

# Bloomington Thankful For Legacy Of Cimino Principal Sandra Frost



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Two weeks before Cimino Elementary School opened in 2002, principal Sandra Frost was eager to greet her new students and said, "This is a dream come true." Frost died last month after a yearlong fight with cancer.

## 'THIS WAS HER SCHOOL'

By LESLIE WHITE  
 Correspondent

Henry Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence starts."

Nor can anyone tell where that influence ends, especially when reflecting upon the life of Cimino Elementary School principal Sandra Frost, who died last month after a yearlong fight with cancer.

Frost opened Cimino in

See FROST, Page 22



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

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**Bloomington's Brenda Leigh remembered**

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# Bloomington Faculty Embraces Late Teacher's Legacy

## BRENDA LEIGH WAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR TWICE

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Colleagues of the late Brenda Leigh, former English teacher and department chair at Bloomington High School, said the consummate educator will most be remembered as a warm, funny and caring person.

Leigh taught at Bloomington for 15 years, where she was twice elected Teacher of the Year by her fellow teachers. In March 2003 she reluctantly retired due to illness. Leigh died Oct. 5, 2004, after a two-year battle with cancer.

Scott Rudes, assistant principal at Bloomington, has particularly fond memories of Leigh. Rudes was worked alongside Leigh for seven years, but is most grateful for the privilege of sitting in her classroom as a high school student 13 years ago.

"Mrs. Leigh's advanced placement English Literature course was my first class of the day during my senior year at Bloomington," Rudes said.

First period classes are generally a challenge for sleepy-eyed students, but Rudes said of Leigh's class, "It was a great way to start the day."

Leigh, one of three Bloomington teachers who inspired Rudes to become an educator, had a special affinity to teenagers.

"Mrs. Leigh had a real passion for adolescents. She was working on a novel about teenagers and did some pretty extensive short story writing along the same lines," Rudes said.

One story Rudes likes to share is the good-natured caveat he received as a student from Leigh.

"As a way to inspire me to improve my composition skills, she told me I'd never get through college with my 'flowery' writing style."

Rudes graduated from Bloomington in 1991, and



Photo provided by the Leigh family  
Brenda Leigh

returned in 1996 as the school's orchestra director.

Appealing to Leigh's famous sense of humor, Rudes said, "You bet I walked right up to her and told her it was my 'flowery' writing that got me through college!"

Bloomington teacher Veronica Joyce, who succeeded Leigh as English department chair in 2003, said her colleague had a great sense of humor and a soft, heartwarming laugh.

"All of us appreciated her ability to see the comedy in everyday life," Joyce said.

Leigh also freely offered words of understanding and empathy.

"I recall Brenda's chagrin when she had to ask one of us to cover a class for lack of a substitute teacher. She knew how precious our 'free' period at school was for preparing lessons or grading papers," Joyce said.

Even though Leigh's knowledge base was extensive, especially in her area of expertise, Joyce said her modesty prevented condescension.

Linda Peters, Leigh's former English department assistant from 1997 to 2002, now chairs the English department at Newsome High School. Peters said Leigh trusted teachers to be professional and do their jobs.

"She provided both freedom and support for all endeavors, which allowed us to continue learning and

*"She was just an unusually good person."*

ROBERT LEIGH  
Brenda Leigh's husband

growing," Peters said.

Leigh's mutually supportive relationship with her staff also fostered innovation and creativity.

"No matter what I said I wanted to do, Brenda was always there to say, 'Go for it.'"

Stelter said the school's English teachers instinctively knew they worked with Leigh, not for her.

"Brenda's department was a team, and she treated everyone equally. She was the consummate educator," Stelter said.

In addition to her career accomplishments, Rudes said Leigh will most be remembered as the warm, funny, caring person that she was.

Leigh's husband, Robert, was deeply touched by the outpouring of kind words expressed at the Oct. 9 memorial service for his wife. The teachers, students and former students who spoke at the service were a testament to how well loved she was.

"My wife touched a lot of lives in her career," Leigh said.

"She was just an unusually good person."

Leigh, a native of Versailles, Ky., is survived by her husband of 40 years, Robert; two daughters, Susan Kale of Brandon and Amy McDonough of Atlanta; and two grandchildren, Sarah Elisabeth Kale, 14 months, and Austin Patrick McDonough, 5 years.

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Web Site: [www.BloomingdaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingdaleGazette.com)

BHA meetings are at the community office on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

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Executive Director — Joe Liguori  
Editor — Laura Frazier  
Correspondent — Mack Austin  
Correspondent — Leslie White  
Restaurant Critic — Elton Dumont

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## Bloomingtondale Substation Notes

# Safety Tips For Holiday Season; Scooter Info

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER

November marks the official beginning of the holiday season. The usual activities are in full swing — shopping, traveling and party going.

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

While shopping, be extra cautious and aware of your surroundings. Don't get in a hurry and be careless. Be alert at all times. Don't leave your car unlocked or with the engine running. Don't leave packages or other valuables in your car. Lock them in the trunk.

As a homeowner, take the time to carefully secure your home before you head out for holiday traveling or shopping. Special "Security Watch" requests can be completed at the Sheriff's Bloomingtondale Community Station on Bell Shoals Road. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office also offers free home security surveys to help homeowners prevent crime. For information on this program, call 247-8115.

Many burglaries could be prevented by checking all door and window locks for proper operation, adding simple security items and paying special attention to doors. Two of the most vulnerable areas are garage doors and garage side doors. Both give

open access to your home. Insure they are properly locked.

As you travel both locally and to distant locations, be sure to give your car a good safety check and be sure all your passengers are buckled up.

Get your child seats checked for proper installation before you travel. Call the substation to schedule an appointment.

None of us want to be involved in an accident, especially one involving a drunk driver, so don't be one yourself.

Do not drink and drive or ride with those who do. Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking and driving, and set the right example.

### Scooters Are Illegal On Streets, Sidewalks

Many parents will be considering purchasing motorized scooters for their children as Christmas gifts. Parents, be aware that all motorized scooters and skateboards, in addition to go-carts and other small engine vehicles, not designed for operation on public roads. They are classified as motor vehicles under Florida statute 322.01(26), and require a driver's license under Florida statute 322.03. Parents that allow their children to operate these vehicles face the possibility of criminal action. Riding these vehicles on public roads presents a serious danger to both riders and licensed vehicle drivers.

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# Banners Out, But New Board Members In

By D'ANN WHITE  
Correspondent

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District still hopes to spruce up the community with holiday banners. But it won't happen this year.

In an effort to save money on holiday bows and lights, the BSTD gave Brandano Displays Inc. of Pompano Beach the OK in September to obtain sponsors to fund holiday pole banners to adorn light poles at the community's entranceways.

However, Joe Brandano of Brandano Displays hit a roadblock shortly after receiving the BSTD's approval. Tampa Electric Co. has denied the national banner company's request to place the banners on TECO's utility poles in Bloomingdale.

Although disappointed, the trustees say they're not giving

up. Office manager Joni Hickle, who introduced the idea of banners paid for with sponsorships, said the board will continue pursuing the idea for next year.

The board voted 6-1 to decorate as usual with lighted holiday wreaths, bows on the utility poles and strings of lights at the entryways. Trustee David West voted against the motion.

