The Gazette...We're The Original!

The Bloomingdale Gazette has served the community for nearly 16 years. It is the original newspaper and source of information for Bloomingdale residents.

It is the mission of *The Gazette* to report fairly and accurately the events that matter most to our community whether related to county government, education or neigh-

borhood activities.

While others have tried to move into our community, no other publication meets the needs of the residents of Bloomingdale, specifically. The others may circulate into Bloomingdale, but are not of Bloomingdale or for Bloomingdale.

Expect *The Gazette* to be hung on your front door the first weekend (second weekend following a holiday) of each month. It will not appear in your mailbox, on your driveway, or in the street's rain gutter.

This is our commitment to you. The Gazette and Bloomingdale - growing together.

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XV, Number 11

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

November 1995

BHA Briefs

Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 in the Community Office's new location in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. The Community Office has moved to 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, next door to Kim Hall's Dance Studio. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting.

BHA Directors Needed

Residents interested in serving on the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association board of directors are encouraged to attend this month's meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. (see above for location). Interested residents may also send a letter of intent to the BHA at the above address.

Terms are for two years and require attendance one meeting a month. The BHA serves the interests of the entire Bloomingdale communities by enforcing deed restrictions, publishing *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, sponsoring the Mobile Watch program, and looking out for the welfare of the residents in county matters and education. For information, call 681-2051.

Membership Drive Underway

The 1996 BHA membership drive is now underway. Residents of the Bloomingdale communities will begin receiving packets this month. Dues are \$20 and are for the calendar year. Packets will include a notice of dues and an informative brochure about the BHA and other area organizations.

New Meeting Guidelines

While residents are encouraged to attend BHA meetings, board members have found it necessary to set time limitations on speakers so meetings can end at a reasonable hour. The new guidelines will be strictly adhered to, according to Oros. They are as follows:

7:30 - 8 p.m. Homeowners will be given an opportunity to address the BHA board.

- There will be a 10-minute maximum time limit per homeowner, per issue and this includes BHA board response.
- Residents will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration through telephone calls will be permitted. Residents may also sign-up on a list posted outside the community office the night of a meeting. Doors will remain locked until 7:30 p.m.
- Should a group of residents attend a BHA meeting, it is recommended that one person act as spokesperson for the group.
- The board reserves the right to grant variances to the time limit, but only under special circumstances, for example, on an issue of widespread impact.
- Homeowners will not be permitted to speak unless they have paid their dues for the current year.

8:00 p.m. The homeowners' portion of the meeting will be adjourned, at which time the BHA board business will commence. Residents may remain for this portion of the meeting and may ask questions regarding issues on the table. New business may not be introduced by the homeowners at this time.

The order of business is as follows: approval of the minutes from the previous month's meeting, treasurer's report, mobile watch report, NIP report, membership report. The board will then take up special business.

Please note, should a guest speaker who has been invited by the BHA board be in attendance, the guest will speak first at 7:30, and the normal agenda will



Ground was officially broken for the new Bloomingdale Park West Recreation Center on Oct. 30. The project is expected to take 300 days to complete, but county officials are hoping to have the center operational in June. L to R: Larry Mitchell, Jane Burmer, Randy Stribling, Lois Kessler, Steven Clouse, Project Manager for Showcase Builders Sam Moore, Contractor Rober Gonzalez, Center Director Donna Clouse, BHA Board Members Rick Oros, LaWayne Wyatt, Michael Davis, Randy Wolfe, Anne Underwood, and Luana Russell, Project Manager for County Joel Jackson, Maintenance Supervisor Luis Garcia, holding model.

Mini-Storage Developer Withdraws Application

It's final. The proposed mini-storage warehouse project will not be built in Bloomingdale West. The developer withdrew his application before the October 10 zoning hearing.

Not since the rezoning requests by Shimberg Cross have so many residents voiced such loud opposition to a proposed change in the community. When homeowners found out Michael Bardell had applied for variances to the zoning to build a mini-storage facility on Canoga Park Drive, they asked the BHA to step in. Homeowners' Association President Randy Wolfe sent a letter to the Hillsborough County Planning and Development Manager Department to state the residents' opposition to the granting of any variances.

The property is currently zoned "C-1" neighborhood

commercial, which permits a number of uses including mini-warehouse storage units (if located on a major road with direct access). Bardell requested three variances to the current zoning: Removal of the requirement that the warehouses be on a major road with direct access, an increase in the building height limitation to permit construction of a 2-story building, and an increase in the fence height limitation to permit construction of an eight foot wall.

The BHA Board of Directors has warned residents that other developers may attempt to build on the parcel and, if no variances to the current zoning are required, then the residents will have no opportunity to object. Accordingly, it may be only a matter of time before there is a commercial enterprise constructed on the parcel.

Resource Deputy On Duty, Ready To Serve

Sheriff Deputy Pete Maurer has been assigned to serve the Bloomingdale area as its Community Resource Deputy. He is available and ready to discuss community or individual concerns, and can be reached by calling the Brandon Sheriff's sub-station at 247-8555 and leaving a message for Deputy Maurer.

Maurer urges residents to continue to use 911 in the event of an emergency, and says his capacity is more in the way of problem solving.

He is Bloomingdale's "cop on the beat", and is eager to help find solutions to community concerns such as vandalism, speeding, and loitering.

Residents who report crime in their neighborhood to the Sheriff's office are reminded to report incidents to the BHA Mobile Watch, as well, by calling 681-2051.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus Coming



NORTH POLE - Mr. and Mrs. Claus have announced a return engagement on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Sun Cove Realty in Bloomingdale Square. The Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association board booked the Clauses, who, by the way, are in high demand this time of year, after seeing the joyous response to last year's visit.



Bloomingdale Square got special window treatment for BHS homecoming. The theme "All That Jazz" was best depicted in the Senior Class window depicting a Bull "blowing away" the rival Plant City Raiders.

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Bazette

Dear Residents.

We are close to the end of another year, 1995 is almost a pleasant memory. It has brought with it some changes in our community; the long awaited Brandon Town Center, the widening of Bloomingdale Avenue, the allocation of some Bloomingdale High School students to the new Durant High School, new home construction in Bloomingdale, the return of the "cop on the beat" in our area, the construction of the new community center in Park West, the Neighborhood Involvement Program implemented by your Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, and the continuing beautification project by the Special Taxing District.

All of this is having a positive effect on our community. We are becoming a hometown, not just another subdivision. We all should give thanks to the people and organizations that make our community a better place to live.

From the staff of The Bloomingdale Gazette, have a happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely, **Rick Oros**

Our Times

Sometimes Timely Information Gets Away

Not often, but sometimes with a monthly paper, information is not received or published in a timely fashion. Last month was one of those times.

