

The influential community newspaper,
serving the
Bloomingtondale area for 16 years.

Double Sessions
Q & A

See page 5

The Bloomingtondale Gazette

Volume XVI, Number 3

Published by the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 1996

BHA Briefs

Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, March 12, at 7:30 in the Community Office's new location in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingtondale. The Community Office has moved to 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, next door to Kim Hall's Dance Studio. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting. Election of officers will take place at this month's meeting.

Board Position

One board position remains open and interested residents are asked to attend this month's meeting. The BHA board is served by 10 directors. They meet once a month to discuss matters of concern to the residents.

This Month - Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water for irrigation in residential subdivisions is becoming popular in neighborhoods around Hillsborough County and Bloomingtondale residents may now take advantage of this program.

The BHA has invited Jim Holland, who heads up the county program, to speak at this month's meeting Tuesday night. He will answer questions between 8 and 8:30 p.m.

In the month since *The Gazette* published a story on the availability of reclaimed water to this area, the community office has had many inquiries from interested residents and neighborhood groups. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND Tuesday's worthwhile meeting.

Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater generated by Hillsborough County's water reclamation facilities. It is colorless, odorless and can be used for landscape irrigation.

Residents who use reclaimed water are not subject to the watering restrictions mandated by the county.

The benefit to the environment is the conservation of drinking water supplies.

Bloomingtondale residents who are interested in introducing reclaimed water to their area should make their interest known to the homeowners' association. Bloomingtondale has already been identified as a feasible reclaimed water service area. The service is currently in use at Bloomingtondale Golfers Club.

A petition must be signed by more than 50% of the homeowners in a particular area, not 50% of all Bloomingtondale.

An annual assessment is added to the property tax bill of each resident within the area and is amortized over a 20-year period. This is used to build the distribution system within the subdivision. In addition, there is a \$6 per month residential user fee and a one-time connection fee of \$40.

Residents who wish to find out more about this program may call the Community Office at 681-2051.

YMCA-South

Jay Lippy of the YMCA was the guest speaker at last month's BHA meeting. He announced plans for the opening of a YMCA in South Brandon. Although Lippy could not be specific, he said the Y is currently conducting feasibility studies on three different locations on the south end (Bloomingtondale area) and they hope to have property purchased by the fall. Completion of the new facility is expected within two years following property acquisition.

Membership Drive Underway

The 1996 BHA membership drive has been very successful. Residents of Bloomingtondale are still receiving packets, which are being mailed in manageable numbers. Dues are \$20 and are for the calendar year. Packets will include a notice of dues, Mobile Watch volunteer sign-up form and an informative brochure about the BHA and

Mall's Impact On Square Obvious

by Rozel Sciulli

As if the opening of Brandon TownCenter Mall weren't enough. Road construction had to make its path toward progress at the same time. The result is an impact on merchants at Bloomingtondale Square that has found tenants closing up shop or moving to higher ground.

In the past year, Carvel, Elephant's Trunk, Little Professor Bookstore, Video Show, and Bloomingtondale Medical Center have either closed or set up shop elsewhere.

Since January, Stuart's women's apparel has closed its doors as has Giorggi's men's apparel. Both operate new stores in the Mall corridor power centers.

"I wanted to secure a space before they were all taken," said Phillip Giorggi, who had been a Square tenant for nearly four years. "There wasn't enough traffic after the mall opened. No question about it, the mall affected Bloomingtondale Square to a big extent."

Giorggi said his store gets more exposure and has broadened its clientele base to other counties.

Stride Rite, children's shoes and accessories, also left the Square after an attempt at operating two stores in the Brandon area.

"We experienced a loss of sales the minute the mall opened," said owner Tish Schroeder, a seven-year tenant at the Square. "Parking was so bad, but customers come in everyday and say 'I wish you were still there'."

Stanton Englander, senior director of retail leasing for the Paragon Group which manages Bloomingtondale Square, said changes are expected over the years as the market and consumer demands change.

"A shopping center is a dynamic entity," Englander said. "Consumer preferences shift. There has been a lot of

See MALL, page 11

Program Targets Parents Of Teens

Special to The Gazette

Bloomingtondale's Parent Advisory Committee is sponsoring a program entitled Alcohol and Drug Awareness for Parents of Teens on March 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Speakers will include Sonya Bufe, a DACC counselor, Deputy Fairburn, school resource officer, and Sylvia Carra, Ph.D., psychologist.

Among the topics of discussion will be recognizing signs of drug use, reasons for use, coping with abuse, communications and alternate methods of handling drug situations.

According to BHS guidance counselor Terry Hoke, the objective of the program is to prevent families from future problems by instructing them in the warning signs.



Alafia third graders dressed up in traditional clothing from the 1800s when they performed at Cracker Country at the Florida State Fair.

After Meeting, Double Sessions Questions Persist

by Shannan Powell

With many questions left unanswered, parents of Bloomingtondale High students left a Feb. 7 public forum that ended too abruptly for the almost 500 present, feeling less than reassured about next year's double sessions calendar.

"They could've extended the meeting at least an extra 15 minutes and been courteous for some of the concerns," area resident John Currier said. "I think they could've set it up better. I also think that the school board administration could have been represented better."

Currier and his wife, Beth, took time after the meeting to write their remaining questions on a form that the administration promised would be answered.

The only school board representative present was Area 4 Director Larry Martin, who sat quietly in the first row of the auditorium while Principal B. J. Stelter, assistant principals Richard Bartels and Barry Davis and faculty member Matt Hauer tried to convince the audience that all bases had been covered.

"I thought it was a great program," Martin said. "The school had sent out surveys prior to the meeting so that

Martin said since the county has been through this several times before, citing periods at Brandon and Plant City high schools, administrators have had plenty of experience with this type of calendar.

But while many parents are still looking for answers, students are beginning to think about the adjustments they will have to make.

"I don't like it because we'll get out so late," said Elissa Downing, who will be a sophomore next year. "I'll have to do homework and everything when I get home, and I don't think I'll have enough time."

Downing has played softball for three years and would like to play next year if she can fit it into her new school schedule that has her in classes from 12:25 until 5:55 p.m.

Janece Aska will be a junior in the morning session and has a list of her own concerns.

"Waking up now is hard enough, but even earlier will be really hard," Aska said. "And I'm worried about what they're going to do about sports. Track is my only sport and I'm worried about not being able to do anything."

