

Tentative Library Plans Unveiled

COUNTY ASKED TO INCREASE NEW LIBRARY SIZE

By MACK AUSTIN

Before the construction equipment starts arriving and the building supplies begin to pile up; before the old pasture has pipes and concrete all over the place, a lot

more planning has to be accomplished before it really looks like our community will actually see its new library next to Bloomingdale Senior High School.

In the meantime, the architects and county staff will meet with community representatives to insure the finished product is one we can all be very proud of.

See Library, Page 10



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Featured Story:

**Clean-Up Day
Is April 26**

see page 3



Photo from Alafia River Chapter DAR

Students Honored For Essays, Character

Alafia Elementary fifth grade student Garrett Brown (at right) was awarded the Alafia River Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Bronze Medal for his essay depicting the life of a Revolutionary War Soldier. See page 9.

Neighborhood charity project planned, see page 11



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Bloomingtondale Clean Up Set For April 26

SEVEN NEIGHBORHOODS SELECTED

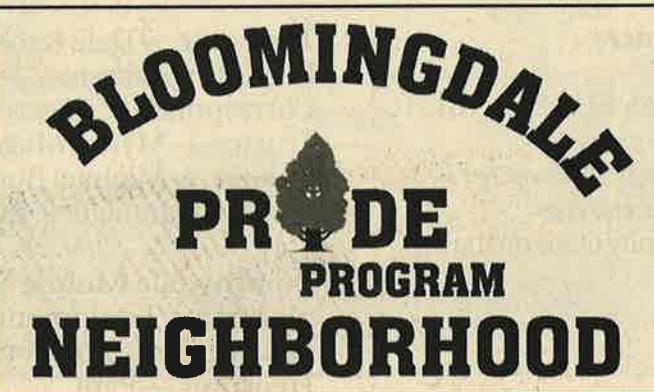
By CHERYL KEHRMEYER
BHA Director

Our Bloomingtondale PRIDE program is growing every month, thanks to all of you who have volunteered for the project. - People of Bloomingtondale Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying our great community.

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association's goal is to implement in 2003 a PRIDE committee in each of the community's 40 neighborhood sections. We are pleased to have committees in seven neighborhood sections ready to kick off PRIDE in April.

As part of the nationwide "Great American Cleanup," our homeowners association and Hillsborough County will sponsor a cleanup day on Saturday, April 26. This month, the BHA will send letters to every residence in each selected neighborhood. The letters will list what items can be disposed of on clean-up day, and the details of the program, including neighborhood training session dates.

At the training sessions, we will provide each neighborhood Team Captain with a PRIDE Resource Manual. The manual includes tips and ideas on forming a team, organizing volunteers, running a neighborhood clean-up day, and getting helping hands from the community.



PRIDE - People Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying Bloomingtondale

March PRIDE Good Neighbor Tip

Please keep sidewalks clear to ensure safety for pedestrians, small children riding bikes, and mothers with strollers. Be sure that portable basketball hoops, debris, and low-hanging branches do not impede safe passage on the sidewalks around your home.

We still need more volunteers in the selected neighborhoods to really demonstrate what Bloomingtondale can do when we join together.

If you'd like to join us, please call the BHA office at 681-2051 or e-mail Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@verizon.net.

The following neighborhoods - almost 1400 residences - have been scheduled for cleanup on April 26, based on neighborhood interest and volunteer participation.

Bloomingtondale West
(Sections C1 & C2)
Fenner Ct.
Herlong Ct.

Hollister Pl.
Isleton Dr.
Redondo Dr.
Wasco Ct.

Bloomingtondale West
(Sections H1 & H3)
Bloomingtondale Dr. (401 - 423)
Cedar Grove Dr. (501 - 514)
Emberwood Dr.
Fallon Ct.
Paddlewheel Dr.
Sweetleaf Dr.
Van Reed Manor Dr.

Bloomingtondale West
(Sections H2 & H4)
Canoga Park Dr. (4107 - 4119)
Cedar Grove Dr. (515 - 638)
Denage Ct.
Encina Dr.
Ephrata Dr.

Fieldstone Dr.
Royan Way
Sandy Creek Dr. (501 - 621)
Wynnewood Dr.

Bloomingtondale Estates
(Section D)
Applegate Cr.
Bayfield Dr.
Bessemer Cr.
Bloomingtondale Dr. (104 - 314)
Butternut Ct.
Buttonwood Ct.
Paddlewheel Cr.
Rosedale Dr.
Sabal Palm Ct.

Chadds Ford
(Section N)
Moondale Ct.
Rainbrook Cr.
Turnbury St. (3909 - 3925)

OakCrest Section
(Section R)
Fontana Pl.
Gotham Way
Kenwick Dr.
Levonshire Pl.
LynCrest Ct.
Mendocina Way
MillCreek Ct.
Moreland Dr.
Needham Dr.
Oakhurst Ct.
Penrod Ln.
Quail Briar Dr.
Shilo Ct.
Windell Pl.
WrenCrest Cr.

Windsor Woods
(Section PQ)
Blackwood Pl.
Cold Creek Dr.
Eaglewood St.
HollowWood Dr.
Kiowa Ln.
Timberfall Ln.
Treeline Dr.

Dispose Of Household Chemicals, Electronics

By MACK AUSTIN

"Home Safe Home" is a special program offered by the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Dept. to give residents an opportunity to properly dispose of household chemicals and electronic items.

Proper disposal of these dangerous items protects our homes and environment.

Household chemicals can be disposed of on the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (new hours) at the South County Collection site, 13000 Hwy. 41 South in Gibsonton, one quarter mile north of Big Bend Road. Chemical materials accepted include paints and solvents, automotive products, household cleaners, pool chemicals, lawn and garden supplies.

Absolutely no commercial waste will be accepted.

Household electronics can be disposed of at the South County Collection site from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 24, 2003 (chemicals will not be accepted on this date). Residents are limited to disposing a maximum of five electronic items including televisions, VCRs, computers and computer components (laptops, moni-

tors, keyboards, hard drives and printers), microwaves, cell phones, power supplies and household appliances.

For the safety of the public and county employees, collections may be suspended during periods of severe weather. For additional information or to report illegal dumping call the Solid Waste Management Dept. at 272-5680.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. (813) 681-2051. Fax: (813) 651-1129

E-mail: Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net

Web Site: www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com

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

President — Ted Grable
 Vice President — Joe Hickle
 Treasurer — Pam Liguori
 Director — Tony Diolosa
 Director — Steve Heckel
 Director — Cheryl Kehrmeier
 Director — Michele Caballer
 Director — Joseph Grem

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
 Vice President — Russell Jones

Treasurer — Dale Kahn
 Recording Secretary — Alice Burleson
 Correspondence Secretary — David West
 Trustee — Myron Magedanz
 Trustee — Michael Buday
 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



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

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MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Hillsborough County Recreation centers like ours in Bloomingdale are filled with excited kids during the summer months. Applications are now being taken for Recreation Aides and Recreation Leaders.

Hillsborough County Parks Need Recreation Aides

SUMMER JOBS FOR AGES 16-UP

By MACK AUSTIN

Want to get a head start on planning a great summer?

Now is the time to do it.

The Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Dept. is now accepting employment applications for the 2003 "Sizzlin' Summer Fun Camp" and the year-around temp pool.

Applicants for all positions must be at least 16 years old, have a valid driver's license,

proof of automobile insurance, a copy of their driving record, their social security card, and must undergo a background check.

