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SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR 'TWEENS

See Page 6-7.

Speed Monitor III in use

By Mack Austin

Many Bloomingtondale residents have expressed concerns about drivers who chose to speed in our community. The Bloomingtondale Area Community Council adopted as a safety project the purchase of a Radar Speed Monitor III, a speed-monitoring device that could be used by Sheriff's Deputies patrolling our area.

The purchase of this monitor was made possible due to the generous contributions of concerned business owners, Homeowners Associations and residents of the Bloomingtondale Community. The monitor was delivered in mid-March to the Bloomingtondale Substation and is now in use by Deputies patrolling the Bloomingtondale Community. Some of the primary areas where it will be used on a regular basis are Natures Way, Culbreath Road, Bloomingtondale Avenue, Bell Shoals Road, Bloomington Drive and Canoga Park Drive. Other areas will be monitored on an as-needed basis.

Sheriff's Department Major Larry Terry recently issued a memo to all District IV Deputies indicating, "The Bloomingtondale Community speaks highly of the deputies working and enforcing the traffic laws in their community and I commend you for this. Keep up the good work." Our community extends a special thanks to the Deputies who serve and protect our neighborhoods, and to these businesses and individuals for making the purchase of the Speed Monitor III system possible:



Deputy Pete Maurer's watchful gaze is reflected in the display window of the Speed Monitor III. Photo by Mack Austin.

- Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association - Ted Grable, President
- Bloomingtondale Ridge Homeowners Association - Carl Stickeler, President
- Goodyear-Long Tire and Auto Service Center - Shannon Long, Owner
- Mail Boxes Etc. - Jim and Sue Harbridge, Owners
- Majik Touch Cleaners - Peter Patel, President
- Devney Property Management Inc - Al Devney, President
- Tom Karpenske
- Jim Mikes

Chick-fil-A sponsors Bloomingtondale High fundraiser, see page 4.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-2051 • E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com

Web site: www.CyberRails.com/BHA/

- President Ted Grable
- Treasurer Pam Liguori
- Directors Patricia Radel
- LaWayne Wyatt
- Ann Underwood
- Rodney Biddle
- Len Jaszczak
- Mary Cummings



Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

- Coordinator/Scheduler
LaWayne Wyatt, 685-2072
- Treasurer, Paul Kelmer 681-9701
- Equipment Manager, Tony Diolosa 681-1146
- Membership Chairman, Steven Heckel .. 654-4266
- Brad Scharp
- Paul Warr 685-7883



Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

- P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
- President Bill Grace, 685-2817
- Treasurer Fred Englehart
- Meetings .. Second Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm,
3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks



Share your news with the community!

Write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
Phone (813) 681-2051
E-mail LauraFrazier@Prodigy.net
Fax (813) 651-1129

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

- 684-6667
- President, Thom Snelling 681-9186
- Vice President, Tom Mackiewicz 653-4145
- Treasurer, Don Cassels 681-8855
- Corresponding Secretary, R. Dickey 689-2177
- Recording Secretary, Alice Burleson 685-1076
- Trustee, Tim Golden 653-1337
- Trustee, Paul Almeida 661-2018
- Property Manager, DPMI 684-6617



Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

BHA Board of Directors Meetings
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Special Taxing District Meetings
Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



the Bloomingdale gazette

The official publication of the BHA

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Bloomingtondale Senior High School News

By Mack Austin

School year ends

Time has flown for the students and faculty at Bloomingtondale High School. Plans are in full force for final exams and graduation. The last day of school for most students will be Wednesday, May 24, 2000.

PTSA extends thanks

The PTSA Board would like to extend their thanks to each and every parent, student and volunteer who made this a very successful year. The PTSA has continued to provide parents, teachers and students with opportunities to take part in making Bloomingtondale High a great place to learn, study, participate and grow.

Reading program keeps growing

Kathy Steed, PTSA Volunteer Coordinator, says, "The growth of our Reading Enhancement Program has been fantastic. Parents are becoming active in collecting the magazines used in the program and volunteers are working with students in improving their reading skills." Every Tuesday, during all four lunch periods, volunteers pass out candy to students who bring in magazines for the program. "There will always be a need for more magazines, especially car, sports, computer and science magazines for our male students," noted Linda Weronik, Director of the Reading Program. Magazines can be dropped off at the Sheriff's Community Station at the corner of Bell Shoals and Glenhaven. One special note, please remove mailing labels. Linda Weronik welcomes the addition of three volunteers, Vicky Visca, Nora Hamson and Sally Baxley, who will be

working with BHS Clubs to collect magazines donated by local businesses and residents. Call 744-8018, EXT 563 to volunteer for the Reading Program.

No summer school

Summer school classes will not be held at BSHS this year. This should help ease the normal morning and afternoon traffic congestion, especially with the Bloomingtondale Avenue widening in progress. In addition, a major air conditioning renovation project has been scheduled.

Eat mor chik'n!

Chick-Fil-A supports BSHS Reading Enhancement Program

Tuesday, May 16, 2000 - 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The Chick-Fil-A restaurant at 11325 Causeway Boulevard (just west of Providence Road, in front of The Sports Authority) is hosting a fundraising event in support of Bloomingtondale High School's PTSA Reading Enhancement Program. The event was coordinated by 1998 BSHS graduate Michelle Morales.