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Dear Readers,

Being part of a community means more than just living in the community. Good residents recognize that an affiliation with their community involves mutual dependence, and if it is not managed well, both the residents and community lose their effectiveness. Both must realize that the resident/community relationship is not a one sided alliance, with the burden for controlling the relationship resting entirely on one party.

Effective community interest takes time and energy to develop and to build a partnership that is consonant with personal styles and what is best for the entire community. Both, the residents and the community should evaluate the needs of each other and meet the most critical needs to effectively augment their association. It is up to you to get involved with the community!

Sincerely,



Rick Oros
President

Our Times Double Sessions, Double Standard

by Rozel Sciulli

Doggone it, you can mess with me, but don't mess with my kids.

It's a fair statement to say most parents feel this way. And it's particularly obvious when it comes to education.

About this time last year Buckhorn parents were gloating while River Hills parents were grouching that their students would have to attend the new Durant High School. River Hills claimed they were more a part of Bloomingdale than the Buckhorn folks.

But, the school boundary gurus are smarter. They determined it makes more sense for kids to travel 12 miles to school than 3 miles.

Go figure.

Well, well, well. It seems the gloaters who benefited from the decision that kept them at Bloomingdale are now scrambling to figure out ways to get their children to Durant.

Two dirty words have scared them - Double Sessions.

Now, all of a sudden, the school they called Harvard on the Alafia is not good enough for them. They've heard the praises of Durant's new Copurnican plan and want their "very bright and gifted" child to benefit from this program that allows students to earn more credits than the average bear.

There's been a rash of special assignment requests. That's the little loophole in the system that allows students to attend a school out of their boundaries for educational purposes. Is this an oxymoron?

Students can be assigned to Bloomingdale, for instance, if they want to take Russian. It's not offered anywhere else. Students used to be able to go to Brandon for ROTC until Bloomingdale's program started three years ago. Don't try Durant for drafting or analytical geometry - they offer neither.

So just when those gloating Buckhorners assumed all those River Hills-types would want special assignment to Bloomingdale, as their kids wouldn't

More students requested special assignment to Durant from Bloomingdale than to Bloomingdale.

Go figure.

Anyway, now it seems, with this little thing called double sessions, homes in the Durant school district are in high demand. A friend of mine who lives in Durant district has had her house for sale for nine years (it's overpriced - they really don't want to move), and she has had more activity in the past month than in all nine years.

Guess it will be a good sellers market for homeowners since homes of the non-mobile nature in Durant district are hard to find.

So, parents' maneuvering and finagling may get them where they want to be.

But, if last year taught them anything, it should have taught them to be careful what they wish for.

Reach out and call...

Deputy Pete Maurer. He's Bloomingdale's Cop on the Beat. We belong to him. He belongs to us.

That means, he wants to know when there's a problem in the neighborhood.

Mailboxes being vandalized? Tires being deflated? That empty house across the street attracting unwanted guests? Kids doing wheelies in your freshly plugged yard?

He wants to know. Call him at 247-8555 to report a problem or concern. This at the Brandon Sheriff's substation, so you will have to leave a message. But he will call you back.

Peter Maurer is Bloomingdale's Community Resource Deputy. It's his job to find solutions to problems that persist in the community.

But don't be like the woman in Temple Terrace who waited for her community's CRD to return from vacation before she reported a burglary. There are still those emergencies that require a 911 call.

With the added Mobile Watch volunteers and Deputy Maurer, let's make full use of all our resources and take a zero-tolerance stand on crime in Bloomingdale.

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The Bloomingdale Gazette

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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.

Mobile Watch Report

by LaWayne Wyatt

This month's report covers four months dating back to events in November.

Although the month was fairly quiet, there were several significant events. A party house developed on Isleton Drive in West. Deputies were called to the house on several occasions. And there were four reported incidents of vandalism to the property.

In December, deputies responded to the party house on Isleton at least two more times. On the last visit, the house occupants were told there would be no more warnings. The house has apparently been quiet since then.

Vacant houses also became a target of vandalism and parties in December. Several have been broken into but the worst appears to be 3801 Bell Grande Dr. Most of the rear windows were broken, walls were punched, the screen enclosure torn, trash was dumped throughout the house and the pool pump destroyed. The windows have now been boarded up thanks to several calls by our Community Resource Deputy to the mortgage holder.

Teen parties also began developing in Windsor Woods on a street with no homes and there were several reports of kids checking homes and cars in River Crossings.

January was the busiest of the last four months. The parties in Windsor Woods continued with deputies responding at least four times. Unfortunately, none have been caught yet, since they all scatter as soon as a deputy appears. There were at least four reports of activity near the new construction at the

vandalism of a boat and van and another part house on Cameo Crest.

In February, the activity at the end of Culbreath and the teen parties in Windsor Woods continued. The most serious event was one in which a car load of teens stopped by a couple walking on Natures Way and shot the man with paint balls. His jacket sleeve was torn and his arm was cut by the paint balls.

As many of you noticed, we sent a flyer for the Mobile Watch with the 1996 BHA dues notices. The response has been great. So far more than 30 residents have volunteered and more are still arriving. For those who completed the flyer but have not been called, don't give up. I am working my way through the sheets and setting up orientation meetings. We could still use more volunteers so the number of patrols can be increased even more.

Our thanks to the following who have completed the orientation:

West residents Glen and Joan McKean, Ralph Schindler, Steven Heckel, Ken Furman and Ken Serra. East residents JoAnn MacIntosh, Jeff Garrett, Frank Howard, Emilio Rivera, and Mario Petruzzelli. OakCrest residents Paul Belussi and Angie Lostacco. River Crossings residents Vickie Visca and Craig and Hazel Hughes. Windsor Woods residents John and Peggy Tatka and Dan Coleman. South residents Wendy Panfilio and Eric and Dale Gardner. Also Darrell Lowe of Stratford Place, Lois Kennedy of Pine Grove, Michael and Judy Bailey of Erin

Bits 'N' Pieces



Bloomington Graduate Leads West Point Class

by Shannan Powell
Hughes heads top of class

Cadet John Hughes will graduate first in a class of 1,000 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. this semester. Hughes, a 1992 graduate and senior class president of Bloomington High, has maintained a 3.99/4.0 grade point average while at West Point, based on his academic, military and physical performance.

Bell Shoal's Church of Christ Pastor - Alan Watkins

1996 - Year of the Family



13 Lesson Video Series
"Taking Time for Marriage"
20 minutes per session
plus 20 minute
question
& answer

Family Counseling

Dwight Eppler - Family Life Minister

Counseling at the Refuge Counseling Center

9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship Service

685-0750

2908 Bell Shoals Road

The next step for Hughes will be to Fort Hood, Texas, and the Uniformed Services-Universal Health School (USUHS), where he has been accepted in the army medicine program.

