

**FEATURE STORY**

*Cleanup Day Is Saturday, April 8*

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**BUSINESS**

Plaza Bella announces five new confirmed tenants, including wine retailer Vino 100.

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**SCHOOLS**

Alafia Elementary School students and their parents recently spent time at Escape School to learn how to recognize, avoid and escape dangerous situations.

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**Community Names New Scholarship For Past Principal**

APPLICATION FORM THIS ISSUE, ONLINE

By LAURA FRAZIER  
 Editor

B. J. Stelter, a special guest at the February board meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, said in her 35-year career with the Hillsborough County School District, she saw scholarships named after many of her colleagues.

The former Bloomingdale Senior High School principal, who retired in December due to health reasons, said namesake scholarships are a wonderful retirement tribute for stand-out educators, but it's an honor she never expected to receive.

"I never thought I would have a scholarship named in my honor because there's not that one outstanding thing I've done in my career," Stelter said.

The neighborhood homeowners association, however, disagreed with her humble assessment.

The association's board of directors in February presented Stelter with a plaque commemorating the installation of the annual B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship.

The board also announced a new partnership with Bloomingdale High's PTSA. Both groups will team up to hold the Bloomingdale Community Family Fun-Raiser, a charity miniature golf tournament to benefit the schol-



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

BHA president, Ted Grable, at the February meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, presents a plaque commemorating the installation of the B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship to its namesake honoree.

arship fund and the school.

An emotional but composed Stelter told the homeowners' group she was completely shocked when the new scholarship program was announced a month earlier at her retirement send-off at the school.

"There were many tears shed that night, happy tears," she said. "This (scholarship announcement) was the pinnacle of the evening."

Stelter said she searched through

See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 7

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS • PAGE 4**

*Family Fun-Raiser Set For May 20*

To Benefit Scholarship Fund, PTSA



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# Dispose Of Household, Garage Junk For Free April 8

## DROP OFF SITE ON NATURES WAY

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Ladies and gentlemen, start clearing out your closets and garages.

In a few short weeks, you'll have a great opportunity to get rid of that "what am I supposed to do with this" junk that seems to accumulate in many of our homes and garages.

We're talking about the things you couldn't even sell for a quarter at your last garage sale — a torn-up sofa, a table with three legs. A rusty old swing set or rickety trampoline. The old paneling, doors and kitchen

sink you recently replaced. Or the vacuum cleaner that died in the spring of 1993 and has lived in a corner of the garage ever since.

If you've ever dragged any of this stuff down to the curb on trash day, then had to pull it back up when the garbage truck drove right by, you know some types of junk are not eligible for curbside pickup.

Your usual two options are to drag yourself and your stuff to the county dump, or pay a trash hauler to come pick it up.

But on the second Saturday in April this year, you can get rid of it for free at a convenient drop-off site in Bloomingtondale.

On April 8, Bloomingtondale

residents can dispose of household junk for free. The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Inc. Neighborhood PRIDE Cleanup Day will be held at the county parks maintenance facility next to Alafia Elementary School on Natures Way. The site will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or until all the Dumpsters are full.

There is no charge for this service. The event is made possible by the BHA — a nonprofit, all volunteer organization — and a Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations mini-grant.

Acceptable items include appliances, mattresses, water heaters, televisions, steel and

other metals, furniture, computers and components, non-commercial construction debris and tires.

Some items cannot be accepted, including yard waste and hazardous materials (paint, batteries, propane tanks), and waste from commercial activities.

Hazardous items are only accepted on the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hillsborough's South County Collection Center, which also accepts large amounts of yard waste and other items six days a week. For information and directions, call the center, 671-7611. The hazardous waste collection service

is also free, but please note: to gain access to County Collection Centers, you'll need a copy of your property tax bill to prove residency.

The BHA's April 8 Cleanup Day is open to all Bloomingtondale residents — provide your name and address at the site and you're in. No special documentation is required.

Elderly or disabled residents who need help loading and hauling items for disposal can contact the BHA for help. Please e-mail [bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net) or call 681-2051 before 3 p.m. on April 6 to schedule a pick-up.

## Block Captains Needed To Recruit Mini-Golfers

### MUST FILL UP TO 18 TEAMS IN 4 DIVISIONS

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

About a dozen core volunteers gathered at the Feb. 20 planning meeting for the Bloomingtondale Community Family Fun-Raiser, set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 20.

While some members of the planning group discussed ways to invite business partners and sponsors to participate in the event, others turned their focus to filling the player list for the main event: a fun, challenging 18-hole "MiniLinks" miniature golf tournament.

Individuals or teams of four players can sign up to compete in one of four tournament divisions (see related story in this issue).

Charity golf tournament organizer, Bloomingtondale resident Bob Gaudreau, said in order to fill all four divisions quickly, word of mouth advertising is critical. Ideally, he said, having at least one captain for each of Bloomingtondale's 40 neighborhood sections could result in a very exciting, friendly challenge among neighbors.

"If one person in each of our neighborhood sections would step up to 'champion' their section or even just their own street — go door to door encouraging neighbors to sign up for the tournament — we

could fill 18 teams in all four divisions pretty quickly," Gaudreau said.

In addition, he said, that kind of community networking could help boost future participation in the homeowners association's Neighborhood PRIDE program.

Volunteers at the February meeting agreed to be block captains for the Monte Lake Drive area in Bloomingtondale East and Bloomingtondale Estates in Bloomingtondale West. Many more captains are needed to help fill the roster quickly.

Block captains can phone or

e-mail neighbors on their street or knock on a few doors to recruit players. Volunteers can also send their contact information to the BHA for publication in the Gazette and on [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com).

To help sign up players, or for more information, e-mail [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com) or call 643-2990. All interested residents are also invited to the planning committee's next meetings, set for 7 p.m. at the Bloomingtondale Community Office on March 9 and March 23.

## Fun-Raiser Planning Meetings Open To Public

### BLOCK CAPTAINS, EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Planning meetings for the Bloomingtondale Community Family Fun-Raiser will be held March 9 and March 23 at the Bloomingtondale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, behind SunTrust Bank. There is a particular need for block captains to help sign up neighbors for the miniature golf tournament. More volunteers are also needed to help plan various activities.

All interested residents are invited to the open meeting. If you would like to help but can't attend the meetings, please call 643-2990 or e-mail [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com).

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# Homeowners Association, PTSA Plan Family Fun-Raiser

## MAIN EVENT: MINI-GOLF TOURNAMENT

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and Bloomingdale Senior High School are planning a charity "fun-raiser" to benefit the annual B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship and the high school PTSA.

The main event at The Bloomingdale Community Family Fun-Raiser, set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 20 at the Bloomingdale High football stadium, is billed as a fun, challenging miniature golf tournament.

Bloomingdale residents Bob and Jerilyn Gaudreau, owners of golf tourney management franchise LeaderBoard of Tampa, will bring their new, portable "MiniLinks" course to the event.

Player and team slots are open in four tournament divisions:

### Desperate Housewives

The Desperate Housewives group is open to all ladies and their daughters. Residence on Wisteria Lane is not required; just a desire to get together with the girls for a couple of hours and chase a ball with a stick. Gossiping, high heels and pearls are optional.