Just so you don't think we're completely out of touch with what's going on in the county, and with everything that's happened in the last month with school budget cuts - let me apologize for some incorrect information that appeared in last month's Gazette.

We ran a front page story about the school board meeting Tuesday, Oct. 10, at which budget cuts were going to be discussed. The meeting information was given to me by Donna Reed, the spokesperson for county schools. After our publication went to press, the school board decided to change its meeting date to Thursday, Oct. 5. But by the time The Gazette was hung on your door, the board meeting had already taken place and the cuts had been made.

Monthly papers are tricky this way, so this is a good opportunity for me to remind you of our deadlines. We publish the first weekend of every month, the second weekend following a holiday. So, if you have an item of news or social interest, it. must be turned in to our office no later than the 15th of the current month, for the next month's publication.

While we have many writers, the mechanics of producting the paper are performed by two people - myself and June Oros, who does the layout and graphic designs. We are in the production stage of the paper for one week prior to delivery. This means that material we print must all be turned in, at least one week before production begins. In other words, all the material that appears in The Gazette is submitted two weeks before you get the

Now, we do have our version of "hold the presses". Sometimes for important, late-breaking news, such as the groundbreaking that appears on today's front page, we will hold a page of the paper to insert the item at the very last minute hefore going to press

of the county school's budget cuts was the elimination of Nature's Classroom. Gazette writer Gwen Szafranski spoke recently with Terry Boehm, executive director of the Hillsborough Education Foundation, and a Bloomingdale resident, and she offered the following:

The Hillsborough Education Foundation, a non-profit organization which supports programs that enhance the educational experience in our schools, is rallying support for the Nature's Classroom program, now threatened with extinction from the recent budget cuts.

As many area teachers and parents can attest, Nature's Classroom is an exciting opportunity for sixth graders to learn about wildlife and natural habitats while developing a sense of self-esteem and personal accomplishment so necessary to children approaching adolescence.

According to Mr. Boehm, an account has been established at all Nations Bank branches to accept donations to save Nature's classroom. Both parents and community business leaders can directly and positively affect the continuation of the program by their contributions. Corporate and private organizations may also sponsor a specific aspect of the program.

For more information, call 231-1926 or contact The Hillsborough Education Foundation, Suite 212, 2010 E. Hillsborough Ave., Tampa 33610. Do a big favor for all current and future sixth graders and support this effort. Checks should be made out to Nature's Classroom. And Finally...

Nearly four years after his death, my father is vindicated - The Atlanta Braves are World Champions! He moved to Atlanta in the early 60s and hung in through the long-suffering seasons of the worst team in baseball - Hank Aaron its only showpiece. Even in a promising 1969 season, the Braves were swept in the playoffs by those Miracle Mets. My dad did get to see his team win their first National League penant in 1991. I like to think that somewhere in heaven he and Lewis Grizzard are wearing their

OFFICERS

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road Suite 103

Valrico, Florida 33594 681-2051

Randy Wolfe	President	229-3321
Rick Oros	Vice President	685-0866
Ted Grable	Member	685-7193

Directors

Michael Davis	685-0016
Russ Lembke	689-2829
Patricia Radel	651-0210
Luana Russell	684-3144
LaWayne Wyatt	685-2072
Anne Underwood	653-4677

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

	684-6667	
Rick Pitrowski	President	661-1344
Chris Hering	Vice President	654-0235
Joe Ligouri	Treasurer	681-9655
Tom Snelling	Corresponding Secretary	681-9186
T. Szabo	Recording Secretary	684-2547
Peter Aluotto	Trustee	685-0727
Keith Wilson	Trustee	
Alan Devney	Administrator	684-6617

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

LaWayne Wyatt
John Britton
Steve Schneider

Core Committee 685-2072 Coordinator/Scheduler Treasurer 681-1553 685-8378 Equipment Manage:

David Guy Paul Kelmer Rick Borling

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District P.O. Box 3132 Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

William Grace President 685-2817

The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103 Valrico, Florida 33594 681-2051

Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Bloomingdale Homeowners

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Gwen Szafranski Writer Ellen Slovacek Writer JoAnne Scoff Ad Representative Ad Representative Ruth Green Distribution Manager Shirley Farrer Circulation Assistants Rent A Kid delivery system

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Statement of Operation

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available free of charge at area newsstands; Publix, The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, Nations Bank, Mail Boxes Etc., Bell Shoals Citgo, Rainbow Mart, Kash & Karry, Nations Bank, Brandon Library, Sun Bank, Barnett Bank, and Farm Stores.

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MEETINGS

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

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. **BHA Board of Directors**

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. **Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District** First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

Mobile Watch Report

by LaWayne Wyatt

Since September 1, there has been an increase in the number of events reported by patrols and residents. This is surprising news, since summer vacation usually is the heaviest period of activity. At this rate, we could easily return to the same situation that existed several years ago. I don't think anyone wants that to happen.

Reported events include suspicious cars at Alafia School, in construction areas and cruising several neighborhoods; car burglaries, several stolen cars, four suspicious males in a neighborhood at 4 a.m., the theft of lawn ornaments and several cases of vandalism involving the egging of cars, dumping planters and setting trash on fire at Park East.

Another two incidents had the potential of causing severe injury. On the night of Sept. 9, several young teens placed a table and three barrels from Park East in the middle of Nature's Way. They were placed in a semi-

dark area which would have made them difficult to see until it was to late. The second incident involved three kids shooting a pellet gun at a dog in the vicinity of Polumbo and Clarion. They could have easily caused serious injury to the dog and hit an innocent bystander or someone in a house.

A final incident involved a male teen exposing himself on Natures Way near the Golf Course. This individual has been identified by the Sheriff's Office.

Our thanks to Tony and Dee Diolosa of River Crossings; Ted Rangle from Oakcrest; and Steve Shaneman from Bloomingdale West for volunteering during the last three months. We greatly appreciate their addition to the membership, however, we have also lost nine members during the same period. At this rate, we will be forced to further reduce the number of scheduled patrols.

Pitrowski Chosen To Lead STD Trustees

Rick Pitrowski was selected to return to the president's post of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District for the 1996 fiscal year at last month's meeting.

He previously served as the board's president during the 1994 fiscal year during which time he initiated an aggressive campaign to beautify the Bloomingdale community. It was during that year that the common thoroughfares were landscaped with palms and decorated with park benches and surrounding plantings.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the beautification program and working with the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association on the Bloomingdale 2000 project," Pitrowski said, then added. "More to come."

Other officers chosen are Chris Hering, vice-president; Joe Liguori, treasurer; Dr. T. Szabo, recording secretary; and Tom the board, and Keith Wilson rounds out the list of trustees.