Students join cast of Peter Pan

Several Bloomington students will participate in a performance of *Peter Pan*, an upcoming musical production by the Brandon Youth Theater's spring theater class.

Cast members include Stephanie Hamilton as Wendy, Liz Butts as Liza, Katherine Sullivan as Nibs, Stephanie Melton as Arg, Danielle Virtue as first twin, Bridget Asplund as Second twin, Jonathon Brokaw as Smee, Zachary Litwiller as Starkey, Brynn Dorsey as Mullins, and Jocelyn Asplund as Noodler.

Peter Pan, is the classic story of a boy who wouldn't grow up and his adventures in Neverland with a host of interesting characters. It will be presented at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Dr., Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, March 24 at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 general admission and must be purchased in advance at Center Place.

McKnights welcome first grandchild

Indian Hills residents Bill and Kathy McKnight proudly announce the birth of their grandson Robert James Gross, son of James and Kathy Gross.

Baby Robert, eight pounds, 11 ounces, was born Dec. 24 at St. Joseph's Women's Hospital.

Scouts celebrate anniversary

Cub Scout Pack 610 of St. Stephen Catholic Church held their annual Blue and Gold dinner Feb. 3 in recognition of the anniversary of the chartering of the Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8, 1910. About 150 people joined in the celebration, including the scouts' parents, grandparents

and siblings.

Celebrating their last Blue and Gold dinner as Cub Scouts were Bloomington's Senior Webelos (short for "we be loyal"), Karl Stephanz, Chris Rich, Brandon Eckaus and Tommy Hanlon. They will move up to Boy Scouts next year.



L to R: Karl Stephanz, Dylan Sumner, Chance Sumner, Bobby Hanlon, Ryan Carnley, Rick Zarrella, Chris Rich, and Christopher Hayes.

Other Bloomington Scouts joining in the festivities were first grade Tigers Zeke Bravo, Zachary Pietrzyk, Darren Pope and Jonathan Stephanz; second grade Wolves Kyle Sanders, Brian McMahon and Jack Bello; third grade Bears Bobby Hanlon and Brandon Herbert; and fourth grade Junior Webelos Nicholas Zatkovich, Kevin McMahon, Craig Higgins and Gavin Canan.

During the celebration, the scouts took time to acknowledge the rea-

sons for scouting, which include the influence of character development, citizenship, sportsmanship, strength of family, resourcefulness and development of skills for life.

Pack 610 is now preparing for a joint campout with the Boy Scouts of St. Stephen on March 16 and 17, and the annual Pinewood Derby to be held March 17.

Bloomington runners head to Boston

Three Bloomington residents will battle Boston's "Heartbreak Hill" April 15 during the 100th running of the Boston Marathon. Larry Bass, Susan Calhoun and Bill McKnight, all members of the Brandon Running Association, have met qualifying times for the marathon in previous races and will join more than 25,000 runners for the historic event.

Bass came in under his class's 3-hour, 20-minute required qualifying time in the 1994 Brandon Marathon, running the 26 miles in 3:19.58. Also qualifying in the 1994 Brandon race, Calhoun finished under the required 3:50 time in her class.

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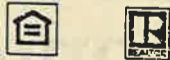
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Church and Synagogue News

All Good Iguanas Go To Heaven

by Ellen Slovacek

He didn't even weigh a pound. He was just a little guy...little and frisky. He loved to climb up my arm and eventually end up sitting on top of my head. Up to the highest point he would go and then peer out over what he thought was his kingdom.

This little green bundle of scales and delight was my son's pet iguana. He named him Glippy Allen. Glippy seemed to be an appropriate name for the spunky creature, and Allen came from Woody Allen, my son's favorite movie director. Having said that, you probably know far more about my son than you need to know. Anyway, back to Glippy.

Scamper is a good way to describe his mode of transportation. He never walked. He scampered. He scampered about his cage. He scampered back into the cage for snack and a nap on his heatrock.

Glippy entertained our family for more than a year with his little iguana tricks. Have you ever seen an iguana swim? It's so cute. He'd tuck his arms and legs behind him, and swoosh his tail back and forth to stay afloat. When he'd get tired, he'd climb aboard a little boat we made for him, and he'd sail around the tub. Back on land, we'd dry him off, and he'd scamper back to his cage.

He got really good at getting in and out of his cage. Sometimes we'd find him at the top of the closet in his favorite hiding spot - underneath a big Mexican sombrero - other times he'd be hanging off the tie rack. Always he would find the way back into his cage.

A couple of weeks ago, I noticed that Glippy wasn't climbing out of cage anymore; nor was he scampering about. Instead he just sat on his heatrock. Eating seemed to be a chore for him. I was concerned, but not alarmed until we tried to cheer him up by giving him a bath. It was then apparent that Glippy was paralyzed from the waist down.

The next morning I took him to the vet and received the sad news that our once happy, scampering little iguana would have to be put to sleep. As I sat there in the vet's office stroking his back, I tried hard to fight back the tears. They came anyway.

Little Glippy would have to be put to sleep. I wanted to grab him and run home and make him better, but I knew it was not to be. And as I signed the necessary papers, I felt as though I was signing a death warrant. My hand shook and I cried some more.

It has been a few weeks now, and sometimes when I go into my son's room, I still expect to see him scampering about his cage, or sunbathing on the windowsill.

For those of you who have lost a pet, you understand the feeling of loss and you may wonder "where are they now?" I like to think there is a place in heaven for animals when they die. They have spirits, just as we do. And when their body is laid down in the earth, their spirit will rise to its heavenly home.

Would heaven be heaven without our pets? Relationships run too deep to think that we'll never see our loved ones again; be they pets or be they people. Heaven would not be heaven without our loved ones.

When I close my eyes, I can see Glippy scampering about again. He's happy and whole and he's in his heavenly home.

Here's What's Happening:

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon invites the public to the Passover Seder on Thursday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Robert Goodman will conduct the Seder services along with the traditional meal.

The Seder will be held at the Camberley Plaza Hotel in Sabal Park. The cost is \$25 for adult members and \$30 for nonmembers; \$12.50 for member children ages 3-12, and \$15 for nonmembers. Reservation deadline is March 22. For information or reservation, call 681-6547.

