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# The Bloomingdale Gazette

VOLUME XII, NUMBER

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## County Honors Teacher

by GWEN

SZAFRANSKI

Karen Chernoff, who teaches Humanities and Advanced World History at Bloomingdale Senior High School, was recently named Teacher of the Year in Social Studies Secondary Education for Hillsborough County.

Although her knowledge and enjoyment of her subject as well as appreciation and respect for her students are demonstrated daily in her informative classes, she is a teacher who will go the extra mile in planning educational opportunities for her students. Recently, she shepherded over 100 humanities students on a day long field trip to both the Tampa Bay Center for the Performing Arts and the Tampa Museum of Art.

"It gives me a nice feeling to be a good high school teacher," Chernoff commented, adding "I've enjoyed seeing my students grow over the three years that I've had them."



Karen Chernoff

Chernoff spent four years at Chamberlain Senior High School before joining Bloomingdale in 1988. She feels Bloomingdale provides a good working environment, where teachers are treated professionally and receive a good deal of parental support.

Chernoff received a degree in history from the University of Florida and is currently working on a master's degree from the University of South Florida. She plans to continue teaching on the secondary level.

by TED GRABLE

Great communities are not places, but the people who make them up. It was and is the spirit of the people in New England that make their town meetings often quoted examples of the participative foundation of the American system. These town meetings were essential to those who built those original towns to ensure that they could establish and maintain a community consistent with the majority's desires.

Bloomingdale may have been originally settled by pioneer families who hacked the scrub back to farm this area, but the community we have today was designed and built by developers and builders. It may have been those neat neighborhoods with new homes and attractive landscaping and the promises of a well structured community that lured us here, but many of our homes are not new today and many of the promises and those who made them are long gone.

Bloomingdale's future is dependant on community resources we now have and how we manage them. Many of us are proud of what we have built out of the developers blueprints. In spite of a tough economy, new businesses are continuing to arrive to meet our needs. Our children attend great schools, our roads are improving, we no longer have an obnoxious waste water treatment plant in our neighborhood. Thanks to the excellent work of the Mobile Watch Program and the Sheriff's Office, Bloomingdale is a safe place to live. We have a Special Taxing District (STD) that does an excellent job maintaining the common areas of our community.

Many of these things are here today because dedicated people came together to form the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) to work, to lobby, and to sometimes fight for a quality community. The BHA is you and exists only to serve you and your

neighbors. It has been strongest when the challenges were highly visible. Today's needs are more subtle. There may not appear to be a single great cause to raise our banner against. In many ways, however, there are many issues that together can threaten the greatness of Bloomingdale far more than any large single issue.

Almost every neighborhood has seen at least one vacant home waiting for a buyer, often the yard and house is not maintained by the absentee owner. Many areas are still not built out. What kind of homes will be built next to yours? Our neighborhood streets are aging and cracking - will they be repaired? Will school districts be maintained along the lines of our neighborhoods? What kind of businesses will we see in our community? Does our community meet the needs of our children and young adults? Are our parks meeting our recreational needs? Is the police and fire protection adequate for

today and the future? Will new roads and roadway expansion be consistent with our visions of Bloomingdale? Do you and your neighbors meet zoning or deed restrictions? The list goes on. Can you deal with these issues alone? Who will listen if you raise your voice alone?

If you really care about the future of your neighborhood and your community, then you must become involved in charting its course. We are not lucky enough to have town meetings to decide how our community is run. You can make a difference by participating in your community organization, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. When the BHA speaks for the residents of Bloomingdale, it speaks for almost 4000 households. That loud a voice to BHA and participate.

The BHA is a volunteer organization of the residents of

BHA  
cont'd pg. 2

## Pulte Homeowners Seek Facts on Faulty Roofs

by GWEN

SZAFRANSKI

Did Atlas Roofing and Pulte Builders know defective roofing materials were being used on a number of area homes? This was one question discussed when 40 homeowners from Bloomingdale East and Bloomingdale Oaks met at the Community Office September 17 to review complaints concerning faulty roofing materials used on their homes constructed by Pulte Builders between 1984 and the present.

Cleve A. Wilson, Bloomingdale resident and attorney with Wilson, Bullington, and Durdin, is serving as contact and information gathering point for this homeowners action group and stated that the group composed a letter and questionnaire to gauge the extent of the problem. To date, the group has received replies from Pulte homeowners in Carrollwood and Seffner as well as locally.

All the homes in question have roofing materials used by Atlas Roofing and carry 15 to 20 year warranties. Obviously, the shingles should not be brittle nor

the roofs leaking on so many homes with only eight years or less of wear on them.

Pulte has been held accountable and had repaired a number of houses with rotting siding. However, pinhole leaks in the copper pipes and the roof dilemma are problems that remain unsolved.

"Many homeowners complained to Pulte Builders about their roofs and received a 'that's not our problem' reply," explained Wilson who added that if homeowners complained to Atlas, that company claimed Pulte did not properly vent the roofs, thus causing the premature damage.

Although Atlas has reimbursed some homeowners, many more homeowners have been given the run around, being told by Atlas that engineers have determined that the shingles have suffered hail damage. This conclusion is questionable since the damage pattern is not sporadic but, instead forms rectangles indicating defective shingles.

Many frustrated homeowners are making

cont'd pg. 12

## The Circus is Coming!



# Roberts BROS. 3-RING CIRCUS

Bloomingdale West Park is the place to be when the Roberts Brothers Circus comes to town. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association annual fund raiser is October 17. Bring your children to watch the circus set up on Saturday morning at 9:30 AM. The tent will be raised at the north end of the park, and visitors will be directed to park at the south end.

