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**Commissioner's  
Corner**

**See page 11**

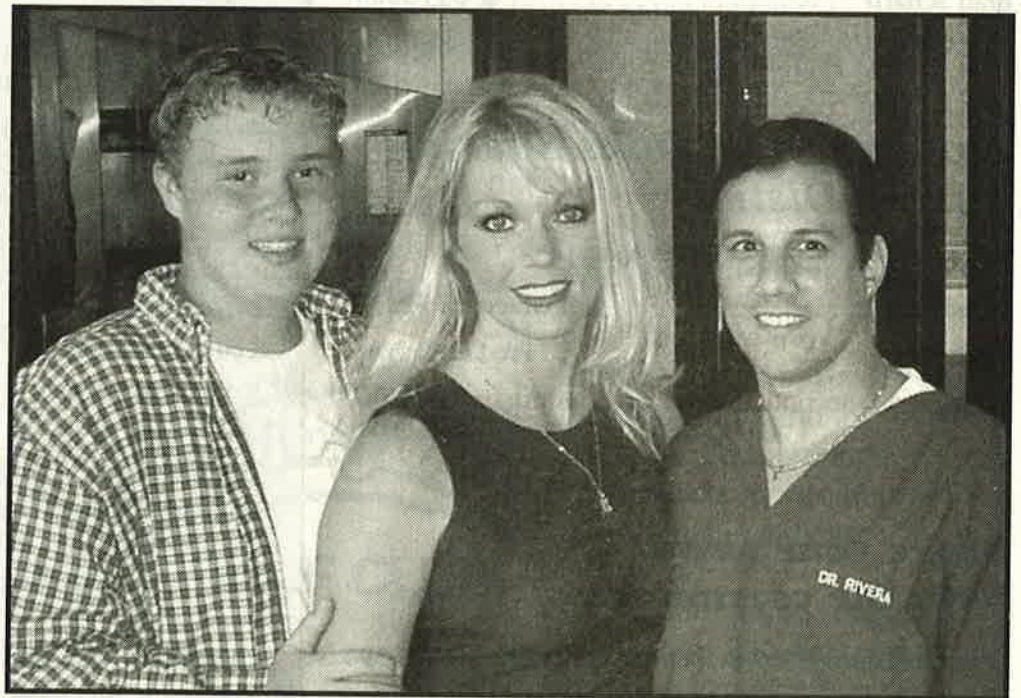
# Love your Mom



## Bloomingdale Moms in the news

*Bloomingdale Mom and Fox 13 news anchor Secily Wilson brought her daughter Nicole along to help mediate Alafia Elementary's Battle of the Books competition. More on page 15. (Left)*

*Bloomingdale Mom Kelly Rivera, shown here with son Jonathan and husband Dr. Raul Rivera, will represent Brandon in the Mrs. Florida pageant in Orlando this month. More on page 6. (Below)*



**New Library Site Selection, see page 12**



## Your Inside Connections

### The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

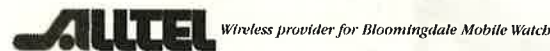
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Web site: www.bha-online.org

- President ..... Ted Grable
- Vice President ..... Len Jaszczak
- Treasurer ..... Pam Liguori
- Director ..... Patricia Radel
- Director ..... Rodney Biddle
- Director ..... Tony Diolosa
- Director ..... Joe Hickle
- Director ..... John Benson



### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch



- Coordinator/Equipment Manager  
Tony Diolosa, ..... 681-1146
- Treasurer, Paul Kelmer ..... 681-9701
- Steven Heckel ..... 654-4266
- Brad Scharp ..... 643-5000
- 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 Monday 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 • Fax: (813) 651-1129  
E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com

### 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

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594  
Phone: (813) 681-2051 Fax: (813) 651-1129  
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**EVENTS**

To have your events or announcements published in the next Gazette, send them in by the 15th of the month via fax to (813) 651-1129, e-mail frazier1@tampabay.rr.com or mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594.

**St. Mark Church Benefit Auction**

St. Mark United Church will hold their 6th annual benefit auction on Saturday, May 5. A preview and silent auction of select items begins at 6 p.m., the live auction begins at 7 p.m. Entertainment will include nationally renowned country/Christian singer Wendy Manley and a local bluegrass band. A wine tasting and dessert bar will be offered. A \$5 donation is requested at the door, with 10% of the proceeds benefiting Habitat for Humanity, and the balance benefiting the church mortgage fund. The church is located 1/2 mile north of Bloomingdale Avenue at 2914 Lithia Pinecrest Road. For more information, call Heidi Adams at (813) 651-9449.

**Summer Fun and Safety Festival**

A Summer Fun and Safety Festival will be held on Saturday, May 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Lumsden Road Wal-Mart in Brandon. The free event features entertainment and activities for children and summer safety information for parents, including swimming, bicycling, boating, food safety and child car seat installation. Participating sponsors include the Child Advocacy Center from All Children's Hospital, the Hillsborough County Extension Service, Family Resource and Referral Service, Hillsborough County Public Library, County Parks and Recreation, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and local

YMCA's. The event is held in coordination with the Child Abuse Council, Parents as Teachers and Baby Bungalow. For more information, call (813) 356-1293.

**AAUW**

The Brandon Branch of the American Association of University Women will honor 28 eighth and twelfth grade girls who have excelled in math and science at the middle and senior high school level at the eighth annual "Girls Can!" recognition Tea on May 12. The final meeting of the 2000-2001 year will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Inn of Hawthorne Village, 859 W. Lumsden, Brandon. There will be a "toothpick" supper and the installation of newly elected officers.

For information call (813) 671-3078.

**MacDill Family Resource Center**

Learn to manage your time more efficiently at the Time Management class on May 9 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. A "Feed your Kids Right" parenting coffee will be held on Monday May 14 in conjunction with the kids' playgroup, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. An introduction to stress management will be given on May 23 at the center. Call 813-655-9281 to register for classes.

