

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVI, Number 9

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

September 1996

## BHA Briefs

### Monthly Meeting

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

### NIP Reminder

With all the summer rain, residents need to remember to keep their yards in shape. It's always a major chore during the raining months because it doesn't seem to stop raining long enough to get the lawn mowed. Warning cards are being mailed to homeowners with high grass.

Not only is it unsightly, but it enhances the problem of mosquito control during the summer months.

### Water Woes

Residents who were guests at last month's BHA meeting wanted to see if the board could do something about the high water bills in Bloomingdale. Cindy Provjo, who moved from Bloomingdale to Germany and recently returned to her Oakcrest home was surprised at her high water bill and complained that the water is "undrinkable and smells like chlorine."

Welcome home, Cindy. Residents have asked these questions for years, but it's hardly something the BHA can control. Although the BHA has held meetings for residents on the alternative of reclaimed water and *The Gazette* has run stories in the past on water quality.

### Speedy Action

The BHA's letter to the county regarding traffic concerns around Park West received quick response from engineering. New speed limits - 25 mph - are now in place as well as signs warning motorists to take caution in the park's vicinity. The letter also got the wheels in motion for road striping and bicycle paths.

But the biggest push has come from West resident Tim Golden who organized a meeting with county officials last month. See related stories this page and page 3.

## New Recreation Center Hosts Commissioner Dottie Berger

By Rozel Sciulli

The first of what could be a busy future for civic meetings at the new Bloomingdale West Community Center was held before a standing-room-only crowd Aug. 29.

Generated by residents concern for children's safety going to and from the park, the meeting was held by County Commissioner Dottie Berger at the request of West resident Tim Golden.

Golden, on behalf of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association, has spearheaded a drive for sidewalks to be completed along Canoga Park Drive since the traffic death in June of six-year-old Nicholas Faber.

Golden has spoken with and visited several county officials to create restrictions along Canoga Park Drive making it safer for pedestrian or bicycle traffic.

Golden said he reached a dead end through "normal channels" so he contacted Berger.

"By opening the park we have created a safety hazard that needs attention," Berger said at the meeting. "Get the

homeowners involved with a petition and it could move up on the priority list."

Berger explained the rating system by which priority needs for sidewalks are met. While Canoga Park Drive had a low rating the Center and increased pedestrian traffic would improve its status. Still, she said, that a somewhat

higher ranking could put sidewalks another six years away.

She said one way residents could move the commissioners to approve funds for installation would be to sign a petition.

"When we have petitions come to the commission meeting and residents attend in mass, this board listens," Berger said. "The commission needs to hear public outcry."

Gary Tate of county engineering said a letter

from the BHA brought the numerous concerns surrounding the park to his attention. But said precautions were not taken prior to opening the park because he "knew nothing of the facility."

See BERGER, page 11



Commissioner Dottie Berger, standing with Tim Golden, addressed residents at the first civic meeting held in the new community center (see related story on page 3).

## Alafia Children Given Bus To Rec Center

By Shannan D. Powell

To many Bloomingdale parents, it was beginning to look as if the new community recreation center on Canoga Park Drive was constructed for only half the community.

After a generally successful first summer program at the park, many parents decided to enroll their children in the after-school program at the facility located in Bloomingdale West.

A more-than-acceptable day care solution for working parents of school-age children. Except for one thing - how to get the kids there.

The matter has now been resolved. Thanks to the efforts of parents and *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, bus transportation is being provided to the community center.

The parents of the almost 30 Alafia children enrolled in the summer program signed a request to the transportation department for an extra bus stop.

Bloomingdale West children attending Lithia Springs Elementary can either ride their normal bus and get dropped

off at the park, or they can hop on the bus provided by the school board's transportation department to take children who don't normally ride a bus to the center.

The Bloomingdale East children attending Alafia Elementary, well, they were out of luck. Their transportation doesn't go into West and the department that decides those matters had not made arrangements to accommodate them.

"It is frustrating to have an after-school program and no way of getting the kids there," Bloomingdale East resident Pippa Milnamaw said. "It's a community park and one section of the community can't use it. It's not just Bloomingdale West's rec center."

Milnamaw's daughter Tracey, 10, was enrolled in the school's latchkey program, and instead of paying \$15 every three months for the park's varied program, Milnamaw was paying \$32 a week to the school's program held in the cafeteria an on the playground.

"Other arrangements are just not in my budget," said

See BUS, page 11

## Day Care Providers Feel Center's Impact

By Chris Ann Phillips

With more than 200 children enrolled in its summer program, the Bloomingdale West Community Center has had an impact on area Day Care providers.

Now with nearly 90 children enrolled in after-school care, local day care centers the decline has continued.

"How can you compete with free day care," asked Robert Terrell, part-owner of Primary Prep located closest to the rec center on Canoga Park Drive.

Terrell said his after-school enrollment last year was nearly 30 and this year it has dropped off to "eight or 10".

"Parents will say their

children come first at all costs. But the county has made it much too hard for people to turn down their program. Money in these days is a big consideration. They want the best possible care until it's free."

The after-school care program at the rec center costs parents \$15 every three months as opposed to \$35-\$40 at a private facility. In the summer, instead of paying \$75 a week for child care, parents in West and East opted for county prices at \$50 for the entire summer.

Some caregivers question the amount of supervision children at the center receive.

"Ideally the adult to child ratio should be 1-30,

but in practicality it's more like 1-40," said John Brill, spokesman for County Parks and Recreation.

"We're not a day care in the sense that parents don't have to use us everyday. We're a recreation center where children can come for part of the day or not at all on other days."

Child care licensing requires day care providers to have one adult for every 25 school-aged children, but Brill said the parks program does not come under the jurisdiction of child care licensing, a county agency.