St. Mark United Church of Christ will hold an auction on March 30 from 9 a.m. until every item is gone. Preceding the auction will be a coffee and dessert sale. After the auction will be a lunch sale.

Enjoy a night of music, praise and worship every Saturday at the **First United Methodist Church**, 120 N. Knight Ave., Brandon. The program is held at 7 p.m. in the gym. Large screen videos, live drama skits as well as inspiring messages from the Rev. Jim Walker will all add to the casual evening.

"The Living Easter Cross" will be March 29-31, at First United Methodist. Tickets are now available by calling 689-4161 or 689-4901.

If one day your doorbell rings and there standing at your door are several smiling faces with a loaf of hot bread and a brochure, be assured these are not some lunatics, but members of the **Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale**. In this fast-growing community, what a nice way to get acquainted. Watch for them. I hear their bread is delicious!

Each Thursday beginning this month at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Pastor Philip Makari of the Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale will lead an in depth study of the Book of Revelation. Area residents are invited to attend. There is no charge. For further information, call 654-3699.

Also coming up is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel with Dr. Makari to his native land of the Middle East. The 17-day tour will include roundtrip airfare from Florida, five star hotels, meals, tips, admission tickets to sites, ground transportation, a fulltime tour guide, Nile cruise, a week in the Holy Land and more. For information on this comprehensive tour, call 684-3596.

Well, how are you doing on your New Year's resolution to lose those extra pounds and inches? If you're looking for a way to get fit, the Women's Ministry of **Bell Shoals Baptist Church** is offering step aerobic classes for women.

Classes are offered Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$2 per class. Child care is offered at the mid-day class with a reservation one week in advance. Call 689-4229 for further information.

Also at Bell Shoals is a chance to express your creativity by participating in the Fruitful Hands Craft Ministry. Make a different craft each week. Projects for March include a carrot bunny, spring floral basket, and a "Let It Snow(man)" stocking pin. Classes are held each Tuesday morning.

An evening Fruitful Hands "Make-it/Take-it" class will be offered on Thursday, March 14, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. All of the March projects will be offered in this evening class.

Call Cynthia Alford at 661-5561 for daytime class information and Linda Donahue at 677-0599 for evening class information.

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685-5819

Easter

SUNDAY SERVICES

April 7, 1996

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Come Celebrate and Worship
the Resurrection of Our Lord

Calvary Church

Meeting at Bloomingdale Senior High School
1700 E. Bloomingdale Avenue, Brandon
Calvary Offices - 653-0422

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Living Savior Lutheran Church

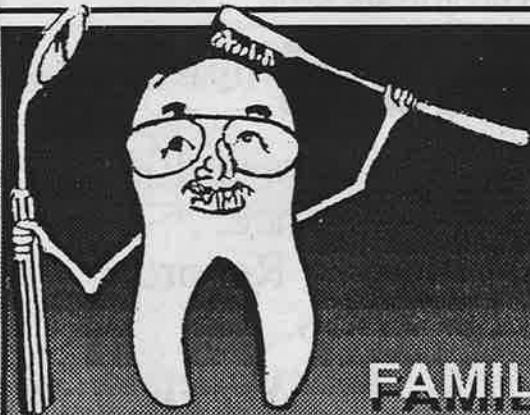
April 5th Good Friday
7:30 p.m. Service

Easter Sunday April 7th

Easter Brunch-8:30 a.m.


Celebration Service-10:00 a.m.

3401 Lithia Pinecrest Road
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Double Sessions Q & A

The following answers were provided to the most asked parent questions by Bloomington High administrators.



Why are high schools going to double sessions?

The district is completing a reorganization which had reduced force busing, eliminated single grade centers, and implemented middle schools. These changes have added the ninth grade to senior high schools, increasing the load on those facilities. Construction of four new high schools was planning and is occurring to accommodate the change. However, growth is straining capacity beyond the planned increases. An attempt is made to organize schools to that if double sessions is required they occur in the senior high schools. This is because older students are better able to function without supervision and to fill the hours they are released with either jobs or extracurricular activities.

Why must we have double sessions?

A double session schedule is a way of increasing the capacity of the school system without spending tax dollars for new construction. Double sessions doubles the capacity of the school.

Do double sessions mean an interior school?

A school on double sessions can be a superior school. A good example occurred in Hillsborough County. In the early 1980s Brandon High was on double sessions for nearly 20 years. Despite construction of a new facility in the 1970s. The school was recognized as a National School of Excellence, a first in the state.

What are the disadvantages of double sessions?

The schedule fragments the student body. A split student body fractures friendships, inhibits school spirit and student morale and creates some scheduling problems for both the academics and extracurricular programs. It doesn't result in a decrease in student contact time with teachers. It increases some school overhead costs such as transportation and school food service. The difficulties associated with maintaining an academic focus increases particularly during the first period of the first session and the last period of the second session.

Will changes in the curriculum be required?

The present curriculum frameworks, course guides and semester examinations were designed for 50-minute classes. This was successful when schools were on a 7-period day. Other than decreasing the time spent on guided practice in class, teachers accommodate the change in time by changing the delivery of instruction.

Will students attending the first session have breakfast available in the cafeteria and will there be lunch available for students on both shifts?

It is expected that the school food service will provide a breakfast program before the start of the first session. The school food service will have lunch available before the start of the second shift for afternoon session students, and after the end of the first shift for morning session students.

Can students take classes during the shift for which they are not scheduled?

Generally the answer will be no. There will occasionally be a need to schedule a morning session student in the afternoon or an afternoon session student in the morning due to the academic needs of the students and the courses available in each shift. Generally, however, the courses available in each shift will reflect the grade levels of the students assigned to those shifts.

Can all students participate in the extracurricular programs and varsity athletics?

Yes, there will be a full range of extracurricular programs. Because we believe in the value of participation in band, chorus, drama, athletics and other extracurricular activities, we will make an effort to adjust the schedule of students to prevent conflicts between their assigned sessions and the schedule of practices required for participation. **Will Bloomington provide supervision on campus for students before or after the session in which they are enrolled?**

The overcrowded conditions that require double sessions are the very conditions which preclude such arrangements.

When will sessions begin and end?

Coordination of school bus schedules is required to set the bell schedule. We have begun our planning with the expectation that the first session will run from 6:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The second session will start at 12:25 p.m. and end at 5:55 p.m. Each session will have six 50-minute classes and five minutes of passing time.

When will double sessions end?

When sufficient money is available to build new senior high schools to accommodate the extra students in the double session schools, they will be returned to single sessions.

