

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 9

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SEPTEMBER • 1992

## YMCA Names Baker Program Director

by GWEN

SZAFRANSKI

The YMCA of Brandon recently announced the selection of Jr. Dan Baker as Program Director and coach of the girls' competitive gymnastics team. His other duties include overseeing the fitness, gymnastics, and camp programs.

Baker comes to Brandon from McPherson, Kansas, where he served as Program Director and head coach at the YMCA for two and a half years.



DAN BAKER

A former college gymnast at Ohio State, Baker transferred to Colorado State and began teaching and coaching in a private gymnastics club where he coached the boys' and girls' progressive teams. Later, he moved to Colorado Springs where he again taught in a private club and coached the team up to the Elite Level.

Baker took a break from gymnastics to serve four years in the US Army as a pharmacy technician in the 5th MASH Unit of the 18th Airborne Corps. After his stint in the Army, Baker joined the staff of the YMCA in McPherson where he coached his team to 8th in the YMCA Nationals in the Developmental Optional Division.

Baker's plans for the Brandon gymnastics program include adding a pre-school class (ages two to five), restructuring classes, and strengthening the progressive level classes with the goal of reaching the Elite Levels of competition.

Baker emphasizes, however, that "Although we are trying to produce quality competitive gymnastics, we also intend to have fun and enjoy the sport."

He stresses that "Gymnastics is a great overall activity for any athlete since it promotes flexibility, strength, and coordination."

Baker also pointed out the advantages of YMCA gymnastics programs for budding gymnasts since teams can compete in the U.S.G.F., the A.A.U. and YMCA competitions. The YMCA program is also more affordable than those offered by private gyms.

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## Martin Challenges Buddy Johnson

by GWEN

SZAFRANSKI

Many qualities are striking about Sadye Martin - her height, her presence, her authoritative words spoken in a firm but kind voice. However, what is most striking is her commitment, which many Bloomingdale residents sensed as Martin greeted them September 5th at Bloomingdale Square as part of her bid for State Representative from District 62.

Martin's decision to run was a hard one to make since it necessitated her resignation as mayor of Plant City after five terms. Dedication to her beliefs and the urgings of her supporters finally convinced her to make a bid for this office.

With over 30 years spent in education and 22



SADYE MARTIN

years as principal (15 years at Knight Elementary School as principal), the current plight of the Florida educational system is a major concern of this candidate and opponent of Representative Buddy Johnson of Plant City.

Martin was totally against the "Reality Budget," which she asserts would have put Florida in

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## Lithia Elementary Opens



Teachers, staff, and representatives from Arvida River Hills join Lithia Springs Principal Constance Gilbert to officially open the new school.

Kindergarten aide Conna Hearn gathers a group of her students as they leave their busses on the first day of school.



## Area Churches Spearhead Miami Hurricane Relief

When Hurricane Andrew swept through southern Florida last August 24, initially it meant little more to area residents than a day off from school (or work), unpleasant weather, and great relief that their homes had been spared. But as the first few hours and days slowly unfolded the depth of the storm's devastation, Bloomingdale residents went into action joining other Florida communities in a massive relief effort.

Each of the area schools collected food and clothing in response to a request by the Hillsborough County School System. Matt Hauer, Social Studies teacher and sponsor of the Leo Club at Bloomingdale Senior High School, commended students there for collecting enough food and clothing in a 24 hour notice to fill half a semi.

Private individuals and many area businesses found ways to contribute to the relief efforts either with goods or donations.

One way many residents have responded to the crisis is through efforts conducted by area churches and synagogues. The *Bloomingdale Gazette* contacted a number of local church leaders asking them to estimate the volume of goods being shipped south



HAGEL AND LAIR LOAD SUPPLIES FOR MIAMI

as well as sharing information and anecdotes about their individual effort.

Perhaps the most unique response came from Jackie Pettis of St. Andrews United Methodist Church when she replied "We sent our pastor!" Indeed, Pastor David M. Fuller served as Brigade Chaplain in the National Guard for a number of weeks and conducted at least 13 services one Sunday for troops assigned to the relief effort. Pettis did add that St. Andrews contributes to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, collected a special offering in excess of \$2,000 and sent canned goods, clothing and toiletries.

Bloomingdale Brethren Church's very visible

sign was a constant reminder to its congregation (and passing motorists) to contribute baby items and toiletries, and according to Pastor David Stone at least 1,000 large plastic bags of goods were collected.

Edith Mattson, receptionist at Immanuel Lutheran Church, reported that her church had to use their gymnasium as a collection point for the cases of baby food and diapers the congregation collected. Two separate loads of goods were picked up and transported to Miami by the League of Mercy.

Pastor Jeff Hagel and David Lair of Crosswalk Christian Community loaded their church's donated items onto a van loaned by a church

member and drove to Orlando to join a caravan of vehicles driven by other Pentecostal Holiness congregations headed directly for Homestead.

For two weeks in a row, Calvary Church asked all of its members to leave their donation bags behind their cars while they worshipped. Members of the youth group circled the parking lot collecting the goods to be loaded on a truck reported Earl Smith, who helped direct his church's effort. Smith stressed the cooperative efforts of church member Jeff Miller, who works in management at CSX Transportation on Adamo Drive and arranged for four boxcar loads of goods to be shipped by railroad to Miami as well as coordinating storage in 14 boxcars to be sent as needed. Smith also commended Dan Rivero, club coordinator, and the Bloomingdale Senior High School students and stated "The high school kids responded in a great way; and made a big difference."