The taxing district, charged with the maintenance of all Bloomingdale's common areas, spends about \$2,000 on holiday lighting and wreaths at each entryway and red bows on each utility pole along Natures Way, Canoga Park Drive and Bell Shoals Road.

In other board business, BSTD President Thom Snelling welcomed the three newly elected trustees to the board at the Oct. 11 meeting.

In a first-ever BSTD election, residents Joe Harless, Paul Sims and David Steck won the community's votes along with current trustees David West and Rusty Jones.

At the same meeting, Snelling bid farewell to outgoing trustees Dale Kahn, Myron Magedanz and Ken Pyse with the warning, "Don't be surprised if you get a call from the board to serve on a committee."

The board voted unanimously to retain Snelling at its president. Rusty Jones will serve as vice president, David West as treasurer, Michael Buday as recording secretary and Paul Sims as correspondence secretary.

The board also assigned committee chairmen. West will head the budget committee, Buday the tax roll/assessment committee, Harless the capital improvements com-

mittee, Sims the landscaping/seasonal decorations committee and Steck the renewables committee.

In one of the new board's first actions, the BSTD opened bids for open irrigation repairs and maintenance, something previously undertaken by property manager Al Devney. But as the community's grown, Devney said it's been difficult to keep up with broken sprinkler heads and leaking pipes on a regular basis.

The taxing district received three bids, one from Raymow Enterprises Inc. for \$17,064, one from Planscape Inc. for \$37,500 and one from Thunder Irrigation for \$14,250.

Harless made the motion to accept the low bidder, Thunder Irrigation, and the board approved the motion unanimously. Thunder Irrigation's contract began Nov. 1.

# New County Ordinance Sets Fines For False Alarms

By MACK AUSTIN  
Correspondent

Hundreds of Bloomingdale residents have alarms installed in their homes. A good security system can make the difference in preventing a home burglary. Knowing how to operate the system correctly is important to protect your property and to save you the cost of false alarms.

A new security alarm ordi-

nance went into effect Oct. 1, 2004 in Hillsborough County. The ordinance is intended to help decrease the number of false alarms that Hillsborough County deputies are dispatched to.

Residents, homeowners and business owners in unincorporated Hillsborough who have an alarm system are affected by this new ordinance. Security system users will be fined for false alarms that occur within a one-year

period and to which law enforcement has been dispatched. The fines include:

- ♦ 1st and 2nd occurrence — A warning notice is given
- ♦ 3rd occurrence — \$75 fine
- ♦ 4th occurrence — \$100 fine
- ♦ 5th occurrence — \$150 fine
- ♦ 6th occurrence — \$300 fine
- ♦ 7th occurrence and above — \$500 per incident

Anyone who does not pay the fine will be required to appear before the Code Enforcement Board and can have liens assessed against their property.

Properly working and correctly operated security systems can be very effective in protecting your property. Take the time to use them right. There are some simple tips residents can take to help avoid false alarms.

- ♦ Carefully enter your code into the keypad.
- ♦ Make sure everyone with a key to your building knows how to properly operate the

security system.

- ♦ Close and lock all doors and windows tightly.
  - ♦ Keep pets, balloons, fans and space heaters away from motion sensor areas.
  - ♦ After activating your system, wait a few moments to insure your system is armed properly.
  - ♦ Enter and exit before delay times expire.
  - ♦ Check for drafts that can move items into motion sensor areas.
  - ♦ Have the alarm system checked each year. Replace batteries.
  - ♦ Don't try to beat the system. If you need to re-enter after arming the system, disarm it and rearm it again.
  - ♦ Call the alarm company if you are doing any remodeling, installing skylights or ceiling fans or spray painting or fumigating.
- If you accidentally set off your alarm, don't panic. Carefully enter your disarm code and if you subscribe to an alarm company service, contact them immediately.

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# Bloomingtondale Area Community Council Report

By MACK AUSTIN

## Cimino Traffic Safety

Members welcomed special guests Mike McCarthy and Gary Tait from Hillsborough County's public works traffic engineering division.

The main topic of discussion was how to improve safety at the crossing points used by Cimino Elementary School students. Crossing guards present at the meeting noted there have been several close calls and one serious incident involving cars, children and the crossing guards themselves. Several options discussed included:

- ♦ The installation of a three-way stop at the intersection of Natures Way and Culbreath Road.
  - ♦ Rearranging the school's drop-off areas.
  - ♦ Channelizing the traffic flow.
- Other safety factors dis-

## Council Needs Your Ideas, Input

The Bloomingtondale Area Community Council needs the support and input of more residents to continue to improve our community.

The council, known as the BACC, is a volunteer group of residents who monitor local safety, security and quality of life concerns. The council works with local law enforcement and government officials to promote the best interests of the Bloomingtondale community.

The BACC addresses issues that have been brought to its attention through a council member or the Bloomingtondale substation.

The group meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Bloomingtondale substation in the Beef O'Brady's plaza at Bell Shoals Road and Glenhaven.

To find out how you can help, contact Deputy Pete Maurer, 635-8040.

cussed were improving lighting around the school and the installation of additional sidewalks on the east side of Culbreath Road.

McCarthy and Tait said traffic studies are in progress

for traffic counts, accident rates and other factors that directly affect the safety of pedestrians and drivers. They agreed to continue working with the community and school representatives to find

the best solutions to improve safety around the school (see related story in this issue).

McCarthy and Tait also offered their assistance to help get the crosswalk project between Bloomingtondale Little League and the YMCA completed.

## Special Project To Aid Veterans

Deputy Maurer announced the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office special project to help improve the lives of residents living at the Baldomero Lopez Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes. Residents at this home are veterans from. Maurer said many of the residents, veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Gulf War, receive only \$35 a month from the VA to purchase everyday personal needs.

See BACC, Page 20

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# Volunteer Fire Chief Hazzard Says Goodbye

**"I'LL MISS THE PEOPLE"**

By LINDA CHION KENNEY  
Correspondent

Two or three nights a week for 15 years adds up to a lot of sleep time at the firehouse on Bloomingdale Avenue, where Chief Jeffrey Hazzard last month retired from his post.

He's been a volunteer firefighter for more than 20 years, launching his career in Columbia, Md., where as a 10th-grader he was intrigued by the action and the chance to serve the community.

"In any job I do, I want to feel there is a worth to humanity," Hazzard said in October at his fire station's annual open house.

The Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department, Hillsborough County Station 27, is one of 38 in the county and one of six all-volunteer stations. Only the paramedics get paid.

In all, the station has 22 volunteer firefighters and 18 recruits. The station operates on a budget of less than \$100,000, which makes annual fundraising drives a key part of the work as well.

Taking over as chief is former assistant chief Teddy Biesecker. He has been a volunteer firefighter since 1981, spending the past six years at Station 27.

"If it wasn't for the money, I'd be doing this full-time,"



LINDA CHION KENNEY/Photos

Above, Chief Jeffrey Hazzard last month retired from Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Station No. 27. He's volunteered at the station since it opened in 1989 in a resident's garage. At right, Christopher Hazzard with his father, Derek, was enthralled with the fire truck equipment.



said Biesecker, who works at MacDill and spent 20 years in the military. "I'm one of those guys who drives past accidents and wants to know what's going on. When you do this work, you're in the middle of it. You know what's going on, you're making it go on."

