

The BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Hillsborough County's most informative community newspaper

Volume XI, Number 8

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September 7, 1991

The success of last year's circus, from setting up the big top, below, to entertaining Bloomingdale residents, at right, should be repeated Oct. 13.



'Bigtop' hits town Oct. 13

Even Hollywood proclaimed it is the greatest show on earth.

Jimmy Stewart the clown gazed sadly into the eyes of a camera. Colonel Wilde massaged his crippled hand and watched fitter athletes perform aerial during-dot. Tony Curtis sucked his legs to his chest and triple-somersaulted into the arms of catcher Burt Lancaster.

Yes, friends, the circus is coming to town for the second consecutive year.

Prepare for cotton candy and three rings of dazzling feats Sunday, Oct. 13, when the Roberts Bros. Circus of Sarasota—where else?—erects its tent for the second consecutive year in support of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's scholarship fund.

Under the big top you find relaxation from daily tension. Emerald City in a multi-colored world. Childhood revisited.

The 90-minute show will offer a blending of acrobats, jugglers, aerialists, clowns, elephants, trained



dogs and ponies against a backdrop of music and colorful costumes.

The three-ring, 70-foot by 170-foot waterproof and flame-resistant tent seats 1,200. Food vendors will be stationed on the grounds of Park West, filling the air with the succulent aromas found only at fairs and circuses.

The show will begin at 3 p.m. and, if ticket sales warrant, will be repeated at 5:30 p.m., said USAF Col. Russ Lembke, president of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.

Ticket prices are as follows: advance, children, ages 2 to 14, \$4; adults, ages 15 and up, \$6; show day, children, ages 2 to 14, \$5; adults, ages 15 and up, \$7.

A vacant lot near the big top will be available for parking.

Tickets may be purchased at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 857 E. Bloomingdale Ave. in Bloomingdale Square.

Story by PAM PULLEY, Photos by SUSAN DeLUCA

Grounds under control

By PAM PULLEY

Three Bloomingdale East subdivisions troubled by an interruption of maintenance when the developer filed for bankruptcy may be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Windsor Woods, Fox Run and The Greens were left without maintenance in the common areas when Bloomingdale Partners Ltd. Partnership, a group of Milwaukee businessmen, declared Chapter 11 early in the summer.

Criterion Inc., the property management company under contract to BPLP, reportedly abandoned its post and left the Brandon area.

Foliage and weeds grew out of control on vacant lots. Rats hid in their girth. Paper cups and food wrappers were pushed by breezes along curbs. Entranceways and burned-out lighting were neglected.

The Bloomingdale Dependent Special Taxing District, the area's property watchdog, has shouldered the responsibility of maintaining the common areas of Windsor Woods through a \$10,000 line item originally offered to Hillsborough County on a matching basis for improvements to two parks in Bloomingdale East and West.

The proposed allocation was returned to the budget when the county, locked in funding cutbacks for the next fiscal year, refused the offer.

Peter Aluotto, president of the STD, said the common areas of Windsor Woods will be maintained until one of the following conditions is met:

- BPLP successfully reorganizes its holdings
- The vacant lots are returned to the lender, AmeriFirst Savings and Loan Association, in foreclosure proceedings
- Or, the subdivision's tax base meets minimum requirements for maintenance by the STD

"At our present occupancy rate, we generate only 52 percent of the funds required for upkeep of the common areas on an annual basis," said Thomas Brophy IV, a Windsor Woods homeowner who becomes an STD trustee on Oct. 1.

He also is spearheading the organization of a master homeowners association empowered to assess dues and enforce deed restrictions within Windsor

Woods.

Aluotto said the STD is "picking up Windsor Woods lock, stock and barrel for as long as needed." The STD assesses an \$80 annual tax to each homeowner.

Maintenance includes mowing, weeding, feeding and irrigating the common areas while the walls, entrance signs and lighting are undergoing improvements, he added.

"They have been very responsive," Brophy said.

Still, the future of Windsor Woods remains in doubt.

BPLP contracted for maintenance services before declaring Chapter 11 and undertaking reorganization. The lender, headquartered in Miami, also declared Chapter 11 and has operated under the conservatorship of the Resolution Trust Corp. since March, said Paul Hagglund, legal counsel for AmeriFirst and RTC in Tampa.

(The RTC is charged by the federal government with handling failed S&Ls throughout the nation.)

Typically, the homeowners association provides maintenance to the common areas with authorization of the developer.

AmeriFirst and RTC are expected to obtain an order in bankruptcy court for the final judgment of foreclosure against BPLP on Sept. 16.

All told, 175 lots—including an undetermined number in Erin Arbor—should be returned to AmeriFirst, Hagglund said. The STD provides maintenance routinely to Erin Arbor, which has met tax base requirements.

"We anticipate AmeriFirst will become owner of the lots," Hagglund said. "If the foreclosure is completed...AmeriFirst, as owner, will try to sell them."

RTC is supervising operations and seeking a buyer for the failed S&L, Hagglund said.

He added that neither institution will fund a maintenance program before foreclosure is approved.

But, another source, who sought anonymity said maintenance could begin in some areas of Windsor Woods by early September. At press time, there was no confirmation.

Fox Run and The

'Triple Header' a coup Oct. 12

Got good wheels? If you can answer yes to legs, skates or bicycles, you are eligible for the first-ever "Triple Header" to be held in Bloomingdale on Saturday, Oct. 12.

In previous years, the reduced version was known as the "Fun Run."

The "Triple Header" will not only offer the traditional 1-mile and 5K (3.1 miles) competition, but will serve up an 8.2-mile bike-a-thon and a 4-mile skate run.

Bill Armstrong, a member of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, said entry fees are \$9 for one event, \$15 for two and \$20 for all three. BHA members and their families receive a \$1 discount per event.

Entry fees rise \$1 per event after Oct. 7. (See entry form at end of story.)

Routes vary for each competition, but all will be directed around Nature's Way and Culbreath Road, Anderson said.

All proceeds will benefit the BHA scholarship fund.

Contributing strongly to this year's fund-raising venture are such sponsors as Bealls, Red's Sporting Goods, Little Caesar's Pizzeria, Frosty Island Yogurt, Rainbow Food Mart and Goodyear. All are in Bloomingdale or Valrico.

Anderson said prizes will be awarded in all age groups, with gift certificates from Bealls going to the top finishers.

Free t-shirts and refreshments will be available at Bloomingdale East Park after the morning of competition that begins with the 5K and 1-mile runs, 7:30 a.m.;



Look for the "Fun Run" to be part of the "Triple Header" Oct. 12

See TRIPLE, Page 8

See BANK, Page 16

Crosstown vote merits concern: See page 4
Tax hikes package: See page 6

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Statement of Operation

The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc. (a for-profit corporation) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc., which is a non-profit 501(c)(4) corporation. The sole purpose of The Bloomingdale Gazette is to serve as a medium of communication for the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and the residents of the Bloomingdale Community. The Bloomingdale Gazette, Inc., is totally self-supporting with its revenues being generated solely by advertising funds and various fundraisers geared specifically for the newspaper.

The Bloomingdale Gazette is published monthly with occasional special editions and is delivered in door-knob bags directly on the door of every residence within the area governed by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc., plus other selected areas at no charge. It is also mailed to approximately 300 recipients including public officials.

The Bloomingdale Gazette is also available for free at area newsstands (Rainbow Food Mart, Kash 'n Karry, Farm Store in Erindale Plaza, & Publix in Brandon Centre South and Bloomingdale Square) and by subscription at the rate of \$14 per year to cover mailing and handling fees.

