

## Easter Bunnies are hoppy house pets

By Laura Frazier

As spring and the Easter holiday approach, many area pet stores feature rabbits for sale as pets. Surely at first glance bunnies are adorable and loveable, but do they really make good house pets?

The Kelly family of Bloomingdale East thinks so. Mimi and Dan Kelly and their three children Brigette, Kevin and Caitlin welcomed their rabbit, Peter, into their family 5

years ago. The Kellys all agree that Peter is a very affectionate, gentle creature who thankfully requires only a limited amount of time and attention.

Peter is housed in a bunny hutch on the Kelly's screened lanai. During the day, the door to his cage is left open so that he can hop about the patio. Mimi sees this space to roam as optimal for house rabbits. "I always feel bad for the rabbits that are continually caged. Peter obviously loves to have some freedom", she says. The rabbit can often be found playing on the lanai, pushing his toy ball around with his nose and chasing it. The Kellys delight in their affectionate pet, who will approach them fearlessly in hopes of being petted. "Peter will sit still to be petted for as long as you are willing", says Mimi. The Tampa Bay Humane Society recommends that although a rabbit does need a hutch for sleeping and for when he cannot be attended, he should be taken out and played with and socialized as a part of the family, just as you would do with a dog or a cat. And as with a cat, rabbits can be housebroken. The Kelly's bunny is litter trained, and uses the boxes



provided in his cage and on the lanai with fairly good accuracy. Clean up consists of a weekly sweeping of the floor and changing of the bedding.

The Kelly's rabbit has enjoyed excellent health, and area veterinarians report that rabbits are very hearty pets with very few major health problems. Laurie Piana, Service Coordinator of Animal Medical Center at 1102 East Bloomingdale Avenue, concurs. "We have only two clients at this facility who bring their rabbits in to see Dr. Antunano", says Piana. "Generally rabbits are very good natured animals with few medical problems. We do have one rabbit owner who needs to bring her bunny in monthly," she says smiling, "to have its teeth trimmed! Every month we trim down the teeth and sure enough within a few weeks the bottom teeth have grown back over the

*Continued on page 8*

### In this issue...

- 6 Sheriff's substation celebrates first anniversary
- 10 Bloomingdale mural artist
- 12 "Cases for kids" program
- 13 Yard of the Month
- 14 Pete's beat  
Bloomingdale community station notes
- 15 Set the record straight
- 16 The return of the Yo-Yo
- 19 B. H. S. notes
- 20 Signs of spring
- 22 Bloomingdale special taxing district

# Your inside connections

## The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.  
Valrico, FL 33594  
Voice Mail: 681-2051  
E-mail: BHA-INC@ALTAVISTA.NET  
(no website)

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### Meetings

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

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# REAL ESTATE UPDATE

By Luana Russell

## LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

**QUESTION: How important is the condition of the home when selling?**

The better the condition of the home, the better price it will bring and the quicker it will sell.

Fortunately, condition is something we have control over. Repair those items that you have been putting off - a fresh coat of paint, thorough cleaning and organizing - can do wonders for a sale. Neatness counts. Eliminate clutter, make the home look as spacious as possible.

One area to pay special attention to is the front door. Be sure it's clean, windows washed and freshly painted. You never get a second chance at a first impression.

\*\*\*\*\*

## COMPETING AGAINST NEW HOMES

**QUESTION: I am considering selling my older home. Should I be concerned about selling it in competition with new homes?**

There are trade-offs in both directions. Older homes usually offer more living space for the dollar and are usually built on larger lots. The location of a resale home may be more desirable. Also, there is no guesswork in action. Landscaping has matured, neighborhoods have formed and a buyer doesn't have to be concerned about how the area will develop. It already has.

On the other side, new homes may be more energy efficient and require less repair and maintenance.

\*\*\*\*\*

## IF MUST LEAVE BEFORE SALE

**QUESTION: I will have to relocate before my home is sold. What arrangements should I make with my Realtor before leaving town?**

Be sure the Realtor has your new address and telephone number. A bank deposit slip may be given to the Realtor to facilitate the title transfer. Insurance coverage should be verified. Sometimes policy revisions are needed if a property is vacant. Also, landscaping has to be done, final meter readings have to be made at the appropriate time (but utilities should be left on until the closing).

# Construction



*Building continues in the Bloomingdale area. A new Chiropractor's office is being built on south Bell Shoals next to the Goodyear Tire and Service Center. Construction is being completed by the John Lambert Construction Company. Photo by Mack Austin*

## Welcome To Bloomingdale

JoAnne and Tim Shafer are proud to announce the arrival of Sean Timothy Shafer. Sean was born January 19th to the happy parents.