At 8 a.m. Oct. 10, Hazzard was to start his final 24-hour shift.

"I wonder what it will be like turning in all my gear, changing into my civilian clothes, turning in my keys, leaving behind my chief's

buggy, going into my own car and leaving for the last time," Hazzard said. "I know I'll miss the people. You'll always miss the people. This is like a band of brothers and sisters, very similar to people who have been in combat together."

The station opened in October 1989, in a garage at a resident's home on Little Road. A year later, the station house opened, and over that 15-year period, Hazzard said he had held every rank.

It's a far cry from his days as a 4-year-old, when he stood at a street corner with his twin brother, Frank, and was mesmerized by a passing fire truck. "My mother said she knew then we'd be firefighters," Hazzard said, noting that his brother is a battalion chief for the city of Baltimore. "We were both standing there, eyes wide and mouths open and we never got over it."

Hazzard's last summer as chief turned out to be a very

active one, with a number of household fires caused by electrical shorts in homes that had re-established power after losing it during the storms.

"We had nine house fires in seven weeks, when we normally have 35 the entire year," Hazzard said.

"When you lose power for a prolonged period of time, and that power is re-established, you need to systematically turn power on to each room and watch for signs of sparks and overheated electrical equipment," Hazzard said. "Also, some people go to work and forget they left their stoves on."

Hazzard said he has seen "some horrible things" over the years, witnessing "hundreds and hundreds of deaths and hundreds and hundreds of house fires."

By his accounts, he



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# Estimated Bills Shock Some TECO Customers

**NEXT READING  
WILL ADJUST  
CHARGES**

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

The plywood is stacked in a corner of the garage, the piles of storm debris are cleared from most streets, and the dreaded "cone of concern" has all but disappeared from daily conversation.

But one more vestige of storm-related concern appeared in Bloomingdale area mailboxes last month — Tampa Electric Co. bills, many showing charges for estimated power usage some residents say are far above average.

TECO spokesman Ross Bannister said during the recovery period after Hurricane Jeanne more than

*"In an emergency situation, our meter readers — the ones who walk the territory — are the best escorts for foreign crews."*

**ROSS BANNISTER**  
TECO spokesman

160,000 electric bills were estimated using a computerized algorithm. The equation is more complicated than a simple average or a duplication of last month or last year's usage.

During emergency hurricane preparations and recovery efforts, Bannister said electric usage was estimated in order to allow meter readers to escort out-of-state repair crews all over TECO's service area.

"We had crews here from several states including North

Carolina and Vermont. In an emergency situation, our meter readers — the ones who walk the territory — are the best escorts for foreign crews."

Bannister said it's not unusual for estimated bills to be \$20 — \$40 higher than usual. Although uncommon, some estimates more than 50 percent above the previous month's bill have been reported in Bloomingdale.

"The next time we go to read the meter, everything will true up," Bannister said.

Customers can check their bill to see the next date their meter is scheduled to be read, and should check their next statement for adjustments.

Residents with hardships who are unable to pay a higher than usual estimated bill can call TECO's customer service line for help.

"We understand there are people on fixed incomes who can't just pay the higher amount and wait until next month (for the adjustment). In those cases, we will look at their account and see what we can do," Bannister said.

More than a month after the last storm, TECO is still fielding double the usual volume of calls to its customer service line, 223-0800. Bannister urged customers to be patient, and said a more timely option is to send billing questions by e-mail on the company's Web site, [www.tampaelectric.com](http://www.tampaelectric.com).

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# County Wants Public Input On Truck Route Changes

## SOME AREA ASSOCIATIONS OPPOSE PLAN

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Currently proposed changes to the county's commercial truck route, whether or not they are approved, are not expected to have a major impact on the amount of truck traffic on Bloomingdale Avenue.

If Lithia-Pinecrest Road were removed from the route, Bloomingdale Ave. would be a dead end for truckers, eliminating big rigs from the road altogether. Conversely, if weight limit signs were removed from the entire length of Lithia-Pinecrest, Bloomingdale would likely see a major increase of full tanker trucks cruising through town.

Though many Bloomingdale area residents would like to see the former of those two scenarios play out, neither of those options are currently under consideration by the county.

At least for the next four years, when the next truck route review takes place, commercial haulers of vehicles less than 50,000 pounds will keep on truckin' through Bloomingdale.

The proposed changes, however — if approved by county commissioners — would definitely bring more



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

Bill McCall, Hillsborough County staff member and truck route plan technical committee member, presented the county's recommendations to about 200 Valrico, Lithia and Riverview residents Oct. 5 at Sadie Street Park in Brandon.

truck traffic through Lithia and Riverview at some point in the future, a prospect that has homeowners associations in River Hills, FishHawk and Boyette Springs joining hands to petition the county.

At a public meeting Oct. 5 at Sadie Street Park in Brandon, county staff presented a group of about 200 Valrico, Brandon and Riverview residents with a list of recommended changes to the route,

and a technical analysis to back them up.

Bloomingdale Avenue was identified on the study as functioning at an acceptable level of service on the truck route plan. Bell Shoals Road, an unimproved two-lane road, was not addressed in the analysis and is not recommended for addition to the route.

Under the recommendations, Lithia-Pinecrest, from

Bloomingdale Avenue to County Road 39, would be left on the plan, a proposal that drew ire from residents of River Hills and FishHawk Boulevard, who for the past three years have implored county officials to remove Lithia-Pinecrest from the route.

The county partially appeased residents in 2000

See CHIEF, Page 19



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## Letters to the Editor

### Take Lithia-Pinecrest Off Truck Route

It's a sad day when the misguided actions of the Hillsborough County staff serve to pit two neighborhoods against each other. In 2003, when revisions to the county's truck route plan included the

removal of Lithia-Pinecrest Road from the route, Sun City residents became concerned because county officials mistakenly guessed — and it was a guess, not part of an analysis — that the removal of Lithia-Pinecrest would add 10 percent truck traffic to the main road running through Sun City, SR 674.

A group of River Hills and

See CHIEF, Page 19

Above, Real Huet, Rhonda Call, Emilie and Taylor H enjoyed a trip to the cafeteria before visiting book fair. At fourth-grade, lie McCall h passport stu by second- teacher Mrs gle.

# Alafia Family Night Inspired Patriotic Fun

By LESLIE WHITE  
Correspondent

Alafia Elementary School's annual ice cream social and family night book fair, held last month during the build-up to the Nov. 2 general election, took on a patriotic twist this year.

After indulging in a little ice cream, families were invited to pick up a passport from Uncle Sam and take a tour of the school's campus, decked out in red, white and blue and ripe with history about the founding of our country.

Each grade was responsible for a different theme, and each pod was a separate stamp on the passport.

Hunter Copeland, a second-grader, portrayed the president of the United States, while his teacher, Mrs. Engle, stamped passports as students passed through. Students with completed passports were eligible for prizes the next school day.

PTA President Rhonda McCall was on hand with her family.

"The ice cream social is our way of thanking our PTA members for their support. It's just a great way for our families to come to school for such a fun night," said McCall.



Second-grader Hunter Copeland portrayed the president of the United States.