Clowns, animals, and balancing acts are guaranteed to appeal to children and the young at heart. Two performances are scheduled: 3 PM and again at 5:30 PM.

Advance ticket sale price is \$4 for children, ages 2 to 14 and \$6 for adults, 15 and above. Tickets are available daily through the Bloomingdale

Community Office at 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, (in The Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale) from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Advance sales will also be held in front of Publix at Bloomingdale Square on Saturday and Sunday October 10 & 11 from

10 AM until 7 PM. Tickets are available at the door the day of the circus, \$5 for children and \$7 for adults. See you there!!

# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

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 Publisher

**JANINE B. NICKERSON**  
 Senior Manager

**GWEN SZAFRANSKI**  
 Editor-In-Chief

**COLLEEN ROSE**  
 Sales Manager

**JUNE OROS**  
 Graphics Editor

**Editorial Department**  
 News Staff Writers:  
 Mary Collister  
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**Advertising Department**  
 Representatives:  
 Colleen Rose, Gwen Szafranski  
 Classified: Janine B. Nickerson

**Circulation**  
 Distribution Manager:  
 Anita Thompson  
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**Business Department**  
 Office Manager: Janine B. Nickerson

**Accounting**  
 Services provided by:  
 James Laughlin, CPA  
 Bloomingdale resident  
 710 Oakfield Drive, Suite 101  
 Brandon, Florida 33511  
 651-1740

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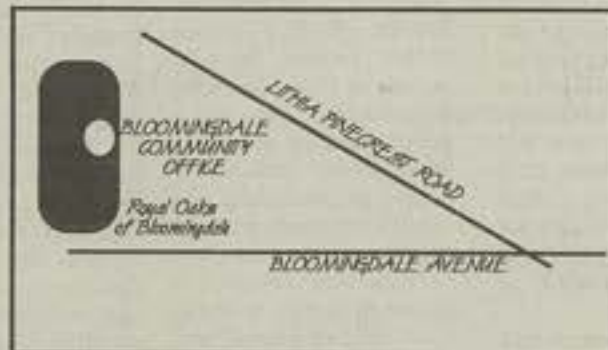
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 Brandon, Florida 33509-3132

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**BSHS Swim Team**

## MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office, located in The Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Shopping Center. These are public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

**SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT**  
 Monthly meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

**BHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
 Monthly Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

**BLOOMINGDALE OAKS  
 SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT**  
 Monthly meeting: First Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

**MEETINGS FOR MOBILE WATCH  
 & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
 Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.



**BHA**  
 from pg. 1

Bloomingdale. It is funded by donations and is guided by a 12 member Board of Directors. Today there are five vacancies in that Board. The work is not hard and takes only a few hours a month. If you aren't comfortable with a director's chair, there are many committees and special interest groups that need your assistance. BHA committees include Zoning/Deed Restrictions/Land Use; Fire and Disaster; Fund Raising; STD Liaison; Membership; Mobile Watch; Neighborhood Watch; Parks; Streets and Street Lighting; Scholarships; Telephone/Volunteers; and Historian.

To become an active participant in your community call the Bloomingdale Community Office at 681-2051 or mail your name, address, and area of interest to the office at 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, Valrico, 33594.

## Letter to the Editor

A Tradition of Excellence? Those of us who have been closely involved with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department know that their actions, reactions, programs, and just plain public service has been far from excellent. In addition, not unlike Sarasota County our very own back yard has most recently become an area of indecent and allegedly organized, politically driven criminal activities. Have you recently witnessed the burglary of yard signs, verbal or physical threats, etc. concerning the recent elections and those to come? Then you are not alone. Many of you have called the Supervisor of Elections Office in hopes of a remedy, only to find that there was very little assistance offered. The truth of the matter is that this kind of activity is certainly unjust and should not be tolerated by you, The American Public.

There are laws in place that will protect you as you exercise the right to show support for the candidate of your choice. For example, many bay area residents might assume there is only one candidate running for Hillsborough County Sheriff this coming November 3rd. The truth of the matter is that there are two. One of which has been a victim of political campaign fraud. On every major highway you are likely to see the signs of Candidate Cal Henderson. But what you are not likely to see are the signs and advertisements of Candidate Clifford L. Paramoure. That is because thousands of dollars worth of signs have been vandalized and stolen by a not yet identified source. There have been witnesses in the Brandon and Temple Terrace areas and you are advised to immediately report any suspicious activity to the Division of Elections,

(904) 488-7690, or write to 1801 The Capital Building, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250.

Activity like this infuriates me! We should elect to make a change to the current system. Officials should be elected on the merit of their initiative, willingness, and desire to be a conscientious public servant. I am concerned that the current method allows for perpetuated unchange. In particular, I find that the Sheriff's Department has been existing as a fiefdom, an independent kingdom accountable to no one. We need an open door, and should demand accountability to us, the people who's tax dollars maintain it. This November 3rd, be an advised voter, know the issues, demand accountability and seek to make a change.  
 Sincerely,  
 A Concerned Voter

# BHS Membership Drive

by **RUSS LEMBKE**

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) membership drive for 1992 concluded on September 30. Overall success of the drive can best be termed as moderate. Our goal for the drive was set at 750 new members and we fell far short of meeting that. I can assure you that it was not due to lack of hard work on the part of the many volunteers who sacrificed their personal time to go door-to-door to sign up new members. To them, I extend my personal **THANK YOU** for a job well done. I am certain those contacted

who elected not to join, had good reason. I am also certain not every resident in Bloomingdale was contacted and given an opportunity to join the BHA. At this point the reasons are not that important! What is however, is the fact that the BHA continues to need new members in order to continue to serve the community. Hopefully the spirit will move you to join! If you need information on how to become a member simply call any one of the Directors listed in the Gazette and they'll be more than happy to assist you.