Buddy Payne, Director of Benevolence at Bell Shoals Baptist Church, explained that his church's donations were handled by the Southern Baptist Association and relief efforts were directed in this

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# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

**The Bloomingdale Gazette**  
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The Little Professor Book Center in the Bloomingdale Square is celebrating Banned Books Week, September 26 through October 3, 1992, by displaying books which have been challenged or banned in the United States.

Banned Books Week is observing its eleventh year of calling the general public's attention to the importance of the freedom to read and the harm censorship causes to society. Censorship in the United States is much more prevalent than is readily apparent. Some examples: The Bible, Mother Goose, Of Mice and Men and The American Heritage Dictionary are all books that have been challenged or banned in the past year. Many school systems and libraries challenge and ban books on a regular basis. Banned Books Week is co-sponsored by the American Library Association, the American Booksellers Association, American Society of Journalists and Authors, Association of American Publishers and the National Association of College Stores.

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## MEETINGS

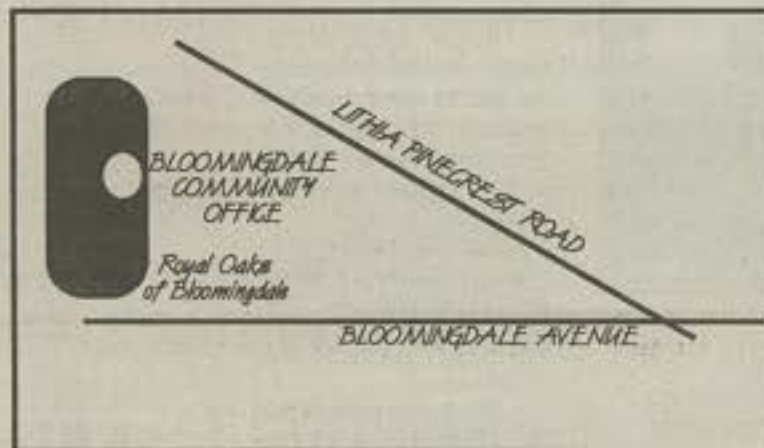
All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office, located in The Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale Shopping Center. These are public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

**SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT**  
Monthly meeting: Second Monday of the Month, 7:30 PM.

**BHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Monthly Meeting: Second Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 PM.

**BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT**  
Monthly meeting: First Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

**MEETINGS FOR MOBILE WATCH & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH** are on a per need basis. Watch this listing for dates & times.



## Letter to the Editor

The Hillsborough County School District deserves board members who can identify with the needs of the community, schools, parents, and teachers from an objective perspective. The District does not need individuals on the board who may "remember when" - or "remembers how things were done" - the District needs individuals with a diverse background, and members with children who attend our schools with recency as a part of their platform. Recency to relate to the needs of the children, parents, teachers, and the community because society is changing and so are our schools and communities. That's why Thomas Scott is the only choice for the District 5 School Board position.

Thomas Scott is a person with stability in his life (married for 17 years to Marva L. Scott); a parent who is aware of the needs of growing children both personally (three children - two boys and

one girl) and professionally (principal of King's Kids Learning and Developmental Center); and a counselor that embraces several aspects of life - spiritually (Senior pastor of 34th Street Church of God); morally (volunteer counselor for Alpha House for teenage pregnancy); emotionally (board advisor for Divine Providence Food Bank); and lawfully (a former parole and probation officer for the Department of Correction). Scott is even aware of the aspirations that many teachers have for their students progress (a former substitute teacher for Hillsborough Schools) as well as those of the students themselves.

Scott's slogan is "Caring SCOTT for Quality Education." Scott believes this from the depth of his heart. He will tell you that he has devoted his life's work to the betterment of children. He is a proven leader with a vision (operating a \$500,000 developmental

center with a staff of 22 without governmental assistance) for children today, and the 21st Century. He believes that strong minds produces strong nations and the survival of our nation will be through education, therefore, education must come first and it must be supported!

Scott will be attentive to the concerns, needs, and objectives presented to the Board. His objective is to bring about harmony within our "educational family" which consist of the parent, child, teacher, and community. He is concerned for the safety of our "educational family" in the academic and extracurricular setting. He believes Hillsborough County Schools will and can meet the goals of education for the 21st Century and produce outstanding "learned" children. A vote for SCOTT in October is a vote for our children's educational future - he is the best and only choice for District 5!

## Booster Club Elects Officers

The Athletic Booster Club at Bloomingdale High School has elected its officers for the 1992-1993 school year.

Dick Wools succeeds Terry Varvil as President and Rex Etheridge serves as President-Elect, a new position designed to provide continuity for the five-year old organization. Pat Warbritten and Mike Pohler are secretary and treasurer, respectively. Dick Sheffield and Larry Tierney join Principal Harris and Athletic Director Riveiro as at large members. Sheffield will also serve as membership chairman.

With anticipated budget cuts that will affect various aspects of the athletic program, President Wools envisions that the Booster Club will become increasingly important to the success of Bloomingdale's Bulls, who have sent three teams in its brief history to the state championships.

"We feel strongly that the Booster Club represents all of the athletes at Bloomingdale," said Wools. "To that end, we will conduct programs aimed at helping every coach and player."

Families, friends and businesses interested in helping the Boosters

should call either Wools at 684-4238 or Sheffield at 654-6895.

## BURNS OPEN HOUSE

Burns Junior High School invites all parents to Open House, Tuesday, September 22, at 7 PM. At 7:30 PM you will be given the opportunity of following your student's schedule and meeting the teachers.

Burns is located at the corner of Bryan and Brooker Roads.

If you need further information, call Susan Johnson at 685-2398.

# BHA NOTES

### CIRCUS PLANNED

Mark October 17 on your calendar as the day the Roberts Brothers Circus comes to town. This annual fund raising event is sponsored by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, and tickets will go on sale soon according to President Russ Lembke.

