

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXX
Number 9

SEPTEMBER 2010 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



Photo by DAnn Lawrence White

This game is a kick

Kickball, the sport once reserved for elementary school yards, is now a hit with adults. See story, page 7.

Players watch as Pete Bigelow kicks the ball during an Over 35 Kickballers game at the Bloomingdale West Park.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Being a comedian, people tell me stuff they shouldn't tell their therapist."

Jeff Foxworthy



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BRH HAPPENINGS: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

THE MOM AND BABY SUITES

(Please call for dates, times and locations)

Educational classes for expectant parents:

- GESTATIONAL DIABETES
- PREPARED CHILDBIRTH SERIES
- INTENSIVE CHILDBIRTH
- PRENATAL TOURS
- PRENATAL BREASTFEEDING
- NEWBORN CARE CLASS

NUTRITION FOR CANCER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

September 8, October 13 • 2:30pm

OUTPATIENT DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT

September 15, October 20 • 8:30am

Seminars held at Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom B, Suite 260.



WOMEN'S/ TEEN'S HEALTH SERIES

TEEN TALK PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 1 • 6:30pm
presented by Jill Hechtman, MD
of Tampa Obstetrics

POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES TO HYSTERECTOMY

Tuesday, September 28 • 6:30pm
presented by David Epstein, MD
of Tampa Bay Radiology Associates

Women's seminars held at Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom B, Suite 260.

HEART HEALTH SERIES

HEALTHY HEART NUTRITION CLASS

September 1, October 6 • 2:30pm
Palm Room (located in the Brandon Regional Hospital Cafeteria).

64-SLICE CARDIAC CT SCAN: GETTING TO KNOW YOUR HEART

Wednesday, September 22 • 6:30pm
presented by William Bugni, MD
of Bay Area Cardiology Associates

ASSESSING YOUR VASCULAR HEALTH

Wednesday, October 27 • 6:30pm
presented by Robert Betzu, MD
of Bay Area Cardiology Associates

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION: CURRENT TREATMENT OPTIONS

Wednesday, October 20 • 6:30pm
presented by Dilip Mathew, MD
of Heart Rhythm Consultants, PA
Bruton Memorial Library
302 W. McLendon St., Plant City

PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE

Wednesday, November 17 • 6:30pm
presented by Umesh Gowda, MD
of Bay Area Cardiology Associates

Heart Health seminars held at Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom B, Suite 260 unless otherwise noted.

WEIGHT LOSS SERIES

EFFECTIVE SURGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR WEIGHT LOSS

September 16, October 28 • 6:30pm
presented by Alfredo Fernandez, MD
of Tampa Bariatrics Surgical Weight Loss

Follow Bridget's Weight Loss Story:
<http://brandonregionalhospital.ballywhointeractive.com>

LAP-BAND® SEMINAR

September 7, October 5 • 6:30pm
presented by P. Krishnaraj, MD and Richard DiCiccio, MD
of Pasco Surgical Associates, PA

Seminars held at Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom B, Suite 260.

SPINE HEALTH SERIES

SAME DAY SPINE SURGERY

Wednesday, September 15 • 6:30pm
presented by Larry Fishman, MD

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINE SURGERY

Wednesday, October 13 • 6:00pm
presented by Philip Henkin, MD

Spine Health seminars held at Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom B, Suite 260.

COMMUNITY SEMINARS

ARE YOU READY FOR H1N1?

Thursday, September 23 • 6:30pm
presented by Rafael Martinez, MD
of Tampa Bay Pulmonary, PA

FREE SCREENINGS

PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE (PAD)

September 16, October 9 • 9:00am
Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom B, Suite 260
By appointment only

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE (PVD)

September 25 • 9:00am
at South Bay Hospital • By appointment only.

SUPPORT GROUPS

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

September 9, October 14 • 10:45am
Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom A, Suite 262.

CARDIAC SUPPORT GROUP

September 9 • 6:30pm • Daniel Lorch, MD
of Pulmonary Associates of Brandon
November 11 • 6:30pm • Magan Bakaranian, MD
of Brandon Cardiology Clinic, PA
Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom B, Suite 260.

SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

September 16, October 28 • 6:30pm
Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom A, Suite 262.

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S MAN TO MAN SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, September 7, October 5 • 6:30pm
Oakfield Medical Plaza, Classroom A, Suite 262.

Seating is limited and reservations are required for all events!

Call (813) 653-1065 to RSVP.

For more information, visit BrandonRegionalHospital.com.



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YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

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Sheriff opens new Bloomingdale Community Station

By D'ANN LAWRENCE WHITE

Criminals should take note.

There's going to be a bigger law enforcement presence in Bloomingdale, thanks to the opening of the new Bloomingdale Community Sheriff's Station.

The fancier new digs at 3622 Erindale Drive, just east of Lithia-Pinecrest Road, actually cost less to rent than the old substation headquarters on Bell Shoals Road near Beef O' Brady's. However, it offers about 300 more feet of space and a more central location, allowing deputies and detectives from both sheriff's District II and District IV to use the office, said Maj. Ron Hartley, noting that the boundary for District II and IV is Lithia-Pinecrest Road.

For the past 12 years, the Bloomingdale station has occupied a small storefront on Bell Shoals Road, which didn't give detectives much space to conduct private interviews or make phone calls. The



Photos by D'Ann Lawrence White

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce hosts a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Bloomingdale Community Sheriff's Station Aug. 5

new 1,225-square-foot office has three offices for detectives to use, a private room for questioning suspects or witnesses and a kitchen.

"We love it," said Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy Curtis Warren. "It's a great office - larger, nicer, newer and better located. Now we're

more of a full-service station."

Warren, a master deputy and 23-year veteran of the sheriff's office, was assigned to Bloomingdale four months ago when longtime Community Resource Deputy Pete Maurer retired.

"You can't beat it," said Hartley. "More space, less money and we're still in Bloomingdale but we're more accessible to Fish Hawk. We're quite pleased."

Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano likes the fact that she's just 10 minutes from home at the new location.

And Bloomingdale Citizen Patrol members Art Jorgensen and Rick Hafeman commended the sheriff's office for designating space in the new facility for the Citizen Pa-

trol's equipment. The patrol is about 24 members strong, providing extra eyes on the street for the sheriff's office.

"This is fantastic," said Jorgensen. "We actually have our own locker here."

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new station Aug. 5. Among those attending was state Rep. Rich Glorioso (R-Plant City).

Warren has an open-door policy and invites residents to drop in any time between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with concerns or questions. The station also will continue to host the Bloomingdale Community Council meetings on the third Thursday of the month.



Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano likes the fact that the new office is roomier.

Coming September 17

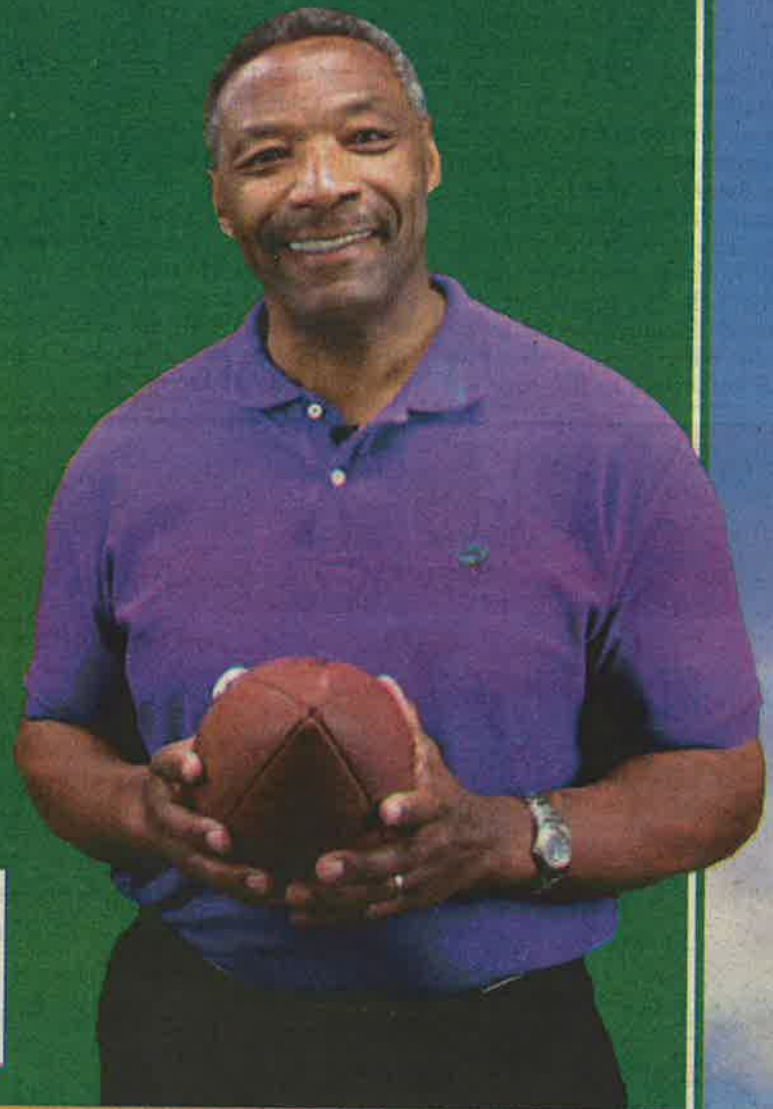
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A dozen years of progress

By MACK AUSTIN

The Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station was put into operation over a dozen years ago. It was a much needed and welcomed addition to our community. Its very existence helped serve as a deterrent to criminal activity in our community. Having a Community Resource Deputy (CRD) and Community Service Officer (CSO) in our neighborhood brought numerous services right to residents. Having a place for deputies on patrol to work out of saved time and increased their presence in our community.

Some of the outstanding services, activities and operations that began with the old community station include:

1. The Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) is made up of concerned residents working directly with Sheriff's deputies and detectives to improve the

safety and security of our community. Numerous issues, from the installation of critical traffic signals, to coordinating with county officials on road projects and community planning and growth issues, crime prevention programs and school safety projects occurred. These and many other issues are still being addressed and solved through the team efforts of the BACC and HCSO.

The BACC also had the distinction of having the first teens involved on the council. They were able to bring their input regarding issues and concerns involving area teens. These teen members were recommended by the local school resource officers (SRO) with whom they were working to improve safety and security at their schools. The BACC would like to see the SRO and teens from

Bloomington High School become an active part of the BACC again.

The BACC will continue to be an effective and active part of the Sheriff's Community Station. Residents who would like to become involved in improving our community are asked to come to a monthly meeting and bring any issues of concern to them and their neighbors. The BACC meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Community Station at 3622 Erindale Drive. Call (813) 635-8040 for additional information.

2. Services to residents at the Community Station included fingerprinting, car seat checks (currently no longer available), reporting criminal activity, reporting stolen property, and obtaining information on anything related to security or

Most of the service and operations that began at the old Community Station will be offered at the new Community Station now located at 3622 Erindale Drive. Many of the operations will be enhanced by the additional space at the new location.

safety, including bike safety, firearm safety and vehicle and home security. These services will continue to be offered at the new Community Station.

3. Special projects that were coordinated through the Community Station included "Gun Buy Backs," community projects for veterans and children, and holiday projects for the needy and children.

Most of the service and operations that began at the old Community Station will be offered at the new Community Station now located at 3622 Erindale Drive. Many of the operations will be enhanced by the additional space at the new location.

The "dozen years of progress" made at the old Community Station serve as an outstanding foundation for continued progress and success at the new station. The key is the cooperation of community residents and the Sheriff's deputies and detectives.

