

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXX
Number 3

MARCH 2010 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Kelsey Hopkins, Fito Merzier and Allison Allen are separating cloths by sizes to ship to Haiti.

Helping Haiti

Students from Burns Middle School and Bloomingdale Senior High School organize relief efforts for earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

See story, page 4.

INSIDE

Live auction to be held at Bloomingdale Senior High School

Food, door prizes and more will benefit the Rajun Bull Band as they try to raise funds for a trip to England.

See story, page 6.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don’t need it.”

Bob Hope



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Photo by JOLIE HART

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MARCH 2010

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9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

258 S. Moon Ave., Classroom C, Brandon

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Philip Henkin, M.D.
Board Certified Neurosurgeon

Wednesday, March 10th
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
260 S. Moon Ave.,
Classroom B, Brandon

Nutrition For Cancer Prevention And Treatment Class

Wednesday, March 10th
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

260 S. Moon Ave., Classroom B, Brandon

Cardiac Support Group

**PULMONARY
HYPERTENSION**



PRESENTED BY
Robert Dewhurst, M.D.
Cardiologist
Board Certified Cardiovascular Disease

Thursday, March 11th
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
260 S. Moon Ave.,
Classroom B, Brandon

Pre-Op Orthopedic Class

Available to patients scheduled for knee or hip replacement surgery. Learn more about your procedure and the recovery process, including an overview of length of procedure, hospital and recovery time, equipment, pain management, physical therapy and discharge planning.

Thursday, March 11th & 25th
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

262 S. Moon Ave., Classroom A, Brandon

Something Old, Something New, Something Healthy for You (Understanding Family Vaccination)



PRESENTED BY
Gerard Hough, M.D.
Board Certified Pediatrician

Tuesday, March 16th
6:30 p.m.
260 S. Moon Ave.,
Classroom B, Brandon

Sleep Disorders And How They Affect Your Life



PRESENTED BY
Ivan F. Ackerman, M.D.
Board Certified
Pulmonary Disease, Sleep Medicine,
Critical Care Medicine &
Internal Medicine.

Thursday, March 18th
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
260 S. Moon Ave.,
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Surgical Weight Loss SEMINAR & SUPPORT GROUP

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PRESENTED BY
Alfredo Fernandez, M.D.
Bariatric Surgeon
Board Certified General Surgeon

Thursday, March 25th
6:30 p.m.
Seminar - 260 S. Moon Ave.,
Classroom B, Brandon
Support Group - 262 S. Moon Ave.
Classroom A, Brandon



To register for these FREE seminars, classes and support groups or for more information,

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The Gazette is delivered
free to Bloomingdale
residents on the first
Saturday of each month.

Reminder to Spring
ahead! Don't forget at 2
a.m. March 14 to turn
your clocks ahead one
hour for the start of
Daylight Saving Time.

Bloomingdale, Burns reach out to Haiti

By LESLIE WHITE

The small country of Haiti was thrust into the world's spotlight when a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck in January. Immediately, compassion moved communities and charities to join forces in providing aid to those affected by the tragedy. Already one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, an estimated 3 million Haitians were affected by this natural disaster that injured over 300,000, killed an estimated 230,000 and left approximately 1 million people homeless.

Countries all around the world responded and people from every walk of life felt the need to do something. Even local schools in the Bloomingdale area began asking, "What can we do?"

The AVID Club at Burns Middle School decided to hold a three-day drive to collect clothing, shoes, water and food. AVID member Tranae' Robinson said, "We wanted to do this because we have friends at school who have family members in Haiti." Motivated to help those friends feel better, Robinson said, "We are all family no matter where we come from."

Madison Roberts, an AVID officer said, "We decided to have a competition between teams for lunch line passes. I was excited to see how fast students at Burns came together in bringing in items to help families in Haiti." The middle school students collected over 6,000

See HAITI, Page 39 »



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Bloomingdale students donated more than 415 pairs of jeans in two weeks to help the people of Haiti.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

AVID Club Members of Burns Middle School who organized Haiti Relief Effort.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Madison Roberts and Dalia Herrera Officers of the AVID Club at Burns Middle School helped with Haiti Relief Effort.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Griffin Sprow, Danielle Garcia and Chelsea Pelham bagging up cloths donated for Haiti Relief.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

No mini Cooper

Cooper, a one-year-old goldendoodle, sits on the sofa in the front window of his home, waiting for the kids to get home from school. Kristen Carde and the rest of the family will help Cooper celebrate his birthday Feb. 27.

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Great American Cleanup needs volunteers

By **DAISY PARKER**
Program Coordinator

About three million volunteers are expected to join forces from March through May to participate in community improvement efforts as part of Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup.

Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful coordinates the local efforts and expects about 2,500 volunteers to participate countywide during our main cleanup day April 17 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The kick-off event will take place March 27th at 8:30 a.m. on the south side of the Courtney Campbell Causeway across from the boat ramp.