LESLIE WHITE/Photos



Above, Reagan Huet, Rhonda McCall, Emilie McCall and Taylor Huet enjoyed a treat in the cafeteria before visiting the book fair. At right, fourth-grader Emilie McCall had her passport stamped by second-grade teacher Mrs. Engle.



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# Group Wants To Improve Cimino Traffic Flow, Safety

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

Even before the construction of Cimino Elementary School was completed in 2002, parents and residents of several neighborhoods surrounding the school in Bloomingdale East met with public officials to discuss their concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety around the school.

Two years later, some say their concerns have not been satisfactorily addressed.

The county added flashing lights, school zone signs and two manned crossings near the school, but residents, school officials and the community's resource deputy say more safety measures are needed. — Bloomingdale Deputy Pete Maurer summed up the problem.

On a daily basis, Maurer said, "vehicle traffic at the school entrance on Culbreath Rd. backs up in both directions. The crossing guards report numerous incidents of vehicles passing the stopped cars by driving on the wrong side of the road or up onto the grass and sidewalks, on several occasions narrowly missing the crossing guard and the students."

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council, a volunteer group of neighbors who work with law enforcement and government officials to improve safety in their community, met at the Bloomingdale substation Oct. 21 to discuss their concerns. Maurer led the meeting.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo (2002)

In May 2002, county traffic engineer Gary Tait and Principal Sandra Frost, center, met with Cimino parents, Deputy Pete Maurer, left, and county safety specialist Ann Anderson, right, at the Natures Way/Culbreath Road intersection to discuss traffic and safety plans. More than two years later, problems around the school persist.

Public works traffic division director, Mike McCarthy, and senior engineer, Gary Tait, attended the meeting, along with Cimino's acting principal, Deborah Talley.

Two years ago, the community council asked the county to install a three-way stop sign at Natures Way and Culbreath Road. The request was denied after preliminary studies showed the intersection did not meet the necessary criteria.

At its October meeting, the council again asked Tait and McCarthy to consider installing a three-way stop sign at the corner.

"If people have to stop at that intersection, it will force them to take a look around before they proceed through it," Maurer said.

McCarthy and Tait said new

studies are underway, but the corner would still probably not meet the traffic volume and crash history criteria required for a three-way stop.

However, McCarthy said his department would consider other measures to improve safety around the school.

"We have a commitment to work with the community on a continuing basis. We will do whatever we can do within our limits."

The group considered restricting left turns out of the school driveway, channeling the pick-up/drop-off area into two lines of cars instead of one, putting a stop sign at the entryway of the school, and installing "congested area" warning signs.

Responding to suggestions for additional traffic signs, McCarthy said, "If drivers are not obeying the signs now, I'm kind of curious to see what putting more signs up is going to do."

Bloomingdale resident Jim Jeup said some homeowners are also concerned about motorists trying to avoid the traffic jam by cutting through the Bristol Green subdivision's Golf Manor Blvd. entrance on Culbreath Road. Jeup suggested restricting left turns onto Golf Manor during school hours.

McCarthy said, "That's another factor, because any-

thing we do is going to force traffic onto Golf Manor Blvd."

Maurer agreed that some of the safety measures discussed could cause an increase in Bristol Green cut-through traffic for a while, but would calm down once everyone had a chance to become familiar with the new rules.

"The safety of the children and parents should take priority in this matter," Maurer said.

Talley, serving as interim principal at the school since the death of Principal Sandra Frost last month, said traffic flow and safety problems around the school started when it opened two years ago and have grown in proportion to the student population.

"We started with 740 students when the school opened," Talley said.

"Today we have 982 students and eight busses, two of which are on double runs."

In order to comply with the state's classroom size amendment, Talley said construction of a new 16-room building; the school will begin in June. Five classrooms are doubled up at the school now, with 11 classes held in portables.

One crossing guard at the meeting said it's not unusual for motorists to slide right through the intersection — where hundreds of children cross the road each day — without so much as a glance.

Referring to a recent accident near Riverview High School on Boyette Rd., the crossing guard said, "We are getting pretty darn close to three-car pile-ups out there (by Cimino)." The guard said frustrated drivers stuck in school traffic frequently cut around other cars to escape the queue.

"They hit a lady last year — whipped around the traffic and hit her hand," said the guard, noting she herself narrowly escaped being hit this year.

McCarthy and Tait agreed to review the new traffic studies and meet with the group again in November to discuss the alternatives.

"There are so many cars at this school, so many walkers, so many bike riders — it's got it all," Tait said.



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# Club Celebrates Birthdays, Gift of Reading

## PROGRAM BENEFITS MEDIA CENTER

By **LESLIE WHITE**  
Correspondent

Cimino Elementary School students have a new way to celebrate their birthdays this year.

Media specialist Cindy Dowdy recently implemented a school program called "The Birthday Club," which allows parents to give a gift to the Cimino Media Center in honor of their child.

"This is a program to build the media center's collection and to honor the child on their birthday," said Dowdy.

The event is commemorated with balloons and an appearance by the student on Cimino's WCTN morning show, broadcast school wide at 8:00 a.m. each day.

For a minimum contribution of \$10, children will have

a brand new book dedicated in their name to the school library, affixed with a permanent label as a lasting reminder of the contribution.

Students who have birthdays when school is out for summer during June, July and August can celebrate their special day six months from their birthday, so no one is left out.

"We have a good selection to choose from," said Dowdy, who lets the children select a title from a collection she has accumulated for just this purpose.

The Birthday Club will be emphasized all year long, and has already raised \$1,235 and 104 books for the media center.

The media center will keep track of each special donation and its location on the shelves so children can check out their special book throughout their years at Cimino.



Photo provided by Cimino Elementary Media Center

Cimino media specialist Cindy Dowdy offers Alex Smith, Zachary Steele, and Natalie McHale their choice of books to be donated to the school in honor of their birthdays.

## Free Infant/Child CPR Class Offered In Brandon

A Gazette Report

The American Red Cross Tampa Bay Chapter and Lowe's Home Improvement Centers have teamed up to offer free Infant/Child CPR training on three Saturdays this month; Nov. 6, Nov. 13 and Nov. 20.

The free class, held locally at the Red Cross Brandon Service Center, 410 Ware Blvd., Suite 306, in Brandon, runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The one-day course includes full Red Cross training in administering CPR to infants

and children, home fire safety tips and childproofing information.

Lowe's volunteers will demonstrate home childproofing products, such as tub faucet covers, electric outlet covers, slip guards and how to conduct a home safety analysis. There will also be a prize drawing for participants.

Seating is limited and available on a first-come first-served basis. To make a reservation, contact the Red Cross Tampa Bay Chapter at 348-4820, Ext. 850.

LETTERS? COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

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## Friday Night Lights

Bloomington High School fans filled the stands to cheer on the Bulls at the school's homecoming game Oct. 15. The team's 14-41 loss to East Bay didn't put a damper on school spirit. At right, Principal B.J. Stelter crowned Bloomington's 2004 Homecoming Queen, senior Krista Reed, at halftime. Below, throngs of students showed their colors — and their school spirit — with enthusiasm.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photos



Above, Bloomington's Rajun' Bulls, Hillsborough County's largest high school marching band, wowed the crowd at the end of the game. Below, the junior varsity cheerleaders kept the crowd pumped up.