Stop by and get to know your CRD Curtis Warren and CSO Sandy Capitano. They are there to serve our community. They need our support and help to make our community a safe and secure place to live. Help the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station continue to be an essential part of our community!

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Adults get a kick out of new sports league

By D'ANN LAWRENCE WHITE

If you're looking for a sports league with rigid rules, crisp uniforms and an emphasis on athletic excellence, Belinda Missen says the Valrico Over 35 Kickballers league isn't for you.

"We're very noncompetitive," she said. "This is just casual fun. We're very relaxed. Our purpose is fitness and fun."

The co-ed kickball league plays Wednesday nights at the Bloomingdale Recreation Center at Bloomingdale West Park, 3940 Canoga Park Drive. Players, ranging in age from 35 to the 50s, show up around 7 p.m. from as far away as Tampa wearing shorts and T-shirts or workout clothes. They play for an hour and, while they do keep score, there's a lot of laughter mixed with cheering teammates.

"I started this league because

I wanted to play a sport I liked, and I used to love kickball as a kid in grade school," said Missen of Riverview. "We play eight-week seasons and are about to begin our third season Sept. 3."

The league, which began playing in March, currently has 54 people on its roster, although only 12 to 20 show up each week to play. Players pay \$2 annually to join the league and are obligated to play at least one game per season. The fee offsets the cost of the league's website.

"We play one another," said Missen. "We form teams by counting off just like we did as kids in gym class. Some people bring their kids with them and the kids play together while we play. On Wednesday nights the recre-

ation center has a free game night for children 6 and up so they're supervised while we play."

"I heard about the league and decided to join because it sounded like a great time," said Stephanie Schroeder of Valrico. "I've met some awesome people, probably made friends for life."

She also found the exercise she was seeking.

"When we first started playing, there were a lot of sore muscles and even a few injuries, me included," she said. "The first time I played, I played like I was 15 years old, not 46 years old, and I'm still feeling it."

"A lot of people who join us haven't really done much exercise since grade school," said Monica Gura of Riverview. "This allows you to get



Photo by D'Ann Lawrence White

Players watch as Pete Bigelow kicks the ball during an Over 35 Kickballers game at the Bloomingdale West Park.

into shape doing something shape and meet people," he said.

That was George Donahue of Riverview's motivation for joining the league.

"I recently divorced and wanted to get out and do something to get back into

For more information, contact Missen at (941) 448-6133, e-mail happymommy35@yahoo.com, or visit the group's website at meetup.com/over35kickballers.

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Bloomingtondale basketball hosts annual golf tournament

By KIM WALLACE

The Bloomingtondale Senior High School boys basketball team hosted their 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at the Bloomingtondale Golfers Club on Aug. 21. This year's fundraiser was a huge success with 96 golfers.

With 15 hole sponsors, Coach Joe Willis stated they were able to offer more incentives to the golfers. Included in this year's sponsors were, Beef 'O' Bradys (Bell Shoals location), Busciglio Orthodontics, Home Supplies, Inc., Frank Hart, IBEW Local 108, Nelson Brothers, Beef 'O' Bradys (FishHawk location), Rainman Irrigation, Tampa Electric-Big



Cormac McCarthy of Beef 'O' Bradys Bell Shoals, Coach Joe Willis and JJ Massaro of Beef 'O' Bradys FishHawk support the BSHS boys basketball golf tournament.

Bend Station, Hillsboro Bank, Brandon Family Law, Harris Auctions, LLC, Creative Recycling, Seavy & Associates and 3e Consultants. These sponsors made this year's tournament a great success.

Raffled off was a signed Tony Dungy basketball,

Tampa Bay Rays tickets, Columbia Restaurant gift cards and a pass for the team that came in first to the Outback Pro-Am golf event.

Coach Willis and the basketball team are already looking forward to next year's tournament.



Photos by Kim Wallace

Coach Joe Willis reading off raffle number for a signed Tony Dungy basketball.

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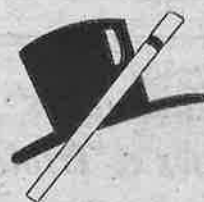
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[bloomingtondale senior high school open house]



Photos by Kim Wallace

Brenda Acquaviva, Bloomingtondale Senior High School Athletic Booster Member, helps sell spirit shirts at the schools open house.



Kathryn Haase, Megan Offenhauser, Conor Malloy, Meghan Placke and Cassidy Erickson part of the SGA (student government) are ready to sell planners to fellow students for the upcoming school year.



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Photo by Kim Wallace

The 2010-2011 Bloomingdale Bulls volleyball team

Congratulations to the new 2010-2011 Volleyball team of Bloomingdale High School
 Front L to R: Morgan Hortman, Lexi Bryant, Sammi Klemp, Allie McFee, Lindsay Miller, Megan Guerra
 Back L to R: Katie Fife, Mallory Dotson, Rachel Pence, Brittany Stirling, Brandy Higgins, Coach Margeaux Sinibaldi, Head Coach Danielle Leffler, Kelly Rach, Danielle Jenkins, Jessica Sawicki, Sierra Gonzalez. Not Pictured: Nicole Higgins

Bloomingdale Senior High School Community Pep Rally

By Kim Wallace

Bloomingdale Senior High School will host their 2nd annual Community Pep Rally Friday, Sept. 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The festivities will take place at the school's football stadium.

Cheerleading Coach Candice Teague is looking forward to a fun evening for the school and the Bloomingdale communi-

ty. Last year more than 100 people turned out for the rally. Coach Teague said she is hoping for a bigger and better turn out this year.

