

the Bloomingdale gazette

Official Publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

Volume XXVII, Number 11

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**DEVELOPER
FILES THIRD
REZONING
REQUEST
SEE STORY
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Proposed school boundary changes

BHA supports changes for Bloomingdale West students

By Ted Grable, BHA President

On Monday, October 4, Hillsborough County School District officials held a public hearing to discuss the most recent of proposed school boundary changes. The boundary changes are facilitated by the anticipated summer 2000 opening of FishHawk Elementary School and FishHawk Middle School, and are also designed to relieve overcrowding at Burns Middle School*, Rodgers Middle School, Lithia Springs Elementary and Boyette Springs Elementary. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association recognizes the positive impact the proposed boundary changes would provide our students, and strongly supports the changes.

Under the proposed boundary changes, middle school students in Bloomingdale West (currently attending Lithia Springs Elementary, Rodgers Middle School and Bloomingdale High School) would attend Burns Middle School along with their Bloomingdale East neighbors. Bloomingdale West students would continue to attend Lithia Springs Elementary and Bloomingdale High School.

Many Bloomingdale residents are pleased with the prospect of having their children re-join the original Bloomingdale Cluster. However, some residents of the Buckhorn area oppose the changes. The new boundaries would transfer Buckhorn middle school students (currently attending Burns Middle School) to the new FishHawk Middle School.

The BHA empathizes with the

(continued on page 4)

"The Bloomingdale Eight" strike again! See story page 20.

Seated L-R: Wayne and Diane Schoeffel, Joe and Pam Liguori, Arlene and Dick Stein, Mary and Mike Bosler. Photo by Elton Dumont



Gazette Distribution Expands

The Bloomingdale Gazette expands mail distribution to 150 Bloomingdale area businesses. News rack and retail outlets number over 18, with a total distribution of 4,600 copies each month.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-2051 • E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com

Web site: www.CyberRails.com/BHA/

- President Ted Grable
- Treasurer Pam Liguori
- Directors Patricia Radel
..... LaWayne Wyatt
..... Ann Underwood
..... Rodney Biddle
..... Len Jaszczak



Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

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- Equipment Manager, Tony Diolosa 681-1146
- Membership Chairman, Steven Heckel .. 654-4266
- David Guy 681-5943
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Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

- P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
- President Bill Grace, 685-2817
- Treasurer Fred Englehart
- Meetings .. Second Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm,
3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks



Share your news with the community!

Write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
Phone (813) 681-2051
E-mail LauraFrazier@Prodigy.net
Fax (813) 651-1129

Bloomingdale Special

- Taxing District 684-6667
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- Vice President, Tom Mackiewicz 653-4145
- Treasurer, Don Cassels 681-8855
- Corresponding Secretary, R. Dickey 689-2177
- Recording Secretary, Alice Burleson 685-1076
- Trustee, Tim Golden 653-1337
- Trustee, Paul Almeida 661-2018
- Property Manager, DPPI 684-6617



Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

BHA Board of Directors Meetings
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Special Taxing District Meetings
Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



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E-mail: LauraFrazier@prodigy.net

- Executive Director Joe Liguori
- Editor Laura Frazier
- Photojournalist Mack Austin
- Feature Writer Paul Almeida
- Restaurant Critic Elton Dumont

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BHA establishes "Schools & Education" Committee

A Gazette Report

The BHA is establishing a new "Schools & Education Committee" to work in cooperation with our schools on critical issues such as school boundaries, crowded classrooms and proposed block scheduling. Bloomingdale residents interested in participating on this committee are invited to call the BHA at 681-2051 or e-mail BHA@CyberRails.com .

(continued from page 1)
dilemma faced by the residents of Buckhorn, but must consider that after years of being moved from one school to another, Bloomingdale West students may finally be on the road to rejoining the original Bloomingdale Cluster. The BHA encourages Bloomingdale parents in support of this proposal to watch the proceedings closely and to write to Superintendent Earl Lennard in voicing their support. Time is of the essence; district officials will present the proposal to the School Board for a vote "before Christmas." Please feel free to use the following form or contact Dr. Lennard at the address/fax number indicated below. To contact the BHA, phone (813) 681-2051 or visit our web site at www.CyberRails.com/BHA/.

*The proposed new boundaries would reduce Burns Middle School attendance from 125% over capacity to 107% over capacity. ©

To: Hillsborough County Schools Superintendent
Earl Lennard
901 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33602
(Fax: 813-272-4073)

I/We support the (FishHawk schools) boundary changes proposed at the 10/4/99 School Board meeting to assign Bloomingdale West ("Lithia Springs Satellite Cluster") to the Lithia Springs/Burns Middle/Bloomingdale High School cluster.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Date/Signature _____

Letters to the Gazette

Neighbors appreciate holiday decorations

Lindsay Reid of Bloomingdale East writes:

"Our neighbor Millie McRory makes it easy for Dunaire Drive residents to direct friends to our street. We simply say, "Follow the glow off Nature's Way!" Ms. Millie's holiday and seasonal decorations provide



Good neighbor Millie McRory. Photo by Lindsay Reid.

Dunaire Drive with sparkling Halloween, St. Patrick's Day and Valentine's Day displays and a spectacular Christmas light show. What a treat it is for those of us lucky enough to see Millie's indoor decorations. Nearly every inch of her home is filled with collections including snowmen, Annalees, animated characters and decorated seasonal trees. We would like to thank Ms. Millie for sharing her creative holiday spirit and brightening our nights."

