

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXXI
Number 10

OCTOBER 2011 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



Help in a time of need

The downturned economy has put an even greater strain on food pantry volunteers at St. Stephen Catholic Church.

See story, page 4.

Volunteers Barbara Zielinski (left) and Melissa Kelly finishing packing a box of food for a family in need at the St. Stephen Catholic Church food pantry.

Susan Green

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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Bob Hope



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THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980
Post Office Box 7221, Brandon, FL 33508

Phone number:
(813) 681-2051

E-Mail:
bloominglehomeowners@verizon.net

Web site:
bloominglegazette.com

The Gazette is published by Sunbelt Newspapers

Publisher:
Denise Palmer

202 S. Parker Street, Tampa, FL 33606-2395
Ph: (813) 259-7479
Advertising: 627-4771

The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomingdale residents on the first Saturday of each month.

St. Stephen gears up to offer holiday food help

BY SUSAN GREEN

They take names and numbers, listen to sad stories of divorce and unemployment, and try to be a stopgap between distress and disaster.

But for Sylvia Guerra, one of many volunteers at the St. Stephen Catholic Church food pantry, the main goal is to be sure that joblessness doesn't turn into hopelessness. She listens, offers spiritual comfort if it's welcomed, and sometimes shares her own story of grief at her husband's death about two years ago.

"Today I had a gentleman come in that had a 19-year-old and 20-year-old that both are attending college and a 14-year-old at home," Guerra said. "His wife left him four years ago. He's in construction, so if it rains, he doesn't work.

"He was just telling me how difficult it's been and how hard it was for him to ask for help."

At St. Stephen, people who are down on their luck can get a box of food and emergency help with lodging or utility bills through the church's affiliation with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. St. Stephen serves as the society's distribution center for people from parts of Riverview, Valrico, Lithia and Gibsonton.

Last month found Camille Riggings, who oversees the program, and Graciela Langan, who runs the food pantry, already deep into planning for food distributions through the holiday season.

"At Christmas, we help over 300 families with over 700 children," Langan

said. "We have a lot of single moms out of work."

Added Riggings: "We have a lot of people raising their children's children. ... We have people come here that are sleeping in their cars."

The program has about 50 active volunteers who interview applicants for assistance, pack food boxes and plan fundraisers. This year, fundraisers included two annual traditions: A festive tea party, with teams adopting and decorating tables, and a fashion show.

The pantry also receives food donations from Publix, Panera Bread, Costco and Feeding America, a national charity aimed at stamping out hunger.

Those donations are supplemented with cash purchases of gift cards and food products needed to round out the allotted meals. Riggings said the church regularly takes up collections from the parish to help fund the food pantry. Parishioners and families with students at St. Stephen Catholic School are quite generous, she said.

St. Stephen also is collecting toys to be given to disadvantaged children of all ages at Christmas.

Church leaders declined to say exactly how much it costs to supply the program, but said the costs mount into the tens of thousands each year.

The pantry routinely aids more than 140 families a month. From the beginning of the fiscal year that started in October 2010 through August, the program distributed about 68,000 pounds of food to needy families, Langan



SUSAN GREEN

Volunteers Barbara Zielinski (left) and Melissa Kelly finishing packing a box of food for a family in need at the St. Stephen Catholic Church food pantry.

said. That's actually down a little from the previous year because some migrant workers who typically seek employment in Florida left the state because they couldn't find jobs, she said.

Guerra said she started volunteering in the program two years ago after the death of her husband. It has provided her with a sense of purpose and the companionship of other volunteers.

"Sometimes God takes something away, but he always gives something back," she said. "He gave me this ministry to fill the void. I've made the best friends here."

The food pantry is open from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fridays each week. For information, call (813) 689-4900 or visit www.ststephencatholic.org/ministries/pantry.



SUSAN GREEN

Sylvia Guerra, a volunteer at St. Stephen Catholic Church food pantry, helps a Riverview resident fill out an application for assistance for herself and her children.

