BLOOMINGDALE GOLDEN THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DISCONDINGUAGE Homeowners Association www.bloomingdale.gazette.com May 2003



Inside Connections, 4
Bloomingdale Business, 6
School Board Notebook, 8
Commissioner's Corner, 11
YMCA News, 15
Property Manager's Report, 16
Restaurant Review, 18
Substation Notes, 20
Yard Of The Month, 23



Bomb Threat Culprit Caught

see page 8



LAURA FRAZIER/Photos

Cimino Elementary School student Ian Gordon joined neighbors Sue and Keith Waltzer picking up trash along Bloomingfield Drive.

Bloomingdale Cleans Up

EVENT TO BE HELD QUARTERLY

By LAURA FRAZIER

When last weekend's torrential Friday night thunderstorms finally ended, the sun came out early Saturday, along with dozens of Bloomingdale residents armed with gardening gloves and trash bags.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. organized its first community clean-up day to coincide with the nationwide "Great American Clean Up." The organization's PRIDE committee staged what they deemed to be a very successful event.

PRIDE organizer Cheryl Kehrmeyer explained the committee's acronym.

"PRIDE stands for People Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying our great community," Kehrmeyer said.

Homeowners association president Ted Grable said the community's first clean-up day was a great accomplishment.

"With the help of the Hillsborough County Parks Department, Liberty Waste and our volunteer residents, this event has been a terrific success," Grable said, adding that the organization plans to hold neighborhood cleanup days on a quarterly basis.

County Commissioner Ronda Storms, whose district IV includes Bloomingdale, pitched in to help clean up Springvale Road.

A former Bloomingdale

See Clean, Page 12

MacDill Clinic Cares For Military Families, see page 9



WE'RE SAVING A PLACE FOR YOU...

No matter what your age is, no matter where you come from, no matter who you are, there is a place for you at Brandon First. You'll meet a great mix of friendly people, hear relevant messages, enjoy compelling programs, and much more. Come as you are, be who you are - we've got a place for you.

VISIT US THIS SUNDAY!

8:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Praise

11:00 a.m.

Traditional worship with Choir & Orchestra

Celebrate This Mother's Day With Us!



Enjoy An Uplifting Service Dealing With Issues of Every Day Life.

120 North Knights Avenue Brandon, FL 33510 www.fumcbrandon.org

689-4161

| 1 | 1-4 | | |
|----|--------------|---------|---------|
| 75 | S.R. 60 | Knights | Parsons |
| | Bloomingdale | | |

Citizens' Academy Offers Info, Insight

By MACK AUSTIN

What do most folks think off when they hear the words, "law enforcement?" Some free 10-week program in may remember the flashing lights and expensive citation from the last time they were three hours, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., caught speeding. Others may remember seeing Sheriff's deputies making an arrest on the evening news.

Well, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office wants its citizens to get to know its deputies and its programs up close and personal. The Sheriff's Office has a specific goal of promoting a better understanding between the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of crime Hillsborough County, while also advancing their commitment to Community Policing.

Deputy Jerry Ray and "Turbo" were part of the Citizens' Academy program at the Sheriff's Firing Range, where Ray explained the duties of the Canine Unit

and demonstrated Turbo's high spirit and training capabilities.

One special way this goal is accomplished is through the Sheriff's Citizens' Academy.

The Citizens' Academy is a which members meet once a week and two Saturdays for to attend courses of instruction on all aspects of a deputy's job and the numerous law enforcement programs covered by the Sheriff's office.

Classroom briefings and instruction cover a wide range of topics including use of force, community policing, gangs, drugs, traffic and DUI's, explosive devices, prevention, crime investigation and

See Academy, Page 11



Deputy Clyde Dixon briefed members of the Citizens' Academy on the missions and capabilities of the new Bell Jet Ranger helicopter. With such a large area to cover, more new helicopters like this one are needed to help the Aviation Unit more effectively cover all of Hillsborough County.

THE MORE HIS GRADES DROP, THE MORE YOUR HEART SINKS.



YOUR CHILD CAN LEARN. CALL HUNTINGTON LEARNING CENTER TODAY.

When a child brings home bad grades, it's a problem for the grades, it's a problem for the entire family. Huntington Learning Center is here to help. For nearly twentyfive years, we've given kids of all ages the skills, confidence and motivation to get better grades.

We pinpoint academic problems and then create a customized learning program that works. Our centers are conveniently located and offer flexible scheduling. We even make it affordable





BRANDON (813) 681-1500

CARROLLWOOD (813) 908-1000

PALM HARBOR (727) 937-8400

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. (813) 681-2051. Fax: (813) 651-1129 E-mail: Bloomingdale. Homeowners @Verizon.net

Web Site: www.BloomingdaleGazette.com BHA meetings are at the community office on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President — Ted Grable Vice President — Joe Hickle Treasurer — Pam Liguori Director — Tony Diolosa Director — Steve Heckel Director — Cheryl Kehrmeyer Director — Michele Caballer

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

Director — Joseph Grem

3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594 (813) 684-6667 BSTD meetings are held at the community office on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President — Thom Snelling Vice President — Russell Jones

Treasurer — Dale Kahn Recording Secretary — Alice Burleson Correspondence Secretary - David West Trustee — Myron Magedanz Trustee — Michael Buday Property Manager — Al Devney

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Coordinator/Equipment Manager —

Tony Diolosa, 681-1146 Treasurer — Paul

Kelmer, 681-9701 Patrol Member — Steven Heckel. 654-4266

Patrol Member — Brad Scharp, 643-5000 Patrol Member — Paul Warr, 685-7883

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132. (813) 685-2817

BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

President — Bill Grace Treasurer — Fred Englehart

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Valrico, FL 33594 (813) 681-2051 Fax: (813) 651-1129 E-Mail: News@BloomingdaleGazette.com

Executive Director - Joe Liguori Editor — Laura Frazier Photojournalist - Mack Austin Correspondent - Shannan D. Powell Correspondent — Leslie White Restaurant Critic - Elton Dumont Yard of the Month - Karen Pearson

Published by Sunbelt Newspapers — 505 W. Robertson, Brandon, FL 33511. (813) 657-4500

The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomingdale residents along with The Tampa Tribune on the first Saturday of each month. Publisher — Carla Rockwell

Advertising Manager - Tami Donaldson; phone: 627-1322; e-mail: tdonaldson@tampatrib.com

Bloomingdale 'Operation Yellow Ribbon' Complete

By JOE LIGUORI

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. has received many questions and compliments about all the yellow ribbons recently displayed in Bloomingdale. I'd like to let you know how this very touching and patriotic display was initiated.

Mike Bosler, a longtime Bloomingdale resident, called the BHA and suggested that if funds were available, we should put up bows to show support for our troops deployed overseas. Bosler even offered to make a substantial donation to accomplish the project.

At the April homeowners association meeting, directors quickly adopted a budget to purchase and install

The only glitch was findng a ribbon supplier. All the suppliers the association called were out of yellow

One west coast supplier said that when they recently received a shipment of the bows, they sold out within 45 minutes.

The BHA finally found a California vendor who guaranteed delivery on a certain

Handy Hands, a vendor frequently contracted by the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, agreed to install the ribbons at a very attractive price, and - presto! - it was accomplished.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. and Bloomingdale Special Taxing District extend a very special "thank you" to Handy Hands, and to Bloomingdale resident Mike Bosler for initiating "Operation Yellow Ribbon.'

Burns Scorches Math Competition

GO BRUINS!

A Gazette Report

Burns Middle School was named grand champion at the Hillsborough County Math League competition in April at the Florida State Fair Grounds.

