

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

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## Sidewalks To Rec Center - Maybe

By Rozel Sciulli

If Tim Golden can find a way to raise \$32,500, the unfinished sidewalks in Bloomingdale West can be completed.

He has been to the county and received engineering and construction. And he has been to the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District to solicit the funds and has been turned down for now.

Sidewalks on Garnet, Canoga Park Drive and Rosemead stop short of the roads they were intended to lead pedestrians to.

This has created a hazard for children in Bloomingdale West attempting to get to the new Bloomingdale Community Center by having to walk or ride their bikes along the busy entrance roads of the community.

In August, County Commissioner Dottie Berger and a host of county engineers and site planners visited with residents at the Center to explain the lack of funds for construction of the sidewalks. At the time, she said, the area was not on the needs list or the long range (six-year) plan.

Since the meeting, other safety measures have been taken, such as posting playground road signs and reducing the speed limit.

But, still no sidewalks.

Golden, who was willing to make the project a grass root effort by volunteers, has rounded up a bevy of county support. But no money.

When he asked the STD for the funds at the group's October meeting, Golden was told this year's budget was already committed, but that a vote in his favor by at least four of the trustees could make the funds available. Golden said he's getting mixed signals.

"First I was told it couldn't be done because it wasn't in their charter to build sidewalks. Then I was told the budget was already done for this year but if four people voted for it, it could be changed."

STD president Rick Pitrowski said he has corresponded with the county for three years regarding the completion of the sidewalks in West.

"The STD was formed to provide for the aesthetics of a community (through tax dollars of the residents)," Pitrowski said. "The county is supposed to take care of the infrastructure - roads and sidewalks."

"The county needs to step up and correct the problem."

The Parks and Recreation Department has offered labor and equipment to complete the sidewalk connections.

"They're willing to undertake the entire project,"

Golden said. "That's about \$60,000 worth of work."

In addition, the sidewalks department will help survey, engineer and oversee the project.

"They'll do everything short of buying the concrete," Golden said.

The road and streets department may also become involved.

Golden said the county's involvement means a huge savings.

With 500 linear feet of sidewalk, a contractor charging \$20 a linear foot would bring the project price tag to \$100,000.

Because the county is providing the labor for design, engineering and construction, the cost has been reduced some \$60,000.

All that remains is cement at a cost of \$52 a cubic yard. Golden said the need is for \$32,500 in cement.

Golden remains optimistic about the progress the project has made since August.

"The beauty of it is we're involving several county agencies" he said. "Instead of being narrow-minded and saying only the sidewalk department can build it, now parks and recreation can build it with the help of the sidewalk department."

## Bench marks the spot

STD property manager Alan Devney puts a fresh coat of paint on benches for students to use while waiting for buses. The benches are located about 100 feet from intersections where school transportation officials had agreed their buses would stop for pick-ups. Students waiting for the second session Bloomingdale bus, however, were still waiting at the corner of Polumbo at Fairway Manors in East.



## Communities Receive Private Park

By Rozel Sciulli

South Culbreath - the site of tragedy nearly 10 years ago will now be filled with the sound of children's laughter.

Bloomingdale Cove and Somerset residents will have a park beyond The Spot, where a group of teens was mowed down by a drunk driver as they hung out at the dead end street.

The two communities are rising from the once-abandoned and overgrown land that borders The Spot. Now, instead of drivers occasionally re-visiting the site to recall that tragic night, cars will enter gates that lead to hiking trails and play areas.

Developer Glenn Cross, who completed the sell-out of remaining undeveloped land in Bloomingdale South, has donated 52 acres at the south end of Culbreath to the two communities.

The land of mostly scrub bushes and oak trees has trails that go down to the Alafia River. It must be used as a passive park because it is part of the county flood zone.

Cross said he will clear the land and donate basketball courts and a tot lot accessible to the two communities that border the land. He said he will also complete the road to the end of the property.

"I'm going to initiate the work by doing minor things," Cross said. "Then I'm giving it to the Homeowners Associations if they want to improve it."

Cross said the homeowners' associations of the Morrison and Suarez communities will maintain the park, which will have access from Culbreath only. He said the site requires little clearing, only mowing where houses back up to the property.

## Wolfe Elected Roundtable President

By Gazette Staff

Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association president Randy Wolfe has been elected to head the Presidents Roundtable of Brandon, succeeding Steve Saunders.

Wolfe, who has been the BHA president for four years, is a Bloomingdale East resident.

As BHA president he has presided over the community group's efforts in record membership drives and returning the organization to solid financial ground. In addition, during his tenure, the BHA has put to rest many community issues and concerns and was the driving force behind the acquisition of a recreation center in West.

The Roundtable is an organization of the area's club presidents. In its early days, its main function was to oversee the annual Fourth of July celebration with participation from all the clubs. Over the years, club participation has diminished, but the Roundtable continues its parade efforts and has expanded to include a Christmas parade. The Roundtable continues to sponsor the Honorary Mayor's race, its major fund raiser of the year.

Wolfe, a Tampa attorney, joined the Roundtable in his duties as BHA president.



Randy Wolfe



All-purpose chain-link fencing blocks entrance to 52 acres at the south end of Culbreath Road that will soon be developed as a private park for the residents of Bloomingdale Cove and Somerset.

See PARK, page 11



# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

Dear Reader,

This is a brief explanation of how the BHA looks at the community and the conceptual skill it uses to make decisions. As used here, conceptual skill involves the ability of the BHA to see the community as a whole; it includes recognizing how the various functions of the community depend on one another, and how changes in any one part affect all the others; and it extends to visualizing the relationship of the residents to the political, social, and economic forces of the community as a whole. Recognizing these relationships and perceiving the significant elements in any situation, the BHA then is prepared to act in a way which advances the over-all welfare of the total community.

Hence, the success of any decision depends on the conceptual skill of the people who make the decision and those who put it into action. When, for example, an important change in a policy is made, the BHA considers the effects it will have on the people involved. It remains critical right down to the last volunteer who must implement the new policy. We are fortunate to have volunteers who recognize the over-all relationships and significance of the change and they are almost certain to be more effective in administering it. Consequently, the chances for succeeding are greatly increased.

Not only does the effective coordination of the various parts of the community depend on the conceptual skill of the volunteers involved, but also does the whole future direction and tone of the organization. The attitudes of the board members influence the whole character of the organization's response and determine the "community personality" which distinguishes one community from another.

Get involved with your community.



Rick Oros

## Our Times

# Prepare For More School Boundary Wars

By Rozel Sciulli

Here's some food for thought.

Now don't everybody get worked up all at once and go calling downtown headquarters. This is NOT fact, only a guess based on past example.

