

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXVII
Number 9

SEPTEMBER 2008 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

...A Day In The Life At Bloomingdale

See what happened on
the athletic fields

PAGE 4

Got Junk? Clean-Up Day Is On The Way

Community Clean-Up
Day is coming this
October.

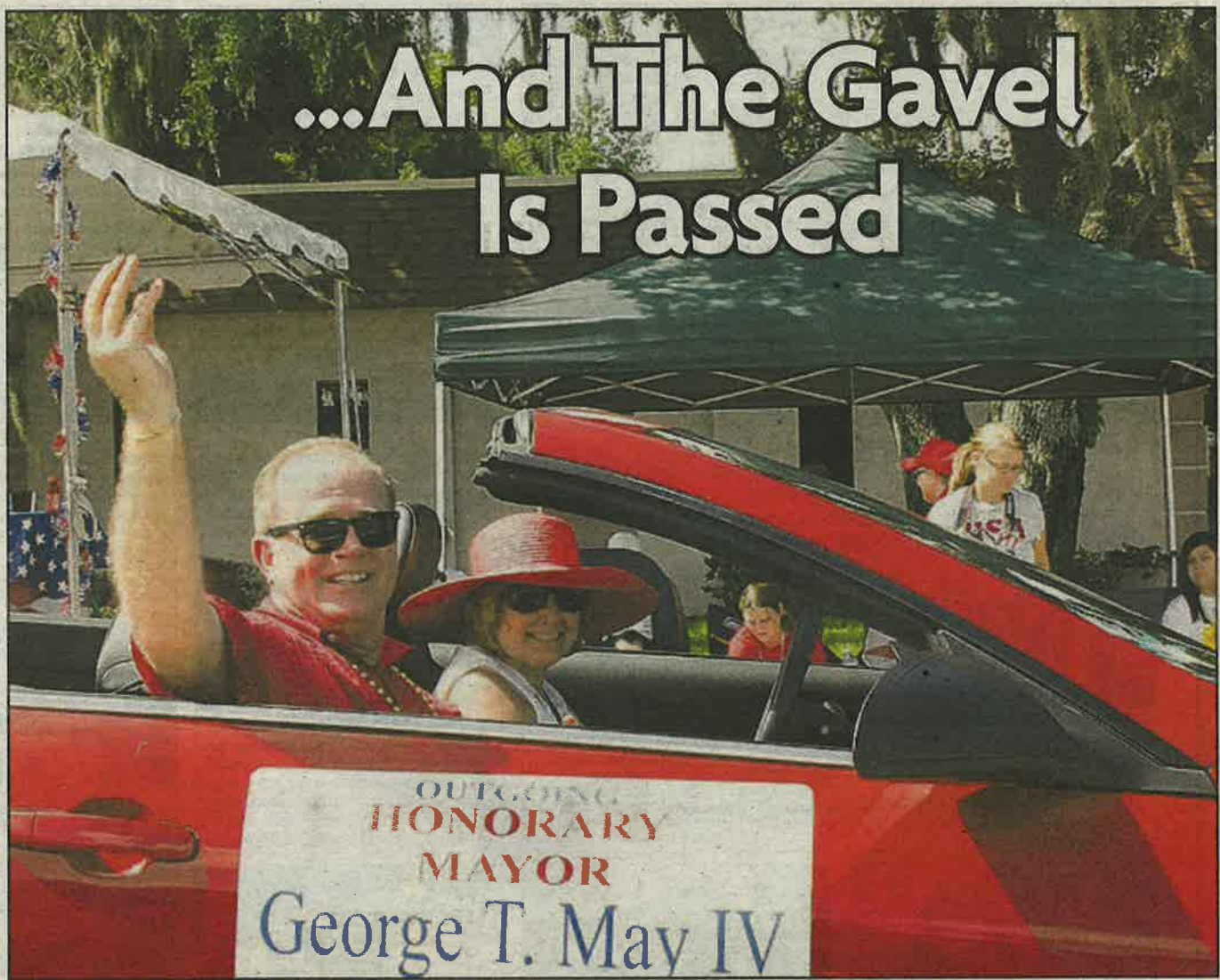
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...And The Gavel Is Passed

JONI HICKLE/Gazette photo

George May IV and Melanie Hall drive the parade route during the Fourth Of July parade. May reflects on his year as the town's honorary mayor on page 10.

Bloomingtondale Merged Into Brandon's Community Plan

Instead of Bloomingtondale's plan starting in 2011, it starts now.
And your voice is needed to help shape the community. See page 9.

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SHADOWRUN

Not a short sale! You can be moved in quickly. Located in a beautiful treed subdivision with custom homes on acre lots. This home has features like 4 hot water heaters, a water softener and an iron removal system for the well. The huge screened lanai \$250,000



FISHHAWK RANCH

This home has all of the desirable upgrades to include granite countertops...top of the line cabinets...Pre-wired for surround sound-top of the line appliances-upgraded carpet and padding-and to top it off it is an end unit-walk to the aquatic club, park \$175,000



WINDCREST COMMONS

5BD/3BA 3CG This meticulously well maintained home has over 3700 sq. ft. of upgraded luxury detail. This well planned home even has a HOME THEATRE room with tiered steps for home theatre seating. Kitchen flavor is captured in the granite countertops, 42" upper cabinets that include pullouts on lower cabinets, island, and two lazy Susans. Pool and balcony are completely screened. \$414,900



SHADOW RUN

Custom Built 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath home with Office and bonus room on 1.3 acres waterfront property on Lake Grady in Shadow Run! Attention to detail abounds in this beautiful home within an easy commute to Tampa and MacDill Air force Base! A must see!
\$475,000



CARRIAGE POINTE

Immaculate and well maintained home is move in ready! Foyer boasts a welcome area with a coat closet for the family. The living and dining room comfort the family while entertaining beloved guests who come to spend precious time here. Art niches \$130,000



PANTHER TRACE

3BR/2BA 2 car garage. Standard Pacific Santa Fe floor plan features a sliding glass door out to the patio, eat-in kitchen and split bedroom plan. All appliances stay. Community features a swimming pool, tennis courts and an elementary school. Easy commute to Tampa and MacDill AFB or South to St. Pete. \$129,900



RIVERCREST

3BD/2BR 2CG Mrs. Clean lives here. St. Joe's Biscayne Floor plan with all the bells and whistles: Fenced backyard, screened lanai with roll down hurricane shutters. Wood floors, maple cabinets throughout, built in microwave, plantation shutters, kitchen island, cultured marble vanities. Community amenities and much more. \$185,000



RIVERCREST

Florida living at it's best. This home sits on a 1/3 acre facing a beautiful pond. A 4/3 /3 for under \$250K! You will notice the upgrades from the moment you walk up to the front door. Starting with the leaded glass front \$235,000



APOLLO BEACH

Location, location. Apollo Beach Condo. This 2 bedroom unit features ceramic tile flooring and has assigned parking. The complex has been recently painted and has new roofs. Low maintenance fees, this is your chance to live the life you always dreamed of, at an affordable price, in desirable Apollo Beach. Great location for easy commute to Tampa or South. \$125,000



LAKES OF VALRICO

This cozy 3 BR, 2 BA home boasts a 24 ft round above ground pool, a 420 SQ FT screened lanai w/vinyl windows, tiki bar, tract lighting, sprinkler sys, pull down stairs to attic, tile entry, 10x10 workshop/shed w/electric, freshly painted ext., 30 yr dimensional, shingle roof, new hot water heater, garage dr opener, window screens, ice maker, AC, heat pump & air handler. Price \$170,000.