Chick-Fil-A franchise owners Tammy and Paul Holmberg have pledged to donate 10 percent of all purchases made on behalf of BSHS. To be sure your purchase is added to the tally, please be certain to indicate your support of the school when placing your order.



Johnnie on the spot!

Representative Johnnie Byrd assists BACC's efforts to provide crosswalk near new YMCA

A Gazette Report

As construction progresses on Bloomingtondale's new Campo Family YMCA and County ball fields, the issue of pedestrian safety at the Culbreath Road/Bloomingtondale Avenue intersection is being moved to the front burner. The Bloomingtondale Area Community Council (BACC) has championed local efforts to install a crosswalk to accommodate pedestrians crossing Culbreath between the Little League Fields and the YMCA-senior ball field area.

The BACC has actively sought to bring the community's concerns to the attention of our State Legislators. Representative Johnnie Byrd and his Aide Ed Howlette have attended meetings and communicated freely with BACC members to address the need for a crosswalk at this soon to be well-trod, well-driven intersection. Representative Byrd has requested a \$39,000 state expenditure for the proposed crosswalk. Hillsborough County Project Engineer Mike McCarthy has stated, "The maximum crosswalk available will be constructed at this location."

The March issue of Representative Byrd's "Legislative Session Update" publication listed the availability of state funding, including \$2.6 million earmarked for local parks. Responding to inquiries as to whether some of these funds would be used to install an advanced, more costly elevated

crossover, Representative Byrd said he would address the issue with Hillsborough County officials and explore the possibility of receiving additional funding. The estimated cost of an elevated crossover is between \$800,000 and \$1 million.

Crosswalk funding and construction details will be published in the Gazette as they become available.

Help for dissatisfied consumers

A Gazette report

If you have had a problem with a home improvement contractor, or felt somebody selling you a service or a product cheated you, the Hillsborough County Consumer's Protection Board may be able to help. In 1999, this agency handled more than 8,000 requests for assistance, resulting in a 55% successful resolution rate and nearly \$100,000 returned to consumers in refunds, goods or services.

The 9-member Consumer Protection Board is appointed by the County Commission with the authority to order restitution and to issue cease and desist orders and assurances of voluntary compliance. County Commission Ronda Storms says, "This is a really great agency and a wonderful service we provide for our citizens."

For more information, contact the Consumer Protection Board at 272-6750; write to 8900 N. Armenia Avenue, Suite 222, Tampa 33601; or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org.



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Bloomingdale area summer programs for "tweens"

By Laura Frazier, Editor

Working parents everywhere, get ready...the kids are off for the summer, but we're not! Babies and young children are likely settled into their year-round daycare routine, and teenagers wielding car keys are certainly able to fend for themselves, but what about our "tweens"; children age 9 - 13 who are "too big" for babysitters or traditional daycare, but too young to spend long summer days alone at home? Tweens may do well for an hour or so on their own during the school year, but a daily schedule of hiding from knocks at the door, watching TV, doing chores and heating up spaghetti's does not a pleasant summer make! Supervised, constructive summer programs are a good idea for children under 14 whose parents must continue to work full time over the summer. Several Bloomingdale area daycare and activity centers can offer your older children a summer filled with friends and fun.

Full or part-time activity programs offered at Brandon Swim and Tennis Club, The Brandon Family YMCA and Llamas and Learning can provide a safe, fun home base for your child over the summer with swimming, exercise, sports, craft activities and more. Bloomingdale area daycare centers, such as Tutor Time (opening in August) and La Petit Academy provide age-appropriate on-site activities and regular field-trip adventures to parks, the movies and more.

(continued on page 6)

Summer programs

(continued from page 6)

We have compiled a partial list of Bloomingdale area centers offering programs for the 'tween set. Please call the program directors for age limits, slots available and costs as soon as possible; spaces are limited and programs are filling up!

Bloomingdale Oaks Child Care Center
1653 Bloomingdale Avenue
Director Laura Peterson, 685-8322

Brandon Swim and Tennis Club
405 Beverly Boulevard
Director Sue Pollock, 689-0908

Bloomingdale Community Recreation Center
Canoga Park Drive, Bloomingdale West
Director Donna Clouse, 744-5907

Children's Nest Day School
3221 South Bryan Road
Director Opal Gierschke, 685-0833

La Petit Academy
101 Greenhollow Lane
Director, Angela Karkheck, 684-3528

Kindercare Learning Center
4304 Bell Shoals Road
Director Diane Doyle, 654-0572

Llamas and Learning Montessori School
13227 Boyette Road
Director Juliette Johnson, Phone

Primary Prep Pre-School
3720 Canoga Park Drive
Director Gail Smallwood, 654-1922


Tutor Time Child Care Learning Center
3729 Canoga Park Drive (opening in August)
Director Susan Miller, 651-0779

Brandon Family YMCA
3097 Kingsway Road
Director Chris Gawlik, 685-5402

YMCA Camp Christina
9840 Balm Riverview Road
Director Jeff Smith, 677-8400
1011 Greenhollow Lane
Director Angela Karkheck, 684-3528