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Community Telephone Directory

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

857 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
 Brandon, FL 33511 • 681-2051

- President**
 Russ Lembke 681-2051
- Vice President**
 Bill Povilus 654-4917
- Treasurer**
 Grace Lewis 681-4548
- Secretary**
 Joyce Morris 689-7019
- Directors**
 Susan DeLuca 689-4972
 Dave Fraser unlisted
 Ted Grable 685-7193
 Jerry Hoffman 685-2919
 Tony Interdonato 681-2051
 David Lees 681-3999
 Bill MacKinnon 684-8524
 Doris L. Pence
 Larry Rivers 653-2660

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

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- President**
 Peter Aluotto 685-0727
- Vice President**
 Joe Liguori 681-9655
- Treasurer**
 Pam Mabe 684-8924
- Recording Secretary**
 Ron Delavan 685-1711
- Corresponding Secretary**
 Wingfield Hughes 685-1946
- Trustee--Errol Whitfield** 681-7462
Trustee--Nancy Beckley 689-2810

PROPERTY MANAGER

Bobby Cole 685-2239

BLOOMINGDALE MOBILE WATCH

857 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
 Brandon, FL 33511

Core Committee

Coordinator/Scheduler
 LaWayne Wyatt 685-2072

Treasurer
 John Britton 681-1553

Equipment Mgr
 Steve Schneider 685-8378

Technical Advisor
 Paul Truesdell 653-1725

Members
 David Guy 681-5943
 Chris Pheils 681-9026
 Paul Kelmer 681-9701
 Rick Borling 684-2022
 Ed Holzman 681-2548

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

P. O. Box 3132
 Brandon, FL 33509-3132

President
 Linda Hagan 681-6223

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

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DISTRICT II
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Location of the Bloomingdale Community Office 857 E. Bloomingdale Bloomingdale Square



Office space donated by the Paragon Group

The Bloomingdale Community Office is open:
 Monday to Friday
 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 Closed on
 Saturday & Sunday

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office (see map on left). These are public meetings and all Bloomingdale Residents are invited.

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT MEETINGS
 Monthly Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 8 p.m.

BHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Monthly Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

BHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 The next meeting will be in September.

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT MEETING
 Monthly Meeting: First Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Meetings for Mobile Watch and Neighborhood Watch are on a per need basis. Watch this listing for dates and time.

VOTERS REGISTRATION

Voter's registration is now available at Barnett Bank located at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue & Bell Shoals Road.

Bloomingdale's "Everything you ever needed" Form

Mail or bring to: Bloomingdale Community Offices
 857 E. Bloomingdale Avenue
 Brandon, FL 33511

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Home phone _____ Daytime phone _____

I/We would like:

- To become a Participating Member in the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association: Dues \$10 semi-annually.
- To make a donation to:
 _____ BHA Legal Fund
 _____ BHA Scholarship Fund
 _____ Other: _____
- To join _____ Mobile Watch _____ Neighborhood Watch.
- To be placed on waiting lists or volunteer lists for:
 _____ BHA Board of Directors
 _____ STD Board of Trustees
 _____ Committees as needed
- To report a code violation such as unmowed lots, junk cars, safety hazards, etc. (Your name remains confidential, but MUST be on this form at the top.) Call the office if the problem is not cleared up within 2 weeks of sending in this notice.

Location & nature of suspected violation--

- To be contacted regarding advertising in *The Bloomingdale Gazette*.
- To make a comment about:

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Turkey beckons BHA member

BY PAM PULLEY

The cobblestone alleyways hugging centuries-old buildings fan out from the grand bazaars set up daily in Istanbul.

They are routine for a Turk. For the foreign visitor, they spell excitement.

"It is a market for all sorts of food, carpets, jewelry, every day," says Bill MacKinnon, a member of the board of directors of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. "The people are friendly and outgoing and there are exotic adventures, walking through the narrow alleys..."

MacKinnon, who retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1987, visited Istanbul on a tour of military installations while stationed in Germany in the mid-1980s.

In October, he will return as a civilian to manage the facility operations at Incerlik Air Force Base near Adana on the Mediterranean coast.

He resigned Aug. 30 as a civil engineer for International Technology Corp., an environmental engineering consulting services firm, at Hidden River Corporate Park in Tampa.

Turkey is more than exotic ambience. It is bordered by Syria, Iraq, Iran, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and the Black Sea. The Mediterranean and the island of Cyprus are to the south and west. There is political and social unrest and the welfare of several thousand Kurds who crossed the border from Iraq in search

of safety following the official end of the Persian Gulf War.

Why Turkey?

MacKinnon says he wanted to spend more than a brief outing there, the job became available and the tax-free salary for overseas civilian employees of the armed services was, to say the least, appealing.

MacKinnon says he and his wife, Carol Ann, do not fear the terrorist activities that plague the Islamic nation.

"We've been told there is the potential, so we must be on guard at all times," says MacKinnon, 54. "I welcome the opportunity to help bring peace to the world in that area."

"I'm not going to get wrapped up in those issues-mentally. I go there and live life to its fullest on a day-to-day basis. We are aware it is a sensitive area. We go there knowing it."

MacKinnon, a 26-year Army veteran, was hired by the Houston, Tex.-based Brown and Root Services Corp., a firm providing contracted civilian services to military bases throughout Europe, the Middle East and Far East.

"Since retirement, I have had this concept in mind," he says. "I had a similar offer last year but with less responsibility."

Job responsibilities at the tactical air base, operated jointly by Turkish and U.S. commands, include maintenance, repair and new construction; fire prevention and protection;



Photo by PAM PULLEY

Bill MacKinnon, ready for Turkey

crash-rescue missions and providing utility services, he says.

The base will become their home for two years. A rented car will become their transportation. And, part of their gospel will be to heed such warnings as:

- Do not establish a pattern in off-base activities.

- Stay alert. Become an observer.

- Keep a low profile and don't violate the laws of Turkey.

MacKinnon, a Massachusetts native, graduated from Northeastern University in Boston with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering in 1960. That same year he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers through the Reserve Officer Training Corps and entered active duty.

Among his assignments, MacKinnon has been sta-

tioned in Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and Germany.

His decorations are many, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Commendation Medal.

The MacKinnons honeymooned in the Tampa Bay area 10 years ago and, after his retirement, moved to Bloomingdale.

Their home will be rented—not sold. And, MacKinnon said, memories of a lazy Florida afternoon will not fade.

"Our home is on a pond in a wildlife preservation district," he said. "There is wildlife, ducks, otters, birds..."

The MacKinnons plan to vacation in Massachusetts before reporting to their new home Oct. 8.

PEOPLE

Rent-A-Kid opts for bridal gown

BY MICHAEL WATKINS

The Rent-A-Kid delivery system has been in Bloomingdale for quite some time now. There are many delivery people involved and each has a personal story that spices up the arduous task of delivering the Gazette.

Erica Skattebo (better known as Hewitt until Aug. 16) has been in the business for eight years.

Erica had just moved to Bloomingdale when she saw an ad calling for the services of delivery people.

She did not start delivering immediately because positions were filled. But a few months later she began delivering the Gazette.

And, last month Erica hung up her delivery bag when she married James Skattebo, employed by J & W Trailer Repair, and set up housekeeping in Riverview.

But the Rent-A-Kid legacy continues. Her brother, Greg, 10, has accepted her delivery route.

"I really enjoyed being able to be part of the program, I thank my parents for their support," she said, shortly before her marriage.

Erica has witnessed many changes in the Rent-A-Kid program over the years.

The delivery system has remained intact but the management has changed. She has worked for three directors and many new delivery people have been hired to handle



The former Erica Hewitt, now Skattebo, traded in delivery bag.

the ever-growing community of Bloomingdale.

Erica became involved in the program to earn extra spending money, but she feels the satisfaction goes deeper than that.

"I think it helps kids gain experience with work and allows them to use the Rent-A-Kid as a reference," she said. "It taught me a lot of responsibility."

Now that her childhood vocation is finished, Erica can concentrate on her future.

"I guess I just want to concentrate on being a good wife," she said.

Erica mentions reading and cross-stitch as hobbies, but says her favorite is reading.

She is a graduate of Providence Christian School and is unsure at this point of a specific college she would like to attend.

But for now, Erica is eager to begin life with her new husband and continue working for Hook and Holtzinger in Brandon.

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EDITORIAL

President's Perceptions . . .

BY COL. RUSSELL LEMBKE, President
Bloomington Homeowners Association

Aug. 16, 1991 was a day of considerable significance in the history of the Bloomington Gazette.

On that day Susan L. DeLuca stepped down as president/general manager and her replacement, Doris L. Pence, took on the challenge as the Gazette's new "boss"!

As SUSAN DE LUCA steps down, she leaves behind more than 6-1/2 years of simply outstanding, dedicated service to the Bloomington community.