DON'T LET THE AGE OF THIS HOME FOOL YOU.

It is move in ready and has great features like a newer 14x28 inground pool, privacy fenced and with an outdoor shower. All of this is only the beginning of the features this great property has to offer. \$185,000



EASTMONTE

5BD/4BA 3CG Short Sale! Come see this spacious and elegant home built exclusively by Morrison Homes, in the beautiful and quiet gated community of Eastmonte. The Wilmington model has 12ft ceilings and boasts a master suite sitting room surrounded by detailed columns. Kitchen has 42" cabinets, island, and upstairs BONUS ROOM. \$299,900



RIVERCREST

Check out this beauty before it's gone. You will notice the upgrades from the moment you pull up in front. Starting with the brick Paver Driveway, the curbing around the Landscaping, the upgraded coach lights, and the front porch elevation. \$265,000



CREEKSIDE SUBDIVISION

Spacious, executive home located on over 1/2 acre in a gated, large lot community. This well optioned Sunrise Grand Cypress is located in Creekside, a short commute from I-75. This home features numerous upgrades including Upgraded diagonal tile, granite \$350,000



RIVERCREST

Newer home in a beautiful subdivision with heated community pool and water park. Elementary school, Montessori school and daycare in the neighborhood. \$1100 Per month



MILLER WOODS

Pool home located in Miller Woods Sub. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and loft, fireplace, skylight, wet bar, parquet flooring, all appliances included. Valrico Schools. \$1,750 per month rental.



RIVERCREST

Ready to move into this home is located in the beautiful neighborhood of Rivercrest. All appliances included. Ceramic tile everywhere but the bedrooms. There is an elementary school, a Montessori school and a daycare in the neighborhood. The community \$1050 per month



BOYETTE FARMS

This has a pool, a fireplace and a fenced yard, what more could you ask for? Pool service? Yes that is included too. \$1500 A month



FISHHAWK GARDEN DISTRICT

Located in the heart of The Garden District of FishHawk, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. All of bottom floor is ceramic tile. 2 car garage, large screened lanai, raised, white kitchen cabinets with crown molding, all appliances. Convenient to schools and day care. \$1,275 per month rental.

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Thursday, September 25th • 6:30p.m.

Classroom B, Suite 260 - Seminar

Classroom A, Suite 262 - Support Group

S. Moon, Brandon



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TOGETHER, PERFORMING AT A HIGHER STANDARD



Fay couldn't stop the music as rain came and went during Bloomingdale's afternoon band practices. (Photos by Leslie White)



Varsity and JV Bloomingdale High School Cheerleaders practice together after school on mats set up in the cafeteria.



Lady Bulls practice volleyball in the gym after school

JV FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- JV BULLS @ NEWSOME**
Thursday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.
- LENNARD @ JV BULLS**
Thursday, Sept. 18 7 p.m.
- RIVERVIEW @ JV BULLS**
Thursday, Sept: 25 7 p.m.
- "JV IRON BOWL CLASH"**
- JV BULLS @ PLANT CITY**
Thursday, Oct. 2 7 p.m.
- DURANT @ JV BULLS**
Thursday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
- JV BULLS @ BRANDON**
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.

VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- Friday, 8/29, 7:30 p.m.**
Riverview at Bloomingdale
- Friday, 9/5, 7:30 p.m.**
Tampa Bay Tech at Bloomingdale
- Friday, 9/12, 7:30 p.m.**
Spoto at Bloomingdale
- Friday, 9/19, 7:30 p.m.**
King at King High School
- Friday, 9/26, 7:30 p.m.**
Plant City at Bloomingdale
- Friday, 10/3, 7:30 p.m.**
Sickles at Sickles High School
- Friday, 10/10,**
OPEN at Bloomingdale
- Thursday, 10/16, 7:30 p.m.**
Leto at Bloomingdale
- Friday, 10/24, 7:30 p.m.**
East Bay at Bloomingdale
- Friday, 10/31, 7:30 p.m.**
Brandon at Brandon High
- Friday, 11/7, 7:30 p.m.**
Newsome at Newsome High
- Friday, 11/14, 7:30 p.m.**
Durant at Durant High School



Bloomingdale Bulls varsity and JV football teams scrimmaged Friday night, August 22nd during the school's Red & White game, kicking off their first season with new head coach Jason Stokes.

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The Brandon News & Tribune Readers' Poll '08

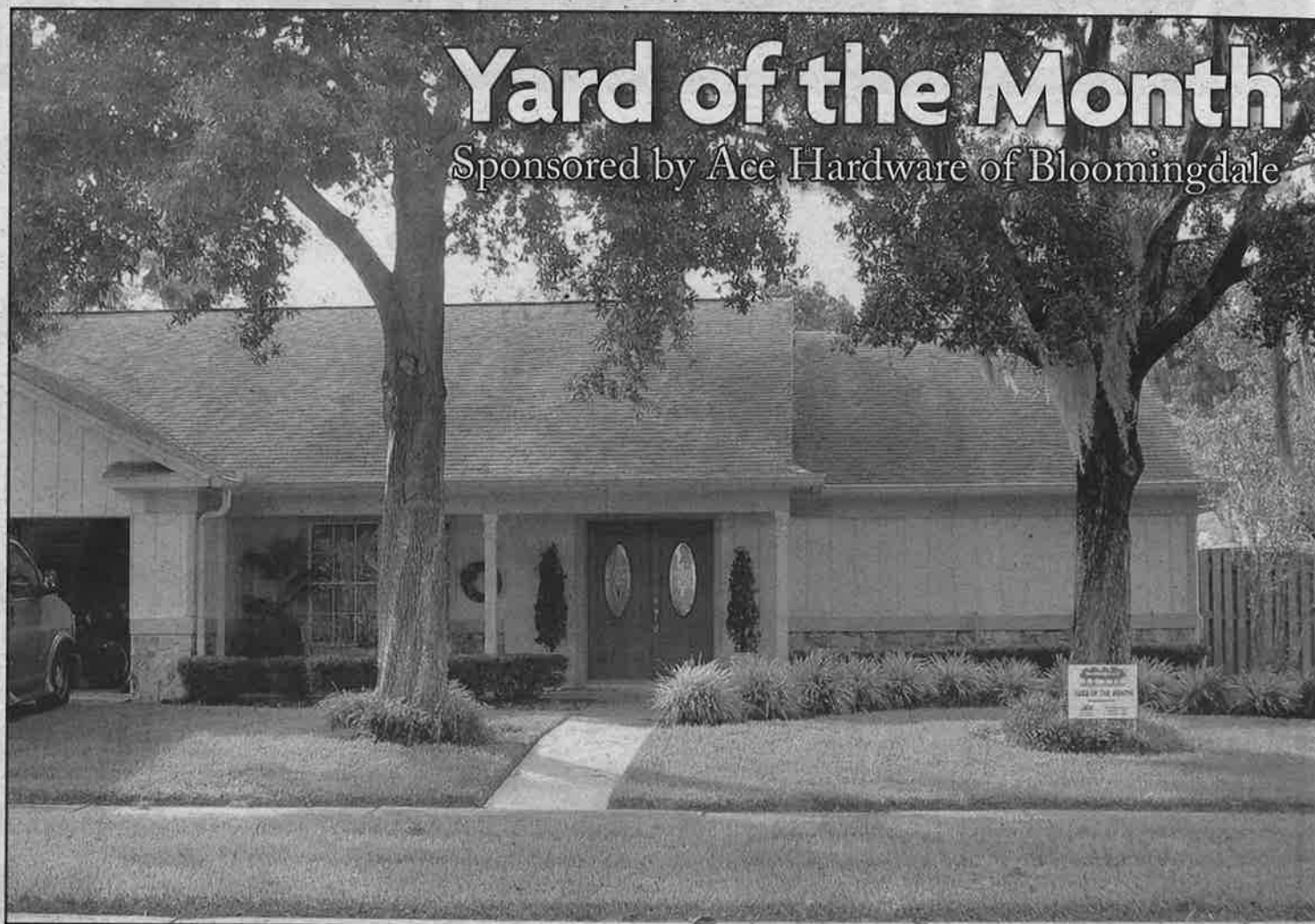
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Sand Bag Sites Aid Homeowners

