



D'ANN WHITE/Photos

Ernie Underwood Sr., owner of Ernie's Backhoe Service in Thonotosassa, removes the old plants at Bloomingdale East's Greenhollow Lane entrance before demolishing the existing concrete planters and wall. Underwood also worked on the Garnet Drive entrance last year. Below, the entrance at Garnet Drive and Bell Shoals Road was redone last year. The other Bloomingdale entrances will look similar.

Greenhollow Entrance Gets New Look

By D'ANN WHITE
 Editor

Work is now under way to reconstruct the entrance to Bloomingdale East at Greenhollow Lane as part of a phased project to refurbish all of Bloomingdale's entranceways over the next six years.

see ENTRANCE, Page 23



In This Issue:

- Inside Connections, 4
- BACC Report, 6
- Meet Your Neighbors, 8
- Caldendar, 8
- Substation Notes, 9
- Yard of the Month, 10
- Property Manager, 11
- Class Notes, 17
- Computer Corner, 23

Featured Story:

Friends Group Supports New Library

see page 3

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Friends Meet To Support New Library

LIBRARY NAME SUGGESTED TO REFLECT AREA

By LINDA CHION KENNEY
Correspondent

While Brandon's second library is taking root on Bloomingdale Avenue for a planned December opening, a group of residents is forging ahead with plans to secure the new library's success.

Meeting last week at the Brandon Regional Library, a new Friends of the Library chapter installed officers and discussed preliminary plans for fundraising and supporting the long-awaited library for one of Hillsborough County's fastest-growing areas.

The first order of business is what to call the library, which in turn will give the friends chapter its name, as well. If the 10 members of the friends



LINDA CHION KENNEY/Photo

Members of the newly forming Friends of the Library branch for the new branch taking shape on Bloomingdale Avenue met last week at the Brandon Regional Library.

group meeting last week had their way, the new library would be called, "Bloomingdale Public Library," which in turn would give their group

the moniker, "Friends of the Bloomingdale Library."

That's the recommendation the group will forward to the policies and bylaws com-

mittee of the library advisory board for the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public

See FRIENDS, Page 22

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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
- Director — Billy Hightower
- Director — Jane Lee
- Director — Stanley Lee
- Director — Lydia Harrod

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

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



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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

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Valrico, FL 33594

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Communitywide Cleanup Slated For May 8

By STEVE HECKEL
BHA director

Our Bloomingdale PRIDE Program (People of Bloomingdale Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying our great community) is ready for this year's first semi-annual event Saturday, May 8. The communitywide cleanup offers residents a chance to clean up their yards and garages.

The BHA is also simultaneously sponsoring the cleanup of community common areas (parks and along main roads). Volunteers (individuals or groups) are needed to police these common areas and should contact the BHA at 681-2051 (or send e-mails to Bloomingdale.Homeowners@Verizon.net) with numbers of volunteers and any preferred cleanup sites. Volunteers will report to the Parks Department Maintenance Unit for trash bags, refreshments and T-shirts (while supplies last) and area assignments.

Where to take junk

On Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., you can deliver your unwanted junk to the Hillsborough County Parks Department Maintenance Unit II at 1626 Natures Way, just west of Alafia Elementary School. Follow the signs.

PRIDE Meeting Scheduled

The monthly Bloomingdale PRIDE meeting will take place Monday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Office on Bell Shoals Road behind the Citgo service station.

This month's meeting will concentrate on residents from sections A1 to A4 and B1 to B2. This includes all residents living on Casaba Loop, Greenstone Place, Greenhook Place, Orange Point Road, Orange Crest Street, Greenford Street, Sand Pebble Drive, Eastridge Drive, Orangefield Place, Greenmark Lane, Briarlake Drive, and Highgrove Court.

Items to be discussed the formation of Neighborhood PRIDE teams; county standards and deed restrictions; and the naming of neighborhoods.

What will be accepted

Old refrigerators, ovens, water heaters, televisions, steel and other metals, old

PRIDE Tip:

Do something nice for mom: clean up the yard and garage and get rid of all that trash and junk before Mother's Day.

furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses), construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials) and tires. Due to limited container space, the BHA reserves the right to limit the number of loads it will accept from one location or vehicle.

What we cannot accept

Any items normally picked up at the curb by Hillsborough County (household

trash and yard waste), solid waste from commercial activity or hazardous waste such as paint, household chemicals, batteries and propane tanks.

Although you WILL NOT be able to bring hazardous waste to the Bloomingdale cleanup site May 8, you can obtain dates and locations for turning in these items on the Hillsborough County Web site at www.hillsborough-county.org/solidwaste/chemical.html.

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- **Seffner** 1515 N. 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

BHA Board Message

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Board of Directors ask the community to join them in sending their positive thoughts and prayers to Pam

Liguori, BHA secretary.

The longtime community leader, better known to hundreds of Bloomingdale children as Mrs. Claus, was recently hospitalized and is now at home recovering.

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Bloomingtondale Area Community Council Report

By MACK AUSTIN
Correspondent

The Bloomingtondale Area Community Council is made up of concerned residents from homeowners associations and neighborhoods in the community. They work directly with Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer, Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano and other government representatives to coordinate plans and actions on community issues and concerns that will improve the quality of life in the community.

The BACC meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office Community Substation to discuss current issues that have been brought to the attention of council members, Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer or Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano. The meetings are open to residents.

The following was discussed:

Traffic safety

Special "white lights" have been installed on the traffic signals at the intersection of like Bell Shoals Road and Bloomingtondale Avenue to catch drivers running red lights.

Alafia Elementary School is still experiencing problems with parents dropping off and picking up students in the parking lot of the Parks Maintenance Unit, creating a safety concern for children.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

The BACC is monitoring the intersection of Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Bloomingtondale Avenue where development is continuing with the construction of a Walgreens drug store.

Residents from several neighborhoods are working with the county's Traffic Calming Program to remedy speeding in their neighborhoods.

The Bloomingtondale Little League, the Campo Family YMCA and Hillsborough County are working together to build an enhanced crosswalk between the Little League and the YMCA.

Growth and construction

The BACC is monitoring the rezoning of the property at the southwest corner of John Moore Road and Bloomingtondale

Avenue, proposed for a CVS Pharmacy, shops, offices and single-family homes.

The group also is monitoring the development of a village-type development east of Bloomingtondale High School and construction of a Walgreens at Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Bloomingtondale Avenue.

Security

The BACC discussed working with the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association on bring back a mobile watch program.

Tony Diolosa of the homeowners association is heading the effort to revive the mobile watch in which resident volunteers monitor crime in the area.

New lights for River Crossing to increase the neighborhood's security are expected

to be installed this month.

Maurer briefed council members on the success experienced by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office detectives in solving local property crimes. HCSO units have improved their procedures to solve these crimes, he said.

Safety

The BACC is awaiting word from the county's Public Works Traffic Engineering Division on when sidewalks will be constructed in front of Cimino Elementary School.

The BACC also discussed emergency routes and safety measures should a problem occur with the ammonia pipelines that run through the community.

Members also were notified that electric and gas scooters are illegal on public rights of way.

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BHA NIPs Deed Problems In the Bud

By STEVE HECKEL
BHA director

In April the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association instituted a revitalized Neighborhood Improvement Program for all of the neighborhoods that do not have mandatory homeowner associations.

