

BHA, BSTD Benefit Bloomingdale

The autonomous groups share similar goals.

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Family Could Face More Heartbreak

An 18-year-old Bloomingdale girl needs a heart transplant

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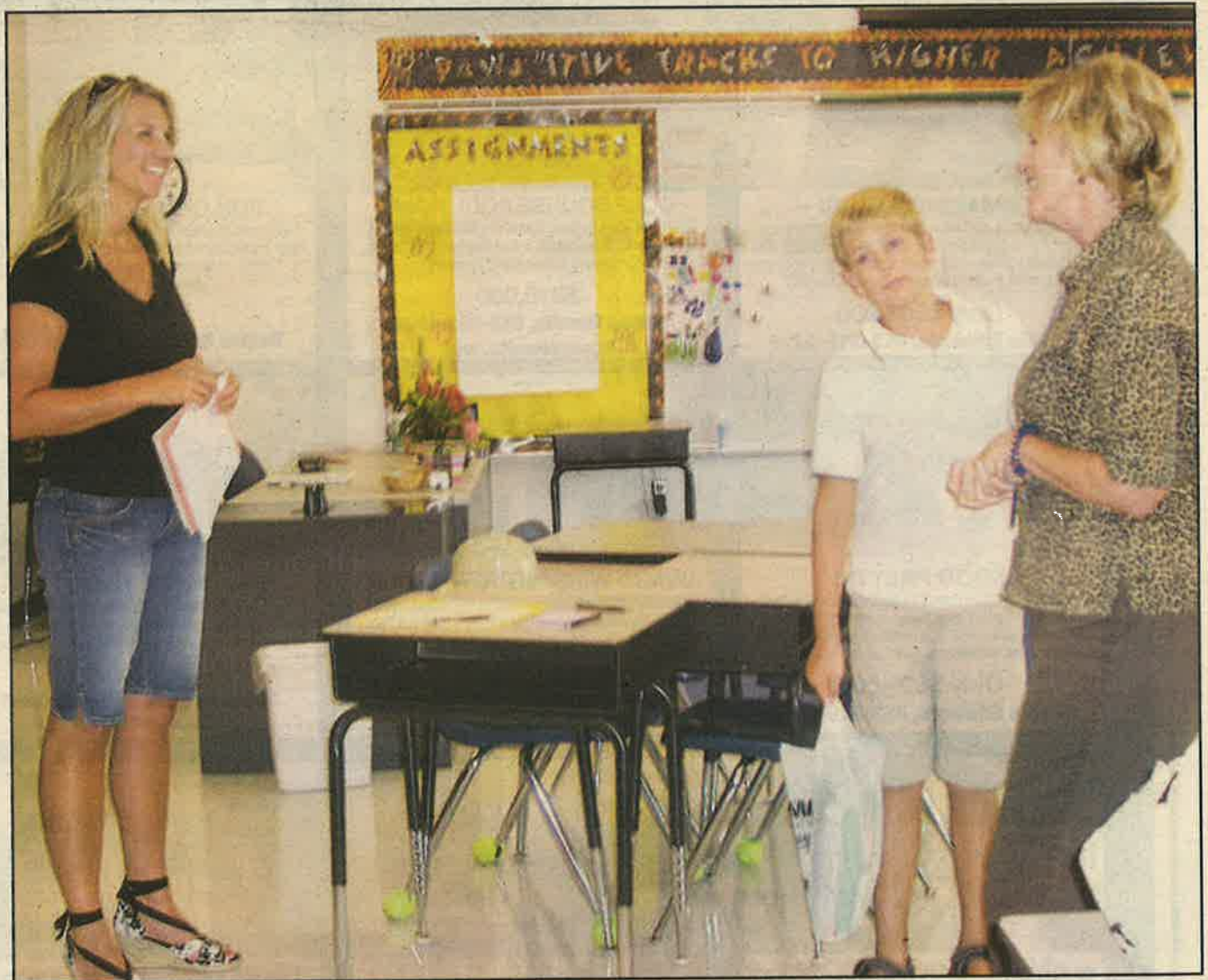
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Class of 2008 First to Rise Through Cimino's Ranks



Cimino Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Mary Hoxworth, right, greets new student Jeb Yancey and his mother, Kellie, at the school's open house in August. Fifth-graders commencing from Cimino this year will be the first to rise through its ranks since the school opened in 2002. See story page 14.

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Family Faces Second Heart Transplant

By LINDA CHION KENNEY

The Dyes of Bloomingdale have had more than their share of heartache.

Tom Dye's father and two sisters died of heart disease, which almost claimed his life as well. He was saved by a heart transplant three years ago this Dec. 9.

It was on the first anniversary of his new heart that his older sister died from cardiomyopathy, a disease of the heart muscle.

Last year and the year before, the Dye family joined thousands of participants at the American Heart Association's Tampa Bay Heart Walk, held in November, to help raise awareness of the need for organ donors.