**Alafia DAR**

The Alafia River Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a 7 p.m. meeting on May 5 at Brandon

*continued on pg. 5*

First Baptist Church, 216 Parsons Avenue. Gary R. Mormino, PhD, Duckwall Professor of History from USF will present, "Oral History and World War II." For information, call (813) 684-0843.



Reverend Robert White of St. Mark United Church lives in Bloomingdale East with his wife Frances and their two sons

**Where to get the Gazette**

If you are a Bloomingdale resident and do not receive the Gazette by mail, please call the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at (813) 681-2051. Copies are available at the Campo Family YMCA, the Bloomingdale Community Substation and in newsstand boxes at both Bloomingdale Avenue Winn Dixie grocery stores.

**Carlette Hightower's Dessert Pizza Is Berry Good!**

Carlette Hightower's recipe for Strawberry Pizza Pie took high honors in the Gazette's recipe contest. Carlette won a Pampered Chef Oval Baker baking dish, courtesy of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. Congratulations to Carlette, and thanks to all of you who entered.

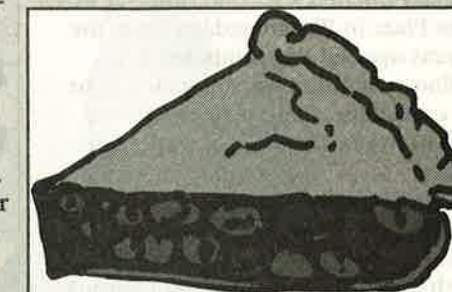
**Strawberry Pizza Pie**

**Crust:** 2 1/2 sticks butter, 2 cups plain flour, 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar.

**Filling:** 8 oz. cream cheese, 1-1/2 cups confectioner's sugar, 12 oz. whipped topping

**Glaze:** 1 quart sliced strawberries, 1 container strawberry glaze

Mix crust ingredients together until dough forms. Press into pizza pan. Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Let cool completely. Mix filling ingredients together. Spread onto cooled pizza crust. Mix glaze ingredients together. Spread onto pie. Place in refrigerator until set.



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## Bloomington Mom To Represent Brandon In Mrs. Florida Pageant

By Laura Frazier

**It's Bloomington's version of a "Beauty and the Beasts" story.**

The beauty, Bloomington mom Kelly Rivera, will represent Brandon in the Mrs. Florida pageant in Orlando this month.

An Indiana native, Rivera lives in Bloomington East with her husband, veterinarian Dr. Raul Rivera, and their 14-year-old son, Jonathan.

While the beauty is away on pageant business, some Brandon area "beasts" will miss her.

Dr. Rivera, owner of Fish Hawk Animal Clinic on Lithia Pinecrest Road, recently opened a second office at Royal Oaks Plaza in Bloomington. Since the Riveras opened Pawprints Animal Wellness, Brandon's first evening-hour pet care clinic, they've worn quite a path between their day and evening offices.

Dr. Rivera mans the Fish Hawk clinic until the stroke of six each day, when he makes haste to Pawprints, a few miles north on Lithia Pinecrest Road. Business at both locations is keeping the Rivera family hopping.

Kelly, an account executive for Corporate Express in Tampa by day, spends each weeknight helping out at Pawprints. Jonathan, an 8th grade student at Burns Middle School, pitches in at the evening clinic after his daily workout at the new Campo Family YMCA, "and only after all his homework is done," said Kelly.

The Mrs. Florida contest is open to married women over the age of 18 who will contend in evening gown, swimsuit and interview competitions. The winner of the state title will go on to compete in the 25th annual, nationally televised Mrs. America pageant, to be held in Hawaii this September.



**Kelly Rivera**  
Mrs ★ Brandon 2001

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Kelly had a number of motivations to add the pageant to her family's already full schedule. She counts humoring Dr. Rivera's enthusiasm among them. "I think my husband is more excited about the pageant than I am," she said.

Her decision to participate in the pageant is also a sentimental tribute to her late father. "My daddy passed away a few years ago, and he had always talked about wanting to see me enter the Mrs. America pageant. When I saw the announcement on TV last October, I wanted to do this for him."

Kelly says the pageant also presents opportunities for new friendships and travel, bonuses that her normal routine does not easily accommodate.

The Riveras' life together started out like a fairy tale, with a whirlwind courtship and a marriage proposal that left Kelly feeling a bit like Cinderella.

"Raul whisked me off to (his homeland) Puerto Rico, for what I thought was a family wedding," said Kelly. The wedding was an elaborate ruse pulled off perfectly by Dr. Rivera, who secretly flew Kelly's parents in to arrange a family meeting and a surprise proposal, on bended knee at sunset.

"He totally surprised me. I had to ask him to repeat the proposal a couple times so I could compose myself enough to answer," she said.

Brandon area residents will be rooting for Kelly this month. And, in true Prince Charming style, Dr. Rivera casts his vote for the winner of the Mrs. Florida pageant. Regardless of who takes home the crown in May, "Kelly is the most beautiful girl in the world."

The Mrs. Florida pageant will be televised to the Tampa Bay area live from Orlando on May 20 on the local PAX network.

## Welcome to Bloomington!

**Alexandria Jane DeAngelis**  
Born March 13, 2001 to  
Soshua and Steven DeAngelis

**Dominic Nathaniel Steiner**  
Born March 15, 2001 to  
Stephanie and Daniel Steiner

**Orion Fred Richard Paschall**  
Born March 21, 2001 to  
Manessah and Jason Paschall



**Tristin Doreen Cox**  
Born March 23, 2001 to  
Tina Marie Siders and Christopher Jo Cox

**Benjamin Harvard Southall**  
Born April 7, 2001 to  
Amy and Paul Southall

**Caroline Elizabeth Proeschel**  
Born April 8, 2001  
to Elizabeth and Thomas Proeschel

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**BLOOMINGDALE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS**

By Mack Austin

**Communications Program Speaks Loudly**

The special PTSA Communications Program, "Is it time to shut up and listen?" went very well last month. A wealth of valuable information on a large variety of subjects was made available for parents and students to take advantage of. Program organizer Lee Mayer said, "It was organized with an atmosphere full of joy and enrichment. The musicians made an exquisite ambiance, while the actors created emotional waves of awe and laughter. It was such a delight to behold the wealthy gifts, given generously and whole heartedly for our benefit." Everyone who attended was entertained, informed and well fed. Volunteers graciously prepared a wide array of refreshments. Professional representatives from several County offices, local organizations and businesses, and student-oriented groups such as "Students Alive From Education" (S.A.F.E.) kindly attended to share their information. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated. As with many programs, the organizers always wish the attendance had been higher. But as Lee said, "The people who were there learned and experienced much."