Recreation aides and Recreation leaders work 40-hour weeks during the summer session from June 2,

through August 1, 2003. Workers are assigned to a recreation area where they help supervise kids in sports, arts and crafts, playground games, special events and field trips. Recreation therapists and

See Parks, Page 6



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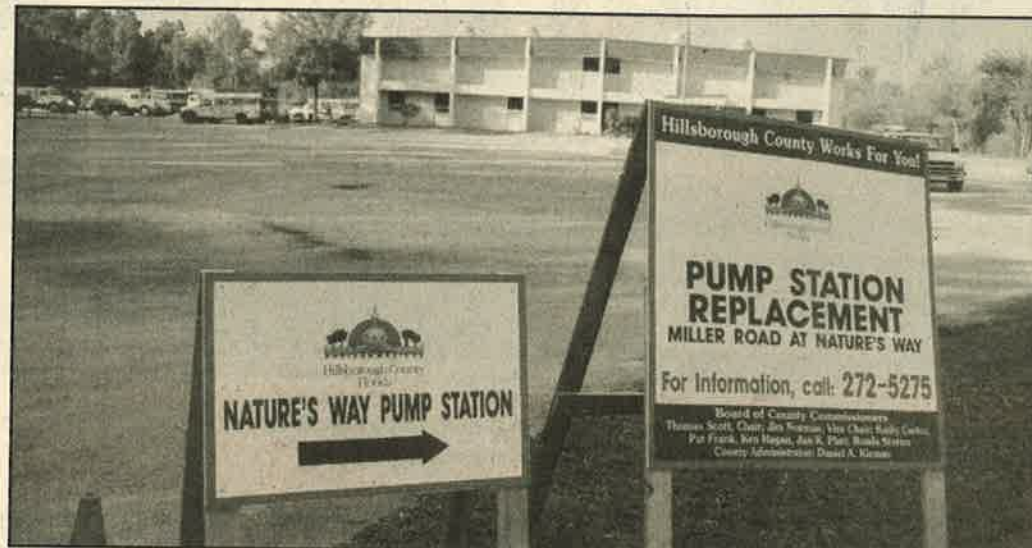
Project Will Help Meet Water Demands

By MACK AUSTIN

Bloomington residents driving west of the YMCA on Bloomingdale Ave. or on Natures Way near Alafia Elementary School may have noticed an increase in truck traffic since February. The traffic is related to a special water project under construction.

The water project is located between Bloomingdale Ave. and Natures Way, north of the county's Parks Maintenance Unit. The work site is completely enclosed by the fencing surrounding the Parks facility and concrete block privacy fencing.

The project involves the installation of approximately 1800 linear foot of sewage force main from near Bloomingdale Avenue, south to the existing sewage pump station, and the construction of two sewage wetwells, approximately 25 feet deep. Included



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

To help meet our community's growing demands, the Hillsborough County Water Dept. is completing a special upgrading project in Bloomingdale.

in the project are an emergency generator and fuel supply, odor control equipment and an electrical equipment building. The project began

Feb 3. and is planned to take 210 days.

This project is all part of upgrading our water facilities due to increased growth in our area. Drivers are asked to proceed with caution around trucks entering or exiting these areas.

Residents are asked to note

that this is a designated construction site.

Anyone found trespassing and/or vandalizing the property is subject to a minimum \$5000 fine and possible jail time.

To report suspicious activity in this area call the Sheriff's Dept. at 247-8200.

Parks

From page 5

therapy assistants are also needed to work with the disabled during the summer.

Workers are also being recruited for the temp pool - a source of workers used to fill in during sick leave, vacations and emergency situations during the year.

Applications will be accepted through April 4 and are available at the Parks Administrative Office at River Cove, Brandon Recreation Center, Winston Park, Roy Haynes, University Area Community Center, Northdale, Jackson Springs, Egypt Lake, Ruskin, and Mango Recreation Centers.

All applications should be returned in person or mailed

to Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Dept., 1101 East River Cove St, Tampa, FL 33604.

The interview and selection process will begin after the April 4 deadline.

Education and experience working with children is a major consideration for hiring.

Applications received after April 4 will be held and placed in a waiting pool to be used if needed.

For additional information, contact Gloria Chatman at 903-2250.

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Cimino PTA "Scrambles" To Raise Funds, Pavilion

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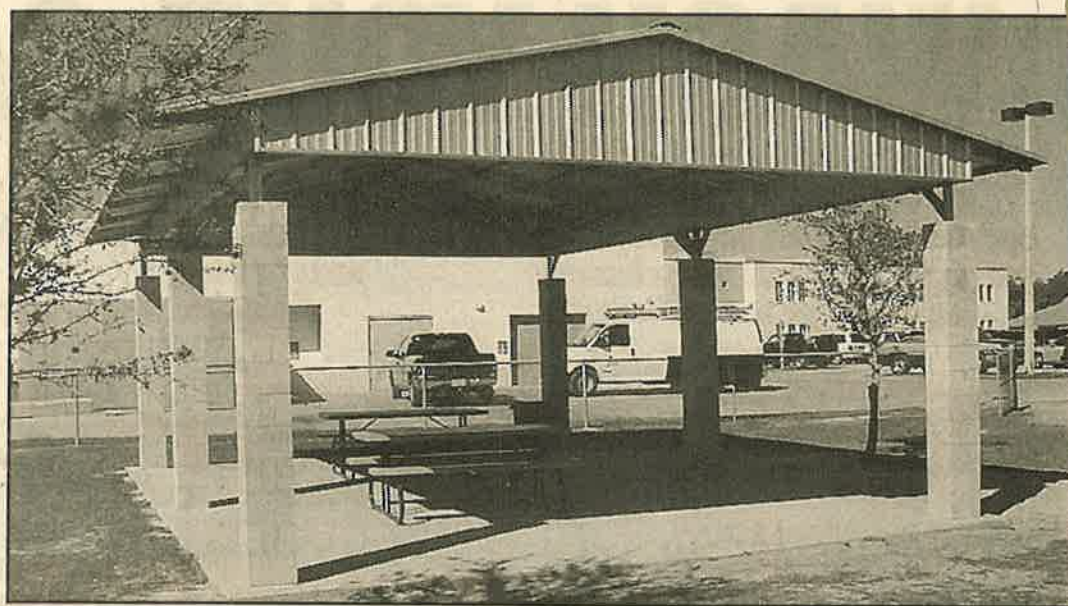
By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

The Cimino Elementary PTA wanted to do something "fore" the kids to protect them from the harsh Florida sun. But in order to raise the money, the group wanted to do something different, something fun.

So it decided to sponsor its first-ever golf tournament, an event they hope to host annually, at Bloomingdale Golfers Club on March 8.

"During the summer I was approached by a lot of people about doing a school golf tournament," said organizer Lynna Dees. "There has been interest from the community, the school, and parents."

Proceeds from the four-person scramble will go toward a fund to build a pavilion on campus, much like one at Bevis Elementary. The pavilion, which costs around



SHANNAN D. POWELL/Photo

The Cimino Elementary School PTA will host a golf tournament March 8 at Bloomingdale Golfers Club to raise money for a shelter like this one at Bevis Elementary.

\$8,000, will provide much needed shade for the children's outdoor activities during the hot months.

"The pavilion came up at

our October board meeting, where we had parents contribute suggestions for PTA fundraising goals," said Cimino PTA president Sherri Meredith. "We wanted to do something different to raise money and that's where the golf tournament came from."

While Cimino is only in its first year, there were many suggestions from parents on how to allocate PTA funds, but the pavilion was the most supported.

"I think it will be a lot of fun," said Meredith. "We want people to enjoy themselves and leave with the satisfaction that they helped the PTA provide this shelter for the children."

The cost for entering the tournament is \$75 per golfer, and includes a cart, 10 raffle tickets, awards for various contests, dinner and a goody bag. All entrants must pre-register for the event prior to March 8. Space is limited, so Dees suggests registering early.

Bloomingdale Golfers Club, located on Nature's Way in Valrico, has hosted PGA qualifying events in the past. It is a unique, wide-open course with a lot of water, and runs through a nature preserve.

