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do something -
Vote!
YEAR 2000

See story on
 page 6-7.

Business Activity and Vehicles in Residential Neighborhoods

By Don Shea, Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Manager

There have long been controversial issues arising as a result of business operations based in residential neighborhoods, and the question of vehicles appropriate for parking within residential neighborhoods. The Bloomingdale community is no exception. In this era of technological evolution, there are new questions and concerns being raised. Just how far does the "work at home" concept take us? When is the threshold crossed from acceptable and legally permissible activity to one where the residential nature and integrity of the neighborhood may be compromised?

When a complaint is received, the staff of the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Section investigates and determines whether a violation exists or not. There are variables that come into play in determining whether or not a violation exists. Sometimes the determination is obvious, and corrective actions can be ordered. However, the facts do not always support the complaint being made. It often takes a great deal of time and repeat visits, even on weekends or after business hours, to establish that a violation actually exists.

There are activities that are generally legal with respect to the zoning regulations of Hillsborough County. First, there are circumstances where a business activity or use existed at a location prior to the enactment of zoning regulations that may now prohibit that use. In such instances, there is a "non-conforming use circumstance" that may allow the activity to continue. There are also uses that are allowable as "Home Occupations." These activi-

ties must be conducted as an accessory use, in a manner clearly incidental and accessory to the residential use.

Complaints are frequently received about "a pickup with ladder racks on it" or a van with "Joe's Plumbing Service" signs on it. Pick-up trucks, vans and small trucks with load capacities of less than one (1) ton are allowed. A vehicle that can be used for domestic purposes, bearing signs, ladders, racks, decals or other markings is also allowed. These are not violations.

The County's Code Enforcement Section staff is thoroughly trained and regularly instructed on the subtleties of these issues, and can be counted on to make sound judgments based on the facts. Our department is committed to the protection and betterment of all of our communities. Every effort that can be made within the law will be made.

For more information about Hillsborough County Codes, or to register a complaint, please visit the County web site at www.hillsboroughcounty.org or call 744-5568, ext. 110.

The family that enters together, Wins Together!



Stephanie, Alex and Michelle Couch entered our Kid's Essay Contest. Winners announced on page 5.

BHA elects Vice President, see page 4.

Your Inside Connections

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 681-2051 • E-mail: BHA@CyberRails.com

Web site: www.bha-online.org

- President Ted Grable
Vice President Len Jasczik
Treasurer Pam Liguori
Director Patricia Radel
Director Ann Underwood
Director Rodney Biddle
Director Mary Cummings
Director Ken Clinton
Director Tony Diolosa



Bloomingdale Mobile Watch Core Committee

- Coordinator/Equipment Manager
Tony Diolosa, 681-1146
Treasurer, Paul Kelmer 681-9701
Steven Heckel 654-4266
Brad Scharp 643-5000
Paul Warr 685-7883



Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

- P.O. Box 3132, Brandon, FL 33509-3132
President Bill Grace, 685-2817
Treasurer Fred Englehart
Meetings .. Second Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm,
3419 Cade Lane, Bloomingdale Oaks



Share your news with the community!

Write to Editor, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: (813) 681-2051
E-mail: frazier1@tampabay.rr.com
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Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

- 684-6667
President, Thom Snelling 681-9186
Vice President, Tom Mackiewicz 653-4145
Treasurer, Don Cassels 681-8855
Corresponding Secretary, R. Dickey 689-2177
Recording Secretary, Alice Burleson 685-1076
Trustee, Tim Golden 653-1337
Trustee, Paul Almeida 661-2018
Property Manager, DPMI 684-6617



Meetings

All meetings take place at the Community Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

BHA Board of Directors Meetings
Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Special Taxing District Meetings
Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



the *B*loomingdale gazette

The official publication of the BHA

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A Gazette Report
BHA elects Vice President

At the August 8, 2000 general meeting, the BHA Board of Directors elected Len Jasczak as Vice President of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. Len and his family, residents of the Bristol Green section of Bloomingdale East, hail from Edison, NJ. The Jasczaks moved to our area from Jacksonville, NC in 1996.



*BHA Vice President
Len Jasczak*

Len has served on the Board since October of 1999, and counts controlled growth and school crowding among his community concerns. "I would like to help uphold the qualities that originally attracted my family and I to the community," Len says. "We can keep the qualities our area is well known for while we continue to grow."

The BHA works

By Basil Grussing, BHA Board Member

In August of this year, a problem involving business activity in a home and illegal vehicle parking in a Bloomingdale West neighborhood was resolved. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) worked with concerned residents, the Sheriff's Department and County Code Enforcement Office to solve this particularly vexing problem (see "Business activity and vehicles..." in this issue).

The BHA's Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) is composed of volunteer residents committed to the resolution of Deed Restriction and County Code violations in Bloomingdale. The BHA and the NIP team worked on this problem for us.

For the BHA to continue to be an effective voice, we need your help! We as residents are the eyes and ears and soul of the BHA. If you believe that there is a possible deed restriction and/or county code violation, the BHA is here to help. However, we do need your name and phone number to assist our efforts. Anonymous calls do not help the process. Your name will be kept in confidence, if requested.

Please keep calling, helping and especially volunteering. A better Bloomingdale is what we all want. We have a good community and we want to make it better. People working together make the difference. The BHA can be reached at 681-2051 or by e-mail at bha-online.org.

