

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVI, Number 5

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May 1996

## YMCA Slated For Bloomingdale Area

### Special to *The Gazette*

Officials of the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA announced they are actively seeking land in the Bloomingdale/South Brandon area for a new family branch.

Bob Bivins, chairman of the Brandon Family YMCA advisory board, the volunteer group that acts as the branch board of directors, met with members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association last month to outline plans and solicit community support for the proposed facility.

Although the three property sites were not named, the BHA was told a YMCA is coming and the homeowners association has offered its support.

However, in an effort to determine community interest, the YMCA is in the midst of its annual fund raising campaign and is soliciting contributions from area residents.

Demonstrating community support for a new facility will be critical to making it a reality, said Bivins.

"The advocates of any new branch facility will be expected to make their case by proving that there will be community support before the Hillsborough association can justify investing the nearly \$3.5 million it takes to build a new family branch facility," Bivins said.

Inserted in this issue of *The Gazette* the readers will find a YMCA pledge card.

The BHA was told this will not determine whether a YMCA comes to Bloomingdale, but would serve to demonstrate community support for a facility.

Jay Lippy, a longtime resident of the Brandon area runs the operation at Camp Cristina and is the community liaison to South Brandon.

"Everyone associated with the YMCA is excited about the prospects for the South Brandon area," Lippy said. "Feasibility studies are slated for 1996 with branch construction projected in 1998."

Lippy said the Y is in the process of surveying the South Brandon community to research the kinds of programs the residents need.

For the last several years, the Bloomingdale area has been the topic of strategic planning sessions and long-term expansion plans for the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA, which operates all YMCA facilities in Hillsborough County.

The YMCA has played a major role in the Brandon community for years, with both the Brandon Family Y located at 3097 N. Kingsway and the 52-acre Camp Cristina located at Balm Riverview Road in Riverview.

Despite its considerable presence in eastern Hillsborough County, however, YMCA officials have recognized for some time that the South Brandon community was not being fully served by the YMCAs existing facilities.

See YMCA, page 15

## BHA Briefs

### Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:30 in the Community Office's new location in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. The Community Office has moved to 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, next door to Kim Hall's Dance Studio. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting.

### Reclaimed Water

Once again, the subject of reclaimed water was a topic at the last meeting of the BHA. Board members have been discussing ways to get the word out to the community and how to manage the overwhelming task of going door-to-door generating interest.

With nearly 3,500 homes in Bloomingdale the county apparently now is looking at the community as a whole rather than as individual areas. While 51 percent of the residents would still have to give approval, the cost of running water lines would be more effective and the rate per homeowner less than if scattered subdivisions voted to use reclaimed water.

This will be a long process. So stayed tuned.

To read more about reclaimed water, turn to page 3.

### Trucks on Bloomingdale

Residents George and Diane Allgorver were guests at last month's meeting. Their concern: Bloomingdale Avenue's new status as a truck route and the potential problem of heavy rigs and fuel tankers travelling through the community. They would like the BHA to see what it can do on behalf of the residents to bring about a change in this status.

The BHA would like to hear residents' input on this matter. Board members have already begun its search for information, but they need to hear from residents who are troubled by the truck traffic on Bloomingdale. Please call the Community Office at 681-2051 during office hours 9:30 to 12:30 or write to the BHA at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, Valrico 33594.

### Call 'Deputy Pete'

The BHA would like to remind residents that the community has its own "cop on the beat". Deputy Pete Maurer is Bloomingdale's own law enforcement officer with the goal of helping solve crime-related problems and other community concerns.

If you have a problem, question or concern call Deputy Pete at the Sheriff's substation at 247-8555 and leave a message. In an emergency, still call 911.

See the page 1 story on how several alert residents of West combined their efforts to nab three juvenile offenders.

### Coming in June

We'll tell you what some hardworking Bloomingdale West families have done to turn an overgrown eyesore into a beautiful pond. Their efforts have received the attention of the county, which has awarded them plants to beautify the banks.



## Get The Message

The STD is hoping outsider sales people will get the message Bloomingdale residents don't want their business - at least not at their front door. Seven new No Soliciting signs - one at each entrance - are now in place. The STD said this is not meant to deter neighborhood children from fundraising, but to discourage professional door-to-door sales by organizations that frequent upper middle class communities.

## To Catch A Thief: West Residents Help Track Down Youths

by Rozel Sciulli

It was no different than most Monday mornings in Bloomingdale except that it was tax filing deadline day and that might have accounted for more people than usual staying home.

A resident on Sweetleaf answered an early-morning knock at his door and was confronted by three juveniles who for the next hour would lead sheriff's deputies on a manhunt through Bloomingdale West.

As the youths were sited by homeowner after homeowner, each calling in their suspicious concerns to the sheriff's office, the deputies were able to track the youths' whereabouts by the location of the calls. Unfortunately for the youths, it was also garbage pick-up day as

well as a workday for construction workers at the new recreation center. All gave deputies clues as to the youths' whereabouts.

In the end, all three were apprehended at the back door of one of the teen's home in West. The result is all three - a 14-year-old from West, a 16-year-old from West and a 17-year-old from East - were taken into custody on attempted burglary charges as well as 13 charges against the 16-year-old involving five cases of burglary, grand theft and dealing in stolen property.

"We couldn't have done it without the resident's alertness and calls," said Community Resource Deputy

See THIEF, page 15

## Almost Completed

The new recreation center in West is quickly approaching completion and is expected to open by late summer. Cabinetry is in place as are most indoor fixtures. "All indications are we're ahead of schedule," said a spokesman for county parks and recreation. Contractors are expected to turn over the facility by the end of July.





# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

## KUDOS

Dear Readers,

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, and the Brandon YMCA would like to thank Jim and Sue Harbridge of *Mailboxes Etc.* for donating the printing of the pledge cards that are inserted in this month newspaper. It's people like the Harbridges that make this community special...

Rick Oros

## Our Times

### Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover ...and other lessons learned at Booker T.

by Rozel Sculli

Sometimes we get in a dither about something we think is going to be a bad experience before we actually know anything about it.

I recalled such an occasion recently when I received a flyer in the mail that asked me to "Remember The Times."

Reading further I learned that I and thousands of others were being invited to attend a Social Gala and Reunion for Booker T. Washington Junior High. Strange, I thought, that a junior high that was really only a seventh grade center, would have a reunion.

My mother has reunions monthly with her friends from George Washington Junior High. They're all retired now and can enjoy the pleasures of sharing stories of vacations, Tony Bennett concerts, and grandchildren. But those times were different and kids went to school together from grade school through senior high. They also all lived in the same neighborhood.

No, I couldn't understand why Booker T. Washington would have a reunion. Yet, upon reading further I learned that the school will cease to exist as a seventh grade center after this year. It will become a magnet middle school for international studies.

I thought back to the furor it created in parents from South Brandon who learned their children would have to be bused to the inner city back in 1979. Their fears were more of the unknown than of breaking neighborhood ties.

The picture of suburban children getting off a bus in the middle of drug-ridden projects was hard to imagine. Attending a non-air-conditioned school, even harder, I suppose.

My turn to worry didn't come until the 1993-94 school year. That's when my oldest son would attend Booker T. Or would he?

My children had always been in private school. Never been bused, but it was time for him to fly without a safety net. Still, I wasn't sure if he or I was ready for "Booker T. Prison".

Half-hearted, we attended an open house - more to prove my suspicions than to calm them.

I can hardly say we attended with an open mind. The neighborhood began to confirm my fears. And it was here that my son learned the adage "don't judge a book by its cover." His inferential skills were lacking at the time and it was a good opportunity for the lesson.

When we arrived, I was surprised to find the school remarkably well-kept. Old, but clean. All the parents had gathered in the cafeteria before being released to visit classrooms and meet teachers.

I was frustrated by the one-way halls and wondered how my son, whom we

have to time with a sun dial, would make it to class on time if he had to go one-way the other direction to his locker then down the down staircase at the other end of the building to get to his class, all in the name of traffic control.