The school will recognize all fall sports. Additionally, the ROTC will present the colors and a drill team routine, the Bloomingdale High School Band will play and the cheerleaders will per-

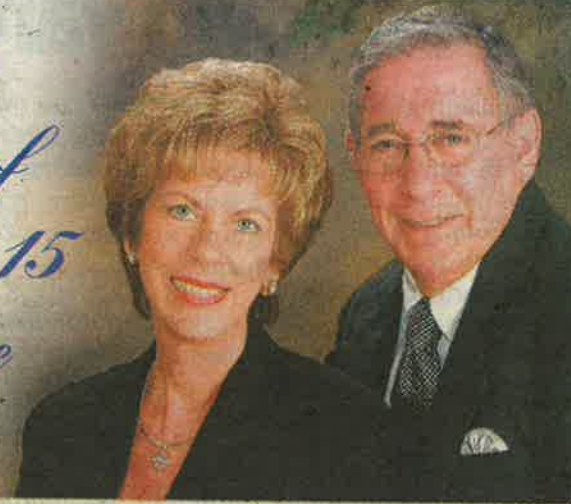
form. Little League organizations from around the community are invited to participate in the activities.

Vendors, food and games will also be available to make this a fun filled evening.

Please come out Sept. 10 to show your support of Bloomingdale Senior High School. For information, call (813) 744-8018.

SEE THE BLOOMINGDALE NEWS ONLINE
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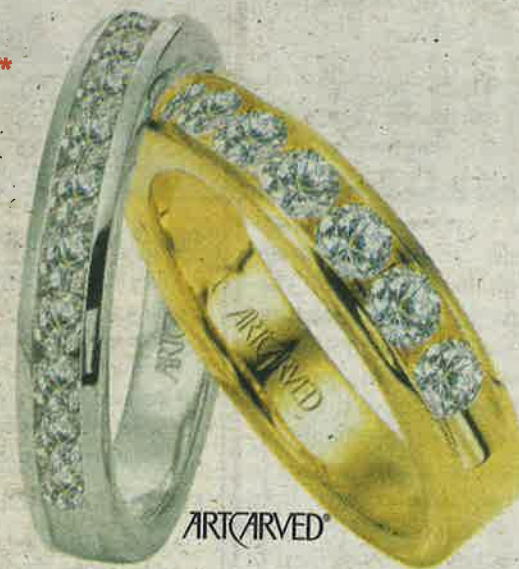
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Overgrown yard? Here is what the county can do

Complaints about overgrowth, weeds and underbrush are among the top five complaints Hillsborough County Code Enforcement receives each month, particularly at this time of year because of the summer rains. The County's Minimum Standards Ordinance is clear – keep your property neat, attractive, and safe.

Here are some answers to the most common questions property owners ask Code Enforcement officers.

How is overgrowth defined?

Overgrowth is defined by the county as the growth of grass, weeds or underbrush exceeding 10 inches in height within 200 feet of a building, structure, recreational area or street right of way; and is determined by the county to create a nuisance for the surrounding community.

Why is overgrowth considered to be a violation?

The excessive growth of grass, weeds or underbrush creates a harborage or shelter for disease carrying insects and vermin as well as poisonous reptiles. Overgrown properties detract from the overall value of the neighborhood and can attract a criminal element into your community. Cases have been documented of criminals using overgrown properties to hide from law enforcement, as well as to commit other nefarious acts under cover of the grass and weeds.

What about plants and xeriscaping?

Maintenance of ornamental plantings such as shrubs and hedges are not regulated by the minimum standards ordinance.

How can I report a suspected violation to the county?

Suspected violations of this code should be reported to Hillsborough County Code Enforcement by calling (813) 274-6600 or logging onto www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce and clicking the online services link on

the left side of the page.

Can I remain anonymous when registering a complaint?

Yes. Hillsborough County does not require that you provide any personal identifying information when registering your complaint. It should be noted that any information provided to the department, including names, phone numbers or email addresses are subject to the public record laws of the State of Florida and must be provided to

anyone who requests the information. If you wish to remain completely anonymous when making your complaint, do not provide any of this information to the department when registering the complaint.

What do I do if I've received a notice of violation from Code Enforcement?

If you have any question about what is required of you to achieve compliance with Hillsborough County's code, please contact the investigator assigned to your case. The investi-

gator's name is listed at the bottom of the notice you received. The goal of Code Enforcement is to preserve the quality and value of public and private property, and maintain a high standard of living by eliminating conditions that threaten the life, health, safety, and general welfare of the public. The department recognizes that this goal is most effectively achieved through the education of, and cooperation with, the citizens of Hillsborough County.

Hillsborough County Code Enforcement provides this type of information each month to increase awareness of common code enforcement related issues; address topics that concern citizens; and help provide information regarding the reporting of code enforcement issues and violations.

For more information or more safety tips, residents should call (813) 276-2033 or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce.



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What parents are saying about TeamFLC - Tampa Lacrosse Programs...

Hi!

I just wanted to let you know my daughter came to the New Player Clinic on Saturday May 30th and had an awesome time. She came home so excited she got her younger brother excited as well. He went to the first Training Session with her last night and they both had a great time. I just wanted to thank you all for such a great program that you are all running. I think you have two new players for sure. I want to thank you also for allowing my son to borrow the equipment from you.

We really appreciate your kindness in allowing a new player to feel so comfortable the first time out. Just wanted to let you know you all are doing a great job. We are looking forward to the next month of Lacrosse.

Thank you,
A Pleased Parent & Teacher - Tampa, FL

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Valrico group helps folks mind their own businesses

BizMom Connections offers business networking for entrepreneurs

By **PAUL CATALA**
pcatala@medlageneral.com

Lela Hartsaw sees a lot of opportunity ahead for mothers who have their own businesses in the Valrico area.

Since Hartsaw began an email network marketing business from her home, the business mother has grown her client base 400 percent in six months. The 40-year-old mother of two credits BizMom Connections for giving her the networking base to grow her business.

BizMom is a national community of chapters composed of mothers in business who meet in a non-competitive setting to share and relate business

ideas, strategies and experiences. Meetings are open to women and men, and children can attend if supervised.

