

A Balanced Water Plan For Our Future

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by Jerry L. Maxwell, General Manager
West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority
Part One of Two

Imagine for a moment what life in Florida would be like without adequate water supplies. All lawn watering banned. High tech industries head north as water rates skyrocket. Tourism falters as amenities and attractions are diminished. Sound far-fetched? You are right, it is. But as the region's growing demands strain current water supplies, the reality of a water supply shortage faces the Tampa Bay region if we don't commit to new supplies now.

Growing Regional Demands

About 1.8 million people now live in the Tampa Bay area served by the West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority's member governments (Hillsborough County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, Tampa, St. Petersburg and New Port Richey). They use an average of 230 million gallons of water per day (mdg) - enough to fill the Ice Palace four-and-a-half times!

That demand is straining our existing supply facilities and our environment. And by the year 2015 more that 2.3 million people will live here and we will need an additional 85 million gallons of water to protect the environment and meet demand.

For decades, 95 percent of all Floridians have obtained their drinking water from the Floridan aquifer, an ancient underground river formation stores some of the rainfall we receive. But relying solely on groundwater is no longer wise.

The challenges facing our region today - unparalleled growth, increased development, extended and unpredictable droughts and rising environmental concerns - mandate a new approach, one that combines a variety of water sources with increased conservation and flexible management.

Conservation alone can't satisfy all our water needs -



Jerry Maxwell

Your inside connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3240 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 103
Valrico, FL 33594
#681-2051
bloomingdale@juno.com

Randy Wolfe, President	229-3321
Michael Davis, V.P./Treasurer	684-8881
Ted Grable, Comptroller	685-7193
Walter Glenn, Secretary	681-2051
Patricia Radel, Director	651-0210
Luana Russell, Director	662-1610
LaWayne Wyatt, Director	685-2072
Ann Underwood, Director	621-4293
Pam Liguori, Director	681-9655

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District 684-6667

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Tom Mackiewicz, Vice President	653-4145
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Fred Uphoff, Recording Secretary	685-3013
Tom Snelling, Trustee	681-9186
Sue Meyers, Trustee	689-1514
Alan Devney, Administrator	684-6617

Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

LaWayne Wyatt, Coordinator/Scheduler	685-2072
Paul Kelmer, Treasurer	681-9701
Tony Diolosa, Equipment Manager	681-1146
Steven Heckel, Membership Chairman	654-4266
David Guy	681-5943
Paul Warr	685-7883

Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District PO Box 3132 Brandon, FL 33509-3132

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

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
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
at 3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks

Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch meetings are held when special concerns arise

the Bloomingdale gazette
The Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association



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Fax: (813) 654-4745

Share your news with the community! Write to Editor, at
220 W. Brandon Blvd., Suite 102, Brandon, FL 33511 or Fax to (813) 654-4745.

The Best Lawns & Gardens

Frank Gorostiza certainly does his part to keep his lawn and garden looking beautiful.

It seems we all enjoy our homes and lifestyles but it's a lot of hard and hot work to keep it all together and looking presentable.

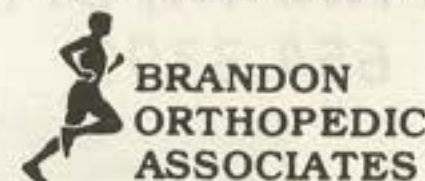


This house sits across from Frank's house and also demonstrates how hard work shows pride in your home and community.



We're looking for the Best Lawns & Gardens! Send information and photo to:
Bloomingdale Gazette, "The Best Lawns & Gardens," 220 W. Brandon Blvd., Suite 102, Brandon, FL 33511.

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Community Concerns:

Mobile Watch Report

During the last several months there have been a variety of events observed by patrols or reported by residents. Some are obviously more serious than others but they should give everyone an idea of what is occurring at night in your community. Unfortunately, this may not be everything.

We are extremely short handed in volunteers and therefore can't cover the entire area every night. If additional residents do not volunteer we may be forced to reduce our coverage even more. We only ask for you to volunteer one evening a month. Fortunately, we have some individuals who care enough about their community to volunteer for more than one evening. With almost 3600 homes in Bloomingdale and Apartment building residents as well we should be able to find 200-300 individuals, less than 10% of the residents, to volunteer.

