

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XV, Number 10

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

October 1995

BHA Briefs

Monthly Meeting

Members of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association are invited to attend this month's meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 in the Community Office's new location in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. The Community Office has moved to 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103, next door to Kim Hall's Dance Studio. Residents have the floor at the top of the meeting.

Reporting Crime

Residents are reminded that if a crime occurs in a Bloomingdale neighborhood, after calling the Sheriff's office, please also call the community office during office hours 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Monday through Friday with the information. This will assist the BHA's Mobile Watch program to be on the lookout for illegal activity. Call 681-2051 and pass on the information regarding date, time and the nature of the crime. Office personnel will take the information and pass it on to the appropriate individuals. But remember to first always call 911 in the event of an emergency.

New Meeting Guidelines

While residents are encouraged to attend BHA meetings, board members have found it necessary to set time limitations on speakers so meetings can end at a reasonable hour. The new guidelines will be strictly adhered to, according to Oros. They are as follows:

7:30 - 8 p.m. Homeowners will be given an opportunity to address the BHA board.

- There will be a 10-minute maximum time limit per homeowner, per issue and this includes BHA board response.

- Residents will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration through telephone calls will be permitted. Residents may also sign-up on a list posted outside the community office the night of a meeting. Doors will remain locked until 7:30 p.m.

- Should a group of residents attend a BHA meeting, it is recommended that one person act as spokesperson for the group.

- The board reserves the right to grant variances to the time limit, but only under special circumstances, for example, on an issue of widespread impact.

- Homeowners will not be permitted to speak unless they have paid their dues for the current year.

8:00 p.m. The homeowners' portion of the meeting will be adjourned, at which time the BHA board business will commence. Residents may remain for this portion of the meeting and may ask questions regarding issues on the table. New business may not be introduced by the homeowners at this time.

The order of business is as follows: approval of the minutes from the previous month's meeting, treasurer's report, mobile watch report, NIP report, membership report. The board will then take up special business.

Please note, should a guest speaker who has been invited by the BHA board be in attendance, the guest will speak first at 7:30, and the normal agenda will follow in order after the speaker has completed his or

We've Moved

Same Building, New Location



Rick Oros, Anne Underwood, Michael Davis, LaWayne Wyatt and Jerry Underwood put in many hours while moving the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association office.

The Bloomingdale Community Office has moved. As of Sept. 1, the community office is located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 103 in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center.

The office of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, also houses *The Bloomingdale Gazette* and the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District, is located south of Racoons and Kim Hall's Dance Studio.

The phone number remains 681-2051 and the FAX 681-2824, and the office hours are weekdays 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

STD Names New Property Manager

by Gazette Staff

Longtime Bloomingdale resident Alan Devney has contracted with the Special Taxing District to maintain the community's common property. Devney Property Management, Inc., will oversee the landscaping, irrigation, and wall maintenance in Bloomingdale East and West.

Devney, a Lt. Col. retired from the United States Army, has lived in Bloomingdale East since 1985. He formerly owned Davy's Ice Cream in Bloomingdale Square and was previously employed by the State of Florida division of motor vehicles.

"The community is already very pretty," he said. "I just need to keep it up."

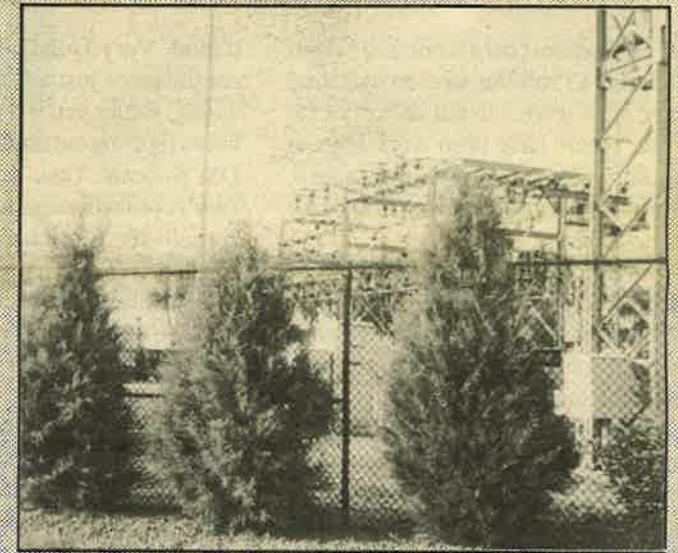
Devney has been charged with the task of resolving dead palm tree problems, developing an irrigation program, and working with Green Turf, the lawn maintenance company responsible for weekly upkeep.

While in the military, Devney and his family travelled extensively worldwide. When he and his wife Mary moved to the area with their four children, they decided to make Bloomingdale home after Devney's retirement in 1988.

Mary is a kindergarten teacher at Mintz Elementary in Brandon and their children are now grown. Devney wanted a job that would keep him close to home and would also serve the community.



Alan Devney



TECO Spruces Up Unsightly Corner

Tampa Electric Company officials saw the need to create a surrounding for its sub-station at Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale to make it aesthetically pleasing for the community. Landscaping that now borders the perimeter of the station will one day hide the gray metal structure within that many feel was an unattractive welcome mat to the Bloomingdale area.

Residents Assist With Captures

Special to *The Gazette*

A Bloomingdale man was arrested and a Bloomingdale teen charged in separate crimes last month, due in part to the efforts of members of the Bloomingdale Community Council. The council is a citizen group put together by Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer.

Deputy Maurer reported that a River Crossing resident helped find and identify Bloomingdale resident Chad Krueger who allegedly fled the scene of a double fatality accident Sunday morning, Sept. 24. The 22-year-old Krueger

of leaving the scene of an accident in which a fatality occurred and two counts of driving with a suspended license in an accident where a fatality occurred. Krueger's license has been suspended seven times, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles. His most recent suspension was in August due to charges of drunken driving. Other charges were pending, and toxicology reports were not in at the time of deadline.

According to the accident report, Krueger, of 2013 River Park Drive in Valrico, was travelling east on Brooker

Pinecrest, hitting a pickup truck being driven by Cindy Crain of Brandon. Krueger allegedly got out of his car to survey the damage then drove away from the scene. Crain and her passenger Tamara McKenna died at the scene.