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Important Dates

Summer Swim Team begins April 28
Swim Lessons May 1, June 5, 9, 19, July 3, 17, 31, Aug. 8
Dive Lessons beginning monthly
Gymnastic Session 3 begins May 28
Gymnastic Camps July 10, 24, 31
Summer Sport Camp begins May 30
Tennis Camps begin May 31
Competitive Soccer Tryouts for U9, U11, U13 June 10
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Parks Maintenance Department to relocate to Natures Way site

By Mack Austin

The county owned property just west of Alafia Elementary School on Natures Way, previously occupied by the County Water Maintenance Department, has been vacant for many months. In March of this year, representatives of the Parks Department met with the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Board to discuss the proposed relocation of their Crosstown and 78th Street maintenance facility to this property on Natures Way.

In April, a Special Public Meeting was held at the Bloomingdale West Recreation Center to discuss the proposed move. Representatives of the BHA were present to coordinate the meeting. Representing the County Parks Department were Director of Hillsborough County Parks Ed Radice, Parks Department Maintenance Facility Supervisor Jeff Mauch, and Director of Hillsborough County Real Estate Mike Kelly.

Mike Kelly reviewed the details involving the 30-acre property, which includes a large vacant area of land just west of Alafia Elementary School. He mentioned possible plans by the Hillsborough County School Board to use a portion of the property to expand the area around the school.

Ed Radice briefed those present on the Parks Maintenance facility staff of 53 employees, their schedules, work projects and equipment. The staff's tasks include maintaining County parks, recreation centers, ballfields and all facilities located at these sites. Radice stated that they currently work five days a week, 6:30 am to 3:30 pm. He addressed the major concern expressed by the BHA Board at an earlier meeting - the fact that the facility is adjacent to Alafia Elementary and what impact, if any, there would be on already congested traffic in this area. He stated that he had worked with his staff on schedules that would minimize disrupting the traffic. Mike Kelly stated he would coordinate having additional traffic signs and markings placed in their area. Ed Radice emphasized that they would like to be "a good neighbor" to the Bloomingdale Community.

BHA Board member Mary Cumming noted that the property in question was purchased with enterprise funds and therefore, if not used by the County, could be purchased and used "by just about anyone." Many attendees agreed that having the Parks Maintenance facility in Bloomingdale could be an asset as far as the maintenance of Bloomingdale's parks.

Based on the positive results of this meeting, Mr. Radice stated that they would present the results to County officials. No objections are made, they will begin moving into the facility at the earliest possible date. The Bloomingdale Community looks forward to welcoming the County Parks Maintenance staff and working with them in improving and maintaining our community's parks.

Pitch in!

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) has purchased new trash receptacles that have been placed around Bloomingdale East and West.

Bloomingdale Property Manager Al Devney, President of Devney Property Management, Inc., says, "We hope our residents will use the trash cans to assist us in keeping our area clean. These containers should help the walkers and joggers who are willing to pick up some of the trash, but up to now have had no place to dispose of it."



Al Devney of DPPI recently installed 6 "test" trash receptacles in Bloomingdale East and West.

Al indicates that the six receptacles currently in use are a test for the BSTD. If you like the idea and would like to see more of the receptacles installed, please contact the BSTD or the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at the contact numbers on page 2 of this issue.

Welcome to Bloomingdale, May 2000

Erin Elizabeth Elliot
Born December 3, 1999
to Holly and Bruce Elliott

Isaiah Louis Wienert
Born March 4, 2000 to
Gena Marie and Ronald
Lee Wienert



Gavin Andrus Fruge
Born March 6, 2000 to Tracy and Donald Fruge

Dylan Alexander Antes
Born March 17, 2000 to Robin Vollmer-Antes and Rick Antes

Emilee Lynn Runnels
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Ivey Marie Rossi
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Brandon
Oak Park Plaza
717 W. Lumsden
654-9541

Brandon
913 W. Brandon Blvd.
Builders Square Plaza
684-4499

Brandon
Lake Brandon Village
11393 Causeway Blvd.
643-6944

Seffner
North Grove Plaza
1515 S. Parsons
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Valrico
Valrico Square
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654-2324

North Brandon
Kingsway Plaza
1213 Kingsway Ave.
653-4535

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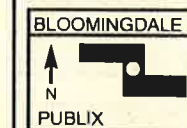


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Bloomingdale Rec Center News

The Rec Center is located at Bloomingdale Community Park on Canoga Park Drive in Bloomingdale West. For more information, call Recreation Director Donna Clouse at 744-5907, weekdays 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Instructional Soccer

Dates: Mondays and Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
 Cost: \$20, includes T-shirt and Trophy
 Ages: 3 to 10

T-Ball in full swing

T-Ball season opened with over two hundred and fifty ball players from three years of age to nine. Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson showed great form as he threw the first pitch of the season. Awards will be presented in May.