Liguori returns to his old post of treasurer after a one-year absence from the board. Snelling, a land development manager with the city of Tampa, fills the position vacated by Fred Uphoff. Dr. Szabo is a retired optometrist from Indiana and fills the seat vacated by Sue Hadden. Wilson will complete the term left by Michaela Sykes, whose family was transfered out of state.

The board also has a new administrative assistant. Belinda Kimbrough is a resident of Fox Run and will see to the daily office duties of the trustees.

The STD oversees the common grounds of all the Bloomingdale communities with a budget of nearly \$300,000. Every homeowner pays \$80 annually in

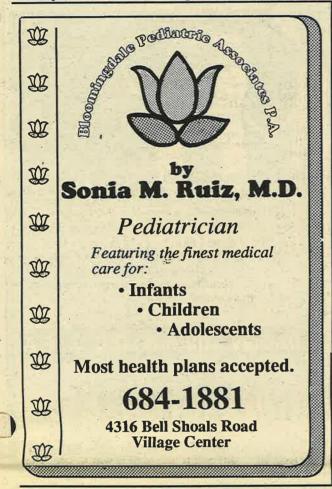
Good Neighbors:

Every Neighborhood Should Have A 'Pop'

by Gwen Szafranski

Quite a few of us are Floridians by chance, not birth, and have transferred in from all areas of the country. Our neighborhoods are highly mobile and may change considerably every few years as corporations or the military play chess with our lives and transplant us somewhere else. With spanking new homes popping up like mushrooms all around us, some of us yearn for the long ago neighborhoods of our youth, which seemed a little more stable and a lot more friendly. Everyone knew everyone else, it seemed, and neighborly favors, like recipes, were exchanged.

Such thoughts make me hope that every Bloomingdale neighborhood could have a T.J. Spurgeon, or "Pop", as residents of our neighborhood affectionately



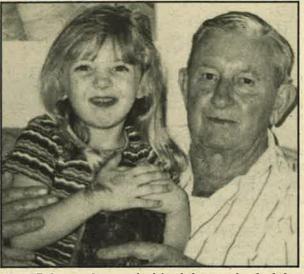
call him. We first met him soon after we moved into our newly built home four years ago when he walked to our door, introduced himself as "Pop", and handed us two freshly baked loaves of bread. Along with the fragrant loaves came his offer for us to call on him if we needed anything, an offer I was soon to take him up on.

Within weeks after moving into our home, a few packing cartons still lingering in each room, I found myself in the unenviable position of having locked myself out of the house. I glanced around the neighborhood at houses in construction, a few vacant lots, and older homes occupied for the most part by families with working mothers. Knowing no one, my only alternative was going door to door to see who was home and who would let me use their phone. It was then I remembered Pop's offer, and sure enough, he was most welcoming when I rang his doorbell, and we had a good laugh about my absentmindedness.

I soon discovered that Pop was well-known in the neighborhood, not only for his little favors and acts of kindness, but also for the volumes of baked goods that emanated from his kitchen and found their way to the tables of old and new neighbors. Of course, there are the loaves of "welcome bread" for each new resident, but these are soon followed by a steady stream of goodies that match the season or holiday. Thanksgiving and Christmas, Pop might appear with hot pumpkin and cherry pies. Spring and summer he might show up with a pineapple-upside-down cake or a tub of his famous potato salad. And, of course, there were all sorts of variations on his famous bread.

I asked him recently if he would mind sharing his recipe for bread and a few facts about his life. "Do you have 20 minutes?" was Pop's response, explaining that he'd rather show me how to mix the ingredients than tell me. While gathering ingredients, Pop explained how he had agreed to come to Florida to house-sit for his daughter, and ended up staying for eight years. "She Shanghied me!" Pop claims. What followed was a terse but interesting tale of a Louisiana boyhood, a stint in the Merchant Marines, travelling from Louisiana ports to Panama City and even Tampa, and "...three years, one month and 10 days in the U.S. Navy aboard a submarine."

Pop told of making five patrol runs in the South Pacific during World War II, and spending 25 years working for Gulf Oil on a tugboat in the Philadelphia harbor on



Little Brianna Aversa holds tight to a loaf of the famous welcome bread her great-grandfather T. J. "Pop" Spurgeon bakes.

the Delaware River - all this while tossing ingredients together with ease until I realized I'd better pay closer attention or I'd miss the secret of his recipe. Pop explained that he enjoyed sharing his recipes and told of a neighbor who particularly likes his Thanksgiving turkey recipe.

"The secret, of course, is steaming it in beer - any brand," Pop commented, but I figured we'd better let that one go until later and get back to the bread in hand. And so the following is the recipe as Pop demonstrated it. If you try this recipe, serve the bread hot with lots of butter and maybe a dash of cinnamon, especially after you do something silly, like lose your keys, and need a little comfort to get through the rest of the day.

For two loaves, combine 4 cups of Better For Bread Flour (by Gold Medal), 3/4 cups of sugar, 1/2 teaspoon of salt, and 1 1/2 packages of yeast. Add 1/2 to 3/4 cups of lukewarm water. Beat two eggs and add to flour. Melt a quarter stick of margarine and add to ingredients. (Pop mixed ingredients with his hands, making sure all was "wet". Kids will have fun with this part of the recipe!) Place dough either in a nonheated oven or on the counter top to rise with a damp, warm dish towel covering the bowl. Let sit for one hour until double in size, then take out and beat down with hands. Knead, and place loaves in two bread pans sprayed with Pam. Allow bread to sit for one hour more. Set oven to 375 and bake break for 15 minutes. Turn temperature down to 350 and bake for another 30 to 35 minutes, depending on your oven. Take out and enjoy!

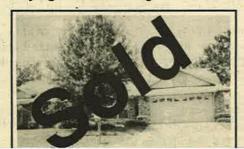
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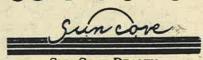
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Johann

Kvorno into

their home. A

junior at

Army.

by Gwen Szafranski

Fall activities are in full swing, and there's much to report around Bloomingdale. Many wonderful projects are being tackled by organizations throughout the community and we'd love to hear from you, too!

Sealys Host Swedish and Norwegian Students

Johannes Hellsten found out you can go home again when he returned last month to visit Jan and Kitty Sealy, his host parents when he was a Bloomingdale exchange student five years ago. The Sealy's featured in last month's "Good Neighbors", were thrilled to see Hellsten, who plans to tour the United States on a motorcycle while siteseeing and visiting friends in Houston, Denver, Las Vegas and San Francisco. Hellsten may be remembered by former Bloomingdale students for his engaging personality and his love of water sports, especially scuba diving.