The narrow halls and staircases, warranted such control. Hmmm, good planning.

Our first stop was the well-equipped science lab. And, although I had a difficult time understanding Mr. Watson's dialect, I learned he was department head which gave him some credibility. He would become a favorite of my son over the year.

As we were going the right way down the upstairs hall, a familiar face appeared in the distance. Carl Thompson, a former co-worker of my husband, stood at the entrance to his classroom. We had lost touch since the time he took pictures at our wedding 16 years earlier. We hugged and my son was typically embarrassed. Although Kyle would not have Mr. Thompson as a teacher, I knew he would know who my son was and would keep an eye out for him. I felt safer.

What neither my son nor I was prepared for, was a reunion in his advanced English class. There, we met up with Nan Wilson with whom I'd graduated from high school 20 years before. Well, this year was beginning to look like it would work out.

Each faculty member was as impressive as the other. There was Mr. DeRuzzo who taught advanced math. On his chalkboard was the message "Failure is not an option." My son needed all the threats they could dish out.

I became active in the PTA, something I'd never done before. And had the good fortune to sponsor the book fair, which allowed me to work for one week with Mrs. Longo, the energetic and exceedingly efficient media specialist. What a tremendous asset to this school. Not a seventh grader has gone through Booker T. who fails to remember an encounter with Mrs. Longo.

And running the whole show with firm love, and old-school administrative skills is Mrs. Barbara Harvey. We met her last on our way out the door from open house. Turns out, she used to work with my mom and was delighted to have Rose's grandson in her school.

Yep, this was going to be a great year.

The reunion is being cooked up by the student council for all former students, parents, faculty and staff to gather on May 11 at the State Fair Holiday Inn, and, well, remember the times spent at Booker T.

I know it will give me an opportunity to let these educators know what a fine job they did. It was the best school experience my son had had to that point.

I knew it would be all along.

## OFFICERS

**BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
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Suite 103  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

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Tom Snelling Corresponding Secretary 681-9186  
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### Bloomington Mobile Watch

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John Britton Treasurer 681-1553  
Steve Schneider Equipment Manager 685-8378

Members  
David Guy 661-5943  
Paul Keimer 661-8701  
Rick Borling 684-2022

**Bloomington Oaks Special Taxing District**  
P.O. Box 3132  
Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

## The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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## MEETINGS

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

### Bloomington Special Taxing District

Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

### BHA Board of Directors

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

### Bloomington Oaks Special Taxing District

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

### Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

## Mobile Watch Report

# Unsupervised Teens Keep Patrols Busy

by LaWayne Wyatt

A considerable increase in events was reported by patrols and residents during March. Included were vandalism, speeding/reckless driving and theft. The most significant were the following:

3/1 Bloomington Woods Apartments - Kids prowling around recreation area and laundry.

3/6 Paddlewheel Dr. - Report that several cars had their tires punctured.

3/8 Park East - Kids prowling park area with flashlights late at night.

3/8 Canoga Park Dr. - Black pickup being driven with no lights after dark.

3/8 Shady Leaf Dr. - Go-cart driving on street without lights after dark.

3/13 Vista River Dr. - Teens driving into and partying in new construction area.

3/17 Peachfield Dr. - Mailbox smashed.

3/18 Gotham Dr. - Mailbox smashed.

3/19 Gotham and Erindale drives - Oakcrest subdivision sign letters taken off wall.

3/21 Orangecrest Dr. - Theft from open garage.

3/22 Somerset subdivision - vehicle with teens parking in construction area. Two occurrences.

3/22 Natures Way and Holleman Dr - Fairway Manor sign letters removed from wall.

3/23 Treeline Dr. - Car parked along wooded area

3/23 Dumont Dr. - Two burst of semi-automatic rifle fire to the south.

3/27 Emberwood Dr. - Mailbox post removed and used to smash pickup windows.

April had about the same rate of reports through the 17th.

4/3 Park East - Young couple in park after dark.

4/3 Sandy Creek Dr. - Teen party involving drinking and vandalism. Several arrests made.

4/3 Garnet Dr. - Two cars drag racing.

4/3 Natures Way and Moondale. Two suspicious males riding bikes toward Golf Course.

4/7 Natures Way - Young boy exposed himself near Alafia school.

4/11 Somerset subdivision - Truck parked near construction site late at night.

4/12 Heritage Park subdivision - Young couple parked in shadows.

4/12 Erindale Dr. - Teens lying in street in front of oncoming cars after dark. Deputies escorted teens home.

Although we have had a considerable number of new volunteers, there is always a need for more. With approximately 3500 homes and more being built, we still have less than three percent represented. Our thanks to the following who have volunteered.

Jerry and Marlene Romano, Bloomingdale Oaks; John Seigart, West; Ronald Vaughan, South; Matthew Barron, OakCrest; Ivan Zatkovich, South; Neil and Kathy Ludwig, River Crossing.



# Q & A: Reclaimed Water In Bloomingdale?

**Q: What is reclaimed water and how is it used?**

**A:** Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater generated by Hillsborough County's state-of-the-art water reclamation facilities. Reclaimed water is colorless, odorless, and virtually indistinguishable from drinking water. Reclaimed water can be used for landscape, irrigation, industrial cooling and various agricultural applications.

**Q: What are the benefits of using reclaimed water?**

**A:** Residents using reclaimed water for landscape irrigation are not subject to SWFQMS and Hillsborough County mandated irrigation restrictions. In addition, residents will benefit by the savings on their monthly utility bill because of the minimal charge for reclaimed water service.

The benefit to the environment is the conservation of the drinking water supply. By substituting reclaimed water for drinking for irrigation, the quantity of water to be withdrawn from the Floridan Aquifer is reduced. Consequently the costs associated with obtaining additional sources of fresh water and subsequent treatment are reduced.

**Q: How can residents obtain reclaimed water service for their community?**

**A:** Residents should make their interest known to representatives of their homeowners' association within their subdivision. Hillsborough County staff will work with their representatives to evaluate project feasibility and costs.

If a community has been identified (as Bloomingdale has) as a feasible reclaimed water service area, the residents may then petition the Board of County Commissioners to approve a resolution establishing a Reclaimed Water Improvement Unit (RWIU). The RWIU program provides a procedure for financing the design and construction of a reclaimed water distribution system within a subdivision. If the petition is signed by more than 50 percent of the property owners and the RWIU resolution is adopted by the County Commissioners, project development will be initiated, and residents will incur their share of the design and construction costs through an annual assessment on their property tax bill.

**Q: What is required to connect a residential irrigation system to the reclaimed water distribution system?**

**A:** The resident applies for service and pays the connection fee, then disconnects the in-ground irrigation system from the drinking water system, and connects to the reclaimed water system.

**Q: What will each resident be charged to use reclaimed water?**

**A: Annual Assessment.** An assessment will be added to the annual property tax bill of each resident within the RWIU. The assessment represents each resident's pro-rata share of the cost, amortized over a 20-year period, to build the distribution system within the subdivision.

**User Charge.** The current residential user charge for

reclaimed water is \$6 per month for unlimited usage.

**Connection Fee.** A one-time connection fee of \$40 will be charged when applying for reclaimed water service. This fee will include the installation of a backflow prevention device on the resident's drinking water system.

**Q: Is a resident required to use reclaimed water if it is offered?**

**A:** No. The use of reclaimed water is voluntary.

**Q: Will every resident be assessed even if they do not connect to the reclaimed water system?**

**A:** Yes. If the community has successfully petitioned the Board to establish an RWIU, every homeowner will be responsible for his/her pro-rata share of the assessment.

**Q: Is the use of reclaimed water in any way detrimental to landscape plants or turf?**

**A:** Reclaimed water is safe for most plants and lawn grasses. However, a few plants, such as certain species of azaleas and roses, are sensitive to the slightly higher chloride (salt) content of reclaimed water and care should be taken when watering these plants.