Following is a list of food items needed for holiday meals:

- ◆ Canned corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, chicken or turkey gravy, chicken broth, yams, and cake icing
- ◆ Boxed stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, cake mix
- ◆ 2-pound bags of rice and pinto beans
- ◆ \$15 gift card to buy meat



Amy Cunningham



Mike Rhodes



Tim Cunningham

BY SUSAN GREEN

This month's question was posed to spectators at Bloomingdale Little League Sports Complex. With Hillsborough County budget cutbacks threatening to slash some park programs, we asked parents:

Do you think there are adequate recreational opportunities in Bloomingdale?

Mike Rhodes, father of Logan, 10, and Avery, 2, said the family just moved to Bloomingdale from Naples in July:

"The kids went to summer camp. It was

pretty easy to find a camp right here. There seem to be a lot of opportunities."

Amy and Tim Cunningham of Indian Hills have three children, Chris, 16; Robert, 11; and Jennifer, 6. Their two older children used to attend after-school

and summer programs at Bloomingdale West Recreation Center:

Amy: "It just depends on what aspect you're talking about. There's soccer [in Brandon]. FishHawk has lacrosse, soccer and football. If your kids are not into any of those sports, you

have the [Campo] Y.

"If you're saying something about the after-school programs and cutbacks ... I don't think it's enough. I feel bad for parents who have to go through all those cutbacks."

Tim: "You got to know your neighbors. Most days, people come home from work and close their garage door and don't even meet their neighbors. It [Parks Department program] was a good community thing."

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Chipotle Grill chooses Bloomingdale for first Brandon-area store

BY SUSAN GREEN

No-nonsense décor combined with a no-nonsense food menu greeted the first customers to stream into the new Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurant that opened Sept. 13 in Bloomingdale Square.

"The décor is steel, concrete and wood," said Kimberly Higgins, Chipotle's marketing representative in Tampa. "Simple works well, just like our food."

The eatery, which promises high-quality fare in fast-food time, opened at 829 E. Bloomingdale Ave., in a remodeled space formerly occupied by Latin Café on the west corner of the shopping plaza. Customers step up to the order window and point to ingredients they want to include in their custom-made burritos, tacos and salads.

The national chain has built its reputation on fresh, natural ingredients and organically grown cilantro. Chipotle also specializes in the burrito bowl, which cuts calories and carbohydrates by offering rice, beans, meat, salsa and cheese without the tortilla.

Higgins said customers familiar with the chain's restaurants in Tampa have been clamoring for a Chipotle in the Brandon area. The chain has five stores in Tampa, plus others scattered across neighboring counties.

"People wrote in for years, asking us to come to Brandon," Higgins said. "We just thought it was the right time to bring it to Bloomingdale. It was the right fit."

The day before unlocking the doors to the public, the restaurant had a "soft opening" that also served

as a fundraiser for the Bloomingdale High School band, Higgins said.

Entrees cost \$6.25 for chicken or vegetarian choices and \$6.65 for beef or pork. In keeping with the restaurant's focus on healthy nutrition, the Chipotle menu offers a breakdown of calories and other nutritional information for all ingredients, so that customers can tally up their intake as they build their meal.

Kids' menu items include a taco kit that lets youngsters build their own meal out of soft or crispy shells and a choice of three ingredients.

Customers can order in advance online at www.chipotle.com or by fax at (813) 681-1659. The restaurant is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For information, call (813) 423-6384.



SUSAN GREEN

Chipotle Mexican Grill opened at 829 E. Bloomingdale Ave., in a remodeled space formerly occupied by Latin Café on the west corner of the shopping plaza.

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Mother's love leads to career in children's books

BY SUSAN GREEN

The scribe in children's book author Jodi Stone didn't emerge until adulthood, but when it sprouted, it took root right away.

The 36-year-old mother of three girls said she started writing poetry shortly after getting married and tagging along with her husband to a naval base in Virginia.

"It was a kind of therapy for me, to get through everything," Stone said.

A few years later, as a young mother, she wrote a story about her oldest daughter, Brooke, for the child's second birthday. She put her daughter in the story as a princess.

As two more daughters followed, she made a tradition of building stories around them, usually incorporating the princess theme. Then she started thinking about trying to market her work.

"It just kind of grew from there," Stone said.

Now Stone, who also illustrates her stories, has three books in print by Solstice Publishing and another on the way, along with two electronic books.