Although her center's after-school program is filled, Belinda Driggers of Circle M said it's not right for the child care licensing ratio to be stricter for private

centers.

"What's good for the goose ought to be good for the gander," she said.

Driggers said Circle M, which has served the area for 18 years, had a good summer enrollment, although some children left to attend the park program.

Kinder Care said it felt no effects from the center's opening. "We're packed," said assistant director Wanda Miller.

Janet Stutzman, regional director of LaPetite on Greenhollow, did not return *The Gazette's* call.

"The rec center opening blind-sided us," Terrell said. "We didn't foresee what would happen. It's a wonderful thing for everything except us."

## They're Back!



Hallways are still crowded even when only two classes are in session at Bloomingdale.

# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

*Gazette & BHA's Office Hours:*

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

## Letters

### County Responds To Bloomingdale Concerns

Note: Commissioner Joe Chillura forwarded a copy of a letter he received in response to a call from *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.

Dear Commissioner Chillura:

Upon receipt of your letter of July 15, regarding concerns from Ms. Rozel Sciulli about truck traffic on Bloomingdale, I assigned our Traffic Coordinator to investigate those concerns.

Our records indicate that within the past year, we have received 15 traffic complaints, mostly due to the widening of Bloomingdale Avenue. In response to this problem we have issued 552 traffic citations along Bloomingdale Avenue during the same period. This is a 26% increase over the previous year.

In response to Ms. Sciulli's concerns we have increased our enforcement along Bloomingdale Avenue

and will continue to monitor the activity.

As always, be assured of our cooperation in all matters.

Sincerely,  
 Larry B. Terry, Major  
 East Area Commander  
 Enforcement Operations  
 Dept.

### BHA Makes Safety Requests Of County

Responding to last month's community outcry for safer streets around Park West, the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association has sent a letter to county officials requesting changes along Canoga Park Drive.

The BHA is seeking signage, road striping, crosswalks and sidewalks to the Bloomingdale West Community Center.

According to BHA vice president Rick Oros, one letter was sent to Gary Tait in the county signs department and copies were distributed to the departments in charge of cross-

walks and sidewalks.

The requests for change come as a result of residents concerned for their children's safety following the accidental traffic fatality involving six-year-old Nicholas Faber who was struck while crossing Canoga Park.

Parents from West asked the BHA to intercede with the county on their behalf and to cite the need for sidewalks to be completed from Garnet and Fieldstone to the Park. Residents also would like crosswalks for the children to access the playground and a dividing line down Canoga Park Drive to deter the wide turns made onto the road from side streets.

Signs that alert motorists to the presence of children playing have also been requested.

Oros said the county is aware of the urgency of the matter and of how adamant parents are that something be done quickly to make the area around the Park safer for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

## OFFICERS

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### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

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## The Bloomingdale Gazette

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## MEETINGS

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

### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

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

### BHA Board of Directors

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

### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

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

### Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

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

## Our Times

# Slow Day Yields Response

By Rozel Sciulli

I've used this space in the past to chide county officials for their (how can I be polite?) delayed response to phone calls.

Generally it's necessary to go through a main switchboard operator, then to a secretary for the official, before finally reaching an assistant or aide to the official. But, somehow, never the official. The aide finds out the answer to whatever concern I present then calls me back at his convenience.

But I hit paydirt last month. Must be slow in the pink palace during the summer or perhaps it was because I happened to mention a certain relative who used to be his back door neighbor, but I was surprised to be put right through to Commissioner Joe Chillura and he responded quickly (an oxymoron?) to my concern.

Something moved the Commish to swift action and I would like to think it was for neither of the above reasons, but only because of his diligence and desire to serve his constituents.

Here's what happened. In response to residents' concerns about truck traffic on Bloomingdale, I phoned the honorable Joe to ask what could be done about removing the truck route designation Bloomingdale was tagged with two years ago.

We reported last month the Commissioner, who sits on the board of the planning group that made this decision, said the designation could be removed with enough public outcry.

So, he wanted to know what could be done in the meantime to alleviate the situation. "Monitor the trucks' speed," I said.

"That's easily done," he said. "I'll contact the Sheriff's office today."

And you know what? He did.

A phone call was followed by a letter July 15 to those in charge of traffic enforcement. Boy, that Commissioner Chillura, he knew just who to contact. What's more interesting is the Sheriff's office responded almost as quickly - well, okay, two weeks later.

In any case, I received a follow-up phone

call and letter from the Commish and a I played phone tag with the sheriff's department for several days, but the fact remains - they called first.

The result will be stricter monitoring of traffic on Bloomingdale until residents stop complaining and start working toward removing the truck route designation.

The commissioner said he would help any way he could.

Thanks, Joe. And, by the way, cousin Sam and Jean say hello.

**Twice would be pressing my luck...**

On the heels of the success I enjoyed with the county, I attempted to tackle the school system bureaucracy. After all, I was feeling very confident in my ability to persuade people in high places.

Since June, several Alafia parents have attempted to secure bus transportation for their children to attend after-school care at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center. This posed a problem since the center is in West and Alafia buses don't go there. Lithia Springs buses do.

Don't try to figure that one out. It's the result of some screw-ball school zoning that took place about eight years ago.

Anyway, the Alafia parents had no luck in getting speedy response from the school system's transportation department. They received the trite, "I'll look into it and get back to you," on more than one occasion.

Even our reporter following the story received the same response, but worse. The person in charge of such decisions said he didn't know what she was referring to. This after he has received calls for three months on the matter.

Dr. Bookman, you see, is in charge of many business-type things for the school board. Transportation comes under his assistant superintendency. One call to Dr. Bookman, although I didn't speak to him, resulted in positive action from the folks down in transportation. All of a sudden, they remembered the case and, their response: "No problem. We can do that."

