



D'ANN WHITE/Photos

Pumpkin picks

Above, St. Andrew's United Methodist Church volunteer Libby Jurens tells pumpkin tales to preschoolers at the St. Andrew's Pumpkin Patch on Bloomingdale Avenue. The church presented hour-long story times to 12 preschools in the area during October. At right, Jessie Jenkins, a preschooler at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, spots the biggest pumpkin she can find in the St. Andrew's Pumpkin Patch.



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 Receive Crash
 Course In Code
 Enforcement**
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Neighbors 'boo' each other in Bloomingdale East *see page 17*

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Residents Get Lesson In Code Enforcement

By D'ANN WHITE

With the help of county code enforcement officials, Bloomingdale residents got a lesson last month in what constitutes a county code violation.

Through its PRIDE program, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is attempting to educate residents about county codes and deed restrictions in the hopes of maintaining standards in the 5,000-home community.

"Our goal is to learn more about code enforcement and increase compliance and enforcement," said BHA President Ted Grable.

Among those attending the meeting were code enforcement supervisor Jim Ellington and code enforcement officers Hank Garcia and Andy Pfeiffer.

A number of interested residents showed up at the meeting to learn more about



Last month's PRIDE meeting attracted a full house of residents interested in learning more about county code enforcement.

what they can do to maintain their neighborhoods.

Verna Jordan, an original resident in Bloomingdale West, and Vickey Kemper, a 20-year resident of Bloomingdale West, said they're inter-

ested in making her neighborhood look better.

"We're all very concerned about code violations," said Kemper.

Thyra Hayes, a three-year resident of Bloomingdale

East, said she simply wanted to learn more about county codes.

"I'm very anxious to get involved in my community," she said.

Bloomington is one of a handful of communities in the state that has a successful Peer to Peer Program in which residents police themselves for code violations. Residents are able to submit violations to the BHA office anonymously. The BHA then sends letters to the violators once a code violation has been confirmed. If the violator doesn't respond after three letters, the matter is sent to the county code enforcement department.

Ellington said his department is in the process of creating a pamphlet containing information for residents on code violations including unregistered vehicles, fence-

See CODE, Page 23

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3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594.
 (813) 681-2051. Fax: (813) 651-1129
 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
- Vice President** — Joe Hickle
- Treasurer** — Pam Liguori
- Director** — Tony Diolosa
- Director** — Steve Heckel
- Director** — Cheryl Kehrmeyer
- Director** — Michele Caballer
- Director** — Billy Hightower
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Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
 (813) 684-6667
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President — Thom Snelling

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- Treasurer** — Dale Kahn
- Recording Secretary** — Alice Burleson
- Correspondence Secretary** — David West
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- Trustee** — Michael Buday
- Property Manager** — Al Devney

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- Tony Diolosa, 681-1146
- Treasurer** — Paul Kelmer, 681-9701
- Patrol Member** — Steven Heckel, 654-4266
- Patrol Member** — Brad Scharp, 643-5000
- Patrol Member** — Paul Warr, 685-7883



Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132. (813) 685-2817
 BOSTD meetings are held at 3419 Cade Lane on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

- President** — Bill Grace
- Treasurer** — Fred Englehart

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Meet Your Neighbors

The Pursinos

By D'ANN WHITE

The message he discovered inside a fortune cookie perfectly describes Anthony Pursino's philosophy about life:

"To find something's true value, it must come through service."

That fortune is now taped to his computer at Citibank, where he manages stocks and bonds.

But Pursino doesn't really need the constant reminder. The example he and his wife, Nancy, set on a daily basis is proof of their commitment to helping others.

Pursino, a Long Island, N.Y., native, met his British-born wife in New York City 20 years ago where Nancy was working as a nanny and organized and led a support and advocacy group for fellow nannies.



The Pursino family moved to Bloomingdale for the friends and the strong sense of community.

They'd already been planning to move to Florida to be closer to Pursino's father when Citibank in New York announced it was opening a Tampa office in 1997.

"Before I knew it, I was

driving down I-95," he said. Pursino left his family in New York while he searched for a place to live. Their children, Kaity and Joey, had one basic requirement. Their new home had to have a swim-

ming pool.

He found the perfect home for rent on Lornewood Drive in Bloomingdale East and the family happily settled in.

"We just loved Bloomingdale," said Nancy. "We made so many close friends right in our own neighborhood. We just found it very warm and inviting here."

However, when it came to eventually purchasing a home, the Pursinos were unable to find a house that suited their needs for sale in Bloomingdale. They reluctantly bought in nearby Oakdale Reserve. But they continued visiting the friends they'd made in Bloomingdale.

"We really missed our friends here," said Nancy. So when the very home on Lornewood Drive they'd previously rented came on the market, they bought it and moved back.

After being a rental prop-

See NEIGHBOR, Page 21

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Residents Get First-Hand Look At Fire Station

By MACK AUSTIN

Members of the community had an opportunity to see up front and close how firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics use their training and professional skills to save lives and property.

The Bloomingdale-Valrico Volunteer Fire Department, better known as Station 27, held an open house in September, featuring food, games, prizes and demonstrations.

Under the guidance of Chief Jeffrey Hazzard, the professional team members of Station 27 demonstrated for hundreds of adults and children the proper steps to take in putting out a stove fire and how they use their training and skills to extract a victim trapped in a vehicle accident.



Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano takes the fingerprints of one of the hundreds of children that were fingerprinted during the open house.

See STATION, Page 22

Yard Of The Month

Phil Lascola admits to being a bit of a perfectionist. But, when it comes to his lawn, perfectionistic tendencies have their advantages. There's not a single weed to be found in any of his carefully tended gardens. And the dreaded sedge weed wouldn't dare crop up in Lascola's expanse of green lawn.

"I take a lot of pride in my lawn," said the Chicago native who moved to Bloomingdale with his wife, Fran, eight years ago. "I really enjoy having a beautiful yard."

The home came with the minimal landscaping that generally comes with newly constructed homes. But Lascola saw the potential to add a tropical flavor to his lawn with Washingtonian palm trees, ixora, swamp magnolia, crotons, philodendron, hibiscus and Lascola's favorite, robilini, miniature



See YARD, Page 23

Phil and Fran Lascola meticulously maintain their lawn at 3734 Hollow Wood Drive in Windsor Woods.

Yard of the Month

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BHA Pledges High School Support

By D'ANN WHITE

She came to thank the Bloomington Homeowners Association for its support over the past year, but Bloomington High School Parent-Teacher-Student Association President and Bloomington resident Nancy Pursino got something she wasn't counting on at the October BHA meeting.

The homeowners association presented her with a \$500 check for the PTSA.

Five years ago, the BHA decided to sponsor Bloomington High School and has been collecting spent computer ink cartridges to raise funds for the high school.

Tina Pietrzyk, a Bloomington resident and representative of A Smart Choice of Florida recycling company, has been collecting the cartridges turned in at the BHA office and, in turn, giving the

schools \$1 to \$7 per cartridge. "It's our only fundraiser right now," said Pursino.

"It started as a seed project to help the high school," said BHA President Ted Grable. "We know fundraising at that level is kind of a challenge and this is one way we can show our support."

