the late morning blaze or oblivious to the impending danger.

When 13-year-old Courtland Hunt of River Crossing phoned neighbors Ann and Roman Migowski, he warned them that a large brush pile in a vacant lot beside their home had ignited. He rushed over with water hoses to help Migowski ward off the flames. Courtland also assisted in establishing a fire break behind their home. Handshakes and hugs and tear-filled eyes let their young firefighter know his efforts were appreciated. "Thank you, you saved

The garage of Alan and Kimberly Payne's Dumont residence became a first aid treatment center for those overcome by smoke and a rest area for firefighters and workers as residents tried to keep them cool and comfortable by supplying ice, Gatorade, and chairs.

Neighbors helping neighbors brings to the mind's eye a picture of bucket brigades from another era. Today, it's hoses from Scotty's. Whatever the tool, the job got done.

Thanks to a little help from their friends.

#### Let's Start Volleyball Rivalry

At the upcoming Spring Fling community picnic that the BHA is putting together, wouldn't it be fun to have a volleyball tournament pitting teams from different neighborhoods? The county parks and rec people will provide the equipment and I would venture to say they might even put this thing together with a little notice.

Come on, you people in Fox Run - you're a community spirited group. Get a team together to play, say, your friends in The Greens. And wouldn't you Erin Arbor residents like a friendly little match against the folks over in Oakcrest? Maybe the Stratford Trace folks would like to go up against the River Crossing residents. Bloomingdale West could certainly field a team against their neighbors in the Estates.

This would be great. How hard can it be to get nine people from a neighborhood together to make up a team? But, if it's too much to ask, maybe a team from East can play a team from West. Let's see what y'all can do with this?

Call the community office at 681-2051 when you think you have a team together. If you don't have a whole team, call anyway, if you would like to be part of any

## Mobile Watch Report

by LaWayne Wyatt

According to reports by patrols and residents, Bloomingdale has been very quiet the past several months. The most serious events were the theft of a pickup tail gate and the burglary of two cars.

Several reports of suspicious activity were made. These included people or cars in the vicinity of homes under construction and cars slowly cruising Applegate Circle, Bayfield Drive and Dumont Drive. All residents should be alert for and report cars which slowly cruise any residential area.

Early in January, several male youths in the 10-12 year old range were observed by a resident to be throwing unknown objects at cars in

the vicinity of Natures Way and Polumbo Drive. After throwing the objects the youths reportedly hid behind the wall. This can obviously be a potentially dangerous activity, especially if a car is hit and the driver loses control.

A patrol and a deputy checked the area and determined that the youths probably live on Polumbo Drive, Hannover Hill, Scoville Lane or possibly Holleman Drive. The same activity may have occurred again in the latter part of January.

Residents in that area should be aware of their children's activities if they are outside at night and stop it before someone is seriously injured.

**Urgent Notice:** In the wake of last month's brush fire behind Dumont in East, residents are asked to be alert to children and teenagers "hanging out" in the vacant lot where the fire occurred. Many residents have spotted groups of young children (under 10) riding bicycles and walking through the conservation area. Teenagers have been seen partying there in the evening. Parents need to be aware of this activity, discourage trespassing, and discuss with their children the real possibility of loss of life and property from fire.

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# Local Merchants React To New Brandon Mall

by Rozel Sciulli

It was business as usual at Bloomingdale Square the weekend of the new Brandon Town Centre's grand opening last month. While some retailers noticed a decrease in activity, most said traffic and customers remained the same.

"People still couldn't find a parking place," chuckled Randy Cunningham, owner of Bloomingdale Square Liquors. Cunningham believes that specialty stores like his will not suffer a decline in business as a result of the mall opening, but he said that may not hold true for apparel

stores in the area.

"I can see people wanting a larger variety in what they shop for in clothing," said one merchant who did not want to be identified. She said the clothing store she manages was doing "slow business" even before the mall opened.

Bloomingdale Florist on the other hand did a booming business as a result of the mall opening. According to owner Gail Vela, she was contracted to provide over 100 floral arrangements for the grand opening.

Sue Harbridge, owner of Mail Boxes, Etc., put the new

mall and its shoppers into perspective.

"Once the newness settles down, I think all the merchants here will find they haven't lost customers. Right now everyone is curious."

Harbridge said her business was "absolutely dead" the first three days the mall was open, but said business was back to normal the following week. Looking on the bright side, Harbridge noted, "The new mall could mean more business for us. Hopefully people will be shipping away some of the things they'll be purchasing."

## BSHS Computers Already Outdated

by Brian Bergren

Bloomingdale Senior High School graduates could be faced with entering the technological world of business with a serious handicap - many have never touched a computer inside the school. With over 2,200 students, it is difficult to give each one access to a computer, yet even with equitable computer access, students would remain at a disadvantage with systems now over seven years old.

Despite the school's technological shortcomings, Bloomingdale is better off than two-thirds of the school in the county. A consulting firm hired by the school system analyzed the county's computer deficiencies. The firm calculated that it would cost millions of dollars to elevate Hillsborough's elementary, junior and senior high schools to modern standards.

There are numerous guidelines set by the state that dictate where funds for technology are distributed. Several schools in the county have received more funds and computers than Bloomingdale due to the school's relative newness and other school's needs. When Bloomingdale was opened in 1987, it was considered the most technologically advanced school in the district, but there have been no advancements since then, while other, older schools have been upgraded.

There are less than 90 functioning computers at the fastest growing high school in the county. In addition, students have limited access to these units. The computer lab is furnished with IBM XT computers, although it was deemed the most functional system when purchased, it is now one of the more outdated models on the market. Without color monitors, hard drive, or the ability to run "Windows", these computers do not provide the advanced challenges needed by today's students.

Many teachers use Macintosh computers in their classrooms. Macintosh has recently developed a line of computers compatible with today's booming market. However, Bloomingdale's Macintosh are not compatible, lack sufficient memory,

and are now considered obsolete.

"As a parent I would be upset, as a student I would be upset, and as a teacher I am upset," said instructor Greg Pink. The lack of computers, according to Pink, is "tragic, disgusting, and embarrassing."

Last summer, Pink, along with media specialist Cathy Henley, drew up a request for a \$400,000 technology grant awarded by the state of Florida. The grant would not only have facilitated the purchase of new computers and software, but would have also funded the complete networking of the school's system. This would have connected every computer in the school to a "main-frame" computer in the media center.

