

The Bloomingdale Gazette

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STD Elections Monday, New Fiscal Year Begins



The STD has installed new entrance signs at Oakcrest which don't have removable letters. They hope the new wooden signs with sand-blasted lettering will be less attractive to vandals. Signs with removable letters like the ones at Bloomingdale Ridge are popular souvenirs for teens.

by Gazette Staff

Election of board members and officers to the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will take place at the monthly meeting Monday, Oct. 14.

Returning board members include Rick Pitrowski, Chris Hering, Joe Liguori, Tom Snelling, T. Szabo and Tom Mankowitz who replaced trustee Keith Wilson, who moved.

One vacancy must be filled.

The STD, whose \$300,000 budget was approved by County Commissioners, maintain the common areas of Bloomingdale East, West and Estates.

Landscaping projects, irrigation, and wall maintenance have been costly projects in recent years. But this year the board will begin the extensive landscaping, lighting and build-up of Bloomingdale entrances. The first to be re-designed will be those on Bell Shoals, but no more than two entrances will be completed in one year.

How much the board will have to spend on the entrances will be determined by the lawn maintenance contract which comes up for renewal in January. It is the highest single cost on the annual budget, projected this year at \$158,000.

The STD also has embarked on signage replacement beginning with newly installed signs at the entrance of Oakcrest.

The high cost of replacing letters stolen or damaged on subdivision signs has forced the STD to look at alternative signage.

The letters in the Oakcrest signs are emblazoned into the wood and therefore cannot be removed.

"It's the most vandal-proof sign we could find," Pitrowski said.

Pitrowski added that as sign letters need to be replaced, new signs will be installed.

"Obviously we don't want to replace signs if we don't have to," he said. "But I'd rather purchase new signs than pay hundreds of dollars over and over again each time letters have to be replaced."

Homeowners' associations like Bloomingdale Ridge and Erin Arbor, were given the option of maintaining their own signs, currently maintained by the STD.

Only Bloomingdale Ridge (Fox Run and The Greens) agreed to maintain their own signs.

After-school Woes At Alafia Topic

by Rozel Sciulli

Alafia Elementary School has been in the spotlight the past month.

If it's not the traffic on the grass and blocking the roads, it's what to do with children after school who have no where to go but an empty house.

Two areas of concern involve parents and children of Alafia School and during the past month, county school officials have become involved in trying to find solutions to traffic back-up after school and providing transportation for children to the Bloomingdale West Park Recreation Center for child care.

The back-up of carline pick-up traffic prompted Special Taxing District president Rick Pitrowski and trustee Joe Liguori to meet with members of the school's PTA, County Commissioner Dottie Berger, county engineering staffers, Deputy Pete Maurer and area director Larry Martin. School principal Tanley Cabrera was unable to attend the meeting due to preparations for Open House.

The problem - cars parking along common grounds rather than using the designated car line to pick up children after school. Traffic overflowing and backing up on Culbreath and Nature's Way were also cited as problems.

The proposal - create a new driveway north of the school in the area between the front loop and the pond. One-way traffic with the passenger side to the buildings would enable drivers to drop children off at their classroom building.

"The crowded mess of traffic after school is an accident waiting to happen," Pitrowski said. "Children walk between cars and out into the street to catch their rides. There just isn't enough room for cars to line up."

Carline currently is set up as a winding line through the teacher parking lot.

School officials asked that a written proposal and presentation be made to the School Board.

Last month *The Bloomingdale Gazette* reported that county school transportation officials had agreed to provide bus service for Alafia children to attend after-school care at the Recreation Center. Transportation was not previously made available because Alafia buses do not enter Bloomingdale West.

Robert Aguis, assistant director of transportation, said last month a bus would be made available to the children.

However, the bus never came.

Aguis said a mis-communication had occurred and provided Recreation Department personnel can monitor the children at Alafia until a bus arrives, one will now be made available.

He said the hold-up had been a concern for supervision raised by Alafia principal Tanley Cabrera.

See Alafia, page 11

Winning Window



Bloomingdale High's DCT-CECF Clubs were the winners of the Homecoming window painting contest during Spirit Week Sept. 30-Oct. 4. Their painting, *This Is Not A Dream*, was on the windows of Lenny and Vinny's and depicted a raging Re-bull charging through a cloud of dust.

Reclaimed Water Rejected By Ridge

by Rozel Sciulli

Bloomingdale Ridge residents rejected a proposal to pump reclaimed water into the community by a resounding two-to-one negative response on petitions circulated last month.

Before county engineers will consider introducing reclaimed water to a community, 55 percent of the homeowners must approve the move by petition.

Ridge residents, who own homes in Fox Run and The Greens, sought a more conservative 65 percent approval. But nearly 40 percent never responded to the efforts of project chairman Dick Hamilton.

"We made every effort to get information packets out to every homeowner," Hamilton said. "Forty percent didn't respond and I'm assuming they figured no response was the same as a 'No' vote."

Hamilton said the cost, an assessment of \$422.67 per year for 20 years added to property taxes, killed the project.

"I passed the information on to the county and suggested they get creative and try some other approach," Hamilton said. "These two subdivisions are the county's best chance of bringing reclaimed water to Bloomingdale."

Installation of reclaimed water lines would have removed restrictions on lawn watering. With public water costs projected to increase at a rate of two to four percent a year, proponents of reclaimed water said the savings would not be noticed immediately, but over time.

County officials met with residents of Bloomingdale Ridge to present the program last spring. Hamilton headed the fact-finding mission that resulted in a packet of information given to each of the 292 homeowners.

Communities that desire reclaimed water must petition the county to begin the project once majority approval is obtained.

Hamilton said he made no attempt to sell or reject the idea of reclaimed water.

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

Office Hours:

MON. & FRI. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 TUES. & THURS. 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
 WEDS. 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

NIP Report

Thanks to all of us, it's working! That includes the BHA's NIP (Neighborhood Improvement Program) volunteers but also our residents who are becoming more conscientious about how Bloomingdale looks.