Another factor which may contribute to the low number of incidents reported is apathy on the part of residents. We have heard or gotten reports from some residents on events that occurred days or weeks before they

were reported. In many cases we ask if the incident was reported to the Sheriff's Office. In too many cases the answer is "No. I didn't want to bother them" or "I didn't think they would respond". Hillsborough County has a very good Sheriff's Office. They can't be everywhere at once but they do want to know what is happening in our community. This is one area where the Mobile Watch fills the gap by observing and reporting incidents. We also have a Community Resource Deputy who is very interested in even the smallest incident.

The following is a list of events occurring over the past months:

- 8/2/97 Car cruising around Bloomingdale West, acting suspicious. Sheriff notified.
- 8/7/97 Truck and dark blue Nissan parked in vacant lot on Vista River Road, doors open. No one seen in area.
- 8/28/97 Resident reported abandoned car near intersection of Culbreath & South Natures Way. Patrol checked. Male occupant. Left area after talking to patrol.
- 8/30/97 Resident on Cedar Grove Drive reported lawn furniture & plants spray painted night before. Appears to have been done by juveniles.
- 9/2/97 Resident reported male exposed self to woman near Natures Way & Hickory Ridge Drive approximately 8:30 PM on 8/31/97.
- 9/2/97 Same resident reported a male has been riding motorcycle through Fox Run & The Greens area in evenings & exposing self to women and girls. Has happened 5-6 times past month.
- 9/4/97 Resident advised patrol there has been a peeping tom on Holleman Drive near Natures Way.
- 9/5/97 Crips gang symbol painted on sidewalk on Clareside Drive.
- 9/9/97 South Oaks resident reported landscape theft form entry way night of 9/8/97. Also attempted break-in occupied home 8/31/97 6:30 AM. Entry was attempted through patio door.
- 9/19/97 Resident on Van Reed Manor reported his car alarm sounded. Had seen a red pick-up cruising neighborhood.
- 9/20/97 Alarm at park West recreation center sounded. Patrol was in the immediate vicinity. Saw no one near building. Doors and windows secure.
- 9/24/97 Strong arm robbery front of Publix in Bloomingdale Square. Tall black male, spiky hair, age 18-20. Possibly driving silver blue Corolla.

Ed Rahal, DMD
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The Minute Maid Company Underwrites Preschool Programing

There's a song that goes, "Rainy days and Mondays Always Get Me Down." But at MOSI -- the Museum of Science and Industry -- Minute Maid Mondays have young museum-goers singing a different tune this year.

MOSI, the largest science center in the Southeastern U.S., announced a new partnership today with The Minute Maid Company -- one that squeezes even more fun out of the center's already successful preschool program. A \$50,000 grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation is underwriting Minute Maid Mondays - special, year-long programming aimed at supporting and strengthening MOSI's preschool curriculum.

"The Minute Maid Company is committed to supporting programs that enhance a child's ability to learn. That's why we're excited about our new partnership with MOSI," said Ralph Cooper, President and C.E.O. of The Minute Maid Company. "The aim of Minute Maid Mondays is to help foster an interest in science and math for our young children, making learning fun and involving parents in the process. We view our support of MOSI as an excellent investment in the Tampa Bay community and, ultimately, our future."

"Earlier this year, the National Education Goals Panel announced that its 1997 focus is on early childhood, specifically preparing all children to be ready to learn by the time they start school," said MOSI President Wit Ostrenko. "MOSI is pleased to be partnering with The Minute Maid Company to support this initiative and offer new, expanded opportunities for Tampa Bay's preschool audience."

Special Minute Maid Mondays excitement focuses on the science center's "Kids In Charge" area -- a hands-on gallery where children ages 5 and under have fun exploring science concepts with an adult. Eight colorful areas invite young scientist to test, touch, bounce, drive, climb, build and imagine. "Time spent in Kids In Charge promotes science readiness in young children by nurturing curiosity, excitement and inventiveness," said Ostrenko.

MOSI's partnership with The Minute Maid Company includes scholarships for area Head Start preschool field trips to MOSI, creation of a preschool learning environment classroom, and production of a self-guided tour especially for preschoolers of the science center's exhibits.