The School Board has officially announced the coming of High School EEE at the corner of Boyette and Balm-Riverview Road. Better known as the place to turn to go the YMCAs Camp Christina.

With that official announcement, comes the official sign: Future Site of High School EEE. Oh yes, and the reminder that passing the half-cent tax made it all possible.

Anyway, here's this land - lots of land - for a big, new high school being heralded as the solution to end double sessions and ease overcrowding at Bloomingdale High.

That's an interesting pledge since no one south of the river attends Bloomingdale in the first place.

Will Bloomingdale students from the Kings Avenue area be re-routed there? Surely there aren't 1,000 students coming to Bloomingdale from west of Highway 301. They might be good candidates for the new school.

No, the closest Bloomingdale students to the new school - and here's the part where you're not supposed to become alarmed - live right here in Bloomingdale.

Leave it up to the county school's boundary makers to send kids from Bloomingdale and other communities south to the river, down to the new school EEE.

Maybe it'll turn out like the Boyette Springs-Lithia Springs debate of years back.

You remember that, you folks in Bloomingdale West. Remember when the county took your kids out of Brooker and Alafia and said they would have to attend school south of the river at Boyette Springs. South of the river sounded a lot like the other side of the tracks. So, instead, the county gave in to parents who would have rather bypassed Alafia Elementary en route to Lithia Springs. Doesn't make sense to pass one elementary school to attend another, does it? I see a similar fight coming with the new

school EEE. It is unbelievable to me that it will alleviate overcrowding at Bloomingdale because I don't see which Bloomingdale students will be removed.

The kids in Buckhorn? Maybe they'll go to Durant, where they should've gone all along. Maybe then Bloomingdale wouldn't be so crowded. Bet there's 1,000 kids in Buckhorn and those hamlets off Durant Road.

The students bused in from Progress Village? Nope, must keep the racial balance.

Certainly the students in River Hills would have a more direct route down Boyette to the new school, but they've already fallen victim to the magical map makers - they were sent 12 miles away to Durant.

Will students in Buckhorn and those communities off Durant Road whose children ought to be attending Durant High be allowed to remain at Bloomingdale instead of students who reside in the community the school was named for?

It's not beyond the imagination.

Here's the problem. School boundary makers are thinking horizontally when they should be thinking vertically.

Kids who live closer to Brandon High are attending Bloomingdale. Why? Horizontal thinking.

Bloomingdale is at the center of an east-west boundary instead of the center of a north-south boundary. I can easily see the southern boundary for the school becoming Bloomingdale Avenue. That means everyone north of the school to Lumsden and east of the school down Durant Road and west of the school to Highway 41 might stay at Bloomingdale but not the kids who live across the street all because they'd be the closest kids to School EEE.

EEE could come to mean - Every Enemy E-maginable before its doors open to welcome students from who know where in 1998.

## 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

### Directors

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John Profetto Recording Secretary 684-7935  
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### Members

David Guy 681-5943  
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### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132  
Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

Bill Grace President 685-2817  
Fred Englehart Treasurer 685-3638

## The Bloomingdale Gazette

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Valrico, Florida 33594-681-2051  
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Rozel Sciulli	Copy Editor
June Oros	Administrative Assistant/Layout & Graphics Editor
	Writer
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Ellen Slovacek	Ad Representative
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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 7:00 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.

# School To Establish Memorial To Beloved Teacher, Willis

By Phyllis Berlacher

The Alafia community lost a dear and dedicated member of its teaching staff in August.

Karen Willis, a teacher since the school opened in 1988, taught second grade and the school's computer classes until her death this summer.

"She was instrumental in setting up the computer lab and bringing programs to Alafia that made it fun and exciting to learn about computers," Principal Tanly Cabrera said.

Mrs. Willis also was responsible for establishing the Gator Community which consists of the Gator Gazette newspaper, a post office, school store and bank.

As a memorial, the school is dedicating a flower garden in Mrs. Willis' name at the center of the Alafia campus. Called Willis Park, it will include plants, a memorial plaque, tree and benches.

The school is seeking monetary donations to begin work on the park. Those wishing to make a contribution may contact Elisa Gorostiza. Individuals who wish to make material contributions like concrete, stepping stones, plants and benches should contact Kathy Mulvihill. Both teachers may be reached at the school at 744-8190, Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

# Pitrowski Begins 3rd Term As STD President

By Rozel Sciulli

Oakcrest resident Rick Pitrowski was elected to his third term as president of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District at last month's meeting and for what is the beginning of Fiscal Year 1997.

He previously served as the board's president during FY 1994 and in FY 1996.

Also serving the taxing district is Tom Mackiewicz, elected vice president; Joe Liguori, who keeps the position of treasurer; newcomer John Profetto, recording secretary; Dr. T. Szabo, corresponding secretary; and trustees Thom Snelling and Chris Hering.

Alan Devny continues as property manager and Lori Kelly is the STD's administrative assistant.

Bloomingdale's special taxing district budget was approved by the Board of County Commissioners at \$307,865 with 3,466 residents assessed in 1996.

By comparison, Bloomingdale's budget is second highest in the county, behind Northdale's \$384,666 for 3,298 homes. Northdale's assessment is \$100 per residence, while Bloomingdale's is \$80 a year.

The STD uses the funds to maintain the common grounds in East, West, Estates and new Bloomingdale South communities. Besides landscaping, they maintain the walls, main entrances and subdivision entrances, and irrigation systems.

In the past year, the STD was successful in making Bloomingdale a "No Soliciting" community and purchased signs visible at all eight entrances. In addition, aggressive landscaping continued as well as new signage for several communities within Bloomingdale East.

STD efforts created a safer environment for school children, whose bus drop-off and pick-up points were moved out of the intersections and benches were installed at their stops.

The STD will begin a long-term project this year of re-designing each of the main entrances with new walls, landscaping and lighting. Only one or two will be completed each year.

STD meetings are held the second Monday of the month at a new time - 7 p.m. - in the community office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 103, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza.



# Children Give Thanks For Many Things

I'm thankful for mama and daddy because they adopted me... for God because he made me... for my skateboard because it makes me happy. - John Pogrzeba

I am thankful for my teachers because they help me learn... for my family because they give me love... for my friend because they care for me. - Jaclyn Savino

help me learn. - Sean Flynn.