Kid's Essay Contest winners announced

We are pleased to announce the winners of our August Kid's Essay Contest, "When I am 25." Our winners received Wal-Mart gift certificates courtesy of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. Congratulations, and thanks to all of you who entered!

Elementary level Grand Prize:
Stephanie Couch, Nativity Catholic School

Middle School level Grand Prize:
Becky Szabo, Burns Middle School

Honorable Mentions:
Alex Couch, Nativity Catholic School
Michelle Couch, Nativity Catholic School
Marissa Selementi, Alafia Elementary
Jacqueline Selementi, Burns Middle School

Mothers and More

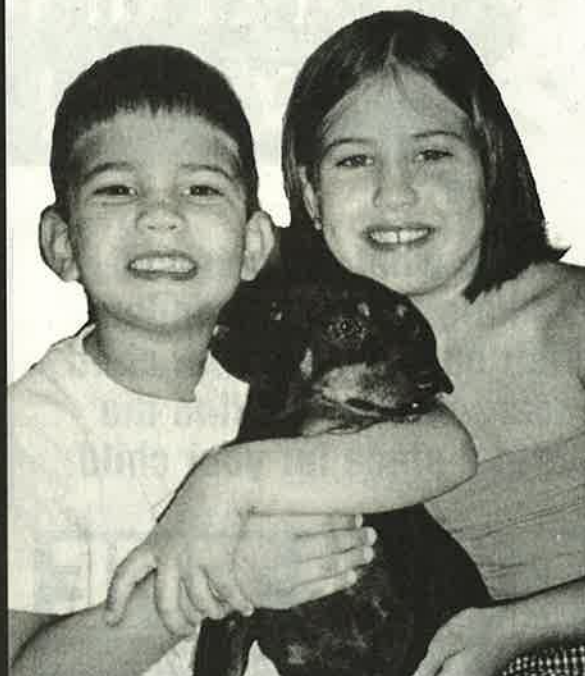
Mothers and More is an international not-for-profit organization supporting women who have altered their career paths in order to care for their children at home. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm at St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 3315 Bryan Road in Brandon. Membership Coordinator Amy Hanson says, "Mothers and More offers members meetings with topical discussions, guest speakers, mom's night out, play groups, family outings and more." For more information, contact Amy Hanson at 657-9654.



(back to front) Local Mothers and More leaders Trish Rajewski, Laura Sintsi, Melissa Donaldson, Amy Hanson, Melanie Sandler, Alex Curry, Denise Rudolf, Kathy McElvenny. Not pictured, Kathy Johnson. Photo by Becca Rajewski.

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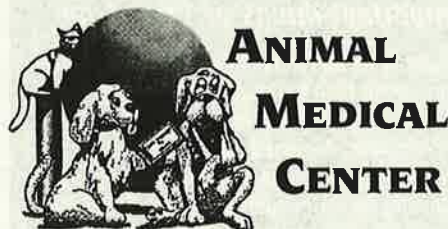


Zack Carter, 5, and his sister McKenzie, 7, hug their dog Cooper after he was saved during emergency surgery to remove a swallowed fish hook.

McKenzie and Zack Carter, children of Trish and Jeff Carter, were recently fishing in the Alafia River at the River Crossings dock in Bloomingdale when their 3-year-old Dauschound Cooper went after a hot dog being used for bait. As Cooper lunged for the hot dog, he swallowed the fish hook.

The Carters rushed Cooper to Animal Medical Center, where Dr. Jim Antunano performed emergency surgery and removed the fishhook from Cooper's esophagus. "Animal Medical Center cared enough to take charge late on a Saturday and did what was needed to save Cooper's life," says Trish Carter. "Cooper is almost like our third child and it would have been horrible to lose him."

Don't forget... Every pet needs a vet!



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"Your bike is welcome here, no matter where you bought it."

Bloomingdale growth initiates polling place changes

Precinct 804 to vote at Bloomingdale Brethren Church

By Pam Iorio, Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections

It is often necessary for our office to change the location of a polling place, or to create a new precinct. We try to avoid changing a polling place, but sometimes a particular facility is no longer available to us, or we have outgrown the space.

In preparation for the 2000 election cycle, our office subdivided Precinct 806 and created a new Precinct 804. Precinct 806 had grown to the point where it had almost 4,500 voters, and we try to keep all precincts under 4,000 voters. We located the voters in Precinct 804 to the Bloomingdale Athletic Complex, which also served as a polling place for Precinct 808.

The space available in the Athletic Complex was considered to be relatively small for two precincts. However, the turnout for the March 14, 2000 Presidential Preference Primary was projected to be low, and this facility was the only suitable polling place available at the time. Therefore, the Athletic Complex was selected as the polling place for Precincts 804 and 808 until a more suitable polling place was available.

In May 2000, Bloomingdale Brethren Church, located on Bloomingdale Avenue between Bloomingdale High School and Bell Shoals Road, agreed to be a polling place. Subject to approval by the United States Justice Department, the Supervisor of Elections plans to use this facility as a polling place for Precinct

804. When this change is finalized, voters who reside in Precinct 804 will receive a written notice along with a voter identification card that shows their new polling place. Precinct 808 voters will continue to vote at the Bloomingdale Athletic Complex.

We hope this new arrangement for the fall elections will be convenient to the voters in the Bloomingdale area. We know that with the continual growth in the Bloomingdale area, new precincts will be added in the years to come. If you, as a voter, ever have a suggestion for a facility you believe would make a good polling location, please give us a call at 272-5850, or e-mail me at voterp@aol.com. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become a poll worker on Election Day. It is a rewarding job, and a great way to serve the community. If you are interested, please contact Poll Worker Services at 744-5855.