To those residents who did elect to become new members of the BHA I want to take this opportunity to extend my personal **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** It is greatly appreciated. As a final note, the BHA Board of Directors will be holding it's annual election of new members to the Board at it's November 10th meeting. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors, please contact me, Russ Lembke at 689-2829. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

# Gazette Openings

The Bloomingdale Gazette is in need of several residents with special talents to fill our three job vacancies. These are **part-time positions**. Our office is open from 9:30 to 2:30 daily, and we are closed on school holidays. The two Advertising Representative jobs are perfect for any person who fits the criteria below.

1. Possess an energetic personality;
2. Have sales experience - such as Tupperware, Avon, or PTA fundraising;
3. Needs a flexible work schedule;
4. Enjoys a challenge, and would like to ease into the work

force, add experience to a resume, or just keep active;

5. Expresses creativity and designing skills;
6. Is familiar with local merchants.

This job pays 20% commission plus mileage. No quotas to fill; make as much as you want depending on how many contracts you sign. Colleen Rose, Advertising Manager will answer all inquiries.

We are also looking for a Staff Editor. This hourly-wage position requires some writing, editing, and minimal layout experience. This job is comprised of about 75 to 100 hours a month spent primarily in the office.

The editor coordinates all articles written by local residents and merchants and also conducts interviews for news stories.

If you feel these apply to you, call Janine B. Nickerson at 681-2051 for further information.



## EDUCATIONAL TOY & COMPUTER EXPO

The Excel Foundation, Inc. will host their annual Educational Toy & Computer Expo Saturday, October 24 at the Special Events Center at USF from 10 AM to 2 PM. Proceeds will benefit the Excel Foundation, Inc., a public, non-profit parents organization for the support of gifted and talented education. All parents and children are invited to attend. Admission is \$1 for adults and FREE for students under 18 years old. Computer hardware and software will be featured along with demonstrations and discussions from selected vendors. The Museum of Science & Industry Science Store will showcase their toys. Meet author Alice Becker, who wrote the book *How to Teach Your Child to Read*. Micro Computers will answer questions and display different Apple Computers. Please bring your credit cards cash, or checks for on the spot purchases. Call Josephine at 881-0874 for details.



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# Children & Sports

by GWEN

**SZAFRANSKI**

Parents are often concerned about the risk factors in the sports their children choose to play. We recently asked Dr. Lance Sisco of Brandon Orthopedics Associates to answer a number of questions concerning children and sports. Dr. Sisco joined the practice of Dr. John Okun and Dr. Robert J. Maddalon and is serving as one of the team doctors for the Bloomingdale Bulls. He seemed a logical choice to ask since his own interest in orthopedics grew out of his interest in sports.

Sisco played organized football in fifth grade, ran track in eighth grade, and was a decathlete at Davidson College in North Carolina where he attended on a football scholarship. As a junior pre-med student, he worked with the team physician, an orthopedic surgeon, and determined then that this would be his profession with an emphasis on sports medicine.

"I had first-hand experience with sports

medicine when I injured my knee as a senior football player at Davidson College. I underwent arthroscopy of my knee and was diagnosed with a ligament sprain. I had physical therapy and rehabilitation and I was able to win the Southern Conference in the high hurdles that following spring."

Sisco commented that no sports are risk free, but cautions parents that children are more prone to injury in some sports than others, and parents should realize this before involving their child in a team sport. For instance, football is statistically the dangerous sport where as swimming has relatively few orthopedic injuries. Also, female gymnasts have three to four times more lumbar spine injuries.

However, Sisco feels there are great benefits to children who participate in team sports. Although participation particularly promotes physical development, the emotional

development is enhanced as well as giving the child the chance to develop social skills. In this way, team sports can promote a feeling of high self esteem.

"I am supportive of most youth team sports although I think stress should be placed on the child's participation and not on the competition so that the child can mature emotionally, socially, and physically," Sisco commented.

Sisco outlined what injuries are most common for each age group commenting that between 7 and 12 children most likely incur fractures involving growth plates or growth areas of the bones since these areas of the bone are weaker than even the ligaments supporting the joints.

In the 13 to 18 age group after skeletal maturity has been reached, most injuries are either sprains or strains since the ligaments are the weakest link. He cautioned that parents should look for prolonged pain or a limp, swelling, bruising, or development of a deformity to gauge the seriousness of an injury if the injury is not immediately apparent. However, if there is any question in the child's or the parent's minds, the injured child should be seen by a physician.

Observing the coach's training techniques is also important. Sisco believes that parents should look for a coach with experience who is more concerned with the child's development and well being than just winning the game.

"There are certain red flags from a medical standpoint that would indicate bad coaching techniques," states Sisco. "Such red flags would be coaches that allow little league pitchers to pitch

cont'd pg. 5

# Mobile Watch

by LaWAYNE WYATT

September saw a significant increase in the number of events (37) recorded in our log. Most of the increase is attributed to four home/car burglaries and six incidents of speeding and reckless driving. One of the reckless driving incidents was a teen riding on the hood of a car in the West.

Other events included eight reports of cars/people in the Parks after closing, an attempted B & E, three reports of activity at The Spot, an open house under construction, several suspicious persons, an occurrence of excessively loud music, a possible landscape theft which was interrupted, a theft of potted plants an abandoned bike, a party site in the woods West of the Golf Course which has become active again, a report of vandalism and a major teen

party. The teen party involved 30-40 cars of teens at a residence. At least three males were arrested for underage drinking after they left the party. A party of this size is entirely too large for a residential area and could quickly get out of control and cause problems with neighbors, even if alcohol is not available.