In preparation for Tropical Storm Fay, Hillsborough County Public Works delivered more than 14,000 sandbags and 96 yards of dirt to five county Fire/Rescue stations, while Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation & Conservation supplied the Bloomingdale area with a sandbag site on Culbreath, near the little league fields.

General Manager and Public Information Officer for PRC, John Brill, said the service has been provided since the infamous 2004 hurricane season. The sites remain the same and are maintained throughout hurricane season, which runs from June to November. Brill said, "It is refreshed as needed, and when the season is done the sand is picked up by a PRC maintenance unit and is used by our department for masonry mix, topsoil on athletic fields, as well as other uses."

A local sandbag site is a help to many homeowners who use the bags as a temporary fix to slow down water in the event of flooding. The bags are not a "fix all solution", according to Brill. "Some people feel peace of mind using them, while others claim they don't do much good," he said. Brill also stated that using the bags in combination with plastic aids in their effectiveness. "We do this as a service and convenience for the community. We provide the sand and bags, citizens must provide the shovel and the muscle." And, as we Floridians know from experience, the storms provide the motivation.

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE
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... further into the future. of the problems with is you have the possibil- being heavily influenced mer plans that have been eted that surround your t. Presently Riverview has eted its plan, Brandon ut two-thirds of the way ed, and Valrico is now g on line. To our south e the Fishhawk/Boyette

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- BLOOMINGDALE** • 3513 Bell Shoals Rd..... **654-9292**
- BLOOMINGDALE** • 3248 Lithia-Pinecrest..... **654-8113**
- BRANDON** • 913 W. Brandon Blvd..... **684-4499**
- BRANDON** • 11393 Causeway Blvd **643-6944**
- LITHIA** • 16707 FishHawk Blvd..... **654-7991**
- PLANT CITY** • 2621 Thonotosassa Rd..... **752-6631**
- RIVERVIEW** • 11697 Boyette Rd **672-1832**
- RIVERVIEW** • 13414 Boyette RdNEW..... **657-8497**
- RIVERVIEW** • 13196 Hwy 301 S..... **671-4156**
- SEFFNER** • 1515 N. Parsons Ave..... **684-5897**
- VALRICO** • 1985 E. Brandon Blvd **654-2324**
- VALRICO** • 2511 S.R. 60 E..... **643-4825**

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, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Meetings: first Monday each month, 7 p.m.
Web site: www.bloomingdalegazette.com
President: Joe Hickle
Vice president: Stanley Lee
Directors: Shelia Harris, Jim Harris, Jane Lee, Myron Magedanz, George May and Denhis Osborn

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33594
Phone: (813) 684-6667
Fax: (813) 684-2358
E-mail: bloomingdale.district@verizon.net
Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Meetings: second Monday each month, 7 p.m.
President: Thom Snelling
Vice president: Russell Jones
Treasurer: David West
Property manager: Al Devney
Trustees: Joe Harless; Joe Liguori and James Laughlin



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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Bloomingtondale Merged Into Brandon's Community Plan

BY GEORGE MAY

In 1998, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved a Community-Based Planning Program. Community-Based Plans are designed to address and offer solutions to the community's critical planning issues and concerns, and to protect the qualities and characteristics that define what is unique and special about the community. A community-wide consensus is established on an action plan that may include a vision, goals, objectives, policies, and strategies for guiding growth, regulating development, and delivering public services consistent with the resident's priorities.

The meetings for the Brandon Plan were started in July 2007. The planning process usually last about 18 months. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at the Brandon Service Center, located at 311 Pauls Drive. Meetings run from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

What makes this significant for Bloomingtondale, our plan was not to start until late 2011. And with budget cuts by the county, it was expected to move this date further into the future. One of the problems with this, is you have the possibility of being heavily influenced by other plans that have been completed that surround your border. Presently Riverview has completed its plan, Brandon is about two-thirds of the way finished, and Valrico is now coming on line. To our south will be the Fishhawk/Boyette Plan.

Thanks to the effort of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association and the support of the Bloomingtondale Community, the county commissioners voted to include Bloomingtondale in the Brandon Plan. The significance here is this is the first time two plans have been merged. And from day one, the Brandon Committee has stated they felt that Bloomingtondale should be included with them.

This does not change Bloom-

ingtondale in any form or fashion. What it does do, it gives us a bigger voice with the support of Brandon. Plus it puts us on the fast track to complete our plan. Having consistency with the two plans will enhance both areas.

The same can be said about the coming improvements to Lithia Pinecrest. There needs to be a uniform look from one end to the other.

With this plan, we need volunteers from our Bloomingtondale

Community.

Again, this is a once-a-month meeting for a couple hours for the next six months. Now is a critical time to join. We are presently going through our goals and strategies. Tired

of asphalt being used to rep our sidewalks? Here is opportunity to step up and something about it.