"It took years and years," the author said. "You would get the rejection letters and it would kind of bring you down. ... But I stuck with it."

Her dream of becoming a published writer also led her to pursue a bachelor's degree in English and creative writing from the University of South Florida. She has only four classes remaining to graduate.

"I might go back for my master's," she said, adding that she also is considering a teaching career.

Although her children — Brooke, 11; Alexis, 8; and Savannah, 4 — were the



SUSAN GREEN

Jodi Stone of Lithia has embarked on a career as a children's author and illustrator.

inspiration for her stories, Stone credits her father, Charles Henderson of Valrico, with spurring her to actions that ultimately led to publication of her first book a year ago.

She said Henderson read about an author in Riverview and suggested that his daughter e-mail her for advice. To Stone's surprise, the author responded and offered to review Stone's work. Eventually, that led to publication of her first story, "A Louse of a Mouse," as an electronic book.

Stone was born in Decatur, Ga., and moved to the Brandon area when she was 10. She credits her

parents; her stepmother, Anne; and her husband, Jon, with providing the support she needed to succeed as a writer. Her mother, Karen, died three years ago of kidney disease.

Stone said her stories typically revolve around fantasy themes and are aimed at little girls.

"I definitely write what I know," she said. Her books start at about \$10 in print and cost \$3 to \$4 for e-books. They are available from SolsticePublishing.com or Amazon.com. For information, visit www.facebook.com/JodiStone.ChildrensBookAuthor.



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0003088994-01

New store specializes in handcrafted children's wares



SUSAN GREEN

Tammy Hicks opened her children's specialty store, Gumballs & Overalls, in August in Lithia Crossings Plaza.

BY SUSAN GREEN

Every child is one of a kind, and new store owner Tammy Hicks is banking on parents' desires to shower their children with one-of-a-kind gifts.

Hand-crafted items, many from local vendors, pepper her store, Gumballs & Overalls, at 3468 Lithia-Pinecrest Road. Hicks opened the store in Lithia Crossings Plaza in August.

The store offers decorated cloth diapers and diaper covers, a bevy of showy tutus for little girls, hand-knitted booties and hats and handmade bibs, dolls and toys, along with six upscale clothing lines for children from newborn to age 8.

Hicks also carries products from Baby Signs, a program aimed at enhancing communication between parents and pre-verbal infants through sign language.

The owner said she especially likes to promote work by local crafters.

"With today's economy, it's really hard to work from home and make money," she said. "So I enjoy being that outlet for them."

She ran a similar store in Rockford, Mich., for about two years before marrying a Valrico resident, Quentin Hicks, and moving to Flor-



Colorful handcrafted items, like these headbands, abound at Gumballs & Overalls in Valrico.

ida to be with him. She still retains an ownership interest in her Michigan store, which is being managed by a partner. She said she spent about a year researching various locations before choosing Lithia Crossings.

A former accountant, Hicks said she got the idea for a children's store after she did the books for a customer who ran a similar outlet in Michigan.

"I needed a change," Hicks recalled. "I loved my job, but I was tired of being in a cubicle."

She said a friend suggested the name. She keeps a gumball machine on the cashier's counter, and customers can help themselves at checkout.

"It's been a good name because it just sticks," Hicks said. "People either remember gumballs or overalls."



Shoppers can browse for handmade dolls and toys at Gumballs & Overalls in Valrico

The store space includes a 12-by-16 foot room that Hicks plans to use for classes for new-mother lactation and diaper-changing. She also plans to offer photo sessions with a local portrait photographer.

For information about the store, call (813) 661-8579 or visit www.gumballsandoveralls.com or www.facebook.com/gumballsandoverallsvalrico.

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Chicks for Charities hold fundraiser

A Gazette report

Chicks for Charities presents their third Annual Breast Cancer Awareness FUNdraiser

The Ladies Movie Night at AMC Regency 20 Theatres will be held on Thursday, Oct. 6. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

"What's Your Number?" is the scheduled special presentation. Tickets are \$20 per person and include movie, dinner, popcorn, drink and a swag bag

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Memorial run to raise comfort funds for cancer victims

BY SUSAN GREEN

It's been five years since a little boy with a big smile gave in to an aggressive brain tumor, but his parents remain determined to turn their loss into a gain for others facing a dreaded cancer diagnosis.

