

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXVIII
Number 10

OCTOBER 2008 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

BHA To Hold First Family Fest

Music, games, food
and raffles are on the
agenda

PAGE 11

Got Junk? Clean-Up Day Is On The Way

Community Clean-Up
Day is coming this
Oct. 11.

PAGE 8

INDEX

Yard of the Month.....2

Property Report.....8

Law Enforcement.....18

Autumn Has Arrived



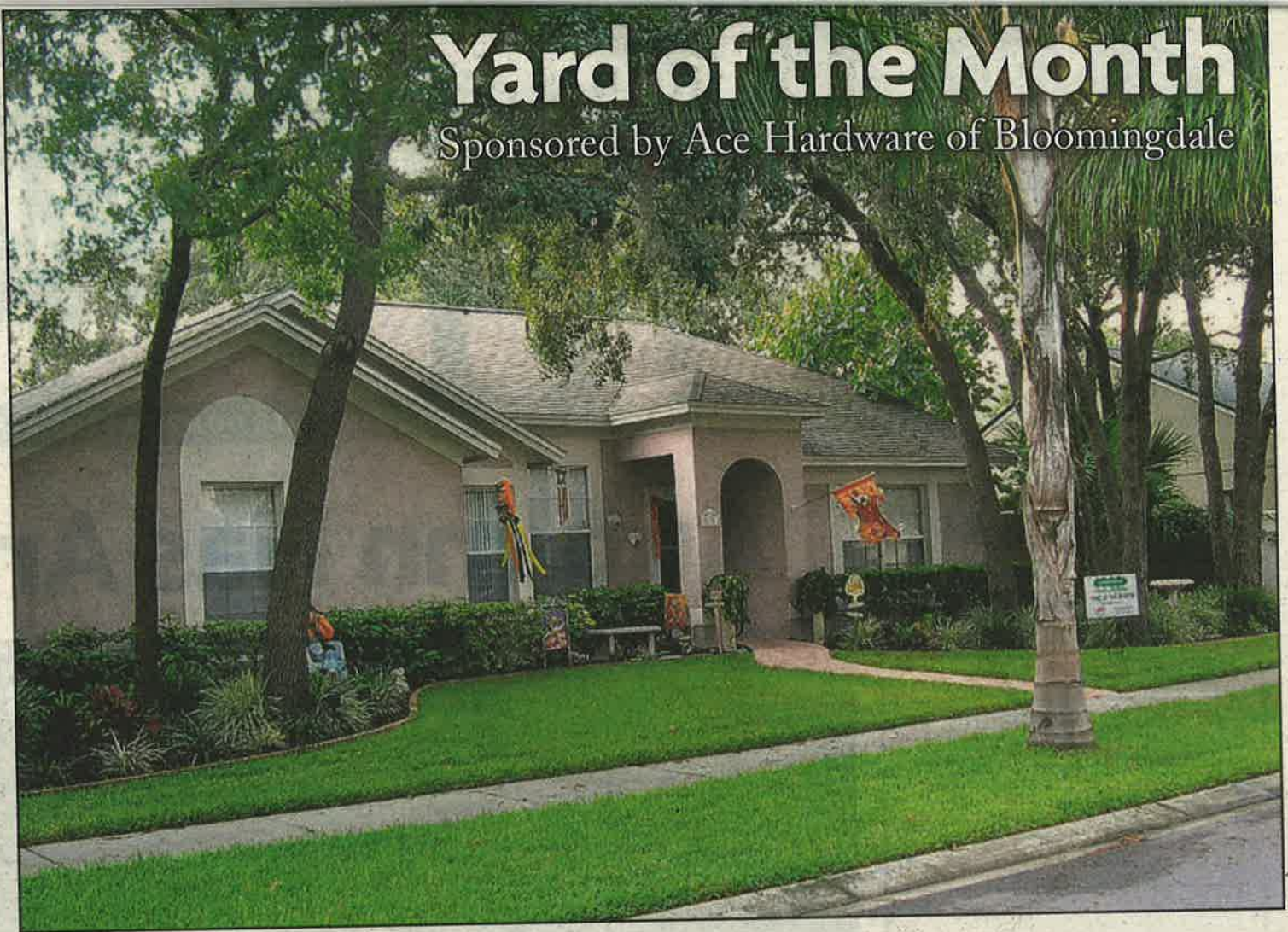
Autumn in Bloomingdale means the annual pumpkin patch sale at St. Andrews United Methodist Church isn't far away.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

Will Rogers

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Yard of the Month

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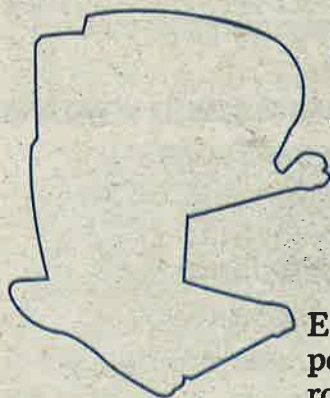
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TOGETHER, PERFORMING AT A HIGHER STANDARD

The Pumpkins Are Coming!

By Kim Aguilar

We are quickly approaching every child's favorite time of year, Halloween! St. Andrews United Methodist Church is planning their annual pumpkin patch sale, set to begin on Sept. 28 and run through Oct. 31.

The proceeds from the sale benefit the youth program at St. Andrews UMC, with a portion of the profit going to a charity of their choice. Members of the youth program participate in all aspects of the sale including planning, unloading the pump-

kins, and staffing the sale. The group made over \$2,100 last year, and they hope to do even better this year.

Pumpkins will range in price from \$4 to \$20. The sale will take place at St. Andrews UMC, located at 3315 Bryan Road in Brandon. Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday noon to 7 p.m.