The grant also provides funding for Discovery Room



Little Explorer Time at MOSI's Opening October 6, 1997.

programs, the Little Explorers program (MOSI's interactive class for parents with their children), Educator Enrichment workshops for area teachers, and the center's new Home School classes.

MOSI patrons are being asked to recycle empty 64-oz. Minute Maid Premium Orange Juice Cartons. The first 500 guests who brought cartons to MOSI during the month of October received a free Minute Maid gift. The clean, empty cartons will be used for the center's craft projects and educational program activities.

The Minute Maid Company, the world's leading marketer of premium fruit juices and drinks, is a Division of The Coca-Cola Company and the flagship of its worldwide fruit beverage business. The company operates a Tampa Bay area production facility in Dunedin, Florida. Minute Maid is the leading trademark in the U.S. juice and juice drink industry.

Funding for the grant to MOSI was made possible through The Coca-Cola Foundation, the philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company. The Foundation supports programs for early childhood education; elementary and secondary schools; public and private colleges and universities; teacher training; arts education and international understanding.

Every Monday enjoy sharing age-appropriate songs, creative movement, crafts and stories around themes such as: Toddler Tool Box/Tooling Around, Junkyard Junction/Junky Construction, Building for the Birds/Bank Builders, Musical Engineers/Sound Makers.

Located at 4801 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, MOSI offers more than 450 "mind-on" interactive activities to children of all ages. It opens daily at 9:00 AM, is wheelchair accessible, and offers free parking. For more information call 987-6000.



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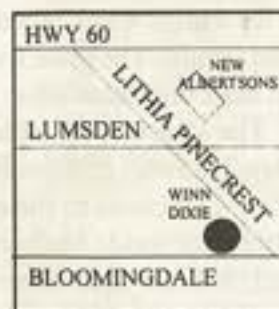
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Kids, Look What's New in Mulberry

Just twenty-five miles east of Brandon on Highway 60 is a little town called Mulberry. It houses a unique little Museum established by Sam Montgomery who lived from April 22, 1917 to May 22, 1984. He was the original founder of the museum. Now the curator of collections is Lewetta Haag.

Mulberry's claim to fame is phosphate mining. It has produced enough phosphate for food stuffs until well into the 21st Century that includes feed for cattle and fertilizer for ground vegys and fruit.

You see millions of years ago, Florida emerged from the Primeval Sea. The receding sea left hundreds of minerals that would help to build the Peninsula of Florida. Sediments of clay, sand, rock and dirt began to cover these minerals and the building process began.

The evolution of Florida took place during the Cenozoic Era. This Era was considered the "Age of the Great Mammals". The Woolly Mammoth, the Mastodon, the Horse, the Camel, the Rhinoceros and others ruled the land. During this Era the "Great Ice Age" occurred. Marked by large moving sheets of ice called Glaciers, our Earth became a deep freeze. These large animals because of their eating habits, were forced to flee the cold of the Glaciers and find a more desirable place to live. Their migration took them across Europe then across the Bering Strait Land Bridge, into North America and finally down to Florida. In Florida they found



abundant food supplies and warm weather. For a time, Florida was a paradise capable of supporting many different types of animals. In time, the Ice Age ended and the animals that had found abundant food supplies and warm weather died away. Their remains petrified and left us a fossil record of Prehistoric Florida. Florida was also left with an abundant supply of a mineral called Phosphate.

The exhibits in the gallery represents Florida's past. The fossilized remains of Sea and Land animals and plants explain about the first residents of Florida and how they survived and eventually died. As you view petrified shells, corals, and animal fossils you can see the varied animal types that lived in Prehistoric Florida.

The gallery deals with the beginning and development of the Phosphate Industry in Florida. You will see samples of Phosphates from around the World and you will see why we say "Phosphate Feeds The World".

In yet another gallery you will see photographs and objects that represent the past and present growth of Mulberry. A Butterfly Collection from around the world is also on display. Many butterfly species are represented in this section and come from places like Brazil yet another great outlet for prehistoric creatures.

And finally in the train caboose you will see a small history of the railroad from Steam Engines and the Railway Express Agency to modern day Diesel Engines.