Supervisor Iorio was recently elected President of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections. The organization works to make changes in election laws that benefit voters and provide educational opportunities for its members.



Supervisor of Elections Pam Iorio

(continued on page 7)

Polling place changes

continued from page 6

New ID cards for Bloomingdale voters

All registered voters in Hillsborough will receive a new voter identification card to reflect the new School Board Districts. Some Bloomingdale residents' polling place locations have been changed. Please check the location indicated on your new Voters ID. Also, be advised that a new Florida law requires each voter to produce both a photo and signature ID, or sign a "No Photo" affidavit at the polling place when voting.

Your vote counts!

By Mack Austin

The 2000 General Election to be held in November is just a couple months away. Every election year, we hear the phrases, "register now" and "get out and vote." Unfortunately, the percentage of citizens that take the time to register and vote has declined. The latest Hillsborough County estimate indicates a total of 939,070 residents. The total number of County voters registered is currently 470,500.

According to Pam Iorio, Hillsborough County's Supervisor of Elections, our County registration statistics as of July 2000 are: Democrats - 211,113, Republicans - 174,566, Minor Parties - 11,127, No Affiliation - 73,704.

Information is all over the media before the elections take place. Sure, a lot of it is not very informative or even entertaining. Some of it could even be used to fertilize your flowers. But all of the issues will affect each one of us in some way. Even if you don't like all the candidates, there are important issues and good candidates that need your support.

It's not too late to register. According to Chuck Smith of the County Supervisor of Elections office, you can still vote in the November General Election by registering before October 10, 2000. Time is passing. Do something - vote!

Election 2000

First Primary Election - Tuesday, September 5, 2000

Second Primary Election - Tuesday, October 3, 2000

General Election - Tuesday, November 7, 2000

do something - Vote! YEAR 2000

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Team Byrd

By Mack Austin

State Representative Johnnie Byrd has walked the streets of Bloomingdale, taken the time to listen carefully to our concerns, and has provided valuable assistance and resources to the Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC). Representative Byrd and his staff have come to not only represent, but to become active participants in hearing and resolving many of our residents' concerns.

Johnnie Byrd represents District 62 in the Florida House of Representatives. This District covers most of Eastern Hillsborough County including Bloomingdale, Valrico, Brandon, Dover, Durant, Plant City, Riverview, Seffner, and Thonotosassa. Representative Byrd's primary function, when he is not attending to the State budget in Tallahassee, is to respond to the numerous concerns and requests he and his staff receive from District 62 residents. They receive requests for information or assistance by phone (approximately 30 calls per day), e-mail (about 50 per day), personal contacts through satellite office meetings, a variety of forums and personal visits to the district office.

It takes teamwork and dedication to organize, research and communicate the various concerns directed to Representative Byrd's office. His team consists of two legislative assistants, Jessica Corcoran and Ed Howlette. They handle the broad spectrum of concerns involving federal, state, county and local agencies. In order to stay well informed, Corcoran and Howlette attend many county, local and civic meetings per month. They have attended numerous meetings with the BACC, and also plan Town Hall and satellite office meetings and numerous speaking engagements for Representative Byrd.

Jessica Corcoran is a lifelong resident of Eastern Hillsborough County. She has worked in public relations for many years, and has a background in accounting. She has volunteered copious hours to civic and community based organizations.

Ed Howlette has resided in Eastern Hillsborough County since January 1995. He is a military veteran, and received his BA degree in Political Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He obtained a Jurist Doctorate degree in Law from Fordham University School of Law. Howlette retired as a New York City detective after serving for over 15 years. He then practiced law in New York for another 15 years.

Representative Byrd and his staff say they welcome and encourage the residents of Eastern Hillsborough to contact them with their concerns. They say their door is always open and, "There's always a fresh pot of coffee on." Representative Byrd can be contacted by phone at 813-684-0969, by e-mail at byrd.johnnie@leg.state.fl.us or by mail at P.O. Box 3823, Brandon, FL 33509-3823.

State Representative Johnnie Byrd (center) and staff members Jessica Corcoran and Edward Howlette. Photo by Mack Austin.



Keeping our neighborhoods safe

by Tony Diolosa, Mobile Watch Coordinator

Bloomingdale has the lowest crime rate in the County because of our residents' volunteer efforts to keep our community safe and secure. Bloomingdale Mobile Watch has been recognized by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department as an exemplary mobile watch model. With our continually growing population, patrols must be increased accordingly to keep our coverage consistent in every area of Bloomingdale.



Mobile Watch Coordinator Tony Diolosa.

The purpose of the Mobile Watch team is to provide a visible deterrent to crime in our neighborhoods by acting as the eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Department. Mobile Watch members do not become involved in any dangerous activities. Our job is to observe and report, and let the Sheriff's Department take action. That's their job, not ours.

Our community is in immediate need of volunteers to provide patrol coverage to several sections of Bloomingdale East and West. Our goal is to provide coverage 7 nights a week, with a patrol in each area. We know that everyone has busy lives, but hope you will please make time to help keep our community crime free. The commitment is minimal; just 3 hours, one evening per month.