Imagine that.

## Mobile Watch Report

# Late Summer Activity Decreases

By LaWayne Wyatt

During the past several months The Bloomingdale Mobile Watch has lost two stalwarts - Steve Schneider and John Britton.

Steve and his family have decided to move to Pasco County. He was a base station operator and equipment manager for over 10 years. His presence and interest in his community will be missed. John was a base station operator for many years and the treasurer for the last five years. He has given up both positions for health reasons. We wish them both good luck in the future.

Luckily we were able to find a replacement for Steve. Tony Diolosa has volunteered to fill the position and assume the duties of base station operator and equipment manager. Welcome aboard, Tony.

Fewer events were reported by patrols and residents during June, July and August. Included were vandalism, burglary and several suspicious cars. The most significant were the following:

6/19 Chevy pickup slowly cruising areas along Culbreath Road from Somerset to Windsor Woods. Acting suspicious.

6/21 Older model black Ford driving on vacant lot at corner of Herlong and Hollister.

7/3 Several mailboxes knocked down and destroyed, possibly by noisy teens driving in area the night before.

7/6 Mailbox destroyed on Sweetleaf Drive

7/6 Mitsubishi pickup parked in River Estates construction area.

7/11 Two Spanish speaking males knocking on doors late at night on Caliente Drive.

7/13 Six young teens with flashlights, roaming through Park East and along Springvale Drive, Briar Park Drive area late at night.

7/14 Graffiti painted on Park East building, wall along Springvale Drive, street and TECO pole/boxes on Sand Pebble Drive.

7/19 Teen party at house on Isleton Drive.

7/22 Two young teens removed items from house under construction on Bloomingfield Drive.

7/29 Daylight burglary on Emberwood Drive

8/8 Suburban type vehicle driving high speed on Tyndale Drive, Sandy Creek Drive and Kerlein Place. Came within several minutes of possible hitting child on bike.

8/18 Teen drinking party on Treeline Drive.

8/21 Vandalism on Emberwood Drive

In addition to the above, there was considerable traffic in and out of both parks late at night during the last two months.

We can still use additional volunteers. Several have indicated an interest, however, due to conflicting schedules they have not been through the orientation yet. Our thanks to the following who have volunteered:

Donna Clouse, East; Stephen Clouse, East, John Brook, Estates.

# Golden Dad Pursues Cause

By Rozel Sculli

Tim Golden has a philosophy - If it needs doing, do it. If you can't do it alone, enlist help.

It's that pledge to himself, his children and his community that has placed the Bloomingdale West resident in the thick of negotiations with county officials.

Golden has taken up the cause for pedestrian-friendly access to the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center.

Three months ago, parents long-outraged by the volume and speed of traffic on Canoga Park Drive and its arteries, converged on the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association meeting to seek a voice to the county after a six-year-old bike rider was struck and killed crossing the busy street.

Golden, an at-home dad, agreed to look into finding out what the county could do to improve pedestrian safety along the road, the most significant of which is the need to extend sidewalks that end abruptly one block south of the park and several blocks north. Since then, he has left a paper and telephone trail to most every agency dealing with traffic, signs and engineering.

"It has to be done," said Golden, the father of three. "The greatest danger is in doing nothing."

On Aug. 29, instead of Golden going to the county, the county came to Golden and the residents when County Commissioner Dottie Berger and representatives of several county agencies held a town meeting with local resi-

dents.

The standing-room-only crowd had varied personal interests they wanted the Commissioner to address, but most were there to voice their demand for sidewalks.

Lisa Giffin of West echoed the stand many parents have taken. "My kids aren't allowed to go to the park. It's

not safe without sidewalks. I'd rather the park not be here. Why was it built if precautions weren't taken into consideration?"

Golden, who said he believes in setting a good example for his children by taking up a cause, said if funding isn't approved for the sidewalk project, he will lead a grassroots project to install the sidewalks by using workers who have been given mandatory community service hours and with donated materials.

"The park is an attraction for kids and families," he said. "We need to take every measure to make it a safe attraction. To look at a planned community like this and know sidewalks aren't com-

plete is a major issue.

"We need to do it for each other and each others we don't even know."

Community action is nothing new to Golden, who along with wife Nancy, a GTE systems analyst, moved to Bloomingdale in 1983 from Durham, N.C.

It was there he gathered neighbors to fight construction of an apartment complex proposed for their community. "We got 100 percent of the residents' signature opposing the apartments."

Sadly, Golden noted, the apartments were eventually built long after he left.

When Barbara, the first of their three children was born, Golden decided he would leave his job as an electronics sales executive and stay home and raise the children. The flexible hours would also give him time to work on his photography business.

"There are no gender lines as far as raising a family is concerned," said Golden, who is a board member on the Lithia Springs Elementary PTA. "I don't have to set a good example for mothers who put in 100 hours of volunteer time. I'm trying to grab the fathers to get involved. I was a homeroom 'mom' before I did PTA."

His networking among Lithia Springs parents, most of whom reside in West, benefits his grassroots position. In less than 48 hours, 1,000 flyers were distributed announcing the meeting at the Community Center. Although it was a morning meeting, it was the largest turnout for a civic meeting the community has had.



Tim Golden



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# Bits 'n Pieces

## Alafia Will Miss Beloved Teacher

By Shannan D. Powell

The Bloomingdale community lost a beloved teacher and friend, **Karen S. Willis**, on Aug. 14. She had endured a seven-year battle with cancer. Mrs. Willis was a computer teacher at Alafia Elementary School.

"She worked with all our students from grades one through five last year," Principal Tanly Cabrera said. "She has always expected the best from the children. They were always No. 1 with her."

"She was very loved by the faculty and staff. She touched a lot of people and we're going to really miss her. She was more than just our computer teacher."

