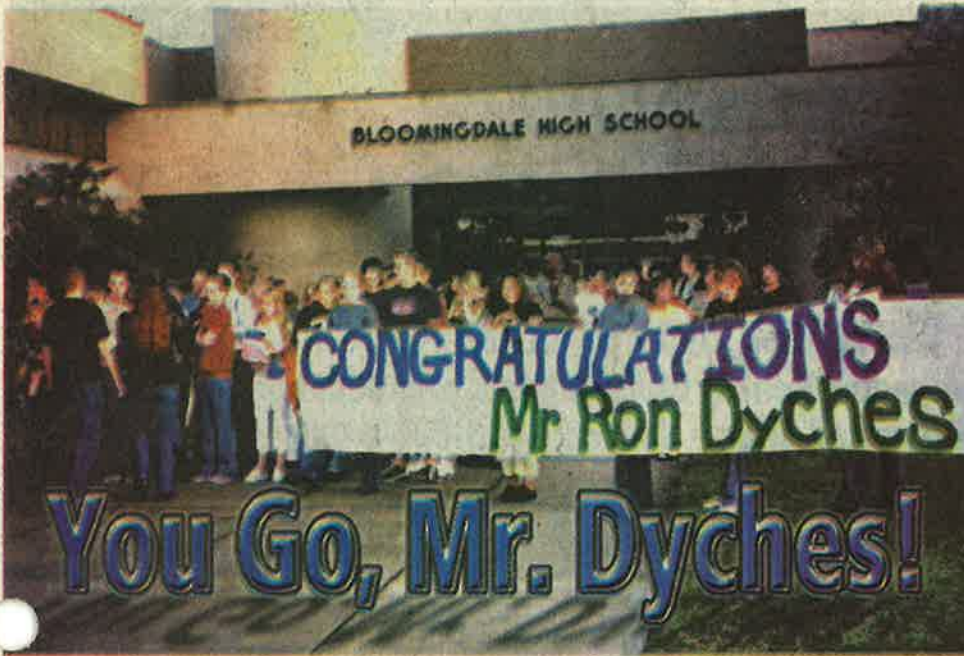


# The BLOOMINGDALE Gazette

The Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association    www.bloomingtongazette.com    Volume XXIII, Number 3    March 2002



Bloomington Senior High School history teacher Ron Dyches was honored in February as Hillsborough County's 2002 Teacher of the Year. Dyches arrived in style at the school to the applause of students, teachers and friends. See County Commissioner Rhonda Storms' kudos for Dyches and the school on page 4.



## In This Issue:

- Property Manager's Report, 3
- Commissioner's Corner, 4
- Burns Class Is Exceptional, 6
- County Improvements, 8
- Catering To Skaters, 10
- Substation Notes, 12
- Legislative Session, 14
- Cimino Traffic, Safety Issues, 16
- Braggin' Rights, 18
- Golf Club Pass Program, 20
- Letters To The Editor, 21
- Home Security Clinic, 22
- Inside Connections, 24
- Restaurant Review, 25
- Venting About Signs, 29



The February Home Depot clinic at Bloomingdale West Park focused on home security. Pictured are door prize winner Tom Partridge, program organizer Kellie Fisher, Barry Brinson of The Home Depot and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy Charlie O'Daniel. This month's clinic, "Handling Plumbing Emergencies" will be held March 12. See page 22.

## Featured Story:



**Cimino principal appointed**

Sandra Frost    see page 17

**Flags Now Wave At Bloomingdale Entrances** see page 13

# Suarez Housing has your Bloomingdale address

Visit our model today!

Bloomingdale Cove model selling Bloomingdale and Buckhorn Groves  
2507 Groveway Drive • Valrico • 813-685-4490



Other fine  
Suarez communities:

**FishHawk Ranch**  
15116 Heronglen Drive  
Lithia  
813-651-6844

**Copper Ridge/St. Cloud Reserve**  
4452 Horseshoe Pick Lane  
Valrico  
813-661-0370

**Arbor Greene**  
10103 Whisper Point Dr.  
Tampa  
813-907-8272

**Meadow Pointe**  
Single Family - 30433 Iverson Drive - 813-973-2210  
Meadow Pointe Villas and Oakstead  
1619 Sassafras Drive - 813-907-5703  
Wesley Chapel

**Sable Ridge**  
4039 Marlow Loop  
Land O'Lakes  
813-996-9788



## Taxing District Planted 2,000 Flowers In January

Excerpts from the January 2002 Bloomingdale Special Taxing property manager's report are as follows. The report was submitted by Al Devney, President, DPMI Property Management Inc. Information: 684-6617



Al Devney

In the irrigation department, Brandon Irrigation repaired a broken zone line on Rosemead and a broken main line on Erindale.

DPMI replaced 10 rotors, 10 spray heads and 31 light bulbs, and repaired 2 broken zone lines.

In the landscaping department, Neighborhood Pest control sprayed the area to kill carpet grass.

Planscape, Inc. installed 2,000 pansies in Bloomingdale East and West. DPMI measured Springvale Drive to determine quantities of St. Augustine grass, bushes and shrubs needed to landscape that street.

In addition, DPMI rated all the minor entrances and street entrances from one to four, one being the worst, for their need to be refurbished.

DPMI prepared a list of all minor entrances and street entrances indicating signs, lights and the last date of new landscaping.

See MANAGER, Page 14



Kate Griffin and Kyle Simpson warm up before the All County Honor Music Festival. Photo courtesy of Dean Chalk

## Burns Music Students Go All-County

A Gazette Report dents.

Fourteen Burns Middle School orchestra students were selected to represent Hillsborough County at the All County Honor music festival in January.

The students performed to a standing-room-only audience at Sickles High School.

Orchestra director Sandy Neel received high praise from the guest conductor for the development of the stu-

The following students received this meritorious recognition: first violin, Alishia Jackson, Caitlin Lewis, Christy Lynch, Ashley Novitske, Matt Tosca and Megan Whelan; second violin, Courtney Griner, Jessica Mahoney, Crimson Smith and Drew Wright; viola, Joe Castellano, Katie Griffin and Kyle Simpson; and bass, Zach Rogers.

## University Women News

By BARBARA REED

The Brandon Branch of the American Association of University Women will visit the Ringling Bros. Museum in Sarasota on Saturday, March 16, followed by a business meeting and lunch.

The branch welcomes the following new members:

Kathy Hancock, Arlene Kennedy, Joan Madore and Becky Nesbett.

The Literature Group will meet at the home of Barbara Reed on Tuesday, March 5 to discuss "The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw.

Information: Nancy Hollowell, 757-3137, or Mary Ann Walters, 681-4502.

### Your Invitation

Join Brandon Swim and  
Tennis Club during our  
March 1 -31 Membership  
Drive and we'll WAIVE the  
\$99 enrollment fee

Call for information on  
our new memberships  
and  
"Mom & Me Gymnastics"

BRANDON SWIM & TENNIS  
Club  
Much More Than Our Name

(813) 689-0908

405 Beverly Blvd. Brandon, FL 33511  
www.mybstc.com

### Commissioner's Corner



Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year Ron Dyches arrived in style at the school last month to the applause of teachers and students.

## Bloomington High Has The County's Top Teacher

By RONDA R. STORMS  
County Commissioner

If you're like me, your heart is bursting with pride for Bloomington High School teacher Ron Dyches, Hillsborough County's Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations to you, Ron, for the well — deserved honor!

Reading about Mr. Dyches reminds me of Bloomington's long history of superior performance, which began under the remarkable leadership of Mr. Charlie Harris and his stellar administrative team including Bill Maxwell, Richard Bartels, and Sherrie Sikes, among others.

As a young teacher, I wanted to be at BSHS in a very bad way, but unfortunately, the English department was completely staffed. There were only two classes of stu-



When Mr. Dyches' limo pulled up at the school, Mrs. Dyches was waiting for him with her camera and a kiss.

dents, sophomores and juniors, the year BSHS opened.

In order to get hired, I launched Operation Pester Principal, which consisted of mailing regular correspondence to Mr. Harris. Every holiday I sent Mr. Harris a card, commemorating the holiday and reminding Mr. Harris how enthusiastically I

wanted to teach at BSHS.

In order to soothe my pestering, I urged Mr. Harris not to think of me as a pest, but to think of me instead as an eager applicant.

Needless to say, when I finally got the call from Mr. Harris offering me a job, I was delighted and promised to repay his kindness with

loyalty and dedication. At the time Mr. Harris asked me to take on additional responsibility, I knew I had to acquiesce because I was very grateful for the opportunity he gave me.

That's how I wound up teaching English, sponsoring the Sophomore Class, the Junior Class, the Senior Class of '92 and the Crimson Dolls dance squad.

Mr. Harris had the remarkable ability to hire over-achieving, passionate educators and a corresponding ability to coach his staff into consistent excellence and dedication. No question, Charlie Harris set a very high standard for future generations of Bloomington Bulls.

Mr. Dyches has risen to meet that standard. His success story tells both you and me that principal BJ Stelter and her team are continuing that tradition of excellence at BSHS by nurturing the flower of professional achievement in her staff.

See STORMS, Page 10



# Grace Christian School

28 Years

"Academic Excellence with a Christian Emphasis"  
Kindergarten through 12th Grade



Striving For High Academic Achievements



Drama



2001 FCC 2A State Baseball Champs



Where Learning Is Fun!

## REGISTER NOW

- Full Athletic Program with Boys' and Girls' Sports Elementary, Middle and High School Sports
- Music, Art and Drama Programs
- Advanced High School Math & English Programs
- Our Students' SAT Scores are in the top quartile in the nation
- A Beka Curriculum
- Accredited by the Florida Council of Private Schools
- State-of-the-Art Computer Program (1st-12th)
- Computer Technology & Business Marketing Academies (9th-12th)
- Optional 12 Month School Program Available
- Extended Care



Computer (1st-12th) Grade

### KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten S.A.T. scores are in the top 10 percent in reading in the nation. Kindergarten Children will experience many new and exciting adventures as well as learning academic skills such as Reading, Writing, and Math.

Our facilities are the finest, most modern in the area with spacious classrooms, labs, locker rooms, a gymnasium/ auditorium and new fine arts facility on a beautiful 20 acre campus.

For additional information, please write or call:  
Dr. Bob Gustafson, Grace Christian School,  
P.O. Box 843, N. Valrico Rd., Brandon, FL 33509

**(813) 689-8815 or 689-9781**

VISIT US AT [www.gracechristianschool.com](http://www.gracechristianschool.com)

## Burns Class, Teacher Are Exceptional

By LAURA FRAZIER

A new special education unit was added to the schedule at Burns Middle School in Brandon last year. The eleven children in the autistic spectrum disorders class are identified by the school system as students with exceptionalities.

But those involved with the program say it's the teacher, Raymond Stiles, who is exceptional.

Autism is a devastating neurological disorder that occurs in one out of every 500 children.

A wide spectrum of associated disorders can occur in autistic children. The severity of the syndrome, ranging from mild to profound, varies from child to child.

Autistic children may suffer disabilities in any or all of a number of areas including emotional, behavioral, language and communication

skills and both fine and gross motor skills.

Parents, students and educators say that in just six months, Stiles has created an exciting, innovative and successful curriculum for his students.

"Mr. Stiles' dedication, commitment and resourcefulness with the children has been unbelievable," said Burns principal Brenda Nolte.

"He is constantly coming up with activities for the class to help them become self-sufficient and as socially functional as they can be, which is the main purpose of the program."

As part of the curriculum Stiles designed, the class ventures out to Brandon area businesses and service establishments once a week to gain real-world experience outside the familiar confines of the classroom.

"These children have vary-



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Burns Middle School autistic spectrum disorders teacher Raymond Stiles accompanied his students on a field trip to Dollar Tree in Bloomingdale Square last month.

ing degrees and varieties of disorders, but the one common challenge we face with all of them is acceptable social behavior," Stiles said.

On a recent trip to Dollar Tree in Bloomingdale Square, Stiles and two

See TEACHER, Page 30

## Flotilla Auxiliary Offers Safe Boating Program

By KAY LORI

Flotilla 75 Ruskin will hold a safe boating program Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning March 5, at the Ruskin Civic Center, 901 Sixth St. in Ruskin. The two-hour program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evenings March 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, and 21.

The program is designed to instruct participants in choosing a vessel for their specific needs, handling, trailering and safety regulations. Completion of the program

may entitle the participant to discounts on boat insurance. Participants will also receive a Florida State operators' certificate and boaters' identification card.