He says/she says: cars parked on streets okay?

Bloomingdale East resident writes:

"My husband and I are having a discrepancy regarding the parking of vehicles in the street overnight. I say that the rule of "no parking cars in the street overnight" applies to inoperable vehicles only, and he seems to think that no vehicles whatsoever are permitted to park in the street overnight. Can you clarify this for us?"

Editor's reply: We checked with Deputy Maurer of our Community Substation, who indicates, "There is no County Ordinance or State Statute prohibiting overnight parking on streets in communities. However, parking a disabled vehicle on the roadway is prohibited and vehicles in violation may be towed. In addition, it is illegal to park an unregistered vehicle (including one with an expired tag) on the road at any time." BHA President Ted Grable adds, "You may wish to review the deed restrictions for your sec-

tion to see if there are any parking confines mentioned. However, deed restrictions apply only to private property. Since the streets are public property, it may be difficult to enforce any such restrictions."

Holiday bows, poinsettias and Santa Claus

A Bloomingdale West resident writes:

"The holiday bows and poinsettia plants were so delightful last year. Can we expect to see the decorations again this year and will Bloomingdale West streets be included in the project? We also enjoyed the visit by Santa and wonder if he will be making an appearance again this year."

Editor's reply: Our STD Property Manager, DPMI, has begun planting poinsettias in our common areas. The BHA reports that both Bloomingdale East and West will be adorned with the holiday bows just after Thanksgiving. BHA representatives have contacted the North Pole and are pleased to announce that Santa Claus is indeed coming to town. Watch for St. Nick's agenda in next month's Gazette.

Gazette Y2K conversion

A Bloomingdale Gazette associate writes:

"Dear Editor, I have followed your instructions regarding the Y2K problem. The Gazette's year 2000 calendars are in, and I am pleased to report that the conversion is complete. The new months are as follows: Januark, Februark, Mak and Julk. I have also changed all the days of each week to: Sundak, Mondak, Tuesdak, Wednesdak, Thursdak, Fridak and Saturdak. We are now "Yto-K" compliant."

Editor's reply: Thank kou verk much for kour help in resolving this problem!

Bloomingdale residents, the Gazette welcomes your questions, comments and suggestions on community issues. Letters should include the writer's name, address, phone number and e-mail address, and will be published anonymously if so requested. Write to: The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594, Fax (813) 651-1129, E-Mail LauraFrazier@prodigy.net.

All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Due to space limitations not all letters can be printed, but our staff will make every effort to respond to all letters received. ©

REAL ESTATE UPDATE



By Luana Russell

How Much Taxable Profit?

QUESTION: If I sell my home for a profit, how do I figure the cost basis so that I'll know how much profit tax will be owed?

ANSWER: The difference between the cost and the selling price is taxable at the capital gains rate. The important cost basis is the sum of the original cost plus the dollar value of improvements and selling expenses. You should be able to substantiate these costs in the event of an IRS examination. So keep those records and check stubs.

This exercise only applies if you live in the house for less than 2 years. After that time period, you can profit up to \$500,000 (for joint filers) with no capital gains tax.

Luana
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Activity: Basketball

Ages: Boys and Girls age 3-14 (age 3-9 play modified, age 10 and up play regulation)

Registration: December 1-17, 1999

Cost: \$20 donation payable to "Friends of the Park" includes t-shirt, shorts, mouthpiece and award

Season: Weekly practice and games through the week of February 28. Awards presentation week of March 6. Practice sessions/games begin the week of January 10, 2000 and are held from 5:45 - 6:45 pm on the following days:

- Age 3 and 4 Tuesdays
- Age 5 and 6 Tuesdays
- Age 7, 8 and 9 Mondays
- Age 10, 11 and 12 Thursdays
- Age 13 and 14 Thursdays



Help Needed!: Parent volunteer coaches, assistants and team mothers/fathers are needed to make this season a success. For more information, please stop by the rec center or contact Donna Clouse, Recreation Director, at 744-5907 weekdays 6:30 - 9:00 pm.

BLOOMINGDALE

Welcome to Bloomingdale

The Bloomingdale Gazette and Brandon Regional Hospital are pleased to announce the following new arrivals to our community:

Ryan Joseph Roth Born September 15, 1999 to Julie and Thomas Roth

Duan Nicholas Weaden Born September 23, 1999 to Margaret and Earl Weaden

Cameron William Fritz Born September 23, 1999 to Shelley and Robert Fritz

Brianna Alyssa Berninger Born September 24, 1999 to Lisa and Nicholas Berninger

Maci Laine Smith Born September 25, 1999 to Bobbi Jo and Jeffrey Smith

Michael Trey Molen Born September 29, 1999 to Kristin and Brian Molen

Congratulations from the staff and friends of The Bloomingdale Gazette!

Do you know of a "new addition" to our community? Please call the Gazette at 681-2051, write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594 or e-mail LauraFrazier@prodigy.net. We would be pleased to publish your birth announcement!