Sometimes even working from her hospital bed, Willis, 45, was a strong voice on the school's technology committee and organizer of the school newspaper "Gator Gazette."

A member of St. Stephen Catholic Church, Mrs. Willis was also very active in several cancer support groups, including serving on the board of the American Cancer Society and acting as facilitator for Reach to Recovery.

She is survived by her husband Richard, Sr.; son, Richard, Jr.; daughter, Kendall, and a grandson.

Alafia will be forming a committee to dedicate a memorial to Mrs. Willis. Students were informed of her death on the first day of school and are working on cards, letters and journals to help them and the family through the grieving process.



Karen Willis

### BLFA Artfest

The Brandon League of Fine Arts is sponsoring its annual Fall Artfest on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Regency Square Mall.

A variety of fine arts and original crafts will be exhibited. Bill Scott, well-known wildlife artist in the Tampa area, will judge the fine arts entrants, and Hilda Hampton, docent at Florida Expo Park, will judge the original crafts.

Admission is free. For information, call 684-6130.



Ethan and Jake Haslam

### Haslam family grows in July

Fairway Manors residents **Mary and Tom Haslam** welcomed a new addition to their household this summer. **Ethan Riley Haslam** was born July 8 at Columbia Brandon Regional Medical Center. He weighed 10 pounds-1 ounce and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Big brother **Jake**, 5, welcomed Ethan home. Maternal grandparents are **Jim and Mary Smith** of Brandon and maternal aunt is **Katherine Smith**. Ethan's paternal grandfather is **Bill Haslam** of Sylacauga, Ala.

### Zichecks also visited by stork

**Kerry and Michael Zicheck** of Oak Crest in Bloomingdale East welcomed the arrival of **Zachary Michael Zicheck** on July 5 at Columbia Brandon. Weighing 6 pounds-6 ounces and 19 inches long, Zachary joins brother **Jarred**, 2, in the Zicheck family.

Zachary's maternal grandparents are **Ann and Jim Burton** of Brandon. His paternal grandparents are **Bonnie and Ken Zicheck** of Brandon.

### New Assistant Principal

Lithia Springs Elementary School greeted a new lynx to its pack this year.

**Mary Ann Keene** will assume the duties of assistant principal. Most recently, Ms. Keene was a teacher on special assignment to the elementary language arts department at the district office. She also has been a teacher at Lincoln and Mango elementary schools.

Ms. Keene fills the vacancy left by **Donna St. Peter**, now the principal at Buckhorn Elementary.

### Bernhisel-Rex

Former Bloomingdale residents **Julie and Marc Bernhisel** gave their daughter **Heidi Bernhisel** in marriage to **Tyler Rex** on July 31 in a double ring ceremony at the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City.

The bride wore a white satin short-sleeved gown with a white headband and she carried a bouquet of white gardenias and white roses.

Her bridal attendants were her sisters **Lyndi, Brooke and Jenny Leigh Bernhisel**, **Amy Todd** of Brandon, **Amy McLane** of Chicago, **Jaylynn Eyre** of Gillette, Wyoming and **Tami Rich**, sister of the groom, from Salt Lake City. They wore hunter green gowns and carried three white roses.

The ushers were the groom's brothers **Brian and Spencer Rex** of Highland, Calif., brother-in-law, **Scott Rich** of Salt Lake City, and the bride's brother, **Preston Bernhisel** of Riverview.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs.

**Kent Rex** of Highland, Calif.

The couple both attend Brigham Young University and reside in Provo, Utah.

### AIDS Network Art Auction

The Sixth Annual Art for Life auction will be held Saturday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Tampa Convention Center East Hall. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the night of the event.

More than 550 pieces of art from local and national artists will be auctioned with proceeds benefiting the Tampa AIDS Network.

Pieces will include painting, sculpture, jewelry, silks, photography, ceramics, wearables and more. In addition, children's art will be juried to be included in the children's Art For Life section of the silent auction. One piece will be chosen for the voice auction.

The door prize is a drawing for a round trip for two to London including air fare and hotel for six days.

TAN was established in 1985 to provide prevention education, emotional and physical support services and advocacy on behalf of anyone affected by HIV/AIDS.

For information, call 979-1919, ext. 275.

### Weddings

Weddings and engagements are always welcome in *The Bloomingdale Gazette*. Call 681-2051 for more information.



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## Church and Synagogue News

By Ellen Slovacek

I have four children, Heidi, the oldest, is a junior at Brigham Young University. Because she is leaving tomorrow for Utah, I thought it would be fun for her to be a guest writer for this column. Though she is not quite 20, she has acquired a bit of wisdom. Here is her editorial:

Each year, as I go off to school, I take the time to evaluate exactly what I've accomplished, what I wish I would've accomplished, and what I plan to accomplish in the future.

I make the usual lists, like I wish I would've jogged all summer and worked out every day. Somehow these goals show up on my list every year. After a little frustration with these same goals, I decided to search for a goal that would mean more to me.

My mind ran through all sorts of worthy goals. I pondered the library collection I could develop, or the beautiful garden I could grow. As I sat in my potential garden, reading what could be the start of a vast library, I began to think about the books I have read and the movies I've seen and the television shows I have

watched. How did each of these activities influence me?

I noticed there were some things that made me happy, excited and ready to be a better person, and I decided to fill my life with those things. For example, after reading *The Great Gatsby* this summer, I came to the conclusion that F. Scott Fitzgerald deserved a lot more of my time.

Another example is the beach. I love the beach! It took a weekend on the Palm Island for me to realize this new passion for sugary sand and salty sea air, and sea gulls to chase and tease and tan guys to gaze upon... anyway, the beach is good. Another love of mine is ballroom dancing. One of my commitments this summer was to dance as much as possible.