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

Treasurer Jim Wiley reported the recent BHA membership drive as moderately successful with

171 new members to date and \$3,110 in annual and semi-annual dues collected. The figures will increase as team leaders turn in their remaining packets as the membership drive continues through the month of September. Annual dues are \$20.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Valerie Bond was awarded the 1992 BHA Scholarship at the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association meeting on August 11.

Bond graduated from Bloomingdale Senior High



Valerie Bond

School last June where she participated in student government, S.A.D.D., the Leo Club, and Band.

A Florida Academic Scholar, Bond is currently pursuing a business major at Florida State University. She is the daughter of Eric Bond.

## Winn Dixie Funds Relief

At a disaster relief center in Kendall, Florida, Elizabeth Dole, President, of the American Red Cross, accepted a one million dollar check for hurricane relief in South Florida from Winn-Dixie. Winn-Dixie's contribution is part of a total effort to assist with the Hurricane Andrew recovery in South Florida and Louisiana. The company has donated a total of \$1.25 million to the American Red Cross. The announcement was made by A. Dano Davis, Chairman, Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc.

"Winn-Dixie's roots run very deep in Louisiana and Miami. We opened our first store in Miami in 1925," said Davis. "We are committed to help in whatever way we can during these trying times. The task at hand is to make sure that the needs of those most affected by this disaster are addressed as quickly as possible. We believe that the American

Red Cross can meet this challenge effectively and efficiently."

In accepting the one million dollar check for relief efforts in South Florida, Mrs. Dole stated: "This check represents our

lead gift, and I hope it inspires others to follow Winn-Dixie's example.

The money will support area disaster relief centers and the good work volunteers are doing to support those in need."

## Sisco Joins Brandon Orthopedic Association

Dr. Lance T. Sisco has joined the practice of Dr. John Okun and Dr. Robert J. Maddalon of Brandon Orthopedic Associates located at 721 Robertson Street.

Dr. Sisco was born in Lakeland and was raised in Tampa, Florida. He attended Davidson College where he played varsity football and was track team captain.

He graduated from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, and received

his training in General and Orthopedic Surgery at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Following his residency, he received additional training in sports medicine and knee replacement at the Jewett Orthopaedic clinic.

He has been assistant team physician for the University of Central Florida NCAA football team. He is the author of several articles on arthroscopy and sports medicine.



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# Mobile Watch

by LaWAYNE WYATT

The August log returned to the more normal number of events with 24 being recorded. It appears the troublemakers have worked their way around the county and returned to our area. Included in the August events were several burned lawns, suspicious teens, a female stranger around a house, six reports of speeders/reckless driving, several abandoned cars, a group of youths running between houses late at night, two stolen car tags, an egged house, mailbox smashings, a suspicious

car slowly circling a block, one prowler and several home burglaries.

Several reports warrant additional comments. The suspicious teens were knocking on doors and asking a series of funny questions during daylight hours. Everyone needs to know this is a common practice of daylight burglars. If the resident is home they ask a series of questions and then leave. If no one answers the door the house becomes a candidate for burglary. Anyone observing this type of activity should report it immediately to the Sheriff at 272-8200.

Although only one event involving mailbox smashing was recorded, almost 20 mailboxes were damaged. Random hits were made in both the East and West at about 4:30 AM. At least three residents heard the noise and obtained a partial description of the car. One resident almost obtained the tag number.

The home burglaries mentioned previously occurred in mid-August. We have also learned that four or more occurred

during the early morning hours of September 1st. In at least one of these cases, access to the house was gained by using a garage door opener taken from the resident's car. Everyone should be aware of this method of burglary and take the necessary precautions.

We also have been advised by residents in the area that the intersection of Erindale Drive and Lithia-Pinecrest Road is a potential safety hazard. There have been several accidents in this area and

everyone who uses this intersection should be extremely cautious. It should be noted that the speed limit on Lithia-Pinecrest at this point is 55 mph. As a result, cars are approaching the intersection at a much faster speed than might be expected.

Our thanks to the following who have recently volunteered:

- Kevin Eaves -
- Bloomington East
- Felix & Maria Oliu -
- Erin Arbor



Registration continues for Hillsborough County Twirlettes. Classes are held at Alafia Elementary School on Wednesday from 3 PM to 4 PM and 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM. Call 634-1004 for information.

# THANK YOU!

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# Thumbsucking: Toddler Rebellion?

**JANE RAGGARD WRIGHT, D.M.D.**  
thumbsucking - nearly of American toddlers

Thumbsucking is one of the earliest and most common habits among children. It's nothing for parents to worry about - as long as the habit persists. Many children suck their thumbs for security, most common when they're tired, relaxing, being scolded. Usually after age four does

thumbsucking threaten to damage a child's teeth.

Many children turn to thumbsucking to gain attention, to combat sibling rivalry or to stand up to nagging parents. The more parents try to stop the habit, the more determined the child will be to continue; for some kids, thumbsucking is their first chance to buck the system.

Here are some tips to help a child break the thumbsucking habit.

Parents should:

- avoid punishing the child
- provide play materials to occupy the child's hands;
- keep supervision to a minimum; and
- keep the home environment happy.

As with adults who smoke, it's difficult to stop the thumbsucking unless the child wants to stop. If the child does not want to break the habit, most treatments are defeated before they are

started.

Peer pressure, often works well. If a good friend breaks the thumbsucking habit, it will encourage the child to imitate the friend's "grown up" behavior.

In most cases, dentists can help parents stop the thumbsucking habit. The first step is to determine when and why a child is thumbsucking.

Sometimes an orthodontic pacifier can prevent or replace a thumbsucking habit.