### D-I-Y Guys

The D-I-Y Guys group should prove popular with macho types and their male



Burns Middle School students enjoyed LeaderBoard of Tampa's portable "MiniLinks" golf course at a Valentine's Day festival and fundraiser at the school.

Photo Courtesy of LeaderBoard of Tampa



progeny proud of their do-it-yourself abilities. This division is also open to those who specialize in the creative art of evading the chores on their honey-do lists.

### Disney Kids

The Disney Kids division

offers children ages 10 and under a chance to team up with their best buddies and compete for cool prizes on the football field of their future high school. Awesome!

### Parent/Teacher Conference

The Parent/Teacher Con-

ference group challenges educators, parents — and the students they're all challenged with — to team up with or against each other, all in the name of fun.

Up to 18 four-person teams can participate in each division. There is a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Division starts will be scattered, with target times to be announced this month.

The registration fee is \$10 per person and \$40 per four-person team. Prizes will be awarded in all divisions for first, second and third place.

See FUN-RAISER, Page 14

# Group Seeks Business Partners For Fun-Raiser

## GREAT EXPOSURE FOR BUSINESSES

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Organizers of the Bloomingdale Community Family Fun-Raiser, set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20, want to partner with area businesses willing to help support the charity event.

It's an excellent opportunity, they said, for local businesses to promote their products and services to a very targeted demographic — Bloomingdale community families.

Proceeds from the fun-raiser will benefit the B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship fund and the high school PTSA.

The main event, an 18-hole miniature golf tournament, will be set up on the high school football field. Ten-foot-square booth spaces, arranged on the track surrounding the field, are available for a contribution of \$100.

A full range of partnership opportunities are available. Whether a business owner chooses to sponsor just one hole in any one of four division tournaments taking place that day, or to become a key sponsor for the entire event, organizers said each level of support will provide excep-

See BUSINESS, Page 10

## Your Inside Connections

### The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
Phone: 681-2051 Fax: 684-2358  
E-mail: [Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net](mailto:Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net)  
Web Site: [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com)  
BHA meetings are at the community office on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President: Ted Grable Vice President: Joe Hickle  
Treasurer: Pam Liguori Director: Ken Pyse  
Director: Lydia Harrod Director: Steve Heckel  
Director: Dale Kahn Director: George May  
Director: Tim Shuman Director: Myron Magedanz

### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
Phone: 684-6667  
BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President: Thom Snelling  
Vice President: Russell Jones  
Treasurer: David West  
Recording Secretary: Michael Buday  
Trustee: David Steck

Trustee: Joe Harless  
Property Manager: Al Devney

### Bloomingdale Community Security Program

The Bloomingdale Community Security Program committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m..

### Coordinator/Equipment Manager:

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146  
Treasurer: Paul Kelmer  
Patrol Member: Steven Heckel  
Patrol Member: Brad Scharp  
Patrol Member: Paul Warr



### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132  
Phone: 685-2817  
BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
President: Bill Grace  
Treasurer: Fred Englehart

## THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

# MOMS Club Hosts Night Of Hope

## TO BENEFIT AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

A Gazette Report

MOMS Club of Bloomingdale/Valrico members hope Lady Luck is with them on April 1 when they host "A Night of Hope," an evening of casino-style gaming with a silent auction to benefit the club's American Cancer Society Relay For Life team.

The event, set for 7 p.m. on April 1 at River Hills Country Club, will include

hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, entertainment and prizes.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include \$5,000 in "hope" gaming chips.

Guests can try their luck at slot machines, blackjack, roulette, craps and poker, and then turn in their "hope" chips at the end of the evening for chances to win prizes. A silent auction will feature items like restaurant and retail gift certificates, jewelry and gift items, and themed baskets, all donated by businesses in the community.

"We are really thrilled with the sup-

port we have received from our community," said Janine Harrity, the club's Relay for Life team captain.

"Our team was proud to raise nearly \$3,300 last year to help cancer patients in our community. We hope this fundraiser helps us double that donation this year."

The club will participate in the 2006 Relay For Life April 21- 22 at Bloomingdale High School. The annual relay is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society

save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer and to empower individuals to fight back against the disease.

"We're proud to have our club involved in this event each year," said Melissa Canfield, president of the MOMS Club of Bloomingdale/Valrico.

Sponsorships at various levels for A Night of Hope are still available. Donated items for the silent auction are also still needed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Janine Harrity at 416-6632.

News tip? Email The Bloomingdale Gazette at [info@bloomingtondalegazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtondalegazette.com)

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COMMENTARY

# Home Improvement Jobs Take Patience To Task

1 PROJECT A YEAR IS ENOUGH

By IRENE BUGGY  
Correspondent

Do you loose sleep at night envisioning your beautiful yard graced with the homeowners association's "Yard of the Month" sign?

Can you envision your house featured in a stylish home decorating magazine?

Many Bloomingdale homeowners work hard year-round to keep their homes and property looking like masterpieces. Then there are those of us who just don't ever get around to those little projects posted on our refrigerators.

Recently, I was on my computer in an IM session with my cousin, Patti, who lives in St. Pete. I told her I was hiding in my den and avoiding my husband, who at the time was deep into a home project I had given him to do.

She replied back with a "LOL" and said her husband was doing the exact same thing. He was working on a long list of repairs and she was innocently "hiding" from him, too.

It made me wonder how many women across this country spend their Saturdays hiding out someplace while their husbands peck away at their "honey-do" lists.

However, when it comes to a major overhaul like re-doing an entire room, I believe professionals should be involved. After all, it is often said — and seldom disputed — that the real test of a marriage is a home remodeling adventure.

Now, you would think this means a phone call or a short visit to a home improvement store, where you hand over your project and it is professionally completed in a timely manner. Wrong!

## Natures Way, Culbreath Resurfacing Underway

PROJECT EXPECTED TO TAKE 1 MONTH

A Gazette Report

Hillsborough County engineer Virgus Mann reported to the Gazette last week that the resurfacing of Natures Way and Culbreath Road would begin March 2.

If all goes well, Mann said the project should be completed in about a month.

In addition to Natures Way and Culbreath Road, Mann said entryway streets set to be

*"I picture Ty Pennington pulling up to my front door to announce he's here to knock the whole house down and rebuild it for me in one week, while he sends me off on a cruise."*

After a recent trip to one such local mega-store, I placed my order to have a bathroom countertop replaced. I won't go into the gory details. Suffice it to say it took over three months to complete this tiny project.

That is why my steadfast rule is to only redo one room per year. I can only take the aggravation for just so long. Once my boiling point is reached, no decent handyman wants to be within a mile of me.

I have been very fortunate to find some very capable handymen. The first (I'll call him Bob #3, since both my husband and son are named Bob), has done several jobs for me and has always completed them with the utmost care and professionalism.

It wasn't until I had completely finished my renovation for the year that my hairdresser told me her husband does handyman work on the side. Now I make it a policy to speak with everyone I know before I start a project. Finding the best man for the job can be a full-time job in itself.