Bloomingdale did not receive the grant, in part because its systems were still considered more modern than those at other schools requesting the grant money. Alafia Elementary, one year older than Bloomingdale, also lost out on the grant because their computers were not considered modern enough for retrofit.

The funds instead were awarded to the original grant target, Brandon High School, which has since made vast improvements in the area of technology. Because of the grant, Brandon will next year open its Academy of Multi-Media Technology. The entire school is nearing network completion and the school's goal according to assistant principal John Sherman is to "have at least one computer in every classroom."

The school board has made many attempts to alleviate the computer woes of Hillsborough county. The board recently requested the state legislature to place on the ballot a one-half cent sales tax increase. Revenues will be used solely for new educational construction, renovation, and technological upgrading. By virtue of its enrollment, Bloomingdale could receive a large portion of these funds.

Initially better off than most schools, Bloomingdale has fallen behind the times. Without the necessary technology to prepare students for professional careers, many graduates will enter the business world one step behind the competition.

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**Good Neighbors  
Meet BHA's Treasurer Jim Wiley**

by Mandi Oros

Working for First Union National Bank, Jim Wiley seemed the most obvious and logical choice nominee for BHA Treasurer. This is exactly what one of Wiley's neighbors thought when they nominated him for that position two terms ago.

His financial background and having easy access to a bank, made Wiley the likely choice. He has been in the treasurer's position for the past four years, and was indeed the perfect choice. Not only does he maintain the checks and balances of the BHA account, he is instrumental in the financial decisions of the organization. Sitting in on meetings is a good way for Wiley to express ideas and concerns to the board in order to make Bloomingdale a greater community.

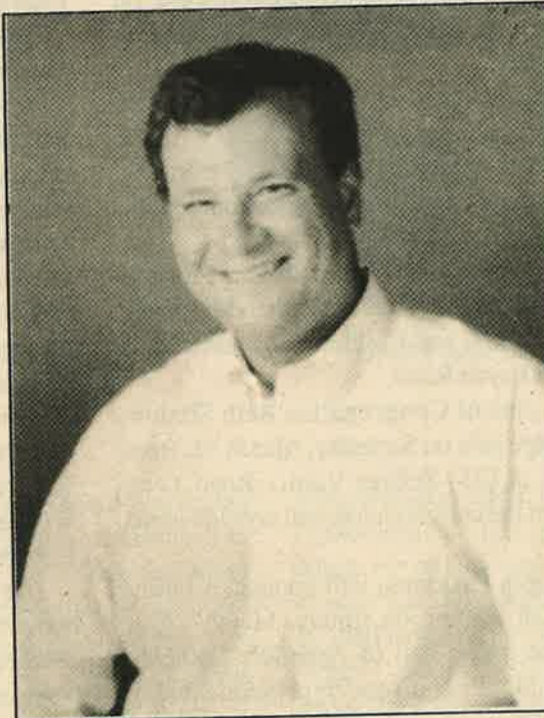
The current BHA board members feels that Wiley brings with him a sense of stability to the board and the community. He is a solid citizen and a true community leader. His participation over the past years can never be duplicated. When the BHA was less than successful a few years ago Wiley never wanted to "throw in the towel. He knew the future would bring with it better days.

Wiley was unanimously voted by the BHA board to be the treasurer

for 1995. He also helps coordinate the membership drive with Ted Grable. Wiley organizes BHA financial efforts and is in charge of dues including who has and has not paid them. Currently he is working

on building the 1995 BHA budget with the other board members

Aside from having the treasurer's responsibility, he also helps to coordinate the community picnic. In 1994, Wiley was on the committee



Jim Wiley

for the resurrection of the community picnic. He helped with selling of tickets and the organization and distribution of door prizes. He is now working to help organize the 1995 community picnic.

Wiley and his wife Diane have two daughters, who are 10 and four. For the past 15 years, he has resided in Florida with his family and has lived in Bloomingdale for almost nine years. Before coming to Florida, Wiley lived and grew up in Chicago.

Wiley considers Bloomingdale a great place to live. He enjoys the establishment it has created and he believes it is a terrific place to raise a family and create a home.



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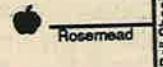
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## Church and Synagogue News

### St. Andrews Hosts Spring Fashion Show

by Donna Heinz

Now that those warm winter jackets and sweaters have been packed away and thoughts are leaning toward a new spring wardrobe, the women of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church have a great idea - their second annual spring fashion show on Saturday, March 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Jacobson's of Olde Hyde Park will present the latest in spring fashions. All the clothing will be modeled by men, women and children from St. Andrews. There will be a catered luncheon and the Trifony singers will entertain.

Tickets are available at the church office for \$10 with all proceeds going toward the United Methodist Missions for Women and Children. St. Andrews is located at 3315 Bryan Road.

The men's club of Congregation Beth Shalom will hold a garage sale on Saturday, March 11, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1314 Seffner Valrico Road. Over 50 families from the congregation will provide items for sale.

Visiting Rabbi Goodman will conduct a Purim Service-Megillah reading on Friday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall of Apostle's Lutheran Church. The children's choir and third grade Sunday

School class will also lead the service. All who plan to attend are encouraged to dress as their favorite Purim character. The congregation will hold its annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 19, beginning at noon at The Childrens Academy, 506 Limona Road, where there will be games, food, and prizes.

Rabbi Natkin will conduct Passover Seder on Friday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Center Place. The cost for congregation members is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under, or \$15 and \$8 for non-members. Children three and under are free. Guests are asked to provide their own matzo and wine. Reservations may be made by calling Robin Bledsoe at 654-3483, or Cheryl Fink at 654-4142 by April 7.

The junior and senior youth groups from St. Stephen's Catholic Church are headed to a state wide Catholic youth rally at the USF SunDome on Saturday, March 25. Workshops, Mass, and the Christian rock groups Newsboys and Audio Adrenalin will be featured. After the rally, they will all head over to Eusch Gardens for fun until 11 p.m.

St. Stephen's new youth center has been named. Fifty to 60 suggestions were submitted in a contest that was open to the entire parish community. It is now officially known at the R.O.C. Center (Reach Out for Christ).

The Concordia Choir, 45 singers from Bronxville, N.Y., will be performing during Lenten Services on Wednesday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2913 S. John Moore Road.