During every Saturday in October there will also be other fun things for families in

the community to enjoy at the pumpkin patch. Saturday, Oct. 25, will be especially full of fun - with a craft fair, face painting, and pumpkin decorating and carving.

For more information about the pumpkin patch or the youth program at St. Andrews UMC, visit www.breakthrough411.org or contact Dan Segale, Director of Youth Ministry, (813) 689-6849, ext. 217, or via e-mail: dan.segale@st-andrewsbrandon.com



Libby Juren Reading at the Pumpkin Patch.

B L O O M I N G D A L E B U L L E T I N B O A R D

Bloomingtondale Golfers Club will hold "Frightfully-Fun" Tourney

The Bloomingtondale Golfers Club will sponsor a Halloween 4-Person Scramble Tournament on Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. The first-ever event costs \$77 per player, and competitors will enjoy a round of golf, lunch and dinner as well as compete for over \$5,000 in prizes and awards. Freebies include a Titleist DT Roll golf balls, a Bloomingtondale Key Chain, three drink tickets, and an automatic raffle entry.

Event organizers promise a "spook"-tacular time with fun, prizes, and brag-

ging rights for all participants. Raffle items include four complimentary rounds of golf for two at the Bloomingtondale Golfers Club, one 5-day, 4-night getaway to St. Thomas compliments of Wyndham Hotels, one 3-day, 2-night getaway to one of 28 Wyndham Locations, and a complimentary round of golf for two at the Bayou Club, Bardmoor, Lansbrook, River Hills, and Northdale Golf Courses.

A percentage of the proceeds will be given back to the Bloomingtondale Com-

munity. Entry forms are available in the Golf Shop. For information, contact Mario Battistini, Head Golf Professional, at (813) 685-4105.

40th Fall Craft Fair

The St. Andrew's United Methodist Church's 40th Fall Craft Fair will be held Saturday, October 25th, 9:00 - 4:00 pm at 3315 Bryan Road in Brandon. In addition to outside craft booths, there will be a bake sale, café and "Granny's Attic" in the Family Life Center. All proceeds

will benefit local, national, and international missions for the general board of global ministries of the United Methodist Church. It is a great local event and the perfect way to get a jump start on your holiday shopping, or just find a homemade baked good. With lots of different vendors, from photographers to ceramics, you will be sure to find something unique and interesting. Crafters and vendors interested in renting a booth should call Mary Jane at (813) 689-2572. For more information about St. Andrew's please visit www.StAndrewsBrandon.org or call (813) 689-6849.

Your Inside Connections

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC.

PO Box 7221, Brandon, FL 33508

Phone: (813) 681-2051

E-mail: bloomingtondale.homeowners@verizon.net

Meetings: first Monday each month, 7 p.m.

Web site: www.bloomingtondalegazette.com

President: Joe Hickle

Vice president: Stanley Lee

Directors: Shelia Harris, Jim Harris, Jane Lee, Myron Magedanz, George May and Dennis Osborn

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

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Fax: (813) 684-2358

E-mail: bloomingtondale.district@verizon.net

Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Meetings: second Monday each month, 7 p.m.

President: Thom Snelling

Vice president: Russell Jones

Treasurer: David West

Property manager: Al Devney

Trustees: Joe Harless; Joe Liguori and James Laughlin

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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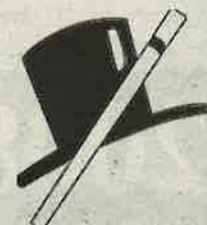




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Award-Winning Simply Thai Is Simply Delicious

BY JOY BOISSELLE

Imagine a tropical, humid breeze infused with the pungent scents of garlic, cilantro, jasmine, curry and lemon grass. Thailand, an exotic yet faraway locale might spring to mind. Most of us can't afford the trip, but Bloomingdale residents can enjoy the next best thing with a visit to Simply Thai, Bloomingdale's only Thai restaurant, and winner of the Tampa Tribune's 2008 Best of Brandon Readers Poll competition for Asian Cuisine.

Opened in 1998 in its current Bloomingdale Shopping Center location, Simply Thai is truly a family-run business, co-owned by husband and wife team Brian Smith and June Rogers, as well as June's parents, Curtis and Puntip Rogers. Although a family affair, June will admit that owning a

Thai restaurant was primarily her lifelong dream.

June came to the United States with her Thai family and her second father, Curtis, in 1974. Settling in the Brandon area, she attended East Bay High School and then the University of South Florida where she earned a degree in Business Marketing. With her dream restaurant always in her mind, June took to the skies as a flight attendant traveling the world in search of what makes the best Thai restaurant.

With her research complete, the dream became a reality with the opening of Simply Thai.

"I wanted an authentic Thai food-only restaurant, which is why we named our restaurant Simply Thai," June explained, "Everything we serve is home-



JOY BOISSELLE/Gazette Photo

June Rogers, Simply Thai owner, provides personal service to long-time customers Pat and Phil Dixon, and their grandson, Christopher Boyd, age 13.

made and all traditional Bangkok cuisine."

Describing Thai food, she said, "Thai food is a special niche which uses unique flavors, and

touches all palates; sweet, bitter, salty, sour and hot."

But she stressed, Thai food does not have to be hot, as many people seem to believe.

"Thai peppers are the second hottest peppers in the world, but we always ask customers how they want their dish," June said.

See THAI, Page 19

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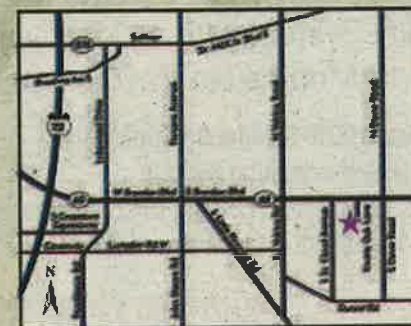
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BHA-sponsored Community Clean-up Day Is Oct. 11

By JOY BOISSELLE

In just one week, Bloomingdale residents can unload some of their unwanted garbage at the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Community Cleanup Day. Here's what you need to know and do to make this event a success.