As I sit here and dream about my next home improvement project, I have moments when I picture Ty Pennington pulling up to my front door to announce he's here to knock the whole house down and rebuild it for me in one week, while he sends me off on a cruise. Now, that's a home improvement vision we would all like to become a reality!

repaved include Springvale and Glenhaven drives.

The resurfacing will be done one lane at a time, with special attention given to reducing any interruptions to traffic flow, Mann said.

Updates about the progress of the project will be posted on [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com). Bloomingdale residents are invited to send questions and comments about the project to [info@bloomingtongazette.com](mailto:info@bloomingtongazette.com).



Schaub



Figari

## Good Neighbors Earn BHA Kudos

FIGARI, SCHAUB LAUDED

A Gazette Report

Two community volunteers were recently presented with the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.'s Good Neighbor Award.

Jeanette Figari, co-founder of citizen's group UNDO (United Neighbors, Dedicated Opposition), was praised for her work to mitigate and monitor infill development in the Bloomingdale area. Figari and UNDO co-founder, Ana

Schaffer, continue to monitor the residential and commercial construction on Bloomingdale Avenue and John Moore Road.

Tom Schaub, owner of Planscape Inc., was lauded for volunteering his landscaping expertise and dozens of man-hours to help plan improvements to Bloomingdale East Park. Schaub worked with BHA volunteers and county staff to choose the types of trees and plants best suited to the park, where to place them and how to properly maintain them.

## Senior Center Provides Respite Services For Caregivers

1 SATURDAY EACH MONTH

A Gazette Report

Senior centers throughout Hillsborough County offer Saturday respite services once a month for those who care for frail elders. The service is designed to give caregivers an opportunity to enjoy their day while trained senior center staff provides family members with

stimulating activities, nutritious food and the opportunity to socialize with other seniors.

The participating center closest to the Bloomingdale area is the Brandon Senior Center, 612 N. Parsons Ave., where respite care will be provided on March 18 and April 15 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information about the program, contact Mary Jo McKay at 272-6261.

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# Escape School Teaches Children To Stay Safe

## PROGRAM HELD AT ALAFIA

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

Alafia Elementary School students and their parents recently spent time at Escape School to learn how to recognize, avoid and escape dangerous situations.

The PTA-sponsored event, hosted by Stowers Funeral Home, featured a video presentation created by Dignity Memorial Safety School, a nationally recognized child safety program.

Alafia PTA president Rhonda McCall said she was very pleased to see such a large turnout for the event.

Stowers' representative Katie Soyars, told parents, "This is just the beginning of starting to work with your kids on a safety program."

The first step, Soyars said, is teaching children to identify strangers.

The video explained how to identify strangers by actions, and dispelled the myths that all strangers are scraggly and have an evil look about them.

Soyars gave examples of lures commonly used by predators to gain access to a child, including toys, baseball cards, candy and asking for help seeking a lost pet.

In January, The Tampa Tribune and the Brandon News both published a special section called "Operation Insight." The publication, provided by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, listed by ZIP code all of Hillsborough County's registered sex offenders and predators.

The publication included photographs and currently registered addresses of each

convict. The purpose of the publication, according to Sheriff David Gee, was to bring awareness to parents and arm them with information.

Soyars said every family should have a safety plan. She encouraged parents to speak with their children about the dangers that exist in today's society.

In the event of a missing child, five places should be contacted immediately: 911; The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 1-800-THE-LOST; local search and rescue offices; the FBI; and local media outlets.

The video teaches both parents and children, "You're safe when you're smart, not when you're scared." For more information, visit [www.escapeschool.com](http://www.escapeschool.com) or call Stowers Funeral Home at 689-1211.

## Inscribed Bible Found

### 'TO JERRY'

A Gazette Report

A small Bible was recently found and turned in to the Bloomingdale Community Office. It is inscribed, "Presented To Jerry by Mom and Dad, 19th Birthday, July 8, 2003." To claim the Bible, call the office, 681-2051, or e-mail [bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net).

## SCHOLARSHIP

Continued From Page 1

racks of thank you cards to try and find some appropriate words of appreciation for the honor. She couldn't find any that expressed her gratitude.

"Words could never tell you how I feel right now. All I can say is... I most humbly thank you, thank you, thank you," she told the hushed crowd.

BHA president, Ted Grable, said it took about 30 seconds for the association's

board of directors to pass a motion to implement the scholarship.

"B. J. Stelter's leadership and unrelenting drive for excellence over the past 14 years created a unique environment where dedicated teachers and staff educated, challenged and inspired more than 7,000 young men and women," he said.

That legacy stood out more than enough for the neighborhood to pay tribute to the

long-time principal.

"It is an honor for our community to be able to recognize you," Grable said.

Scholarship details, eligibility requirements and applications are printed in this edition of the Gazette, and will be permanently posted on the homeowners association Web site, [www.bloomingtondalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingtondalegazette.com). For more information, call 681-2051 or e-mail [bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net).

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### DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

This 3BR/2BA home is located on the golf course in Diamond Hills. Kitchen features upgraded raised-panel cabinets w/Corian counter tops and plant shelves. Sliders open to 1300 sq. ft. screen-enclosed lanai. Spacious master suite w/garden bath and double vanity. Upgraded tile throughout w/upgraded carpet in bedrooms. Brick-paver lanai w/6-person hot tub. Lush landscaping. Gated community w/every amenity. Come see it today!

MLS# T2147726 • 1534 sq. ft. • \$300,000



### MOVE-IN CONDITION

Pride of ownership 3BR/2BA Cardel home. The kitchen is light and bright, wood cabinets w/plant shelves and gas range. The breakfast nook has a built-in desk and overlooks the open & airy great room with sliders that open to the backyard. Master suite is spacious w/crown molding, plant shelves and a walk-in closet. Tile & Wood laminate. Landscaped yard w/decorative borders. Brick pavers in entry way. Located in Covington Park, just minutes to I-75.

MLS# T2140299 • 1200 sq. ft. • \$210,000



### PRICED TO SELL IN BEAUTIFUL FISHHAWK RANCH

This 4BR/3BA Suarez home offers an office/den & a huge bonus room. The kitch. features 42" cherry cab w/plant shelves, lots of cntr space, blk appl., built-in desk and sliders to lanai. Formal DR w/built-in niche for china cabinet. Formal LR has sliders. Open & airy family room. Large master suite w/sliders & master bath has garden tub. Separate wing w/huge bedroom, full bath and French door that opens to backyard. Great family neighborhood!

MLS# T2138734 • 3150 sq. ft. • \$435,000



### BRAND NEW! IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

This 4BR/2 1/2BA home is available for immediate closing. Open and airy kitchen features 42" white raised-panel cabinets, gas range, refrigerator and dishwasher. Kitchen nook has a bay window w/built-in seating. Formal dining room. Spacious great room. First-floor master suite features a tray ceiling, sliders to backyard and a garden bath. The upstairs has a huge loft area and three additional bedrooms. Covered lanai. Huge, private backyard on a pond. Convenient location.