But this year they might not be walking with Stephanie Dye. Eight months after her father underwent his transplant, the 18-year-old discovered that she, too, had a form of the heart disease. Her condition has steadily declined over the past two years.

Doctors in June told Stephanie, a Newsome graduate and freshman at Hillsborough Community College, that her condition had worsened to the point that she will need a new heart within the year.

"We have pretty much

exhausted all of our medicine options," said her mother, Judy Dye. "Stephanie is much more short of breath, she's having more chest-pain episodes, more lightheadedness and the oxygenation in her blood is not where it needs to be. Even at rest, she's at the point where she's starting to struggle and that's one of the indicators for moving her forward into the transplant program."

It's not new territory for the Dyes, including brother, Daniel, a freshman at Bloomingdale High School.

"He's a 14-year-old boy ready to start high school and his sister is truly one of the most important parts of his life," Judy Dye said. "He has a heart of gold and he adores her and I think he is much more stoic on the outside."

Stephanie finds solace in her family's unity and experience with heart disease.

"If it had to happen I'm glad it was my family and me and not someone else who had to go through this from start to finish without knowing what to expect," Stephanie Dye said. "My family, we're not in the dark."

Moreover, Stephanie added,



Linda Chion Kenney/Photos

Stephanie Dye shares a tender moment with her dad, Tom, at home in August on her 18th birthday. Tom had a heart transplant and his daughter soon will need one.

"It can always be worse. I don't have cancer, and that's a good thing. We look at some families going through that, suffering more than I have, and I'm thankful I have something that is treatable and that I can live with."

Without a donor, however, she cannot live for long.

And that has become a battle cry for the Dyes, who later this year are expected to help host a donor awareness and fundraiser event at Winthrop in Riverview, on Bloomingdale Avenue at Providence Road.

"It's not something most people think about at any given

point because most people have no reason to," Judy Dye said. "But once you have been through this, or are involved with someone who has had a transplant, it becomes extremely apparent that there is a need out there for donors. One person, one donor, can potentially help up to 72 people with bone, tissue, organs and corneas."

One step forward is to identify yourself as an organ donor on your driver's license, but it's not enough, Judy Dye said.

"Getting a sticker on your driver's license puts you on the state registry, but final consent

will always come from your family members, so make your wishes known," she said.

Stephanie Dye implores people to take that advice to heart.

"Talk to your family and to all your friends about being a donor," she said. "It's a person's last act of generosity and kindness. If more people looked at it that way I think more people would become organ and tissue donors."

Transplant recipients, businesses and organizations that would like to participate in a donor awareness event can call (813) 601-3129.

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Homeowners Association, Taxing District Benefit Bloomingdale

BY GEORGE MAY
Bloomingdale Homeowners
Association Director

and
DAVID STECK
Bloomingdale Special Taxing
District Trustee

Let's start with the bottom line — it's your Bloomingdale. This is your community, and it's important to your community leaders that you understand how Bloomingdale functions. It's also important to us that you understand the non-ad valorem assessment increase, the workings of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA), the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD), those two organization's relationship to each other, and the overall "macro" view of the community. Read on — you might be surprised!

Let's quickly look at Bloomingdale from "30,000 feet." It's a culturally-gifted, advantageously-diverse community that is a vital economic component that Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa depend upon. It's a vibrant mix of some 5,100 single-family homes with more than 18,000 residents, plus multi-family dwellings, schools, libraries and businesses, both large and small. There are more than 215 businesses along the boundary of or immediately adjacent to the Bloomingdale community. Those businesses have a substantial economic impact on the region. On an aggregated basis, those firms represent approximately \$115 - \$125 million in sales annually. If you believe that payroll is a business's second largest expense, that's a lot of payroll dollars. If you understand that most if not all firms pay taxes into the federal system (to one degree or another), that's a lot of tax revenue. If you understand that a lot of their employees often shop, dine and fuel-up in the community in which they work, then that's a lot of dollars

pumped back in to the region's gross domestic product.

Then there's MacDill Air Force Base, an extremely critical link to Bloomingdale's success. MacDill has a profound impact on our community in terms of the number of soldiers and civilian contractors who work on the base and also live here, probably hundreds. That translates to many millions of payroll dollars in the community and therefore enormous sums of money spent at our local merchants who in turn...you know where we're going.

So as you can see, a fundamental understanding of the economic importance of Bloomingdale to the region, the county and area businesses is part and parcel to your understanding of the BHA and the BSTD. Let's briefly examine both.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) is a group of volunteers from our community who meet once a month to give guidance and make decisions for the betterment of Bloomingdale. Our goal is to help maintain the community's quality of life and the values of our homes.