Materials will include the Safe Boating Book, Federal Regulations Book, Florida Operators Handbook and local charts. Cost for the entire program is \$20 per participant.

Early registration is requested; seating is limited. Information: Dottie Engel, 671-4772, Glen Wren, 672-8460, or Joe Lori, 677-2822.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE  
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

# Sharpening

the mind, body & spirit

## Bell Shoals Baptist Academy

Established 1965

- Weekly Chapel Service
  - Accredited by ACSI
  - Computer Lab
  - Science Lab
  - Art, Music, Spanish
  - Low Student/Teacher Ratio
  - IPS and Algebra Advanced Program in 8th Grade
  - Dedicated, Professional, Degreed Teachers
  - Weekly Middle School Clubs
    - AR Program
    - Consistently High SAT Scores
    - Strong Sports Program
- 1st Place in BCAL in 4 Sports

# 689-9183



## Bell Shoals Baptist Academy

Academic Excellence in a Christian Environment

2102 Bell Shoals Rd.  
Brandon • 689-9183

Bell Shoals Baptist Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin

225840

## Therapeutic Skin Care



**Microdermabrasion**  
Treats skin conditions and imperfections such as age spots, sun damage, acne scars, fine lines, wrinkle and more.

Regularly \$100, now \$50

**GPA Advanced Skin Peels**  
Soften fine lines, even skin tone and increase moisture retention using the newest generation of skin peel products.

Regularly \$50, now \$25

**Acne Treatments**  
Don't let acne be the source of lost self esteem and embarrassment. We offer a complete treatment program starting at \$20 per visit

226668

## Alon Clinical Skin Care and Acne Clinic

Cristene Haynes, CME  
Clinic Director

651-4111

F. Ojeda, MD  
Medical Consultant

323 E. Robertson St. Brandon, FL  
Limited Time Offer Major Credit Cards Accepted

# County Reviews Widening Project, Needed Improvements

By MACK AUSTIN

In reviewing the recently completed Bloomingdale Avenue widening project, Hillsborough County traffic engineers identified several areas as requiring further attention.

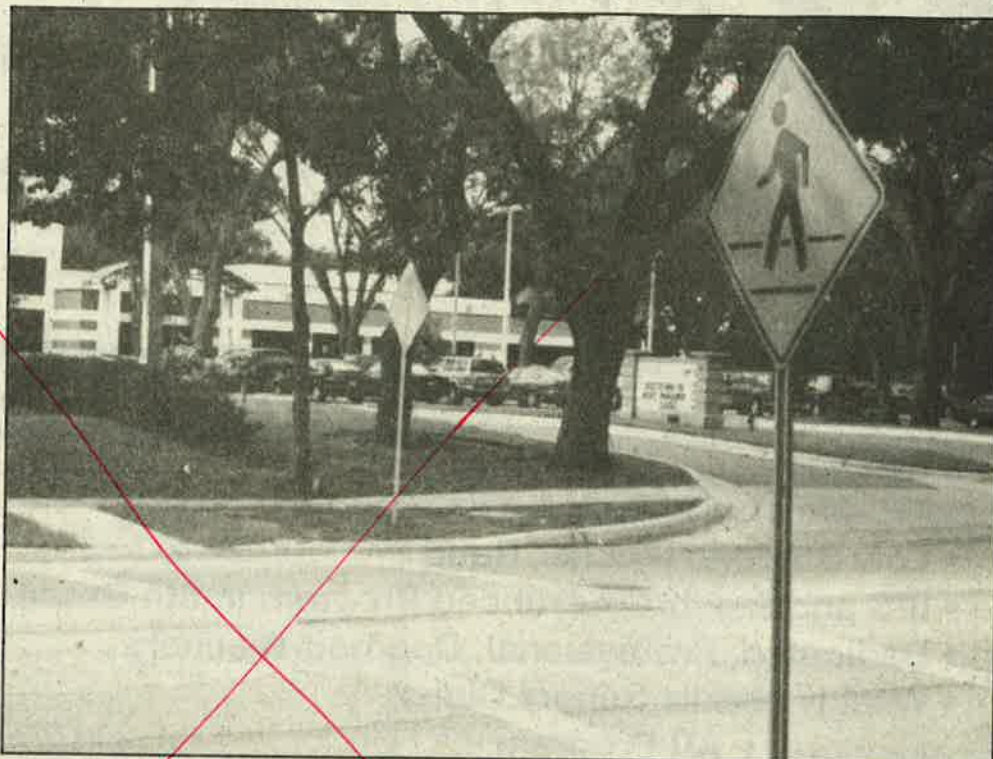
Engineers said they would work with contractors to insure the project is properly completed.

Some of the items still under review include left turn signals from Bloomingdale onto Springvale Avenue, and from Bloomingdale onto Culbreath Road. Engineers also are considering the addition of a right turn lane from Lithia-Pinecrest Road onto Miller Road.

Drivers currently have to merge into the left lane and then right back to turn onto Miller Road.

Hurley Road residents involved in the county's residential traffic calming program have requested a review of the left turn from Hurley Road onto Bloomingdale.

According to resident Luanna Huddleston, "It is extremely dangerous turning



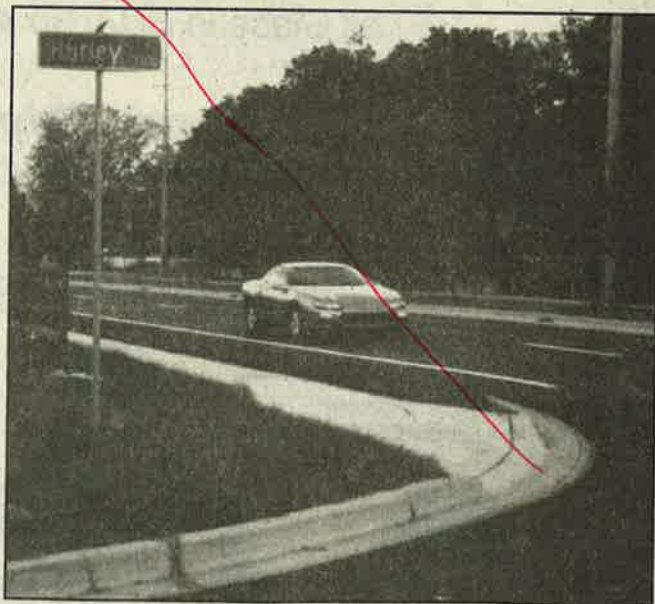
Little League season starts this month. Parents must tell their players to be very careful crossing Culbreath Road. Research is ongoing to find funding to enhance these crosswalks.

left. The county did mark the stopping point, but the fence interferes with your being able to see cars coming down Bloomingdale."

Also under review by county departments is the critical need for completing the sidewalks on Canoga Park Drive in Bloomingdale West, an area traveled daily by kids going to the Culbertson recreation center.

This area was added to another project and must now wait for completion.

In addition, although enhancements to the crosswalks between the Campo Family YMCA and the Bloomingdale Little League Park were expected to be part of the widening project, it has been determined that they are a separate item and funding is currently not available.



Residents turning left off Hurley Road by Bloomingdale High School say the fence blocks the view of oncoming cars; please use caution.



Sidewalks are still needed near the Culbertson Recreation Center at Bloomingdale West Park.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN  
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

# SEFFNER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

• Pre-school • Elementary • Middle School • High School  
**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**



**WE HAVE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR:**

- Certified Teachers
- Fully Accredited
- Honor Classes
- Spanish Program
- SAT Prep Course
- Comprehensive Curriculum
- Caring Teachers
- Extended Care
- Competitive Tuition
- Multi-student Discounts
- Accelerated Reader Program
- Music, Art and Band
- Complete Sports Program

**SEFFNER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - DISTINCTIVELY CHRISTIAN**



**Seffner Christian Academy**

"A Ministry of First Free Will Baptist Church"  
11605 U.S. Hwy. 92 E. • Corner of 579 & Hwy. 92

(Easy Access to I-4 & I-75)

Seffner, FL 33584 • 626-0001

Accredited Florida League of Christian Schools  
Pre-school Certified by FLOCS #165

Seffner Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.

# The Cove Caters To Skaters, Surfers

By MACK AUSTIN

After watching four USA athletes win two gold, one silver and one bronze medal in snowboarding in the Winter Olympics last month, we can see what hard work and dedication can lead to. The medal winners were teens not long ago, and some of them started out with an interest in the "extreme" sports of roller-blading, skateboarding and surfing.

In the past, many people thought extreme sports were just for longhaired teenage boys that probably did drugs. That's not the case.

All these sports are physically demanding and require total concentration. They are not for everyone, but they are definitely for girls too. Allisa Steamer is one of the top female professional skaters.

For those skilled and brave enough to enjoy these extreme sports, there is a local business just north of highway 60 called The Cove. Open since 1979, the business caters to skaters and surfers.

Store owner Big Wave Dave said, "We are the only hardcore surf and skate shop in the Tampa area. All of these

sports are similar. The athletes either surf on the water or on the land. They can all be great fun but must be respected. Gravity is your worst enemy."

The store stocks a full line of skates, skateboards and surfboards. Dave tells customers, "You must start with the right safety equipment. You know you're going to fall, so be prepared. Helmets, gloves and pads are critical." They also carry a full line of accessories including board shorts, sandals, wetsuits, decals, paints and more.

Chris Powell, a Bloomingdale resident, recently shopped at the store with his children. Powell said, "I grew up with a skateboard and surfboard. Now my sons Chandler and Brandon both enjoy it. In fact Chandler, an aspiring athlete at the age of five, is sponsored by The Cove. He has shown outstanding abilities on the skateboard."

Dave and his customers say they'd like to see a professional park in our area where boarders could skate in a safe, controlled environment. The nearest park is in Tampa. Powell said converting a business like the old Publix on highway 60 into an indoor park would be fantastic.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

"Big Wave Dave," owner of The Cove on Kingsway Rd. in Brandon shows five-year-old Chandler Powell his new skateboard.

Dave agreed. He has been ready and willing to support such a park for many years.

"A professional park would provide our kids the right environment to enjoy their sport."

The Cove is at 1303-5 Kingsway Road in Brandon. Their web site address is [www.coveskateandsurf.com](http://www.coveskateandsurf.com). Information: 689-8143.

"Education with a Christian Perspective"

# Tampa Bay Christian School

*"A Fun, Friendly Atmosphere Where Your Children Will Feel Right at Home"*

For Over 17 Years, Tampa Bay Christian School has touched the lives of many students and their families.



Full Scholarships Available For 2002-2003 School Year  
*(to qualified families)*

Financing Available for Tuition and/or After School Care  
Call School Office for Details

## We Offer K5 Through 8th Grade

- Qualified Teachers • Loving, Caring Environment
- Computer & Music Programs • A BEKA Curriculum
- Athletic Sports Programs for Girls and Boys
- Before and After School Care • Physical Education Program
- Multiple Child Discount • Some of the Smallest Class Sizes in Brandon

REGISTER NOW!

# Camp Warrior

June 3-Aug. 2 - Give your children a summer to remember!

Plenty of quality, supervised activities to keep your child excited!

Your child will enjoy: Bible Study • Private Bus Field Trips to Kennedy Space Center/NASA, Cypress Gardens, Pro Baseball Games, Lowry Park Zoo, Museum of Science & Industry • Bowling • Ice & Roller Skating

- And every week there will be 2 Pizza Days!
  - Tournaments for all ages in T-Ball, Softball, Basketball & Soccer
- Call the school office today for more information!

Located in the Heart of South Brandon

TBCS - 3920 S. Kings Ave.

Little Lambs Pre-School

(Just south of Bloomingdale)

685-8336

(K-1 thru K-4)

685-1045

Visit our website at: [www.tbconline.com](http://www.tbconline.com)

# Why do smart kids fail?



Your child may be smarter than his or her grades show. Our teachers help children of all ages overcome frustration and failure, and realize their potential.

A few hours a week can help your child improve weak study skills and gain the Educational Edge.

Our testing pinpoints problems. We tutor in reading, phonics, study skills, math and SAT prep to help students in all grades do better in school.

Call us and let us help your child.



**\$50 Off**  
Complete Diagnostic Evaluation

Brandon (813) 681-1500  
Carrollwood (813) 908-1000  
Palm Harbor (727) 937-8400

Independently owned and operated.

225267

# Greyhounds Available For Adoption

A Gazette Report

Greyhound Rescue and Adoptions of Tampa Bay Inc. hosts a "meet and greet the greyhounds" day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at Pets-Mart in Brandon, 1051 Brandon Blvd.