Crosswalk Christian Community Church has homemade Easter eggs for sale. These chocolate covered goodies come in a variety of flavors and boxed for the season. They are available in the church

office, 710 E. Bloomingdale Ave., for \$3 per box.

A series of messages on pain management will begin in early March and continue throughout the month at St. Mark's United Church of Christ. Dr. Stephen Mayers will speak on "How to Maximize the Benefits and Minimize the Side Effects of Medication," on Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m. Dr. Linda Greenfield will present "Myotherapy-A Pressure Point Technique" on Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m.

Dr. Garry A. Scheuer, Jr., will discuss the "Power of Prayer" on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m., which will be followed by a presentation by Robert Johnson on relaxation and visualization. A four-person panel will discuss "Pain, Pals, and Coping Mechanisms" on Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m.

Also at St. Mark's, a two part Lenten Bible Study will begin on March 14, at 7:30 p.m. The second part will be held on April 14 at 7:30 p.m. The Gospel of Luke will be studied. Ash Wednesday services will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 7 p.m.

Women who wonder how they can make an impact in their world, may find the answers at Bell Shoals Baptist Church. On Friday, March 10, in the Special Events Center, the Women's Ministries want to challenge other women to "Light Your World." This special evening will feature an international dinner menu, memory making musical moments, and a dramatic presentation by Peggy Miller, nationally known for her living portraits. There will also be booths set up to provide information about services where women can make a difference - Crisis Pregnancy Center, Habitat for Humanity, and Helping Hands Across the Sea. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the church office.

#### FIRE, from page 1

Preliminary investigations indicate that an individual careless with matches may have set the fire.

Firefighters arrived at the scene before 11 a.m. only to be hampered in their efforts by the growing crowds of onlookers on foot and in vehicles who periodically blocked access to the fire. Several cars were parked directly in front of the fire hydrants.

At about 10:40 a.m., Augusta Village resident Ivan Zatkovich went outside to water a tree in his back yard when he noticed the smoke in the field behind him. From the second floor of his home, he got a better look and saw a small fire, approximately 20 square feet in area, burning along the tree line at the western fringe of the field.

His wife Patti, recalling the speed with which the April fire had spread, notified the fire department and within five minutes the small fire had grown into a block-long blaze

burning along Dumont from River Crossing to Monte Lake with some flames reaching 20 to 30 feet.

Residents alerted neighbors to the blaze which was growing and spreading. The quick thinking and cooperative efforts of area residents prevented extensive loss.

John Barnes, one of many homeowners who fought to keep the fire at bay, teamed with other residents in an effort to soak the fences and rooftops of threatened homes. Three years ago, Barnes built a fire break behind his home. The sandy barrier held the fire back but not the intense heat which left his privacy hedge singed.

The Division of Forestry is currently investigating the cause of the fire, but according to department spokeswoman Lisa Frank, early findings indicate that the fire may have been started by children or teenagers using matches.



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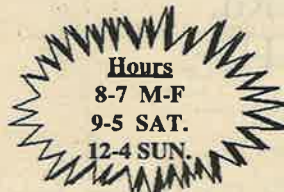


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## Bits 'N Pieces

Around Bloomingdale



Alfred Taylor

### Taylor Earns Eagle Scout Rank

After eight years in Scouting, Alfred E. Taylor has earned the rank of Eagle Scout and will be presented his award in an Eagle Court of Honor on March 18, at St. Mark United Church of Christ, sponsors of Troop 39.

Taylor is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Brown, residents of Fairway Manors since moving to Bloomingdale three years ago from Indian Head, Md.

For his service project Taylor organized a community blood drive administered by the University Community Hospital Blood Bank. His Eagle application was accepted by the Eagle Board of Review on Dec. 5.

A sophomore at Bloomingdale High School, the 15-year-old Taylor hopes one day to become an electrical or mechanical engineer.

Gary and Georgia Killbreath of Bloomingdale announce the birth of a baby girl, Georgia Gabrielle, on Oct. 24, at Brandon Hospital. Baby Georgia was welcomed by her proud big brother, Bobby.



Bobby and Georgia Killbreath

## Life In These Times

by Daniel Farrer

This month I thought I would dedicate some time to a more serious topic that has a direct impact on millions of households across America. We don't often hear about the problem because the powers behind television media are somewhat reluctant to bring it up. So today, I would like to share with you my story about how I overcame the remote

control and the black box next to my television set.

Several years ago when we arrived in the Brandon area, we found a nice home, got the utilities hooked up and started to begin life in a great neighborhood with good neighbors in a great town. Like most suburbanites we also placed the call and had the cable company explain their service to us, and we were surprised at the number of channels we could get on basic service (I believe at the time it was 51). We also considered the fee to be fairly competitive with the last company we had dealt with in another state.

The months went by and we settled into the daily routines of family life, schools, sports, church and community activities. One particular evening as I was watching a program on television, I noticed I couldn't change channels with my remote. Whacking it on the coffee table a couple of times usually did the trick, so I gave it a try with no results. The stupid thing was still dead! I thought it couldn't be the batteries because I had just changed them a few weeks earlier. Reluctantly, I got up, went to the kitchen, installed the new batteries, and it worked perfectly. Must have been bad batteries.

A week later my wife mentioned to me that I was starting to be irritating because I was doing a lot of channel surfing. After her comment I drew an immediate correlation between the batteries and my happy fingers on the remote. I was really hitting the channels pretty hard. I took some time that evening to make a more conscious effort to understand why I was doing so much channel hopping. After a week of careful observation, realized it was because there was absolutely nothing on.

That week taught me quite a bit about my cable service and what I was not getting for my money. First I did a careful count of the stations we normally viewed on a regular basis. Of the 50 or so channels we found we only watched 12 of them regularly. Four were viewed on a very infrequent basis and the remaining 34, not at all. I also called the

cable company about blocking out two channels that I felt my children (or adults, from my perspective) didn't need to see. They told me they would be glad to provide that service for me. When I asked if I could get a discount because I had those channels blocked out, they were surprised and stated they had no current policy covering refunds for channels not being viewed.

After evaluation and considering how much time we could spend doing other things more constructive than TV, I took the box back to the cable company. The nice young lady at the counter asked me why I was bringing it back.

I just replied, "There's nothing on."

I hope you don't get the impression I was being a tight wad, but like most of you, I'd like to know I'm getting my money's worth when I purchase personal services. Hopefully in the future, cable services will be able to provide us with a real variety of choices beyond the "package" or "tier" service currently offered. Wouldn't it be nice to pick 15 or 20 channels from a larger list and pay only for what you do watch. Perhaps that day is near. With some of the newer services coming on line, hopefully it will provide more competition and improved service.