IMPORTANT MOBILE WATCH MEETING

WHO:

All current and prospective Mobile Watch volunteers

WHERE:

Culbertson Community Center in Bloomingdale West Park

WHEN:

Monday, September 11 at 7:00 pm

WHY:

Our community is in immediate need of active volunteers to provide patrol coverage to several sections of Bloomingdale East and West.

CONTACT:

Coordinator Tony Diolosa for more information at 681-1146



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Bloomingtondale Senior High School News

By Mack Austin

Special thanks

The PTSA, school Administration, parents and students would like to extend a "special thanks" to everyone involved in last year's "sustained silent reading" program. Bloomingtondale was the first and only high school in Hillsborough County to be awarded a rating of "A" under the state's accountability program. This program tests students on reading, writing and math, and assesses attendance rates and disciplinary programs. As BSHS Principal B.J. Stelter said, "It was a team effort!" What's needed now is to keep the great work going. Let's help the students enrolled at Bloomingtondale now benefit from this program, and keep the "A".

Bloomingtondale PTSA Starts New Year

The PTSA held its first meeting of this school year last month with a full set of officers ready to enhance the quality of education at BSHS. Under the guidance and direction of new president Ronda Baer, this year's PTSA has set their goals high. They want to prove that PTSA is not all meetings and planning. The PTSA newsletter is due out this month, with Jim Mayer serving as Newsletter Editor. As a volunteer parent, you can be a part of this active group that is making a lifetime contribution to the lives of our students. The rewards are tremendous. Members of the PTSA were part of the team that made our "A" rating possible. If you would like to join this group of parents who are making a positive difference at Bloomingtondale High, call the PTSA at 744-8018, ext. 563.

Keep the "A"

"Keep the A"... This could be Bloomingtondale's motto for this year! One program that helped earn it was the "sustained silent reading" program. It has been proven that once you improve a student's reading skills, you increase their confidence; you enhance their skills and abilities in other subjects and develop an overall better student. Several elements are needed to keep this program working and keep the "A":

- Magazines can be delivered to the school or dropped off at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Community Station on Bell Shoals. Please remove any mailing labels.
- Volunteers are needed to work with students requiring individual assistance. Schedules are flexible and can be adapted to your availability. It makes a great difference.
- Encouragement from parents and others to "read more" really matters. We all have lots of distractions that take our time. The more students read, the sharper their skills become, just like practicing at sports. a garden rake, a traffic cone, 2 hubcaps, a cordless phone and 14 cents. The beverages of choice were Coke for soft drinks, Busch for beer and Romanof vodka for distilled spirits.

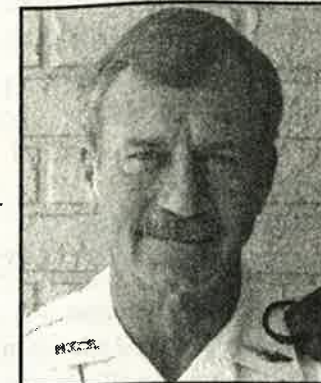
**Bloomingtondale High PTSA
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 7pm
Subject: Guidance counseling
Info: 744-8018, ext. 563**

Bloomingtondale Community Substation Notes

By Deputy Pete Maurer

3-way stop at Alafia Elementary School crossing

Numerous parents have called the Community Station expressing their personal concerns about the increased traffic flow, speeding and other serious dangers at the intersection of Culbreath Road and Natures Way. These dangers are multiplied during arrival and dismissal times. On behalf of these parents, the Bloomingtondale Area Community Council sent a letter to County Commissioner Ronda Storms, requesting her assistance in resolving this safety issue. Concerned parents are encouraged to contact Commissioner Storms, either directly or through their PTA, and request a special provision be made for improving traffic safety at this intersection.



Deputy Pete Maurer

Cease Fire 2000

After the outstanding success of last year's "Cease Fire" program, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office plans to

continue collecting unwanted firearms at Cease Fire 2000. This collection will take place at several locations on Saturday, September 16th from 8am to 4pm, including the Bloomingtondale Community Station on Bell Shoals Road (next to Beef O'Brady's). Complete firearms will be accepted in exchange for gift certificates. Ammunition and old gun parts will be accepted for disposal. No BB guns or pellet guns. For additional information, please call the Substation.

Call for Speed Monitor assistance

At the start of the new school year, many calls were received concerning speeding near our schools. In response, our new radar speed monitor was put to use at Alafia Elementary. Tickets were written. When you have a concern, let us know. We will provide assistance where it is needed.

Motorized skateboards

Numerous calls, complaints and concerns have been made about the "motorized skateboards" in our area. One resident had a young rider "fly through a stop sign without even looking." An average vehicle weighs around four to five thousand pounds. Any crash with a young rider will probably be fatal. If you see riders speeding or riding on the wrong side of the road, call so we can investigate.

Parking at Alafia Elementary

This is a sore subject with several residents, especially those who have received tickets. I do not like to write tickets. But until the regulations change, the signs mean what they say: "NO PARKING." This issue needs special attention from the Alafia PTA and the County. The BACC will contact County officials and request another meeting to explore any possible

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*Judy Martin and Kathy Claar
of Park Club of Brandon*

Kathy: Drop by Park Club on September 21st in the afternoon and experience the smell of home and the taste of Fall.

Kathy: I'll be glad when September brings cooler days.

Judy: Let's prepare for our annual Home-spun day with homemade soups, bread & streusel.

