

Residents concerned about the proposed zoning changes in Bloomingdale East are encouraged to attend this month's meeting of the BHA. Property owners Metropolitan Life will be

# Important BHA Meeting

represented by their spokesman, attorney Ron Weaver. The meeting is set for Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale plaza.

# The Bloomingdale Gazette

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## Residents Set To Fight Proposed Zoning Changes

by Rozel Sciulli

Outraged that absentee property owners Metropolitan Life would propose zoning changes for areas of the Bloomingdale East community without first meeting with

its residents and receiving input, members of subdivisions most affected have banded together to form a citizen's action group that plans to take the matter up with county officials and Met Life representatives this month.

Members of the newly formed Bloomingdale Homeowners for

Quality Living will get their first chance when Metropolitan's local attorney Ron Weaver addresses the BHA at its meeting Tuesday night, Sept. 14, at 7:30. Their next forum will come before the county's zoning hearing master on Sept. 20, at 6 p.m.

Citing that proposed changes in zoning for two areas of East would bring increased traffic, increased crime, and a drop in real estate value, the organization's members plan to hit the county with statistics and petitions which they say already have a 97% approval rate.

Property owners Met Life hope to have major zoning changes granted for two sections of East - the plat known as BL 28, which consists of 18 acres of property on Erindale at the easternmost entrance to the community, and 35 acres of land known as BL 5 on Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale doglegging back to Springvale - to make the properties more appealing for developers Shimberg-Cross.

Metropolitan is requesting that the Erindale property, which is currently zoned for municipal commercial use (allowing for parks, libraries, service facilities), be changed to single family detached housing, providing for a maximum of 104 homes on the 18-acre site. This is an amendment to the original request which asked for a change to 104 units of single family attached housing.

If the proposed change of the Bell Shoals property goes through, the new zoning would allow commercial development on 20 acres, and attached housing of up to 150 units on the back 15 acres, directly behind Bloomingdale Woods Apartments.

The zoning hearing, which was originally scheduled for Aug. 30, has been pushed back, according to the county, to allow Met Life to respond to questions from the zoning office.

But according to the citizen's action group's spokesman Rick Pitrowski, the meeting date was changed "because Met Life realized they couldn't push the change through."

The group is fighting Met Life through the county by soliciting petition signatures and conducting voter registration drives.

"Over 97% of the residents we have asked have signed the petition," said Pitrowski, who hopes county commissioners will heed the wishes of their constituents.

"Met Life did not sit down with any Bloomingdale

See ZONING, page 13



## Adopted Siblings Reunited After 46 Years

by Rozel Sciulli

World War II brought heartache and tragedy - some widespread, some very personal.

For six children from Richmond, Indiana, the year 1945 was the year their world fell apart, the year they were taken away from the only home and parents they knew, the year their war veteran father left them, and the year the state took five of them away from a mother who could not support them.

This year on July 10, four of the siblings were reunited at their third annual family reunion in the

park where they had played as youngsters. They attended with their children and grandchildren, and they honored the mother from whom they were taken.

For Bloomingdale resident Helena Cornette, the years since 1945 are now pieced together with fading photographs of the brother and sisters who were adopted by different families. Only by chance were two of them to meet 14 years later.

Helena wants her story to be an inspiration to families who are still apart

and still searching for birth parents and siblings, a search she says they should never give up.

**Contact By Chance**

"An insurance man was visiting me," recalled Helena, who in 1959 was already married and a new mother. "He told me he had a client who could possibly be my sister."

Helena called the number she was given and found her oldest sister Carolyn, but in doing so, she also found her mother, Martha.

Edgar and Martha had six children in the late 30's

and early 40's, but then war broke out and Edgar left, Martha was forced to care for the children. With no job or training and no help from family, Martha was hardly able to feed them. "We didn't even know what Christmas was until we were adopted," said Helena.

Carolyn had never been adopted, so when her mother was able, she took her oldest child away from a state-run children's home.

The others were not hers to take back. Helena had been adopted by a family in nearby Union City; younger brother Richard and sister Irene remained together when an Ohio family chose to adopt both children, and sister Margaret moved to Indianapolis with her new family. Only infant Dianne was within the watchful eye of her birth mother.