KHCB is recruiting site captains, volunteers and local sponsors to coordinate or assist in project efforts, which include beautification, community improvement initiatives, recycling activities, and litter removal along roads, waterways, and in parks.

Last year, more than 2,500 volunteers picked up 68,161 pounds of trash including bottles, cans and cigarette butts.

"This year, KHCB is looking especially for small groups to make a mighty impact as part of the O.B. Challenge," said KHCB Executive Director Christine Commerce. "While volunteers of all ages are encouraged to

participate, we are putting a special call out to people between the ages of 18 to 24 to take part in this worthwhile effort."

A list of locations throughout the county will be posted at www.khcbonline.org closer to the event date. Individual and group volunteers are asked to pre-register for a location. Volunteers should bring work gloves, closed-toed shoes and water. Trash bags are provided. T-shirts and other giveaways are available while supplies last. For more information on how to get involved with the Great American Cleanup or the O.B. Challenge, call (813) 960-5121.

Live auction to be held at Bloomingdale Senior High School

By **CATRINA MILLER**
Special to the Bloomingdale Gazette

On Saturday, March 6, at 5 p.m. there will be a live auction at Bloomingdale Senior High School. Auction items will include tickets for sporting events, gift cards, sporting goods, services, restaurants and much, much more. We will also have door prizes and food. Everyone is welcome. The preview period will begin at 4 p.m.

The auction will benefit the Bloomingdale Senior High School Rajun Bull band, which has been invited to participate in the 25th anniversary of the London New Year's Day parade and festival in December 2010. Proceeds from the event will go towards our band student's expenses for this trip. For directions and school details visit the Web site at bloomingdale.mysdhc.org.

LIVE AUCTION

Saturday March 6

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4 PM PREVIEW 5 PM

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[on real estate] Dollars versus days

After you've taken step one to decide to sell your home, step two is usually setting your asking price, striving for a balance between generating offers and receiving top dollar.

Your chosen representative will perform a Competitive Market Analysis (CMA) to produce an estimate of your home's "fair market value," or that price that educated buyers will pay based on listings and sales of homes similar to yours. The agent will not establish the price, but only provide the information you need to make the decision yourself.

In a hot market, you have the advantage, but would still want to avoid overpricing, which is al-

ways unproductive. However, in a neutral or buyers market, you'll have to be particularly cautious in your approach to setting a price.

In soft markets, price reductions become more common, as well as fewer offers and longer listing periods. You have to first establish your priority: is it more important for you to sell quickly or to get the most money possible? Like it or not, one option simply must be more critical than the other.

Have a third party, like your agent, help you see your home as a commodity, with positive and negative selling points. Price your home objectively and competitively, be pre-



Ray Chadderton

pared to negotiate to reach an agreement with buyers, and exercise patience as you prepare your move.

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Cluster of churches invite you to experience Holy Week

By FRANCIS JACOBS
United Methodist Church

The Cluster of seven United Methodist churches in the Brandon area invites all friends and neighbors to four special services for Holy Week and Easter. On, April 1 at 7:30 p.m., First UMC of Brandon - 121 N. Knights Ave. - will observe Maundy Thursday. Impassioned music, stirring drama, and Holy Communion bring the fellowship of believers into the final hours of the Savior's life and preparation for His sacrificial death. For details call, (813) 689-4161, or visit www.fumcbrandon.org.

Lenten worship can be somber yet hopeful every year in reading the same scriptures; however, each year is different because we are different. Where do we look for hope in 2010? The Family Life Center of St. Andrew's UMC, 3315

Bryan Road, will be open with a Prayer Labyrinth Friday, April 2; 3 p.m. to Saturday, April 3; 3 p.m. Even if your current prayer life is only praying on the run, you will meet God privately and personally in a heart softened and broken by surveying the Cross, reading scripture, confessing sin, crying out to the Lord and listening to Him, finding deep, personal encounter with the Father. Prayer Stations will guide a pray-er to surrender self so that the Holy Spirit will take over communication and will unite a humbled heart with Jesus. At least three persons per hour will be praying in the Tent of Meeting with God around the clock — with a break from 7 to 9 p.m. for the service of darkness, known as Tenebrae.

Friday, April 2 7-8 p.m., St. Andrew's will host Ten-

ebrae, a rite of shadows and remembrance. During this, all colorful paraments in the sanctuary will be removed, lights and candles will be extinguished, and musical instruments will be silenced. The austere darkness and emptiness will take us back 2,000 years when Jesus, the Light and Life of the world, died on the Cross for the sins of the whole world. Though we now view the Crucifixion through the lens of the joyful Resurrection on Easter Sunday, Friday and Saturday place us in the center of the harsh reality of punishment, suffering, sin and death. Fellowship in prayer, scripture lessons, and silent whispers to God will bring hope and promise to hearts bowed in longing and hunger for spiritual filling. On Holy Friday and/or Holy Saturday, spend time at the foot

of the Cross. More information on the services is available at www.standrewsbrandon.org.