He said the BHA has committed \$500 per semester to the high school.

Bloomington residents can turn in their spent computer ink cartridges at the Bloomington Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, at the rear of the Sun-Trust Bank/Citgo gas station just south of Bloomington Avenue.

The office is open Monday through Thursday from 7 to 11 a.m.

In addition to benefiting the high school, funds can be earmarked for other schools. Residents can indicate the

school they wish to contribute to by placing the cartridge in a baggie and marking it with the school name.

For information, contact Pietrzyk at 625-9450.

In other BHA news, the board announced that Bloomington resident and Burns Middle School parent Julie Owens has agreed to head the BHA's schools and education committee. Owens will serve as a liaison between the schools serving Bloomington and the homeowners association.

The board is still seeking a volunteer to head the government affairs committee.

Grable noted that this is an especially important position because the representative works with the county government to address Bloomington concerns.

Among them, the BHA hopes to convince the county to install synchronized traffic lights at Glenhaven and Garnet drives. Grable noted that the neighborhood roads have become increasingly more difficult to exit from with growing traffic on Bell Shoals Road.

"Apparently the county can signalize both intersections but they have to be tied together as if they're one intersection," he said.

Grable added that plans to widen Bell Shoals aren't in the county's capital improvements plan.

"All of the county's gas tax money is fully committed and there aren't any plans to improve Bell Shoals other than to add a center turn lane," said Grable. "So it looks like we're going to have to find other ways to deal with the traffic."

Another possible solution, he said, is to ask the county to reduce the speed limit on Bell Shoals from 45 mph to 35 mph.

"The current speed limit is probably too high," said Grable.

The BHA also is continuing to work on getting a traffic signal at the intersection of Erindale Drive and Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

In addition, the BHA plans to lobby to have Natures Way resurfaced. Currently, the road isn't on the county's resurfacing plan.

Property Manager's Report

By AL DEVNEY

Irrigation

Brandon Irrigation repaired a leaking main line and electrical problem in the Gotham system.

Thunder Irrigation upgraded the irrigation systems in the Groveway and Treeline entrances.

During the monthly inspections, 10 spray heads and two rotors were replaced and two risers were repaired. Additionally, there were 50 light bulbs replaced.

Landscaping

Cardinal Landscaping

installed the new landscaping at the Treeline entrance.

Six soil samples were sent to the Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service for pH analysis. The pH levels were passable in five of the six samples.

DPMI replaced eight 1-gallon Aztec grass plants at Glenhaven and Natures Way that had been stolen and 30 1-gallon jasmine plants on Springvale Drive that had been destroyed by vehicles.

Other

Signs by Mineo repainted the signs at the Glenhaven and Treeline entrances.

Russell Electric modified

the lights at the Treeline entrance and replaced a light sensor at the Kandel entrance.

ZK Construction rebuilt two pillars and capped the wall on the south side of the Glenhaven entrance.

Lee's Lawn Service repaired the damage to the wooden fence on Natures Way.

DPMI sealed and painted two repaired columns, the walls at the Treeline and Glenhaven entrances and the 14 new slats on the wooden fence.

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, there were 25 bags of litter picked up along with a

doughnut tire, a pair of running shoes, a bag of lava rocks, a 20mm socket, a 12-inch extension for a half-inch socket set, three hubcaps, two telephones, four pairs of socks, two towels, two shirts, a new tricycle, a monitor from All Children's Hospital, a package of Hallmark fall napkins and 19 cents.

The beverages of choice were Pepsi for soft drinks, Natural Lite for beer and McCormick vodka for distilled spirits.

Al Devney is Bloomington's property manager and president of Devney Property Management. He can be reached at 684-6667.

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Taxing District Discusses Landscaping Issues

By D'ANN WHITE

It's got to go.

That's the conclusion trustees of the Bloomington Taxing District reached regarding the confederate jasmine groundcover planted along Springvale Drive and Natures Way.

For years, Bloomington property manager Al Devney has grappled with a way to make the landscaping in that area look more attractive.

The areas on each side of the sidewalk slope, making it impossible for grass to take hold and for the maintenance contractor to mow. The taxing district decided to try an alternative — a groundcover

that would spread and be relatively maintenance free.

However, they didn't anticipate the weeds that would crop up before the groundcover could take hold, creating a maintenance nightmare.

"It looks horrible," said trustee Dale Kahn. "Nothing seems to grow there."

"Something has to be done, folks," agreed trustee David West. "It's an eyesore."

The trustees have asked Devney to explore other options for landscaping the area.

In the meantime, trustee Alice Bursleson wants Devney to ask the maintenance com-

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Residents Keep Close Eye On John Moore Rezoning

By D'ANN WHITE

They figure development at the southwest corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and John Moore Road is inevitable.

But residents are determined to have a say in what is built there.

Residents living in neighborhoods along John Moore Road south of Bloomingdale Avenue have begun meeting to discuss strategy in anticipation of the Dec. 15 zoning hearing master meeting.

The Barclay Group, represented by land use attorney Vin Marchetti, is asking to rezone the wooded pasture on the corner to allow a planned development including commercial, office and residential uses.

Barclay's application calls for 35,775 square feet of commercial and office on a 5.7-acre parcel along Bloomingdale, including an 11,000-square-foot CVS Pharmacy.

Barclay also is asking to build single-family homes on the 29.57 acres abutting the Bloomingdale parcel.

This isn't the first time the residents, who have organized under the name UNDO (United Neighbors Dedicated Opposition) have fought development at that corner.

Last year UNDO members successfully fought two proposals, one to rezone 42 1/2 acres for 125 homes and another to rezone 5.9 acres for 22,000 square feet of commercial and office space.

The Hillsborough County Commission turned down both requests, citing compatibility and traffic concerns.

UNDO member Jeannette Figari says the residents still have the same concerns with this development proposal.

"We understand the property will be developed at some point," she said. "But we don't believe its development should affect our quality of life."

Figari and other residents met with Barclay representatives earlier this month to discuss some of those concerns.

"The overriding concern is incompatibility, especially with the commercial portions," she said, adding that she and her neighbors weren't impressed with an artist's rendering of the proposed CVS Pharmacy. "It looks like every other pharmacy. They didn't do anything to make it more compatible."

Attorney Chris Rodems, who has been representing his neighbors along John Moore, said he's not really opposed to a CVS Pharmacy per se. But he just doesn't want it to stick out like a sore thumb. The neighbors would prefer a more subtle design, like the architecture at the Shoppes of Lithia on Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

However, he said he has a great deal of concern about the proposed access to the commercial development on John Moore Road. The site plan shows a full access less than 300 feet from Bloomingdale Avenue.

"That's extremely dangerous," he said, saying the proposed access would be perpendicular to a left-turn lane the developer plans to add on John Moore. To prevent left turns onto John Moore, the developer has proposed installing islands similar to

what was installed on Bel Shoa Road south of Bloomingdale Avenue. "We'd prefer access farther down." He said the county commission shot down a similar proposal for a Walgreens in New Tampa because access was too close to the intersection. One possibility may be to allow only right turns from the development onto John Moore Road, he said.

As for uses on the rest of the parcel, Barclay told residents there will be no fast-food restaurants, car sales or convenience stores with gas pumps.