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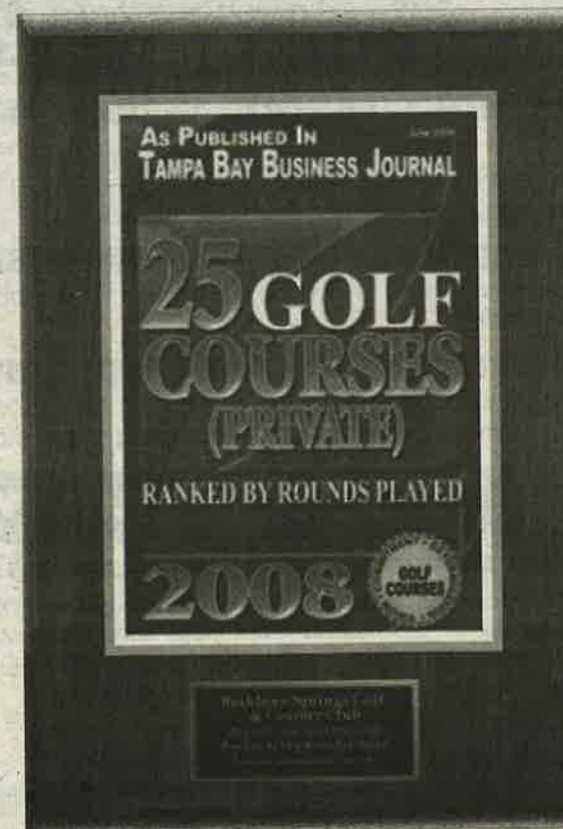
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My Year As Honorary Mayor

By GEORGE T. MAY IV

Brandon's Honorary Mayor's Race is an annual event that has been going on close to 50 years and is facilitated through the President's Roundtable.

I started to consider running at the tail end of 2006. Once the decision was made, with the help and support of friends, I put my name in the hat.

There are a few rules and procedures that are established by the President's Roundtable that have to be followed in order to run in the mayor's race. You have to be sponsored by one or two non-profit organizations. And whoever raises the most money from June 1 through July 3 is declared the winner the morning of July 4. You are allowed up to three non-profit organizations that will benefit from your fundraisers. The term is for one year.

There may only be one candidate that wins the race. But, the

After it was announced that I was the winner, I felt a sense of relief, exhilaration and yet was humbled by the fact that this was not possible without the help of so many loyal friends.

event is a win-win situation for our community and nonprofit organizations.

For my fundraising, I had a very busy month of June with eight events. Needless to say, I was glad to see the month of June behind me. I had started three months prior with the forming of committees and gathering volunteers. With the time and money these volunteers contributed, I am forever indebted.

The morning of July 4, 2007, it was revealed how much I raised vs. my opponent Wayne Otto. After it was announced that I was the winner, I felt a sense of relief, exhilaration and yet was humbled by the fact that this was not possible without the

help of so many loyal friends.

My first official event as the Honorary Mayor was riding in the 4 of July Parade. The parade is also an event sponsored by the President's Roundtable. As Honorary Mayor, you are invited to a number of different events. And, being treated as a celebrity has its perks.

Also as mayor, you find yourself attending ribbon cuttings, ground breaking ceremonies, writing and presenting proclamations. All in all, I enjoyed serving the community as the honorary mayor.

My advice to the new honorary mayor, Tammy Holmberg, is enjoy it. The year will go by in a blink of an eye.



Errol Fishman (Garden District), 6th Grade teacher at CBS Religious School and Jordan Davis (Kestrel Ridge), Student at CBS Religious School helped out at the event.

Congregation Beth Shalom Members at Back to School Event in FishHawk Ranch

Members of Congregation Beth Shalom attended the annual Back To School Event in FishHawk Ranch in August. The membership committee "manned" their table to talk to others about congregational activities. Please call the Brandon synagogue to find out about attending High Holy Day services and all the activities planned for the coming months, (813) 681-6547.

Stroke Prevention and More

Thursday, September 11th
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Helps identify cancers of the liver, pancreas, kidneys, spleen, gallstones, kidney stones and more.

6. HEART SCAN - ECHOCARDIOGRAM \$95

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- Dr. Jill Hechtman

Chair, Department of OB/GYN — Brandon Regional Hospital

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- Dr. Umesh Lingegowda, Cardiologist,
- Dr. Jason Hechtman, Breast Surgeon,
- Dr. Mark Nanni, Radiologist,
- Dr. Roberto Perez-Millan, Back and Pain Management Specialist,
- Mary Coram, Breast Navigator and others at the

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427 South Parsons, Suite 100 at Total Imaging - Parsons

Reservations required and limited to the first 100 people. Please call 653-1065 to register.



To register for this event and for more information about services provided by Brandon Regional Hospital or to find a physician, call Consult-a-Nurse®
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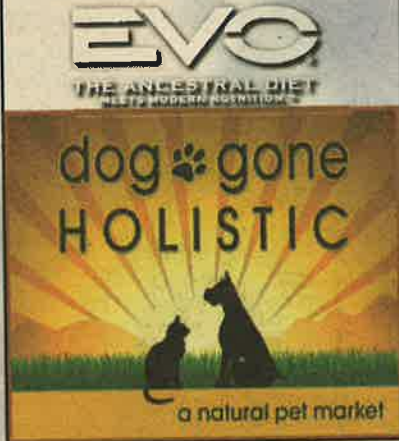


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NEWS

Rock, Rib And Ride Accepts Exhibitors

Staff Report

The Greater Brandon Community Foundation announces opportunities for vendors including arts, crafts, commercial, food and other exhibitors at its first Rock, Rib & Ride Festival Oct. 17-19 at the Florida State Fair.

"Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this event with activities for the whole family, including Midway games and rides, Cracker Country and entertainment all weekend," said Foundation Executive Director Diana Niles.

Florida State Fair Executive Director Chuck Pesano said the festival is expected to bring more than 85,000 visitors. "I think it's a great opportunity for everyone to get involved. Students get in free during Hillsborough County student day on Oct. 17. The line-up

for the whole weekend includes a Kansas City Sanctioned Rib Tasting contest and more entertainment," Pesano said.

Officials said inside spaces for exhibitors are available in the Florida Center and outside commercial spaces are also available throughout the festival grounds and are based upon front footage required. Officials stated that outside food vendor spaces are still available.

"Whether you are interested to become a sponsor, vendor or an exhibitor, the opportunity to become a part of this yearly tradition, with our goal to benefit the needs of the Greater Brandon Community, are still available," Niles said. Call Karen Murdaugh for information at (813) 689-6889 or e-mail her at karen@brandonfoundation.com.

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Signs Rebuilt, Vandalism Noted And Trees Removed

By AL DEVNEY
 Property Manager

- Signs by Mineo rebuilt the Bloomingdale Deed Restricted sign at the John Moore entrance. The sign had been destroyed by a vehicle that had left the scene. The cost was \$330. Additionally, the vandalized Bloomingdale Sign at the intersection of Culbreath Road and Erindale Drive was repaired and repainted. The cost was \$750.
- Shuman Properties painted over 125 feet of wall and the back of a Bloomingdale sign to cover the graffiti. The cost was \$295.
- The two acts of vandalism and the graffiti were photographed and reported to the Sheriff sta-

tion.