A River Crossing resident who was riding along with Deputy Maurer helped locate and identify Krueger's vehicle. He was apprehended four hours after the accident at 6:30 a.m.

In a separate incident, council members on the look-out helped identify a Bloomingdale teen who has since

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Dear Readers,

Being a part of a community means much more than just residing in it. Most residents recognize that an alliance with their community involves mutual dependence and if it is not managed well, both residents and community lose their effectiveness. Both must recognize that the resident/community relationship is not like the relationship resting entirely on one party.

Effective community participation takes time and energy to develop and to build an affiliation that is consonant with personal styles and what is best for the entire community. But the residents and the community should asset the needs of each other and meet the most critical needs to effectively augment their association. Get involved!

Sincerely,

Rick Oros
Rick Oros

Our Times

by Rozel Sciulli

The school board is currently faced with cutting \$35 million from its operating budget, what it costs to put on school for the year. There have been workshops to figure out where to save this much money, but for everyday that passes unchecked the debt grows larger.

Some suggestions have already been made to the board by school employees and taxpayers - some that make very good sense, and some that are illegal. Here are some of the suggestions.

Increase class sizes (Bad) - Teachers are already burdened with large classes from 26-35 pupils in some cases. That's already too many. Where class sizes can be increased is in special programs like AGP. Why should a high school teacher prepare for only four gifted classes a day with a total of 48 students (12 in each class) when her colleagues are preparing for possibly 120 students in the same number of classes? Maybe if the regular classes of 30-35 students were reduced to 12-15, they'd have a gifted experience, too.

Downsizing Administration (Good, Very Good) - Where there are three supervisors, there should only be one. Let's say three different subjects each has its own supervisor making \$60,000-plus a year. Suggestion - combine the three, offer to pay the individual \$90,000 and save the district \$90,000. This doesn't require an MBA from Harvard to figure out.

Reduce Outside Consultants

(Good, Very Good) - Don't hire outside consultants - just ask the teachers what's wrong. Better yet, if a problem arises that needs figuring out, make it a project for the OM students. Their services are free and they're probably smarter than most outside consultants. Most important - don't pay consultant fees to retired school personnel who are already collecting a pension.

Cut In Pay - For teachers (Bad), for bureaucrats (Good), for school board (Even Better).

Return Supervisors to Classroom (Good) - Time for a reality check.

Stop Busing (Illegal) - Why get the Supreme Court involved just because the school district doesn't know how to balance a checkbook?

Eliminate Summer School (Could be good) - Make those who fail repeat the grade, but district would have to find a way for Florida Academic Scholars to earn extra credits required. Then all high schools could switch to the Copernican Plan where students earn 8 instead of 6 credit hours a year.

Promotions For Increased Retirement - No, you see, this is wrong. A principal who is promoted to an assistant superintendent position or area director one year before retirement is doing so to retire at a higher pay rate. Wrong!

Isn't it nice that I have all the answers? Of course, this is just one woman's opinion. Consultant services available.

OFFICERS

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Suite 103
Valrico, Florida 33594
681-2051

Randy Wolfe	President	229-3321
Rick Oros	Vice President	685-0866
Ted Grable	Member	685-7193

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Russ Lembke	689-2829
Patricia Radel	651-0210
Launa Russell	684-8881
LaWayne Wyatt	685-2072
Anne Underwood	653-4677

Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

Peter Aluotto	President	685-0727
Chris Hering	Vice President	654-0235
Sue Hadden	Treasurer	685-6106
Michaela Sykes	Corresponding Secretary	653-0066
Fred Uphoff	Recording Secretary	685-3013
Sue Boucher	Trustee	653-2018
Rick Pitrowski	Trustee	661-1344
Alan Devney	Administrator	644-6617

Bloomingtondale Mobile Watch

LaWayne Wyatt	Coordinator/Scheduler	685-2072
John Britton	Treasurer	681-1553
Steve Schneider	Equipment Manager	685-8378

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David Guy	681-5943
Paul Kelmer	681-9701
Rick Borling	684-2022

Bloomingtondale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132
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The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103
Valrico, Florida 33594
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MEETINGS

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

Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District

Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

BHA Board of Directors

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Bloomingtondale Oaks Special Taxing District

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

STD Board Has Vacancies To Fill

by Rozel Sciulli

The departure of four Special Taxing District trustees has left two vacancies on the Bloomingdale board. Residents who wish to apply for the positions are asked to

submit a letter of intent or attend Monday night's meeting at 7:30 in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103,

One of the vacancies was filled by former trustee and longtime Bloomingdale resident Joe Liguori, who returns to the board after a one-year absence. Liguori formerly served as board treasurer. He also serves on the board of *The Bloomingdale Gazette* and is a former member of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association board.

Liguori and wife Pam have resided in Bloomingdale East since 1986 and both have been active in the community since

arriving. Liguori left the board one year ago because of travelling demands made by his job. He said he will not be traveling as much and returns to the board to

pursue improvement of the community's irrigation system as well as continue beautification efforts.

He joins current board members Chris Herring, Rick Pitrowski, Sue Hadden and new trustee Keith Wilson on a board that still has two vacancies. Trustee positions were opened by the departure of single-term members Peter Aluotto and Fred Uphoff, the resignation of Sue Boucher, and the transfer of Michaela Sykes.

Joe Liguori

Trustees are responsible for overseeing a nearly \$300,000 budget. They meet once a month to make decisions that affect the common property of the community.



NIP Report

We at the BHA know getting a county or deed restriction card from us can make the hair on the back of your neck and your temperature rise, but please be thankful there are enough people in the community who care enough to give their time to try and keep our neighborhoods clean, attractive and our home values steady.

One deed restriction reads; all garbage or trash containers, oil tanks, bottle gas tanks, soft water tanks and similar structures or installations shall be placed under the surface of the ground or in fenced areas or screened with shrubbery so as not to be visible from the street or objectionable to an adjacent residence.

It's not so bad to have to keep your garbage cans out

of eye sight. Can you just imagine what your street would look like if everyone kept their garbage can sitting in front of their garage or in sight in their side yard - not a pretty sight. Numerous homeowners have been cited for this deed restriction and most move their garbage cans and some have erected a small fence to hide them. Our warmest thanks to everyone who cares enough to comply. Also please try to remove your garbage can the same day your garbage is picked up.