Our thanks to John and Maria Tesmer, The Greens, who volunteered in September.

# Tax Tips

by ROBERT J. MORRIS, CPA, CTP

Recently, the IRS has made some giant steps in acceptance procedures for offers in compromise on a past due tax debt. An offer in compromise is an offer from both parties to settle a substantial tax liability. This produces a winner on both sides: The taxpayer is free of a tax burden and the IRS has collected. Compromises have been around since about 1906, but only now is the IRS expressing a concerted effort to be more liberal in accepting them.

A taxpayer with an overwhelming tax debt should give more thought to making an offer in compromise proposal. When reviewing such an offer, the IRS must consider:

1. The amount legally collectible from all of the taxpayers assets.
2. The amount legally collectible from present and future income of the taxpayer.
3. The amount legally collectible from possible third parties.
4. The amount the

cont'd pg. 5

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# Sex, Lies & Video Tapes

by PETER ALUOTTO

What do four salesmen, two hospital administrators and an urban planner have in common? We are all Trustees for the Bloomingdale Special Dependent District. Although these are elective offices, not one of us was ever elected by you, the Bloomingdale voter. (We were appointed by previous board members to fill vacancies created by retirees.) Would you be surprised to learn that there

has not been an election in this district since its inception almost seven years ago? The reason? Lack of candidates. The district, you see, is somewhat of an anomaly. Almost everyone agrees it is needed, but no one wants the job.

The Bloomingdale Special Dependent District has been extremely fortunate up to this point. The people who have donated their time and energy to serve you have done an outstanding job.

They have kept the walls painted, the signs lit, and the grass cut. They have also made improvements: replaced Pulte Corp.'s wood fence, installed trees and irrigation, and landscaped additional subdivision entrances. All of this has been done by your neighbors to help preserve and enhance your property values. But alas, all good things must come to an end.

For the first time in its history, the Bloomingdale Special Dependent District faces the very real possibility of not having even enough candidates to appoint much less to elect.

The situation is so dire, that one of us has agreed to a temporary appointment just to establish a quorum! The District will not run on remote control. It needs more than your money. It needs your body, your brain, and most importantly, your time. Can you help? Here's what you need to know.

The Bloomingdale Special Dependent District is a limited-jurisdiction, local government which has its own tax base, its own budget, and its own agenda. It was established by Hillsborough County Ordinance which prescribes the legal scope and limits of your authority. Once each month, you will be expected to meet with the other trustees to discuss the District's previous meeting minutes, correspondence, finances, work program status, old and new business. Your meetings will be open to the public at all times and business will be conducted "in the sunshine".

To assist you in the conduct of District affairs, legal and financial counsel are provided at the meetings. The District also has a paid administrator and a part-time secretary. The rest is up to you. You and your colleagues will be responsible for all

decision-making and fulfilling the obligations of the office you hold. These obligations will vary with the office (i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, or Corresponding Secretary). Typically, the largest commitment of time belongs to the President, but seldom is a freshman elected to this post. Next in degree of commitment is the Treasurer, followed by everyone else.

There are very few qualifications for being a Trustee. In fact, there are only two: you must be a resident of the district and you must be a registered voter. If you are subsequently elected to an office, you must also be bondable. You do not need any special education

or experience to be a Trustee. Everything you need to know will be given to you. You should be prepared, however, to attend all of the meetings, participate in the discussions and contribute to the accomplishment of occasional work tasks which take place between meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the Bloomingdale Special Dependent District, please send a letter or a resume to the district in care of this newspaper. If you think you might be interested but are not really sure, come to a board meeting and watch us in action. It's your district. And as for the sex, violence and video tape, that was just to get your attention.



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**Children & Sports**  
from pg. 4

more than their allotted number of innings, forcing them to pitch when their arms are hurting, or teaching them the curve ball since this can injure their arm."

Sisco explained that coaches should teach kids to throw straight overhand fast balls because curve balls can cause muscles to actually pull on growth plates, creating "little league elbow."

Further, Sisco warns that any coach that does not allow for his players to have water breaks regularly are risking the possibility of heat cramps or heat stroke in the athletes.

"I believe that little league should also adopt break away bases since these have been shown to drastically reduce foot and ankle injuries in this sport," suggested Sisco. Where break away bases have been used in college baseball and recreational softball injuries have decreased by 98%.

Sisco summed up by stating "I believe a coach should not view children as miniature adults since they are different physically, mentally, and emotionally and should be treated as such."

**Tax from pg. 4**

taxpayer should reasonably be expected to raise from assets beyond the reach of government.

When submitting an offer, you should describe in detail why you believe the IRS cannot collect more than the offer from existing assets or income. Take into consideration, however, that the IRS has up to 10 years to collect it. Each case will be looked at on its own merits. Show that the amount realizable from liquidating all assets is negligible and the value of the small payments

collectable over a lengthy period of time makes little sense. If possible, a lump sum payments will be scrutinized more favorably, but be careful not to imply there is a lump sum available somewhere to be attached immediately.

It is important to realize also that you will have to agree to full compliance with all tax matters for the next five years or the IRS will default the agreement. This program is not a giveaway program nor a cure, but it is a viable chance to move beyond tax problems and get a new start.