The residents still believe the commercial portion of the plan is too intense. In fact, the proposal is larger than what was turned down by commissioners last December.

The residents also have concerns about the residential element of the plan. Barclay is proposing single-family lots no smaller than 9,600 square feet, which is preferable to the 5,750-square-foot lots proposed by Centex Homes last year. But Figari said they still have concerns about setbacks, buffering and the preservation of trees on the property.

"We believe there's too many lots along the southern border to be compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods," said Figari, noting that the abutting lots range from an acre and up.

Residents Worry About Traffic From Development

By D'ANN WHITE

A zoning hearing master's recommendation on a proposal to construct a traditional neighborhood development on the north side of Bloomingdale Avenue west of Lithia-Pinecrest Road is expected to be ready this week.

Using a recently adopted land development category for Hillsborough County, GBT Realty Corp. wants to rezone the 43-acre property from agricultural and single-family use to a Traditional Neighborhood Development Overlay that combines shops, offices and residences in a pedestrian-friendly, architecturally consistent downtown design.

It's a two-step process that first requires the property owner to have the Traditional Neighborhood Development Overlay approved and then go through a second process of having the actual design, layout and architec-

ture of the project approved.

"There is a great deal of public and civic spaces and uses that have congregated at this intersection," said GBT's land planner Rick Harcrow, referring to the Bloomingdale Little League baseball fields, the Campo Family YMCA, the to-be-built south Brandon library and Bloomingdale High School. "For that reason, GBT feels that this is a good location for traditional neighborhood development. Part of that concept is to embrace civic uses and public uses."

He said the development would have direct access onto Bloomingdale and Lithia-Pinecrest.

Both the Hillsborough County Planning Commission and the Planning and Growth Management staff liked the idea of a Traditional Neighborhood Overlay in this area.

"A mixed-use development such as this would provide a

sense of place and community for the surrounding area as it would be a different form and design to the development than is typically found in suburban residential and commercial development," said Melissa Zornitta of the planning commission staff.

Residents living to the south of the proposed development, however, say they're concerned about increased traffic on Bloomingdale.

Sheila Berg lives on Blowing Oak Street on the south side of Bloomingdale and believes any further development will add to an already-growing traffic problem at the intersection of Bloomingdale and Lithia-Pinecrest.

"We have allowed a lot of building to go on in this area," she said. She said the library and YMCA are acceptable because they serve the overall community."


Kimberly Norvell of Wilton Lane said she's especially concerned about the inexpe-

rienced teenage drivers entering and exiting Bloomingdale High School.

Harcrow, however, said the developer will be required to make whatever improvements are necessary to Bloomingdale and Lithia-Pinecrest so the development will not add to the traffic problems.

"And the fact that it has to be designed as a walkable community recognizes that there is a trip reduction, so we believe that is an advantage over conventional development," said Harcrow. "The bottom line is the land development code is self-policing and we do have to meet concurrency as we move through the process. The project's not going to move forward with the roadway and the conditions and turn lanes and signals and so forth as they are today."

The Hillsborough County Commission will make the final decision on the rezoning request.



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Calendar

Dinner theater

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" will be presented by Liz Stewart Performance Studio under the direction of Bloomingdale resident Liz Stewart Nov. 8 and 15. The social will be at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., and the show at 8 p.m. Media sponsors are The Tampa Tribune and The Brandon News.

Prior to the show, there will be a catered buffet dinner by Brass Bell Catering. Reserved seating is \$25 per person for dinner and the show. Payment deadline is the Wednesday prior to the reservation date.

Holiday home tour

The annual Holiday Home Tour sponsored by the Brandon Service League will

be Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's tour includes the home of Dr. Stephen and Marian Parks in Dogwood Hills. Also on the tour is the home of Trudy Carey in Brandon and the home of Jackie and Sam Garvin of Valrico. All the homes will be decked out for the holidays. Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased at the law office of B. Lee Elam, 802 W. Lumsden Road; Bleu Salon & Spa, 3472 Lithia-Pinecrest Road; and Whidden Florist, 425 W. Robertson St.

To order tickets, individuals can send checks payable to the GFWC Brandon Service League Inc., care of Donna Crouser, 6107 Audubon Manor Blvd., Lithia, FL 33547.

See CALENDAR, Page 18



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Mark Your Calendar And Help Take PRIDE in Bloomingdale

By CHERYL KEHRMEYER
BHA Director

If you missed our last communitywide cleanup day Aug. 16, be sure to mark your calendar for our next one Saturday, Nov. 15. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, with the cooperation of the Hillsborough County parks and solid waste departments and Liberty Waste, will provide a convenient way for you to clean up your garage and yard without having to take debris to the solid waste facilities. Volunteers from the BHA and parks department employees will assist you in getting unwanted items into the bins.

Kehrmeyer

Bloomingdale Communitywide Cleanup Day
Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monthly meeting of Bloomingdale Neighborhood PRIDE
Monday, Nov. 17 from 7 to 8 p.m.
Everyone is welcome. Join the Bloomingdale Neighborhood PRIDE Program, or just bring your

questions and comments. This month's meeting will focus on deed restrictions and violations.

Spotlight on Bloomingdale
Bloomingdale is currently being featured on Hillsborough County's government access television station (HTV22) on a Good Neighbor program. You can see it Mondays at 8 a.m. and Fridays at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. you can deliver your unwanted junk to the Hillsborough County Parks Department Maintenance Unit II at 1626 Natures Way, just west of Alafia Elementary School.

Items you CAN bring to the neighborhood cleanup site include: old refrigerators, ovens, water heaters, televisions, steel and other metals,

old furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses), construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials), and tires.

We CANNOT accept any items normally picked up at the curb by Hillsborough County such as household trash and yard waste, solid waste from commercial activity, electronics or hazardous waste such as paint, household chemicals, batteries and propane tanks. (See the adjacent article on county collection dates for these items.)

We also will implement the Neighborhood PRIDE Pro-

gram in six more neighborhoods. These sections are: BB (River Crossing), FF, L (Fairway Manor), M, O, and W (Augusta Village). The streets for these sections are as follows:

Section BB - River Crossing:
Alafia Oaks Drive
Dumont Drive (1606 to 2018)
Oak Arbor Lane
Oak River Circle
River Crossing Drive
River Meadow Court
River Park Court

Section FF:

See PRIDE, Page 18

PRIDE Good Neighbor Tip

Exemplify the Bloomingdale Neighborhood PRIDE spirit on Saturday, Nov. 15. Invest some time cleaning up your own yard or the yard of an elderly or disabled neighbor (with their permission first). Or, simply further develop your relationship with your neighbors on this day.

Restaurant Review

The American Café
Westfield
Shoppingtown
Brandon
681-8891
Fax 681-9269

By ELTON DUMONT

After having passed it so many times, the Mrs. and I made a conscious decision to stop in for dinner at The American Café in Westfield Shoppingtown on a Wednesday evening.

They consider themselves casual American-style with an eclectic-yet-polished feel. At this location, they are correct. It was casual and warm, cozy and not too loud. The dining area is separated from the bar to let the diners eat (what a concept). The parent company also flies the banner of Tia's Tex Mex, Silver Spoon

and L&S Seafood so it is certainly not new in the casual dining field.