Although his American parents had a few words of caution for this ambitious 24-year-old, the Sealys seemed confident that Hellsten would make the most of his trip; after all, he toured India for six months with his girlfriend last year. Hellsten, who currently works at a boarding school in England, would like to return to Sweden to volunteer for six months with the NATO forces in Bosnia,



Johannes Hellsten visits "Dad" Jan Sealy and Johann Kvorno.

BHS, Kvorno recently found himself in the unusual situation of having his host family transferred to another city. A native of Norway, Kvorno enjoys his studies at the school and, even more, his participation on the Brandon Express soccer team, so he was pleased to accept the Sealy's offer of a

place to stay.

nessman father, had visited the East Coast five years ago, enjoying the many sites between Washington, D.C. and Miami, and was anxious to return to this country as an exchange student. Although he's still adjusting to the Florida climate, Kvorno thoroughly enjoys the water sports available, especially water skiing. He recently participated in a soccer tournament in St. Petersburg and is looking forward to attending the playoffs later in November. Plenty of Treasures in Fox Run

Hundreds of visitors to the Bloomingdale community had a specific mission Saturday, Oct. 21 - to find great stuff at a great price at the semi-annual Fox Run Community. Garage Sale.

Sponsored in the fall and spring by the Fox Fun Social



The very active Fox Fun Social Club sponsored its annual children's costume parade last week. Children were treated to refreshments and given bags of goodies after the parade.

Club, the giant garage sale featured treasures at 20 homes, and draws return customers and newcomers.

This year's and previous sales have been coordinated by Mrs. Teddie Berry.

Fox Run resident and garage saleswoman Belinda Kimbrough said residents always find items to sell, especially if they've just moved in or are being re-located elsewhere. And what about the left overs?

"Sometimes they'll save it for the next one," Mrs. Kimbrough said, "because they know we'll have another sale in the spring."

Old Fashioned Family Fun Picnic

It was a gathering of the tribes at Edward Medard Park last month when many families were guests of BHA board member Michael Davis and his wife

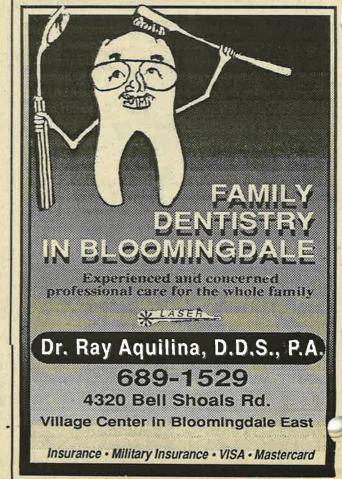
Judy at an old fashioned family fun day. Residents of The Greens turned out as did many of Michael's RE/MAX Realty Unlimited clients.

Originally slated as a client appreciation day, the event turned into quite a neighborhood get together with free food, clowns, pony rides, a

See BITS, pg. 11



Neighbors got together for an old fashioned family picnic hosted by BHS board member Michael Davis.







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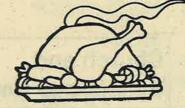
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Life In These Times

Family, Food Make Thanksgiving Memorable



by Daniel Farrer

Well that very special time of year is here again. No, I don't mean football! It's that special time of year when the temperature begins to drop a few degrees each week and you feel like rummaging through the innermost depths of your closet for that old favorite sweater of yours that you haven't seen for almost eight months.

No! I'm not talking about snowbird season either. I'm talking about fall! Yes, there is a fall. Just in case you can't remember what it was like, it happened about this same time last year. Only not as wet as this year.

I've always loved the fall because it brought such a welcome change to the somewhat stifling days of summer. The change in the air with it's new smell of fallen leaves and cooler temperatures always signified a coming time of rest and variation. why you could actually play all day and never get sweaty.

Over the years, my most favorite time of fall has always been Thanksgiving. For our family it has been a time of reunion. A special once-a-year time to see grand-parents, cousins, uncles and aunts again. A time for kids to share their adventures of the past year, swap tales of Christmas gifts long wished for and received, stories of school adventures and accomplishments and of course, the great adventures of summer.

Even at a very young age, I also realized it was for us a time of giving thanks for the blessings and bounty that we'veenjoyed through the year and a time to taste grandma's fried chicken again.

Thanksgiving was a big affair and still is for our clan. After 40 years or more, you can still count on a least 60 to 100 people showing up. And for a kid who loves to eat, it was like going to heaven. The sheer mass of food was just incredible. Not mention the variety.

There were always several ham and turkey dishes, chicken fixed more ways than you could possibly believe, casseroles by the truck load, and vegetables! It was like a 40-acre farm. Fresh corn on the cob (all you could eat) dripping in butter, fresh picked green beans fixed 10 different ways, squash that you could really like to eat. Plus dressings and gravys and an endless variety of potato dishes.

Desserts covered another whole table and consisted of the most delightful culinary accomplishments that over 1,000 combined years of cooking experience could provide. Pies and cakes of all descriptions, types and sizes. Special family recipes provided homemade cobblers made from fresh berries and peaches. The smells of pumpkin, apple, raisin and pecan hung heavy in the air. Despite our firm upbringing regarding table manners, we occasionally would sneak a slice if we felt we could avoid the condemning glance or the swap from a large wooden cooking spoon.

Of course, everyone had their favorites. Mine was my grandmother's turkey dressing with home made turkey gravy. No one could make it like she could. Even if she gave you the recipe, it didn't quite taste the same. On of my uncles claimed she put a dash of some special stuff in it. (However, he was known to have taken a little sip now and then).

As I grew older and wiser, I came to realize that in addition to the food, the really great part was visiting with folks you hadn't seen in a long while. As the day wore and the shadows grew longer, we would find ourselves talking of old times and the new times and recipes that life's table was providing for each of us. Over the years, I came to realize how much those special Thanksgiving days helped to solidify us into one greater whole. As a family we came to share each others successes, shouldered one anothers burdens and rejoiced as we came to behold the new little faces of life that had joined our ever-expanding family.

As you prepare for fall and it's approaching special season, perhaps this year is the time to get your family together again. It doesn't have to be large like ours has been. For a family is a family no matter what its size.

Begin today and make the important calls that will bring those closest and farthest away (in distance and in the heart) back home again. Dig out the old family album and look through the recipe file. If you do it, perhaps this year you may come to experience and understand a new meaning for the word "Thanksgiving."

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Mr. and Mrs. Claus

NORTH POLE

The jolly couple are taking time out from their busy schedule to meet with the children of Bloomingdale and are setting up visitation in the Sun Cove Real Estate office in Bloomingdale Square

Parents are invited to bring along a camera to capture the occasion as Santa meets individually with each child who comes to see him.