**Q: Are hose connections allowed?**

**A:** No. Hillsborough County does not allow the use of hose connections at this time.

**Q: What guarantee do the residents have that the County will not raise rates?**

**A:** There is no guarantee that rates will not increase over time. However, because the County's policy encourages the expansion and development of the reclaimed water system, and low rates are a major incentive in a voluntary reuse program, there is a strong likelihood that the rates will remain low for a long time.

**Q: Will the County guarantee the future supply of reclaimed water to the residents of our community?**

**A:** County policy requires that the reclaimed water demands of each customer base (subdivision) be carefully defined and that a sufficient quantity be reserved for their use. The County will not commit more reclaimed water than is available to serve its existing customers.

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## Bits 'N Pieces



by Shannan D. Powell

### Area dancers find summer success

Several young dancers from The Dance Center in Bloomingdale Plaza will have opportunities to showcase their talents nationally this summer. They have been accepted to premier programs all over the country.

Heather Sack, 15, has been accepted to the Joffrey Ballet's training program for gifted dancers, as well as to the Colorado Ballet Summer Program. In addition, Sack received a partial scholarship to the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet.

Alison Dillin, 16, and Courtney Hardwick, 14, have both been accepted to the Joffrey Ballet Summer Program in New York.

Jessica Higgins, 14, and Allison Ploor, 12, were accepted to the Joffrey program as well as to the Nutmeg Summer Program in Connecticut. The Nutmeg program generally accepts only about 80 dancers each summer.

These summer sessions usually last four to five weeks and were awarded to the girls after video-taped and live auditions in Atlanta, Miami and Tampa. The five talented dancers will leave for their summer training at the end of June.

Sack, Dillin, Hardwick, Higgins and Ploor have committed to studying five to six days a week at the studio, are all members of the Brandon Centre Ballet Guild and have all performed soloist roles for the guild in the past season.

### Bloomingdale children sing for spring

On April 27, the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus presented its spring concert, "An International Spring," at the Playhouse at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. The concert highlighted a variety of contemporary and classical European music featuring the work of such greats as Debussy, Schubert and Brahms, as well as many European folk songs.

Within the chorus, many young Bloomingdale voices could be heard. Representing the chorus' three divisions - preparatory, apprentice and touring. They were Jasmine Williams, Kaci Alfonso, Erin Peterson, Donna Reynolds, Nicole Richard, Jeffrey Wayrauch, and Erica Baker.

The chorus' next performance will be in Spring Hill on May 5 and the group has been invited to sing at Walt Disney World on May 18. The touring group begins a tour in Austria on July 3. This will be the group's first international performance tour.

The Tampa Bay Children's Chorus has begun auditions for the 1996-97 season. No prior experience is necessary. Auditions are open to boys and girls ages 7-16 with unchanged voices.

In addition, the chorus is planning its Summer Songfest Camp on June 10-14 at the First Baptist Church of Temple Ter-

race. Registration is open to children 8-14 and the cost is \$85. The session will offer instruction in musical instruments, choral technique and art activities and will feature a group performance at the conclusion of the camp.

For more information about the camp or to schedule an audition, call 988-8936. **BLFA Artfest draws large crowd**



**D. J. Peters of Bloomingdale and Carol Karow assist with membership during the Art Fest.**

Artists could not have asked for a more beautiful day for the April 20 Spring Artfest '96 sponsored by the Brandon League of Fine Arts.

The clear sky and light breeze at Regency Square Mall were welcomed by the 89 exhibitors, some who came from as far away as Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia.

This was a judged event and winners included both local and out-of-town talent.

Gregory Jones won Best of Show for one of his open media works, while an open media pen and ink work by Suzanne Sargent won the Marge Long Award for the most realistic painting.

Other open media winners were Anthony Nguyen, 1st, followed by Judy Bales, Betsy Snow and Kathleen Khy.

In the area of oils and acrylics, Larry Johnston won first place followed by Lew Jackson, Wilma Hall and Hattie Donahue.

In the watercolor category, Carolyn Micklon took first, Roxanne Tobaison was second, Sue Allen, third, and Chuck Hager received an honorable mention.

Michael Reilly was the winner in the three-dimensional category. Leslie Jennings, Melissa Brown and Cal Fenner placed.

In fine crafts, Judy Sanders was first, Marsha Goins, second, Steve McIntyre, third and Doug Lind, honorable mention.

The league continues to raise money for its scholarship fund. The BLFA generally awards three to five scholarships to graduating high school seniors from the Brandon and Valrico areas who plan to pursue careers in art. Profits from sales of BLFA T-shirts and prints of Brandon contribute to the fund.

### American Cancer Society needs help

The American Cancer Society, a volunteer-driven organization, has been experiencing a fall in its volunteer base.

Help from Bloomingdale residents has been requested for clerical support, health fair support and committee membership.

Drivers are badly needed to help the area's 600-700 cancer patients get to their treatment centers, many of whom live in Bloomingdale.

Anyone interested in volunteering their time can contact the Brandon Chapter of the American Cancer Society office at 685-0670. The office is located at 717 W. Robertson.

### Area dancers 'show-stoppers'

On April 20 and 21, the Brandon School of Dance Arts Performing Troupe Encore! competed in the Showstoppers National Talent Competition at the Lakeland Civic Center. They brought home five second place awards, a first place and a fourth place.

The Encore! Plus (pre-professional) group of Kendra Andrews, Kari Brooks, Kristin Brown, Lindsay Carlton, Stacey Carlton, Heather Fitch, Jackie Folsom and Susan Robinson earned second places for pointe, jazz and lyrical.

The Encore! Senior Troupe won first place for jazz and overall, they were sixth in the High Score Award. Members are Mia Benton, Lindsey Brown, Christi Bruneau, Lauren Duff, Amy Ferguson, Kara Guggino, Brittany



(L to R) Kendra Andrews, Stacey Carlton, Heather Fitch, and Kara Brooks.

Hail, Evie Letourneau, Jessica Murray, Emily Plumb, Tara Porto and Angela Sykes. Senior Troupe members who were second for jazz are Erin Andrews, Laci Barrington, Shelly Connatser, Kristen Duff, Sara Plumb, Tori Russell, Wendee Sands, Summer Shiver, Tiffany Waller and Christy Williams.

These dancers also combined for second place in the production category and placed eighth overall in the high score award in production.

Junior Encore! Troupe members took a fourth place in the jazz category. They are Laura Boyle, Melissa Brunner, Alexis DeHate, Brittany Moore, Alison Mueller, Amanda Oddis, Lauren Outlaw, Amy Williams and Andrea Wood.

The dancers will again compete in May at the American Dance Spectrum Competition in Orlando.

## A Moment In Time

### The Volunteer

by Ellen Abramson

Tears welled in her lovely eyes  
Self-pity consumed her mind.  
"You can never say 'no'," had been his cries.  
How could he be so unkind?

Yes, she was weary and over-taxed  
But, what if everyone said "no" when asked?  
She had been nervous and overwrought.  
Calmer now, she passed away in thought.

Would mourners believe her truly sincere  
Or only having a final laugh  
If, on her grave that day would appear  
This unusual but fitting epitaph...

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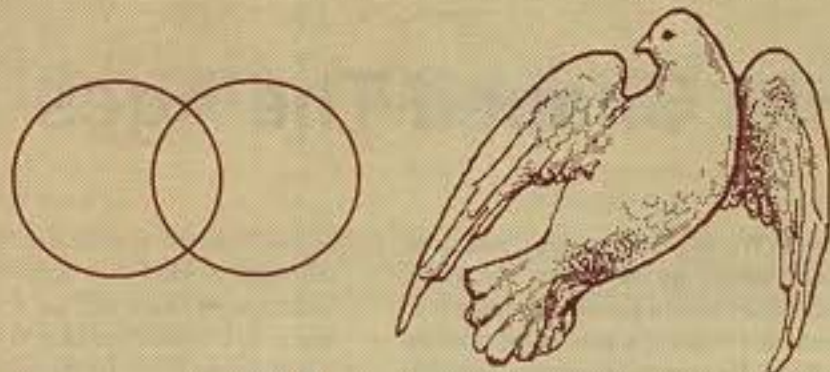
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## Calling All June Brides.... or April, May, July and August

Your wedding can be prominently and elegantly displayed  
in  
*The Bloomingdale Gazette.*

If you, your parents or in-laws are a Bloomingdale resident and you have a spring or summer wedding planned, please call us and we will mail our wedding form to you. You may complete the form and return it to our office with a photograph during the wedding month.