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Teresa (Terry) Curry - Administrator

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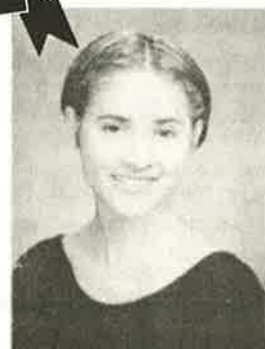
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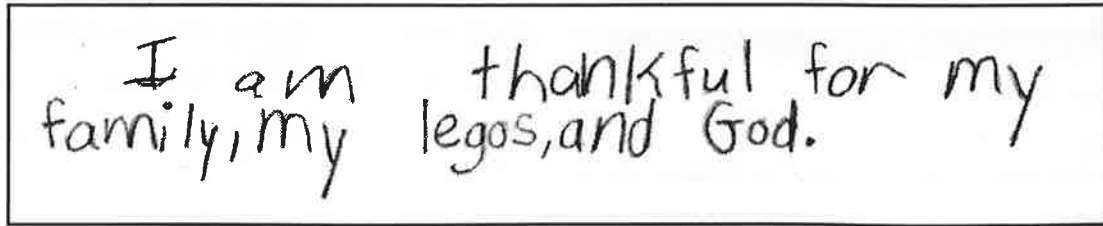
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Children give thanks

A Gazette special feature

In anticipation of Thanksgiving, we asked students of Mrs. Hinterschied's 4th grade class at Alafia Elementary School to compose a brief essay about what they are thankful for. This sample of excerpts from some of the compositions reminds us all to be thankful for the universal innocence, wisdom, honesty and wit of our children. The children's writings have been condensed, but we have stayed true to the student's own original spelling and grammatical styles!

"I am thankful for my dog, Dr. Cook and God. I am thankful for my dog because she is nice and she is funny and cute. I am thankful for Dr. Cook because he is my dentist. He takes care of my teeth and he makes them shine. I am thankful for God because he made me live and he made the earth and everything on it."

"I am thankful for my family, my Legos and God. My Dad recycles (recycles?), Mom snuggles, I design, Ashley helps me, Dani is weird, Brendan's a comedian, Socks is a fluff ball, and the fish are shiny. I am thankful for my Legos cause when I grow up I am going to direct a movie with them in it. I love building with them. I just think they are so cool. It is just mind blowing. I am also thankful for God. I would not be here writing this stuff if there was no God. Sometimes I pray at night when I am afraid. Sometimes I talk to God as if he is right beside me. It is very fun and I do it a lot."

"I am thankful for my family, my friends and my teachers. I am thankful for my family because I have a super duper sweet Mom and Dad. They were the people who loved me when I was born and always love me. I am thankful for my friends because they play with me with excitement. They teach me new things to know about the world. I am thankful for my teachers.

They are the people who taught me how to learn. They are the people who took their time to teach me how to literate in English."

"I am thankful for my Mom because she is so nice to me. I am thankful for my dog because she is fun to play with. She runs around the house. I am thankful for my house. It is one of my physical needs. I am thankful for having my brother. He is 16 years old. I am thankful for my Mom's car. It is a Explorer. It is green, my favorite color."

"I am thankful for God, my family and my friends. God is the one who made me and all of my friends. He's the creator of the whole entire univers. Most people pray to him to thank him for every thing he's given them. I am thankful for my family. My brothers and sisters play with me all the time. My parents provide me with love and care all the time. They provide confidence in myself to. I am thankful for my friends. They help keep my self-estem very high. They are the ones I can talk about my fellings with. They also play with me."

"Let me tell you what I'm thankful for...my Mom, Dad and sister Mary Claire. The reason why I'm thankful for my Mom is because she cooks my meals. She took care of me when I got the chicken pops. I'm thankful for my Dad. He makes money so my Mom can get food. He also teach me how to fly and ride my bike. I'm thankful for my sister Mary Claire. My sister helps me with my dishes. She also plays with me when I'm aloney."

Special thanks to these students for sharing their Thanksgiving essays with us: Melissa, Cynia, Jamie, Conor, Michael R., Kathleen, Kayley, Kristen, Caitlin A., Jacee, Ryan F., Jacob, Ryan M., Emily, Chad S., Radaisi, Reginald, Vanessa, Britney, Michael J., Nicole, Erin, Chad, Tiffany, Christina, Justin, Amber, Caitlin W. ☺

Developer files 3rd rezoning request; Residents examine proposal, voice concerns

A Gazette Report

Tampa developer Dimitri Artzibushev recently filed the latest of a series of applications intending to rezone 71 rural acres in the Bloomingdale area. The pastureland is located on John Moore Road just south of Wooddale Drive, one mile south of Bloomingdale Avenue. Homeowners in the area are concerned about the compatibility of the proposed single-family home subdivision and about preserving the rural character of their neighborhood. Residents have also expressed concerns about how the proposed design would further impact existing drainage and traffic conditions on Bloomingfield Drive.

United Neighbors, Dedicated Opposition (UNDO) is a group of residents representing numerous area communities, including Bloomingdale, whose mission

"Only those comments received ... on or before the November 29* hearing will be considered admissible..."

according to UNDO core team member Jeannette Figari is, "to work in cooperation with county officials and developers in promoting the responsible growth of the Brandon area." UNDO members have twice successfully presented their concerns with Artzibushev's previous rezoning requests to County Commissioners. UNDO members are at this writing reviewing the developer's new proposal. The application is tentatively scheduled to go before the zoning hearing master on November 29* at 6:00 pm, in the BOCC Board Room (City Center 2nd floor, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., land marked as "the pink building".)