If you know of an abandoned home on your street, please call the BHA office and report it. This information will be given to the county the same day. And wouldn't it be nice if neighbors would take turns cutting the lawn of an abandoned home so as to keep their street looking neat and attractive. Are we dreamers? Maybe not. It sure would be nice

Another deed restriction in every neighborhood in Bloomingdale requires residents to park their car or other motor vehicle in the garage or on the cement driveway. Please don't park on the tree lawn or any other grass area around your home.

Boat and trailer restrictions differ from one area to another. Some allow you to park your boat in your driveway. Other deed restrictions say they must be parked in the garage or out of sight on your property. If you are not sure, call the BHA office and we will check for you and let you know what your area requires.

Again, the NIP can use more volunteers. Call the BHA office at 681-2051 to volunteer an hour or two each month. If you have a complaint about your neighborhood, the quickest way to get action is to call the BHA office or better yet, get involved. The rewards far outweigh an hour or two

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Bits N Pieces

Around Bloomington



The Play's The Thing

by Gwen Szafranski

It's all about the arts this month, especially the theater: two Bloomington actors performed the leads in *Same Time Next Year*, the premier production of Stage Door, Community Theater of Brandon; meanwhile, members of the Stage Door Youth Theater plotted and planned their first production for an All Hallow's Eve debut, and local pre-schoolers were treated to a dramatic rendition of a popular storybook. So, let the play begin!

Bloomington Pair Perform in "Same Time"

Just a few short years ago, Doreen Myers and David Hickie would never have believed that they would act in a local theater production let alone portray the starring roles in a popular, two-character play. But that is what they both



Doreen Myers' watercolor "Gloxinias" was a prize winner.

did by playing Doris and George in Bernard Slade's *Same Time Next Year*, presented at Center Place last month, and thereby launching the newly formed Stage Door, Community Theater of Brandon.

Myers and Hickie both nurtured life-long dreams to perform, but both considered themselves too shy to give it a try. Hickie remembered lacking the confidence to audition for school plays, and Myers never "quite found the right time to audition for the community theater" in her former hometown of Lansdale, Pa.

"When my family moved down here two years ago, I decided to get involved in the community," mused Myers. "I heard about the auditions for *California Suite* produced by the Village Players, and something in me just snapped. I told myself that I just had to do this!"

Auditioning last April, Myers won the part of Diana in one of four vignettes in the play, which was also presented as a dinner theater at Center Place in June. Myers recalls being in shock from winning the role.

"Like the proverbial dog chasing the car and wondering what he's going to do when he catches it, I thought to myself 'What am I going to do now?'"

What she did was a fine job in the role, and she established the confidence to later try out for the more demanding lead in *Same Time*. Also, *California Suite* was Myers's first opportunity to work opposite Hickey, who played two separate characters in different vignettes in that same play.


Like Myers, Hickie is a recent convert to the allure of the state. A small part in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, presented last March by The Valrico Vilalge Players, convinced him that comedy was a perfect outlet for his need to perform. Unlike Myers, who had no instruction in drama, Hickie had participated in workshops and classes in Maryland before moving to Bloomington with his wife, Theresa. All he lacked was the nerve to utilize his talent!

Hickie believes that comedy is his forte and derives his enjoyment from the audience's laughter. This young father of 16-month-old Shannon feels dramatic scenes are more difficult, and Hickie considers the scene where George tells his lover Doris about his son's death in *Same Time* one of the hardest scenes he's had to play to date.

He was particularly pleased that the opening night audience for *Same Time* sang along with the music and enjoyed the slides that were shown onstage during costume changes. (The music and images spanned three decades and were used to move the action of the play along and emphasize the durability of the affair between the characters.)

His co-star Myers faced a challenge in the role of Doris, who constantly changes and evolves with the times

See BITS, page 4



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BITS rom page 3

in contrast with her lover's rather constant conservatism. Myers's grasp of the character may derive from the fact that she has adopted a more aggressive "now or never" philosophy about life.

As well as acting, Myers has established herself in recent years as a water colorist of some note, winning first place in adult non-professional water colors for her picture "Gloxinias" at the 1995 Plant City Strawberry Festival. Amazingly, this is another self-taught talent of Myers, who is also a member of the Brandon League of Fine Arts and a volunteer in the Art Awareness program at Alafia Elementary.

Artistic talents are not her only gifts since Myers began running for fitness after the birth of her 10-year-old daughter, Allison. She and husband, David, recently ran in The Gasparilla Distance Classic, The Labor Day Classic and The First Bloomingdale Classic. Myers also has a five-year-old daughter, Christine.

Myers joined Hickie in her praise of the talents of *Same Time Next Year* director and assistant director, Tammy Manicchia and Frank Ferrante, respectively. As Hickie commented, "they had to visualize our every action and direct us to perform it. They were great teachers." Both also feel that joining the newly formed Stage Door group is a good way to get to know the community.

"What better way to get involved," commented Hickie. "Besides, it's just really neat to see the talents of this group pulling all of the parts of a play together."

Halloween Theme Planned for Youth Production

One the eve of All Hallow's Eve, Monday, Oct. 30, the Youth Theater Group of Stage Door, Community Theater of Brandon will present *Scared Silly*, a compendium of songs, skits, readings and dances celebrating the more "haunting" aspects of Halloween. The two-hour production, featuring a dramatic reading and pantomime of Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart," will begin at 7



Youth theater members Heather Canan and Nicole Castelli encounter one of the Halloween ghouls that will haunt "Scared Silly" on Oct. 30 at Center Place.

p.m. at Center Place on Vonderburg Drive. Tickets for students and children are \$3 with a \$5 charge for adults.

Theater members promise an evening that evokes sitting around a campfire and telling ghost stories, and they invite the audience to participate by coming in costume if they choose and joining the cast of ghouls, ghosts, witches and werewolves in dancing the finale numbers "The Monster Mash" and "Werevolves of London." Educational, literary, frightening and fun are all adjectives applicable to this production. Parents can be assured that it is geared for children of all ages and will contain no gore.