Share this joyous occasion with your neighbors and have a keepsake to add to your wedding memories.

*The Gazette* will focus on the details of your nuptials - the theme colors and flowers, an elaborate description of the bride's gown, and complete listing of the wedding party. Give us reception details and other special information like family traditions that may have been incorporated in the ceremony. Best of all, we will include a photograph of the bride or bride and groom.

Best of all - It's Free!

Mail the following information to *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 103, Valrico, FL 33594, or call the Community Office at 681-2051 and leave your name and address. We will mail a form to you immediately.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Bride and groom, first and last names)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(if address is out of town, please ALSO give address of Bloomingdale resident)

Local telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_

## For Mother Unique Gift Ideas For The '90s Mom

Why do husbands struggle with gift ideas for Mother's Day? Why aren't they as clever as women when it comes to surprises? We're not saying all men are without a clue, but some could definitely use a few tips.

So we've come up with a list and averaged the interests of a woman married only a few years and has one child with a woman who has been married nearly 20 years and has several children.

Oh, and if your husbands still don't get it - give your wife this list and have her circle the gift she would most like to receive.

Gift ideas range from expensive to no cost at all.

**If you've got money to burn, give her a:**

**Getaway Weekend** - send mom to her favorite city or to visit a friend or college roommate. The bonus is, no kids or husband allowed. She will miss you and be happy to see you when she returns.

**Full Make-over** - present gift certificates to her favorite salon and cosmetics counter for The Works. To complete the make-over, another gift certificate for a new outfit with accessories. Naturally, Dad will have to take Mom out on the town to show off the new look.

**If you don't want to run up the credit card give her...**

**A Massage session** - all moms are working moms and nothing is better to relieve stress and tired, aching muscles than a good rub down.

**Athletic gear** - you'd be surprised how many athletic moms would appreciate a new pair of rollerblades or backpacking equipment.

**Stocking stuffers** - not of the Christmas variety, but along the same lines. Have the kids decorate a stocking and fill it with lots of goodies - her favorite perfume, shade of lipstick or nail polish, add some magnetic photo frames for the front of the fridge, and to top it off, throw in a couple of concert or theater tickets.

**A get-away basket** - lavish Mom in

bath and body fragrances, toss in a good paperback novel, an individual bottle of wine and a crystal wine glass for her own private in-house get-away. Hang a do-not-disturb sign on the bathroom door and make sure all the kids go to Dad if they have a question.

**The day off** - send Mom shopping for the day (without the credit cards) and while she's gone, clean the house and have dinner ready when she returns. **If you're on a budget what about...**

**A photo** - take a photo of the kids (don't forget to include the pets) being sweet or silly. Develop and frame

it. It will be an all-time favorite gift.

**Decorating the house** - hang balloons and streamers and have the kids leave love notes all over the house telling Mom how great she is. Ex: Note in laundry room can thank Mom for doing the laundry. Oh, and after Mother's Day, make sure Mom isn't the one who has to take down the decorations.

**A video** - tape a day in the life of the kids. It's time-consuming but priceless. Start with wake-up and end with bedtime. Get them at play, in the ball game, even see if the teacher will allow some videotaping in school. Don't forget to have the kids tell what special things they love about Mom. Have them tell their favorite Mom story. They'll play it over and over again and for years come.

**Coupons** - the kids can make a coupon book with each coupon worth a different chore. Ex: This coupon good for one clean bedroom. You'd be surprised how many chores the kids can come up with. Honor is the key here, because when Mom cashes in the coupons, kids have to be willing to follow through.

**A T-shirt** - get a white T-shirt and have the kids dip their hands in shirt paint and leave a handprint on the shirt. Write each child's name and age below their handprint. Then be sure to write across the back "Best Mom, Hands Down".

### Top 10 List of Worst Mother's Day Gifts

10. Purse with organizer pockets
9. Car floor mats
8. Imitation fragrances
7. Breakfast at McDonalds
6. Plants
5. A Bob Villa Video
4. Hand held appliances
3. Dinner at Hooters
2. Tractor pull tickets and the Number 1 worst Mother's Day Gift...
1. "Mom! Look what followed me home!"



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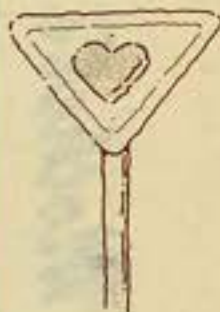


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Church News

# A Mother's Loving Touch Has Shaped The Ages

by Ellen Slovacek

As golden threads through time, a woman's touch has gently shaped the lives of her posterity, thus literally shaping the course of human events.

Many times her touch has been light, though effective. That is the beauty of being a mother. Mothers can say and do things that need to be said and done in the gentlest ways, changing offending behavior, yet offending no one. It is a gift.

Witness with me what may have happened in the Garden of Eden, when Eve, our first mother, was living upon the earth. Eve is writing in her journal:

The garden is beautiful. Everything here is so vibrant and alive. The flowers and foliage are brilliant in their hue. The animals are soft and warm. Some are so furry and cuddly. What a beautiful and perfect setting I have been placed in.

Yet, some of these creatures are strange. Not the least of whom is this man Adam I am to live with. Oh, he seems nice enough, but he has some very different ideas.

Just this morning, the Lord asked Adam to name me. He called me Eve. Well, Eve is okay, but I would've much preferred Madeline or maybe Rebeccah. I'm not sure where he came up with Eve...but Eve it is, and now Eve I am, and I have to admit the name is growing on me.

However, I had to speak up when Adam next attempted to name the animals. When he saw two lovely birds fly by, he waved his arm ceremoniously and said, "I hereby declare you to be flappers."

"Flappers!?", I cried, "Adam, those are too beautiful, too delicate to be named flappers."

"They have flaps, don't they," said he, "Look at them. They flap."

"Well, yes," said I, "but how about something a little more litting. How about...birds?"

He acquiesced.

Just then, some wonderful chick-

ens came clucking down the path next to us. "this my good lady," he said picking one up, "this is a clucker. It clucks, you know."

"Oh, Adam," I said. "You're right. It does cluck. But let's give it a name that is more fitting for this feathered wonder. How about...chicken?"

"Chicken?"  
"Y e s , chicken. I like the name chicken."

"Okay, sweet Eve, I'll give you chicken, but the next animal I see, I will call duck, because it rhymes with cluck, and I happen to like the name duck. Ah, here comes one now."

And so we spent the day, Adam and I, naming and re-naming the animals in our garden.

And so through the annals of history, a woman's touch continued. Posterity flowed and flooded the earth. Righteousness was at a premium when the prophet Noah was counseled to build an ark. Noah listened and obeyed, though many jeered at his seemingly ridiculous venture.

As a touchstone in a storm, Noah's wife was a rock beside him; providing comfort, love, and counsel. Her influence has been felt through the millennia. The following is what Noah's wife may have said.

Honey, do you think maybe we should put the elephants on the lower deck? Yes, I think that would be better. That way they won't crash through the other decks. They're pretty heavy, you know. No, I'm not sure where the squirrels ran off to. Ham! Have you seen the squirrels? Well, don't just stand there, go find them! For Pete's sake, it starting

to rain. We've got to get these animals on board before we all drown. Ho, Ham, your father is not a lunatic. Now go get the squirrels. (Sigh) It's hard being married to Noah. He is such a visionary man. But I know he is a man of God, and I need to support him. It's just that sometimes I feel...oh, I don't know...like the whole world thinks I'm crazy too. NOT THE UNICORNS! Absolutely not! They have destroyed my garden year after year with their dreadful horns. I will not have them do it again. I'm sorry, but I just can't have those horrid animals around anymore. Noah, ask the Lord if we have to take the unicorns, please. I really don't like them.