The fourth annual gathering for the Community Easter Sunrise Service will be held again by the lake at Rotary Camp Florida, 1915 Camp Florida Road, Brandon, 6:30 - 7:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 4. The event is hosted by the Tampa Bay Area Emmaus Community. Before the sun rises, worshipers will rejoice in song, plunge into scriptures, and attend to a meditation on the fullness of our own personal lives when Jesus meets us, calls our names, calms our anxieties, and reminds us that His grace is a gift to believe. Participants should wear warm clothing for the chilly lake breezes, bring lawn chairs for seating, and expect to be enfolded in the fellowship of Easter.



Volunteers secure the cross before the service.



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[Alafia staff of the year]



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Marcy Ringdahl - Teacher of the Year and District Finalist



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Andrea Carver - Ida S. Baker Award



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Cheryl Ayala - Non-Instructional Employee of the Year

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MLS#T238600

Alafia Riverfront 1 acre

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MLS#T2366064

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MLS#T2252600

Heart of Brandon Palatial Estate

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[cimino elementary staff of the year]



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Gladys Monzone - Non-Instructional Employee of the Year

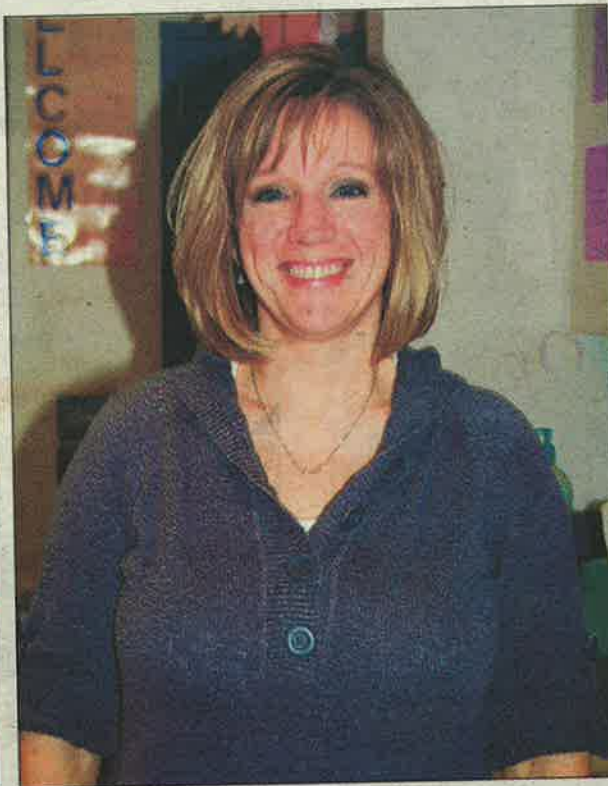


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Sherrill Farrell - Ida S. Baker Award



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Denise Devine-Martin - Teacher of the Year

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Future building, one pancake at a time

By LESLIE WHITE

The Bloomingdale Bulls' football team held their first "Building Our Future" fundraiser, serving more than 306 pancake breakfasts at Beef 'O' Bradys on Bell Shoals and washing a long line of cars throughout the morning. Both Varsity and JV coaches, including head coach John Booth, served patrons for two hours on a Saturday morning, earning tips from satisfied customers. The team raised around \$3,000 in a matter of hours to help fund renovations to their varsity locker room. Parents, coaches and players spent another Saturday painting the interior of the locker room while they waited for the next fundraiser that would enable them to continue with the installation of the new larger, bet-

ter ventilated lockers, the high schools' only locker room renovation since its opening in 1987.

Football parent and volunteer coordinator heading up the fundraising campaign Denise Dittfeld said, "We are very excited about how the community, parents, and players are all coming together to get our goals accomplished. There is a new vibe and a new excitement around Bloomingdale, and we are all determined to make this happen."

The next fundraiser for the "Building Our Future" campaign is a Bloomingdale Pizza night March 25 from 3 p.m. to close. All dine-in, take-out or delivery orders mentioning the football team will be aiding their efforts.



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Coaches George Williams, Mark McKeny, head coach John Booth and David Hutcherson were on hand to serve customers who bought tickets to their 1st pancake breakfast fundraiser in support of the football team's "Building Our Future" campaign. "We've had a really great turnout!" said a pleased Booth.



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Upcoming Senior Bulls were responsible for making sure the long line of cars in back of Beef O'Bradys were washed and ready to go after their owners had breakfast.

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Buono moving on to NC

Soccer standout taking game to Appalachian State University

By KIM WALLACE

Bloomingdale Bulls soccer player Kara Buono has been playing soccer since she was 12; before that, she spent several years participating in gymnastics. According to Debra, her mother, Kara used to go to her brother's games, after which she'd ask her brother and parents to teach her how to play.