MLS# T2146225 • 2119 sq. ft. • \$310,000



### FISHHAWK RANCH BEAUTY

This 5BR/4BA home is located in Merlin Glen in FishHawk Ranch. The kitchen features 42" cabinets w/crown molding. Formal living and dining rooms. Hardwood flooring in formal areas and hallways. Closet and private bath in 5th bedroom/bonus room. Huge, screen-enclosed lanai with stamped concrete floor. Large, private backyard. Model perfect. Great family neighborhood! This one is a must see!

MLS# T2139715 • 3290 sq. ft. • \$535,000



### LOOK NO FURTHER!

This 4BR/2BA home backs up to a pond for privacy. Light and bright kitchen w/plant shelves and recessed lighting. Open and airy family room w/sliders that open to backyard. Plant shelves throughout. Formal living and dining rooms. Spacious master suite w/garden bath. New interior and exterior paint. New 18" x 18" tile throughout and new carpet in bedrooms. Available for immediate occupancy.

MLS# T2142577 • 1938 sq. ft. • \$260,000

# BHA, High School Set Criteria For New Scholarship

APPLICATIONS  
DUE BY APRIL 10

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. board of directors, in cooperation with the faculty of Bloomingdale Senior High School, has set forth the official criteria for the annual B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship.

One scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 will be awarded in the program's first year. Organizers hope to increase the value and number of scholarship awards each year, according to available BHA funds and the combined fundraising efforts of the BHA and high school PTSA.

The deadline for receipt of submissions is April 10, 2006.

Scholarship information and mail-in application forms will be posted year-round on the homeowners association Web site, [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com).

For more information, call 681-2051 or e-mail [bloomingtongazette.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtongazette.homeowners@verizon.net).

B.J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship

### Objective

The objective of the annual scholarship is to reward and encourage Bloomingdale Senior High School senior-year students to pursue a college career, and to honor the exemplary efforts and outstanding dedication of B. J. Stelter, the principal of Bloomingdale Senior High School from 1991 - 2005.

### Awards

The number and value of each year's scholarship award(s) will be determined by the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association Inc. Board of Directors, no later than its December meeting, based on both available internal funding and fundraising efforts during the year. All awards are for the next school year and are non-renewable. For 2006, there will be one award of \$1500.

### Eligibility Requirements

Candidate's parent/guardian must be a resident of Bloomingdale, as defined on the BHA's Web site, [www.bloomingtongazette.com](http://www.bloomingtongazette.com). Proof of residency will be required at the time of scholarship disbursement.

Candidate's parent/guardian are not required to be current year members of the BHA, however, preferential treatment will be given to those who are. Membership may be made at any time during the year.

Candidate must be a graduating senior at Bloomingdale Senior High School.

Candidate must have at least a weighted 3.0 grade-point average, on the latest available report card, at the time of scholarship disbursement. Proof of grade point average will be required at the time of scholarship

See STELTER, Page 15

# B.J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship Application Form

Application Deadline: April 10

College/University planning to attend

Mail to: Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Scholarship Committee, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594; or Fax to: (813) 684-2358; or E-Mail to: [bloomingtongazette.homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:bloomingtongazette.homeowners@verizon.net).

List any academic honors or awards received throughout your high school career, along with the following details for each activity listed.

Student's Name

Activity  
Approximate dates involved  
What value did you bring to this activity?  
Why were you involved with this activity?

Parent/Guardian Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

Social Security #

Birth date

What achievements/awards/recognitions were achieved by your involvement?

Latest cumulative weighted GPA

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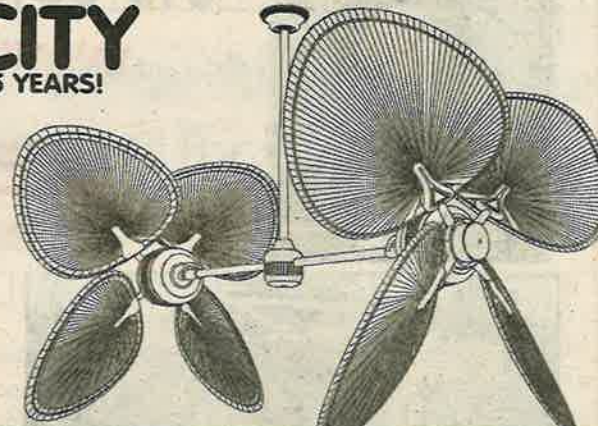
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B L O O M I N G D A L E S C H O O L S

# High School Students Can Earn Community Service Hours

## 2 UPCOMING BHA EVENTS

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit group, is organizing two upcoming neighborhood events during which high school students and Scouts can earn community service hour credits.

Community service hour credits are

required to qualify for many Scouting and college scholarship awards, including the Florida Bright Futures program.

On April 8, the homeowners association will host a Neighborhood PRIDE Community Cleanup day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Natures Way near Alafia Elementary School. Student volunteers are needed to direct traffic and help neighbors unload small household

items from their cars. Students can help for a few hours or until all the Dumpsters at the site are full.

On May 20, student volunteers are needed to help set up, staff and break down a portable 18-hole miniature golf course at the Bloomingdale Community Family Fun-Raiser. The event, to benefit the B. J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship fund and the high

school PTSA, will be held at the Bloomingdale High football stadium from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students can help for an hour either before or after the event, or may choose to help in various capacities throughout the day.

For more information or to volunteer, call 643-2990 or e-mail info@bloomingtongazette.com.

B L O O M I N G D A L E S P E C I A L T A X I N G D I S T R I C T

## New Mulch, Tree Trimming On Spring Cleaning List

### FEBRUARY, MARCH PROJECTS OUTLINED

By AL DEVNEY

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Property Manager

In the month of February, the following items were completed or scheduled:

Raymow started trimmed all the crepe myrtle trees.

The taxing district board hosted the pre-bid meeting for the 2006 landscaping contract.

United Painting Services was scheduled to complete its wall painting contract.

Signs by Mineo repainted and installed the Bloomingdale Cove signs and started work on signs in The Links and Golf Manor.

Shuman Handywork removed a dead oak tree and finished installing two parking pads for crossing guards at the corner of River Close and Natures Way.

Cardinal Landscaping was scheduled to install creeping fig plants along the walls on Garnet and on Natures Way between Callista and Moondale Drive.

## Taxing District Trustee Seat Open

### GROUP MANAGES TAX DOLLARS

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District has one seat open on its volunteer board of trustees.

The board manages the expenditure of taxing district funds collected annually by the county (\$100 per home, added to homeowners' property tax bills).

The trustees, all Bloomingdale homeowners living within the district, hold open meetings once a month at the community office to plan maintenance and improvement projects.

There are currently seven members serving on the board.

For more information about the taxing district or open trustee seat, call 684-6667 or e-mail bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net.

See SPRING, Page 15

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B L O O M I N G D A L E L A W E N F O R C E M E N T

# Community Council Targets Traffic Troubles

## ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, LAW-ABIDING DRIVERS NEEDED

By MACKAUSTIN  
Correspondent

Growth in the Bloomingdale community and surrounding areas is a never-ending topic of discussion. Many residents agree that growth can be good — when it is managed properly.

