

Laura Frazier/Photo

Newsome High Boundary Plans Spark Concern

Will Bloomingdale students be assigned to middle and high schools in Lithia next fall?

See story on page 3



Photo courtesy Bloomingdale MOMS Club

Vote, Bloomingdale!

Bloomingdale MOMS Club members, here at the Sept. 11 Flags Along Bayshore commemoration, remind their Bloomingdale neighbors to keep the patriotism going this Tuesday - get out and vote!



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BHA Dues Drive In Gear

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Support Our Troops Overseas, see page 6



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SEE OUR SPECIALS ON PAGE 7

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Newsome High Boundary Plans Spark Concern

WILL CIMINO STUDENTS ATTEND RANDALL, NEWSOME?

By LAURA FRAZIER

About 75 parents turned out to observe the latest Newsome High School boundary committee meeting Oct. 23 at Bloomingdale High. Although onlookers were not permitted to participate in the discussions, their body language spoke volumes. Many whispered curtly, shook their heads and glared wide-eyed in response to several boundary proposals presented at the meeting. Still others seemed satisfied, or at least resigned to the fact that hundreds of students currently attending Bloomingdale and Riverview high schools will be reassigned to Newsome. The pressing question is, which students should be moved?

The opening of Newsome High School, currently under construction on Fish Hawk Boulevard in Lithia, was bumped up a year to 2003 by the Hillsborough County School District to relieve critically overcrowded Bloomingdale and Riverview high schools. About 20 assigned committee members and Bill Person, the district's pupil assignment director, face the daunting task of crafting attendance boundaries for Newsome. To balance attendance numbers, the committee has also discussed reassigning some students currently attending Durant and Brandon high schools.

At least two boundary proposals presented at the Oct. 23 meeting suggest sending 731 students in the Cimino Elementary School area to Newsome. Cimino students currently advance to Burns Middle School and Bloomingdale High School.

The committee agreed to move forward with one proposal that would send Cimino students to Newsome. The group will review updated maps and numbers at the next meeting, set for 3:45 p.m. on Thursday Nov. 7 at

"The committee is in need of Bloomingdale representation"

DEBBY DUNCAN
Cimino Elementary School PTSA President

Bloomingdale High.

Person told the committee if they eventually agree on a plan that includes sending Cimino students to Newsome, those students could very likely be reassigned to Randall Middle School on Fish Hawk Boulevard.

"If Cimino goes to Newsome, I think the new (Buckhorn area) middle school committee will want to move Cimino to Randall," Person said, adding the move would make it possible to shift some Kingswood and Mintz elementary school students to Burns Middle and Bloomingdale High.

The middle school boundary committee is holding off on its formal recommendation until the high school committee agrees on a plan, Person said.

Person said the school district has received over 400 e-mails and petitions from parents expressing varying preferences about which school their children should attend.

Parents in River Hills, Buckhorn and Valrico Oaks, all currently assigned to Durant High, have been the most vocal, Person said. But the district has received a wide difference of opinion from within each community.

"We're all over the map," Person said.

Some Cimino parents feel they were promised by school district officials (during boundary planning for their new elementary school) that their students would remain in the Alafia/Cimino-Burns-Bloomingdale feeder pattern.

Debbi Duncan, president of Cimino's PTSA, said more representation of the Bloomingdale area is needed on the Newsome boundary committee.

"I have been on boundary committees in the past, and I recognize the tough situation. But I feel that the committee is in need of Bloomingdale representation so that the voice can be heard that Bloomingdale doesn't want to be split up. We need to be in the feeder pattern of our neighborhood schools."

Several Cimino parents approached Person after the Oct. 23 meeting to express their concerns about the committee's lack of representation for hundreds of students

in their neighborhood. "You're absolutely right," Person responded, taking names and numbers and promising to contact parents before the next meeting.

Many River Hills and Buckhorn parents have resisted the move to Newsome, expressing an adamant desire to remain at Durant. Still others appealed to the committee to move them to Newsome. But Duncan noted that both those neighborhoods, if reassigned to New-

See NEWSOME, Page 5

The BHA Position

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board of directors, at its Oct. 8 meeting, issued this statement: "The BHA continues to vigorously oppose any middle or high school boundaries that do not recognize Bloomingdale as a single community."

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 E-mail: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@Verizon.net
 Web Site: www.BloomingdaleGazette.com
 BHA meetings are at the community office on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

President — Ted Grable
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Director — Len Jasczak
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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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Fax: (813) 651-1129

E-Mail: News@BloomingdaleGazette.com

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Bloomingdale High Hosts Band Festival Nov. 2

COMMUNITY INVITED

A Bloomingdale Band Boosters Report

The Bloomingdale High School Rajun' Bull Band is proud to host the 2002 Florida Bandmasters' Association District VII Marching Band Festival.

The festival will be held at Charley Harris Stadium at Bloomingdale High School today, Saturday, Nov. 2, from 3:30 to 10:00 p.m.

Twenty Hillsborough County high school bands with over 2,500 music students will perform their half-time shows before an estimated 3,000 spectators and a panel of judges.

They will be evaluated on music effect, performance, marching and maneuvering, general effect, percussion, and auxiliaries.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for students 18 and under. Refreshments will be sold.

The Bloomingdale Rajun' Bull Marching Band is made up of 290 talented musicians including its auxiliary, the Crimson Dolls.

The Rajun' Bulls will perform A Tribute to New Orleans.

The Bloomingdale Band Boosters invite the community to join us today for a day full of fun, excitement and entertainment.

Newsome

From page 3

some, would remain in their current school-choice region and in 2004 would have the option of attending either Newsome or Durant.

Conversely, Duncan said, "If Cimino is sent to Newsome, that would put us in school choice Region 6," a move that would leave half of the students living in Bloomingdale without an option to attend Bloomingdale High.