When Dianne was born, Martha's insurance man and his wife, knowing the mother's inability to support the children she already had, adopted the infant. When Dianne was six, the local paper carried the news that she had been hit by a car. Martha watched over the child she was never able to care for



Reunited after 46 years are (L-R) Helena, Richard, mother Martha, Margaret, and Carolyn.

See SIBLINGS, pg. 13

## Summer Work Improves Air Quality At BSHS

by Rozel Sciulli

Students and teachers who returned to Bloomingdale High School last month ought to be breathing easier now. Gone are the generators and hoses that were fixtures on the school's front lawn last spring. It is no longer necessary to force clean air into the seven-year-old building.

"The air conditioning has been upgraded to decrease humidity and increase air flow," reported Christina Swanson, of the county school's insurance office. The official spokesperson of the air quality issue at Bloomingdale, Swanson explained that extensive work was completed over the summer to stop leakage of water that had caused mold and mildew problems in the school's ceilings and walls. In addition, Swanson said that carpeting that could not be adequately cleaned has been replaced by vinyl tile flooring. She said carpeting was removed in all hallways and in selected classrooms.

New units were installed to enable precise control of the air system and air flow throughout the school. The new system will now allow for 15 cubic feet of air flow per person per minute. This is upgraded from the previous five cubic feet minimum which was the standard at the time the school was built, according to Swanson.

"As a result of the energy crisis of the seventies," she explained, "building air flow standards were lower in order to conserve and be more energy efficient. What engineers have found is that this amount of air flow is not adequate. No one was a fault, the building code of the time was followed."

Chastain-Skillman, an indoor air quality consulting firm retained by the school district, was on site at the

school throughout the summer, according to public school spokesperson Donna Reed. These consultants, she said, have been monitoring, sampling and testing during the work being conducted at the school. The consultants are continuing their studies now that the building is occupied.

This week, in fact, the firm's specialists will conduct a thorough sampling of the school air and surfaces to determine if the construction improvements have enhanced the air quality and removed any mold and mildew growth in the school.

According to Reed, the test samples will be sent to an independent laboratory for evaluation. The results are not expected to be available for several weeks, she said.

Among the projects completed at the school this summer was the installation of seven dehumidification units that will remain in the building until the cooling capacity is enhanced. All air conditioning duct work and air handlers were cleaned with antimicrobial solutions and paint. And in the school's most troubled classrooms, ceiling tiles were removed and treated with anti-mold and mildew solution before being replaced, window air exhausts were installed, and all furnishings were cleaned. Noise pollution was taken into consideration as well with the installation of sound traps on all exhaust fans.

The air quality issue was brought to light last school year when several students and faculty members reportedly suffered from respiratory problems. BSHS was found to be a "sick" building as a result of an accumulation of mold and mildew in its walls and ceilings.





# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

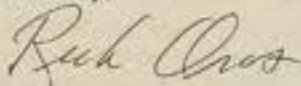
## The Bloomingdale Gazette

Community involvement? Each of us belongs to several communities at the same time. Examine a letter that was received by you today. Each line of your address identifies different communities to which you belong. Your family community, your neighborhood community, your local community and your state community.

Each of the communities in which you live changes constantly. Some grow old and weak through changes. But others become larger, stronger, and more complicated. By understanding these changes, you have the ability to guide the inevitable growth of Bloomingdale in such a way that it will be a better place to live.

Every resident of Bloomingdale should understand the needs of each of the various communities to which they belong. All these communities contribute in some way to your welfare. Each demands certain loyalty and responsibilities in return. Sometimes these responsibilities seem to conflict with each other. For example, your metropolitan community might need a new highway to solve a serious transportation problem. The best route for this highway may be through your own neighborhood. Your neighbors remonstrate that the new highway will lower property values in their neighborhood community. Which community should you be loyal to-your neighborhood or your larger metropolitan community? As the complexity of the expanding communities increases, it becomes increasingly important for a person to learn how they can be good citizens in each and every one of the communities which they belong.

Sincerely,



## What You Can Do To Combat Deed Restriction Violations

by Rozel Sculli

Annoyed that the neighbors next door have an old car parked in their yard? Is that rusted out tool shed across the street too big of an eye sore? Does it bug you to see overgrown front lawns? Bet you thought you couldn't do anything about it. NOT!