I am thankful for God because he gave me my family... for our earth because it gives us gravity... for schools because schools help us learn. - Megan Byrne

I am thankful for my friends because they play with me... for my family because they take care of me... for God because he made me. - Gregory Molkenthin

I am thankful for sports because they are fun... for my family because they take care of me... for go-carts because they are fun. - Tim Luke

I am thankful for my house because it is a place for me to live... for the life God gave me because life is a better place... for Disney World because it makes me smile. - Erica Gipson

I am thankful for the earth because it there wasn't an earth we would not be here... for my food because if we did not have any food we would die... for my mom because I would not be here if it wasn't for her. - Chris Mohr

I'm thankful for my dad because he is never mean to me and because he helps me with many different things... for doctors because they help me if I'm sick... for my teeth because they help me chew and eat. - Jamie Mahan

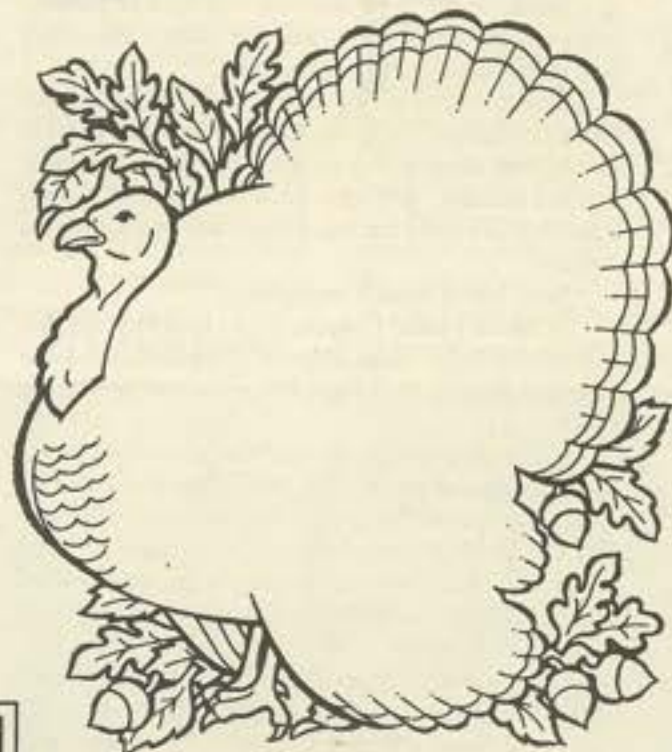
I am thankful for God because he created the world... for my teacher because she helps me learn... for my family because they love me. - Micah Borges

I am thankful for money because I want to be rich one day... for my friends because I like to play with them. - Andy Lashlee

I am thankful for my house because it is somewhere to live... for people because they are my mom and dad... for my toys because I like to play with them. - Nate Hargis

I am thankful for my school because it is where I learn... for mom and my dad because they love me... for God because he takes care of me and gives me love. - Ricoh Hickman

I am thankful for teachers because they teach us different things... for God because I love him and he makes me happy... for mom and dad because they love me. - Amanda



I am thankful for my friends because I play with them... for doctors because they help you, so you will not get sick... for the military because they keep us safe. - Eric Mentis

I am thankful for school because it makes me smart... for trees because they give us wood... for food because it gives us energy. - Orey Clark

I am thankful for my family because they take care of me... for food, drinks and clothes because they keep me alive... for my brain because I can't do anything without it. - Rebecca Heiser.

I am thankful for shelter because it keeps me safe... for my mom because she is very nice... for food because it keeps me alive. - Hollyand Boyle

I am thankful for my family because they take care of me... for my teachers because they help me learn... for the president because he makes the laws. - Jim Rutledge

I am thankful for school because it is a place to learn... for my friends because they're someone to respect... for my family because they take care of me. - Evan Houghton

I'm thankful for my family because they love me... for God because he made me... for my teachers because they

## Lithia Springs 3rd Graders

I am thankful for my teachers because they help me... for God because He made my family... for doctors because they make people feel better when they are sick. - Emily Ann Bell

I am thankful for my dog because she plays with me... for my mom because when I'm sick she takes care of me... for my bike because I got it for Christmas. - Danielle Golka

I'm thankful for toys because if I did not have them, I would be bored all day... for money because if we did not have money we could not buy clothes, toys, food or homes. - Kyle Wallace.

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## Church News and Synagogue News

### Holiday Season Already Upon Us

By Ellen Slovacek

Ready or not, here it comes.

In case you haven't been to the mall, or even to Bloomingdale Square; or if you've been hibernating for the winter, you may not have noticed that the holiday season is upon us in full force.

I love this time of year. It's a small window of time when we Floridians receive a slight respite from the fierce summer heat. Of course, when it will begin, is anyone's guess. It's a time when the elections are behind us and we can get down to the serious business of watching *interesting* commercials and reading *interesting* junk mail.

It seemed for a while there my mail had a stalemate going between "You May Already Be A Winner!!!" and "Please vote for my dad because he's the best daddy I've ever had."

To be honest, I think I preferred to read about (almost) being a winner...all I had to do was order 40,000 more magazines and send in the Certified, Registered, Hand-Stamped stickers and stars and numbers on the envelope and Beat The Deadline!

That's why I so look forward to the holidays. It's an enigmatic season, it's filled with thoughts of family and love, and lots of stress. It's a season where people put in extra hours at work, so they can buy things for their loved ones to show them how much they love them. Problem is, they never get to see the people they love, because they are too busy working.

Question: Who said it shows more love to spend money, than to spend time?

Here's an interesting thought: some people, Christians, no less, celebrate the Savior's birth by shoplifting and giving the stolen goods to the people they love. Now, that's twisted. Greed, envy, strife, stress... this is not a good way to celebrate the holiday season.

Yet again I digress. I love the holiday season - the turkey and mashed potatoes, the ham and especially the pecan pie. I love those little sugar cookies in the shape of trees, frosted with evergreen frosting and decorated with sprinkles. Those are the best, especially if someone else

makes them.

I love the opportunity this time of year affords us to give back to those who are less fortunate in our community. I know many families who are involved in charitable work. They are my heroes.

The other night in our weekly family home evening, we talked about the concept of "giving back". We decided as a family to ask those relatives who send us presents every year, to instead spend their time, money and energy on a needy family in their community.

It's our way of giving back some of the abundance we've been given. There was some concern on the part of the children about giving up gifts from a few particular families because, "they give the neatest things." But we concluded in the end that this is a nice way to celebrate the holidays.

**Now, here's what's happening:**

**St. Mark United Church**, 2914 Lithia Pinecrest Rd, will hold its fourth annual Pilgrim Village and craft show Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10 to 4. It is free and open to the public.

The Pilgrim Village celebrates early American history of one nation and one faith. St. Mark Church is a descendant of the Pilgrim Congregational churches. On Sunday, Nov. 24, the church membership holds its annual Pilgrim Worship Service when they worship in the attire and the way of the Pilgrims. The order of service is from the 16th Century.