Volunteers needed

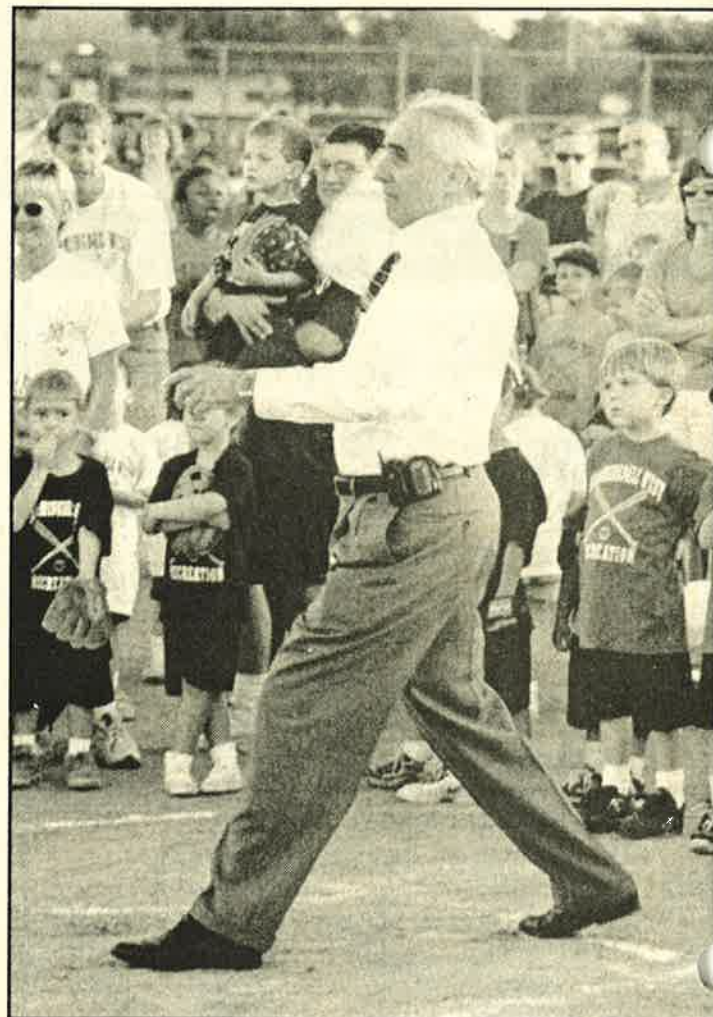
The Rec Center needs coaches, helpers, and team mothers. If you are willing to help, please call 744-5907.

Safety note

Parents and anyone driving or parking on Canoga Park or Bloomingfield Drive near the park are asked to use extreme care and be on the watch for children. This is a very crowded area and children are everywhere!



This is cool, walking on the chalk line. Why did they tell us not to walk on it? Photo by Mack Austin



Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson showed great form as he threw the first pitch of the Tee Ball season. Photo by Mack Austin



Over 250 ball players posed for this season's group picture. Photo by Mack Austin



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Letters

"Help! My neighbor just painted his house Pepto Bismol Pink!"

Q: Several neighbors and I are concerned about the color of paint being used on a home on our street. It is not consistent with the softer, neutral colors of neighboring homes. What action can be taken to correct this problem?



A: BHA President Ted Grable researched our online version of deed restrictions, available at our community web site (cyberrails.com/bha/). There are individual deed restrictions for over 40 sections of our community. While some newer sections do have architectural control regulations, the developer of your section did not include this type of provision in your neighborhood. The "good neighbor" policy approach may be effective. Perhaps your concerns could be brought to the attention of the homeowner in a non-confrontational manner. If several

neighbors amicably approach the homeowner, he may decide to tone it down a bit.

"Sorry, I gave at the office..."

Q: Regarding door-to-door soliciting in Bloomingdale, I thought this was not allowed. Tonight at 8:10 pm a solicitor rang my doorbell. I really resent solicitors going door to door, especially after dark. Isn't Bloomingdale, as the signs say, "A deed restricted community; no soliciting?"

A: The BHA received numerous complaints and questions about solicitors in March. Many of these businesses operate until dark, which after the "spring forward" time change last month, may not be until 8:30 pm. It is legal for these businesses to conduct their business door to door. The signs posted by our Special Taxing District at the community entrances indicate, "no soliciting" as a means of discouraging door-to-door solicitation. Some businesses and fundraising companies are, however, not easily discouraged. Essentially, it is each homeowner's responsibility to contact the individual offending company for resolution. In the case of nuisance calls (those conducted after dark, hard sell tactics, uninvited return calls, etc.), the BHA has in the past, and will continue to, investigate multiple complaints against individual companies. A polite but firm response ("I'm sorry, but soliciting is discouraged in Bloomingdale, and we personally do not purchase products or make donations at the door.") should elicit a courteous and quick exit by the solicitor. If solicitors are met with repeated resistance, they will generally move on to another unsuspect-

(continued on page 13)

Letters

(continued from page 12)

neighborhood! In March, BHA President Ted Grable personally contacted representatives of The Tampa Tribune and ADT Security to relay multiple resident complaints about door-to-door solicitation. These nuisance interruptions should now, at least in the case of these two companies, subside. Please notify the BHA at the contact numbers listed on page 2 of this issue if you require assistance with a door-to-door solicitation complaint.

If these walls could talk...

Q: As I walk my children to Alafia Elementary School each day, I am repulsed by the sight of the filthy, mildewed walls along Erindale. Can't something be done about this?