On January, 1985, when she took over the Gazette, it was a monthly, single-page photo-copied newsletter, and its office was the living room of her Bloomington residence.

With funding a problem, the monthly newsletter needed to support itself. Within one month after Susan's takeover, the newsletter was making a profit. In the next 18 to 36 months, the Gazette, under Susan's expert guidance,

grew into a full-fledged newspaper with over 60 paid employees.

Today, the Gazette is a well-respected community newspaper, serving much of the 10,000-plus residents living within the Bloomington subdivision.

During her tenure as president/general manager, there were many significant accomplishments.

There are just too many to list, so I'll highlight several of the more significant ones.

- Using sophisticated computer techniques, she originated and designed the Gazette's present format.
- Established the Rent-A-Kid delivery system so that children in the Bloomington subdivision could earn money delivering the Gazette to homes in areas near their residences.
- Established the program to employ high-school and college-age students during the summer to teach them skills



Doris L. Pence takes the reins.

associated with running a newspaper and to give them hands-on work experience.

- In 1988 the Gazette won a state-level award for feature-page layout.
 - In 1988, working closely with the developer of Bloomington Square, Susan obtained a community office for the cost of utilities only.
- During her tenure, Susan contributed significantly to the success of the Gazette and Bloomington Homeowners Association.

Although she is stepping down from her position at



Susan L. DeLuca retires.

the Gazette, I strongly hope that Susan stays involved in the BHA and in the community activities of Bloomington and Brandon.

In these days of economic uncertainty and where we see, in our own community of Bloomington, small businesses closing their doors, it is certainly not an easy decision whether or not to take on the challenge of running the Bloomington Gazette.

Much to the pleasure of the Gazette Board of Directors, DORIS L. PENCE has accepted that challenge

and is now the Gazette's new president/general manager.

Being married to a military person as Doris is, she has developed and fine-tuned many interpersonal and organizational skills over the years.

Those skills have given her the confidence in her ability to work comfortably and effectively with people regardless of their economic, political and/or social station in life. Doris comes to the Gazette with a very impressive array of qualifications. Aside from having owned and operated two businesses, she has demonstrated the following qualities:

- Excellent organizational skills
- Well-developed speaking skills
- Always makes a professional appearance
- Proven ability to deal effectively with people at all levels
- Experienced in modeling and personal presentation
- Strong background in areas of etiquette and protocol
- Able to develop, train and supervise a support staff

In addition to the above qualifications, Doris has worked for the Gazette for the past year as its advertising director and assistant manager.

Given that, she is very familiar with the Gazette and understands very well its operations.

Doris, congratulations on your new position. I know I speak for the board of directors in saying, "Welcome aboard, we're glad to have you as the Gazette's new president/general manager and as a new member of the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Homeowners Association."

Again speaking for the board, we all wish you continued success in your new endeavor.

We are all confident that the Gazette is in fine hands and the Bloomington Gazette will continue to enjoy success after success after success with you as its new "boss".

Congratulations!

Guest Editorial Crosstown vote merits concern

By BILL POVILUS
Vice President,
Bloomington Homeowners Association

What may well be the last public hearing on the Crosstown Expressway will take place Sept. 23 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Bloomington Senior High School.

It certainly has been an emotional issue—especially for those living along the proposed routes, but Bloomington residents have a lot at stake, too, and shouldn't miss the opportunity to be "heard" at the meeting.

Here are some of the pros and cons as I see them:

PRO CROSSTOWN:

- The only viable alternative in the foreseeable future to provide fast access to job centers, Tampa Stadium, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa International Airport, Tampa Bay, Performing Arts Center, etc.
- While Bloomington Avenue and Lumsden Road are scheduled for widening, continued growth east and south of our community will gridlock those routes quickly unless "expressway" type access is available into the city.
- Property values in Bloomington should benefit from the Crosstown extension.

AGAINST CROSSTOWN:

- Will cause some folks, perhaps friends, to lose

Public hearing on the proposed Crosstown Expressway extension will be held Sept. 23 at Bloomington Sr. High School.

their homes along the route selected. Property values immediately adjacent to the Crosstown will likely go down unless the Expressway Authority does a better job shielding and landscaping than in the past.

- It will probably be many years (if ever) before the extension will operate in the "black". This means an indirect burden on taxpayers as funds meant for other things will be used to keep the Crosstown bond issues afloat.
- A Crosstown extension will almost certainly mean more growth out our way and all that goes with it.

These are just a few things to consider—I'm sure you can think of others. The point is that YOU have a chance to influence the decision; if you don't speak out, the decision could well be made by a vocal minority that does not reflect the way you feel.

What do I think? See you at the meeting! Laura Blain, chairperson of the Expressway Authority, has assured me that everyone who shows up will be heard.

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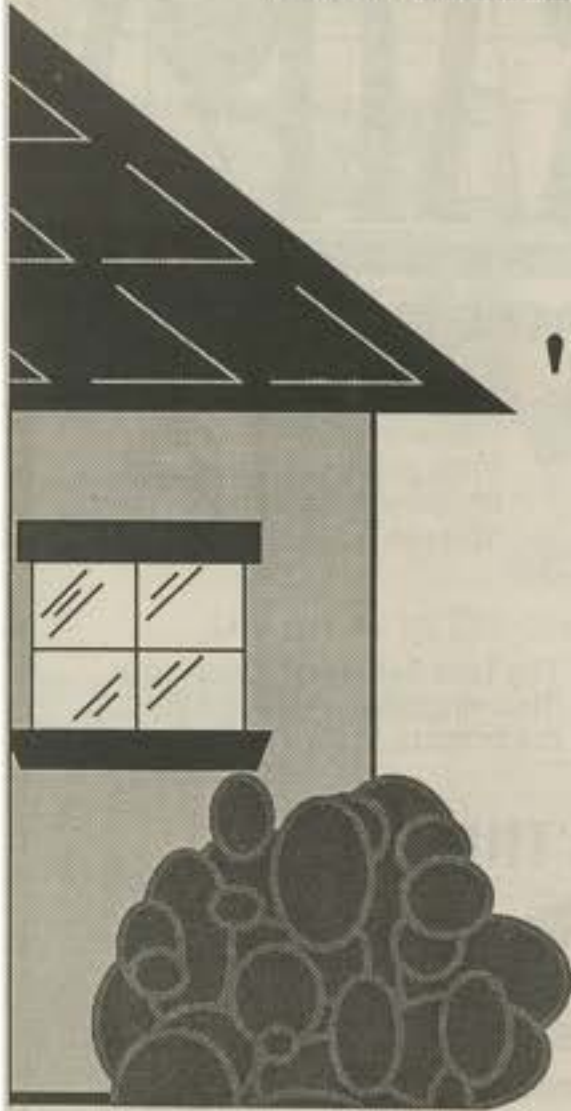
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If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, please disregard this offer. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We cooperate with them fully.



County to cast vote on tax-hikes package

BY PAM PULLEY

A proposed increase in one county tax fund that has Bloomingdale homeowners groaning may be offset—at least partially—by a cut in another.

But the scenario will not be played out until Sept. 19 at the Hillsborough County Courthouse in downtown Tampa.

The county administration office has proposed a 1 mill increase in the Municipal Service Taxing Unit (or MSTU) to broaden public safety services in such unincorporated areas as Brandon, Valrico, Seffner, Apollo Beach and Riverview.

The county's sheriff's office and fire department would be the winners in such a tax hike.

"The tax has not increased in years," Commission Chairman Phyllis Busansky said. "It is time to get more services to the people out there." She said the 1 mill hike is the "worst-case scenario. I hope we can bring it down."

The proposed increase is not levied on homeowners in Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City, the county's incorporated cities.

If approved, the millage would increase property tax \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The owner of a \$100,000 home with a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$75 more a year with the millage rising to 5.0621.

But that figure would be reduced by 1/2 mill theo-

retically if two other proposals are passed by the commission.

The county administration staff, headed by Fred Karl, is also asking the governing body to order a 1/2-cent boost in the sales tax to pay for indigent health care.

The tax was authorized by the Legislature earlier this year, but must be implemented at the county level by the commission or a public vote.