Working with a very limited budget, we have subdivided the board into 22 different committees. A listing of all the committees was published in the August 2007 issue of the Bloomingdale Gazette and is posted on our Web site, www.bloomingdalegazette.com. The Gazette is one of the committees that the BHA oversees. Others are membership, Yard of the Month, scholarships, scholarship fundraising, deed restrictions, neighborhood cleanup, neighborhood pride, parks and recreation, public safety, and public works, to name just a few.

These committees are what the BHA board does and how it serves you. This is a daunting task with the number of committees for a handful of people.

If you are as concerned about the quality of life and values in our neighborhoods as we are, and are willing to volunteer two or three hours a month, we certainly would appreciate any and all volunteers. Your participation in the BHA is voluntary, and dues cost only \$25 per year.

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) is also a group of volunteers, but unlike BHA directors, taxing district trustees are elected by the voters of the district. The BSTD board meets on the second Monday each month, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It has a responsibility to maintain the community's common areas with regard to landscaping, irrigation, mowing, trimming, pest control, fertilization as well as caring for our communities assets like irrigation systems (some 14 miles of PVC lines), lighting systems, concrete walls (16 miles long) and 23 water wells, for instance. Our budget is approximately \$640,000 of which half goes to mow, trim, edge, fertilize and maintain landscaping. The other half, with the exception of some monies left in reserve, is applied to our annual capital budget for major restoration work in our larger entranceways and tree trimming, for example.

The voters of Bloomingdale recently approved an increase to the annual assessment to \$130 from \$100. As most of you know, the trustees felt the modest increase was necessary for several reasons. Our costs of maintaining the district have increased for a myriad of reasons (one being that we use petroleum based products in everything we do), but we also felt that we needed to work harder to better care for the community and help maintain property values. After all, we are competing to maintain living standards and protect our homes salability with newer neighbors like Fish-Hawk Ranch, whose residents

pay an annual assessment of close to \$1,000 per home.

After reviewing the letters of objection/complaint that we received about the recent increase, we find a total of 27 letters/emails were sent to us. There are 11 distinct complaint "categories" that break down as follows:

An objection (for various generic and unspecific reasons) - 20 complaints total

A simple stated objection directly to the assessment increase itself - 7

The notice was poorly authored - 6

Confusion between the BSTD & the HOA - 3

Lax deed restrictions - 2

Poor landscaping - 2

Moldy street signs - 1

Poor sanitation (garbage) service - 1

Excessive dead sod - 1

Unappealing Christmas decorations - 1

No reclaimed water available - 1

We understand that there are additional residents who may have objected to the increased assessment and didn't write to us to object. We know, however, that a majority of Bloomingdale's residents were in favor of the increase because a majority of you voted for it initially and only .15 percent of us voiced opposition. We are truly thankful that some of you chose to exercise your democratic voices, but it's critical we all understand why this increase was necessary.

So as you can see, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District each have separate and distinct functionality, but work well together to achieve the overall objectives of the community. In the case of the BHA, some of those objectives are volunteer-based community service projects that symbiotically improve our community, while other objectives are met by the BSTD in

the form of tax revenue collection efficiently used to maintain the physical common grounds in which we live. We share one office and the services of one office manager, Derry Wilson. The other bottom line is this — most of you are somewhere between happy and extremely happy with this community and how it operates from day to day. Perhaps it is a good time to thank the special taxing district's property manager, Al Devney of DPPI Property Management, and Pete Maurer, our community resource officer. Most of us find Bloomingdale a great place to live and raise our families. And yes, we hear you — we need to do a better job of enforcing deed restrictions, we need to consistently assure that we are living in a neater, cleaner Bloomingdale and we need to find more effective communication methods (our assessment letter serves as an example), but overall, we're a relatively satisfied bunch.

What can you do to help Bloomingdale's cause? First, commit to coming to one BHA and BSTD meeting per year. Second, send us an e-mail when you have something to add or just a question. Our office manager, Derry Wilson, does a fabulous job of responding to resident's needs and inquires. Third, actively and intentionally participate in the democratic process, whatever you consider "participation" to be. And for all of you serving in the Armed Forces of this great nation, you do enough every day by allowing us to sleep under the blanket of freedom we so enjoy — we thank you tremendously!

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board member George May can be reached at (813) 681-2051 or gtiv@aol.com.

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District trustee David Steck can be reached at (813) 684-6667 or dsteck@tampabay.rr.com.

Your Inside Connections

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC.