Kara has played with Bloomingdale High School since her freshman year. According to coach Sue Peet, the one thing she noticed about Kara her freshman year was her speed. Coach Peet has had the opportunity to coach



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Debra Buono, Kara Buono, Coach Sue Peet and Danielle Shotwell, AP

Kara throughout her high school career and stated that Kara is a great athlete that will be a great asset to her new team.

Kara is looking forward to a new start with a new

team and her college career. Kara said she is excited about going to Appalachian State University in North Carolina, because she has lived in Florida all her life.

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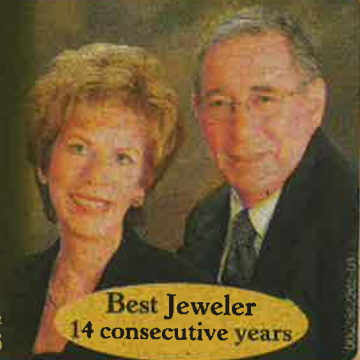
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Upper casual dining comes to Bloomingdale

From pizza to steak, Jason Sierra and Joel Perez have it covered.

By LESLIE WHITE

Joel's Steak House is the latest addition to Plaza Bella, bringing what they call "upper casual dining" to the corner of Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals. Chef Jason Sierra has created a menu that allows him to showcase both his 15 years of experience as well as his love of cooking and creating in the kitchen. Trained at the esteemed Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Orlando, Sierra's most successful moments come when meeting his customers.

"I just love going to a table and talking to a guest and have them tell me, 'It was so good!' That makes me feel good and I know I've done my job," he said.

The Steak House, as well as Joel's Pizza located just a few doors down, are

named for and owned by Joel Perez. Both Perez and Sierra have lived in the Brandon area for many years, Sierra having graduated from Brandon High. Going into the restaurant business together was a natural partnership for these two friends. "Joel has the business knowledge and I have my cooking," said Sierra. "We do it from the heart. Everything is fresh. Homemade. We're family owned and family run."

Being an independent steak house in the midst of large chains, Sierra believes it's the customers who benefit from what they offer. "We work harder because we want to do better," he said.

Sierra hopes that's reflected in their menu as

well as in the quality of each dish. Joel's Steak House has both a lunch and dinner menu featuring a full array of appetizers, homemade soups, salads, Black Angus burgers as well as steaks, seafood and poultry entrees. Sierra makes homemade cheesecakes to serve for dessert, sometimes varying the flavors according to his creativity. Joel's might feature New York cheesecake or a guava cheesecake. Sierra occasionally features mango-key lime pie, which has become a local favorite.

The creativity transcends the steak house and is just as prevalent at Joel's Pizza. "We'll do anything the customer wants - any combination. We've made shrimp piz-

zas - anything!" said Sierra. Customers have even brought in special ingredients like a favorite goat cheese to have a custom pie made by the pizzeria. "There's nothing we won't try," said Sierra. The menu offers more than just pizza, also featuring appetizers, salads, pasta dinners as well as Philly cheese steaks and parmigiana subs, calzones, Stromboli and rolls.

Joel's Steak House is open Sunday-Thursday 11-9; Friday-Saturday 11-10 and is located at 1020 Bloomingdale Ave., (813) 662-5635. Joel's Pizza is located a few doors down and is open Monday-Thursday 11-9; Friday-Saturday 11-9:30; Sunday 12-8, and can be reached by calling (813) 661-4191.



Photo by LESLIE WHITE

Jason Sierra and Joel Perez of Joel's Steak House and Joel's Pizza

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Alafia's Reading Café and America's Biggest Bedtime Story

By KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Ringdahl, Alafia Elementary Media Center Specialist, hosted the school's first annual America's Biggest Bedtime Story and Alafia's Reading Café in style. Mrs. Ringdahl said she wanted to bring back some of the good times that Alafia had when her children attended school there. "What better way to do it than with emphasizing how important reading and family literacy is at home and not only at school," she said.

Alafia teamed up with author and actor John Lithgow and Book It in America's Biggest Bedtime

Story, which you can find on www.bookitprogram.com. Once a year John Lithgow goes online and reads one of his books he has written to all the participants. This year he shared the book "Carnival of the Animals." With all the participants that went online and listened to America's Biggest Bedtime Story, Lithgow and Book It will donate funds for 50,000 meals to Haiti Relief.

Mrs. Ringdahl organized this fun night to include not only the children, but their parents and teachers. The night started off with Mrs. Ham reading to everyone "Wal-

ter the Farting Dog" which the kids loved. After the group reading, Mrs. Ringdahl organized 13 other teachers, Ms. Clarkson, Mrs. Engle, Mrs. Pletcher, Ms. Pena, Mrs. Rigg-Stites, Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Isabel, Mrs. Mulvilhill and Ms. Little and Mrs. Jackson, Alafia Principle, who broke off into to smaller groups and read their favorite book to the children. When they completed this part of the program, teachers Mrs. Cohen, Ms. Santora, Ms. Carver, Ms. Haslam, Ms. Ruhle, Ms. Tipaldo, Mrs. Bethoney, and Mc. McCary assisted with taking each group to the café to

receive a snack and drink before they went live with John Lithgow's bedtime story.