"We want to shift some taxes and reduce funding," Assistant County Administrator Ed Hunzeker said. "We want to keep the property taxes down."

Busansky said tourists would pay for more than 20 percent of the sales tax increase that would go into the general (or countywide) fund and offset the proposed millage increase in the MSTU tax that handles services in the unincorporated municipalities.

"This is a better way of doing health care," Busansky said. "It will make people healthier...and (reduce) the use of hospitals."

The commission adopted the tentative MSTU tax rate Aug. 1 and is empowered to reduce—but not raise—it later.

The proposed tax rate for unincorporated areas would add \$13 million for improved public safety services while the sales tax hike would put some \$6 million into the 1992 budget that begins Oct. 1.

In years past, the board

had set and collected taxes for the Port of Tampa, but a court decision two years ago that is expected to be implemented for 1992 shifts that power to the port authority.

Although the turnover could shave another 1/4 mill from the county's ad valorem tax rate, residents will pay the same amount in taxes, but to another governing body.

If the MSTU tax hike is approved, the Sheriff's Office should be able to implement \$8 million in plans that would include stronger patrol coverage in the south Brandon area.

The County Fire Department, meanwhile, expects its \$5 million increase to be used for "catching up."

Jim Hargan, research supervisor for the Sheriff's Office in Tampa, said south Brandon's seven patrol zones that stretch two miles west of U.S. Highway 301 to east of Valrico Road will be broken down into eight, with two additional deputies assigned to the new zone in eight-hour shifts.

The nine evening zones

will become 10, with an additional deputy to provide stronger law-enforcement saturation. The territory of coverage is identical for both day-time and evening deputies, but "the evening shift is by far the busiest," Hargan said.

"All zones get smaller. There is more time to do crime patrol, more time to look for suspicious activities and fewer blocks to do this with and more time to do it," Hargan said.

A fourth deputy will be hired for relief on the day shift, he said. And, all will be assigned new squad cars with radio equipment.

Countywide, 37 additional deputies will be hired on a staggered basis next year, while 135 squad cars more than five years old will be replaced by newer models, said Martin Hurwitz, deputy director of the Sheriff's Office fiscal division.

The hiring and schooling of a deputy combined with the purchase of a new squad car and radio equipment costs \$63,000, Hurwitz said.

"They will be hired at three-month intervals," he said. "It takes roughly a year before a deputy is turned loose on the street by himself."

The Sheriff's Office received an \$18 million budget boost for fiscal 1991 and had hoped \$13 million would be pumped into its 1992 budget, but "we trimmed our requirements with what the county wanted us to do," Hurwitz said.

The 1992 budget reaches \$127 million.

The County Fire Department's \$5 million boost is expected to cover the cost of hiring 18 additional firefighters, eliminating overtime compensation, replacing underground fuel equipment and the Gunn Highway fire station that lies in the path of the proposed Northwest Expressway, and purchasing new uniforms, said Fire Chief James Callahan.

In south Brandon, Callahan said the stations on Lithia Pinecrest Road, W. Bloomingdale Avenue and Little Road in Valrico will re-

main unchanged.

The Valrico station is operated on a volunteer basis while the other two are manned by seven salaried firefighters.

Callahan said most of the budget hike will be used in "catching up."

Bill Povilus, vice president of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, urged residents who did not attend the Sept. 5 public hearing to vent their feelings before the proposals are accepted or rejected on Sept. 19.

"I would do it quickly," he said. "The final decision will be made this month."

The office telephone number for Commission Chairwoman Busansky is 272-5730. The office of James Selvey, who represents District 4 including the Brandon area, can be reached at 272-5740.

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'Oaks' STD to seat new trustee

By PAM PULLEY

A new trustee will be joining the seven-person Bloomingdale Oaks Dependent Special Taxing District Oct. 1, while three other members maintain their seats.

No candidate was contested for the posts.

Linda Hagan, president of the district that assesses taxes independently of the Bloomingdale STD, said the group recently purchased new entrance signs and cleaned and painted the area's buffer walls.

The maintenance is provided by the \$70 annual fee assessed on each of 185 properties.

Hagan and her husband, Bob, are parents to Alicia, 4, and have lived in the Oaks for six years.

Joining her will be new member Theodore Cox, a retired electronics engineer from Philadelphia, Pa.

"I am free all of the time," he said. "I want to find out how they operate."

Cox and his wife, Rubelle, have lived in the Oaks for six years.

Charles Madison will begin his third term on the board.

"It gives you the opportunity to have input into

what's being done," he said. "I like working with the neighborhood and making sure things are done correctly."

Maintenance has improved dramatically since the board was formed 2-1/2 years ago, he said.

"We were going out on our own and picking up trash and mowing," he said. "Now we have a maintenance man once a week."

Madison, vice president of Dunn & Bradstreet Corp. in Tampa, and his wife, Dora, are parents to daughters Kimberly, 13, and Kelly, 12, and twin sons, Marcus and Michael, 7.

Fred Englehardt, a machinist with Leslie Controls Corp. in Tampa Telecom Park, moved to the Oaks from New Jersey in 1986.

Englehardt, who worked on the group's initial organization because he believed "it was in our better interests to start an STD of our own," echoes other trustees that improved maintenance has sharpened the appearance of the Oaks.

"The front of our development looked like a pasture," he said.

The three other seats will be opened next year



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Mobile Watch seeks your help

BY LWAYNE WYATT

This report covers the period July 18 through August 24. July ended with 42 events being logged, six less than in June. Twenty-five events were recorded from July 18 through the end of the month.

Through the end of July, there were six occurrences of cars or people in the parks after dark, three speeding/reckless drivers, two suspicious cars, one report of cars at the golf course late at night, a 16-year-old female lying on Culbreath Road, three occurrences of cars parked in partially developed areas, two reports of activity at The Spot, three teen parties and four home burglaries.

The teenager found on Culbreath was initially thought to be suffering a seizure. Upon arrival of EMS, it was determined she had been drinking heavily. She was taken to Humana Brandon by EMS.

One of the teen parties was held in a vacant house in Bloomington West. Residents around the many vacant homes should watch for activity in those houses and report it to the Sheriff's Office and Mobile Watch.

From Aug. 1 through Aug. 24, 30 events were logged. Included were five occurrences of people or cars in the parks after dark, three cars parked in partially developed areas, six reports



of speeders, 10 reports of suspicious activities, one report of activity at The Spot, several break-ins at a residence in Bloomington West, one occurrence of teens throwing eggs from a car, one smashed mailbox, one motorhome fire and one vandalism of street signs.

The number of suspicious cars/activities increased significantly in August. All residents should be alert for suspicious activity and immediately report it to the Sheriff's Office and

Mobile Watch. If possible, obtain the license tag of any suspicious vehicles.

We continue to need additional volunteers. In August we were able to schedule at least one patrol each night but, on several nights, there was only one patrol. All we ask is a commitment of three hours one night a month.

Effective Aug. 1 we began patrolling the Pine Grove Townhouses on Springvale Drive. Two residents from that area have volunteered.

Our thanks to the following for volunteering in August:

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Home should be locked day, night

By DET. JIM LOFTUS

Seldom is a crime prevention technique so easy yet so effective. Seldom is it so obvious yet so often ignored.

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The three recent nighttime burglaries in the Bloomington area were all preventable. A locked door. A locked window. One less target for the Bad Guy.

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That means he is strictly an opportunist. If he finds locked doors and windows at one house, he will pass by, knowing the homeowner next door or the one down the street will be more careless.

That also means he is one of the easiest Bad Guys to defeat.

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Organizing a neighborhood watch committee requires a certain commitment.

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Best yet, that Bad Guy roaming the streets at night will not get in your house. He can't. He'd have to make some noise to get in.

Lock your doors and windows.

It will only make my job easier. It will make your home safer.

Overall, the major crime count in July for the Bloomington area included: residential burglaries, six; vehicle burglaries, two; grand thefts, two.

The June figures were: residential burglaries, two; vehicle burglaries, one; grand thefts, 0.

The writer works in the Brandon branch of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

See page 10 for ad and article deadlines

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Windsor Woods man joins STD

By PAM PULLEY

Bloomington's Dependent Special Taxing District will welcome a new trustee Oct. 1 while two other officers will retain their seats on the seven-man board.