The table menu offered wonderful starters and desserts, which I'll get into later, but a \$3 margarita jumped right out at us. An attractive price for a cocktail.

From the appetizers including Spinach Con Queso, Bruschetta, Santa Fe Mini Chimis plus others, we chose the Bruschetta. It's their blend of tomatoes, basil, garlic, Parmesan cheese and mozzarella cheese. It was served with pizza dough wedges and was really quite good. At \$5.99 we couldn't even finish it.

We contemplated the entrée-size salads such as the Big Fat Greek Salad (\$7.99) that featured feta cheese, red onions, black olives and cucumbers over mixed greens; the Buffalo Chicken (\$8.29) that includes diced fried chicken tenders tossed with spicy Buffalo sauce over

a bed of mixed greens with bleu cheese dressing; Grilled Salmon Salad with Romaine lettuce (\$10.99); or the Monterey Chicken and Grand Chicken at \$8.49 each.

Our decision? We passed on the salads and on the sandwich and burger section (although the Roasted Veggie Burger with seven ingredients looked awfully good). They do have excellent oven-baked pasta pies including the Chicken Parmesan Pasta Pie and the Original New York Pasta Pie. Pasta dishes include Fettuccini New Orleans (\$9.99), Bayou Shrimp Fettuccini (\$11.99) and Roasted Garlic Alfredo (\$7.99). They also offer gourmet pizzas such as Smoked BBQ Chicken and Mediterranean with Pesto Sauce. Steaks and seafood include the Herb-Encrusted Sirloin, French Quarter Salmon and Kansas City Strip.

So what did we decide on? My wife had a half rack of

Texas-sized Barbecue Ribs for \$10.99. It was served with fries and hot cinnamon apples. The sauce was better than average with the sugary flavor coming through. Yes, they were very tender and, yes, the meat did literally fall right off the bone.

I, on the other hand, went for the eclectic offering. It was called the Jambalaya Pot Pie (\$9.99). Our server warned it was spicy and was right. Coming from Texas, five-alarm is nothing that scares me. But if you're not used to it, be aware that this wonderful dish is definitely four-alarm. It consists of sautéed shrimp, hand-pulled smoked chicken, spicy Italian sausage, seasoned rice, peppers and scallions in a very spice Cajun cream sauce. Then it is baked in a puff pastry shell to perfection. It was a first for me and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

See REVIEW, Page 21

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Where To Bring Hazardous Waste

Gazette Report

Although you WILL NOT be able to bring hazardous waste (paint, household chemicals, batteries and propane tanks) to the Bloomingdale Cleanup Site Nov. 15, the following lists Hillsborough County Solid Waste sites and dates for disposal of these items:

Site hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For the safety of the public and employees, collections may be suspended during periods of severe weather.

Household chemicals collections (no electronics will be accepted)

Acceptable items: paints and solvents, automotive products, household cleaners, pool chemicals, lawn and gar-

den supplies, other toxic items found in the home and garden.

Unacceptable items (not limited to the following): explosives, smoke detectors, radioactive or bio-medical material, commercial/business-related material.

Sheldon Road Collection Site
9805 Sheldon Road (North Maintenance Unit)
First Saturday of each month

South County Collection Site
13000 U.S. 41 south, quarter mile north of Big Bend Road
Second Saturday of each month

See WASTE, Page 18

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Class Notes

Colson honors

Colson Elementary School students on the principal's honor roll for the first grading period are:

Rebecca Agrue, Gregory Alfonso, Chancey Allred, Kathleen Bell, Maxwell Bickel, Kelli Bosley, Petty Chapman, C. J. Covington, Michael Davis, Nicholas Dwyer, Jennifer Hagin, Deanna Koeninger, Ashleigh Martin, Alina Meador, Luke Messina, Christopher Muniz, Jared Null, Maricel Pactanac, Madison Pitrowski, Kayleigh Redwine, Chase Rutledge, Alyssa Schnaare, Exor Serrano, Kayla Stanley, Erin VanLandingham, Paige VanLandingham and Melissa Weber. D'Ann,

Alafia honors

Alafia Elementary School students on the principal's honor roll for the first nine weeks are:

Grade three: Melissa Inch, Emily Miller, Katie Brogan, Jaelyn Mack, Megan Sandberg, Ashley Tressel, Amelia Young, Katherine Anthony, Alexandria Brown, Kaitlyn Little, Ashley Montgomery, Hannah Randall, Faith Woodard, Megan Little, Courtney Harris, Andrew Forest, Mitchell McDade, Marion Millory, Nicholas Monteiro, Heather Newberry and James Rentz.

Grade four: Megan Binkerd, Allison Repetti, Amber Hoffmeister, Zachary Adams, Brett Berube, Zachary Carter, Bryan Engle, Kristina Giardi-



Cool Cats for September in grades kindergarten through two at Cimino Elementary School are, first row, from left, Kellen Denk, Lindsey Bell, Haley Jones, R'Shun Samford, second row, Olivia Nahas, Lauren McCullum, Jacob Miller, Noah Poirson, Crue Savage, Carly Scallan, third row, Hunter Ellis, Daryl Davis, Andrew Steck, Mark Sue-Wah-Sing, Nathan Johnson, top row, Haley Nell, Collin Gaynor, Megan Mulcahy, Joseph Wheless, Karl Gutsche, Spencer Lewis. Absent from the photo is Tyler Mills.



Cool Cats for September in grades three to five at Cimino Elementary School are, first row, from left, Mary Jones, Mari-beth Mitchell, Luis Reyes, second row, Nicholas Oberfrank, Courtney Zaroni, Joseph Dougherty, Thomas Rogers, Denise Dougherty, third row, Joseph Hailley, Zach Hodges, Julia Dearborn, Travis Bird, Jordan Mazen, top row, Katie Corsaut, Kyle Knapp, Ricky Salabarría, Cheyenne Rhon, Emily Schapiro, Christine Gerena. Absent from the photo is Matthew Belcher.

na, Shannon Hickie, Kimberly Sleeman, Alexander Bryant, Anthony Petrilli, Anna Pternitis, Renee Rudolf, Noah Steb-

bins, Michelle Vandermar, Savanna Aversa, Caleb Cook, Nicholas DellaRosa, Brittany Corbett, Michelle Fee, Peyton Jordan, Emilee Grem, Cormac McCarthy and Samantha Wiley.

Grade five: Ashley Figuero, Cheryl Harris, Kayleigh Randall, Morgan Stewart, Megan Bergevin, Chelsea Fordham, Chris Gleason, Madeline Montaldo, Meghan Placke, Rana Sayroo, Kirsten Vandellund, Jessica Welch, Patty Weigher, Michael Dougherty, Allie Isabel, Kayla Jurrens, Tyler Salerno, Petr Zizlavsky and Jory Keller.

Terrific kids

Terrific Kids for September

at St. Stephen Catholic School are: Amanda Pistone, Kevin Nance, Sarah Tam, Jarred Wagner, Christian Ovalles, Jodie Persaud and Philip Fernandez.