Residents who have a valid and well-researched complaint may file their grievance with the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association and one of three options for handling the problem may be exercised.

But, first things first. If a resident suspects that another resident has committed a deed restriction violation, then it is up to the complaining resident to research the matter by looking up the deed restrictions for the area in which the suspected violation is located. According to BHA president Randy Wolfe, one house across the street from another may fall under a completely different set of deed restrictions.

Once the complaining resident is sure that a violation exists, then a call should be made to the Bloomingdale Community Office. A deed restriction violation report will then be mailed to the complaining party. This report must be thoroughly and completely filled out and returned to the BHA.

At that point, one of three things may occur.

1. A letter can be sent to the alleged violator from the BHA advising the party of the infraction and that a complaint has been filed. This letter can be anonymous.

2. If the breaching resident and the complaining resident both feel they are right, the BHA will send representatives to mediate the dispute and interpret the deed restriction for both parties.

3. If the complaining resident takes the breaching resident to court, the BHA will offer its written interpretation of the covenant. The court may or may not choose to accept the interpretation.

According to Wolfe, the BHA has no enforcement authority, but can only lend

support in any one of the above ways. He emphasized that residents should first check with their individual subdivision's homeowner's group, if one exists. Some of these groups are mandatory membership associations and they do have enforcement authority, according to Wolfe.

Wolfe warned that the residents need to be absolutely certain that they know the restrictions of the area in which the violation occurs.

"This is a diverse community, and if people want to live in among 3500 homes then they should be ready to accept that there are going to be differences.

"Sometimes residents will call the community office just to complain, but then they don't want to take the steps to do anything more about it," Wolfe said.

"The goal of the BHA is focused on issues that benefit the entire community of Bloomingdale, or at least a significant portion of it. We try to steer clear of issues that are of interest to only a few residents. We are here to lend guidance and help the smaller homeowner's associations, but we can't possibly undertake every item of interest.

"We are best suited as lobbyists on major issues affecting the whole community," Wolfe explained, pointing to the two current issues of park funding and the rezoning of sections of Bloomingdale East.

As the BHA membership drive is still underway, Wolfe reiterates the two best services offered by the association, that of providing residents with information via *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, and the mobile watch project of safeguarding the community.

As this community grows it has become increasingly difficult to keep residents involved. Wolfe and the other BHA board members would like to see a new trend in community awareness and involvement.

According to Wolfe, residents who have not yet responded to the membership drive will soon be receiving a reminder.

### OFFICERS

**BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road  
Suite 101  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

Randy Wolfe	President	684-0079
Russ Lembke	Vice President	685-7193
Rick Oros	Secretary	685-0866
Jim Wiley	Treasurer	684-7825

#### Directors

Jeff Campbell	689-9650	Ronda Paramoore	654-4475
Ted Grable	685-7193	Walter Schaffer	654-6651
Ian Horn	681-2051	LaWayne Wyatt	685-2072
David Lees	681-3999		

### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

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Ren Delavan	Vice President	685-1711
Joe Liguori	Treasurer	681-9655
John Gunn	Corresponding Secretary	689-1017
Ron Mabe	Recording Secretary	684-8924
Peter Aluotto	Temporary Trustee	685-0727
Wingfield Hughes	Temporary Trustee	685-1946
Bob Stalker	Administrator	685-2901

### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

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John Britton	Treasurer	681-1553
Steve Schneider	Equipment Manager	685-8378

#### Members

David Guy	681-5943
Paul Kellner	681-3701
Rick Borling	684-2022

### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

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

William Grace	President	685-2817
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### MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

#### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

#### BHA Board of Directors

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

#### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

#### Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

## Fear Of Trespassers Stirs Park West Residents

by Rozel Sculli

Two months ago, Bloomingdale resident Dick Baker took his campaign around his neighborhood which backs up to Park East; last month he got Park West residents involved. The results of his canvassing show an overwhelming desire among residents to have their property separated from the parks they back up to.

Park West residents Brenden Duffy and Barbara Davis, along with Baker, addressed last month's meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association which is conducting a survey to determine what improvements residents would like to see at the two parks now operated by Hillsborough County. Bond money for park improvements around

the county has come available, and BHA board member Ted Grable described it as "once-in-a-lifetime funding for park improvement."