And when a new chapter opens Sept. 14, BizMom's founder Kimberly DelRosario is hoping to give mothers – and fathers – a way to boost their businesses in the Valrico, Lithia and FishHawk Ranch areas.

"It's helped on so many levels. I've made some great, new friends," said Hartsaw. "I'm happy because of...the opportunity to get out and network with these like-minded people."

Based in Bradenton, DelRosario, 40, mother of

two, currently has seven BizMom chapters around Florida and one in Cincinnati, Ohio. During a recent meeting with FishHawk-Lithia group leader Lillian Morales, DelRosario outlined what she wants to accomplish with the group in the FishHawk area.

Three years ago, Morales began a home-based juice drink business but found it hard to attend business networking meetings when her children got home from school – and along with DelRosario, BizMom was born in Manatee County.

"We meet during the

See BIZMOM, Page 15 »



Staff photo by PAUL CATALA

Biz Mom Connections founder Kimberly DelRosario, left, and group leader Lillian Morales sit at a table in Panera bread, where the new Valrico chapter of Biz Mom Connections will meet. The group offers expert interviews and website exposure.

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Respect Your Neighbor's Right To Sleep In

By D'ANN LAWRENCE WHITE

You've been getting up at 5:30 a.m. for work all week and have been looking forward to sleeping in on Saturday morning.

But come Saturday morning, you're rudely dragged out of dreamland by the sound of your neighbor's lawn mower. You gaze over at the alarm clock. It's 7 a.m. You were hoping for at least another hour of snooze time but your neighbor has called a sudden halt to your pleasant slumbers.

So much for sleeping in.

This scenario is happening more and more often, according to the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, which

If you must begin lawn work early to avoid the heat, start by hand-trimming hedges, weeding flower beds or other chores that are less noisy.

is fielding calls from angry residents. Neighbors wanting to avoid the heat of the day are doing their yard work in the early-morning hours, oblivious to the desires of their slumbering neighbors. One neighbor even began using a chipping machine early one Saturday much to the chagrin of surrounding residents.

While there are no regulations prohibiting the use of lawn mowers, edgers, chippers, gas-powered trimmers or other loud devices, the Bloom-

ingdale Homeowners Association asks you to respect your neighbors' rights to a peaceful week-end morning.

If you must begin lawn work early to avoid the heat, start by hand-trimming hedges, weeding flower beds or other chores that are less noisy. When the hour gets later, then mow and use the noisier equipment.

Hopefully, your neighbors will do the same for you when you're getting a few extra minutes of shut-eye.

BIZMOM

Continued From Page 14

school day and I wanted to develop my business north," said Morales. "I not only wanted to develop my business, but to help other mothers grow their businesses through the connections we make."

BizMom has two membership levels. One is Silver, where for \$14 per month, benefits include a monthly newsletter with information to grow a business; becoming an online community member with a profile and photo; access to members via the BizMom forum or personal messaging; and attending unlimited chapter meetings.

For the \$27 per month gold membership, among the benefits, members can

post articles in the BizMom article bank; the chance to be highlighted as a "featured member" for added exposure; and access monthly to online coaching with a business coach.

DelRosario said there are currently BizMom chapters in east and west Bradenton, north and south Sarasota, Pembroke Pines, Plantation and now Valrico. There are about 80 members in the Bradenton and Sarasota chapters who get additional assistance from BizMom's business coach and its president, Judy Winslow.

"We're looking for more; our main focus is moms," she said. "We have a lot of challenges as moms in trying to grow a business and be a mother at the same time."

Morales - a wellness ed-

ucator for Juice Plus from Lakewood Ranch in Manatee County with a 17-year-old son - said with the current U.S. economy floundering, support groups like BizMom are keen ways to expand entrepreneurship.

"This is a time when we all need to pull together and help each other out," she said.

DelRosario is planning new Biz Mom chapters in Salt Lake City, Utah and in Tennessee.

Starting Sept. 14, the Valrico BizMom chapter will meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Panera Bread, 3490 Lithia-Pinecrest Road. For information, call (941) 752-6635 or see www.4biz-moms.com.

Reporter Paul Catala can be reached at (813) 731-1970.

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Master Gardener plant clinics available

Join Hillsborough County Extension's Master Gardeners at one of the fall-winter plant clinics to be held @ Your Library. All workshops are free to the public, unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is not required. However, workshops have limited seating and space will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Learn more about Hillsborough County Extension at hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu.

September

♦ Sept. 8 What is Hillsborough County Extension?, 6:30 p.m. Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave., (813) 273-3652

♦ Sept. 8 Ferns, 7 p.m. SouthShore Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, (813) 273-3652

♦ Sept. 13 Integrated Pest Management, 7 p.m. Bruton Memorial Library, 302 W McLendon St., (813) 757-9215

♦ Sept. 14 Florida Vege-

table Gardening, 6:30 p.m. Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N Kingsway Road., (813) 273-3652

♦ Sept. 14 Florida-Friendly Landscape Design, 7 p.m. Jimmie B. Keel Library, 2902 West Bearss Ave., (813) 273-3652

♦ Sept. 21 Bonsai, 10:30 a.m. Charles Fendig Library, 3909 Neptune St., (813) 273-3652

♦ Sept. 21 Care and Maintenance of Trees, 6:30 p.m. Temple Terrace Library, 202 Bullard Parkway, (813) 506-6770

♦ Sept. 21 Florida Vegetable Gardening, 6:30 p.m. Riverview Library, 10509 Riverview Drive, (813) 273-3652

♦ Sept. 27 15 Must-Have Perennials, 6:30 p.m. Seminole Heights Library, 4711 Central Ave., (813) 273-3652

♦ Sept. 28 Ornamental and Culinary Herbs, 6:30 p.m. North Tampa Library, 8916 North Blvd., (813) 273-3652

Her past adventures are now a business

By KIM WALLACE

After growing up near Anna Maria Island, Fla., Kristin Carde had the opportunity to travel to exotic beaches in many countries. These beaches and her love of shells inspired her to create her own custom art.