The intent of the program is not to harass residents but simply to inform them of neighborhood standards that they may not be aware of and any potential problems that might exist. The purpose of the program is to keep our neighborhoods safe, neat,

clean and enjoyable for all of our residents.

To accomplish this, the BHA has contracted with an independent company (called Neighborhood Standards) to provide periodic surveys of neighborhoods for compliance with Hillsborough County building codes, zoning ordinances, and the specific neighborhood's deed restrictions.

Neighborhood Standards will provide fair, reasonable and consistent inspections of residences under the guidance and direction of the BHA Board of Directors.

Additionally, Neighbor-

hood Standards will survey the neighborhoods to identify maintenance problems, such as damaged street signs, graffiti, sidewalk trip hazards, pot holes, nonfunctional street lights, broken sprinklers in common areas, and will report them to the appropriate agency for action.

Residents (and owners, if rental property) will be notified of any possible deficiencies identified along with applicable standards. In some cases, suggestions for resolving the potential problem will be provided. If a situation exists which makes correction difficult or if the noted prob-

lem is disputed, the resident or owner are encouraged to contact the NIP administrator directly to discuss it at 833-0759 or via e-mail at NeighborhoodStandard@TampaBay.rr.com.

Residents may report possible problems directly to Neighborhood Standards or at the BHA Web site BloomingtondaleGazette.com.

A synopsis of applicable standards, to include deed restrictions, are posted on the BHA Web site. The identity of the reporter must be given for action to be taken. However, the identity will be kept confidential.

Taxing District Elections Aug. 31

By D'ANN WHITE
Editor

Residents who'd like a role in making decisions about Bloomingdale's common areas are invited to file to be a candidate for trustee of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District in the 2004 election.

The seven-member board oversees the decision-making process regarding the lighting, landscaping, the maintenance of entryways and walls and general maintenance of Bloomingdale's common areas using budgeted funds collected through a special tax from Bloomingdale residents. The district currently has an annual budget of \$475,200.

According to Tim Bridge, who oversees the county's taxing district elections for the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Office, Bloomingdale will have five trustee openings in the Aug. 31 election, positions now held by Rusty Jones, Dale

Kahn, Myron Magedanz, David West and Alice Bureson, who resigned her position last month.

Trustees serve four-year terms.

Candidates must be registered voters and must be residents of Bloomingdale. Bridge said no experience is required. Residents also must qualify by obtaining seven signatures on a petition. Residents can obtain qualifying packets from Bridge at 272-5850 or through the BSTD. The deadline to submit petitions is June 21.

The election will take place Aug. 31.

Bloomingdale is one of 44 special taxing districts in Hillsborough County.

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustees meet the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. The next meeting is May 10.

Call: 684-6667.

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Meet Your Neighbors

Roy and Camille Williams

By D'ANN WHITE

Over the 10 years they've lived here, Cambridge Cove residents Roy and Camille Williams have made a point of getting involved in the community they now call home.

Among their favorite charities is the YMCA. Williams, owner of Apex Mortgage in Bloomingdale Oaks, is one of the biggest donors to the YMCA's Annual Giving Campaign which funds a number of YMCA programs, including the Youth in Government program, the migrant outreach program and the YMCA's scholarship program for foster children at the Campo Family and Brandon Family YMCAs.

"Roy is one of our biggest supporters and we're so grateful to him," Jennifer Murphy, a Cambridge Cove neighbor and chairwoman of the YMCA's Annual Giving Campaign for the past two years.

Williams said the YMCA is near and dear to his heart because he spent his youth in Virginia swimming, playing ball and gathering with his friends at the YMCA.



Cambridge Cove residents Roy and Camille Williams, with 18-month-old Devin.

"I've always been a big Y fan," he said, adding that he's not only supporting the YMCA for the children who currently attend its programs but for his own son, Devin, 18 months old.

When she isn't busy taking care of Devin, Camille is active in the Southeast Hillsborough Unit of the American Cancer Society.

This year she helped organize the annual Gatsby Affair in

April.

The elegant evening social was held for the second year at Cliff and Terry Curry's estate on Miller Road.

"I really enjoy it," she said of her community service work.

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Calendar

Communities to meet

The next meeting of the Association Of Valrico Communities will be May 27 at 7 p.m. at the Campo Family YMCA on Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road.

The speaker will be County Commissioner Ronda Storms.

Moms club

Moms Offering Moms Support of Bloomingdale holds its meetings on the third Monday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at St. Stephen Catholic Church on Bell Shoals Road. The chapter has park days, holiday parties, field trips, playgroups, arts and crafts

and other activities.
Call: 657-8503.

Business group

A new business group forming is for Bloomingdale residents and business. The group will meet weekly to network and refer leads to businesses grow in the Bloomingdale area.

Call: Larry Niday, 244-6475

Career transition

The Career Transition Ministry was created to help residents of the greater Brandon community who have been negatively impacted by cur-

See **CALENDAR**, Page 21

Bloomingtondale Substation Notes

By COMMUNITY
RESOURCE DEPUTY
PETE MAURER

Blocked driveways

Cooperation is needed from community residents to help improve a very difficult situation. Florida statutes require that all sidewalks be clear and open to all pedestrians, especially those with special needs like wheelchairs. Residents who have several autos should allow a clear passage for pedestrians. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Motor scooters

Some of the most dangerous vehicles found in our community are the new motorized scooters and skateboards. These vehicles and similar gadgets are considered "motor vehicles" under Florida law. If you operate one of them, you must be at least 16 years old and have at least a regular driving license. No formal training is required like there is with an automobile. The licensing and training for young automobile drivers is for a purpose - to keep them safe!

Flying down our community streets on one of these vehicles is an open invitation for disaster. A collision with any other vehicle will most certainly result in death. The person liable will most certainly be the parent who purchased the vehicle and allowed their kid to ride it.

Parking, parking, parking

Throughout our community, parking spaces are at a premium. This includes parking



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

No, this isn't a giant obstacle course for drivers. These signs were installed to caution drivers to slow down for this curve on Springvale Drive. The walls have been hit multiple times by speeding drivers.

near our elementary schools and our community parks. Two areas in particular that require special attention are around the Bloomingtondale West Park.

Parents assisting and attending ball games at the park are parking by the fields instead of at the park and are causing a serious safety hazard by mixing with traffic and blocking the views of drivers. We all need the exercise, so park in the area set aside for parking.

The other area where parking is taking place is in the bike lanes. Florida statutes prohibit parking in these lanes and citations can be written.

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Page 21



D'ANN WHITE/Photo

The yard at 703 Fenner Court in Bloomingdale West is filled with color and character.

Yard of the Month

Where others simply see junk, 20-year Bloomingdale West resident Vicki Cotnoir sees possibilities.

A galvanized washbasin is filled with geraniums. A rusty plow stands guard over a garden blooming with mums and pentas. An old tricycle gets a new life as a plant stand. A salvaged wooden chair minus its seat makes a perfect front-

porch planter.

Old metal garden tools are hung and used as handy hooks. And broken china is turned into mosaic stepping stones.

Cotnoir calls herself the ultimate recycler. She loves taking objects she's found at yard sales, thrift stores and even awaiting garbage pickup on the curb and finding new

ways to use them in her garden.

"I call it curbside shopping," she joked of her adventures in picking up discards on the side of the road.