A: We feel your pain! The walls along Erindale are currently incubating the sometimes slow-growing, soon to be gorgeous climbing vines you see blanketing the perimeter walls in other areas of the community. Unfortunately, there is a window of time, the length depending on the amount of sunlight the area receives, that the vines must be given a chance to adhere to and cover the walls, mildew notwithstanding. Any cleaning or painting at this aesthetically awkward stage would kill the plants. We hope you will join us in being patient with Mother Nature!

Please send letters to the Gazette by mail, fax or e-mail (see page 2 of every issue). For more information, please visit our community web site at www.cyberrails.com/bha/.

MacDill Family Resource Center offers free programs

A Gazette Report

The MacDill Family Resource Center serves to support Brandon area families of active duty and retired military members of all branches of the services. A variety of special events, seminars and classes are offered on a monthly basis. All functions are limited to military ID carrying individuals.



In May, the Center's Guidance Club for Parents of Teens is offering a class entitled, "Encouraging Your Teen to be Responsible." Parents will receive straightforward, expert advice on how to solve this problem. The class will be held Thursday, May 25 from 7 - 8 p.m. Please call 655-9281 to sign up for the class.

The center is located at 349 Pauls Drive in Brandon. For information on upcoming events, please contact MacDill Resource Center Manager James Warren, Jr. at 655-9281.

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Now enrolling for summer programs

Rivercrossing neighborhood picnic

By Laura Frazier, Editor

Residents in the Rivercrossing section of Bloomingdale held a neighborhood picnic in March, sponsored by the Rivercrossing Homeowners Association. County Commissioner Ronda Storms, Bloomingdale Community Resource Officer Deputy Pete Maurer and Bloomingdale Area Community Council member Terry Ward were on hand to officiate the opening ceremonies. Speakers stressed the importance of resident involvement in keeping neighborhoods like Rivercrossing safe, clean and family friendly. Tia's Tex Mex Restaurant and Shave Ice served lunch and refreshments on the River Meadow Court cul-de-sac. Various raffles and a presentation by Mad Science provided entertainment. A good time was had by all!

BACC representative Terry Ward, Deputy Pete Maurer and County Commissioner Ronda Storms officiated the Rivercrossing picnic opening ceremonies.



Neighbors of all ages enjoyed good food, good fun and good friends!

Planning a block party? Rummage sale?

Is your Bloomingdale street or neighborhood planning a special group event? Please let us know! We'd be happy to announce your event in advance and/or share your news and photos afterwards. Please see the Gazette contact numbers listed on page 2 of every issue.

Restaurant Review, May 2000

Elton Dumont, exclusive to The Bloomingdale Gazette

Armel's Grill
U-Save Plaza
Corner of Kings and Lumsden, Brandon
(813) 653-9876

I don't recall ever being inspired to write a review about the food, service and ambience at a banquet dinner. Normally, such an occasion is just another "rubber chicken" experience; a meal prepared in advance for the masses. But, there are always exceptions to the rule.

I had the pleasure of joining a group of 30 residents attending the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Awards Dinner held in March at Armel's Restaurant. Ted Grable, President of the BHA, planned the evening to thank some of our fellow residents for their hard work in support of our community. Represented were the BHA Board, the Gazette staff, the Neighborhood Involvement Program leaders and the Mobile Watch folks.

Diners had a choice of prime rib, salmon or stuffed chicken, each entree accompanied by a chilled, crisp salad and garlic mashed potatoes. Dessert options included New York style cheesecake or pecan pie. Everyone I spoke with was extremely

satisfied with their meal. It was expertly prepared and attractively presented. The servers were quite attentive and did an excellent job handling this large group. I must extend a special thanks to Chris and Julie for providing our group with wonderful food and impeccable service.

I have been to Armel's on numerous occasions and have always had a wonderful meal. It is one of Brandon's top American cuisine restaurants. So, whether your goal is a power lunch, a quiet dinner or an excellent, conveniently located banquet (sans rubber chicken), you must try Armel's; definitely one of Brandon's finest.

Until we eat again,
Elton Dumont

Awards Dinner

At the BHA Awards Dinner held in March, Mobile Watch Coordinator LaWayne Wyatt (r) presents Mobile Watch volunteer David Guy with a plaque commemorating his hard work and dedication to the Bloomingdale community over the past 15 years.



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4-7pm for just \$7.95
- Children's Menu just \$2.99



Our chefs are eager to create a pleasurable dining experience. Chefs: (left to right) James Kooy, Shane Snyder, Bobby Love, Joe Enger



Roci & Bobby Love, General Managers



653-9876

701 W. Lumsden Rd.

(S.W. corner of Kings & Lumsden)

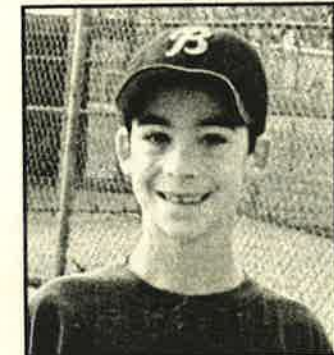
The Bloomingdale Buzz

By Mason Meehan

In honor of Mother's Day, we asked, "What is special about your mom?"