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: (813) 681-2051
Fax: (813) 684-2358
E-mail: bloomingdale.homeowners@verizon.net
Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon
Meetings: first Monday each month, 7 p.m.
Web site: www.bloomingdalegazette.com
President: Joe Hickie
Vice president: Stanley Lee; **Treasurer:** Pam Liguori
Directors: Lydia Harrod; Steve Heckel; George May; Myron Magedanz; Dale Kahn; Shelia Harris; and Don Grevart

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
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Fax: (813) 684-2358
E-mail: bloomingdale.district@verizon.net
Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon
Meetings: second Monday each month, 7 p.m.
President: Thom Snelling
Vice president: Russell Jones
Treasurer: David West
Corresponding Secretary: David Steck
Property manager: Al Devney
Trustees: Joe Harless; Joe Liguori



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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Web site: www.bloomingdalegazette.com

GAZETTE STAFF

Executive Director: Joe Liguori
Editor: Laura Frazier

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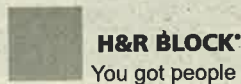
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Congregation Welcomes Families To Open House

A Gazette Report

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon welcomed many families to its open house in August. Temple committees were on hand to discuss the organization's many groups, activities and clubs open to members.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome potential members into our congregational family, and to introduce people to the warmth and vitality of our active, growing community," said Rabbi Betsy Torop.

Sheila Fishman, the congregation's president said, "The open house was a great event. Not only did we get a chance to see our old friends from Congregation Beth Shalom, but we also had the opportunity to make some new friends. You cannot ask for more than that."

Membership committee chairwoman, Gail Verlin, said, "It was a fun gathering and we're already looking forward to next year's event."

Congregation Beth Shalom is at 706 Bryan Road in Brandon. For information call the synagogue, (813) 681-6547 or go to www.bethshalom-brandon.org



Kara and Adam Stein, at left, attended Congregation Beth Shalom's open house in August to learn more about the organization. They were assisted by congregation members Michael Verlin, Kalista and Heidi Rojas and Lauren Davis.



Bloomington High School student Michael Pomerantz, Daniel Goldfarb of Spoto High and Daniel Mart of Brandon High welcome students in grades 7 through 12 to inquire about BESTY, a group of Jewish teens that hosts various social and community service events throughout the year.



Members of the congregation's Sisterhood group, Arlene Slater, Lori Edelson, Carol Balent and Toby Koch, were eager to explain all the events the group plans for the coming year.

Hospital Names New Emergency Services Director

A Gazette Report

James "Randy" Spivey joined Brandon Regional Hospital in August as Director of Emergency Services, according to Mike Fencel, Chief Executive Officer. Spivey is responsible for the adult and pediatric emergency programs at the hospital, which is a designated Primary Stroke Center and Accredited Chest Pain Center with Percutaneous Coronary Intervention.

Spivey relocated from Tennessee, where he most recently served as Director of Emergency Services for Stone Crest Medical Center in Smyrna. He spearheaded the hos-

pital's Chest Pain initiative, Best Demonstrated Practices and implemented comprehensive emergency preparedness, quality improvement and customer service programs. He has more than 24 years experience in health care management and in emergency, critical care and cardiac nursing.

"Randy has a high level of confidence in managing large metropolitan hospital emergency services," said Cheryl Goforth, Chief Nursing Officer for Brandon Regional. "His track record in expanding programs that are quality and customer-focused will be a great asset to our hospital and our community."

Spivey earned his nursing degree from Tennessee State University in Nashville and he is certified in Critical Care, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advance Life Support and Basic Cardiac Life Support. He is also a certified trainer for Hospital Readiness, Nuclear, Biologic and Chemical agents.

Brandon Regional Hospital is a 367-bed acute care facility that serves Brandon and surrounding communities. Key services include the Heart & Vascular Institute, Regional Spine Care Center and The Baby Place, which includes a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



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Chamber Throws A Party



LINDA CHION KENNEY/Photo

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce released its 41st edition of the Brandon Area Directory Aug. 16. To celebrate its publication, the Brandon Chamber Premier Party was held at Winthrop Town Centre, where chamber chairman and former state representative Sandy Murman, pictured, was on hand to say a few words.

Community Input Needed for Brandon Advantage Center

A Gazette Report

Greater Brandon area residents will have an opportunity next week to comment on the county's plans for a Brandon Community Advantage Center.

The center is envisioned to meet the community's needs for meeting space, educational and cultural facilities, as well as a special needs hurricane shelter.

The meeting, open to the public, will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 10 at Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon.

At the meeting, residents will hear about initial findings related to potential uses that could occur within the facility. In order to assess the needs and wants of the community, a brief questionnaire will be distributed. For more information regarding the project and to complete the survey on line, residents can visit the project Web site, www.brandoncommunityadvantagecenter.org.

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Thursday Dance For Fun, Fellowship

A Gazette Report

The Brandon Boys & Girls Club, at 213 North Knights Ave., offers Dancing for Fun & Fellowship Thursday nights from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The event, sponsored by the Family Life Committee at First United Methodist Church of Brandon, is open to the public. Couples and singles of all ages are welcome.

Certified instructor Donna Garzone will

teach ballroom dance lessons. Participants can also learn to do the rumba, swing, waltz, foxtrot, tango, mambo, merange' cha-cha and samba. The cost is \$20 a month per person.