Church members re-enact Pilgrim life through dramatic skits presented throughout the day, a Pilgrim dwelling and the meeting house. A Pilgrim fare for lunch includes turkey stew and craft booths offer a wide variety of handmade items. Pilgrim games and activities have been created for children and photo opportunities will be available in the "stockade" where guests can be "locked up" for fun.

Special Pilgrim Village visits have been arranged on the Thursday and Friday prior for preschool children in the community.

The sisterhood of **Congregation Beth Shalom** invites all men and women interested in learning about cancer detection and treatment to TECO Hall, 137 S. Parsons, on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Oncologists Dr. Kathryn Kepes and Dr. John Steel of the Center for Radiation Oncology in Brandon will conduct the seminar. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call 654-0877.

The **Bell Shoals Baptist Church Women in Focus** groups will hold a Fruitful Hands craft class Nov. 12 during the day and an evening class on Nov. 14 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Call Cynthia Alford at 661-5561 for the time of the day class. Participants must bring their own supplies and choose a project out of the Christmas 90's book.

The **Brandon Day** chapter of **Aglow International** is sponsoring a financial planning seminar Nov. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Dr. Judy Goza, a professional financial planner, will be addressing the issues of investing wisely, creating a budget, getting out of debt, and other relevant financial topics. It is free and open to the public and includes child care and breakfast. Call Linda Green at 677-7041 for more details.

## Hats Off



**Robert Morgan** was elected Senior Patrol Leader of Boy Scout Troop 11, the largest troop in the Tampa Bay area.

Robert, 13, is an eighth grade student at Immanuel Lutheran School.

Helping him lead the 65 Scouts in the Troop are assistants Mike Rainy, Sean Smith and Al Taylor.

Troop 11 meets weekly on Wednesday nights at St. Andrew's Methodist Church on Bloomingdale Avenue. A new venture patrol for Scouts age 14 and older is now forming. Jim Brittain was appointed Scoutmaster of Troop 11, taking over from long-time leader Pete Parrish.

Troop 11 was selected to organize and run the annual Timucua District Dad and Lad event at Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation held last weekend. This annual event brought together Cub Scouts, Webelos and their fathers from troops all over Eastern Hillsborough County for a weekend of camping and competitions. More than 800 boys and their fathers attended.

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# Bits N' Pieces



## Paddlewheel Residents Throw Block Party

By Shannan Powell

Residents of Bloomingdale West's Paddlewheel Drive came together Oct. 26 for introductions and fun during their first block party.

"I wish more streets would do this," said Judy Kiser, who organized the event with neighbor Patrice Cunningham. "It was a lot of fun and helped us to get to know one another, instead of just waving to each other occasionally."

About 23 families brought hamburgers and hot dogs for the large grill, covered dishes, salads and desserts to eat in the shade of some of the trees along the street. The children played games, including a peanut toss and balloon popping competitions.

The families enjoyed their get-together so much, they are planning a progressive dinner for Christmas and another block party in the spring.

Meantime, they will hold a fall neighborhood garage sale Nov. 16, tentatively from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Any interested bargain hunters can follow signs into Bloomingdale West for deals on clothing, furniture, children's items and more.

"Right now we only have about four families," Kiser said. "But we're hoping to recruit more as word spreads."

### Teacher's work displayed at museum

Bloomingdale East resident and Lithia Springs Elementary art instructor Mary Ellen Houghton has an acrylic painting on display at the Tampa Museum of Art.

Titled "Vermont Winter" and painted on a saw blade, Houghton's work is part of

a "Teacher as Artist" exhibition in the Florida Art Educator's Association Student Art Show, in conjunction with the State Art Educator's Convention which was held in Tampa last month.

The student show, which runs through Dec. 8, features art from students around the state, including Francis Snelling, one of Houghton's fourth grade students.

Other Lithia Springs student art - self-portraits - was displayed at Center Place in October. First and second grade multimedia works focused on the theme "Me and My Pet." Third and fourth graders created tin-types of how they thought they'd look in the 1800s, and fifth graders made Picasso-style portraits.

### Quilters plan visit to Amish country



Members of Piecemakers Quilt Guild work on a raffle project.

A local group of quilters, including Bloomingdale resident Marilyn Martin, is planning a trip to the 10th annual Quilters Heritage Celebration to be held in Lancaster, Pa., in April.

In addition to attending the show's classes, lectures, exhibits and shops, the

quilters will be touring Pennsylvania Dutch Country and will visit historic sites in Philadelphia.

As residents interested in joining the group can call Martin at 654-9562, or Jan Tseronis at 685-5791.

Speaking of quilting, it is a more popular pastime among Bloomingdale residents than many would think. Bloomingdale needleworkers gather with sewers from surrounding areas at St. Andrew's Methodist Church on Bloomingdale Avenue on the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

Working as the Piecemakers, the 89 members' creations are not only for personal use, many are donated to such worthy causes as ABC Quilts, Crisis Pregnancy Center and nursing homes. Last year the group, ranging

in age from 20 and older, donated 65 quilts in all.

Last month, they began a program in which current members sponsor children to join the group every fourth Monday to learn the art.

On Nov. 11, the Piecemakers will raffle

a quilt that the entire group contributed to. It is an event held every other year. This raffle will feature a queen-size, hand-sewn bear paw quilt in fall colors.

For information on the group or the raffle, call Kathy Koryn at 681-3697.

### Bloomingdale's new arrivals

Bloomingdale families welcomed four new additions in September and October. All the newborns were delivered at Columbia Brandon Regional Medical Center.

Cory Alan Jones was born Sept. 9 to Bloomingdale residents Nancy and Anthony Jones. He weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces. Cory joins sister Cassie, 9, and brother Bryan, 4. His maternal grandmother is Gloria Blohm of Seneca, Ill. His paternal grandparents are Arthur and Leola Jones of Valrico.

Samantha Nicole Hill was born to Bloomingdale West residents Heather and Robert Hill on Sept. 21. Weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces, Samantha is the Hills' first child. Her maternal grandparents are Linda Thompson of Temple Terrace and Tim Emory of Seffner. Her paternal grandparents are Sylvia and George Hill of Seffner.

Winton Dylan Strickland was born Oct. 21 to Sheena and Winton Strickland of Fairway Manors. Winton is the Stricklands' first child and he weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. His maternal grandmothers is Carolyn Smith of Valrico. His paternal grandparents are Dale and Brenda Strickland of Riverview.

Abby Michelle Bailey was born to Erin Arbor residents Judy and Michael Bailey on Sept. 20. She weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces. Abby was welcomed home by sister Amy, 3. Her maternal grandparents are Arnie and Jean Anderson of Longwood. Her paternal grandparents are Frank and Vena Bailey of Ormond Beach.