Person encouraged parents to attend the meetings and to continue e-mailing comments to his office, schools superintendent Earl Lennard, and school board members.

If a plan agreed on by the committee is approved by the district's superintendent, the school board will have a final say, possibly as soon as its Dec. 10 meeting. Parents may address school board members prior to their vote. If a large number of people attend the school board meeting, Person said comments might be limited to

two to three minutes each.

But before the school board meeting, Person said a community meeting would be held at Bloomingdale High, "in the near future." At the meeting, parents will have an opportunity to view the committee's recommended boundary plan and voice their comments and concerns.

"I predict a very large community meeting, probably 500 - 600 people," Person said.

Written and e-mail comments are presented to committee members and the general public at each meeting. To submit comments, e-mail William.Person@sdhc.k12.fl.us or write to Hillsborough County School District, 901 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33601. To e-mail or otherwise contact the superintendent and school board members, visit the district's web site at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us or call 272-4000.

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Old Glory waves proudly at the Bloomingdale branch of the MacDill Federal Credit Union, where a drive is underway to collect donations for our troops overseas. MACK AUSTIN/11/02

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CREDIT UNION COLLECTING GIFT DONATIONS

By MACK AUSTIN

A great deal of MacDill Air Force Base military men and women, many of whom are Bloomingdale residents, are deployed overseas in Operation Enduring Freedom.

No one knows how long they will be away from their families, especially with the possibility of another operation beginning soon.

While these men and women are serving our country and preserving our freedom, they need our support and our prayers.

But they also need our help. Many of them do not have direct access to various recreational or food items that we all enjoy and often take for granted.

To take an active role in showing their support to our service men and women, MacDill Federal Credit

Union has organized a special drive to collect donations from our community that will be sent directly to our troops overseas.

Donations can be made at any one of their fifteen financial center locations.

Of course, we would like for the Bloomingdale Branch to take the lead in collecting donations!

Donations should be new, non-perishable and small.

Suggested items include books, magazines, music CDs, DVD movies, cookies, pretzels and similar items that do not require refrigeration.

The deadline for donations is Friday, Nov. 8.

This is our opportunity to really show our support to these brave Americans.

Please drop off your donations at the MacDill Federal Credit Union Bloomingdale Branch.

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Help Needed To Deck Entryways

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association needs volunteers to help decorate each of our eight major entryways for the holiday season. If you would like to help string lights, hang bows, etc., please call the BHA at 681-2051 or e-mail Bloomingdale.Homeowners@Verizon.net for more information. Individuals or groups are welcome.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Traffic calming issues in our community, like this one on Bayfield Drive, may soon benefit from an enhanced program. Thanks to Steve Valdez and his staff for continuing to find ways to improve traffic safety in our neighborhoods.

County Proposes New Approach To Calm Traffic

By MACK AUSTIN

"Just stay calm"... many of us have said those words to ourselves as we watched another car go speeding down our streets. We try to stay calm, but we all know just how serious an issue speeding is, especially with children playing in and near the streets.

Many concerned residents of the greater Bloomingdale area have taken an active role and worked successfully to address this problem with Hillsborough County's residential traffic control program. The program does work.

However, if you took a look at our neighborhoods from above, you would see speed humps here, poles there, humps over there and more poles right over there, scattered all over the area.

Sometimes the result is just pushing the problem over to someone else, just like weeds in your yard.

To better organize, monitor and control traffic calm-

ing, the county would like to add a neighborhood approach to the program already in use.

Under the program entire neighborhoods (as opposed to residents on a single street) would work with the county to design plans for traffic calming throughout the neighborhood.

It is also enhanced by allowing traffic calming measures to be incorporated on roads designated as collector streets, or those streets that lead out to main highways.

Basic criteria for the program would stay the same. The county requires at least five residents in the affected area to contact them for traffic calming to be considered.

If a need is determined, a public hearing is held and solutions agreed upon.

Then, if 60 percent of the homeowners in the affected area sign a petition in favor of the measures within 90 days, the plan will be put into

See Traffic, Page 12

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Newcomers Hold Craft Auction

A Gazette Report

The November meeting of the Brandon Newcomers will be held at Center Place on Wednesday Nov. 20 at 9:30am.

The program will feature the group's annual auction fundraiser - "Make It, Bake

It, Grow It, Sew It." The event is open to the public.

A catered sandwich lunch will be served after the auction.

The cost is \$5 per person; reservations are requested by Monday, Nov. 18. Information: E. J. Smith at 689-3159.

Bloomingdale, John Moore Rezoning Update

On October 29 a zoning hearing master was scheduled to review a residential rezoning request and make a recommendation on a commercial rezoning request for land on the SW corner of

Bloomingdale on John Moore Road.

The hearing was held after the Gazette's deadline.

For updates visit www.BloomingdaleGazette.com.

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MACK AUSTIN/Photo

The sidewalks are going in, the trees will be saved, and everything's just ducky.

Sidewalks Going In, Trees Saved

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale community extends special thanks to former Bloomingdale resident and Bloomingdale Area Community Council member Tim Golden, Hillsborough County sidewalk engineer Debra Carreno and all those who worked for many years to see complete sidewalks installed on Bell Shoals Road

and Canoga Park Drive.

In addition, thanks to the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District board of trustees and property manager Al Devney, dozens of crepe myrtle trees in the path of sidewalk construction on Canoga Park Drive will be saved. The BSTD in October hired a contractor to remove and store the trees, and replant them after the sidewalks are done.

BHA Dues Drive Kicks Off

SUPPORT YOUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's 2002 Dues Drive was launched in October.

The association has typically held the drive during the summer months, but the program was delayed this year due to problems with the membership database.

Membership notices were mailed last month to every Bloomingdale resident.

The voluntary annual dues of \$20 are the BHA's only financial support.

All residents are urged to contribute the nominal amount to help ensure the BHA will continue to serve the community effectively.