Once the child becomes accustomed to the pacifier, he or she may not be interested in thumbsucking. A child should be weaned from a pacifier, however, between the ages of one and two.

**Thumbsucking Test**

There are two categories of thumbsucking in children.

One group simply rests the thumb in the mouth as a security blanket. The child might suck only at certain times, such as when sleepy or being scolded. The second group

continuously suck their thumbs, which can displace teeth severely.

A simple test is to remove the thumb from the child's mouth. A "popping" sound signals a great deal of suction and pressure on the teeth that may cause an overbite or underbite.

If the child is more than four years old, parents should discuss the child's habit with the family dentist, who can recommend methods to break the habit.

## YMCA Soccer Clinic

The YMCA - Family Branch will be offering a soccer clinic at the Cristina YMCA Camp Center for boys and girls 5-12 years of age.

The clinic will start on Friday, September 26th and run for six weeks through Friday, October 31st, meeting 9-11 AM each Saturday. If children are signed up before September 26th, fees will be \$15 for non-members; \$25 for family members; \$25 for program members. Fees for those who sign up on or after September 26th will be \$25 for facility members and \$35 for program members.

The emphasis of the clinic will be on dribbling,

passing, team play and the rules of the game.

Each participant will receive a YMCA Cristina T-shirt.

For more information call the YMCA Family Branch, 9840 Balm-Riverview Road or call 677-8400.

## Brooker Open House

Brooker's annual Open House will be held Thursday, September 24, 1992. Parents may visit the cafeteria to view several displays, visit with friends and have refreshments while waiting to visit classrooms and teachers.

The Open House schedule is as follows: 1st grade 5:30-6:00 PM 2nd grade 6:00-6:30 PM

Kindergarten 6:30-7:00 PM 3rd grade 7:00-7:30 PM 3rd grade 7:00-7:30 PM 4th grade 7:30-8:00 PM 5th grade 8:00-8:30 PM

Teachers for special services will be in their classrooms from 7:00-8:30 PM.

More information about Open House will be sent home by the individual grade level teams.

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# Gunter Promotes Taekwondo Philosophy

by GWEN

**SZAFRANSKI**

When Jack Gunter opened Brandon Taekwondo at 815 West Bloomingdale Avenue in January of 1991, he did so with the belief that Brandon was a good area with people "that cared about the values that he liked to teach. "I wanted to have a family oriented program that developed the whole person, not one that just trained students to fight."

Gunter, who works as a full time pharmacist for National Rx as well as teaching Taekwondo classes, is no stranger to a busy schedule. In his native Arkansas he ran a pharmacy and owned both a marina and a Taekwondo school and still found time to serve as a volunteer fireman and emergency medical technician. Gunter feels these experiences plus being the father of two young boys are all "pieces of a puzzle" that

have helped him to understand the psychology of dealing with people and to be a better instructor.

Gunter's appreciation of family values is attested by the mother of one of Gunter's young students. She commented that the frequent pot luck suppers and overnight sleep-ins for the students and their families creates a friendly atmosphere.

The school is a family business in more ways than one. Gunter's wife, Brenda, who is a yellow belt, works as both secretary and bookkeeper. Gunter's sons, eight-year old Daniel and six-year old Eric, are a first degree recommended black belt and a blue belt, respectively.

Rounding out the school staff are Ray Brunkow, a second degree black belt and full time instructor who assists in teaching classes. He is currently in an instructor training program for certification. Cindy

O'Rear, a former cheerleader with the Tampa Bay Storm with experience in dance and gymnastics, trains the Demo team for exhibitions. With her background, Cindy works out their routines while Gunter works on the team's technical proficiency.

In fact, the Brandon Taekwondo Demo team has been asked to exhibit their skills at the Riverview Elementary Fall Festival on September 26 at 10:30 AM. They will demonstrate three routines, board breaking, and do "forms," which are a pre-arranged set of techniques

developed by Taekwondo's founder, General Choi of Korea.

Gunter explained that, although Taekwondo techniques are ancient, it wasn't until after World War II that General Choi organized the art into its present form. Taekwondo develops patience and respect among the students and discourages aggression according to Choi's philosophy that through Taekwondo "The weak are strengthened to deter aggression."

Gunter feels that most team sports have their major emphasis on helping the team to win. If a kid is not the strongest team member, he or she is not given the opportunity to develop. "In Taekwondo, how you progress



JACK GUNTER AND JENNY PURSER

depends on what a student puts in to it," explains Gunter. "It doesn't matter if it takes two or five years to become a black belt."

It is Gunter's personal goal to expand the school and to be teaching Taekwondo full time, or will at least spread or

teach the philosophy of what a good martial artist can contribute to his or her community."

which would actualize his long term goal to "train a lot of good people to their full potential, hopefully, so they are interested in having their own schools



RAYMOND BRUNKOW (L) AND JACK GUNTER (R).