The result is a garden that would look perfectly at home in *Country Living* magazine.

Cotnoir concedes she's no master gardener. Her method is trial and error. She buys plants she likes, often at Wal-Mart's after-season clearance sales, and then tries them out in her yard. The result is a yard blooming with post-Christmas amaryllis and narcissus, post-Thanksgiving mums and post-Easter Easter lilies interspersed with African iris, pentas, milkweed, dusty miller and few she can't even identify.

Stones encircle the gardens and separate them from the impossibly green, weed-free lawn maintained by Cotnoir's husband, Robert.

Cotnoir's creativity isn't limited to just her yard. She

sells her mosaic creations at craft shows throughout the area, often working hand in hand with her neighbor, Doug Hooze, a woodworker. In fact, the two neighbors entered pieces in the Florida State Fair craft show and both walked away with blue ribbons, Cotnoir for a mosaic column created with Hooze's assistance and Hooze for a homemade cradle.

Cotnoir spends about four hours a week in her garden, pulling weeds and pruning. But, to her, it isn't work.

"I have a lot of fun," she said. "I enjoy my garden."

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Yard of the Month sign will be displayed in Cotnoir's yard and she will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Wal-Mart.

Nominations for Yard of the Month may be e-mailed to the BHA at Bloomingdale.Homeowners@Verizon.net mailed to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, 33594.

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Property Manager's Report

By AL DEVNEY

Irrigation

During the monthly maintenance inspection, 43 spray heads and 12 rotors were replaced and two risers and two zone lines were repaired. Additionally, there were 25 light bulbs replaced during the Wednesday inspections.

Landscaping

Raymow completed the trimming of the creeping fig, the removal of all the old mulch and the installation of two inches of new mulch around all bushes.

Other

Vandals removed several masonry blocks from the knee wall at the corner of Fieldstone and Canoga Park Drive. The estimated cost to repair the wall is \$200.

Lee's Lawn Service cleaned, repaired and painted the bus

stop benches for \$375 and repainted several walls that had tire tracks on them for \$75.

Specialty Pressure Washing cleaned the walls on Culbreath, Erindale, Lithia-Pinecrest and the Pine Grove section for a total of 5,100 linear feet and a cost of \$1,632. So far this fiscal year, 17,000 linear feet of walls have been cleaned. The pressure washing budget for this year is about depleted.

Kimmings Construction Co. was called to remove two construction signs on Natures Way.

Handy Hands repainted the noses of the medians with traffic yellow and added ground glass for reflection for \$350.

There are 29 broken wooden slats in the wood fence on Natures Way. This is an increase of four slates over February.

United Painting Service has

completed the wall painting on John Moore Road and has begun work on Rosemead and Canoga Park.

An inventory of the areas that need new sod is approximately 50 percent complete. Thus far, 21,000 square feet have been identified.

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, 17 bags of litter were picked up along with an undershirt, a shirt, a telephone, a cooler, a possum and 30 cents. The beverages of choice were Pepsi for soft drinks, Corona for beer and McCormick Vodka for distilled spirits.

The projects for the second quarter that have been com-

pleted include replacing the diseased oak trees on Greenhollow, Natures Way and Glenhaven and the installation of new landscaping at the Kiowa entrance.

The projects not completed include the renovation of the Greenhollow entrance. The wall painting contract is about 30 percent complete and should be completed in two weeks.

The iron bench for the bench area on Culbreath Road should be delivered within a week.

Al Devney is owner of Devney Property Management Inc.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com

Births

Dec. 30

Annalee Elizabeth Cooper, daughter of Jacqueline and Robert A. Cooper III of Centennial Falcon Drive.

Feb. 3

Abby Kathleen Panter, daughter of Beth and Brandon Panter of Buckner Road.

March 1

Cara Elizabeth Alexander, daughter of Susan and Mark Alexander of Allwood Avenue.

March 2

Hailey Elizabeth Vance, daughter of Kimberly and Richard Vance of Bryan Valley Court.

March 8

Reilly Colleen Weicht, daughter of Bonnie and Larry Weicht II of Portobello Circle.

March 10

Kameron Anthony Wozunk, son of Kimberly and Kenneth Wozunk of Pine Trace Circle.

March 13

Jaden Francis Boyd, son of Kristie Schoen-Boyd and Gerald Boyd of Arley Place.

March 17

Riley Kingsbury Rush, son of Taria and Steven L. Rush Jr. of Sawdust Court.

April 7

Bailey Michael Morrow, son of Barbara A. and Todd J. Morrow of Peachfield Drive.

April 8

Margaret Mary Gambone, daughter of Melanie and Joseph Gambone of Willow Ridge Terrace.

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Lithia Crossings Uncorks New Wine Store

CORK & OLIVE OFFERS UNIQUE IMPORTS

By LINDA CHION KENNEY
Correspondent

Lithia Crossing welcomes yet another store opening that adds to the center's prestige as something more than your typical residential shopping center.

This time, Cork & Olive, a "wine tasting and trading company," has joined the mix, giving area shoppers a chance to taste up to 10 unique — and for the most part international, small-vineyard — wines on a daily basis. The store, second in a new chain, also features imported extra virgin olive oils and blends of spices to mix in for a distinctive bread-dipping taste.

"Our basic belief is, 'Trust your taste,'" said store manager Jay Dunn, a Tampa resident. "It's all about experimentation and exploration. You try wines you may never have heard of from countries you might never have expected had wines to offer."

The wines for tasting are changed out every Monday.

Dunn said he is not sure exactly how many labels of wines, ranging in price from \$5.99 to \$39.99, are stocked on the specially designed, soft industrial wooden shelves, "but I'd say about 300 wines,



LINDA CHION KENNEY/Staff photo

Jay Dunn, right, and Abraham Perez work at the newly opened Cork & Olive in Lithia Crossing.

and they do change."

Two labels are from Washington, two labels are from California and three labels are from Oregon, he added, "but other than that, they're all imported."

Last week's "Tasting Table Menu" of wines featured selections from Argentina,

Chile, France, Italy and South Africa, the latter of which was described as a "fruity, crisp and elegant white characteristic of gooseberry and lemongrass." It was suited for a "variety of seafoods, salads or white meat dishes."

The emphasis is on "exploration," as Dunn put it, and toward that end the store is extending out to the home by offering free wine-tasting parties run by trained wine guides. A host signs up for a party and the guide shows up with six wines, wine glasses and spill buckets. The host receives a free bottle of olive oil and a 15 percent discount good for up to six months' worth of Cork & Olive purchases.

"The wine guide, who works for the store, brings for tasting six bottles of wine to your home," Dunn said. "You supply the food and invite up

to 20 people. There's no charge, and what more comfortable environment could there be for exploring new wines than in your own home surrounded by friends?"

As for the imported olive oils, they are available in two sizes of bottles, which can be brought back for refilling at a discounted price. The oils, from Tunisia, Italy and Spain, are available for tasting in the store as well. "They were selected for their flavor, three different bodies and three different flavors, along the same lines as the wines," Dunn said.

Cork & Olive is owned by a consortium of backers and there are plans to open a Cork & Olive in Citrus Park and on South Dale Mabry Highway. Dunn said he was excited to join the company because he loved the concept, "to take the snobbery out of wine and make it accessible" so that wine is seen as "something you can enjoy every day at a reasonable price."