Buddy Johnson  
Florida House of Representatives  
District 62 • (R)

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# Pumpkin Delight

by **B.C. GIORDANO**  
Put away that can opener for your canned pumpkin and grab your carving knife for the fresh ones are here! That's right, it's October and the bright orange of fresh pumpkins has arrived in markets everywhere. For all you cooks out there, get ready to use those

pumpkins because they can be more than just another funny or scary face!

Pumpkins are the common symbol of fall - the source for the Halloween jack o' lantern - the traditional Thanksgiving pumpkin pie - have long figured in our American holidays and folklore, but unfortunately

have never found their way much into our diets. Oh yeah, there are the pies and the breads but they really are suitable for much more.

After all, pumpkins are a vegetable, belonging to the gourd family, are rich in vitamin A and a terrific source of beta carotene. Furthermore, they have been around a

long, long time and deserve a little respect. In fact, seeds from related plants have been found in Mexico dating back to 7000-5500 B.C. So let's give an old timer a new try!

If you're still with me and ready to experiment with a pumpkin for something other than scaring away the evil Halloween spirits, here is a delicious suggestion for Pumpkin Chutney:

Take one pound of

pumpkin, peeled, seeded and cut into 1 x 1/4" slices. Combine in a large cookpot with two cups of sugar, one cup strained fresh lemon juice, one-half of a medium onion thinly sliced, one-third cup of golden raisins, two and one-half tablespoons grated lemon peel, four teaspoons orange peel, and the julienne of 1" piece of fresh ginger. Bring all ingredients to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Reduce heat,

cover and simmer until the pumpkin is soft (about seven minutes). Uncover and cook until pumpkin is translucent and the syrup thickens (about fifty minutes). Cool completely and enjoy with sliced ham and/or turkey. This recipe will make three cups and can be made two weeks ahead.

Enjoy!

(B. C. owns TAK-AWAY GOURMET at 528 Oakfield Drive in Brandon.

## Fall: Time For Planting

by **MARY COLLISTER**  
I think fall is the least utilized season for gardening, and it is such a great time for growing. It has actually cooled down a bit and has made working in the garden an enjoyable activity once again.

Living in Brandon we have the opportunity for a beautiful fall garden. Now is the time to plant both those eatable crops and those flowers that are so pleasing to the eye.

Most fall vegetables need plenty of water, so plant them where you can easily reach them with a hose or sprinkler in case our fall rainfall isn't enough. Turnips, mustard, radishes, and lettuce can get by on relatively unimproved soil if they get plenty of water and

sunshine. Reserve your richest, strongest soil for spinach, broccoli, collards, and other members of the cabbage family. Don't forget to sow a few snow peas and onions. Carrots are always a safe bet also.

As nights become cooler and longer, conditions become favorable for digging and dividing perennial flowers, and for setting out newly purchased annual or perennial plants or sowing annual seeds. If the days stay below 85 degrees, it is safe to sow the seeds of alyssum, dianthus, some foxglove, pansies, sweet peas, petunias, poppies, verbena, and nasturtiums.

If you want to try something a little different, a good project to share with your child is planting

bulbs. Because the bulbs will not receive the cool temperatures they need to bloom if planted directly outside in our area, it is necessary to simulate that cool treatment by placing the tulip, daffodil, and hyacinth bulbs in the refrigerator. Purchase the bulbs now and place them in the refrigerator until December or January. They can then be planted outdoors or in a pot so they may be enjoyed inside.

Now is a good time to add to your permanent landscape also. If you add to replace or add trees, shrubs, or grass, begin your preparations. Make sure your newly planted plant material is kept moist.

Begin setting out new

strawberry beds, making sure the young transplants never become dry. Apply a mulch of fresh pine straw to both your strawberries and acid-loving blueberries.

Don't let this opportune gardening season pass you by without a few new additions to your landscape. A few fall vegetables or flowers may brighten your day when those winter blues roll in.

Mary Collister is the author of *Minigreen-thumbs: A Collection of Horticultural Activities for Children*. It can be ordered for \$8.95 from Grapevine Communications, 2830 Timber Knoll Drive, Valrico, FL 33594 or call 684-1050 for more information.

## Arch Window Coverings Discussed

by **MARY COLLISTER**  
Florida seems to enjoy some architectural and interior design elements that are exclusive to this southeastern state. An architectural feature that is popular now in residential design is the arch-shaped window.

"I work with four local builders," said Trish Brandon, the owner of Trish Brandon Interiors, Inc., "and more than half of the house designs that pass through my office have arch windows included somewhere in the house."

Although popular features in today's homes, these curved windows can lead to decorating problems. "A few years ago there were very few options when it came to window treatment for the arch," said Brandon. "Now the window covering manufacturers are offering more of a variety. Your selection is dictated by your budget."

Manufacturing techniques are such that arch windows can be covered in as many ways as your regular straight-sided windows. "You can use aluminum mini-blinds, shutters, wooden blinds, a variety of different valance treatments - the list goes on," said Brandon. "We can tell a manufacturer basically to do anything we want, but of course as the technique gets more complicated or more materials are used, the price goes up."

Brandon recommends that you first decide why you are covering the

window. Do you need to control heat, sunlight, or add privacy to your home? The answer to this question will steer you to an appropriate window treatment solution.

If it is strictly a decorative addition to the window, you may just add a valance to introduce some color and pattern into the room. "There is a wide range of valances and other techniques that can be used if you just want to add color to the window or along the edge and covered with a coordinating fabric of your choice. Most shades that cover these windows are stationary,

meaning you cannot open them to let in light. Some manufacturers have now started to make blinds which can be partially opened."