# Letters

Dear BHA and STD

...thanks for the great job you did this past holiday season around Bloomingdale West. The red bows and Christmas lights were an especially nice greeting coming to or leaving the area, and I kept thinking: "I've got to let them know their efforts are appreciated!" Thanks! And thanks for making our corner of the world a nice place to call home. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely  
Lydia Harrod

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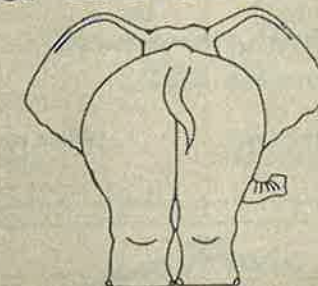


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# Bloomingtondale community sheriff's substation celebrates first anniversary

By Mack Austin  
B.A.C.C. Project Coordinator

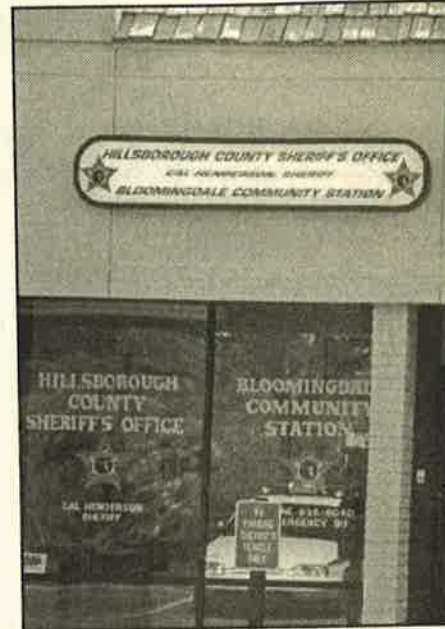
"The first year has really flown by since the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Community Substation opened its doors on March 7, 1999.", according to Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer and Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano.

Since that date activity at the substation has increased not only during normal office hours but also during evenings and weekends when other deputies use the substation for conducting official business. "Many Hillsborough County Sheriffs Deputies and several other agents from county, state and federal agencies utilize the substation office to coordinate activities or to complete required documentation", according to Deputy Maurer. "Members of the community have commented on how great it is to see so many patrol cars in the area.", noted Officer Capitano.

One of the best community oriented activities to come from the substation has been the formation of the Bloomingtondale Area Community Council (B.A.C.C.). This community council is made up of members of the community who volunteer to come together to discuss areas of concern and to coordinate activities which benefit or improve the community. These projects involve all types of topics, ranging from traffic safety, home security,

waste collection and many other subjects which concern homeowners and parents in a community like Bloomingtondale. A list of B.A.C.C. projects is available for review at the substation.

Special congratulations are in order to Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer, Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano and to all of the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Deputies who patrol the Bloomingtondale area. Our special thanks is extended to all of them for their hard work and sincere desire to protect and serve the members of the Bloomingtondale community. We wish them well and offer our support to make Bloomingtondale the best community it can be.



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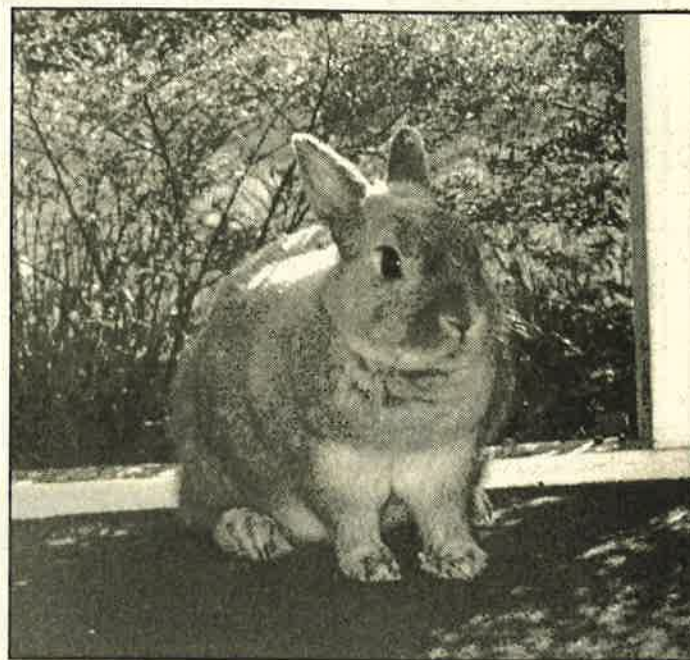
# Easter bunnies

Continued from page 1

upper lip," Piana says. "This is an abnormality however and very rare. Most rabbits do just wonderfully and have little or no major health problems. As with any outside pet," she adds, "there are sometimes fleas and ear mites, but those can be dealt with effectively." Piana cautions that the popular flea serums such as Advantage must not be used on rabbits or any other animals not listed on the packaging. Other safety precautions to be aware of include the importance of protecting rabbits from temperature extremes, predators, electrical cords, rough handling and poisons. The Humane Society recommends that rabbits be spayed or neutered. Vaccinations are not required, but bunnies should be de-wormed.