The March meet and greet will be held on Saturday, March 9.

For more information about upcoming events, or to inquire about greyhound adoption, call 971-4732.

Or visit them on the Web at [www.greatgreyhound.org](http://www.greatgreyhound.org).

## STORMS

From page 4

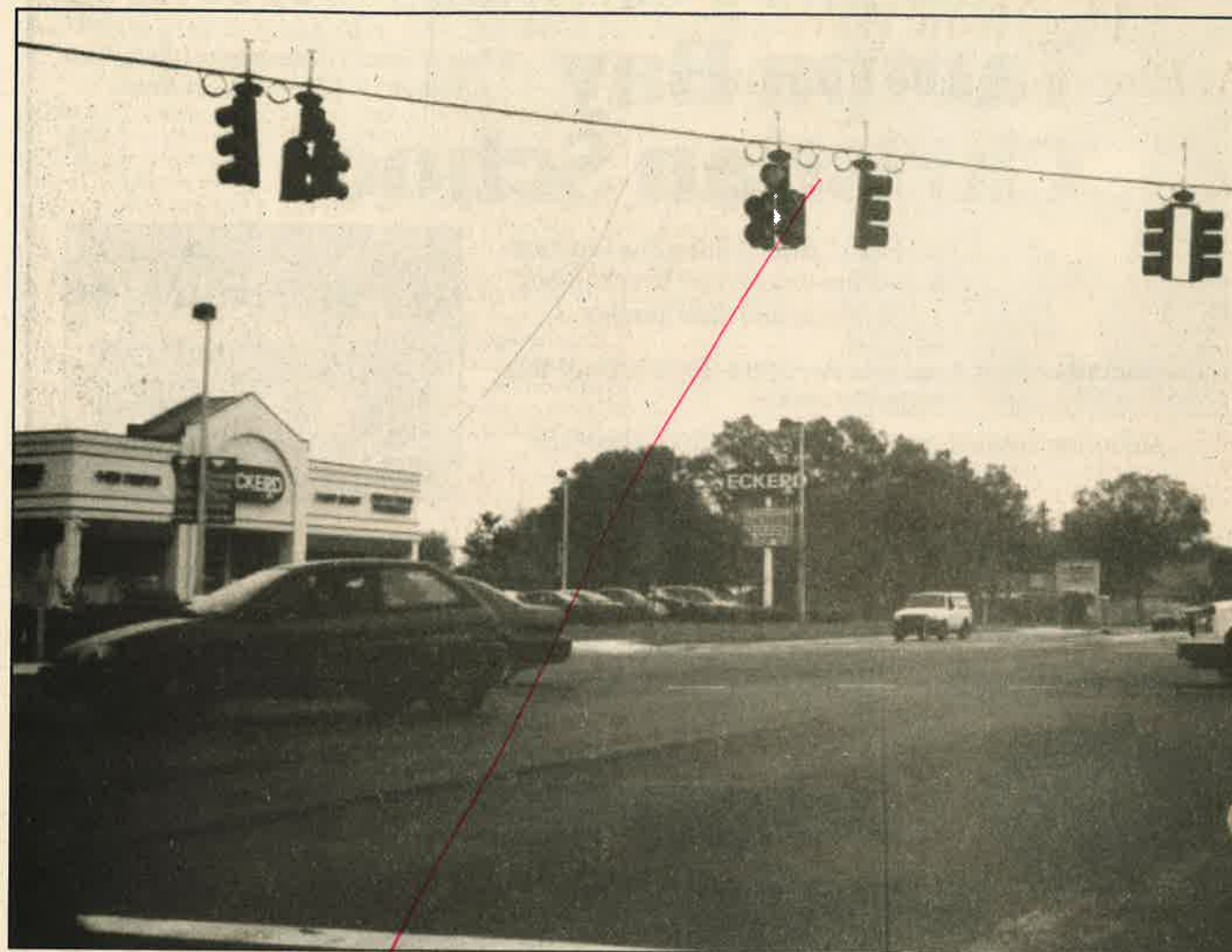
Because we are all beneficiaries of that tradition of excellence, we should each do our part to continue the tradition.

I urge you, if you're a parent, stay plugged in to your child's life at home and at school; if you're a student, make sure you're prepared for classes and extra curricu-

lar activities; if you're a business owner, support BSHS events with in-kind donations or money.

If you're none of the above, consider volunteering at the school. BSHS is a jewel in our community, and we can all help keep it polished brightly.

Go Bulls!



Drivers, please note that when you come to a red light, you must come to a full stop, not roll through.

MACK AUSTIN/Photo

## March 2002 Substation Notes

By Deputy Pete Maurer  
and CSO Sandy Capitano

Seatbelts are the most important equipment item in your car. However, they only work when they're used!

Spring break is this month. Teens by the thousands will be hitting the roads, headed for the beaches or just going places.

Parents, set the right example by using your seatbelts. Take the time to emphasize to your teens how important using them is. Of the thousands on the road this spring break, some won't be coming home because they chose not to wear their belts.

Don't let them be your teens.

Those of you with small children can have your car seats checked for proper installation at the community station or at scheduled seat checks.

Call Officer Capitano to find out about checks scheduled in our area. Seat checks at the community station are by appointment only.

During previous checks working with Tampa police officers, more than 90 percent of the seats were found to be improperly installed. This presents a very serious threat to the safety of children in these seats.

We constantly hear about

the terrible traffic in and around our area. Some think it's just because of the heavy traffic and large number of vehicles. But the vehicles don't make the traffic bad; the drivers do.

Drivers that speed, roll through stop signs, change lanes without signaling, use the turn lanes as expressways, run red lights, pass stopped school buses, tailgate, and on and on. These are the main causes of bad traffic.

Special emphasis is being given to several of these violations, especially red light runners and stop sign rollers. The cost is very expensive,

especially if you're a teen driver. Use your money for something fun, not a citation.

Reports have been received of some groups in our area that have illegally trespassed on other resident's property and put things in their car's fuel tanks, all as a big joke.

Well, it's definitely not a joke. This is considered a form of illegal sabotage because they are purposely tampering with the car's fuel system. This can cause serious damage and fuel pump failure, resulting in possible injury or death when the car stalls out at an intersection. The result would be criminal charges. No joke.

## Flags Now Wave At Bloomingdale Entrances

By Mack Austin

As Operation Enduring Freedom continues and our nation is still at war, the support and patriotic displays continue in the Bloomingdale Community.

Thanks to the patriotic spirit of two Bloomingdale residents and the financial support of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association and Special Taxing District, the American spirit is alive and well in Bloomingdale.

Bloomingdale residents Joe Liguori, an active Bloomingdale Area Community Council member, and Al Devney, Bloomingdale's prop-

erty manager, came up with the idea of placing American flags at each of the main entrances to Bloomingdale, complete with light kits so Old Glory could be seen every hour of the day.

This special project is now complete, and the flags are flying. Now Bloomingdale residents can feel that great sense of pride in our nation each time they enter and leave our community.

Our thanks go out to Joe and Al for helping us keep the American spirit alive in our community. Long may the flags wave in peace. God bless our nation, our leaders, our troops and their families.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and Special Taxing District funded a project to install American flags at all major community entrances.

VISIT [WWW.BLOOMINGDALEGAZETTE.COM](http://WWW.BLOOMINGDALEGAZETTE.COM)

## INTRODUCING "THE SMART LOAN!"

Brand New  
Offering!

4 Payment Options per month  
(for life of loan)

**2.75%**  
6.12% APR

**NO Credit Scoring Required**  
**NO Income Verification**  
**NO Asset Verification**  
**Bi-Weekly Payment Available**

Ideal for self-employed or borrower with high debt ratio. Works great for borrowers with low credit scores due to high credit usage.



DUNNE & COMPANY  
RIVER HILLS MORTGAGE

New Construction • VA • FHA • Conventional

Lending Locally Since 1989  
Lowest Fixed Rates in Florida

4316 New River Hills Parkway • Valrico, Florida 33594

Same Day Approval - Close Quickly

Located at the entrance to River Hills Country Club

Call Tim Dunne at **654-1044**

River Hills  
COUNTRY CLUB

A.P.R. based on \$100,000 loan amount. Rates & terms subject to change. Rates current at print date. Equal Housing Lender.

# Legislative Session Ends March 22

Speak now or forever hold your peace!

By Mack Austin

Hundreds of decisions affecting all of us are being made right now just a few hours up the road in a town called Tallahassee.

Our elected state representatives and senators involved in the current session of our state legislature meeting in Tallahassee are making those decisions. This legislative session ends on March 22. We hope you'll consider following the decision process, have something to say about it and know what's coming, rather than just reading about it in the newspaper.

If you think none of the bills under consideration

directly affect you, check out these examples:

- HB 0009 — Motor Vehicles/Cellular Phones
- HB 0013 — Intangible Personal Property Taxes
- HB 0033 — Child Safety Booster Seat Act
- HB 0075 — Florida Safety Belt Law
- HB 0137 — Elderly Persons and Disabled Adults
- HB 0167 — Student Assessment/Grade 10 FCAT
- HB 0175 — Child Care Facilities
- HB 0197 — School Emergency Preparedness
- HB 0219 — Open House Parties
- HB 0417 — Alcoholic Beverages/Students
- HB 0459 — Bright Futures Scholarship Program
- HB 0557 — High School Graduation Requirements

- HB 0663 — Children/Violent Video Games
- HB 0691 — Cruelty to Animals
- HB 0723 — Terrorism
- HB 0771 — Veterans
- HB 0853 — Foster Parents
- HB 1057 — Driving and Boating Under the Influence
- HB 1121 — Worker's Compensation
- HB 1299 — Water Supplies
- HB 1515 — High-Speed Rail Authority Act
- HB 1635 — High School Events/Inspirational Messages

These are just a few of the thousands of house bills under review. There is also a comparable list of senate bills under review.

For more information about the bills that cover your areas of interest or con-

cern, go to [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com). You can track their status through this website or the county web site at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/publicaffairs/2002legsessionreport](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/publicaffairs/2002legsessionreport). Daily updates are also given on Time Warner Cable channel 31.

Our state representative, Johnnie Byrd, and state senator, Tom Lee, and their staffs are very busy working these issues. Let them know your concerns and thoughts on these bills. After the session closes on March 22, 2002, it's too late!

You can contact state Rep. Johnnie Byrd at 752-5863 (Plant City office) or [byrd.johnnie@leg.state.fl.us](mailto:byrd.johnnie@leg.state.fl.us). State Sen. Tom Lee can be reached at 744-8683 (Brandon office) or [lee.tom.web@leg.state.fl.us](mailto:lee.tom.web@leg.state.fl.us).

## COME & GET IT



**Hard Water? Bad Taste?  
Bad Odor? Chlorine  
Taste? Rusty Color?**

**HEY CULLIGAN MAN!**



**Rent A Culligan Water System**  
**\$10<sup>50</sup>** per month complete  
(No Install Special)

CALL TODAY! TOLL FREE  
888-440-4542

Culligan.

culligan.com

Not valid with other offers. Offers and participation may vary. © 2001 Culligan

We will treat you presidentially!

## St. Mark Dinner, Musical

St. Mark United Methodist Church will hold a spaghetti dinner with music, entertainment and a raffle on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at the church.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 3 to 10, free for children 2 and younger. To-go boxes are available.

Proceeds will fund the church's production of "The Everlasting Passion of Christ," which will be 7 p.m. on Maunday Thursday, Mar. 28, and Good Friday, Mar. 29. Admission is free.

Information: 685-0998.

## MANAGER

From page 3

In other news, letters were prepared and mailed to all the homeowners whose property abuts the walls that will be painted this year on Natures Way, Culbreath and Garnet.

Per a resident's request, DPPI checked with the county project manager's office concerning paving of Natures Way, who indicated that "There is nothing in the computer at this time for paving

of Natures Way."

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, Mr. Devney picked up 22 bags of litter, 3 shirts, 2 pairs of gloves, a towel, a bicycle seat, a floor mat, a pair of running shoes and 19 cents.

The beverages of choice were Dr. Pepper for soft drinks, Miller Light for beer and Smirnoff Vodka for distilled spirits.



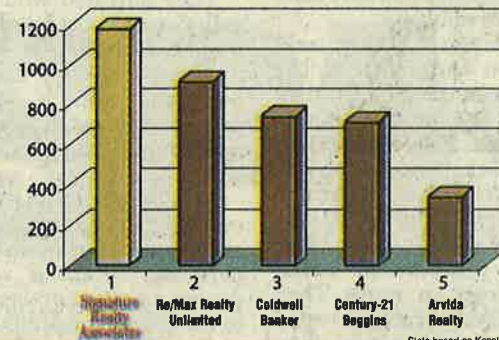
FOR MAKING US...