Thomas Brophy IV, a resident of Windsor Woods in Bloomington East since May 1989, will take the seat of Errol Whitfield, who is retiring from the STD after three two-year terms.

Whitfield said he is stepping down to spend more time with his son's soccer team and believes a candidate "with new ideas" should fill his seat.

The three elections are uncontested.

Only one of 32 STD elections in Hillsborough County is contested this year, said Nancy Barrs, administrative assistant to Robin Krivanek, supervisor of elections.

The Carrollwood Recreation District holds that distinction.

Due to the amount of volunteer time that must be invested, "it is hard to find people to be on the boards," Barrs said.

The county-approved dependent special taxing districts are authorized to provide community maintenance with budgets funded by taxes assessed on residents. Elections are held alternate years.

Returning trustees will be Ron Delavan and Joe Liguori.

Brophy, Tampa district manager for the general systems group of Motorola Corp., said he decided to represent Windsor Woods because "we have had some difficulties requiring political action and that's why you get involved."

Brophy referred to Criterion Inc. abandoning its management responsibilities in three of Bloomington's residential areas—including Windsor Woods. The other two subdivisions are The Greens and Fox Run.

The STD recently voted to allocate \$10,000 from its budget to boost its maintenance services—including a long-term commitment to Windsor Woods. Fox Run and The Greens were grant-

ed interim maintenance assistance.

"It is time for us over here. We don't have enough of an occupancy rate to be a full force," he said. "It is time we wake up and take charge of our own destiny."

Windsor Woods has 80 homes, with another 89 for sale or under construction.

Brophy moved with his wife, Roberta Mignone-Brophy, from Connecticut to Bloomington in 1988.

Delavan, who will start his second term on the STD, moved to Bloomington East with his wife, Lynn, and children Tony, now 20; Debbie, 17, and Carrie, 11, in 1983.

The Delavans own and manage International Water Treatment Inc., a company that sells domestic water treatment facilities and offers consulting services to industries.

His reason for staying on board the board?

"I just felt it was my time to be on the board and contribute to making Bloomington a better place to live," Delavan said.

Joe Liguori, the old-timer on the board, will be starting his third term.

Liguori's first term was a county appointment to fill a vacancy.

"I just felt I wanted to contribute to the budgetary process to make sure our tax money is spent wisely," Liguori said, adding he wants to see the .5 mile replacement of a Pulte Home Corp. wall in Bloomington East completed in the next fiscal year. (The estimated \$78,000 cost of replacing the wood fence, built some 10 years ago before deed restrictions mandated that community walls be built of concrete, will be funded by the STD.)

Liguori and his wife, Pam, moved to Bloomington East five years ago. He manages the Central Florida sales territory for the Fram Filters division of the Rhode Island-based Allied Signal Inc.

Liguori, a past vice president of the Bloomington Homeowners Association, is active in the group's Christmas Santa House festivities sponsored in December.

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Triple from page 1

4-mile skate meet, 8:30 a.m.

Anderson said bikers are required to wear helmets, while skates can be traditional or in-line. Protective equipment is encouraged.

Anderson is seeking volunteers to direct each event, park cars, handle registration, man water points and clock the events. He can be reached during the evenings at 684-5809.

Entry forms may be picked up at sponsor locations or in the Bloomington Community Office, 857 E. Bloomington Ave., in Bloomington Square.

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HL fans flame for STD

The people of Heather Lakes took the first step toward a Special Taxing District at their recent community meeting. The decision was made to proceed with petitions for the special taxing district (STD).

The 808-home community needs 51 percent of the homeowners to agree before an STD could be instituted.

U.S. Home, the Heather Lakes developer, gets a voice in whether to accept or reject the petition because it owns lots and undeveloped land that would be taxed under the plan proposed by the Heather Lakes Community Association (HLCA).

The Heather Lakes at Brandon Community, a mandatory association set up by the developer, has expressed an interest in the taxing district because the tax assessed could reduce the amount members pay for association fees.

In Heather Lakes, mandatory members pay \$144 a

year for upkeep of common areas in the subdivision and for enforcement of deed restrictions and other activities. The HLCA's volunteer membership pays \$10 annually for operation of the voluntary association.

The estimated tax would be approximately \$70 a year, per house.

After presentations by Bloomingdale Homeowners Association member Peter Aluotto, county tax district coordinator Mary Mahoney, U.S. Home Executive Vice President Jim Lashley and the

HL's Mark Freeman, the majority of the 80 people at the meeting agreed to take the "long range view" proposed by Freeman.

Freeman noted that if the developer moves out of the area, possibly because of problems in developing the rest of the subdivision, the common areas of the community would not be maintained.

The grass along Heather Lakes Boulevard and the entrances, the walls fronting

the road and other areas would be neglected.

This would lower property values and degrade the neighborhood.

Freeman presented a draft budget noting expenses of keeping up the common areas and money to be generated by the assessing of fees.

It was noted that by using an STD, the county would be responsible for assessing homeowners and collecting the tax.

The money, less costs for assessing and collecting, would be turned over to the board of trustees elected by homeowners.

But the delay in setting up the district (encompassing the area from Lumsden Boulevard on the north, Providence Road on the west, an imaginary extension of Pauls Avenue on the east and the area down to just north of Providence Lakes), and getting any money to spend would be from about one to two years.

Freeman said that is one reason not to delay getting started.

Lashley said he sees no problem in reducing the mandatory association dues to compensate for paying the special tax.

U.S. Home is the major member and voting partner in the mandatory association because it owns the most lots in the subdivision.

Lashley noted that U.S. Home now pays the majority of the money to keep up the common areas.

While the company would continue to pay an amount in taxes under the taxing district, it would basically come out ahead by sharing the cost with all homeowners.

The organizational process for the taxing district requires 51 percent of homeowners agreeing to the district, verification of names with county records, approval by the county, including a public hearing, election of trustees and collection of taxes.

For more information about the proposed STD, contact Mark Freeman at 685-5946.

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COMMUNITY MEETING

The Heather Lakes Community Association Board of Directors meets the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the homes of members. All HLCA members are invited. Call Joe Dotson at 685-4962 for details.

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Lethargy unknown to Pirolozzi

BY KATHY DOTSON

Ask JoAnn Pirolozzi why she decided to participate in the Heather Lakes Community Association (HLCA) and she'll tell you that she "wanted to help develop a sense of pride in Heather Lakes as a home."

Strong words from a woman who has spent the last three years serving on the board of directors for the HLCA.

Looking back on those three years, Pirolozzi fondly recalls "watching the community pull together."

"I feel Heather Lakes residents are becoming

more motivated and involved in our community association, and that's a good sign that we're moving in a positive direction."

Pirolozzi, originally from Plainfield, N.J., has made Florida her home for the past 38 years. For 6-1/2 of those years she has resided in Heather Lakes on Pine Ridge Circle.

"Since I work in Tampa, I immediately liked this location with its easy access to the interstate and the expressway. I also looked at several other builders' homes and realized I liked the quality of homes much better in Heather Lakes," says Pirolozzi.

A graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., with a master's degree in elementary education, Pirolozzi previously taught school to third, fourth and fifth-graders in Vero Beach. She presently works for Tarmac America as a computer programmer/analyst.

Reflecting on her involvement with the HLCA, Pirolozzi recalls the many opportunities she has had to work side-by-side with friends and neighbors at the annual Fall Festival and Arts & Crafts Fair. "We had a lot of fun, plus we were all making Heather Lakes a nicer place to live."



JoAnn Pirolozzi

If anyone would like to volunteer for the Fall Festival in October please call Janice Parker at 684-0094.

Road due for Mintz

By KATHY DOTSON

On Monday, Sept. 16, the students of Hortense Mintz Elementary will finally get their first opportunity to be taught in the school itself.

Since the official start of school for Hillsborough County on Aug. 22, Mintz students have been attending school in portables at Kingswood Elementary.

The delay to the Mintz's opening centered around the unbuilt access road to the school. According to Lee Martin, supervisor of site acquisition and planning for Hillsborough County

developer's Chapter 11 bankruptcy declaration shifts the obligation to the county.