Until that time, I'll stick with the rabbit ears, play catch with the kids in the front yard, take them fishing, and maybe find out what quality time really means.

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by Rozel Sciulli

Teaching children at a young age that it's good to have a healthy heart, the physical education instructors at Alafia Elementary School have spent the last several weeks teaching their students jumping rope skills.

Not only have Alafia's youngsters been getting healthy, in the process they have raised over \$7,000 for the American Heart Association with their Valentine's Day jump rope marathon. Although the final tally is not in, the children are hoping to repeat as the top school in the county.

This third annual event invites students at elementary schools across the country to earn pledge money for 45 minutes of jump rope time. School participation is optional and at Alafia, children get to jump on February 14 whether they collect pledges or not.

Parent volunteers assisted children in kindergarten through fifth grade with all varieties of jumping rope

techniques. While upbeat, jumping music blasted across the playground courts, children stepped back and forth over ropes (if they were the kindergarten type), skipped rope (if they were the primary type), or showed off some

pretty fancy footwork (if they were the expert type). They jumped holding hands, they jumped backwards, they even did something called an egg beater, which this writer has yet to figure out. It involves two long ropes turning at the same time while intersected in the middle where the jumper must attempt to jump without getting snagged.

"There was something for all age levels to accom-

plish," said Debbie Lambert, one of the coordinators. She and co-worker Anne Cogley culminated their jump rope unit in P.E. with the marathon.

The American Heart Association rewards the students with prizes as well as a jumpstart on a healthy heart.

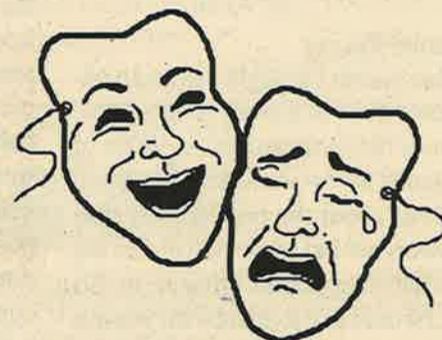


Alafia students jumped rope for heart on Valentine's Day. The entire student body participated with either fancy footwork or the original hop, skip, and a jump.

## Kids Calendar Rated G

### Regional Science Fair

Local students will have their projects displayed at the Hillsborough County Regional Science Fair on March 8 and 9, at the USF Sun Dome. Theirs will be among



hundreds of outstanding science projects by the county's elementary and secondary students. Judging will take place on March 8, followed by an awards ceremony on March 9.

### Ballet Guild's Spring Gala

The Brandon Centre Ballet Guild will present its 2nd Annual Spring Gala Performance on Saturday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Armwood High School auditorium. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children and students 18 and under.

Tickets may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope along with a check or money order payable to the Brandon Centre Ballet Guild, to P.O. Box 1291, Brandon, FL 33509. Please indicate the number of adult and/or children's tickets. Seating is open and tickets will be sold at the door, if space permits.

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# Changing Face Of Bloomingdale

Changes, big changes, are in store for Bloomingdale East over the next five years when it is projected that 1,100 new homes and apartments will fill out the remaining undeveloped land in the sprawling southern end of the community. Schools, roadways, and government services will all be affected as the Bloomingdale population begins to skyrocket. The next two years alone will see over half of the total homesites completed along Nature's Way on both sides of the golf course and south on Culbreath Road.

Communities with names like Sunrise Homes "The Links", Franklin Homes "Cambridge Cove" and MacRiley and MI Homes "Bristol Greens" will feature a variety of styles from English Regency and French Country to Florida/California style.

The Links, south on Culbreath, will continue Sunrise Homes distinctive style found in The Greens. Fifty-one homesites are scheduled for completion over the next two years.



The first home nearing completion is in Ken Franklin's Cambridge Cove.

Sixty-eight mini estate-type homes will be featured in Ken Franklin's Cambridge Cove. The gated community is located west of the golf club entrance.

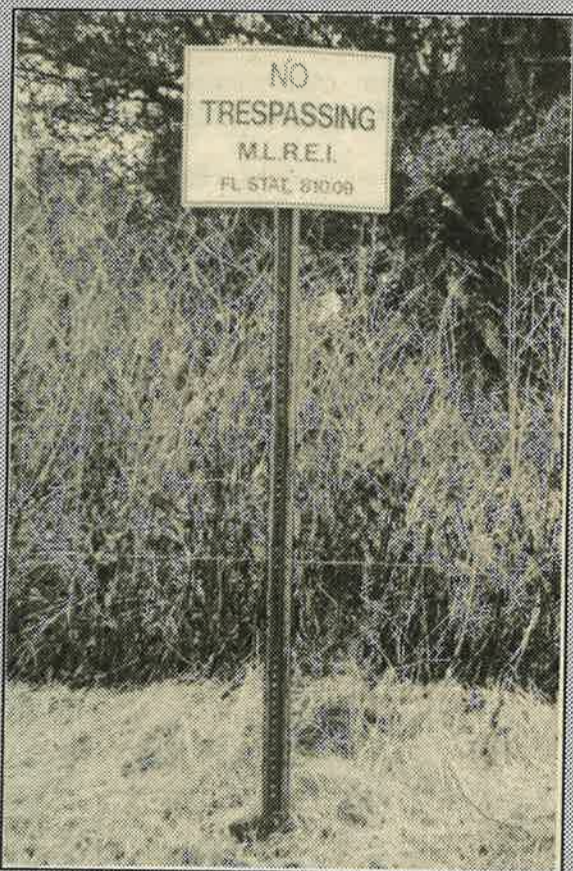
Construction has already begun at Cambridge Cove and Bristol Greens. MacRiley Homes and MI will hope to complete construction on nearly 200 lots over the next three years in Bristol Greens, a community along the golf course, east on Nature's Way to Culbreath.

Yet unannounced is what Schmidt Brothers has planned for the corner of Greenhollow and Nature's Way. The five acres could feature single family homes or attached housing such as patio homes.

Land is already being cleared on 68 acres south on Culbreath south of Nature's Way where an estimated 225 housing units are proposed.