Angela Heaps, advisor to The Youth Theater and director of the Halloween show, welcomes all students interested in participating in this or future productions. The youth group will function independently from its parent organization, Stage Door, and will have its own set of officers and board of directors. Contact Heaps at 651-9129 or Wayne Otto at 684-4759 for more information.

Patchwork Production Pleases Pre-schoolers

The Trail Blazers from La Petite Academy joined children from a number of area pre-schools for the Sept. 15 performance of



Students at Greenhollow La Petite meet Patchwork Playhouse actors dressed for "The Velveteen Rabbit".

The Velveteen Rabbit, presented at Center Place by The Patchwork Playhouse of Lexington, S.C. After the performance, the children enjoyed meeting and hugging the costumed actors.

La Petite director Angela Karkheck and teachers Stacy Flanagan and Christine Loughlen escorted the four-year-old Trail Blazers to the production. Included in the group were Emma Boyle, Casey Reynolds, Erin DeRussy, Corinne Walsh, Alyssa Hernandez, Carla Wilson, Jessica Anderson, Joshua Turner, Joshua Adams and Jasmine Wilson.

BLFA Winners

The Brandon League of Fine Arts fall Artfest was held last month at Regency Square. Taking home top prize with Best of

Show was watercolor artist Bob McAnespie of Brandon. The coveted Marge Long Award, presented annually to the artist with the most realistic wildlife painting, went to Steve Koury. Individual category winners and placers were as follows:

Oil/Acrylics - Ron Osborne, first; Frant Hancock, second, Lurline Tanner, third, and Wilma Hall, honorable mention. Watercolor - Nancy Johnson, first; Anne Drewry, second; Peggy Little, third; and Marge Bennett, honorable mention. 3-Dimensional - Frank Gabriel, first; Melissa Brown, second; Vincent DeFerrari, third; and Dot Thompson, honorable mention; Crafts - Donna Plunket, first; Steve MacIntire, second; Barbara Folk, third; and Janet Thompson, honorable mention. Open Medium - Ileana Megias, first; Leslie Jennings, second; Kenneth Gibson, third; and Minette Webster, honorable mention.

Proud Grandparents

T. J. and Marilyn Martin visited son Patrick and his wife Catherine last Labor Day. The proud grandparents were there to meet new 3 month old granddaughter Lydia.

This little scene stealer will be under the full-time

care of her dad, an electrical engineer, while mother Catherine completes her second year residency at Trover Medical Center in Madisonville, Kentucky.

Proud Grandparents can submit photos of their new grandchildren to: The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, Valrico, FL 33594. All photos will be returned.



Three-month old Lydia Rose Martin snuggles up to her dad, Patrick.

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GOOD NEIGHBORS: SEALYS USE INDIVIDUAL APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

By Gwen Szafranski

Ask Jan and Kitty Sealy why they have devoted the last 13 years to the EF (The Educational Foundation for Foreign Study), and they will instantly state how important they feel it is for people of all nationalities to learn about each other's cultures. Both as host parents to teenagers from abroad and EF Regional Coordinators for the area extending from Gainesville to the Florida Keys, the Sealys have helped their student guests experience American culture while learning a great deal about their students' customs.

"Opening our home to foreign students each year has definitely taught us to be open-minded," commented Jan Sealy. "It's amazing how people tend to believe stereotypes about other cultures and customs." Kitty Sealy agreed with her husband and added her own comments about what their student guests have observed and learned about American culture.

"Last year our Norwegian student, Inge Hovd, was amazed at the amount of coverage the O. J. Simpson

trial was getting on American television. He felt it was so out of proportion, and felt Americans were missing the really important news from an international perspective, such as the war in Bosnia." However, the Sealys feel that the students learn positive things about American culture, also, and seem eager to participate in the activities associated with a typical American teen's life.

Current Bloomingdale High School seniors may remember Inge Hovd as a popular young man and excellent student. He also worked with the yearbook staff and was involved with the BAYSL Soccer League. Two years ago, the Sealys hosted Nicholas Geiger from Switzerland. Geiger loved volleyball and enjoyed hanging out at the Brandon Recreation Center. Enrico Picelli from Italy, who stayed with the Sealys three years ago, was a talented and active member of the high school's Ambassadors choral group. Currently, the Sealys are host parents to Felix Heinrick of Vienna, Austria, and are looking forward to the September 29th visit of Hovd, who would like to return to the United States to attend college.

The Sealys had a unique opportunity last February when they travelled to Paris as representatives to an EF conference. Afterwards, they took the time to visit the families of Enrico, Nicholas and Felix in Rovigo, Zurich and Vienna, respectively. With the tables turned, it was time for the Sealys to observe foreign customs first hand. With a touch of humor, Jan Sealy pointed out that Americans tend to think that romantic Italian dinners must always include Chianti wine with the pasta. "In some parts of Italy, Chianti is not exactly the wine of choice!" he commented.

The couple was impressed with the beauty of Switzerland and the friendliness and helpfulness of the Swiss people. When they were sightseeing, they asked directions from some Swiss teens whom they discovered couldn't speak English. However, the teens found someone who could help the Sealys; then they followed the couple for a few blocks, concerned that the Sealys had truly gotten the correct directions.

Jan Sealy thinks that Americans could benefit from a touch of the Viennese lifestyle. In Vienna, he observed that coffee houses were everywhere, and whole families took the time to go out after dinner for their evening coffee. They sat down, discussed their day, and enjoyed each other's company.

Although their commitment to EF does take a great deal of time, Sealy said his company, GTE, is very supportive of his involvement, and he's careful his activi-



An international family portrait was made when Inge's parents visited the U.S. Seated in front (l-r) are Inge's sister Tove, mother Lise and American mother Kitty. In the second row are Micki, Inge's father Rolf, and American dad Jan. Standing in back are Kara, Inge, Kristie and David.

ties do not interfere with his job. Kitty Sealy has stayed busy babysitting in her home. Some of her original charges are now high school graduates. The Sealys also raised four children of their own - Kristie, 26; Kara, 25; and Micki and David, both 21. This raised the question of how their children felt about sharing their home with EF students.

"Our involvement was a family decision. We had been involved in foster care for 15 years when we lived in Pennsylvania. When we moved here 15 years ago, we decided to continue with some child oriented endeavor, and EF was our choice," commented Jan Sealy.