"The Hillsborough County School Board will build the road and then attempt to recoup costs through bankruptcy court," he said.

The Mintz school was developed to alleviate overcrowding at Kingswood, which uses more than 20 portable classrooms to house its students.

"On the 16th, students will take their regular bus ride to Kingswood Elementary and then be transported to Mintz," said Mintz principal JoAnn Shaw.

The \$6.2 million school is located in the Heather Lakes subdivision.



Hortense Mintz Elementary School in Heather Lakes had no access road at press time. But it is promised.

The Heather Lakes Community Association thanks Bloomingdale Family Chiropractic for sponsoring the Heather Lakes Section of the Bloomingdale Gazette monthly.

Parks' funds offer back in STD budget

BY PAM PULLEY

A \$10,000 line item in the Bloomingdale Dependent Special Taxing District budget that was offered to Hillsborough County on a matching basis for improvements to the two local parks has been reallocated to meet growing maintenance demands in Bloomingdale.

County Administrator Fred Karl, in a letter to Bloomingdale resident Fred G. Uphoff Jr., said the Parks and Recreation Department could not accept the matching offer because, "at the present time, because of budget restraints the county does not have funds to match the district's request."

The line item, contained in the budget that was submitted to the board of county commissioners for approval, was initiated by STD President Peter Alutto.

Alutto said he was concerned about the lack of playground equipment in Bloomingdale's two parks that were turned over to the county in 1985.

"We are not out to take over the parks. We feel they are in dire need of improvements," he said.

The STD's responsibility is to oversee and provide maintenance in the common areas of Bloomingdale on a budget calling for an \$80 annual assessment of each home.

Uphoff, in a letter, asked the commission to reject the

offer and return the \$10,000 to the district's budget for continued maintenance within Bloomingdale.

"Recent developments which have resulted from a developer abandoning self-created Master Community Homeowner Associations have left three subdivisions within the Bloomingdale community with no means of maintaining their areas," he wrote on July 28. At that time, Windsor Woods, Fox Run and The Greens were without maintenance due to the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition of developer Bloomingdale Partners Ltd. Partnership.

The STD provided maintenance for one month to the common areas of The Greens and Fox Run until First Union National Bank, through the Bloomingdale Ridge Homeowners Association, accepted the responsibility.

First Union is maintaining the unsold lots.

The STD has pledged continued maintenance to Windsor Woods until the unsold lots are returned to AmeriFirst Savings and Loan Association in foreclosure proceedings. That decision is expected this month.

"One could take the position that if you replace missing equipment, that's maintenance," Alutto said. "On the other hand, we want to put in new equipment. Either way, toddlers have one

hobby horse for them to play on."

Uphoff, who served five years on the STD, said the district's priorities did not harmonize with the organizational goals.

"I thought the district had priorities in the wrong place," Uphoff said. The STD was created to maintain Bloomingdale.

"The parks are the county's responsibility. The district should not be providing incentive grants for the work they (county) should be doing in the first place."

Correction

An article concerning county garbage pickup of large articles was reported inaccurately in August's Bloomingdale Gazette.

The service is not provided by county franchisees free of charge. Costs start at \$8 per pickup and rise according to the size of the articles left for disposal, according to Michael Watkins, operations manager of East Bay Sanitation Corp. that provides the service for most of Bloomingdale.

For more information, contact Richard Mimms, director of franchise activities, County Department of Solid Waste, at 272-6674.

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ENROLLING NOW FOR FALL CLASSES

Academics, sports push pursuit of excellence

BY BARBARA LING

BSHS—The halls are once again filled with students.

Satisfied that the curriculum offered can meet every student's needs, principal Charles Harris encourages students to study wisely, strive to maintain as high a level of academic achievement as possible and to do their best each day.

Open House will be held on Sept. 19 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Students at BSHS are active in many varied activities from academic competition to sports. Many summer work positions carry over on a part-time basis at least now that school is in session.

Locally, one of the newest employers is Taco Bell with 26 students actively employed. Also, on the corner

that seems to have become the fast-food metropolis for the neighborhood, Burger King employs 21, McDonald's, 37. Not forgetting to mention their neighbor, Publix employs 60 students.

SPORTS

The cross-country running team is recruiting this month. Two veteran runners on the girls' team, Melissa Weigner and Amber Ling, will be late starters due to illnesses.

Promising sophomore Kristin Bortner will be missing, as she has relocated to Germany with her family.

Coach Bill Frank is optimistic and is hopeful that the team will add members. The first meet will be held at Brandon High School on Sept. 10 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The swim team under the

direction of Coach Sara Davis enjoyed a successful season last year. The team starts the new season with a meet at Brandon Swim and Tennis Club, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.

Varsity football started with the JAMBOREE held at Brandon High School on Friday at 7 p.m. The southeast division composed of Bloomingdale, East Bay, Brandon and Armwood high schools played a series of mini-games.

The county-wide competitions gave the football enthusiast a look at the potential of the teams for the season.

The first game for the regular season will be at home against Chamberlain High at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 13. Junior Varsity will play against King High Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.

Faith helps top student

BY LIZ FOX

If Fred can do a job in 6 hours and Harry can do the same job in 3 hours, how long would it take them to do it together? a) 3 hours b) 2 hours c) 9 hours.

The above is a "word problem"—be type of math problem which plagues most kids—but not Chris LaDuca. Chris, a junior at Bloomingdale Senior High School, recently returned from Huntsville, Ala., where he placed first in the nation in "word problems" in the National Math Competition.

The Bloomingdale Math Team, comprised of Chris, Charles Boetger, Janet Castle and Scott Suttles, competed in regional competitions throughout last year, took first place in state and third place in nationals.

This year they also have high hopes—the Bloomingdale High School Math Club will be raising funds by collecting cans, running garage sales and pursuing other



Chris LaDuca, tops in school and in church

fund-raising efforts—for another trip to the nationals.

Chris's current goal is to use his math skills in computer engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but he also wants to be sure he doesn't miss out on being a kid!

He's very active in the youth group at Bell Shoals Baptist Church and is on the fund-raising efforts—for another trip to the nationals.

Chris's current goal is to use his math skills in computer engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

nology, but he also wants to be sure he doesn't miss out on being a kid!

He's very active in the youth group at Bell Shoals Baptist Church and is on the youth council, which plans the Wednesday Nite Live activities, such as "Banana Bash", "Jello Dive" and "Squeeze Play," as well as arranging outings to Adventure Island, beach trips, "Wet 'n Wild" and other Florida fun attractions for more than 140 teens.

Chris's biggest challenge is keeping up good grades while still having free time for a social life. But he insists that the most important aspect of his life is his personal relationship with Jesus Christ, whom he gives credit for both his academic and social skills.

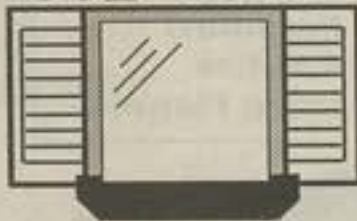
"It's the most important thing," says Chris, "because it's not just for now—it's eternal. A lot of kids don't really think about the future—it's important to have goals and a good role model to go by."

Chris has lived in Brandon all his life with his parents, Kathy and Nick, and sister, Rachel, 12.

(Correct answer - [b])

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Bloomingdale Resident

BSHS claims 2nd spot in top scholars

Bloomingtondale Senior High School graduated 67 Florida Academic Scholars in 1991—second only to Gaither High School in Hillsborough County.

Gaither finished with 69 scholars; Bloomingtondale, 67, and Chamberlain, 65. The 10 other county high schools placed fewer graduates in the program.

With a graduating class of 592 students, more than one in nine Bloomingtondale High students made the list of academic excellence.

"They are an outstanding bunch of young people," said principal Charles Harris. Bloomingtondale, the new kid on the education block, entered its fifth year of operation Aug. 22.

Qualifications are rigid. They must graduate with 26 credits, two more than required by the county, and include four years of English, four years of mathematics, four years of science, two of a foreign language; 1 in art or music or both; and 1 in personal fitness or life management, said Lois Haas, coordinator of guidance services for the county school system.