For information about the tournament or to register, contact Dees at 651-2378 or Meredith at 681-6793.

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Photo from Alafia River Chapter DAR

Students Honored For Essays, Character

Nancy Williby (at left) and Elizabeth McNair (center), members of the Alafia River Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, congratulate winners of the organization's annual American History Essay contest. Alafia Elementary student Garrett Brown (at right) and Mann Middle student Sarah Carpenter (second from left) were awarded bronze medals for their essays depicting the life of Revolutionary War soldier. Riverview High student Tizza LeClair (second from right) was awarded the DAR's Good Citizen medal, which recognizes a local high school senior who possesses the traits of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Tizza plans to enter FSU in the fall to pursue a major in criminology and become a Special Agent in the United States Air Force.

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Happy Birthday BSTC!

CLUB TURNS 40 MARCH 1

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Celebrating their 40-year anniversary on March 1st, Brandon Swim & Tennis Club lives up to their motto of "Much more than our name."

Dr. M. R. Greenwell initially opened a sports rehabilitation center, but since that was not a widely accepted form of treatment in the early 1960's, that business declined. The facility gradually transitioned into an all-encompassing club for both adults and children that today offers everything from swimming, diving and tennis lessons to pre-school and after-school care.

The preschool is licensed for up to 65 children, and

offers structured playtime, access to many playgrounds, crafts and even visits to an on-site petting zoo stocked with goats, chickens and ducks.

The after-school program is licensed for 300 and provides opportunities for those kids to become involved in competitive sports. General manager, Joe Greenwell, son of the founder, believes that it is, "important to encourage kids to be physically active and involved in a structured activity."

Sitting on 11 acres, Brandon Swim & Tennis Club, a non-profit organization, also offers gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, workout facilities, 10 tennis courts - 4 hard

See BSTC, Page 20

Children

From page 11

many of the children - ages 5 through 18 - have endured years of abuse, neglect and abandonment.

A father of three girls, Pitrowski is confident that with enough help from his neighbors, the home will find enduring support from Bloomingdale's 4,500 families.

The home needs a number of children's items, food and general supplies on a regular basis. Pitrowski hopes to assemble a team of volunteers from each of Bloomingdale's 40 neighborhood sections. Volunteers will visit their neighbors door-to-door quarterly or bi-monthly to distribute a list of the home's needs. They will return by request two weeks later to pick up the items.

The list of needed items, pick up dates and project updates will be announced in the Gazette and on www.BloomingtonGazette.com.

"Most of the items on the list cost from \$3 to \$15, and can be picked up during your regular shopping trips to the grocery store and Wal-Mart.

We're not asking for a lot. It could be as little as a \$3 jar of peanut butter or a 3-pack of t-shirts, something as small as that," Pitrowski said.

"We want to make it easy for everyone to become regular givers."

Anthony Adamo, Chief Development Officer of The Children's Home, said the children are housed in groups in homelike cottages, and many attend the on-site campus during the recovery process. After a successful recovery, the home staff begins the search for permanent adoption placement.

Adamo said the home receives much of its support from private and corporate donations, but also depends on the grass-roots level support of Bay area residents.

"We raised \$3 million privately last year, but our annual budget is \$12 million," he said.

Aside from operating costs, the home is constantly in need of food, supplies and personal items for the children.

AARP Offers Free "Tax-Aide" Service

PROGRAM HELD AT REC CENTER

A Gazette Report

AARP, the national non-profit Association for the Advancement of Retired Persons, offers a free "Tax-Aide" service for people of all ages with middle and low incomes, and all persons over age 60.

The program offers tax advice and help in filing tax returns.

The program will be held each Tuesday through April 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Stephanie Culbertson Recreation Center on Canoga Park Drive.

Reservations are required; call 744-5907.

Additional programs with no appointments necessary will be held each Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brandon Area Community Center on Sadie Street, and on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Brandon Regional Library on Vonderburg Drive

AARP Florida announced in February that Judy Thames of Orlando, a former Director of the Senior Resource Alliance (Area Agency On Aging for Central Florida), has been selected as AARP Florida State President for the 2.6 million member organization.

The State President is responsible for a wide variety of functions in providing leadership for the state.

See AARP, Page 22

What's Happening?

Send announcements by the 20th of this month for publication in the next Gazette to News@BloomingtonGazette.com or Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594.

March 1 - 16

Cookies For Soldiers

Bloomington area Girl Scout troops are offering residents a chance to purchase Girl Scout cookies to send to our troops overseas. The scouts will sell the cookies outside local stores and businesses through March 16. Residents can purchase a box of cookies for the troops. The scouts will take the cookies to MacDill AFB for distribution to troops overseas. Information: Debbie Kidder, 684-6085.

March 3

Homeowners Meeting

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. board of directors will meet 7 p.m. on Monday, March 3 at the Bloomingdale community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, in the SunTrust Bank/Citgo station plaza. All meetings are open to the public. Information: 681-2051 or Blooming-

dale.Homeowners@Verizon.net.

March 6 - 9

Movie Sing-A-Long

The historic Tampa Theatre on Franklin Street in downtown Tampa will host a "Sound of Music Sing-A-Long" during five showings of the film March 6 - 9. Participants are invited to come in costume, sing along with the film's musical numbers, and to boo the Baroness and cheer for Maria. For costume ideas or information, visit www.tampatheatre.org. Tickets are \$7.50 - \$22.50 and can be purchased at the theatre or Ticketmaster. To order call 287-8884 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

March 8

Health Fair

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce Health Fair will be held March 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

Campo Family YMCA in Bloomingdale. Event features a walk/run at 8 a.m., free parking, free seminars, door prizes and displays and activities focusing on "Future Trends In Health Care." Information: 689-1221.

March 9

Little Everglades Steeplechase

The Little Everglades Steeplechase will be begin 9:30 a.m. March 9 at Little Everglades Ranch in Dade City. Participants vie for a \$115,000 purse. The event features four hurdle races and one Florida-bred flat race, Jack Russell Terrier races, a carriage parade, a vendor village with antiques and crafts for sale, a children's area and more. Tailgaters are welcomed. Day of race tickets are \$10 per person or \$40 per carload. Free admission for children under 12. All proceeds

See Happening, Page 14

Rajun' Bulls Host Annual Auction

PUBLIC INVITED

A Bloomingdale Band Boosters Report

The Bloomingdale High School Rajun' Bulls Band will host their 15th annual Live Auction at the school on Saturday, March 8 at 6 p.m. The public is invited, and admission is free. A preview of items up for bid will take place at 5:30 p.m.

Auctioneers Col. Rob Hennessee and Col. John Jernigan will take the stage to offer a wide variety of items and gift certificates the students col-

lected from local merchants and individual donors.

A pasta dinner consisting of baked ziti, meatballs, salad, and bread will be held prior to the auction from 5 to 6 p.m., featuring entertainment by the Jazz Band. Dinner tickets are \$5.50 per person, and must be purchased in advance from any band student or by calling Rachel Dutch at 689-1164.

Proceeds from the auction will be used to help support the band. For additional information call Lynne Walther at 654-0013 or Barb Warner at 689-6893.