Each year, the BHA continues its work to improve Bloomingdale.

The association produces The Bloomingdale Gazette, maintains our community web site, www.BloomingdaleGazette.com, operates the Neighborhood Involvement Program to protect property values by helping the county enforce county codes, conducts the Deed Restriction Enforcement pro-

gram to mediate and/or provide funding to help homeowners defray the cost of litigation, and funds the Bloomingdale Mobile Watch program.

In addition, the BHA works with Hillsborough County government for improved services including sidewalks, street lighting and road signs, supports our local PTA's, provides a community office, funds special events like the annual holiday visit of Santa and Mrs. Claus and works in cooperation with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Dept. to operate the Bloomingdale Area Community Council.

The BHA speaks proactively for the Bloomingdale community on neighborhood issues of concern.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation run strictly by non-salaried volunteers who live in Bloomingdale.

All money collected from dues goes back into the community.

Please send in your dues so our work can continue.

If you are a Bloomingdale resident and did not receive a dues notice, or if you have any questions, please call 681-2051 or e-mail Bloomingdale.Homeowners@Verizon.net.

*Look for your neighborhood news
The Bloomingdale Gazette*

Community Council Update

A Bloomingdale Area Community Council Report

Bloomingdale Area Community Council volunteers work directly with local law enforcement and county departments to research neighborhood issues and concerns. The council meets monthly.

The next BACC meeting will be held 7 p.m. on Nov. 21 at the Community Station on Bell Shoals Road.

For information, call Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer or Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano at 635-8040.

The council covered the following topics at its October meeting.

Special Guests

The council was privileged to have two Hillsborough



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Just as sheriff's deputies predicted at the BACC meeting last month, more serious accidents continue to occur on Bloomingdale Avenue. This one involved a motorcycle rider and resulted in injuries critical enough for the rider to be air lifted out. Slow down in this area, take your time and be careful.

County Sheriff's deputies from the District IV office attend the meeting - Lt. Rob Bullaro and Cpl. Jim Lewis. Bullaro briefed the council

on current operations in the Sheriff's Office including the increase in deputies assigned to the Port of Tampa, the decrease in deputies assigned

to Tampa International Airport, the expanded role in Homeland Security, an

See Update, Page 23

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Photo Courtesy Center Place

William E. Greet will have a one man show at Center Place in Brandon.

One Man Art Show At Center Place

A Gazette Report

William E. Greet, a Brandon resident and Tampa Bay area artist and teacher, will have a one man show at Center Place in Brandon Nov. 7 through Nov. 26.

The show, entitled "Then and Now" is a 40 year retrospective of art in various media.

The collection represents works from the 1960's to the present day, showcasing Mr. Greet's "life journeys and works of intense personal interest, then and now".

Greet was born in Chesterfield England in 1928, and has been an American for the last 40 years.

He is listed in Internation-

al Who's Who in Art & Antiques, Second Edition.

He has had two galleries, one in Collingswood, New Jersey and one in Camden, Maine.

Greet has taught in his own studio at both locations and has also been the artist/teacher in residence at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, Maine until its transition several years ago.

His Online Gallery can be found at: <http://www.williamgreetart.com>

A reception hosted by Greet will be held at Center Place at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 7 at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Drive in Brandon.

Traffic

From page 9

place, if the County Commission agrees with it.

Also, 90 percent of the homeowners in the affected area must sign the petition, either for or against it, for the petition to be valid.

A date has not yet been set for this proposal to be presented to the County Commission.

The neighborhood approach has a lot of validity to it. It is like sewing a quilt; it comes out much nicer if you organize the project as a whole instead of just putting a piece here and one there and hoping it turns out right.

For more information, contact Steve Valdez, Hillsborough County's community relations expert at 272-5275.

Weight Limits Reinstated On Lithia-Pinecrest Road

REMOVAL OPTION HIT ROADBLOCKS

By LAURA FRAZIER

Despite a study by Hillsborough County Public Works staff indicating that weight limits on Lithia-Pinecrest Road could be ineffective and difficult to enforce, the Board of County Commissioners at its Oct. 2 meeting voted to reinstate the limits - at least temporarily.

Five of the seven commissioners declined to consider the option favored by county engineers and many Bloomingdale residents - the removal of both Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Bloomingdale Avenue from the route. Commissioners Ronda Storms and Stacey Easterling spoke in favor of the removal option.

The board voted 4 - 3 to prohibit truck traffic in excess of 25 tons or 50,000 pounds from the road.

Trucks hauling loads originating from or being delivered to destinations along the road will not be restricted.

The signs were reposted the week of Oct. 14.

Public Works staff was also asked to research scope, schedule and funding issues for a number of safety enhancements to Lithia-Pinecrest Road originally suggested as a stand-alone option in the report, including additional traffic signals, streetlights and signage, bridge repairs and widened shoulders.

In addition, the board approved a motion by Commissioner Chris Hart to bump up the next county-

"Replacing the signs will provide almost immediate relief until a countywide truck route study can be accomplished."

CLAUDE FORTIN
River Hills resident

wide truck route review from 2004 to 2003.

Fish Hawk Trails homeowners association president Larry McLendon, and River Hills resident Claude "Frenchy" Fortin, among those residents who led the charge to reinstate weight limits, seemed satisfied with the interim solution.

"Replacing the signs will provide almost immediate relief until a countywide truck route study can be accomplished. Option number one (removing both Lithia-Pinecrest and Bloomingdale from the route) is still a possibility. In the meantime, Lithia-Pinecrest will be safer for our families," Fortin said.

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association president Ted Grable said the issue hasn't come to the end of the road yet.

"Hopefully the interim plan will improve safety on Lithia-Pinecrest. However, if truck traffic continues to be a problem, I am sure the community will return to the Board of County Commissioners. In addition, we will look in earnest for the 2003 truck route study to recommend the removal of both Lithia-Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Avenue from the route."