Burns teams won first place in the seventh and eighth grade team competi-

Eighth grade Burns stu-

dent Patrick Stauffer won the individuals competition.

Each Hillsborough County middle school sent a fourstudent team to compete

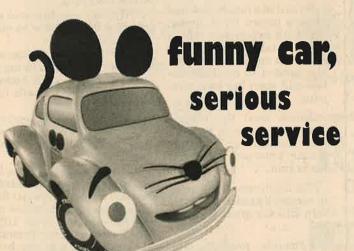
at sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels. The individual competition consisted of 25 multiple-choice items. Team scores were calculated using a combination of the four individual scores, plus the team competition score. Burns won the overall competition for having the highest overall score.

Bloomingdale Oaks Position Open

on the Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District board of trustees. As volunteer residents of Bloomingdale Oaks, trustees oversee and budget for the maintenance and improvement of the neighborhood's common

One or two seats are open areas (lighting, painting, landscaping, etc.) Each of Bloomingdale Oaks' 185 homeowners pays a maximum special tax assessment of \$80 per year. The board meets once a month on Cade Lane. Information: Bill Grace, 685-2817.

FREE HOME INSPECTION



Ant Control Specialist Termite Control Specialist

Solutions for all Types of Pests

Lawn and Ornamental Service

Free Inspection inside and outside

Money Back Guarantee"

1-800-GO-TRULY

www.trulynoien.com

off pest control

off termite service

Saturday & Evening Appointments

Please Ask for Tonia Clisso 684-5735 Bloomingdale

Brandon 813-684-5735

Lakeland 863-683-7378

Family owned and dedicated to customer satisfaction since 1938

**applies to selected services

r not valid with any other offer, requires a one year service agreement. Expires 6-2004

Recycle Computer Ink Cartridges At Community Office

A Gazette Report

Bloomingdale residents who wish to recycle their spent computer ink cartridges to benefit our neighborhood schools are invited to use the collection box in the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

The office is located at the rear of the SunTrust Bank/Citgo gas station just south of Bloomingdale Avenue, and is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

A recycling company will pay cash for most computer inkjet and laser jet carly used cartridges will 625-9450.

yield from \$1 to \$7 each.

Tina Pietrzyk, a Bloomingdale resident and representative of A Smart Choice of Florida recycling company, will collect the cartridges and issue checks to the following Bloomingdale area public schools: Alafia Elementary, Cimino Elementary, Burns Middle and Bloomingdale High.

Residents may indicate the school they wish to contribute to by placing the cartridge in a baggie and marking it with the school

If you have questions about the recycling protridges. The most common-gram, contact Pietrzyk at



Bloomingdale Business

Your Personal Gardener

COMPANY OFFERS MILITARY DISCOUNT

By LESLIE WHITE Correspondent

April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring tall grass and a bevy of unsightly weeds.

The notion of having "Your Personal Gardener" is more than a spring fantasy; it's a viable alternative to doing the work yourself.

Your Personal Gardener, a full landscape maintenance and installation business, has been taking care of Bloomingdale and greater Riverview yards for a year, but has 10 years' worth of experience backing its skills.

Owner Chelsea Edmonds began the business because of her love of plants and the outdoors.

Raised in a family that had always grown for a living, and with experience selling commercial equipment, Edmonds had the experience she needed to combine the two and start her own com-

Asked what the biggest lawn care issue is heading into the spring, Edmonds quickly answered, "Definitely the rain.

Too much causes the grass to become diseased. Too little rain kills the grass altogeth-

Edmonds predicts "the perfect year ahead for good lawns." The most common mistakes she observes do-it-

yourselfers make are cutting the grass too short, putting the wrong plants in the wrong places, and over or under watering.

Along with its wealth of lawn-care knowledge, Your Personal Gardener will maintain your yard, installing new sod, mulch, and landscaping, and will even pressure-wash your

"We do virtually anything that involves the exterior,' Edmonds said. The company is proud of the work they do, she said, adding, "We're not about trying to get in and get out as fast as we can. We want fewer customers so that we can provide them mor service. We're not one or those "mow, blow and go" type of companies."

That commitment to service is why Edmonds said she's chosen to limit her service to the Bloomingdale and Riverview areas.

"We stay concentrated to give the best service to our customers.'

Your Personal Gardener employs 5 people, sending a team of two to each home. unless a larger job calls for

Edmonds herself makes weekly visits to all the homes they service to assure a top quality job.

Your Personal Gardener is veteran owned and operated, and has a running special for all military and families of veterans, giving them 10% off all services, Your Personal Gardener can be reached by calling 477-9948 or by emailing Lainydog@earthlink.net.

Say you saw it in the The Bloomingdale Gazette

County Denies Centex Rezoning Request

RESIDENTS: ZONING DEPT. NEEDS SUPERVISION, LIAISON

By LAURA FRAZIER

A group of Bloomingdale area residents prevailed last month in their quest to head off a residential housing project proposed on John Moore Road south of Bloomingdale Avenue.

More than 100 residents living along John Moore Road, with the support of The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc., petitioned the county to deny the project based on incompatibility, density and traffic issues. Although a zoning hearing master and planning staff gave the project a green light, the county commission voted 5-2 to deny Centex Homes' request to build 125 homes on the 42-1/2 acre property, currently

See Centex, Page 20



Residents placed signs along John Moore Road asking neighbors to attend a county commission hearing last month By the afternoon on the day of the hearing, "We Won!" stickers were affixed to the signs.

7/23 FIXED RATE 4.25% APR 5.46

30 YEAR FIXED 5.50% APR 5.74

15 YEAR FIXED 4.75% APR 5.15

> 3/1 ARM 3.5% APR 5.46

NO CLOSING COST LOANS AVAILABLE! CALL FOR RATES

PURCHASE OR REFINANCE NOW BEFORE RATES RISE



Serving the Tampa Bay area Since 1989 **Lowest Fixed Rates in Florida**

Located at the entrance to River Hills Country Club

COUNTRYCLUB

4316 New River Hills Parkway • Valrico, Florida 33594

REDUCED PAPERWORK!

Call Tim Dunne at

A.P.R. based on \$150,000 loan amount. Rates and terms subject to change. Rates were current at printing date. Equal housing lender.

School Board Notebook

Bomb Threat Culprit Apprehended

19 STUDENTS KNEW **ABOUT CRIMES**

By JENNIFER FALIERO illsborough County School District District IV Representative

Many of you have asked, "What is the school district doing to catch the criminals who call in school bomb threats? Isn't there anything you can do to stop it?" Our district experienced a series of bogus countywide and school-specific threats last month, even as our country went to war. This has become a serious situation that is stressful, disruptive and potentially dangerous for our children and staff members.

In April, a 16-year-old Brandon area high school student was arrested for calling in the most recent spate

America's #1 Kitchen

Renovation

Company!

of countywide bomb threats. charged?" In some cases, oth-Of the 52 bomb threats made this year, this one student was responsible for 11 of them. When asked by law enforcement officials why he made the threats, the student replied, "I wanted to be outside with my friends socializ-

The horrific thing is that 19 of his classmates knew this was going on, yet not one of them had the courage to break this code of silence and speak up.

If there is anything we have learned from this experience, it is that many of our students know who is responsible for committing these crimes. These students have a responsibility to report criminal activity. When I found out that 19 students knew who was calling in the threats, my first question was, "Are they all being

In-Home Estimates

(813) 681-1416

Call Today!

Materials & Installations

Completely Guaranteed

Licensed-Bonded-Insured

ers can be charged as an accessory to the crime. It is time to talk candidly

about this criminal activity and the corresponding consequences that follow.