## Your wedding can be prominently and elegantly displayed in *The Bloomingdale Gazette.*

If you, your parents or in-laws are a Bloomingdale resident and you have a wedding planned, please call us and we will mail our wedding form to you. You may complete the form and return it to our office with a photograph during the wedding month.

The Gazette will focus on the details of your nuptials - the theme colors and flowers, an elaborate description of the bride's gown, and complete listing of the wedding party. Give us reception details and other special information like family traditions that may have been incorporated in the ceremony. Best of all, we will include a photograph of the bride or bride and groom.

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# New Schools Still Won't Be Enough

By Rozel Sculli

When the 11 new schools are built over the next 15 years with the funds generated by the half-cent sales tax, there still will be a need for more classroom space.

A need, that is, if projected increases in school enrollment continue at the current rate.

Public schools grew by 4,400 new students this year with the most significant growth coming in the eastern Hillsborough County, northwest (Westchase), and northeast (Tampa Palms) areas.

Bloomingtondale, with a ninth graded added this year, is projected to be on double sessions until 1998 when the new High School EEE opens at Boyette and Balm Riverview Roads. The school board is considering bypassing the bidding process and using the plans for the new Wharton High in northeast Hillsborough to cut the start-up time for the new high school.

A new task force designed to take a look at overcrowding, projects 45,000 to 60,000 additional students will arrive in the next 15 years.

"Hillsborough is already the 12th largest school district in the nation," said Randy Poindexter, assistant superintendent for administration. "And the 11 ahead of us are losing kids."

Poindexter said the school district's funds aren't commensurate with growth.

The new Fish Hawk Trails development on Lithia Pinecrest will add 5,000 more single family residences to the area over the next 15 years. Four sites within the community have been donated by the builder for construction of three elementary and one junior high school. But Poindexter said the money to build those schools doesn't exist. Those are not part of the 11 new schools scheduled under the Community Investment Tax.

"We're not even looking long-range," Poindexter said. "We're looking at stop gap solutions for August, 1997."

Poindexter said his committee is working closely with pupil assignment coordinators and a shift in boundaries may alleviate some of the overcrowded conditions.

### 1996-97 School Facts

Enrollment: 144,556 (4,400 more than last year)

Two New Schools: Valrico Elementary (serving Burns 6th graders) and Burnett Middle

Portables: There are 1,700 portables in use. In a cost-saving measure, the county builds its own portables (about 125 a year)

Employees: 22,000 full-, part-time, and substitute employees. There are 9,232 certified teachers, 166 principals, and 258 assistant principals.

Meals: 159 kitchens serve 140,000 meals daily including breakfast and lunch

Uniforms: 25 elementary and 2 middle schools have adopted voluntary school uniforms.

## Kids Kalendar

# Baton Classes Offered At Alafia

### Baton classes

Baton classes are held every Thursday in the multi-purpose room at Alafia Elementary School.

Beginner classes are at 3 p.m. and 3:45. Intermediates are also at 3:45. There will also be a class for four and five-year olds is at 4:30, while lessons for older students begin at 5:30.

Each level of students is taught one baton, two baton, dance twirl and marching.

For information and registration, call Peggy Capps at 634-1004. Please do not phone the school for information.

### Youth Tennis League

Junior tennis instruction will be offered beginning Oct. 19 at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center. Lessons are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and the cost is \$8 for eight weeks ending before Christmas vacation.

A junior league also beginning Oct. 19 from 9:30 until noon.

Both instructional program and league play are open to children ages 6 and older. For more information call 744-5907.

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# SERVE Seeks Volunteers

SERVE, School Enrichment Resource Volunteers in Education, is seeking adults to help students reach their potential.

Volunteers are needed to tutor elementary children one hour once a week. In addition, SERVE needs clerical staff to assist in the office at 1721 N. MacDill Avenue in Tampa.

SERVE is also looking for speakers for its Speakers Bureau who will make presentations to students on their area of expertise.

For information, call the SERVE office at 872-5254 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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# Gator Tales



## Much Ado About November

By Phyllis Berlacher

Alafia Elementary School has found its missing president. Michelle Colesanti, former first vice president, stepped up to the challenge and was formally approved as PTA president at the school's October PTA board meeting.

The board had been without a president since Suzie Wiesenhart stepped down at the end of last school year. In other executive committee changes, Kathy Hamm, formerly third vice president, agreed to serve as first vice president and Pam Smith, formerly Art Smart chairperson, will take over Hamm's position. In addition, Lynne Walther was elected to the new position of parliamentarian.

The parliamentarian "performs a much needed checks and balances function by ensuring the correct rules and procedures are followed," Colesanti said.

Be prepared to be "wowed" during "Math, Magic and Motivation," the featured presentation at the November PTA general membership meeting Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Marty and Brenda Hahne use magic, comedy and audience participation to get students interested and excited about using math in their everyday lives.

"It's tailored for children from kindergarten through fifth grade," said Diana Hirsch, program chairperson.

Seats are limited, so parents are encouraged to arrive early. More information will be sent home in flyers.

With the holidays approaching, the Alafia PTA "Holiday Shoppe" for students is an ideal, and economical way for children to shop for their family and friends. The shoppe, will be open Saturday, Dec. 14, at the school and provides a safe, secure environment for Alafia students who can purchase gifts ranging in price from 25 cents to \$10.

Volunteers will be available to assist children with their choices, while parents relax in a separate waiting area where refreshments will be served.

"This program is a service to the children and not a fund raiser," Colesanti said. "Any money raised will be

See TALES, page 11

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# Bulls Eye One Night Changed Student Speaker's Life



Special to *The Gazette*

Brandon Silveria, 17, had it all - plans to attend Boston College and join the rowing team, a car, girlfriend, job and lots of friends.

On the way home from a high school party, after drinking a couple of beers, he fell asleep at the wheel. His car slammed into a tree and he suffered massive brain injuries.

He was in a coma for more than two months. After more than five years of physical and speech therapy, his speech is slurred and he walks with a noticeable limp.

Brandon now shares his experience with other students and hopes they will not make the same choice he made.

"If I can help one person out there not go through the tragedy I've been through, I've won the lottery," he said.

Silveria will visit Bloomingdale High students at 10 a.m. on Nov. 19.

It is one of five Hillsborough County stops he will make as he travels across the country on behalf of The Century Council, a nonprofit organization. The Century Council receives support from more than 800 brewers, vintners, distillers and wholesalers.

During the 1996 Florida Legislative Session, the Council supported a bill that lowered the legal blood alcohol level from .08 to .02 for drivers younger than 21. The new law becomes effective Jan. 1

# New Graduation Standards Go Into Effect This Year

Special to *The Gazette*

Revised graduation standards and Grade Level 2, 5, and 8 benchmarks were approved the school board last year and are being implemented beginning this year.