But, I think my idea of worthy goals actually runs deeper than simply lying on the beach, reading a good novel and dancing a lot. I think that often we worry too much about what we put into our bodies without thought of what we are putting into our minds.

On the flip side, how wonderful it is to watch an old Audrey Hepburn or Cary Grant movie or read Jane Austen or Willa Carter. The feel-good books and movies of yesteryear leave me a little happier, a little quicker in step, a little better than what I was before.

Tomorrow, as I fly across the country and settle back into a collegiate routine, I think I'll take a few minutes and really think about the important things I am putting into my mind, then start the process of weeding out the silly things that are choking me spiritually. I think in a year I'll be much better off and then maybe I'll be ready to jog those three miles every morning.

And now for what's happening...

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services will be held this month by Congregation Beth Shalom. Rosh Hashanah Eve services will be Friday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. and morning services will be Saturday, Sept. 14. A special children's service will be Sept. 14 at 3:30 a.m.

Yom Kippur will be celebrated on the eve, Sunday, Sept. 22 at 8 p.m. and at 10 a.m. on Sept. 23, Yom Kippur.

All services will be at the Sheraton Inn on east Hillsborough

Ave and Orient Road, except for the children's service for Rosh Hashanah, which will be held at Apostles Lutheran Church.

No more excuses! Bloomington residents have available to them a fantastic, highly successful weight loss program that has changed the lives of participants in all 50 states and beyond. The Weigh Down Workshop, an international Christian weight loss program, uses no food lists, calorie counting, or exercises to help people shed unwanted weight. Instead, it teaches participants to use natural, internal control mechanisms to guide their eating and to recognize and deal effectively with other stimuli that influence them to overeat.

The 12-week video workshop will be conducted at Bell Shoals Baptist Church on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 9. For information, call 689-4229.

The Bell Shoals Baptist Church is offering a 10-week class on the book of Revelation beginning Monday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. or Friday mornings beginning Sept. 13 at 9 a.m. Childcare is available only for the morning classes and reservations for childcare must be made one week in advance. Call 689-4229, ext 171 for reservations.

The Living Savior Lutheran Church, 3401 Lithia Pinecrest Road, also invites all those interested in studying the book of Revelation to an ongoing weekly Wednesday evening Bible class. Classes begin at 7:30 p.m.

The First United Methodist Church, 120 N. Knights Ave., has a newly formed Care Corps. Senior High students have the opportunity to serve homebound and others in need by visiting, reading, running errands, doing small odd jobs. Anyone interested in joining should contact Karen Cordier at 689-4161.

Also from First United Methodist, the church is now accepting booth space for the arts and crafts festival to be held on Oct. 12. For more information, call Edith Snider at 685-2636.

Zion's Rest Baptist Broadcast can be heard each Sunday morning at 8:06 on WBAR 1460 A. Elder Glenn Shoults is the speaker. For information, call 634-7897.

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# The Great Pizza Survey Slicing Up The Area's Pies

By Elton Dumont

No matter how you slice it, pizza is a food near and dear to the heart of most Americans.

In my youth, the All-American food was hot dogs. Before Big Macs and Whoppers, hot dogs, frankfurters, weiners were consumed in greater quantities than burgers. But attitude, taste and advertising changed all that.

Soon hamburgers overtook the hot dog as America's most consumed food. Now it seemed to me that this great hamburger market continued to increase and still reigns as No. 1. But there are two enclaves where hamburgers are not top dog. New York and Chicago natives regard pizza as king of the palate and it is difficult to wrestle with that idea.

Pizza, in fact is fast becoming the No. 1 favorite food nationwide. Is it calories, handling, variety, nutrition? Probably none of those reasons. So what is it that makes pizza so universally enjoyed?

I have spent sleepless hours after sampling and feasting on many varieties of pizza, pondering this great question and still do not have a very good answer. So, in lieu of trying to answer it myself, I turn to the readers and pizza consumers of Bloomingdale.

Answers will be diverse. How often do members of the same family agree on pizza toppings when ordering in or going out?

This is your chance to cast a vote for your favorite LOCAL pizza. (Local is the operative word. Even if you have a longing for Mama Catalina's pizza, her distribution in the greater Detroit area would have no bearing on this survey).

To focus on the local market, a few unsupported factoids might help. The greater Brandon area has a population of 65,000 to 100,000 depending who you talk to. There are between 20 and 30 pizza specialists serving this market. So the demographics indicate that each pizza outlet supports approximately 3,000 to 5,000 residents.

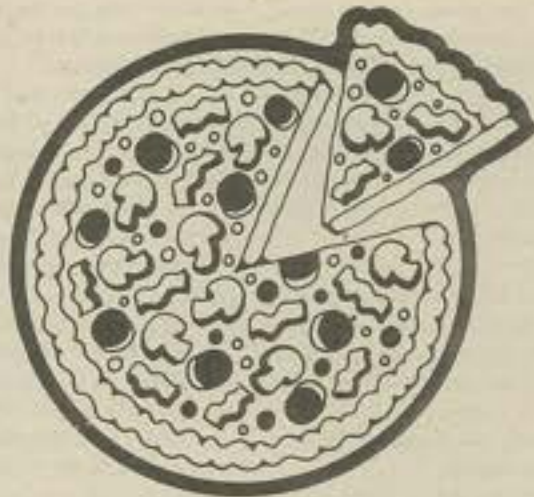
The number of outlets seems low compared to the citizenry it serves and the actual names reduce the servers to about a dozen.

In order to yelp you, I've listed the pizza specialists that come to mind. If I've omitted any, I left space for you to add any that I didn't think of. The rules are simple:

Pick your favorite four (4) from the list and place 1, 2, 3 or 4 on the appropriate line. Your favorite would be number 1 and so on. More than one family member may vote, but you must be 12 or older. After all, just as families vote both Democrat and Republican, Bloomingdale families have more than one favorite pizza.