Terrific October at St. Stephen Catholic School are: Lee Ann Reed, Sophia Searls, Katie Reith, Jacob Owens, Jorge Rodriguez, Therese DeRosia, Mariah Greene, Anna Hoffman, Allie Haynes, Aaron Phenis, Amy Holden.

Terrific Kids for November at St. Stephen Catholic School are: Jordan Figueredo, Sam Jennings, Matt Adams, Allyson McCabe, Bailee Henderson, Tyler Meany, Adrienne Meyer, Austin Phenis, Ty Hadden, Matthew Bryant and Amanda Enriquez.

Bloomingtondale Cleans Up

By CHERYL KEHMEYER
BHA director

It was another successful day of cleaning up our Bloomingtondale community Nov. 15 when the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association sponsored its third community-wide clean up of 2003. At that cleanup, residents disposed of more than 120 cubic yards of debris, packing all the Dumpsters to capacity.

These cleanups are part of the Bloomingtondale Neighborhood PRIDE Program (People Revitalizing, Improving, Developing and Enjoying our great community) and will continue to be held in 2004.

Through this Neighborhood PRIDE Program, the BHA's goal is to have volunteers in each neighborhood helping the BHA to implement the program in all of Bloomingtondale's 40 sections. We invite you to attend our monthly Neighborhood PRIDE meetings, held the third Monday of each month from 7 to 8 p.m., so you can see how the BHA and you can work together to help your neighborhood. We will provide volunteers with a PRIDE resource manual that includes tips and ideas on forming a neighborhood team, organizing volunteers

Monthly meeting of Bloomingtondale Neighborhood PRIDE

Monday, Jan. 19, 7 to 8 p.m.
(No meeting in December)

Everyone is welcome. Come and join the Bloomingtondale Neighborhood PRIDE Program, or just bring your questions and comments. We will begin to focus on the activities and needs of individual neighborhoods.

and implementing neighborhood-based community improvement projects. Additionally, we will talk about being good neighbors, deed restrictions and county code compliance.

Volunteers are still needed. For more information on the Neighborhood PRIDE Program, including upcoming meetings and how you can help, call the BHA office at 681-2051 or e-mail Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@Verizon.net Attention: PRIDE coordinator. We look forward to hearing from you and helping you improve your neighborhood.



CHERYL KEHMEYER/Photos

Parks maintenance staff members Clayton Weaver loads up a discarded refrigerator. Eight freezers and refrigerators were disposed of during the November PRIDE cleanup.

PRIDE Good Neighbor Tip

Happy Holidays! Spread the holiday spirit in your neighborhood by giving the greatest gift of all — your time — and help someone take pride in his or her home and yard. It's a gift that will last all year long.

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Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association board members Lydia Harrod and Steve Heckel get a lift from volunteering at the PRIDE drop-off site.

Winter Concert To Benefit Abused Children

By D'ANN WHITE

He didn't need to think twice when the Bloomingdale High School Orchestra first approached him about using his Citgo service station on Bell Shoals Road for benefit car washes nine years ago.

Larry Neville said he was more than happy to donate his parking lot and water for a good cause.

A Bloomingdale East resident, Neville feels it's just part of giving back to the community he lives and works in. He makes his facilities available to the high school baseball team and Crimson Dolls as well.

"This is my community," he said. "I just want to support these kids."

His gesture hasn't gone unnoticed.

Last month, the orchestra presented Neville with a certificate of appreciation.

The funds raised through the four or five car washes will help pay for the orchestra's trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C., for national competition in April. Each student needs to raise \$300 for the trip.

In between washing cars from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, the orchestra keeps busy rehearsing for its upcoming winter concert.

Directed by Scott Rudes, the Bloomingdale High School orchestra program is the only full orchestra in Hillsborough County schools and is the largest in the state, with 154 students participating.



D'ANN WHITE/Staff photo

Bloomingdale High School Orchestra members present a certificate of appreciation to Citgo service station owner Larry Neville. From left are members Alana Souto, Devin Ragghianti, Charlotte Tait, Neville, members Tracy Allen, Heather Thurman and Heather Walmsley. Behind are members Stephanie Meyers and Anthony Dees.

The program actually has three orchestras: the symphony with 109 members, a concert orchestra with 70 members and a chamber orchestra with 22 members.

During this year's winter concert scheduled for Dec. 9, the Bloomingdale orchestra will team up with the King High School Chamber Orchestra to benefit children in the county's Guardian ad Litem Program.

King High School parent and guardian ad litem volunteer Sue Clarendon came up with the idea of using the concert to benefit the abused, neglected or abandoned children in the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Although the concert is

free, the orchestras are asking the audience to donate a new, stuffed teddy bear to comfort children in the program or make a donation to the Guardian ad Litem Program.

"I have seen firsthand the traumas that these children go through," said Clarendon. "Most recently for me, watching a 12-year-old girl being interviewed about the sexual abuse she suffered."

Clarendon hopes the benefit concert will not only provide teddy bears for the frightened children who are sometimes taken from their homes in the middle of the night, but she hopes to attract more volunteers to the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Guardian ad litem volunteers are trained to help children as their cases meander through the child welfare system. Guardians visit their assigned children at least once a month to make sure the child is safe and receiving any court-ordered services such as medical care or counseling. They also appear in court to testify on the child's behalf.

"The holidays can be very difficult for children who aren't with their own parents — even if they don't have an idyllic home environment," said Suzanne Mizsur-Porter,

public relations coordinator for the Guardian ad Litem Program. "The heightened emotions most people feel during the holiday season can impact children who are already anxious about their situations. That's why the Bloomingdale and King orchestra members will help make the holidays brighter for so many kids. Snuggling, cuddling and holding a soft teddy bear can be a source of comfort and consolation for a child whose life is in turmoil."

With King High School undergoing renovations, it was impossible to host a concert there. So Clarendon decided to ask Rudes if he would participate in a joint holiday concert.

The concert, featuring the King chamber and symphonic orchestras and the Bloomingdale concert, chamber and symphony orchestras, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Bloomingdale High School auditorium, 1700 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico.

The Bloomingdale orchestra also is scheduled to perform for the third year at the holiday party of Tampa Tribune and WFLA Channel 8 employees Dec. 12 from 4 to 5 p.m. To learn more about the Guardian ad Litem Program, call 272-5110.

Students Get Glimpse Of Careers

By LESLIE WHITE

As part of American Education Week, schools around Hillsborough County invited the community into the classroom to share what they know with a new generation.

Parents, business partners and community members all got involved and volunteered for a day at the 10th annual Great American Teach-In Nov. 19

Cimino Elementary School had more than 70 speakers registered to visit the school throughout the day, according to Assistant Principal Deborah Talley.

"Most speakers visited more than one class, and not all of them were parents. We had a K-9 unit, a chief from a local fire department, pilots, nurses and several members from the military. We even had a pilot come in with a model of the helicopter he flies. The kids really liked that."

Lisha McDonough, an operating room nurse at University Community Hospital, brought in Glo-Germ to her son's second-grade class.

"We put it on the kids' hands, then had them wash their hands. Then we turned a blacklight on to illustrate how germs stay on hands even after washing," she explained.

McDonough said she enjoys coming in to speak to the kids.

"I did it even before I had kids," she said. "Community teaching is built into my job. But it's so fun to talk with them and hear all their questions. Mrs. Taylor's class had 30 minutes of questions. I was very impressed."