Cleanup Day is Saturday, Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The collection site is on Natures Way at the Hillsborough County Parks maintenance facility just west of Alafia Elementary School.

For a stress-free visit, follow these guidelines:

- Arrive early. This popular "first-come, first served" event will close when the six dumpsters are full, or at 1 p.m., whichever comes first. Organizers report past cleanup days have averaged 180 cubic yards of collected debris.

- Provide proof of residency. Although open to all Bloomingdale residents; you must provide a tax bill or utility bill with your name and address for residency verification.

- Limit your drop-offs to two car loads, or one for SUV's, and pick-up trucks.

- Bring appliances, mattresses, used computer

components (printers, faxes, monitors, etc.), water heaters, televisions, steel and other metals, furniture, and non-commercial construction debris.

Sounds pretty simple and straightforward, right? There are some restrictions, however, and residents will be turned away from site access if arriving with any of the following:

- Trailers over one-axle.
- Commercial business waste or trash.
- Regular curbside yard waste or regular household trash.
- Hazardous materials, including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercial activities.

Again, volunteers are always needed. Volunteer duties include helping with traffic flow and unloading vehicles if needed.

If you want to help with the cleanup day event, call the BHA Community Office at (813) 681-2051 or email inbloomingdalenews@tampabay.rr.com. Include your name, a phone number, and available hours. High school students and Scouts will earn community service hour credits.

Property Manager's Report

There were two accidents this month. The first one happened on Canoga Park Drive. The wall was photographed, the sheriff was contacted for an accident report, the wall was repaired by ZK Construction, the damaged area was painted by Shuman Property and the paper work was forwarded to the insurance company for reimbursement. The second accident was photographed and the sheriff was contacted, Davidson Landscaping removed the damaged sod, installed new St Augustine grass and ZK construction repaired the hole in the wall. The wall should be painted this week and the job will be complete.

In other news:

- The iron benches were

inventories (15) to be included in the Fiscal 09 painting contract.

- Luke Brothers Irrigation Company started the change out of the remaining 1900 4-inch pop-ups to 6-inch pop-ups. The contact should be completed by mid September.

- Davidson Landscaping and Irrigation installed the Canary Palm in the Culbreath Cove median, cleaned up the Canary Palms and landscaping at the Rosemead entrance a directional bore and installed wiring and irrigation pipe under Canoga Park Drive.

- Becker landscaping started the landscape upgrade for Fiscal 08 contract. The work should be completed by the middle of September.

- In the land of eat drink and pitch out the window, there were 21 signs, a tire, a blanket, a Bob's barricade, two shirts and \$0.02 cents removed. Additionally there were 11 lights and an American flag replaced. The beverages of the month were Diet Pepsi with lime for soft drinks, Rolling Rock for beer and Gordon's gin for distilled spirit.

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Getting Her Message Out, One Pageant At A Time

By LESLIE WHITE

Her smile is born of self-confidence and satisfaction in a job well-done, but it's the smiles she brings to others' faces that are even more important to Bloomingdale resident Katie Greene. In April 2008, 17-year-old Greene was crowned Miss North Central Florida Teen USA 2009.

According to Greene, "The pageant has opened so many doors to so many things," the most satisfying to her being visiting kids in surrounding hospitals.

During those visits, Greene spends time with the children allowing the girls to try on her crown and sash, letting them, in her words, "be queen for a day."

"Seeing the girls' faces when they look up to you, knowing you've helped them to have a better day and just making them

smile – that's my favorite part," said Greene, who admits, "I feel bad when I leave because I feel like I get more out of it than they do."

That passion for giving drives Greene in every area of her life. A Durant High School senior, Greene maintains a 4.92 GPA while participating in Leo Club – a high school based version of the Lions Club dedicated to life-long community service, as well as the Best Buddies club – a friendship building program for people with intellectual disabilities; Junior Civitan – a club emphasizing helping people with developmental disabilities; National Honor Society, Student Government Executive Council and Student Advisory Committee. If that's not enough, she also holds two part time jobs, one at The Athletic Club in Brandon and the other babysitting a set of

triplets three nights a week.

When asked how she manages to juggle everything on her plate, Greene is quick to give credit to her family support system. Dad Jack is a teacher and assistant wrestling coach at Durant and her mother, Terry, is what Greene likes to call her "Momager."

"I call her that because to do all this you have to be very, very, very organized and she helps me so much by keeping me on track with everything I have to do," said Greene.

And to compete in a pageant the caliber of Miss Florida Teen USA takes extensive work and preparation on her behalf. To get into top shape, Greene hits the gym every day. She also travels to Gainesville to work with her director, Chelsea Atkins, a Miss Florida USA alumna. Greene also works with a local director

to hone her interviewing skills. But her favorite part of preparation is shopping for the perfect gown.

"My gown was designed by the owners of Regalia in Orlando and custom made by Sherry Hill," she said.

Greene also had a swimsuit and interview suit designed especially for her. Walking and standing properly are another part of the training, but Greene emphasizes that physical appearance isn't all that matters in pageant competition and that the benefits from such preparation extend far beyond the pageant itself. The poise, self-awareness and interviewing techniques, "are skills that I will use for the rest of my life."

Aware of the common stereotypes of pageant participants, Greene dispels the myth that they are catty, pampered or that



Bloomingdale resident Katie Greene was crowned Miss North Central Florida Teen 2009 USA in April. (Photo provided by Greene family was taken by photographer Deanna Meredith)

appearance is of the utmost. Her experience has been that contestants get along, laughing and having fun together, do their own hair and makeup, and help each other out if need be.