Dunn said the Valrico area is ripe for stores like Cork & Olive, which adds to the uniqueness of the offerings at Lithia Crossing. "It's a growing area, absolutely," he said. "And this isn't supermarket shopping. It isn't your normal presentation. We want to have a comfy, inviting environment."

Stephanie Nelson works in the corporate office in Clearwater and said there could be up to eight Cork & Olive locations by the end of the year, including a second store in the greater Brandon area. There are hopes to franchise the concept.

"I used to do at-home wine tastings for a company based out of Massachusetts," she said. "I love wine, the people around it, it's just fun. It's definitely a challenge... we have to have wines they don't have at Publix or Winn-Dixie."

Cork & Olive is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The store can be reached at 661-8999.

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BHA To Residents: Name Your Neighborhood

By D'ANN WHITE
Editor

At least 10 neighborhoods have no names.

Most are located in Bloomingdale West, the first part of the community to be developed.

Bloomington Homeowners Association President Ted Grable believes this is an oversight that should be remedied.

So, as part of its PRIDE program, the BHA is asking residents of those subdivisions to give their subdivisions names. BHA directors feel residents will take more pride in a community they've helped to name.

Once neighbors have settled on a name, the BHA will install signs in the neighborhood at a cost of \$240 per sign and the county's Office of Neighborhood Relations will pay for the installation.

Residents can send nominations for their no-name subdivision to the BHA at Bloomington.Homeowners@Verizon.net. Neighbors will then have a chance to vote on their favorite during a neighborhood PRIDE meeting.

The BHA began hosting PRIDE meetings for individual neighborhoods this year to give residents a chance to discuss more specific concerns and actions to remedy those concerns. PRIDE meetings have now been held for Bloomingdale Estates and various subdivisions in Bloomingdale West.

The next PRIDE meeting will take place May 17 at 7 p.m. at the BHA office on Bell Shoals Road behind the Citgo service station.

Grable said he was pleased to see the results of the Bloomingdale Estates PRIDE meeting. The residents plan to mail copies of the deed restrictions to all the residents in the neighborhood. The BHA will pay the mailing costs. They've also approached the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District about making improvements

to the entranceway.

"This is exactly what we envisioned," said Grable. "We want each neighborhood to identify their concerns and decide what actions to take. I'd like to see more of this."

"Just imagine if we had 15 neighborhoods doing this," said BHA Vice President Joe Hickie.

The BHA also has a legal aid fund and will help neighborhoods wishing to file suit against a homeowner who refuses to adhere to deed restrictions.

At the April BHA meeting, the board also reviewed the new program to enforce deed restrictions and the county's code enforcement ordinance.

In past years, the BHA has used volunteers to look for flagrant deed and code violations through its Neighborhood Improvement Program. However, to bring more consistency to the program, the BHA decided to contract with a professional agency, hiring Neighborhood Standards Inc.

Neighborhood Standards has begun inspecting the 3,100 homes in Bloomingdale that do not fall under the jurisdiction of a mandatory homeowners association. The company will photograph and note any deed or code enforcement violations, and then send letters to the offending property owners.

If the property owner doesn't correct the problem after two notifications, the matter will be referred to the county if it's a code enforcement violation or the BHA will consider civil action against the owner.

The BHA also plans to post all the various sets of deed restrictions on its new Web site, currently under construction, so residents will have easy access to them. The Web site will include a complaint form. The anonymous complaints will go directly to the enforcement company to be investigated within 24 hours.

Among the items the investigator will look at are the maintenance of the home,

including the condition of the paint and siding, whether house numbers are displayed properly, whether fencing is in good condition, overgrown lawns and pest infestation, inoperative or unregistered vehicles on the property, vehicles parked on the lawn or across the sidewalk, illegal recreational vehicles, dirty and stained driveways, unkempt bushes and trees, trash in the yard and visible garbage cans.

The investigator also will look for commercial uses taking place in residential areas and commercial vehicles parked at residences overnight as well as other activities that could be a nuisance to neighbors.

In other action, hoping to get the new Friends of the Library chapter for the South Brandon Library off to a good start, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association voted last month to donate

\$500 to the friends group.

Board member Steve Heckel, also a member of the friends, made the motion to give the friends the donation.

"It's a worthwhile cause and it will get them off to a good start," said Heckel.

BHA President Ted Grable challenges other groups in the community to make similar donations.

The friends, led by President Pat Boody of Bloomingdale, would like to raise funds for items not covered in the county's library budget, such as benches and a flagpole for outside.

The BHA directors also were pleased to see homeowners respond to the BHA's latest membership drive. With 1,912 homeowners sending in \$20 membership fees to date, membership in the BHA is at an all-time high. There are about 5,000 homes in the BHA

See BHA, Page 16

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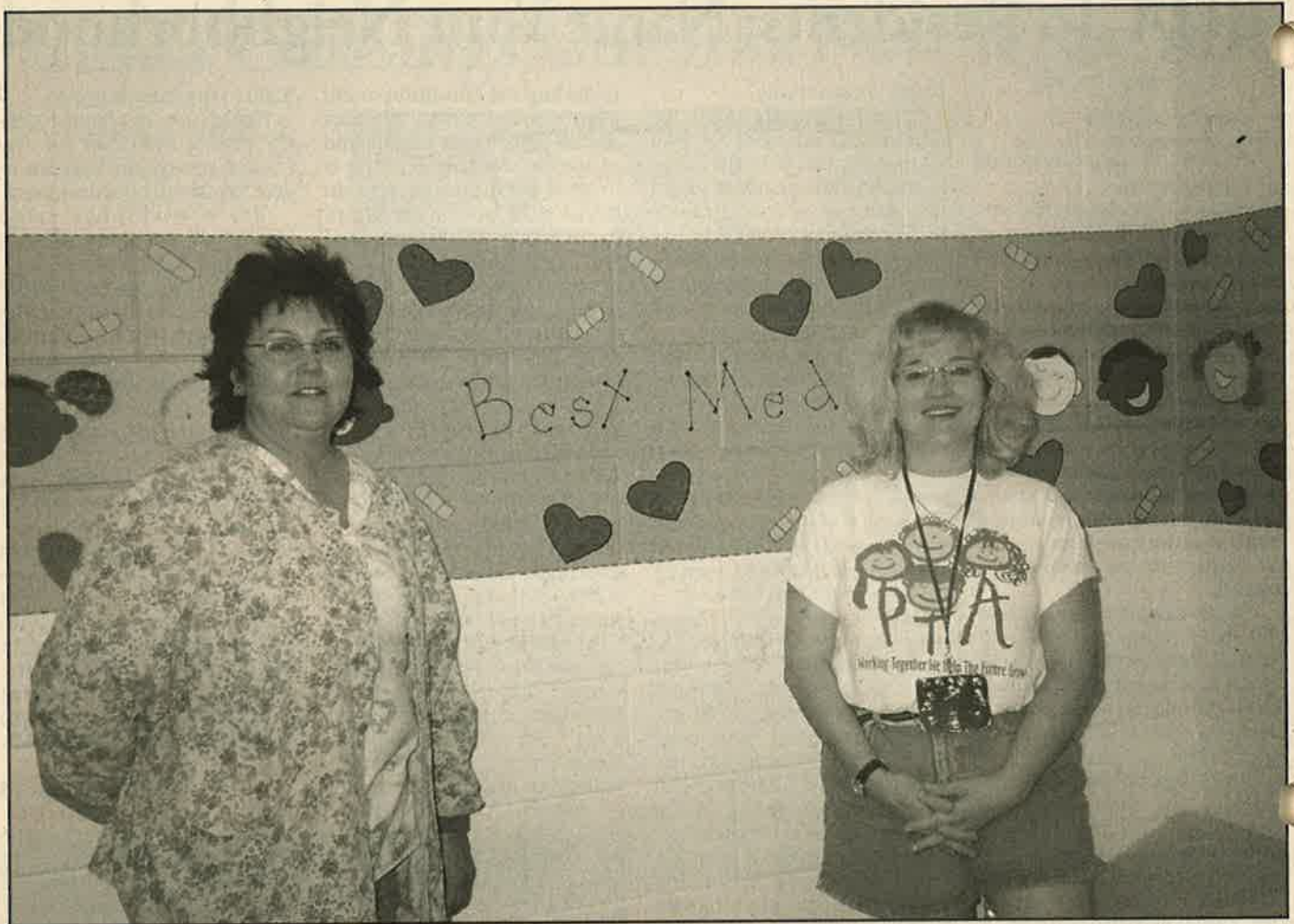
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LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Nurse Becky Cleary stands with PTA President Rhonda McCall, who painted the mural.