In fact, their three daughters are working with or planning to work with children in their careers. Kara is involved in psychology and family counseling; Micki is studying criminology and sociology; and Kristi works with young people in Colorado. Micki has been an exchange student in Scotland, choosing that country to learn more about her Scottish/British heritage. She made many friends, one of whom visits the Sealys yearly. Perhaps that's the real attraction for the Sealys to the EF program - the potential for making lifelong friendships that are forged when the students live the year with their family.

"What is special," Jan Sealy added, "is when the students' families come and visit as Nicholas' parents and grandparents did while he was living here," Kitty Sealy added that when Inge Hovd's family visited last year, the two families had joint portraits made since the Hovds had never sat for a formal family portrait.

From the way the Sealys relate - and treasure - these memories, the value they derive from the EF program is overwhelmingly evident.

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Church and Synagogue News

By Acts Of Kindness We Are Known

by Ellen Slovacek

It's a heart-warming story, really. It's a story about life in a community where strangers take time to care for each others. It's a story about a person with a car out of gas, two flat tires, and an important meeting to get to within the hour. It's my story.

It was my first day as a junior high English teacher for a local private school. I was anxious to get there on time, maybe a little early, and with a little luck make a good impression. I dressed carefully, inspected my briefcase containing the new red-marking pencils, kissed my husband goodbye and walked out the door.

There, in the driveway my car listed (as in a sinking ship) to one side. That flat tire was an omen of what was to come. My ever-supportive husband made the necessary changes, then down, down, down went the car. It continued down when it should have stopped. The spare tire flattened into the driveway. I panicked. Whoever heard of a flat spare tire!

"Quick, run these two flat tires down to the service station and get them fixed. I'll put one on as soon as you bring them back."

It sounded like a good plan to me. My husband was late for a meeting himself, but he was willing to stick around and help me with my car. That's the kind of guy he is. Anyway, two flat tires and I went speeding down to the Goodyear on Bell Shoals. I don't know if it was the desperation in my voice, or the wild look in my eyes, but I've never seen a service attendant move faster. He deftly repaired the tires and threw them back into the car before I could even ask how much I owed him.

Nothing. He didn't want anything. With a tip of his hat, the man said, "Just have a nice day." Wow! My day was off to a rough start, but this stranger at the station certainly brightened it.

Okay, I was on the road again with two good tires in the back seat, and I was ready to rock and roll. I glanced at my watch. Yes! Barring any other catastrophes, I could still make it to my first faculty meeting on time.

Ka Klunk! Ka Klunk! My car went into a jerking motion, then stopped. Well, actually died. Nothing but a good does of high octane gasoline was going to resurrect this thing. I was stuck on Bloomingdale Avenue with two good tired in the back seat of a car that was out of gas.

I didn't have a choice, really, but to get out and push the car off the road. The good news was, I was near the entrance of our subdivision. The bad news was, I was wearing my good clothes, heels and all. After getting the car out of the way, I took off my shoes and started jogging home. My

pantyhose were going to be ripped to shreds, but I was going to make that faculty meeting.

Just then a very nice man pulled along side of me and asked if he could help. Yes! Stranger #2 to the rescue whisked me home and into the arms of a puzzled husband who had a hard time understanding what I was doing home without his car and my two tires. And who was that guy, anyway? Through my hysterics and me pulling old sweats on over my good clothes, he deciphered the current events and jogged down the street to the gasless car. By the time I got down there, he was behind the car, giving it a good shove.

Within minutes, maybe seconds, stranger #3 appeared from nowhere and was skillfully guiding our car down the street toward our house with sheer muscle power. It was another Wow moment. Long after we tired, this good man gave out and we thanked him profusely. He did more than his share in getting our car closer to home.

My husband and I took the two tires out of the car and started rolling them down the street when our neighbor-perhaps the strangest of all the strangers who had helped us that morning (just kidding, Laura) stopped her van-load of kids and added my husband, the two tires, and me to her cargo. She took us home.

Home! With two good tires, Mr. mechanical wizard fixed my flat. I drove my car to the gas station and met him at his car with a full gas can. Two cars were up and going. All was well. It was a good feeling.

No, I didn't make it to my first faculty meeting on time, but everyone understood. I had lost out on time spent with my new faculty friends, but I gained something even more important - a renewed respect for the good people of Bloomingdale. Four people (three I had never met before) took time out of their busy schedules to help a more than slightly disorganized woman in distress. Yes, I was a bit harried walking into school that day, but I was calmed by the caring and helping hands extended to me by strangers.

You are probably wondering why this story is in the religion column. I believe it was the Apostle Paul who wrote, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction (lending a helping hand to those in need, helping people with their cars)..." In other words, Paul declares later, "...Faith without works is dead." And Bloomingdale's faith is alive and well. You can tell by their works, the way they live. "By their works ye shall know them." Thank you, neighbors.

If any readers have an experience to share that exemplifies Judeo-Christian values, drop me a line.

Happenings...

The First United Methodist

Church reports that the state of Florida has a service which furnishes free "Clarity Enhancing" phones to those who qualify. Persons interested should call 969-0142 and ask for an application.

In Jewish tradition, the holiday of Simchat Torah is a joyful celebration at the end of the year-long cycle of Torah readings. Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon will celebrate this festival along with religious school consecration on Friday, Oct. 13, at 8 p.m. Services will be held at the Apostles Lutheran Church, 200 N. Kingsway, Brandon. All those interested are invited to attend. For information call 681-6547.

Rabbi Goodman would like to begin an adult study group immediately after the High Holy Days. The group will meet once a month and will examine a different them each month. If you are interested in participating, contact Rabbi Goodman.

The Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale is the proud sponsor of Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1146. They meet each Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 710 E.

Bloomingdale Ave., across from Bloomingdale Square shopping center. The troop's major activity for this year will be a trip to Savannah, Ga., to the home of Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girls Scouts of America. Many fun and exciting activities have been planned for these girls who attend seventh through ninth grades. Contact Lisa Rainey for more information at 681-6256, or call the church at 654-3699.

Women in Focus from the Bell Shoals Baptist Church will present "Christmas in the 90's - An Olde World Christmas" on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 9 and 10. Tickets entitles each guest to a full dinner reception, the 1995 Christmas in the 90's book, a craft exhibit, and much more. Guests will enjoy an evening of music, laughter, and uplifting drama entitled, "Let's Keep Christmas."