"All the girls that compete are extraordinary. Most of them have high GPAs, are student government leaders and most have already earned scholarships," said

See PAGEANT, Page 13

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At Issue: Cans In The Street

By LESLIE WHITE

Many Bloomingdale residents come home on Tuesdays and Fridays to find their trash cans and recycling bins not in their driveway, nor the grass, but in the street. This problem has been addressed in the past, but seems to have resurfaced. According to the Hillsborough County Government website, "Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department is responsible for the overall operation of the Hillsborough County Integrated Solid Waste Management System, which provides for the collection, transportation, and disposition of all of the solid waste generated or brought into the System service area."

The office does accept consumer feedback and promises to address issues brought to their attention. The Director is Barry M. Boldissar and the number at his office is (813) 272-5680. The Web site also states that "all residential complaints will be responded to within 24 hours, or the customer will receive a call from a supervisor or manager offering an explanation."



Leslie White Staff photo

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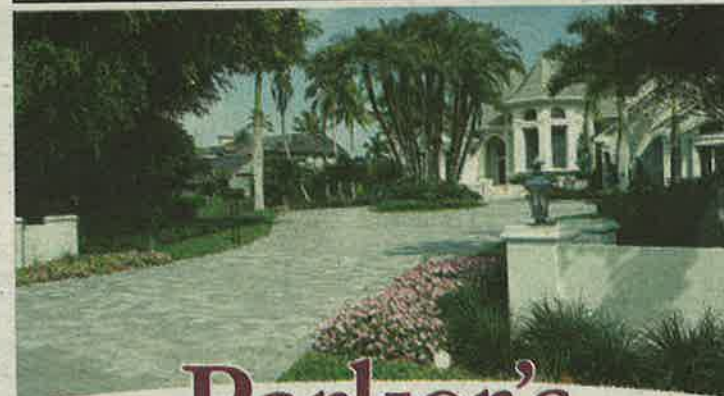
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BHA Will Sponsor First Annual Family Fest

Family togetherness is important to many. In addition to Thanksgiving in November, Bloomingdale residents can add one more family-oriented event to their schedules... the first annual Bloomingdale Family Fest. Event organizers promise a day filled with

live music, games and a bouncy apparatus for kids, food, raffles, and information booths from local Bloomingdale businesses.

Scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club, the fest is open to all Bloomingdale

residents. Volunteers are needed; to volunteer contact Jane Lee via e-mail at InBloomingdaleNews@tampabay.rr.com.

For detailed Fest information, read November's Bloomingdale Gazette.

Alafia Elementary Fall Festival

Alafia Elementary has announced their annual Fall Festival. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

There will be carnival rides, games, face painting, dunk tank and cake walk.

Adding to the fun, will also be a Celebrity Silent Auction which

is being used to raise money for the Lunch Bunch program. There will be food for cash. Tickets are \$10 for 20.

Sure to be fun for all. Please

plan on attending!

For additional information, please contact Wendy Peregolise at 654-1763 or 431-7840.

Jazz Under The Stars

By BARBARA KEMP

Bring your beach blankets and lawn chairs Sunday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m., and enjoy "Jazz Under the Stars" at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. The church is located at 3315 Bryan Road, at the corner of Bryan and Bloomingdale. The jazz band, "Jazz Legacy," will be playing a variety of old American standards and new arrangements that the entire family will like. This outdoor concert is about relaxing and enjoying great music that you wouldn't typically hear. Find

your favorite spot on the lawn, then sip a cup of coffee and sample the food graciously donated by local vendors as you listen to the sounds of jazz.

Concertgoers will enjoy a sparkling ambience from the many lights that volunteers from St. Andrew's United Methodist Church have worked hard to place around the area. "The lights just set the mood for a perfect evening," said Michele Pruyn, director of music and worship arts at St. Andrew's.

Concerts by "Jazz Legacy" at St.

Andrew's have become a community favorite. Last year, more than 400 people came out to enjoy the sweet sounds of jazz. For more information, please contact Michele Pruyn at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, (813) 689-6849, ext. 224 or visit standrewsbrandon.org. The concert is free with the option to donate to a love offering. Jazz Under the Stars is part of St. Andrew's 40-year music tradition and their commitment to Loving Christ, Serving Others, Making a Difference.

Brandon Ballet Celebrates
15 Years with Annual Golf
Scramble

It's that time of the year for Brandon Ballet's 2008 fall "4 Person Golf Scramble" at Bloomingdale Golfers Club! Great golf, great prizes and great food are the plan for the day. Proceeds will help to continue the development of the arts in the Brandon area, and your \$80 entry fee is tax deductible. Registration starts 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19 with the shotgun start at 12 p.m. Free range balls for warm-up will be provided and many other exciting things are happening throughout the day.

Bloomingdale Golfers Club is located at 4113 Great Golfers Club in Valrico.

To register, provide name(s) and contact phone number and mail entry along with your check to Brandon Ballet, P.O. Box 1291, Brandon, FL 33509. For more information, call Bill Daniel at (813) 681-1261. Visit www.brandonballet.org for Brandon Ballet's performance schedule of its magical "The Nutcracker" in December.



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Dinner @ 6

6 ingredients, 6 servings or 6 hours in the crock pot
These recipes will help your family have dinner @ 6!