Her son loves her coming to speak because, according to him, "she has a lot of cool stuff from the OR."

In the fourth grade, Payton Sims said she liked hearing from an Air Force sergeant.



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Scott McDonough, Lisha McDonough and Allison Ferrin try out the Glo-Germ in a Great American Teach-In demonstration for at Cimino Elementary School.

"He jumps out of airplanes and showed us how his parachute came out," she said.

Several students added that they were impressed with Maj. Buck Elton's presentation because they got to see the equipment he uses in the Air Force.

Curtis Meyerowich enjoyed a speaker who works for a Hispanic radio station and produces commercials.

The fourth-graders took notes on each speaker and wrote them personalized notes thanking them for their time and information. When asked what they as a class got out of the Great American Teach-In, Kenzie Anderson pointed out, "It gives us what we need to study and the ideas on what to do for our future."

Kailyn Green learned that "if you try your hardest, you can do whatever you want to do."

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8 Ways To Winterize Your Menu

By STEPHANIE MARTIN

Now that autumn is here and winter is just around the corner, holiday meals are most certainly on the minds of many. But why wait until Dec. 25 to enjoy delicious food? 'Tis the season to revamp your menus.

- ♦ Start with seasonal produce — As a personal chef, I am always on the lookout for seasonal produce. Buying in-season fruits and veggies keeps prices low and quality high.

- ♦ Dig out those old family recipes — There is nothing more nostalgic than the familiar aromas and tastes of a favorite family dish. For me, nothing says the holidays more than my Grandma Walsh's famous dressing. I'm still trying to master her technique.

- ♦ Warm the soul — Soups and stews go hand in hand

with brisk weather. Most recipes are inexpensive to prepare and usually result in large quantities. Paired with warm crusty bread for sopping up the juices, you have a satisfying meal.

- ♦ Turn produce shopping into an adventure — Did you know that Ybor City and downtown St. Petersburg have a farmer's market every Saturday? I just love strolling through these events because I can talk to the vendors, enjoy samples and buy super-fresh ingredients.

- ♦ Fix it and freeze it — With all the madness and mayhem that surrounds the holidays, it can be difficult to sit down to a home-cooked meal. Why not set aside several hours one day and "marathon cook?" When packaged properly, meals can be frozen for months at a time and available the last minute. I do this all of the time with wonderful results.

- ♦ Get the kids involved — Make some memories with your little assistants. Most children are more than happy to help in the kitchen, especially when they get to eat their handiwork. Delegate age-appropriate tasks such as: the 8-year-old gets to cut out the sugar cookie dough and the 4-year-old gets to decorate them with sprinkles. The holidays are an awesome time to start this tradition because the kids will be thrilled to give homemade goodies as gifts.

- ♦ Why not start your own supper club. Basically, a supper club is just a glorified potluck dinner. Simply contact family and friends and decide how often you would like to alternate gatherings and how casual or fancy you would like them to be. Generally, the host prepares the main entrée and the guests bring coordinated side dishes. Make it even more exciting by

adding a theme and see how creative people can be!

- ♦ Keep a holiday food diary — Now I know that this may seem a little too Martha Stewart-ish to some, but trust me, it really is fun to look back on. I usually take pictures of the meal preparation and then the final table setting before I call the troops to dinner. Once the pictures are developed, I put them in a scrapbook along with that year's menu, who attended and where it took place. I have even put a copy of favorite family recipes in there, too. A holiday food diary is just one more way to document our special memories and count our blessings year round.

Bloomington East resident Stephanie Martin is a personal chef and owner of Mealtime Magic In-home Cooking Service. She can be reached at 789-8302.

Births

July 25
Zachary Michael Hart, son of Cathy and Kevin Hart

Aug. 19
Johnathan Vardis Williams, son of Vanessa and Dr. Arthur Williams II

Aug. 22
Spencer Patrick Clements, son of Shelley and Jason Clements

Aug. 23
William Barrett Farrell II,

son of Sherill and William Farrell

Sept. 5
Abigail and Zoey Rickett, daughter of Wende and Troy Rickett

Sept. 14
Elizabeth Nicole Nelson, daughter of Alanna and Jason Nelson

Yangelis Evette Martinez, daughter of Nitza and Angel Martinez

Sept. 19
Gabriella Noel Jones, daughter of Lisa and Tim Jones

Nicholas Allen Oliverio, son of Wendy and John Oliverio

Sept. 20
John Angelo Pignataro, son of Michelle and John Pignataro

Sept. 25
Jasmine Isabella Climer, daughter of Susan and Anthony Climer

Sept. 26
Haleigh Paulina Thomas, daughter of Tracy and Jason Thomas

Sept. 28
Kathleen "Kacey" Christine Sutton, daughter of Meagan and Jeffrey Sutton

Sept. 30
Kamryn Lynn Kelso, daughter of Kimberly and Jason Kelso

Oct. 2

Madison Grace Strang, daughter of Susan and Aaron Strang

Oct. 5
Brooke Colleen Forrester, daughter of Julie and David Forrester

Oct. 14
Michael Christopher Knipp, son of Wendy and Mark Knipp

Oct. 17
Dylan James Godin, son of Corey and Nathan Godin

Chloe Madison MeLillo-Richardson, daughter of Christine and Matthew MeLillo-Richardson

Nov. 10
Bethany Rose Masiello, daughter of Diane and John Masiello

Nov. 13
John Carlston Singletary, son of Mary and Marty Singletary

'Nutcracker' To Be Performed At Riverview

By LINDA CHION KENNEY

Members of the Brandon Ballet will present their annual holiday classic, "The Nutcracker," Dec. 20-21 at Riverview High School.

Bloomington resident Alice Holden Bock, the founding artistic director of the Brandon Ballet, is celebrating the ballet's 10th season in residence at The Dance Center at 161 E. Bloomington Ave., in Bloomington Plaza at John Moore Road.

In the past decade, the

Brandon Ballet has evolved into a company with talent ranging from apprentice to professional, and with numerous high-quality performances to its credit, including the annual "Nutcracker" ballet and other full-length ballets, such as "Giselle" and this upcoming April's "Copellia."

This year, too, Jennifer Kuo, a homegrown dancer with the Brandon Ballet, has been hired as a professional ballerina for the Ballet Met in Columbus, Ohio.

Bock said the experience has proven invaluable to young dancers because they get to work with guest teachers and guest choreographers for both the full-length ballets and the annual Brandon Ballet showcase.

A board of volunteer directors runs the nonprofit ballet company.

"The Nutcracker," the classic Christmas ballet featuring the music of Tchaikovsky, will be presented at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20-21.

Ticket prices are \$17 for

adults and \$12 for children. At the Saturday matinee performance only senior discount tickets are available for \$12.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, the Brandon Ballet will perform excerpts from four ballets at the Community Center Hall in Sun City Center. Excerpts from "The Nutcracker," "Giselle," "Coppelia" and "Les Corsaire Pas de Deux" will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$7.

For information about The Dance Center and the Brandon Ballet, call 684-4282.