**New Listings / Closed Sales  
15 Months in a Row & Counting!**



**1-888-270-SOLD (7653)**

**#1 CLOSED SALES BRANDON/  
SOUTH COUNTY JAN.-DEC. 2001**



**Out Selling the  
Competition  
by as Much  
as 75%!!!**

**LIST  
WITH THE  
LEADER!**

# MOST HOMES SOLD!

689-3115 / 645-2009

Brandon/Valrico

Apollo Beach/Sun City Center

Largest Office in Hillsborough County

In The Neighborhood ... At Your Service™

WWW.SIGNATUREREALTYFLORIDA.COM



## Cimino Parents Say Sidewalks, Coordination Needed

A Gazette Report

Parents attending a public meeting last month said two things are needed to ensure the safe passage of their children to Cimino Elementary School; complete sidewalks and better coordination between taxpayers, county staff and school district officials.

About 60 parents of future Cimino students attended the Feb. 18 meeting at Alafia Elementary School to address traffic and safety issues. The school is currently under construction in Bloomingdale East and is scheduled to open for the 2002 - 2003 school year. The meeting was requested by residents of the school's neighboring subdivisions and by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.

School area director Bill Maxwell coordinated the meeting with school safety and public works staff.

Parents whose children will walk north to the school from the Bloomingdale Cove subdivision are concerned about incomplete sidewalks on the east side of Culbreath Rd. To get to the school on the east side of the road, students would have to negotiate a 325 yard grassy stretch along what parents say is a busy, narrow road.

Parents assumed the com-

pletion of sidewalks was on the list of items requiring county-school coordination over the past three years. Residents and homeowners associations had in fact contacted county and school personnel and county commissioners about the request as long as a year ago. They were surprised at the meeting when county staff announced they learned of the request just two weeks ago.

Most parents left the February meeting feeling that the prospect for sidewalk construction anytime in the foreseeable future is poor, and that the alternative walking route officials suggested is even worse.

The current plan is to cross the students from their subdivision entrance to the west side of Culbreath, where sidewalks are complete.

Students would then walk north on Culbreath to the next corner, crossing Natures Way at the intersection of Culbreath. They would then cross back over Culbreath Road at the point where the sidewalk picks up again.

Parents made clear their serious reservations about the pedestrian route. They said they were concerned about their children crossing busy roads three times each way.

Residents also questioned the probability of major traf-



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Schools area director Bill Maxwell addressed the concerns of future Cimino Elementary School parents at a Feb. 18 public meeting.

fic snarls caused by numerous school crossings on Culbreath Rd. The plan could require four crosswalks, including one proposed to the south of the school near The Cove subdivision.

Public works staff said sidewalk construction could be a possibility down the road, but not until a long list of conflicts is resolved.

They outlined what they called major obstacles to the project including a lack of funding for surveys and land purchase, and a lengthy process required to obtain the additional right-of-way needed.

In addition, it was suggested that the odds of the owners of all 19 lots involved agreeing to either sell or donate a portion of their land to the county are slim.

County staff said if one property owner declines the sidewalks, the project could not move forward.

Additional property would be required because existing utilities and fire hydrants are situated just three feet from the gutter and two feet from the presumed property lines.

Public works said there is no room for sidewalks on the current right-of-way, and added that moving the utilities is not a feasible option.

The project would also have to be pushed ahead of numerous others already prioritized on the county's sidewalk master plan, many of which lack sidewalks on both sides of the road.

Several parents asked if

the school district would consider providing bus transportation to Bloomingdale Cove.

The staff response was that the district does not provide bus service to neighborhoods within a two-mile radius of the school.

Several parents pointed out that the two-mile rule has been bent in the past to provide safe passage through similar neighborhoods still under construction and along busy roads.

Bill Maxwell had the last word, promising to send safety staff back to the site for a closer evaluation, and to take the parent's concerns to his supervisor, Asst. Superintendent Randolph Poindexter, for consideration.

"The bottom line here is that if the safety staff says there is not a safe passage for your kids to walk and bike to school, we have an obligation to get them there in a safe manner," Maxwell said.

"I will get you everything I can for your kids."

Maxwell said he would report Poindexter's comments and the results of the additional studies at the next Cimino planning meeting, set for March 21, 7p.m., at Alafia.

In addition, the BHA will review the issues at its next board meeting Monday, March 4, 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

Information: 681-2051 visit [www.BloomdaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomdaleGazette.com).

## Cimino Elementary Principal Appointed

By LAURA FRAZIER

The Hillsborough County School District announced in February the appointment of Sandra Frost as principal of Cimino Elementary School.

At a public meeting last month to address safety and traffic concerns at the new school, Frost beamed in anticipation.

"I am really excited about opening this school," she said.

The school is currently under construction in Bloomingdale East and is scheduled to open this August.

Frost is familiar with the excitement of opening a new school. She opened Summerfield Elementary in

Riverview as an assistant principal 11 years ago.

For the past four years she served as Summerfield's principal.

"Building new traditions, establishing a new learning environment, it's all so exciting," she said.

Frost said anxious parents with students transferring from Alafia and Lithia Springs Elementary to Cimino this fall have nothing to worry about.

"Cimino Elementary is going to be a wonderful school. We will continue the tradition of excellence established at Alafia and Lithia Springs Elementary."

Frost is no stranger to fol-



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Cimino Elementary School Principal Sandra Frost

lowing Alafia principal Sylvia MacMillan's lead. She served as vice principal when MacMillan opened Summer-

field Elementary as principal in 1991.

Frost will settle into temporary digs at the school site in mid March, where she'll begin hiring staff, ordering materials, registering pupils, reviewing the school handbook and getting involved in the community.

"I will be very busy out there in my trailer," she said.

Frost said a meeting of new students will be called to brainstorm for a school mascot as the 2002-2003 school year grows closer.

"I have some ideas to toss out there," she said.

"But this decision requires the input of the students."

SAY YOU SAW IT IN  
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

# SPAS

★ Therapy Jets

★ Best Prices

★ Great Selection

★ Free Ozonator, Pillows,  
Cover & Delivery

★ Full Warranty

2 Person - \$1895

5 Person - \$2495

## A-I SPAS of BRANDON

401 S. Parsons Ave. • 662-0909 (Across from Brandon Hospital)

226658

### Check Web Site For Convicted Offenders, More

The Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement web site at [www.FDLE.state.fl.us](http://www.FDLE.state.fl.us) allows visitors to search the department's current files on sexual predators, missing children, stolen property, fugitives and more.

The database is easily

searchable by street, city or zip code.

The site also provides current articles about law enforcement news from across the state, including domestic security issues.

Information: 1-850-410-7000.



The Ambassadors Club entertained the crowd with a song and dance number.

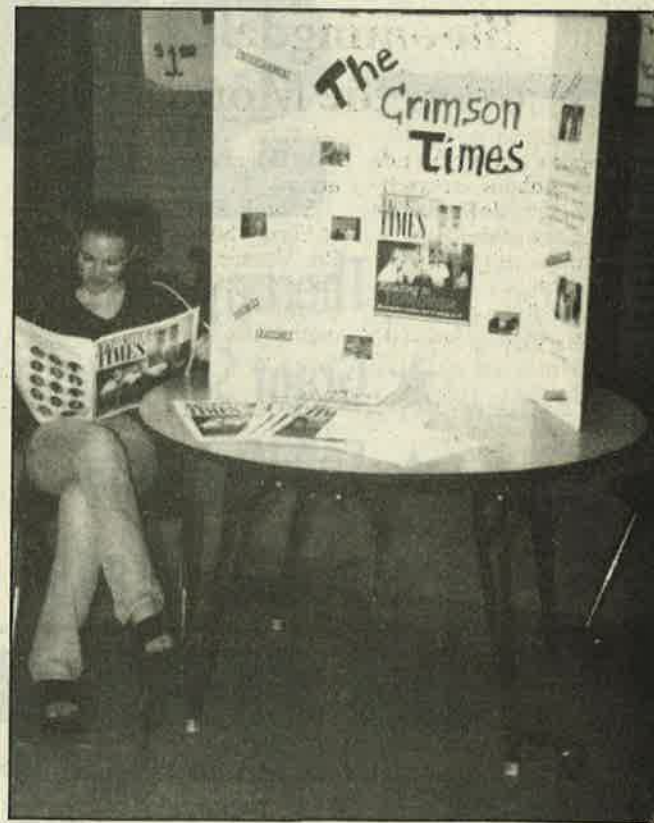
BRYCE MOSELEY/Photos

### Bulls Braggin' Rights

Bloomington High School clubs and organizations touted their accomplishments at the school's "Brag Night" last month. School clubs presented entertainment and displays depicting their recent activities during parent-teacher conference night in February.



Bloomington High PTSA members; 1st VP Suzy Wiesenhart, Health & Safety Chair Ellen Gates, Exceptional Student Education Chair Nancy Pursino, and Diane Clare, PTSA President, greeted students and parents on conference night.



The Crimson Tide newspaper club showed off recent issues of the school publication.

## Proposed Fence Project Still Pending

A Gazette Report

A report in the February issue of the Gazette incorrectly identified a project proposed by the residents of Pine Grove Condominiums as being approved for funding by the Bloomington Special Taxing District.

The installation of metal fencing along Springvale Avenue is still under consideration by the BSTD board and has not been approved for funding. We regret the error.

Monthly taxing district meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Bloomington community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

All meetings are open to the public. Information: 684-6667.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Pine Grove Condominium owners Pat Mazzucca and Sue Mallon and taxing district president Thom Snelling discuss the resident's request for a metal fence along Springvale Drive near the condos.

### Bloomington Yard of the Month

Nominate your friends and neighbors (or yourself) for the Bloomington Yard of the Month award.

Winners will receive an Ace Hardware of Bloomington gift certificate courtesy of the Bloomington Homeowners Association.

Submit entries by mail to Yard, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594, by fax to (813) 615-1129 or by E-mail to Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com.

Your name and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's name, address, phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Outstanding yard features: \_\_\_\_\_

An Easter Musical filled with choir, orchestra, drama & multimedia.

# Above All Kings

A Praise & Worship Experience for Easter  
Created by Tom Felke with Script by Chip Arnold

Come join us for this spectacular musical

**Palm Sunday**  
March 24th  
at 9:40am & 11:00am

**Easter Sunday**  
March 31st

8:30am & 11:00am  
Traditional Service with Choir & Orchestra

9:40am  
Contemporary Praise Service  
with Praise Band

**Maunder Thursday**  
March 28th

7:30pm  
Communion service with the drama of "The Living Last Supper"  
12 Disciples point of view

**First United Methodist Church**  
Brandon • 689-4161  
121 N. Knights Ave (1 block N. of Hwy 60)

ALBANY

## Bloomingtondale Golfers Club Offers Annual Pass Program

By LAURA FRAZIER

A recent Florida Golf News reader survey declared Bloomingtondale Golfers Club in Valrico among the top 15 courses in west central Florida. The survey also ranked Bloomingtondale in the top 100 out of thousands of courses statewide.

And now the club's new managers say they hope to make the course number one with Bloomingtondale East and West families.

Although memberships are not available at the fully public club, a new annual pass program is. Pass holders can call in tee times seven days in advance for Monday through Thursday play, and two days in advance for Friday through Sunday play. There are no day or time restrictions. The annual pass costs \$750 for an individual, or \$1,000 for a family, plus tax and cart rental fees. Group corporate rate passes are also available.

"Even if you usually play just one time a month, when you add in the convenience of being able to call in weekend tee times 2 days in advance, \$750 a year is a really great



LAURA FRAZIER/PHOTOS

Bloomingtondale Golfers Club assistant manager Gautam Patankar said recent improvements to the club include everything from a new irrigation system to refurbished entryways.

deal," said assistant manager Gautam Patankar.

"And for \$250 more annually, the whole family can play all year long."

Patankar and General Manager Jack Anderson hope the growing roster of special events and new programs offered at the club this year will draw Bloomingtondale resi-

dents in for a closer look at the improved facility and the game of golf itself.

Each Sunday in March, a free introductory golf clinic will be held for all ages. The classes will focus on beginning golf skills, technique and etiquette. Clubs and equipment will be provided at no charge.

A new junior golf program lets children under 18 play any day, any time for \$15 plus tax.