Letters

E-mail letters to Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com or mail to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594. All letters are subject to editing.

Scooters And Traffic Don't Mix

I was driving east on Bloomingdale and had stopped for the signal at Providence, waiting for the light to change from red to green. I had my foot on the brake and was far enough

behind the car in front of me to see the back tires...something I learned at traffic school in 1986.

The signal turned green, the car in front of me began to move so I took my foot off the brake.

At that precise moment, a young man on one of those two-wheel scooters flashed in front of my car.

I hit the brake and the car stopped.

The young man on the scooter did not even notice that I had saved his life.

He went on his way to the new Albertson's market, blissfully unaware, I am sure, that he had put himself in any danger.

My 69-year-old reaction time still seems to be working, although I'd just as soon not have it tested, especially by an unlicensed vehicle and driver.

Howard Raymond

OK To Park In Street?

Who can I contact regarding street parking problems in my neighborhood?

I live in Somerset. I have three neighbors who continually park their cars in the street 24/7.

Our street looks like a

parking lot.

With the number of kids in our area and the high traffic, this could also be a very dangerous situation.

Name Withheld

According to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Dept., it is legal for homeowners to park their cars on the street in front of their own home, providing the vehicle is registered, operable and in "good" condition.

In regards to the issue of safety, you may wish to call Deputy Pete Maurer, Bloomingdale's Community Resource Deputy, at 635-8040.

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MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Residents Want Lithia-Pinecrest Improvements

Many residents are concerned about the inevitable increase in traffic on Lithia-Pinecrest Road after construction of the new Publix and Lithia Crossings shopping centers is complete. County plans to widen the road are still about twenty years out. A group of residents are working with county officials to have improvements completed much sooner.

School Choice Meeting Draws Slim Crowd

By SHANNAN D. POWELL

With debates over school boundaries heating up in Bloomingdale, school choice has taken a backseat, which is unfortunate for Hillsborough school leaders currently canvassing the county to push the district's plan.

On Oct. 7, William Person, director of pupil assignment, and Beleria Floyd, choice marketing specialist, presented the school choice plan for 2004 to a small crowd at Burns Middle School.

"On paper, it seems good," said Linda Shay, a Bloomingdale resident whose children Whitney and Thomas are seventh graders at Burns. "But realistically I don't know how it will come out. Right now there is the boundary issue, so I don't even know where we'll be."

Foremost of concern among the parents present was priority in determining which students will attend which schools and the transportation logistics involved. Many were concerned about the possibility their children might get squeezed out of their neighborhood schools by an influx of choice students.

"If you live in a region, you can stay where you are. You can't get bumped out of your assigned school," Floyd said. "But priority will be given to

"If you live in a region, you can stay where you are. You can't get bumped out of your assigned school."

BELERIA FLOYD
choice marketing specialist

people living in the zone (within each region) to fill slots vacated by those opting for school choice." Alafia and Cimino elementary schools, Burns Middle School and Bloomingdale High currently fall under Region 5. Zone schools within Region 5 are Oak Park Elementary and Franklin Middle School.

Under the new plan, students living within the zone will have an opportunity to change schools every year, while the remaining Region 5 students are limited to changing schools in kindergarten, sixth grade or ninth grade.

"I think we should choose every year, or everyone choose at the same major three times," Shay said. "Everyone should have the same opportunity to make the choices, only with exceptions that should be addressed individually."

Many of those individual cases will fall within the

three phases of enrollment, where magnet takes priority over choice, and choice takes priority over special assignment. Deference will be given to siblings wanting to attend the same school, and additional options will include fundamental academies and attractor programs focusing on math, science, Spanish, culinary arts or sign language.

With so many options and the possibility of thousands of students going different directions every day, transportation is a major consideration. While some students will have no options but traveling by car, the county wants to establish additional bus routes with possible transfer stations, like current magnet school networks.

"How transportation is going to work is going to be a huge issue," said Burns Principal Brenda Nolte. "Parents and kids might like the programs offered, but have issues with transportation."

With a driver shortage plaguing the county, many parents are wondering how additional bus routes will fit into this network. But for parents like Rosie Petrilli, transportation is not an issue.

"The way I look at it, I would do anything I would need to do to get my son to the school that he needed to go

to," said Petrilli, Alafia Elementary PTA president, whose group will host a choice meeting with Floyd and Person on January 14. "I feel absolutely confined to Burns and Bloomingdale, and this plan gives me more options to choose from."

Hillsborough school leaders point to the success of the magnet program as an indicator of the feasibility of school choice.

"There is a waiting list for every magnet school," Person said. "That's how we know choice is going to work."

But with only about 40 people at the Burns meeting, the school choice plan seems to be piling in the shadow of boundary issues that could divide neighborhoods into separate regions, therefore changing school choice options.

"I haven't heard a lot from parents," Nolte said. "It's not a real bone of contention. I think people here are content with their schools. Also, they've been hearing 'choice, choice, choice' for so long now, I don't think they understand it is here yet."

For more information about the school choice plan, and a complete list of Region 5 schools, visit the school district's web site at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us or call 272-4000.

Property Manager's Report

By AL DEVNEY

Al Devney, Bloomingdale Property Manager and president of Devney Property Management, Inc., can be reached at 684-6667. Excerpts of the Property Manager's report for the month of September 2002 are as follows.

\$500 Reward Offered

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of vandals responsible for the destruction of Bloomingdale community property.

A \$1000 directory sign at the north end of Culbreath was destroyed the day after it was newly installed, and a \$500 iron bench at Springvale and Orange Point was cut from the anchoring bolts

and stolen.

Call Deputy Pete Maurer at 635-8040.

Irrigation

Brandon Irrigation repaired a broken zone line on the Golf Manor system and repaired a defective valve in the Groveway system; Thunder Irrigation adjusted and added heads to the Allwood and Groveway systems; DPPI replaced 26 spray heads, 3 rotors, 1 solenoid and 26 lights, and repaired 9 risers.