Mural Brightens School Nurse's Office

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Do you remember trips to the nurse's office when you were in elementary school?

Nondescript walls, the smell of methiolade and the thermometer that took three whole minutes to register a fever?

Times have changed. Thermometers detect fevers in less than a minute, methiolade is outdated and the walls are no longer nondescript, but are downright, well cheerful. At least they are at Alafia Elementary School.

Proclaiming the old adage, "Laughter is the best medicine," the walls in school nurse Becky Cleary's clinic are

decorated with smiling kids and Band-aids, courtesy of a one-of-a-kind mural painted by Alafia Parent-Teacher Association President Rhonda McCall.

Cleary went to a school for CPR classes where they had a mural and came back describing it to McCall, who then took it upon herself to not only design but paint the colorful images.

"I have gotten so many compliments," said Cleary, who is in her third year as a full-time nurse at Alafia and received Noninstructional Employee of the Year last fall.

There were 1,300 students at Alafia when she started there and now, due to the opening of Cimino, there are

760 enrolled.

Schools must have special needs students to qualify for a nurse. Cleary said she's uncertain about Alafia qualifying next year and will find out over the summer if she will return to Alafia.

"I see about 30 kids a day," said Cleary. "Most are injuries from P.E.; fractures, nose-bleeds. I also see headaches, vomiting, tummy aches."

Alafia's clinic has two beds and sees a steady stream of kids who come in with various issues and leave smiling after "Nurse Becky" has doled out a bandage, an ice bag and her own special brand of TLC.

"I try to get them in and out within 30 seconds to seven minutes, depending on the

problem. I take their temperature, offer them crackers. The goal is to keep them in school," she explained.

Without a nurse on staff, care of sick children is left to the office staff who are also responsible for on-campus visitors and incoming phone calls, along with other daily duties.

"I have to believe I have a strong enough parent support to stay," said Cleary.

"I don't know what we'd do without Nurse Becky," said McCall.

She said that why, as a show of appreciation, she donated her time for three days to make the clinic a more cheerful place for kids to come and for Cleary to work.

Alafia Students Hear Tales Of Tails

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Her work has gone to the dogs — literally.

Nina Laden, author and illustrator of the hilarious canine escapades, "Bad Dog" and "The Night I Followed the Dog," visited Alafia Elementary School to talk with parents, staff and students about her tails ... or rather tales.

"Ideas can come from anywhere," she said. "It's always a good idea to keep a sketchbook on hand."

"The Night I Followed the Dog" is based on her own childhood experience, recalling when her dog dragged home what looked like a side of beef.

"As a child, I decided that my dog had a secret life all his own; that he could do all the things we didn't allow dogs to do." And a story was born.

Laden said she's been writing since she could write a sentence, but only published her first book 10 years ago. Unlike many authors, Laden does her own illustrations, using various painting techniques, sometimes even using sawdust, infusing her stories with art styles so that kids not only get a delightful adventure but a quick and subtle lesson in art history.

"I'm always experimenting with my artwork when I'm working on my books," she said.

That experimentation has won her more than awards; it's won her the recognition of museums around the world, which feature her book, "When Pigasso Met Moo-tisse," in their gift shops because of its portrayal of stylistic artwork from two masters, Picasso and Matisse.

The Smithsonian Institution selected her book "Roberto the Insect Architect" as a "Notable Book." It also



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Nina Laden reads "The Night I Followed the Dog" to Alafia parents, students and staff.

won a Silver Medal for its artwork.

Laden's books are pun-ridden and veritable feasts for the eyes, while her use of metaphors, homonyms and alliterations keeps readers on their literary toes. Fast-paced and colorful, Laden's stories feature animals in various mischievous scenarios.

Laden explained that she chooses to have her main characters be animals as opposed to people because, in her opinion, "Everybody can see themselves in animals, but not everybody can see themselves if I draw a specific type of person."

Laden's books have been translated into many languages, entertaining children around the world. Her books are available in bookstores everywhere, and both Sony and Disney are interested in making features out of her characters.

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Cool cats

Above, the following students in kindergarten through second grade have been named Cool Cats for character at Cimino Elementary School: bottom row, from left, Benjamin Roble, Keith Smith, Savannah Jacobus, Thomas Kyte, Lauren Lopez, second row, Jillian Tumlin, Brooke Boughner, Brooke Butera, Sarah Breland, Caden Raymond, third row, Darian Markham, Brianna Manns, Jocelyn Pavelschak, Jonathan Gacio, Austin Vander Ley, Hanna Bagrowski, top row, Sam Miller, Christopher Gray, Joseph Wheless, Madison Park, Karissa Rhoades, Brett Lindbeck, absent Ethan Bruce. Below, the following students in third through fifth grade have been named Cool Cats for character at Cimino Elementary School: bottom row, from left, Georgia Rees, Austin Smith, Kyojiro Isobe, second row, Daphne Camacho, Jessica Daly, Morgan Morrow, Jared Baker, Talra Zavala, third row, Stephen Gacio, Klichele Duhart, Austin Arkin, Kristen Houllhan, top row, Paul Snyder, Sarah Verble, Taylor Hodges, Meagan Mills, Doug Black, absent, Jasmine Rodriguez and Billy Caulley.



BHA

From page 13

membership area.

"I think a lot has to do with our PRIDE program," said director Lydia Harrod. "The community is really responding to that."

In an effort to make sure that all homes are properly

marked with addresses in accordance with county code, the BHA is also offering free address numbers to any homeowner who needs them. The black and white numbers are 3 inches high. Residents can drop by the BHA office

between 9 and 11 a.m. to pick up letter or they may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the BHA office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, 33594.

There are currently several vacancies on the BHA board

of directors.

Anyone interested in applying for a volunteer position on the BHA can call the BHA office at 681-2051. The BHA meets the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The next meeting is May 3.

Author Shares Tall Tales With Cimino

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

It's with rhyme, repetition and colorful characters that Helen Ketteman has won the hearts and laughter of her young readers.