Nearly 150 acres of land remains for sale by Metropolitan Life Real Estate Investment, and is zoned for single-family attached housing - among them, 225 units on South Culbreath, 56 units on Culbreath at Bloomingdale Ave., and 68 units at Erindale and Culbreath.

MacRiley Homes and MI Homes are the builders for Bristol Greens on Nature's Way.



Metropolitan Life still owns nearly 150 acres of undeveloped land in East.



Sunrise's next venture will be the 51 homes in The Links, just south of The Greens on Culbreath.



Land being cleared is a common site in South Bloomingdale these days.



The dead end markers will be lifted when the 52 acres at the end of Culbreath becomes a county recreation site for youth football and baseball.

# Lithia Lynx



## 'Reflections' Winners Announced

by **Donnamarie Kibler**  
Daniel Narup, Ashley Turner, Shanna Casey, and Adam Figlewski will represent their school and Hillsborough County in the state level competition of the PTA sponsored "Reflections" program.

Recently Lithia Springs held their annual Reflections Cultural Arts Day for students in grades 3-5. This special event featured artists from a variety of media. These artists help to inspire the students to enter the National PTA sponsored art program called "Reflections". The students could express themselves in four different categories - photography, visual arts, literature, and music.

Local PTA's are asked to send a team of their best student work to represent all the artists at the county level. All of Lithia's students are winners and the team sent from Lithia represented the school well.

Students whose work went to the county level were Shanna Casey, Adam Figlewski, Jamar Nieves, and Jesse Smalley for literature; Daniel Narup, Ashley Turner, Chris Foreman and Josh Turner for photography; Chris Foreman, Karla Rottstedt, Mary-Catherine Shugel, Cathy Dau, and Amy Temple for visual arts.



Josh Turner shows off his photographic entry to the countywide Reflections contest.

Daphne and Edwin Rowland have named Lithia's "Volunteers of the Year". The husband and wife team have served the school and the PTA for three years. Anytime there was a need for help, even on last-minute notice, these two parents were on hand to make the project a success.

A nominating committee has been established and would like to hear from anyone interested in serving on the 1995-96 PTA as an executive board member or committee chairperson. Contact Donnamarie Kibler at 684-5885 for further information.

# Gator Tales



## Guest Speaker To Address Hot Topics

by **Suzie Wiesenhart**

There will be a PTA General Membership meeting on Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. The speaker will be Larry Martin, area director for Hillsborough County Schools. He will answer some concerns voiced by Alafia parents including major issues like expansion of the school as a result of new home construction, class sizes, addition of an art teacher, the cluster plan and more. He will also take questions from the floor. Mrs. Lizer will join Mr. Martin for the question and answer period.

Please plan to attend this very important meeting. Babysitting will be available.

Another penny drive will be held this month from March 13-17. The last drive brought in more than \$1200 for technology.

Alafia's bike rodeo and safety fair will be held on Saturday, April 1 at the school between 9:30 and 12:30. Pre-registration will begin March 13, so parents are asked to check bookbags for further information. It's going to be great fun with special skills courses, fire trucks, helicopter, snacks, prizes and more.

The next Alafia Book Fair will be held April 3-7 in the media center. In addition, it will be open for conference night, April 6, when the PTA will also hold its Summer Extravaganza and pizza party.

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# Bulls Eye



## It's WBUL In The Morning

by Cyndy Andrews

It is 8:46 a.m. and everyone is seated in attendance period. There is some talking, a little messing around, but most of the students have their eyes glued to the television set.

WBUL, Bloomingdale High School's informational morning show is on every day to keep students abreast of the latest in academic achievements, scholarship availability, sports activities, and special events the students should know about. Various other subjects are covered time permitting. WBUL is the key to Bloomingdale's information door.

Some may think it only takes a short time to put this 10-minute broadcast together. Actually, it takes a full hour to produce the show. The production crew and cast, consisting of 13 juniors and seniors, take turns filling different positions. Someone might be a camera man one day, an announcer the next, or perhaps they could even fill the shoes of an audio technician.

The show's executive producer, Mr. Phillip Carr, has recently taken the show off the air for a few days to make some changes.

"We'll soon unveil a new show more on line with a national morning show," he said.

To aid in the updating of the show, WBUL will soon acquire a new JVC editing system and a new graphics generator.

The talented crew of WBUL, Jack Butts, Kevin Davis, Jennifer Finley, Colleen Gill, James Graham, Ryan Hrvatin, Jason Jordan, Scott Kasprzyk, Kamran Mir, Chris Milnar, GERAL Muforo, Eric Schaws, and Anthony Luckett are the body of the show and they say, "keep the fan mail coming!"

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Pee Wees (4-6)	Mon & Wed	3:30-4
Future Stars (7-12)	Mon & Wed	4:00-5
Intermediate (13-17)	Mon & Wed	5:00-6

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(Members and Non-Members)

# Bruin Beat



## Economics Class Offers Reality Check

by Ansley Sciulli

One of the classes required of every ninth grader is economics. This semester course either follows or precedes the half-year of government they must also take.

This semester, the honors economics classes taught by Mrs. Moffit and Mr. Hettinger, are having to complete certain projects that will help the students in the future.

So far, the students have completed job resumes and applications. This teaches the students how to be positive when looking for a job and knowing how to go about getting a job. It also provides a dose of reality for students who think they're automatically going to make a huge salary right out of college.

Students were allowed to make a career choice and research it for several days so they would know exactly what they were getting into. The teachers then gave them a salary based on their grade point average in class the first semester. From the salaries, the students will learn how to budget, which is the next project on the agenda.

In Mrs. Moffit's classes, a girl and boy team up and they budget their lifestyles together. Mr. Hettinger decided his students would do this project on their own. Either way, they find out things like just how expensive it is to buy clothes and groceries.

Following the budget project, students will study the stock market. Each student will select a few stocks to "invest in" and monitor for nine weeks. Hopefully, they will learn to sell and buy when the prices are right.

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## A Matter Of Principal ISS Program 'A Plus' For Burns

by Linda A. Kipley, Principal  
Burns Junior High School

Burns Junior High School, as a part of their School Improvement Plan for the 1994-95 school year, developed an In-School Suspension Program (ISS). As a part of Goal #3, we were concerned about the effect that an out-of-school suspension had on our students.

A committee was formed of parents, teachers, administrators, and students who worked throughout the summer to develop this alternative program. We first identified the type of discipline most commonly dealt with that resulted in out-of-school suspensions. Disruptive, disrespectful and disobedient behavior were the most prevalent. We decided some behaviors would still require an out-of-school suspension.