Are there any concessions for families with students who ordinarily would be on separate sessions and would they be allowed to attend the same session?

No. The curriculum offerings for the morning session would be primarily geared to juniors and seniors and the curriculum for the afternoon session would be geared to 9th and 10th graders.

Are the best and perhaps most experienced teachers all assigned to the morning session?

No. Teachers will be asked which session they would prefer to teach. Where possible, the requests will be honored. However, another factor to be used in assignments will be the teachers' past experience in teaching particular subjects. In addition, it will be the principal's responsibility to assign a mix of both experienced and inexperienced teachers to each session.

Do both sessions have equal administrative leadership, guidance services and itinerant services?

Yes. These services are provided based on the number of students attending a particular session. All necessary services will be available regardless which session a teacher and/or student is assigned.

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Kids Calendar Rated G

Girl Scout Sunday

Girls Scouts in Suncoast Girl Scout Council invite members of the local community to a Girl Scout Sunday celebration on March 10 at Kinds Avenue Baptist Church, 2602 S. Kings Ave., from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Admission is one can of food to be donated to the food pantry at the Kings Avenue Baptist Church.

The program for the celebration includes a flag ceremony, songs, a candlelight ceremony, a responsive reading and a message delivered by the Rev. Charles M. Richard, Jr., pastor of the church. Refreshments will be served including a birthday cake in honor of the 84th birthday of the founding of Girl Scouting in the United States.

Suncoast Girl Scout Council serves more than 13,500 through the trained leadership of more than 5,000 adults throughout Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

For information, call Connie George at 684-4958, or Linda Scott at 281-4475, Ext. 242.

Peter Pan

The Brandon Youth Theater will present a musical production of *Peter Pan* at Center Place. Shows will be Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23, 8 p.m. and on Sunday, March 24 at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 general admission and must be purchased in advance at Center Place.

Other Plays coming to Center Place are *Three Little Pigs* on March 15 at 7 p.m. The daytime show on the 11th is sold out. Stage Productions combines all the charm and comedy of the family classic with plenty of singing, dancing and even a rapping big Bad Wolf. Through the use of creative dramatics, the children help the actors and learn a valuable lesson.

On April 11, *Beauty and the Beast* will be

staged at 10:45 a.m. Tickets for both productions are \$2.50 and must be purchased in advance at the Center Place office.

Lunch With Easter Bunny

The annual Lunch with the Easter Bunny will be held at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 30. Lunch begins at 11 a.m. and will be followed by an egg hunt. The cost is \$2.50 per person and tickets must be purchased in advance at Center Place.

On Exhibit

The area's talented young artists will be honored with a Youth In Art Show during the entire month of March at Center Place. Works of art students from Eastern Hillsborough graded 8-12 will be on display. The show will be judged and ribbon and cash awards will be presented at a reception on Thursday, March 14 from 7 to 8 p.m. The reception is open to the public and is sponsored by the Women's Service League.

Talent Show

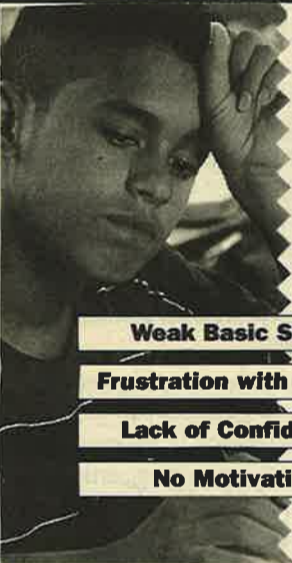
Children in all grade levels at Alafia Elementary School will entertain parents and guests at the annual Talent Show on Friday, March 22, at 7 p.m. Residents of Bloomingdale are also welcomed to attend. The event is sponsored by the Alafia Student Council.

Easter Visit Benefits Sick Children

Mrs. Easter Bunny will visit children at Eckerd Drugs in Bloomingdale Square between 1 and 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, for charity.

Janet Koszty, manager of the store's Eckerd Express Photo Department, said photographs will be taken of children with Mrs. Bunny for \$2 each.

Proceeds will be donated to the Children's Miracle Network.



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Lithia Lynx



Bike Rodeo A Success

by Ron Pogorzelski

More than 400 parents and children attended a bike and skate rodeo at Lithia Springs Elementary last month. Kids dodged obstacles on a hazard course while parents and volunteers judged their skills. At various stations students worked with volunteers to learn about moving hazards, simulated potholes, signs, cars and bushes.

They were taught balancing exercises and steering by pedalling slowly with the winner being the last person to cross the finish line without touching the ground.

Nineteen area businesses and organizations participated in the event sponsored by the Lithia Springs PTA and Arvida River Hills.

The nearly 200 children bikers and skaters registered and had their equipment go through a 41 point checklist to make sure everything was safe.

Helmets were required. Loaners were made available for those without. The emphasis on safety wasn't dull, however, as children ran a gauntlet of tests and exercises.

Free snacks and drawings for prizes added to the festive day that ended with a bike ride or skate from the school to the River Hills clubhouse and return.



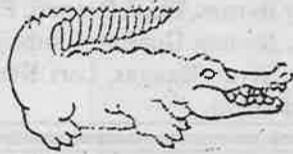
Participants in Lithia Springs bike and skate rodeo listen to instructions before maneuvering one of the many obstacle courses manned by parent volunteers.

Today (March 9) Lithia Springs will hold a parent workshop/mini-conference from 8:30 to noon on "Teaching and Learning Connection". The workshop has six different sessions that can help parents bridge the gap between what they learned in school and what their children are learning today.

The sessions include Preparing young authors, Literature, Who's Afraid of Math, Creative thinking, What's Happening to Your Education Dollars, and How Children are Learning Conflict Resolution in Solving Problems.

Fifteen Lithia Springs teachers and Dr. Michael Bookman (educational dollars) will conduct the sessions.

Gator Tales



Alafia Sets Book Fair

by Ruthe Brunson

This week is Book Fair at Alafia. Parents can visit the book fair in the media center before and after school and on Thursday, March 14 until 7 p.m. Then parents and children can enjoy Family Fun Night sponsored by the PTA.

Last week students participated in the National PTA Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness Week. Each day had a special theme. For example, one day students wore their clothes backwards for "turn your back on drugs," and on another day children received Hershey's Hugs candy for the "Hugs not Drugs" message.