Dirk and Sherry Tucker of River Hills are organizing the second annual Zach Tucker Memorial 5K Run, to be held Oct. 29 to raise money for families battling cancer. Participants will gather at Lithia Springs Elementary School, 4332 Lynx Paw-Trail, at 8 a.m. and run through the River Hills community. Runners are encouraged to wear a costume.

"It's the Halloween season," Dirk noted.

Trophies will be awarded for best costume and for the fastest male and female runners. Medals and other achievement awards also will be distributed. The deadline for entering is Oct. 22 to get a discount registration fee and T-shirt.

The Tuckers' son, Zach, attended Lithia Springs before he succumbed to cancer in 2006. His older sister, Lexi, now a senior at Newsome High, also went to the school. Their father said classmates of both students participated in last year's event, along with River Hills residents of all ages and others from outside the community.

The event drew about 400 participants and raised about \$15,000 for a

charity founded by the Tuckers, the Giving Hope Through Faith Foundation. Proceeds go to help defray expenses for families grappling with the dizzying schedules of doctor visits, treatments and hospital stays when a loved one develops cancer.

Dirk said the foundation provides about \$1,500 to each family it helps. Since the foundation began four years ago, 217 families have received assistance, with most cases involving children. The Tuckers receive most of their referrals from All Children's and St. Joseph's Children's hospitals, where Zach spent time during his illness.

Dirk said the Tuckers' **MEMORIAL, Page 15**

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Bloomingtondale Cheerleading host 10th annual Mini Bulls Clinic

KIM WALLACE

This year the Bloomingtondale cheerleaders hosted their 10th Annual Mini Bulls Clinic Saturday, Sept. 10. With 75 girls in attendance from ages 4 to 13, the clinic was a success.

The cheerleaders taught the fundamentals of cheers, chants and dance. Most of the girls come with the thought of maybe one day becoming a Bloomingtondale cheerleader. The day was full of fun and hard work.

The Mini Bulls participants were invited the Sept. 16 varsity football game, where they would be recognized and cheer from the stands. Head coach Candice Teague said they had 45 girls participate in the game.

With this year's great turnout, the coach and cheerleaders look forward to next year's event.



KIM WALLACE

Madison Garvin helps with teaching girls cheer Pictured at left, Kyra Knapp shows her Bull Pride while cheering with Bloomingtondale cheerleaders!



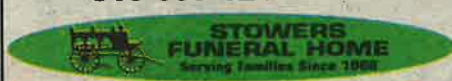
Bloomingtondale Cheerleaders with their Mini Bulls Cheeleaders!



Bulls cheerleaders teach local girls cheers, chants and dance at mini bulls clinic! Pictured below, Bulls Cheerleaders are excited about teaching young girls about cheerleading!



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Plaza Bella goes pink

A Gazette Report

Please join the 4th Annual Walk with Plaza Bella on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011, to raise funds and awareness to find a cure for breast cancer.

The walk begins at 9 a.m. at Plaza Bella (on Bloomingdale at Bell Shoals) with pre-registration beginning at 8 a.m. on the day of the event.

You may also pre-register for the event at The Green Boutique or Orange during regular business hours any day prior to the event.

There are two distances to choose from:

The Diva Strut which begins at Plaza Bella with a walk to Bloomingdale Library and back, Or

The 5K Challenge which also begins at Plaza Bella with a walk to Nature's



FILE PHOTO

Jean Walker was the first survivor winner to make it to finish line last year. Let's see who will come in first in this year's 4th Annual Plaza Bella Goes Pink event!

Way and back

Registration is: \$40 per person or \$35 per person for a team of 5 or more.

DJ - Refreshments - Raffle are all part of the day's highlights.

All proceeds benefit the

American Cancer Society and the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer

For more information please contact The Green Boutique (813) 685-9494 or Orange (813) 681-8686

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon hosting All Jazzed Up art festival

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon will be hosting All Jazzed Up Art Festival & Juried Art Show on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the historic Cuban Club in Ybor City. All Jazzed Up will begin with an invitation-only Collectors and Patrons Reception at 6 p.m., and will then open for general admission ticket-holders from 7 to 11 p.m. and feature live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar.