As for a rabbit's diet, the House Rabbit Society, whose primary consideration is the welfare of house rabbits, recommends feeding bunnies commercial rabbit chow supplemented by carrots and occasional treats. Breeders caution against providing lettuce or cabbage as a snack since leafy greens can cause digestive problems and even death in pet rabbits. (remember the rabbits passing out in Mr. MacGregor's garden?!). The Kellys feed Peter the recommended rabbit chow and alfalfa, with occasional snacks of a fruit and nut rabbit treat mix. But for Peter, nothing hits the spot quite like a banana. "He loves bananas so much," says Mimi, "that his back actually twitches when you give him some!" Fresh bananas or the dried variety that appear in the treat mix are the Kellys' bribe of choice at night when it's time for Peter to return to his hutch, a suggestion that the family would like to pass along. "We used to chase him around and corner him when it was time to go back in his cage, and he would just be so upset. Finally we figured out that if we put his treat in the hutch he would gladly retreat on his own."

The general consensus on the disposition of rabbits is that they are indeed very sociable and sweet animals. Occasional nips and scratches are inevitable but, as Mimi notes, "The kicking and scratching that occurs seems to be instinctual rather than aggressive," as it only seems to happen when the rabbit is being picked up suddenly or handled in a precarious manner. The Kellys would recommend rabbits as pets to families who have some space to provide the freedom they



thrive on, and a bit of time for care and attention. Mimi appreciates the fact that compared to other pets they require very little maintenance and can be left alone for extended periods of time if need be. Rabbits are inquisitive, sociable animals that by all accounts are well suited to be house pets. They are indeed lovable, gentle animals (did you know they can purr?), and can be trained with a little patience and attention. If you decide to bring a real Easter bunny into your home this spring, you may find it to be a very enjoyable, low maintenance addition to your family.

## Choosing A Pet Rabbit

Look for:

1. Shiny eyes
2. Smooth coat
3. Lively personality

Where to adopt rabbits:

1. Humane Society of Tampa Bay 876-7138
2. South Florida Rabbit Breeders Assoc. 634-7055
3. Local Pet Stores

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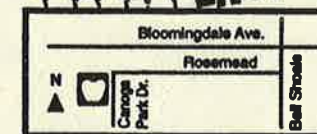
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## Bloomingtondale mural artist

By Laura Frazier

Deborah Pearson has been painting the town red... and blue, and yellow and green too. A Bloomingtondale East resident, Pearson has graced the walls of several local homes and businesses with custom designed decorative murals. It is a job she approaches with enthusiasm and a self professed obsessive love of dressing up just about anything with paint. "If it doesn't move, I can paint it," Pearson says with ebullience, "and if it does move, get special paint!"

"I just really love what I do," says Pearson. "I have enjoyed tackling all kinds of projects, from painting furniture and murals in children's rooms, to commissioned oil portraits. Each project has presented me with a new challenge to add a creative, personal touch to the client's special pieces or environment."

Pearson credits her son Roger, 9 with getting her paintbrush in gear. "When Roger was 4 years old, he was really into the Jungle Book movie. I decided to decorate his room with the Disney theme, and wound up doing a mural featuring the characters in the story". Roger wasn't the only one who was pleased with his Mom's creative touches. Family and friends commented on the



charm and quality of her work, and suggested she market her obvious artistic skills. Pearson acted on their suggestions, and a career was born.

It was only a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

Pearson and son Roger frequented Amore's Restaurant on Bloomingtondale Avenue back then, and during one of their visits happened to hear of (then) Amore's owner Al Carapella's desire to dress up the restaurant with some sort of painted mural. Pearson jumped at the chance. "Looking back, I really appreciate what Al did for me. He hired me as an artist with very limited experience and really gave me a chance to develop my skills and confidence". Carapella, owner of Cozzoli's Pizza at Regency Square Shopping Center, says of working with Pearson, "Deborah is a very pleasant person who works hard and does a good job. I would certainly recommend her to anyone interested in having some decorative painting done". Upon hearing of Pearson's growing portfolio of work, an obviously delighted Carapella indicates, "I am very happy for her and glad to have had the opportunity to help her get started."