NIP volunteers shouldn't really find it necessary to send out cards reminding residents to mow their lawns, keep their yard trim and trash-free, and fortunately fewer and fewer notices are sent out in those categories. That's the good news.

Two areas are still of concern which have come to our attention. One is fences. Now that our community isn't all brand new anymore, some fences which have been up for a number of years are beginning to show their age. Failing to repair, replace or remove a dilapidated fence is a violation of a county code. You need not be a home improvement guru to tack up new fence slats or shore up a sagging section if that's all it

takes. Do take a look at your fencing and see how it measures up, or you may be getting a notice soon.

Another area of concern is actually a safety issue as well as a violation. It requires homeowners to keep trees and bushes trimmed to allow pedestrians to use the public sidewalks. If you take a walk and have to duck tree branches hanging down over the sidewalk, that is a potentially dangerous situation for adults and children on bikes as well as children who should be using the sidewalks for getting to bus stops and to and from the park. We shouldn't have to walk out into the street to avoid those branches. Check out your own yard. It all begins with each homeowner taking care to maintain their own property.

Thanks for working hard to make Bloomingdale a better place to live!

Update: Bloomingdale Widening

The design for widening Bloomingdale from Bell Shoals to Lithia Pinecrest is almost completed. Next in the process is land acquisition.

According to the county, construc-

tion is scheduled to begin in late 1997 with completion set for early 1999.

Completion of work on Bloomingdale from Kings to U.S. 301 is about 12 months from completion.

Our Times

Cleaning Out The Garage Annual Fall Treat

By Rozel Sciulli

With five children, our garage comes in handy. It also becomes a mess after one week's use. Bikes fail to remain upright, balls refuse to stay in their designated baskets, skates and play shoes somehow fall off their shelves and assorted baseball bats find a home in every corner.

So twice a year my husband and sons undertake the task of cleaning out the garage. My neighbors thought we were having a garage sale. That would've been an idea had we been able to pawn off on them a broken gas grill and a variety of unmatched athletic shoes.

"You clean out THE GARAGE," a friend asked incredulously.

Here's the routine. Everything is removed and set out on the lawn. Not the driveway, because it would get wet when the floor gets washed (with soap and pine sol for that country fresh smell). The tool box is re-organized and broken Christmas gifts from last year are tomorrow's trash.

The two biggest headaches are taking out the big side-by-side refrigerator (oh, yes, everything must be moved) and my daughter's water bed. She used to have it in her room, until she and her sister decided they wanted bunk beds. Yet, we can't get rid of the water bed. She's taking it to college, she thinks. My husband has even offered to pay her for it. Nope. So, it gets pulled out every cleaning.

Once the floor is swept and cobwebs removed, the scrubbing begins. My husband doesn't think washing the garage violates water restriction ordinances. Not until the floor is dry (which takes hours on a humid day) can everything be replaced. Only not to its original place. The semi-annual garage cleaning is my husband's chance to change the furniture around, so to speak.

The bikes find a new place out of the way where no one can knock them over. The water bed leans against a different wall and the portable shelving and toy boxes are no longer within view from the street.

In Florida, where there are no basements, garages become that extra, necessary room. It's where you send the kids out to play on rainy days. It's where you pile everything you don't want to get rid of but you know you no longer want it in your house. It's the place where a Christmas tree stand can stand until spring. It's where you last saw your husband's

favorite baseball cap - the one he hasn't worn in a year.

But, it's not the place you park your car.

Now, I have seen some meticulous garages. My in-laws had one. It was given a fresh coat of paint each year. Once it was tangerine. It had closets along one wall that reached the ceiling to store everything my mother-in-law didn't want in the house. There was even a stove in their garage. When it was too hot to cook indoors in the summer, my mother-in-law cooked outside in the garage. It was also a place for frying - no sense getting the kitchen dirty.

Their neighbor, a retired fighter pilot, was forced by his wife to live in his garage. She couldn't stand his cigar smoke. So, the colonel made himself at home. He had a television and carpeting in his garage.

Some garages are workshops with work tables, electric saws and saw dust cluttering the floor. In those garages, you can find a lot of unfinished projects.

Then there are garages used for storage. We've all driven by a house with the garage door raised. There is a single path to the door. Lining the path are boxes piled high from a move and extra furniture. Many are military families. What I can't figure out is if the boxes are empty and are being saved for the next move. Some northern transplants move here from much larger homes. Everything apparently won't fit in their new Florida home so it gets stored in the garage. For what? They plan to move back?

Other garages are full on unfinished projects. The intent is there. It's obvious the resident really wanted to someday re-finish that antique dresser and headboard. You've seen them leaning on the three broken dining room chairs with red velvet backs and black leather seats.

I like the garages that are designed for recreational purposes. Where can you put a ping-pong table in the house? If your kid has a really neat train set - it's generally too big to store under the bed. Better to mount it on plywood in the garage.

Now that our garage is clean maybe my husband will fix the dent in the wall left when my son was learning to drive and repair the window that somehow (no one remembers how) a baseball managed to find.

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The Bloomingdale Gazette

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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.

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

BHA Board of Directors

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

Bloomingdale 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.

Wedding Form The Bloomingdale Gazette

Note: Bride, groom or parents or either must reside in Bloomingdale

Bride	Groom
Maiden Name _____	Name _____
Residence (city, town) _____	_____
Parents _____	_____
Residence _____	_____
Maid of Honor _____	Best Man _____
from _____	from _____
relation _____	relation _____
Attendants _____	Ushers _____
(Include relation to bride/groom)	(Include relation to bride/groom)
_____	_____
Flower girl _____	Ring Bearer _____
About the Wedding... Date _____ Location _____	
Time _____ Type _____	(double ring, candlelight, garden, formal, ecumenical)
Decor _____	
About the Bride... Description of Gown & Veil _____	
Description of Bouquet _____	
The Bridesmaids wore _____	
The Reception was held at _____	
The Bride is a graduate of _____	
She is employed by _____	
The Groom is a graduate of _____	
He is employed by _____	
After a trip to _____ the couple will reside in _____	

Please leave at the church or mail to The Bloomingdale Gazette 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594. Include return address on Photo.