Figari says, "It is imperative that any residents who have comments or concerns regarding this rezoning request voice their opinions to the county's Planning and Growth Management Department at or prior to the November 29 meeting." Only those comments received and classified as a matter of public record on or before the November 29* hearing will be considered admissible at the final County Commission hearing on January 11*, 2000.

Residents wishing to register their concerns and comments regarding this rezoning request who are unable to attend the November 29* hearing are encouraged to submit the form below or write, call or fax the office of Planning and Growth Management as shown

on the form.

*Please contact UNDO to confirm updated hearing scheduling information. For information call Jeannette Figari at 684-2260, John Fenn at 685-1134 or Jack Lawry at 689-1154. UNDO currently has members representing Bloomingdale, Dogwood Hills, Hickory Creek, Hickory Ridge, Wooddale Drive, Hickory Highlands and Camelot Woods. Homeowners in those communities and all other Brandon neighborhoods are invited to join the group. UNDO representatives also extend assistance to other neighborhood associations faced with rezoning issues.

**To: Hillsborough County Planning and Growth Management Dept.
601 East Kennedy Blvd, 20th Floor
Tampa, FL 33602
Phone (813) 272-5920, Fax (813) 272-6068**

Reference: RZ99-1440 Rezoning request

Subject: Comments submitted pursuant to 11/29/99 Zoning Hearing Master Meeting

Pursuant to the above referenced rezoning request, I request that this notice be made part of the public records reviewed by the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners at the scheduled January 11, 2000 County Commission meeting. As a homeowner in the community of

I wish to register the following comments and concerns:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Date/Signature _____

The Bloomingdale Buzz

By Mason Meehan

We took a random survey of five Bloomingdale residents, asking the following question, "Where in our community do you feel the addition of a traffic light would be an advantage?"

Bill Waltz, Oak Crest

"Erindale at Lithia. It is my major road in and out, and I feel that it's extremely dangerous. The high traffic count at both rush hour and off-peak can cause a wait of five minutes or more just to turn in or get out."



David Kozora, Bloomingdale Village



"More traffic lights would complicate the issue. A timed flashing light at Glenhaven and Bell Shoals during the morning rush hours would work best."

Phillip Partain, Cambridge Cove



"I prefer making Bell Shoals four lanes with turning lanes instead of more traffic lights. I feel that this would make the rush hour traffic more manageable."

Janet McCullum, Bloomingdale West



"I would like to see the Rosemead light moved to Garnet. The traffic back-up from Wal-Mart going south would be relieved somewhat and Bloomingdale West residents would still be able to get out with the aid of a light."

Chris Martin, Fairway Manor



"I'd like to see a light at Springvale and Bloomingdale. It is extremely difficult to turn west onto Bloomingdale at all times, and particularly hard when school is in session at Bloomingdale High."

Dedication and Service Our Sheriff's Department and Fire Department

By Mack Austin

Have you ever worked a shift that seemed never ending? Ever worked in a position where the hours were filled with long stretches of boredom interjected with moments of sheer terror? How about a job that involves constant danger, where the "clients" can be rude, helpless or even close to death? A job that has to be done no matter what the weather or circumstances, and demands the utmost professionalism at all times.

Interested? Well, there are openings in the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department. Be ready to take

a battery of physical and mental tests, and then get ready to rearrange your lifestyle. Okay, if it's so tough, why do so many choose these professions? These special individuals are willing to sacrifice and serve and are genuinely concerned about the welfare, safety and security of others.

Bloomingdale residents are fortunate to have such dedicated men and women in the Sheriff's and Fire Departments. They protect and serve our community, but too often don't receive the thanks they deserve. On behalf of the citizens of our community, The Bloomingdale Gazette would like to take this opportunity to extend a very special "thank you" to each member of the Sheriff's and Fire Departments. Your dedication and service are appreciated.

**For Advertising Information
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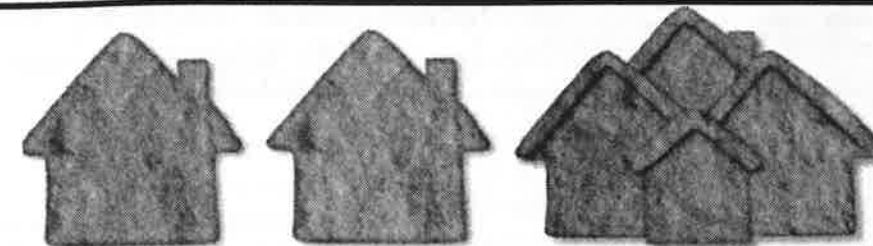
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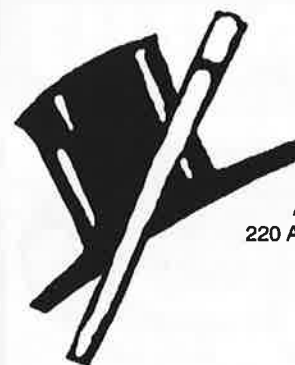
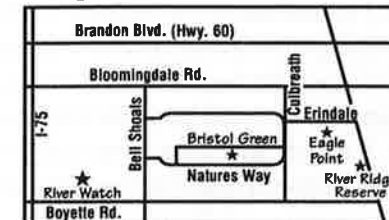
"We think cookie cutters belong in the kitchen"

Riley Tucker, President
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Bloomingdale Yard of the Month Sponsored by Southern Lawn and Turf

By Paul Almeida

The home of Will and Bonnie Long at 4408 Arranmore Circle in the Bristol Green section of Bloomingdale East has been selected for the November Bloomingdale Yard of the Month.