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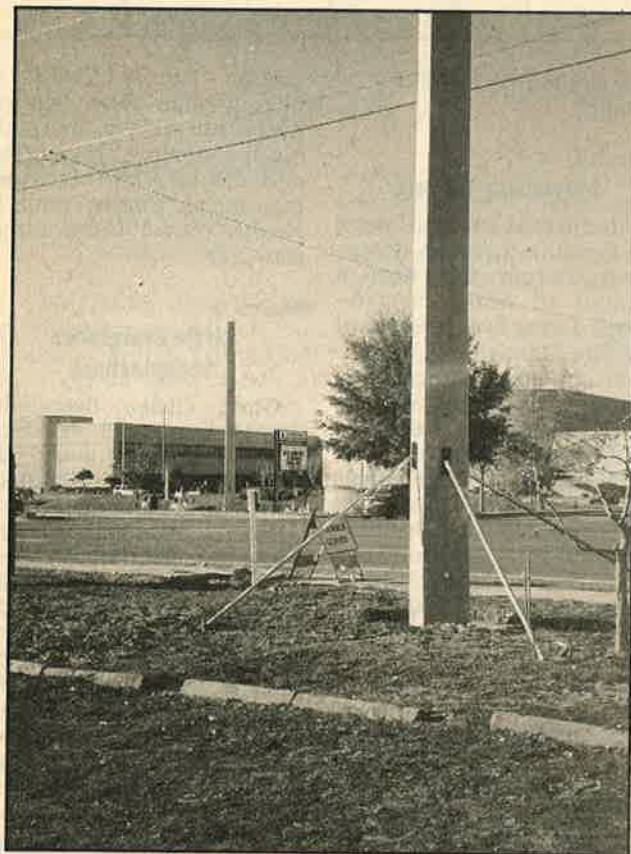
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MACK AUSTIN/Photo

New Signal Up At High School Entrance

The long-awaited traffic signal at the east entrance to Bloomingdale High School is finally a reality. The signal will allow the School Resource Officer and other law enforcement officers to better control traffic in this area. Thanks to the Hillsborough County Traffic Section for installing this critical signal.

Wanted: Your Dog Park Ideas

A Gazette Report

Pooper-scoopers and a doggie water fountain for convenience? How about a few retired fire hydrants for ambience?

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc., in conjunction with the Bloomingdale Area Community Council, is sponsoring the creation of a pet-friendly Dog Park within our community. A significant parcel of land is available adjacent to the County maintenance unit on Natures Way, just west of Alafia Elementary School. The

Park Authority has expressed support for this project.

Ideas for the Dog Park include sectional fencing to keep different size dogs apart, leash areas, free run areas, pooper-scoopers, baggies, and trashcans. The Dog Park would be gated and open during daylight hours only.

Volunteers are needed to help plan the creation of the park. A fund raising event is in the planning stages. Interested residents can contact the BHA at 681-2051 or Bloomingdale.Homeowners@verizon.net.

Happening

From page 13

benefit the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, the Dade City YMCA and the Tampa Metropolitan YMCA. Information: 352-521-3661 or visit www.littleevergladessteepchase.com.

March 10

Taxing District Meeting

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District board of trustees will meet 7 p.m. on Monday, March 10 at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3590 Bell Shoals Road, in the SunTrust Bank/Citgo station plaza. All meetings are open to the public. Information: 681-6667 or BSTD@BloomingdaleGazette.com.

Silverliners Meet

Members of the Florida Suncoast Chapter of Eastern Airlines Silverliners International will meet 6:30 p.m. on March 10 at Ristorante Francesco, 1441 East Fletcher Avenue in Tampa. The organization is composed of former Eastern Airlines flight attendants and supports charitable endeavors at the local and national level. Nationally, Silverliners has supported Paul Newman's Hold in the Wall Gang Camp for children with life threatening illnesses. The Florida Suncoast Chapter supports The Haven in Clearwater, a facility for abused women. For information contact Barbara at 671-3078.

March 11

School Board To Review Special Requests

The Hillsborough County School Board is expected to review special assignment requests for students affected by the Newsome boundary split at its March 11 meeting. Board members may vote to approve or disallow hundreds of requests filed with the school district before the February deadline.

Parents in attendance at the meeting can appeal decisions voted on by the board. The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the School Administrative Center, 901 E.

Kennedy Blvd. in Tampa. Information: 272-4000.

Anti-Drug Coalition Meets

The CommUnity Works Coalition will meet 6:45 p.m. on March 11 at the Campo Family YMCA. Monthly meetings of the greater Brandon area anti-drug abuse coalition are open to anyone interested in promoting the prevention, intervention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse. Coalition members and visitors generally include concerned parents and students, and representatives of local law enforcement, government, schools, businesses, clubs and non-profit agencies. Information: Dan Cosby, 672-0375.

March 12

Church Bingo

The St. Stephen Catholic School Parent-Teacher-Community Organization will host an evening of bingo 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on March 12 at St. Stephen Church, 5049 Bell Shoals Rd. The cost is \$15 for 20 games, with a possible jackpot of \$200. The event offers an experienced caller and professional bingo equipment. Refreshments and baked goods will be available. All proceeds go toward the purchase of computer equipment and other items for the school. Call: 689-4900.

La Leche League PM Meeting

The Brandon LaLeche League evening group will meet 7 to 9 p.m. March 12 in the community room at Morris Chiropractic Center, 207 Kingsway Rd. in Brandon. LaLeche League is a nonsectarian mothers group discussion of parenting and breastfeeding with accredited leaders on hand and on call. Healthy babies are welcome. Call: 932-3664.

March 14, 15

Hippy Hoppity Hoe-Down

The Greater Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce will host the 3rd annual Brandon "Not Your Cow Town" Hippy Hoppity Hoe-Down, sponsored by Tampa Electric Co.,

See Happening, Page 17

Commissioner's Corner

Take Advantage of Small Business Services

By COUNTY COMMISSIONER RONDA STORMS

Who might you think is the largest private sector employer in our community? You might be surprised to know that the answer is the small business owner - which is why your Hillsborough County government proactively reaches out and supports the small business community. The Hillsborough County Small Business Information Center provides valuable resources both for folks who want to start a small business and for those who already are small business owners. The center has multiple

workshops offered to the public at a nominal fee regarding starting a business, preparing business plans, launching a business online, organizing business budgeting, providing bookkeeping essentials and IRS forms, doing business with government, managing the money and the micro loan program, pricing the product or service, understanding personalities, and marketing the business, to name a few.

The center also provides information on small business loans and grants.

Can you use any of these services? Take advantage of these resources! For free business or financial one-on-one

counseling or to schedule a workshop, please feel free to contact (813) 914-4028.

The Small Business Information Center is open Monday - Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Evening and Saturday appointments are also available.

The schedule has already been established for March. There are many resources available to you, and I would encourage you to take advantage of what the information center offers.

Remember: when you strengthen your business, you strengthen your community!



Ronda Storms

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Bloomingdale Property Manager's Report

By AL DEVNEY

Al Devney, Bloomingdale Property Manager and president of Devney Property Management, Inc., can be reached at 684-6667. Excerpts of the Property Manager's report for the month of December 2002 are as follows.

Irrigation

Thunder Irrigation repaired leaking main lines on the Culbreath and Erindale systems and four broken zone lines at Fortuna and Canoga Park.

Landscaping

Planscape, Inc. installed the shrubbery and flowers at the corner of Greenhollow and Natures Way.

Repair and Replace

DPMI installed the Christmas bows and lights and picked up the trash from a trash cart and returned the cart to the owner, covered the graffiti on

four sections of wall on Springvale, and hosted the pre-bid conference of this year's painting contract, and replaced 22 light bulbs.

Handy Hands repaired the broken fence on Natures Way and Dunaire. TECO replaced the damaged light pole at Fortuna and Canoga Park. ZK Construction repaired the damaged wall on Glenhaven and the brickwork at Cambridge Cove.

Specialty Pressure Cleaning cleaned the sidewalks on Natures Way from Callista to Glenhaven on the west side of the road.

Hillsborough County removed two dead Oak trees on Bell Shoals and Garnet. Russell Electric repaired an electrical problem with the lights at the Kiowa entrance and added two receptacles for Christmas lighting at the Garnet entrance.

The county sidewalk program on Canoga Park plodded along.