You are probably wondering what is going to happen to the latest culprit and what he was charged with. First, let me tell you what he will not be doing. He will never go to a senior prom. He will not be going on any dates. He will never get to go to Cancun for spring break. He will never get a good job.

He will not get an education. He has been expelled by the school board for this year and next, meaning he cannot get a General Education Diploma, attend Adult Education or return to any form of school in Hillsborough County, ever.

This 16-year-old high school student is charged with a second-degree felony and 2,156 counts of disrupting a school function, also a felony. He will be fined \$10,000. He will spend up to 15 years in a maximum-security prison. He will definitely have time for socializing, and it will not be with friends.

The state attorney's office is prosecuting this juvenile as an adult to the maximum extent of the law. This is no prank.

You have asked what the district is doing. Now I am going to ask - what are you doing to encourage your children to turn in other students that are committing or bragging about committing a crime? Fifty percent of the bomb threats made to the district have come from high



school students. How will you encourage your teenagers to speak up?

Here are some ways you can encourage your child to speak up in an anonymous, safe, non-threatening man-A hotline called CrimeStoppers is manned 24 hours a day by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office It is a tip hotline. Anyone ca call CrimeStoppers anonymously and leave a tip. Calls to the tip line are not traced.

Thanks to CrimeStoppers, lives are being saved. Tips received from the hotline have foiled many ruses. It is encouraging to learn that 50 percent of anonymous tips received through CrimeStoppers have led to arrests.

The CrimeStoppers telephone number can be posted on telephones, refrigerators, computer monitors, bathroom mirrors, or any other visible place in the home. The number serves as a reminder to make what could be a life or death decision for someone. No one will ever know who placed the call. The CrimeStoppers tip line is 1-800-873-8477.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingdaleGazette.com

MacDill Clinic Cares For Those Waiting At Home

By MACK AUSTIN

Thousands of military men and women are currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and other operations throughout the world.

This means thousands of family members are waiting and continuing to live their lives as best they can at home in communities like ours.

One of their critical needs that must be met is that of medical care. Injuries and illnesses do not stop.

Spouses and other family members left waiting need professional, quality care.

Military family members from Bloomingdale and surrounding areas are very for-

Just last year the new MacDill AFB Community Clinic -Brandon opened its

The clinic is conveniently located at 220 Grand Regency Blvd., adjacent to the Best Buy Plaza and across from Regency Square Theaters off Highway 60. It is just a few minutes from I-75 and I-4, and is a short drive from the Brandon, Valrico, Riverview, Lakeland and Sun City areas.

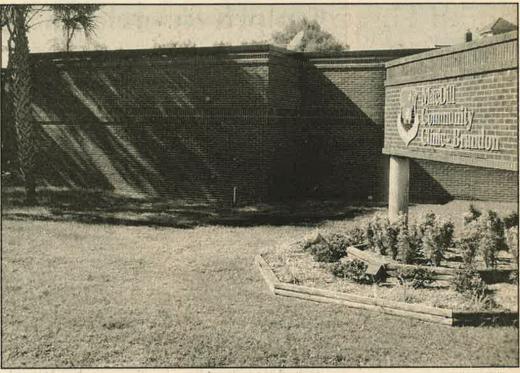
Professionals from MacDill's 6th Medical Group provide quality care at the

They are fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and are approved as "mission-ready" by the Air Force Health Services.

To those who are deployed, knowing that dedicated professionals are meeting your families' medical needs is a tremendous comfort.

The quality service that these medical professionals ve is very much appreciat-

clinic provides enrollees with outpatient option.



The MacDill AFB Community Clinic on Grand Regency Boulevard in Brandon provides health care to the families of military members deployed around the world

care including family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine and ancillary support services. These support services include laboratory, radiology and some pharmacy.

Clinic enrollees also receive priority access to all inpatient and specialty services now available at MacDill.

Hospital and through the TRICARE civilian network.

Enrollment is simple and must be done in person at the

The process includes completion of enrollment paperwork, assignment of a Primary Care Manager (PCM), and receipt of a letter that includes the PCM's name and other information on accessing care.

Care is available for patients Monday through Friday from 0830 to 1730

For more information, call 828-2273 or 495-7120 and select the MacDill AFB Community Clinic-Brandon



710 E Reynolds St. Ste A Plant City, (813)754-7799

6329 US HWY 301 South Riverview, (813)677-7733

Offer expires May 30, 2003, or while supplies last. Two I30xx for \$20 offer requires activation and one-year service agreemenhote and credit approach. \$200 early remnastion fee applies. \$35 set-up fee, capped at \$70 per account. Does not lock applicable sales tax. Offer may not be available in all markets. In-store punchases require two forms of valid identification. Proceedings. \$2003 Nested Communications, loc. All rights reserved. Nestel, the Nestel logo, briest Connect and Nestel, Direct Connect are trademarks and/or service marks of Nestel Communications, loc. MOTOROIA and the Sylized M Logo are registered in the U.S. Retent & Endemark California. Mother product names and services are the property of their respective of the services.



Community Council Update

By MACK AUSTIN

Bloomingdale Area Community Council, or BACC, volunteers meet monthly with local law enforcement and county departments to research and resolve neighborhood issues and concerns. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the community station. For information, call Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer or Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano at 635-8040.

The council addressed the following items at its April 2003 meeting:

New Council Member

The BACC welcomed new member Mike Sessa, who lives in The Greens section of Bloomingdale.

Traffic Calming

• Crowns & Bridges

Non-Surgical Gum Treatment

& Family Dentistry

Practicing Fine Cosmetic

• Dental Implants

We have plenty of ways...

...to put a smile on your face.

1457 QAKFIELD DRIVE . BRANDON

www.drbrantwade.com

Council Needs Input, Reps

The BACC needs more input from residents and more representation from homeowners' associations and neighborhood sections. For information, visit the Bloomingdale Community Station on Bell Shoals Road, open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call Deputy Pete Maurer at 635-8040.

measures to improve safety and decrease speeding in neighborhoods.

Hillsborough County has a special traffic-calming program through which residents work directly with them to improve safety. A variety of measures are used including speed bumps.

Maurer noted that there is a three to five year minimum on the use of speed bumps and they do not guarantee that speeding will be stopped. Deputy Maurer discussed One such project is in

Most Procedures Completed In Office

Extended Payment Plans Available

CALL TODAY

• Insurance Filed For You

VISA / MASTERCARD

the use of traffic calming progress in the Hickory Ridge section of Blooming-

Rezoning Denied

John Moore Rd. resident Gary Johanboeke shared the good news that after a very long battle a request by developers to build homes at the intersection of John Moore Road and Bloomingdale Avenue has been stopped.

He did note, however, that the developer does have other options to pursue (see related story in this issue).

Dog Park Status

Deputy Maurer noted that coordination is in progress to acquire access to the land behind Parks Maintenance Unit II on Natures Way where the Dog Park would be located.

He also suggested that a Park Deputy for this area would significantly improve security.

Mobile Watch

Council member Joe Liguori stated that the BHA is reorganizing Mobile Watch designated areas.

Each area would have its own association for deed restrictions and its own Mobile Watch program. Residents volunteering and working in the program would patrol their own neighbor-

Crime Watch

Deputy Maurer updated members on recent criminal mischief in the Bloomingdale community, among them car windows being destroyed and car burglaries.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's detectives made significant progress on these crimes and some will possibly be upgraded to felonies. Maurer said, "Assistance from residents has been outstanding and will greatly assist in solving these crimes."

He reminded members that the BHA offers a \$500 reward for assistance in solving vandalism cases in our community.