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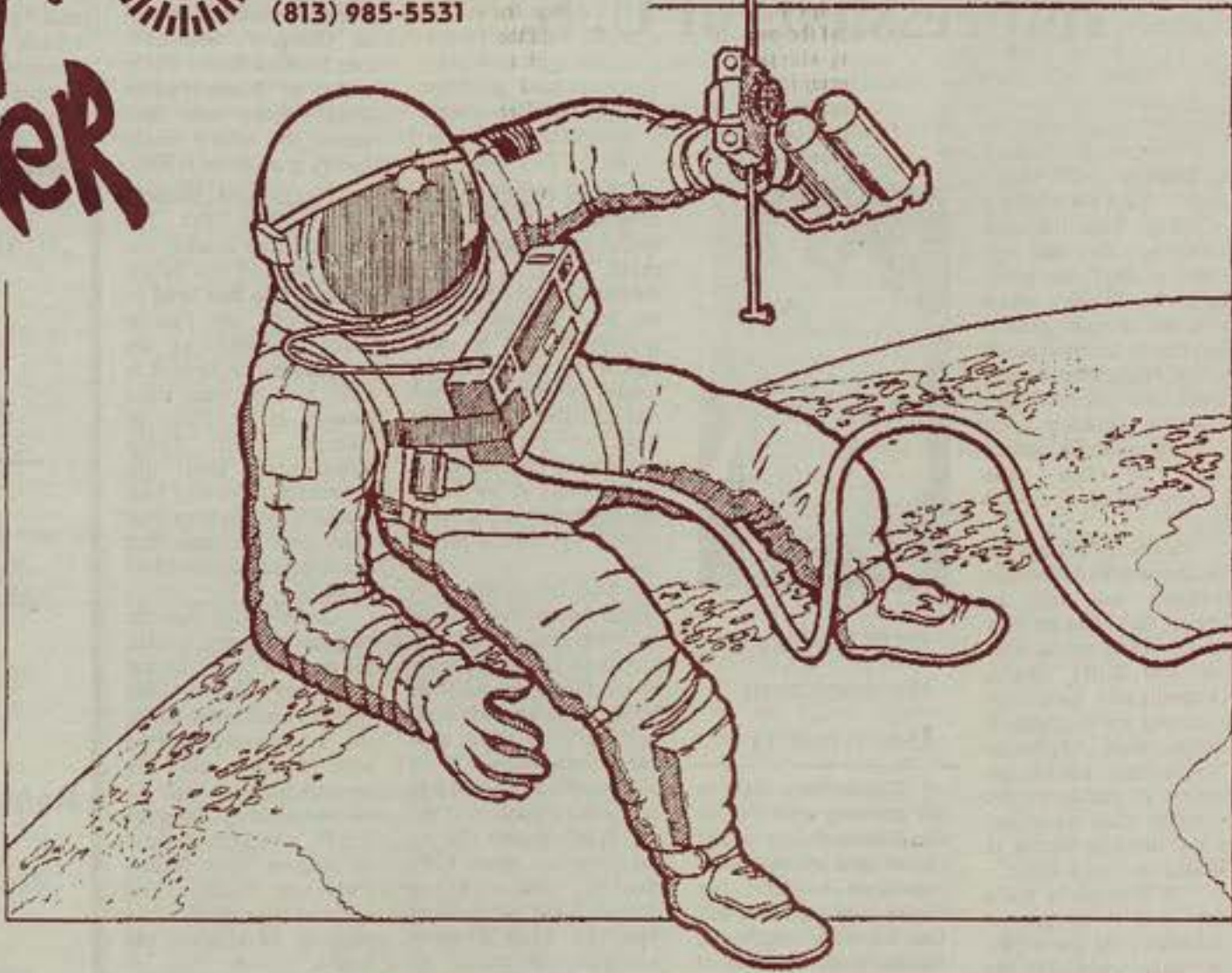
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Color the space man pictures and bring it to The Bloomingdale Gazette office by October 9, 1992.

The drawings will be judged and one child from each of the following age groups will win two free passes to MOSI; 2-4 years old; 5-7 years old; and 8-12 years old.

Winners of the coloring contest will be entered in a Grand Prize drawing to be held December 15, 1992. The Grand Prize consists of a MOSI Family Membership good for one year. All winners will be notified by phone.

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An art scholarship will be awarded in November to a qualified junior or senior who is a Brandon resident. The scholarship is sponsored by the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce and Hillsborough Community College.

The proceeds from the sale of the "Brandon Balloon Festival '92" poster by June Oros will go towards the scholarship fund. The poster is sponsored by the Tampa Tribune and the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce.

For additional details and application contact the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce at 689-2022.



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# Exchange Student Shares Impressions of U. S.

by GWEN

**SZAFRANSKI**

"Big, crowded and confusing, not like my school in Italy," responded Enrico Picelli when asked what he thought of his first day at Bloomingdale Senior High School. No doubt the size of the school is daunting since Picelli is used to a student body of 700, not Bloomingdale's 2,000 plus.

Picelli is certain to find many more differences between his life in Rovigo, Italy, and the year he will spend living with Jan and Kitty Sealy, Bloomingdale East residents and EF Foundation International Exchange Coordinators. Already the concept of family chores points up quite a contrast to the lifestyle Picelli is familiar with back home.

"In Rovigo a kid's main job is to get an education - the dad works, the mother looks after the house, and the kids go to school. Here the kids help in the house and the yard. In Italy our studies are considered our job. School is harder, we study more and there's no time to clean our rooms although we help when we're not busy."



KITTY, DAVID, AND JAN SEALY WITH ENRICO PICELLI

Classes from eight in the morning until one in the afternoon may sound like an ideal schedule to an American student, but Picelli explained how full time his studies really are. Italian students have at least 10 to 11 subjects each week. To maintain his grades, Picelli spends three to four hours on homework each day and attends the Conservatory of Music for three hours each week as well as practicing piano at home for three hours each day.

Since Picelli's piano is located in his room, he spends a good deal of time there, which reflects another cultural difference: the Sealy's piano is in a prominent spot in their family room where the family gathers to unwind and socialize. Picelli will have to get used to performing before family and friends if he is to maintain his talent as a pianist while he's in the U.S.

The frequency with which Americans dine out at restaurants and the variety of American cereals amuse Picelli; on the other hand, eating his main meal in the evening rather than early afternoon is a cultural difference that will take some getting used to.