When voting - only vote on the taste and quality of

the pizza - not on delivery service, packaging or telephone manners.



### WHO HAS THE BEST PIZZA IN TOWN

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Amore's         | _____ Angelina's       |
| _____ Babe's          | _____ Domino's         |
| _____ Hungry Howies   | _____ Lenny & Vinnie's |
| _____ Little Caesar's | _____ Papa John's      |
| _____ Pizza Hut       | _____ Sbarro's         |
| _____ Villarina's     |                        |
| _____ OTHER _____     |                        |

Mail or drop survey off at THE BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY OFFICE, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 103, Valrico, FL 33594.

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## Hospice Card Sale

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

ing offered as well.

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**Scouts Have High Adventure**



By Cristine Lybbert  
 Troop 110 has filled the entire summer with High Adventure Scouting. The troop attended three different scout camps including Camp Rainey Mountain in Georgia and Camp Linochee in Orlando.  
 White-water rafting was the highlight of Camp Rainey Mountain. The 53 young men of the troop earned close to 100 merit badges at camp.  
 Other activities included marching in the Brandon July 4th parade, camping at Egmont Key and attending Junior Leadership Training.  
 This exciting, growing and talented Troop is sponsored by the Apostles Lutheran Church and meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

**Kids Calendar**

**Ballet Guild Sets Auditions**

**Nutcracker Auditions**

The Brandon Centre Ballet is holding auditions for The Nutcracker on Saturday, Sept. 14 at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Drive. Registration is from 9 to 9:30 a.m., followed by a parents' meeting from 9:30 to 10 and auditions from 10 to noon.

Dancers must be at least six years old through adult with two years of dance training and proof of current enrollment in a dance school.

Girls are required to wear black leotard, pink tights and ballet slippers (pointe shoes if on pointe), hair in a bun and no bangs.

Boys are required to wear a white T-shirt, black bike shorts or tights, ballet slippers with hair completely out off the face.

**Activities at Center Place**

Three children's favorites will be performed at Center Place this fall beginning with the "Snow Queen" on Sept. 16 at 10:45 a.m.

Presented by the Patchwork Players the play is about a little boy that is turned to glass by a spell and he can no longer see happiness in the world around him. The play is recommended for ages three and up.

"Cinderella" returns to Center Place with per-

formances on Friday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 10:45 a.m. "Little Red Riding Hood" is scheduled for Nov. 7 at 10:45 a.m.

Tickets for each production are \$2.50 and must be purchased in advance. For information, call 685-8888.

**Rec Center Activities**

Fall activities begin Sept. 9 at the Bloomingdale West Community Center. Registration will continue through Sept. 13. For information call 744-5907.

- Classes are as follows:  
 Ballet/tap/acro (ages 3-5) - Thursdays 4:30 to 5:30 - \$3 per class.  
 Ballet/tap/acro (6-12) - Thursdays 5:30 to 6:30 - \$3 per class  
 Ceramics (6-12) - Mondays 5:30 - \$4 per class  
 Karate (5-15) Tuesday or Friday 4:30 to 5 - \$3 per class  
 Music (band/chorus) Monday 4 to 6 - \$3  
 Tennis (6-12) Wednesday 4 to 5 \$5 for 8 wks.  
 Homeschool PE Class - Monday 1 to 2 - Free  
 Drawing/Pastels (teens +) Friday 6 to 8 - \$36 for 6 wks

**Reading Aloud To Children**

The Art of Reading Aloud is a program designed to teach parents the importance of reading to their children. A hands-on program will be held Saturday, Sept. 21 at Center Place at 10:30 a.m. The program is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Brandon Library and Center Place, and tickets are free.



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# Lithia Lynx



## Two Open House Dates Set

By Ron Pogorzelski

Despite a record enrollment, the first day at Lithia Springs Elementary went smoothly with only minor confusion of children getting to the correct classroom.

The school plans two open house dates this month due to increased enrollment. Open House on Sept. 9 is for grades K through 2nd and Sept. 12 for grades 3rd through 5th. Both sessions will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The first general PTA meeting for parents will be Sept. 24. This is an important meeting for parents to hear PTA plans and meet the new board. They include Denise Kubacki, president; Tim Golden, first vice-president; Barbara Sheridan, third vice-president; Barb Sievers, fourth vice-president; Barb Kemper, corresponding secretary; Mary Ellen Casey, recording secretary; and Sara Heiser, treasurer.

The school's PTA prepared school supply packets for students by grade level as recommended by teachers. By orientation day, sales had virtually used up the entire assortment. Any profit will be returned to the school as supplies for needy children.

## Home Schooler Open House Set

The Brandon Regional Library will hold an Open House for home schooled children and their parents on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to familiarize facilitators with library resources for home schooling.

Among the highlights will be the introduction of THOR, Tampa-Hillsborough Online Resource. This system will be explored at 10 a.m. followed at 11 a.m. with a sampling of Suncoast Free Net.

The afternoon session repeats the morning's agenda and begins at 1 p.m.

For information, call 744-5630.

# Gators Tales



## No President, But PTA Work Goes On

By Suzie Weisenhart

The Alafia PTA started the year off with a 100th Welcome Back Luncheon for the teachers and staff on Aug. 21. The theme for this year is "A century of Commitment," and the PTA will be celebrating all year.

They will be kicking off the "Potpourri Designs" fundraiser this month and hope to have enough money to make a significant contribution to the school this year. Some of the other activities planned for the year are a Holiday Shoppe, Read-a-thon, Shamrock-hop, Bike Rodeo, Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, pizza parties and much more.

Of course, volunteers are welcome to join us and get involved. The school is always busy in the clinic, media center, classrooms and with special projects.