Monthly dance parties will also be held, offering an opportunity to dance socially in a safe, alcohol-free environment.

For information, call the church office, (813) 689-4161 or Donna Garzone, (813) 671-3009.

Seniors Computers 101

A Gazette Report

Hillsborough County Senior Centers are offering classes for seniors to learn about computer basics, such as turning the computer on, sending e-mail, and finding lots of information via the Web in a safe and fun environment. The four-week course, offered in Brandon on

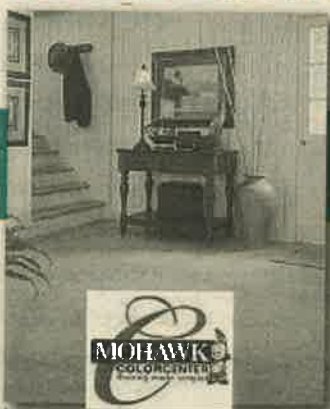
Mondays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., will teach seniors how to use e-mail and Microsoft Word, which includes a word processor, spreadsheet, database and graphic program.

Classes will be held at the Brandon Senior Center, 612 North Parsons Ave. Information and pre-registration: (813) 635-8064.

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Property Manager's Report For July/August

A Gazette Report

Property Manager Al Devney oversees community common area maintenance and repair needs identified and approved by the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District board of trustees. Contact Devney at (813) 684-6667.

July/August 2007 Activities

Valley Crest Landscaping trimmed 310 oak trees along Culbreath, Natures Way, Springvale and Canoga Park.

Additionally, they removed two dead oak trees and ground the stumps.

Signs by Mineo repaired and repainted the entrance sign at the Allwood entrance. The sign had been vandalized.

There was a car versus iron bench accident on Erindale at Gotham. The accident was initially a hit and run. However, an alert resident e-mailed the license number to the BSTD and deputies were able to track down the driver.

The BSTD received a check for the full amount of the damaged bench, which should be installed in about six weeks.

Morningstar Electric repaired the lights at entrances on Garnet and Glenhaven. The ballast in the lights is wearing out after three years of use, and the remaining three lights will likely need to be replaced in the near future.

Cardinal Landscaping finished trimming three miles of creeping fig. Their next projects are to trim the 420 palm

trees in the common areas and to install annuals at eight locations. In addition, Thunder Irrigation finished installing 500 new sprinkler heads

In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, we picked up an office chair, a new 6-foot-by-10-foot rug, a large broken mirror, lots of laundry, a 20-inch blue bike, a queen size mattress, four baseballs, a new 12-volt marine battery, 72 snipe signs and 11 cents.

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Class of 2008 First To Rise Through Cimino's Ranks

By LESLIE WHITE

Back to school time for hundreds of Bloomingdale students this August meant sharpened pencils, new backpacks and lunchboxes. At Cimino Elementary School, some birthday candles were also in order.

This marks the sixth year of the school's opening in August 2002, the first year to turn out its first "graduating class" of fifth-grade students who rose at Cimino from kindergarten all the way through fifth-grade.

Fifth-grade teacher Mary Hoxworth said, "We make sure they have the organizational tools to make sure they get ready for the different subjects and teachers in middle school. The goal is to strengthen them both in academics and in independence."

Built in 2002 to ease overcrowding at Alafia and Lithia Springs elementaries, the

school was named for Richard P. Cimino, after a Tampa native and Brandon community

activist who passed away in 2001. Since opening, the school, with a current enrollment of 939 students, has seen the construction of a new building to accommodate the class size amendment and has had three principals. Inaugural principal, Sandra Frost, opened the school. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2003 and passed away in 2004. Principal Lou Cerreta was at the helm for 14 months before leaving to open a new school. Current principal Debbie Talley helped Frost open the school in 2002 as assistant principal and acted as principal during Frost's illness.

Through it all, Cimino has maintained an "A" grade.

Talley said the school's focus distinguishes it from other elementary schools.



Leslie White/Photo

Deborah Talley begins her second year as Cimino Elementary School principal with her eye on making it one of the strongest elementary schools in Hillsborough County in both academic achievement and character development of the student body.

"At this school we focus on the total child, not just the academics," she said.

Cimino incorporated character development into its curriculum in 2002, pioneering

the concept which is now widespread throughout Hillsborough County schools.

Teachers award "Cougar Cool Cats" to students who demonstrate strong character, allowing

the staff to help cultivate and focus on the "total package" of the child, Talley said. Charms will be awarded this year to students who reach attendance goals, an area in which Talley would like to see improvement, along with a reduction in the school's discipline rate.

A new program this year has teachers helping kids learn how to be environmentally responsible, broadening their global outlook. The aptly named "Green Team," comprised of one class from each grade level, will recycle paper, plastic and aluminum. They'll also monitor the school's water and electricity meters. The program gives fifth-graders ample opportunities to exercise their math and reading skills, both benchmarks for fifth-grade.