- ZK construction removed the debris and rebuilt the entrance wall at the Groveway entrance. Davidson Landscaping replaced the destroyed landscaping and repaired the irrigation.
- B&G Tree Service removed five dead Oak trees on Natures Way Boulevard and trimmed several trees on Greenhollow Lane.
- Davidson Landscaping replaced the five dead Oak trees and replaced four Crape Myrtle trees. The trees were to be watered in at planting and watered Monday and Wednesday for 3 weeks.
- Davidson Landscaping directionally bored the Canoga Park Drive at park West to run irri-

See REPORT, Page 16

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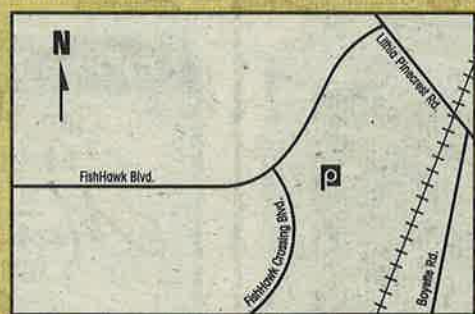
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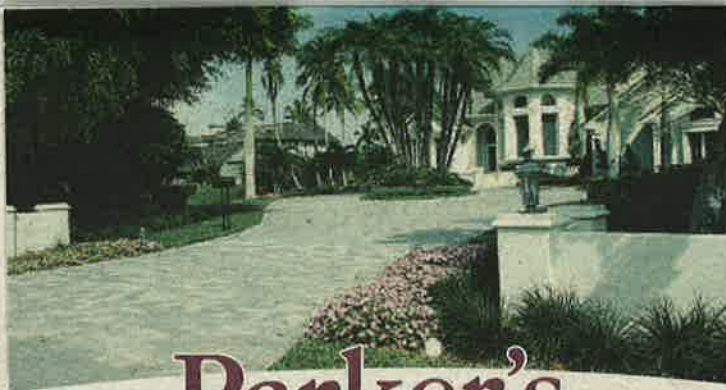
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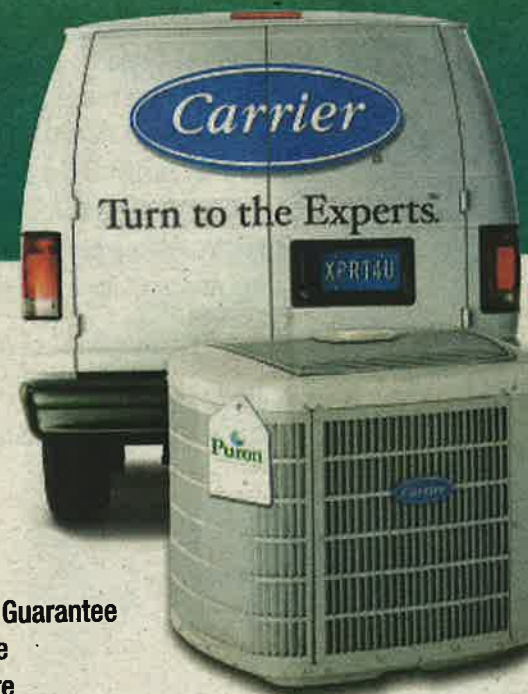
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0002531058-01

PROPERTY

From page 14

gation and wiring to the west side of the road. The Rosemead entrance was bored to allow the electrical wiring to the valves on the north side of the entrance to be upgraded, to run new wiring for the new lights and to increase the size of the irrigation pipe for better coverage.

- Morningstar Electric replaced two defective light sensors with time clocks.
- There was a car versus wall at the intersection of Canoga Park Drive and Shady Nook Drive. The damage was photographed, the Sheriff was contacted for the case number, the masonry and painting contractors were called to provide cost estimates, Teco was contacted regarding the destroyed light pole and the resident was contacted
- In the land of eat, drink and pitch out the window, there were 21 lights replaced, 27 signs, a large green chair, several large bags of trash, 4 cases of empty beer cans, a Dollar Tree cart, \$08 cents removed from the common area. The beverages of choice were coke for soft drinks, Keystone for beer and Old Granddad for distilled spirits.

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District property manager Al Devney can be reached at (813) 684-6667 or bloomingdale.district@verizon.net.

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Library Holds Contests To Celebrate Hispanic Heritage

The Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative announces the 5th Annual Hispanic Heritage Contests – one for students in grades K-5, and another for adults 18 years and older.

In celebration of Hillsborough County's Hispanic Heritage, Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative (HCPLC) is presenting the 5th Annual Bookmark Contest for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, Sept. 1 – Sept. 30. Children may pick up an entry form at any library branch to design a bookmark celebrating "Our Hispanic Heritage." Entries need to be returned to any public library no later than Sept. 30. The first place winner in each category will receive a U.S. Savings Bond of \$100 and 100 copies of their winning bookmark. The second place winner will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond and 100 copies of their bookmark.

The adult poetry contest entry forms can be picked up at any library branch or downloaded from the Library's Web site: hcplc.org. Contestants must be at least 18 years old. Poems must be original compositions, no longer than one page, and written in Spanish. Themes must be appropriate for a general audience. Completed entry forms and poems must be turned into any library branch no later than Sept. 30.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at the John F. Germany Public Library, 900 North Ashley Drive in downtown Tampa, in the auditorium Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. The first place winner will receive \$200, the second place winner will receive \$100, and the third place winner will receive \$50.

The contest is cosponsored by the Friends of the Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc., Centro Mi Diario, The Tampa Tribune and Pollo Tropical.

For more information about this and other FREE programs @ your library, please call (813) 273-3652 or visit hcplc.org.

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On Kings Ave. 1/2 mile south of Bloomingdale Ave. on the left.

RiverPlace Directions:

I-75 to Riverview Exit/301 South. Left on Balm Riverview Road, stay left onto Park, entrance is 2 miles on left.

Country Way Directions:

From Busch Blvd. / Temple Terrace Hwy, head south on 78th St. Turn left on Harney Rd. Country Way Townhomes is .25 miles on the left.

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Got Junk? BHA-sponsored clean-up day can help

By JOY BOISSELLE

Keeping clutter at bay can be a daunting task. After the yard sales, the spring cleanings, trips to Goodwill, a visit to the local landfill may be in order. Thanks to the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association-sponsored Community Cleanup Day, Bloomingdale residents may be able to postpone that trip – at least for this year.

This year's Community Cleanup Day is Saturday, Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The collection site is on Natures Way at the Hillsborough County Parks maintenance facility just west of Alafia Elementary School. The highly successful event is made possible by BHA volunteers, a grant from the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations, residents' annual membership dues, and the Hillsborough County Parks Department.

Board vice president, Stanley Lee, has been a part of the event since 2003 when it began. "This is a great opportunity for residents to get rid of unwanted trash from their property. It's free, convenient, and will save them a trip to the county's collection sites," he explained.