**PTSA General Membership Meeting**

The Bloomingdale Senior High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) will hold its final general Membership meeting on Tuesday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. The election of a new Board will be held. Parents who want to be actively involved in their student's lives and participate in improving the quality of life at

BSHS are asked to attend and volunteer to become members of this very active, critically important part of the BSHS parent-student program. These four years of your student's lives are some of the most important ever. They all need you to become a part of this life changing experience. Anyone interested is asked to please call 744-8018, extension 563. Parents, show you care, be there!

**Reading Program Needs Continue**

The enhanced Reading Program that has been such a great success at BSHS will continue to have the need for magazines to be collected during the summer months. Volunteers are also still needed to become involved in this outstanding program. Remember the newest collection point for magazines is the "Car Wash on the Greens" located at the corner of Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Erindale Drive. Do your spring cleaning and help build up the stock of magazines by dropping them off there. Just see Al or Jeff or any of the Kleinotas family. They'll take care of them.

**Important Dates**

May 28,  
Memorial Day  
May 31,  
Early release, last day  
of school  
June 1,  
Post-Planning Day

**Special Thanks:**

Everyone involved in the reading program would like to say a very special "thank you" to the former owners of Mail Boxes, Etc., Jim and Sue Harbridge. Their active involvement in this program helped make it the great success it is. Your concern for the students and your assistance is greatly appreciated, and will be ingrained in the lives of the many students you helped through this program. Our best wishes for much success to you in your new endeavors!

**Students, Schools, Safety and Security**

By Mack Austin

Students, schools, safety and security; these are four of the most important words on the minds of every parent and student in our school community and across the nation. The environment in our schools today is like none we've ever seen. What was a memorable time of learning, relating, participating, studying, and communicating is now often one of caution, concern, and even fear.

The atmosphere on every one of our school campuses from elementary to high school must be returned to what it is supposed to be. Students should not and must not have to be afraid to go to school. These are the most critical days of their lives. They're not only acquiring the knowledge they'll need in their future careers, but also the communication skills they'll need to become effective parents, teachers, leaders and citizens in communities just like ours.

Many parents and students in our community have expressed special concern and interest in what is being done to provide our students with the safe and secure environment they deserve. They want and need some assurance that everything possible is being done. Students must know what to do when they hear about threats and when an incident occurs. They'll be the ones caught right in the middle of it.

Recent correspondence with the Office of Florida Commissioner of Education Charlie Crist has provided the information and insight into the programs in place to

provide this protection. According to Betty Coxe, Deputy Commissioner for Education Programs, "It is important to understand that the local school board is responsible for operating, controlling and supervising the public schools within the school district, pursuant to Article IX of the Florida Constitution."

"The superintendent carries out the policies of the board. Therefore, final decisions about safety and security measures and all other matters lie with the superintendent and the school board. Many refer to this as local control. However, each school should have a School Advisory Council."

Coxe further stated that, "Florida law requires that school districts develop emergency procedures. According to Assistant Superintendent Randolph Poindexter, in a letter to the DOE in December, he explains, " (the) district guide provides a framework for schools to develop their own school based emergency management plan tailored to the unique conditions and resources of their facility. Each school's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is written with explicit intent to protect and sustain life, reduce emotional trauma, assist in emotional recovery from trauma, and minimize personal injury and/or damage to school property."

Check out the information available on [www.firn.edu/doe/bin00013/em\\_plan/emerg\\_plan.html](http://www.firn.edu/doe/bin00013/em_plan/emerg_plan.html).

Also, get involved in your schools PTSA program and School Advisory Board. This is a very serious community concern, so let's make the solution a community effort.

Special thanks to Deputy Commissioner Coxe for her very timely reply and assistance.



C. Cole Jeffries, Jr., Daniel W. King,  
Frank J. Nivert, Clifton C. Curry, Jr.

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## Fox Run Traffic Calming

By Rodney Biddle



Rodney Biddle

Traffic calming was the topic of concern to the Bloomingdale Ridge residents who turned out at Alafia Elementary School on Thursday, April 5.

The meeting brought out 70 residents to discuss options available to calm the traffic in the Fox Run neighborhood. Jerry Dabkowski with Hillsborough County presided over the meeting and presented options to the community as well as providing statistics of our problems.

Bloomingdale Ridge, made up of the individual communities of Fox Run and The Greens, has been having aggravated traffic and safety problems since October when the county altered the traffic pattern around Alafia Elementary. The new traffic pattern forces residents dropping of their children to take a 4.2 mile detour around Nature's way, or use the Bloomingdale Ridge community as a cut through.

Abuse of the neighborhood has included outside residents using Bloomingdale Ridge intersections for U-turns, turning around in residents driveways, and parking along the neighborhoods streets while dropping off and picking up their children. Recent monitoring has shown an average of 620 cars

per day traveling through the community, well about the 200 or so count that the county says should be considered normal. In fact, during a recent rainstorm, over 200 vehicles were counted passing through the community in just a single hour at school dismissal time.

Residents in attendance were strongly in support of some form of changes, though opinions varied. Mr. Dabkowski presented the community with 6 options including stepped up traffic patrols, traffic sign installation, reversal of the school board's traffic pattern decision, speed bumps and traffic diversion.