Support Our Troops

Joe Liguori briefed members on a special show of sup port project the BHA is spon soring to purchase and install large yellow ribbons throughout the Bloomingdale area.

Intersection Traffic

The council discussed the status of intersections throughout the area requiring special attention due to increased traffic, among them Lithia-Pinecrest Road at Fish Hawk Blvd; Erindale Drive at Lithia-Pinecrest Road; Lithia-Pinecrest Road at Bloomingdale Avenue and Dumont Drive at River Crossings.

No Parking

Deputy Maurer noted that Parking Deputies, who normally patrol only shopping centers for traffic violations, are now authorized to patrol areas such as the YMCA and possibly school "No Parking"

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



Swing away, batter!

Teamwork, fun, exercise and good times are what Little League baseball is all about. The Bloomingdale Little League Season is moving on. Stop by and enjoy a great game today.

Academy

white-collar crimes.

Outside activities include tours of county jails and a full day of activities at the Sheriff's firing range including one on one contact and instruction from members of the Sheriff's Aviation Unit, Crisis Management team (CMT), Canine Unit, Mounted Unit, Marine/Dive Unit, Explosives Unit and Emergency Response Team.

Graduates of the Citizens' Academy gain a deeper respect for and understanding of the men and women in law enforcement. They also have a special appreciation or the complexity of the heriff's Office, especially in these critical days where homeland security has taken on a new meaning. Through personal contact and experi-

ences with the deputies, graduates are much more aware of the daily challenges and dangers faced by our deputies.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of this important community involvement program and helping make Hillsborough County a safer and better place to live should attend the Citizens' Academy. Applicants must be 19 years of age and must sign an indemnity release.

Applications are submitted and a committee selects potential candidates. Background inquiries are comleted, and class sizes are

For information call the Sheriff's Community Relations Section at 247-8115.

Commissioner's Corner

Happy Mother's Day

By COUNTY COMMISSIONER **RONDA STORMS**

During this time of reflection on our mothers in this month of May, I am reminded of an old song:

- M is for the many things she gave me
- means only that she is growing old
- is for the tears she shed for me
- H is for her heart of purest gold
- is for her eyes with love light shining
- is right and right she will always be

Put them all together they spell mother - the word that means the world to me.

As we celebrate the sacrifices and contributions of our



mothers, I want to personally thank the mothers of our community for their continued sacrifice to our families and to others in our community. You are a vital part of the successes of our children and are to be congratulated, especially at such a time as this, when so many mothers in our community have their military sons and daughters in harm's way.

To all those who have the privilege and title of Mother have a happy, happy and loving Mother's Day!

Cut Your Monthly Payments...

No Out of Pocket Fees • Free Appraisal

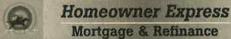


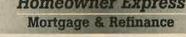
\$15,000 \$25,000 \$50,000 \$100,000 \$200.000

Payment \$74 \$123 \$246 \$492 \$863

1st & 2nd Mortgages consilidation Loans • Home Improvement Loans Refinance Loans • Loans up to 125%

The Bay Area's #1 Choice For Difficult Loans! **Slow Credit OK!** We ♥ To Say Yes!!





Approval Hotline: 813.661.5900

www.HomeownerExpress.com

Clean

Senior High School English teacher, Storms said she's always had a soft spot for the Bloomingdale community and was glad to help.

"If we could have this type of (clean up event) all over the county, it would really make a difference by discouraging people from littering," she said.

Storms found plenty of beer bottles and candy wrappers, but counted discarded cigarette butts as her number one find.

"Not that I'm anti-smoker," Storms said, "But here's news for smokers who toss their butts out of their cars cigarettes are not biodegradable. Please put a soda can or something in your car to extinguish them," she suggested.

Sue and Keith Waltzer joined neighbors Linda Gordon and son Ian to clean up streets and front yards along Bloomingfield Road and Canoga Park Drive.

than just candy wrappers and cigarette butts on their walk. Waltzer pointed out a house at the corner of Bloomingfield and Canoga Park she said has been vacant for some time.

water and a broken privacy om.

fence at the home are serious safety concerns.

The fence surrounding the backyard pool is knocked down in a couple of sections, and there is a pool on the other side of that fence.'

Since dozens of school children ride and bike past the vacant house every day, Waltzer said she planned to call the county codes office to alert officials about the potentially dangerous condi-

While about 75 volunteers scattered throughout the community to pick up litter, a steady stream of cars lined up at the parks maintenance facility on Natures Way to unload old tires, appliances and furniture. With the help of resident volunteers. Liberty Waste, and parks department staff, Grable said there appeared to be a lot of happy women in Bloomingdale Sat-

"We've had quite a few guys reluctantly unloading The group noticed more old lawnmowers and some pretty unsightly junk, while their wives sat in the car yelling out to us, "Thank you!"

For information about Bloomingdale or the next PRIDE committee clean up Old trashcans filled with day, call 681-2051 or visit filthy mosquito-breeding www.BloomingdaleGazette.c

Madison Bunn of Oakcrest helped clean up Bloomingdale West Park, where she said she found, "Lots of yucky bottle caps, yucky cigarettes, candy wrap-



Young Bloomingdale resident Ryan Kehrmeyer joined County Commissioner Ronda Storms to clean up Springvale Road.

"The purpose of the (PRIDE) program is to renew the pride in home ownership and community by cleaning up and improving our homes, yards and streets...It's about protecting our investments in our homes and in our community."

> **CHERYL KEHRMEYER** PRIDE Program Coordinator

> > See More

Photos.

Page 14



be Hickle, vice president of the homeowners association, performed some hands-on community service unloading household junk at the rks maintenance facility on Natures Way.



Donna Clouse, Bloomingdale rec center director, did her part by trimming trees around the county park on Canoga Park Drive.

A Special Program for Women

Edward Jones is delighted to welcome Mrs. Fields Cookies founder. Debbi Fields, for a conversation on how planning, persistence and a positive outlook allowed her to take charge of life as mother, wife and successful businesswoman. In addition to Mrs. Fields' inspirational story, you'll learn how to address the unique financial challenges many women

To reserve your seat or for more information on this free one-hour event, please call or stop by. If you are unable to attend this special video presentation, please contact our office for other viewing options.

Tuesday, May 13, 2003 • 11:30am & 6:30pm

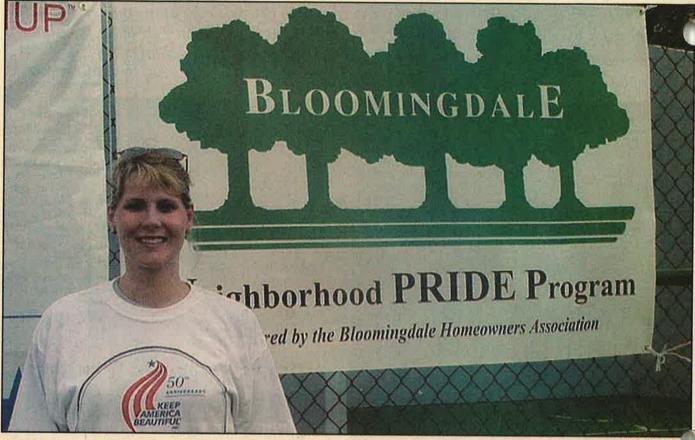


Dan Sammons, CLU (Next to "Car Wash on The Greens") 3616 Erindale Drive Serving Brandon, Bloomingdale & Bus: 813-681-1462

Edward Jones

Say you saw it in the The Bloomingdale Gazette





LAURA FRAZIER/Pho

Cheryl Kehrmeyer, PRIDE organizer, greeted cleanup volunteers last Saturday at the county park on Natures Way. "We had a great turnout," she said.