All Jazzed Up Art Festival will showcase collectable artwork for purchase, in a variety of mediums, from highly talented emerging and mid-career professional artists from the local and regional area. Running concurrently with the Art Festival is the Juried Art Show, in which artists will be judged and awarded cash prizes for their work. The winner of each category receives \$250, and the Best of Show will receive a \$500 cash prize.

David Richter, President of Congre-

gation Beth Shalom of Brandon, said, "our goal is to showcase exceptional fine artists and their work at an annual event, which will be anticipated by those with an interest and appreciation for supporting the arts in Tampa Bay; I believe that our choice of the beautiful, historic Cuban Club serves as it's own artistic statement for this event."

We are proud to have supported the efforts of Ronald McDonald House, Alabama Tornado Victims Support, Heifer International Project, Nothing But Nets Malaria Project, and Bay Area Greyhound Rescue, among others.

General Admission tickets are \$35, Patron Tickets are \$125, and both are available online at Sponsorship opportunities are available by calling (813) 293-7777. Artist applications are being accepted until Oct. 15 and are available online, or by calling (813) 541-0871.

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Running with the Bulls 5K run is about to start!



Overall winner of the day was Senior Cormac McCarthy of Bloomingdale.



KIM WALLACE

On your mark get set go!

Running with the Bulls 2011

KIM WALLACE

The Bloomingdale Bulls football team would like to extend a special thanks to Cimino Elementary School. The Bulls were allowed to host their Second Annual 5K run at the school.

Monies raised from the event will go to purchase supplies and equipment needed by the team. Head Coach Booth commented, "the community, players and parent volunteers all worked very hard to make the event run smoothly." Approximately 70 runners came out and supported the Bulls, making the Saturday morning event a success. The Bloomingdale Bulls Football team looks forward to hosting their Third Annual Run and Walk in 2012."



Caitlin Berry raced in the kids 5K Running with the Bulls. She showed how determined she was to finish! Pictured at left, the crowd cheers on Cory Ayers in kids 5K Running with the Bulls race!

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On Real Estate

The ball is in your court

Still waiting to jump off the fence and into homeownership? There are many aspects of today's market that should make your decision easier. First of all, mortgage rates are still low, which means you begin building equity even more quickly (by paying less-interest), and you can tolerate the ups and downs of the market while values recover.

You'll still find many assistance programs helping to encourage middle-class families to become homeowners. Get the ball rolling with a discussion with your agent to find out exactly what loan

programs are available, and then combine them with the current low interest rates for the greatest benefit.

When you make an offer and apply for financing, you'll also find that appraisal rules have come more into line with the reality of the market. Appraisers have more flexibility now in determining the value of a home based on comparable properties, an important facet of securing realistic financing for your purchase.

And your choices now couldn't be better, as



Ray
Chadderton

distressed properties are beginning to clear out of the system, and finer and better-maintained homes are entering the listings. You'll find that homeowners

were investing more in maintenance and improvements while the market was down, which will increase your choice of attractive properties now. Start your search today, while all these factors are in your favor.

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New girl's hoops coach announced

Bloomington is pleased to announce Coach Joel Bower as their new girl's basketball coach. Coach Bower has taught and coached at Stewart Middle Magnet School in Tampa for the 11 years. From 2003 to 2008, he coached boy's basketball at Newsome High School.

Coach Bower was born and raised in Palm Harbor and graduated from University of South Florida in 2000. Bower and his wife of seven years, Sara, have one daughter and one on the way in November. He enjoys boating and running and just completed his first mara-



Joel Bower

thon last December.

Coach Bower is very excited about getting the Bloomington girls

off to a good start this season.

MEMORIAL

From Page 10

faith in God gave them the strength to endure the loss of their son and served as the inspiration for the foundation.

"We believe God has a plan for us," he said. "Through our suffering ... we can provide a little comfort to families facing something no one should have to face."

Early registration costs \$25 for the 5K, \$15 for a children's fun run. Other donation opportunities are available at www.givinghopethroughfaith.org. Call the Tuckers at (813) 685-6773 or e-mail sherry@givinghopethroughfaith.org.