The committee developed academic guidelines that allow students to remain up-to-date with regular classroom work and receive full credit for it. Students are not counted absent and are still eligible for atten-

dance incentives offered to all students.

Rules and regulations were developed to insure an understanding that no social interaction and total academic focus were the main priorities of the program.

Students assigned in-school suspension more than one time are referred by the in-school suspension teacher to their regular school guidance counselor. The in-school suspension teacher also has a phone in the classroom to communicate to parents if necessary. Students are required to complete a behavior assessment form before leaving.

After surveying the teachers at the end of the first semester of this school year the teachers noted the following.

1. Students grades maintained or improved.
2. More students completed and turned in classroom work than normally done by students
3. Out of 106 students assigned in-school suspension, only 12 returned more than once.

The statistics on school behaviors also indicated

that out-of-school suspensions were reduced by 70% over last year at this time. Only 51 students were suspended out of 1500 students enrolled.

Parents view the program as a positive response to parent concerns when dealing with unacceptable behaviors. Students dislike the program because it removes them from their social setting all day and they are kept on a structured academic schedule.

We know that the success of the new program has had an effect in our overall student performance. Eighty-one percent of our students received as a semester grade either an A, B, or C in their classes. Ten percent received D's, and nine percent received F's. Our overall school grade point average is a 2.6 (B-).

We are very pleased with the program and intend to expand it if possible for next year.

I would like to thank our parents, teachers, Mr. Larry Bass (ISS teacher), counselors, and administrators for their support in this program and a team effort toward educating the future leaders of tomorrow.

## Educational Edge Tips To Beat Test Anxiety

### Special To The Gazette

The old cliché tells us it's best to start out with a clean slate. But not if that clean-slate is your memory, five minutes before a test or exam is about to start.

Test anxiety can undermine a student's best efforts to do well on tests. Some students study the material thoroughly and then "freeze up" right before the exam. Others are so anxiety-ridden by the prospect of a test that they are unable to study effectively and go to school unprepared to take the test.

"It is important to remember that this problem involves focusing your attention," said Ilene Davidoff. "You must redirect your attention away from the fear of failure and toward productive ways to do well on the test."

If the thought of taking a test makes you break a sweat, follow these useful tips:

- \* Spread out your studying time over a period of days or weeks. Review your subject material and notes on more than one occasion. Procrastinators may get stuck having six brand new chapters to read on the night before an exam. Cramming for tests is stressful and tends to increase a student's anxiety.

- \* Test yourself. If you know the format of the exam, test your knowledge while you are studying. Make up multiple-choice questions, write a short summary of each chapter, or outline

topics you would cover in an essay question.

- \* Read all directions carefully. Make sure you understand all the directions and if not, ask the teacher for clarification.

- \* Skim over the entire exam before you begin. Review the test to see what types of questions are included; this will guide you to use your time appropriately. If you can skip around, answer the easy questions first and leave plenty of time for more difficult problems.

- \* Budget your time wisely. Don't push yourself to work too fast and risk making careless errors. Don't spend too much time on any one question. If you can make an "educated guess," put a mark next to it and go back to review it later.

- \* Participate in class discussions and on your homework. Remember, one test usually doesn't count for your entire grade. If you are doing well in a subject area, one test should not blow your grade for the marking period. In addition, homework and class participation helps you to learn the material and prepare for future tests.

- \* Fear of failure can become a self-fulfilling prophesy. If you believe that you're going to fail, then you will. Keeping a positive attitude and trying your best can do wonders for your test performance.

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**Tax Topics**

**Advice During Filing Season**

by Robert J. Morris, CPA

\*Did you know that you cannot rely on advice you receive from the IRS unless it is written and even then only penalties are avoidable. Tax courts have stated that a taxpayer cannot avoid a tax bill resulting from erroneous advice given by the IRS. If you rely on this mistaken advice even received in writing, you will avoid ensuing penalties added to the tax but not the tax itself. Therefore, seek out a competent tax advisor.

\*When filing your returns, the filed-when-mailed rule applies only if it is actually received by the IRS. If it is lost in the mail, it will be deemed not having been filed even if you have convincing evidence to the contrary. The real catch is if the IRS does receive your return, but it becomes

lost or misplaced by the IRS, they will deny ever receiving it. You should send your return to the IRS by certified mail and request a return receipt.

\*Are you 55 or older and in the process of a divorce? Then don't sell your home until the divorce is final. The gain exclusion on the sale of a home after age 55 can be claimed only once in a lifetime per couple. If it is sold after divorce both you and your former spouse each individually will be entitled to the exclusion in each lifetime therefore potentially doubling the tax savings.

\*For 1995, invest for capital gains if you will not need the funds in the short term period. Long term capital gains are taxed favorably for those in higher income levels. Even more so, the current Congress seems likely to lower capital gain tax to possibly a maximum of 14%. This is not a sure thing but it does look very likely. If you agree, consider

shifting some of your portfolio out of income producing into growth investments. Talk this over with your reputable investment advisor.

\*Consider contributing into your 1995 IRA or other deferred investment account early in 1995 rather than wait to April, 1996. This will give you an additional year's growth deferred from taxes. Also, give certain assets to children and remove them to the lower tax bracket. The earlier you do this, the more your family may benefit from the income shifting. Also, consider using your annual gift tax exclusion of tax free gifts up to \$10,000 to as many as you wish.

If these issues appear to apply to your situation you should seek the advice of your reputable tax advisor. Your individual tax situation may preclude you from some specific benefits as described.

Brandon Bagels will continue to be open from 5 a.m. until 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and from 5 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Sundays.

**Fabric King Opens**

With the growing commercial areas on and around Brandon Boulevard, Fabric King wanted to move closer to residential communities and their customers. So they closed their store of many years in Clayton Plaza and opened a new, larger store in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center in the space once occupied by Rite Aid.

An official grand opening is planned for the near future, but management wanted their customers to have immediate access to the new store which officially opened for business last week. Fabric King has been a name synonymous with sewing in the Tampa area for over 30 years. They offer a full line of fabrics, patterns and notions, including evening and bridal fabrics and accessories. New to this store is their decorator depot which will feature upholstery and drapery fabric and craft materials for the home.

Fabric King will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.