Many of us like to see new businesses, schools and recreational and dining facilities open for us to enjoy. But there is one major factor that stands out when it comes to managing growth.

Unless community planning and development allow for the inevitably increased traffic that comes along with growth, the only sure outcome is total gridlock. Anyone going to work or school each morning knows what that means: wait, wait, watch out and hope and pray you don't get into an accident. And bad weather just makes the situation worst.

If it's any consolation, our community is not alone. Every growing community faces the same problems. Hillsborough County officials are constantly working to make improvements, but at times it's like raking leaves on a windy day.

The Bloomingdale Area Community

Council works with the sheriff's office and other county departments to identify issues or areas where improvements can be made to help with the traffic troubles we face. By identifying these areas and coordinating the completion of them, progress can be made towards reaching long-term solutions.

At the February meeting of the all-volunteer Bloomingdale Area Community Council, the following items were discussed.

### Bloomingdale, Bell Shoals Improvements

Many residents have asked about the status of improvements to Bell Shoals Road and Bloomingdale Avenue. Months ago, the groundwork for improvements seemed to be in place. But some setbacks were encountered, and lately there have been no signs of progress.

Many residents are concerned about losing the funding for this project if it doesn't start soon. The proposed project includes the installation of a traffic signal on Bell Shoals at Glenhaven Drive, a left-turn lane onto Garnett Drive northbound on Bell Shoals, a traffic signal on Bloomingdale Avenue across from Dunkin' Donuts, extension of the medians by McDonalds (where

*"Hillsborough County officials are constantly working to make improvements, but at times it's like raking leaves on a windy day."*

numerous accidents have occurred), a traffic signal by the entrance to Wal-Mart, and other improvements to overall traffic flow.

Business owners are naturally concerned about how the potential changes could affect their businesses. The timing of the completion of these major improvements is critical because, when the next phase of improvements on Boyette Road begins, traffic will get much worse with drivers trying to avoid the Boyette construction.

### New Traffic Statues

Several new traffic statutes went into effect in 2005, including increased fines for running red lights, speeding, failing to use turn signals when changing lanes and aggressive driving. Traffic blitzes by the sheriff's office have slowed some drivers down and cost others a lot of money.

More accidents involving drivers talking on cell phones have also been recorded. Insurance companies usually raise rates for this type of accident where a driver is distracted.

### Culbreath Road Speed Limits

Some residents report confusion about speed limits on Culbreath Road, north of Erindale Drive. Where Culbreath runs by Alafia Elementary, the Bloomingdale Little League and the YMCA, the speed limit is 35 mph. South of Erindale, the speed limit is 30. The community council and law enforcement officials are working to require a uniform 30 MPH speed limit on the entire road. In addition, drivers simply must stop for school buses when required, before someone is seriously injured or killed.

### Left Turn Signals Needed

Several intersections with traffic signals end up with traffic backups due to a lack of left-turn arrow signals, including the corners of Rosemeade and Bell Shoals Road, and Bloomingdale Avenue and Springvale Drive. The community council agrees with many residents who feel left-turn signals at those corners would help control the traffic flow and reduce the number of drivers running red lights.

## Sheriff's Office Programs Encourage Community Involvement

### HELP IMPROVE SAFETY, SECURITY FOR ALL

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER  
Bloomingdale Community  
Resource Deputy

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office offers a variety of special training and informational programs available to the general public. The programs are geared towards county residents who want to learn more about local law enforcement missions and how to improve safety and security

in their business and personal lives.

At a time when the sheriff's office is experiencing staffing shortages due to increased numbers of retiring deputies — and those being called to active military duty — these programs are a very valuable asset to help increase vigilance during the war on terror.

The Sheriff's Citizen's Academy offers qualified residents the chance to attend classes conducted by HCSO deputies

and detectives. Students in this program learn firsthand about the many missions of the office. It includes on-site visits to the county jail and to the HCSO training site.

The Sheriff's Reserve II Program is an intense hands-on training program focusing on tasks and skills that all deputies must be proficient in. Upon graduation, Reserve II deputies are qualified to work with full-time deputies, providing an invaluable service to the sher-

iff's office and to the entire community.

The Business Watch Program teaches business owners what it takes to keep their businesses safe and secure. For local business owners, the personal contact with the deputies that patrol their community is a very important part of the program.

The Church Watch Program teaches religious organizations how to protect their buildings

and property.

The Neighborhood Watch Program trains and assists residents to build an effective security program for their neighborhoods. The program has proven to be extremely effective in reducing neighborhood crime and improving the safety and security in many communities.

For more information on these programs, visit [www.hcso.tampa.fl.us](http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us) or call 247-8000.

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## BUSINESS

Continued From Page 4

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BLOOMINGDALE LAW ENFORCEMENT

# America's Boating Course Offered March 11

## PROMOTES SAFE BOATING

By MACKAUSTIN  
Correspondent

When it comes to safety, all boaters know there is absolutely no substitute for being properly trained and skilled in operating their vessels.

With thousands of residents in our area who enjoy the beautiful waters of

the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay, as well as the many rivers and the hundreds of lakes in our area, the need to complete professional boating skills training is essential.

Some boaters believe that the vast majority of boating accidents are caused by vessel equipment problems. However, most accidents have been determined to be caused by operator error.

Sixty percent of boating accident fatalities on record were the result of capsizing, falling overboard or flooding/swamping.

"America's Boating Course" is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons, approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the

U. S. Coast Guard.

The course, taught locally by experienced members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla #74, Brandon, will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 11 at the West Marine Store, 1516 Brandon Blvd. Tuition is \$40. For more information, call 1-800-704-4216 or e-mail [www.cgaux74.org](http://www.cgaux74.org).

BLOOMINGDALE BUSINESS

## Consignment Store Celebrates 1st Anniversary

### THANKS BLOOMINGDALE PATRONS

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

Whether you're talking about a child or a business, the first year of life is full of growth, change and "firsts," according to Susan Maryanski.

Maryanski opened Olivia's Closet, an upscale children's consignment shop inspired by her daughter, Olivia, one year ago.

"My inspiration is still my daughter, and she's grown as the store has grown," she said.

Maryanski's initial plan was simply to offer a unique and affordable shopping experience. The store has evolved to include a gift boutique stocked with trendy, designer-inspired jewelry, watches, purses and wallets.

The store also now carries furniture and home décor items like picture frames and decorative wooden signs.

"I love it when someone says to me, 'I can't believe you have this here,'" she said.

Maryanski also offers in-home gift boutique shopping. She takes her new gift merchandise to your home for a shopping party. The gatherings are casual and relaxed, with no presentation to sit through.

"I come in, set up and let people shop," she said.

Her business, like her young daughter, has gone through a lot of changes in the past year, but what hasn't changed, Maryanski said, is the support she receives from her family and her customers.

"The business is so enjoyable because I have the constant support of my husband, David."

In addition, she said, "I want to thank my customers for spreading the word about the store."

Olivia's Closet is at 4387 Lynx Paw Trail. Store hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Information: 655-3727.