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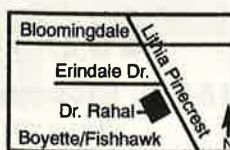


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Michael Davis Realty celebrates 1st "birthday"

Bloomington residents Michael and Judy Davis held a 1st birthday celebration at Michael Davis Realty's Bloomingdale Avenue office in June. Davis began his real estate career in Brandon in 1981, and has since helped over 1500 families move in and out of the Greater Tampa area. Previously associated with RE/MAX Realty Unlimited for a period of twelve years, Davis opened his own firm in May of 1999. "Our team utilizes cutting edge technology, state of the art equipment and the creation of exclusive programs to insure our client's advantage," said Davis. Michael Davis Realty is located at 139 Bloomingdale Avenue, just east of John Moore Road. For more information, call 662-2600 or visit www.michaeldavisrealty.com.



Bloomington residents Michael and Judy Davis (center) and the staff of Michael Davis Realty.

Property Manager's Report

DPMI would like to thank the resident who tried to save the vandalized crepe myrtle tree on Natures Way. Al Devney says, "The resident went out of their way to try and save a pretty little tree, however it was broken too badly and could not be saved."

Al Devney, President of Devney Property Management, Inc. (DPMI), can be reached at 684-6617.



DPMI President Al Devney

Irrigation: Brandon Irrigation repaired a broken main line on the Glenhaven system; Steward and Associates installed 2 rotor zones on Culbreath and 1 on Natures Way; Planscape Inc. added 8 spray heads to zones 6 and 7 of the Bloomingdale Village system; DPMI measured the area around the park in Bloomingdale West for a new irrigation system; DPMI added 6 spray heads at the Callista entrance, 6 at the Briarlake entrance and 14 in

(continued on page 13)

Property Manager's Report

(continued from page 12)

the Bloomingdale Village system; DPMI replaced 32 spray heads and 2 rotors, repaired 10 risers and 3 zone lines; 5 lights were replaced.

Landscaping: Planscape Inc. installed minor entrance-way landscape packages at Callista and Briarlake entrances; Gulf Tree removed pine trees at Callista and Briarlake; DPMI trimmed the Oak trees along Culbreath and Natures Way.

Miscellaneous: DPMI called Hillsborough County to replace damaged "No Parking," speed limit, "School Crossing" and "Road Narrows" and street signs damaged by vehicles; One crepe myrtle tree on Natures Way was vandalized and had to be replaced. The incident was reported to the local Sheriff's office.

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window: DPMI picked up 26 bags of litter, 6 socks, 2 electric motors, 2 hubcaps, 2 shirts, a Zephyrhills 5 gallon bottle, a set of Ford floor mats, a bowling bag and shoes and .60 cents. The beverages of choice were Coke for soft drinks, Bud Light for beer and Kahlua for distilled spirits.

Proposed new Publix will not oust Bloomingdale Square store

By Mack Austin

According to Bloomingdale Square Publix grocery store manager Danny Cribbs, "The Bloomingdale Publix is not going to close, even when the new (Publix) scheduled for construction at the southeast corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia-Pinecrest Road is built." This is good news for Bloomingdale Publix customers.

Residents concerned with the construction of the new Publix should note that the County Hearing Master has reviewed the developer's request. The Board of County Commissioners will make a decision on the request at a September 12 meeting. The proposed construction will seriously affect traffic for Bloomingdale residents and our Valrico and Lithia neighbors.

Bloomington Area Community Council seeks volunteers

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) is seeking volunteers to represent several sections of Bloomingdale East and West, including Oakcrest. BACC members meet briefly on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Sheriff's Substation on Bell Shoals Road to share information relating to crime and safety issues in our neighborhoods. For further information or to volunteer for the BACC, please call the Substation at 635-8040 weekdays 8am - 5pm.

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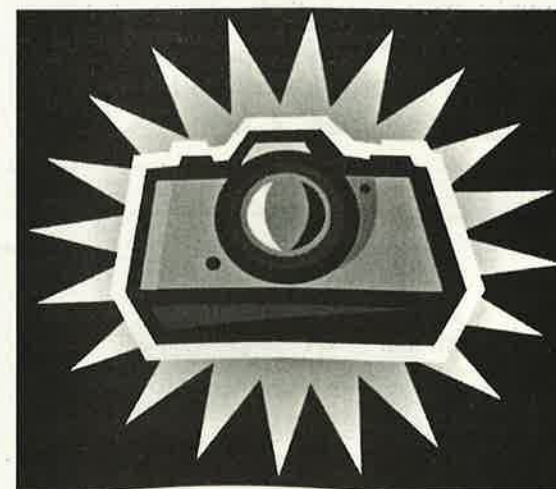
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Bloomingdale High grad vaults her way into Princeton University

By Mack Austin

Being a young woman in a sport that until recently was dominated by young men makes Bloomingdale Senior High School 2000 graduate Chelo Canino's impressive accomplishments even more important. With the discipline to keep her academic accomplishments high and with the support of friends and family, she has achieved success. After graduating from Bloomingdale High, Chelo spent the summer going to camps from Texas to California, doing what she likes to do and doing it with the best, like Stacy Dragila, the women's World Record Holder in the pole vault. This fall, Chelo will attend Princeton University on a full scholarship. Princeton's pole vault record is 9' 6". Chelo has vaulted 12' 6".