"We'd like parents to bring their kids out to introduce them to the game. It's nice to not have to worry about spending the full greens fee if their child tends to lose interest halfway through the course," Patankar said.

The club's restaurant, Legends Grill, is open to the public and now serves breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The dining room was recently redecorated and the dinner menu expanded.

In addition, the club now offers all-inclusive tournament packages and revamped special event packages for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and corporate dinners. A small private room seats up to 20, and the main dining room can accommo-

date parties of 150. New menu selections include a variety of hors' d'oeuvres, prime rib and chicken marsala. There is a full bar.

One upcoming high-profile event will surely have the food service folks polishing the silverware and the grounds maintenance crew meticulously patching divots.

The Hooters Tour will hold a 72-hole tournament at Bloomingtondale, Aug. 25 to Sept. 1. The third-tier tour carries a \$500,000 cash purse and will be broadcast nationwide on The Golf Channel. Patankar said it's a huge event and a great opportunity for locals to watch the pros play.

"The course will be closed to regular play that week, but we are definitely open to spectators. We hope everyone will bring their kids out to watch."

"It will be very interesting for those who have played Bloomingtondale to see how the pros play on their community course."

Current rates of play for Florida residents are \$45 Monday to Thursday and \$55 Friday to Sunday. Cart fees are \$15, and walking is permitted after 2 p.m. Information: (813) 655-4653.

Justin Wolf of Apollo Beach will compete in the Hooters tournament at Bloomingtondale this summer. Wolf said the club offers one of the toughest, longest and most challenging courses to practice on.



## Letters

Send letters by e-mail to [Letters@BloomingtondaleGazette.com](mailto:Letters@BloomingtondaleGazette.com), fax to (813) 651-1129 or mail to Editor, The Bloomingtondale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594. All letters are subject to editing.

### Mandatory Driveway Use?

Is there some restriction in Bloomingtondale prohibiting cars being parked in the street? It is ridiculous how many cars are parked on our street, especially at night, which is very dangerous. One car without tags has been parked between two houses so long that it has flat tires. The neighbors think I'm crazy when I ask them to park in their own driveway. Please advise who I can talk to about this.

Name withheld

County codes department staff and sheriff's office representatives said homeowners

are permitted to park in the street in front of their own property as long as the vehicle is operable and in a reasonable state of repair. We suggest that you contact the Bloomingtondale community substation about the inoperable car parked on the grass. The station is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call: 635-8040.

### Entryways To Get Facelift

Now that the widening of Bloomingtondale Ave. is done, are there any plans to redo the landscaping at the Bloomingtondale/Culbreath entrance to Bloomingtondale East?

Arthur Perry

The Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District board of directors has approved funding for repairs and/or renovations of all 8 major Bloomingtondale entryways, including landscaping. The work is in progress and will continue through the remainder of fiscal year 2002. For more infor-

## Russell Re-Joins RE/MAX

Local Realtor Luana Russell has re-joined the offices of RE/MAX ACR Group Inc., 702 W. Lumsden Road in the LaViva Shopping Center.

Russell has 26 years of real estate experience and has consistently been recognized

among the top realtors in the nation.

Her "5-Star Service" support team includes Debra Edwards, Linda Genco and Diane Schoeffel. For more information, call 685-8545.

Visit [www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com) for your neighborhood information

mation, please feel free to attend one of the board's open monthly meetings, held on the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Bloomingtondale community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Information: 684-6667.

### What's In a (School) Name?

Since FishHawk is petitioning to change the name of their school to the name of the locality instead of some school employee that they never heard of, why can't we do the same with the Cimino Elementary? Schools should be named only after presidents and possibly governors, not some long time employee. I am sure many Bloomingtondale people feel the same way.

Elaine Swett

Bloomingtondale residents were asked to suggest names

for the new school last year. School district staff said letters were sent home with students of Alafia and Lithia Springs Elementary to gather input in naming the school and selecting boundaries. In addition, announcements were published in local newspapers including The Bloomingtondale Gazette, on the Gazette's web site and on the school district web site.

In April 2001, friends and colleagues of the late Richard P. Cimino presented a petition to the school board with 541 signatures in support of naming the school after the Brandon civic leader and community volunteer. The board approved the name late last year. Previously published articles about Mr. Cimino can be found by searching the archives at [www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com).

Information: Bill Maxwell, school district area director, 744-8630.

226267



Spring and Easter have arrived at Jardinier

PLUS

Teak Wood Furniture  
Caswell-Massey • Trapp Candles • Occasional Tables  
Beaded Table Toppers • Fountains • Table Top Decor  
Candlesticks • Unique Baby Towels & Gifts

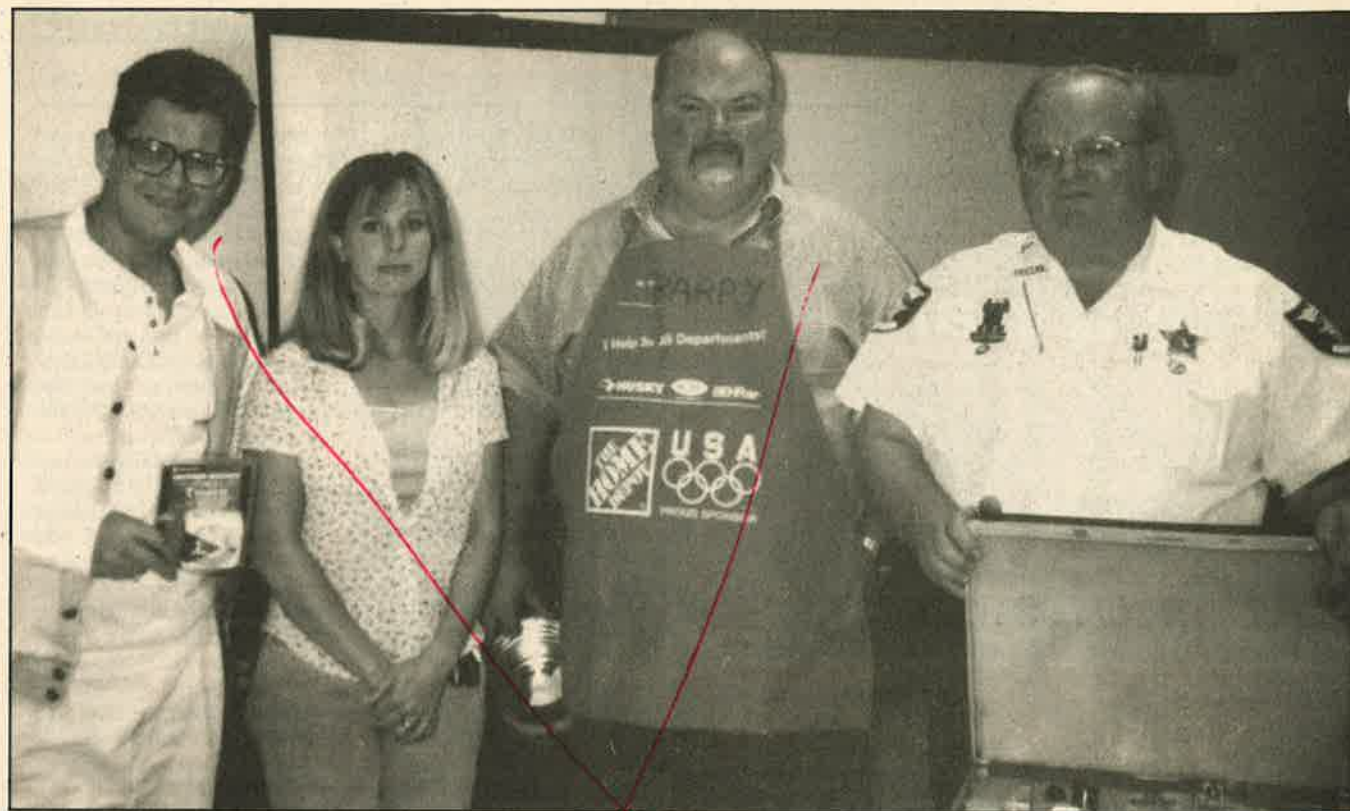
Let us help you fill your child's Easter Basket

3240 Lithia Pinecrest • Suite 101 • Valrico, FL 33594  
Royal Oaks Shopping Center  
Corner of Lithia Pinecrest & Bloomingtondale

813-643-9390

OPEN 10 - 6 MONDAY - SATURDAY





MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Home improvement clinic coordinator Kellie Fisher, Home Depot representative Barry Brinson, Bloomingdale resident and door prize winner Tom Partridge, and Deputy Charlie O'Daniel attended the Feb. 12 clinic.

## February Clinic Focused On Home Security

A Gazette Report

Dozens of Bloomingdale residents attended the free home improvement clinic last month at the Culbertson recreation center at Bloomingdale West Park.

The Home Depot of Valrico and the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association sponsor the monthly home improvement clinics.

The clinics are free and open to the public. Special speakers and demonstrations are presented on a different topic each month. Refreshments are provided and door prizes are awarded.

The February clinic focused on home security.

Deputies Ronda Deluna and Charlie O'Daniel of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office presented a formal program on residential security. O'Daniel said many folks are paying closer attention to their personal and home

security since the tragic events of Sept. 11.

In a similar way, he said, "Most homeowners wait until they have been burglarized before they do anything. It's really a shame. It would only have taken a little time to save a lot of time and expense."

O'Daniel asked, "Have any of you broken into your own home when you forgot your keys? Well, so can a burglar."

"The first step to crime prevention is awareness, which you must turn into action to remove fear. You must take the opportunity away from the burglar."

He emphasized many simple prevention steps including cutting back shrubbery, locking up tools, closing garage doors, installing strong locks, securing door frames and installing inexpensive window locks, timers, motion detectors or alarms. The presentation also includ-

The next free Bloomingdale home improvement clinic, "Handling Plumbing Emergencies," will be held Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m. in the Stephanie Culbertson Recreation Center at Bloomingdale West Park. Admission and refreshments are free, courtesy of the BHA. The Home Depot will award door prizes. Information: Kellie Fisher, 684-0516.

persive ways available to improve your home's security, such as window locks.

Deputy O'Daniel reminded residents to call 911 only for emergencies, and to call the sheriff's dispatcher at 247-8200 for non-emergency assistance. He clarified that Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer is responsible for handling community issues.

In closing, he mentioned that free home security checks are available by calling 247-8115 and leaving a message. O'Daniel said the sheriff's office is very anxious to help and is also very busy, so your patience and cooperation are appreciated.

The next free clinic, "Handling Plumbing Emergencies," will be held Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m. at Bloomingdale West Park. For more information or to suggest a topic for a future clinic, call Kellie Fisher, 684-0516.

ed steps to take now in case you are burglarized, like properly marking your possessions and taking photos.

Barry Brinson of Home Depot demonstrated ways to secure residential doorframes. He also covered the installation of motion detector lights and timers. Brinson emphasized the many inex-



## St. Stephen Spring Jubilee Set For April

A Gazette Report

St. Stephen Catholic Church will hold its first Spring Jubilee April 4-7 at the new church parish and school grounds, 10428 St. Stephen Circle off Boyette Road in Riverview.

The full-scale festival will feature 8 acres of rides, games, live entertainment and food.

Proceeds will benefit the church's general fund for construction of the new parish.

Jubilee planners said the church is also open to partnerships with other charitable organizations that wish to

participate in the festival.

The special entertainment schedule includes "Strawberry Fields," a musical tribute to the Beatles starring original members of the "Beatlemania" cast, "Let's Make a Deal," a nostalgic audience-participation game show, concerts featuring Christian rock artists Hematite and Tania Enriquez and a chili cook-off sponsored by the Crewe of Alafia Norsemen.

Twenty open acres will provide ample parking, and ride-all-the-rides armbands can be used any day, any time, with the exception of limited hours (11 a.m. to 6

p.m.) on Saturday April 6.

Festival hours are Thursday 4 to 11 p.m., Friday 4 p.m. to midnight, Saturday 11 a.m. to midnight and Sunday noon to 9 p.m.

Admission, ride and spe-

cial entertainment ticket prices will be announced this week on the event web site at [www.SpringJubilee.org](http://www.SpringJubilee.org).

Advance purchase armbands, tickets and information: 689-4900.

## Public School Calendar Changes

A Gazette Report

According to a press release issued by the Hillsborough County School Board in January, Friday, March 8 is now the end of the

third nine-week grading period and an early release day, instead of March 15.