Landscaping

Greenturf Inc. removed the weeds from the confederate jasmine beds on Springvale and started trimming the creeping fig; Neighborhood Pest Control sprayed Springvale with a pre-emergence

weed killer to control future weed growth; DPPI planed 2 dozen yellow lantana and 2 dozen Indian hawthorn plants to replace some dead landscaping.

Miscellaneous

Russell Electric replaced a defective light fixture at Big Pine entrance and a defective timer at the Kiowa entrance.

TECO replaced a destroyed light pole on Culbreath; Hillsborough County replaced 120 feet of broken sidewalk on Natures Way; DOT began installing missing sidewalks that the general contractors failed to install on Garnet, Canoga Park and Bell Shoals; 27 Crépé Myrtle and 3 Sable Palms can possibly be moved and survive. Six Live Oaks on Garnet will probably be destroyed by the

contractor because they are in the path of the 5-ft. sidewalks; DPPI met with Planescape Inc. to finalize irrigation requirements for the Greenhollow entrance; DPPI met with Deputy Pete Maurer to discuss safety issues, tree trimming and traffic signs.

Eat, Drink and Pitch Out The Window

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, Mr. Devney picked up 26 bags of litter, 2 towels, a GMC floor mat, a tire, a pair of safety glasses, a shirt, a smoke alarm, a pillow case, 3 marble counter tops (in pieces) and a windfall of \$6.27.

The beverages of choice were Mountain Dew for soft drinks, Olde English for beer and Jack Daniels for distilled spirits.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Luminaria Kits Offered

PLACE ORDERS BY NOV. 9

An AAUW Report

For the 23rd consecutive year Brandon will be aglow on Christmas Eve as the tradition of lighting luminaries (paper bag lanterns) continues.

Brandon Branch, American Association of University Women, in conjunction with the Lions Club of Brandon, will again "light up Brandon" by distributing luminaria kits, which contain 15 Em-Kay eight hour votive candles, 15 bags (brown or white) matches, instructions, and a bag of sand. Each kit sells for \$5.00.

Historically, luminarias have been known as a Mexican tradition, lighted on Christmas Eve at dusk to await the coming of the Christ Child.

This tradition has filtered

into Florida and other parts of the United States throughout the years.

The tradition has continued to grow and helps unite neighborhoods during the holidays.

Proceeds from sales will benefit programs supported by both Brandon AAUW and the Lions Club of Brandon.

Orders must be placed before Nov. 9.

Distribution and pick up will be on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Free delivery is provided for neighborhoods with a minimum order of 50 kits.

We welcome new neighborhoods to participate in "Light Up Brandon."

For additional information, contact Joyce Gardner, 661-9205; Ann Hubbard, 899-9423; or Mary Ann Walters, 681-4502.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

E-mail: Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com

Have You Thought About Your Will Lately?

From the birth of a child to a struggle with illness, numerous life events cause us to consider the impact our own mortality will have on loved ones. In response, many people turn to writing a will as a way of ensuring assets ultimately pass to their heirs.

Is a will enough to protect what's most important to you?

Please join us as our panel of experts explore this and other common estate-planning issues, including:

- Trusts vs. wills: Is one better for you?
- Protecting loved ones if you become ill
- Deciding when and how your assets are distributed
- Paying estate taxes, the mortgage and other bills

This one-hour program is free, but seating is limited. To reserve your seat or for more information, please call or stop by today. If you are unable to attend, please contact our office for other viewing options.

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Stephanie Martin is the owner of Mealttime Magic, an in-home cooking service.

Bloomingtondale Chef-For-Hire Makes Mealtime Magic

By D'ANN WHITE

It's the secret desire of every tired, stressed-out working mother — to have someone else cook dinner for the family and then clean up the kitchen afterward.

But most people feel hiring a personal chef is too extravagant, said Bloomingtondale resident Stephanie Martin.

"There's a misconception that you have to be rich to have a personal chef."

In fact, said Martin, using a personal chef can be just as affordable as eating out every night — without the wait.

There are other advantages as well, said Martin, who has started her own in-home cooking service, Mealttime Magic.

A personal chef service also gives customers a chance to choose meals that fit their diets, tastes and lifestyles.

Martin can prepare meals geared for diabetics, people on low-salt or low-fat diets or people looking for a quick, healthy meal that isn't from a fast-food restaurant.

The Bloomingtondale mother of two said she grew up in an Italian kitchen, learning to cook with fresh ingredients and a discerning palate.

She later received her bachelor of science at the University of South Florida, majoring in wellness leadership.

"I wanted to incorporate something I like to do that would be of service to other people," said Martin. "There's a really big demand for this kind of service as people's lives get busier and busier yet we become more health-conscious."

Armed with fresh ingredients and her own portable kitchen, which includes everything from pots and

"There's a really big demand for this kind of service as people's lives get busier and busier yet we become more health-conscious."

STEPHANIE MARTIN
chef, Mealttime Magic

pan to spices and a vacuum bag sealer, Martin will go into a customer's home and prepare meals in the home to the customer's specifications.

She prepares no less than three entrees in a day or a maximum of five entrees with sides. After preparing entrees, vegetables, salads, even desserts, Martin cleans the kitchen, packages the food and leaves heating instructions.

"I offer different packages depending on the client's needs and tastes," she said. "Sometimes it means preparing different things for different members of the family. Not everyone likes the same things."

She noted that it's an ideal service for a new mother or a person who is rehabilitating from a sickness or injury.

"I can come in weekly, biweekly, monthly or on an as-needed basis," she said. "I just love cooking. It's my thing. And I get a lot of satisfaction from bring families back to the table for a healthy meal."

In addition to her personal chef service, Martin offers event planning, gift certificates, special desserts and kitchen/pantry reorganization.