Photo courtesy of Olivia's Closet  
For the past year, Susan Maryanski has enjoyed watching her daughter Olivia grow along with the business she named in her honor.

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## BLOOMINGDALE BUSINESS

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By SCOTTE E. RUPP  
Correspondent

While running with some friends near FishHawk Ranch, Stephen Dunn thought the area needed a place for the likes of him — a shop dedicated to running and being outside on the trails.

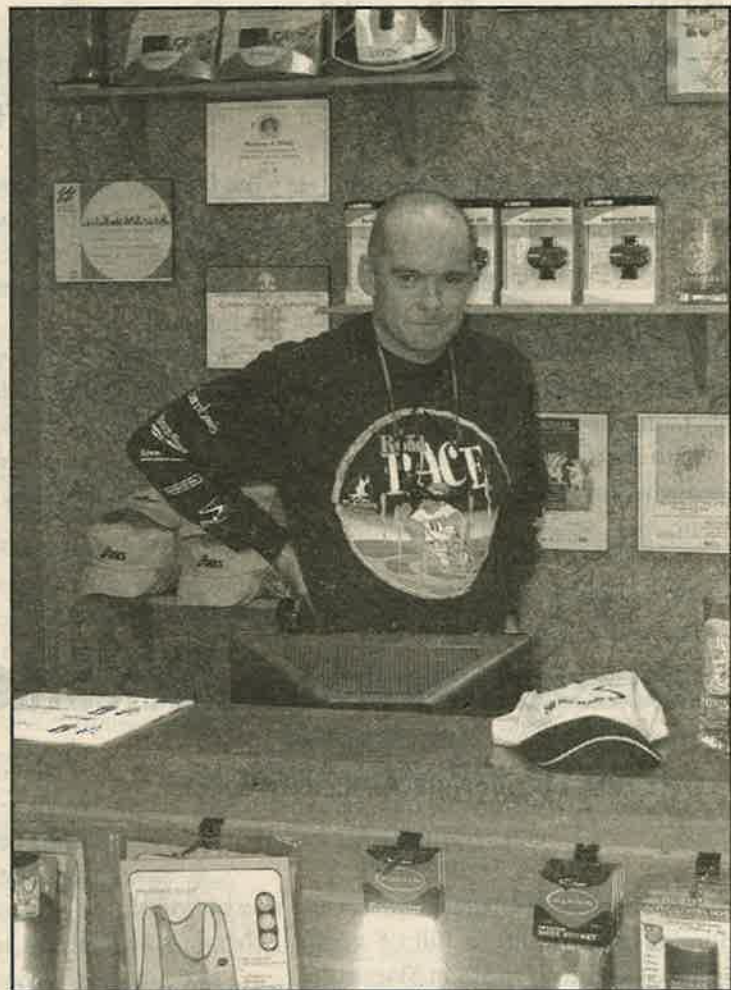
A little more than a year later, on January 21, he opened that place in the southern Hillsborough county community, just south of Bloomingdale.

He's been running for 20 years and has competed in 11 marathons, including the Boston Marathon, and will be returning to Chicago to run that city's marathon later this year. Dunn trains 16 weeks a year for a marathon, though he's more of a trail runner, preferring to hit the pathways of Alafia State Park.

"I'm driven," he said of his life on the trail, noting that the store is an attempt to push himself further.

"I'm kind of going out on a limb," he said. "I'm living my dream and I'm hoping it comes true."

Dunn, in his mid-40s, spent the first part of his career in corporate life. Originally from Toronto, he made his way to Lithia by way of Virginia after a company transfer. He's lived in Lithia for three years.



SCOTTE RUPP/Photo

Stephen Dunn opened his store last month, gearing it toward runners and outdoor enthusiasts.

Hit the Trails was an amalgamation of his two favorite running stores in Michigan, where he once lived. As far as finding another specialty running store like his, he said people would have to travel to Tampa or Carrollwood.

To find success in running, one needs determination, consistent training and must be able to "push past a little bit of agony. If you let that bother you you're never going to get anywhere," he said.

Dunn wears out five pairs of shoes a year and runs about 35 miles a week and 60 when training. In all his time on his feet, he said he's never had an injury. Buying good shoes and listening to your body is the key to healthy legs, he said.

The store features running and trail shoes, socks, apparel, scooters, hats, running gear, baby buggies and eventually the store will have walking sticks and rollerblades among other outdoor themed items.

Using a treadmill and camera, Dunn and his staff are able to evaluate and correct a runner's strides. Riverview High School's cross country coach, Larry Bass, and Valrico resident Beth Janus, who just qualified for the Boston marathon, work with Dunn.

In the spring, the store will host classes for beginning runners and children, Dunn said.

For more information call 681-6141 or visit [www.hitthetrails.com](http://www.hitthetrails.com).

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B L O O M I N G D A L E B U S I N E S S

# Plaza Bella Adds More Confirmed Tenants

## OWNERS IMMERSSED IN DETAILS

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

The owners of a new retail and business plaza under construction at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road say their roster of confirmed tenants is filling up nicely.

Mark and Roz Creager, owners and developers of Plaza Bella, have supervised every facet of the project from conception to construction and pre-leasing.

All this while continuing to run their business, The Green Boutique gift and antiques shop, which sits right on the construction site. The Green Boutique — now housed in what was originally the family's home — will move to the new plaza as its anchor store.

Now while the architects work out some final details to finish building the two-story, Mediterranean-style plaza, Mark Creager has turned his attention to leasing the business and retail spaces.

A request for a permit to serve liquor at the plaza recently raised eyebrows at a Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board meeting.