By LESLIE WHITE

Gone are the days when mom, dad, junior and sissy sat down in a Norman Rockwell setting and dined in harmony on a three-course, well-rounded meal (including Jell-O mold), every night. If we're really honest, those meals are few and far between due to the hectic pace of life in the 21st century. If you have the Norman Rockwell-esque meal 7 nights a week – call me! I need to know your secret. If you don't, read on. It's a rare weeknight in my family when we're all in the same place at 6 p.m. Between after-school activities, sports and jobs in separate counties – the term "witching hour" hardly describes my pre-dinner predicament.

So, I've set out to solve the problem, and this column is definitely a by-product of my search for a solution. I've heard it over and over, "Those who fail to plan, plan to fail." I don't know who said it, but I've heard it.

So, here's a plan. Literally. "Dinner @ 6" is a place you can find recipes, time-saving ideas and all-around help in meeting your goal of providing dinner for your family that doesn't come in a box or a sack, no matter what your day has been like. The recipes I provide will either have 6 ingredients or less, serve 6, can be ready by 6 after a long day at work, or can be made in the slow-cooker in 6 hours. But wait, there's more! There isn't room

enough here to meet all the needs and decipher all the dilemmas, so I've set up a blog – "Dinner @ 6" – which can be found at www.dinnerat6-lesliewhite.blogspot.com. That's where all the extras and meal planning help will be. I invite you to come by, take a look around, try the extra recipes as well as share your own successes, recipes, comments and questions.

Now, let's get to it. The first recipe is one of my mama's, who somehow managed to work full time and still have a great dinner on the table every night. Her key to success was planning, planning, planning. And, to this day, she still keeps these ingredients on hand for a fast dinner fix.

Mama's Enchiladas

- 1 (12.5 oz.) can breast of chicken
- 1 small onion
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 (10 oz.) can enchilada sauce
- Shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese
- Flour tortillas



Dice onion and sauté in butter over medium heat in frying pan. While onion is sautéing, drain can of chicken of all juices and separate the chunks in the can with a fork. Once onion is tender, add chicken and enchilada sauce, stirring to combine. Let this simmer over medium-low heat while you warm up the flour tortillas and grate cheese to top. You can also top with salsa and sour cream.

6 ingredients -- 6 servings -- all in less than 30 minutes. For a great side dish idea, visit "Dinner @ 6" online at www.dinnerat6-lesliewhite.blogspot.com.

Simple. Satisfying. Savory. That's Dinner @ 6. Until next month

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Disco Inferno



Photo by Leslie White

Alafia Elementary first-grader Olivia Schwartz and her friend Hope Remaley shook their booties at the Back to School Disco Inferno.

Alafia Elementary PTA kicked off the school year in 70's disco style by throwing the kids a Back to School Disco Inferno. PTA president Michelle Ernest said, "We wanted to provide this free service to the school for the kids." The PTA had snacks and drinks on hand for the dancers, but the music played by a DJ from Music on the Move kept the majority of them in motion. Activities had kids competing in limbo, dance and hula-hoop contests. Even some parents braved the retro look and joined their kids on the dance floor as they all sang and motioned to the familiar tune of Y-M-C-A.

PAGEANT

From page 9

Greene. "It's all about having self confidence and knowing yourself, having a purpose and just being natural. Most of the girls just want to get their message out into the world. Anybody can have a crown on their head, but if you don't do anything with it, why have the title?"

Greene's message is one stemming from personal experience. She wants girls to know that anything is possible if they believe in themselves.

"You can overcome obstacles and do whatever you want with your life," shared Greene, who suffered a hearing loss from a childhood illness, causing her to speak loudly, not a desired trait in performers and pageant contestants. Greene has worked hard to make her dreams come true, with her family, including

older sister Cydney, a microbiology major at the University of Florida, and younger brother Dakota, a seventh grader at Burns, singing her praises and supporting her every step of the way.

"This pageant experience has truly been about Katie's passion and commitment to herself and others," said her mother, Terry. "What Katie will take away from this experience will carry with her for many, many years to come. As she prepares to graduate high school and enter college, her dad and I couldn't be more proud of the person she's become."

After graduation, Greene plans to attend a four year university in Florida where she'll major in Public Relations. To watch Greene compete in the Miss Florida Teen USA 2009 pageant, check your local listings for channel and times.

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Rapping Author Visits Cimino