The event is open to all Bloomingdale residents, however residents will be required to provide their name and address for residency verification. Lee said, "This year we have six dumpsters, and in the past we

have averaged 180 cubic yards of collected debris."

He warned residents, "Drop-offs will be accepted until 1 p.m., or whenever our dumpsters are full...whichever comes first."

Drop-Off Limits

Drop-off limits are two loads for cars, one for SUVs, and pick-up trucks. In addition, trailers with more than one axle cannot be accommodated and waste from commercial businesses will not be accepted.

Accepted Items
Appliances, mattresses, water heaters, televisions, steel and other metals, furniture, and non-commercial construction debris will be accepted. In addition, used computer components (printers, faxes, monitors, etc.) will be accepted.

Unaccepted Items

Yard waste or regular household trash normally picked up at the curb cannot be accepted. Hazardous materials including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercial activities cannot be accepted.

To make the event a continued success, Lee stressed the need for more volunteers. "We welcome all the help we can get to help. In the past we have had at least a dozen community volunteers including residents, Boy Scouts, and teenage volunteers." Volunteer duties include helping with traffic flow and unloading vehicles if needed.

If you want to help the



JOY BOISSELLE/Gazette Photo

Does your trash look like this? Unload some of your junk at the BHA-sponsored Community Cleanup Day on Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until the dumpsters are full. The collection site is located at the Hillsborough County Parks maintenance facility on Natures Way.

BHA and your community, call the BHA Community Office at (813) 681-2051 or e-mail inbloomingdalenews@tampabay.rr.com. Include your name, a number where you may be reached, and hours you are available to help. High school students and Scouts will earn community service hour credits for assisting with this project.

County Gears Up For Senior Games

By SHERRILONON
slonon@mediageneral.com

As the sun sets on the 2008 Summer Olympic games, the competitive action in Hillsborough County is just heating up. The 28th annual Tampa Bay Senior Games get under way Oct. 6.

A joint undertaking between Hillsborough County and the cities of Tampa and Temple Terrace, the games give competitive and not-so-competitive seniors ages 50 and up the chance to participate in events as diverse as table tennis and golf to baking, cribbage and domino playing.

"These groups of people come out and just have a great time," said Paula Jory, recreation area supervisor for Hillsborough County. "Some people are very competitive and some people are there for the fun and exercise."

The senior games start Oct. 6 and run through Oct. 17. The annual event takes place at venues throughout the county, Jory explained.

"We go to the locations that will help us carry out these events," she said. "Last year, we had



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Osting Baseball Academy Earns Medal In Cooperstown U-13 National Tournament

By BILL FARLEY

Never before has a Tampa Bay area AAU, U-13 team finished in the medal bracket in the prestigious Cooperstown, NY "Baseball World" Summer Tournament...until now.

Valrico's Osting Baseball Academy brought home the silver medal competing in its inaugural season, losing 3-2 in a thriller to the California Demons in the championship game.

Jim Osting, Manager and owner of the Academy, helped 12 local U-13 boys achieve a dream that for most, began last summer when together with their parents, pledged to start a travel team that would compete throughout Florida against top ranked clubs with the goal of competing for the USA National Crown at the Baseball World National Summer Tournament.

The team parents and players organized and executed two successful fundraisers inclusive of a "Dinner to Go" night and a golf tournament that helped raise the funds required to travel, and participate in, the coveted tournament during the Baseball Hall

of Fame induction week. It was a dream come true for all of the boys, the parents and coaches and provided the inspiration to build a world-class area Baseball Academy.

Jim Osting, an ex-major league pitcher for the San Diego Padres and Milwaukee Brewers, has built a successful program training area children starting as early as U-9, up to top prospect Varsity HS Baseball players that have gone on to receive scholarships to top colleges in the country.

Coach Osting had a vision to create a baseball academy in the Valrico area dedicated exclusively to the promotion and development of amateur sports, and physical fitness programs primarily focused on Baseball. The inaugural season goals were to finish with a record above .500 and to compete well in the Cooperstown Baseball world Tournament. The Ostingers finished the second half of their season going 20-6 including a 6-1-1 record in Cooperstown.

Tournament Opening Ceremonies included the coveted Skills Competition, with two



Coach Dave Reed, Ryan Tauscher, Michael Farley, Dayne Wade, Robert Dumas, Brandon Miller, Coach Jimmy Osting, Alex Kerr, Wes Carter, Zak Paiva, Jake Gagain, Nino Biondolillo, Brice Bartlett, Chaz Fowler.

Ostingers taking home individual champions trophies. Out of approximately 180 players, Chaz Fowler won for pitching and Alex Kerr for catching. The Ostingers team had the best ERA for the tournament with a starting pitching rotation of Ryan Tauscher, Brandon Miller, Nino Biondolillo, Zack Paiva, Wes Carter and Jake Gagain. The closers were spectacular, with Michael Farley and Chaz Fowler

shutting down late inning rallies from two of the tournament's toughest competitors to enable the team to continue to advance to the championship game.

The team's lethal offense produced rarely accomplished 300-foot game changing home runs by Zack Paiva, Wes Carter and Jake Gagain, backed up by a stellar outfield that was led by Brice Bartlett, Wes Carter and Robert Dumas. Dayne Wade led

the infield at shortstop with the most put-outs, with a very strong supporting cast that yielded the least amount errors in the tournament.

Jim Osting has broken ground on the Academy Training Facility located just east of Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Highway 39. Jim estimates the facility will be completed by Oct. 1. For more information about the Academy, Call (813) 404-1775.

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GAMES FROM 19

almost 800 participants in the games."

In the general FishHawk Ranch/South County area, seniors will be able to participate in putt-putt golf, table tennis and golf. Summerfield Crossings in Riverview is playing host to the golf tournament, and the Brandon Recreation Center will be the site for the table tennis matches.

Registration for the games will be accepted right up until the starting day, Jory said. The cost to participate is \$15 for registration. Golf participants will pay an extra \$15. Admission to the end-of-games awards dinner for people who don't take part in the games is \$10. The technical deadline for entry into the games is Sept. 29.

Seniors who would like to participate in the games or learn more, can call Jory at 903-2266

or Charles Bradley at 310-1385. They can also go online for information — including a full listing of events — and registration at hillsboroughcounty.org/parks or tampagov.net/parksandrec.

People should sign up "for the competition, for the companionship of fellow athletes and the physical fitness part of our more active games," said Jory. "When you come to events like these, you meet people like yourself."

Bloomingtondale Educator Helps Students Plan Their Futures

By JOYBOISSELLE

Helping your child plan for the future is perhaps the most important challenge you face as a parent. Thanks to Alexia Haldane, Bloomingtondale High School's guidance resource specialist, you don't have to go it alone.

"My job is to make sure our students are informed consumers and they know all the college options and scholarship opportunities available," Haldane said.