Pearson's commercial portfolio includes her work at Cozzoli's Pizza and Cherry's in Bloomingtondale Square. She recalls her project at the

old "Bedrocks" restaurant on Highway 60 in Brandon as particularly challenging. "I did the exterior of Bedrocks and this required me to be up on scaffolding. I was terrified at first, but as the project ensued and I became more absorbed in what I was doing, I was jumping off that scaffold!"

Pearson's building scaling skills will come in handy with her newest job, a two-story

*Continued on page 11*

## Mural artist

*Continued from page 10*



loft style pub in Ybor City. "I am so excited about this project because it is such a large area and the owners have given me a lot of freedom as to what

and where and how everything will be. I can't wait to see how it turns out."

Pearson has completed several residential projects, many of them custom murals in children's rooms. She can work from a picture or book provided by the client, and has even offered to help find the perfect character or scenery to reproduce by digging through storybooks at the public library. Her most challenging residential project to date has been creating a natural looking sky and clouds mural on the 18 x 50' ceiling of a lanai. The job would be physically challenging for anyone, and Pearson's hard work resulted in more than a few strained muscles. Her diligence resulted in a heavenly scene complete with nebulous shapes to seek out while daydreaming by the pool.

When Deborah Pearson finds a spare moment for daydreams of her own, those dreams include having her work featured in a major magazine someday. Well Deborah, Architectural Digest it isn't, but we trust you will find the recognition of the Bloomingtondale Gazette to be a fine start. For more information, contact Deborah Pearson at 684-9499.

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# "Cases for kids" program

by Mack Austin  
B.A.C.C. Projects Coordinator

A very special program for helping foster children during their initial time of adjustment was recently started by the Tampa Police Department's Crime Prevention Bureau. It is called the "Cases for Kids" Program. It was started by Maryanne Hunsburger, a Community Service Officer with the Tampa Police Department. After



Community service officer Sandy Capitano

she attended a training class for adoptive parents, she learned first hand just how traumatic and depressing it is for a child to have to take what few belongings they have, pack them and move on to a strange environment. For most kids this

usually meant using a plastic bag. But no more, thanks to this new program where back packs, suitcases and sports bags are donated and then given to the kids to put their belongings in.

Collection sites have been established for this program and the one for Bloomingdale is the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Substation at 4342B Bell Shoals Road (next to Beef O'Bradys). Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano is working with the Tampa Police Department to help make this program a success. According to Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer, "This program is one of the first inter-agency 'Community Oriented Policing' type projects the Bloomingdale Substation has been involved in."

There are over 1200 to 1400 children in the Tampa Bay area currently in foster care. Community members are asked to drop off their donations at the Sheriffs Community Substation on Bell Shoals. Office hours are 8 to 5 - Monday through Friday.

by Paul Almeida

Due to the recent cold snap a lot of our residents started to "groom" their yards early from cutting back, snipping and mulching, etc., getting ready for the new Spring growth seems to be on almost everyone's calendar.

Our March winners, Rick and Peggy Clairmont, who live at 2229 Longmore Circle in the Somerset portion of Bloomingdale East appeared to have weathered the cold very well. Their yard was quite 'green' with shrubs, plants and flowers standing tall. Their very recent planting made their yard seem as though Springtime was here.

Peggy is the GREEN THUMB. She clips and snips and is responsible for the entire outside. She views it as fun and enjoyment, but the look indicates a large amount of hard work mixed with generous doses of T.L.C.

# Yard of the month March 1999



We congratulate Peggy and Rick for their selection as March's Y.O.M They have earned the right to put up the sign and will be getting a Gift Certificate from Wal-Mart.

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# Fuzz Buzz

## Bloomingtondale community notes

Community Oriented Policing-a new idea? Not really, but it's not just a rehash of the old "cop on the beat" either. To quote author Robert C. Trojanowicz it's "A philosophy of full service, personalized policing, where the same officer patrols and works in the same area on a permanent basis, from a decentralized place, working in a proactive partnership with citizens to identify and solve problems".

In addition to permanent shifts and area (zone) assignments for Patrol Deputies, Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office has assigned Community Resource Deputies to various areas, some "squad Based", combining Patrol and CRD duties, while others are permanently assigned to Community Stations.