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See Report, Page 18



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

School bus stop areas near entrances to many neighborhoods were recently vandalized. There are no excuses for this type of behavior. When found, parents will be held accountable. A \$500 reward is being offered for information leading to finding the vandals. New traffic patterns have improved traffic flow around Alafia Elementary School. Changes to improve the parking situation are being studied.

Bloomingtondale Substation Notes

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER AND OFFICER SANDY CAPITANO

The Bloomingtondale Community Substation, at 4342 Bell Shoals Road, near Beef O'Brady's restaurant in the Village Center Plaza, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Information: 635-8040. For immediate assistance, call the Sheriff's Dept. at 247-8200 or 911 for emergencies.

Alafia Traffic Flow, Parking

New traffic flow patterns have helped smooth out most of the traffic congestion around Alafia Elementary School.

Some parents are still not familiar with the patterns. Basically, all traffic must enter only at the left gate, circle around the pattern flow and exit at the same gate. No vehicle is allowed to enter at the gate located nearest to the intersection of Natures Way and Culbreath Road.

As always, being patient and courteous makes this difficult task much easier for everyone involved. The number one priority is protecting the school children. Allow yourselves plenty of time. In addition, please remember

that there have been no changes to rules concerning parking. Illegal parking presents dangers to adults and children. Drivers will be given citations.

Vandalism

As much as we don't want to believe it, there are those in our community with no regard for the property of others. They are people with serious problems, and they will pay serious consequences for their actions.

Recently our Parks Maintenance Unit on Natures Way had several vehicles vandalized, and several school bus stop areas in Bloomingtondale were also vandalized. Residents who live near school bus stops are asked to keep a close watch out for kids being rough. A reward of \$500 will be paid to anyone reporting those vandalizing community property.

Sheriff's Dept. Programs

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has several special programs that offer community residents opportunities to get directly involved with and learn more about the many missions of

the Sheriff's Office. These include the Sheriff's Citizen's Academy, the Sheriff's reserve II program, the Business Watch program, the Church Watch Program, and the Neighborhood Watch Program. Many of these programs are proving to be very valuable during this period when the Sheriff's Office will be experiencing staffing shortages due to deputies being called to active duty or retiring. All of these programs are very rewarding to the participants. More detailed information on all of these programs will be covered in future articles in the Gazette. For more information call the Bloomingtondale substation at 635-8040.

Red Light Runners, Speeders

For those drivers who chose to run red lights, speed or drive aggressively - watch out! The Sheriff's Office has set up special patrols to find you and fine you. This type of driving is dangerous to everyone and will not be tolerated. No warnings will be given, just very large fines. Speeding fines are doubled in school zones. This is very serious business. Young lives are at risk. Slow down.

Cimino Student Is Well-Spoken

A Gazette Report

Cimino Elementary School fourth grade student Katelyn Castellanos took third place in Hillsborough County's 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Finals in February.

Over 4,500 students in grades four through six from around the county participated in the program. Students were encouraged to prepare a speech, organize their material into a presentable speech, and then present their speech to their classroom and school. Winners from the school competition then participated in the area semi-finals, where the top three speakers would go on to compete in the finals.

Maddison Wenzel of Phillip Shore Elementary took the fourth grade first place, followed in second place by Santino Rumore of Carrollwood Elementary.

For more information on 4-H or the Tropicana Public Speaking Contest, call Randy Roser at 744-5519.

St. Andrews Church Is "Bloomin' In Faith"

EVENT FEATURES BELINDA WOMACK

A Gazette Report

To help celebrate the arrival of spring, the United Methodist Women of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church is hosting "Bloomin' in Faith," a program featuring well known contemporary music artist Belinda WOMACK. The event will be held at the

See Faith, Page 18

Happening

From page 14

March 14 and 15. The event features local entertainment, concerts, a Harley-Davidson bike show, Rib-Fest and Wing-Ding contests, carnival rides and midway, arts and crafts, breakfast with the Easter Bunny, an Easter egg hunt and cow-chip bingo. Information: 689-1221 or www.brandonchamber.com.

March 15

Safe Boating Program

Flotilla 75 of the United States Coast Guard Auxilliary will hold a one-day Safe Boating Program 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 15 at the Riverview United Methodist church at Riverview Dr. and US-Hwy. 301 in Riverview. Cost is \$20. Completion of the program may result in a discount on your boat insurance. Information: Dave Suban, 681-3290.

March 18

Peace Corps Discussion

Former Peace Corps volunteer Mary Gura will share her experiences with the members of Brandon Branch, American Association of University Women 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18 at Stacey's Homestyle Buffet, corner of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Parsons Avenue in Seffner.

Membership in AAUW is open to women who have earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university. Information: Arliene, 689-8457 or Mary Ann, 681-4502.

March 19

La Leche League AM Meeting

The Brandon LaLeche League morning group will meet 10 a.m. to noon on March 19 in the Family Life Center at St. Andrews Church, corner of Bloomingtondale Ave. and Bryan Rd. in Brandon.

LaLeche League is a non-sectarian mothers group discussion of parenting and breastfeeding with accredited leaders on hand and on call. Healthy babies are welcome. Call: 932-3664.

March 22

Sporting Clays Tourney

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf will host the 9th annual Children's Home Sporting Clays Classic March 22 at Pine Creek Sporting Clays in Tampa.

Registration is at 7 a.m., event begins at 9 a.m., awards luncheon at noon.

Space is limited; suggested registration before March 7. \$125 entry fee includes lunch catered by Outback Steakhouse, goodie bags, a card draw, trophies and awards ceremony.

More than 350 area shooters are expected participate. All proceeds benefit The Children's Home (see story in this Gazette). Information: 855-4435.

March 23

Stamp For Our Soldiers

Lori Jordan, local resident and demonstrator for "Stampin' Up," a rubber stamping company, will hold a "Stamp Camp" to benefit military personnel stationed overseas.

The group will stamp cards and care packages to send to soldiers.

The camp will be held March 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Osprey Club House in FishHawk Ranch. Information: 689-7337 or visit www.stampwithlori.com.

March 25

Charity Project Meeting

Residents who wish to participate in the Bloomingtondale community-wide charity project to benefit The Children's Home in North Tampa will meet 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25 in the multi-purpose room of the Campo Family YMCA on Culbreath Road.

In addition to neighborhood coordinators, volunteers are needed to help box, pick up and deliver donations (see story in this Gazette). Information: Rick Pitrowski, 685-6473 or wehelpchildren@aol.com.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Goodwill Trailers Handle Small Items Only

The many Bloomingtondale residents that use the convenient Goodwill donation trailer near Wal-Mart in Bloomingtondale Square will want to note this change - The trailers are now equipped with carts to store and transport donated items, so they will no longer be able to accept large items. Furniture and large items may be taken to the new store on Hwy 60. As always, your donations are greatly appreciated.

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- Bloomingtondale 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
- Lithia 16739 FishHawk Blvd, 654-7991
- Plant City 2621 Thonotosassa Rd, 752-6631
- Providence 1983 Lumsden Rd, 654-4423
- Riverview 11697 Boyette Rd, 672-1832
- Seffner 1515 S. Parson Ave., 684-5897
- Valrico 1985 E. Brandon Blvd, 654-2324
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Kindermusic Program Comes To Bloomingdale

By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

Who knew that learning could be so much fun? Aimee Carter did, and now she is teaching others.

Carter recently opened Kindermusik, a music and movement class for young children and their parents, at Bloomingdale Oaks Church in Valrico.

"I thoroughly enjoy these classes," said Carter, who recently received her license through Kindermusik International. "They're just purely fun. Music is the best choice you can make for children and their development."

Each of Carter's 45-minute classes includes singing, dancing, rhyming, playing with musical instruments and an interactive story time.

The program focuses on developing the whole child - musically, psychologically, emotionally, socially and cognitively - through age-appropriate lessons. All classes incorporate activities developed from the most recent research in early child development.