A 3.5 grade point average entitles the student to a \$2,500 academic scholarship from the state Undergraduate Scholars Fund, she said,

while students graduating with a 3.0 grade point average and high scores on selected achievement tests are granted \$1,000 scholarships for public universities or \$1,500 for private colleges or universities.

A student with a 3.2 grade point average but who has completed seven honors courses also are eligible for the \$2,500 scholarship, Haas said.

All schools attended must be in Florida.

The scholarships are renewable if minimum 3.2 averages are maintained in college.

"The program was started in 1982 to stop students from going out of state," Haas said.

Hillsborough County public schools has led the state in the number of academic scholars for six years.

This past year, vocational students maintaining overall 3.0 averages with a

3.5 in a completed vocational program were also honored as first-time Gold Seal Endorsement recipients.

Each of the 109 county students qualifying for Gold Seal is eligible for a \$400 scholarship to attend a college or university. As with the scholars, their scholarships are renewable.

Hillsborough County placed second to Broward County. Bloomingtondale Senior High was represented by three vocational graduates.

Hillsborough County first entered the academic scholars program in 1985.

"We had our first crop in 1985 with 35 students," Haas said. "From 1986 to now, Hillsborough County has had the largest number of scholars."

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Photos by DORIS L. PRINCE



School days

It was back to school Aug. 22 for the youngsters of Bloomingtondale. Above, students at BSHS await schedule changing. At left, Kristi Hyatt, a fourth-grader at Alafia Elementary, is ready for the academic year.

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Q: I just moved to Florida and I am looking for a family doctor. Several friends have recommended different physicians. Is there any way I can check the licensing status of these doctors?

A: The Florida Department of Professional Regulation licenses and regulates 44 professions including physicians. If you wish to check the licensing status of a professional who might serve you or your family, please contact the department toll-free at 800/851-1204.

Library busy, busy

The Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System is offering the following activities at the Riverview Branch Library this month:

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Toddler Time, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m.;

Story Time, Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 11 a.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Micro-Computer Feedback, Wednesdays, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., for beginners and computer buffs alike.

Adult book discussion on *The Ginger Tree*, by Oswald Wynd, on Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 4 p.m. In 1903, 20-year-old Mary MacKenzie sets sail for Peking, to marry her betrothed, a military attaché; so begins a bittersweet story of love and betrayal spanning more than 40 years in the tumultuous Far East. Copies of the book are available at the branch, 10509 Riverview Drive, Riverview. Call 677-0862.

The Florida Department of Professional Regulation licenses and regulates 44 professions, including physicians.

A specialist will be happy to assist you with your inquiry; please be sure you have the correct spelling of the name you want checked.

DPR can provide you with the license number and status of a particular licensed professional and also tell you if any complaints have been lodged.

You can also write DPR at 1940 North Monroe St., Northwood Centre, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

If you want to file a complaint against a professional, please call the department toll-free at 800/342-7942 or write to the address listed above.

A complaint specialist will mail you a complaint form and explain the process. If you feel that you have been the victim of an incompetent or dangerous professional, please contact DPR immediately.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to see addressed in *Consumer Watch*, please write the Department of Professional Regulation, Attention: Public Information, Northwood Centre, 1940 North Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399.



Photo by DORIS L. PENCE

Viva Mexico

A new Taco Bell joined the fast-food parade last month at the intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bell Shoals Road. Its neighbors are McDonalds and Burger King.

Disease promotes caution

BY DIANE RAGGARD WRIGHT, D.M.D.

With all the controversy and concern about AIDS in the dental office, the issue is a topic that isn't pleasant to write about.

But it is imperative that the dental patient be educated as to the route of transmission of the disease, infection-control procedures which are mandatory to protect both the dental staff and the patient, and any risk involved.

Many people are questioning if it is safe to go to the dentist. If you have visited your dental office lately you have observed the precautions being taken. Precautions include the use of

gloves, masks and sterilization of all instruments. The measures are taken with every patient to prevent the spread of disease. Additionally, needles and contaminated materials are carefully disposed of after every patient visit.

In the past 10 years, there has been only one known instance of transmission of HIV infection from a health-care provider to patients. That's a remarkable record when you consider the billions of dental, physician and hospital visits that occur annually.

If the risk were anything more than minuscule, you would see many more cases of transmission. Your risk is much greater of dying from an adverse reaction to penicillin than of acquiring AIDS through a dental treatment.

Although the dental profession is following the universal precautions to prevent

the spread of AIDS, the Centers for Disease Control has determined that five patients in Florida contracted the HIV infection from the same dentist. The CDC has not yet determined the exact route of infection in those unfortunate cases.

We do know from the CDC that the dentist involved did not always follow the infection-control procedures that are recommended for all dental offices.

Nevertheless, the CDC believes that the transmission probably was caused by blood from the dentist coming into contact with the patient's blood.

Many patients have shown concern and feel they have a right to know if their dentist treats patients suffering from AIDS. Your dentist cannot violate doctor-patient confidentiality and the patient's right to privacy by discussing the per-

sonal medical history of any patient.

All health-care providers today have to assume that some patients they treat could be infected. By taking universal precautions with all patients we can absolutely minimize the risk of transmitting any disease, from influenza to AIDS, in the dental office.

Another issue that has been played in the political arena lately is the question of regularly testing dentists and physicians for AIDS. Mandatory testing doesn't really protect the patient.

A negative test today only tells you that the individual wasn't infected some time in the past.

It doesn't address the HIV status today or what might happen next week.

Patients do have a right to know if their dentist has AIDS. The American Dental Association's current policy states that HIV-infected dentists should either refrain from performing procedures that have an identifiable risk, or disclose their conditions.

Information from the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, Aug. 1991, was used in this report.



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USF offers music for kids

Children and music just seem to go together. Teach them a song or verse, and they take to it like a duck to water. Very young children, in particular, show delight in music activity.

The USF Community Music Division has developed a program for preschoolers called Musical Discoveries. The program has three age groups: 2-3-year-olds and their parents; ages 4-5, and 6-7, said Judith Cataldo, director of the division.

Musical Discoveries for ages 2-3 and parents meets once a week for 45 minutes. Children and parents together enjoy a class with about eight other parent/child combinations.

The teacher acts as a guide through an imag-

inative musical environment in which the children discover their singing voices through songs and chants, Cataldo said.

A large part of the curriculum is creative movement to music. This free and synchronized movement helps develop body awareness and coordination, expression through movement and an introduction to the world of drama and dance.

Children also get to try their hands at playing simple percussion instruments such as the triangle and woodblock. Parents act as companions for the children, and actively participate with them in classroom activities.

At home, parents are encouraged to repeat the songs and play activities so that music becomes a fun part of

family life, Cataldo said.

Musical Discoveries for ages 4-5 and 6-7 meets one hour weekly. Children attend on their own, without parents, in classes of eight. The curriculum has been developed by a team of musicians and child-development specialists with specific developmental needs of the pre-school child in mind.

Activities include listening to music, singing approximately 40 songs, ear training, creative movement to music and dramatic play, basic musical notation, composition and an acquaintance with a variety of musical instruments.

Musical Discoveries takes place at five different locations around Hillsborough County, including Alafia Elementary School in

Brandon. Classes, which begin Sept. 23, cost \$140 per semester. Classes at Alafia are scheduled on Thursdays, 2-3-year-olds, 3:30 p.m.; 4-5-year-olds, 4:15 p.m.; 6-7-year-olds, 5:15 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend the division's open house on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the School of Music at the USF main campus in Tampa.

Instructors will be present and a comprehensive orientation will be given for all those interested in the Musical Discoveries program. Call 974-5792 for a detailed brochure.

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Shopper's Guide

As of Aug. 21, this is a "comparison shopper's" guide to prices in the Bloomingdale area.