Hoxworth, an 18-year veteran with the Hillsborough County school system says of the fifth-grade curriculum, "The body of knowledge has really increased with the children, and Florida has made such an effort to bring the students up academically."

Talley echoed that sentiment, adding, "We're a family here, very cohesive. And when they go to middle school it's going to surprise them how cold it can be. This is such a warm school."

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Winthrop/Bloomingtondale Area Council Established

By LINDA CHION KENNEY

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Winthrop town founder John Sullivan and Hillsboro Bank's Jeff Campbell, has established an area council to address the needs of the Bloomingtondale Avenue corridor.

According to Laura Simpson, the chamber's vice president of business and community development, the business group initiated a plan of action this year to establish area councils that focus more intently on the needs of smaller geographic areas.

"This is our first area council," Simpson said, in reference to the Winthrop/Bloomingtondale Area

Council that meets monthly.

"We wanted to begin an outreach to [chamber] members located in this area, to talk about what the chamber is doing and also to bring businesses together from the area to identify like concerns," Simpson said. "It gives the businesses a unified voice, to come back to the chamber to accomplish their goals or [to do so] on their own."

The council meets for lunch at noon on the second Monday of the month at the Barn Theatre at Winthrop, 11349 Bloomingtondale Ave., between Watson and Providence roads.

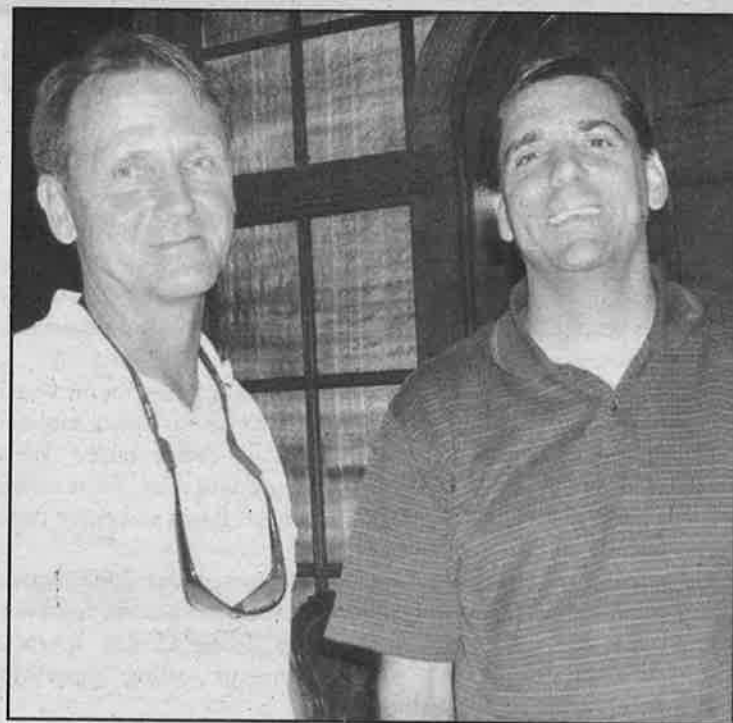
At its August meeting, the council continued its discussion

of how best to brand Brandon, a once-rural community radically transformed by suburban sprawl.

"We want to see a community that's just naturally occurred start to be directed," Campbell said. "If we want to define what Brandon is going to be, and not leave it up to the county or to other people, we have to start doing it ourselves."

In break-out sessions, luncheon attendees reflected on Brandon's small-town, family friendly feel, which deepens with community connections despite increasing traffic gridlock, high property taxes, rising insurance

See COUNCIL, Page 17



LINDA CHION KENNEY/Photo

Mark Creager, who founded the Green Boutique and developed Plaza Bella with his wife, Roz, meets up with Hillsboro Bank's Jeff Campbell at the Winthrop/Bloomingtondale Area Council meeting Aug. 13.

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Starbucks Opens At Winthrop

By LINDA CHION KENNEY
When Elizabeth "Beth" Lopez ventured upon Winthrop, she found a place that reminded her of home.

Born and raised in the Pinellas County city of Dunedin, Lopez said she found at Winthrop, a neo-traditional community just outside of Bloomingdale, a place that harkened back to a simpler time and a small-town ambiance.

"It reminds me of where I grew up, with its little shops and housing above, and I like the community feel," said Lopez, 26, the store manager of the newly opened Starbucks at the Winthrop Town Centre, just east of Providence Road off Bloomingdale Avenue. "If I can't have my Dunedin, I'll be happy at Winthrop."

Indeed, district manager Michael Glisson said he was happy to place "community minded" Lopez, eight years out of high school and six years

from her first day as a Starbucks employee, at a coffeehouse that invites community connections.

"Look at the furniture," he said, pointing to a roomy couch and two plush chairs, situated around a coffee table. "We're asking you to relax. We're asking you to sit down and enjoy yourself."