Church and Synagogue News

by Ellen Slovacek

Since I've started writing this column, I have been happily surprised at all the enrichment experiences our religious community affords us. As we enter into the busy holiday season, this becomes particularly pronounced.

One event I know you will not want to miss is the 3rd Annual Pilgrim Village sponsored by the St. Mark United Church, United Church of Christ.

This event will be held Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the

church grounds, Lithia Pinecrest at Guiles. It is free and open to public. the There, you will be entertained with costumed pilgrims and historical re-enactments. You can have a turkey stew lunch with the natives and get a picture take of yourself in the stockade. You



B.J. Jones, Candy Rancine, Marie Rodgers and Karen Goodwin are glad they have modern conveniences to prepare a Pilgrim

and your family will be sure to learn a little history as you wander through the Pilgrim dwellings and tour Fort Brooke's "fort parade float." You can even start your Christmas shopping as you browse through the many and varied craft booths.

Dr. Garry A Scheuer, Jr., Pastor of St. Mark's, tells us that this is a wonderful opportunity to get into the Pilgrim spirit for Thanksgiving. And I agree!

The Village is just the beginning of a week of special programs. On Sunday, Nov. 19, at 11 a.m., the church celebrates Pilgrim Sunday with a service modeled after the services from the year 1620. On Wednesday evening, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m., a Thanksgiving Eve service will be held. The public is invited to attend and participate in any or all of these events.

Mrs. Louise McRae, who chairs the Pilgrim Village committee says, "These events offer an opportunity for the whole community to get in touch with our common history and early American values."

Many thanks to these good people who work so hard to offer our community an enriching and enjoyable experience.

On your way to Pilgrim Village, be sure to stop by the 50 family yard sale sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale. This will take place Saturday, Nov. 18, at 710 E. Bloomingdale from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Proceeds from the event will help benefit the children of Honduras where the families are extremely poor and lacking in even the most modest

Although ongoing projects are in the field of education for better health and improvement in farming and cottage in-

> dustries, the lack of medical care and facilities is acute. Therefore, the illness and dehydration in young children is often fatal.

> Addressing this problem is a very positive way, the Youth Fellowship of the Presbyterian Church Bloomingdale

and their counterpart, the 49ers Plus, have been joining in the production of a rehydration formula. Sealed packets of carefully measured ingredients are being hand delivered to the people of Honduras. We added to boiled water, this drink restores body fluids and literally saves the lives of many children.

The church is justly proud of its young people and invite all youth in the area to join them in this important, lifesaving project. For further information, call 654-3699. And don't forget to attend the yard sale. Who knows, you may find a replacement for that size 13 golf shoe you lost last year.

One last thought. Very early every weekday morning, I teach one of the three Old Testament classes to a group of teenagers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons).

See CHURCH, page 11

A Moment In Time

by Ellen Abramson

he rain had abated. The bumper to bumper traffic on Bloomingdale was inching through a particularly muddy

Suddenly, traffic stopped, but no flag bearer was on duty at that spot.

As I sat there fretting, the drama unfolded. A turtle, legs extended to their limits, scurried at top turtle speed, across the road in front of the waiting cars, to safety.

We smiled. The day had brightened, after all.









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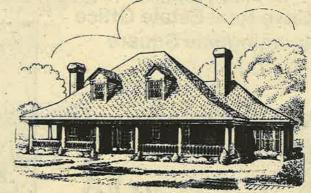
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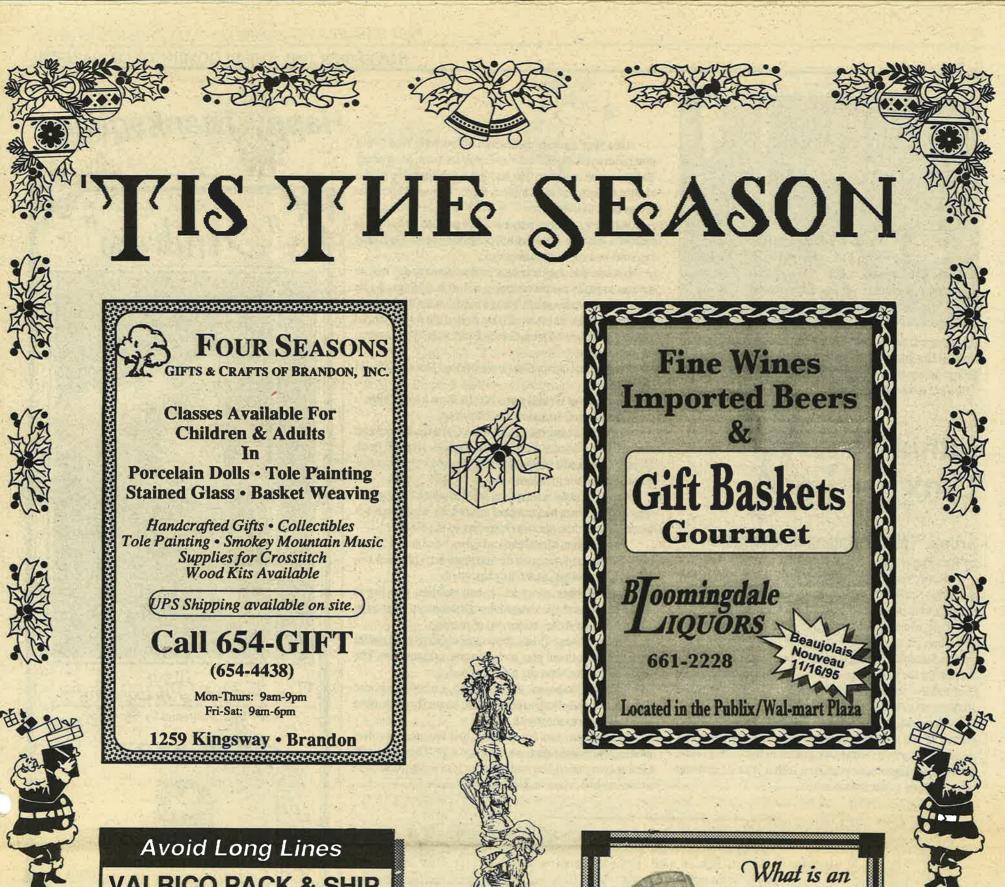
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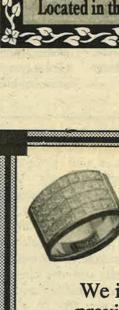
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Students from Lithia Springs Elementary are in awe of the balletic talents of BHS student Michell Price who performed for the children during "Relfections" week.

Lithia Lynx



Artists' Talents Reflected In Children by Ron Pogorzelski

"Reflections," an art and cultural week sponsored by the Lithia Springs PTA, had students at the school enthusiastic and at times, awestruck at the talents displayed.