Currently, Carter offers classes for two age groups at



Aimee Carter and her daughter Rachel, center, lead an "Our Time" Kindermusik class in a song at Bloomingdale Oaks Church.

Bloomingdale Oaks, birth to 18 months and 18 months to three years old.

Called "Village," the younger class begins with a song and includes a parental bonding time through touch and massage, exercise, singing and free movement.

"Touch is important," said Carter. "There is research to show that it helps stimulate

digestion and blood flow."

In Carter's older class called "Our Time," every session begins with a song to provide consistency, and includes more movement, a lap bounce, free dancing, play with musical instruments, rocking and rolling around to songs like "Roll over, Rover."

"One reason the mascot for 'Our Time' is a kangaroo is

these kids are at an age when they bound away from mom to play and then come looking for her again," said Carter. "They still need to cuddle up with mom."

"I absolutely love it," said Inez Canarek, after a recent class with 2-year-old daughter Adriana. "I especially love the music. She will listen to the whole CD at home over and over again."

During class, Adriana and the other children played with bells and rhythm sticks, focusing on activities using the concept of slow and fast. When they get home, they will use at-home kits of books and music to reinforce what they learn in class.

"It all sounds like a lot of fun, which is why it's important," Carter said. "But it stimulates them, teaches them balance, special awareness, labeling, vocabulary, vocal play and language skills."

At Bloomingdale Oaks, "Our Time" is a 15-week course and costs \$165, including at-home material. "Village" is an 8-week course at \$88. Information about Kindermusik can be found at www.kindermusik.com or by calling Carter at 503-6976.

Faith

From page 16

church, on the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bryan Road, on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Womack has won numerous awards throughout the Tampa Bay area and Florida, and has performed in conjunction with the Florida Orchestra, led a 100-voice choir for the Devil Rays' inaugural game, and helped form and chair the mass choir for the Billy Graham Crusade Ministry, Tampa Crusade.

The Contemporary Worship Director at Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Womack is said to blend her musical roots of gospel, jazz

and blues to create an uplifting on-stage performance that appeals to a diverse audience. The event is billed as a fun, lively evening, with dessert and door prizes following Womack's program.

Tickets for the event are \$10.00 each, with proceeds going to United Methodist Women missions, an organization whose purpose is "To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; To develop a creative, supportive fellowship; And to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

To purchase tickets, or to find out more about the program, please call at 689-6849.

Report

From page 15

Accident Report

There were four accidents in December; car vs. flowerbed and vehicle vs. lawn at Greenhollow and Natures Way, vehicle vs. bushes at Glenhaven and Natures Way, and car vs. wall on Glenhaven. This brings the total accidents for 2002 to 18.

Vandalism

There were six Christmas bows and eight red petunias stolen this season. A \$500 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for vandal-

izing Bloomingdale community property.

Eat, Drink and Pitch Out the Window

Mr. Devney picked up 20 bags of trash, an umbrella, a 3/4 ton tire with rim, a traffic cone, two hubcaps, two wash cloths, a semi-truck mud flap, three towels, two shirts, a Tupperware basket, a cell phone and 71 cents.

The beverages of choice were Mountain Dew for soft drinks, Natural Light for beer and Old Forester for distilled spirits.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Lithia Crossings Prepares To Open

The signs say it all - Stein Mart, set to open on March 13, is now hiring. That means more stores in the Lithia Crossings shopping center are soon to follow. Other new businesses opening soon in the plaza include Chili's Restaurant, Verizon Wireless, Art Mart and Land and Sea Market, a gourmet butcher shop and wine store.

Campo Family YMCA News

By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

The Campo Family YMCA is at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road. For a complete schedule of activities and events, or for more information, call 684-1371 or visit www.tampaymca.org/campohome.

Campo Delegation Earns Youth Awards

Since 1957, the YMCA has sponsored the Youth in Government Conference. Nearly a thousand students and staff travel to the state capital from all over Florida to participate in the Legislative Program (with senators, representatives and their staffs), Judicial Program (with Supreme Court justices, lawyers and their staffs), Lobbyist Program or Press/Journalism Program.

Outstanding participants receive awards, and 20 are selected to represent Florida at CONA, Conference on National Affairs.

This year's Campo delegation,

made up of students from Bloomingdale, Freedom and Home-school programs, performed exceptionally well, capturing more awards and nominations than any other district in the state. Congratulations to the following students:

Outstanding Bill Williams House - Brenna Burkhardt

Outstanding Bill Sullivan House - Alex Schiavone

Outstanding Bills Runner-Ups, Sullivan Senate - Joe Bingham, Shea Cooney, Tim Hoskins; Sullivan House - David McEachnie, Kathryn Valentine

Outstanding Statesman Bowen House - Alex Shoucair

Outstanding Statesman Runner-Ups, Williams Senate - Lauren Valentine; Sullivan House - David McEachnie, Kathryn Valentine

Outstanding Law Firm - Jon Doozan, Anthony Reysen, Kylee Morgan, Zac Flowerree

Two Major Officers for 2004 - Jon Doozan, Senior Justice of the Supreme Court; David McEachnie, Sullivan House Speaker Pro-Tem

Delegates to CONA - Jon Doozan, David McEachnie, Alex Shoucair

Alternates Named to CONA - Kathryn Valentine, Lauren Valentine, Joe

See YMCA, Page 22

Lay-offs Job changes The golden parachute Down-, re- or right-sizing Early, regular or late retirement

Whatever you call it, when it happens, you need to be prepared.

Join us for our upcoming seminar on *Company Plan Distribution Options*. You'll learn about your options and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Then you'll be able to make a wise, informed decision.

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6:15pm - 7:30pm

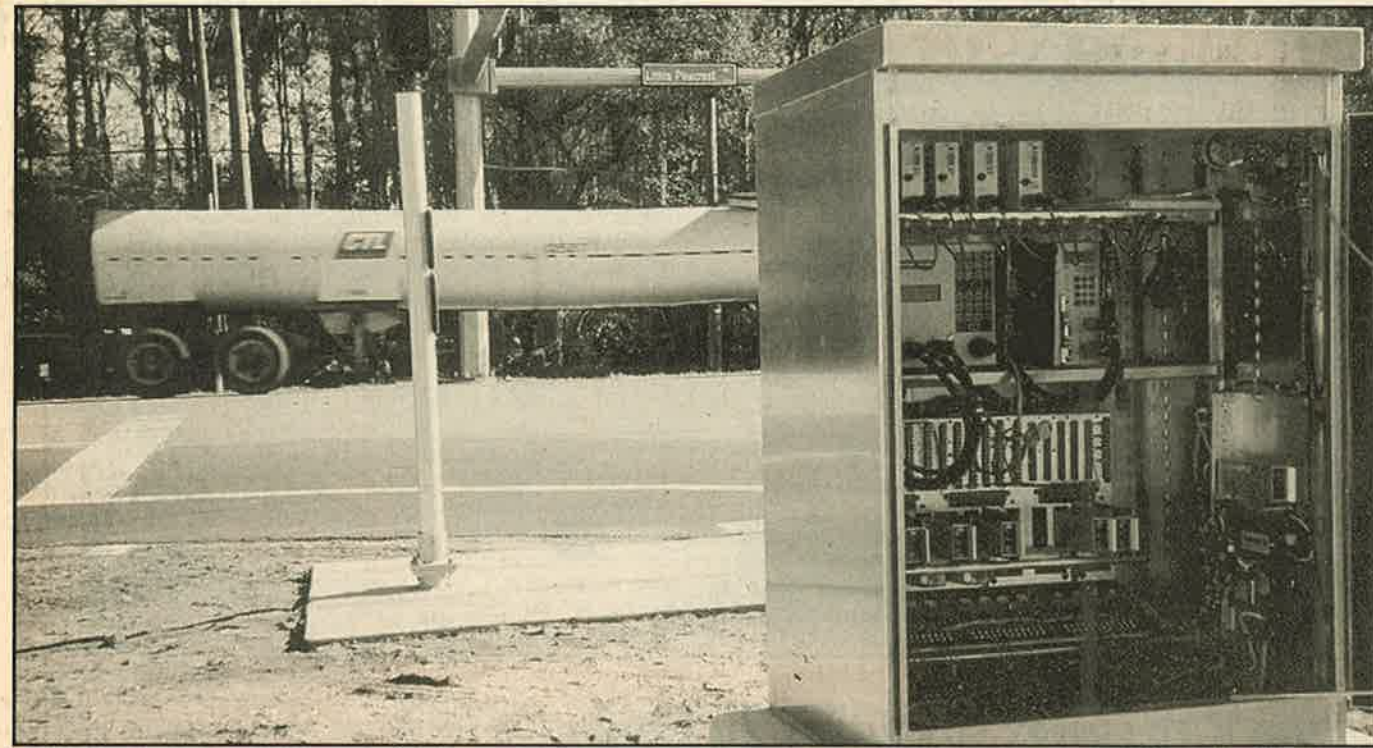
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Use Caution At Lithia, FishHawk Corner