At just under 2,000 square feet, the Starbucks in the Winthrop Town Centre sports a mixture of seating opportunities.

"We have a little bit of something for everyone, a bar, a couch, chairs and tables and outside seating," Lopez said. "There's a feeling that you should sit down, have a drink and relax, and not just grab your coffee and go."

Overall, Glisson added, "This site right here really says to me what at Starbucks we talk about all the time, 'the third-place experience.'"

In other words, Lopez said,



Linda Chion Kenney/Photo

At work at Starbucks in the Winthrop Town Centre are, from left, Laméh Cortes, Heather Miller, store manager Elizabeth "Beth" Lopez, Shelley Maguier, Marylo Gallamore and district manager Michael Glisson.

"you have your home, you have your business, and then you come to Starbucks."

Glisson praised Lopez for

her work in reaching out to the community, noting her drive as a Starbucks employee to raise money last year to help repair

the fire-damaged Rotary All Persons Playground in Brandon.

Lopez said her new store has two community partners: the Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO), a food pantry that serves people with emergency hardships, and Imagination Library, which sends a book a month to a child from birth to age 5.

Glisson said he is impressed with the Starbucks' architectural details, including its windows and massive entryway doors.

Winthrop town founder John Sullivan said he acquired those doors, 46 inches wide and 9.5-foot-tall, from a man who attended an auction in France. The doors, Sullivan said, "were once the entryway to the Brussels Stock Exchange, from 1880 to the 1960's."

"You can distress things to make them look old, but you still have a sense that they're not," Sullivan said. "These doors are the real thing."

The Winthrop Town Centre Starbucks is open seven days a week from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Starting Oct. 1 the coffeehouse will open at 5 a.m.

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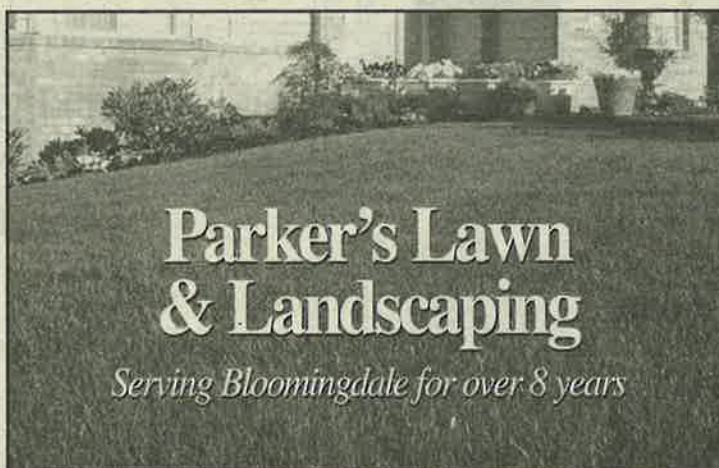
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Coastal Cleanup Set for Sept. 15



Photo From Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful

The Ocean Conservancy and Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful's International Coastal Cleanup, set for Sept. 15 this year, is the world's largest single-day volunteer effort to help protect the ocean and its wildlife. Each year, nearly half a million volunteers around the world spend a few hours removing trash and debris from beaches, lakes, rivers and waterways. For information about local cleanup sites, contact Christine Commerce, (813) 960-5121.

COUNCIL

From page 15

rates and a housing market in serious correction.

Indeed, many of those issues are statewide, and even nationwide, but that doesn't preclude Sullivan from asking what he believes is the quintessential question.

"If you moved away from Brandon, and you lived in North Carolina or Tennessee or Penn-

sylvania or anywhere else, would you come back here for vacation? And if so, what would you do, outside of visiting friends or family?"

Santa Fe is known for its galleries and cultural events; Portland, for its great transportation and farmers markets; and Charleston, for its historic sites, Sullivan noted. Brandon, too, he added, needs a hook to protect against tough economic times.

"To get people to want to stay

here, let alone move here, how do you do that?" Sullivan asked. "Well, you better have art. You better have some entertainment, some quality of life things that people are looking for, in addition to jobs close by that pay well. You have to be known for something."

For information about the Winthrop/Bloomington Area Council, contact Simpson at (813) 689-1221, or by e-mail at lsimpson@brandonchamber.com.



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Remembering Fallen Local Hero, Sgt. Ron Harrison

By DEP. PETE MAURER
 Bloomingdale Community
 Resource Deputy

The Bloomingdale community joins our county, our state and our nation in remembering the professional dedication to duty provided to the residents of Hillsborough County for over 25 years by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy, Sgt. Ron Harrison.

Sgt. Harrison filled one of the most important and dangerous positions within the sheriff's office. He was supervisor over the sheriff's Driving Under the Influence (DUI) section, spending many long hours working the night shift. We will never know how many lives Sgt. Harrison and his team saved by keeping drunk drivers off our roads and streets.