Third graders from Alafia's Chorus performed at Cracker Country during the recent Florida State Fair. They sang and played games similar to those of children in the mid-1800's. The children also dressed in clothing from that period in Florida history.

Mrs. Shaw said the students sang songs from an agricultural lifestyle in Florida that was foreign to them, so they had history



Mr. Goldentyre teaches Alafia youngsters the strategy of chess playing.

lessons with each song they learned. Parents made the children's outfits including knickers for some of the boys and petticoats and bonnets for the girls.

"In order to perform in Cracker Country, everything must be a replica of that period in history," Mrs. Shaw said.

The 43-member fifth grade chorus also performed at the Fair. They presented a program of American folk songs at the Performing Arts Dome.

Children at Alafia celebrated Valentine's Day with a heart smart walk-a-thon. Pledges collected went to benefit the physical education program. A class from the primary and intermediate levels to raise the most money based on the number of students in the classes will receive a party. Pledge money was still being turned in at press time so a winner had not yet been announced.

Chess Club: Alafia has begun a chess club. It is open to all students at the school. Experience is not necessary. Joel Goldentyre, a parent volunteer, is the club's sponsor, and Mrs. Shaw is the faculty sponsor. The club meets every Tuesday after school for an hour.

Response so far has been enthusiastic, said Goldentyre, who believes chess helps children think logically and the lessons learned include thinking before acting and there are

consequences for wrong moves, as in life.

Coming Up:

Children will enjoy Field Days at the school March 21 and 22. It's just the beginning of a fun-filled two days. On Friday the 22nd, the student council will sponsor its annual Talent Show. Refreshments are being provided by the PTA. Parents and residents are invited to attend Friday evening at 7.

Residents who would like to volunteer at Alafia are invited to a coffee March 21 at 8:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria.

Parents who are interested in serving on the PTA board next school year are asked to contact Suzie Wiesenhart at 654-1123. The nominating commit-

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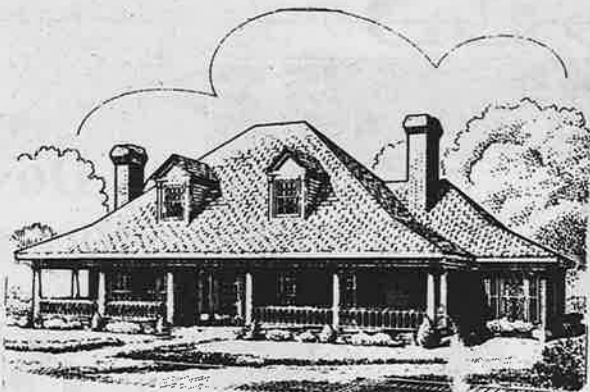
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Bruin Beat



Auction Rewards Students Special to *The Gazette*

Gifted and advanced 8th graders at Burns participated in a Bear Bucks auction on Feb. 23. The students are members of the Kodiak Clan, a pilot program to prepare students and teachers for the middle school concept of education.

Bear Bucks is part of a positive reward discipline plan where students acquire the play money for being properly prepared for class, getting high quiz and test grades, good conduct and performing friendly tasks for others. By the

same token, students must relinquish the bear bucks by being unprepared, needing locker passes, and unacceptable behavior. The teachers involved said the program has helped to motivate the students on their team.

During the auction students bid on donated items such as gift certificates, trinkets, candy and school supplies. The hottest bidding went for homework and test "passes" and a "Geke" button picturing a favorite teacher.

Students at Burns Junior High were named to the principal's honor roll for attaining straight A's for the second grading period.

They are 8th graders Kendra Andrews, Erika Barry, Monica Belford, Jeneen Bellizzi, Elizabeth Darby, Andrew Emery, Kelly Evans, Lisa Fairchild, Jason Goodman, Catrine Grady, Laura Hammett, Jessica Higgins, Allison Kibler, Andrew Kuo, Colleen Ladner; also Meghan McMahon, Nathan Morrow, Kevin O'Halloran, Christie Pollock, Allison Remley, Mary Rhey, Marie Selko, Kevin Smithers, Ashlee Stahl, Vicki Weyrauch, and Alphonse Wichrowski.

Ninth graders are Matthew Bryington, Jennifer Dean,

10th graders, nine 11th graders and eleven 12th graders.

The 10th graders to make straight A's are Beth Bauer, James Duvall, Fabian Fernandez, Meagan Galinger, Chris Gatlun, Helena Sorensen, Tiffany Tharpe and Vivian Ryan.

The 11th graders are David Banks, Peter Belford, Angela Covington, Caroline Dillingham, Peter Galgay, Josh Latham, Elizabeth Menietti, Christine Nichols and Diane Standaert.

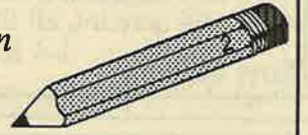
Seniors who earned the principal's honor roll are Christy Barnes, Brian Bennett, Patricia Berry, Wendy Brown, Roman Gorelik, Lindsay Groover, Kimberly Hunter, Ryan Kangas, Lori Kensel, Brian Okay and Preston Whitt.

Jose Gonzalez, Joy Griffin, Jennifer Hopkins, Christopher Kidder, Shih-Shan Lang, Jennifer Leman, Christopher Marshall, Paul Michalak, Christine Norwood, Scott Sandoval, David Taylor, Krista Umbarger and Benjamin Valentine.

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Bulls Eye



Cadets Sponsor Drill Meet

ROTC units from across Florida gathered at Charlie Harris Stadium at Bloomingdale High on Feb. 17 for the first annual Gulf Coast Invitational Drill Meet. The top three units earned the right to compete in the Florida State Drill-Off in April.

Bloomingdale, as sponsors of the event, did not compete. Among the 16 schools participating 37 individual awards were given and the overall winners were Hialeah, 1st place; EauGallie, 2nd; and Ocala Forest, 3rd.

Color Guard and Drill Teams competed in three categories - Inspection, Regulation, and Exhibition.

"It went very well," said ROTC member, Cadet Major Kathy Bullard. "About the only thing that went wrong is that it was very cold."

"It was a good opportunity for young cadets to hold leadership positions. It was entirely student run."

Bloomingdale, which competed at Vero Beach, earlier this year, placed 2nd in Drill Team Commanders and was 4th overall in Regulation. They have since competed at EauGallie and on March 16 will travel to the Satellite Drill Meet in Satellite Beach.

All this competition is good practice and gives Bloomingdale a chance to see the other schools' units before the state meet April 20 at Patrick Air Force Base. Last year, Bloomingdale took second place overall in Regulation.

