

# Bloomingdale Classic to Benefit Brandon YMCA

## In this issue...

- 2 BHA  
Directory
- 4 "Traffic Signal"  
Emails
- 5 New Sign for  
Bloomingdale  
Sheriff's Substation
- 6 Special Taxing  
District
- 7 Rainfall Data  
for Hillsborough  
County
- 8 How Your Job  
Impacts Your  
Children
- 10 Gangs, What Are  
They?
- 13 Postal Carrier  
Ray Wallace



The Brandon YMCA will once again benefit from funds raised from the Bloomingdale Classic. A 5K and 1 Mile Fun Walk to be held on Saturday, May 23. The run starts at 8 am and the walk starts at 8:30 am.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual charitable event has added a High School Challenge to this year's activities. Area high schools are vying for a \$500 purse going to the school's athletic booster club that signs up the most runners.

"This year, we will be awarding trophies for each male and female age group in the overall and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place categories," said Diane Flagg, sales and marketing director for Suarez Housing, the home-building company that is coordinating the event on behalf of the YMCA.

The Bloomingdale Classic allows the YMCA to help fund the Assistance program, which provides the following outreach programs: Migrant Camp Program, Movement Education Program (helps develop fine and gross motor skills, communication and social skills for special needs children from local elementary schools), and Learn to Swim Program (for non-swimmers, aged 5-7).

Major sponsors of the Bloomingdale Classic include Brandon Properties Partnership, Ltd., Suarez Housing, STAR 95 radio station, the Tampa Tribune. Also contributing to the event are Excel Mortgage Network, Hillsborough Builders Supply, Nuccio Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., Lark Contracting, Heidt & Associates, Inc., Morrison Homes, Centex Homes, United Title Guarantee Company, American Heritage Homes, Office Dynamics, and Sherwin Williams.

The Bloomingdale community is the site of the soon-to-open Brandon YMCA. A family-oriented community, Bloomingdale features tennis and racquetball courts, walking and jogging trails and the Bloomingdale Golfers Club, one of Florida's Top 10 golf courses. Also, critically acclaimed Alafia Elementary is located within Bloomingdale.

The YMCA is a charitable, non-profit organization offering a wide range of programs and services focusing on wellness and character development for youth and adults. The YMCA mission is to help people grow in spirit, mind, and body.

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The following email ( dated Thursday March 26 ) was sent to Mr. Robert Gordon by Randy Wolfe on behalf of the BHA regarding the traffic signal to be installed at Bell Shoals and Rosemead.

Mr. Robert Gordon, County Engineer  
Public Works Department - Engineering Division  
Subject: Update on Traffic Signal at Bell Shoals road and Rosemead

This intersection was approved in the Community Investment Tax for a traffic signal. Traffic continues to increase on Bell Shoals. The entrances to the Bloomingdale Subdivision are almost impossible to navigate and continue to be a serious safety hazard. This has increased significantly since the completion of the Bloomingdale Avenue widening from Bell Shoals to 301. The BHA Board of Directors has received many requests for information on this matter.

Please provide the schedule for the installation of this signal. If the installation is not scheduled in the near future, please advise as to what actions the BHA can take to expedite the schedule.

Your prompt reply is appreciated. Please reply by email to bloomingdale@juno.com.

The Board of Directors  
Randy Wolfe, President  
Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.  
3240 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103  
Valrico, FL 33594

The following is the reply the BHA received:

Mr. Randy Wolfe, President  
Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.  
3240 Lithia Pinecrest road, Suite 103  
Valrico, Florida

RE: Citizen Action Center Action Order No. 5716  
Bell Shoals Road and Rosemead Lane Signalization  
Cit. No. 69327

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

This is in response to your correspondence dated March 26, 1998, regarding the status of the traffic signal at Bell Shoals Road and Rosemead Lane.

The design of these improvements is completed and we anticipate the utilization of the term Contract for Roadway Improvements that we recently approved by the Board of County Commissioners. We anticipate the start of construction within the next two to four months.