Please remember Sgt. Harrison's family, his fellow deputies and our community in your thoughts and prayers as we all share in this tragic loss. Please

honor him by pledging to never drink and drive!

Report Crimes To Sheriff's Office Dispatch First

The substation is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and during regular substation hours, there are times when no one is available due to other assignments. All calls to report a crime or incident should first be made to the Sheriff's Office main number, (813) 247-8200 or, in the case of emergency, dial 911.

The substation often receives after hours or weekend calls regarding criminal mischief, vandalism, theft or break-in. We appreciate being advised of these incidents, however, these types of calls must first be reported to the Sheriff's Office dispatch center to determine if a deputy needs to respond. We can take delayed calls, but at times important crime scene information or interviews

are lost due to the time delay.

We strongly encourage residents to be vigilant and for neighbors to help watch out for one another. This is very critical in helping keep our crime stats low.

Residents Invited To Community Council Meeting

The Bloomingdale Area Community Council, known as the BACC, meets at the Bloomingdale substation on the third Thursday each month at 7 p.m. to discuss important topics of interest or concern to all residents in our area. Many special improvements in our community have been made through the organized efforts of the BACC.

All homeowners associations or community groups are asked to contact us at the Bloomingdale substation to register your organization or group. There is no commitment to attend meetings required. If you would like,

we will keep you informed about community projects we are working on that cover security, safety, growth or other law enforcement issues. You are welcome to attend the meetings and share your concerns or interests. Information: (813) 635-8040.

Stop Both Ways For Buses

It's the law -- you must stop both ways for school buses stopping on roads without median dividers. When you don't stop, you put our kids in danger. Also drivers should keep a safe distance between other vehicles and especially school buses. Slow down.

No Speeding In School Zones

There are no excuses for speeding, especially in school zones. "I was on my cell phone and didn't see the flashing lights!" This person should definitely not be driving at all.

Speeding fines are doubled in

school zones. Slow down. It is that simple.

Scooters Are Illegal

Parents, please remember that all motorized scooters, go-peds, mopeds, go-carts and ATVs are NOT allowed on any public streets, right-of-ways or sidewalks. Off-road use of these vehicles mandates a requirement for the use of helmets for all riders/operators under the age of 16. Citations are being issued with most of them being criminal offenses against parents, as required by law. If an injury does occur, additional charges of child neglect may be made.

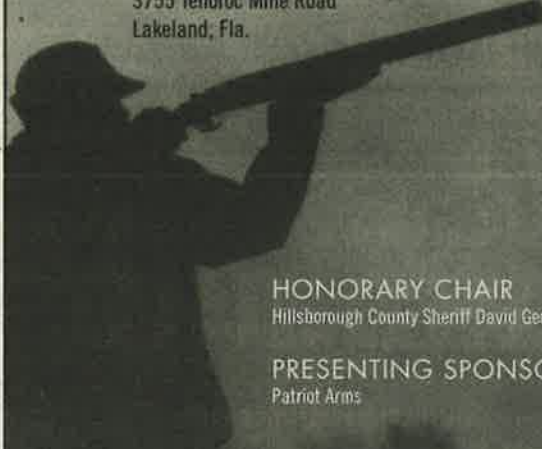
The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Bloomingdale Community Substation, 4342 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on holidays. For non-emergency issues, call the substation, (813) 635-8040.

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Students Take Belt Pledge

A Gazette Report

Hillsborough County students who drive cars to school this year will be asked to sign a pledge to buckle up their seat belts at all times as part of the district's new Katie Marchetti Cross-Your-Heart Pledge initiative.

Students will be encouraged to sign the pledge when they apply for school parking decals. The pledge requires that the students obey the Florida Primary Seat Belt law for drivers who are 18 years old or younger. It also requires passengers in their cars to buckle up. Cross-your-heart decals will be distributed with parking decals.

The Katie Marchetti Memorial Foundation was created following the death of Katie Marchetti on March 4, 2006. Marchetti, a junior at Durant High school at the time, was a passenger in a car whose driver fell asleep at the wheel. Marchetti was ejected from her car and died hours later at Tampa General Hospital from massive injuries. She was not wearing a safety belt. The driver was wearing a safety belt and survived with barely a scratch.

In their grief, members of the Marchetti family have dedicated themselves to helping other families and educating high school students on the importance of wearing seat belts to prevent death or serious injury.

In Hillsborough County nearly 12,000 high school students drive to school each day. The leading cause of death for 16- to 19-year-olds is traffic fatalities, in which 62 percent do not wear safety belts. Last year the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted safety belt checks at high schools and handed out 1,043 citations. The goal this year is to have zero citations.

For more information on the Katie Marchetti Foundation contact Laura Marchetti at (813) 681-4291 or Dianne Sipe at (813) 681-9644.

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