Parents Home-School For Quality, Safety

By Shannan Powell

With continued overcrowding, slashed gifted programs and growing discipline concerns facing Hillsborough County public schools, many parents are tired of waiting for solutions from administration. Many are looking for alternatives.

One alternative growing in popularity is home schooling.

"I've always wanted to home school," said Ronna Behr, who teaches her 10-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter at home. "I just don't like school. It was a 50-50 education and moral decision. Services were being cut back.

"Children were not meant to be herded together in classrooms. You can't force them to learn, you have to inspire them. There is nothing better than one-on-one learning."

The Florida statutes define home schooling as "sequentially progressive instruction of a student in his or her home by his or her parent or guardian." While a majority of parents instruct their children one-on-one at home, many are grouped into fellowships (for religious reasons) or share specialized teachers in art, music, science and physical education for academic reasons.

Parents intending to establish a home education program must notify the superintendent of schools 30 days before the start of the program, keep a portfolio of children's



work and file an annual professional evaluation of the child with the superintendent's office.

Last year, more than 900 families were registered with the county for home schooling. That figure doesn't factor in the number of families in programs with correspondence schools or other private groups.

"We are in our eighth year," said Pat Lancaster, mother/teacher of middle school-aged children and coordinator for the Brandon Home School Fellowship which includes many Bloomingdale families.

"When we first began, most people were doing it for religious purposes, but with the state of education in the county, it's a toss-up between religious reasons and the quality of education."

Parents cite many advantages to home education. Among the first are quality and safety.

"My kids have never been approached by a drug dealer, have never been in a physical fight, do well on their test scores and are more socially adapted than other children," Lancaster said.

"Many teachers now spend more time disciplining than they do teaching. No classroom teacher with 25-30 kids can accomplish what I do with just two."

Learning schedules become flexible. Family vacations are no longer limited to weekends and school holidays. Adjustments can be made if, for some reason, children have a late night. School can start later or lessons can be completed on Saturdays.

One method of instruction that both Lancaster and

Behr utilize is unit studies, in which the family selects a topic and incorporates it into all areas of education. For instance, Lancaster is using the election year to focus on government and elections, even allowing her children to participate in campaigning for candidates.

Home-schooled children have many learning opportunities available to them, though the cost to the parents is generally more.

The Bloomingdale West Recreation Center offers a free physical education class on Mondays, from 1 to 2 p.m.. Many are enrolled in art classes, taking private music lessons and go on educational field trips.

Places like MOSI, Great Explorations, Barnes and Noble Bookstores and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center offer discounts as well as occasional home school-specific programs.

Both Riverview and Brandon libraries offer home school resource files, as well as access to home school information on the Internet through Sun Coast Freenet. The Brandon branch recently held an all-day facility orientation just for home-schoolers.

"I know my children, so I don't follow one specific curriculum. I take a little from here and there," said Behr, who takes advantage of the county's free annual book depository clearance. "But you have to know your limitations."

"There is an awful lot of time involved," Lancaster said. "We don't have a lot of free time with research, planning and gathering materials. Time is a major commitment, and money is another. Some people are surprised that the county doesn't provide textbooks or teaching manuals. The county provides nothing, but they don't give us any problems."

While many parents are willing to home school through high school, their kids will not receive a diploma from the county. Many had to take the GED exam. The Brandon fellowship holds a promotion ceremony at the end of every year to promote students to the next grade, and to present their own diplomas for graduates.

But Lancaster said that doors are opening for those wishing to educate their children through 12th grade. Last year, the Florida Legislature passed legislation allowing home school children to take dual enrollment courses at local colleges. While completing their studies at home, kids can earn credits in college-level courses.

Parents who take on the responsibility of home schooling say they still find themselves misunderstood in their communities. They say they fight a stigma that they are religious fanatics - often enduring pointed comments or stares while they are out with their children during the day.

"There are groups that are Christian, Muslim, Jewish or whatever. Our group is Christian, but you don't have to be Christian to join," Behr said.

"It's right for me, it's good for my children. My family, even if they don't understand, support me."

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Church and Synagogue News

Missionaries Ready For Adventure

By Ellen Slovacek
It takes a dedicated individual to commit two years of his life to the Lord. Not everyone can or will do it. In the past four years, The Bloomingdale ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has sent out 17 young men and women to serve on missions throughout the world. Japan, Russia, Georgia, Australia, California, Chile, Korea and Brazil are just a few of the places where these young people have gone to share the good news of the gospel.

This month, the Bloomingdale ward is sending out two more young men. Chad Bowman, a Bloomingdale High graduate of 1994, will leave soon for Anaheim, Calif. Matthew Mitchell, also a BSHS graduate (95) will spend the next two years in Bordeaux, France.

Though these young men will be at different ends of the earth, they have many things in common. They both achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Both spent their high school years getting up at the crack dawn Monday through Friday to attend scripture study class at 6 a.m. Both have worked hard to save the money they will need for the next two years since missionaries are not compensated for their work.

Applicants to be missionaries also do not choose where they will go on their mission. It is assigned to them by the First Presidency of the Church and can be a little like Russian roulette. It could be anywhere in the world, and that's what makes a mission call so exciting. Before they receive the letter, applicants have no idea where they are

going. There are a couple of weeks of anxious anticipation. And it's not known whether to purchase overcoats and boots or short-sleeved white shirts and light-weight cotton pants.