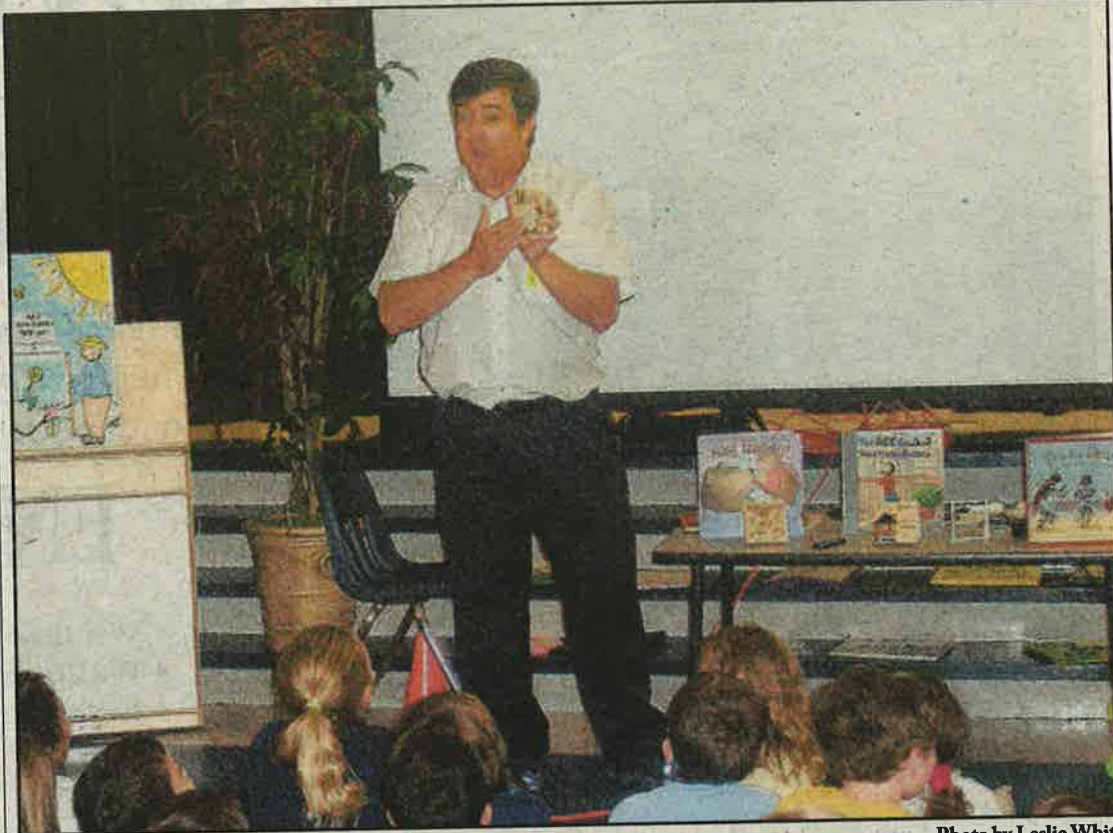


Photo by Leslie White

Award winning children's author Michael Shoulders speaks to the students at Cimino Elementary.

By LESLIE WHITE

"A" is for author and "M" is for Michael Shoulders, the award-winning children's author who recently visited Cimino Elementary School.

Shoulders shared his love of reading and some tips for writing with each grade level, giving them an animated speech and a vivid slide-show showing how his books are conceptualized and then illustrated. The author is best known for his alphabet and counting books set in various states around the South.

Shoulders hails from Clarksville, Tennessee, where he spent 25 years in the school system as both an educator and administrator.

"Reading and writing are vital to students' success, both in school and in life," he said.

He emphasizes reading in his travels around the U.S. visiting schools.

"Families who communicate about school, and families who read together, produce more successful students," said Shoulders.

His story "Say Daddy," illustrates the role reading played in his own life and the life of his children. For this author, reading books as well as writing them, is a family affair. Shoulders and his wife, Debbie, have co-authored

"D is for Drum: A Native American Alphabet," which Learning Magazine recently named the Teacher's Choice Award winner for 2008.

The Shoulders' have three children, each of which have appeared in illustrations in his work. His middle child, Ryan, also has appeared on Season 7 of Survivor.

Reading and writing have played a major role in all of their lives, according to Shoulders. But reading isn't the only thing the author focuses on in his interactive presentations. He believes writing is just as important and gave the students a visual example of the publishing process, having various students pose as "rough draft" and subsequent "rewrites" along with an editor and a publisher. The students learned about his personal experience of submitting work only to have it rejected numerous times, until finally an editor suggested some changes and bought his first book, "V is for Volunteer: A Tennessee Alphabet Book," in 2001. Though the process can be long, and at times, discouraging, Shoulders encouraged the students to never give up.

Cimino Elementary media specialist Nancy Waters con-

tacted Shoulders to visit Cimino after a group of teachers attended a literacy conference at which Shoulders was a featured speaker.

"The teachers went crazy over him and said I just had to get him to come to our school," said Waters.

The students had the same reaction to Shoulders, who tailored each presentation to the age level he was speaking to. At the end of his segment on writing, Shoulders suddenly morphed into rapper "63 Cent," named so because in his words, "I'm bigger than 50 Cent."

Donning some bling and a headband, Shoulders wowed the Cimino student body with his hip-hop abilities as he rapped to his "V is for Volunteer: A Tennessee Alphabet Book."

Cimino was Shoulders' last stop on a three-day visit to several Hillsborough County schools. At each school, he spent a portion of his time signing books for each student who purchased one. On the way out the door, first and second graders high-fived him and more than one told him, "You're cool!" "So is reading," he answered one student. Shoulders books are available through his Web site, michaelshoulders.com.

Welcome to "Talk around Town," a new section of your hometown newspaper, The Bloomingdale Gazette. Each month, residents will be asked a question, some light-hearted, some serious, and asked to respond. This month:

"What makes Bloomingdale a special community?"



Bryant Sneed, grandparent and frequent Bloomingdale visitor.

"Bloomingdale is a special place for many reasons...my family and my two grandchildren live here, the friendliness of the people that live here, the accessibility to Tampa and good sports teams, the Gulf and Atlantic Oceans, Disneyland, and Busch Gardens. Everything you might want to do is right here and there are many quality of life programs, like the YMCA and the great schools."



Patti Natale, Bristol Green resident and YMCA employee

"I have close friends nearby and the people here are very friendly. I frequently walk Natures Way and everything in the area is located nearby. And, I love the schools...my kids went to Alafia, then Cimino, and now, Bloomingdale."



Mike Ferguson, college student and YMCA employee

"I really enjoy the library. I am in college and it is a great place to study. The community has an open layout and I think it contributes to the nice and friendly atmosphere."

Change In Meeting Location For Homeowners Association

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is no longer housed within the office of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District located at 3509 Bell Shoals Road. However, you may still reach us by calling (813) 681-2051 or by emailing bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net. Also, our mailing address has changed to Post Office Box 7221, Brandon, Florida 33508.

Our regular monthly board meetings for the months of October, November, and December, 2008 will be held at the Campo YMCA located at Bloomingdale and Culbreath Road. The meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m.. If you have any questions or would like additional information, you may reach us at (813) 681-2051 or bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net.