But who wouldn't fall in love with "Bubba, the Cowboy Prince?" And who hasn't wished for their very own fairy god cow?

This lovable fractured Texas fairy tale is just one of many "tall tales" penned by Florida author Ketteman. On a recent visit to Cimino Elementary School, Ketteman got into character as she acted out "Armadilly Chili" to the fourth- and fifth-graders, eliciting giggles as she became the armadillo with the over-

sized ears, instilling the lesson of the value of friendship and working together in her audience.

Ketteman enjoys letting her imagination run free.

"It's fun to change the story, because you can use your imagination. Kids love these stories because they're silly and because they love to know what's going to happen."

"Armadilly Chili" is actually her version of "Little Red Hen," a children's classic.

"I love to write tall tales," explained Ketteman.

The author of 15 children's books, Ketteman encourages the children to write, to stretch their imagination and not to get discouraged when

they have corrections to make. Her personal experience is one of perseverance, admitting "Every writer struggles with their story," as she relates to the students her adventures in rewrites, telling them she rewrote one story 49 times.

"Every time you rewrite it, it gets better," she said, "Don't get discouraged."

Ketteman began writing stories in the second grade,

and encourages the students to use real life as fodder for their stories.

"My first book, 'Not Yet, Yvette,' came to me title first. I was having a conversation with a friend, and I answered, 'Not yet, Yvette,' and the idea for the book came out of that. I just like the way it sounded."

Visit her Web site at www.helenketteman.com for writing tips and links to order her books.

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Class Notes



Young Republicans

Photographed with U.S. Rep. Adam Putnam, R-Bartow, members of the Young Republican Club at Bloomingdale High School, from left, Sebastian Krewer, Andrea Lowe, Michael Wayson, and, from right, Will Morris and Daniel Butson, assisted the media to their designated areas when President George Bush visited to Tampa in February.

Farewell party

The Bloomingdale High School Rajun' Bull Band Boosters are planning a farewell celebration for Ted Hope, the band's director for the past 17 years. Hope was recently promoted to supervisor of secondary music education for Hillsborough County Schools.

The celebration will be held May 16 in the Bloomingdale

cafeteria from 2 to 5 p.m. All Rajun' Bull Band alumni, friends and family are invited to attend. Former band members may bring their instruments for a farewell band finale. Those interested in taking part should report with their instrument to the band room at noon for rehearsals.

Alumni are also encouraged to submit thoughts and

See CLASS, Page 19

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Students David Dittfeld, Austin Bohart, team captain, Emily Amburn and Kristen Houlihan pose with their teacher, Mrs. Jones.

LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Cimino To Send Team To Battle Of The Books

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Fourth-graders at Cimino Elementary School are prepared for battle.

Armed with knowledge and a memory for details, a team from Cimino will face down teams from other schools throughout the county in the annual Battle of the Books.

Five Cimino teams competed for the countywide competition in the event adapted from a 1940s public radio program in Chicago. The first Hillsborough County Battle of the Books was waged in 1992 at Essrig Elementary, and is now a rite of passage for fourth-graders.

The purpose of the battle is to encourage recreational

reading, offer a variety of literature, increase familiarity with authors and improve reading comprehension. Students are encouraged to read all 20 books, all Florida Sunshine State and award-winning books. They are given the reading list in August and the books are set aside in the media center so they're accessible to the fourth grade participants. Teachers devote in-class time to read and discuss the books.

The teams consisted of four students from each fourth-grade class: Miss Stanley's class: Jordan Alexander, captain, Kacie Hollenbaugh, Logan Kerzie, and Maddie Dare, alternate; Mrs. Sperandio's class: Kyojirou Isobe, captain, Jackie Ferneau,

Patrick Reeves and Chris Suewahsing, alternate; Mrs. Rhoades' class: Michelle Whittaker, captain, Casey Field, Samantha Fleck and Nikki Ross, alternate; Mrs. Jones' class: Emily Amburn, captain, Austin Bohart, Kristen Houlihan and David Dittfeld, alternate; and Mrs. Elton's class: Austin Arkin, captain, Scott Edmonson, Payton Sims and Melissa Hernandez, alternate.

After logging many reading hours, the students faced each other for a rousing round of literary Q&A. And while all readers claimed victory for just having read, the team that came out on top was Mrs. Jones' team.

"The kids are ecstatic," said Jones. "They worked really

hard reading all or most of the books and doing the summaries.

And they didn't just do it for themselves — they did it for the whole class." Jones' team advanced to the area battle at the end of April, where they competed against 115 other schools. The top six teams then will go on to the district competition May 10 at Tropicana Field.

"It's exciting to see them get so excited about reading," said Jones, her sentiment echoed by the teacher for the runner-up team, Mrs. Elton.

"This is such a great way to get the kids to read," said Elton.

"I loved watching them enjoy new books and discover new authors."

You're Never Too Young For Community Service

By D'ANN WHITE
Editor

Throughout the country, children in child care centers participated in the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association Hop-A-Thon to raise funds for research, treatment and assistance to people with muscular dystrophy.

But for one Bloomington child care center, participating in the hop-a-thon is more than a community service.

The event is near and dear to the hearts of the employees and families at Tutor Time child care center on Canoga Park Drive because its principal and co-owner, Joe Smith, has spinal muscular atrophy, a type of muscular dystrophy.

Since the center opened three years ago, the hop-a-thon has become a tradition.

Tutor Time co-owner Susan Smith said she has several reasons for participating in the event. It teaches children at an early age that a 2-year-old can perform community service as well as a 22-year-old.

In addition, with the help of a visit from an MDA representative along with a film and coloring books, the children learn a bit more about the disease that forces their principal to use a wheelchair.

"We do this so we can raise money for doctors to help people," explained 5-year-old William Rowley.

And, finally, said Smith, the hop-a-thon is an activity that any of the children can partic-



Tutor Time students hop around their school principal, Joe Smith, who has spinal muscular atrophy, a type of muscular dystrophy. D'ANN WHITE/Staff photos

ipate in.

"It's the perfect activity for kids with a lot of energy," she said.

Even the nonwalkers were able to hop in the arms of their caregivers. Theoretically, the children are supposed to obtain pledges based on the

number of times they hop.

"But most of the parents just donate a lump sum," said Joe Smith, noting that counting the hops of 75 active preschoolers would be next to impossible.

Last year Tutor Time raised \$3,000 for MDA, and Smith

believes they will raise even more this year. The donations help send kids to summer camp, assist with buying and repairing wheelchairs and leg braces, fund research seeking treatment and cures, and provide support groups for clients and families.

CLASS

From page 17

memories by e-mail to Alisa Dodge at Rrsgdodge@tam-pabay.rr.com by May 1. All responses will be videotaped and shared at the celebration.

Call: Michelle Colesanti, 681-8889.

Bull makes state

Bloomington High School junior Jacob Gardner won the

Class 3A-District 5 wrestling title in the 152-pound weight class. The Bloomington resident went on to a runner-up finish at the regional tournament to earn a place at the state championships at Lakeland Feb. 26-28.

Gardner was the only Bulls wrestler to qualify for the state tournament this season.

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Market A Hit With Seafood, Meat Lovers

By LINDA CHION KENNEY
Correspondent

Lithia Crossings now is home to the third Land & Sea Market owned by a Greek man with a concise philosophy: "Life is too short for tough meat."