Top Grades

Students named to the principal's honor roll for the second grading period at Bloomingdale High include eight



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Chad Welcomes Teens, Youngs Adults To His World

by Rozel Sciulli

Chad Prestridge has a hang-out. It's a world he created with the help of his stepfather Ken Brown, and it's a world he hopes kids in the Bloomingtondale area will come to enjoy as much as he does.

Chad's World is an entertainment center for teens and young adults on Bell Shoals next door to Beef O'Brady's. Prestridge has filled the center with all his favorite games including pool tables, electronic dart boards, foosball tables, air hockey, and video arcades. There's also a snack bar and a juke box in the room decorated with James Dean, Marilyn Monroe and Humphrey Bogart framed posters.

Kids will know Chad; he's the one playing pool from a different level.

Chad is a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the chest down. The 6-foot-3 former college football prospect sees his world from a different perspective since a diving accident 10 years ago.

"It's the only life I have," he said. "I may as well make it worthwhile."

Chad developed an interest in arcades when he was a student at Memphis State University where he earned a Masters Degree in accounting last May.

One of his friends in Memphis worked in an arcade and Chad said he hung out there. He and his friend had planned to open an arcade together someday.

At 25, Chad has attendants who assist him twice a day, but he doesn't give in to

his disability. He drives a customized van and is still involved in sports. He sponsors as well as coaches a team at Bloomingtondale Little League.

When Chad moved to Fox Run to live with his mother and stepfather it was apparent youngsters in Bloomingtondale had nowhere but shopping center parking lots to hang out.

"I have a daughter who's a senior at Bloomingtondale," Brown said. "There's no place for kids to hang out. We saw a need and Chad had the interest."

Brown, a retired United States Air Force Colonel, said the military bases had youth activities centers that were safe, secure places for kids to have fun.

Chad's World is fashioned after such an activity center. There is constant adult supervision and even a closed circuit television that monitors the game areas. Smoking is prohibited, although the adults who attend, do go outside to smoke.

Brown said parents who patronize Beef O'Brady's sports eatery next door, enjoy being able to drop the kids off at Chad's World.

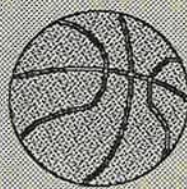
The center, which appeals to ages 12-24, has caught on for weekend fun, but Chad hopes kids will attend after school and that it will become a popular place for team gatherings and birthday parties.

Chad's World is open 2 to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays.

Bulls, Bruins Athletic Calendar

Baseball and Softball

Mar. 9 at Plant City
Baseball at Reds Stadium
Mar. 12 at King
Mar. 15 Gaither
Mar. 16 King
Mar. 22 at East Bay
Mar. 23 Brandon
Mar. 26 Durant
Mar. 28 Hillsborough
Spring Break Saladino Tourney at King



Golf

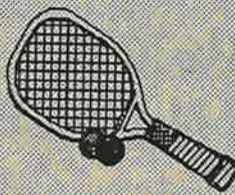
Mar. 11 Gaither (B) at RiverHills
Mar. 14 Chamberlain (G) at Babe Zaharias
Mar. 15 vs. Durant, Plant (B) at MacDill AFB
Mar. 18 Hillsborough (G) at RiverHills
Plant, Chamberlain (B) at RiverHills
Mar. 20 Plant, Brandon (G) at Bloomingtondale GC
Mar. 25 Jesuit (B) at RiverHills
Mar. 26 East Bay (G) at Summerfield



Tennis

at Hidden Palms

Mar. 11 East Bay (G)
Mar. 14 Gaither (B)
Mar. 18 Hillsborough (G)
Mar. 21 Jefferson (B)
Mar. 25 King (G)
Mar. 28 Leto (B)



Note: When girls are home, boys are away vs. same school.

Track & Field

Mar. 9 Nash Higgins Relays at Leto
Mar. 12 King - dual meet
Mar. 14 Burns, Buchanan and Mann at Bloomingtondale
Mar. 16 Griffin/Manuel Relays at Hillsborough
Mar. 19 at East Bay - dual meet
Mar. 20 Jr. High Eastern Div. at Armwood
Mar. 26 Ed Wells Invite at Clearwater
Jr. High Championship at Gaither - 5:30
Mar. 30 Florida Relays at Gainesville



Horse Show at Paragrim Riding Academy

March 24, Sunday
10am-3pm
Free Admission

Directions: 50 yds. east of Bell Shoals on Myrtle Road, 2.2 mi. south of Bloomingtondale Avenue
689-1814

If you think this looks like fun, please come to the show and learn how this could be you.



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★ CORPORATE FUNCTIONS ★ ANNIVERSARIES
★ GOLF AND TENNIS OUTINGS



Call 653-1554, Ext. 39 For Reservations

Sport Spots

Members of the Brandon Running Association, which include many Bloomingtondale residents, are gearing up for the O'Charley's Shamrock Classic on March 17 at Sabal Park. This is one of three major races of the association.

Registration is open for the 5k, 10k and one-mile fun run. The fee is \$12 in

advance or \$15 on race day. Entry fees can be mailed to the Brandon Running Association, P.O. Box 1564, Brandon 33511.

Last year more than 300 runners participated in the St. Patrick's Day race. For information call Jesse Sarmiento at 671-6148.



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Tax Topics

Filing Foul-ups

by Robert J. Morris, CPA

Check and recheck your forms W/2 and 1099 for accuracy before filing. Each year many of these forms are printed incorrectly and only you can review them accurately for errors. If you fail to receive your W/2 or 1099 then first contact the employer and ask for a duplicate copy. Most of the time you will receive total co-operation and be able to file your return on time.

If you do not get a satisfactory response, then contact your local IRS office and provide them with the employer name, address and tax ID number if you have it. The IRS will then take steps to help ensure you receive the forms.

If this still fails and time is getting short then file a substitute form with your return. Complete form 4852 for missing W/2's and use your pay stubs or best estimate to calculate the information.

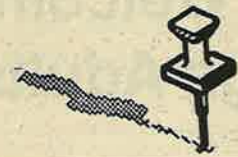
A missing 1099 is less complicated although you should still contact the

IRS and report the problem if the employer does not respond to your request. Then just add up all payments to report on your business Sch C because no form is required to be filed and therefore do not calculate form 4852 as in a missing W/2.