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A Ride In The Past

By GEORGE MAY

It's Friday night, and my neighbors Jan and Debbie Coppi, swing by to pick me up. Of course they are in their 1963 convertible Ford Falcon Futura. On a typical Friday night they head up to Autozone's parking lot on Brandon Blvd. and Parsons Ave. From approximately 6-9 pm, they meet up with friends who also own or have an interest in antique cars.

This group of friends has formed a car club and call themselves "The High Roller Club." There are about 45 members in all. Usually you will find 20-25 cars on any given Friday night. The night I was there, in addition to the Coppi's 63 Futura, there was a 63 Impala, a 66 Nova Super Sport, a 57 Chevy Bel Air and one of my favorites, a 66 Sunbeam Tiger just to mention a few.

Not able to make a Friday night? You can find the Coppis and the club at Sonics on Hwy.



60 on Wednesday nights. Tuesday evenings, they head over to the Sonics in Plant City on Hwy. 39.

Even better yet, one of the bigger car shows they attend is on the third Saturday of the month in downtown Plant City. Typically you will see 300 cars there for this show. They also have food vendors there.

I asked Jan what has been

the rarest car that he has seen at these shows. It was a 1955 Bubbletop Corvette. There were only 19 of these made.

So, if you are looking for something different to do, go to the website, www.CruiseNewsOnline.com or one of the fore mentioned nights, and check out some old cars. The best part about it, it's free.

Pink Ribbon Tea Hosted At St. Andrew's

On Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, from 1 to 3 pm, over 350 women will gather together to raise awareness and help raise money for breast cancer research at a Pink Ribbon Tea hosted by St. Andrew's United Methodist church located on 3315 Bryan Road.

The Pink Ribbon Tea has been an annual tradition at St. Andrew's United Methodist church for six years. This event consists of a luncheon where a table hostess treats guests to tea and hors d'oeuvres at a table decorated especially for the event, a fashion show, and a guest speaker. The Pink Ribbon Tea is open to the community, and there is no cost, but you are encouraged to donate to the Breast Cancer 3-Day, a Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation affiliate.

Susan Lewis, a pastor at St. Andrew's as well as a breast cancer survivor, says "It is a time of celebration for survivors, a time of education for women, and overall a very special event."

Susan is helping to organize the event as a way to give back to the community. Pastor Sue adds, "When I went through the treatment and recovery, there were so many people supporting me. It is one way I can thank them and help others who are going through the same thing. The Pink Ribbon Tea is a way to give back to the community."

The tea portion is a time to be amazed by the creativity of the hostesses. Each table is decorated with the host's own china. It is truly spectacular to see the uniqueness of each table. The ladies enjoy a wonderful tea while teenage girl volunteers dressed in pink bow ties and cummerbunds serve tea.

The fashion show was extremely popular last year, and is sure to be a favorite for guests this year. The fashion show will feature Coldwater Creek clothing. What makes the fashion show unique is that all the models are breast cancer survivors. It is a unique way to show trends in style, and show off the model's true beauty.

The Guest Speaker for the tea is Lynn Nankervis, the Parish Health Coordinator at St. Andrew's. She is a breast cancer survivor and mother of a blended family, including a child who has a disability. She will be sharing her story of hope for the group to listen and be inspired.

Funds from the Pink Ribbon Tea will be donated to the Breast Cancer 3 Day. If you are interested in participating in the Pink Ribbon Tea please contact Lynn Nankervis at (813) 689-6849, extension 207. St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, standrews-brandon.org has been an active part of the Brandon Community for over 40 years. Its mission "Loving Christ, Serving Others, Making a Difference" can be seen in community projects like the Pink Ribbon Tea.

For more information contact Lynn Nankervis (813) 689-6849 Ext. 207



Pre-Registration Required!

For more information please contact:
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Coming Soon: Topper's Creamery

Topper's Creamery was established out of a love of ice cream shared by several entrepreneurial-minded friends in Orlando, FL in 2002. The company's website calls Twistee Treat a "kid and family oriented brand." The menu offers frozen custard style ice cream in a variety of options including cups, cones - sugar or waffle - sundaes, malts, floats, specialty items and Topper Twists, which blends the soft-serve concoction with a variety of mix-ins. With the cone-shaped building still being assembled, the company expects the Bloomingdale stand to open within the next 90 days.

Coming soon to tastebuds near you is Topper's Creamery Twistee Treat, a single dip cone-shaped soft-serve ice cream stand being assembled at the corner of Culbreath and Bloomingdale right next to KFC. By Leslie White

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Making Ours A Safe And Secure Community

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER and CSO SANDY CAPITANO

At the Sept. 18 meeting of the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC), council members were briefed on the most recent crime statistics for the Bloomingdale area by Deputy Pete Maurer. The good news is that crime in our area has dropped. The bad news is that our area does have its share of the real world.

There is gang activity in our area. The Sheriff's Gang Unit needs not only the dedicated efforts of his deputies patrolling our community, but also increased participation and cooperation from community residents. By being vigilant and reporting suspicious activity, crime in our area can be reduced even further. In these days of tight budgets and cutbacks, the need for community residents to become involved in helping keep our community safe and secure is even more critical. Call (813) 247-8200 to report unusual activities.

Also, please do your part to keep our deputies on patrol. When you break the traffic laws and get stopped, you're taking a deputy away from patrolling our community. Also keep your homes and vehicles locked and

secure. Don't make it easy for criminals and take our deputies' time away from patrolling to complete investigations that could have been prevented by a locked door.

Halloween: A Fun Time Also Can Be Dangerous

The fun time we remember at Halloween has been turned into a dangerous "trick or treat" event by those with no regard for others.