Tickets may be purchased at the church office, 21-2 Bell Shoals Road. For information call Ronnie Pipka at 689-4229.

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Jewish Holidays Follow Lunar Calendar

by Rabbi Robert Goodman
Congregation Beth Shalom

In case you haven't noticed, this time of year is a confusing time for Jews. In the first place, Jewish holidays never seem to occur at the same time each year. In the second place, as soon as Yom Kippur is over, we have the holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. What does all of this mean? Let me see if I can "unconfuse" matters a bit.

The Jewish calendar is very different from the secular calendar that we use in our daily lives. The Jewish calendar is based on the moon. A lunar month is 29 1/2 days. When that is multiplied by 12, the year is 10 or 11 days shorter than the solar calendar. In order to compensate for this differential, the Jewish calendar has seven leap years every 19 years. On each leap year, a whole month is added. Nevertheless, there is a swing period of about 30 days for each holiday. That is why Hanukah may begin in late November one year, and on Dec. 22 two years later.

It is interesting to note that two Christian holidays are tied to the lunar calendar. Easter occurs on the first Sunday following the first full moon which follows the first Vernal Equinox (the beginning of spring). Just as the Jewish Pentecost is 50 days after the beginning of Passover, so too is the Christian Pentecost 50 days after Easter. The parallels are no accident.

Islam also uses a lunar calendar, but they do not add any leap years to compensate for the shortness of the lunar year. Unlike Judaism and Christianity, where the holidays are tied to the seasons, Islam marks its holy days whenever they occur in the calendar. If we were to follow the Moslem model, we might have Hanukah in July and then in April six years later.

Jewish Tradition has many holidays and festivals. Three of them are known as the Pilgrimage Festivals because, in ancient Israel, the Israelites would make pilgrimages to Jerusalem on these holy days. They are Sukkot, Pesach (Passover) and Shavuot (Pentecost). During the days of the Bible, these were the three most important holidays in the Jewish calendar.

Only as Jews in large numbers moved to Jerusalem or to other cities in the Greek world, was a second layer

of interpretations added. These explained the festivals in an historical context. Passover became the festival of freedom in addition to being the beginning of the Spring harvest season. Shavuot became the time when the Torah and the Ten Commandments were given to Israel at Mt. Sinai in addition to being the end of the Spring harvest. Sukkot became the festival of booths in addition to marking the end of the fall harvest.

And so we turn to Sukkot, just a few days from Yom Kippur. In ancient times the farmers slept in framed structures that were put up for the harvest season. Since the rainy season was not yet at hand (just like Florida!) it could be open to the sky. It served to provide a secure place where the farmers could sleep without being bothered by wild animals. When Sukkot became a historical festival, the Sukkah or booth came to represent the temporary shelters the Hebrews lived in during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Sukkot lasts for seven days (eight days for Conservative and Orthodox Jews).

At the conclusion of Sukkot is Simchat Torah, which means "Joy of the Torah". Unlike all of the holy days and festivals, this one-day festival developed long after the completion of the Hebrew Bible. It celebrates the completion of the annual cycle of reading from the Torah (Five Books of Moses). Each Sabbath a different portion of the Torah is read. On Simchat Torah, the last verses of Deuteronomy and the first verses of Genesis are read accompanied by marking with the Torahs and a great deal of celebrating.

Simchat Torah is, without a doubt, one of the most joyous holidays in the Jewish calendar. It is a time when we welcome new students in our religious school through a lovely consecration ceremony.

Next month, I will explore the fascinating connections between the American holiday of Thanksgiving and its biblical roots. It was, in its inception, an effort on the part of the Pilgrims to emulate the biblical festival of Sukkot.

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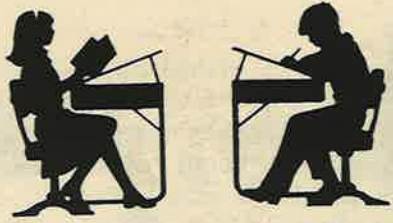
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Students at The Huntington Learning Center participated in the "Reading Adventure" this summer. Each student read books selected from a list provided by the Center and submitted reports following the completion of each book. Readers who accomplished their goal are (front l-r) Chris Parrish, Kent Coggins, Steffen Rosen, Bryant Rosen, Ashley Coyle and Melanie Droll; and (back l-r) Caleb Forde, Michael Giddens, Dennis Niebruegge, Jonathan Niebruegge and Tiffany Creton.



This Month In School

Thur. Oct. 12 Half-Day Dismissal
Fri. Oct. 13 Student Holiday Planning Day

Mark Your Calendar...
 June 4, 1996 - King High (IBP) Graduation
 USF Sun Dome - 8 p.m.
 June 5, 1996 - Bloomingdale Graduation
 USF Sun Dome - 8 p.m.

Lithia Lynx



by Ron Pogorzelski

The defeat of the half-cent tax for Hillsborough County schools has administrators, teachers and PTA's scrambling to find ways to save money.

"Not only will new construction and equipment stall, but cuts in existing programs will have to be made," said Gayle Turner, president of the Lithia Springs Elementary PTA.

"We have to preserve the magnet schools and the programs for special education, the emotionally disturbed and for the gifted children," she said.

Turner noted that there was strong agreement among school administrators and PTA members throughout the county in a September 18 meeting to preserve the integrity

of the classroom and to keep it within normal student size. "Somewhere we have to find \$15 million to balance the budget," she said.

The Lithia Springs Volunteer of the Month is Gerry Ann Schneider. She was selected at last month's general meeting of the PTA. Also at that meeting, the school's safety patrols were sworn in by Sheriff Deputy Donald Morris.

Speaker Jay Libby said a YMCA branch is proposed for the Lithia Pinecrest-Bloomingtondale area. He is conducting surveys to determine the size and the kinds of programs the YMCA will offer.

At the next general meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 10, a workshop of fun with science and mathematics will be given by Sandi Schlichting, better known in the school system as "The Science Lady." She uses ordinary objects in the home to demonstrate fascinating lessons in science and mathematics.

The PTA also is sponsoring "Reflections," a week long program of music, art, and dance October 16-20.