**Saturn Saleswomen**

Two area women have broken the car "salesman" stereotype by joining the growing staff at Saturn of Brandon. Pat Sullivan and Barbra Ferguson have successfully completed automotive training with the Ed Morse Automotive Group. Pat and Barb's approach to car buying is knowledgeable and professional, said their general manager. Their philosophy is that every woman should be informed when it comes to car buying and servicing.

Pat and Barb will host a Service Clinic on March 18, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. In it they will answer clients' automotive questions and demonstrate how easy it is to keep a car maintained.

**Russell Earns Certification**

Local realtor Luana Russell has earned the Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) and the Graduate, Realtor Institute (GRI) designations. She works out of the new Brandon Bloomingdale office of RE/MAX Realty Unlimited, Inc..

The CRS designation is awarded to residential real estate associates who have by special training and education and by actual sales achievement, met the highest standards of performance within the real estate industry. To obtain a professional GRI award, members must successfully complete all three Florida Realtor Institute program courses. Fewer than 10 percent of all active Florida real estate agents have their GRI designation.

**Postal Station Moves**

Valrico Postal Station has moved into the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza, next door to Winn Dixie. Established last year on Lithia Pinecrest, the full service mailing and packaging center, moved as part of an "all-clear" for future construction along Lithia Pinecrest at Miller Road and Bloomingdale.

Valrico Postal Station is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 until 6 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

**Business Notes**



**Realtor Recognized  
St. Pierre Named Top Seller**

Bloomingdale resident Frank St. Pierre, a realtor with Coldwell Banker was named the top seller and top listing agent for the company's Brandon office during the month of January.

**Bike Shop In The Square**

A. J. Barnes Bicycle Express of Tampa is open for business in Bloomingdale Square. They are a full service shop offering Gary Fisher, Ross, Hampton Beach and BMX style bikes. The staff also repairs all brands of bikes, and they carry a complete line of accessories. Rentals are also available.

Family owned and operated, A. J. Barnes offers "old fashioned service" including free pick-up and delivery with a pre-arranged appointment. Owners Michael and Suzanne Gottesman say they are most concerned about children's safety and say they will adjust kids' handlebars at no charge.

A.J. Barnes is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Brandon Bagels Re-locates**

Bloomingdale residents who want their morning bagels will now have to travel north to Brandon Blvd. to break the fast. Brandon Bagels has taken up new residence at 942 W. Brandon Blvd. across from Builders Square.

Siting the upcoming road construction on Bloomingdale Avenue as the reason for their move, the owners say that their loyal patrons will go out of their way to buy bagels, and the Brandon Blvd exposure will bring new customers.

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# Sherman Chooses Gamecocks

by Rozej Sculli

Throughout his early football career there was not a doubt that Cody Sherman would follow in his brother's footsteps and attend Florida State University following graduation. He was sure when he attended football camp there for two straight summers, that he wanted to play for Coach Wally Burnham, considered one of the best line-backer coaches in the country.

He was sure, that is, until Burnham took the defensive coordinator job at the University of South Carolina, and now instead of wearing a Seminole headdress, Cody Sherman will be strutting his Gamecock tailfeathers.

When Burnham became USC's assistant head coach he pursued Sherman, who was an easy catch. Not only does Burnham know Sherman's record, Sherman knows Burnham's record. In the last decade he has produced two Butkus Award Winners in former Seminoles Paul McGowan and Marvin Jones, an honor bestowed upon the best defensive back in the land. Sherman would like to be his third.

Sherman led the Bloomingdale defense in this, the school's best season in history, with 147 solo tackles, 33 assisted tackles, six forced fumbles with five recoveries,

and three interceptions. The seemingly one-man defense was named the district's Defensive Player of the Year, but his highest honor to date was being named a member of the Super 24, the state's best football players. As a member of the state team, Sherman will go up against Georgia's best in the Florida-Georgia high school face-off this June in Orlando.

Bloomingdale Coach Terry Long, who coached older brother Travis, said the 6-2, 220-pound Cody made the difference in this year's defense.

"He is very much a student of the game," said Long. "He studied films constantly and was intense in his preparation to play."

"I'm very proud of him. He had big shoes to fill coming behind his brother."

So on game days will Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sherman of Bloomingdale East go their separate ways, one to Tallahassee, the other to Columbia? They'll wait to see what the football season brings in the way of scheduling.

Cody is the fourth of five Sherman children and the fifth in the family to receive a collegiate athletic scholarship. His father played football at the University of Tampa and his older brothers played soccer at Brigham Young and



Cody Sherman

Georgia Southern. Brother Michael, in fact, has returned to Bloomingdale and helped coach the state champion Bulls' soccer team. Travis is on the mend following knee surgery, but will return to the FSU football program in the fall.

Courted by BYU, FSU, and USC, Sherman was advised by brother Travis to "explore all possibilities." Already familiar with FSU, he visited BYU with his oldest brother, and made several trips to the USC campus, which is where his mother said he felt most comfortable.

## Athletic Calendar

Mar. 4	Baseball (BB) & Softball (SB) at Chamberlain	Mar. 18	BB & SB v Plant City Griffin Relays at Hillsboro
Mar. 6	Boys' Tennis v Jefferson* Girls at Jefferson at HCC Girls' Golf v East Bay**	Mar. 20	Boys' Tennis v Plant at Grady Girls' Tennis v Plant*
Mar. 7	BB & SB v East Bay Track at Plant City	Mar. 21	All Golf v E.B. at Summerfield Track - Wells Invite at Clearwater
Mar. 8	Girls' Golf v. Brandon, King**	Mar. 22	Burns Track - East Division at Brandon
Mar. 9	Boys' Golf v CHS & E.B.*** BB & SB at Brandon	Mar. 24	BB & SB at Gaither
Mar. 11	BB & SB v King Nash Higgins Relays at Leto	Mar. 25	BB & SB v Leto
Mar. 13	Boys' Tennis v King* Girls at King at White Way Girls' Golf v Brandon at Buckhorn	Mar. 27	Boys' Tennis v Robinson* Girls' at Robinson at Himes Boys' Golf v Brandon at Buckhorn
Mar. 14	BB & SB at Leto Girls' Golf v CHS at Zaharis Boys' Golf v Gaither***	Mar. 28	BB & SB v Hillsboro Jr. Hi Track Championship at Armwood
Mar. 16	Boys' Tennis v Leto at HCC Girls' Tennis v Leto* Girls' Golf v Robinson** Boys' Golf at Walden Lakes Burns Track at Brandon	Mar. 29	Boys' Golf v Jesuit at Carrollwood
Mar. 17	BB & SB at Robinson Burns Track- Scratch Meet at King	Mar. 30	Boys' Tennis v P.C. at Walden Lake Girls' Tennis v Plant City*
		Mar. 31	BB & SB v Chamberlain
		Apr. 1	BB & SB v Brandon
		Apr. 3	Boys' Tennis at Tampa Bay Tech Girls' Tennis v TBT* Girls' Golf v Leto, JHS at Rocky Pt.
		Apr. 4	BB & SB at King Girls' Golf v Chamberlain*** Track - Lady Gaither Invite
		Apr. 6	BB & SB at Plant City