Kids, I know you'll find this place of particular interest because of all the artifacts left over from our "Great Ice Age" and parents I know you'll be pleased with it because it's a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon with the family. The price for admission is on a donation basis only, now what could be better than that? The Mulberry Phosphate Museum is open on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Directions to the exact location of the Museum once your inside Mulberry are clear, concise and posted on street signs however if you are lost please phone (941) 425-2823.

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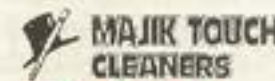
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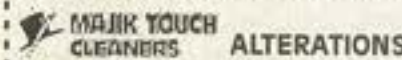
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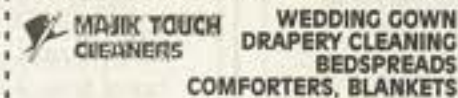
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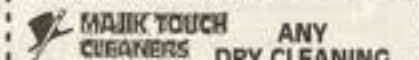
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Dining Out: El Zarape - A Little Mexico in Brandon

by Ronald Ellenberg

Welcome to El Zarape, an authentic Mexican Cantina, complete with the music, color and atmosphere of old Mexico. While guitars strum the characteristic melodies (live Mariachi music every Friday night), patrons sip Corona Cerveza (beer) and munch on homemade totopos dipped in salsa.

Brassy, oom-papa notes surround the zarape-covered tables as customers ponder their meal selections. Many, especially hungry and want to eat fast, choose the bountiful buffet, featuring chilaquiles (totopos stirfried with eggs, meat, cheese and chilies then tipped with chili sauce), tamales (corn dough, called masa is spread, stuffed with meat and cheese, rolled then steamed), burritos (beef and chicken), vegetables, Spanish rice, enchiladas, birria (seasoned meat barbecued or steamed), assorted green bean dishes, salads and desserts.

More self-controlled diners can opt for ordering form the menu, which includes all of the above, plus many more dishes, including that hands-down favorite, the chimichanga (a deep-fat fried burrito stuffed with various meats, cheeses and vegetables, topped with cheeses and sauces). Stand-bys like tacos, Chiles Rellanos, Huevos Rancheros, and tostadas stand beside special features like beef or chicken fajitas, flautas (meat, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, guacamole and sour cream rolled into a flour tortilla), taco salad, shrimp salad and chicken salad.



A special children's menu features kid-sized Mexican combinations or American sandwiches (hot dogs, hamburgers, etc.) with fries.

The El Zarape dinner menu features larger and more extensive items. More complex burritos, enchiladas and tamales containing extra ingredients, steaks and shrimp enable the returning customer to sample a variety of Mexican dishes.

For the dessert eater, how about deep-fried ice cream? Other Mexican treats are prepared fresh each day.

A completely stocked bar featuring Mega Margaritas (who gets the worm?) made with Sauza Gold and Grand Mariner, Frozen Daiquiries and eleven imported Mexican beers, plus eight domestic beers and Heineken, they also offer Sangria by the glass or pitcher in addition to many favorite wines.

The Perfect Ending, Mexican Coffee, is made with premium tequila (there's that worm again), Kahlua, and hot coffee topped with whipped cream.

El Zarape owners, Dora and Antonio Vasquez, have managed to bring their native Mexico with them to Brandon where they are raising their two children. They also own El Zarape's in Avon Park and Dunedin. Come taste for yourself all that El Zarape has to offer in fine Mexican cuisine and in a authentic cantina atmosphere.

El Zarape is open seven days a week with lunch hours form 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM followed by dinner hours from 3:00 PM to 10:00 PM. It is located at 104 South Kings Avenue, near Brandon Boulevard. Call 651-9659 for details and group reservations.



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Bloomington News

Century 21, Shaw Realty presents a charity fundraiser for Cookson Hills Children's Ministries. It's scheduled for Saturday, November 1st, 1997 at 7:00 AM. For more information call Joan or Kristin at 689-2121.

Workshop on Water Projects scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th, 1997, at 7:00 PM at Horace Mann Middle School. For more information call Iris Pollock at 228-0652.