Picelli enjoys teasing his American mom, Kitty Sealy, about being "huggy," but it is evident that the Sealy's enjoy children and people in general. The Sealys have not only hosted exchange students for eight years through the Educational Foundation for Foreign Study, but also have served as foster parents over the years and dedicated time to their church youth group.

The Sealy's daughter Micki graduated from Bloomingdale High School last year, and had spent a year as an American exchange student to Glasgow, Scotland. Her Scottish friend Holly came to Bloomingdale Micki's senior year. In a sense, the whole Sealy family is involved in EF.

Picelli was himself attracted to the EF program after hearing the experiences of two Italian students who had lived in New York and Puerto Rico. He asked on his application to be located in a city near the water since Rovigo is so close to Venice. Mr. Sealy commented that the organization tries very hard to match the students with areas and families that could enhance the students' interests.

Sealy added that the program tries not to plan too many activities for the first few weeks the students are in America so that the adjustment to the host family and the surroundings is not so overwhelming. To date, Picelli, who arrived early in August, has visited Universal Studios and attended a family picnic at Medard Park with the Sealys.

With all the differences between Picelli's lifestyle in Italy and the United States, he does seem to be adjusting

beautifully and is looking forward to performing with the Ambassadors, enjoying his classes at Bloomingdale, swimming in the family pool, making new friends, scuba lessons sponsored by EF, and a foundation Christmas party in December.

As Picelli commented, "I came to the United States to use the English language and to experience living like an American student, not a tourist."

Chores and all, he'll certainly have a chance to do that.

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# Women Bring Creative Touch to Three Area Businesses

by GWEN SZAFRANSKI  
 Friendliness and a sense of style as well as keen business acumen are shared characteristics of the women behind two successful area businesses and one that has just been launched.

The Bloomingdale residents have responded to Gail Vella's ready smile and helpfulness since she opened Bloomingdale Florist last September 3. Vella and her staff celebrated the shop's first

anniversary completing their move to roomier quarters a few doors from the old shop in Bloomingdale Square. The expanded quarters are tastefully decorated with soft mauve walls graced by a meandering ivy vine hand sponged by Vella.

Working for her parents' fruit shipping and gift shop in Clearwater and with Whidden Florist in Brandon helped prepare Vella for her present business, but even Vella is pleasantly surprised that the business grew so much in one year. Part of the

reason may be that it is so evident to customers that Vella enjoys dealing with people and helping them select the perfect item from all the shop's fresh and dried flower arrangements.

Vella's staff includes Dolores Wadsworth from whom she purchased the shop, Renee Grooms, and Kay Cosgrove, who is an FTD master designer and former floral shop owner in Virginia. The staff thoroughly enjoys pleasing each customer whether the job is a small bouquet or a consultation

American oak chests, servers, tables, and chairs that are laden with unique china and linens, gourmet foods, and an interesting line of toiletries in the Smith and Vandiver Botanical Collection. Especially eye-catching is the "Not Just Pink" pottery hand painted and signed by New Englander, Laura Leigh.

Warren is quick to assure customers that wonderful gifts can be found without spending a fortune since she and Delagrange have included quality gift items at good



TERRIE DELAGRANGE AND JAN WARREN

Kirkpatrick, owners of the "upscale deli" Tak-a-Way Gourmet. Although they have been catering since August of 1990, Giordano and Kirkpatrick only recently added the luncheon and dinner take-out service that has been flourishing since May.

Gourmet soups, salads, entrees, and scrumptious desserts (like B. C.'s "killer" chocolate cheesecake) appeal to customers who have a busy life style and gourmet palates.

Giordano and Kirkpatrick maintain a busy schedule themselves by demonstrating their cooking skills at classes

such as the one they gave at Williams-Sonoma, a kitchen accessory shop in Hyde Park. They are also preparing for the line of holiday specialty food products that they will offer in gift baskets as well as gearing up for holiday catering. A stroll through their eclectically decorated deli with its tiled floors, antique couch, and wrought iron and glass tables is as much of a treat as the edible wares.

Exceptional products, attention to detail, and a sense of their customer's shopping needs assures all these young businesswomen continued success.



GAIL VELLA

and custom job for either office or home.

Customers can expect the same care and attention when they visit Jan Warren and Terrie Delagrange's newly opened Cherished Gifts, located in Heritage Square behind the new AIA Restaurant in Brandon.

"We want customers to find our shop delightfully different by offering whimsical, special gifts - the type you want to tell your friends about," commented Jan Warren.

Customers will enjoy browsing among the antique British and

prices, featuring a line of children's gifts that can be specially arranged in gift bags or for party gifts or favors. The wide range of gourmet foods as well as bath products make intriguing collections for adult baskets.

Delagrange, a former respiratory therapist, and Warren, who owned a similar shop in Jacksonville, North Carolina, both feel that their shop offers the customer adult and children's gifts that are one of a kind.

Comprising another entrepreneurial team are B. C. Giordano and Lisa



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# Coping With Our Tax System



AUNTIE BEAR

Students at Bloomington Primary Prep pre-school were entertained September 10 by their favorite visitor, "Auntie Bear." The popular storyteller, whose real name is Brenda Sullivan, delighted her young audience with songs, tales, and illustrative puppets. Sullivan certainly knows how to appeal to

children after teaching and serving as curriculum coordinator for 25 years in her home state of Tennessee. In Durham, North Carolina, she taught in and directed a pre-school for 11 years. Recently, Auntie Bear has developed her program and delighted pre-schoolers locally and in Clearwater and St. Petersburg.

by **ROBERT J. MORRIS, CPA, CTP**

The problem today is a tax system that has literally gone mad. It has become so complex and is so prone to change that very few individuals even profess to understand it. A majority of taxpayers must now turn to professionals for assistance in preparing their returns, and many more should. But this also poses a dilemma. Who among the growing army of tax preparers really know their stuff? Of the 50 states, only two (California and Oregon) require any kind of licensing or testing for those who practice tax. Florida does not.