They witnessed nine artists in music, dance, painting, sculpting, photography, pottery and story-telling. Chairperson Suzanne Livingston of Bloomingdale said "this was by far the best range of artists and performers we've ever had and the interest, acceptance and applause by the students reflected that."

Aimed at motivating the students' interest in and pursuit of the arts, "Reflections" asks its students to do projects that will be judged by grades in the county, state and national finals. Last year, four Lithia Springs students were honored at the state level.

This year's guests came from all over the county but none with as much difficulty as Leroy Jackson, Sr., a noted Tampa wood sculptor. He had the total attention of the classes he lectured and children lingered around him after it was time to leave.

What the children may not have noticed or known is that Mr. Jackson honored his commitment to the Lithia students in a super-human way.

It seems Mr. Jackson's car broke down the day before he was to make his presentation at Lithia Springs. So he started out from his south Tampa home on his bicycle, his baskets loaded with his works. He started out for the school at 6 a.m. and arrived from Gandy Blvd. at 8:30 a.m., some 25 miles later.

"I could not disappoint these children," he said. "I said I'd be there."

Coach **Paul Griggs** gave Mr. Jackson a ride home. Other guests included the following:

Local ballet instructor, Joanne Calsetta-James and two of her students from Bloomingdale High School, Heather Sack and Michell Price. The students were fascinated when the girls danced.

Cindy Roudebush, a local artist in water-color paintings and acrylics, has traveled around the world and her work reflects this. She was inspiring to the children.

Tim Golden, a local photographer, combined a showing of slides and music to demonstrate how pictures can bring out emotions. Students responded.

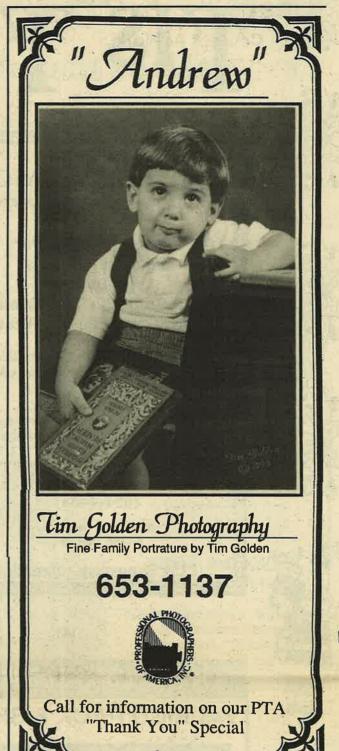
Kelly Richey, story teller, had children join her in doing stories and encouraged them to make up their own. The emphasized the excitement of reading.

Susan Prestge, flutist, captivated children in all grades with her exceptional play and engaging presentation. The students did not want the period to end.

Jonnie Chapman, an artist who sculpts hands and dolls' heads and excels at drawing the human body, had the children participating with her.

Mike Ross, jazz bass player, had the most involvement with the eight classes he worked with. They sang with him, accompanied him with another instrument, and were in awe of him when he played.

Happy Thanksgiving



Gator Tales

by Ruthe Brunson

Volunteers. Without them where would our schools be? At Alafia, we are very appreciative of all those who give of their time to help further the education of our children. The PTA honors a volunteer a week with a small gift of appreciation. Volunteers honored for the first three weeks of October were Teresa Fuchs, Joanne Scully, and Terry Vassalotti.

A reminder that Market Day is Nov. 7. Please pick up your goodies between 4:30 and 5:30.

Alafia's Book Fair is Nov. 13-20. On Monday, Nov. 13, the children will have the opportunity to view many items and books prior to purchasing them on the remaining days. Parents may visit the book fair at any time, but it will be open Thursday evening,

Nov. 16, until 7 p.m. for the convenience of working parents.

The book fair is open to everyone in the Alafia community, and it is a great source for gifts and stocking stuffers.

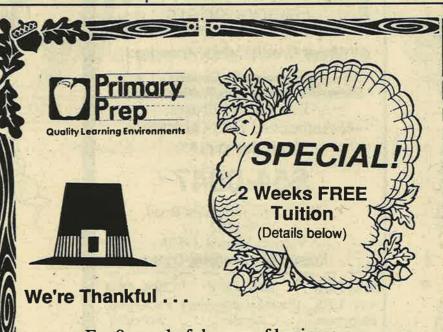
Alafia will celebrate American Education Week Nov. 13-17 when many parents will visit classrooms to share their careers at the Great American Teach-In on Nov. 16.

Those children participating at Alafia in "Reflections", a cultural arts program sponsored by the National PTA, will have their entries judged Nov. 17. On Nov. 28, all artwork will be on display in the school cafeteria at 7 p.m. Awards and prizes will be given at that time. Those chosen to represent Alafia will have their artwork sent to PTA County Council for judging, and could advance to state and national competition.

The November general meeting of the PTA has not yet been set with such a busy month. Notices will be sent home with the children.

Alafia PTA along with the student council is in the process of implementing a paper recycling program at the school.

This program will help encourage and teach the students the importance of recycling and give them hands-on experience.



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The list goes on and on! And in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we would like to extend a special offer to new families that would like to join us. All new enrollments that begin by December 4, 1995 will receive the last 2 weeks of December free! (December 18 through 29.) That's free tuition-right at Christmastime! Can you think of other things to do with your money at this time of the year?!

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Team Concept At Work

by Lauren Krause

In anticipation of the near future, Burns will be converting into team when it becomes a middle school. Two pilot teams of eighth graders - the Grizzly team and the Kodiaks, are already in place and practicing middle school

Middle school programs are student oriented and cooperative learning centered. They focus on high expectations, achievement, support and technology.

The middle school concept emphasizes group planning in an effort to avoid conflict timing for tests, assignments and projects. A team assignment organizer is given to all students on the team.

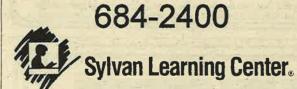
We hope the team plan will work for upcoming years at Burns.

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Student Govt. Leads

Fox Run resident Hebah Abdel-Aziz was crowned homecoming queen and Dimitri Goddard, king, last month at the BHS Homecoming festivities.

Hebah is involved in student government, Jayteens, and the science honors society. Dimitra participates in track and field and belongs to Spectrum.

The senior court included Beth Dover, Megan Gillis, Kenyatta Henderson, Kimberly Hunter, Bridget Jenkins, Leslie Lewis and Shawna Nation. The king candidates included Mike Allegretti, Kris Fillon, Rob Hill, Jay Miller, Luis Perez, Jeff Prugh, Alex Ruiz, Matt Umbarger, Andre Walker and Brad Weldy.