Will and Bonnie's yard features a variety of landscaping elements including over 300 assorted plants, scrubs and trees. Junipers, ligustrums and vibernium comfortably share the 3/4 acre cul-de-sac yard with Queen, Sago, Pygmy and Dade palms. Also adding to the picturesque yard is a 3-foot tall Caribbean-inspired totem pole.

Will and Bonnie share the never-ending chore of yard maintenance, with Will holding the title of main caretaker. The Longs recently experienced the all-too-common attack of the chinch bug/web worms (who hasn't!), but proudly proclaim they have won the battle. A tough job to be sure, but Will's TLC pulled the yard through in good form. His secret weapon? "Good



equipment is a must," he says. "My lawn tractor, blower and edger make the job easier and allow me to achieve more professional looking results while saving money by doing it myself."

We congratulate the Longs on being selected as our November Yard of the Month, and thank them for helping to make Bloomingdale beautiful. (C)

Residents are invited to contact Paul Almeida at 661-2018 or e-mail LauraFrazier@prodigy.net with their nominations for the Yard of the Month feature.



Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Property Manager's Report, September 1999

Submitted by Devney Property Management, Inc.

1. Irrigation: Brandon Irrigation repaired 7 Glenhaven system valves, repaired a valve, broken main line and replaced a pump control relay on the Rosemead system, repaired a broken Erindale system valve. Planscape, Inc. installed a new Golf manor System irrigation zone. DPMI installed 14 spray heads in zone 14 of the Garnet system. DPMI replaced 17 heads and 5 rotors, repaired 3 zone lines and 10 risers. DPMI requested irrigation design for the area on Natures Way, Springvale and Culbreath from the school to Bloomingdale. The request has been put on hold pending an in-depth study on reclaimed water usage for Bloomingdale (see related story in this issue).

2. Landscaping: Yardworks plugged Garnet, Canoga park, Glenhaven and Natures Way with St. Augustine grass. Neighborhood Pest Control applied fertilizer to all grass and scrubs, sprayed infected areas for mole crickets and chinch bugs. Planscapes, Inc. installed 32

red Crepe Myrtle trees on Natures Way. STD assumed maintenance responsibility as of August 1 for Bristol Green Phase II and the Callista properties,

including a well, 16 zones of irrigation, 51,025 square feet of St. Augustine grass, 4,040 feet of perimeter wall and 3,090 feet of creeping fig, 2 entranceways and 67 oak trees.

3. Other: Hillsborough County replaced the entranceway signs at Orangecrest/Greenhollow and Treeline/Culbreath. In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, DPMI picked up 24 bags of litter, 2 towels, 3 shirts, a coffee cup, a sheet, a small air conditioner, a small refrigerator, 3 timing belts and \$.63 cents. The beverages of choice were Coke, Ice House beer and Seagram's Seven. (C)



The hedge that hid the entrance sign at the corner of Bell Shoals and Glenhaven has been replaced with beautiful coleus plants. Thanks, All! Photo by Mack Austin.

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Household tips from Tim the Toolman

Is your sliding glass door hard to open and close?

Does it bump along roughly instead of gliding along the track? This is one of the most often neglected

areas of home maintenance. Clean the track with a household cleaner and then vacuum out the track. Next, rub an old candle or a bar of soap on the highest portion of the floor track. This will extend the life of the rollers and make the door easier to slide open and closed.



Tim Lovejoy, owner of "Tim the Toolman Home Repairs, Inc." can be reached at 689-1856.

School calendar changes

The Hillsborough County School Board has announced the following changes to the 1999-2000 school calendar:

* Winter vacation will be from Thursday, December 23 through Tuesday, January 4, with students returning to school on Wednesday, January 5, 2000. This change reflects the addition of one school day to the calendar to make up for one of two days that classes were cancelled due to recent storm threats.

* The Monday, February 14, 2000 Teacher Planning Day has been moved back to Friday, February 11 in order to accommodate the new Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) schedule. The FCAT will be administered February 15 - 18. School Board officials instituted this change to avoid testing students immediately following a 3-day weekend.

Where to get the Gazette

We are continually updating our mailing list in an effort to deliver the Gazette to every home in Bloomingdale.