The speed bump solution brought up concerns about the look of the neighborhood and property values. Installation of speed bumps along Hickory Ridge, Northridge, & possibly Highlander would be 3.5" high by 12' feet long, spaced out to reduce traffic speed to between 20-25 mph. It was pointed out that speed bumps would slow EMS & Fire by 10 seconds per bump.

The county representatives decided at the end of the meeting that the strong community support dictated an immediate investigation of several of the less intrusive solutions, and attempts to implement those quickly. In addition, the county will begin working with the Bloomingdale Ridge board to investigate the option of installing temporary traffic calming devices with other solutions.

During the next few weeks, the Bloomingdale Ridge Homeowner's Association (not to be confused with the BHA or Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association) will be working with the County on implementation of possible solutions.

As more develops on this issue over the next few weeks, we will post updates on our website, [www.bha-online.org](http://www.bha-online.org).

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

by Hillsborough County Commissioner Ronda Storms

### Bloomingdale Avenue Widening Scheduled For August Completion



Ronda Storms

Many of you are frustrated thinking that the Bloomingdale Avenue contractor has not been visibly working on the widening project. The truth is that the project is behind schedule but work is progressing.

Most of the work that is underway involves the construction and relocation of underground piping that must be moved in order to build the road. The contractor recently completed a major tie-in to the sanitary sewer system. The work had to be performed at night

because it required the shutting down of about 30 neighborhood pump stations. Also, the installation of a major reclaimed water pipeline is underway. This pipeline installation requires shutting down and draining an existing 4-mile long, 30-inch wide reclaimed water pipeline.


The most recent project delay is due to the leak testing of a large Cargill raw water main. The new main did not pass the leak tests. This pipeline is located on the north side of Bloomingdale from Bell Shoals all the way to Lithia Pinecrest. It

the south side of the road can be removed. Until the old main on the south side of the road is removed, the underground storm piping cannot be completed, and therefore the actual roadwork cannot begin. The new pipeline is about 8000 feet in length, and the contractor has been working his way down the pipeline to locate and stop the leaks. The contractor has hired an expert at leak detection to assist. The contractor's latest schedule indicates a completion date of late August.

If anyone has additional questions or concerns about this project, please contact 272-5275.



Construction on Bloomingdale Avenue has been delayed. The County now estimates an August completion date.



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**Law Enforcement Appreciation Week starts May 17**

The week of May 17th is "Law Enforcement Appreciation Week." We all appreciate very much the professional work and sincere efforts of the law enforcement officers who work long hours protecting us, our homes and our community. Many of them work out of the Sheriff's Community Station located in the Village Center on Bell Shoals Road.

Longtime residents, if you haven't already, drop by and say thanks to Deputy Pete Maurer, Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano and the other officers on duty. New residents, drop by, say hi and ask about the many programs in place to improve your quality of life. Taking some homemade goodies to say thanks always makes them feel appreciated, especially those on the late shifts!



Our law enforcement officers spend long hours providing us with a safe, secure community. Take the time to say thanks when you meet them!

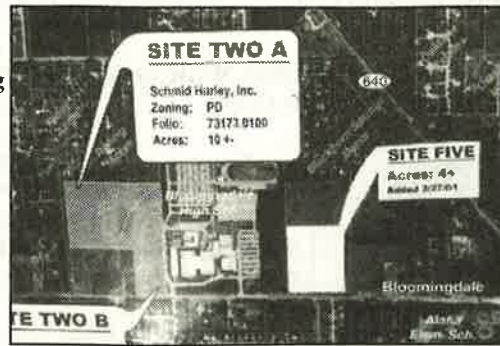
**Library Site To Be Selected**

By Mack Austin

Residents of Bloomingdale and surrounding communities met with County officials last month for an open discussion regarding the selection of a site for new County library. Prior to the meeting, four sites were known to be up for selection. A fifth site, located directly east of Bloomingdale Senior High School, was added at the meeting (see map).

Sites A and B are both west of BSHS on property already under development. Both have disadvantages according to Israel Grajales, an architect with the Hillsborough County Real estate Department. They are narrow and would require shared access with the already heavily congested BSHS traffic.

Site Five has a lot of outstanding potential. Located right next to BSHS, it would give students easy access, especially stu-



Site five, directly east of Bloomingdale Senior High School, offers outstanding potential for locating a library and for other community-related uses.

Continued on pg. 13

dents that don't drive, when the small school library closes. Site five would easily accommodate special research and study programs, and allow students to perform community service by working at the library.

This area is large enough for future expansion and lots of parking, two of the major factors considered, according to Joe Stines, Director of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Library System.

Located at the back of site five is environmental land used by BSHS students for scientific studies. It even has a two-mile nature trail. Expansion of this area could be possible under the Counties Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection program. This program's purpose is to conserve and protect environmentally unique, irreplaceable and valued ecological resources. What better way to allow BSHS students to expand their studies and help conserve and protect land that is disappearing very fast? Hillsborough County just recently agreed to purchase 119 acres of woods and wetlands near Lutz and New Tampa through this program.

With the proper support, coordination and planning, additional acreage right next to the proposed library site could be acquired for a very much needed Community Park for Bloomingdale and surrounding communities to use. This is prime property and developers are ready to scoop it up. Don't forget the group last year that tried to build a Target store on this land.

Many residents of the Bloomingdale community such as those who live directly across Bloomingdale Avenue and those who live behind the site in Lithia Oaks are very concerned about what is developed on this land. They will have to look at it as long as they live here.

The Library Board met on April 26 to discuss the sites. They made a recommendation of two or three of the sites. The board

hopes to acquire the land by October and have the library completed by 2004.

The selection of this site is very critical to Bloomingdale and surrounding communities. All residents should become active in showing support for the best site. Many residents believe that research and coordination shows the best site to serve our community would be site five. Contact the Library Board Library Board at 273-3660 and let your choice be known. Our communities need this new library for everyone.



**Truck Route Review**

The review of truck routes within Hillsborough County held every three years was completed last month. Changes included dropping Bell Shoals Road and adding Boyette Road. Any changes to Bloomingdale Avenue were determined to be, "impossible."