Above, Joe Liguori, executive director of the Gazette and Bloom ingdale Area Community Council member, and Tony Diolosa, Bloomingdale Mobile Watch coordinator, volunteered to pick up and dispose of an old TV one longtime resident was unable to lift. At left, homeowners association volunteers helped parks department worker Clayton Weaver load up and haul away a variety of old furniture, appliances and other cast-offs.

Campo Family YMCA News

By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

The Campo Family YMCA has a fun-filled and busy summer planned with themed, sports and specialty programs for kids and teens. There are activities for everyone, including rock-climbing, arts and crafts, field trips, drama, swimming, Leaders In Training and Teen Adventure Quest.

ture Quest.

The YMCA created its day program with one simple goal in mind: to create positive experiences and lasting memories for participating children. In order to achieve its goal, the Y is committed to providing a safe and challenging camp environment.

The organization wants to

develop varied friendships, creative self-expression, sportsmanship skills, respect for others and group interaction.

Just a few of the programs and classes offered are as follows. The Campo Family YMCA is at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road. For a complete schedule of activities and events, or for more information, call 684-1371 or visit www.tampaymca.org/campohome

Teen Summer Programs (Ages 13-17)

The YMCA provides two summer programs for teens, Leaders In Training (LIT) and Extreme Quest Teen Adventure Camps. LIT is a program designed to prepare teen to become future camp counselors, by allowing them to work closely with current counselors and campers. LIT activities include CPR and irst Aid training and struction on preparing a daily lesson plan. Interested teens must be facility members and a required to fill out an application.

The Quest Adventure Camp is a nine-week program that gives teens opportunities to focus on themselves and their challenges while learning reality, respect and responsibility. For more information, contact Mindy Allegretti, teen and youth fitness director, at 684-1371.

Okinawan Goju Karate

This group meets every Wednesday morning from 5:15 to 6 for a month. The cost for facility members is \$10 and for program members is \$25.

Swing Dance

Registration for the first six-week session will be June 5-10, with registration opening May 1. Classes are on Thursdays from 8-9 p.m. at \$5 per class for both facility and program members. Couples registering together receive half off the second registration.

Bunko For Backpacks

The YMCA is sponsoring a Group Bunko Game on May 6, 7 p.m., at the Brandon YMCA on Kingsway Avenue. The cost is \$10 per person and proceeds will go toward the purchase of backpacks and school supplies for less fortunate children in the community. Tickets are available at the front desk of the Campo facility, or by calling Jenny Roberts at 684-1371.

Youth Volleyball League

Boys and girls ages 9-12 can register for the YMCA's new summer volleyball league until May 18. This is an indoor instructional league to familiarize children with fundamental skills, volleyball rules and sportsmanship. Fees are \$45 for facility members and \$65 for program members, and includes team t-shirts and trophies. For more information contact Damon Dye at 684-1371.

Newcomers Meeting Scheduled For May 21

TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR TO SPEAK

A Gazette Report

The May meeting of the Brandon Newcomers Club will be held Wednesday, May 21 at Center Place.

The speaker will be Mr. Tom Thomson. Thomson is the Division Director of Transportation for the Hillsborough County Planning & Growth Management Department.

He has held the position for 4 1/2 years and has many years of experience in the transportation planning field.

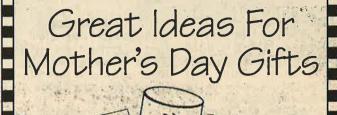
Thompson will present an overview of transportation projects and planning in the Brandon area.

He will also allocate time at the end of his presentation to answer questions. Visitors are welcome.

For information, call Emma Jean Smith at 689-3159.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingdaleGazette.com





Dads - make a date with your kids and create a gift that's art from the heart.

Call us for information on Summer Camps

The Pottery Patch

A paint your own pottery studio 2551 SR 60 E. • 643-0014 (60 & Miller Rd.) Valrico Tues-Thurs 10-8 Fri-Sat 10-9 Sun 12:30-5pm

Bloomingdale Property Manager's Report

By AL DEVNEY

Al Devney, Bloomingdale Property Manager and president of Devney Property Management, Inc., can be reached at 684-6667. Excerpts of the latest monthly Property Manager's Report are as follows.

Irrigation

Brandon Irrigation repaired an electrical problem and broken zone line in the Erindale system. Thunder Irrigation replaced a defective valve in the Golf Manor system. During the monthly maintenance inspection, 3 rotors, 22 light bulbs and 32 spray heads were replaced, and a zone line and 5 risers were repaired. DPMI reprogrammed the timers for the Natures Way and Rosemead systems that had reverted back to manufacturer's settings (see related story in this issue).

Walls and Signs

J.D.B. Construction Co. replaced 70 feet of wall on Bell Shoals Road. United Painting Services completed the cleaning, sealing and painting of the walls on the west side of Bell Shoals Road. Signs by Mineo repainted the entrance signs at the Elba. Elton and Groveway Springvale.

Power Surge?

CHECK YOUR SPRINKLER TIMER!

A Gazette Report

If you have an automated lawn sprinkler and notice your digital clock or VCR blinking, you may want to check your irrigation timer. When an electrical disruption occurs, the timer could revert back to the manufacturer's setting. You might not notice the change... until the Hillsborough County water police give you an expensive citation for watering illegally. The judge that hears these cases does not accept an electrical interruption. regardless of cause, as an

entrances. DPMI painted 6

sections of wall on Natures

Way and Culbreath, painted

the damaged wall on Spring-

Landscaping
Planscape installed 4

Crepe Myrtle trees at the

River Crossing and Oak

River entrances, and added

new landscaping at the All-

destroyed landscaping on

DPMI replaced the

excuse to relieve you of the

Watering restrictions are as follows. Addresses ending in the number 0 or 1 may water on Mondays, those ending in 2 or 3 on Tuesdays, 4 or 5 on Wednesdays, 5 or 7 on Thursdays, 8 and 9 or no address may water on Fri-

Water each zone once prior to 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. No private home watering is permitted over the weekend. For more information, visit hillsboroughcounty.org/waterdept or call 272-6680

Sidewalks

The sidewalk program on Canoga Park continues to move very slowly.

The approval to replace 300+ feet on Canoga Park is long past due. Additionally, 627 linear feet of wall will need to be painted due to dirt and concrete the contractor splashed on them.

The wall will also need to be repaired in two places because of contractor dam-

Entryways

Russell Electric replaced two defective light fixtures at the Pine Grove entrance, repaired a severed line at the Garnet entrance, and solved an electrical problem at the Rosemead entrance.

Handy Hands pressure washed the Preston Woods entrance. Hillsborough County removed a dead oak tree at John Moore and Bloomingfield. DPMI met with Russell Electric to survey the Warmsprings and Springvale entrances for possible lighting, replaced a stolen trash can on Natures Way; and met with Jerry Taylor, of the Hillsborough County Engineering Review Board, to discuss the Culbreath and Bloomingdale entrance.

Eat, Drink and Pitch out the Window

In the land of Eat, Drinkand Pitch out the Window Mr. Devney picked up 18 bags of litter, two tires, a sheet, a glove, a hubcap, 2 socks, 3 towels, a Uniden digital 900mhZ cordless phone and a Uniden 2.4 ghZ digital cordless phone, both fully operational.

The beverages of choice were Diet Coke for soft drinks, Budweiser for beer, and Seagram's Extra Smooth Vodka for distilled spirits.