If adding new window coverings or changing old, Brandon recommends you look around before settling on a window treatment for your home. "I tell my clients to drive around neighborhoods and look for arched windows," she said. "You can usually tell what they have done from the outside. Draw a sketch of what you've seen and we can design it from there."

Brandon feels no need to cover every arched window in a home. "Once again ask yourself why you are covering it," she said. "If it is a matter of privacy, of course you will want it covered. But if the window does not receive direct sunlight or afford those outside the opportunity to look inside, it may not need to be covered."

Trish Brandon Interiors, Inc. is located at 660 Oakfield Drive or you can call 684-4454 for more information on arch window treatment or other interior design questions.

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The Coloring Contest is open to children in two categories - Ages 4 to 7 and 8 to 12. The decision of the judge is final. Entry deadline is Monday, November 9th by 2:30 PM. The winners will be notified by phone and also be announced in the November issue.

This month's Color-

ing Contest gifts are provided by The Tale of the Elephant's Trunk. The winner in each category will select one troll doll valued up to \$8.50 before November 25th.

Thanks to Bob & Carolyn Mintz for the prizes and to Sandy Nickerson for her artwork for the contest.

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## HOMECOMING

The week of homecoming is going to be an exciting one. For Spirit Week students will wear clothing pertaining to their favorite college of Monday, Tuesday is tacky tie and sock day; Wednesday is western day; Thursday is international day, and Friday is spirit day, you wear your class color.

This week will be jam packed with things like a sexy legs contest, a spirit window and banner contest, and many other exciting events topped off by Carnibull, October 17.

## CARNIBULL

On October 17, Bloomingdale High School will host a carnival to kick off a week of festivities to celebrate Homecoming. This fundraiser is being presented by the Student Government and a number of other groups in the school will be participating. The carnival will feature various booths offering food, crafts and games for all ages. Hours for the carnival are 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM. If you have any questions, please call the school at 684-6192.

## CONCERT

The music department will present a concert conducted by Bev Sutherland, a director new to the school, on October 27, 1992. Bloomingdale Concert Chorus, The Ambassadors, Elite, and the Orchestra will perform. Burns Junior High School Chorus will also perform. The Concert will begin at 7:00 PM and is free.

## WRESTLING

November begins the wrestling season for Bloomingdale Senior High School. Varsity Coach Scott Tipton is expecting many improvements this season with six returning starters providing the team's backbone in their first match against Robinson High School on December 4. A major change this year is that the American and National Conference teams will oppose each other before facing teams within their own conferences. Also, both Varsity and Junior Varsity matches will be run simultaneously this year, in order to shorten the lengthy matches of the past.

## HSCT TEST

The High School Competency Test (HSCT) will be administered to 11th and 12th grade students October 12-23. This is a statewide skills test needed for graduation. The HSCT consists of two parts: Mathematics and Communications. The Mathematics section is made up of word problems requiring real life skills. The Communications section tests the student on main idea, cause and effect, and fact and opinion, among other things. The tests will be given to all 11th graders and any 12th graders who have previously failed or recently moved into the state.

## POWER LIFTING

The BSHS High Power Lifting Championships will be held Friday, November 12, at 6:30 PM in the school auditorium. Admission is \$2.00. All proceeds will benefit the Bloomingdale boys track team. The events will include bench pressing, squats, and dead lifts. There will be 3 different classes which include light - 140 lbs. and under; middle - 141-171 lbs. and over. The winner is determined by adding up the points earned for the number of pounds lifted, and the person with the highest total points wins. So come and watch Bloomingdale pump some iron.

## GIRLS GOLF

Coached by Norman Guess, the Bulls' girls golf team won 34, lost only 5, those losses coming to King, the eventual state champions. The Bulls returning golfers should make the team very competitive. Once again they will



Coach Guess

compete with King, again contending for state.

The team's low score was 175 and individual scores were as low as 34 (Jeni Marshall).

Marshall and Tracy Cona are on golf scholarships at Troy State University in Alabama.

Coach Guess, a biology teacher at Bloomingdale, enters his third season as coach of the girls squad.

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS SEMIFINALISTS

Eight Bloomingdale Senior High students have been named National Merit

semi-finalists. The school and the community join in congratulating Charles Boettger, Jennifer Campbell, Holly Cordell, David Moorehead, Bryan Sheffield, Sondra Smith, Scott Suttles, and William Vincent. Good luck in the next phase of competition when the National Merit finalists are chosen.

## OTHER EVENTS

The band will be holding a barbecue outside of the cafeteria on October 23, from 4 PM to 7 PM.

October 26 will be the last day of the first nine-week grading period and students will receive their first report card on November 13.

Students will be excused from school on November 11 for Veterans Day.

William Vincent, a senior at Bloomingdale High School participated in the 1992 Duke University PreCollege Program from July 2 through August 16. Students in the PreCollege Program are outstanding rising high school seniors from across the country and abroad. They are selected on the basis of academic excellence, motivation, leadership, and emotional maturity.

Vincent is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Vincent, Jr. of Valrico.

THANKS goes to the following students for their contributions of the BSHS articles: Ashley Hyman, Daniel Maus, Annabelle Salgado, Kelly Dupre, GERALYN BAKER, Faith Poynton, and Daniel Taphorn.



Girls Golf Team  
Conni Marshall, Jenni Marshall & Tracy Cona



Returning Golfers  
Shane Row, Keith Covington & R. Trevor Harris

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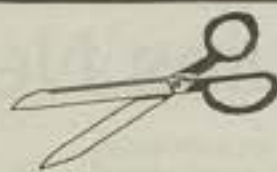
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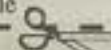
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# Burns Bruins News

## IN YOUR SOCKS!

**by Amber Kemper**  
Attention all Burns Jr. High students! On October 30 there will be a Halloween sock hop sponsored by student council. The dance will be in the gym, from 7:00 - 10:00 PM. There will be a DJ playing your favorites. The cost will be \$2.00. You will be checking in your shoes at the door, so wear your most fashionable socks.