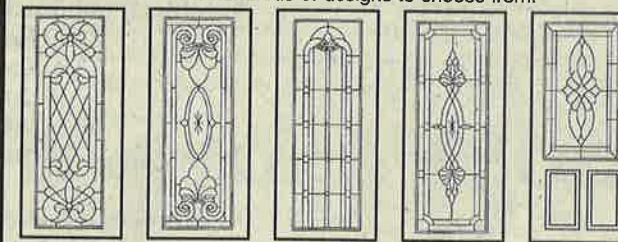
In addition, secondary report card distribution has been changed to April 3, instead of April 11.

## Your Old Door Could Be YOUR NEW DOOR!

BEAUTIFUL GLASS INSERTS CAN BE INSTALLED IN YOUR EXISTING METAL OR FIBERGLASS DOOR VERY INEXPENSIVELY IN JUST ONE HOUR AT YOUR HOME!

All come with a 10 year warranty.

There are hundreds of designs to choose from.



SEST-1000 \$899 installed SEST-1100 \$799 installed SEST-1200 \$675 installed SEST-1300 \$675 installed SEST-702 \$495 installed

### CUSTOM SIZED DOORS

Otto's Doors installs steel, fiberglass or wood replacement doors IN almost ANY SIZE.

**OTTO'S DOORS**  
FREE  
IN-HOME CONSULTATION

8503 E. ADAMO DR.  
TAMPA, FL 33619  
(813) 628-8717  
[www.ottosdoors.com](http://www.ottosdoors.com)  
toll free 1-877-433-DOOR

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE  
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

## Your Inside Connections

### The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594.  
(813) 681-2051. Fax: (813) 651-1129  
E-mail: [BHA@CyberRails.com](mailto:BHA@CyberRails.com)  
Web Site: [www.BloomingdaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingdaleGazette.com)

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

**President** — Ted Grable  
**Vice President** — Len Jaszczak  
**Treasurer** — Pam Liguori  
**Director** — Patricia Radel  
**Director** — Rodney Biddle  
**Director** — Tony Diolosa  
**Director** — Joe Hickle  
**Director** — Taya Newberry

### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

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

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

**President** — Thom Snelling  
**Treasurer** — Don Cassels

**Recording Secretary** — Alice Burleson  
**Trustee** — Russell Jones  
**Trustee** — Davis West  
**Trustee** — Dale Kahn  
**Trustee** — Myron Magedanz  
**Property Manager** — Al Devney

### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Coordinator/Equipment Manager —

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146  
**Treasurer** — Paul Kelmer, 681-9701  
**Patrol Member** — Steven Heckel, 654-4266  
**Patrol Member** — Brad Scharp, 643-5000  
**Patrol Member** — Paul Warr, 685-7883



Wireless provider for Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132. (813) 685-2817

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

**President** — Bill Grace  
**Treasurer** — Fred Englehart

## THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980  
3509 Bell Shoals Rd.  
Valrico, FL 33594  
(813) 681-2051  
Fax: (813) 651-1129  
E-Mail: [News@BloomingdaleGazette.com](mailto:News@BloomingdaleGazette.com)

**Executive Director** — Joe Liguori  
**Editor** — Laura Frazier  
**Photojournalist** — Mack Austin  
**Restaurant Critic** — Elton Dumont  
**Yard of the Month** — Rosie Trellis

Published by Sunbelt Newspapers — 1401 Oakfield Drive,  
Brandon, FL 33511. (813) 689-7764

The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomingdale residents along with The Tampa Tribune on the 1st Saturday of each month.

**Publisher** — Carla Rockwell  
**Advertising Manager** — Susie Howell

## Elton Finds The Tropics in Ruskin

By ELTON DUMONT  
Exclusive to The Gazette

**Tropics Restaurant**  
Bahia Beach Resort and Marina  
611 Destiny Drive, Ruskin  
645-3291

It's your spouse's birthday or maybe your anniversary, and you'd like to celebrate it with a Sunday Champagne Brunch ... but it's not that easy! The restaurant you select must be less than a 30-minute drive and not terribly expensive, with a casual dress code, good food, good service and a view of Tampa Bay. If that sounds like what you're looking for, I think I found it for you. Tropics Restaurant in Ruskin meets all the above criteria.

The all you care to eat Sunday Brunch buffet is served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We were seated quickly and had our champagne cocktail and coffee within 3 minutes. The breakfast table featured eggs benedict, made to order omelets and of course, pota-

toes, sausage, bacon and ham. The ham is carved from a very large and fresh side of ham. You can also have a tender (yes, really tender) steamship round with your choice of breakfast items. It is also fresh carved right in front of you from a large piece of succulent beef. Do you want it thick, thin, end cut, etc? Just ask!

The salad and fruit table had about 25 items, including soup with fresh croutons, fruit compote, tuna, macaroni and pasta salads, and a surprisingly delicious coleslaw. Key lime pie, cheesecake, danish, pecan pie and chocolate cake rounded out the dessert table.

All of this, at a beach resort, for \$14.95 per person, \$8.95 for children under 10. Not a king's ransom if you've ever been dragged into the \$21.95 and up Sunday brunches. We even had a \$3 coupon from a local magazine.

One word about the service. Our coffee cups were never empty and soiled

plates were removed from the table almost immediately. Very good service for a buffet.

Other buffet specials offered at The Tropics include a Wednesday and Friday night seafood buffet, a Saturday night Prime Rib buffet. Early bird buffets are offered for \$8.50 Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Bahia Beach Marina may just be among the best secrets of South County. But if you go, understand that it is definitely not a scenic trip as you approach the destination. Don't get discouraged; it's worth it when you finally get to The Tropics.

To get there, take I-75 south to exit 46 to Ruskin. Go west to 41, and then north on 41 to Shell Point Road. Make a left on Shell Point Road and follow the signs to Bahia Beach Resort and Marina.

When you drive in, the

Marina has dozens of tall mast sailboats. The hotel, like the restaurant, overlooks Tampa Bay. On a clear day you can see the southern tip of St. Petersburg and the Devil Rays dome across the bay. The Sunset Lounge has a weekday happy hour featuring \$1 drafts, and the tiki bar on the beachfront sand offers live music on the weekends.

Incidentally, it wasn't my wife's birthday or our anniversary. But my mother-in-law is visiting so 5 of us decided to give it a try.

Rating based on 5 Stars.  
Food: ★★ ★  
Ambience: ★★ ★  
Service: ★★ ★ 1/2  
Overall: ★★ ★

Until we eat again,

*Elton Dumont*

## Pizzeria Opens In Bloomingdale Square

A Gazette Report

Al Carapella says a slice of New York has arrived in Bloomingdale.

His new Italian restaurant and pizzeria, NY's Times Square Pizza, opened last month next to Bealls Department Store in Bloomingdale Square.

The restaurant's owner, Carapella said, "Nothing we make is dumped out of a can. We use fresh eggplant and chicken, and we make our own meatballs."

The menu features calzones, Philly cheese steaks, wings, heroes and dinner platters including spaghetti meatballs, stuffed shells, eggplant parmigiana and chicken cutlet parmi-



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo  
Al Carapella shows off his specialty stuffed veggie and meat stuffed pies.

giana. Specialty pizzas include stuffed meat or veggie, Sicilian, Chicago style and white pizza. Italian zep-polies and cannolis are offered for dessert.

The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and 11 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday.

A limited delivery area is available and includes all of Bloomingdale East and West. Information: 651-0122.

### Majik Touch Cleaners

"EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE"

Lithia 16739 FishHawk Blvd, 654-7991

**NEW Plant City Location**  
2621 Thorntonssassa Rd. 752-6629

Apollo Beach 220 Apollo Beach Blvd, 645-1499

Riverview 11697 Boyette Rd, 672-1832

Providence 1983 Lumsden Rd, 654-4423

Bloomingdale 4344 Bell Shoals, 689-9176

Bloomingdale 3513 Bell Shoals Rd, 654-9292

Bloomingdale 815 E. Bloomingdale, 681-8700

Bloomingdale 815 E. Bloomingdale, 681-8700

Bloomingdale 3248 Lithia-Pinecrest, 654-8113

Brandon 717 W. Lumsden, 654-9541

Brandon 913 W. Brandon Blvd, 684-4499

Brandon 11393 Causeway Blvd, 643-6944

N. Brandon 213 Kingsway Ave, 653-4535

Seffner 1515 S. Parson Ave., 684-5897

Valrico 1985 E. Brandon Blvd, 654-2324

**\$1.10**  
EACH

**SHIRTS LAUNDERED**

Valid on Incoming Orders Only - With \$5.00 Minimum Dry Cleaning Order, No exceptions, Limit 10. Blouses, Polo & Boxed Shirts extra

**COUPON EXPIRES 4/16/02**

**\$5.00**  
OFF

**ANY DRYCLEANING ORDER OVER \$25**

Valid on Incoming Orders Only - No exceptions. Valid only w/ coupon, not valid w/ other coupons

**COUPON EXPIRES 4/16/02**

**\$3.00**  
OFF

**ANY DRYCLEANING ORDER OVER \$15**

Valid on Incoming Orders Only - No exceptions. Valid only w/ coupon, not valid w/ other coupons

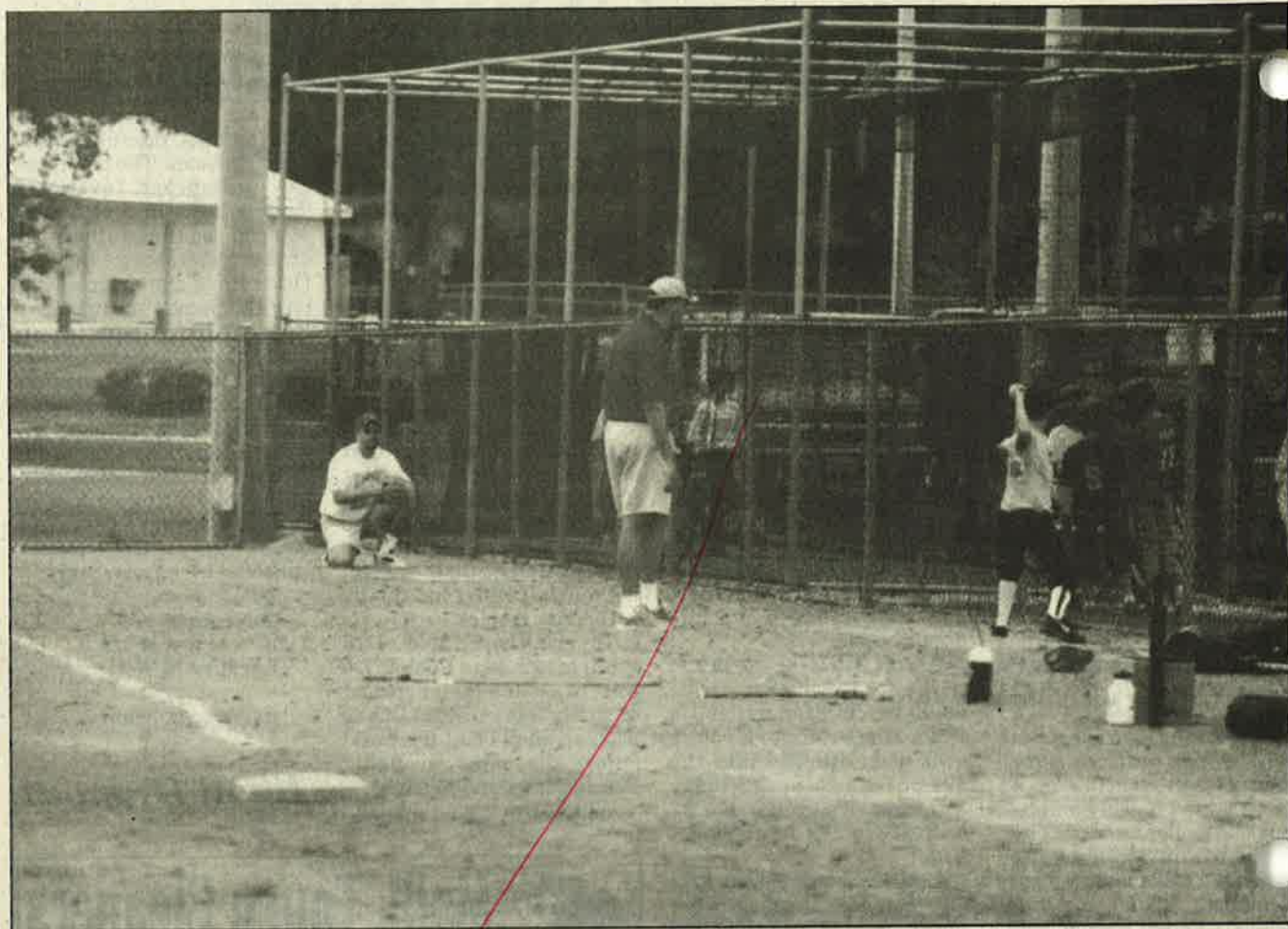
**COUPON EXPIRES 4/16/02**

**20%**  
OFF

**WEDDING GOWN, DRAPEERY CLEANING, BEDSPREADS, COMFORTERS, BLANKETS, ALTERATIONS**

Valid on Incoming Orders Only - No exceptions. Valid only w/ coupon, not valid w/ other coupons

**COUPON EXPIRES 4/16/02**



Coaches and players are busy practicing for another great season of baseball.