Alafia does not have a PTA president this year, so the responsibilities are being shared by Michelle Colesanti, vice president of volunteers, and Kathy Hamm, vice president of administrative support. The other officers are Janet Ponichtera, vice president of ways and means; Sharon Stoutenburg, vice president membership; Susan Abdel-Aziz, treasurer; Robin Rogovin, secretary; and Lynne Walther, parliamentarian.

The first general meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. It will be a PTA Birthday Party celebrating 100 years. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn what PTA is and what it does for the children and the schools. Committee chairpersons will describe various volunteer positions and approval of the annual budget is also on the agenda. Birthday cake and coffee will be served and babysitting will be provided.

The PTA would like to express its feelings and the feelings of all faculty, staff and students when we say that we will miss our dear friend and computer teacher, Karen Willis, who passed away on Aug. 14 after a long battle with breast cancer. We loved her and we know that somewhere up there she is organizing the angels and writing grants for God. We will carry on with what she taught us all - work hard, never give up and never give in.

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# Bulls Eye



## Junior vs Freshman On Topic of Double Sessions

by Rozel Sciulli  
 The first day of school hit like a rude awakening.  
 Not only was summer over, but school started at a different time this year - much earlier or much later. For the students on double sessions at Bloomingdale High, it's been a lot to get accustomed to.  
 With seniors and juniors attending

school from 6:45 to 12:15, and sophomores and freshmen sitting in class from 12:25 until 5:55 the more than 3,000 students at the county's largest school are not as noticeable.  
 For sophomore Rio Oros double sessions aren't a bad idea.  
 "It feels like a half-day everyday," he said. The benefit is less crowding.  
 Oros said his first period teacher's enthusiasm for American history makes it impossible to be sleepy, even if class does begin before the sun rises.  
 Oros said he hopes to get a job and sites that as one of the benefits of double sessions for kids his age. But until that "perfect" job comes along, he's content to spend his afternoons "bumming

around."  
 Having the afternoons to do homework is an advantage, especially for students who have evening extracurriculars like soccer or band practice.  
 However, there's little time for Steven Slovacek to make it home from school and back again in time for band practice.  
 Slovacek, a freshman, doesn't begin his school day until after lunch, which seems strange to him. He starts out in 8th period and ends with 13th period.  
 "It sounds so strange to say I have to go to 13th period."  
 Slovacek said the worst part of double sessions is that all social time seems to be cut out of the day. "It's just

straight school. There's no time to visit with your friends. Even in the halls we're in a hurry to get to class."  
 But with the bad comes some good like sleeping in.  
 Slovacek, who walks to and from school, having late classes doesn't make it hard to pay attention, although he said the late hour makes it seem like school is all he does during the day.  
 "This is our whole day. We can't do anything in the morning," he said. "For the juniors and seniors, school is just a part of their day. They can go out after school, get jobs, see their friends."  
 Oros and Slovacek, who don't know each other, will still be on different sessions next year. Chances are, they'll never meet.

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Bloomingdale High School made it through the first week on double sessions and welcomed its first class of freshmen.



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## Bloomingtondale Football Begins 10th year

### Special To The Gazette

For the last nine years Bloomingtondale football has flirted with winning seasons. Last year, they came close by finishing 5-5.

What a way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Bulls football but with its first winning season.

First, the Bulls will have to get past the other teams in the toughest district in the state. Bloomingtondale, Plant City and Brandon have the awesome placement in District 8-6A, also occupied by some of the state's best teams - Sarasota Riverview, Bradenton Southeast and Bradenton Manatee.

Last year, the Bulls first year in the district, they hung in with the fearsome threesome of the south.

In fact, in the game against Manatee, Bloomingtondale only trailed 13-6 at halftime. And this to a team that was nationally ranked before the season began. The score may have stayed there had it not been for a fumble in the endzone.

That's one of the reasons coach Terry Long says the Bulls can play against anyone.

This year's team is handicapped by a lack of experience. The Bulls lost 16 starters. But look to the returning lettermen to take charge.

Torre Warren, a senior with 4.5 speed, returns. So does running back Walter Carter, another speedy senior. Their work may be made easier by an offensive line featuring returning starters 6-8 Ian Murphy, TE Levi Knox and guard Jeff Hill, who already has colleges seeking his talent and size.

On defense, the Bulls return tackle Ron Killins, back Kevin Steinestel and strong safety Ryan Schommer, tackles Ben Mussano and Josh Rhodes, and outside linebacker Jason VanHeule.

For a winning season, Bloomingtondale will need as many in-county wins as it can get. Maybe even defeating Brandon for the first time in school history.

### Bulls 1996 Roster

1 Justin Wilson	K
4 Greg Gaines	DB
5 Andrew Chang	DB
7 Kevin Steinestel	DB
8 Javon Scott	DB
10 Marcus King	QB
11 John Gustafson	DB
13 David Sedroy	DB
14 Matt Jellison	QB
20 Gary Lewis	DB
21 Saul Jiminez	LB
22 Walter Carter	RB
23 Martin Bunton	RB

24 Torre Warren	QB
30 Grant Bougere	LB
32 Willie Nealy	RB
33 Aaron Berry	RB
40 Ryan Schommer	LB
41 Jason Van Heule	LB
42 Scott Brooks	LB
43 Anthony Pushkin	LB
44 Nathan Lovelace	LB
45 Lee Gainer	RB
46 Steve Batson	DE
49 Ron Killins	DE
50 Marc Mestre	LB
51 Jason Gordon	OL
52 Dustin Burke	OL
53 Ryan Scott	OL
54 Jonn Livingston	OL
55 Wesley Reese	LB
60 Josh Rhodes	DL
62 Donnie Freeman	DL
63 Matt Wallace	OL
70 Ben Mussano	DL
71 Jerry Blackbu	DL
72 Ian Murphy	OL
73 Austin Hill	DL
75 Jeff Hill	OL
76 Matt Calandro	OL
77 Ryan Harris	DL
78 Craig Contos	OL
79 Doug Revelle	OL
82 Jerome Godbolt	WR
84 Andrew Shin	TE
88 Levi Knox	TE
89 Dino Bowen	DE

## Bulls Athletic Calendar

### CROSS COUNTRY

Sept. 7	Winter Haven Invite Polk CC 8 a.m.
Sept. 14	USF/Leto Invite USF 5 p.m.
Sept. 19	Raider Invite Walden Lake 5 p.m.
Sept. 28	Dr. Bishop Invite Brandon 9 a.m.