## YEARBOOK SALE

**by Viviana Hampers**  
Burns Junior High School is having a one day sale for the 1992-93 yearbook on October 30 during all three lunches. The cost is \$15.00. After the sale, the cost will be \$18.00 and orders will be taken on a limited basis.

## BRUIN VOLLEYBALL

**by Stephen Taphorn**  
Come and check out the Lady Bruins volleyball team on October 15 and 21. The team is undefeated and on fire! On

the 15th the Lady Bruins will take on Dowdell at Burns. Then, on the 21st, the ladies will challenge Greco at Burns. The Lady Bruins appreciate all the support they receive, so show your Bruins Pride and cheer them on!

## FOOTBALL

**by Bryan Taylor**  
Come out and see the hard hitting action of the Burns Bruins football team. On Thursday, October 22, the Bruins will take on the Greco Cubs at Bloomingdale High School. Then on Wednesday, November 4, the Bruins will challenge the McLane Vikings at Brandon High School. All games start at 6:00 PM.

## REPORT CARDS

**by Krista Thornton**  
Yes, all you students and parents, report card time is nearing!! The end of the reporting period is October 26 and all students receive report cards on November 3.

## HALF DAYS

**by Jocelyn Lockhart**  
One day each month every school in Hillsborough County will be on an early release schedule. The purpose of the half day schedule is inter-departmental planning for the teachers, staff development, and in-service training. Early release dates are: October 28, November 25, December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, and May 26.

## A NEW ATTRACTION

**by Clifton Wiggins**  
Attention Bruins! Starting soon, the Journalism staff will be putting out a literary magazine. It will contain poetry and short stories written by the student body and the faculty. It will also contain photos to help illustrate the poetry and the short stories.

Students, if you enjoy writing, have a poem or short story lying around, send them to Room 225.

# Walk-A-Thon

## WALK-A-THON

The third annual Alafia Walk-A-Thon will be held on Friday, November 6. It's always an exciting time at Alafia! The children, kindergarten through fifth grade, ask their friends and family to pledge an amount of money for each time they walk a lap around the field. Each class has 25 minutes to go around as many times as they can, while volunteers patiently stamp their tally sheet.

Debbie Melodini, Vice President of Ways and Means, and Linda Townsend, Chairperson are working very hard to ensure everything runs smoothly. Each child receives a ribbon for participating and is served refreshments at the conclusion of their walk. There are prizes awarded

for all laps walked with a special 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grand Prizes presented to the top three money-makers. Parents and teachers are encouraged to participate in the Walk-A-Thon! Anyone can help earn money for this PTA fundraiser. All monies go to Alafia. In the past, this money has helped build a nature classroom and provide computers for classrooms. Based on an estimated goal, the Walk-A-Thon funds are projected to be spent on the following items: computers and software for the computer lab and music department; updating the publishing center; classroom books; and lunchroom incentives.

## ALL ABOUT ALAFIA

On Tuesday, October 27, in the school cafeteria.

the PTA will present "All About Alafia" at 7:00 PM. This program will encompass the many new and exciting programs offered at the school. There will be an explanation of the new report card, a description of the "New Math" for grades K through 2, a presentation by the media specialist of the new laser disk and CD ROM programs, an introduction of special education classes by the school psychologist, and the guidance counselor will explain the importance of counseling and how it might be helpful to your child. This should prove to be an extremely interesting and informative evening, so don't miss it! Babysitting will be available.

cont'd pg. 12

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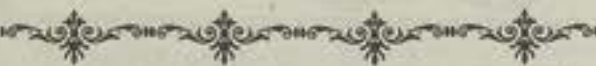
**AMWAY REP:** Beverly Plant, 852-8718

**AVON REP:** Ruth Calandro, 689-0212 Belinda Oliver, 689-5218

**DISCOVERY TOYS:** Midge Walsh, 654-7011

**MARY KAY COSMETICS:** Liz Hunt, 654-7300

**TUPPERWARE DEALERS:** Barbara Virag, 684-1452 or 685-8216



# COMMUNITY

## Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM, Buckhorn will be having a free doubles clinic coached by Pete Stecher who has worked out with players who have won the Wimbledon Championships, the U.S. Open, the French Open, and the Orange Bowl.

The clinic is open to all levels including beginners. The emphasis will be on having fun and learning strategy. Call Pete Stecher at 689-8042 for more information.

deadline is October 31, 1992.

Teens and adults are invited to join the 4 on 4 Sand Volleyball League starting November 7th. For more information call 677-8400.

## Jail & Bail

Here's your chance to send your boss, spouse, or a special friend on a fun-filled adventure. Give them an experience they will never forget...IN JAIL! This adventure is being hosted by the Brandon Jaycees and it's all for a good cause, The March of Dimes campaign for healthier babies.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, October 20 - 21, "suspects will be extradited to the mock jail and bail cell at The Sports Authority at Brandon Crossings. There they will "do time" on the phones provided by Cellular One, calling friends to raise bail in the form of pledge contributions.

Arrests are available for a \$10 donation. To book a cell, call 287-2600 with the name, address, phone number, and "charges" against the person you want arrested. We'll do the rest, while you remain anonymous.