A member of the national Personal Chefs Network Inc., Martin offers free consultations. Information: 789-8302.

Cimino Celebrates Cougars With Character

By SHANNAN D. POWELL

Aretha Franklin has got nothing on the Cool Cats at Cimino Elementary when it comes to R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

For the first nine weeks of school, the children have been learning about respect, and on Oct. 1, 35 students - one from each class - were recognized as Cougar Cool Cats for Character for September.

"We have a lot of children who show respect, but we were looking for someone that shined," said Cimino Guidance Counselor Debbie Minichbauer. "We want to be successful in academics, but we also feel that character development is important. These are model students for the other students to follow."

Each month teachers will select Cool Cats from their class to be honored for exemplifying a specific character trait during a special awards remony.

In addition, they will receive certificates and car signs and have their pictures displayed in the multipurpose room for the entire month.

Before school began, character traits were chosen by a Character Education Committee for each quarter. The committee, consisting of Minichbauer, teachers Patty Odom and Sheryl Yordan, and principal Sandra Frost, will focus on responsibility next. To assist them, teachers provide displays in their classrooms and guide the children in playing fairly, cleaning up, listening, waiting their turn and showing good manners.

"I've been in other schools in other states," Minichbauer said, "and with character development students genuinely are more caring towards each other."

You see kids being more passionate towards each other, being more responsible. It builds team effort for a positive kind of atmosphere."



Cimino Cool Cats for September 2002, kindergarten through grade 2

Photos courtesy Cimino Elementary School



Cimino Cool Cats for September 2002, grades 3 through 5

September Cimino Cougar Cool Cats for Character are Tyler Greco, Aubree Cutler, Kristin Wyckoff, Chandler Powell, Rachael Frost, Oriana Ma, Savannah Whidden, Victoria Harris, Sarah Brown, Ryan Kelley, Andrea

Friesen, Erin Gregor, Danielle Gross, Christopher Bosek, Kyle Willnow, Jacob Amburn, Kelsey Scallan, Jennifer Scharp, Payton Sims, Kendall Correll, Steve Ferlita, Emily Amburn, Kacie Hollenbaugh, Emily Higgins,

and Bria Bequette. Also, Colleen Meredith, Sarah Verble, Nicci Showalter, Cheyenne Rhon, Carolyn Rosser, Jonathan Kelley, Paul Gross, Mariel Beesting, Gretchen Kauffman, and Marissa McGee.



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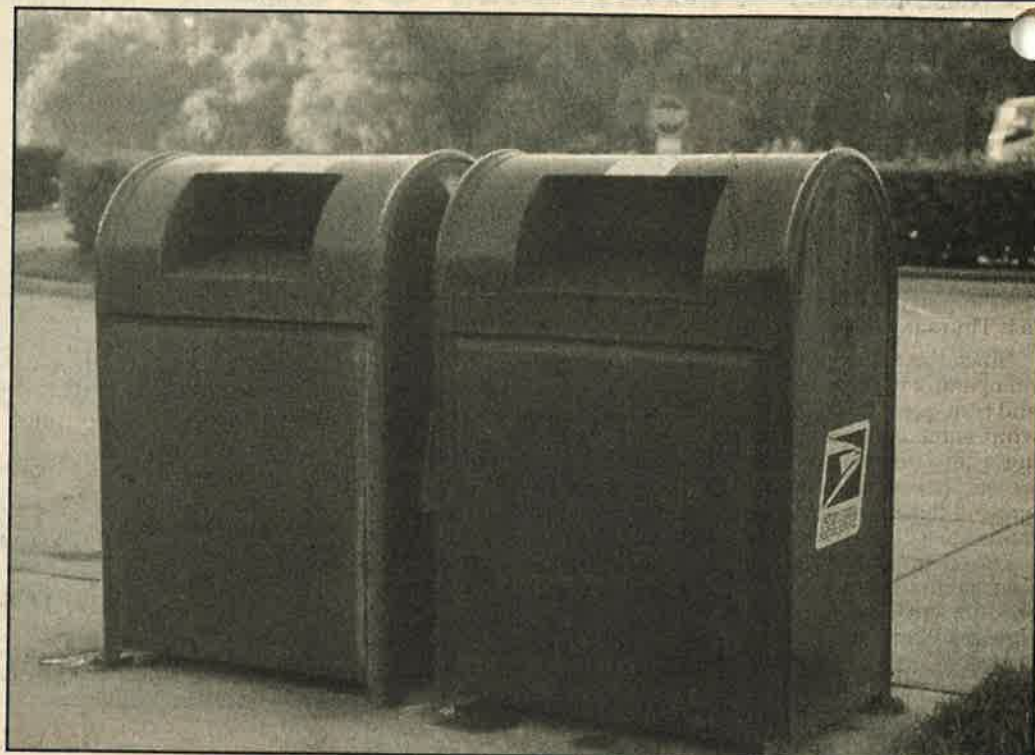


Bloomingtondale Substation Notes

Holiday Season Safety, Security

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER and OFFICER SANDY CAPITANO

The Bloomingtondale Community Station is at 4342 Bell Shoals Road, near Beef O'Brady's restaurant in the Village Center Plaza. Station hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Information: 635-8040. For immediate assistance call the Sheriff's dispatch center at 247-8200 or 911 for emergencies.



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Thieves see these federal mailboxes as a source of checks and credit cards. To be safe, take your mail inside the post office.

Home, Shopping Security

Yes, it is November and the official beginning of the holiday season is here. This means shopping, travel plans and parties.

As a shopper and as a homeowner you must take the special precautions necessary to insure that your holidays are not spoiled by a robbery or a home burglary.

As a shopper, be extra cautious and aware of your surroundings and actions. Don't be careless. Be alert. Don't leave your car unlocked or

with packages piled in the back seat.

As a homeowner, take the time to carefully secure your home before you head out for Christmas vacation or just shopping.