The saying is attributed to Dean Hampers, owner of Land & Sea Markets in Carrollwood, New Tampa and now Valrico.

His daughter, Viviana Chandler, credits the words of her father who has a passion for cooking and has his own line of seasonings for sale in the market. He took over the Land & Sea Market in Carrollwood nine years ago and transformed the three-market chain into "what it is today," Viviana said.

"Once you try the beef that we have here, you really will be surprised at what you have been missing," she said. The specialty meat market features fresh kabobs; all-natural Grade A chicken; all Iowa pork; all western beef; Boar's Head cold cuts; and fresh seafood. A sampling of items includes filet mignon, orange coconut mahi-mahi, shrimp-stuffed salmon, and apple walnut chicken salad, the market's signature dish.

Hands-on in Valrico is Viviana and her husband, Rob, whose mother, Barbara, is a popular and longtime kindergarten teacher up the road at Lithia Springs Elementary School. Her other son, Ryan, also works at the family-owned business. Viviana and Rob spend their time at each of the three markets, while Chad Hermida is the face to recognize as store manager of the Valrico market. Viviana's sister, Marisa, and mother, Valeria, also work in the business.

"We're trying to make it easy for the customer and very simple," Hermida said. "We package our meats and fish ready for the freezer and we carry a lot of specialty items. And all items come with cooking instructions on how to bake or grill."



LINDA CHION KENNEY/Photo

Chad Hermida, store manager of the Land & Sea Market in Valrico, meets with a customer last Saturday.

Among them are stuffed chickens including Zorba chicken, stuffed with sundried tomatoes, feta and cream cheese; chicken of the sea, with crabmeat stuffing; chicken milano, with spinach, garlic, mushrooms, olive oil and spices; five-cheese chicken; garlic chicken; and chicken cordon bleu, kiev, au gratin and Florentine. As a special, five selections cost \$13.95.

Kabob offerings include Buffalo chicken, Italian beef or chicken, teriyaki beef or chicken, all-filet, Hawaiian pork, veggie, shrimp and scallop, Cajun shrimp, barbecue shrimp and bacon-wrapped scallop.

Beef and fish selections are numerous and include the popular filet mignon, honey-crusted salmon with crushed walnuts and Atkins-friendly flank steak wrapped in bacon with feta cheese. The apple walnut chicken salad is the market's signature dish and there is an extensive selection of wines. The market also carries a full

line of sausages, vegetables, desserts, seasonings, dips, dressings, sauces, spreads, pastas, chips, crackers, marinades, olives and such things as soup bones, oxtails, veal shanks, ostrich, hormone-free beef and calves liver.

In short, Viviana Chandler said, the market is "for anybody who enjoys good food and doesn't have that much time to prepare it and wants the best."

She said the area was ready for such a market and that her job with her father's markets makes the most of her master's degree in public relations from the University of South Florida. Her husband, she added, is an engineer, "and he just saw this business as an opportunity to use the skills he was good at, too."

As for the shopping center anchored by Stein Mart, Chandler said they couldn't have picked a better location for their third market.

"This is a growing area, first of all, and a lot of our cus-

tomers from other locations told us we should come out here," Chandler said. "It's been widely received since our opening March 13 because of word-of-mouth (recommendations) and it has exceeded our expectations."

Store manager Hermida agreed.

"Lithia Crossing is neat, it's not your ordinary strip plaza," he said. "I think it has a lot more character to it."

The market is open seven days a week: Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit the market or its Web site (www.landand-seamarket.com) for the weekly special.

All items are custom-cut, packaged and wrapped to the customer's specifications at no extra charge. Land & Sea Market in the Lithia Crossing shopping center at 3478 Lithia-Pinecrest Road can be reached at 654-8043.

Arizona Ice Cream Chain Makes Its Way To Valrico

By LESLIE WHITE
Correspondent

Alaska is the last place you'd expect to be when you decide to open an ice cream parlor. But that's exactly where Tim and Sue Miley were when the idea started churning to open Cold Stone Creamery.

"It was on a trip to Alaska to visit our son when we first tried Cold Stone Creamery," explained Sue Miley.

They were hooked. The couple returned home and opened not one, but two franchises.

"If you can sell ice cream in Alaska where it's below freezing 99 percent of the time, you can sell it here," said Miley.

The creamery sells fresh, super premium ice cream, frozen yogurt and sorbet that's made daily on site, as are the brownies and waffle cones. The creamery also offers a line of signature cakes, ice cream blended with various toppings and handmade cakes. Customers are invited to customize their frozen selection with one or more of a variety of mix-ins that include fresh fruit, nuts, pie fillings, chocolates and candies, as well as cookie dough, brownies and other baked delights. Crew members blend the mix-ins and ice cream together on a frozen granite stone registering 16 degrees. This allows for an even blend and maintains the consistency of the ice cream.

Started in Scottsdale, Ariz.,



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Face painter Tiffany Tucker and Garfield the Clown, also known as Chris Cakes, entertains Peyton White at the opening of the newest Cold Stone Creamery.

Cold Stone Creamery has become the fastest-growing ice cream franchise in the nation. In this area, the Mileys opened the first franchise at Lithia Crossing shopping center in Valrico Aug. 1 while the

Badlands Drive in Brandon Crossing near Westfield Shoppingtown Brandon held its grand opening April 3. A face painter and a clown were on hand to entertain children as were volunteers from The

Spring of Tampa Bay who handed out information on the domestic violence shelter.

"We wanted to benefit a charity with our grand opening," said Miley. "The Spring has a \$5.5 million budget, with 60 percent of their funding coming from the community."

Miley will present a check for 35 percent of that day's earnings to The Spring, the only certified domestic violence center providing specialized services from families dealing with domestic abuse.

The Mileys have also hired local teens to greet visitors to Cold Stone Creamery and create the wide array of ice cream creations. These "crew" members sing a special song when a tip is dropped into the tip jar.

"Our crew members are learning customer service skills. They make us unique. They're fun, energetic and enthusiastic," said Miley. "For most of them, this is their first job, and what they learn with Cold Stone Creamery they can carry with them throughout their future careers."

The Mileys even monitor their employees' grades.

"We're like another set of parents," said Miley.

The two Cold Stone Creamery locations are 3426 Lithia-Pinecrest, behind Chili's, and 2024 Badlands Drive across from Carrabba's Italian Grill. Hours are Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

CALENDAR

From page 8

rent economic times. It is a free service for anyone who is currently unemployed or underemployed, providing the opportunity to network with others in similar situations; to share frustrations, what works and what doesn't; provide a forum to end the isolation and the resulting feelings of diminished self-confidence and self-esteem;

and to give leads into industries, companies and organizations that might be good contacts.

The ministry meets every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Campo Family YMCA in Bloomingdale

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FRIENDS

From page 3

Library System. That group, in turn, will forward its recommendation to the Hillsborough County Commission, the body charged with naming the library.

"As a group, or individually if you want to talk to the commissioners, feel free to do so," said Suzy George, chief librarian for the county library system who met with the Brandon group last Thursday. "They make the ultimate decision."