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## We're looking for a few good yards!

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association invites all Bloomingdale homeowners to nominate their friends and neighbors (or themselves!) for the Bloomingdale Yard of the Month award. If you have a beautiful or unique yard, or know someone who does, please complete the entry form and mail to: Yard of the Month, BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, e-mail to frazier1@tampabay.rr.com or fax to 813-651-1129. Winners will be presented with a \$25 Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift certificate.

### Bloomingdale Yard of the Month nomination

Homeowner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape features that stand out \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## YARD OF THE MONTH

**Vicki and Robert Cotnoir**  
703 Fenner Court, Bloomingdale West

The Cotnoir's Bloomingdale West yard is unique, delightful and beautifully maintained. The front yard features a stone-edged sunflower garden, with a rustic wagon wheel that looks right at home. Vicki says, "The backyard is dedicated to the earth, with a butterfly garden featuring both larvae and host plants." Vicki designed and created original mosaic art stepping stones for the back yard. The Cotnoir's homespun creativity is evidenced by their careful placement of charming bird baths, feeders and decorative elements that compliment the well cared for lawn, bedding and border plants. The Cotnoir's will receive a \$25 Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale gift certificate courtesy of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.



## Battle of the Books

A full house packed the Alafia Elementary School cafeteria in April to cheer on eight teams of fourth grade students participating in Hillsborough County's annual Battle of the Books competition. Students had a few months to read and study 40 selected books, and were quizzed about the book's characters, dialogue, plot line, titles and authors. Contestants buzzed in with their answers, game-show style. Fox 13 news anchor Secily Wilson mediated the competition. Team number 8 representing Mrs. Sperandio's class prevailed, and will go on to the next level of competition at USF this month.



Amanda Hill, Sean Hayes and Christian Fuller emerged victorious as the champs of Alafia Elementary's Battle of the Books.



Sean Hayes and Amanda Hill deliberate on a tough question. (Left)



Ryan Sugar and Andrew Cona are ready to buzz in with their answer. (Right)

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Brandon  
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654-9541

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

Riverview  
Goolsby Point  
11697 Boyette Rd  
672-1832.

Brandon  
Lake Brandon Village  
11393 Causeway Blvd.  
643-6944

Seffner  
North Grove Plaza  
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## How 'Bout That!

### Latex Allergies Can Be Serious

Allergic responses to natural rubber latex is recognized as a serious problem for health care workers and the general population as well. Since 1980 the incidences of reactions to latex have dramatically increased. You may not even realize how often you come into contact with latex but you will find it all around you. From rubber bands and toys to stretchy clothes and makeup, it is everywhere. I suppose I should be more savvy about this subject since my son Stephen is allergic to latex. However, just recently I loaned him a pair of binoculars to use and didn't know the eye cups were latex. He had a classic allergic response consisting of itchy red swollen eyes. Carried to the extreme, latex allergies can be life threatening. Even inhaling the powder from the latex gloves can cause asthma like symptoms.

If you suspect that you are allergic to latex, please inform your dentist so that he or she may select another type of glove for your treatment. Lastly, if you suffer with symptoms such as low blood pressure, nausea, labored breathing, hives, tingling sensations or itchiness, following exposure to latex, let your dentist know immediately.

Source: AGD, Academy of General Dentistry



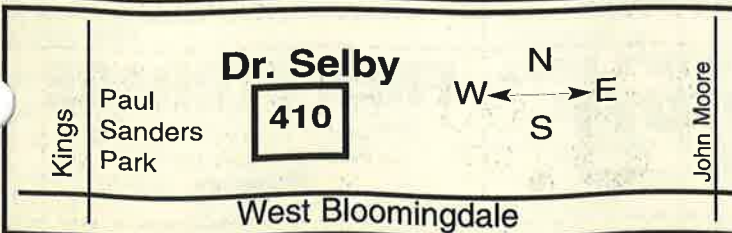
## How 'Bout That!

For your Dental Questions or Problems, Please Call:

**GARY SELBY, DDS, P.A.**

410 W. Bloomingdale Avenue

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## SUBSTATION NOTES

By Deputy Pete Maurer

The Bloomingdale Community Substation is located at the corner of Bell Shoals Road and Glenhaven Drive, in the Village Center Plaza. Station hours are weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Deputy Maurer can be reached at (813) 635-8040.



Deputy Pete Maurer

### Obeying The Laws

Several areas are receiving special attention when it comes to obeying driving laws in our community. Area deputies have been instructed to give extra emphasis to enforcing speeding laws, especially in school zones, residential areas and construction zones. Drivers running red lights can watch for the blue lights.

### Rain and accidents

When we get our occasional rain, a rash of accidents occur. The asphalt roads become very slippery when oil and water combine. Please slow down when it rains. It may be your car you'll save.

### New Community Policing Concept

A new concept of community policing has been put into affect in our area. Monthly meetings of local law enforcement officers are being held to improve coordination, communication and concentration. Officers meet to discuss, plan, compare notes and share ideas about how to combine their skills and

intelligence into improving crime prevention and law enforcement in our area. A great concept!

### Neighborhood Watch Expands

Residents from Bloomingdale West are meeting with Crime Prevention officers from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to coordinate the expansion of "Neighborhood Watch" programs in their area. This type of community effort is what's needed to improve safety and security in our community.

### Construction site thieves

Bloomingdale residents living in or near areas where construction sites are located are asked to keep an eye out for unusual activities or vehicles, especially on the weekends. There has been an increase in construction site thefts. Report any suspicious activity to the Community Station at 635-8040 during weekdays and call dispatch at 237-8200 during evenings and weekends. Your assistance is appreciated.

## PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

**Irrigation:** Brandon Irrigation replaced the pressure tank in the Culbreath system and moved two valves at Hickory

Continued on pg. 17

## Taxing District Seat Open

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) has announced a forthcoming opening seat on the BSTD Board of Trustees.