Finally, those taxpayers who do not have the cash needed to pay the amount due on the tax return have Uncle Sam's bank to borrow from. You can file with an installment agreement form 9465 and pay periodically throughout the year. The IRS charges a fee for this loan and also penalties for failure to pay and interest will be added as time goes by. Better to borrow elsewhere, if possible, and pay the tax in full.

Seek out experienced tax professionals to calculate your lowest tax liability and beware of unprofessional tax preparers. Ask your tax preparer for his/her professional training and continuing education so you can make a more informed decision on who to hire.

Business Notes



My Kids Closet

Roberta Rochester had found such good buys working for another consignment store in Brandon that she decided to go into business for herself.

My Kids Closet opened Monday in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. It specializes in quality, clean consignment items for children from infants to elementary.

Rochester already has a good supply of brand name children's furniture, accessories, toys, and clothing. But, she said, she looks for area residents to bring in their quality consignments.

Store hours are 10 to 5 Monday through Wednesday; 10-7, Thursday and Friday; and 10-5 on Saturdays.

Busy Month for Russell

Realtor Luana Russell, a top East Hillsborough County home sales professional with Sun Cove Realty, Inc., has been recognized as the Top Closing Sales Associate in the Brandon office for January.

To date, the Bloomingdale resident, has moved more than 1,000 families through her 5-Star Real Estate Program.

Alafia Elementary School benefited from a program of a different kind from

Russell when they received trees as part of Arbor Day celebrations. The children also had lessons on the importance of trees and why they are crucial for the survival of the planet.

"These trees are part of our Five-Star Service Trees for Life Program," Russell said. "By planting them at home, children can add to the environment and watch the trees grow as they get older. We want them to plant a tree and reap a harvest."

Russell donated the trees to the students of teachers Alice Sperandio, Deloris Nelson and Kit O'Rourke. The children also received brochures on caring for trees.

More than 100 real estate professionals from Coldwell Banker West Central Florida operations join about 7,000 of the company's sales associates and employees from across North America last month as they celebrated the 90th anniversary of the company in San Francisco, the city in which it was founded.

Among the area's 100 professionals were Bloomingdale area residents Mary Odum and Frank and Rebecca St. Pierre.

Analysis of Bloomingdale's Single Family Re-Sale Homes

by Michael Davis

This neighborhood analysis includes data taken from the Multiple Listing Service and is believed to be accurate but is not guaranteed. It is for the calendar year 1995.

Calendar year 1995

Total Sold	241	High cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$91.70
High Sale Price	\$550,000	Low cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$39.20
Low Sale Price	\$67,900	Median Cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$57.40
Median Sale Price	\$102,500	Median Age	1986
		Median Home Size	1,958

Number of Units Sold by Price Range	Median Days To Close	Median Home Size
Under \$70,000	1	
\$70,000 - \$100,000	105	89
\$100,000 - \$150,000	99	91
\$150,000 - \$200,000	26	113
\$200,000 - \$250,000	7	210
\$250,000 - \$300,000	1	322
Over \$300,000	2	93

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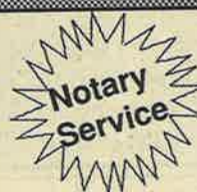
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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.



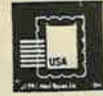
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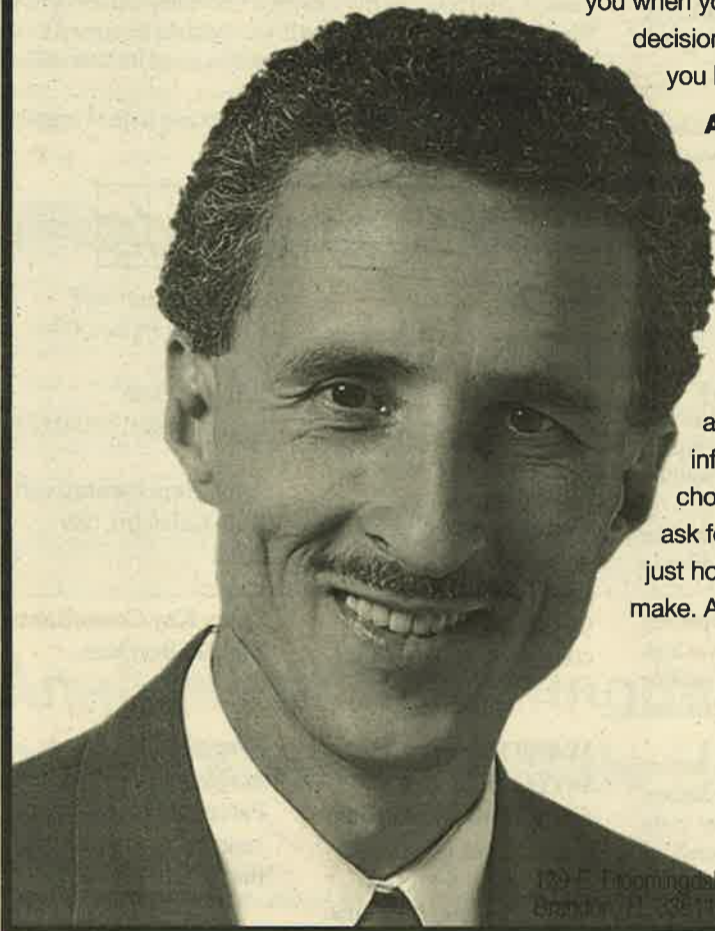
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Michael Has The Right Prescription

As one of the area's leading real estate professionals, Michael Davis understands what a critically important time it is for you when you buy or sell the single most largest investment you will make in your life—your home. There are decisions to be made that will affect your financial well-being, for many years to come. It is a time where you have to rely on the advice and direction of a qualified real estate professional.

A Critical Decision

Michael would like to help you and your family during this critical time. He is one of the area's most successful and respected Realtors.® He can bring to your transaction years of experience and knowledge. And as your neighbor, he brings an intimate understanding of your community, its character, its values and ethics. But Michael also understands that like selecting a family doctor or dentist, choosing a real estate professional is an important and very personal decision. You owe it to yourself to take the time and interview several agents before you decide. To help you in making a sound decision, Michael would like to send you, free of charge, a special report entitled: **29 Critical Questions To Ask A Realtor® Before You List.** This informative report provides you with a list of questions designed to help you make sure you are choosing the very best professional to handle your very important move. Simply call Michael and ask for your free copy. You don't need to feel obligated to using Michael's services in any way. He just hopes the information can help you, his neighbor, in an important choice you have to make. And, of course, Michael would love to be your family Realtor!®



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