**Sarah Shirina, age 11
Rivercrossing**

"My mom is very caring, and she is always there for me and my sisters. She's very giving to others. She helps me with my school-work, and she doesn't yell at us too much. She also cheers me up when I'm sad."



**Sal Giardina, age 8
Oak Crest**

"She is very nice to me and my brother and sister because we're nice to her. She gives all of us lots of hugs and kisses. She teaches me not to do stuff that's wrong. If I had enough money, I would get her a diamond ring for being a special mom!"

**Emily Frazier, age 9
Stratford Trace**

"She's creative, works hard and always encourages me to do my best. She helps me solve my problems, and her ideas mostly work. She's a great fixer upper of my feelings."



**Anthony Peters, age 11
Augusta Village**

"My mom is nice and she's cool. She has a good sense of humor, and her cooking skills are excellent!"

**Bloomingdale Community
Substation Notes**

By Deputy Pete Maurer
Community Resource Deputy

Substation location: corner of Bell Shoals and Glenhaven in the Village Center Plaza. Phone: 635-8040. Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm weekdays.

"License and registration, please"

This is a phrase that speeders are more likely to hear now that Deputies patrolling our community are using the new Radar Speed Monitor (see story in this issue). Several tickets have been written. Warnings will be few, especially in critical areas around schools, playgrounds and parks. We want the streets of Bloomingdale to be safe for drivers, pedestrians and most importantly, our kids.



Deputy Pete Maurer

Waste management

With a community the size of Bloomingdale, an effective waste management program is essential. Doug Tote, a supervisor with Liberty Waste and Recycling, met with representatives of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council to discuss ways to improve our waste management programs. He noted complaints and offered ways to improve service. One specific concern presented by residents was a need to improve the curbside service. Tote stated that this would be improved. He also requested that residents be careful to not overload their containers, no more than 50 pounds. This protects the workers from injury and keeps them from having to leave it.

Protecting our environment

Spring is traditionally a time for cleaning out the old junk in our homes and garages, which may include dangerous chemicals, paints or cleaners. Special sites have been set up by the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department to collect items such as paint, solvents, household cleaners, pool chemicals and other toxic substances. This month's collection date is May 13. The collection site is located at the South County Collection Site, 626 Golf and Sea Boulevard (beside the Fire Station). No commercial waste is accepted.

Illegal Dumping

Calls have been received at the Community Station regarding residents illegally dumping items including yard waste on private property, including the Bloomingdale Little League property. No one, including residents living adjacent to vacant lots or wooded property, should be putting their waste in these areas. This illegal dumping is a crime that carries severe penalties. Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Officers patrolling our community will find and charge individuals who dump their waste on private property. Anyone noticing violations should contact the Community Station at 635-8040 or the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department at 272-5680.