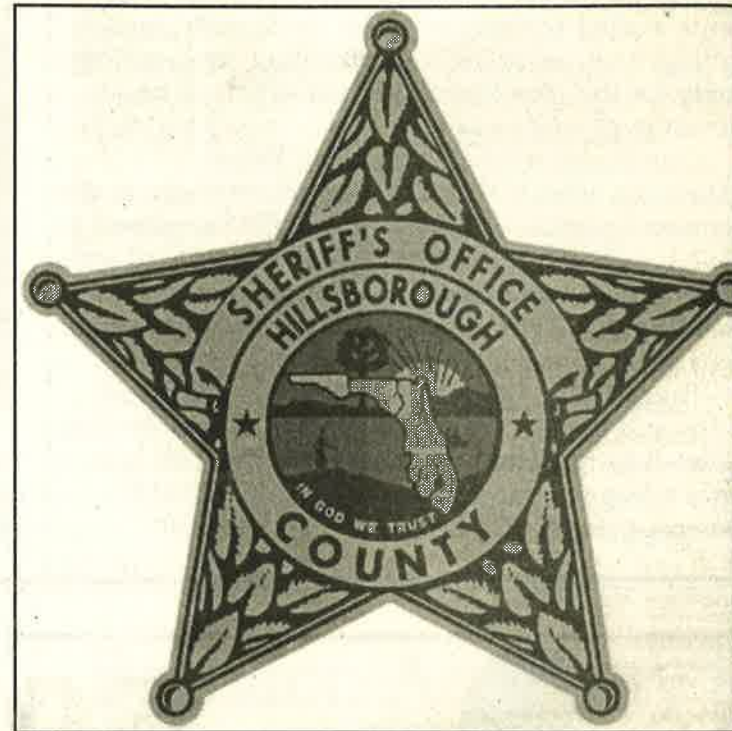
In our station at 4342 Bell Shoals Rd., we serve the "Bloomingtondale Community", which, for our program, is defined as the area between John Moore Rd.. and Lithia Pinecrest, bordered on the North by Bloomingtondale Ave. and to the South by the Alafia River. The Community Station offers service to surrounding areas also and provides a workplace for nearby Squad Based CRD's such as the Buckhorn area's Deputy Jillene Castro.

Probably the most common complaint and identifiable problem we hear is TRAFFIC. Lets face it we are in one of the major growth areas and the situation is not going to go away! WE, a little word of tremendous importance and responsibility, because it's the "we" that can make it better, not the "they" (who must have caused this mess), or the "them" (who will fix it for us).

WE are the ones that have to leave early enough to get where we're going on time so we don't have to:

Speed ("I can go 5 to 10MPH over the posted limit, or "That 25or 30MPH sign in my neighborhood is just an advisory", and there is always "What speed limit sign?"). Like the song says-WRONG! This will cost you money, time and points on your license.

Run Stop Signs: ("But I slowed down!") Same song-more money! A YIELD sign means slow



down, yield right of way to oncoming traffic, then proceed. However STOP means just that! All motion ceases! The wheels are not rolling!

Roll Through Right Turn On Red: "W" word again! You Must stop first, then proceed with caution and you do NOT have the right of way.

Tailgate: Getting there a few car lengths behind is better than parking in the trunk of the one in front of you! Same song-Mo' money.

Yellow Light-Hammer Down! One of the most common and most dangerous violations! THIS ONE COULD BE YOUR SWAN SONG! Remember back in Driver's Ed. or perhaps in Driver Improvement School when they spoke of the "delayed green" light? When you see a green light in the distance it 'may well change before you get to it. Maybe it's the competitive spirit-first one there wins! Wrong again-back to school-yellow-caution-prepare to stop! The few extra seconds could be

*Continued on page 15*

## New traffic light



**DANGER! DANGER!** There is no doubt that this intersection at Boyette Road, Bell Shoals Road and Fish Hawk Blvd. is one of the most dangerous in the area. Many residents have asked for a traffic light for a long time. Finally, good news. Plans have been approved for the installation of a traffic light at the intersection in March. Future plans will provide additional safety improvements at the intersection.

Photo by Mack Austin

## Pete's Beat

*Continued from page 14*

very costly and painful, it's not worth it!

Road Rage: Don't play this game-there are no winners. A little courtesy goes a long way but a little rage can be dangrous. Avoid confrontations-it's not worth your life or someone else's.

Parking In Fire Lanes: "But I'm not parked-just stopped to run into the store for a sec..." Florida Statute and County Ordinance both define parking, stopping, and standing (even if vehicle is occupied) as the same thing - don't do it! This one will now cost you \$33.