The BSTD Board is composed of volunteer Bloomingdale homeowners who meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices on Bell Shoals Road. BSTD trustees help to coordinate the upkeep and improvement of Bloomingdale's common grounds and property. Trustees work with Property Manager Al Devney to maintain and enhance lawn care, landscaping and entryways.



BSTD President Thom Snelling

The BSTD coordinates services like painting, pest control, irrigation, litter pick-up and holiday decorations, all paid for with proceeds from the \$80 annual assessment tax levied on the property tax bill of each homeowner in the district.

Bloomingdale residents with an interest in or questions about the volunteer position are invited to call BSTD President Thom Snelling at (813) 681-9186.

Ridge entrance. Thunder Irrigation installed six additional heads on zone six of the Gotham system. DPMI replaced 17 spray heads and eight rotors, repaired a riser, five broken zone lines and a defective valve, and replaced 22 lights and a light receptacle.

### Landscaping:

Planscape Inc. installed 20 Lantana at Bloomingfield and Canoga Park, added new landscaping on Culbreath and the Havenstone entrances and replaced a broken oak tree on Greenhollow. Greenturf fluffed all the beds.

### Other:

DPMI cleaned the rust off walls on Canoga Park, Rosemead, Greenhollow, Natures Way and Culbreath, repaired a broken bench at the Kiowa entrance and hosted the second pre-bid meeting for the 2001 painting contract. Signs by Mineo repainted the deed restriction signs. There were three accidents this month, car versus tree at Greenhollow and Natures Way, car versus car at the same location, and car versus wall on Erindale. In all cases, the car lost.

Eat, drink and pitch out the window: DPMI picked up 25 bags of litter, a doll brush, two sets of fan blades, a plastic squirt gun, a pair of suit pants, a pair of BVD's size 14, a yellow book case, a towel, a shoe, three gloves, a steak knife, a Lawn Boy bag, three tennis balls, a golf ball and \$.06 cents. The beverages of choice were Diet Coke for soft drinks, Miller Ice for beer and Smirnoff Vodka for distilled spirits.

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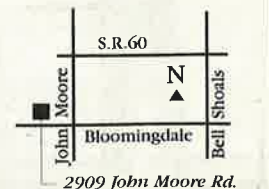
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**New Eagle Scout**



Ryan C. Palmer

Ryan C. Palmer, the son of Louis and Charry Palmer of Bloomingdale, received his Eagle Scout rank in a ceremony held on March 11 at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Brandon. Scoutmaster Mark Turner of Troop 11 presented the award.

Ryan's Eagle project involved refurbishing furniture for the Good Samaritan Mission in Balm, Florida. The mission, under the supervision of Pastor Cruz, provides food, clothing and a preschool day care for laborers in the Balm and Wimauma area. Supplies for the project were donated by Home Depot in Valrico.

Ryan began his scouting career as a Tiger Cub in 1988 and continued through the Cub Scout ranks of Bobcat and Wolf while a member of Pack 3069 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He joined Pack 115 in Madera, California, where he earned his Bear and Webelos badges. After moving to Florida, Ryan joined Pack 89 in Brandon and earned his Arrow of Light, completing all 20 activity badges. He also earned the Parvuli Dei Catholic Religious Award. In 1994, Ryan joined Troop 89, progressed from Scout through Life before transferring to Troop 11, where he earned his Varsity Letter and completed the requirements for his Eagle Scout.

On March 16, at the annual Eagle Scout Recognition Banquet sponsored by the Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Ryan received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Ryan is a senior at Bloomingdale Senior High School where he is involved in student government and the varsity soccer team. He plans to attend college to pursue a career in engineering.

**Lumenair Showroom Open**

The old Brandon Twin Theatre building at 308 West Robertson Street in Brandon has been transformed into a Lumenair lighting, ceiling fan and accessories showroom.

Paula and Dave Shears, owners of the Lumenair store at 1943 W. Brandon Boulevard since 1992, are putting the final touches on their intensive renovation of the 7,000 square foot movie theatre, originally built in 1964.

Associate Anne Suter said, "The theatre has been transformed into a colorful, eclectic, innovative showcase for hundreds of lighting fixtures. Individual rooms, each with their own creative theme, showcase fans, shades, crystal, outdoor lighting and specialty hi-tech lighting. The showroom opened for business on April 27. For more information, call 653-3460.

**County Awards Mini-Grants**

The Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations has awarded mini grants to several neighborhood associations, including two in Bloomingdale. The Bloomingdale Ridge Homeowners Association was awarded \$650. The Bloomingdale Hills Homeowners Association was granted \$462.

**Free County Directory of Services**

The Hillsborough County Directory of Services is free to all county residents. The 84-page directory contains a comprehensive listing of county programs and services, addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses and descriptions of offices, agencies and programs.

For information on how to obtain your free copy, call the County Communications Department at (813) 272-5314.

An electronic version of the directory can also be found at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org).

**Spring Cleaning Time**

Mack Austin

Spring cleaning time is here, a good time to consider the strict environmental protection laws that are in effect, and to do the right thing when it comes to getting rid of "things" that have piled up or lost their use.

Most residents are familiar with the collection of yard waste and recyclable materials that are collected each week, and if you are moving in or out of Bloomingdale, you can call the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department at 272-5680 to schedule special pickups.

There are special sites to dispose of non-collectible or household chemical items. We hope you'll use the following information to help keep your homes safe and at the same time protect our environment.

Non-collectible items include furniture, appliances, non-combustible materials and motor vehicles and vehicle parts. The nearest collection center for non-collectible items is the Alderman Ford Facility located on State Road 39 in Lithia.

(Lithia-Pinecrest to State Road 39, turn left and the center is on the left near Alderman Ford Park, phone: 757-3820). It is open Monday through Saturday, 7:30 to 5:30. This facility accepts non-collectible waste, scrap metal, tires, and lead acid batteries.