Centuries have passed. A woman's touch through time continues. Stalwart sisters of yesterday have forged a legacy of faith in the Lord, of hope in the future, and of charity in their actions. Today, a mother's thoughts, her deeds, her strength of character, all serve to bind progenitors to posterity.

Soft as a summer's morning, a mother's touch comforts, heals, guides and protects. It is her high and holy calling. A woman's legacy will live on long after she is gone. Truly, a woman's touch is as golden threads through time.

Happy Mother's Day, Mom.

Now, here's what's happening...

"Christy of Cutter Gap" will be presented by nationally known dramatist, Peggy Miller at the Bell Shoals Baptist Church on

Friday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will follow the program. Tickets are \$7 each and are now on sale at the church office located at 21-2 Bell Shoals Road. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale recently welcomed back their Pastor, Dr. Philip Makari and his wife Vickey from a tour of Egypt and other Biblical sites. They hosted an entourage of 20 people, including Elder Peggy Argudo. The church is located at 710 E. Bloomingdale, across from the Walmart shopping center. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:15, and a nursery is provided for both Sunday School and Worship services.

The Eighth Annual Praise Concert will be held Sunday, May 5, at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 3315 Bryan Road. This will be an evening of praising God through music and other arts, including dance, drama and visual displays. For more information, call 689-7995.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will hold commencement exercises for graduating seniors of the church education seminary program on May 19, at 7 p.m. in the Brandon chapel, 1412 John Moore Road. Seminary is a four-year church education program which schools high school aged students in the rudiments of the scriptures and basic teachings of Jesus Christ.

Seminary is an early-morning program, starting as early as 6 a.m. this year, and even earlier next school to accommodate the split session schedule of Bloomingdale High. Approximately 60 students are enrolled in the seminary program from this area.

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# Burns Staff Preparing For Switch To Middle School

by Shannan D. Powell

How will one middle school principal take two campuses and unite them under one school name? That is a question parents of students at Burns Middle School are concerned about as their children make the transition away from the junior high concept next year.

The answer: She'll do it with a well-worn path between the two schools.

Principal Linda Kipley plans to daily divide her time between the main Burns campus and the new, yet temporary, Valrico Elementary campus on Fuller Road.

Beginning next fall, Burns' 700 sixth graders will be taught at the new campus, which will eventually be used as a true elementary school. Burns' 1,400 seventh and eighth graders will remain on the main campus.

"Believe it or not, this is a very natural split," Kipley said. "They are on a different schedule. The seventh and eighth grades have several 50-minute classes throughout the day. Sixth grade classes are taught in blocks of 100 minutes, with only 40 minutes for electives and physical education."

The sixth grade classes and teachers wouldn't pass the other classes and teachers in the hall between bells, she said.

Kipley also cites the transition the younger students must make from elementary education to middle school will be eased in this situation.

But even with the separation, she wants to assure students and parents that the school will hold joint activities to provide the students from both campuses opportunities to socialize. For example, Kipley is planning joint concerts for the band, chorus and orchestra and notes that after-school activities will be held jointly on the Burns campus.

But a major concern for parents is not in the students' adjustments - it is in Kipley's adjustment.

"How well is the administration and staff going to be sure that both schools are going to be equally serviced,"

asked Bloomingdale West resident Priscilla Ehrhart, whose son John will start sixth grade at Valrico and son Danny will enter eighth grade at Burns.

"How can they spread themselves so thin? How is

to the middle school concept, administrators, teachers and staff have had to do their own homework over the past two years. Kipley said that last year, she and as many as 36 teachers went to school districts around the state to observe

the operation of their middle schools.

Several teachers have been to middle school conferences on the state and national levels, and will attend one this summer.

"They were wonderful in sharing information," Kipley said. "We listened to some of the things they struggled with so that maybe we could avoid some of that. We have done a lot of research. And we are going to use all this experience and information to bring forth the best program we can."

In addition, Burns has had a pilot program running this year to test the transition. The school selected about 300 eighth graders for the pilot and then selected team teachers based on their interest and willingness to devote many more hours for the trial period.

The students were then divided into two groups, Kodiaks and Grizzlies, and one assistant principal and one guidance counselor were assigned to each group, said Kipley.

Administrators noted that discipline improved among the student team members and that the teams developed more of a family feeling. Students went on extra field trips together, and even designed their own team T-shirts.

Burns took the opportunity during the program to pilot intramural sports and will have a special playoff between the two teams on May 6. Unlike junior highs, middle schools do not have competitive sports. All sports will be played on an intramural level.

Kipley said that parent feedback from the pilot program has been nothing but positive.

"The hardest part was selling them on the team concept. For the most part, I've just heard praise for the entire program and how much the teachers were able to care for each child."

At the end of this year, the pilot's parent-interest committee will discuss the program and set goals for next year's change - with one major goal for next year being unity among the faculty between the two schools.

Early open houses at both schools may go a long way toward allaying some remaining concerns. The Burns Campus open house will be scheduled a couple of days prior to the beginning of school and will be a simulation of the daily homeroom and bell schedule.

The date of Valrico's open house will hinge on the completion date of the building. Though the office is up and running and fully staffed, the entire school structure is not yet completed. Parents can register new students Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 609 Miller Road, and can call 744-6777 for information.

Parents can pick up middle school information packets in the offices of both campuses.

And one last concern that the Ehrhart family voiced: "The kids are concerned about transportation. They're brothers and they don't want to ride the same bus."

Though bus stops will be the same for both schools, separate buses will transport students to the two schools. And one bus will deliver Valrico students to the Burns campus for the after-school program.

"Many people have worked very hard many, many hours to make this program the best for the kids," Kipley said. "And that is the bottom line."



Burns Middle School principal Linda Kipley will divide her day between the Burns 7th and 8th grade campus and the new Valrico school campus (above) for 6th graders.

(Kipley) going to be in both places?"

She's not going to be doing it alone. Kipley has hired two additional assistant principals for the Valrico campus and one more for the main campus. And, currently, Kipley and her staff are busy selecting teams of teachers and staff for the classes.

These teams are what separate the concepts of junior high and middle school. Under the junior high concept, eighth- and ninth-grade students rotate through different teachers' classrooms for each class. There is no common conference period for teachers to share information about individual students. To check on the progress of a student, parents must schedule conferences with each teacher.

With the middle school concept, a certain number of students are allocated to team teachers, who work together

under one team leader to educate the students. A parent conference under this concept allows all four teachers to be present at once to discuss the progress of a student.

A middle school system is nothing new to the Ehrhart family.

"Danny went to a middle school in Maryland last year," Priscilla Ehrhart said. "All the teachers could be at one conference and then that's it, you're done with it. The kids did well because the teachers knew what the other teachers were doing and didn't overload them with work."

"We felt it worked really well."

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## Quick facts

School colors: Teal, khaki and lavender

Hours both campuses: 8:50 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Homework hotline: 744-8383

One parent-interest committee for both campuses.  
Look for the back-to-school newsletter 2-3 weeks before the start of school.