Under the new plan, a student must have a 2.0 GPA instead of the current 1.5 requirement. Students will be required to complete one of five prescribed courses of study, choosing from Florida Academic Scholar, College Preparatory, Florida Gold Seal Scholar, Technical Prepa-

ratory or Vocational. Students will be required to demonstrate grade-level ability in reading and writing and must demonstrate math skills that include mastery of Algebra I or higher level courses.

Benchmarks which students must meet to be promoted have been identified for grades 2, 5, and 8 so that expectations for these levels are clearly understood by school staffs, parents, and students and are designed to ensure the students acquire the skills needed for the higher graduation standards.

Implementation will be as follows:

Students in K and first grade in THIS YEAR will be required to meet the Grade 2 Benchmarks by the time they complete 2nd grade before being promoted from second grade. It doesn't apply to current 2nd graders.

Students in grades K through 4 THIS YEAR will be required to meet 5th grade benchmarks by the time they complete 5th grade in order to be promoted from 5th grade. This doesn't apply to current 5th graders.

See GRADUATION, page 11

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## Share Expertise During Great American Teach-In

Are you ready to go back to school? How long has it been?

The Hillsborough County School Board offers an opportunity for parents and business men and women to teach for an hour or a day at one or more public schools as they celebrate American Education Week with the 1996 Great American Teach-In on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

Guest teachers may create a lesson, plan an activity, read a story or share a hobby.

Whatever the focus of the visit, school officials want these key messages to get across to the students: stay in school, build a positive self-image, and make students aware of special schooling necessary for a profession or skill.

Speakers may address students groups from 20-35. Teachers will remain in the classroom and speakers may

bring print or audiovisual materials that might make their topic more interesting to the students.

A typical presentation might include discussion of a career, profession or hobby. It may be possible to relate the class subject to that career, profession or hobby. Educational requirements are discussed as well as what a typical day on the job is like. Personal experiences also make presentations interesting.

Residents who are interested in visiting one of the local schools, may do so even if they have no one enrolled in the school. To make a presentation at Bloomingdale, contact Bill Frank at 744-8019; at Burns, call Susan Johnson at 744-8383; at Alafia call 744-8190; and at Lithia Springs call 744-8016.

For general information about the Great American Teach-In or to volunteer, call 1-800-213-0002.

## Bulls' Athletic Calendar

### Boys Basketball

Nov. 19 Tampa Bay Tech  
Nov. 26 Armwood  
Dec. 3 at Durant  
Dec. 6 East Bay

### Girls Basketball

Nov. 18 at Tampa Bay Tech  
Nov. 25 Durant  
Dec. 2 at East Bay  
Dec. 5 Jefferson  
Dec. 7 at Armwood

### Football

Nov. 15 at Hillsborough

### Boys and Girls Soccer

Nov. 22 Jefferson  
Nov. 26 at Tampa Bay Tech

Dec. 3 Plant  
Dec. 5 East Bay  
Dec. 6 at Armwood  
Games at 6:30 and 8:30

### Swimming

Nov. 11 Districts at Long Center  
Nov. 23 State at Ft. Lauderdale

### Cross Country

Nov. 16 Regionals at Lake Park  
Nov. 23 State at Jacksonville

### Wrestling

Nov. 19 at Durant  
Nov. 26 at Plant  
Dec. 3 Jefferson  
Dec. 6 at Robinson



## Sports Spots

### Golf Tournament

Mary Help of Christians School will sponsor a scramble golf tournament Friday, Nov. 15, at Summerfield Golf Course. Tee-off is 1 p.m. and the cost is \$75 per player.

For registration forms and more information, please call 689-5924 or send a FAX to 684-0164.

### Pro Players Join Walk

Players from the Tampa Bay Mutiny and Tampa Bay Terror soccer teams, Devil Rays professional baseball team, and Thunderbug, mascot for the Lightning professional hockey team will help lead AIDS Walk Tampa Bay on Nov. 24.

Participants may join their favorite players in Central Florida's first 10k fund raising pledge walk. The WALK will begin and ends at the St. Petersburg Pier. Opening ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. followed by the

WALK at 10:30. It will be followed by a concert at noon.

For information call 978-8683, ext. 339.

### Classic Tickets Discounted

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Tampa Bay have discounted tickets to the JCPenney Golf Classic to be held Dec. 2-8 at the Innisbrook Hilton Resort. Advance daily tickets, discounted \$4, are available for \$18. Tickets may be purchased at The Sports Authority.

The JCPenney Classic is the only PGA Tour/LPGA golf tournament that returns 100 percent of ticket sales to charities. This year's tournament features John Daly and Laura Davies, Davis Love III and Beth Daniel and Billy Mayfair and Brandie Burton among other golfing pairs.

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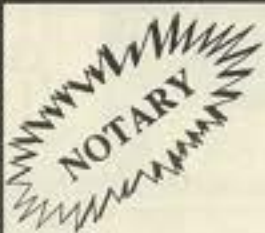
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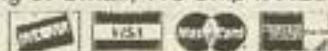


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# Business Notes



## Realtors Food Drive To Assist ECHO

TAM-BAY Realty in Bloomingdale has joined The Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) in its first annual food drive.

Realtor and Bloomingdale resident Luana Russell along with Earlene Patterson, manager of the local office, made the announcement.

"We found the need to support the hungry by accepting donated food at our office," Patterson said.

Non-perishable food items are being accepted at TAM-BAY from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and weekends. The office is located at 889 E. Bloomingdale Ave, on the

corner of Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale.

Joyce Uphoff, head of ECHO and Bloomingdale East resident, said the realtors' participation will continue through Thanksgiving Eve, but the drive will be ongoing through Christmas.

Monday may be donated for food purchases. ECHO makes wholesale and volume purchases with discounts and is not taxed on the food. Toys for children will also be collected through Christmas at the ECHO office from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. weekdays at 507 N. Parsons Ave.

Uphoff said since ECHO began operating nine years ago, some 40,733 people have received assistance. Individuals and families are given a seven-day supply of food, generally on a one-time basis. The time period normally provides time for food stamps or help from other sources to be obtained.

For information, call Russell at 662-1610 or ECHO at 685-0935.

## Russell Honored

Luana Russell has been recognized as the Top Associate in Sales and Closings in the Bloomingdale TAM-BAY Realty, Inc. office for August and September.

Russell, a real estate professional for 20 years, holds the Realtor GRI and CRS credentials. She and realtor husband Woody Russell are involved in many community projects and organizations, and have moved more than 1,000 families through their 5-Star Service Real Estate Program.