If there are any questions on this matter, please call me at 272-5912.

Sincerely,  
A. Maize Monroe, P.E., Project Manager  
Projects Management  
Engineering Division, Public Works Department

# Bloomingdale Sheriff's Substation Gets A New Sign

The new sub-station sign is displayed at it's new home, located at 4342A Bell Shoals Road, with donator Jack Bramlett of Federal Signs (center) and two associates from The Edge Gym.



Pictured above, from left to right: Joe Liguori, Sandy Capitano, Bloomingdale Community Officer; and, Deputy Peter "Pete" Liguori.



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# Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

Regular Monthly Meeting • March 9, 1998  
3240 Lithia Pinecrest, #103, Valrico, FL 33594

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE: A. Szabo, Sue Mallon, Rick Pitrowski, Joe Liguori, Tom Mackiewicz, Thom Snelling  
PUBLIC: Tim Goldman  
ABSENT: Fred Uphoff

## CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District was convened by President, Rick Pitrowski at 7:00 p.m. There were enough trustees present to establish a quorum.

## APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

MOTION: Trustee Snelling moved to accept the February minutes as read. Trustee Szabo seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDANCE None.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Vince stated that the Emerald account balance is \$312,535. The money market account at Barnett Bank has \$9,020. Total Assets are \$324,716. We have received (under special assessments) \$304,272. Total FY 98 Expenditures to date -- \$92,105.

Vince pointed out these accounts need to be amended next month. Postage, Wall Painting, Maintenance-Shrubs, Office Supplies, Capital Outlay- Computer Equipment.

Trustee Mallon made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Trustee Szabo seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

Entryways- trustee Pitrowski stated that Trustee Uphoff phoned him before the meeting to state that he would not be attending the meeting because he left instructions concerning the entryways. Trustee Uphoff stated to Trustee Pitrowski that the pre-bid meeting is set for April 3, 1998 at 2:00 p.m., bid deadline is for April 10, 1998, and opening of the bids at the monthly meeting on April 13, 1998. The contractors will bid three different amounts.

A- Greenhollow Entrance

B- Garnet Entrance

C- Both Entrances

Each contractor will pay \$35.00 per set of specs. Cliff Curry stated that he has some items to address concerning the bid instruction with Trustee Uphoff. He stated that within one day of meeting with Trustee Uphoff that the instructions should be ready for bid.

Trustee Liguori made a motion to accept Trustee Uphoff's timeline for bidding the entryways. Trustee Mallon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Wall Painting- trustee Mackiewicz stated that he assisted trustee Mallon in obtaining addresses of all residents that would be affected by the painting of walls. Trustee Mallon stated that the first letter had been sent out approximately two weeks ago and 50% of the residents responded. She stated that she would be sending the second letter to those residents that did not respond. She stated that the first neighborhood that all residents responded would be the first wall to be painted.

*continued on page 11*

# District Provides Hillsborough County with Critical Rainfall Data

Through a cooperative agreement, the Southwest Florida Water Management District will provide critical, real-time rainfall data to Hillsborough County for rainfall projections, emergency situations, long-term watershed planning and structure design and operations.

The data is available through the District's highly advanced, computerized information system called the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. It is a network of 128 remote sites that continuously communicate information on rainfall, water levels and other hydrologic conditions.

The data has been particularly important this winter because of usually heavy rains that have caused flooding in parts of Hillsborough County.

"The District's SCADA system is able to transmit information when the information is most needed, like during storm events," said Jack Merriam, the project

manager for Hillsborough County. "It is reliable regardless of the weather".

Ninety radio sites transmit real-time data measurement and 38 additional sites transmit near real-time data through phone-line supported communication.

The County will use the data during emergency flooding situations, as well as for rainfall projections and long-term watershed planning.

Through the SCADA system, the District also provides rainfall information for the national Weather Service, NASA, the Army Corps of Engineers, The Tampa Tribune, the DeSoto County Emergency Operations Center, Florida Citrus Mutual, extension agents with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida and the District's Emergency Operations Center.