Traditionally, accountants have been recognized as the tax experts. And while it is true that the great majority of serious tax professionals are accountants, some ac-

countants know very little about tax. It is important to know which ones are not knowledgeable.

The practice of tax is what most taxpayers must do each year, filling out forms and reporting to the government. Tax professionals are individuals who do it commercially for a fee. Supposedly they study the laws, rules, regulations and keep up with the latest changes affecting all taxpayers. How can the average taxpayer be sure that the person hired to prepare his or her return and fulfill all filing requirements is sufficiently knowledgeable to provide the required assistance?

As the client you could ask. But is this sufficient? Who, for instance, while holding himself or herself out for hire will admit incompetence or lack of knowledge? Obviously, one must probe much further and ask questions like: What courses have you had in tax? What degree did you obtain?

Have you taken a comprehensive exam in tax, and when? What continuing education have you had in tax during the past year?

The accountant can help you compile the figures and put your financial information in order, but it takes a real tax pro to help you get it on the right forms and minimize your tax liability. The attorney can tell you what the law says and even address the matter of correct reporting or filing. But attorneys generally don't specialize in tax matters affecting the average taxpayer.

Will the federal or

state government come to the rescue by imposing testing, licensing, and continuing education requirements for all who practice tax for a fee? Not likely. Will Congress and the various state legislators get the message and really do something about tax simplification? This is even less likely.

You need to be sure your tax preparer is knowledgeable, up to date on current changes, attend at least 20 hours or more of continuing education on tax related matters each year and is accessible year round. Otherwise, what are you paying for?

## TENNIS TIP of the MONTH

by **PETE STECHER**

The lob is a shot that is easy to learn and has many uses. The lob can be used to prevent the majority of one's opponents from playing the net effectively. The lob can be used when out of position to gain time to get back into position. A lower lob sometimes called a moonball, can be used to make an opponent hit their ground-strokes from above head level or can be mixed-in to disrupt an opponent's timing. And finally the lob can be used as an approach shot giving one plenty of time to get into the net and forcing an inexperienced opponent to hit a passing shot from above head level.

The lob is one of the easiest shots to hit and can be learned in one lesson. A normal shot is hit from a couple of inches over the

net to 10 feet over the net for an offensive lob. The lob is hit higher, from 20 feet over the net for an offensive lob to 50 or more feet for a defensive lob. The defensive lob is used to give oneself time to get back into position when forced off the court.

To lob opens up the racket face a bit and the ball is pushed up at about a 45 degree angle. Spin is optional either a little bit of a slice for control or heavy topspin to get the ball up and down faster.

Club players and juniors rarely have good overheads and good mobility backwards is even more rare for players. A couple lobs will discourage opponents from coming into the net.

Few players are comfortable hitting their groundstrokes above their heads. The moonball is



designed to prey on most players lack of upper body strength on groundstrokes. Some players use the moonball constantly. The wise players use the shot as a change of pace to disrupt the opponents rhythm.

The moonball used as an approach shot to an opponent's backhand is deadly giving one plenty of time to get to the net, forcing most opponents to hit a passing shot with the weight going backward against the ball above head level. The odds of an opponent hitting a successful passing shot under the above conditions is about 1 in 50.

Pete Stecher is the Director of Tennis at Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club and is available for lessons at 689-8042.

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Belinda Oliver, 689-5218

**MARY KAY COSMETICS:**  
Candy Cary, 654-1695  
Liz Hunt, 654-7300

**TUPPERWARE DEALERS:**  
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Barbara Virag, 684-1452 or 685-8216

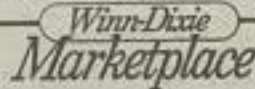
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# COMMUNITY

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## SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

The Southern Illusions softball team will hold tryouts on Saturday, September 26 and October 3 at 11 AM for kids 16 and under. Please bring \$10 to Legion Field on Sligh and Florida Avenue for tryouts. This team uses the ASA Fast Pitch under the management of Ray Carver. Contact Dick or Margie at 960-4851 or James or Rita at 971-7430 for further information.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

The eighth grade class at Nativity Catholic School, 705 East Brandon Boulevard in Brandon, will serve a spaghetti dinner Sunday, October 4, from 1 to 5 PM in the social hall to raise funds for a class trip to Washington D.C. Tickets are available from any eighth grader at Nativity Church, St. Francis of Assisi Church and St. Stephens Church after masses on September 19 & 20 and September 26 & 27, also, at Ave Maria Bookstore and at the door. Take-outs are available.

## HEALTH FAIR

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Res Care Home Health, Inc. are co-sponsors of the Brandon area Health Fair on Saturday, October 3 from 9 AM to 1 PM in the Family Life Center at Immanuel. Several free screenings will be available except for optional blood screenings which includes a cholesterol screening for \$10. Please contact Immanuel Lutheran Church at 689-1787 for additional information.

## PHONE BOOKS

The Hillsborough County Recycling Task Force, in conjunction with GTE and Kash N' Karry, is sponsoring a Telephone Book Recycling Project September 17 through 20. Old phone books can be dropped off locally at Kash N' Karry at 901 Lithia-Pinecrest, Brandon or Curtis Hixon in Tampa as well as other selected locations in the area.

## ORCHIDS

Eastlake Square Mall will host the Tampa Orchid Club's 32nd Annual Orchid show.

The show dates and times are Friday, October 2nd from 10 AM to 9 PM; Saturday, October 3rd from 12 Noon to 9 PM; Sunday October 4th from 12 Noon to 5:30 PM. ADMISSION and PARKING IS FREE.