# Here Come

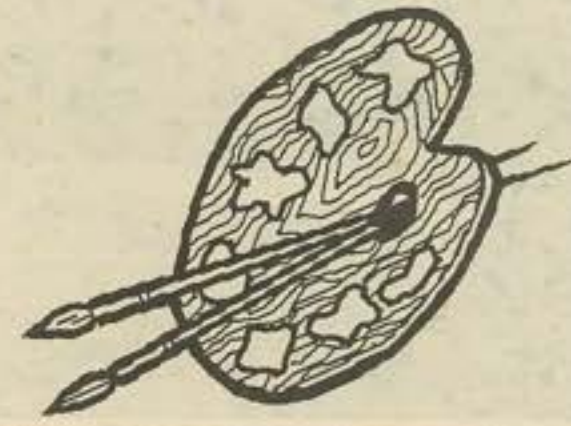
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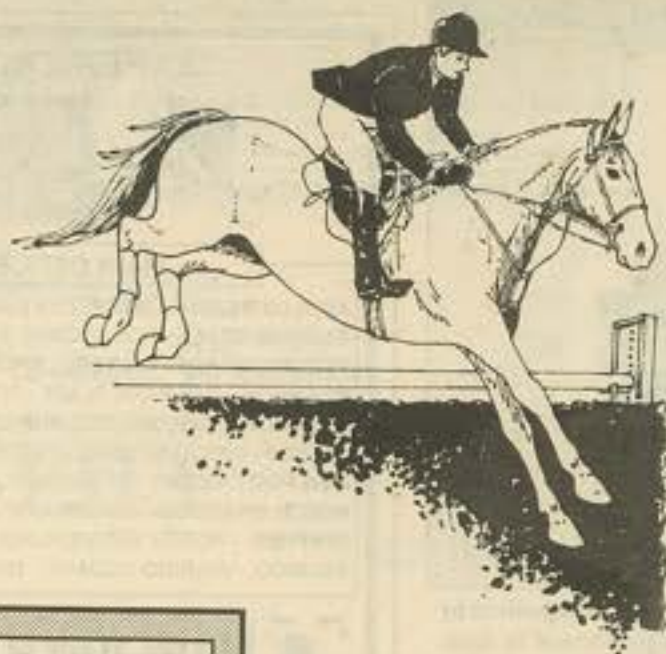
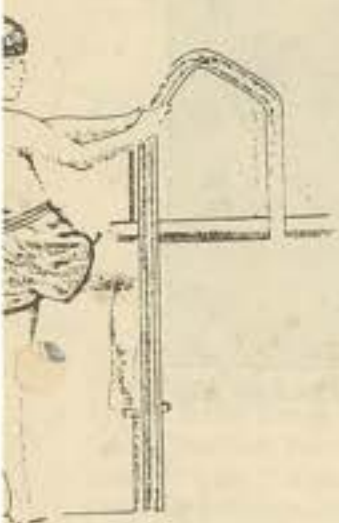
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# Lithia Lynx



## Full Slate On Tap For Final Meeting

by Ron Pogorzelski

Plans for the Lithia Springs PTA's last general meeting on May 14 include a volunteer appreciation ceremony, a music program - "Every Day is Earth Day" - and election and installation of officers.

The "Every Day is Earth Day" promotes environmental objectives. Kurt Rogers, known affectionately as the "Can Man" has spearheaded the aluminum can recycling collection all year and will reward two students with bicycles for collecting the most cans. A giant dirt cake

(yes, it is edible and really delicious) will be made for the evening and eaten as part of the celebration.

Teachers Appreciation Week during the last week of school will honor Lithia's staff with breakfasts, lunches and special pins called "T.E.A.M" - Together Everyone Accomplishes More. According to PTA president Gayle Turner, the breakfast is labelled "The Breakfast of Champions," and will reflect the PTA's view of the administration and staff.

As the school year nears its end, the last skate party is scheduled for June 4. The last two Market Days are May 30 and June 14.

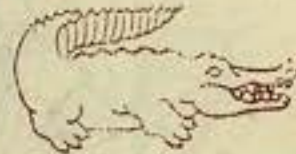


For one week in April, Lithia Springs students enjoyed special games organized by the school's coaches. Assisted by PTA volunteers, children performed in team games that were new to them and exciting. Refreshments and awards made it a fun affair. Pictured here are some of Lithia Spring's first graders (pictures above) enjoying their field day activities.



From left, Laurie Bailey, Amy Wiesenhart and Stephanie Haines perform their nostalgic routine during Talent Night at Alafia.

## Gator Tales



## Kindergarten Round-up Welcomes New Gators

by Ruthe Brunson

It's May and the school year is almost over, however, not the activities.

Kindergarten Round-up is May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria for all those children who plan to attend kindergarten at Alafia next year. This is a wonderful opportunity to see where they will be going. To register for school, please bring the following: valid birth certificate, health report, immunization record, proof of residence, and child's social security number.

The PTA general membership meeting will be held May 14 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. The election of officers will take place and there will be a special treat...storytelling by Mr. Campbell. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. This would make a great family night.

Market Day pick-up is May 21 from 4:30 to 5:30 in the multi-purpose room.

The PTA Volunteer Brunch and Fashion Show will be May 22 from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Celebration Station will have an Alafia Elementary School night. All teachers and students will be given free play passes on May 23. Additional passes can be purchased for siblings and other family members. Food purchases are separate.

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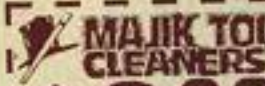
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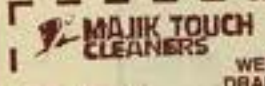
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# Bruin Beat



## Students Named To Principal's List

Burns students who earned straight A's were named to the Principal's Honor Roll for the third grading period. They are 8th graders Marianne Aluotto, Erika Barry, Monica Belford, Jeneen Bellizzi, Natasha Bello, Stefan Bradham, Tracy Cohagan, Michael Dahl, Andrew Emery, Kellie Evans, Eric Gatlyn, Jeffrey Gentner, Jason Goodman, Jessica Higgins, Rebecca Konnerth, Andrew Kuo, Colleen Ladner, Akshata Marballi, Meghan McMahon, Nathan Morrow, Lauren Paulus, Kristen Perez, Christie Pollick, Allison Remley, Mary Rhey, Marie Selko, Kevin Smithers, Vicki Weyrauch and Alphonse Wichrowski.

Ninth graders who earned all A's are Alejandro Braithwaite, Denise Butson, Lisa Carlock, Jose Gonzalez, Joy Griffin, Shea Helmle, Mathew Kandarappallil, Christopher Kidder, Lisa Kirschenman, Aida Kuri, Shih-Shan Lang, Lori Meister, Christine Norwood, Megan Roworth, Krista Umbarger and Benjamin Valentine.

## Student Spotlight Perry Wins Music Award

Bloomingtondale High senior Skye Perry, 17, was presented the Ruth Eckerd Hall Youth Scholarship for woodwinds on March 17. Presenting the award was James Galway, a world-renowned flutist, who had given a St. Patrick's Day performance at the hall.

Perry, a saxophonist, was chosen from students from five area counties on the basis of his artistic ability, academic achievement, recommendations and his written statement describing his career aspirations and how the scholarship award would help him to reach his goals.

"My interest centers around the technical production of music and the performance of music," said Perry, who aspires to own his own recording studio one day. Perry has studied the saxophone since he was 9.

In addition to playing alto and soprano sax in the Concert and Jazz bands and orchestra at Bloomingdale, Perry is a drum major for the Rajun' Bulls, the school's marching band. He plays saxophone in a jazz ensemble that has performed at several Hillsborough County School Board functions. He is head tech for the production of sound and lighting for school functions and he sings and plays bass guitar in Impact, a local Christian rock band.

Perry was awarded first chair saxophone with the University of South Florida Festival of Winds and Florida State University Tri-State Music Festival. He



Skye Perry, left, displays award.

also holds nine Superior Solo and Ensemble Ratings awards at the district level and three at state level for saxophone.

Though Perry plans to study electrical and audio engineering in college, he will continue his musical studies.

"I will always have my passion for music," he said. Robert Fallon, Jr., school guidance counselor agrees. "Skye sets high expectations for himself as he successfully completed honors and advanced placement classes," Fallon said. "Skye demonstrates a genuine love of music in all areas: performing, creating and directing. He is determined to follow his dreams."

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### B. T. Washington Reunion Set

The Student Council of Booker T. Washington Seventh Grade Center will host a Social Gala and Reunion on Saturday, May 11 from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn State Fair.