The War On Stress

By GREG BANNING Special to The Gazette

The day-to-day life of most Americans can be very stressful. Cell phones, work, kids, finances and a whole array of other outside factors can contribute to our daily stress levels. Add war to the list and you have the perfect formula for continuous stress.

Continuous stress can lead to anxiety, and anxiety can lead to clinical depression. In addition, prolonged stress, left unchecked, can lead to major health issues including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, migraine headaches and weight gain. Of course weight gain can lead to even more serious health risks including premature death.

Our country is at war, and many of our loved ones and people we know are half way ound the world fulfilling meir duties as soldiers. Every person in some way is affected by the world events unfolding, and it is not an easy time. Below are some tips on combating stress and winning the war on anxiety.

Exercise

It is important to your ongoing health to have a regular exercise routine, but during high stress times, exercise is even more important. The body does not process and break down fat properly when it is stressed. Making sure to work out 3 - 5 times a week for at least 30minutes each time where you increase your heart rate is critical to controlling stress. A combined program requiring weight training and cardio work is best for increasing serotonin levels (help with anxiety and depression) and keeping the body running efficiently.

Eat Right

When we are stressed our immune system is negatively affected and we need to make sure we are supporting our



Greg Banning

body with proper nutrition. During times of stress it is important to limit your fast food intake, along with limiting caffeine and products with high sugar content. Caffeine and sugar only elevate your level of stress and agitate your body's ability to function properly. Increase your level of vitamin C during stressful times and make sure to take in plenty of water and protein.

Take a Break

Whether you are a fulltime mom, construction worker, student, or corporate executive, taking frequent, 5-10 minute breaks throughout the day can make all the difference in controlling your stress levels. Make it a point to just get up and get away from your daily work and tasks for 5-10 minutes. Clear your mind and take long, deep, controlled breaths.

Meditate

Most people think of meditation as a form of eastern religion, when in fact meditation is simply healthy exercise for the mind. Most people have a hard time focusing when they are stressed. This lack of focus typically only adds to our stress levels. Taking 15 minutes a day to sit quietly and meditate helps to focus the mind and relax the body. Pick a time of day that

See Stress, Page 18

LaLeche League Meets AM, PM

A Gazette Report

LaLeche League, a nonsectarian mothers' group discussion of parenting & breastfeeding with accredited leaders on hand and on call, has two divisions that meet monthly both mornings and evenings. Babies and dads welcome to attend.

The evening group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 7-9 p.m. at the community room of Morris Chiropractic Center, 207 Kingsway Road in Bran-

don. The next meeting of the evening group is May 14, 2003.

The morning group meets the third Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. noon in the family life center of St. Andrews Church, 3315 Bryan Road in Brandon. The next meeting of the morning group is May 21, 2003. Information: 932-

The next meeting is May 21, 2003. For more information on either group, call

LETTERS? COMMENTS? **OUESTIONS?**

E-mail: Letters@BloomingdaleGazette.com

Is your Spring Cleaning done?

We Pressure wash your:

Roofs, Driveways, Patios, Pool Decks, Porches, Walkways, Homes and more.

Residential & Commercial **Painting Services**

Interior, Exterior, Faux Finishing & Custom Colors

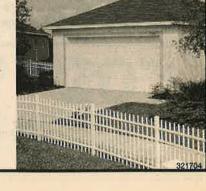
We have you covered. Call for a free estimate



651-0608

Locally owned & Operated References available





University Women News

wood entrance.

A Gazette Report

The Brandon Branch of the American Association of University Women will culminate its 2002 - 03 year with a dinner at Stacey's Homestyle Buffet, 790 West Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in Seffner, on Tuesday, May 20 at 6:00

The Branch will also install newly elected offi-

group will meet at home Savings Bond. of Barbara Reed on Tuesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. to discuss Sophie and the Rising Sun by Augusta Trobaugh.

On May 10, the branch will hold their 10th annual Girls Can! awards to recognize Brandon area eighth and twelfth grade girls who have excelled in math ship. and science.

The Book Discussion receive a United States Mary Ann, 681-4502.

Membership in AAUW is open to those who have a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Under the Association's "Give a Grad a Gift Program," recent college graduates can receive a free Member at Large member-

For information call Each honoree will Arliene, 689-8457 or

Bingo Is Back At St. Stephen

A Gazette Report

After a break in April, the St. Stephen Parent-Teacher-Community Organization is resuming its monthly Bingo Night, open to the public. The next Bingo Night is set for May 14 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 for 20 games, with a possible jackpot of \$225, plus door prizes and refreshments including grilled hot dogs and pizza. The evening features ar experienced caller and professions bingo equipment. All proceeds go towards purchasing computer equipment and other items for the school. Information: 689-4900.

Restaurant Review

Elton Chows At His First Chinese Chain

P. F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO

By ELTON DUMONT Exclusive to the Gazette

P. F. Chang's China Bistro, at Westshore Mall in Tampa, is one of almost 90 company owned restaurants that fan across America. Chang's was my first introduction to a Chinese chain restaurant. I guess we've all seen and experienced our share of BBQ chains, seafood, burger, steak, breakfast and fast food chains, but Chinese? What an idea!

Our group of five stopped in on a recent Wednesday night with "call ahead reservations" (they try to seat you within 30 minutes of your request, but it's not a guaranteed reservation).

The decor is distinctively Oriental. According to their brochure, the murals depicting scenes of 12th century China have become symbols

of P.F. Chang's. The terra and vinegar. Also offered was a bit slow and inattensaid to be replicas of warrior effigies unearthed from the tomb of China's first emper-

Most of the food is prepared in Mandarin style woks, and the sauces are not the typical soy sauce packets found in other Oriental restaurants.

The menu is large and varied. Appetizers include Crab Wonton with spicy plum sauce, Shrimp Dumplings with ginger chili pepper soy sauce, and Harvest Spring Rolls, which we ordered. The rolls were crispy and filled with shredded vegetables. The appearance was plain and unimaginative, but they were tasty nevertheless.

The wonton soup had three types of dumplings; mushroom, pork and shrimp. The Hot and Sour soup was prepared with chicken, bean curds, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, white pepper sauce

cotta statues on display are were Warm Duck Spinach tive. Salad, and Peanut Chicken Salad.

> It got really interesting when we chose our entrees. 1 selected the Shrimp with Lobster Sauce (\$11.95) and my wife chose the Lo Mien Combo (\$10.95). Seafood selections include Chang's Lemon Scallops (\$11.95), Oolong Marinated Sea Bass (\$17.95), and the special, Steamed Mahi Mahi (\$13.95), which Eva selected.

House recommendations include Moo Goo Gai Pan (\$13.95), which Betty order. and the Crisp Battered Honey Shrimp (\$12.95) that Erica decided on.

Entrees are served with white and brown steamed rice. We all had positive comments about the main courses - the large amount and size of the lobster sauce shrimp. the tender chicken, and the flavor of the honey crusted batter. The service, however,

We took a pass on The Great Wall of Chocolate, a six-layer cake with frosting and semi sweet chocolate chips in a raspberry sauce. We did, however, indulge in a Banana Spring Roll - warm, crispy bites of coconut pineapple ice cream drizzled with caramel and vanilla sauce.

Our total bill, not including gratuity, with two wonderful Margaritas and three soft drinks, was \$99.02, which we thought was reasonable for the amount and quality of the

Rating Based On 5 Stars

**** Food

Service ***

Ambience ★★★

Overall ***

Stress

you set aside just for you to practice your meditation.

There are plenty of books that can help you with basic meditation techniques check one out.

Keep it Simple

Don't sweat the small stuff. Now, more than ever we need to be conscious of what we can and cannot control. Do not be consumed with those things, people and events that you cannot control. Take a moment when

"As my grandma used to say, "Let go and let God."