Come by and see us or call us at 635-8040. We are open Monday - Friday (except holidays) from 8:00 to 5:00, and thanks for letting us be part of your community.

Next time — Crime Prevention and Home Security tips.

# SONNY'S

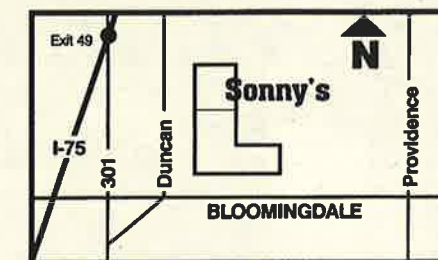
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Exp. 3/31/99



# The return of the yo-yo

By Laura Frazier

The sign in the window of a Bloomingdale East consignment shop says it all: "Yo-Yo club... It's not the same old yo-yo!" Maureen Jensen, owner of Bloomin' Kids at The Village Center plaza on Bell Shoals and Glenhaven, displays the sign in support of the Brandon Pro Spinners, a yo-yo club for kids of all ages. Maureen's sons Erick, 9 and Anders, 7 are members of the club, which was founded last October and originally held weekly meetings at the Brandon West Recreation Center. The popularity of the club has since soared to the point that, due to space limitations, meetings, are now being held at Sadie Park Recreation Center in Brandon, Friday nights from 8:00 - 9:30pm.

Tim Mulligan of Bloomingdale West Recreation Center was sorry to see the club relocate after only one general meeting last year, but concedes that the membership grew so quickly they had to make a move. "I attend the club meetings whenever I can and try to bring back the tricks and skills I learn to the kids here at our after school program. I would recommend the Brandon Pro Spinners to kids ages 8 to 12, maybe some younger if they have a high interest. Everyone involved just has a lot of fun, and it's a safe place for the kids to hang out for awhile on Friday night and meet new friends", says Mulligan.

Meetings are held indoors at the Sadie Park rec center, and while most parents do drop off and later pick up their older children, many do stay and participate. And yo-yo contagion seems to be ageless. Mulligan, who along with several other adults help out as needed at the meetings, has seen a 2 year old yo-yo prodigy having a great time right alongside a grandfather brushing up on an old past time.

The Spinners provide yo-yo enthusiasts with an opportunity to hone their skills and learn the latest tricks. Members can earn

certificates and prizes as they advance through a serious of skill levels, all free of charge. The group is sponsored by Yomega, Bandai and Kitty Hawk Kites, manufacturers and distributors of specialty yo-yo's, and by HPK Marketing.

Coordinator David Brunner says the club boasts a current membership of about 360 kids, ages 4 and up. Weekly attendance of club meetings runs at about 120 members. Brunner, an Officer with the Tampa Police Department, is also active in the "Dare to Dream, Dare to Do" school assembly program currently being offered in Hillsborough County Schools. Brunner and his associates use their advanced yo-yo skills to captivate their young audiences as they present lessons about achieving personal goals and dreams and steering clear of the "dream killers" alcohol and drugs. "We really grab their attention with the tricks and stunts and that makes it much easier to deliver our message," says Brunner. "Once the tricks begin, you could hear a pin drop in these assemblies," Brunner marvels.

The yo-yo craze has been growing since last summer, when K-B Toy Works Assistant Manager Beth Allen first began to notice an increased demand for the toys. "We just cannot keep the yo-yo's in stock," says Allen. "The Yomega X-

*Continued on page 17*



# Yo-Yo

*Continued from page 16*


Brain continues to be the most sought after, but they have been in such demand that it seems the kids will buy any kind they can get their hands on." She estimates her store in Bloomingdale Square sells an average of 150 yo-yos a week, "When we have them!" she adds.

Basic yo-yo prices range from about \$3.00 for the Duncan variety to about \$15.00 for the popular Yomega series. Specialty stores like Kitty Hawk Kites and Learningsmith at Brandon Town Center carry top of the line models such as the Silver Bullet yo-yo, advertised to be made of the same metal the space shuttle is composed of. The Silver Bullet sells for a staggering \$100. Yo-yo enthusiasts credit the popularity of the Yomega series to the smooth spinning bearing assembly which allows the yo-yo to spin faster and "sleep" longer than traditional models. Clerks and customers alike agree that the very expensive models perform similarly to the more affordable varieties, and offer

little else than the notoriety of owning one. This is definitely a fad in high gear.