"The children and parents were so excited about coming back to school in their pajamas with their pillows and blankets just to see how much fun reading can be," Mrs. Jackson said. She was also very happy with the turnout of children and parents that came back. "Mrs. Ringdahl worked very hard on putting this together for everyone and it turned out to be a huge success." Jackson said. She looks forward to next year's America's Biggest Bedtime Story.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Tierney-Jackson Principal at Alafia is enjoying reading her favorite book "The Principal from the Black Lagoon."



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Mulvilhill teacher at Alafia reading her favorite book "Grace for President."

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Photo by KIM WALLACE

All comfortable in their pj's and blanket, Tricia Barnes and daughter Annabelle enjoy listening to the good stories at Alafia's first annual America's Biggest Bedtime Time Story.



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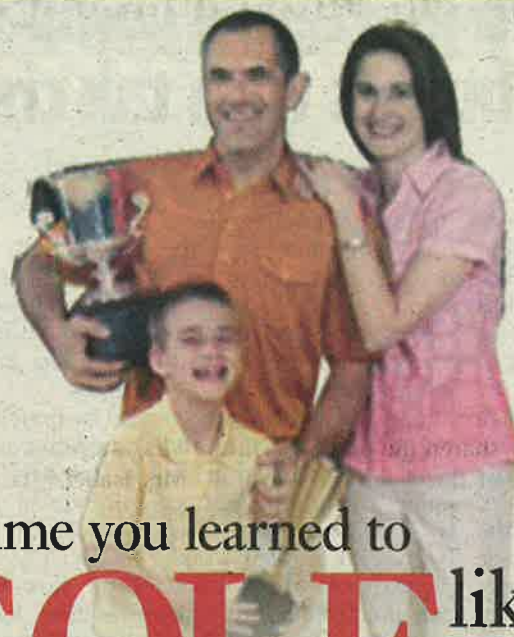


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Fifth Third Mortgage Company helping more home buyers with tax credit extension

By **MELANIE CHAKOR**
Fifth Third Mortgage

The federal government's recent extension and expansion of tax credits for homebuyers has added more incentive for those looking to buy a home.

Fifth Third Mortgage Company, a subsidiary of Fifth Third Bank and the 18th largest provider of mortgage financing in the country (Inside Mortgage Finance, second quarter 2009) is reaching out to those interested in participating in this buyer's market.

"The extension of the first-time homebuyer tax credit and the newly developed tax credit for current homeowners makes this current housing market very hard not to jump into," said Bob Lewis,

president of Fifth Third Mortgage Company. "These tax credits offer a boost for those with the dream of homeownership."

Under the new deadline extension of the government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, both first time and repeat homebuyers must enter a binding contract by April 30, 2010 and close by June 30, 2010. Also people with larger homes now can qualify for the credit with income limits increasing to \$125,000 for individuals and \$225,000 for married couples.

Along with the up to \$8,000 first-time homebuyer extension, a new tax credit for up to \$6,500 was passed for current homeowners who have owned their home for five con-

secutive years and are buying a new principal residence.

For more details about government tax credits and eligibility requirements, visit www.irs.gov or contact your tax consultant.

The benefit of the first-time homeowner tax credit has been helpful. According to the National Association of Realtors, nearly 1.4 million first-time homebuyers have qualified for the credit through August 2009 and 25 percent of these homebuyers wouldn't have purchased their homes without the credit.

The Mortgage Company has tools for homebuyers to give confidence and knowledge to pursue home ownership. The company has a Web site,

www.53.com/mortgage-dream, which provides information about loan options. The site also includes mortgage tools, including a home valuation model and an affordability calculator to help determine a comfortable monthly mortgage payment.

Over the past 18 months, Fifth Third Mortgage Company has financed more than 16,000 loans to first-time homebuyers totaling nearly \$2 billion. A special first-time homebuyer seminar for Bloomingdale residents will be held on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Valrico Banking Center, 3402 Lithia-Pinecrest Road. For questions regarding the seminar call Cathy Gabsi at (813) 625-2892.

Gobin makes difference in subdivision



In next month's Gazette, read how community activist Norbert Gobin makes a difference in his subdivision, on his daily commute and in his environment, and how his efforts have been recognized.



Photos by
Norbert Gobin




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Survivors: Celebrating Life

By **SARA LEVINSON**
American Cancer Society

Survivors are one of the reasons we relay.

A survivor is anyone who has ever heard the words "you have cancer."

We invite all cancer survivors in the community to attend Bloomingdale's Relay For Life.