Neighbor vs. Neighbor

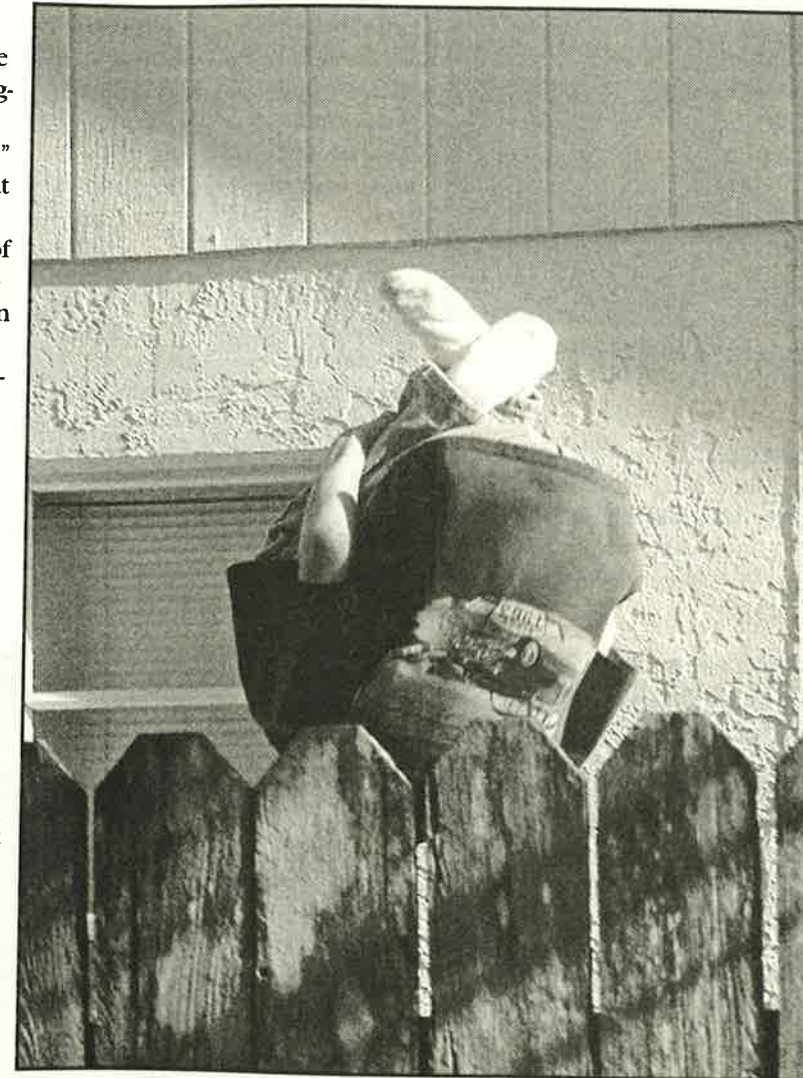
Laura Frazier, Editor

Deed restrictions and Hillsborough County codes provide legal declarations of rules and regulations in our community. Our County Sheriff's Deputies, Homeowners Association's Deed Restriction Enforcement and Neighborhood Involvement Programs are available to assist Bloomingdale residents who wish to become proactive in seeing that regulations are upheld. But there are certain "gray area" neighborhood disputes that are not covered by restrictions or ordinances. Most of these disputes reflect a difference of opinion between neighbors as to what is, or is not, acceptable neighborhood activity.

One such dispute currently taking place in a Bloomingdale East neighborhood involves two homes, back to back, sharing a common privacy fence. Homeowner "A" purchased a trampoline for his children and installed it directly in his backyard. Homeowner "B" complained to his neighbor that the children, when suspended in mid-air several feet above the 6' fence, were intruding on his privacy.

Nonplussed, but willing to cooperate, homeowner "A" moved the trampoline to the side yard of his home. The rear neighbor's complaints continued, and have escalated to the point of lawsuit threats.

Herein lies the "gray area" difference of opinion. Homeowner "B" feels that his right to privacy and peace and quiet are being disrupted on an ongoing basis. Homeowner "A" says he purchased a home in a family neighborhood and expects his children to have the right to play outdoors during reasonable hours. He has moved the apparatus as far as possible to the front of his property and has restricted the trampoline use to "no earlier than noon and no later than 5:00 pm, never for more than an hour or two at a time".



Is this a deed restriction violation?

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association President Ted Grable says, "The problem in this situation and others like it is that what one person considers to be a nuisance, another may not. The best solution would naturally be a "good neighbor policy" compromise between the parties."

Bloomingdale Community Resource Officer Deputy Pete Maurer commends Homeowner "A" for making an effort to keep the peace by restricting raucous play to mid-day hours. "A

compromise like this should be sufficient when we're talking about children playing in a family neighborhood," said Deputy Maurer. But, what if it's not?

Deputy Maurer indicates that neighborhood disputes such as these are commonly referred to the Neighborhood Justice Center's Community Mediation Program. The Justice Center at Riverview, serving south Hillsborough County, offers a free mediation program for resolving conflicts involving problems such as animal nuisance, family conflicts, landlord/tenant disputes, contract issues, unsatisfactory services and more. Under the program, volunteer mediators assist the parties in discussing the issues involved and in exploring solutions to the problem. The parties themselves determine the outcome of the mediation conference. Mediation is a compliment to the court system, but is not a formal court process. It does not preclude either party from

filing their case in court if the matter is not resolved. About 80% of the cases presented for mediation at the Justice Center reach a resolution.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association offers access to an online version of deed restrictions at our community web site, www.cyberrails.com/bha/, or by calling the BHA at 681-2051. County codes and ordinance information are available online at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr, or by calling 272-6333. If you or your neighbors have a "gray area" dispute that is not covered by deed restrictions or county codes, and cannot be settled amicably over the fence, the Neighborhood Justice Center is located at 7230 US Highway 301 in Riverview, and can be reached at (813) 672-7442.

District IV Sheriff's Office relocates

A Gazette Report

The District IV Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has been relocated from Brandon to Ruskin. Bloomingdale Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano and Sheriff Cal Henderson were on hand for a Dedication



CSO Sandy Capitano and Sheriff Cal Henderson

Ceremony in March marking the relocation. The District IV office was previously located on Hilltop Road in Brandon from 1983 until December 1999. The Sheriff's Office indicates, "This location better facilitates today and tomorrow's community needs." The office is located at 508 33rd Street South East in Ruskin and can be reached at 247-0455.

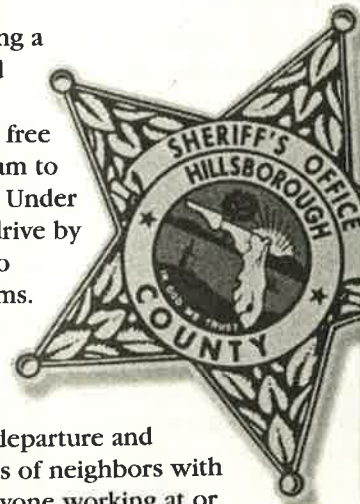
Free vacation security check for Bloomingdale residents

A Gazette report

If you are planning on taking a vacation, you may be interested to learn that the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office offers a free Vacation Security Check program to Hillsborough County residents. Under the program, a patrol car will drive by your home on a regular basis to make sure there are no problems.

Residents are asked to complete a Vacation Security Check form, disclosing to Deputies information such as departure and return dates, destination, names of neighbors with keys to the home, names of anyone working at or permitted access to the home in your absence, etc.