"When I read I was going to Bordeaux, I about fell over," said Mitchell, an Elder in the ward. "On the application there was a question about my foreign language experience. I wrote that I took French in high school but did very badly. I guess they need me in France, but I tell you, my French teacher is sure going to get a kick out of this!"

Bowman had a similar experience. "I opened the letter and it read Anaheim, California," he recalled. "I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. I was so relieved to be in the states, but where I'm going, my parents know everyone. They lived there years ago. I'm related to half the people out there. It will definitely be a challenge for me."

A challenge both young men accept with vigor and enthusiasm.

Now, here's what's happening:

Art lovers can enjoy an evening of art exhibition and auction while helping Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon move toward a home of its own. Along with Regency Fine Art Gallery of Atlanta, Congregation Beth Shalom will present a live auction of hundreds of pieces reflecting a variety of artistic styles during a fund raiser on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Sheraton Inn Tampa. Proceeds will support Congregation Beth Shalom's building fund.

The event will begin with an art preview at 7 p.m. followed by the auction at 8 p.m. Desserts, coffee and a cash bar will be provided.

The art will be priced from \$35 to several thousand dollars with something for every taste. Prints up for auction are by such classic

names as Dali and Picasso as well as more contemporary ones such as Delacroix. All art is unconditionally guaranteed and comes with a certificate of authenticity.

Advance tickets are \$10 a person or \$12.50 at the door. Patron tickets for \$25 will include a preview showing and program acknowledgment. For a mailed invitation or more information, call Mary Goodman at 681-6547.

St. Marks United Church of Christ needs volunteers to continue its Meals on Wheels program. For over six years the church has transported meals to shut-ins every Friday at noon in cooperation with other churches whose delivery days are Monday through Thursday.

St. Mark's has lost several key volunteers and in order to insure the continued success of the program, helping hands are being sought.

The church is in need of at least one kitchen/cook volunteer, but hopefully two or three will step up

At least two additional drivers, but as many as four could greatly reduce the workload.

A dessert provider is needed - usually about 50 pieces. Desserts can be purchased or home-made and volunteers may provide for one Friday a month or more.

Call Christine Molinowski at 685-4646 Monday through Friday mornings or call the church office at 685-0998 for information.

The pumpkins are coming! The pumpkins are coming! St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, will be re-

See RELIGION, page 11

A Moment In Time

By Ellen Abramson

You failed me today.
I wanted to share
my brief shining moment
But your inattention
Extinguished the glow
like a candle flame,
Pinched out and gone.
Not even smoke remained.

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Bits 'N Pieces



By Shannan Powell
League Announces Artfest Winners



Bloomington resident Sue Allen accepts the Marge Long Award from Bernie Long at the BLFA Artfest last month. Allen also took first place in watercolor.

The Brandon League of Fine Arts held its Fall Artfest Sept. 14 at Regency Square.

Bloomington East resident Sue Allen was a big winner. She took home the League's Marge Long Award for Best Realistic Art, as well as placing first in the watercolor category.

There were several area winners in six categories with awards given to artists placing first, second, third and honorable mention. The winners and placers in each category are as follows:

Oils and acrylics: Greg Jones, Lakeland; Ron Buck, Apollo Beach; Lurline Tanner, Plant City; and Hope Tew, Plant City.

Watercolor: Sue Allen, Valrico; Roxanne Tobaison, Seffner; Peggy Little, Brandon; Mary Ellen Thorpe, Brandon.

Open Media: Monika Watson, Tampa; Minnette Webster, Brandon; Suzanne Sargent, Brandon; Dick Ayre, Sarasota.

3-D Fine Art: Blaine and Carol Taylor, Riverview; Shelley Perfect, Seffner; Anisa Wigginton, High Springs; Debbie Hagstrom, Bradenton.

Original Wood Craft: Steve McIntyre, Brandon; Eugene Webber, Tampa; Suzanne Iarrobino, Valrico; Harriet Clem, Lakeland.

Original Crafts: Janet Thompson, Valrico; Marilyn Tillis, Temple Terrace; Judy Sanders, Lake Placid; Ellen Stohler, Holmes Beach.

Throughout the month of October, the League will

feature the work of member and fabric artist Leslie Jennings at Center Place. An open reception will be held for Jennings on Oct. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Dr. Jennings will demonstrate her work there on Oct. 21. Also included in the October display will be historic photos of Brandon.

Erin Arbor Sets Annual Meeting

The Erin Arbor Homeowners' Association has tentatively scheduled its annual meeting for Nov. 9.

Resident Mike Bailey said that the meeting will include a vote on a number of important issues relating to deed restrictions and regulations. One of the most important issues being a decision on what constitutes a quorum to make a change in the regulations. Some items will be deferred to the architectural committee.

Three Births Celebrated

Ian Thomas Cotter was born to Bloomington residents Shawn and Thomas Cotter on Aug. 17 at Columbia Brandon Regional Medical Center. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces. Ian joins brother Patrick, 5, at home. His maternal grandparents are Tom and Lois Hamilton of Brighton, Mich.

Rachel Ann Schekman was born to Bloomington residents Jacqui and Ronald Schekman on Aug. 18 of Columbia Brandon. She weighed 5 pounds, 10 ounces. Big sister, Caitlin, 6, welcomed her home. Rachel's maternal grandparents are Ann Gallagher of Wisconsin and Jack Gallagher of New Jersey. Her paternal grandparents are Carol and Conrad Seagroves of Brandon.

Chloe Brooke Henry was born to Bloomington East residents Traci and Mike Henry on Aug. 27 at Columbia Brandon. She weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces.

Chloe joins sister, Amber, 3, at home. Her maternal grandparents are Kathy Bulman of Arizona and Richard Bulman of Nevada. Her paternal grandparents are Sharon Bell of Georgia and Paul Henry of Connecticut.