If you are a Bloomingdale resident and do not receive the Gazette by mail the first week of each month, please contact the BHA for your free subscription at:

BHA

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33594

e-mail BHA@CyberRails.com or

phone (813) 681-2051

Free copies are available at the newspaper racks in front of Bloomingdale Square's Coldwell Banker office and Bloomingdale area grocery and convenience stores. ©



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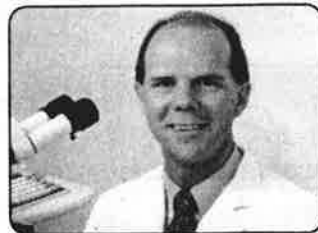
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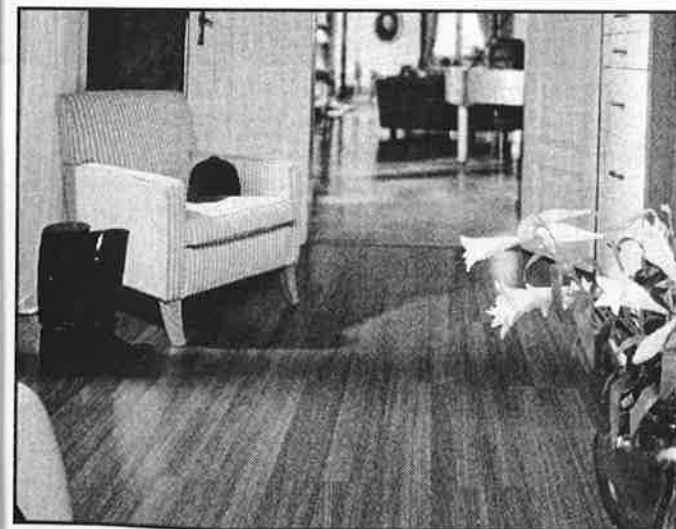
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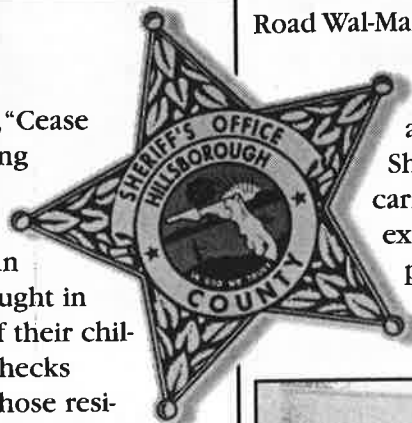


Bloomingdale Community Substation Notes

By Deputy Pete Maurer

"Cease Fire '99" a great success

The special gun buy-back program, "Cease Fire '99" ended with 152 weapons being turned in to deputies and volunteers at the Bloomingdale Community Station. Some of the weapons turned in were dangerously old. Some were brought in by parents concerned for the safety of their children. All will be run through special checks before they are destroyed. Thanks to those residents who participated in this important community project and to the volunteers who made it possible.



L-R Volunteer Steve Austin, Bloomingdale Deputy Pete Maurer, BACC Council member Paul Hooper and Progress Village CSO Jackie Johnson process one of the 152 weapons collected during "Cease Fire '99." Photo by Mack Austin.

Bikers and runners

You must be seen to be missed! Bloomingdale bikers and runners are advised to wear light colored clothing and a safety vest if possible when running or riding on our community streets. Bikers, remember also that the Florida bike helmet law is in effect and is being enforced. Parents, several serious injuries have recently been prevented when riders involved in accidents or falls were wearing helmets. They are a very small investment that can make the difference between a critical head injury and a bump on the head. Set a good example and get your kids in the right habit.

Motorists urged to use extra caution

Several Bloomingdale area shopping center parking lot entrances have shown a significant increase in multiple car accidents. Motorists are urged to use extra caution in these areas which include the Bell Shoals Road Wal-Mart parking lot entrance and the new Bloomingdale Avenue Eckerd's parking lot. Several accidents have recently occurred at these sites. A left turn exiting the Bell Shoals side of Eckerd's is permitted but precarious during peak rush hours. A left turn exiting the Bloomingdale side of the store is prohibited. ☺



Motorists are urged to use extra caution and obey the new "right turn only" signs posted in several areas in our community. Photo by Mack Austin.

Speed Monitor Fund Drive

A Gazette Report

Progress continues with the fund drive to purchase a speed monitor to be used by Deputies patrolling the Bloomingdale community to reduce speeding on our streets. A total of \$3,000 is needed to purchase the equipment. Contributions to date total \$1,700.

Contributions from individuals, businesses, school PTAs, Homeowners associations and anyone with an interest in improving safety in our community are welcome. Contributions made payable to "Mailboxes, ETC., F.B.O. Radar Display" can be sent to: C.B. Richard Ellis, Attn: Tom Karpenske, 201 East Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1121, Tampa, FL 33602. For more information, please call the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at 681-2051 or 681-9655.

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MacDill Family Support Center seeks new site

By Mack Austin

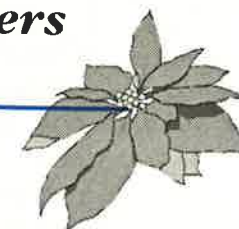
Since the opening of the MacDill Air Force Base Family Support Center at 349 Pauls Drive this past summer, the Center has provided accessible, affordable services to hundreds of military families in the Bloomingdale/Brandon area. The Pauls Drive location was set up as a temporary site for the facility

Use of the current facilities will end January 1, 2000. A previous Gazette report indicated that a 5-acre parcel located on Erindale Drive in Bloomingdale had been offered to MacDill for usage that could include a permanent site for the Center. MacDill officials indicate that approval of the site by environmental and other groups could take 2-3 years. There is now a priority need for a site, temporary or permanent, with an existing building.