Our goal is to create a world where more people survive cancer so they can celebrate another birthday. This year more than 11 million people will be able to do that thanks to the support of millions of dedicated relay participants.

Survivors are the guests of honor at a relay. Bloomingdale's relay offers survivors a special T-shirt and holds a special

Being a part of the Survivors Lap allows survivors to celebrate what they've overcome while inspiring and motivating their community to fight back. Survivors are proof that cancer can be defeated.

reception for survivors and caregivers that includes dinner. All relays open with the Survivors Lap where survivors lead the way around the track while being honored and applauded by all participants. Being a part of the Survivors Lap allows survivors to celebrate what they've overcome while inspiring and motivating their community to fight back. Survivors are proof that cancer can be defeated.

Relay For Life is also a

great way for people to meet other survivors in their own community. In many communities, survivors form their own teams, join the relay committee, or volunteer for the American Cancer Society in other ways.

If you would like to participate in this year's Survivors Lap or form a relay team, please call:

Sara Levinson, American Cancer Society
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Or go to www.RelayForLife.org/BloomingdaleFL

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"Out West" one-woman show comes to Burns

By KIM WALLACE

One time Bloomingdale resident, Shelli Boone, came to Burns Middle School from Los Angeles, Calif., to perform her one-woman show, "Out West: Women of the Plains."

During the show, she portrays seven different women highlighting hope, courage, nostalgia, determination, faith, dreams and ambition. Shelli has been traveling around the United States performing at different theaters. On Feb. 8, Shelli performed at Burns Middle School where her mother, Layne Boone, is a math teacher.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Shelli Boone portraying Juliet, a slave who fought her case, to reclaim her three children from their master.

See more photos, page 30.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Shelli Boone portraying Cathay Williams/William Cathay (1866) Served in the Buffalo Soldiers as a man for 2 years before being found out as a women.

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Photo by KIM WALLACE

Shelli Boone portraying Georgia Williams, mail-order bride from Virginia on a train bound for Arizona to meet her husband to be.



Photo by KIM WALLACE

Layne Boone Mother/Teacher, Shelli Boone Actress and Sue Burkett Principal

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[community notes]

South County Collection Center Entrance Moved

The entrance to the Community Collection Center at the Solid Waste Management Department South County Transfer Facility in Apollo Beach has been permanently moved to Powell Road. This road is just north of the main entrance to the facility, located at 13000 U.S. Highway 41 South. The main entrance on U.S. 41 will now be primarily used for commercial customers.

This entrance move is a result of on-going expansion and renovation at the facility; which will allow the facility to handle a greater capacity of solid waste and will include a new and improved Community Collection Center.

For more information, please contact the Solid Waste Management Department at (813) 272-5680.

Real estate team produces results

Laura Harris, broker of Keller Williams Realty Brandon, has announced that The Chadderton Group was the top producing group for Keller Williams in 2009. Ray Chadderton will be accepting his award at the National Keller Williams Convention in New Orleans in February.

The Chadderton Group consists of Ray Chadderton, Luana Russell, Vicki Charles, Becky Jordan, Ralph Lozada and Linda Genco.

"Ray Chadderton has been with Keller Williams for nine years and has been instrumental in the success of the company in the Tampa Bay area," Harris said. "He is the driving force behind most of our charitable events in addition to being a great Realtor."

Contact Ray Chadderton at (813) 601-0597 or chadderton-group@kw.com.

Alafia Spring Fling

Alafia Elementary's Spring Fling Carnival is Saturday, March 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be carnival rides, games, face painting, a dunk tank, a cake walk and a book fair. There will also be food available for cash. Tickets are \$12 for 20.

For information, call (813) 657-1195.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church (UMC) is giving you a chance to bring out your inner Leprechaun and join them as they host a St. Patrick's Day variety show, silent auction, and dinner Saturday, March 13. Dinner will consist of traditional Irish fare at 6 p.m. The variety show follows at 7 p.m. and will showcase local talent from within the congregation through an exciting blend of individual and group performers.

Tickets are on sale before each Sunday service through March 8. The cost for adults is \$10, children are \$5, or you can purchase a family ticket for \$25. Tickets can also be purchased at St. Andrew's during office hours. All proceeds benefit the general mission fund at

St. Andrew's, which includes the Zambia Medical Mission, Texas and Mississippi Hurricane Relief Mission, as well as the dozens of local ministries supported through missions such as ECHO, Brandon Outreach Clinic, Life-Care of Brandon, I Am Hope Cafe, Steppin Stone Farm, Metropolitan Ministries, Dover Outreach, and many more.

The event will be at the St. Andrew's UMC Family Life Center, 3315 Bryan Road, Brandon. If you are interested in donating to the silent auction please contact Eric or Sarah Follstad, (813) 685-4333. For further information on this or other events at St. Andrew's please call (813) 689-6849 or visit www.standrewsbrandon.org.