Documentation is required. Bring the whole Property Tax Bill, showing taxes are being assessed for solid waste collection and disposal. New homeowners can bring a copy of the closing statement to show these charges are being assessed, or obtain a copy of the property tax bill at the Tax Collectors Office.

Renters should arrange with their landlord to obtain a copy of the property tax bill. Also, bring a picture I.D. showing

your current address or a current bill statement such as TECO, showing your current address. There is no cost to use this service.

Household chemicals include, but are not limited to, paint and solvents, automotive products, household cleaners, pool cleaners, pool chemicals, household batteries, lawn and garden supplies and other potentially toxic substances. Materials NOT accepted include

explosives, flares, radioactive material and bio-medical material.

Absolutely no commercial waste is accepted, and household material may be limited. The nearest household chemical collection site recently moved to 13000 Hwy. 41 South in Gibsonton (Bell Shoals Road south to Boyette Road, turn left and go across Hwy 301 to Gibsonton Drive, go over I-75 to Hwy 41 south). The next collection date is Saturday, May 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rechargeable batteries are collected by Wal-Mart and Radio Shack (Nicad or small sealed lead acid). Old motor oil may be disposed of at Discount Auto Parts.

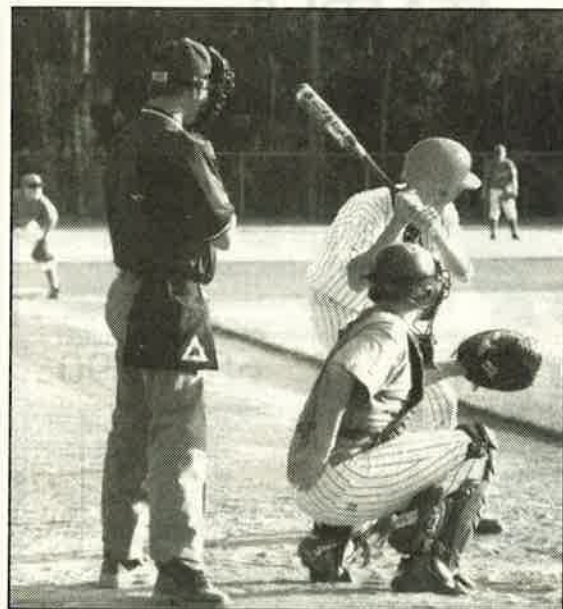


Wondering what to do with all the "junk" that has piled up? Special collection centers are available for the disposal of non-collectible trash and household chemicals.

**Season Ends, Playoffs Begin**

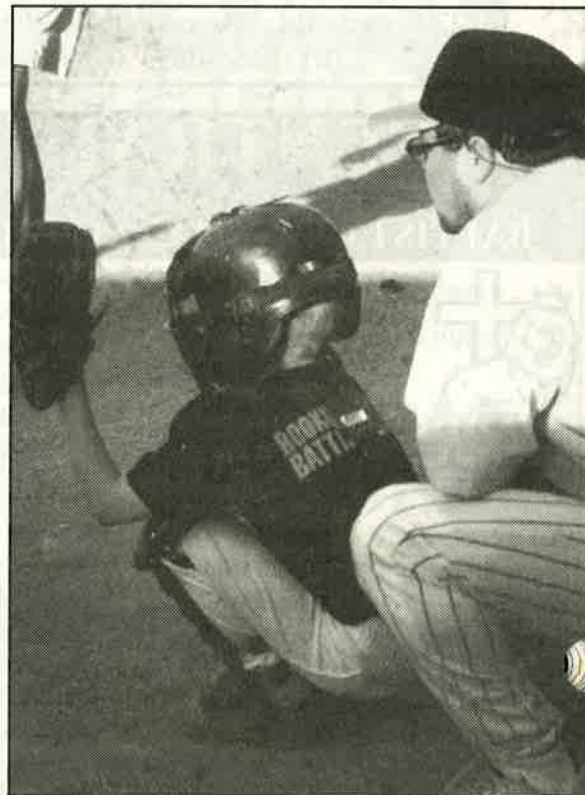
Photos by Mack Austin

The Bloomingdale Little League finishes up regular season play this month and heads into the playoff schedule. Special thanks to the parents, coaches, and volunteers who made it all possible.



Thousands of batters like this one had the opportunity to enjoy playing baseball this season. (Left)

Coach Paul Medrano, helps rookie catcher Mitchell McCade prepare to receive another pitch. (Right)



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**New sidewalks and repairs slated**

The Hillsborough County Public Works Department has received approval from the Board of County Commissioners to begin construction of new sidewalks in various neighborhoods throughout Hillsborough County. This year's program includes construction of 8300 feet on the east side of John Moore from Bloomingdale Avenue to Laurel Tree Way. The Public Works Department has also begun a sidewalk repair program that will start in the next few months. Bloomingdale East has been included in the list. For additional information, you can call the H.C. Neighborhood Relations Office at 272-5860.



Thanks largely to the efforts of Deputy Pete Maurer, a new bridge has finally been completed at the end of the sidewalks on Bell Shoals Road. Hopefully, the next project will be the sidewalks by the Culbertson Recreation Center on Canoga Park so kids walking in this area will be safer.

**Free Boat And Equipment Checks At Your Home Or Marina**

By Kay Lori,  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Ruskin Flotilla

The latest boating accident statistics show that the majority of accidents and boating fatalities occur on inland waters involving boats less than 24 feet in length. You owe it to your family to protect them from danger. A free Vessel Safety Check from the USCG Auxiliary is one of the best 20-minute investments in safety you can make, and it won't cost you a cent.

Under the Coast Guard Auxiliary's "We Care" program, an Auxiliarist will check your boat and equipment free of charge at your home or marina. Coast Guard qualified examiners are civilian volunteers, and not a member of any law enforcement agency. There is never any charge, obligation, or risk of a fine.