Boys' Tennis v Brandon\*  
Girls' at Brandon at BSTC

\*All home tennis matches at Hidden Palms  
\*\*At Bloomingdale Golfers Club  
\*\*\*At RiverHills

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### BHA Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be held Tuesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center. All dues paying BHA members are welcomed to attend.

### STD Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be held Monday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center. Bloomingdale residents are welcomed to attend.

### Director To Speak To PTA

Hillsborough County Schools area director Larry Martin will be the guest speaker at this month's meeting of the Alafia PTA on Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. Mr. Martin will field questions about the growing elementary student population in Bloomingdale, school boundaries, and student-teacher ratios.

### School Cluster Meeting

A meeting to discuss the School Cluster Plan for Bloomingdale has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 10,

### PRESIDENT, from pg. 1

crises were as follows:

(A) As of February, 1994, the group "Bloomingdale Homeowners for Quality Living" (BHQL) has succeeded in obtaining remarkable concessions from the owner and developer of the undeveloped acreage. The BHA encouraged the residents of the community to support the completion of the development as planned. As of the current date, the residential construction has commenced in a manner consistent with the aesthetic ideals of the community. Clearly, the Bloomingdale Community reaped the benefits of the efforts of the BHQL.

(B) With regard to crime, the February, 1994 letter to the community noted that the Bloomingdale area has one of the lowest crime rates in Hillsborough County. The BHA is pleased to report that the foregoing statement continues to be true. In any event, recognizing that no level of crime is acceptable in our community, we encourage all of you to volunteer for Mobile Watch by contacting LaWayne Wyatt at the telephone number set forth in the Community Page section of this newspaper, or volunteer to organize or participate in the Neighborhood Watch Program in your section of the community.

(C) With regard to the "deed restriction violation crisis" referred to in the 1994 letter, there have been significant improvements in the community. The BHA believes that the improvements are primarily due to (i) the "Neighborhood

from 7 to 9 p.m. in the BSHS auditorium. Bloomingdale's cluster is expected to take effect in the 1996-97 school year. Parents of feeder schools such as Alafia, Lithia Springs, Progress Village, Booker T., and Burns are encouraged to attend. School district personnel will be present to answer questions.

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the second annual Hillsborough County Cleanup Challenge on April 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brandon will be one of six areas around the county designated as a clean-up site. Area residents, clubs and organizations, scout troops, church groups, neighborhood associations and businesses may choose a pre-determined clean-up area to work on. For further information, call 960-5121.

### Jaab Theater

Shear Madness, a 'Who Done It' murder mystery / comedy that promises to keep you entertained will continue until the end of April. For more information call 229-7827.

### The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce

The Brandon Chamber of Commerce Seventh Annual Brandon Sports Night Banquet, "Salute to Amateur Athletes", Tuesday, March 21, will honor area amateur and scholastic athletes. Tug McGraw, 19 year baseball veteran will be the featured speaker. To make reservations call the Chamber at 689-1221.

Involvement Program" which currently focuses on identifying and rectifying violations of County Code but which will be turning its attention to deed restriction violations, (ii) the establishment by the BHA of a fund to defray court costs and filing fees incurred by any residents seeking to enforce the more egregious deed restriction violations, and (iii) the general sense of aesthetic improvement triggered as a result of various projects by the Bloomingdale STD (e.g., planting of palm trees, shrubs and new grass, repainting of walls and placement of benches throughout the community). The BHA hopes that all of you will continue to show pride in the appearance of the community and undertake a home beautification project. In addition, the Bloomingdale STD is looking for volunteers to assist in planting additional greenery throughout the community, and if you would like to participate in the beautification project, you should contact the Bloomingdale STD through the Community Office at 681-2051.

In summary, during the one year period having passed since the 1994 letter identifying the "crises" in the community, the BHA feels that significant improvements have occurred in the Bloomingdale Community. Please help the BHA keep the momentum going and volunteer your time, experience and thoughts to the betterment of the Bloomingdale Community.

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**LEAGUE, from page 1**

county to facilitate a favorable transaction.

"It was always our intent to donate the property to the youth of the community," said Cross. "It's a matter of community support."

According to Radice, the county has impact fee funds to acquire property, but it does not have funds available for park development. He said he hopes negotiations, which are in the hands of the county's real estate department, will climax within the next three to four months just in time for the youth football Bears summer practice.

"There is no question that they need a practice facility, but that is all it will be," said Radice. "The county can't afford to build a stadium for every youth league in existence."

The Bears currently share game day facilities with the Brandon Broncos. Last year, residents around Burns Junior

High foiled the Bears opportunity to have a permanent home site established at the school.

Second in priority is the construction of additional Little League playing fields. The question remains whether to move the entire organization to the new site or simply establish two playing grounds.

Radice noted that when the corner lot at Culbreath and Bloomingdale Avenue across from the Little League field is developed by builders, parking will be a logistical nightmare for the league's visitors.

Currently, Bloomingdale Little League has four baseball and one softball fields. With nearly 900 children playing there this year, it is nearly impossible to schedule practice and game times for all teams.

Steve Briggs, the league's chairman of short and long term planning, said that the county is assisting the league

once again this season with plant improvements. Last year, the county built new bathroom facilities and repaired broken bleachers. This year they have worked with the league to make improvements to the concession stand, the sprinkler systems, and park lighting.

"It's the wishes of Bloomingdale Little League and of Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation to have an many young people playing baseball as possible in as safe an environment as possible within the constraints of both our budgets," said Briggs.

The third plan for the 52-acre site is the creation of a passive park along the water.

Only two zoned recreational sites remain in the Bloomingdale community, and with the addition of 1100 new homes within the next five years, the need for recreational space will be in high demand.

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