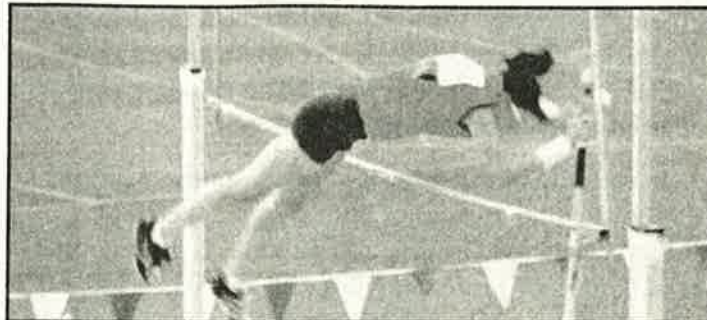
Chelo began her track career over three years ago as a distance runner, competing in the 800, 1 mile and 2 mile events. When she expressed an interest in pole-vaulting, her coaches advised her to stick with running. Not willing to take no for an answer, Chelo teamed up with close friend Katie Morgan, also interested in the sport, attended a pole vaulting camp at USF, watched videos, and eventually found a local coach. Chelo remembers, "Katie and I provided moral support and encouragement to each other. After all, we were it! Her first coach, looking back, said, "I never thought she would get so good, because she was so bad." She got a lot of discouraging comments from people who told her pole vaulting was a man's sport, but she told herself, "I am, I can, I will!"

As you watch the Olympic athletes this month, you'll notice something Chelo learned very early. "You have to learn

to totally focus, and truly believe that you can do it, no matter how you feel." Chelo's mother Maria recalls early evidence of Chelo's ability to focus when her daughter was still in her playpen. "Her Grandmother thought she was hard of hearing because she would concentrate so hard when she read her books." This ability came into play when she was at a State Competition and got sick. As luck would have it, her main competitor made the best vault she had ever made. "All I knew was that I had to dig deep, tell myself I was fine and go vault." She won her second State title.

When asked what advice she would give to young women interested in sports, Chelo responded, "Believe in yourself, keep your eyes on your future and your mind on the present, run, run, run, take lots of gymnastics classes, get a handle on your academics early because your schedule will be a three-ring circus, and go for it!"

Congratulations to Chelo, with our best wishes for many more successes. You're an inspiration to all of us.



Bloomingdale High 2000 graduate Chelo Canino has vaulted herself to a full scholarship at Princeton University.



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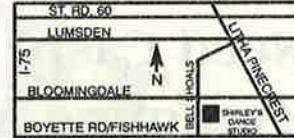
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Patricia (Pat) Hardy recently passed down her Bloomingdale restaurant to daughter Nancy Taber. Nancy is a fifth generation restaurant owner.

2nd Annual Labor Day 3-mile "Prediction Race"

A Gazette report

The 2nd Annual Labor Day 3-mile "Prediction Race," sponsored by The Sports Authority, Reebok and the Brandon Running Association, will be held on Monday, September 4, 2000 at 8am in Sports Authority parking lot, 11335 Causeway Boulevard in Brandon. Walkers and runners of all ages and abilities are welcome to participate. Registration will begin at 7am on the day of the race. Entrants may pre-register on Saturday, September 2 from 1pm - 4pm at The Sports Authority.



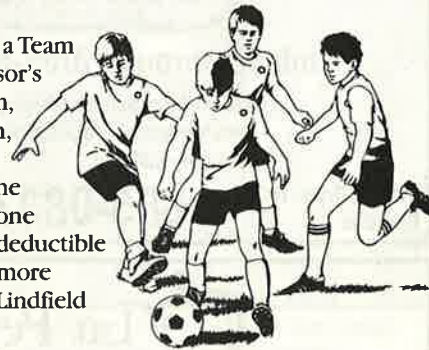
BRA members celebrate after this year's Gasparilla Race, (l-r) Susan Glickman, Mona St. Germain, Ginger Montotte and Dr. Sue Audette.

Each runner or walker will predict how long it will take them to complete the 3-mile course. The finishers that come closest to the time they predicted on their registration form win. To qualify, no timepieces may be worn during the race by runners or walkers. For more information, call Membership Director Dr. Sue Audette at 633-0530.

Soccer League seeks sponsors

Brandon Area Youth Soccer League (BAYSL) seeks the help of the community to locate corporate sponsors for each of the league's approximately 150 recreational teams. With 2,300 Brandon area children registered in the 1999-2000 season, BAYSL is one of the largest leagues in Florida, and has a statewide reputation for its state-of-the-art facility, innovative TOPS program for challenged players, quality coaching and State Champion caliber teams.

Benefits of becoming a Team Sponsor include the sponsor's name on the team uniform, "Wall of Fame" recognition, a wood photo plaque and advertising exposure for the company. Sponsorship of one team is available for a tax-deductible contribution of \$275. For more information, contact Kim Lindfield at 684-5241 or 386-2038.



Culbertson Community Center Activities

The Stephanie Culbertson Community Center is located at Bloomingdale West Park on Canoga Park Drive. To register for activities or for more information, call 685-7975 weekday evenings from 6 - 9pm.

Adult indoor basketball

Registration on November 1 at 7pm. There will be 12 teams of adults ages 18 and up. Sponsored by the Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department.

Tennis

Moms and Tots 3-5 years old, Youths 5 - 8, Youths 9 - 12 and Adults/Teens 13 and up. Equipment is furnished. Cost \$12 - \$16 per month. Call or visit the Community Center for days and times.

Hockey

Registration on October 2 - 20. Cost \$20 per session. Call 744-5907 or visit the Community Center for age groups, days and times.