With her youthful appearance, she can easily be mistaken for a student. Don't, however, let her youthful appearance deceive you. Prior to joining the Bloomingtondale staff five years ago, Haldane honed her skills at the University of South Florida as a recruiter and scholarship

coordinator.

Leaving the university for Bloomingtondale High School was a no-brainer. "I wanted to work more directly with students," she explained, "In this capacity, I get to see them from start to finish in the college decision-making process."

Haldane sees an average of 70 students a week in her office located inside the guidance department. While many students come for one-on-one assistance, others come to take advantage of the gold mine of information she maintains in the office.

From floor to ceiling are college pamphlets, books on career choices, current and future scholarship opportunities, Florida's Bright Future's scholarship information, financial aid facts, and college testing

data. In addition, internet access is available to broaden students' research capabilities.

Haldane is a "hit" with students who appreciate her caring demeanor, and she enjoys an almost instant connection and enviable rapport with them. But, it is her knowledge, proven success and sound advice that keep her office busy. Her advice varies depending on the student's grade level and future plans.

For ninth and tenth graders, she suggests students begin exploring options for after high school. "This is a great time to gather information, research colleges and careers, and even visit schools if your child shows an interest," she explained, "It is never too early to start."

For juniors, the advice is more specific. "The junior year is maybe the most important

year in the process," stated Haldane. She advises selecting at least three school choices, along with majors the student may have an interest in, visiting those schools, preparing for and taking the SAT [Scholastic Aptitude Test] and ACT [American College Test] in the second semester of the junior year, and taking a strong senior year schedule.

For seniors, her mandate is simple: Apply early to colleges, stay on top of deadlines, and apply for every scholarship for which you meet the criteria. Noting that standardized test scores and grade point aver-

ages for admittance are higher than ever before, she said, "Getting into college is getting more competitive each year; and students are better prepared. They are looking for the academic well-rounded student with a proven record of academic achievement."

The bottom line, she said, "Don't get overwhelmed, take it one step at a time, and above all, make sure the choice you make is the right one for you."

Haldane maintains an open door policy for students. Contact her at (813) 744-8018, ext. 235 or via email at Alexia.Haldane@sdhc.k12.fl.us.



JOYBOISSELLE/Gazette Photo

Alexia Haldane, Bloomingtondale High School's guidance resource specialist, assists Kaitlin Dunning, a Bloomingtondale senior, with an online college application update. Dunning graduated in June and is now a freshman at the University of Central Florida.

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Campo YMCA Unveils Family Fun Pool

Staff report

Residents of FishHawk are invited to check out the Campo Family YMCA's new Family Fun Pool, featuring a giant tower with three slides, a water spray play structure, and a zero depth entry fun pool. The new aquatics complex provides recreation for children and adults.

On Aug. 10, the Campo Family YMCA opened its doors to the community in celebration of the completion of its new Family Fun Pool.

In addition to the chance to swim in the new pool, guests enjoyed refreshments, a bounce house, rock climbing, and other family activities around the Campo Family YMCA.

"We're so excited about the completion of this project," said Cindy Sofarelli, executive director of the Campo Family YMCA. "With the opening of this new space, we'll have the ability to serve the community and our members in bigger and better ways. We couldn't have done it without the generosity and commitment of the Campo family, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, and the many YMCA donors and volunteers



The 2,900-square-foot family fun pool features a splash play area for small children and their parents with slides, water guns and splash buckets.

in the Greater Brandon community."

For more information on the Campo YMCA, call (813) 684-1371.



SUZANNE SCHMIDT/Staff photos

Children play in the newly finished family fun pool at the Campo Family YMCA, 3414 Culbreath Road in Valrico. For more information, call (813) 684-1371 or visit tampaymca.org.

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The 1,200-square-foot plunge pool features three large slides. The organization planned to open the new family fun pool and the plunge pool since it opened seven years ago. The YMCA broke ground on the project seven months ago and had the grand opening Aug. 10. The funding for the \$1.5 million project came from two sources with \$997,000 coming from Hillsborough County and \$500,000 coming from Ray Campo. Since a large portion of the money came from the county, the pool will have community hours.

Jaymer-que Southern BBQ Wins Again

By JOY BOISSELLE

Bloomington's Jaymer and Cyndi Holcombe, owners of the "mom and pop" establishment, Jaymer-Que Southern BBQ, have a good thing going. For the second year in a row, the Tampa Tribune awarded the couple first place for ribs in the Best of Brandon Readers Poll competition.

Considering their small eatery is only in its third year and competing against long-established Barbecue restaurants and franchises like Chili's, Jaymer and Cyndi have reason to be proud of their recent win. However, contests aside, the Holcombes are just plain proud of their business.

"We think all our food is good," said Cyndi, "Everything we cook and serve here, we like. Nothing is on the menu that we wouldn't serve in our own home."

Three years ago, after much thought and encouragement from friends, the Holcombes decided to turn their passion for backyard Barbecue parties into a business. "Our concept was to provide great food to our customers in a clean comfortable, relaxed family-atmosphere just like home."

The Holcombes credit God

with their success and are quick to tell their appreciative customers "We just cook it; God blesses it."

Jaymer is the undisputed Barbecue master. All meats are smoked on the premise through indirect heat, imparting a delicate flavor and a super-moist finished product. For those needing Barbecue sauce, Jaymer and Cyndi offer three homemade versions, a sweet, medium, and hot.

Menu items include authentic Texas brisket, pulled pork and chicken, homemade sausages, and of course, those award-winning ribs. Jaymer-Que's also offers beef dinosaur ribs, and yes, we are talking Fred Flintstone here, and fish lovers can order smoked salmon.

Barbecue fans looking for a particular style of Barbecue like Memphis, North Carolina, Texas, or Kansas City, won't find it at Jaymer-Que's. Jaymer said, "I refuse to get boxed into a style. I like to call it a backyard style, like what you would do if you were cooking at home."

Cyndi is no less important to the restaurant's success as she rounds out each meal with homemade sides, including her vinegar-based coleslaw, smoked



JOY BOISSELLE/Gazette photos

Jaymer and Cyndi Holcombe, owners of Jaymer-Que Southern BBQ, want to share their love of great BBQ at their award-winning restaurant. For the second year in a row, the couple was awarded Best Ribs 2008 in the Tampa Tribune Readers Poll.

green beans, spicy pasta salad, and more. She is particularly pleased to offer her original smoked chicken salad, a secret recipe that has customers begging for the ingredients.

If success can be measured in customer response, the Holcombes are winners in that category as well. Bill Doughty, a long-time customer, frequents the restaurant several times a week. "I come in all the time, and believe me I have tried Barbecue throughout Florida and Texas. I love the Barbecue here; it's the best."

Success also can be measured in what's coming and what's new. Jaymer recently became the area's newest "Big Green Egg" dealer and will carry a full-line of smokers and accessories in the near future.