Complaint Corner

Our neighbors' dog barks constantly. My wife and I find it hard to sleep at night or enjoy quiet time outside. What's the best way to handle this?

First, give your neighbors the chance to remedy the problem themselves. In a non-confrontational way, let them know what's happening (they might not be aware) of how it's affecting your quality of life. Discuss some options: obedience training, anti-bark collars, daily walks. They might try bringing their dog inside at night or playing a radio to provide a calming background noise.

If addressing the problem doesn't fix it, it's time to get some outside help—but be aware that it may strain the relationship between you and your neighbors. Research your local noise ordinance and contact animal control. If the problem continues, you may decide to try mediation or to bring your neighbor to small claims court.

However you decide to handle it, make sure you document each action. Above all, keep a cool head. The dog is barking because it's lonely or bored, or has another unmet need. Ultimately though, it is your neighbors' responsibility to keep their dog quiet.

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Chocolate and coffee make heavenly pair at Plaza Bella

BY SUSAN GREEN

For chocolate and coffee lovers, heaven has opened its gates at Plaza Bella on the corner of Bell Shoals Road and Bloomingdale Avenue.

The Original Leena's Chocolates, formerly a few miles east in Lithia Square, has teamed up with DaSilva's Coffee House to occupy a storefront recently vacated by Joffrey's Coffee.

Adding gourmet coffee to menu items at Leena's was a goal that was not possible at the previous location because of competition with Starbucks in the same retail center, said Anthony Caligiure, who owns the chocolate mercantile with his wife, Leena.

"Coffee was something I definitely wanted to bring into the business," he said. "Coffee and chocolate go together."

The shop opened last month next door to Sweetie's Delights, a bakery that also is working with its neighbors to create some one-of-a-kind treats, transforming the plaza into a real sweet spot for customers with a yen for gourmet delicacies.

Customers from River-view and FishHawk Ranch will remember DaSilva's from its previous locations on Boyette Road and most recently FishHawk Boulevard.

Kevin Brownell, former owner of DaSilva's stores, said he jumped at the idea of combining hand-dipped, custom-made chocolate treats with fresh-roasted coffee selected from various farms known for producing beans of robust flavor.

"The mix works well because we're both about having our products fresh," Brownell said.



SUSAN GREEN

Chocolate ravioli and espresso mousse cupcakes are among the delicacies that go well with gourmet coffee at The Original Leena's Chocolates in Plaza Bella.

"Customers get an opportunity to taste coffee from all over the world. It gives them an opportunity to taste coffee the way it should be."

Brownell said it takes a lot of practice to learn how to roast different coffees to yield the best flavor.

"There's something to be said about the artisan aspect [of the business] that's not like anything else," Caligiure said. "We've lost touch with that."

One of the most popular items at Leena's is berry bark, or slices of chocolate laced with raspberries, cranberries and dried cherries that resemble peanut brittle.

Leena's also supplied specialty chocolates for the 2009 Super Bowl celebrations in Tampa, which led to an invitation to cater chocolates at the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs, Caligiure said. For that celebration, his wife crafted fancy boxes made of edible

chocolate that cradled a selection of truffles.

Caligiure used to be in telecommunications sales and marketing in New York. He said his wife was pregnant with their first child and working in Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2001, when the twin towers were attacked. Worry about her during the rush to evacuate the area led him to move the family out of the Big Apple and ultimately to eastern Hillsborough County, Caligiure said.

"I wanted to do something where my family could be raised in a wonderful environment and bring about a business that brings happiness.... I love the responses we get from children and adults alike."

The Caligiures live in Lithia and have three children: Anthony, 13, Joseph, 9, and Anjali, 8.

Brownell's wife, Bonnie, is a teacher at Stowers Elementary School. The couple has two sons - David,



Hand-crafted holiday goodies are among the offerings available at The Original Leena's Chocolates in Plaza Bella.

13, and Daniel, 11 - at Barrington Middle School. The store owners plan to offer chocolate dipping parties and Coffee 101 seminars, along with occasional jazz entertainment 8500.

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Third annual golf tournament a success!