With Newsome High School scheduled to open this fall, completion of the installation of this traffic signal at Fish Hawk Blvd. and Lithia-Pinecrest Rd. is crucial. This intersection will be even more dangerous when high school drivers and commercial trucks have to share the same roads.

Bloomington Schools Make The Grade

FCAT WRAPS UP THIS MONTH

A Gazette Report

School grades utilize a point system of one point for each percent of students who score high on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test and/or make annual learning gains (on the test) from the previous year. The FCAT is given to Florida stu-

dents in grades 3 through 10 to measure achievement of the Sunshine State Standards. The test covers reading, writing and math and (new this year) science at some grade levels.

The tests are administered in February and March of each year. For more information about the FCAT, visit the school district's web site at sdhc.k12.fl.us or phone 272-4000. Here's how Bloomington

area schools did on the test in the 2001 - 2002 school year.* Results for the 2002 - 2003 school year will be returned to the district in early May.

Alafia Elementary School

Percent meeting high standards in reading85
Percent meeting high standards in math84
Percent meeting high standards in writing84

Percent making learning gains in reading72
Percent making learning gains in math80
Percent of lowest 25% making learning gains in reading72
Total points earned 477
Percent tested99
2002 grade A

Burns Middle School

Percent meeting high standards in reading79
Percent meeting high standards

See Grade, Page 23

BSTC

From page 12

and 6 soft - a sewing room, a craft room, 2 soccer fields, volleyball, a jogging trail, and multiple playgrounds, as well as competitive swimming, diving and tennis teams that compete year-round.

Their coaches, trainers and staff are of the highest stan-

dards, coming with both qualifications and experience in each of their fields.

Facilities also offer a covered dive training area, as well as a snack bar situated by the pool staffed by an executive chef, who is available to cater parties, business meetings and local events.

Currently, the club is spending \$50,000 to give BSTC a fresh look.

The staff and owners are developing a long-range plan to accompany the upgrade as well as accommodate Brandon's growth, and to ensure that Brandon knows all they

have to offer.

In honor of their 40-year anniversary, Brandon Swim & Tennis is offering a special \$100 one-time enrollment fee for both family and single memberships.

To join, please stop by 405 Beverly Blvd., or call 689-0908.

Protecting Our Local Businesses

SHERIFF OFFERS "BUSINESS WATCH" PROGRAM

By MACK AUSTIN

Hundreds of residents in our community either have businesses of their own or work for other local companies, both large and small. Many depend on these businesses for their income, especially single moms and teenagers. Keeping these businesses open and safe is very serious business.

Having your business or place of employment burglarized or vandalized is a traumatic experience. It is a very personal experience for both the owner and the employees, one that no one wants to go through.

But steps can be taken to minimize the possibility of business crimes. One of the best ways is to get involved in the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Dept. Business Watch Program. This special crime prevention program

has proven to be very effective in reducing business crimes.

This type of program has received special emphasis since 9/11 and the beginning of the war on terrorism. When a crime is committed against a business, it terrorizes many folks including the owner, the employees, nearby businesses and employees, and patrons - in fact, the whole community.

That is why the Business Watch Program emphasizes the involvement and joint efforts of all businesses and community members. It basically incorporates the "taking care of each other" attitude that used to be more prevalent in our communities and our country. In these days and times, that attitude is essential.

According to Hillsborough County Deputy Charles O'Daniel, Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner, Florida statistics show one property crime being committed every 40 seconds, one robbery every

16 minutes, one burglary every 3 minutes and one vehicle theft every 6 minutes. This kind of information makes you want to close your doors and hide, much less open a business.

But O'Daniel said projects like Business Watch do work. "They get businesses and residents involved in taking the "opportunity" element out of the crime triangle. This leaves just the offender and the victim, either person or property. No opportunity, no crime," O'Daniel said.

Basically you have to think like a criminal. Look at your business, identify its weak points, improve your security, watch out for other businesses and work closely with local law enforcement.

O'Daniel explained that the Business Watch Program includes FREE training for merchants and free security surveys.

"The program also offers business owners the opportu-

Commercial Crime Prevention



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

New businesses move into our community every month. The Sheriff's Dept. Business Watch Program can help us protect our community businesses and the jobs of our residents.

nity to get to know their local law enforcement officers on a one on one basis, a factor that improves the overall crime prevention program," O'Daniel said.

For information on the program, call 247-8115.

Keep Neighborhood Streets Safe, Friendly

By STEVE HECKEL
BHA Director

Many of us have fond childhood memories of playing in the streets in front of our homes. The streets offer many conveniences - a relatively smooth, flat, hard surface for running, riding, or bouncing a ball; a clearly defined boundary for games; the proximity to bathrooms; the availability of free drinks and/or snacks; some parental supervision; some parental reassurance because children are within sight; and of course, adult intervention should a problem or emergency arise.

However, things have changed and some serious concerns need to be addressed about children playing in the street. Residential streets tend to be narrower and less straight than years ago. There is more traffic



Steve Heckel

(especially commercial) than in the past. More vehicles are parked on the street since today's households

have more vehicles and today's garages are often used for things other than parking cars in. Our yards tend to be smaller and more manicured, making the streets even more desirable. And although speed limits are lower today in residential areas, this has in many cases not diminished the number of speeders on our streets.

Other factors also enter into neighborhood street utilization. Parked cars obscure

See Streets, Page 22

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Letters

Send letters to Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com or to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594. All letters are subject to editing.

Report Reckless Drivers

There is an adult who lives on our street that consistently drives recklessly and at high speeds throughout our neighborhood. Several tickets and car wrecks haven't even slowed him down. Is there a way we can report this and remain anonymous?

Name Withheld

Corporal Mark Clark of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department suggests your first course of action should be to contact your Community Resource Deputy about the ongoing problem. "Working with the same Deputy on a problem will stop communication problems and should keep personal information private," Clark said.

Bloomington's Deputy Pete Maurer can be reached weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 635-8040.

Clark said if the problem requires immediate action (reckless driving in progress), you can contact the Sheriff's Dept. dispatcher anonymously at 247-8200 and request that an alert be placed for a reckless driver. Units in the area would then keep a lookout for the driver.

AARP

From page 12

Thames has served as the Executive Council member for Community Service since October 2001.

Thames succeeds Lois Herron who tenured after five years as AARP Florida State President.

For more information about AARP, call 744-5617 or visit AARP.org.

The third option, calling dispatch to request that a Deputy respond directly to the problem, would not provide anonymity.

Simpson Came Home

We just want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for printing the picture of (our lost cat) Simpson in the February issue of The Bloomington Gazette.