Intrigued? Well you should be.

Kristin creates her own line of beautiful mirrors. She uses the shells she found around the world and creates mirrors in her Bloomingdale home. After making them for herself, she decided to start her own business so others could also enjoy her creations.

"It's a relaxing and enjoyable job" Kristin states. The most unique thing about her work is that no two mirrors are the same.

To check out Kristin's designs, you may view them at shelldesignelements.com or visit The Pink Pineapple store in Bradenton.



Photo by Kim Wallace

Kristin Carde and one of her mirror creations.

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[on real estate]

A chore next door

While not a very common problem, if you've got it, it can have a terrible impact on your listing: The Messy Neighbor. If you live next door to a "neglected" property, you might lose up to 20 percent of your home's market value, particularly with buyers looking for any excuse to reduce their offer.

It's technically not your problem, but ask not for whom the bell tolls. It's well worth your time and effort to resolve this situation amicably. Always be respectful, and don't let your emotions get the best of you.

You should begin with a visit to their home and a positive attitude - no

name-calling or finger-pointing. Don't grab everyone on the block and gang up on your neighbor - you'll get better results if you go alone or with one other person.

If you find your messy neighbor is unwilling to take care of their maintenance, you have the option of filing a complaint with your home owner's association or county code department. You may even request mediation be scheduled to help settle the disagreement cordially.

If the home is vacant or bank owned, you may want to contact the bank, real estate agent or your county code department.



Ray Chadderton

As a last resort, you have the right to hire an attorney. While it's not fair, can be expensive and time consuming, if you want a fair sales price, these may be your only options.

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5th Annual Project Cure Scheduled

By D'ANN LAWRENCE WHITE

Walkers will be out in force along Natures Way the weekend of Oct. 29-31. But they won't be trick or treating for candy. Instead, they will be raising funds for breast cancer research as part of the fifth annual Project Cure fundraiser to benefit breast cancer research at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute.

A ministry of St. Stephen Catholic Church in Valrico, Project Cure is the brainchild of a group of women who wanted to take action after losing several young mothers at St. Stephen Catholic School to breast cancer.

They decided to raise funds for the Don and Erika Wallace Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program at Moffitt because the program is conducting groundbreaking research to find a cure for

breast cancer.

Participants are encouraged to obtain sponsors for the walk, which begins at Bloomingdale East Park on Natures Way. The walk takes place over three days and 60 miles. One lap around Natures Way is four miles. However, participants may walk as many laps as they feel comfortable walking. There is no required number of laps.

This year's walk begins at 6 a.m. Friday, Oct. 29 and runs through Sunday, Oct. 31. There will be a family fun walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 30 in which children are encouraged to participate. The walk begins at 6 a.m. each day at the park. Walkers should stop by the registration table to sign in. They may walk any time between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. Restroom facilities are available at the park. Walkers should bring their

own water bottle, a snack, sunscreen and a hat.

Ivette Wagner is one of the founders of Project Cure.

"I am involved with Project Cure because it makes a difference and direct contribution to cancer research at the Moffitt Center, which in turn is bringing us one step closer to a cure," she said. "It is a community event that is not only fun and rewarding, while making a difference, but also a great opportunity to build relationships, pray for others and stay active."

In the past five years, the annual walk has raised more than \$80,000. Moffitt researcher Dr. W. Bradford Carter said Project Cure has helped fund critical genome research at Moffitt in which researchers are identifying specific cancer molecules so oncologists can provide targeted therapy for cancer

patients. He noted that 100 percent of the funds from Project Cure go to research. No funds are spent on overhead or administrative costs.

Those who can't participate in the walk are encouraged to support Project Cure by sponsoring a walker, providing a donation or providing refreshments for the walkers during the event. Residents also can volunteer to sign in walkers or provide first aid. In addition, Project Cure encourages people to submit the names of cancer patients or those who have lost their lives to cancer to pray for each day of the walk.

To register for the walk, visit www.projectcure.ststephencatholic.org. To volunteer, donate or obtain more information, contact Lisa Huetteman at lisa@the-black-diamond.com.

Back To Church Sunday

Momentum is building for national Back To Church Sunday, slated for Sept. 12. Already more than 1,500 churches across the country have committed to inviting people who once attended church - but who don't anymore - to special worship services. Locally, St. Andrew's United Methodist Church is going beyond the worship services and will host a community picnic after the services.

The picnic will take place on the church grounds from noon until 2 p.m. Participants can listen to live music, feast on free food or simply relax under the trees. The children will enjoy bounce castles and other games. The community is invited to join us at 3315 Bryan Road, on the corner of Bloomingdale and Bryan.

Last year, hundreds of churches took part in the first national Back To Church Sunday. St. Andrew's expects to fill the church on that Sunday and then celebrate the day together afterward.

"A recent survey of 15,000 Americans indicated that 67 percent would be open to an invitation to a return to church coming from a member of their family," said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, an organization dedicated to church health and effectiveness. "Back To Church Sunday is a great opportunity for reminding and refocusing church members to reach out to their unchurched family members."

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Girl Scouts bridge levels

Girl Scout Troop #672 earned the highest award for Juniors, the Girl Scout Bronze Award. The girls constructed a ceremonious bridge for their service unit to be used for bridging ceremonies which marks a girl's transition from one leadership level to the next.



After completing award requirements and many hours of planning, Bloomington residents Kristen Gaertner, Jessica Strom, Keri Randall, Courtney Randall and their troop shop at a local home improvement store for materials. At right, the bridge.



Photos by Marce Storm

The girls were proud of their hard work, as they stepped across the bridge and moved on to the Cadette level.



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[station notes]

Keep our kids safe – obey the traffic laws

Schools are open and the school buses are full. Traffic is back to the normal congested and this means our drives to work will take longer.