Special "Security Watch" requests can be completed at the community station.

Also, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office offers free home security surveys to homeowners to help prevent crime.

For information on this program, contact the Sheriff's Office at 247-8115.

According to Tom Cuenca with Thomas Locksmith Service, "Many burglaries could be prevented by having all door and window locks checked for proper operation, adding simple security items and paying special attention to doors. Two of the most vulnerable areas are the main garage doors and the garage side doors. They both give open access to your home." For additional information on locks, call Tom at 685-5011.

Driver Safety

Want to really enjoy the holidays and not spend time in an Emergency Room?

Before you head for the family trip, be sure that all of your passengers are buckled up and your car has been given a good safety check.

Plan ahead and get your child seats checked before you leave. Call the community station for appointments.

None of us want to be hit by a drunk driver. So, don't be one yourself. Do not drink and drive or ride with those who do.

Holiday Mail Security

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy Lt. Rob Bullaro reports, "A rash of federal mailbox robberies recently occurred in south Hillsborough County.

The thieves have not been apprehended. All residents are cautioned not to put mail with cash or checks in these boxes.

Take your mail inside the Post Office. Federal investigators are working with Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies to solve what is now a Federal crime."

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE
THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Parents Want Buses For Cimino Students

BRISTOL GREEN BEARS BRUNT OF TRAFFIC
By SHANNAN D. POWELL
Correspondent

Buses are all many Cimino Elementary School parents want, and they made it known to county representatives at a community meeting last Thursday at the school.

Since the school's inaugural opening in August, traffic and transportation have been what some parents are calling "chaos." With no bus service in Bloomingtondale East, many children walk up to two miles to school, or ride with parents who wait in lines that stretch from the school on Culbreath Road well onto Natures Way.

"After walking 1.9 miles, is anybody going to be ready to learn?" asked Amy Weinstein, mother of two Cimino students and resident of Preston Woods, the farthest neighborhood from the school. "What time would they have to get up to walk for almost an hour to school? Right now, we pretty much have it worked out, but my husband had to change his work hours to drop off the kids."

Parents vented their frustrations at the open forum, which included Gary Tate, senior engineer from Hillsborough County Public Works traffic services; Sherri Sikes, general director for Area 5 schools; school safety representative Ann Anderson and community resource deputy Pete Maurer. Many parents left the meeting dissatisfied.

"The only thing that came of the meeting was that the principal offered to readjust dismissal times again," said parent Steve Miller, who said he would not consider letting his 6-year-old walk two miles to school. "The people from the district deflected the responsibility, saying that this is the other person's problem."

Miller has even considered bringing a lawsuit against

the county to get a judge to interpret the State Board of Education's Administrative Rule 6A-3 dealing with school transportation. The rule states that "a reasonable walking distance for any student who is not otherwise eligible for transportation ... is any distance not more than 2 miles between the home and school or 1 1/2 miles between home and the assigned bus stop."

"This needs to be addressed at the state level," Anderson said. "We don't make the policy or set the rules." Anderson volunteered to collect addresses to re-measure the distances to Cimino from students' homes, but warned that funding for buses would take money out of the classrooms.

Parents from other neighboring communities voiced related safety concerns at last week's meeting.

Parents from River Crossing would like to see a crosswalk closer to their subdivision with appropriate signage to slow speeders on Natures Way.

"Additional school crossings would better distribute pedestrian and bicycle traffic," Tate said. "You can make a request for a crossing guard and flashing lights at River Crossing, but the guard must be trained by the sheriff's office before they can be assigned."

Residents of Bristol Green, located across Culbreath Road from the school, complained about congestion and intrusion into their subdivision.

"Our neighborhood has become a satellite parking lot for Cimino," said resident Karen Farmer. "It is not unusual to have 20 to 30 cars parked in the neighborhood on any given afternoon at 2:15, and most of them don't even live in Bristol Green."

Though residents are adverse to speed bumps, barriers or signs in the area, Tate said the best option would be to install "No Parking" or "No

Standing" signs along the road. Representatives from the sheriff's office concurred, saying that without signs they cannot enforce bans against outsider parking in the neighborhood.

Compounding concerns is what several parents call poor planning in the construction of Cimino.

The school is placed at the end of a 0.4-mile driveway and only offers one narrow sidewalk for walkers and

bike riders. Many present were stunned to learn that the county is building another school following the same plan used for Cimino.

"The school district is trying to build schools in neighborhoods like these to avoid buses," Anderson said.

Said Debbie Duncan, Cimino's PTA president: "In a neighborhood big enough to house not one, but two elementary schools, you're going to have traffic issues."

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**The Bloomingtondale
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Players Wrap It Up, Wait For More

The Bloomington Little League softball season officially ends in just a few days.

There were lots of great games, fantastic plays and good teamwork. See you next season!

This Bloomington Little League baseball player is ready and waiting for winter ball, just like he was for spring season.

So keep practicing, take care of that arm and get ready. It won't be long.



MACK AUSTIN/Photos

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Restaurant Review

Kazbor's Grille Opens On Lithia-Pinecrest

By ELTON DUMONT
Exclusive to The
Bloomingdale Gazette

If you don't stray far from Bell Shoals Road, you may have missed the newest restaurant opening in our area, at 2211 Lithia Center Lane off Lithia-Pinecrest Road, just north of Bloomingdale Avenue.

I only knew of one other Kazbor's, in Riverview, so you can imagine my surprise when the menu listed a total of ten locations including Gainesville.

This new, free-standing restaurant is extremely well appointed inside.

It seems to fit the needs of a sports pub, lounge and family dining without interfering on each of the others' turf.

The non-smoking and family dining area is separated from the lounge.

Family dining is in the sports pub area with multiple large screen TV's.

The big difference is that Kazbor's adds openness and six large windows to give it a fresh and airy appearance.