BY KIM WALLACE
The Sun

As a fundraiser for the team, the boy's basketball team at Bloomingdale High hosted their third annual golf tournament at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club Aug. 26. Even though this year's turnout had only 70 golfers, it was still a huge success. "We are so grateful to everyone who played and supported our basketball program", he said.

This year's sponsors were, Beef 'O' Bradys, Busciglio Orthodontics, Jim and Rhonda Nelson, Brandon Family Law, 3e Consultants, Southeastern Construction & Maintenance, Inc., Massage By Jules, ESI Group, Fishhawk Family Eyecare, Bloomingdale Pizza, Done Right Marketing and Media, Hess Orthodontist, Endzone Barber Shop and Gary Selby, DDS P.A. These sponsors made this year's tournament a great success. Twenty-eight prize sponsors made it more enjoyable for the golfers, and made it more of a challenge.

Coach Willis is already looking forward to next year's event.



KIM WALLACE

Head Coach Joe Willis was happy to see his high school basketball coach Jamey Baby at tournament



KIM WALLACE

2011-2012 varsity basketball players came out to work their golf tournament fundraiser. back row (l-r) . Ryan Wicks, AJ McDermott, Dalton Herron, Ryan Bethoney, George Brammeler, Jimmy Rolland, Joey Herr middle row (l-r) Demetrius Sykes, Ernest Calhoun, Shaun Jackson, Matter Herr, Dan Carney front row (l-r) Spencer Lewis, Blake Cagle, Tim Carney, Jack Bear



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Bloomingtondale Community Station Notes Halloween – a safe and fun time

The old fun times at Halloween have almost disappeared. In some ways Halloween has been turned into a real dangerous "trick or treat" caused by those with no regard for the safety of others.

Parents, follow these safety steps and make Halloween a safe, fun time for your kids:

- ♦ If you do let your kids go out, ensure they are safe by going with them or having someone escort them.
- ♦ Make sure everyone has a flashlight and wears light colored clothing or costumes.
- ♦ Only stop at homes

with their front porch lights on.

- ♦ Cross at intersections or clear areas, not between parked cars.
- ♦ Check all treats before your kids eat them. When in doubt, throw them out.
- ♦ Consider alternative activities. Many churches and schools have organized fun activities.
- ♦ Insure your pets are kept under control.
- ♦ Remember, almost all fireworks are illegal in Florida and can be very dangerous!
- ♦ Watch out for kids walking through your neighborhoods.

Teens, follow these



Curtis Warren

steps to stay safe:
♦ If you go to Halloween parties, use your seat belts and don't drink if

you're underage.

- ♦ Don't ride with anyone who has been drinking.
- ♦ Don't use illegal drugs.
- ♦ Have fun, but remember that bad "tricks" can be very costly and get both you and your parents into a lot of expensive trouble.

CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

The good news is that crime in our area has dropped. The bad news is that too many burglaries are still occurring. Some people blame it on the economy. Believe me, criminals don't check the Wall Street Journal while planning their crimes. Most are crimes of opportunity, an opportunity to get cold hard cash or things that can be sold for cash. When residents don't take the proper measures to protect their vehicles and prop-

erty, then they become the victims of opportunity.

Don't make it easy for them. Home security is a full time requirement. The one time you forget to lock your vehicle, take your valuables inside or close your garage door is all it takes! It is that simple. Remember too, that every time law enforcement officers respond to a burglary they are being taken away from other issues they could be covering.

Deputies and volunteer citizens patrolling our community need the support and cooperation from the residents in our community. By being vigilant and reporting suspicious activity crime in our area we can all work together to reduce crime even further.

Call (813) 247-8200 as soon as possible to report suspicious activities!

TEEN DRIVING – A CRITICAL TIME OF LEARNING

All of us adults can remember how excited we were when we got

our first driver's license. There are some differences between then and now. The first is that there are many, many more drivers on the road. Also there are more distractions both inside and outside our vehicles.

Today's vehicles are so well sealed that you can't hear a fire engine's siren until it is almost on top of you, so we don't need any more distractions. And distractions aren't just talking on your cell phone. They can be talking to passengers, adjusting the radio, eating or anything else that takes your attention from your primary job – driving safely.

Many law enforcement officers will note on any citation you receive if you were distracted while driving. This is information your insurance provider can use to raise your rates.