The friends group also voted to name a meeting room in the new library after the McLean family, which donated part of the land on which the new library sits, not far from Bloomingdale High School on Bloomingdale Avenue. One of Bloomingdale's early settlers, John Noel McLean homesteaded the property the library is being constructed on in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He died in 1918 and is buried in the Bloomingdale Cemetery on Bloomingdale Avenue.

It was fitting that the group made its decision in the Margaret Linsley Clayton meeting room at the Brandon Regional Library. The land on which the regional library sits was, according to a plaque in the meeting room, a gift from Clayton, who lived from 1890-1967. The new friends group believes McLean should also be honored.

In attendance was Virginia Zurflieh, branch supervisor of the Brandon Regional Library who, apologized to the community for the inconvenience resulting from renovations taking place on the library's fascia. She asked for continued patience for about two months, recognizing the biggest headache associated with the Brandon Regional Library is the lack of parking.

She said her branch eagerly awaits the opening of the Bloomingdale library, calling it long overdue and much-needed.

"It's desperately needed," she said. "And especially one that has avoided all of the mistakes of this one. Here, parking is a problem, and it's not



LINDA CHION KENNEY/PH

Construction on the library on Bloomingdale Avenue is going vertical.

as efficiently laid out as it could have been. The new branch will be a wonderful asset to the community."

Hoping to assure that success is the friends group headed by its slate of charter officers: Patricia Boody, president; Charles Polstra, vice president; Emma Nystrom, secretary; Helen Beaulieu, treasurer; and Carol Jones, Anne Lawrence and Steve Heckel as at-large board members. Heckel, a director of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, which represents homeowners from John Moore Drive to Lithia-Pincrest Road south of Bloomingdale Avenue, presented a check for \$500 on behalf of the homeowners association to the group.

"We fought hard to get (the library) in Bloomingdale, so we thought we should back up our fight with our money," said Heckel.

Activities being considered by the new friends group include a "shelving party," gift baskets, cell phone recycling

and fundraising dinners. Members also discussed starting a junior branch of the Friends of the Library to provide community service hours to high school students for their help in getting the new library shelved and open.

The new library will have a genealogy room, which will house artifacts currently on display at the main branch on Ashley Drive. The Brandon Genealogical Society would like to offer classes at the new library. The facility's staff will include 10 full-time and four part-time employees, including two full-time librarians and one part-time librarian.

And, like the Friends of the Brandon Library, the new friends group plans to organize an ongoing book sale, which has proven profitable for the Brandon branch. According to Zurflieh, the donated books sold for 50 cents a pop to net the library around \$800 a month. Some of the offerings include books withdrawn from the library's shelves.

"Mostly, to date, these funds have supported summer programming for which grants were not available," she said. "And, of course, with so many children in the area, we have a tremendous amount of children's programming."

And the community benefits by picking up bargains.

"We charge 50 cents per item, no matter what it is," Zurflieh said. "And I've seen \$65 coffee table books go for 50 cents. We are very selective, so people know when they go through our shelves they're not going to have to wade through things they'd rather not touch."

Zurflieh called it a hidden gem most library patrons still are not aware of.

"You would be amazed at some of the wonderful books people give us," Zurflieh said. "You really can run across a treasure."

For information on joining the friends chapter, call 275-3642 or e-mail Boody at: pwboody@tecoenergy.com

Computer Corner

By Jim Jeup

Q: We purchased a new Windows XP computer and want to copy information from our old computer (Windows 98) to this one. What can we copy to the new computer and what should we leave on the old computer? Oh, we have CD Burners on both computers.

A: There are several methods to copy information between computers. Before we discuss those methods, here is what you won't need to copy between computers.

What You Don't Need to Copy

- * Don't waste time copying programs like; Word, Excel, Works, etc. These programs will not work correctly on the new system. Instead, check compatibility of old programs to your new computer, and reinstall them to the new computer.

- * Check program compatibility two ways

1. Call the program manufacturer, or visit their web site for compatibility information
2. "Upgrade Advisor" free

utility from Microsoft. "UA" tests your old computer for Windows XP compatibility (hardware and Software). You can access "Upgrade Advisor" from a Windows XP install CD, or download it from: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/howtobuy/upgrading/advisor.asp>

WARNING: Large download (not recommended for download via phone modem connection). Run Upgrade Advisor on the old computer for software compatibility information.

What You May Want to Copy

- * Data files for programs you will reinstall on the new computer.
- * "My Favorites" web information
- * "My Documents" information, or the location where you save working files
- * Email Address Books
- * Emails you want to save

Locating/Moving Information

Locate the information you want to copy. A good practice is to copy all the information you want to save into one

location.

Example:

- * Create a folder on your desktop

- * Name the folder something you will remember like "Copy These"

- * Locate information for the new computer and copy it to the "Copy These" folder

Transfer Methods

Decide the best method to transfer files to the new computer. Since you have a CD Burner in your old computer, I recommend burning the "Copy These" folder to a recordable CD.

By far, the easiest method to copy files from one computer to another is via CD Burner and recordable CD. But, there are other methods available.

- * CD Burner - Increasing in popularity and availability

- * Floppy Diskette - Smaller files less than 1.4 MB in size

- * ZIP Disk or Other Mass Storage Device - Losing popularity and availability

- * Network - Requires knowledge and hardware to connect two or more systems together

- * USB Option 1 - USB external hard drives (portable) are gaining popularity

- * USB Option 2 - USB "Flash Drives" or memory cards are popular and available through computer stores

- * Technician - Onsite technicians can move entire hard drives from one system to another.

They copy all information to the new system and move the drive back to the old computer in about an hour. Cost varies by company (range is generally \$60-\$100)

Whatever transfer method you choose will get the information on to the new system safely.

Jim Jeup is a Certified Master Technician for Advanced Mobile Tech Computer Service. Reach him at (813) 508-4378. Computer Corner Archives can be found at <http://www.advancedmobiletech.com/computer-corner.shtml> - Email your computer questions to: cornerquestions@advancedmobiletech.com, or on the web at www.advancedmobiletech.com

ENTRANCE

From page 1

The project also entails creating entranceways at Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue and Springvale Drive and Bloomingdale Avenue, which currently have no entranceways.

Last year, the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustees budgeted \$46,000 for the Greenhollow project, based on the cost of the \$45,000 Garnet Drive project. However, the lowest bid came in at \$57,940, forcing the trustees to hold a public meeting to amend their budget.

J.B.D. Construction, which constructed the Garnet entrance last year, has been hired to do the work on the Greenhollow entrance. The project includes rebuilding the entranceways, adding new landscaping and

installing new lighting and irrigation systems.

The existing entrances were originally constructed at different times in Bloomingdale's 20-year history.

As a result, the entrances have different designs, different materials and different signs.

The taxing district would like to make all of the entrances conform and add entrances on Culbreath and Springvale so visitors know they are entering Bloomingdale.

All the entranceways will look similar to the Garnet Drive entrance. Plantings will include crape myrtle trees, holly bushes, Indian hawthorn bushes and seasonal annuals.

District property manager

Al Devney said the Greenhollow project should be completed in a couple of weeks.

In coming years, the entrances at Bloomingfield Drive and John Moore Road,

Rosemead Lane and Bell Shoals Road, Glenhaven Drive and Bell Shoal's Road and Erindale Drive and Lithia-Pinecrest Road will be renovated.

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In Bloomingtondale:**

- 3613 Pine Knot Dr \$113,000
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