The traffic laws that protect our kids must be followed by all of us! With school back in session

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

1. Drivers must stop both ways for school buses making stops for children on roads without median dividers. Example: Bloomingdale Avenue

When you don't stop, you put our kids in danger. Drivers must also keep a safe distance between other vehicles and especially school buses in front of them. Also, they must slow down.

2. Drivers must not speed 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," was an actual excuse given to a deputy by a driver – her fine was \$583. Speeding fines are doubled in

school zones.

3. Notice: traffic fines have increased.

For those drivers that don't slow down and obey the traffic laws, be warned – your actions will cost you.

This is very serious business. It saves lives.

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

- **Running a red light** = \$216
- **Failure to stop for a school bus** = \$191
- **Speeding in a school zone** = \$141 up plus court time
- **Child restraint violations** = \$151
- **Not wearing your seat belt** = \$101

The economy is bad, so 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 rates caused by you receiving a traffic citation. These increases usually

stay on your policy for at least three years.

Lock up your cars and close your garage doors.

These are the main reasons many cars and garages have become the targets of criminals. They are "open/unlocked" targets that are fast and easy. You make it easy for the criminals when you don't lock up your vehicles and homes.

One vehicle or home burglarized is too many.

Intelligence led policing

This is a law enforcement term for residents cooperating with law enforcement by reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods in order to prevent or stop criminal activity. It really works. Just look at the recent incident in Progress Village. Residents worked with HCSO deputies and stopped the criminal activities of several gangs. Hundreds of thousands of dollars, guns and large quantities of drugs were confiscated before the

drugs hit their streets!

One specific area HCSO deputies need your help with is the numerous fore-closed/abandoned homes in our area. These homes are being used as grow houses for marijuana, drug houses, car chop shops and any other use criminals want to use them for.

You want to protect your kids, you want to protect your homes and you want to protect your property values, right? Well, get involved. Keep an eye out for suspicious activity. Report it, anonymously if you wish, but report it as soon as you notice it. Get the details deputies need – tag numbers, vehicle and suspicious persons descriptions.

Call the Sheriff's Dispatch at (813) 247-8200 and your Community Resource Deputy Curtis Warren at your Bloomingdale Community Station at



Curtis Warren
Community Resource Deputy

(813) 635-8040.

Wanted – Citizens on patrol

The Sheriff's Crime Prevention Program, Volunteer Citizens On Patrol, is need of more volunteers to get involved and make a positive difference. Another special training session is being planned for our next group. Anyone interested in joining this outstanding program can go to www.hcso.tampa.fl.us for information or they can call Deputy Loraine Jordan at (813) 247-8223.

Our special thanks to all of the volunteers who are making a difference in our community!

Make a difference in your community – call now!

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4:00 & 6:00 P.M.
Daily Mass
8:00 A.M. Mon.-Sat., 7:00 P.M. Wed.
Reconciliation
3-3:45 P.M. Sat. & 8-9 P.M. Wed.

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New neighbors in December, best friends by June



Photo provided

The Strom and Carde families met in December and quickly became close friends. By June, they were sailing the high seas on a week-long cruise to Labadee Haiti, Ocho Rios Jamaica, George Town Grand Cayman and Cozumel Mexico! The families found treasures and had fun in the Caribbean. Pictured are Ethan Carde, Dolton Carde, Joshua Strom and Jessica Strom, hanging out in the Caribbean



Photo provided

Jessica Strom, Joshua Strom, Ethan Carde and Dolton Carde in Labadee, Haiti.



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Tickets on sale for Taste of 2010

The Nativity Outreach Food Pantry and Food Bank is hosting its 10th annual "Taste of 2010" Saturday, Sept. 25th at 5 p.m. in the church social hall.

Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at the Nativity church office and following all weekend masses. Admission is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Children ages 4 to 8 years old are \$5; under 3 are free.

The annual event features donated menu sample dishes from more than 20 area restaurants. All funds raised go directly to the Food Bank, with additional donations from the community and Publix, supports more than 50 churches in the Greater Brandon area with their efforts to fill their food pantries.

For more information, call (813) 681-4204.

Balm-Boyette Nature Preserve Now Open

The Balm-Boyette Nature Preserve is now open. The preserve was closed for a week due to a wildfire caused by a lightning strike.

The only part of the preserve that is closed is the SSP off-road bike trail. All other bicycle and hiking trails in the preserve

are open for public use.

The lightning strike caused an extremely hot fire in approximately 100-120 acres of sand pines located on both sides of the main entrance. The Balm-Boyette Nature Preserve is located at 13998 Balm-Boyette Road in Lithia.

By KIM WALLACE

Valrico Lake Advantage Academy, home of the Eagles, is celebrating their second school year in Bloomingdale. Valrico Lake is a charter school of Hillsborough County and is located on Bloomingdale Avenue. Principal Bonnie Guertin is excited about this upcoming school year. Mrs. Guertin commented that Valrico Academy provides academic excellence, partnerships with the parents, provides a private school atmosphere and exhibits school-wide disciplinary expectations.

Valrico Academy started last year with an enrollment of 165 students, kindergarten through fifth-grade. Secretary Denise

Valrico Lake Advantage Academy



Photo by Kim Wallace

Mrs. Bonnie Guertin with students Catherin Priolo and Savanah Roberts promoting their school!

Carl stated that 210 students have already enrolled for this upcoming year and they are adding

sixth-grade to accommodate the community. This is a very exciting year for Valrico Academy.

For more information go to www.valricoacademy.com or contact the school at (813) 699-5049.

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[library notes]

Reminder: All Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative libraries will be closed September 6 for Labor Day. For more information about library programs, call (813) 273-3652 or visit www.hcplc.org.

Saturday, Sept. 4, 1 p.m.

Just for Kids: Sweets and Treats

Bloomington Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomington Ave. in Valrico

Need some new snack ideas for after school? Learn to make simple tasty snacks that hit the spot. Arrive hungry, and be ready to try some easy, fun treats.