Residents who live around the perimeter of both parks would like the money spent on wrought iron fencing, a barrier that will keep trespassers out, yet not detract from their view of the park and playground areas.

According to Duffy, trespassing has been a serious problem for residents around Park West. He reported that residents are annoyed with the horseback and bicycle riding through their backyards. He also received reports of peeping Toms and of a stranger living in the wetlands section of the park.

While the county has

posted three no-trespassing signs, Davis and others remain skeptical that any improvements are forthcoming. "Six years ago when the parks were deeded over to the county there were grand plans," said Davis. "Nothing has been done."

The residents hope that the county will define the area of the parks before adding equipment or buildings to enhance the parks. "It's the county's responsibility to close off the park," said Baker, "not the property owners."

Jeff Campbell, the BHA board member in charge of the park survey, said that response must come from a majority of the residents. He anticipates that phone canvassing will bring about those responses.

## STD Trustees Named; Some Seats Still Vacant

by Rozel Sculli

County supervisor of elections Pam Iorio announced recently that vacancies still remain on the two local special taxing districts of Bloomingdale and Bloomingdale Oaks. When the qualification period ended in late July, only six of the total nine vacancies had been filled. According to Iorio, it will now be up to each STD board to fill the vacant seats.

Joe Liguori returns to his seat on the Bloomingdale STD board of trustees. A member for the past six years, Liguori most recently served as the

board's treasurer. New to the board is Oakcrest resident Rick Pitrowski, who filled one of the two temporary trustee positions held by Peter Aluotto and Wingfield Hughes, both of whom are leaving the board. One position remains vacant and board members would like someone from the community to step forward to fill that spot.

In Bloomingdale Oaks, Frederick Englehard, Michael Fountain, and Linda Hagan return to their board positions. They are joined by newcomer Marianna Grace, wife of current STD president William

See STD, page 3



# Mobile Watch History and Procedure Explained

by LaWayne Wyatt

Conversations with several residents new to this area who were unfamiliar with the Bloomingdale Mobile Watch prompted this article.

The purpose of the Mobile Watch is to act as a deterrent to crime and to act as eyes and ears for the Sheriff's Office. Members do not carry weapons and do not become directly involved in any altercation. All members are residential volunteers who are interested in the safety and security of their community.

The Mobile Watch was originally formed in July 1980 following a series of burglaries in the new Bloomingdale subdivision. At that time, Bloomingdale had only 103 homes on the east side of Bell Shoals. During the first meeting, the basic rules and procedures were developed under the guidance of then Sgt. Bennie Holder, Tampa Police Dept., who was also a resident. The Bloomingdale Security Patrol began operations under the auspices of the BHA.

In November 1983 it became the Bloomingdale Mobile Watch, and its members assisted in starting the Neighborhood Watch program for Bloomingdale.

Over the years we have worked very closely with the Sheriff's Office. Information provided by members has led to the arrest and conviction of several burglary rings and solved several other crimes in the community. In the early days members also provided traffic control

assistance to the Sheriff's Office for accidents in the area.

Funding and equipment support has come from many sources during the past thirteen years. Builders, the developers, the BHA, *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, businesses and residents have all provided monetary support or donated equipment to keep the Watch running. Currently, the Mobile Watch is funded by the BHA and donations from residents.

As Bloomingdale has grown, the size of the Mobile Watch has fluctuated. Membership has been as high as 214. Today we have less than 100 active members with five base station operators plus one on temporary leave of absence. These volunteer members donate three hours a month to drive an assigned area within the community. The area covered by these patrols is approximately three miles long—John Moore Road to Lithia Pinecrest Road—and 1 1/2 miles wide and includes 50 to 60 streets.


It is not necessary to be a homeowner to participate. You only have to live in the areas we patrol. These areas include Brookside Apts., Bloomingdale Woods, Pine Grove, Bloomingdale Oaks, Fairway Manors, Windsor Woods, Erin Arbor, Oakcrest, Fox Run, The Greens, River Crossings, Bloomingdale South, as well as the original East, West and Estates. The Mobile Watch also provides traffic control assistance to the BHA for many

of its functions.