MacDill officials and representatives from the Brandon Chamber of Commerce are working together to define the specific requirements for a permanent

facility and researching potential new locations. The facility required must be donated, with a minimum of 2000 square feet of office space, security and adequate parking. Anyone with knowledge of such a facility is asked to contact the Brandon Chamber of Commerce at 689-1221. In the meantime, support will continue to be provided and more volunteers are needed. Anyone interested in volunteering customer service support is asked to call the Center at 655-9281. ©

Burns Band Boosters poinsettia sale



The Burns Band Boosters announce the annual Poinsettia Plant Sale to benefit the Burns Middle School band program. Orders for plants will be taken from November 8 - 19. Plants will be delivered to the school on Saturday, December 4 at 9:00 am. The poinsettias are 15 - 18 inches tall, in 6 1/2 inch pots complete with decorative covers. A limited number of plants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. To place your order, contact any Burns Band student or all Band Director Mr. Lewis at 744-6262, ext. 8220.

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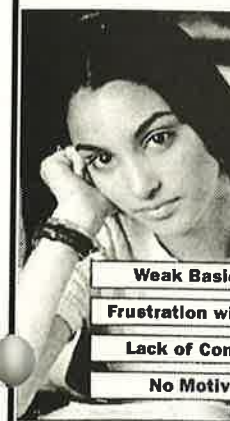
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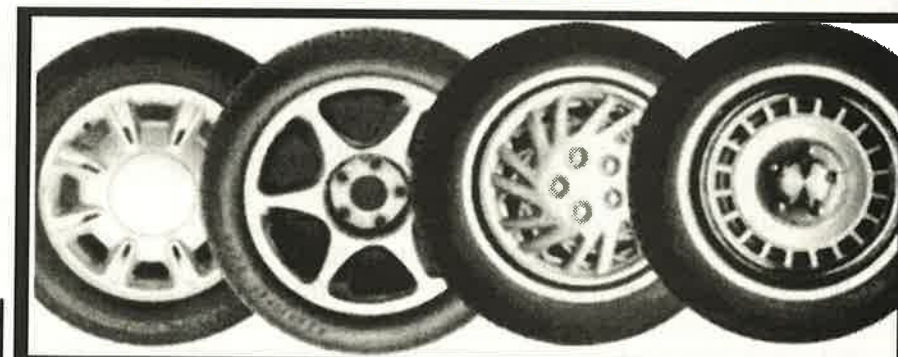
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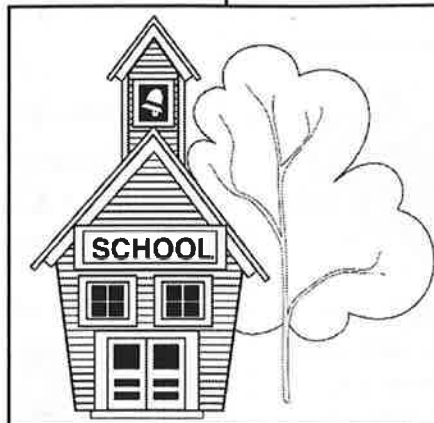
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Bloomingdale Senior High School News

By Mack Austin, PTSA Safety Committee Member

Bloomingdale PTSA Welcomes New President

Bloomingdale High School administration, staff, parents and students would like to welcome and congratulate Ted Grable on his appointment as the PTSA President for the 1999-2000 school year. Grable's dedication and genuine concern for the students ensure a year of growth and progress for the PTSA and the school. The support of parents, students and community members is needed. Positions are still open on the PTSA committee. Anyone interested in helping to improve the quality of education at our high school is invited to call the PTSA at 744-8018, ext. 563.



Extended Day Program

Hillsborough County's Summer School Program has been expanded and reorganized as the new Extended Year Program. The new program refocuses summer school resources into programs that provide academic remedial and enhancement support for students throughout the school year. Students identified by their English teacher will be required to attend one of two courses offered. Credit Earning Classes incorporate FCAT focused Intensive Reading 3 and Intensive Mathematics 3 and will be held daily 3:00 - 4:00 pm October 18 - December 17. The Tutoring Program, includes Tutoring for Remediation (11th and 12th grades) incorporates HSCT Communications and Math and Benchmark requirements. Students with a below "C" average are encouraged to take advantage of the Tutoring for Enhancement program which includes Math, English, Social Studies, Science and Foreign Language. All tutoring sessions will be held daily 3:00 - 4:00 pm October 18 - May 12. Transportation will be provided.

"Providing a Safer School Community" program

This special program held on October 21 at BSHS brought together parents, students, educators, and Hillsborough County law enforcement and service

agencies to present information on measures we can all take to provide a safer school environment. Outstanding support and response from the participating agencies and the members of the Open Forum Panel made the program a great success. Many thanks to the PTSA committee members, school administration and staff and volunteers who coordinated with the agencies to put the program together. It was of great benefit to many parents and students in our community.

Congratulations to Caryl Menendez

Caryl Menendez, a charter member of the Bloomingdale High faculty and former BSHS English Department head, Assistant Principal of Student Affairs and coordinator for the BSHS Newsletter, was recently promoted to Assistant Principal for International Studies at Jefferson High in Tampa. We

extend our best wishes to her for success in her new position and our special thanks for her many outstanding contributions to BSHS.