Pageant Seeks Contestants

The Miss Bay Area Pageant, Inc., is seeking single, talented young women, ages 17-23, to participate in the Miss Bay Area Pageant, Nov. 16, at Gaither High School in Tampa.

For more information, call 251-6645.



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Sports Spots

Sports Salute

Predators Win Flag Tournament

Pre-season Champions

The Predators captured the pre-season tournament of the Men's Flag Football League at the Bloomingdale West Park Community Center last month. The Bolts, which had to play four games on the last day of the tournament, were runners-up of the double elimination tournament.

They are among 16 teams comprised of more than 200 men who play in an all-adult league at the rec center every Sunday for nine weeks. This Sunday marks the third week of competition. The league is so popular, said center director Donna Clouse, an expansion site holds games for six more teams at the Brandon Recreation Center.

The post-season playoffs begin Jan. 5.

Members of the Predators are James Talley, Paul Wright, J. Richardson, Ronnie Schekman, Steven Young, Darrell Dukes, Jeff Kleinotes, Charles Williams, Tyrone Wells, Louis Holloway, Eric Holloway, Jack Dukes and Chris Young.

Spotlight On The Bulls

Bloomington athletes are among the county's best in swimming, and cross country.

Sean Gilman won three of five cross country meets in September, more than any other runner in Hillsborough County. He finished in the top ten all five times and in the top five four times.

Tanya Solano leads the girls team.

In swimming, Bloomington's girls lead the county in relays and Summer Washburn has the fastest times in three events. Washburn, Stephanie Reich, Jennifer Handley and Carrienne Vaughn have the fastest time (2:01.6) in the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay (3:52.09). Washburn, a junior, also has the best time in the 200 individual medley, the 100 backstroke and the 100 butterfly. Reich is second in the 100-yard breaststroke, and Vaughn is third in the 100 freestyle.

In volleyball, Susan Bindshedler is the among the county's leaders in blocks and kills. And in football for the month of September, punter Justin Wilson holds a dubious title of county leader in the number of punts (20) which averaged 35 yards a punt. Bulls QB Torre Warren and Walter Carter finished the month among the county's leaders in rushing.

Swimming/Diving Honors

Members of the Brandon Swim and Tennis Club's Blue Wave Swim Team competed in area championships early last month in St. Petersburg.

Michelle Williams won the overall high points for 10-under girls, finishing first in seven of eight events. She won the 50 freestyle, 100 butterfly, 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 200 individual medley, 200 freestyle and 50 butterfly. She was second in the 50 backstroke.

Kaycee Mariner was first in the 100-yard breast, third in the 200 individual medley, third in the 200-yard freestyle, fourth in the 50-yard breast, and fifth in the 100 backstroke.

Laura Riccardo finished second overall for 8-under girls. She won the 50-yard breast, was second in the 25 breast and third in the 25 back. She also finished sixth in the 25 freestyle, 50 freestyle and 50 backstroke.

Other participants were Alyssa Carroll who won the 25-yard back, was second in the 50-yard back and seventh in the 50-yard butterfly; also Stephannie Barker was third in the 25-yard fly and 50-yard fly and seventh in the 25-yard back.

BSTC divers competed at the 1996 regional championships in Raleigh, N.C. in July.

The highest finishes were turned in by Jessica Gordon, second on the platform; Alicia Terelli, third on the platform, and Alex Hathaway, third on the 3-meter and fourth on the 1-meter. Other divers were Jessica Gordon, Tara Hyer, Timmy Hyer, Ryan Troup, Melissa Kull, Meghan Perry-Eaton, Anya Rommel and Chris Dunn.

Bulls' Athletic Calendar



CROSS COUNTRY

Oct. 8	W. D. Johnson Invite
Oct. 17	Gaither Invite at Lake Park
Oct. 22	Soph. Western Conf. Al Lopez Park
Oct. 29	Western Conference Walden Lake

FOOTBALL

Oct. 9	J.V. vs Brandon*
Oct. 10	at Brandon
Oct. 18	Open
Oct. 25	at Plant City
Nov. 1	Jesuit

all games 7:30 unless noted
* 7 p.m.

SWIMMING

Oct. 8	Berkeley at BSTC
Oct. 11-12	Western Conference at USF
Oct. 22	Armwood at YMCA
Oct. 29	King/Brandon at BSTC
Nov. 5	Plant/TBT at BSTC

All meets at 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 8	Gaither
Oct. 10	at Hillsborough
Oct. 15	at Brandon*
Oct. 17	Plant City*
Oct. 22	at Chamberlain*
Oct. 25-26	Pirate Invitational Port Charlotte
Oct. 28	Districts at Brandon

*Varsity only matches at 7 p.m.
J.V. and Varsity 6:30 and 7:30

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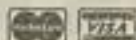
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Lithia Lynx



Old Computers Sought

By Ron Pogorzelski
A drive by Lithia Springs Elementary PTA is under way to collect old or unused personal computers.

The school is currently 17 computers short for its classrooms and computer workshop. A large increase in students brought on the shortfall.

Apple Computer is willing to give the school \$1000 for any five computers, according to PTA president Denise Kubacki. She believes there are many homes and companies with P.C.s gathering dust that can be converted to cash for the school.

Anyone willing to donate to the school should call 684-8195 to schedule a pick-up and receive some personal thanks.

Gator Tales



"Reflections", Drug Awareness Highlight October Calendar

By Phyllis Bertacher

With the school year well under way, October is shaping up to be yet another busy month.

On Oct. 7, "Reflections", a National PTA-sponsored art contest, began. Last year, nearly 300 entries were received from Alafia students. Of these, 24 were sent to compete at the county level and seven were sent on to the statewide "Reflections" competition.

Alafia night at Mel's Hot Dogs is Oct. 14. The school will receive 10 percent of the proceeds from sales made between 4 and 8 p.m. Only those orders taken at the back cash register will benefit Alafia. Be sure to mention the school when placing an or-



Jessica Cincotta (center) shows off her first grade work to her family John and Sandy Cincotta while her brother and teacher Nora Ann Pogorzelski look on. Open House at Lithia Springs brought in more than 75 percent of the school's parents.