Message from the President

On Nov. 20, The Tampa Tribune's Brandon edition published a story reporting on a dispute between residents of Bloomington Village and their homeowners association over the matter of flying

American flag. In the story, the Tribune incorrectly identified the homeowners association in question as the "Bloomington Homeowners Association."

Bloomington Village is not located in the membership area of the Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc. (BHA) and has no relationship with it.

In fact after Nov. 11, the BHA together with the Bloomington Special Taxing District (BSTD) placed flag polls at all eight entrances to the Bloomington community and today we proudly fly the American flag at each entrance.

In addition, many residents

of Bloomington display the flag from their homes or in their yards.

When U.S. troops were deployed to Iraq, the BHA and BSTD again joined forces to place yellow ribbons on every light pole in the community. We'll be replacing those yellow ribbons this month with new ones and they will stay up until our military personnel come home.

As president of the Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc., I asked The Tribune to prominently correct the error in the story. We are a volunteer organization representing almost 5,000 homes and we are proud of our civic activities including the support we demonstrate for our military personnel and our country.

Ted Grable,
President

Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc

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The Bloomington Gazette

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE
THE BLOOMINGTON GAZETTE

Computer Corner

By JIM JEUP

Question: Here's our question. First, we want to buy our 12-year-old son a computer for Christmas. We searched the stores looking for a computer at a good price, but have no idea which ones are a good value. Second, once our son receives his gift, we don't know how to set it up and update it properly. Can you help?

Answer: This holiday season will be exciting for computer shoppers. Retailers have overstock of "value-priced" computer systems, and features on a "basic" home computer exceed most software requirements. There are few times in computer history when this type of overstock has occurred.

The reason for overstock is supply and demand. Processor speeds (2.4, 2.5, 3.2 GHz, etc.) are increasing quicker than manufacturers can design and build new com-

puters. The result — top-of-the-line computers last month do not have the fastest processor speeds this month. Translation — last month's best computer is worth less money.

You save big.

Here is an example of a "minimum" computer for schoolwork, basic games and Internet. (Compaq's Web site — www.shopping.hp.com):

Compaq Presario s5000nx Computer

Intel Celeron Processor 2.5 GHz

Windows XP Home Edition

128MB DDR SDRAM

40GB hard drive

CD-RW, modem

Sound, video, network card

Intel Extreme Graphics

MS Works and other software

Available expansion slots (future growth)

Compaq's Price: \$459.99 and free shipping

• Monitor and speakers sold separately

Computer setup

Most computer retailers offer in-store setup. They open the computer box, make sure everything works, and run through the computer's initial setup. This does not help when you get it home and have to setup hardware. Additionally, there is no way to be sure Microsoft security updates are complete.

Another option: have a professional technician complete setup in your home.

Some offer setup certificates, which can be included as part of your gift. Contact them early in the month to receive priority service after Christmas, and be sure these procedures are offered as part of their "standard" in-home/office setup package:

Onsite service (Complete setup in your home/office)

Computer setup (Attach all peripherals — monitor, speakers, printer, etc.)

Printer/scanner setup (Install drivers for a printer

and/or scanner attached to your computer)

Internet connection (Install/test your Internet service connection)

Test all hardware (modem, sound, CD/DVD drive, floppy drive, printer, etc.)

Install Microsoft's Critical Updates (If you have a high-speed Internet service)

Check antivirus software (Make sure it's up to date and working properly)

Include basic tutoring for your new system

Bloomington resident Jim Jeup is a certified master technician for Advanced Mobile Tech Computer Service. Reach him at 508-4378. Computer Corner archives can be found at <http://www.advancedmobiletech.com/computer-corner.shtml>. E-mail your computer questions to: cornerquestions@advancedmobiletech.com, or on the Web at www.advancedmobiletech.com.

Recycle Ink Cartridges At Community Office

A Gazette Report

Bloomington residents who wish to recycle their spent computer ink cartridges to benefit our neighborhood schools are invited to use the collection box in the Bloomington Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. The

office is at the rear of the Sun-Trust Bank/Citgo gas station just south of Bloomington Avenue, and is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tina Pietrzyk, a Bloomington resident and representative of A Smart Choice of Florida recycling company, will

collect the cartridges and issue checks to Bloomington area public schools including Alafia Elementary, Cimino Elementary, Burns Middle and Bloomington High, or the private school of your choice.

The most commonly used cartridges will yield from \$1 to

\$7 each.

Residents can indicate the school they wish to contribute to by placing the cartridge in a baggie and marking it with the school name.

If you have questions about the recycling program, contact Pietrzyk at 625-9450.

STATION

From page 6

Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano was recently selected Civilian Employee of the Year by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

Sandy has been extremely active in numerous programs throughout the county and in our community.

These include the Suitcases for Kids Program, the Bloomington High School Reading

Program, the Car Seat Check Program, the Cops and Computers Program, the Kids Fingerprinting Program and the Bloomington Area Community Council.

Deputy Pete Maurer is the community resource deputy for the Bloomington Sheriff's Office Substation on Bell Shoals Road.



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New Bloomington Business Offers Full-Service Radiology

By MACK AUSTIN

As the Bloomington community continues to grow, so do the personal needs of its residents. One of the major needs all residents require is professional-quality medical care. Of the many areas of medical care required, one of the most important is radiology.

Most folks think primarily about X-rays when you mention radiology. But in today's high-tech world of medical science, radiology has expanded to include many more complex areas such as bone density scans, MRIs, CTs, ultrasounds, sonograms, mammograms and nuclear medicine.

The medical needs of an individual can vary from X-rays for broken bones, ultrasounds to track kidney stones, sonograms to monitor pregnancies, mammograms to identify possible cancers and numerous other critical needs



A welcome addition to the Bloomington community is the professional services offered by the Bloomington Radiology Clinic, offering a variety of radiological treatments.

to take internal "pictures" of a person's body.

The quality and speed of the process involved has improved significantly. This has greatly enhanced a doctor's ability to diagnose and treat a variety of medical conditions, many of which require immediate radiological information.

To effectively use the resources available from the advances in the field of radiology, it takes a professional of medical experts and staff. One such team can be found locally at one of Bloomington's newest professional medical businesses.

Bloomington Radiology Center is owned and staffed

by Dr. Michael Foley, Dr. Richard Six, Tom Winter and David Six. They operate the clinic with a staff of around 20 workers. The clinic has been open since Aug. 4.

According to Rosa Morales, an employee at the clinic, "One of the main considerations in opening the clinic in this area was combining the growth in the community with a recognized need for quality medical services."

The clinic offers the ability for radiological treatments to be completed and read on site by the medical staff and then have the results forwarded to a patient's doctor. This offers patients professional radiological treatments in a timely manner.

The Bloomington Radiology Clinic is located at 3350 Bell Shoals Road (across from Eckers). It is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information on services provided, call 654-4883.

COUNCIL

From page 8

She explained how both the Boyette Road and Parsons Avenue projects require significant high-cost acquisitions of property before final plans can be put in place.

Commissioner Storms then shared details involved with the subject of impact fees and other special project funding issues that relate to growth and how improvements can be made within a community. She stated that one of her goals is to "change areas from those with residents that consume tax dollars to those that pay tax dollars." This would help residents improve their status in life, she said.