For ages 8-12. Registration required at the information desk.

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m.

Car Insurance: What You Need Under Florida's

No-Fault System

Brandon Regional Library, 619 Vonderburg Drive in Brandon

This free workshop is hosted by the Brandon Bar Association. If you have questions about the specifics of Florida's No-Fault Insurance, bring them to this workshop.

Wednesday, Sept. 8 and 22, 10:15 a.m.

Jump, Jive and Jam

Bloomington Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomington Ave. in Valrico

A fun and funky high-energy movement class incorporating the right amount of fitness, fun and music to stimulate both the body and the mind.

This program is for children ages 3-6 and their caregivers.

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2 p.m.

Introduction to Tai Chi

Bloomington Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomington Ave. in Valrico

Relax your mind and strengthen your body and spirit with the ancient Chinese martial art of Tai Chi. Join instructors from the Taoist Tai Chi Society who will demonstrate the basics.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Make sure to wear comfortable clothing.

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m.

Southern Cooking by BE's Kitchen

Riverview Branch Library, 10509 Riverview Drive in Riverview
Chef Brenda, from BE's Kitchen and Catering, shares her culinary experience, techniques and dishes. In this class, participants will learn how to prepare budget

friendly, simply southern, delicious meals. She will also teach shortcuts to reduce the time spent in the kitchen.

Funded by the Friends of the Riverview Branch Library. Tickets for free samples will be given to the first 20 people entering the class.

Friday, Sept. 17, 8 p.m.

Teen Night: After Hours
Bloomington Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomington Ave. in Valrico

The Bloomington Teen Advisory Board is hosting a night just for teens in the library. Join us for gaming, music, trivia and a movie on the big screen. The night begins at 8 p.m. and continues until midnight. Participants must leave with a parent or guardian. Participants are limited and registration is re-

quired at the information desk.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 5:30 p.m.

Disaster Preparedness Workshop

Seffner-Mango Branch Library, 410 N. Kingsway Road in Seffner

Are you prepared? Florida CFO Alex Sink and The Florida Department of Financial Services, in partnership with the Hillsborough County Public Library, will offer a free Disaster Preparedness Workshop for area residents and small business owners. Get the information you need to make sure your family, home and small businesses are protected. Presenters include Linda Smart, Outreach Coordinator, Joseph Cunningham, Special Investigator, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Deputy

Benjamin Tillis, and American Red Cross-Tampa Bay Chapter volunteer, Brian Ridley.

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2 p.m.

Carrie the Coupon Queen

Bloomington Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomington Ave. in Valrico

Learn how to maximize saving while minimizing spending. This couponing class will give you the knowledge you need to save at stores all over town. Join us for a lively and informative program to start saving money.

Funded by the Friends of the Bloomington Regional Library. For more information about this and other free programs @ your library, call (813) 273-3652 or visit www.hcplc.org.



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FISHHAWK RANCH

Walk to Devs Elementary, great floor plan and even better location with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1 car garage, office, formal living & dining, family room, bonus room and work center. Kitchen has 4" maple cabinets, gas appliances, stack for open to the family room, eat in area, double door entry to spacious office, formal areas are oversized and sliders in the formal liv rm and fm rm lead to a covered screened lanai- located in the acreage of FishHawk Ranch \$199,000 Call Kesia for more information.



BEAUTIFUL FISHHAWK TRAILS

4 bed 4 1/2 bath home with 3644 sq. ft. This home is on a huge 1/2 acre pie shape lot. Double door entrance into grand foyer- large living room and dining room- great pvt with big windows and new carpet- gorgeous wood floors throughout- family room and most of the first floor- family room is spacious with gas fire place and built ins- great kitchen with upgraded built in appliances and cabinets- fresh paint inside and out- Call Kesia today for a tour. This is move in ready!!!



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Nature lovers paradise with 4 1/2 ba split plan home offering a complete office area- huge bonus room- game room - family room with wood burning stone fireplace - formal living and dining rooms - large sparkling screened pool backs up to 4000 sq. ft. wooded conservation area. You can access the Alafia river to the conservation lot. Wonderful outside wood deck sees off the master and family room overlook the pool and managed tree mature backdrop \$1,750,000 Call Bethany at 404-0567 for all the details!



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Beautiful custom built home by Schmidt Brothers with almost 4000 sq ft is on a private 1/2 acre cul-de-sac lot with 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 car garage, garage apt, office/den with mature oaks and the feeling of country living at its best! This home has lots of character including a metal roof and attractive architecture- NOT A SHORT SALE- \$270,000 Call Today!



SHORT SALE

Short Sale! Grand Key West floor plan by Mackay Homes with 4 bed, 4 ba, 2 1/2 car gar plus office, plus bonus (or 4th bed), liv & din, gorgeous pool and outdoor kitchen. All on a cul-de-sac private wooded lot fully fenced! Large rooms-open floor plan-over 3100 sq. ft. for only \$235,000- Call Today!!!



FISHHAWK SHORT SALE

5 bedroom 3 bath 3 car garage with over 2700 sq. ft. - large bonus room - extended screened lanai - \$170,000 Take advantage of this great deal!!! Call Today!



BUCKHORN PRESERVE

This home is immaculate and move in ready! Large screened lanai with pool marquis finish- 3 fountain jets- family room/ dining room/ kitchen area all have great views of pool- previous buyers financing fell through so home is back on market and ready for your family- with over 2200 sq. ft. 4 bed/3 bath/3 car gar pool home- Call Bethany for your private showing.



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DRASTICALLY REDUCED 3 bedroom 2 bath home with over 2100 sq. ft.- formal living and dining- large family room open to kitchen- fully fenced- fresh paint inside and new carpet just installed- now is your chance to live in the amazing FishHawk Ranch community for a great price! Call Bethany at 404-0567

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