Gator Tales



by Ruthe Brunson

The first crazy days of the school year are passed and now students and teachers have settled into a steady rhythm. But there is still plenty to do and many activities taking place at Alafia Elementary School.

"The PTA "Market Day" Tally Rally orders will be ready for pick-up on Dec. 10 between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Tally Rally is a special promotion in which the teachers receive 10% profit from items purchased by their class. Also, the class with the highest percentage or order sheets returned will win a pizza party.

On Oct. 9, the Art Awareness Committee will kick off "Reflections", a cultural arts program sponsored by the National PTA to encourage students in grades K-12 to express their thoughts and feelings through the creative arts. The theme this year is "Open Your Eyes and See".

Alafia's PTA general membership meeting will be held Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. A guest speaker will discuss the School Improvement Team and what it does for Alafia.

The students will once again participate in Red Ribbon week Oct. 23-27. The PTA board will provide red ribbons for each class to tie around the trees at the school, and their children will present a few songs about drug awareness on WAOK. Parents are encouraged to reinforce drug awareness at home.

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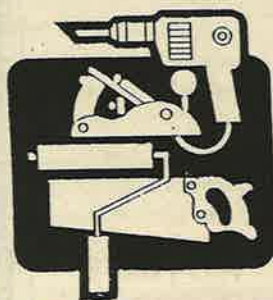
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Bruin Beat



by Joseph Bader

This year at Burns Junior High there are several changes that have been made. We have a new assistant principal, Mrs. Billups who took Mr. Smith's place. She was an administrative assistant last year and before coming to Burns, she was an ESE Specialist for four years. In 1991, she was selected to serve in a mentor program for Hillsborough County.

Mrs. Calhoun is on special assignment this year at Burns. She is the acting administrative assistant, replacing Mrs. Billups.

Burns started its after-school program Sept. 25, with Coach Plaire as our head teacher. Students are offered tutor-

ing, and after the Christmas break, an after-school sports program will begin.

Conference night at Burns will be Oct. 5, and there is no school for students the next day.

Burns has two pilot teams in preparation for the transition from junior high to middle school, and both are doing well. The Kodiak Team is planning a field trip to MOSI in November. They also received computers in each of their classrooms. The Grizzly Bear Team is at MOSI today. The Kodiak team is beginning the Grade 2 program and this program will be adopted countywide.

These are a few of the things the Bruins are doing this year, but there will be many more activities as the school year picks up.



Grandparents' Day was celebrated in a special way at Immanuel Lutheran School. Grandparents, like Lorraine Oliver of Bloomingdale West with sixth grader Laurynn Oliver, accompanied their grandchildren in their classrooms, at chapel, and were later honored at a reception.

Bloomingdale Voters Turn Down School Tax

by Rozel Sciuilli

It's old news that Hillsborough County voters turned down last month's referendum for a proposed half-cent tax to benefit public schools, but what residents may not know is that Bloomingdale voters also were against the tax - barely.

What residents also may not know is that even if the tax had passed, the school district was still faced with cutting \$35 million from its budget.

According to the Supervisor of Elections office, 528 voted for the tax and 537 voted against it. The turnout of 1,070 voters was less than 25 percent of the 4,511 registered at Bloomingdale precinct 807.

"Maybe the people who live in this community feel like they are untouchable," said one local school official who asked to remain anonymous. "They have the nicest and some of the newest schools in the county, but what they don't realize is that this is the fastest growing area of the county and our new schools are already outdated."

Not to be confused with the half-cent sales tax, whose sole purpose was to generate funds for construction and technology, is the \$35 million budget shortfall that the school board is currently faced with balancing. The tax would not have alleviated proposed cuts in the district's operating budget.

"The superintendent did not want to address both issues (the tax vote and the budget cuts) at the same time; one had nothing to do with the other," explained school board spokesperson Donna Reed. "Dr. Sickles didn't want it to appear that the budget cuts were being held over (the employees) heads so they would vote favorably on the tax."

At a principals' meeting last month, School Superintendent Walter Sickles solicited suggestions from a broad base of personnel and county citizens on ways to meet the shortfall.

Among the suggestions were cuts to school administration and downsizing departments, charging for drivers education and summer school, increasing the price of school lunches, student and faculty parking, and eliminating busing.

Dr. Sickles was to have presented suggestions to the School Board when some but not all decisions might be made.

The district was faced with a similar deficit three years ago. At that time, according to Reed, administrative positions were cut and departments were restructured. A hiring freeze was implemented and remained in effect until last year when personnel was hired on a temporary basis only, which eliminated benefits.



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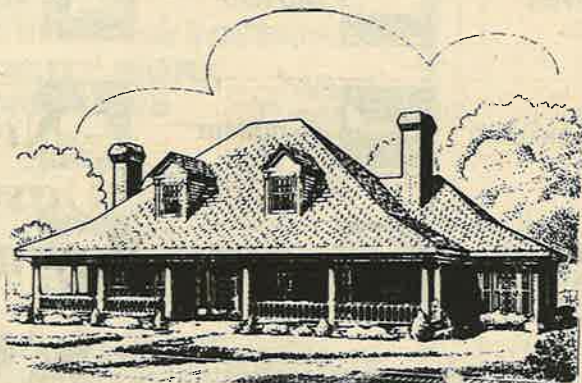
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Golf Tourney Benefits Boosters

Special to The Gazette

The Bloomingdale High Athletic Booster Club will hold a fund raising golf tournament Sunday, Oct. 15, at Summerfield Golf Course. All proceeds will benefit the athletic programs at the high school.

A 1 p.m. shotgun start will be preceded by an 11:30 check-in and lunch

buffet. The \$40 entry fee includes cart, green fees, the buffet, and prizes.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in four-person scramble, longest drive, and closest to the pin. Other prizes will be awarded as well.

Entry forms are available in the BHS office, but must be returned by Oct. 10. For information, call Mrs. Peters at 744-8018.

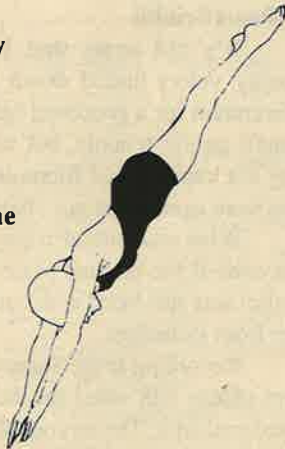


Sean Gillman, a sophomore at Bloomingdale Senior High School, recently set his personal best time of 16:07 for the three mile race.