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# Too Soon To Forget Summer Of Storms

By LAURA FRAZIER  
Editor

The Tampa Bay area was certainly spared from the worst wrath of the 2004 summer of storms, but the experience was something none of us will soon forget.

Many cases of property damage caused by falling limbs and trees were reported in the greater Bloomingdale area, and a fire that ignited when power was restored to one home in the Erin Arbor subdivision completely destroyed the house and its contents.

Thankfully, no serious injuries or deaths were reported locally as a result of the storms.

Faced with the ground saturation and punishing winds of four back-to-back hurricanes, dozens of oak trees in Bloomingdale — and even one concrete mailbox in Fox Run — simply gave up and tumbled over.

Bloomingdale East residents reported power outages lasting from a few hours up to nearly a day, while homeowners in parts of Bloomingdale West kept the candles burning for three long days — and miserably humid nights — without power or air-conditioning.

Just south of the Bloomingdale area in South Oak, Indian Hills and Dogwood Hills, hundreds of homeowners experienced life without electricity and hot showers for up to five days.

Many without power toughed out the week at home, percolating coffee on their barbecue grills, playing board games by flashlight, sleeping with the windows open, and praying for the power to be restored.

Julie Beanguard, the librarian appointed to the new library under construction on Bloomingdale Avenue, lives just south of Bloomingdale off John Moore Road. The Beauguards, without electricity for five days, reportedly wore coal-miner style headgear to



Several cases of damage caused by falling limbs and trees were reported in the greater Bloomingdale area, but most of the trees - like this one in Dogwood Hills - incredibly seemed to fall the right way; away from homes, cars and people.

LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

navigate their home at night and to read by. Now that's a picture some of us would like to see.

But this summer of storms was an experience that no photograph can quite portray.

It's hard to forget the unusual sight of Bloomingdale houses boarded up with plywood. And although anyone who's lived in Florida for a few years becomes accustomed to the annual hurricane supply shopping rush, this time the stockpiling went on for weeks.

In Bloomingdale, waits were long for gas and cash before the hurricanes. A steady stream of customers lined up daily at Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale, first buying items to secure their homes and property, and later, supplies to clean up the mess and repair the damage. Storm weary neighbors debated whether or not to bother dragging their patio furniture and plants inside again for the third time, then the fourth.

As the last rain bands from Hurricane Jeanne moved north, Hillsborough County Deputies were stationed at every intersection along Bloomingdale Avenue, where traffic signals were out for

days. Later, the chainsaws buzzed away for weeks, creating fodder for the thousands of piles of debris piled along our streets.

After Jeanne blew through, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, in cooperation Hillsborough County, held a special yard-waste collection day.

Residents made hundreds of trips to the collection site, where a virtual mountain of debris formed in a matter of hours.

And all the while, local relief efforts to aid our devastated neighbors to the south in Polk and Hardee County, and later in the panhandle, continued at a frantic pace.

The official hurricane season runs through the end of this month, so we may not be out of the woods — or more appropriately the cone — yet.

It may be tempting to push it out of our minds, but this was a summer to remember for many years to come, one that many Floridians are still struggling to recover from.

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# Community Can Help Prevent Flu, Cold Outbreaks

By MACK AUSTIN  
Correspondent

The official flu season starts in November, but concerns about the lack of flu vaccine have been spreading for months.

It is essential for everyone in our community to be informed about the current health facts and preventative measures that can be taken to protect ourselves and our families.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness and, at times, can be fatal.

According to statistics from the Center for Disease Control, five to 20 percent of our population will get the flu. Those at higher risk for serious complications include the elderly, babies and young children, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions.

The best-known way to prevent the flu is to get a vaccine. But even if you are vaccinated, care must still be taken to prevent the spread of germs around our community.

Flu is spread primarily from person to person in respiratory droplets from coughs and sneezes. Droplets are deposited on the mouth or nose of a person nearby.

Germs can also be spread when a person touches an object or surface where droplets have fallen and then touches their own eyes, mouth

or nose before washing their hands. Some viruses can last up to two hours or longer on surfaces like tables, door-knobs, telephones and desks.

It is very important for parents to educate their children on how to stop the spread of germs. Addressing the spread of germs in school is essential to the health of our children. Aside from the obvious health concerns, the flu and colds cause the highest rates of absenteeism among students.

The following simple but very effective tips illustrate ways to stop the spread of germs. Following these steps can help reduce the number of cases of flu and colds in our community, resulting in less time missed at work and school, fewer trips to the doctor and a much more enjoyable winter season.

Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

Cough into a tissue and then throw it away.

Wash your hands often and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds. Do this every time you cough or sneeze.

When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used.

Other measures that can be taken to prevent the spread of the flu and colds include getting plenty of sleep and physical activity, drinking lots of water and eating foods that will help you stay healthy this winter and all year long.



LAURA FRAZIER/Photo(2002)

Bloomington's Santa and Mrs. Claus

## Santa, Mrs. Claus Coming To Bloomington Dec. 11

**FREE PHOTO WITH CANNED FOOD DONATION**

A Gazette Report

Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their 16th annual visit to Bloomington this year to hear children's wish lists and to help collect food donations for local charities.

All children are invited to visit with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bloomington community office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, in the Sun Trust Bank/Citgo station plaza.

In exchange for a donation of one or more non-perishable food items, each child can visit personally with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and will have their photo taken for free. Santa's elves will serve complimentary juice and cookies.

The annual event is spon-

**Wanted:  
Santa's Helpers!**

Santa and Mrs. Claus need help decorating the community office before their Dec. 11 visit, more elves to help greet children at the door, and help taking the decorations down when the party's over. High school students are eligible to receive community service hour credits for their assistance with this project. To help, please call 681-2051 or e-mail [Bloomington.Homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:Bloomington.Homeowners@verizon.net).

sored by The Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc. For more information call 681-2051 or e-mail [Bloomington.Homeowners@verizon.net](mailto:Bloomington.Homeowners@verizon.net).

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**CHIEF**

From page 8

When the route was last reviewed. Although Lithia-Pinecrest remained on the route, the county allowed a 50,000-pound weight limit to be reinstated on the road.

This time around, a portion of Lithia-Pinecrest — from State Road 60 to Bloomingdale Avenue — is recommended for removal from the route.

Residents who want the entire length of Lithia-Pinecrest removed from the route said a new recommendation added insult to injury — the proposal to remove the weight restrictions from a portion of Lithia-Pinecrest from FishHawk Boulevard to State Road 39.

"You are finally wearing us down with your studies and your meetings," said Frenchy Fortin of River Hills.

The study recommends removing the Lithia-Pinecrest weight limits (only from FishHawk to County Road 39) after improvements are made to FishHawk and Boyette, at which time both roads are expected to be added to the route.

If and when Boyette and FishHawk are added to the route, Bloomingdale could

see a significant decrease in truck traffic.

Boyette is funded and in the early stages of construction.

The FishHawk improvements, which the developer agreed to accomplish once a certain traffic volume is reached on the road, aren't on the drawing board yet.

Boyette area resident Dave Kulow, at the Oct. 5 meeting, said Boyette's many existing and planned neighborhoods, schools and business make the road inappropriate for commercial truck traffic.