The commemorative event is set to honor students, faculty, staff and friends of the school which will no longer be a seventh grade center after this year.

Many rewarding things have happened and new things are planned for the Ybor City landmark school. This will be the last year the historical school will exist as a junior high. Beginning in the fall, Washington will become a magnet middle school for international studies.

The current student council invites all former students and their families to re-unite at this social event.

For information and tickets, call Mrs. Smith at 276-5412.

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## I Love My Mom Because...

"She hugs me, she kisses me, she's pretty. She's the best mom in the whole world." - Jeffrey J.

by 1st Graders at Lithia Springs

My mom is pretty. She is nice. She let me get a dog. I love my mom she love me to. She is a good mom. I can always trust her. - Mark K.

She takes me to the movies. She takes care of me when I am sick. She surprise me on my birthday. She takes me to the Aquarium. - Michael L.

She let's me stay up late and let's me play longer with my friend's. When she take's me to the mall she get's me ice cream after I have my cheese pizza or I go to the grocery store I get a cookie. - Meagan T.

She loves me and cares about me too. She reads me stories. We go to the store together. She takes me for walks with Emma. She likes it. Without my mom I would be sad. She is the best. I mean the best. - Caitlin S.

She loves me. She loves the family. I like her smile (smile). When I was little my mom that I was cute (cute). My mom loves us all. I hug her. When I am good she does nice things. When I am bad I feel bad. - Caitlin L.

She helps me when I need her. - Carson F.

She is beautiful. She takes care of me when I am sick. She helps me with projects. - Adam S.

She kisses me all the time. - Kristin O.

She asks me how my day was at school. - Cory D.

She never yells at me and she is loving and caring! She always lets me eat over at my friend's house. She lets me sleep over at my friend's house. - Olivia G.

She is the best mom on the Earth. - Katie G.

She always makes sure I'm not hurt. When I am bored she makes me feel better. - Preston

She is funny and she is cool. I love my Mom a lot. She tickles me and I like it. - Jessica

We brush our teeth together. We play games together. We go to shop. We make a cake. - Nicole.

She lets us go to the bush gardens. She helps me with my projects. And she lets us go to the creek. I like it because she lets us go to the playground. It's kinda like McDonald's. - Kaylee K.

She cooks dinner and she reads me books. - Angela

She helps me with my homework. - Kjerstin K.

She helps me learn. - Matthew D.

She helps me when I need help and she makes all my favorite foods. - Robert L.

She is the best mom in the world. - Quintin E.

My mom is special because she buys me clothes. she buys me toys. She takes care of me. She is special to me. - Meghan

She rubs my back. - Darren

She helps (helps) me on my homework. - Michael

My mom is special because she takes care of me. She takes me in. And she loves me. - Rachel

I just love my mom and that's all. - Stacie.

Special thanks to the first grade teachers at Lithia Springs for their assistance with this yearly project.

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## Kids Kalendar Rated G

### Classes for Kids at Brandon Hospital

Columbia Brandon Regional Medical Center will offer a variety of classes for young students at the hospital's community education center in Oakfield Plaza, 260 S. Moon Ave. Registration for all programs is required. For further information call 681-0420.

**FAB - Kids** is a first aid basics for children in 2nd through 5th grades. Four different sessions will be offered on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon on May 18, June 15, July 27 and August 24. Children will learn basic first aid skills so they can help a friend and even their parents.

**Girl Talk** is a parent and daughter class designed to foster communication about growing up. It is open to ages nine to 15 and two classes are scheduled - Saturday May 11 and July 13 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

**Babysitting Basics** offers children 11 and older lessons on how to be an effective, safe and fun baby sitter. These classes are May 18, June 15, July 27 and August 24 from 9 a.m. until noon.

### Brandon Regional Library

**Toddler Time** is every Tuesday at 9:20 and again at 9:45 a.m. for ages 24-36 months. There is a care giver present and there is a limit of 25 at each session on a first-come, first-served basis. Stories, songs and finger plays will entertain the children. There is no registration required and the program lasts approximately 20 minutes.

**Story Time** is every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30

a.m. for children 3-5, who are mature enough to participate in a group by themselves. The limit is 50 children and the program features stories, songs, finger plays and filmstrips. Class length is 30 minutes and registration is not required.

**MOSI**  
*Search for the Great Sharks* opened at MOSIMAX on March 29 and will run through August. The stunning underwater cinematic experience takes viewers on a round-the-globe expedition to discover some of the world's largest sharks and to witness them at close range. From the coast of California to the remote reaches of South and Western Australia, the film pursues Blue Sharks, Whale Sharks and the most notorious of all, the Great White Shark.

Dramatic sequences include a swim alongside the world's largest and rarely seen fish, the Whale Shark, that is over 40 feet long; the birth of a shark, born into the sea along but already prepared to fend for itself; the blossoming of a coral reef; and a gripping scene that follows a shark authority below the surface in a clear diving tube.

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# Sports Spot



The South Hillsborough Red under-15 Region C champions placed third in the President's Cup Tournament in Plantation last month.

### Red Place Third

The South Hillsborough Red under-15 Region C champions placed third in the prestigious President's Cup Tournament in Plantation last month.

They competed along with the other Regional winners from around the state. In the Red's first game they defeated the Jacksonville Kicks representing Region B, 2-1. Goals were scored by Rio Oros and Peter LaBarbara. This gave the Red five points and they next faced West Palm Beach International, which had lost to Rockledge in the first round.

International won 2-1, but going into Sunday's final day, all four teams were tied with five points because the Kicks defeated Rockledge in Saturday's second game. Rockledge Steelers which defeated the Red on a penalty kick won the tournament.

### Brandon Bears Registration

The Brandon Bears will hold registration for football players and cheerleaders ages 7-15. Registration dates are May 5 at 2 p.m. at Progress Village Park, then sign ups at Providence Park on May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and June 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Players and cheerleaders will need a copy of their birth certificate, a photograph and a \$25 de-

posit. For further information, call 685-3057.

### Golf Classic

The Mary Help of Christians Foundation's annual Golf Classic will be held Monday, May 6 at the Eagles Golf Club in Odessa.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to fund scholarships for students who attend the school, a nonprofit, private middle school for boys.

Golfers are being sought for the tournament which is scheduled to get underway at 8:30. Registration is at 7:30. A luncheon and awards ceremony are planned for 1 p.m.

For information, call Tom Connor at 620-1225 or 626-6191.

### Gymnasts Qualify

Members of the Brandon Suntwisters, gymnasts from Brandon Swim and Tennis Club, recently competed in a Level 8 state meet and have qualified for regionals in Greensboro, N. C. on May 10-12.

Placing first all-around was Allison Gordon who took first on the vault and beam. She also placed third on the bars and was fourth in floor routine.

Second all-around was Amie Kelleher who was first in floor routine. She was second on the beam, seventh on bars and ninth on the vault.

Also attending regionals will be Laura Kochansky, 6th all-around, and Jodi Friedberg.

Ashley Davis and Jennifer Pergola also competed at the state meet where the team finished eighth out of 22 teams.

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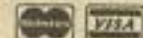
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## Business Notes



### Huntington Learning Center Moves To Larger Location

The Huntington Learning Center, previously located on Lithia Pinecrest Road for 10 years, has moved to expanded quarters. Now located in The Oakwood Shopping Center near Nativity Church and School, the center has doubled its size to better serve students in the greater Brandon and Valrico areas.

Huntington helps students who are experiencing academic difficulties that can be traced to deficiencies in reading, comprehension, study skills, phonics, vocabulary, writing, mathematics or related areas.

Working with students from pre-school through college, and with adults, The Huntington Learning Center has a track record for increasing its students' school skills and performance. At the same time, students experience a rekindling of confidence and motivation.

After a parent contacts the Huntington Learning Center, the student receives a complete academic evaluation to determine his or her strengths and weaknesses. At the parent conference, these test results are reviewed and specific recommendations are made concerning the program needed to get that student back on track.