Author Dr. Jan Sheble will be signing her book "The Oil Of Joy For Mourning". The event is at B. Dalton Booksellers at Brandon Town Center Mall on November 14th, 1997 from 1-4 PM and 6-8 PM.

Child Abuse Counsel meets every Monday evening at 7:00 PM at local churches. For more information call (813) 673-4646.

The Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center has a Barry Manilow concert scheduled for December 2nd and 3rd, 1997 at 7:30 PM. For ticket information call (813) 222-1058.

The Florida Orchestra has a concert scheduled for November 20th, 1997 at 11:00 AM. Theme of concert is "Pictures at an Exhibition' and More". For ticket information call (813) 286-2403.

continued on page 13

"How To Keep Healthy"

On November 6th, 1997 at 7:00 PM, Chiropractic Physician Dr. Todd Jarvis of the "Brandon Wellness Center" will host a clinic on "How to Keep Healthy." He will discuss nutrition, athletics, bones and the anatomy of your entire body. The question and answer session is designed for the whole family. There is no charge and refreshments will be served at the Bloomingdale West Recreation Center located at 3919 Canoga Park Drive. So bring a friend!

For more information, please contact Pat Radel at (813) 651-0210.

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Water Plan continued from page 1

although it must be part of our future. The outstanding education and conservation incentive programs developed by the Authority's member governments and the Southwest Florida Water Management District already have helped reduce per-person water use in the Tri-County region by an average of 14 percent since 1989. In fact, the 132 gallons of water a day used by the average TriCounty resident already is far less than either the national average of 180 gallons a day or the statewide average of 169 gallons per day.

The pressures of rapid population growth are compounded by the fact that not all the Authority's current water supply facilities can be fully utilized at any given time because of physical or environmental limitations. Pumps and pipelines may not have sufficient capacity for peaks in demand, and one or more facilities may be shut down or operating at reduced levels because of environmental considerations, maintenance or repairs.

To meet the region's daily needs, the current system's extra capacity, or reserves, have been diminished.

Without adequate reserves, the system can't handle fluctuations in demand. It is also unable to shift water production from one facility to another in response to system failures, regulatory constraints or environmental conditions such as drought or environmental stress.

Rising demand. Variable weather. Burdened facilities. Strained natural resources. Booming development. Inadequate reserves. For all these reasons, it is time to chart a new water course for the region.

(Part Two will appear in our December Issue)

If you have concerns you would like to share with the Bloomingdale community, send a letter to Editor, *Bloomingdale Gazette*, 220 W. Brandon Blvd., Suite 102, Brandon, FL 33511, or call 654-1919. If it matters to you, then it matters to all of us.

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Bloomingdale News

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The Brandon Ballet hosts its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, November 7 at St. Andrews Methodist Church, 3315 S. Bryan Road. Dinners will be served from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Take out orders are also available. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. All proceeds benefit the Brandon Ballet Nutcracker Performances at Armwood High School on December 13 and 14. For tickets or information, call The Dance Center at 684-4282.

Nativity Crafters present "Olde Time" Holidays Craft Sale at Nativity Catholic Church, 705 East Brandon Blvd on November 7 and 8. The crafters have been working year-round on more than 2,000 holiday gifts and decorations to be sold. These include floral decorations, tree ornaments, Thanksgiving and fall decorations, stuffed fabric items and small wooden items. A complimentary dessert buffet and live entertainment is scheduled on Friday from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Craft workshops will be held on Saturday from 9:00 AM until noon. All proceeds benefit Nativity Catholic School. For information, call Teresa Azorin, 685-9088 or Chris Randall at 685-6836.

"Yes We Care" is running a series of open houses for African-American and Hispanic American Students. The next scheduled event is entitled "Prepare for Busch Physics Day". For more information call (813) 744-8360.

Salvador Dali Museum has photographs of the Parisian cultural and social elite on loan from Man Ray expert and guest curator Timothy Baum. This event runs from September 27th, 1997 to January 18th, 1998. For more information call (813) 823-3767.

Have an interesting hobby? Tell the community about it! Write a column about your interest, or just send your ideas and pictures to Editor, *Bloomingdale Gazette*, "Hobbies," 200 W. Brandon Blvd., Suite 102, Brandon, FL 33511.

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