SAFE program to be held at Culbertson Community Center

Monday, September 25 at 7pm

By Mack Austin

The plaque dedicated at the ceremony that changed the name of the Bloomingdale West Recreation Center to the "Stephanie Ann Culbertson Community Center" reads "Dedicated to the memory of Stephanie Ann Culbertson and to the preservation of our youth; may they better understand how mortal they really are." One of the goals mentioned at the dedication was to provide education to our youth on the serious consequences of drinking or using drugs and driving and not using their seatbelts.

One professional organization that will be providing this type of education to both teens and adults is called SAFE, Students Alive From Education. SAFE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making high school and college students aware of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, not wearing their seatbelts, and the real life trauma that comes with these dangers. SAFE's primary goal is to reduce injuries and fatalities in this age group. The program is very real, very educational, and very eye opening. The presentations are clear, direct and to the point. No BS, just facts.

Lieutenant Ronnie Garcia, a Tampa Fire Department Paramedic and SWAT Team medic, said at a Bloomingdale High presentation, "We speak to the students on a conversational level,

(continued on page 22)



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Bloomingdale Yard of the Month

Send your nominations to the Gazette contacts listed on page 2. Congratulations and a \$25 Wal-Mart gift certificate go out to our September 2000 Yard of the Month winners:



Homeowners: Ronald and Kimberly Bouchillon
Address: 3710 Kingsford in Bloomingdale East

Landscaping features: Live oak surrounded by colorful vines and assorted plantings in a large bordered bed, attractive hedge-lined walk to front door featuring neatly trimmed boxwood.

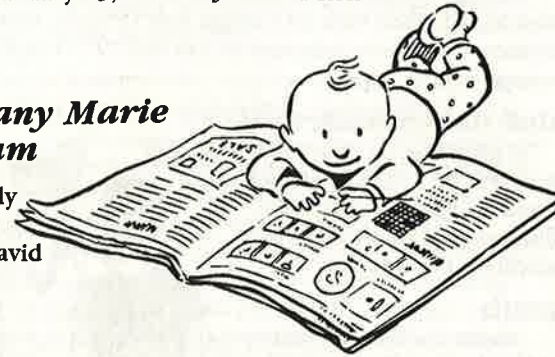
Welcome to Bloomingdale

Victoria Marie Collins

Born February 23, 2000 to Julia and Ron Collins

Bethany Marie McCullum

Born July 14, 2000 to Janet and David McCullum



Danielle Elizabeth Wiles

Born July 24, 2000 to Christine and Daniel Wiles

Caleb Linton Beggs

Born July 24, 2000 to Rebecca and Todd Beggs

Please send birth announcements to the Gazette phone, fax, e-mail or address on page 2.

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

July 2000 Meeting Minutes, Abridged

The July 2000 BSTD meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Community Office. For more information, please contact the BSTD at 684-6667.

- Financial Report - Balances through June were \$242,770. After nine months of fiscal year 2000, the Entryway budget was under spent by over 50%, and irrigation was approximately 90% spent.
- Property Manager's Report - Landscaping costs were reviewed from Bloomingdale Ridge by Al Devney of DPMI Property Management, Inc.
- Correspondence - A letter was received concerning trimming the weeds around a pond. Once again, it was stated that the pond is on private property and therefore is not maintained by the BSTD.
- Loan Committee - Zion Bank is renegotiating the interest from 6.24 to 6.52%. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to pass the amended loan interest rate at 6.52%.
- Entryways Committee - The plans for Glenhaven, Garnet and Greenhollow are complete. Rosemead plans will be ready by the August meeting, and Erindale and John Moore by September.

- Minor Entryways Committee - Plantings are on schedule and Dunnaire will be completed in July.
- Old Business - Two white Crepe Myrtle trees on Canoga Park will be replaced with purple ones. Tree trimming is still a problem, since some of the trees are growing into each other.
- New Business - none
- Public Comment - It was suggested that the BSTD investigate establishing an e-mail address. It will be reported on at the next meeting.

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc. 2000 Dues

\$20.00

Mail to: BHA; 3509 Bell Shoals Road; Valrico, FL 33594

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail*: _____

*If you have access to e-mail, please include your address to register for free BHA e-mail updates concerning timely crime and safety advisories, planning and zoning hearings, school boundary change proposals, etc. If you have any questions, please call the BHA at 681-2051.

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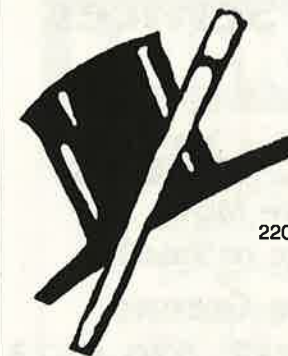
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643-6944

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A brief history of Bloomingdale

By Ted Grable, BHA President

The Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association (BHA) would like to produce a history of the Bloomingdale Community's development over the past 20 years. We seek to enlist the volunteer help of our residents to compile and assemble information derived from old files, Gazette archives, residents' own photographs, etc. The project would include business growth, resident VIP's and Bloomingdale schools in addition to residential development. Ideally, several people with an interest in the community will volunteer and work together on the project.



Residents are encouraged to contribute relative photos, maps, information and anecdotes (verbal or written) for this project, which we anticipate printing in installment form in the Gazette and in its entirety on our web site, bha-online.org. For more information, please call the BHA at 681-2051 or e-mail bha@cyberrails.com.