The homeowners association board contacted Creager

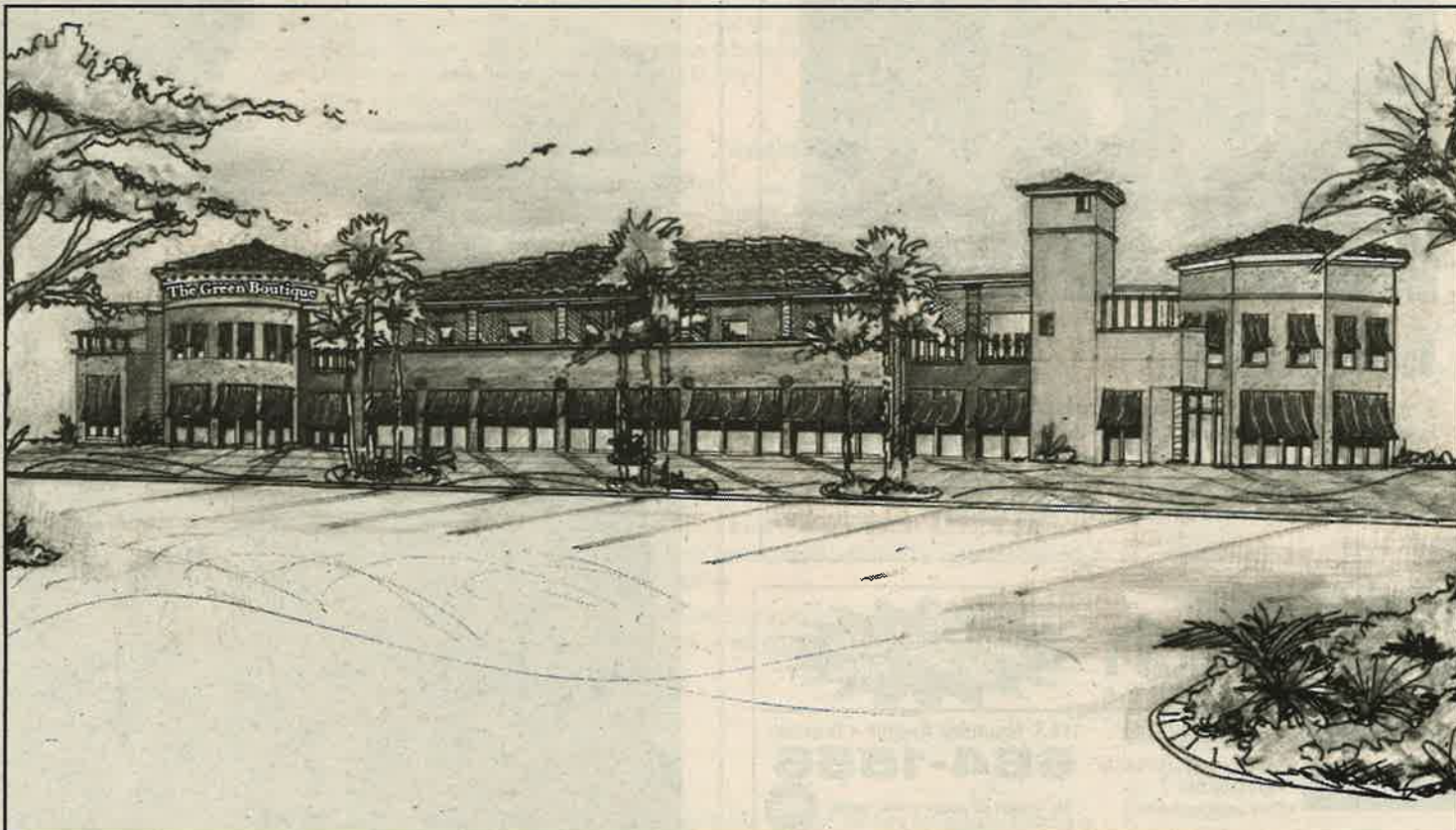


Photo courtesy of Mark Creager

The two-story Mediterranean style Plaza Bella, near the northeast corner of Bell Shoals Road and Bloomingdale Avenue, is scheduled to open in June.

to find out exactly what was being planned.

Not to worry, Creager said. On his watch, there will be no bikini bars or liquor stores at Plaza Bella.

"The permit we applied for is just to allow a wine retailer to hold tastings at their store," he said.

Vino 100, a national wine retail store that promises "100 wines under \$25," wants to lease space in the plaza. The

chain markets to customers seeking a comfortable, affordable and fun way to buy wines.

Creager has fielded several inquiries from businesses wanting to open bars, package stores and restaurants with full-service bars in his plaza. After careful consideration, he decided against those types of businesses.

"We initially were trying to work out a deal with a full-service restaurant and bar, but

when it fell through, we decided not to pursue that avenue again. I guess I never really felt comfortable with it," he said. "There would be too much (traffic) impact on the area, and I was concerned about providing adequate parking."

Creager was also concerned about the potential for disorderly conduct, littering and crime such businesses are typically faced with.

Salon Essence, presently

operating in a strip center plaza on Bell Shoals Road, was the first business to confirm its move to Plaza Bella.

Five more Plaza Bella tenants were announced in February: Orange, a contemporary furniture store with roots in Tampa; Old Meeting House Ice Cream, a staple in south Tampa since the 1950s; Hillsborough State Bank, the first

See PLAZA, Page 15



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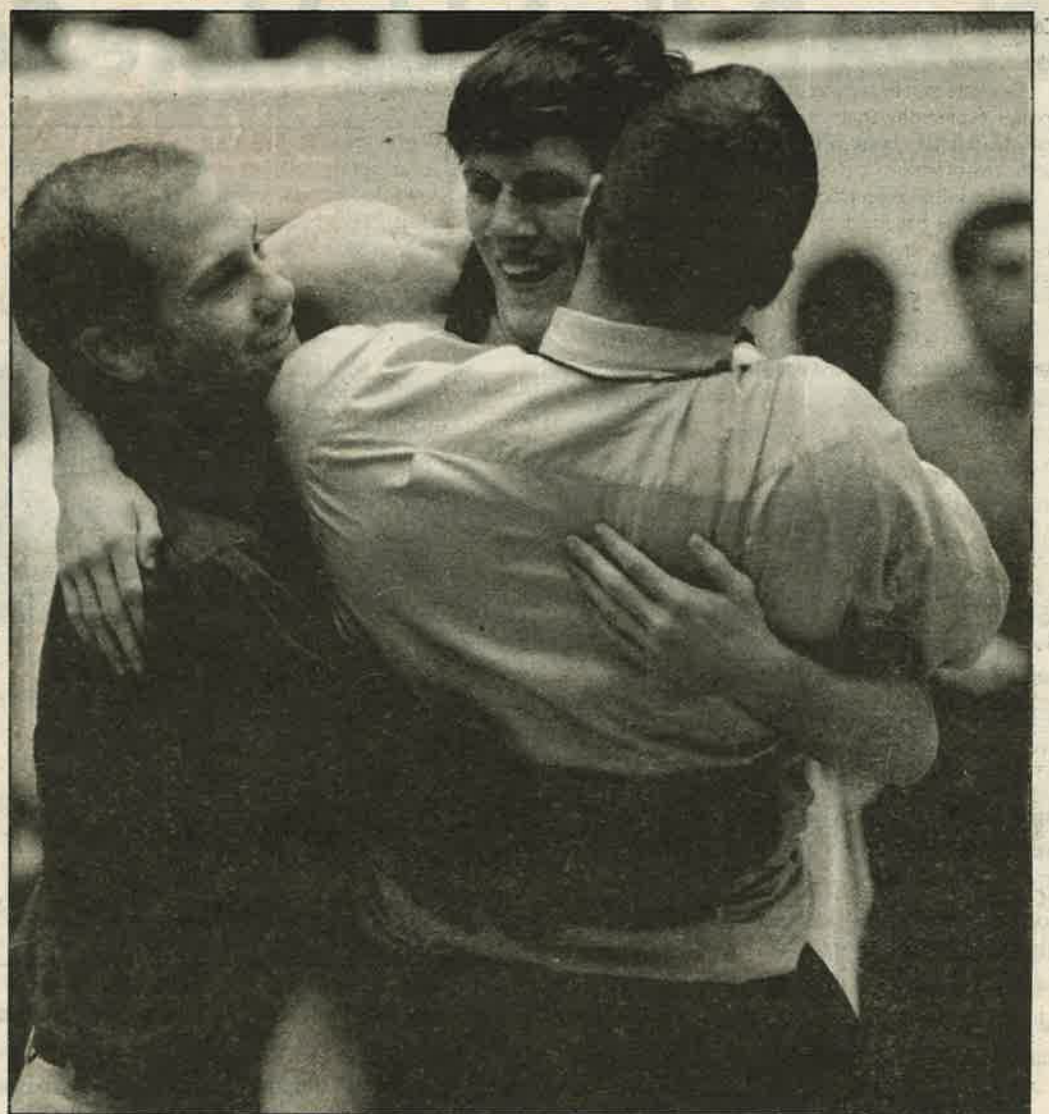
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MIKE YOUNG/Staff photo

### Bulls reach state final

Bloomington High School's Kelsey Primiano battles Fleming Island's Emily Pierce in front of the net during the Bulls' state semifinal game. The Bulls beat Fleming Island, 4-1, to advance to the championship game. In the final, Bloomington fell, 2-0, to a powerful team from Palm Harbor University High School.