MACK AUSTIN/Photo

## Baseball Season In Full Swing

By Mack Austin

Spring is definitely in the air.

You can hear it — the cheers, the screams, and the twang of aluminum bats hitting baseballs. You can taste it — the burgers and treats from the concession stands. You can feel it — as you remember seasons from the past, or just the aches and pains from helping coach or manage your kid's team!

Spring season for baseball in Florida is going strong. Check out the sports news. Will this be the year for the

Tampa Bay Devil Rays? Can there be a better World Series than last year? You can get into the baseball spirit by going to any one of the many spring training camps all over Florida. Just pick your favorite teams.

Even better, you can show your support and take in a game at your local little league park, where it all begins. Every big league player started off in little league.

Games at the Bloomingdale Little League Park on the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road offer a wide variety of specta-

tor opportunities. The League has close to 1000 players this year.

The park looks great. The fields have been redone, and there are new concession stands open when games are being played. New parking spaces have been added.

Bloomingdale Little League has a full roster of teams for boys and girls of all ages. Baseball starts at t-ball and goes on up to big league for 16 to 18 year olds. All levels of girl's softball are available. Games are played on weeknights and all day on Saturdays. Big league games

are played on Sundays. Many games are played against teams from other local leagues.

So get out and enjoy the game and the beautiful Florida weather. Admission and parking are free, and you can take your pick from the fun-filled t-ball games to the intense senior league softball or baseball games. This is America's greatest past time, and we're very fortunate to be living in America's spring training state. Get on out to a game soon. It just might make you forget your troubles!

SAY YOU SAW IT IN  
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

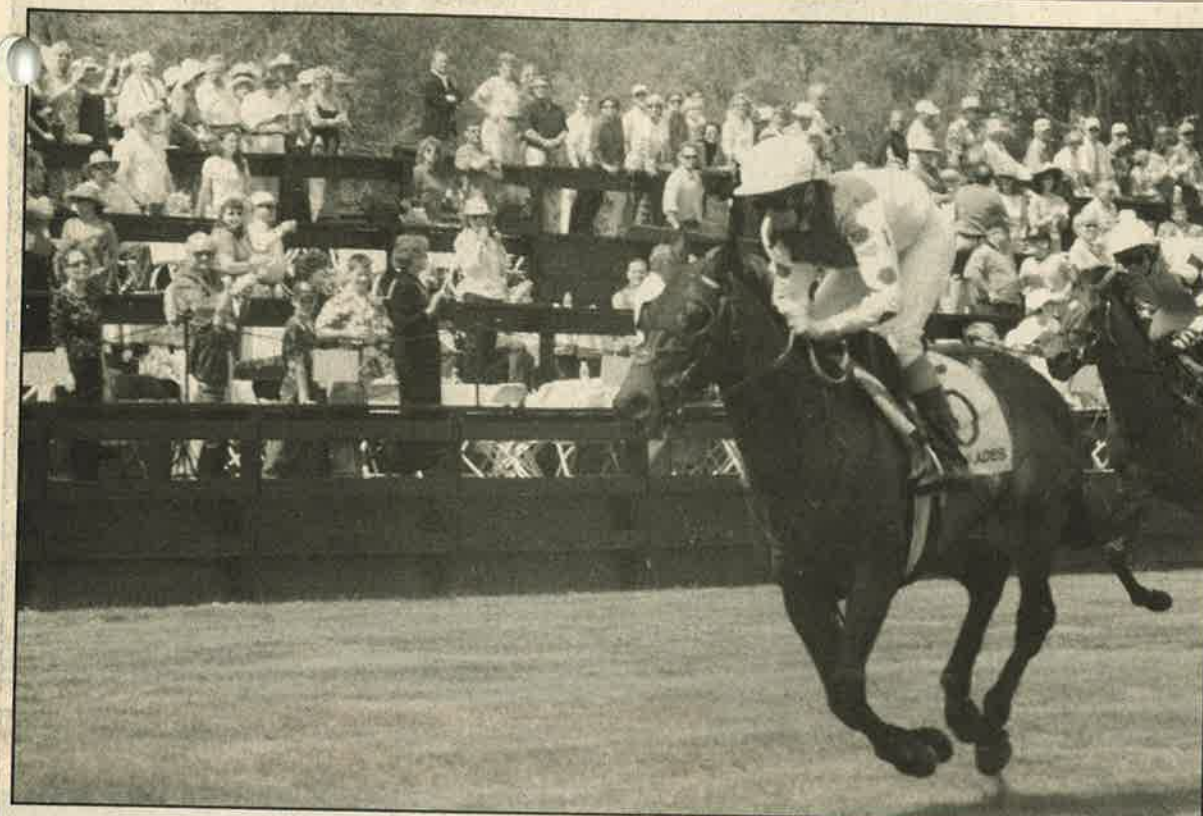


Photo courtesy of Little Everglades Ranch

Little Everglades in Dade City hosts the opening event of the National Steeplechase Association's 2002 race year.

## Day Trip To Dade City For Steeplechase Fun

Limited free tickets available for MacDill personnel

A Gazette Report

It's only about a 45-minute drive north on US-301 from Bloomingdale to Dade City, but the Little Everglades Steeplechase might make it feel like worlds away.

The steeplechase, a horserace across open country and through obstacle courses, will be held in Dade City on March 10. Now in its third year, Little Everglades is the opening event of the National Steeplechase Association's 2002 race year.

In addition to the steeplechase and dog race at the Little Everglades Ranch, antique carriages drawn by European draft horses will parade for the crowd. The 2nd Florida Cavalry will also be on parade.

There will be pony rides and games for families, crafts and shopping opportunities and plenty of food.

Competition remains the order of the day with the Grandest Hat competition and categories for most elegant, appropriate and unusual. There are tailgating competitions too, with prizes for the best lunch presentation in the most elegant, best country and most unusual categories.

Bob and Sharon Blanchard, owners of the Little Everglades Ranch, host the Little Everglades Steeplechase. The Blanchard's track is the first and only permanent steeplechase track in Florida. Blanchard said the past two years have been great events for both spectators and participants. "You can tell by the noise," he says.

Advance tickets are \$5 per person or \$25 per carload in advance, at the gate \$10 per person and \$40 per carload. A limited number of complimentary tickets for MacDill AFB personnel and their families are available; inquire at the base. Information: 352-521-3661.

**One Year's Progress In Reading and Math Guaranteed!\***  
all for only

**\$25** per hour

Brandon Swim and Tennis Club announces our new academic tutoring program using **A Thousand Points of Knowledge™**. Call us today and learn how your child can achieve success in school and life.

- Affordable
- Individualized Instruction
- Motivational Rewards

**Assessment:**  
1<sup>st</sup> area \$125  
2<sup>nd</sup> area \$75

**BRANDON SWIM & TENNIS Club**  
*Much More Than Our Name*

\*Restrictions apply

**(813) 689-0908**

405 Beverly Blvd. Brandon, FL 33511  
www.mybstc.com

# Coalition Clearing Path For Drug-Free Teens

By LAURA FRAZIER

They're still working on an official name and mission statement, but their goal is crystal clear; to make drug prevention and treatment resources in the greater Brandon area more accessible to teens and families, and to reduce the local demand for drugs.

In an effort to unite the greater Brandon community to combat teen drug and alcohol abuse, Bloomingdale resident Ellen Gates organized the group of parents and professionals last year. Gates is an active member of the Bloomingdale High PTSA and the mother of three teenagers.

Now serving as the group's director, Gates said her motivation for organizing the grass roots anti-drug abuse coalition stemmed from the anguish her family experienced over the tragic death of a close teenage friend.

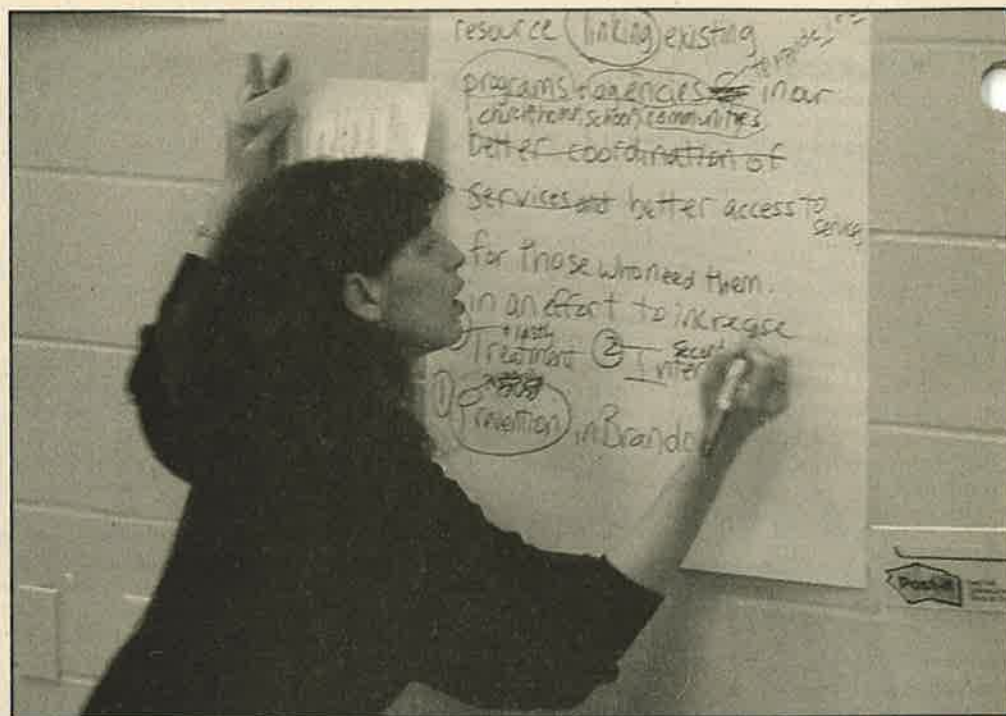
Although various Brandon area agencies are available to counsel and treat teens involved with substance abuse, Gates said no clear link exists between the agencies, and no clear path is outlined for those seeking help.

The group met last week at the Campo Family YMCA in Bloomingdale to plan several upcoming activities and to begin formulating a name and mission statement, both of which are still in the works.

Bloomingdale High School Resource Deputy Harrison Bashner attended the Feb. 5 meeting.

Bashner said parent involvement and guidance is crucial to keeping kids drug and alcohol free.

"The more parents that are involved with projects like the substance abuse coal-



Debbie Cohen outlines suggestions for the group's new name and mission statement, still a work in progress. Cohen is a coalition member and director of the Y's "Girls Rule" mentoring program.

tion, the easier it is to get the anti-drug message across," said Bashner.

"Parents are the number one source of information for kids."

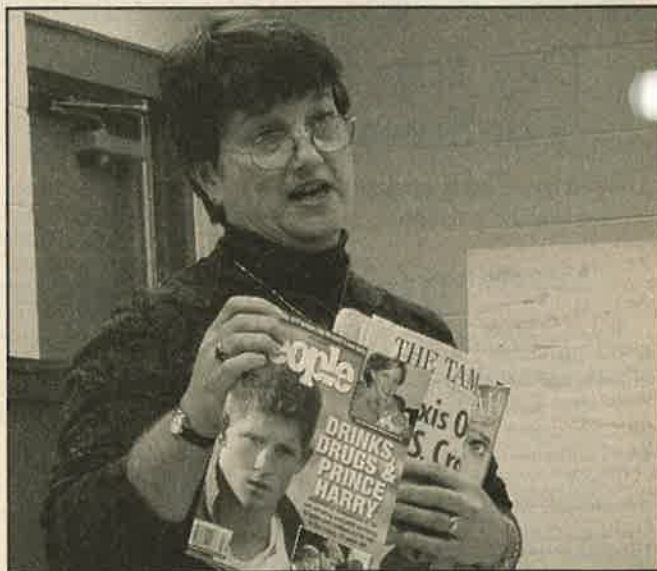
The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is sponsoring the coalition's youth rally for teens this month.