Item	Winn-Dixie	Publix	K & K	Albertsons	U-Save
Maxwell House coffee 13 oz. bag	1.84	1.89	1.84	1.87	1.88
1 dozen large eggs	.88	.79	.92	.97	.87
1 gallon whole milk	2.43	2.39	2.81	2.49	2.48
Tide	4.99	6.79	6.58	6.79	4.98
2 liter bottle Coke	.97	.99	1.29	.99	.98
12 oz Kraft American Cheese	1.89	2.69	1.19	2.49	2.38
16 oz. Kraft American Cheese	3.27	3.39	3.29	3.69	3.34
Tropicana O.J. (not concentrated)	1.50	1.99	2.79	1.69	2.08
1# hamburger ground round	2.69	2.59	2.09	2.39	1.98
1# chicken leg quarters	.79	.69	.99	2.42	.36
28 oz. Peter Pan Peanut Butter	3.79	4.39	4.29	3.99	3.96
1 head lettuce	.75	.69	.79	.59	.38
Dixie Crystals Sugar 5 lbs.	1.99	1.99	1.99	1.99	1.98
TOTALS	29.66	32.76	32.60	34.11	29.53

Solid Waste drop balances new fee

Hillsborough County Commissioners have approved a new fee that would pay for stormwater improvements to solve flooding problems and preserve the environment.

Under the plan adopted August 15, homeowners will pay \$12 a year, while mobile home and condominium owners will pay \$6 a year.

Commercial businesses will pay larger fees, based on a formula that takes into account their sizes. The fee will be assessed in the unincorporated areas of the county.

This fee will appear on the tax notices sent to all property owners in No-

vember. For homeowners, it will be offset by a \$12 reduction in their solid-waste bill, which also appears on the tax notice.

The county is expected to raise \$3.5 million through this fee, and part of this money is earmarked for a federally mandated program to control and treat stormwater going into Tampa Bay, as well as to correct some of the most serious flooding problems in the county.

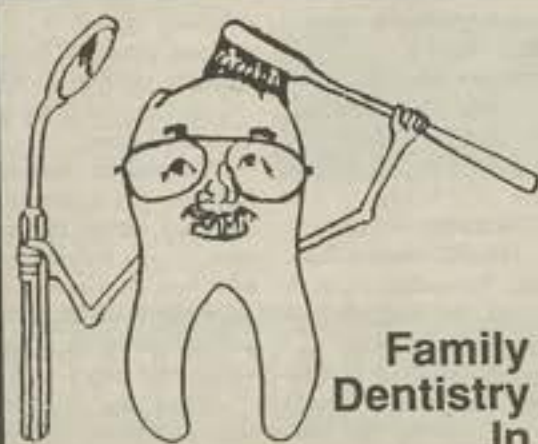
Commissioners voted 5-1 for the plan, with Jim Selvey casting the dissenting vote and Joe Chilura absent because of illness.

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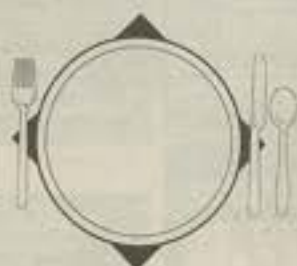
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Bank
from page 1

Greens, meanwhile, are under the maintenance supervision of First Union National Bank.

The two subdivisions were maintained for one month each by the STD in early summer before BPLP returned 49 lots to the bank in lieu of foreclosure.

Florida National Bank supplied the initial development financing before being acquired by First Union more than two years ago, said Jim Payne, First Union vice president.

The properties are currently owned by FNB Properties Inc., a bank subsidiary.

First Union, through the Bloomingdale Ridge Homeowners Association that represents both communities, absorbed maintenance responsibilities in the common areas two months ago, said Bob Appleyard, an independent real estate broker and listing agent for Fox Run and The Greens.

The vacant lots are being maintained by First Union, Payne said.

At press time, All Management Services Inc., headed by veteran property manager Susan Meitz, was

Lot parking takes true grit

Rolling the family sedan into the confines of a supermarket, office building or mall parking lot, it's easy to become lulled into a false sense of security. The slower speeds reassure you; fewer cars mean you're less of a target. Besides, you're heading into the home stretch.

But those same reasons account for a high incidence of parking-lot fender-benders, according to Randy Bly, an industrial traffic safety manager in Tampa.

A former policeman, Bly notes, "A significant number of accidents investigated by policemen each day take place in parking lots."

The reason, he adds, is a combination of factors, starting with "unregulated pedestrian traffic," in which many distractions vie for your attention. "Drivers are often searching in their purses for money, gathering up

belongings or focused on the store they're about to enter."

Occupants getting out of cars, trucks and vans generally don't equate moving through a parking lot with being "in traffic."

"Then there are those people who drive too fast in parking lots," say Bly.

"It's difficult to judge what a safe speed would be - five miles an hour might be too fast. It depends on what's going on around you - and common sense."

Also, Bly points out, the incidence of small children darting between cars is greater in parking lots than on the street. Unpredictable and difficult to see, they are a prime reason to keep speed to a minimum in parking lots.

Even parked cars, as all of our car doors bear unfortunate witness, are not safe from minor skirmishes.

Hurried drivers, excited children and distracted deliverymen decorate parked vehicles with all manner of dents and scratches, bumps and bruises.

Many thousands of dollars are spent each year repairing those mishaps. Repair costs often amount to less than insurance collision deductibles, so they seldom show up on accident data sheets.

Many people disregard minor crinkles, but it is wise to exchange names, addresses, insurance information and tag numbers.

For one reason, costs of repair may be surprisingly high. Head-and-tail-lights of new models can hide a multitude of parts, complicated all the more by high-tech computer wiring - a seemingly minor repair that can be quite costly.

In addition, although all states require reports on accidents that result in personal injury or death, rules governing property damage vary.

In Florida, accidents involving property damage of \$500 or more must be reported in writing to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles within five days unless a written report was filed by an investigating agency.

Georgia requires that property damage exceeding \$250 be reported to local police.

Tennessee law requires a report on property damage of

\$400 or more to any one person involved to the Department of Safety within 20 days.

To minimize frustration - and repair bills - keep these helpful parking-lot hints in mind:

- Park next to four-door cars. Their doors are shorter than those on two-door models, so riders are less likely to hit adjacent vehicles when opening their doors.
- Park between compact cars. The smaller the cars, the bigger the space between them.
- Park next to a new vehicle. New-car owners are usually much more careful.
- Don't park behind a truck or van. They have a limited rear view.
- Don't park at the unprotected end of a row. Poor visibility at parking lot intersections leads to numerous accidents.
- Park squarely in the middle of your space and parallel to the lines. That puts your car as far as possible from others.
- Avoid parking near poles. Then you can't back or turn into a pole you forgot was there.
- Don't pull through empty facing spaces if they are angled. Such lots are usually designed with one-way driving lanes. If you pull through, you'll be heading in the wrong direction when you leave.

This story was prepared by AAA Auto Club South in Tampa.

Time to 'Sew Sew'

Caroline Curtis' Kids Can Sew program is being offered at the home of Jill Donlin, a long-time seamstress in Valrico, who teaches boys and girls 6-12 years old.

Each child has the use of a sewing machine and all supplies are provided.

There is no "home work" and the students are expected to complete an article or clothing each month.

Fall classes for the "Sew, Sew Fun Class" have

been scheduled in September for:

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Each one-hour class costs \$5. The packet for nine patterns and sewing book illustrated and written especially for children by Caroline Curtis is \$30.

Classes are held at Jill Donlin's sewing studio, 1317 Piney Branch Circle, Valrico.

Call 654-0187 to sign up

Bloomingdale Real Estate Report
By CHUCK FRENZ

Bloomingdale Box Score
Sold (Closed) July 15 to August 15

1990	16
1991	19

expected to contract with the homeowners association and First Union to provide the two areas with maintenance services.

Of the 49 unsold lots returned to FNB Properties Inc., only one was located in The Greens.

Sunrise Homes of Brandon Inc. acquired 135 lots in two phases from BPLP June 28.

Sales manager Phil Dunn said homes selling for \$120,000 to \$200,000 will be built to suit or on speculation on the lots - both developed and undeveloped - over the next two years.

Sunrise previously acquired sites from the developer on a need basis, he said.

Dunn would not disclose financial terms.

Fox Run has 108 developed lots in two platted phases, with First Union owning 48 and BPLP owning 12, Appleyard said. Homes occupy the remaining 48 lots, with selling prices ranging from \$160,000 to \$300,000.

Homes have been built on 49 developed lots in The Greens, Appleyard said.