A lady that lives in The Cove off Culbreath called us because of that picture and told us she had found our cat!

After being missing for 30 days, we thought we would never get him back.

Thanks to the homeowners association for all of your thoughtfulness.

Tracey and John Pritchard

Support Our Soldiers

Please visit the Department of Defense web site and sign in thanking the men and women of the U.S. military services for defending our freedom. The compiled list of names will be sent out to our soldiers.

The entire exercise takes 10 seconds, literally. Please pass it on to your e-mail friends. The web site is www.defendamerica.mil.

Karen Pearson

SAY YOU SAW IT IN
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



Photo from St. Stephen Catholic School

Spelling Bee Champs

Winners of St. Stephen Catholic School's school wide Spelling Bee held in January included, from left, Allen Bray, Lindsay Ferguson, Michael Graziano, C.R. Lewis, Isabelle Gonzalez, Krista Sellars, Steven Heath, Jacob Scott and Tess McDermott.

YMCA

From page 19

Bingham, Alex Schiavone, Brenna Burkhardt

Bloomington High School - Emily Bullock was named to CONA as a member of the press; Brittany Hagyan was an Associate Justice with the Circuit Court; Albert Ng was Assistant Attorney General.

Spring Sports Registration

Registration is open until Mar. 9 for Campo YMCA's spring sports programs. Biddie Basketball - ages 3-5 Youth Basketball - ages 6-12 Biddie Flag Football & Cheerleading - ages 3-5

Flag Football - ages 6-12 Cheerleading - ages 6-12 Fees: Biddie Sports - \$40, members; \$60, program members Basketball, Football, Cheerleading - \$45, members; \$65, program members

Swim Lessons

Campo's swim lessons begin with its first session on Mar. 3. Registration for the first and second (Mar. 31-Apr. 26) sessions opened on Feb. 24.

Classes are offered according to age and skill level:

Parent/Child - a water orientation and adjustment class for children. Come prepared to get in the water with your child.

Pike/Eel - Beginner and advanced beginner classes for 3- to 5-year-olds.

Ray/Starfish - Intermediate and advanced classes for 3- to 5-year-olds.

Polliwog/Guppy - Beginner and advanced beginner classes for ages 6-12.

Minnow/Fish - Intermediate and advanced intermediate levels for ages 6-12.

Flying Fish/Shark - Skilled and most advanced levels for ages 6-12.

Call for dates and times for each group. Registration for the third session (Apr. 28 - May 24) opens to members on Apr. 14 and to program members on Apr. 21.

Fees: \$40, members; \$65, program members

Spring Break Camp

Spring Break Camp will be offered daily or weekly Mar. 24-28. The friendly and well-trained staff will provide structure, supervision and fun in a positive and active environment. Children will swim, rock climb, play in the Kids Zone and participate in indoor and outdoor sports and games.

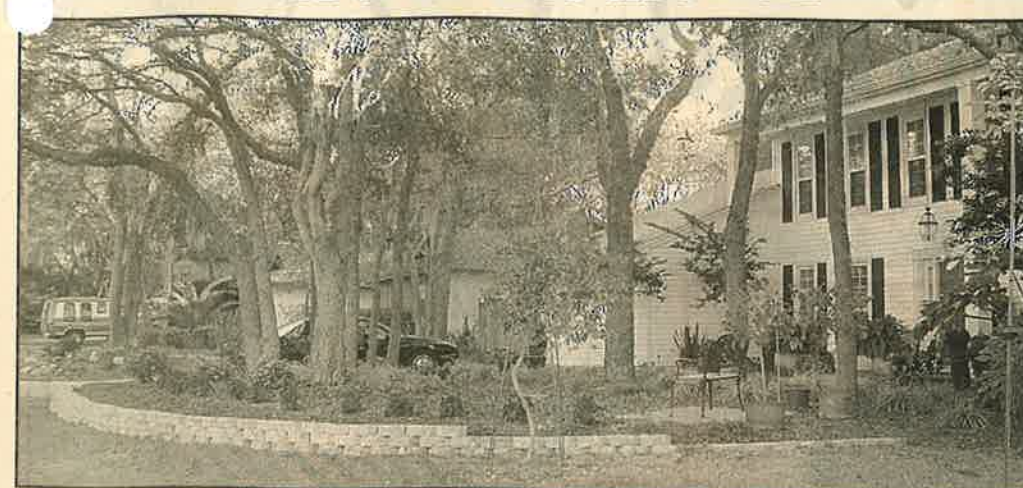
Healthy Kids, Summer Sign-Ups

On Apr. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Campo Y will host Healthy Kids Day 2003 and Summer Program Sign-Up Day. It will celebrate healthy kids with exhibitions, demonstrations and displays from various local organizations. The event is free and open to the public. Spaces in the summer program can be reserved for a \$10 deposit per week of enrollment.

Summer Counselors Needed

Would you like to make a difference in the life of a child this summer? The Campo YMCA invites you to apply for one of the most rewarding jobs you will ever have. Interviews for sports, themed, specialty and teen camps will take place on Mar. 15 and Apr. 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Applicants must be at least 16 and enjoy working with kids. The YMCA will provide training.

Yard of the Month



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Bloomington Yard Of The Month
Paul and Lucy Kelmer • 3901 Sabal Palm Court • Bloomington Estates
Congratulations!

Send nominations to: Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com or Yard, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. Winners receive a \$25 Bloomington Wal-Mart gift certificate, courtesy of the Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

Streets

From page 20

from drivers their view of children playing in or near the streets.

The placing of objects (skate board ramps, hockey goals, or basketball stands) in the streets not only presents a navigational hazard to drivers - it is also illegal.

Children playing in or near the streets can inadvertently and unexpectedly venture into on coming traffic.

As a community, we need to reach a compromise with equal respect for children playing in the streets and vehicular traffic.

Drivers need to be alert and aware of the potential dangers involved with children playing in and along the street.

Residents need to be aware of the potential problems created by parking vehicles in the street and avoid it whenever possible. Rollerblading or skateboarding should be confined to sidewalks, driveways, and parks.

If suitable spaces are not

available for those activities, interested residents should petition the park authority to create these venues for our children.

Children who are not old enough to venture unattended to the parks are not old enough to play in the streets without direct adult supervision.

Children playing in the streets must be taught to immediately vacate the street for all oncoming traffic. Bicycle riders must ride single file in the bicycle lanes where provided - or off to the side of street where not available - and must cross the street only at corners.

Sidewalks are for pedestrian traffic, should not be blocked or obscured, and should be utilized by all walkers.

If drivers and children within our neighborhoods abide by these guidelines, our streets will remain both safe and friendly.

Grade

From page 20

in math	.81
Percent meeting high standards	
in writing	.96
Percent making learning gains	
in reading	.73
Percent making learning gains	
in math	.81
Percent of lowest 25% making learning gains in reading	.72
Total points earned	.482
Percent tested	.98
2002 grade	A

Bloomington Senior High School

Percent meeting high standards	
in reading	.50
Percent meeting high standards	
in math	.78
Percent meeting high standards	
in writing	.97
Percent making learning gains	
in reading	.55
Percent making learning gains	
in math	.71
Percent of lowest 25% making learning gains in reading	.49
Total points earned	.400
Percent tested	.98
2002 grade	B

*New schools are graded after their second year of operation. Cimino Elementary School will be graded after the 2002 - 2003 school year.

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- 3608 Cold Creek Dr.\$179,900
- 3803 Northridge Dr.\$259,600

Homes Recently Sold In Bloomingtondale

- 2311 Oakhurst Ct.\$140,900
- 3909 Rosedale Dr.\$169,000
- 2256 Eagle Bluff Dr.\$230,000
- 4008 Shadowhill Ln\$262,000

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St. Patrick's
Day*