Haiti Relief Concert

Haiti relief concert with Barlow Girl, Stellar Kart, and Vota live at St. Andrew's Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. Yes, we're looking for no less than \$10,000 to help rebuild Haiti. Get your Church, Youth Group, family, and company in the mix. All checks made payable to St. Andrew's UMC. Note: Haiti Relief.

Think of all you have and all that they have lost. We will take everything that is given and turn that over to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). It's not about denominations here folks; it's about Jesus, and helping those in need. What will your church do and give?

Tickets on sale Monday, Feb. 8, at 9 a.m. www.Itickets.com
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[valentine's day]

Horizon Christian Church youth leaders Dianna Pinciotti and her friend, Bloomington resident Bev Schaedler, decided to help their youth department by hosting the first annual Valentines Dinner for all couples of the church and community. With the help of the youth department, they fed 35 couples with a meal of bruschetta, salad, spaghetti, Italian bread and topped off with a chocolate dessert called "Better than Heaven." The youth helped by serving food, decorating and free babysitting. Love was in the air. The youth group offered each couple a complimentary photo and a nice quiet dinner alone with no interruptions.



Glen and Dianna Pinciotti get to enjoy dinner after its all over!



Bev and Paul Schaedler get to enjoy dinner together after fundraiser is over!

Story and photos by
KIM WALLACE

Valentine's Day at Bloomington Senior High School saw its share of flowers, balloons and stuffed animals, but instead of passing notes in class to celebrate the romantic day, some students opted to sing them. The Ambassadors, an elite chorus consisting of auditioned male and female students from grades 10-12, serenaded the student body for a dollar a song to raise money for their choral group. Each member has shown a higher competency in both vocal jazz and choreography, and had rehearsed a repertoire of 16 songs from which students could pick and have sung to a fellow classmate. Pictured left-right are Katie Young, David Ervast, Michael Holland and Georgia Rees.



Katie Young, David Ervast, Michael Holland and Georgia Rees.

Story and photo by
LESLIE WHITE





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Teen Tech Week: Learn! Share! Create!

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There are any more fun programs for teens happening throughout the week that incorporate technology skills. Stop by our local library to Learn! Share! Create!

For general information about Teen Tech Week events, visit teens.hcplc.org. This web page highlights teen library news and also features a teen blog, providing an online space where staff can communicate information about library programs and services. For more in-

formation about this and other free programs at your library, call (813) 273-3652 or visit www.hcplc.org.

Saturday, March 13, 10:30 a.m.

Learn to Create: Artful Journaling

Bloomington Regional Library, 1906 Bloomington Ave.

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Learn the many ways to add art to your journal – and your life – with instructor Laure Ferlita. Materials will be provided.

Class size limited to 20 with registration required in advance. This program is funded by the Friends of the Bloomington Regional Library. For more information about this and other free programs @ your library, call (813) 273-3652 or visit www.hcplc.org.

Wednesday, March 17, 1 p.m.

S.O.S. - Safeguarding Our Seniors

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Every day, hundreds of Floridians fall victim to fraud. Many of these victims are trusting seniors who were talked into making risky or inappropriate insurance and financial decisions with unscrupulous agents and scam artists.

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[dinner@6]

Eating out is one of those things every family cuts back on when money gets tight, but that doesn't mean you can't still dine on restaurant quality meals. All it takes is a great recipe and a pizzazz for presentation to make dinner at home feel like a special occasion.

This month's Dinner@6 is an easy chicken dish with unbelievable flavors from simple sources. Curry and provolone combine to kick an average chicken breast up to a new level.

Simple. Satisfying. Savory.
That's this month's
Dinner @ 6!
 By **LESLIE WHITE**

Chicken Provolone

6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
6 slices provolone cheese
2 small cans mushrooms, sliced
Curry powder
Salt and pepper
Olive oil

Heat the olive oil in a large non-stick skillet over medium high heat. Sprinkle chicken breasts with salt, pepper and curry powder. Place the seasoned side down in heated skillet. Season the other side. Allow chicken to cook until golden brown, not moving it around and allowing it to sear and get golden brown. Reduce heat to medium if cooking too quickly. Cook for 6 minutes, then turn, again, not moving the chicken around, but allowing it to sear. Cook for another 6 minutes, depending on thickness of chicken breasts, or until done. Remove from skillet onto platter, placing a slice of provolone cheese on top of each piece of chicken. Make an aluminum foil tent and place over chicken, which will allow cheese to melt. In the meantime, over medium heat in same skillet, pour in two cans of mushrooms, undrained. Stir until heated through, picking up pan drippings. You may season these with a little salt and pepper if you'd like. Once they've sautéed, pour them over the chicken and serve with rice or risotto and a vegetable.