PARENTS - Please follow these safety steps for a safe and fun Halloween:

1. If you let your kids go trick or treating, insure that they are safe by going with them or having someone escort them.
2. Make sure everyone has a flashlight and light-colored clothing or costumes.
3. Only stop at homes with the front porch lights on.
4. Cross only at intersections or clear areas, and not between parked cars.
5. Check all treats before your kids eat them. When in doubt throw them out.
6. Consider alternative activities. Many churches and schools have organized fun activities.
7. Insure everyone wears their seat belts when driving.

8. Insure your pets are kept under control.

9. Remember that all fireworks are "ILLEGAL" in Florida and can be very dangerous!

10. Watch out for kids walking through neighborhoods.

TEENS - Please follow these steps to stay safe:

1. If you go to Halloween parties, use your seat belts and don't drink if you're underage.
2. If you're old enough to drink, don't drink and drive.
3. Don't ride with anyone who has been drinking.
4. Don't use any illegal drugs.
5. Have fun, but remember that bad "tricks" can be very costly and get both you and your parents into a lot of trouble.
6. Remember that all fireworks are "ILLEGAL" in Florida and can be very dangerous!
7. Have a good time, but don't spend it at the Emergency Room.

Keeping Our Children Safe

Members of the B.A.C.C. were privileged to have a very important newcomer to the Bloomingdale community share

their program with them. Bill Pollock and Wendy Ernest from Child Protection Education of America (C.P.E.A.) shared C.P.E.A.'s goal of "Working to bring them all home".

Bill, a retired law enforcement officer, explained how C.P.E.A. uses the Rape Aggression Defense System (RAD) that utilizes the realistic self-defense tactics and techniques from this course to empower children to protect themselves and get away from would-be attackers. RAD is not a martial arts course.

C.P.E.A. educates and trains children in groups aging from 5 to 7 and 8 to 12. Bill noted that, "The techniques and skills learned through RAD can be life saving. Being able to escape from an attacker can make the difference in being a survivor and being missing or dead. There are those who would harm our children and our children need to know to defend themselves."

Wendy noted that C.P.E.A. is excited about being part of the Bloomingdale and Brandon communities. C.P.E.A. is located at 3439 Brook Crossing Drive on Bloomingdale Avenue near Bryan road. The organization is ready to provide this important training to groups in

our area. They can be contacted at (813) 626-3001 and Wendy can also be reached at wendy@find-missing-children.org.

Updates From State Representative Rich Glorioso

The Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (B.A.C.C.) was honored to have Robin Bryant from Rep. Glorioso's office and her daughter, Amber, present at the September meeting.

Robin passed on Rep. Glorioso's very important message to all of the residents in all of our communities. She noted that, "Rep Glorioso is very concerned, as we all should be, about the upcoming general election in November. This election will affect the future not only of our communities, but our nation for the next four years and years to come!"

Robyn encouraged everyone to get registered to vote and take the critical steps of getting informed on the issues and then voting in November. We all agreed that, "You don't vote, you can't complain!"

She also relayed the fact that there are literally hundreds of

SEE SHERIFF PAGE 19



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SHERIFF

From page 18

important bills being developed and processed through the legislative system in Tallahassee. She noted that "Residents would be very surprised to find out how many and just what topics the issues being reviewed cover. You can check out the bills by going to www.myfloridahouse.gov. Let Rep. Glorioso and his staff know your concerns and where you stand on the bills. Contact them at (813) 757-9110 or rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov

"Get informed and get involved!"

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Time: 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Cost: No cost for the course. \$14 for the exam. \$24.95 plus shipping for the manual
Material: Prior to the class, students should order "The ARRL Ham Radio License manual, First edition, third printing - ISBN:0-87259-963-9, Item #9639 online at <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/> under "Licensing and Upgrading". The costs is \$24.95 plus shipping or it can be found at some local book stores.
Note: Applicants Will Need A Government-issued Picture Id Card.

For information: contact Hillsborough County ARES/RACES at races@hillsboroughcounty.org or call (813) 224-8544

ROGER THAT!

THAI

From page 6

For example, the menu lists several degrees of "hot," ranging from mild with all the flavor and no kick, to a hot which is hotter than Tabasco, to Thai Hot, for which she, laughingly, claims no responsibility.

According to June, no two Thai restaurants are the same.

"We may serve some of the same dishes, but like all cuisines, recipes will vary by region." Whatever the region, Simply Thai customers appear to enjoy the Thai flavors featured in the small restaurant.

Pat and Phil Dixon have been coming to Simply Thai for more than 10 years. Both enjoy the fresh and healthy fare provided.

"The taste of the food is excellent; it's not greasy and it's good for you," Phil said. Pat added, "It's not just the food that's good, June knows your name when you walk in and she always adds a personal touch to everything."

June and family are also community partners and regularly share their success with the Bloomingdale community. They are Bloomingdale High School athletic boosters for the football and basketball teams, they support the teacher appreciation program at Alafia Elementary, and they frequently offer raffle prizes in the form of dinners at the restaurant for local charities, churches, and fund-raising events.

With the restaurant's first-

place finish in the Brandon Readers Poll, June's dream appears to be thriving.

"We are very flattered (with the win), but it is really about offering quality food at a reasonable price, cheaper than you can do at home," she said. "Our customers, particularly our regulars are the backbone of our business, and we thank them."

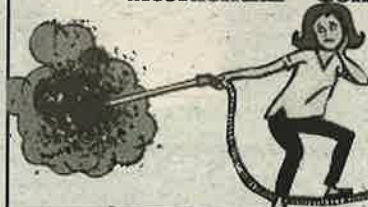
The restaurant is located at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road. Business hours are lunch Tuesday to Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner, Tuesday through Saturday, 4:30 to 9 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Mondays. For information, call (813) 681-4470 or go online to SimplyThai.MetroBrandon.com.

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