Bloomingdale, Burns Athletic Calendar

Football

- Oct. 10 J.V. at Plant City
- Oct. 11 Burns vs. Mann at Armwood
- Oct. 13 Bye
- Oct. 17 J.V. at Robinson
- Oct. 19 Burns vs. McLane at Bloomingdale vs. Plant City
- Oct. 20 Jr. High Champ. at Jesuit
- Nov. 3 at Southeast
- Nov. 9 at Hillsborough



Volleyball

- Oct. 9 Burns hosts McLane at Brandon
- Oct. 10 Burns at Plant City
- Oct. 12 Burns hosts Mann vs. Hillsborough
- Oct. 16 Jr. High Champ.
- Oct. 17
- Oct. 25

Cross Country

(invitationals feature all schools)

- Oct. 12 Gaither Invitational
- Oct. 19 Soph. Western Conf.
- Oct. 26 Western Conference (at Horizon Park) Districts
- Nov. 4



Swimming/Diving (at BSTC)

- Oct. 13 Western Conf. Dive
- Oct. 14 Western Conf. Swim
- Oct. 17 vs. Chamberlain
- Oct. 24 vs. P.C. & East Bay at Plant City YMCA
- Nov. 2 vs. Armwood & Hills. at Memorial Pool

Ballet Guild Names Company Dancers

Special to The Gazette

Auditions were held last month for the Brandon Centre Ballet Guild and senior and junior company dancers have been named.

Headlining this year's Guild are senior company dancers Heather Ambrose, Tiffany Bader, Stephanie Costales, Cheryl DeVleig, Alyson Dillin, Courtney Hardwick, Jessica Higgins, Allison Floor, Michelle Price, Abby Reece, Heather Sack, Lindsey Slowiczek, and Samantha Smoot.

Apprentices are Amanda Bell and Kate Johnson, while junior company dancers are Austin Harrell, Jennifer Kapatkin and Jennifer Kuo.

In addition, auditions also were held for the Guild's performance of "The Nutcracker" with a cast of 50 dancers.

This year's performances will be given December 9 and 10 at Armwood High School. Call 684-4282 for further information.

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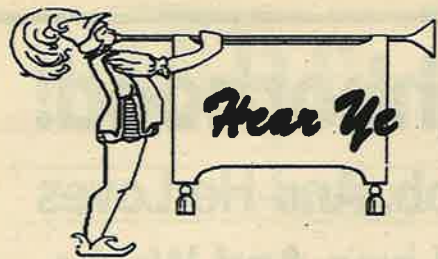
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BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza. Homeowner concerns and issues are always welcomed. The meeting is open to all dues-paying members and all newcomers are invited to attend. A meeting format is published on page 1.

STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustees will be Monday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Plaza. The meeting is open to all Bloomingdale homeowners.

Golf Tournament

The Athletic Boosters at Bloomingdale High School will sponsor a golf tournament Sunday, Oct. 15, at Summerfield Golf Course. Check-in and a lunch buffet are at 11:30 a.m., followed by a gunshot start at 1 p.m. First through third place prizes will be awarded in various categories. The entry of \$40 includes cart, green fees, the buffet and prizes. For information, call Mrs. Peters at 744-8018.

Community Council

Residents interested in sitting on an informal Community Council currently being formed by Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer, are asked to call 247-8555, and leave a message for Dep. Maurer. The sheriff's department is looking for residents to volunteer one hour per month when they will come together as a group to discuss community concerns.

Kiwanis Meeting

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Brandon Nights meet

every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Game Day Grill, Oak Park Plaza on Lumsden and Kings. President of the organization is Bloomingdale resident Mark Leytze. The group sponsors the Terrific Kids program in the local elementary schools.

Toast of Tampa Tickets

Bloomingdale resident Terry Gray is ticket chairperson for the annual fundraising performance of the Toast of Tampa, a chapter of Sweet Adeline's women's choral group. This year's show will be at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center on Nov. 18. Tickets prices range from \$10 to \$20, while Patron tickets begin at \$50 for two tickets, special seating, and mention in the program. For information call 654-3969.

Found - Bikes

A Bloomingdale resident found two bicycles last month in a ditch between Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale High. Call 685-4638 to give a description and possibly claim the missing bikes.

For Women Only

Have you ever wondered if your husband is actually an alien from another planet? If you've experienced the marital problems and anguish which come from an inability to communicate or understand each other, a program sponsored by Brandon Women's Aglow on Wednesday, Oct. 11, may be just what you've been looking for.

Kathy Craver will be the guest speaker at a 9:30 a.m. breakfast at Center Place. She will share practical principles of communication which can transform a marriage. The cost is \$2, a suggested donation for the breakfast.

For information, call Linda at 677-7041 or Anita at 689-2578.

Nutrition, Health Campaign for Women

Because the status of women's health has not been a major focus in the United States for many years, policy makers and public health officials are finally beginning to address the questions surrounding this troubling problem.

The American Dietetic Association and its foundation believe that taking action to improve women's health cannot wait. Even though additional research is needed to determine the causes and treatment of diseases affecting women, there is widespread scientific consensus that improved nutrition and increased physical activity can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and osteoporosis - the leading causes of death and disability in women.

Stats-at-a-Glance

Heart Disease and Women - More women die from

coronary disease yearly than do men, accounting for 52 percent of all cardiovascular disease deaths.

Breast Cancer - Every three minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, while every 12 minutes a woman dies from the disease. That is more than 46,000 women this year alone.

Osteoporosis - Fifty percent of women over 45 and 90 percent of women over 75 have osteoporosis, a disease that causes more than 50,000 deaths annually in American women.

Diabetes - In 1992, diabetes cost an estimated \$92 billion in direct or indirect medical expenses.

Healthy Weight - Attaining and maintaining healthy weight is one of the most important ways a person can improve health status.

Minority Issues - Fifty percent of African American and Hispanic women are overweight or obese to a degree that affects their health.

Source: The American Dietetic Association.

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