## POETS

The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is September 30, 1991.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style, to the National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-ZK, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

## HEART WALK

On October 3, 1992 at 8:00 AM, Bloomingdale East Park there will be a four mile walk to benefit the American Heart Association. The course will be around Natures Way & Culbreath.

You will need sponsors and may walk as an individual, team, or for a company.

For more information, call the American Heart Association at 253-0023 or Cindy Minnear at 626-1505.

## SUMMERFIELD CRAFTS

Summerfield Crossings will have its 4th Annual Arts & Crafts Show on Saturday, September 26 at the Community Town Hall. There will be over 30 crafters inside the gymnasium.

"My Play Time," a group of mom's who meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 AM - 12 Noon with their babies up to 4-years old, will conduct a bake sale. This play group is open to the public.

Lunch will be served by the Junior Girl Scouts. There will also be a craft table available to the children. For 50¢, you can participate in a craft project and take it home. For more information please call Susan Ball at 677-1926 or the Town Hall, 671-2005.

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Baker commented that he was aware of the Tampa area YMCA program since the Northwest Tampa team has won the YMCA National Championship for three years in a row. In fact, Tampa will host the 1993 National Meet in July. He is looking forward to coaching the

Brandon team to higher levels of optional competition and had high praise for Eric Fulkomer, who coaches the YMCA's strong boys team. (The boys are the defending regional champions, and Fulkomer is an international gymnastics judge, having recently judged the MacDonald's American Cup).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

state by Susan Broadwell, Missions Director. At least three semi loads of bleach, water, soap, baking soda, charcoal, cooking grills, gas cans, ice and coolers, and basic medical supplies were sorted by volunteers at the church and sent to Bayshore Baptist and Pembroke Baptist which were designated church collection points in Miami before being distributed in Homestead.

Payne reported that church member Larry Smith went down to Miami to donate time repairing hurricane victims' roofs. He also mentioned the disbelief of those who have travelled with truck loads of goods through the devastated area

where the few road signs that still stand literally have the painted words and numbers sheared off of them from the storm's winds.

Father Patrick Irwin of St. Stephens Catholic Church responded that \$5,000 in monetary donations were collected at his church while the men of the St. Vincent De Paul Society had collected 300 pounds of food, 22 bags of clothing as well as sofas, chairs, tables, cribs and beds. They will continue to collect items if there continues to be a need.

Father Irwin added that "We must not forget their (the hurricane victims') spiritual needs, and we continue to pray for them on a daily basis."

the hole by 56 million dollars. She was glad the governor's budget was adopted, but firmly states that "neither budget was a panacea."

"We need to work to fund our public school system equitably and make certain the money is directed where it's supposed to go, such as the Lottery funds," stated Martin in a recent interview. She continued to say that "The tax system should be reformed; overspending should be cut down to avoid getting further in debt, and citizens should be given a voice in how they are taxed."

Martin, who resigned her post as President of the Florida League of Cities last July, is alarmed at her opponent's approval of the voucher system in education. On the contrary, Martin asserts that "When parents choose to send their children to private schools, they should be prepared to pay for that private education."

Martin, who was recently honored by the Conference of Christians and Jews for her humanitarian service, commented on another of Johnson's views recently published in *The Tampa Tribune*: "My opponent feels that Bible reading,

Bible drill, and prayer should happen daily in our schools. I am a Christian, but the law of the land says that we do not pray and read the Bible in public schools. As a citizen, I certainly feel we should follow the law."

Martin also feels that parents have more influence on their children when it comes to religion than any other factor, and suggests that it is the right and duty of the parents to direct their child's religious education.

Education isn't Martin's only focus. As president of the League of Cities, she reviewed the taxing issue and believes that "Taxing funds should be redirected; new taxes should not be necessary, but if they are, citizens should have a say in what the tax should be and how those taxes should be spent because the citizens have lost faith in the present system."

Another of Martin's concerns is the increase in crime. She is strongly against early release, which she calls "getting a pat on the hand," and she believes that "People should feel safe in their own neighborhoods. When a crime is committed, the criminal should serve time!"

Affordable health care from the prenatal stage to the golden years is another area of concern to Martin, who seeks not a universal plan, but rather wants the legislature to work towards reasonably priced insurance programs. She feels the needs of small businesses and their insurance plans must be carefully reviewed. Martin would also like greater attention paid to the insurance needs of citizens facing the health care dilemmas of nursing homes and extended home care.

Martin emphasized her interest in environmental concerns, and she supports recycling and Preservation 2,000, but her face really lit up when the subject of her work with children was raised. Martin is particularly proud of Real World Living, a project undertaken at Knights Elementary to prepare students for the actualities of living in society.

Martin firmly believes that "children should be treated like real people, and adults should take the time to let them know how important their feelings are." Her motto is "Every child a winner every day," and she feels that the Real World Living program accomplishes that by showing children how to

balance checkbooks, run businesses, register and vote as good citizens, and even apply for civil service jobs.

The school is divided into the four "communities" of Brandon, Temple Terrace, Tampa, and Plant City. The Post Office supported the program by sending employees to train students in running a postal service, and First Florida Bank donated portable teller cages for the school bank. The interaction of the school and the community has taught the children valuable lessons for life and added to their self esteem.

Finally, Martin's strong leadership in both the school and community has attracted many supporters like Donna Cunningham, who spearheads the Republicans for Sadye Martin. Cunningham commented that she "wanted to vote for someone who shares her same views and values regardless of her party affiliation." Cunningham feels that Martin's knowledge and experience, her understanding of the issues, and her views on education make her a desirable candidate for the November race.