"We in the South Shore area are being buried by development," Kulow said.

Ted Grable, president of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, said the BHA does not support any changes to the route that would increase truck traffic on roads in any densely populated residential areas.

The Hillsborough County Commission is expected to vote on the plan in January.

For more information about the recommendations, and for links to submit public comment, visit [www.BloomingtonGazette.com](http://www.BloomingtonGazette.com) or call the county at 276-8375.

## Campo YMCA Offers Late-Night Fun For Teens

### EVENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC

A Gazette Report

The following activities at the Campo YMCA in Bloomingdale are open to the public. Teens do not need a YMCA membership to participate in these programs. For more information, call Mindy at 684-1371.

#### Teen Midnight Basketball

Last Friday of every month, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., \$1/members, \$5/non-members.

Teens, are you ready to take

over the YMCA? Join us for a night of pick-up games, open gym, dancing, movies and much, much more. Bring your friends and get ready to party.

#### Middle School Madness

Second Saturday of every month, 7 to 10 p.m., \$4/members, \$6/guests, includes pizza.

We make Saturdays fun for middle-schoolers. Bring a friend and enjoy a night of music, games, open gym, rock climbing, pizza and much more.

You don't want to miss this event.

**CHIEF**

From page 8

Fish Hawk residents subsequently did their own study, presented to county staff, that clearly showed the removal of Lithia-Pinecrest would not add one truck to SR674 traffic.

But the damage had been done. Sun City Center residents believed what the county initially told them, and descended upon the county commission in full force to voice their displeasure of the possibility of more trucks traveling down their beautiful, well-designed, safe, four-lane divided highway.

At the latest public meeting on the truck route plan held in Sun City, county staff made no effort to explain to Sun City residents that the removal of Lithia-Pinecrest to the plan would not add one truck to Sun City's traffic.

Despite its own technical analysis that showed that Lithia-Pinecrest rated very badly as a truck route, the county plans to keep the road

— a winding, narrow, two-lane, failed road that runs through residential areas — on the truck route plan.

If Lithia-Pinecrest remains in the plan, the only winners coming out of this will be the phosphate companies, who have had a lawyer attend everyone of the truck route committee meetings.

It will be a sad day, indeed, if county commissioners and county staff do not have the courage to stand by the truth, allowing themselves to be bowled over by the political force of a neighborhood.

**Frenchy Fortin**  
Riverhills

**Editor's Note: The Hillsborough County Commission is expected to vote on the new truck route plan in January. For more information, visit [www.BloomingtonGazette.com](http://www.BloomingtonGazette.com).**

Send letters to Editor, The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594 or e-mail [LauraFrazier@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:LauraFrazier@tampabay.rr.com).

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Photo provided by MOMS Club of Bloomingdale

### Bloomington MOMS Club Helped Light The Night

Members of the MOMS Club of Bloomingdale did their part to make strides against breast cancer by participating in the 5k "Light The Night" walk along Bayshore Blvd. Oct. 16. The club raised close to \$1,000 in the cause for a cure.

## Bring Toys, Food Donations To YMCA

A Gazette Report

The Campo Family YMCA in Bloomingdale is collecting food for local charities, and toys for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots pro-

gram. Bring non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys to the YMCA before Dec. 11. For information, contact Diana Niles, 684-1371.

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## BHA Web Site Features Up-To-Date News, Events

### BHA NEWS ALERTS ON SITE

A Gazette Report

For Bloomingdale area news and events, log on to the official web site of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc., [www.BloomingtonGazette.com](http://www.BloomingtonGazette.com).

The site allows the homeowners association board and Gazette staff to keep residents informed about late-breaking neighborhood news, public meeting schedules and community events.

Residents can register their e-mail address on the site to receive free BHA News Alerts. There are no forms to fill out, and addresses will not be

shared, sold or displayed to other subscribers.

The BHA raffled off a 27-inch flat screen TV last Monday, after the Gazette went to press, to one of the hundreds of Bloomingdale residents now signed up to receive BHA News Alerts. The winner will be announced on the web site this weekend, and in the December issue of the Gazette.

The BHA plans to hold additional raffles in the future for all residents who register their e-mail address on the site. Contests will be announced in the Gazette.

Bloomington residents are invited to submit news, events, story ideas and photos for the site to [Info@BloomingtonGazette.com](mailto:Info@BloomingtonGazette.com).

## Red Cross Offers Transportation For Seniors

A Gazette Report

The American Red Cross "Angel Wings Transportation Service" is a volunteer-driven program dedicated to providing the Tampa Bay area with free transportation for seniors and others in need. The organization averages 150 trips per month for each car in operation.

Angel Wings provides round-trip drivers in Red Cross vehicles for ambulatory people who have no other

means of transportation to get to doctor and dentist's offices, hospitals, rehabilitation and dialysis treatment centers and cancer treatment centers.

The program, in operation since 1981, operates mornings only, Monday through Friday.

For more information, or to volunteer a half day per week for this community service, call (813)348-4820, Ext. 834, or e-mail [Rummler@tampabay.redcross.org](mailto:Rummler@tampabay.redcross.org).

## Pie Sale To Benefit Band

A Gazette Report

The Bloomingdale High School Rajun' Bull Band annual pie sale is in full swing. Band students are selling \$10 gift certificates redeemable at any Village Inn restaurant

for a variety of home-style pies including cherry, apple, pumpkin, french silk and lemon supreme. Boston's Best gourmet coffees, teas

and hot cocoas are also offered in flavors like iced gingerbread cookie, snickerdoodle, butterscotch crème and breakfast blend.

To purchase a Village Inn gift certificate or to order Boston's Best products, contact any band student or call Diane Weidley, 654-938. Proceeds will benefit the Rajun' Bull Marching Band.

# 35th Annual Novemberfest Kicks Off Nov. 10

**BUY \$15 ARMBANDS  
BY NOV. 8**

A Gazette Report

The 35th annual Nativity Novemberfest carnival will take place on the grounds of Nativity Catholic Church, corner of State Road 60 and Bryan Road, from Wednesday, Nov. 10 through Sunday, Nov. 14.

The festival is sponsored by Nativity Catholic Church as the major fundraiser for Nativity Catholic School and its religious education programs.

Armbands for unlimited rides are \$15 in advance if purchased by noon by Nov. 8, and \$20 on the grounds.

The bands can be used any day, all day until one hour before the festival closes.

The event features a midway with games and rides, live entertainment and plenty of food and refreshments.

Parking and admission are free.