## Mary Help of Christians

The 64th Annual Fall Festival to benefit Mary Help of Christians School will be held October 16 - 18 at the school campus. Featured attractions for the three day event includes pro wrestling on Friday evening; a sports card show with professional athletes on Saturday afternoon; and a bar-b-que chicken dinner on Sunday. Also included will be a giant midway, basketball shootout, games, a flea market, and continuous music and entertainment.

All proceeds will benefit students who are housed, clothed, fed, and educated at the school. Please call 626-6191 for further information.

## Plant City YMCA

The Plant City Family YMCA and Walden Lake, Inc. will team up for the fourth annual Hick Finn Day at Walden Lake on Saturday, October 31. Admission is free this year, but the YMCA will accept contributions at the gate to help defray event costs. All proceeds will benefit the YMCA.

The public is invited to enjoy a variety of traditional Huck Finn events including picket fence painting, bubble gum blowing, giant bullfrog jumping, cow chip throwing, tug-o-war contests, wheelbarrow races, and a Huck Finn costume and Halloween costume contest. Prizes will be awarded to contest winners.

Country music band, "Eddie Riddle and the Right Hand Band" will provide entertainment and sponsor WQYK-FM will broadcast live from the event.

Organizations and businesses wishing to volunteer or sponsor events are encouraged to call Cindy Harrington at 757-6677.

## Area Pageant

Young ladies are invited to enter the Miss Bay Area Pageant to be held December 12, at Kings Point Auditorium, Sun City Center at 7:30 PM.

cont'd pg. 12

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Pulte from pg. 1

use of their third and only recourse at present, which is filing a claim with their homeowner's insurance.

Wilson wants homeowners to protect themselves from making fraudulent claims and suggests that homeowners who submit claims to their insurance companies enclose a letter from Atlas Roofing stating the damage cause to be hail; include an estimate for a new roof; and inform the insurance company that, while Atlas claims the damage to be caused by hail (and this is what homeowners have been told) the roofing products may have been defective.

The Homeowners Action Group invites homeowners to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:30 PM at The Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale (next to Taco Bell) 710 East Bloomingdale Avenue. To receive the group's letter and questionnaire please call 685-0073. To fax information to Mr. Wilson call 684-5517. Pulte homeowners may also stop by Wilson's Heritage Square office for copies of the questionnaire at 113 Margaret Street in Brandon.

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Contestants must be 17 years old by the date of the local pageant in which she enters, graduating from high school in June 1993, and not older than 24 by the end of September

**Alafia News**  
from pg. 10

PTA from pg. 10

**PTA MEETING**  
The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria. In addition to the budget presentation, we will introduce Jack Hartmann, Assistant Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board. His topic is "Managing and Surviving Challenging Behavior in Children". He discusses using humor and "Time Out" as survival skills and also developing awareness of appropriate behavioral and emotional expectations in children. He is a delightful speaker and has written a special song which he will perform for the children at the meeting. Lithia Springs, our sister school has been invited to join the meeting so plan to

1993. The purpose is to give college scholarships, send the winner to Miss Florida in June and that winner goes to Miss America in September.

Call 251-6645 for additional information.

arrive early to ensure a good seat.

**NEW STUDENT NEWSPAPER**  
September 23 is the "Birth"-day for the school's newspaper. The staff is comprised of 24 fifth grade students per semester. The paper is sponsored by Karen Willis and Barbara Ruhle.

The paper was initiated to provide opportunities in the areas of personal expression, expanded use of the computers, and enrichment writing styles.

The students will be voting on the name of their paper on October 8th. It is the aim of the newspaper to be self-supporting and will accept advertising or donations. If interested, please call Mrs. Willis or Mrs. Ruhle.

**Halloween Fun**

On Saturday and Sunday, October 24th and 25th, **BIG GUAVA CARD AND PAPER SHOW** will present its 1991 spook-tacular.

The two-day event, which is being held at Bay Area Outlet Mall in Clearwater, will feature thousands of comic books and trading cards (both sports and non-sports) for sale or trade. Other collectibles at the show include postcards, toys and movie memorabilia (to name just a few!).

Fright fans will be able to meet Dr. Paul



Bearer, host of Channel 44's Creature Feature," when he visits the Haunted Mansion at the mall. The mansion is the creation of Disguises Unlimited ("Where Fantasy is Reality"), and benefits Big Brothers/Big Sister of Pinellas County. DR. PAUL BEARER'S APPEARANCE WILL BE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, FROM 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Besides Dr. Paul Bearer, the following guests are scheduled to appear:

Mark Menendez - artist on Anne Rice's The Mummy

Frank Matera - artist on the Steve Roper and Mike Nomad comic strip

Andy Smith - artist on Quasar for Marvel Comics

**BOTH MENENDEZ AND MATERA WILL APPEAR ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 FROM NOON TO 4:00; SMITH WILL APPEAR ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, FROM NOON TO 6:00 PM.**

Ken Gale and Mercy Van Vlack from New York-based Evolution Comics are also scheduled to appear both days. Aspiring artists are invited to stop by the Evolution table at the show for a critique of their work.

**BIG GUAVA CARD AND PAPER SHOW** is also proud to have as its guests several players from the "All American Girls Professional Baseball League" - the same league featured in the film "A League of Their Own"! A different set of players will be on hand each day to sign autographs and meet their fans.

Admission to the show is absolutely free, and show hours are the same as mall hours; Saturday - 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM and Sunday - Noon to 6:00 PM.

Bay Area Outlet Mall is located at 15579 US 19 North in Clearwater - just minutes away from Tampa and St. Petersburg!

For further information, please call D. Walent at (813)932-0494.