K-B's Allen also notes an unprecedented demand for replacement yo-yo strings, presently available in quantities only by mail order. Apparently yo-yo string takes a beating due to the repeated practice of today's popular tricks. Docile stunts you may remember like walk the dog and rock the cradle have been joined by many quicker and more difficult tricks such as Brain Twist and Lunar Loops.

The typical yo-yo customer at K-B Toy Works ranges in age from 4 through teens. "We even have some associates who have quite a collection of them", says Allen. The last shipment of yo-yo's that K-B received numbered several hundred. Within a week, they were all sold. Could the hula-hoop be far behind?! For information on the Brandon Pro Spinners Club, call David Brunner at 671-8640.




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# Bloomingtondale High School Notes

A nominating committee is being formed and nominations are being sought for the PTSA Board for the 1999-2000 school year. The PTSA has been diligently but quietly laying the groundwork for the next year's Board. If you are interested in serving Bloomingtondale High School through its PTSA please call Diane Moseley (684-9987) or Kathy Steed (685-2715).

Congratulations are in order for Linda Applegate, PTSA Recording Secretary, for her nomination as Non-Instructional Employee of the Year and to Donna Carlock, Bloomingtondale's nominee. Mrs. Applegate works in the kindergarten area at Palm River Elementary School.

Tiffany Rice, senior, is a big winner in

the PTA Reflections contest. Winners will be chosen sometime after February. If picked, Tiffany's artwork will progress to the National level. GOOD LUCK Tiffany!!

WEB sites of interest:  
[www.firn.edu/schools/hillsborough](http://www.firn.edu/schools/hillsborough)  
 (County's Site)  
[www.firn.edu/schools/hillsborough/bhs](http://www.firn.edu/schools/hillsborough/bhs)  
 (Bloomingtondale's site)  
[www.floridapta.org](http://www.floridapta.org)  
[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)  
[www.firn.edu/doe](http://www.firn.edu/doe)

Remember students, PTA offers 4 levels of scholarships so be sure to check in the guidance office for the paperwork.



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Brandon Lake Brandon Village 11393 Causeway Blvd. 643-6944	Seffner North Grove Plaza 1515 S. Parsons 684-5897	Valrico Valrico Square 1985 E. Brandon Blvd. 654-2324	North Brandon Kingsway Plaza 1213 Kingsway Ave. 653-4535	

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# Signs of Spring

By Laura Frazier

On any given Saturday, all through the year, you can see the signs dotting Bloomingdale street corners. Some are scribbled on neon poster board anchored to stakes, others computer generated copies taped to street signs, all bearing similar advertisement; "Garage Sale!"... "Huge Yard Sale"..."Multi-Family Sale". Especially in the spring when we are treated to clear, mild mornings, garage sales are a popular way to spend a few hours (or an entire day) relishing the weather, chatting with neighbors, unloading garage and attic cast-offs, and haggling with complete strangers. All in good fun, of course.

On a recent Saturday morning we counted 21 yard sales being held throughout Bloomingdale East and West. Furniture and clothing topped the list of items being offered. Baby paraphernalia and used toys were the most sought after items, according to bargain hunters. On this crisp Saturday morning Laura Bowen of Quail Briar Drive and her dog Sassy set up shop at 6:30 am, in hopes of unloading a variety of items including furniture, clothes, toys and odds and ends. "The children's videotapes went quickly," said Bowen, who holds an occasional garage sale to pass along her children's outgrown things.

Lou DiPaolo and his sons Christian, 9 and Nathaniel, 5 bundled up against the early morning chill to man their garage sale. A slow but steady stream of customers pulled up to the DiPaolo's Monte Lake Drive home to inspect the gently used furniture offered for sale. Christian and his Dad played catch on the front lawn to pass the time between customers. DiPaolo commented that business this day before Valentine's Day wasn't as brisk as the weather, with most shoppers likely at Brandon Town Center looking for gifts to celebrate the holiday. "I'll be there later," he admits with a smile.

DiPaolo likes the opportunity to socialize with neighbors and passers-by during his occasional garage sales. "It's a very interesting way to meet people," he says. "We have met so many people



with such a diverse background". The DiPaolo family moved to Florida three years ago from central Pennsylvania. They chose Bloomingdale primarily because they wanted their children to attend Alafia Elementary. "We had heard good things about Alafia and feel that principal Tanly Cabrera and the entire faculty are very conscientious about today's education challenges such as crowding," says DiPaolo. "We also were very drawn to the fact that the community is so well maintained, which was very important to us."