The junior court was made up of Jenna Padgett, Shayla Webb, Erika Wilson, Shawn Brown, Jeff Hill and Jason VanHeule, while the sophomore court included Andrea Greene, Kristen Fisher, Ryan Shellig, Sam Watson, and Matt White.

Bloomingdale's student council has had a busy year so far with Carni-Bull and Homecoming requiring a lot of planning, but they pulled off both events with resounding success.

Mike Allegretti is student council president and he was chairperson of Carni-Bull, an annual fair where school clubs set up booths to raise funds for their projects during the year. Allegretti is an honor student at BHS and rose through the ranks of student government, serving as junior vice-president last year and on the sophomore class council

The other officers are Jay Miller, senior vicepresident; Brianna Nation, junior vice-president; Brad Weldy, secretary; Barry Hoey and Suzanne Lofreddo, co-treasurers; and Kenyatta Henderson, historian.

Miller also is co-president with Bridget Jenkins of District 4 Student Government representing nearly 100 public and private high schools in west central Florida area.

Athletic Calendar Bulls', Bruins' Events

Football

Nov. 9

Nov. 11

Bulls vs Hillsboro

Regionals

Cross Country

Nov. 18 State

Swimming/Diving

Nov. 10-11 Districts

Nov. 16 State

Basketball

Nov. 13 Boys vs. Hillsboro Burns at Dowdell Nov. 14 Girls at Leto Nov. 16 Boys vs. Gaither Van Buren at Burns Nov. 17 Girls vs. Durant Nov. 20 Boys vs. King Greco at Burns Nov. 21 Girls vs. Gaither Nov. 27 Boys vs. Armwood Nov. 28 Girls vs. Armwood Nov. 30 **Boys at Durant**

Mann at Burns Girls at Plant City

Soccer

Nov. 14 vs. Gaither

Dec. 1

Nov. 17 vs. Brandon

Wrestling

Nov. 14 vs Robinson Nov. 21 at Jefferson Nov. 30 vs Gaither Dec. 1 at King

Mon 9-5 Tues 9-5 Wed 9-5 Thurs 9-5 Frt 9-5

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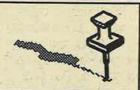
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Business Notes



Prepaid College Program Begins Enrollment

The prepaid college program began its 8th campaign last month and enrollment continues through Jan. 12, 1996. Applications are available at all First Union branches in Florida.

Prepaid college contracts guarantee the cost of Florida's college tuition and dormitory fees at this year's rates. The program allows parents, grandparents and relatives to prepay a child's tuition at one of Florida's nine state universities or 28 community colleges. And this year, the program offers a new out-of-state option.

Payments may be made on a monthly installment for students 8th grade or younger, on a five-year (55-month) installment, or in one lump sum.

For information call 1-800-552-GRAD, prompt 1. **Mary Odum Graduates**

Coldwell Banker sales associate and Bloomingdale Estates resident Mary Odum recently earned the Coldwell Banker University Sales Institute graduate for the Coldwell Banker West Central Florida brokerage division.

To graduate from CBU, Odum completed more than 25 courses to earn approximately 85 credit hours. On average, it takes three years of course work to graduate from CBU.

Odum has been with Coldwell Banker for 11 years, and has been honored as a Senior Sales Associate and a member of the Coldwell Banker President's Club. She will serve on the Board of Directors for the Greater Tampa Association of Realtors for the 1996-98 term.

Luana Russell Poses Challenge

Realtor and Bloomingdale (Windsor Woods) resident

Luana Russell has challenged Brandon Eckerd Drug Store manager Lenny Leonardi in a charity event with proceeds to be awarded Children's Miracle Network.

The Brandon Sun Cove realtor will contribute \$1 for every dollar raised during the contest by Eckerd employees at the Bloomingdale store last month.

Eckerd is a corporate sponsor of CMN, one of whose benefi-



Eckerd manager Lenny Leonardi gives realtor Luana Russell the first charity card in a contest between the two to assist children with medical challenges.

ciaries is All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg. Russell said she favors the event because of her love for children, knowledge of CMN and the interest by Eckerd employees in the non-profit organization.

Russell also recently announced Diane Schoeffel as her new licensed real estate assistant. Schoeffel has worked the past eight years in the real estate profession in the Brandon area. She and her husband Wayne are Bloomingdale area residents and attend St. Stephen Catholic Church in Valrico. They have a daughter, Amy, who attends Marquette University.

Schoeffel noted that the area's continued expansion in the retail market coupled with exceptional schools make this area a desirable place to live.

Michael Davis Provides Info Packets

Information-packed special reports that are full of vital knowledge are now being offered by Michael Davis of RE?MAX Realty Unlimited, now with an office in Bloomingdale. These reports are packed with information for serious home buyers and sellers. Davis is making these available for a limited time to potential buyers and sellers of residential real estate.

"How to Sell Your Home For the Highest Possible Price" is one of the reports Davis has compiled. This report helps avoid mistakes that could cost hundreds, even thousands of dollars when someone goes to sell their home. Yet another report is entitled "Twenty-nine Critical Questions to Ask a Realtor Before You List." Davis said choosing a realtor is an important decision and recommends sellers and buyers to interview three agents.

For further information, call Davis at 684-8881.

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Legal Matters

Establishing Florida Domicile For Income And Estate Tax

by Anthony Campisano **Attorney at Law**

A person's domicile is important for income and estate tax purposes. Many people in the Tampa Bay area are transplants from another state. Florida has no personal income tax and Florida does not have a separate estate tax. Many northern states have both state income taxes and separate estate taxes. Consequently, it is often preferable for an individual to be treated as being domiciled in Florida, rather than another state, for income tax and estate tax purposes.

If a person has contacts to Florida and another state, the other state's taxing authorities may challenge the person's assertion that he or she is domiciled in Florida.

There are two necessary elements required to establish a Florida domicile - physical presence and intent. Physical presence can be satisfied by owning or leasing a residence in Florida and spending time at that residence.

Obviously, the more permanent the relationship with Florida, the stronger the showing of physical presence. Therefore, fee simple ownership is preferable over leasing.

In addition to physical presence, a person must have the "intent" of having Florida as his or her domicile. A number of factors must be considered when establishing a person's "intent" to be domiciled in Florida. What follows is a list of the factors that are considered in determining whether a person has the necessary "intent". Not all of the factors must be satisfied; however, the more the

- 1. Obtain a Florida driver's license and a Florida license plate.
- 2. Obtain a Florida voter's regis-
 - 3. Discontinue filing tax returns in See LAW, pg. 11

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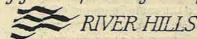
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BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza. Homeowner concerns and issues are always welcomed. The meeting is open to all dues-paying members and all newcomers are invited to attend. A meeting format is published on page 1.