In September, look for the Holcombes' newest adventure, Ms. Cyndi's Corner Café. The café will be directly across the street from Jaymer-Que's outdoor patio. The new facility will feature market fresh sandwiches with smoked meats from Jaymer-Que's, soups, salads, fried foods, and soft-serve ice cream.

In addition, the Holcombes are adding a drive-thru pick-up service known as the "Pit-Side Pick-up." "Busy Moms will be able to call in an order, drive up, pick up their orders and never leave their cars", Jaymer explained.

Asked to share a few tips

for great Barbecue, Jaymer said, "Three things...First, real Barbecue takes time, don't rush it. Second, get a good meat thermometer and don't overcook the meat. And third, if it's done right, it will taste good by itself. You don't have to add sauce."



BBQ fans, Bill Doughty and Donna Vickers, enjoy a lunch at Jaymer-Que Southern BBQ. They meet weekly at the restaurant to sample as they say, "the best BBQ around."

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Our Kids' Safety And Expensive Fines

By DEPUTY PETE MAURER
Bloomingdale Community
Resource Deputy
and
CSO SANDY CAPITANO

When we talk about the laws that cover protecting our kids they all include rules that must be followed by all of us. With school in progress there are rules that are

critical for our kids' safety and are very expensive if broken. These include:

Stop Both Ways For School Buses Stopping On Roads Without Median Dividers.

When you don't stop, you put our kids in danger. Drivers MUST also keep a safe distance between other vehicles and espe-

cially school buses in front of them. 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!" Drivers speeding in school zones should definitely not be driving at all. There is no excuse. Speeding fines are DOUBLED in school zones.

New Traffic Fines Cost A Lot

For those drivers that just won't slow down and obey the traffic laws, be warned - traffic fines have increased! This is serious business! It saves lives.

Here are a few examples of what breaking traffic laws will now cost you:

- Running a red light = \$206
- Failure to stop for a school bus = \$181
- Speeding in a school zone = \$131 up to \$381/court
- Improper equipment (lights out) = \$91

Save your hard-earned money - obey the traffic laws, respect the rights and safety of others and save lives?

Note: these costs do not include any increases in your auto insurance caused by you receiving a traffic citation.

Lockem Up - Cars And Thieves

How many of you lock up your cars when you go to the mall? Hopefully, all of you. Why? Because we know there are crimi-



Deputy Pete Maurer

nals out there looking for items to steal for open cars at the mall.

Last month, over 40 Bloomingdale residents found out that this also can happen in our neighborhoods. Their unlocked cars were burglarized by several juveniles. These juveniles were so organized that they had someone available to sell the items they stole. They knew they could find unlocked cars, almost like having a small business. Don't take the chance, just lock your cars.

Just Too Sad For Words

Again last month, the lives of two Bloomingdale teens were lost as the result of a tragic accident. The lives of other teens also were changed forever, along with their families, friends and classmates as the result of severe injuries in this accident.

Again, we try to understand why they didn't have on their seatbelts? Their chances of survival and reduced injury would have been much better.

Parents, you must talk seriously with your teens about the importance of wearing their seatbelts. A friend of mine had a simple rule with his teen age sons - seatbelts buckled or no driving! It worked. Use it.

Traffic Crash Witness Sought

The Sheriff's Office is requesting your help in locating a traffic crash witness. A collision occurred on Aug. 25, 7:25 a.m., at Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue. The vehicles involved were a HCSO Chevy Impala and another similar vehicle, both silver colored. The accident was witnessed by someone driving a yellowish Corvette or similar car, which also was traveling North on Culbreath Road, then possibly turning east on Bloomingdale Avenue. Anyone with information is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (813) 247-8200, the Community Station at (813) 635-8040, or Traffic Crash Investigator Deputy A. Geer at (813) 247-0455, Reference Crash Report 08-518131.

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No Putting Around

INDOOR MINI GOLF PERFECT FOR PARTIES

By LAURA CONE
lcone@mediageneral.com

Dressed in their pajamas, children from the Tampa Bay Christian summer camp program goofed off and beat the summer heat playing miniature golf indoors at K Breeze Indoor Putt Putt.

John Tierney, a sixth-grade geography teacher at Burns Middle School in Brandon, opened the 18-hole miniature indoor golf course July 24. Since he opened, the facility has attracted a number of moms and children from FishHawk and the surrounding area.

Cecelia Torres, a summer camp instructor at Tampa Bay Christian, chaperoned eight children during the pajama party.

"We went to play putt putt before and the kids were sweating outside," she said. "It's been so hot and rainy. Between the heat and rain it's hard to do things outside. They love this. One of the girls said, 'At least I'm not sweating and my hair is not frizzing up.'"

Tierney, who has a 6-year-old son named John, opened the entertainment center in the King's Row Shopping Center, a few miles from FishHawk.

"I have a background with kids and I enjoy playing sports,"



LAURA CONE/Staff photo

Kelli Valdes, 12, laughs after goofing up a swing on the indoor putt putt course.

Tierney said. "It's so hot outside. I googled the idea for indoor sports facilities and came across this idea."

He said the course includes different focal points including a lighthouse, airplane, school house, flowers and a castle with

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Chamber To Host 9th Annual LBA Casino Night

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce will host the 9th Annual Leadership Brandon Alumni Casino Night on Friday, Aug. 15, 2008, at Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, 619 Vonderburg Dr., Ste. B, Brandon. Sponsors for the Casino Night are Chick-fil-A @ Lake Brandon Village, Tampa Electric Company, Platinum Bank, Majestic Bancard, Sweet Expressions Bakery, Friends of Dolphins, Cruise Planners, Dynamic Painting, Serenity Meadows Memorial Park, The Bank of Tampa, Brandon Regional Hospital Medical

Staff, Sunshine State Federal, Magruder Agency, Melissa Snively State Farm Insurance, Valrico State Bank, Ace Heating & Cooling, SunTrust Bank and the Brandon News and Tribune/The Tampa Tribune.

The 9th Annual Casino Night is open to all Alumni members and the public. This event is the main fundraiser for Leadership Brandon and other Leadership Brandon Alumni efforts.

Cost for the Casino Night event is \$30 per person. Admission ticket price includes; \$2,500 in casino fun money, door prizes, Silent Auction, hors

d'oeuvres and entertainment. Gaming for the night includes: blackjack, craps, roulette and a separate buy in Texas Hold'em Tournament. For more information on this event or to register, visit the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce's Web site at www.brandonchamber.com or call Crystal Colegrove at (813) 689-1221, ext. 24 or ccolegrove@brandonchamber.com. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodations should contact the Chamber no later than 48 hours prior to the event.

PUTT FROM 27

draw bridge.

Tierney said the 4,890-square-foot facility appeals to people of all ages.

"The night I opened I had a lot of teenagers," he said.

"Some golfers are as young as 2 and I have some retirees. It's something different for entertainment."

He also offers different packages for birthdays and special events. Birthday packages may include a party

room, rounds of putt putt golf, set-up, clean-up, pizza, invitations, drinks and other perks.

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