## Davis Team Grows

Lorraine McFarland, a real estate professional in Brandon, has joined the Michael Davis Team at RE/MAX Realty Unlimited as a buyer specialist.

McFarland is a member of the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council, a national organization addressing all aspects of consumer representation in real estate transactions. She specializes in helping buyers find the right home to meet their specific needs. She is knowledgeable in Hillsborough and Pasco counties with regard to the market inventory available.

"Our team approach to meeting an individual's real estate need is now complete with Lorraine coming on board," Davis said.

"Lorraine handles all the worrisome details involved with buying a home so our clients can focus on their family's basic relocation needs, such as school choices and employment searches."

She and her husband, Jack, reside in South Brandon. Davis now has six team members to help his clients experience a smooth transition from start to finish.



Lorraine McFarland



Earlene Patterson, left, and Luana Russell kick off TAM-BAY Realty's food drive to help ECHO.

## 161 Bloomingdale Homes Sold In First Half Of '96

This neighborhood analysis is a community service provided by Bloomingdale resident and RE/MAX realtor Michael Davis. All data was taken from the Multiple Listing Service and is believed to be accurate but is not guaranteed.

Analysis of Bloomingdale's Single Family Residential Re-Sale Homes

1/1/96 thru 7/31/96

Total Sold	161
High Sale Price	\$500,000
Low Sale Price	\$44,500
Median Sale Price	\$108,000
High Cost Per Sq.Ft.	\$131.2 ( NOTE: Home on 4.26 acres. )
Low Cost Per Sq.Ft.	\$31.6 ( NOTE: Foreclosure )
Median Cost Per Sq.Ft.	\$58
Median Age	1987
Median Home Size	2,018

Number of Units Sold by Price Range      Median Days To Close      Median Home Size

Price Range	Units Sold	Median Days To Close	Median Home Size
Under \$70,000	1	1	1,440
\$70,000 - \$100,000	66	86	1,660
\$100,000 - \$150,000	70	105	2,112
\$150,000 - \$200,000	19	79	2,710
\$200,000 - \$250,000	1	111	3,304
\$250,000 - \$300,000	1	133	3,286
Over \$300,000	3	407	4,496

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**Restaurant Review**

**Bella Napoli Brings 'Real' Taste Of Italy To Brandon**



By Elton Dumont

Let me start by stating unequivocally: *Fine Italian dining is back in Brandon.*

I certainly don't mean to slight any of the fine restaurants in Brandon, however Bella Napoli, will stand out for your week day, weekend or special event dining.

Don't let the road construction around its location at 902 E. Brandon Blvd., make you stay away.

I guarantee that in Brandon this is THE restaurant to make a business deal, propose, celebrate an anniversary, or have a casual date. This is the place.

First of all, you will be seated quickly at a table with linen table cloths and linen napkins. Once seated, our server helped put the napkins on our lap.

Four of us dined and thought that was a nice touch and part of the overall great service.

Once seated, all the patrons are served a delicious appetizer called Bruschetta. It is slices of crusty Italian bread with diced tomatoes in a special herb sauce with olive oil, Fontina cheese and basil. Very tasty and just the thing to get you ready for the rest of your meal.

The appetizers on the menu are strictly Italian and include such items as Scungilli salad (using conch instead of squid) with a special lemon based marinade, or the Fried Calamari served with marinara sauce. Also offered are three types of Antipasto and a sliced mozzarella cheese offering.

I always put mussels on the top of my list wherever they are offered, and I ordered the Mussels Marinara but they also come stuffed. If you enjoy mussels, make sure the restaurant has the black variety. The green, or New Zealand mussels, are too big and too rubbery. Naturally, Bella Napoli had the quality black mussels and they were heavenly with the homemade Marinara sauce.

The dinner salad was served with hot garlic rolls, that were delicate as opposed to doughy. So they were a perfect complement to the salad. The salad was chilled, crisp and just right. We all had the house Italian dressing. A good move. Zesty, but not abusive.

Like any fine restaurant, there are off menu specials and of two offered, only one of us ordered off menu. It was Chicken Penne, a dish made of tender chicken breast strips with red bell pepper and chopped artichoke, capers and black olives in a light tomato sauce. The entree was highly praised.

I had the Shrimp Parmigiana with a side of ziti. The ziti was cooked just right (al dente for those of you who are picky) and the tomato sauce had a unique flavor. The Shrimp Parmigiana was not fishy or gamey, and had delicious mozzarella cheese on it. Very tasty, and at \$11.25 it doesn't break the bank.

Another of our party decided that a full dinner was going to be too much, so she ordered soup and a sandwich. But explanation is warranted here. Choices included tortellini (meat or cheese) in chicken broth, the minestrone or the Pasta Fagioli. With no hints, our dinner mate chose the Pasta Fagioli.

This is not like you would find at the chain-type Italian restaurants with all their vegetables and tomato sauces. This is authentic, homemade and delicious. It is simply celery, garlic, onions and beans in a vegetable broth. It is brownish in color, not red, and it is the real thing. If you grew up in a family where you got Pasta Fagioli every other Friday night, you would recognize immediately that this is authentic by sight and taste.

The sandwich part of our dinner mate's selection was a meatball sub that was too big, so she took half of it home. Nice, large meatballs, too; not the smaller type found in other restaurants.

My wife had a difficult decision choosing from seven different veal dishes. She finally locked onto the Veal Marsala. She was going to inquire if the veal was "real veal", but our server anticipated the question and assured her it was the real thing, not veal steak or a veal chop.

It was tender, with mushrooms and sauteed in a hearty Marsala wine. Instead of a hint of wine, this was robust and you could tell you were dining on a selected cut of veal. With the side of pasta, rolls and salad, this checked in a \$11.50, not pricey at all for quality Veal Marsala.

For dessert, we ordered one Tiramisu and four forks. Try this delicious Italian dessert. It is made from a ladyfinger base, topped with a special creamed cheese, Espresso liqueur and served chilled. It that doesn't sound appealing, you can order Cannoli, Sfogliatella, or cheese cake.

I know I've missed alot, and a thumbnail review shows that they have pasta specialties such as Rigatoni Bolognese, and a Fettucine Carbonara. The baked dishes include Stuffed Shells and Manicotti. Seven veal dishes as I said including Veal Piccata and Vela Pizzaiola. The chicken dishes include Chicken Cordon Blue and Chicken Franchise. Finally, the Frutti di Mare (seafood) include such entrees as Calamari Marinara, clams with white sauce, or even Mussels Marinara as an entree.

Three other items of note - Yes, they have pizza; yes, they have a children's menu; and yes, they serve hot and cold sandwiches.

Our total bill including coffee, dessert and gratuity was about \$70 for four.