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MacDill Family Resource Center

September 2000 Events

The MacDill Family Resource Center is located at 349 Pauls Drive in Brandon. Programs offered in September include: Sibling Rivalry, Raising Confident Kids, Setting Limits and Boundaries for Your Teenager, and Anger Management. For more information, please contact James Warren at 655-9281.

Hillsborough County household chemical collections

South County collection site
626 Golf & Sea Boulevard (beside the Fire Station)
Open 9am to 3pm • Saturday, September 16th, 2000

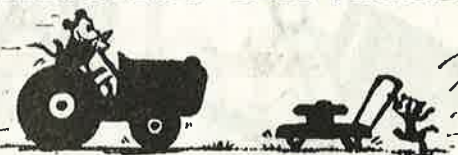
Materials accepted include paints and solvents, automotive products, household cleaners, pool chemicals, lawn and garden supplies.

Materials not accepted include explosives, flares or bio-medical material. Absolutely no commercial waste will be accepted.

For additional information call the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department at 272-5680.

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"What's for dinner?"

Bloomingdale area restaurants offer many on-the-run dinner alternatives, from drive through and delivery to take-out and convenient "on the way" dining out. We've compiled a partial list you may wish to post on your refrigerator, or perhaps more effectively, on your dashboard!

Don't forget dessert! Pick up some quick treats on your way past Bloomingdale Square Tanya & Matt's Ice Cream...Smoothie King...Baskin Robbins Ice Cream...Dunkin Donuts

Restaurant	Phone	Location	Dining
Beef O'Brady's	653-1888	BellShoals/Glenhaven	Dine in, take out, catering
Burger King	654-7472	Bloomingdale Square	Dine in, take out, drive-thru
Cherry's	662-1500	Bloomingdale Square	Dine in, take out, catering
Chick-fil-A	655-1237	11325 Causeway Blvd.	Dine in, take out, drive-thru
Dominoes	685-7884	1999 Brandon Blvd.	Take out, delivery
Hungry Howie's	684-4477	1511 Brandon Blvd.	Take out, delivery
J-Bird's Pizzeria	653-1460	118 Bloomingdale Ave.	Take out, delivery
KFC Chicken	684-6182	Royal Oaks Plaza	Dine in, take out, drive-thru
Latin Cafe 2000	643-9475	Bloomingdale Square	Dine in, take out
Ling Express	661-8433	Bloomingdale Square	Dine in, take out, delivery
Little Caesars	681-2511	Bloomingdale Square	Take out, delivery
McDonalds	685-9163	Bloomingdale Square	Dine in, take out, drive-thru
One Loy Chinese	654-4750	3318 John Moore Rd.	Dine in, take out, delivery
Papa John's	661-7272	3517 Bell Shoals Rd.	Take out, delivery
Pat's Place	685-7259	Bloomingdale Plaza	Dine in, take out, catering
Peck's Chicken	643-3867	Bloomingdale Plaza	Dine in, take out, catering
Pizza Hut	684-8383	3220 Lithia Pinecrest	Take out, delivery
Simply Thai	681-4470	Bloomingdale Square	Dine in, take out
Subway	685-6178	Bloomingdale Square	Dine in, take out, catering
Taco Bell	681-5292	Bloomingdale Square	Dine in, take out, drive-thru
Villa Rina's Too	684-7466	Bell Shoals/Glenhaven	Dine in, take out, delivery
Westshore Pizza VI	662-9800	Bloomingdale Plaza	Dine in, take out, delivery

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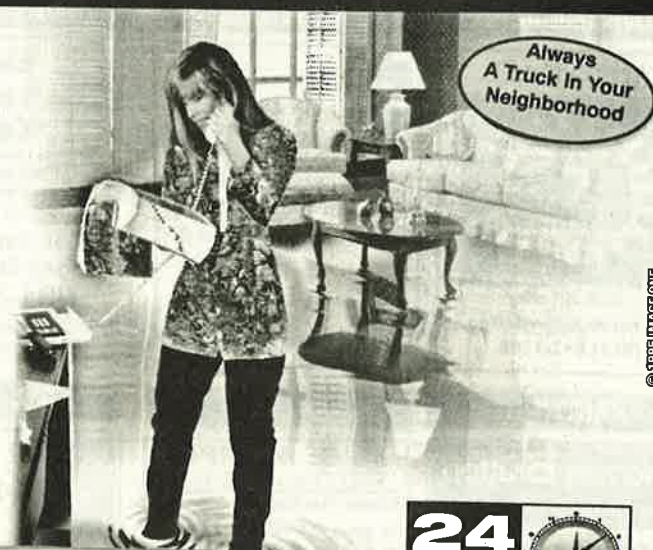
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Safe program

(continued from page 17)

not at them, and that is the difference. This subject is just too serious to make suggestions. You have to let them know that the consequences of their actions can be deadly, literally." Lieutenant Garcia knows first hand what it is like to be at an accident scene. As he says, "It is a crash scene, not an accident, if alcohol is involved. They could have made a choice to not drink and drive."

The first presentation will be held at the Culbertson Community Center on Monday, September 25th at 7pm. Parents and students are encouraged to attend together. Students, bring your friends. This could be a life-saving experience. For more information, please call the Community Center at 685-7975.

Car vs. mailbox



Watch out for those concrete mailboxes! The unfortunate driver of this vehicle backed into one, and got a little bung up when she tried to back off the heap of rubble. No one, except the mailbox, was injured.

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