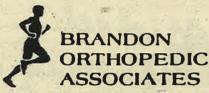
STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustees will be Monday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza. The meeting is open to all Bloomingdale homeowners.

Rep. Johnson Sets Meeting

State Representative Buddy Johnson has scheduled a satellite meeting for constituents Wednesday, Nov. 15,

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Account Opened for Nature's Classroom

Residents concerned about the future of Nature's Classroom may now make donations at any NationsBank branch office. The bank, through the Hillsborough Education Foundation, has established a special account for donations to help save the internationally-recognized environmental education program.

Tax-deductible donations can be made at any NationsBank branch or mailed to the Nature's Classroom Account - Hillsborough Education Foundation, 2010 E. Hillsborough Ave., Room 212, Tampa, Fla. 33610. Checks should specify Nature's Classroom.

Kiwanis Meeting

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Brandon Nights meet every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Game Day Grill, Oak Park Plaza on Lumsden and Kings. President of the organization is Bloomingdale resident Mark Leytze. The group sponsors the Terrific Kids program in the local elementary schools.

BITS; from page 4

petting zoo, a magic show and prizes.

"Michael and I gave away two Savings Bonds for children's education," said Judy "Michael is committed to family and community and the Savings Bonds and the picnic were simply a way for him to give something back."

One of the more entertaining events was the opportunity for children to knock orange safety cones with water shooting out of a fire hose from a community fire engine on hand for viewing.

Kidprint videos also were made with time and video tape donated by Blockbuster.

"I though I would have a good turnout, but I was surprised at how good it was," Davis said. "And now I can't believe how many people are calling me to thank me for such a fun day." Committee Hosts Cruise Party

Fun and fellowship are the goals of the "Cruise Information Party" on Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of St. Stephen Catholic Church, Bell Shoals Road. The Cruise Committee has planned a lively night of games, food and door prizes for community guests interested in learning details about the sevenday cruise aboard the "Fun Ship" Tropicale, which departs next

Committee members Bill and Jackie Durocher, Pam and Joe Liguori, Mike and Mary Bosler, Dea Giometti, John Joyce, and T.J. and Marilyn Martin, all of whom enjoyed last year's cruise, welcome all members of the community to attend this event and hope they decide to join the fun on this year's

the state formerly domiciled, except when income is taxable

4. Establish relationships with Florida attorneys, accoun-

5. Change your address on all of your credit cards and

and own, or at least lease, and occupy a dwelling in Hillsborough County.

CHURCH, from page 6

You probably think I'm out of my mind for taking on this assignment - sometimes I do too - but these kids are great and the lessons I have learned are invaluable.

It has been said that in a teaching situation it is the teacher, not the student who learns the most. That is certainly the case here.

So when Thanksgiving season rolls around and I pause for a brief moment and reflect on all the good things in my life, I will be seeing nearly a dozen young faces string back at me, asking me questions like:

"How did Noah keep the cages clean on the ark?" Or, "What was the sodium content of Lot's wife before she left Sodom?" Or, "Just how red and hairy was Esau, anyway? Did he look like a goat?"

These are my students, my friends. Thanks. You're

STD, from page 2

non-ad valorum taxes for the upkeep of the community.

In other STD news, due to the tenacity of Elijah Johnson, the Culbreath Cove community is now part of the Bloomingdale Taxing District. The small community of homes south on Culbreath beyond Oakcrest, has never been figured into the Bloomingdale tax rolls and have had to maintain the common grounds of the entrance themselves.

cruise.

Youth Craft Quilts for "At Risk" Babies

Youth minister Madonna Fuller and parishioner Marilyn Martin have joined forces to guide St. Stephen's Junior High students through a year-long project that will produce six quilts for the ABC Quilt (At-Risk Babies Crib Quilts) project. The finished quilts will be presented to local hospitals and foster homes to babies who are born with HIV/AIDS, are drug affected

Among the students are Bloomingdale residents Erin Nikitas, Andrea Gosselin, Melissa Haines, Kelly McLaughlin, Kim McLaughlin, Angela Mann, Corey Gosselin, Matt Grisham, Kate Kerins, Kevin Fuller, Matt Garcia and Jonathan Harris.

Students worked on 10X10-inch squares tracing various Teddy bear patterns and adding touches of color with fabric paint.

'The appeal of the project to the students is the opportunity to get personally involved," said Mrs. Martin. "It truly is a handson activity where kids can feel they are making a difference in some baby's life."

The ABC Quilts project began in 1988 as a grass-roots, nonprofit, non-denominational organization, which produced 500 quilts for needy babies the first year. Quilting groups, schools, churches and retirement communities have responded to the project which has distributed 165,000 quilts to date. If you would like to learn more about the ABC Quilt project, contact Ann White, ABC Quilts Home Office, RR #1, Box 241, Northwood, NH 03261-

LAW, from page 10

tants, brokers, doctors, and insurance agents.

6. Spend as much time in Hillsborough County as possible

7. File Florida's intangible personal property tax return. 8. Revise your will, living will, health care declaration and durable power of attorney to recite Florida as your domicile.

9. Change your affiliations with religious and social organizations to Florida.

10. Transfer all of your financial assets (i.e. securities, bank accounts, brokerage accounts, etc.) to institutions in Florida or Florida offices of financial institutions used in the former state.

11. Always declare Florida domicile in oral and written communications.

12. File a declaration of domicile with the Clerk of Circuit Court of Hillsborough County.



in my home, day o revenings. Sharon Stout,

RESIDENTS WHO

Dustin Braswell, 689-

Kimberly Reiser, 684-

Schlossnagle, 650-0453

Avon Representatives:

Ruth Calandro, 689-0212

Angela Reiser and

684-2027.

Babysitters

Erin and Beth

ARE:

6006

DELIVERY KIDS

Delivery of The Bloomingdale Gazette in the Oakcrest and River Crossing areas. Call 681-2051 between 9:30-12:30, M-F.

DAYCARE

Christian mother will provide TLC in her home for 2 small children, M-F, Bloomingdale area. \$85/week. Call Mrs. Johnson, 654-6226.

FOUND:

Pair of men's glasses found in Bloomingdale. Call the Community Office at 681-2051.

LESSONS:

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As one of the area's leading real estate professionals, Michael Davis understands what a critically important time it is for you when you buy or sell the single most largest investment you will make in your life—your home. There are decisions to be made that will affect your financial well-being, for many years to come. It is a time where you have to rely on the advice and direction of a qualified real estate professional.

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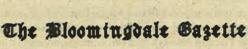
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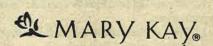
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