James-Rivard Pontiac GMC is sponsoring the grand prize in the Novemberfest chance drawing, a 2005 Pontiac Vibe or GMC Canyon. In addition

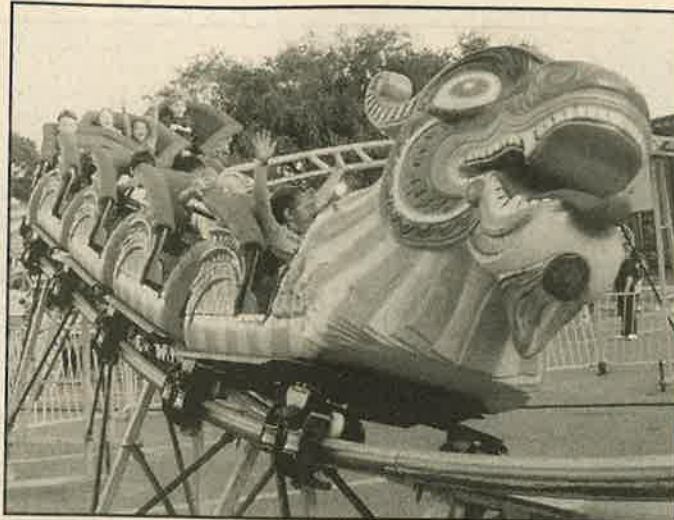


Photo provided by Nativity Catholic Church

Each year tens of thousands of people visit Novemberfest over the five-day event.

to the grand prize, other prizes and gifts donated by Brandon area business will be given away hourly throughout the event.

Tickets are available on site or in advance from the church office.

This year's midway rides include Starship 3000, Rock-in-Tug, Alpine Bobsled, Twister, and the largest portable Ferris wheel in the country.

Kiddie Land rides are available for small children. The Big Top features continuous live entertainment, carnival foods, and the Novemberfest Raffle. Featured entertain-

ment on Friday night will be Strange Brew & Crystal Blue and Saturday night Sophia Wolfe & Crystal Blue will perform.

Advance armbands and food ticket purchases may be made through any student attending Nativity Catholic School or Nativity's religious education program, as well as on site at the church and school offices located at 705 East Brandon Blvd.

Novemberfest 2004 Hours

♦ Nov. 10, Wednesday: 4 to 11 p.m.

♦ Nov. 11, Thursday: noon to 11 p.m.

♦ Nov. 12, Friday: 4 p.m. to 12 a.m.

♦ Nov. 13, Saturday: 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.

♦ Nov. 14, Sunday: 12 to 8 p.m.

For more information, call Janien Moody, 684.0119, or e-mail janien.moody1@verizon.net.

## CHIEF

From page 8

answered about 9,000 emergency alarms.

Hazzard hopes he will be remembered as a progressive and fair-minded chief, "at least administratively competent and one who tries to, by example and encouragement, get the best out of my people.

"And I think I've groomed my replacement to do the same kind of thing," Hazzard added.

"First of all, he's qualified to be a MENSA member. He's smarter than I am. And secondly, he has the faith and trust of the men who serve under him. Plus, he's very adept at administrative tasks and I think he has the leadership qualities. He's one of our most valuable assets."

Firefighter Shawn Hobbs

said he will miss his old chief.

"He cares a lot about the other firefighters and he's out on the fire grounds," Hobbs said. "He's a very hard worker. He's like one of us. He's right there on the front line with us."

At 8 a.m. Monday, Oct. 11, Hazzard was to say good-bye to Station 27, his home away from home. He plans, with his wife, Elise, to pursue some small business ventures and real estate investments, to retire early and to sail around the world.

"I've been here two or three nights a week for 15 years, and to not do that anymore will be different," Hazzard said. "But I have new horizons ahead of me in sailing that I want to pursue."

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(813) 681-7101  
8am-5pm Mon-Fri



# Coast Guard Offers Boating Skills Course

**CLASSES START  
NOV. 15**

By MACK AUSTIN

Hundreds of Bloomingdale residents enjoy boating on the beautiful waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay, as well as the many rivers and the hundreds of lakes in our area. Recent boating accidents in the Tampa Bay area highlight the need for boaters to be properly trained and skilled in operating their vessels.

One of the primary missions of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 74 in Brandon is to make complete professional boating skills training available to all boaters.

Recent Coast Guard statistics rank Florida third in the country for the number of registered boats per state; 922,597 vessels.

In 2002, there were 831 boating accidents, with 415 resulting in property damage totaling over \$8 million dollars. There were 52 fatalities and 466 injuries.

These statistics rank Florida as the number one state for boating accidents and number three for fatalities.

Some folks believe the vast majority of boating accidents are caused by vessel equipment problems. However, this is not true.



Photo provided by the U. S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard urges all boaters to complete boating skills and safety training.

Most boating accidents are caused by operator error. Sixty percent of boating accident fatalities were the result of capsizing, falling overboard or flooding/swamping. A properly trained, highly skilled operator is essential to providing a safe recreational environment for passengers and other boaters.

There are some very simple steps all boaters can take to keep from becoming one of

the statistics.

Have your boat properly inspected at one of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's free Vessel Safety Checks.

Attend a boating skills and safety course.

Ensure all passengers wear proper fitting life jackets.

Do not drink and operate a boat.

The U.S. Coast Guard's "Boating Skills and Seaman-ship Course", jointly spon-

sored by the U.S. Power Squadrons, is taught locally by members of Flotilla 74.

The course, a series of 12 lessons starting Nov. 15, will be held Monday evenings through Feb. 28 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Brandon High School. Tuition is \$40 per person. For more information or to register online, visit the Flotilla 74 Web site at [www.cgaux74.org](http://www.cgaux74.org) or call 654-1306.

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## BACC

From page 7

Bloomingtondale residents who would like to help these special people are asked to bring donations of personal items to the Bloomingtondale substation by Tuesday, Nov. 9. The station is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations will be taken to the home on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Items needed include:

- ◆ Boxes of tissue (not packets)
- ◆ Denture cleaner and adhesive
- ◆ Deodorant sticks
- ◆ Safety razors
- ◆ Shaving cream
- ◆ Cigarettes
- ◆ Depends briefs (med - large)
- ◆ Wal-Mart gift cards

# Pranksters Turn New Fountain Into Bubble Factory

By **LESLIE WHITE**  
Correspondent

"Double, double, toil and trouble. Fire burn and ... fountain bubble?"

Ok, so Shakespeare it isn't, but what else comes to mind when you round the corner and see a virtual wall of white, sudsy bubbles?

Within a week of its completion, pranksters loaded the new Bloomingdale Ridge fountain with soap, coaxing a 15-foot bubble-tower from the flow.

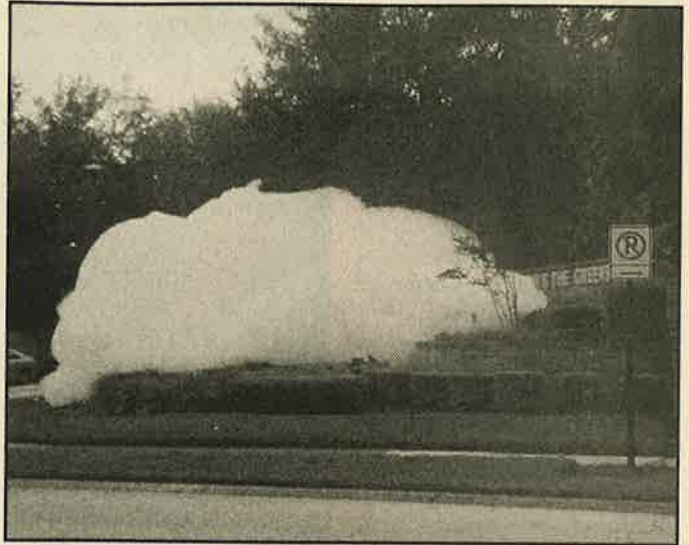
The corner of Culbreath and Nature's Way, directly in front of Alafia Elementary School, became the intersection of mischief and giggles as students, their accompanying parents and morning com-

muters got the day started with a laugh.