Working with certified teachers, the student receives individualized instruction tailored to his or her specific needs at a pace matched to learning style.

During interim conferences, the family is brought into the remediation cycle. Parents are instructed as to how to help build on the active learning occurring at the Center so it can transfer to home and school. Specific suggestions are provided, so parents become active participants in the student's academic growth.

### Real Estate Moves Agents Zero In On Needs

by Michael Davis

Has your doctor ever put a cast on your arm before first learning that what you have is a head cold? Has a car dealer ever delivered a Geo Metro to your doorstep, before first learning that you intended to purchase a Cadillac?

Sound ridiculous? Suppose you intend to purchase a three bedroom/two bath home in town for your family, and the real estate agent shows you a ten-acre truck farm with no house?

Why are those scenarios so unlikely to happen? From experience, you know that doctors ask questions before prescribing treatment. Auto dealers ask lots of questions too, to avoid wasting your time on the wrong model. Buying a home is no different.

Before you can begin looking at homes, it is important to define your objectives. Why are you planning to make a purchase? What size and style home will meet your needs?

### Davis Acquires New Technology

Michael Davis, of RE/MAX Realty Unlimited in Brandon has recently acquired the newest in customer 24-hour service technology.

Davis has contracted with Arch Telecom to provide Interactive 800 Telephone Service for his clients. All of Davis' clients will have the opportunity to use this 800 number which will appear on property signs, advertisements or in direct mail. Each property will have its own extension so clients can have immediate access to information on the specific property they are interested in.

When they call the 800 number, they will receive a complete description of the property and then be given the option of being directly connected with the individual listing agent's voice mail, office, assistant or pager. In fact, the system can be automatically set up so that when a client is accessing information about a listing the agent's pager is immediately notified.

The client will also have the opportunity to put their FAX number in the key pad and immediately receive, within seconds of the request, a complete description of the property they called on or a complete list of all the agents listings, or a map of the area with the features and benefits of that particular area. Davis plans to soon have a loan pre-qualification worksheet showing what types of loans are available on the property and how to qualify for them.

It has been proved that consumers would rather interact via an automated telephone system, than immediately talk with a salesperson. Now Davis can offer this service to



Michael Davis

his customers, which allows them to become informed and immediately obtain additional information.

"Not only will the buyer be excited about the speed of information," Davis said, "but now sellers have the latest technology today available to sell their homes and other property."

Davis said he has taken this step forward to become an asset and a resource to the buying and selling public of Bloomingdale. He can be reached at 684-8881 for information regarding this technology.

### Russell Tops In March

Realtor and Bloomingdale resident Luana Russell has been named as the top selling agent and top listing agent for the month of March at the Brandon office of Sun Cove Realty, Inc.

Russell has moved more than 1,000 families through her 5-Star Real Estate Program. Russell offers free information to home buyers and sellers including complimentary videos and reports.

Russell also announced the addition of Sue Babulski to her 5-Star Team. Babulski, a real estate agent since 1984, will serve as a home buyer specialist. She has been a Brandon area resident for 10 years.

Babulski was recently honored by Sun Cove with the Gold Circle Award in recognition of her sales production.

During her career, she has worked with numerous first-time home buyers, a segment that has increased as interest rates have dropped, said Russell.

Do you have specific locations in mind? What price do you plan to pay for a home? Will you be paying cash, or will financing be necessary?

If you began your search without answers to those questions, your choices would be most confusing. How would you sort through the great variety of homes for sale at this moment?

Before even beginning to look at homes, do some homework (no pun intended). Choose a real estate agent to assist you with your purchase. Invest time with the agent, up front, discussing your objectives. The agent will research all available homes, then make appointments to see only those which meet your requirements.

You will see homes which match your dreams, without the inconvenience and frustration of sorting through those which don't. It could take you weeks to accomplish what the agent can do in hours. You benefit from the agent's experience, training, and expertise, saving time and confusion. Your investment in preparation can bring great dividends in satisfaction.

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**BHA Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

**STD Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which

maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

**STD Budget Workshop**

The annual budget workshop for the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office. Plans for the fiscal year 1997 budget will be discussed. The STD controls nearly \$300,000 tax dollars and how it is spent can be determined by community input.

**Trustees Needed**

The Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District is in need of at least two trustees for its board for the upcoming business year. Meetings are brief and take up approximately one hour a month. Residents who are interested in serving a term on the board should contact Bill Grace at 685-2817 for information.

**Kindergarten Round-up**

Children who will attend kindergarten at Alafia El-

ementary School next year are invited to a Kindergarten Round-up on May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Parents and their children have an opportunity to visit classrooms and meet with teachers. Students who are not yet registered for school may do so on this night.

**Mary Help Camp**

Mary Help of Christians School will hold its Summer Camp and Summer School, June 23 - July 27, 1996. The camp is open to boys, 5-14 and girls 5-12 who are physically able to participate in the camp program. Day and resident programs will be available for campers, however the resident program is limited to boys only. Summer school will run concurrently with remediation in core courses for sixth through eighth grade boys and girls.

Camp activities include archery, dramatics, arts & crafts, fishing, baseball, horseback riding, basketball, swimming, boating, campfires, tennis, canoeing, water skiing, cookouts and trips to the beach.

For information call the school at 626-6191.

**THIEF, from pg. 1**

Pete Maurer.

Their mode of operation and residents' suspicions did them in.

The youths approached the house on Sweetleaf in West much like they had at other homes. A response at the door meant they would give the name of an individual they pretended to be looking for. No response meant the home was bait for a possible entry.

Their plans on Sweetleaf were foiled when the homeowner answered the door. When he said the party they were looking for did not live there, the youths took off into the woods at Park West and he reported his suspicions.

They proved accurate, because the youths were spotted by several residents who reported their activity including one near confrontation on Redondo.

"A Redondo woman saw them at the house across the street from her," Maurer said. "When no one answered the door, the youths went around the back of the house."

Maurer said they removed two screens before being spotted in the window by the homeowner who had not answered the door because she was in the shower.

The youths escaped over the wall and fled to one of the boy's home where they were met at the back porch by Deputy Darryl Wagner.

"If it doesn't look right, call," Maurer said. "The residents did a lot to help us track down the juveniles. This is the kind of support that makes community policing work."



**Land's End**

The building end is in sight, but Bloomigdale is far from getting there. The back of Suarez's Bloomingdale Cove development borders the last remaining preservation land in the community.

**YMCA, from pg. 1**

"Despite our best efforts to reach all area residents," said Bob Bivins, chairman of the Brandon Family YMCA Advisory board, "the YMCA found that many South Brandon residents were unwilling to cross State Road 60 and make the drive to Kingsway."

Likewise, he said, South Brandon residents were unwilling to travel to Riverview for what is less than a full-service operation at Camp Cristina.

"Accordingly, the YMCA decided that the only way to effectively serve the growing population of South Brandon was to site a new full-service family branch in the Bloomingdale area."

For information regarding the YMCA, its programming or how residents may get involved, contact Diana Niles at 685-5402 or Jay Lippy at 677-8400.

**Classifieds**

**FOUND:**

Pair of man's glasses found in Bloomingdale. Call the Community Office at 681-2051.

**FOUND:**

Cockatiel, call 684-5796.

**LOST:**

Cockatiel, cinnamon color, very missed. Call 684-5796

**JUDY CLEANS:**

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**LESSONS:**

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Stout, 684-2027.

**RESIDENTS WHO ARE:**

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Angela Reiser and Kimberly Reiser, 684-6006  
Erin and Beth Schlossnagle, 650-0453

**Avon Representatives:**

Ruth Calandro, 689-0212

**Mary Kay Consultant:**

Barbara Borchers, 653-2509

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**Art Classes:**

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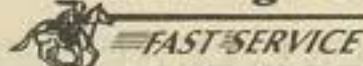
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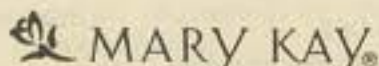
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