Mike and Lynn Brown with their children Stephen and Shannon get ready to purchase Lithia Springs T-shirts from PTA volunteer Barb Sheridan. New assistant principal Mary Ann Keene welcomed them to the school's open house last month.

der.

Alafia's next PTA general membership meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Joel Brooke, director of clinical services for the Child Abuse Council, will discuss how a child's temperament affects behavior. He also will include a presentation on disciplinary approaches as they relate to behavior.

Red Ribbon Week - a drug awareness and prevention program - kicks off Wednesday, Oct. 23, with students taking a pledge to remain drug free. During the week, red bookmarks will be distributed, red ribbons will be placed around campus and the PTA will donate red flowers to be planted around the school. The celebration ends Wednesday, Oct. 30, with a "red ribbon" parade of Alafia students.

In other news: The PTA wishes to congratulate those parents elected to the School Improvement Team (SIT). They are Ed Dodenhoff, Betty Goldentyre, Keith Hinchman, Jill Hollie, Tina Reese and Lynne Walther. SIT represents a collective effort by the school community (parents, teachers and business partners) to reach state and local education goals. This year's emphasis is on improving students' writing skills.

A new fund raiser, called SCIP, is being introduced to Alafia parents who may purchase gift certificates from the school for use at area retailers. Alafia receives the certificates at a discounted rate; the difference between the discount and the face value of the certificate will benefit Alafia.

Volunteers are still needed. Parents wishing to assist on school picture day, Oct. 23, should call Michelle Colesanti at 681-8889.

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Bruin Beat



Techno Lab Enhances Personal Development

Special to *The Gazette*

When the Personal Development seventh grade classes and the Teen Challenges eight grade classes at Burns Middle School entered their recently remodeled classrooms, they saw a unique classroom design.

There are 12 technology learning stations that have been designed to deliver the teacher-assisted curriculum with the help of computers, video players, and specially selected resources.

Students will rotate through technology learning stations with titles such as "Leading the Way" which offers training in leadership skills; "Decision Making"; "Be Smart, Don't Start", which focuses on substance abuse prevention; "Earth Care"; "Buy Wiser"; "Kids' Stuff" which teaches child care; "Interior Motives" about decorating and design; and "Kitchen Capers and Marvelous Munchies."

Many of the technology curriculum modules were developed by Hillsborough County teachers for the Family and Consumer Sciences middle school students.

"Standards and performance are still being met," said Debbie Scourtes, project director at Burns. "It's been very interesting and rewarding for the students."

Scourtes explained it takes students, who work in partners, from six to seven days to complete one of the 12 activity modules.

Studies have shown that this type of curriculum appeals to all types of students and their learning styles.



Students at The Huntington Learning Center participated in the "Reading Adventure" last summer. Each student read books selected from a list provided by the center and submitted reports. Participants who completed their goal are front L-R Samantha Pate, Maureen Johnson, Mallory Peeler, Clayton Cash and Kelley Goodrich; second row: Brandy Lewandowski, Crystal Wisner, Nicole Hall and Joseph Canova; back row: Kim Atkinson, Erica Scicchitano, Robert Amberiz and Jason Glover.

Students become totally involved in the learning process through this innovative method of presentation, along with hands-on activities and projects.

Scourtes said students have developed informational brochures on substance abuse to share with elementary school children. Others have designed fabric or put together a baby-sitting portfolio complete with business cards and advertisements.

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Bulls Eye



Carnibull This Week

It's fall. And what better time of year for a carnival than October. The closest thing this community gets to a carnival is held annually at Bloomingdale High - it's CARNIBULL.

Sponsored by Student Government, the festivities will be held at Charley Harris Stadium on Thursday, Oct. 17 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday is a half-day for public schools and there is no school on Friday.

Clubs at the school use the event as their main fund raising event. Each club sponsors a food or game booth and participants can purchase tickets for 50 cents each to use at

any of the booths.

This year, the booths will be decorated and judged.

A highlight of the event is the Dunk Tank which features administrators from Bloomingdale and Burns.

Student Government is led by president Brie Nation. Brie is also a member of FCA, FHA, Debate and LEO. The vice-president is Amanda Stertzer, secretary is Erica Wilson, treasurer is Angie Spiker and historian is Jeff Lortch. Bloomingdale is also the state student government secretary and they are represented by Amanda Stertzer at district and state meetings. The organization's sponsor is Bonnie Herzog.

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Business Notes



Resident Honored By Winn Dixie

Winn Dixie stores throughout west central Florida honored its cashiers by customer vote in June. For two weeks store customers were asked to vote for their favorite cashier.

Bloomington resident **Ruthe Brunson**, though only working part-time, was named Favorite Cashier at the Winn Dixie MarketPlace in the Royal Oaks of Bloomington.

Plaza. Ruthe has since been promoted to assistant head cashier.

Each winning cashier received a \$25 store gift certificate and was a guest at a district luncheon honoring the winners.

Nail Country Opens

A new nail shop has opened at Bloomington Square. Nail Country, specializing in acrylic designs, opened next door to Bealls in August. Owner **Huy Huynh** and four nail technicians operate the shop seven days a week.

Hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays from 10 to 8:30; Saturdays from 10 to 6:30 and Sundays from 11:30 to 4 p.m.

Nail Country's techs also give pedicures in privacy, said Huynh. He has three years experience in the business, coming from Tampa. Huynh said he trains all his employees to perform the same quality work. He hopes that by providing flexible hours, the customer's needs will be met.

Attorney Opens Office

Bonnie Berns, an attorney since 1978, has opened an office at 116 E. Bloomington in the Creekside Village center, just east of John Moore.