GREG BANNING Certified Personal Trainer

you feel yourself getting upset to ask; "Is this really worth getting stressed over?" Typically those things out of our control have a way of working themselves out.

If we just sit back and learn to be patient we would

reduce our stress significantly. As my grandma used to say; "Let go and let God." Regardless of your religious beliefs, sometimes it is best to just let go. Stop trying to control everything, and let nature take its course.

Communicate

Finally, find a friend or trusted person that you can share your fears, troubles and anxiety. Most of the time you will find that you are not alone with your thoughts and

feelings, and that many people share your same concerns. Talking about your problems and stress somehow takes away their power and gives you a great sense of

The world is changing in a big way and change is stressful. Don't become one more victim of stress - fight back, the healthy way!

Greg Banning is a Certified Personal Trainer, Nutrition Specialist, and owner of Kaprice for Women on Bloomingdale Avenue.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



Need For Speed?

An increase of speeding on Bloom Hill and Hardwood Avenue was recently reported to deputies at the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station. All deputies have been advised on these speeding violations. Residents should report speeding immedi-

MACK AUSTIN/Photo

School **Awards** Terrific Kids

A Gazette Report

Terrific Kids at St. Stephen Catholic School for March are:

Preschool - 3-year-olds Pavne

Kindergarten: Jimmy Big-

Grade one: Luis Gonzalez Grade two: Erin Hanson

Grade three: Kieran

Grade four: Nicole Arnts Grade five: Natalia Meza

Grade six: Kelson Boje

LETTERS?

COMMENTS?

Kollin Boje and Addison Diaz, 4-year-old Caroline

QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@ BloomingdaleGazette.com

Bioomingdale 3513 Bell Shoals Rd, 654-9292

Bioomingdale 4344 Bell Shoals, 689-9176

Bloomingdale 815 E. Bloomingdale, 681-8700

Bloomingdale 3248 Lithia-Pinecrest, 654-8113

Brandon 717 W. Lumsden, 654-9541

• Brandon 913 W. Brandon Blvd, 684-4499

Brandon 11393 Causeway Blvd, 643-6944

N. Brandon 213 Kingsway Ave, 653-4535

SHIRTS LAUNDERED /alid on Incoming Orders Only - With \$5.00 Minimum Dry Cleaning Order, No exceptions, Limit 10. Blouses, Polo & Boxed Shirts extra COUPON EXPIRES 6/1/03

ANY DRYCLEANING **ORDER OVER \$15**

Valid on Incoming Orders Only - No exceptions Valid only w/ coupon, not valid w/ other coupon **COUPON EXPIRES 6/1/03**

Lithia 16739 FishHawk Blvd, 654-7991

 Plant City 2621 Thonotosassa Rd, 752-6631 Providence 1983 Lumsden Rd. 654-4423

• Riverview 11697 Boyette Rd, 672-1832

Seffner 1515 S. Parson Ave., 684-5897

• Valrico 1985 E. Brandon Blvd, 654-2324

• Valrico 2511 SR 60 E. 643-4825

Apollo Beach 220 Apollo Beach Blvd, 645-1499

ORDER OVER \$25

/alld on Incoming Orders Only - No exceptions **COUPON EXPIRES 6/1/03**

Valid on Incoming Orders Only - No exceptions.
Valid only w/ coupon, not valid w/ other coupons COUPON EXPIRES 6/1/03

Bloomingdale Substation Notes

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER and OFFICER SANDY CAPITANO

The Bloomingdale Community Substation, at 4342 Bell Shoals Road, near Beef O'Brady's restaurant in the Village Center Plaza, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Information: 635-8040. For immediate assistance, call the Sheriff's Dept. at 247-8200 or 911 for emergencies.

Monitoring Trucks

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Transportation are working together to closely monitor truck traffic on Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Bloomingdale Avenue. They will be spotchecking trucks for obeying speed limits and complying with legal weight limits. The goal of our community and local law enforcement is for the companies who own the trucks, the drivers who drive the trucks and those of us who live and work in our community to coexist peacefully and safely.

Speeders - Look Up

Drivers who feel like they just have to speed have someone else who is very interested in their illegal driving habits. The Hillsborough Sheriff's Office is effectively



The constant flow of truck traffic on Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Bloomingdale Avenue creates a serious potential for ac-

utilizing their new helicopter minimum. The major factor by having their pilots work as a team with deputies on roads throughout our community. Through a wellorganized monitoring system, the pilots are able to track the speed of vehicles and alert deputies on the ground to those who speed. It is a very good idea to slow down. Speeding is also very expensive.

New Traffic Signal

After many months of waiting the new traffic signal on the East Side of Bloomingdale High School is finally in full operation. Coupled with the other warning signs and signals in this area, hopefully accidents will be kept to a

in making this possible is for drivers to simply slow down in this school zone. Fines are extremely high, traffic is very congested and the potential for accidents is very high, so slow down in school zones it's the law!

Bomb Threats - Zero Tolerance

Every student needs every moment they can get in class. Some students need even more time. Time wasted on unnecessary evacuations of any school also harms others. Bomb threats are a very serious crime - a federal crime. Anyone with information on the sources of these illegal threats are asked to contact

either Crimestoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS or Student Crime Stoppers, located in every middle and high school. Rewards are paid and those providing information remain anonymous (see related story in this issue). This is no joking matter.

Cimino Traffic

We are always looking for ways to improve safety in and around our schools, especially traffic. A suggestion has been made to research the feasibility of having a 3-way stop at the intersection of Natures Way and Culbreath Road. In the meantime, please watch out carefully for children walking and biking in and around the school.

Centex

zoned for agricultural usage. The commission said the project did not fit in with surrounding neighborhoods due to density and lot size.

Residents placed signs along John Moore Road asking neighbors to attend the April 8 county commission hearing. About 50 turned out for the 9 a.m. meeting. By that afternoon, "We Won!" stickers were affixed to the

But Ana Shaffer, a Ridgecliff Drive resident and opposition organizer, said although the neighbors are ecstatic that commissioners denied the request, the road hearing was a major waste of time and tax dollars.

The rezoning process, she said, enables developers to present fuzzy data and biased studies to county staff. With no one in the system assigned to research and verify the developer's claims, county staff appears to accept the developer's claims at face value as professional evidence, and often considers claims submitted by residents as amateur testimony.

"There are no checks and balances in the process," Shaffer said.

Shaffer expressed particular concern about the vacanto the county commission cy of the assistant county administrator position, which would have direct supervisory responsibility for many county departments including planning and zon-

"As incredible as it may sound, there is no one directly charged with overseeing rezoning procedures. the planning and growth department," Shaffer said.

County Commissioner Ronda Storms said commissioners have repeatedly asked County Administrator Dan Kleman to fill the position, vacant since Jimmie Keel retired in 2000. "This position needs to be filled," Storms reiterated.

Bruce McClendon, the new

director of the planning and growth department, said part of the residents' allegations have merit.

He said the county is in the process of appointing an ombudsman to walk concerned residents through

The residents say they hope McClendon's new leadership, along with the appointment of an assistant county administrator and a zoning department liaison will begin to level the reze ing playing field between d izens and developers.

The group plans to take their concerns to county commissioners this month.

Online Energy Survey, Home Audits Offered

By ALAN DENHAM Special to the Gazette

At a time when people are perhaps looking closer than ever for new ways to save money, Tampa Electric Company offers a new, free feature that can help customers do just that, without ever leaving home.

The Online Home Energy Survey lets you use the Internet to find out how you can make your energy use more efficient.