The 20-minute check up is to assure that your boat and equipment meet all state and federal law requirements and are in good working condition. During the quick and easy safety check, your Auxiliarist friend will share life saving and money saving tips. If your boat checks out, it will be awarded a "Seal of Safety" decal that shows law enforcement officers that you are operating a safe boat. Officers usually respect this seal, and you may avoid the stress of a routine marine boarding that can cost you a substantial fine for any violation found. Many insurance companies are beginning to recognize the seal as a reason to reduce premiums.

Most importantly, you need to know that a small event will not grow into a life-threatening emergency because of an equipment failure that could have been easily found and corrected. For a list of what will be checked, or to arrange for an Auxiliarist to check your boat free of charge at your home or marina, call 813-641-0164.

**RESTAURANT REVIEW**

McHale's Chophouse - Barbeque with Style

1215 W. Brandon Blvd.  
(813) 655-0027 • Take Out: (813) 655-0057

The Blue Ridge Mountains have come to Brandon in the form of McHale's Chophouse, a new barbeque and smokehouse restaurant on Brandon Boulevard.

Managing partner Michael Woernle has completely renovated the inside to give it an authentic mountain lodge decor complete with fishing, hunting and farm items on the walls and a beer and wine bar. A large, reconfigured seating capacity includes rods, reels and mounted Big Mouth Bass, and authentic "antler chandeliers" in the dining room. The outside was not overlooked, with a major expansion in parking spaces and dining facilities on the front porch. There is even a separate take-out entrance served by a special take-out phone number (see above).

McHale's is actually the second restaurant carrying this banner. The original is in SoHo, adjacent to the Tuscan Oven (Tom McHales has an interest in both). As the tag line says, it definitely is "barbeque with style." They are open for lunch and dinner and each meal has a separate menu. We dined on a recent Wednesday night and selected from the dinner menu.

We had a short wait (20 minutes, probably longer on week-ends) and after being seated were brought delicious mini sourdough rolls with butter. On the table was a surprisingly large beer and wine menu including a wide range of draft and bottled. The draft that caught my eye was the Sierra Nevada Pale Ale. We split a dinner salad that received excellent marks for crispness, freshness and temperature. It was chilled, as well as the bowl.

We passed on appetizers, but some did sound unique, like the Duck Chili, prepared from smoked Maple Leaf Farm duck, or the Shrimp and Cheese Grits with bacon, green onion, and barbeque butter. The menu is highlighted with sections for authentic barbeque, steaks and chops, sandwiches, wraps, sides, dippin' sauces and desserts. We both selected from the barbeque section. My wife picked the Texas Brisket Dinner (\$9.99). The menu accurately describes it as hand carved and fork tender. You get your choice of two made from scratch sides and one dippin' sauce. I had a half rack of St. Louis Ribs (\$11.99). These were a rib connoisseur's dream; very meaty, smoked and served with Memphis seasonings. Absolutely wonderful. Once again, served with two sides and one dippin' sauce. Other choices from this section include Carolina Chopped Pork, or Smoked Duck.

The steak and chop section included Chophouse Delmonico, Montana sized pork chop, New York Strip with toasted walnut Gorgonzola butter, or a ginger bourbon salmon. Sandwiches include Uncle John's Sausage, SoHo prime rib or grilled chicken breast. Wraps include Veggie, Mesa Verde chicken, Lexington pork, or Austin Philly Cheese.

The side choices were very interesting. You can choose two from Cheese Grits, Turnip Greens, Biltmore Beans, Sadie's Slaw, Mountain Mash Potatoes, Corn Salad, Blue Ridge Potatoes, Sweet Potato Praline or Steamed Broccoli. We both had the Sadie's Slaw, a sweet Cole Slaw made with a mixture of red cabbage. The Blue Ridge Potatoes were potatoes au' gratin, and the mountain mash had dripping gravy.

Dippin' sauces include McHale's Original with a touch of apple cider vinegar, Memphis with Carolina style spices, Santa Fe kicked up a notch with cherry peppers, the Smoky Mountain, Chipolte Aioli with roasted chipolte peppers, Creole Pan Gravy made with real beef drippings, or the SoHo with Sour Cream and Horseradish.

They are kid friendly with a kid's menu from \$3.99 including a free soft drink. Our bill for two was under \$35 including tax and gratuity.

Rating based on 5 stars:

- Food: \*\*\*\*
- Service: \*\*\*1/2
- Ambience: \*\*\*1/2
- Overall: \*\*\*\*

Until we eat again.

*Elton Dumont*

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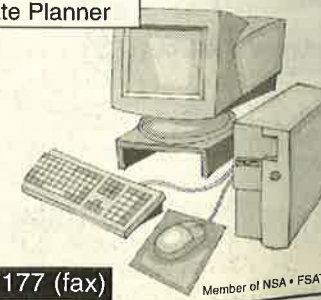
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Letters

Please send letters to The Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, fax to (813) 651-1129 or e-mail to frazier1@tampabay.rr.com.

Dear Editor, I have had to worry about a lot of things in my life. I was in the Navy for two years, and my son fought in Vietnam. With all of life's difficulties, my wife and I are glad to know that we don't need to worry about our health care. We have been happy with the quality of care we receive and the accessibility of our doctors.

Without the preventative care program that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's Health Options HMO offers through its regular wellness visits, my primary care physician, Dr. Susan Schler, wouldn't have been able to detect my cancer in the early stages. Thanks to Dr. Schler, and Health Options, I was spared a lot of suffering.

The whole process of diagnosis and treatment was overwhelming, but with the support of my Health Options plan, my

family and I were able to focus on what was important; helping me get better. Not only was the quality of care terrific, but costs for treatment, prescription drugs, and doctor visits were very, very low because nearly everything was covered. Since my successful recovery, my wife and I have been able to maintain active lives, and we continue to golf on a regular basis.

But we are worried that our elected officials in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., aren't aware of the tremendous impact that HMOs like Health Options have on people like my wife and me. I don't think the government needs to step in with mandated benefits and expanded health plan liability that would threaten the health care system that has saved my life, and no doubt, the lives of thousands of Floridians.

Sincerely, Robson Mabry Bloomingdale resident



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