Gates said, "For the homeowners association to embrace a partnership with the coalition and the YMCA is just a great move. I think it's commendable that our community is coming together to let our youth and families know how much we care."

The rally will be held Saturday, March 16, 6 to 11 p.m. at the Campo Family YMCA. Parents are invited. Admission, entertainment, food and activities are free, and YMCA membership is not required.

Brandon area organizations that benefit teens and families are invited to set up display tables at the Y at 4 p.m. Motivational speaker Bobby Petrocelli will address the rally at 8 p.m. Founder of the "10 Seconds, Inc." organization, Petrocelli is a former teacher, guidance counselor and coach.

"Bobby speaks about making those crucial 10-second



Coalition director Ellen Gates shows the group examples of high profile substance abuse stories in recent local and national publications.

decisions, like deciding to drive drunk, and the devastating consequences those decisions can have on our lives," said Gates.

Live entertainment and complimentary refreshments will be offered throughout the event. After 9:30 p.m., teens are invited to play basketball, pool, table tennis, watch movies and use the gym's rock climbing wall.

"We want to make this a celebration for our kids," Gates said.

The next coalition meeting will be held Tuesday, March 5, 6:45 p.m. at the Campo Family YMCA. Brandon, Valrico and Riverview parents, teens and youth service professionals are encouraged to attend.

Information: Ellen Gates, (813) 340-5039.

# Sizzlin' Summer Jobs Available

By MACK AUSTIN

Want a challenge for this summer? Got plenty of energy and patience? The Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for the 2002 Sizzlin' Summer fun camp and year-round temp pool.

All applicants must be at least 16 years old, have a valid Florida driver's license, proof of automobile insurance and a copy of their driving record. Applicants will undergo a background check.

Recreation aides and leaders work 40-hour weeks during the summer from June 3 through August 2, 2002. Workers will help supervise kids in sports, arts-n-crafts,

playground games, special events and field trips. Recreation therapists and therapy assistants are also needed to work with special-needs kids during the summer.

Workers are also being recruited for the temp pool and will be used to fill in during sick leave, vacations and emergency situations during the year.

Applications for both summer work and the temp pool will be accepted through April 5. Interviews and hiring will follow later in the month.

Pick up an application 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation administration office, 1101 E. River Cove Drive in Tampa. Information: Gloria Chatman, 903-2250.



Got time, energy and willing to work hard while you have fun? Kids like these need you to sign up for Parks & Rec's 2002 Sizzlin' Summer Fun Camp.

# Residents Vent About Illegal Signs

A Gazette Report

The Gazette launched a new resident opinion poll last month on our community web site, [www.BloomingdaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingdaleGazette.com). The "Snipe Sign Poll" asks residents to consider whether or not they feel temporary advertising signs posted throughout Bloomingdale are an eyesore, and if they feel the signs are beneficial to promote garage sales and homes for sale.

The illegal signs are in violation of county codes, but county staff says they do not have the resources to pick them up and issue fines on a regular basis. In effect, the residents of the community have the options of being lenient with the use of the signs, actively seeking more stringent county enforcement, or organizing a program to remove the signs

themselves.

Out of 41 respondents, 31 said the signs are an eyesore, and 10 residents said they are not. In addition, out of 40 respondents, 10 residents said the signs are beneficial for garage sales and homes for sale, while 30 said they are not. Respondents may post comments about the issue on the web site. All names are withheld. Following are excerpts of some comments currently posted on the web site. To participate in the poll, visit [www.BloomingdaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingdaleGazette.com) and go to the "Community Poll" section on the main menu. Residents may also send their comments in writing to Gazette Poll, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594.

"How else can you have a See SIGNS, Page 30

## TEMPLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

We Specialize in Children

One stop for parents with infants thru 7th Grade

**A BEKA Curriculum**  
A Christian Based Curriculum including:

- Math • Science
- Reading • History
- Arts & Crafts
- Certified Teachers
- Trained Specialists in Computers & Other Disciplines
- Small Classes

**PRESCHOOL & INFANT DAYCARE**  
6:30am-6pm

Loving Child Care by Trained Professionals

After School Pick Up Available

TEMPLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
Home of GRACE BAPTIST TEMPLE

2909 John Moore Road  
Brandon, FL 33511  
(813) 689-7190

**SIGNS**

From page 29

garage sale without a sign? It is absurd to make them illegal. The community has a lot of garage sales, and they all have signs. It should be made illegal to leave them up past the sale time. How else does anyone know where your sale is?"

**Bristol Green**

"I think 'snipe signs' are protected speech under the First Amendment. I also think that the majority of them are eyesores, and are no substitute for an ad in the local press. Further, I think that there is no more possibility of the county spending the time and money required to remove them than they do the debris and glass at a car collision. Cleaning up the debris is the responsibility of the participants in the collision, but that rarely happens if our local streets are any indication."

**Bloomington East**

"I don't mind the one or two day only garage sale signs.

It's the ones such as "work at home and earn zillions," or "lose weight ... ask me how!" that are the real eyesore. People never pick them up!"

**Bloomington West**

"I'm concerned that Bloomington Ave. will begin to look like SR 60. The proliferation of commercial establishments has diminished the rural beauty of the area, and the addition of signs will have a negative impact on property values. The signs must go!"

**Pine Grove Condominiums**

"Since you asked... After a quick review of my immediate neighborhood deed restrictions, snipe signs are the least of our problems. However, I'll bet it would be easier to enforce that [sign] law than the deed restrictions."

**Bloomington West**

"Each municipality has a code for proper use of signage. I highly recommend that residents become acquainted with the sign ordinance of Hillsborough



RODNEY BIDDLE/Photo

Hillsborough County considers snipe signs to be "trash signs," and they are illegal.

County. If people continue to place signage around the community, stringent requirements or penalties could be imposed. It is against the law. Anyone can report this violation to the county, by calling the county code violations office at 744-5509."

**Buckhorn**

"These signs are abused too often to be allowed. Signs placed for garage sales are often left up after the sales for someone else to pick up

and businesses often don't care how these signs look in the community."

**The Greens**

The banners on [drug stores and gas stations] and every other business in the community have made our area look like hell. As if I, and the thousands of others who live in Bloomington don't know that each of these places have Pepsi and Fuji film on sale every other weekend!

**Bloomington West**

**TEACHER**

From page 6

teacher's aides ushered all 11 excited but mannerly children through the aisles of the store. To the children, it was a shopping spree. To their teacher, it was an opportunity to help the children gain social experience and practice appropriate public behavior.

Dollar Tree cashier Darlene Lynch once worked with autistic children in her home state of Michigan. She said Mr. Stiles does a marvelous job with the children.

"He has unlimited patience and understanding. He just leads them through whatever he needs them to do, and they really respond very well to him," Lynch said.

Prior to their arrival at Dollar Tree, the class stopped at Bank of America and cashed a check to fund their shopping spree. A few children accompanied Stiles into the bank, and they emerged with a wallet full of one-dol-

lar bills to dole out. But this was no handout; the students earned every penny of their spending money.

The class recently put a long forgotten washing machine installed at the school back into service. Through their new business, Spectrum Laundry, students wash, dry and fold laundry for \$3 a load. Stiles said his fellow teachers at Burns have been happy to contribute to the program by bringing in their wash by the basketful.

Thanks to coordination by special education bus driver Diane Yates, Stiles said the McDonald's restaurant on Bloomington Avenue and Sam's Club of Brandon have also been generous in providing tours and treats to the class.

"Diane even went out on her own and solicited contributions for pocket money for the kids to take to the state fair last month," Stiles said.

The local Shriners Club footed the bill for the children's fair admission and lunch.

The group also recently visited Cici's Pizza on Lumsden Rd. in Brandon. The children filled condiment trays, set up tables and folded pizza boxes in preparation for the restaurant to open for lunch. When their work was done, Cici's treated the class to pizza.

"This is our first experience with the group, and I have to say we were very impressed," said Gil Meisner, Cici's store manager.

"We took them on a tour of the store, they helped us with our opening procedures, and then they sat down for lunch. They followed Mr. Stiles directions and were completely well behaved. We're looking forward to having them back again."

The Burns staff admitted they were surprised when

the special unit was placed at the school last year. They were curious about how the class would fit in to a mainstream middle school.

Now halfway through the school year, Nolte said any reservations they might have had about the class have been cast aside.

"Having Mr. Stiles and his class here at Burns has been a very positive learning experience for our staff, our students and our community," she said.

"We have all learned firsthand that no matter what our individual limitations may be, we must push ourselves to do as much as we are able to do."

Stiles also serves as vice president of the Council for Exceptional Children's Tampa chapter. The organization's mission is to improve educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities.

# Experience Our Golf Sanctuary!

Rated #1 in Hillsborough County  
 Rated #9 in Florida by Golfweek Magazine  
 Rated #14 in Florida by Golf Digest



**BLOOMINGDALE**  
 Golfers Club

**Monday - Thursday**

Open - 11am ..... \$45  
 11am - 2pm ..... \$35  
 2pm - 4pm ..... \$28  
 After 4pm ..... \$18

**Friday-Sunday/Holidays**

Open - 2pm ..... \$55  
 2pm - 4pm ..... \$34.50  
 After 4pm ..... \$24.50

Call 813-685-4105 for tee time reservations!

Visit us at [www.bgcgolf.com](http://www.bgcgolf.com)

Ask about our Women's Amateur Championship March 11-12

Accept the Challenge... Get Back To Nature... Play The Best!

BLGZIND

# CLASSIFIED

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

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

<b>155 Mobile Homes In Parks</b> RUSKIN, 14X60 mobile home, Little Manatee Isles, 2Br, 2Ba, shed, scrn.porch, carport, lrg patio, new A/C. Water-front, free boat storage & launch ramp on premises. Exc. Cond. 1st \$4000. 813-634-0798.	<b>320 Medical</b> RECEPTIONIST Brandon optometric practice. FT. 813-689-2222	<b>411 Super Savers</b> MIRROR Large 30 inch X 60 inch, 1/4 in. thick. \$55 (863) 688-2509
<b>202 Rentals To Share</b> Plant City, Female to share w/female, quiet country home with pool. \$450 incl util, except phone. No pets. \$200 dep. Ref. 813-757-0805	<b>380 Employment General</b> CHILD Care Giver, FT/PT. Exp desired but not req. Brandon Ctr 294-8742	<b>PRINT</b> Robert Butler, Early Light @ Stanley Fish Hole. \$15. (863) 859-3606
<b>205 Apartments Unfurnished</b> BRANDON 2 room APT for rent \$500 mo. Includes utilities. No pets. Call 813-272-7500	<b>411 Super Savers</b> AQUARIUM 10 gal. all accessories & some fish \$40 (863) 676-6780	<b>635 Motorcycles</b> SEWING Mach. Euro Pro denim/silk. 33 stitches Exc. \$150 863.688-2509
	<b>BATH</b> Tub corner with integral tiling flange & skirt \$75 (863) 419-0346	<b>649 Automobiles For Sale</b> FORD 1995 250 Econoline. Extremely good cond Cold air, new tires, Great work van. \$5900/obo 813-737-4781
	<b>DENIM</b> Jumper med ladies handmade new, ceramic bttns. \$30 863.859-3606	
	<b>DENIM</b> Jumper sm. ladies, handmade new, ceramic bttns. \$30 863.859-3606	
	<b>MATTRESS</b> twin ext firm box spr incld. Metal frame \$75 863.688-2509	

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

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

BLG3X3



# Bloomingtondale Gets Five-Star Service



with

*Luana*  
**RUSSELL**

Five-Star Service

## Homes Recently Sold In Bloomingtondale:

4111 Spring Way Cr.	\$ 94,500
2525 Gotham Way	\$110,000
529 Emberwood Dr.	\$118,000
705 Redondo Dr.	\$123,000
3902 Penrod Ln.	\$136,900
2724 Brookville Dr.	\$174,900
4625 River Close Blvd.	\$230,000
4321 Swift Cr.	\$258,000



**RE/MAX**

**ACR Group, Inc.**

702 W. Lumsden Rd.  
Brandon, Florida 33511

**685-2090** or

**685-8545**

**Easter Blessings**



Call Luana and discover the pleasure of five star service