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# How Your Job Impacts Your Children

by Diana Converse  
Family Life Educator/ Hillsborough County

Children learn a lot about careers, jobs and the world around them from their parents, just as they learn about everything else in their life. They learn about work ethics from parents too. What some children are learning might have a more negative than positive impact on their work habits as adults. Through the eyes of our children, this thing called work is what takes us away from them every Monday through Friday. They may believe that we would rather be at work than at home with them—something every parent might admit to at one time or another. Children may have a hard time understanding that you work because you like the stimulation or because you have bills to pay and not because you want to get away from them.

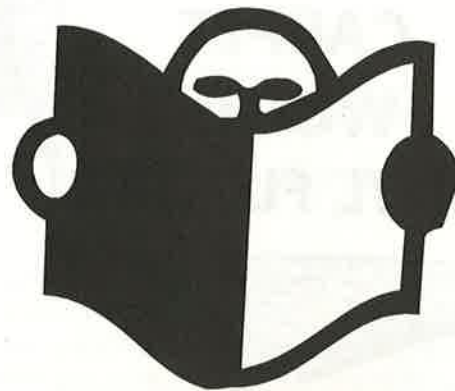
Think about the mood everyone parts with in the morning. If a child is not particularly happy about where he spends his day, this only magnifies his belief that he has been bad or you do not want to spend the day with him.

If a parent complains constantly about how much they hate their job, children are going to believe that all jobs are dreadful, boring, or stressful. The same goes for comments about the boss. If a parent complains a lot about how much they hate the boss, a child will probably think that bosses are supposed to be uncaring, unsympathetic people.

Our children are watching us in everything we do. They are learning from our attitudes and behavior concerning our jobs. We need to teach them that the career we have chosen was the right choice for us, that we love many things about our work, and that it is all right for us to dislike other aspects of it. That one reason we work is so that we can provide them with the "things" they need and want, but that is not the only reason. They are trying to figure out how to be adults, and need us to be honest with them.

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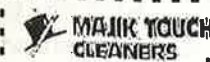
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## "Just Hangin' Out" Gangs, What Are They?

You have lived in the same neighborhood for years. You know your neighbors. You have watched the neighborhood kids lose their baby teeth, learn to ride a bicycle, and now they are learning to drive.

Then one night you hear noises outside. You go out to check. You look and you see some teenagers hanging out in your neighbor's driveway. All of the teenagers appear to be dressed similarly, they are using foul language, and they are talking about their plans for the weekend.

Weeks go by and you notice graffiti in the neighborhood, property crimes increasing and those same kids hanging around have increased in numbers. They are staying up later, playing music louder, leaving beer cans in the gutter, and the foul language is strong and loud.

It is very likely that your neighbor's child has become involved in a gang, and it is time to get law enforcement involved. The longer you wait the stronger they become.

### WHAT IS A GANG?

A gang is a formal or informal ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons who:

- Have a common name, or common identifying signs, colors or symbols.
- Have members who individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of youth and/or street gang activity.

### WHAT DO GANGS DO?

Gangs are notorious for being involved in a variety of acts that are not as innocent as just hanging out. The following are activities you may find a typical gang or gang member involved in:

- Grand Theft Auto
- Auto and Residential Burglaries
- Criminal Mischief (Vandalism, Graffiti)
- Weapons Possessions
- Drug Sale and/or Use
- Loitering in Neighborhoods and Around Businesses

Violent crimes, such as battery, aggravated battery and even murder, are always possibilities when confrontations ensue between rival gang members.

Hillsborough County gangs are not as turf oriented as some may think. Gangs are extremely mobile, especially when members are out committing property crimes or visiting events or locations such as movies, shopping malls,

dances, etc...

Sometimes they just want to be together and left alone. Members may hang out in areas where they feel they will not be hassled by law enforcement.

Often times their "hangout" may be a fellow gang members home, a small neighborhood park, near a school or even at the rear of a business plaza.

### ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

Gangs and gang members use intimidation to spread fear and earn respect from their peers and rival gangs. Because they sometimes seek confrontations with rival gangs, there is a propensity for violence.

Their strength is built on their reputation of being prepared to commit these acts of violence. Unfortunately their actions can claim innocent lives.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

The most important thing you can do is educate yourself about how gangs operate and look for gang activity in your neighborhood and business community.

If you notice juveniles or young adults involved in any suspicious activity, whether alone or in a group, contact law enforcement immediately.

By taking the initiative to make a simple telephone call, law enforcement can respond and gather information about gangs.

Law enforcement collects intelligence about members such as gang names, member names/ street names, addresses, phone numbers, gang habits and photographs of members from these contacts initiated by you.

Your telephone call is vital for success and early intervention, and effectively tracking gang activity.

Law enforcement works best when a partnership is formed and maintained between you the citizen and your local law enforcement agency.

### IS IT TOO LATE?

In a day where both parents often work full-time to make ends meet, get home late, cook dinner, run errands and keep house clean, many of our teens are unsupervised in the afternoon hours and do not get to experience quality family time in the evening. Teenagers left unsupervised will find something to do with their time. Their ability to make good choices or decisions about what type of friends they associate with is critical.

*Continued on page 12*

## Taxing District, cont

**Fertilization-** Trustee Pitrowski stated that TruGreen Chemlawn will no longer be providing service. He stated that he asked Florida Landscape Authority if they could apply January/February application for the old price that TruGreen did it for last year. He stated that that he received a bid from Florida Landscape Authority and they would apply it for \$8.00 below the TruGreen price. He stated that it would go out to bid within the next 30-60 days.

Trustee Mackiewicz made a motion to accept Florida Landscape Authority's bid to apply the January/February application for the old price. Trustee Mallon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Liguori stated that the next application is already upon us. He suggested letting Florida Landscape Authority apply the March/April application.

Trustee Mackiewicz amended the motion by having Florida Landscape Authority apply the January/February and the March/April application. Trustee Mallon Seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Christmas Bows-** trustee Pitrowski stated that he would like to purchase enough Christmas bows this year for the entire community. He stated that he found a company that would save a tremendous amount rather than purchasing them locally. He asked the board to allocate \$1500 at next month's budget amendment meeting.

Trustee Liguori made a motion to amend the budget for \$1500 for Christmas decorations to be used on a repetitive basis. Trustee Snelling seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Devney gave report.

### PUBLIC

No Comments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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# Gangs, cont.

Today's youths are actively looking for someone to look up to, as well as feeling the need to be accepted by their peers. Recognizing this need and consequences of gang membership will greatly improve a parents ability to prevent their child from becoming involved in gang activity.

Preventive measures are suggested as follows:

- Plan after school activities or events with positive role models or supervision, such as sports, music lessons, church events, etc.
- Plan "quality time" in the evening for the entire family to discuss the events of the day. Parents should be involved in their child's every day life.
- Teach your child "individualism". A child that is taught to take pride in their rights to make individual decisions is more likely to stand by those decisions in the face of strong peer pressure.

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## Have You Ever Wondered What Happened to the Postal Carrier for East Bloomingdale Businesses?

Well Ray Wallace, who worked for the U.S. post Office and who delivered the bills and checks for the past ten years, had a stroke. Ray loved his job delivering mail to his route which included all of East Bloomingdale from Winn Dixie to McDonalds back to Executive Title and all the stores and homes in between. At his home in Bradenton Beach on his day off Ray had a stroke and was admitted to the hospital where he was treated and released a few days later.

He is now under a doctors care and on sick leave from the Post Office. Ray would like you to know that he has always looked forward to his retirement but did not think it would pop up so fast after what seems a lifetime working for the Post Office. He really feels a loss by not being on his route in East Bloomingdale. He definitely enjoyed all the nice people who worked in that area.

Ray can be reached at his home address,  
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# BLOOMINGDALE'S OWN TOP STAR!

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