Vacation Security Check forms are available at our Community Substation on Bell Shoals Road (phone 685-8040). Copies are also available from the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association by calling 681-2051 or visiting our web site at www.CyberRails.com/BHA/.



Four in one!



Nick Bates, VP of Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch Association, Inc. (aka "Daddy"), was caught in Ruskin with hands full; four children in one single-line stroller!

Hillsborough County government call-in talk show

A Gazette report

The "Talk to your government" TV show, broadcast live on cable channel 20 every Thursday night from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm, provides an opportunity for Hillsborough County citizens to ask questions or voice their concerns on current issues. Hosted by County Commissioner Jan Platt and City Council member Charlie Miranda, the call-in show features guests including members of the County Commission, City Council and various County Department representatives.

Bloomingdale online!

CyberRails.com/bha/

Please visit our community web site at CyberRails.com/bha/ for Bloomingdale news and information, and to register for free Bloomingdale Homeowners Association e-mail updates.



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Has your voting precinct changed?

By Joe Liguori, Gazette Executive Director

Some time in February, I received a new voter ID card from the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections, showing that my voting place had changed from precinct #806 at the Bloomingdale Rec Center in Bloomingdale West, to precinct #804 at the Little League Sports Complex office on Bloomingdale Avenue, near Lithia Pinecrest Road. This being my third assigned precinct since I've lived in Bloomingdale, I made a few phone calls and wrote a few letters. This is what I found out:

- * Before the change, the Rec Center (precinct #806) had 4400+ registered voters.
- * After the change, only 1900+ voters remained assigned to the Rec Center.
- * 2500+ voters were rolled into #804 (Sports Complex), joining the 1100+ voters that were already assigned to the Sports

Complex under precinct #808.
 * Currently, 3700+ voters made up of two precincts are using the "space challenged" Sports Complex, while only 1900+ voters are assigned to the rec center.

I am certain that the space and facilities available at the Rec Center can more sensibly accommodate the larger number of voters.

I spoke with Supervisor of Elections Pam Iorio, who indicates another polling place in Bloomingdale is being sought to relieve the overcrowding at the Sports Complex. Ms. Iorio said that she would personally visit the Sports Complex to assess the situation.

If your precinct was changed this year and you agree that the crowding and conditions of the Sports Complex facility are unacceptable, please write to Supervisor Iorio at: Supervisor of Elections, 601 East Kennedy Boulevard, 16th Floor, Tampa, FL 33602. You can also visit www.votehillsborough.org to submit your comments via e-mail. And finally, drop us a line at the Gazette and let us know what you think about the situation.

Clerk-of-Court forms and info available online

www.hillsclerk.com

A Gazette report

The Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court has employed a new web site to bring county services closer to Bloomingdale residents.

At www.hillsclerk.com, you can now download forms such as default judgments, satisfaction of judgments and summons in English, Spanish or French. Also available are fee schedules for everything from marriage licenses, real estate conveyances, recording documents and filing or appeals.

Residents can subscribe to the clerk's Public Access Network, a dial-up service that provides access to public records for a fee.

Maps with directions to the clerk's offices in Brandon, Plant City and downtown Tampa are also available.



Youth jobs available

A Gazette report

The Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for the 2000 "Sizzling Summer Fun Camp." Applicants must be at least 16, have a driver's license, social security card and must undergo a background check.

The 10 week, 40 hours per week positions run from May 30th to August 4th. The pay scale is from \$5.50 per hour to \$7.50 per hour depending on the applicant's level of education.

Applications are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at 1101 East River Cove Drive from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or by contacting Gloria Chatman at 903-2250 for more information.




Earn Extra Money- Work for Census 2000

Census 2000 is recruiting individuals to help take the Census in communities across the country. This job offers flexible hours, competitive pay, and work close to home. If you want a second job or are retired, it's perfect! Most Census field jobs last approximately four to six weeks. We provide training and mileage reimbursement, and we pay our Census takers and crew leaders weekly. We need you, so call us now.

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Property Manager's Report, March 2000

Submitted by Devney Property Management, Inc. Al Devney, President: (813) 684-6617

Irrigation:

1. DPMI reset the 18 irrigation timers to daylight savings time and to water one day a week, Sunday.

2. DPMI replaced 37 heads and 2 rotors, repaired 1 zone line and three risers, raised 52 heads to the proper level and straightened 76 heads.

Landscaping:

1. Neighborhood Pest Control sprayed the newly plugged areas for mole crickets.

2. DPMI pruned all the crepe myrtle trees on Natures Way

and Canoga Park.

3. DPMI replanted the flowerbeds at Garnet and Glenhaven because they were run over by vehicles.

Other:

1. ZK construction repaired the broken wall on Greenhollow.

2. DPMI sealed and painted the two sections of wall on Springvale and the one section on Greenhollow.

3. Signs by Mineo repainted the entrance signs at Callista.

4. Chris Wurtzel installed six trash receptacles in both East and West.

5. In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, DPMI picked up 22 bags of litter, a complete toilet, a yellow plastic duck, a baseball, 2 floor mats, a gas cap, a hubcap and \$.27. The beverages of choice were Coke for soft drinks, Bud Light for beer and Crown Royal for distilled spirits.

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