All observations by patrols are reported to the Base Station via CB radio and recorded in a logbook. The Base Station calls the Sheriff's Office, as required, to report crimes in progress, suspicious activity or significant problems. The log is also used to record any calls by residents reporting criminal activity. By referring back to this log, we can determine areas which may require special emphasis.

The Mobile Watch continues to work very closely with District II of the Sheriff's Office. We currently provide District II and the resource officers for both Bloomingdale High School and Burns Junior High School copies of the log updates. These updates provide them with indicators of activity in the Bloomingdale community and may provide leads to solve crimes in our area. The Sheriff's Office has officially recognized the Mobile Watch and will use it as a model for other communities that wish to start similar organizations. We also talk to our Zone Deputy in person or by CB radio.

As Bloomingdale grows, so will the Mobile Watch. We continually need new members to replace those who move. We also need to add more patrols as more homes are built. Call today and volunteer one evening a month. As long as the need exists, we plan to be on the streets to keep our community safe.



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## STD, from page 2

Grace. Two vacancies remain on the Bloomingdale Oaks board of trustees.

The Bloomingdale STD oversees a budget in excess of \$300,000. Created in the late 80's, it is one of the largest districts in all of Hillsborough County, with the potential to become the largest, considering the amount of land still undeveloped in East. Its elected members serve two-year terms and have the power to contract with providers to their area and disperse funds. Each year, they present a balanced budget to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. The tax dollars are divided among operating expenses, capital improvement costs, and reserve funds.

According to county official Mary Mahoney,

STD's were created by the county commissioners when approached by community groups that did not have the cash flow to maintain the common areas of their development such as landscaped medians and to maintain a uniform look such as perimeter walls. She explained that the STD has no enforcement power on deed restrictions or county codes. "That's why it's important to have a mandatory master homeowners association," Mahoney said.

Establishment of an STD requires a petition signed by at least 51 percent of the property owners in a specified area.

Mahoney said that it is important for residents to attend monthly STD meetings which are operated under the Sunshine Laws.

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# This Old Barn Landmark Still Serves Community



Photo by Tim Golden

John and Terry Lubotsky are the current proprietors of the barn.

by David Bernhart

With all of the large businesses and new eateries continually opening around Brandon, it's easy for newcomers to pass by the shady avenues and small, nearly hidden landmarks here in Bloomingdale without giving them much notice. One such building perseveres at 2204 E. Bloomingdale Ave. east of the high school. It is one of the

few remaining symbols of rural life in this area.

The rustic red and white barn owned by Matt Carter is located beneath a stand of huge oaks well away from the road, but can be clearly seen as one drives down E. Bloomingdale. The Carter family has owned the 44 acres on which it stands for at least 30 years. Matt Carter and his three siblings have built their homes on the land behind the barn. Carter now rents the building to John and Terry Lubotsky for their fruit and vegetable stand.

Built in 1929, the barn has served many purposes for different tenants throughout its 64-year history. It was originally built for use as a cattle barn and still houses an aging milking stanchion on the unoccupied side of its huge frame. Years later, it became Bloomingdale's first fire station. One would think the barn was not well suited for that purpose.

Donald McKeon, a founding member and first chief of the department served from 1973 to early 1975. He recalls that the truck they used barely got through the front opening. With the fire department came the barn's first telephone and electricity.

The station also had no running water and little office space. The closeness inside the barn also meant that only



Photo by Tim Golden

The familiar Bloomingdale landmark was built in 1929 and has housed among other things, cows and firetrucks.

one vehicle could be kept inside. The other fire vehicles had to be stowed behind the barn. Aside from the ball park across the street, there was little else standing near the station at the time.

The Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department remained in the Carter barn until 1975 when their old 1947 truck was replaced with a newer model that would not fit through the constrictive door and the county built Station 7 west of John Moore Road.

When the firemen departed, the barn was used to sell lawn furniture and was a produce stand for eight years. In January, 1992, the Lubotskys moved their produce business into the barn. Anyone driving by the barn in the middle of the week can see that business is good. The Lubotskys, who have set up shop on both U.S. coasts, say they are in their new location to stay.