"You knew somebody was going to do it — a little good, clean fun," said one dad whose bike-riding child could hardly keep her eyes on the sidewalk, the bubble-wall much too tempting of a sight.

Daily remnants of the prank float atop the water pooled at the bottom of the fountain, but the sight no longer looks like the explosion of the Sta-Puff Marshmallow Man.

**Editor's note: The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. asks parents to remind their children that fountain soaping, like graffiti and property destruction, is an act of vandalism.**



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

Pranksters loaded the new Bloomingdale Ridge fountain with soap, coaxing a 15-foot bubble-tower from the flow.

# Bloomingtondale Business Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

## STORE NOW OFFERS CRAFTS, GIFTS

A Gazette Report

From Our Closet To Yours, a consignment boutique on Bloomingdale Avenue, recently celebrated its one-year anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony sponsored by The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce.

Owners and Bloomingdale residents Debby Duncan and Lori Hearne have expanded their consignment business.

Crafters can now rent space inside the store to feature their creations.

The boutique recently introduced a new line of soy candles and natural bath products, custom airbrushed items and handcrafted wedding and communion veils.

Located in the shopping center at Kings Road and Bloomingdale Avenue, near Big Lots, the shop is open weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will open Saturdays during the holiday season.

Call 662-3726 for information.



LESLIE WHITE/Photo

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce had a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the one-year anniversary of From Our Closet To Yours. Co-owner Debby Duncan, center, was Cimino Elementary School's first PTSA president.

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## FROST

From page 1

2002 as the school's first principal. Her influence will live on through Cimino's staff and the countless colleagues, students and friends whose lives she touched during her 31 years as an educator.

The effects of her work are far-reaching.

### School Earned A On First Report Card

Cimino assistant principal Deborah Talley, now serving as the school's interim principal, said Frost was very proud to be given the opportunity to open a new school.

Frost's efforts devoted to "Touching the Present ... Building the Future," her vision for the new school to strive for excellence, were rewarded last summer when Cimino earned its first school grade from the state — an A.

"She was so proud of that," said Talley, who first met Frost at Palm River Elementary School in 1990. She credits Frost with her own personal growth as an educator.

"I don't think I'd be an assistant principal today if it weren't for Sandra. She encouraged me to go back to school and get my master's degree."

"Mrs. Frost was all about empowering people to be their best. She would see your strength and find ways for you to build on that," Talley said.

### Principal Inspired Camaraderie

Before Frost opened the



Sandra Frost and her son, Ragon Frost.

doors for the first day of school in 2002, she made it clear her first order of business was instilling a sense of camaraderie in her staff.

Cimino kindergarten teacher Marilyn Girard chose to transfer to the new school as soon as Frost's appointment as principal was announced.

"I found a strong sense of community among the teachers, staff and children. We are a family, and her legacy will continue in her absence," Girard said.

### Frost, Students Focused On Cure

Though diagnosed with cancer during Cimino's second year, Frost didn't deviate from her vision for the school.

Focusing on her job throughout her illness, Frost pushed through some tough days, with her bright smile and determined nature intact.

School nurse, Trish Stover, said Frost wanted to be there for the kids so they wouldn't be afraid of her being sick.

"When she lost her hair, her first thought was of the kids' reactions," Stover said.

The only thing that seemed to change was the succession of hats Frost donned to

school, which her students also did on "Crazy Hat Day" to support their ailing principal.

To help find a cure for their principal, students last spring collected \$9,350 with a "Coins for a Cure" fundraiser. Some students did extra chores and gave up allowances to contribute, and the children weren't the only ones who tried to help.

In 2003, members of Cimino's staff joined Frost for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, an 18-hour walk to raise money for cancer research.

"She loved being principal here. This was her school," Stover said.

### A Woman Of Great Faith

At her memorial service, Dr. Thomas Green, senior pastor of First Baptist Church Brandon, said of Frost, "Her foundation of excellence stemmed from her faith."

Stover agreed, and said, "Mrs. Frost's relationship with the Lord was the foundation of all she stood for. She encouraged and prayed for her staff."

### School Plans Memorial Reading Garden

The staff plans to create a reading garden in honor of Frost; arranging benches under shade trees to allow the students to have a place to remember their principal, and to participate in an activity she was passionate about — reading.

The school hopes the garden can be completed by Christmas, a process that would be expedited with the donation of brick pavers for the memorial.

### "Frost Elementary" To Open In 2005

Frost's husband, Ron, 1995 charter principal of Durant High School, died from leukemia in 1997. After Sandra Frost died last month, a group of supporters collected

See FROST, Page 23



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LAURA FRAZIER/Photo

In May 2002, Sandra Frost and the school's first PTSA president, Debbie Duncan, at left, were excited to receive an endorsement from the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, delivered by BHA president Ted Grable.

## School Seeks Donation For Frost Memorial

Anyone interested in donating material, labor or funds for a reading garden planned at Cimino Elementary School to honor the memory of Sandra Frost can call interim principal Deborah Talley, 740-4450.

## FROST

page 22

signatures on a petition to name a new elementary school after the couple, who collectively served 52 years at 12 different schools.

Sally Thompson, a friend of the Frost's, circulated the petition to 40 schools throughout the county. On Oct. 19, the Hillsborough County School Board voted unanimously to name the new elementary school under construction on Falkenburg Road, "Frost Elementary School."

Thompson's daughter, Lindsay, teaches second grade at Cimino and initially suggested pursuing the naming of the school to honor both Frosts. Lindsay was a student at Turkey Creek High School, where Ron Frost was principal before opening Durant.

"He was the best principal I ever had," Lindsay said.

"This was a way to deal with losing Sandra," said Thompson, who throughout the petition process received beautiful letters extolling the character of both Sandra and Ron

Frost. Thompson hopes the new school named to honor the Frosts will preserve their legacy in a tangible way for their son, Ragon, the rest of their family, and the community who loved and respected them both.

"I can't think of more deserving people. They gave their lives to education," Thompson said.

### Many Fond Memories Live On

The Frosts' legacy lives on in the lives of each student who crossed the threshold of their collective schools, who entered in and out of their classrooms, who had a place in their hearts.

Talley said the school district is expected to begin the process for hiring a new principal sometime in November. She hopes a new principal will be in place before the holiday break in December.

Confident the school will maintain its level of excellence throughout the changes that lie ahead, Talley said, "In

Sandra's name, we will be just as good if not better this year."

Frost's colleagues said the principal's concerns were always sincere for the children, their parents, the faculty and community, and the feeling was mutual.

The Six family of Bloomingdale, whose son Alec is a kindergarten student at Cimino, remembered Frost in a touching letter that illustrates the respect and admiration the educator inspired:

"Mrs. Frost is a true hero

and an inspiration to us all. She was an amazing woman that led a fantastic school and dedicated her life to children. She was loved by all students, parents and teachers."

"Her spirit will live on in the hearts of all that were touched by her incredible generosity and love.

"We will miss you, Mrs. Frost, and we will love you forever."

Laura Frazier contributed to this report.

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