ROBERT CONE/Staff photos

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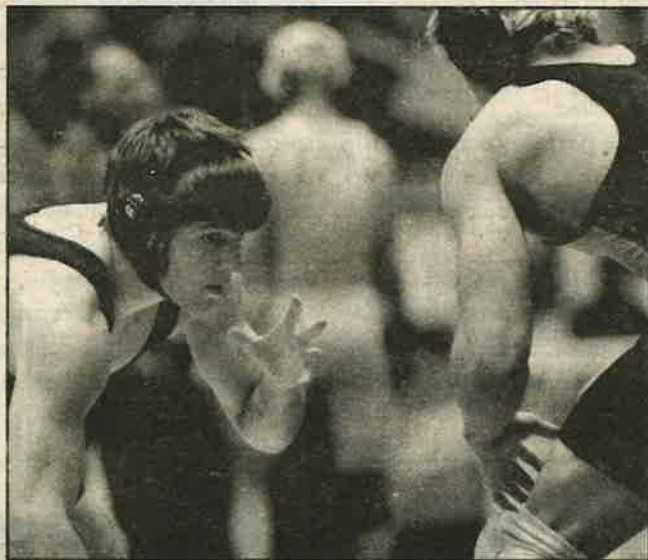
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### Sweet victory

Above, after winning the title, an elated Nye leaps into the arms of Bloomington wrestling coaches Donnie Peek, right, and Nicholas Miles. At left, in the final of the 135-pound weight division, Bloomington senior Ryan Nye measures his opponent, Royal Palm Beach's Gabe Hale at the 2006 state wrestling meet. Nye won four matches at the meet, including an 8-5 decision over Hale for the state championship, to run his record this season to a perfect 44-0. Nye joins Kevin Williams (1990) and David Mason (1998, 2000) as the only state champion wrestlers from Bloomington High School.

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### FUN-RAISER

Continued From Page 4

Each flight takes about an hour to complete. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded immediately after each division makes it to the 18th hole.

Other activities planned include a book fair, bake sale and contest, silent auction, children's activities and a business expo.

Registration forms for the mini-golf tournament will be available this month at the Bloomington Community Office, Bloomington High School and online at www.bloomingtongazette.com.

For more information, call 681-2051 or e-mail bloomington.homeowners@verizon.net.

# STELTER

Continued From Page 8

disbursement.  
 Candidate must be accepted at a 2- or 4-year accredited college or university. Students may apply for scholarship prior to acceptance, but proof of acceptance will be required at the time of scholarship disbursement.  
 Awards will be made without regard to financial need.  
 Children or grandchildren of current BHA board members are not eligible.

### Selection Criteria

Recipients will be chosen on the basis of the following selection criteria and weighted as follows:  
 Community Service - 45%  
 Essay - 30%  
 Academics - 20%  
 Membership in BHA - 5%

### Selection Committee

A three-member selection committee shall be responsible for selecting the scholarship recipient(s). The committee will be composed of three BHA board members, or the board's designees. The decisions of the selection committee are final and are not subject to appeal.

### Important Dates

Feb. 22, 2006: Application available for download at

www.bloomingtongazette.com  
 April 10, 2006: Application must be received at Bloomingdale Community Office.  
 May 1, 2006: The first recipient of the annual scholarship will be announced at the May 1, 2006 meeting of the BHA board. The recipient will be invited to attend the meeting.  
 Last week of June, 2006: Scholarship disbursements will be made. The disbursement may be made at a later date if the student has not made his/her final school choice, but the winner needs to keep the BHA updated on this situation.

### Essay

Each candidate will be required to complete an essay, of between 300 and 500 words. Essay must be typed. The student may select either of the following topics for their essay: "How a College Education Will Help Me Make A Difference" or "What My Community Service Time Has Meant To Me."

### Submission

Each candidate will be required to submit the following by the above defined deadline:  
 A completed Application  
 Essay  
 One letter of reference from a Bloomingdale Senior High

School faculty member, or, from a representative of a community service organization listed on the application.  
 E-mail applications to bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net, fax to 684-2358 or mail to Bloomingdale Community Office, Scholarship Committee, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594.

### Additional Information

Scholarship awards will be paid directly to the Director of Financial Aid at the recipient's school of choice.  
 Funds may be used to support any educational expenses, as allowed by the college/university.  
 No notification will be made to those applicants not selected.  
 All submissions become the property of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association and will not be returned.  
 Incomplete submissions will be disqualified.  
 Winners will be invited to the Scholarship Award Announcement, held at the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association Board of Director's May meeting, and agree to have their names/photos published by any interested news organization.  
 By submitting an application, candidate agrees to all rules contained in this document.

# SPRING

Continued From Page 9

Handy Hands repainted the median noses with yellow traffic paint.

ZK Construction repaired damaged walls on Springvale Drive and Natures Way.

Devney Property Management Inc. picked up litter, replaced 19 floodlights, supervised all contractors, checked all billing and responded to residents' inquiries.

The following activities are planned for the month of March:

Raymow will remove the old mulch and install new cypress mulch in all beds, and will finish trimming the crepe myrtle and ligustrum trees and planting new creeping fig plants.

The taxing district's fiscal year 2006 landscape contract will be awarded.

Signs by Mineo will start painting the eight Oak Crest signs on Culbreath and Erindale Drive.

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window:

Fifteen bags of litter were picked up. One item of special interest was a bicycle helmet in pieces. The beverages of the month were Diet Pepsi, Natural Light and Old Forester.

# PLAZA

Continued From Page 13

branch location for the Plant City bank established in 1902; and national chain Joffrey's Coffee and Tea Company.

The contractor also broke ground last month on a parcel of land at the north end of the site. Creager said the tenant

will be a day care center called The Peacock's Plume.

The owners are currently in negotiations with a smoothie store and one or more small, café-style restaurants. The plaza is slated to open in June 2006.

Plans are in the works to add a median cut and southbound turn lane on Bloomingdale Avenue to ease access to the property.

For information, call Creager at 684-1467.

## THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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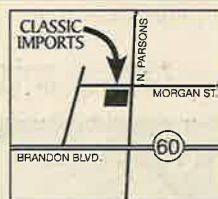
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