There are literally countless ways to save money on your monthly electric bill.

The Online Home Energy

Survey is ideal for people who gy use, customized recomare serious about getting the most out of their home energy usage.

Simple to use and selfexplanatory, the survey takes about fifteen minutes to perform.

After entering some account information, customers complete an online questionnaire and receive a fully detailed report of their home's energy use and helpful recommendations within a matter of minutes.

The report, which can be downloaded and printed, will include easy-to-read charts and graphs about your enermendations on how to conserve electricity and reduce utility bills, and information on the current energy-efficiency and rebate programs offered by Tampa Electric.

Perhaps best of all, the survey is a convenient way customers can receive recommendations specific to their habits and home.

This, in turn, may help minimize energy consumption through simple changes in behavior or investments in efficiency improvements to your home and equipment.

The result is long-term savings.

Customers who want more customized recommendations and have the time can request a free home energy audit, in which a trained analyst will inspect their home to identify major energy use problems and recommend steps they can take to use energy more wisely.

It's just one of the ways Tampa Electric wants to help its customers to get the most out of their money, and their homes.

To complete the online home energy survey or to request a free home energy audit, log on to tampaelectric.com or call 228-4108.



The Brandon Vipers, first row, Sarah Verble, Cameron Clark, Samantha Duval, Coach Kenny, Mackenzie Clark and Christy Fallero; and second row, Megan Heyer, Lyssa Selden, Karissa Shillato, Hayley Faruqui, Ast. Coach Vicky, Teena Fehling, Deena Addeeb and Makayla Pryor.

Vipers Strike At District Championship

A Gazette Report

Congratulations to the Brandon Vipers! The underteam won the 2003 RSA District Championship. Dominating in the play-off tournament, they posted shutouts in all three games. The Vipers finished

the regular and post-season with a record of 17-3-1. Cocaptain Christy Faliero, who had 35 goals and 20 assists, led the offense.

The defense, led by co-captain Samantha Duval, posted 14 shutouts and allowed only 5 goals during the entire regular season.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

TEMPLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

INFANTS THRU 8TH GRADE

A BEKA Curriculum A Christian Based Curriculum

INCLUDING:

• Math • Science

· Reading

• History

· Certified Teacher

Arts & Crafts

 Trained Specialists in Computers

& Other Disciplines

• Small Classes

· One stop for parents with

· Loving child care professionals

Pre-school & Infant Care

 We specialize in children

6:30-6:00pm

infants thru

8th graders

 After school pick-up available

TEMPLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Home of Grace Baptist Church 2909 John Moore Road • Brandon, FL 33511 689-7190



Photo courtesy Nell Truitt

Group Plants Trees For Future Generations

Gordon Commee and Nell Truitt, members of the Brandon Area Genealogical and Historical Society, display one of four "Family Trees" the group dedicated at Dover Lake Park in March. The trees were planted in honor and memory of ancestral Americans who made the country a better place to live for their forebears. Group member Noreta Wells said, "We have hopes and expectations that these trees will grow strong, beautiful and useful for generations yet to come."

Blomsters Join Keller Williams

A Gazette Report

Karen and Richard Blomster recently joined Keller Williams Realty as Realtors, board members and business partners.

The Blomsters, Brandon residents, have worked as Realtors in the Brandon / East Tampa area for more

than 25 years.

The Blomsters holds the designations Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI), and Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR).

For information, call Keller Williams at 684-9500.

Driver Education Classes Offered

A Gazette Report

The School District of Hillsborough County Department of Adult and Community Education will offer a four week, fee-based driver education program beginning June 2 at the eight adult evening school sites listed below.

Interested students must pre-register at any of the eight sites 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday between April 7 and May 7. Classes will be held 2 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday at a cost of \$168 per student. Students must be at least 15 years old and hold a valid learner's permit prior to the start of class.

Courses will be taught by state certified driver education instructors, and will consist of six hours of behindthe-wheel training. This is a non-credit course, but those who complete the class and earn a passing grade on both the written and road tests can earn a waiver to obtain their operator's license from the Department of Motor Vehicles and be eligible for insurance discounts.

For information and registration contact the following sites:

• Brandon Adult School, 1101 Victoria St., Brandon, 744-8131

· Chamberlain Adult School, 9401 N. Boulevard, Tampa, 631-4500

• East Bay Adult School, 7710 Big Bend Road, Gibsonton, 672-5113

• Gaither Adult School, 16200 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa, 632-6823

• Jefferson Adult School, 4401 Cypress St., Tampa, 356-1288

• Leto Adult School, 4409 W. Sligh Ave., Tampa, 872-5300 ext. 217

• Plant City Adult School-One Raider Place, Placity, 707-7147

• Tampa Bay Technical Adult School, 6410 Orient Rd., Tampa, 744-8360 ext. 235

Kid's 'Flix' At Ybor This Summer

A Gazette Report

Centro Ybor and Muvico Theatres will hold the first annual Florida International Children's Film Festival this summer, scheduled for two weekends June 7 - 8 and again June 14 - 15.

"KidFlix" is dedicated to offering a diverse lineup of films from around the world, including animation, documentaries, feature films and student-made films.

Muvico will host the festival at its flagship location in the Centro Ybor. In addition to films, KidFlix will host special events such as the Opening Night Gala, a fundraiser to benefit the Film Foundation of Tampa Bay.

Visit the KidFlix website at www.kidflixflorida.com for more information about ticket sales, special events, and volunteer and sponsorship opportunities.

Say you saw it in the The Bloomingdale Gazette

Yard of the Month



LAURA FRAZIER/Pho

Bloomingdale Yard Of The Month Joe and Kelly Targonsk • 1206 Moondale Court • Chadd's Ford Congratulations!

Send nominations to: Letters@BloomingdaleGazette.com or Yard, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. Winners receive a \$25 Bloomingdale Wal–Mart gift certificate, courtesy of the comingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

Help Wanted!

A volunteer is needed to help select the Bloomingdale Yard of the Month.

Yard volunteers deliver the yard sign and gift certificate to winners once a month.

If you are able to help, please call Laura Frazier, 654-6281 or e-mail frazier1@tampabay.rr .com.

Career Center Open for Auto Repair

A Gazette Report

The Automotive Technology program at the South County Career Center is now accepting vehicles for the following services:

- Lube, Oil, Filter and Safety Inspection
- Minor Tune Ups
- Transmission Fluid and Filter Service
- Mount, Balance and Rotate Tires

- Minor Electrical
- Brake Service
- Repack Wheel Bearings (real wheel drive only)
- Computer Code Check
- Light Detailing

Service is by appointment only.

Prices will vary depending on vehicle.

For more information, contact James Rose or Reggie Wilkins at 233-3335.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingdaleGazette.com



Bloomingdale Gets Five-Star Service



with

RUSSELL

Five-St Service

Homes Recently Listed In Bloomingdale

| 1105 Briarpark Way | \$110,000 |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 730 Isleton Dr | \$149,900 |
| 1209 Lornewood Dr | \$178,500 |
| 1406 Buckner Rd | \$189,900 |
| 4307 Glendon Pl | \$284,900 |

Homes Recently Sold In Bloomingdale

| 621 Cedar Grove Dr | \$103,000 |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 4514 Preston Woods Dr | \$134,000 |
| 4807 Portobello Cr | \$174,900 |
| 4702 Portobello Cr | \$203,150 |
| 4323 Duncombe Dr | \$248,000 |



KELLER WILLIAMS

O F B R A N D O N 510 Vonderburg Dr, Suite 200, Brandon, FL 33511

684-9500 or 685-8545

Call Luana and discover the pleasure of five star service