Mrs. Dumont and I tried it for lunch on a recent Friday and were pleasantly surprised by how busy it was.

Even so, a short wait for a table usually is a good sign of things to come.

The menu looked interesting and moderately priced. Starters priced from \$1.99 to \$9.95 include Jalapeno Poppers, Mozzarella Dipstix, Muchos Nachos, Calamari, combination platter and, of course, the ever popular wings, starting at \$5.65 for 10, up to \$22.95 for 50.

Our server took our drink order, and a few minutes later a second server came and distributed our silverware and asked for our drink order - definitely not a good sign.

We continued perusing the

menu and can tell you they have a variety of soups, salads and chili.

I didn't order the chili, but it looked good.

I know because right after we ordered, a server put a cup of chili in front of me and started walking away.

I told him I didn't order and he politely whisked it away. Okay, so no harm no foul!

Kazbor's Grille Specialties include a 12-oz. Rib Eye (\$13.95), a 10-oz. Sirloin (\$12.95), and smothered chicken and grouper dinners.

The Kazbor's House Favorites include Beef or Chicken Kazadillas and Chicken Chimichunga's, while the Pastabilities include Penne Pasta or Shrimp Scampi over pasta.

My wife ordered a Chicken Caesar Wrap (\$6.49) with black beans and rice.

This wrap was selected from numerous offerings that can be ordered regular or pressed. I ordered a Grouper Sandwich (\$6.95) from the Super Sandwich Section that also included 'Kazburgers', Cubans, and Philly Cheese chicken or steak.

My wife said the wrap was better than most and served very attractively.

On the other side, my fried grouper sandwich was paper-thin.

I'm accustomed to having fried grouper thick and flaky, so I was a tad disappointed at its appearance.

But what the heck, I ate it anyway and found it to be less than ordinary but okay.

My French fries were terrific.

That's because I don't like seasoned fries, wedge cut fries, tater tots, etc.

Just regular ordinary fries, and that is exactly what I got.

And you know the standard question during your

meal, "How is everything?" When our server asked, I started to answer but she turned away in mid sentence. All in all, the learning curve for service has a ways to go.

Kazbor's is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturdays.

They have a children's menu including Chicken Strips, Grilled Cheese, Grouper Fingers and Mac and Cheese for about \$4, all served with your choice of veggies or fries.

Our bill including tax and gratuity was \$21.

We included slightly more than the usual 15% tip, but we did think about it first.

Rating, Based on 5 Stars:

- Food ★★★
- Service ★★★
- Ambience ★★★
- Overall ★★★

Until we eat again,

Elton Dumont

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Security Gates Up On South Miller Road

Thanks to Jeff Mauch and his staff at Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Unit II, new security gates have been installed on S. Miller Road at the entrance to the Bloomingdale Little League Park. The gates look great and will improve security at the park. Well done!



MACK AUSTIN/Photo

Yard of the Month



Bloomingdale Yard of the Month

The Vastardis Residence
4030 Paddlewheel Drive

Congratulations!

Send nominations to: Letters@BloomingdaleGazette.com or Yard, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594. Winners receive a \$25 Bloomingdale World Mart gift certificate, courtesy of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.

Update

From page 11

increase in newly assigned deputies, and the need for additional helicopters to cover the ever-expanding Hillsborough County.

Lewis briefed the council on the constant issue of traffic. He noted the plan to have weight limit signs replaced on Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

He explained the safety factors involved in pulling trucks over on Lithia and Bloomingdale, and emphasized, "The best control of these trucks must come from the companies themselves, controlling the weights hauled, and the driving habits of the truckers." His motorcycle units are constantly pulling speeders of all ages over on Nature's Way and continually find it necessary to remind drivers to stop for school buses on Bloomingdale Avenue.

"Watch your speedometers or you'll see blue lights, and it is very expensive,"

PETE MAURER
Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy

Deputy Maurer noted that the radar speed monitor owned by the Bloomingdale community will be seeing increased use. "Watch your speedometers or you'll see blue lights, and it is very expensive," Maurer said.

He also noted continued problems with drivers running red lights, not yielding at the intersection of Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals, cutting through neighborhoods to avoid school zones, and

speeding everywhere.

Cimino Traffic, Safety

Mike Chenen, president of the Bristol Green Homeowners Association, shared information on the Oct. 24 meeting to discuss safety and traffic issues around Cimino Elementary School (see related story in this issue).

John Moore Rd. Development

Gary Johanboeke, Hickory Creek resident, noted the serious concerns of homeowners with the current plans being discussed to develop the acreage located at the intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and John Moore Road.

He said, "This intersection could easily turn into another

er Bell Shoals/Bloomingdale disaster if not controlled properly." (see related story in this issue).

Thank You

It is with sincere sadness that members of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council and Bloomingdale residents bid farewell to one of our most active members.

Rick Allen, president of the Oakdale Reserves Homeowners Association and BACC member, was very active in working to improve the quality of life for all Bloomingdale residents.

His energy and personal dedication to serving others will be greatly missed.

We sincerely thank his family for sharing Rick with us and with our community.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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BLGZIND

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<p>104 East Hillsborough BRANDON S./Random Oaks 4/2/2 3-way split, priv fence, corner lot, sec. sys. Some closing cost pd. \$134,000 or lse \$1300 Owner 661-9095</p>	<p>562 Campers & Travel Trlrs 20' HUNTER'S SPECIAL. Nomad TT, good cond. AC, stove, frig, water htr, dual axel, \$1900 obo. 813-244-2273</p>	<p>649 Automobiles For Sale BUICK 1982 Skylark, 4 dr, 4 Cyl, A. T. Clean Runs Great. Mechanic Owned, 90K Orig. Mi. \$950. 813-645-8709 MAZDA 1993 MX6, 5-spd, sunroof, 96K miles, good shape! Runs well! \$4000 obo. 813-376-5309</p>	
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