Garage sale experts say that a successful sale begins with advertising. As anyone that has ever had a sale of their own in Bloomingdale knows, advertisement beyond a few well placed homemade signs is all that is needed. Yard sale shoppers instinctively flock to Bloomingdale each weekend expecting to find at least a few sales in progress. One sign at the entrance of your subdivision and another on your street corner should yield a good stream of business. When you have had your fill and wish to go out of business, take down the signs and close the garage door unless you'd like visitors until sunset. Forgotten and ill-placed garage sale signs can be a blemish on our beautifully maintained common areas.

Al Devney of DPMI, the independent contrac-

*Continued on page 22*

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## Signs of Spring

Continued from page 20

tor hired by the STD to manage property repairs and maintenance, says that most garage sale signs go up on Friday and thankfully are taken down by Monday, when he makes his usual rounds inspecting the community property. However, Devney notes that some signs are posted in places that are clearly inappropriate. "On many occasions I have had to pry nails out of newly planted trees," he winces, "and remove staked signs from the middle of trampled flower beds". Stake-type signs inserted along the roadside in the grass and notices affixed to street signs with clear packing tape will get the word out without creating a nuisance or destroying our community property.

To keep the peace on your street, garage sales should be an occasional occurrence. Do you have a neighbor who seems to be making a living year round running garage sales? Do you often feel like you are walking into a flea market parking lot

when you only wanted to go outside and get the Sunday paper? You might then be interested to know that there is a Hillsborough County ordinance that states residents may hold no more than two (unlicensed) yard sales in a six-month period.

Garage sales are a fun "something to do" on a free weekend. They can inspire us to clean out our attics and closets with the promise of a little "found money" for a day's work. And anyone who has sold clothes out of their driveway knows that there are plenty of people not able to pay full price for clothing and toys or baby items that really appreciate the bargains offered. Then there is the sheer amusement of watching the inevitably well heeled customer with a Tommy Hilfiger shirt pull up in a Jaguar and promptly offer you 50 cents for an old tape dispenser you had marked 75 cents. All in good fun, of course.

## Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

Property Manager's Report  
January 1999

### 1. Irrigation:

- a. Brandon Irrigation completed the irrigation contract on Rosemead. The welt portion has not been completed as of this date.
- b. I replaced a broken valve box and installed two drip Systems for the replacement palm trees.
- c. During the monthly maintenance inspection, the following items were corrected, 10 spray heads and I rotor were replaced and 3 risers were repaired. The pump and the pump control box for the Garnet system are not operational and will have to be replaced.

### 2. Landscaping:

- a. I prepared the specifications to upgrade the south side of the Rosemead entrance, so that it would look like the Brookside Manor side. Incl 1.
- b. I measured and inventoried the Heritage Park, Cambridge Cove and Callista Avenue properties and prepared facts sheets. Incl 2 & 3

### 3. Other:

- a. Signs by Mineo removed, painted, and re-installed the "Bloomingtondale" letters on the south side of Glenhaven entrance. They made new Windsor Woods signs for the Treeline entrance and cleaned and waxed the Windsor Woods signs for the Kiowa entrance. The new signs at the Treeline entrance have already been defaced by vandals.
- b. I cleaned the walls of rust stain on Rosemead, Canoga Park, Greenhollow and some of Natures Way using Rid 0' Rust.
- c. I measured the walls for painting and compiled lists of addresses abutting to the walls. Incl 4.
- d. In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, I picked up 24 bags of litter, 4 t-shirts, 1 shirt, 1 telephone, 1 light sensor, 4 socks, 1 possum, 2 raccoons, 1 kitten, 2 squirrels, 1 yo-yo, 4, 2 pound weights and \$.55 cents. The Bloomingtondale soft drink choice for January was Coke.

Respectfully Submitted by Devney Property Management, Inc.

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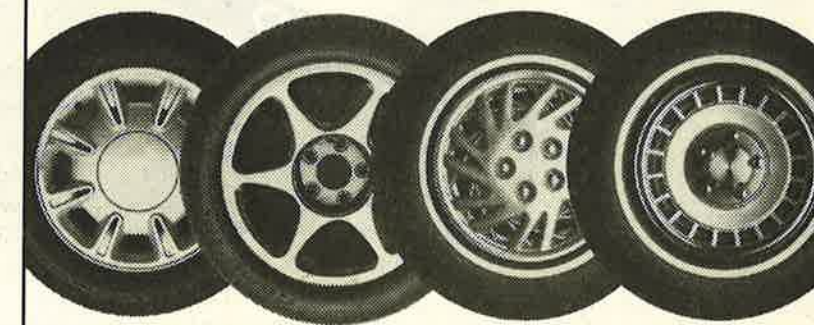


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