"The Bloomingdale Eight"

By Elton Dumont

"The Bloomingdale Eight" struck again last month, converging on Emeril's Restaurant at Universal Studios City Walk in Orlando. Food aficionados know Chef Emeril Lagasse as the gregarious, inspired Master Chef on television's Food Channel. After years of listening to the chef's trademark "kick it up a notch", "pork fat rules!", "Happy, happy, happy!" and "Bam!" on the tube, this group decided to sample Emeril's creative cuisine in person.

In keeping with Mike Bosler's assumption that the dress code would be formal, the women donned boas, gloves and tiaras. The men sported capes, top hats, gloves and gold-tipped walking sticks. According to Wayne Schoeffel, the food was great and the service impeccable. Three waiters attended to the group, providing the utmost service in fine dining. In parting, Dick Stein spoke for the entire group in offering the ultimate compliment to the restaurant staff. With a flip of his cape, he tipped his hat and exclaimed, "BAM!"

STD examines potential Bloomingdale reclaimed water system

By Laura Frazier

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District has begun formulating a "5-Year Plan", outlining several proposed projects designed to put our tax dollars to work in improving and beautifying our community. The proposed Reclaimed Water project is currently under evaluation by STD representatives in cooperation with the Hillsborough County Water Department. Following are some frequently asked questions about the reclaimed water process.

What is reclaimed water?

The reclaimed water process permits the utilization of effluent water; wastewater that is channeled from the sewer system to water treatment plants. Effluent water is normally cleaned and treated and returned to creeks, streams lakes and rivers. The reclaimed water process reroutes the cleaned, treated water to businesses and communities for irrigation purposes.

Is it safe?

Hillsborough County employs strict quality standards and safety procedures in the wastewater treatment process. Reclaimed water is intended for the irrigation of lawns and ornamental landscaping and for use in fountains or decorative ponds. It does NOT meet standards for drinking, bathing including swimming pools and outdoor showers, edible crop irrigation or washing cars, boats and outdoor furniture.

What are the benefits?

Every gallon of reclaimed water that is used for irrigation conserves a gallon of fresh drinking water. The use of reclaimed water for irrigation purposes would increase the amount of potable water available to the Bloomingdale area. The phosphorous and nitrogen contained in treated wastewater act as safe, efficient fertilizers for lawns and most plants.

Are there restrictions for reclaimed water usage?

Reclaimed water is exempt from county watering restrictions. It should be noted however, that the supply and available pressure might at times be interrupted due to a fluctuating water table and varying water quality. Reclaimed water is constantly monitored and will not be distributed for public use if the water quality drops below acceptable standards.

reclaimed water currently being used in our community?

Yes. Alafia Elementary School and Bloomingdale Golfers Club currently employ reclaimed water irrigation systems. Hillsborough County has included

Bloomingdale High School in plans currently in the design phase to bring reclaimed water to three area high schools using Community Investment Tax funds.

How are our common areas currently irrigated?

The STD maintains over 20 wells in Bloomingdale East and West providing irrigation at our parks, entrances and along our common walks. The STD reports the well system to operate sufficiently, citing however recent concerns about possibly dropping water tables and the increased iron deposits in the water. The well water's iron content is the culprit responsible for the rust stains on some of our perimeter walls. The STD is exploring the logistics, costs, pros and cons of utilizing reclaimed water to irrigate our common areas.

How could reclaimed water be brought into Bloomingdale?

STD representatives are currently working with Hillsborough County officials to theoretically outline the logistics of such a project, from feasibility to required pipe widths and possible underground routes.

How is the reclaimed water delivered to residences?

The water can be connected to in-ground sprinkler systems. For those residents without sprinkler systems, hoses with special fittings installed are permitted. Special fittings or low trajectory spray heads are required in order to reduce the aerosol drift of the water to eating, drinking and bathing areas.

What would the cost be to the residents?

STD representatives are working with County officials to determine two cost factors. The STD will seek a cost proposal to bring reclaimed water expressly to our common areas. A separate proposal to bring the water to both the common and residential areas of Bloomingdale will also be solicited. In either case, costs would be assigned to a long-term annual assessment applied to each resident's property tax bill. The county requires a 51% approval consensus of residents in any area requesting reclaimed water service.

Where do we go from here?

The STD will continue to explore the potential for bringing reclaimed water into our community. All residents are encouraged to submit their comments, concerns and questions about this proposed project by contacting the STD or attending the monthly Special Taxing District meetings. Meetings are held at the Community Office (3509 Bell Shoals Road behind SunTrust Bank) on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. The STD voice mail number is 684-6667. If you wish to contact an STD Board member directly, please refer to page 2 of The Gazette for individual phone numbers. Ongoing details of this and other proposed STD projects will be published in future editions of The Gazette. ☺

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\$REWARDS
One black oak leaf pin with criss-crossing chains at Michaels on Regency Square in October 2nd. Please call 863-421-4735 or the pin can be returned to Michaels. See Rick the manager.

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Luana is committed to providing "Five-Star Service" to her clients! She has been a Brandon/Valrico resident for 16 years and a Real Estate Agent for 24 years. Luana has helped thousands of people buy and sell homes.

"Buying or selling a home is an incredibly stressful experience for both buyer and seller. I like helping people make one of the greatest major financial and emotional decisions of their lives. It's exciting and rewarding. It's also a big responsibility that I take very seriously."

Luana Russell is known as one of our area's most professional real estate agents and has consistently been honored as a top producer by Coldwell Banker.

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