Ms. Berns, who has visited friends in the area for a year, closed her practice in Palm Coast and established her new practice here because she found the people to be friendly.

Originally from New York State, Ms. Berns is a general civil attorney with complex civil litigation experience in both state and federal court. She handles personal injury, insurance claims, family law, divorce, child support, wills, trust and probate and all varieties of civil matters.

Davis, Russell Return From Conference

Michael Davis and **Luana Russell**, both Bloomington residents and BHA board members, has returned from a four-day intensive real estate conference conducted by internationally renowned speaker Howard Brinton. Russell continues to be the top sales associate month to month at Tam-Bay Realty, Inc., and Davis is Top Agent at the RE/MAX Realty Unlimited office in Bloomington.

The conference, July 24-27 at the Ritz-Carlton in Naples, was attended by more than 1,000 of the world's top-producing realtors covering the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Australia.

The realtors exchanged ideas during a number of panel discussions and came away with the primary goal of

providing the best possible service to buyers and sellers. Topics included short cuts with time management systems and future real estate software programs, changes in marketing, budgeting and budget controls, taxes, the real estate office of the future and finding the right assistants for future positions.

Resident Honored by RE/MAX

Brenda Carter, a Bloomington resident for the past 10 years, was presented the prestigious RE/Max Hall of Fame Award by Paul Fournier, broker/owner.

Only 1,500 of the 43,600 RE/MAX sales associates nationally have achieved the Hall of Fame Award, given to those associates who have sold more than 300 homes since affiliating with RE/MAX.



Brenda Carter

Carter has been selling real estate in the Brandon/Tampa area for 17 years and has been with RE/MAX for 10 years. She is among the top sales associates with the local firm. She also holds the designations of Certified Residential Specialist, Graduate Relator Institute and consistently receives the RE/MAX 100% Club Award.

County Changes Permit Process

Hillsborough County initiated several improvements last month to streamline its review and permitting processes for construction projects. Changes include shortening the time to receive a commercial building permit; contacting applicants for commercial and residential structural reviews as soon as plans are approved allowing work to begin while the permit is being processed; no longer requiring a contractor's license to submit a permit application; issuing "Easy Start" permits for improvements under existing roof; issuing new "foundation only" permits to allow subcontractors to complete underground work without having to pull separate permits.

Russell Honored

Bloomington resident and Tam-Bay Realty associate **Luana Russell** was recognized by Eckerd Drug Stores and Children's Miracle Network last month.

A letter from All Children's Hospital thanked Russell for helping the employees of Eckerd raise funds for its 1996 telethon. Eckerd raised more than \$120,000 for All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg.

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Real Estate Moves Learn Tips Before Selling

By Michael Davis

Selling your home is one of the most important steps in your life, and you need to be equipped with essential tips...

For most people, selling their home means cashing in their biggest asset. In other words, it must be handled with great care if you hope to protect - and capitalize on - your investment. These tips are written with one goal in mind: to give you the tools you need to maximize your profits, maintain control, and reduce the stress that comes with the home-selling process.

Tip No. 1: Knowing why you're selling.

The reason you look closely at why you want to sell is that your motivations play an important role in the process. They affect everything from setting a price to deciding how much time and money you'll invest

towards getting your home ready for selling. For example, what's more important to you: the money you walk away with, or the length of time your property is on the market? If your goal is a quick sale, that can dictate one kind of approach. If you want to maximize your profit, the sales process will almost certainly take longer.

Tip No. 2: Once you know, keep it to yourself.

Your reasons will affect how you negotiate the sale of your home, but they shouldn't be given as ammunition to the person who wants to buy it. For example, a prospective buyer who knows you must move quickly has you at their mercy in the negotiation process. Your reasons are nobody's business but your own.

Tip No. 3: Do your homework before setting a price... will be shared with you the next time we meet for "Real Estate Moves By Michael".

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Restaurant Review

Crabby Tom's Worth The Wait

By Elton Dumont

Well, we finally did it. We got around to visiting one of the three new restaurants that opened up in Brandon in the last two months. Certainly the grand plan calls for yours truly to visit and review each one, so stay tuned.

For this month, I selected Crabby Tom's, the seafood restaurant that opened in the original Po Folks restaurant building on Brandon Boulevard east of Lakewood.

If the wait is long (ours was only 28 minutes for a Friday evening) guests can sit or mill around on the outdoor covered patio. The ice tub allows guests to order an ice cold beer while waiting. If seating is available at one of the outdoor tables, appetizers or a complete meal can be ordered. But, be warned, that is a problem also. With so many people waiting and ordering from the patio, the servers and potential customers just couldn't manage to stay out of each other's way as they all tried to get in or out of the one working door of the double-door entrance.

Once seated, be prepared for noise. Not music or entertainment, just plain loudness. This is part of the fun of the experience, so don't plan on an intimate evening, it's difficult to hear across the table.

Once we were seated, the experience took on a decidedly positive twist. First of all, our server acknowledged us immedi-

ately and brought our beverages almost as quickly. Even though he was busy, he seemed to be trained sufficiently in not rushing us through the ordering process and was very able to answer all our questions.

The menu is printed on the paper place mat, but it was quite an interesting menu. The appetizers ran the whole gamut of seafood from the ordinary shrimp cocktail to oysters on the half-shell and steamed little neck clams. We thought the baked parmesan oysters was a unique creation, so we ordered it and I was glad we did. At \$5.25 it seemed high until it was served. About one dozen or so wonderfully baked oysters with just the right touch of grated parmesan cheese and a hint of garlic powder were delectable.

Being adventurous with an appetizer, I settled for the 10 piece fried shrimp which is served with cole slaw and a choice of French fries, baked potato or rice. My wife chose the chicken Alfredo, once again a curious choice for a seafood restaurant. The shrimp were faultless. The batter was not heavy, but the rather light type that didn't take away from the fresh shrimp taste. They were medium sized and carefully deveined and butterfied. All this for only \$6.50. The 20 piece was also a bargain at \$9.99. The slaw was crisp and not runny, and the fries were also tasty.