Rating  
(based on 5\*)  
Food.....\*\*\*\*  
Service.....\*\*\*\* 1/2  
Ambience...\*\*\*  
Overall.....\*\*\*\*

Until we eat again,  
Elton Dumont

**Tax Topics**

**Year-round Hints For Tax Planning**

By Robert Morris, CPA

Tax planning is necessary all year round. Don't wait until April, 1997 to try and save taxes. Here are some suggestions.

**Giving appreciated securities to charities** not only helps the charity, but can give significant savings to you as well. You'll get a charity deduction for the full value of the security if you had held it for more than one year before donating it. A stock that cost you \$500 is now worth \$2,000. If you sell it you will pay tax of approximately \$420. If you donate it, you will have a full \$2,000 deduction saving approximately \$560 in tax. A total net saving of approximately \$980.

**Transfer income assets to your children.** Children under 14 can earn \$650 tax free from income property saving your family approximately \$182 in tax each year.

**Consider a home equity loan** to buy large priced items such as cars instead of personal loans. If the house is collateral for the loan then the interest is allowed to be deducted saving taxes and reducing your cost.

**Invest in municipal bonds** instead of money market funds. The yield on muni bonds are tax free, however, check with your investment advisor if this investment is proper for your portfolio. Other options would be to invest in Treasury Bills maturing in the next year, which defers paying tax on the interest for a longer period of time.

**Bunch deductible Sch A expenses** in one year if you barely meet the deductible requirements for a particular year. One year pay real estate taxes in January and November such that you have a higher deduction in one year and the standard deduction in the next year. Also, bundle your charity donations and others if possible.

**Maximize your 401 (K) contributions,** keough plan, Sep IRA and IRA contributions for the year if possible. This is one of the best tax savings/deferrals you can do. Also, utilize your company cafeteria (flex) plans to its fullest for your maximum benefits.

Turn your "hobby" into a business and the IRS

See TAX, page 11

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### BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

### STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

### Low-Impact Aerobics

Tracey Shriver teaches low-impact aerobics at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center. Classes meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. and the cost is \$3 per class. Child care is provided for children 5 and older. Shriver explains there is no jumping or jogging involved.

With low-impact aerobics one foot is always on the ground. Light weights and floor work are also used. For information, call 744-5907.

### PTA Meetings

The general meeting of the Alafia Elementary PTA will be Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Using magic to make math fun is the topic.

### Parents Help Group

Parents Anonymous is a self-help group for parents who have lost, or feel they are losing control of their children. Groups meet in Valrico on Thursdays evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at area churches. The meetings are free. For information call 251-8080.

### Recycle Computers

The county has begun a program, "Computers for Kids," that involves collecting computers to place in recreation centers and later in libraries for kids to use during after school and summer programs.

Since the program began in April, donations have dropped off. There is no certain type of computer that the county is looking for. Software and programs also are acceptable donations.

Computers can be dropped off at the Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance unit on 78th St. and the Crosstown Expressway or at any of several libraries including the Main Library downtown at 900 N. Ashley Drive. For information call 744-5815 or 273-3652.

### Senior Volunteer Program

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for volunteers 55 and over in every neighborhood of Hillsborough County. Seniors may choose between many non-profit agencies in their community for volunteer activity. RSVP are covered with supplemental accident and liability insurance and are eligible to receive limited travel and meal allowances.

Volunteer opportunities exist with the Hillsborough Association for Retarded Citizens (providing transportation or assisting classroom teachers); Hillsborough Correctional Institute (tutoring and providing guidance to inmates in a minimum security facility); Community Care for the Elderly (visitation and light chores for homebound elderly); Head Start (teacher assistance in child care and development program); Senior Adult Day Programs (an activity and developmental program for elderly); and Suncoast Community Health Centers, Inc. (general office assistance, medical filing, processing mail, typing and stuffing envelopes.)

For further information call RSVP at 272-5031.

### Hospice Card Sale

Hospice of Hillsborough, Inc. will once again offer the Friends of Hospice Auxiliary Holiday Card Sale. Cards, which sell for \$5 for a package of 10. For the first time, there is a Spanish-language set being offered as well.

Orders of 10 or more packages placed before Sept. 30 will receive a special gift or discount. To receive a full-color brochure and order form, call 877-2200.

### GRADUATION, from page 7

Students in grades K through 7 **THIS YEAR** will be required to meet the 8th grade benchmarks by the time they complete 8th grade in order to be promoted from 8th grade. This doesn't apply to current 8th graders.

Students in grades K through 9 **THIS YEAR** will be required to meet revised graduation standards in order to receive a high school diploma. This does not apply to current 10th through 12th graders.

### TAX, from page 10

allows fairly liberal deductions of expenses if you can demonstrate it is a true business and not a hobby. Seek advice on hobby loss rules before attempting.

Pay enough estimated tax to avoid penalties and interest each year. Review your tax payments each quarter and decide if you need to pay more. These suggestions will not apply to all taxpayers but should they seem available to you then seek the advice of your tax professional to explain how it will benefit your situation.

### PARK, from page 1

That's why Cross must go before the Board of County Commissioners to have the county vacate 150 feet of street. He plans to erect a permanent gate "so it looks like the entry to a private park," Cross said.

Originally, Cross had intended to donate the property to Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation for use as an athletic playing field site for Bloomingdale Little League and the Brandon Bears.

The county had money to purchase the land, but not to develop it. Last year, Cross said he was willing to make the trade - sell the land to the county and donate the development. But the two sides never reached an agreement.

Residents of River Crossing in Southwest Bloomingdale were concerned Cross had purchased a vacant lot in their community to gain access to vacant land behind their subdivision for a park. Cross denied such a move and said that property is owned by someone else.

"It's just green space with years of back taxes owed on it," Cross said.

### TALES, from page 7

used to offset the cost of refreshments."

A reception showcasing "Reflections" entries will be held Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. "Reflections is a National PTA-sponsored art contest. Last year, nearly 300 entries were received from Alafia students.

The Alafia book fair will be held Nov. 18-22. It will be open until 7 p.m. on Nov. 19 to accommodate parents.

Smart Start, an educational store located at 2526 Brandon Blvd. will salute Alafia on Friday, Nov. 15, and Saturday the 16th, with 20 percent of sales to Alafia families going to benefit the school.

The PTA reminds parents to send in General Mills boxtops to Alafia. For every "Boxtops for Education" label the school takes in, General Mills will contribute 15 cents. Proceeds will be used to purchase new atlases and maps.

## Classifieds

### NIP (Neighborhood Improvement Program)

Volunteers needed for BHA (Bloomingdale Homeowners Association) program. Call the community office at 681-2051 for information.

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