Chicken Provolone

Photo by LESLIE WHITE

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Photo by KIM WALLACE

Breaking new ground

Horizon Christian Church is excited about the ground breaking of the new children and youth building. Included in the group are Bloomingdale residents the Brandlis (Jessica, Thor, Allison and Ashley), the Dunns (Michael, Gina, Brendan and Tynan) the Allens (Jim and Sherry), the Schaedlers (Paul, Bev, Nathan and Natalie), the Wallaces (Rick, Kim, Whitney, Bethany, Paul and Andrew) and the Murphys (Dan, June and Connor).



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[law enforcement]

So, who is the new Community Resource Deputy?

By Community Service Officer (CSO) SANDY CAPITANO

As of this date, the new Community Resource Deputy (CRD) for Bloomingdale has not been selected. The selection should be completed within the next couple of weeks. We will keep our community posted. Once the selection is made it will be posted at www.bloomingtondalegazette.com.

Community Involvement Requested

At the last Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) meeting in February, several specific topics were discussed which members of the Bloomingdale community can help. These included:

1. TRAFFIC LAWS, ACCIDENTS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Traffic congestion continues to be a serious challenge in our area. Plans are underway to widen Bell Shoals Road and also widen Boyette Road. We know that once these projects start that traffic will be even more confusing and congested.

That is why we all need to work together to reduce traffic accidents by obeying traffic laws. Obeying traffic laws is a personal decision. Each and every driver makes decisions about how they drive every time they get in their vehicle.

But remember, the time that law enforcement officers spend writing citations is valuable

time that could be spent solving other crimes.

Parents, set the right example for your teen drivers, obey traffic laws and you'll also save a lot of hard earned money on auto insurance.

2. RESIDENTS - BE ALERT FOR SCAMS

Several scams have hit our neighborhoods, including one involving teams soliciting homeowners, supposedly selling "cleaners" while their main purpose is to check out homes to rob.

Another involves criminals approaching seniors posing as contractors hired to spray their homes for pests and then, "accidentally" spraying the homeowner, helping them remove the spray and then running off with their

jewelry".

With the U.S. Census coming, all residents should be very cautious when answering their doors and their phones. Ask for identification. The census will be mailed out and only those who do not reply will have census takers come to their homes.

One very important security point - keep your garage doors closed if you're not in the garage. This is how the thieves get in.

3. COMMUNITY PARKS

We all want our park areas to be safe and secure. But there are those who use parks as places to commit crimes. Some gangs like to hang out in them. County rules state that parks are to be

closed at night. If you live near a park or drive by one, keep an eye out and report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's dispatch number is (813) 247-8200.

4. FIRE WATCH ALERT

With the long period of freezing temperatures and lack of rain, many of our wooded areas are extremely dry with a very high potential for wild fires. In cooperation with Hillsborough County Fire/Rescue we are asking all residents to be prepared for the possibility of wild fires.

Residents who live near wooded areas are especially asked to make preparations and check your areas closely. All outside cooking must be

very closely monitored. No outside burning is allowed. Be extra careful using equipment that is gasoline powered and that have hot exhausts. Do not throw your cigarette butts onto grassy area. These extreme conditions will exist for a very long time.

Be very careful - fire destroys and fire kills.

In closing, remember that if you notice any suspicious activity or a crime being committed, get all the information you can - descriptions of individuals, descriptions of vehicles and license numbers - and immediately call the Sheriff's Dispatch at (813) 247-8200. Time is critical.

"Let's all be careful out there!" - Hill Street Blues

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Continued From Page 4

items which were picked up by the Haitian Association of Florida in Tampa Bay and then sent to help the Haitian people.

James Gibbs, teacher and AVID coordinator at Burns said, "These kids worked extremely hard and were very dedicated to enthusing the students at Burns to participate in such a great cause, and they did prove to themselves that they could all come together for a great cause."

Just down the road at Bloomingdale High School, students felt a similar need to help. Robert Gordon, Bloomingdale student and the school's

National Honor Society president, heard about a nationwide effort on behalf of retailer Aeropostale to provide jeans for victims of the earthquake. He spoke to Candice Remmert, Bloomingdale's Student Government Association (SGA) advisor, and got permission to participate.

"When I learned of the tragic earthquake in Haiti, I knew that there was something Bloomingdale could do to help. The earthquake was more than just a disaster in some far away land. Haiti isn't that far from Florida, and many people at Bloomingdale have strong ties to Haiti," said Gordon.

Over a two week span, the SGA collected more than 415 pairs of jeans and personally delivered them to the Aeropostale store at

the Westfield Brandon Shopping Center. The company took the gently used jeans from across the nation, added 100,000 pairs and sent them all to help clothe Haitians who lost so much in the earthquake. "Everyone has jeans in their closet," said SGA treasurer Griffin Isabel, who helped get the word out about the jeans collection and its purpose.

Chairman of the Jeans for Haiti project at the high school, Graciamaria Irish said, "I am so happy the Jeans for Haiti project was a success. Haiti will need our help for years to come. Even though we are not able to donate millions to help those in Haiti, I am very thankful for those who took an interest in helping the project succeed."

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