The chicken story is simple. The menu allows a substitution of chicken from shrimp on all the pasta entrees. It turned out that this was an exceptionally tasty main course. Linguini, not Alfredo noodles, in a sauce

that was thick and creamy and had the taste of garlic and wine. Certainly different from typical Alfredo sauces. Served with a garlic bread stick and all for only \$7.95.

I wanted to try the seafood gumbo, since our server indicated it was kind of like Louisiana gumbo. Since a cup was only \$1.75, I was tempted, but the amount of food served was too much to include a soup.

The party at the table next to us ordered the snow crab platter and a whole boiled lobster. Both seemed very large and the patrons expressed their satisfaction with the taste and preparation.

The rest of the menu was quite comprehensive. The sandwich board included flounder, grouper and a couple of land lubber specials - chicken breast or hamburger. Some of the other entrees include dungeness crab cluster platter, soft shell crabs, shrimp scampi, fried catfish, scallops or mahi mahi as well as combinations of the above. Dishes include hush puppies.

In other words, there is something for everyone.

Once again, we passed on dessert, but they do offer real Key lime pie, cheese cake and peanut butter pie. And there is a Crabby Kids Menu with selections of \$2.95 or \$3.95. In addition to this

See TOM's, page 1.

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TOM LEE
FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23 REP.

Vote Tuesday, November 5th



BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomington Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomington. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomington Special Taxing District will be Monday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomington. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomington. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

Low-Impact Aerobics

Tracey Shriver teaches low-impact aerobics at the Bloomington Park West Community Center. Classes meet

Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. and the cost is \$3 per class. Child care is provided for children 5 and older. Shriver explains there is no jumping or jogging involved. With low-impact aerobics one foot is always on the ground. Light weights and floor work are also used.

For information, call 744-5907.

Parents Help Group

Parents Anonymous is a self-help group for parents who have lost, or feel they are losing control of their children. Groups meet in Valrico on Thursdays evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at area churches. The meetings are free. For information call 251-8080.

Recycle Computers

The county has begun a program, "Computers for Kids," that involves collecting computers to place in recreation centers and later in libraries for kids to use during after school and summer programs.

Since the program began in April, donations have dropped off. There is no certain type of computer that the county is looking for. Software and programs also are acceptable donations.

Computers can be dropped off at the Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance unit on 78th St. and the Crosstown Expressway or at any of several libraries including the Main Library downtown at 900 N. Ashley Drive. For information call 744-5815 or 273-3652.

RELIGION, From page 4

a wide variety from which to choose at St. Andrews. The pumpkin patch will be open weekdays and evenings through the end of the month.

Here's a fun alternative to Halloween trick or treating: The First Baptist Church of Brandon, 216 N. Parsons Ave., is having its annual "Noah's Arkade," on Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission to the arkade booths is one bag of wrapped candy per child. There will be a petting zoo, dunking booth, moonwalk, puppets, games prizes and much more. Supper will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 at a cost of \$3 for adults and \$1.75 for children. For more information, call Linda Jones at 689-1204, ext. 257.

Also at First Baptist, is a seminar for women on maintenance, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Helpful instructions will be given on how to maintain the home, checkbook and personal safety. Tickets are \$10 and include lunch. They must be purchased by Oct. 18.

The Women in Focus Ministry of Bell Shoals Baptist Church, 2102 Bell Shoals Road, invite all area women to their Tuesday morning Fruitful Hands Craft class. Projects for October include a Thanksgiving yard sign and door hanger on Oct. 15; wood plaque with house numbers Oct. 22, and fabric triangle Santa with button legs and advent calendar Oct. 29. Daytime child care is available with reservations one week in advance. Sample crafts and supply lists are available at the church's Fruitful Hands display board located in the concourse near the Special Events Center. For information, call Cynthia Alford at 661-5561.

Senior Volunteer Program

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for volunteers 55 and over in every neighborhood of Hillsborough County. Seniors may choose between many non-profit agencies in their community for volunteer activity. RSVP are covered with supplemental accident and liability insurance and are eligible to receive limited travel and meal allowances.

For further information call RSVP at 272-5031.

Hospice Card Sale

Hospice of Hillsborough, Inc. will once again offer the Friends of Hospice Auxiliary Holiday Card Sale. Cards, which sell for \$5 for a package of 10. For the first time, there is a Spanish-language set being offered as well.

Orders of 10 or more packages placed before Sept. 30 will receive a special gift or discount. To receive a full-color brochure and order form, call 877-2200.

Tom's, from page 10

off-menu daily specials, they feature a special on the menu each night. On Monday it's snow crab, Tuesdays main lobster (while they last), Wednesday is all you can eat fried grouper night, and Thursday is half-price for kids on the kids menu.

Crabby Tom's is open nightly and for lunch on Saturday and Sunday. By all means, plan a visit to Crabby Tom's.

Rating Based on 5 Stars

Food ***1/2
Service ***1/2
Ambience **
Overall ***

Until we eat again,
Elton Dumont

ALAFIA, from page 1

When contacted, Cabrera said that a bus would have to return to Alafia after dropping off its first load of children in Bloomington East and children would be forced to wait.

"We have no one at the school to monitor these children while they wait," she said.

Cabrera was told approximately 30 children were in need of after-school care and since the YMCA-sponsored Latchkey Program at Alafia is filled, many of the children were going home to empty houses.

"This happens all over the country," Cabrera said.

Center director Donna Clouse said providing personnel to monitor the children "should not be a problem." But at publication time, this was not confirmed.

Classifieds

NIP (Neighborhood Improvement Program)

Volunteers needed for BHA (Bloomington Homeowners Association) program. Call the community office at 681-2051 for information.

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