Another special project she is working on concerns the use of video monitoring of drivers that run red lights. Maurer noted that this type of program has proven successful in reducing accidents in her states.

Storms and Canney also shared good news with the council about a project to improve the crosswalks between the Bloomington Little League and the Campo Family YMCA on Culbreath Road. They noted that plans have been approved for crosswalks in this area.

One member inquired about the status of additional sidewalks by Cimino Elementary School.

The acquisition costs for property in this area and underground infrastructures prohibit this project from being completed, Storms said.

Canney also spoke about the relocation of an Advanced Life Support Ambulance to the Bloomington-Valrico Volunteer Fire Station 27 on Bloomington Avenue and the opening of Fire Station 37 on Providence Road.



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New Pizzeria Caters To Bloomingdale

By D'ANN WHITE

It's the kind of restaurant Wayne Hesson dreamed of owning.

The former owner of Wise Guys Pizza said he always wanted a community pizzeria, a place where ball teams could gather after the big game, families could come without worrying about antsy kids, where teens could hang out without their parents worrying.

That dream came true when the 20-year Bloomingdale resident purchased Villa Rina Too Pizza and Pasta at 4334 Bell Shoals Road, next to Beef O' Brady's.

For the past month, the Hesson family has been busy refurbishing and remodeling the restaurant, which has been home to several pizza parlors over the past 15 years.

"This is what I always wanted — a traditional pizzeria," said Hesson.

"I wanted a place in my community where I could be involved, sponsor sports teams and give the residents great food made from the freshest ingredients."

To accomplish this, Hesson, aided by his parents and son Erik, has renovated the dining room in the Italian flag colors of red, green and white. They added 32-inch television



Wayne Hesson tosses some pizza dough at his new restaurant, Bloomingdale Pizza. D'ANN WHITE/Staff photo

sets and a serving window, where diners are called by first name to pick up their pizzas and other specialties, including Hesson's trademark

dale.

His authentic New York-style pizza recipe came from a Brooklyn pizza maker. Hesson makes his own sauce, his own dough and tops his pizzas with fresh vegetables.

He's passed on those standards to son Erik, a Bloomingdale High School graduate, who will work at the pizzeria when he isn't pursuing a career in art.

"This is going to be the best pizzeria around," Erik said.

In addition to pizza, Hesson offers Buffalo wings, made with his own sauce recipe, and many of the Italian dishes residents have come to expect from Villa Rina's, which occupied the spot for seven years.

"Even my meatballs are homemade," Hesson said. "Wait until you taste them."

To celebrate the opening, Bloomingdale Pizza will offer several grand opening specials, including 10 free wings with every large pizza and two large pizzas and a 2-liter bottle of soda for \$18.99. In addition, there will be lunch specials every day.

Bloomingdale Pizza will be open from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Delivery is available. Call 684-7466.

lasagna.

While a family atmosphere was important to Hesson, he believes it's his fresh ingredients that will wow Blooming-

NEIGHBOR

From page 5

"It's not about money, it's about giving," said Joe.

During the Christmas season, the Liguoris' already-full calendar overflows with Santa visits.

"We probably do about 20 gigs a year," said Joe.

"It's so wonderful to see the children's faces light up," said Pam, tearing up when she told of one little boy who only asked that Santa make his mom and sister well again.

"Joe finds out information about every child and really takes time with each one."

It's a role the Liguoris hope to play for many years to come.

"Everybody's priorities are different," said Joe. "Some people just don't have the time to volunteer. But we feel we've been blessed and we're lucky to be able to help. We'll keep doing this as long as we can."

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?
E-mail: Letters@BloomingtonGazette.com

ADS

From page 12

on potty training.

The group, formed last summer, also gets together for play dates, outings and an occasional "manly activity" such as a fishing trip.

There are now about 23 members in the group, some who travel from as far as Naples and West Palm Beach for male adult companionship.

Orlando dad Van-Tam Nguyen is among them.

His wife is an accountant and Nguyen was working in the hospitality industry when their daughter, Desiree, was born four years ago.

"My wife and I decided that we didn't want to put our child in daycare," he said. "Since she had more invested in her job than I did, we decid-

ed I'd stay at home."

It hasn't always been easy, Nguyen said.

He tried to join the La Leche League, an organization for breastfeeding mothers, but said the mothers felt uncomfortable with him around. And the men he knew referred to him as "Mr. Mom."

"People expect you to be the breadwinner and, when you're not, they think something's wrong with you. Historically, the man has always brought home the paycheck. Now we're fighting history," said Nguyen.

So when Nguyen learned about the Tampa Bay dads group on the Internet, he decided to give Alzamora a call, hoping to ease the isolation he was feeling. "It's nice

to know you're not alone out there," he said.

On the contrary, the two men are among an estimated 1.7 million men nationwide who have opted to stay home and raise their children, up 70 percent since 1990, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Fathers now care for about 20 percent of preschoolers in two-parent households.

"I think as it becomes more prevalent, you'll see more acceptance," said Alzamora.

The problem is, so many men feel their careers are such an integral part of their identity, he said. When he first began staying at home, he remembers hesitating a time or two when someone asked him what he did for a living. "It was a little uncomfortable

at first. I just felt like I had to explain," he said.

Not anymore. He said he takes pride in his duties as a dad. He bakes cupcakes, takes judo with his oldest daughter and serves as the co-leader of a Brownie troop.

And when people ask him what he does today, he doesn't blink:

"I raise my kids," answers Alzamora.

The Tampa Area Dads At Home plan to meet Dec. 17 at Chili's on Lithia-Pinecrest Road south of Bloomingdale Avenue. For more information on Tampa Area Dads At Home, contact Alzamora at 505-9729 or visit the Web site at groups.yahoo.com/group/TampaDads/.

TRAFFIC

From page 3

Willsborough County for accidents, this intersection is past due for improvements, say officials.

The ideal improvements would include making changes on Bloomingdale Avenue and making Bell Shoals Road four lanes. The estimated cost for these improvements would be more than \$13 million dollars. Funding currently available for improvements is only \$3.4 million.

County engineers have completed detailed studies and are proposing the following improvements at this major intersection to improve traffic flow:

- Install a raised median on Bell Shoals Road from Bloomingdale Avenue to Rosemead Lane with only one entrance into the Wal-Mart. This area would have a traffic signal installed and a northbound left-turn lane.

- The median on Bloomingdale Avenue would be extended down to the entrance to Publix and would also have a traffic signal.

- The west entrance into Bloomingdale Square would

change to have a right-turn-only exit.

- The exit by MacDonald's Restaurant would be right-turn-only.

These proposed changes would eliminate three entrances to the shopping center, one on Bell Shoals Road and two on Bloomingdale Avenue. All of these entrances have been the scene of numerous vehicle accidents, some very serious.

Gregory Cutrone, highway project manager for county consultant CH2M Hill, noted that some areas will require further studies and will be conducted after meeting with the public. One area required is additional coordination with Regency Corp., owners of Bloomingdale Square, to improve the routes taken by delivery truck traffic in and out of the shopping center. He noted that "obtaining a continuous right turn lane into the Wal-Mart area is also being planned."

The county also will look at ways of improving traffic flow into the new Bloomingdale Radiology Clinic north of the intersection.

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