Parents, take the time to not just "teach your teens to drive, but instead teach them to drive safely!" Also, set the right example when you drive. Remember, they have already been watching you drive for 15 years.

For additional information on safe teen driving, Google - "Teen driving graduated driver licensing"

Sharks hold first golf tournament

Riverview High School will hold its inaugural golf tournament on Oct. 30, 2011, to benefit the golf team.

Registration begins at 12 p.m. at the Summerfield Crossings Golf Club with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The cost is \$65 per person or \$220 for a foursome. Each entry includes dinner, raffle tickets, golf cart, greens fee and range balls. Various sponsorship levels are available. Please contact Heather Michael at (813) 340-6457 or hair-girl75@gmail.com.

Sock Hop fundraiser

A breast cancer awareness fundraiser Sock Hop will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m. at Music Showcase, 402 Oakfield Drive. Cost is \$10 a ticket at the door. There will be music, food and fun. Additionally, donations of money or services, would be accepted.

Songwriter clinic

Aspiring songwriter's can attend a Florida Academy of Performing Arts workshop to learn how to put lyrics to music.

Singer/Songwriter Mark O'Shaughnessy will play his songs and discuss how he wrote them Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Music Showcase, 402 Oakfield Drive, Brandon.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Register at faopa.org or at Music Showcase. For information, call (813) 685-5998.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with Home Instead Senior Care of Sun City will be providing area residents a way of properly disposing of outdated, unwanted prescription medicines and drugs.

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Local Hungry Howie's goes pink

Pizza Chain Supports National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Hungry Howie's Pizza & Subs, Inc. will join the fight against breast cancer this October with their Love, Hope & Pizza campaign. For every pizza purchased, Hungry Howie's will make a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. Hungry Howie's raised more than \$250,000 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation in 2009 and 2010. For their third year in the campaign, Hungry Howie's hopes to raise more than \$200,000.

Throughout the month at all participating locations, all pizzas will be served in bright pink boxes emblazoned with breast cancer awareness ribbons instead of the classic Hungry Howie's

yellow boxes the brand usually features. Customers can also add a \$1 donation to their Hungry Howie's order, which will go directly to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Donators will receive a pink Love, Hope & Pizza magnet as a token of appreciation.

Hungry Howie's is also continuing the social media campaign that accompanies Love, Hope & Pizza. Throughout October, Hungry Howie's will make a donation to the foundation for every new Facebook fan, for every breast cancer story fans share on the Hungry Howie's Facebook page, and for every tweet using the hashtag #lovehopepizza. Hungry Howie's will share tips on

breast cancer prevention, support and information about the National Breast Cancer Foundation on Facebook. The Facebook page will also feature an online video series with personal stories of how breast cancer has affected Hungry Howie's.

"Love, Hope & Pizza has become one of our best initiatives at Hungry

Howie's," said Jeff Rinke, vice president of marketing. "We are honored to be able to raise money, support the National Breast Cancer Foundation and recognize National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our customers have become great partners in our quest to help stop the spread of this disease."



44th Annual Fall Craft Fair at St. Andrew's

The St. Andrew's United Methodist Women's Craft Fair has become a community tradition. This year is the 44th anniversary of the popular event at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, located at 3315 Bryan Road. Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and bring the whole family!

Local crafters and the United Methodist Women of St. Andrew's come together to support local, national and international missions through the Board of Global Ministries. A large selection of holiday gifts and decorations will be available at the many craft booths on the church grounds.

In addition, St. Andrew's Friendship Circle will be sponsoring Granny's Attic – an eclectic collection of items donated by members of the congregation. Come prepared to find some great bargains! Then satisfy your sweet tooth at the famous bake sale, dine at the St. Andrew's Missions Cafe, and take home some beautiful pumpkins for your home from the Youth Pumpkin Patch.

"There are so many things you can pick up for Christmas, home and lawn decorating, and other gifts. It is really a fun event. The best part is that proceeds go to United Methodist Women's Missions. These funds help local causes including Cornerstone in Tampa as well as missions in Zambia," said event organizer Mary Jane Trimble.

Crafters interested in renting a booth may call (813) 689-2572 for information.

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