### FOOTBALL

Sept. 12	JV vs. Durant
Sept. 13	Sarasota Riverview
Sept. 19	JV vs East Bay
Sept. 20	Gaither
Sept. 26	JV at Plant City
Sept. 27	at Manatee
Oct. 3	JV at Jefferson
Oct. 4	Chamberlain Homecoming

Varsity games at 7:30

Junior Varsity games at 7:00

### SWIMMING

Sept. 7	Tampa Relays at Bobby Hicks
Sept. 10	Plant City at BSTC
Sept. 12	Leto/Hillsborough at Copeland
Sept. 17	Chamberlain at BSTC
Sept. 19	Gaither at DelRio
All meets at 7 p.m. except Plant City at 6 p.m.	

### VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 10	Plant**
Sept. 18	Durant**
Sept. 19	at Robinson
Sept. 24	Jefferson
Sept. 27 & 28	Suncoast Classic at Hudson
Oct. 1	at Leto
Oct. 3	King

\*\* Varsity only

Single matches at 7 p.m.

JV & Varsity matches 6:30 & 7:30

## Sports Salute

### Bloomingtondale LL Names Board

Newly-elected board members of Bloomingtondale Little League will take office in October. Elections were held Sept. 24.

Returning to the board are current president Alan Truvillion, Joan Brennick, Doug Wood, Mike Fletcher, Cookie Fletcher, Irene Brosnan, Denise Kubacki and Nancy LaFountain.

New board members are Ann Austin, Patty Bast, Chris Bennett, Mike Brennick, Stan Highsmith, Dave Maton, Frank Buschbacher, Susan Dickinson, John Smithers and Pat DeMarinis.

The winter ball season for baseball and softball players ages 5-15 begins Sept. 21. For information leave a message at the league by calling 684-8422.



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# Hear Ye

## BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

## STD Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, Sept. 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property

taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

## PTA Meetings

The first general meeting of the Alafia Elementary PTA will be Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The PTA will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization. Residents are invited to attend.

Lithia Springs PTA will hold its first meeting Sept. 24, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

## YMCA Membership Drive

As part of the YMCA's annual membership, discounted rates are being offered to first time members. The one-time family initiation fee has been reduced by \$25. For a family membership the fee normally is \$100, and during September only it is \$75.

Other fees vary based on type of membership. For information, call 685-5402.

## Bloomingdale Rec Classes

Low-impact aerobic classes meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. and the cost is \$3 per class. Child care is provided for children 5 and older.

Other adult and teen classes at the center include art/drawing/pastels on Thursdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. (\$36 for 6 weeks); ceramics Mondays, 6 p.m. for teens, 7 p.m. for adults, \$4 per class.

A table tennis club will be held free of charge on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and the gameroom is open free of charge Monday through Friday at 7 p.m.

For information, call 744-5907.

## BERGER, from page 1

Adjusted speed limit signs of 25 mph have already been installed as have warning signs informing motorists they are approaching a recreation facility. Tate indicated Canoga Park is also wide enough for a center line and bike lanes. But multi-way stops, another request of the BHA, were not warranted because the intersections at Caliente and at Bloomingfield did not meet national guidelines.

Joe Liguori of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District questioned the county's practice of making changes after the fact rather than foreseeing a problem and taking preventative measures.

"No money for sidewalks (infers) none are being built," Liguori said. "There is in fact funding, it's just a matter of priority."

Other residents let the commissioner know how they felt about continued growth in the area.

"Approving growth should also mean approving safety measures at the same time," John Warner said.

## BUS, from page 1

Kathy Samuelson, an Oakdale Reserve resident who has been active in the transportation battle since June. "I can't believe that I was one of the original people who fought to get this park four years ago, and now my children can't use it.

"There is no way my children are walking the two miles from school and crossing Bell Shoals," said Samuelson, whose children Jeremy and Charity, both 10, were temporarily staying with a neighbor.

Center director Donna Clouse said the addition of the Alafia children brings the park's after-school enrollment to nearly 90.


When the Alafia children were left out, Lithia Springs principal Constance Gilbert offered vacant seats on buses leaving her school. The transportation department, however, said Lithia Springs buses could not be re-routed into the Alafia neighborhood.

Samuelson had inquired about transportation for the school year when she enrolled her children in the park's summer program. In June, she was referred to Robert Aguis, assistant director of transportation for the school board.

"I explained the situation to him and he asked me to give him a week to look into it and do some research and get back to me," Samuelson said. "After a week and a half I hadn't heard anything so I called and called and left messages that he hasn't returned. That was three weeks ago."

Aguis, meanwhile, claimed he had not heard of the situation, but after a call from *The Gazette* to his supervisor, Dr. Michael Bookman, Aguis called *The Gazette*, the school, and the center to say a bus would be provided beginning the first week of September.

"As a working parent it is just hard," said Oak Crest resident Sandra Kolterman. "The park program is so reasonable. We are taxpayers, too, it just (wasn't) right."



by  
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