And when the day comes for them to move on, this old barn will remain as a constant reminder of Bloomingdale's past.

## Ask Your Vet



by Harry D. Vildibill, D.V.M.

Dear Dr. Vildibill:

I am a four year old cat named Snow—Mr. Snow if you would like to be formal—but don't worry about that because I have a problem more serious than my name.

It all started when my owner put a flea collar on me. Oh, he thought he was doing the right thing, but what he didn't know was that after it was put around my neck, I developed a terrible rash. It was as if my whole neck were on fire.

I tried to get it off, but I ended up getting my foot caught in it. Then I tried scratching because it felt so good. Unfortunately, infection set in, and now I am in terrible shape. My neck has swollen to where the collar is tight and all my scratch marks are infected. What should I do?

Sincerely,

Snow

Dear Mr. Snow:

First, you need professional help. If you are having an allergy to the flea collar, then it has to come off right away. If your owner doesn't want to waste it, then he can put it in his vacuum cleaner bag where it will kill fleas for up to three months a lot better than it would have on your neck.

Second, you need an injection of cortisone to counteract the allergy and help to clear up the rash.

Third, you need to have your neck cleaned, but not with soap because that would be irritating. Your vet will know what to use when he sees the condition.

Fourth, he will apply a soothing cortisone antibiotic/fungicidal medication to help heal the denuded tissue that is infected.

Fifth, he will put you on a good flea control program tailored to the fact that you are allergic to certain things. Your vet will know what is best for you, and remember that prevention is the best cure.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vildibill

(Please send Dr. Vildibill questions about your pet concerns to *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, 3232 Lúhia Pinecrest Rd., Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594.)



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# Expert Horsemanship Is Way of Life At Paragrims Farms

by Gwen Szafranski

The swish of a tail and toss of a mane; the gleam of chestnut hide soaring over white fences; the clip-clop of smartly trotting hooves—all are images that have instilled many a child with a life long love of horses. Some will schedule riding lessons in between stints with gymnastics, little league, or ballet, adding the discipline and skills of riding to a long list of childhood activities. For some others, however, the world of horses will become a way of life.

"A way of life" is exactly how Andy and Patsy Grim, owners of Paragrims Farms, describe their program. Although they are busy year around providing riding lessons for students of various levels of competence, their dedication to training good riders provides the opportunity for promising students to be able to compete if they choose.

Paragrims students, who hale from all over the Central Florida area and as far away as Tennessee, have won top ribbons nationally including the Winter Equestrian Festival. The Festival, which includes ten weeks of showing, begins in West Palm Beach and culminates with the \$100,000 American Invitational in Tampa. In fact, Patsy was invited to do a portion of her judge apprenticeship at the American Invitational sitting with the premier judges in the nation.

The quality of the Grims' instruction derives from their respective backgrounds. Both Patsy's and Andy's mothers rode in shows for Florida State University. Ironically, the couple did not meet until years later at a horse show. In the interim, Patsy worked in Virginia with J. Arthur Reynolds, trainer of racehorses, hunters, and jumpers. Andy received his training in Connecticut from renowned horseman, Ronnie Mutch.

Their expertise has obviously transferred to daughters



Photo by Tim Golden

"Irish Whiskey" sails over a fence with Whitney Grim aboard.

Whitney, 11, and Emily, 5. At one show, Whitney took a jumper to a qualifying class for the first time and placed third out of 45 in her class. Up to that point, she had only ridden in the pony division. Even little Emily rode "Owen B. Meany" of Acres Wild Farm to a blue ribbon in the Millers Lead Line Class at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Palm Beach.

With the Grims, horsemanship extends to vacations spent at horse shows and friendships with other horsemen. They show horses throughout the eastern United States to include Kentucky, Virginia, Illinois, North Carolina and Georgia, and Patsy recently fulfilled requirements to be a judge for the American Horseshow Association. Paragrims Farms did itself achieve notoriety when "The Natural," the million dollar show jumper owned by Paul

Greenwood, boarded there for ten days before leaving to compete in the World Cup.

Paragrims Farms, located off of Bell Shoals and south of Bloomingdale Ave., was purchased by the Grims in 1987 from artist Ken Hawk, who had built the stables for his daughter. In converting it to a center for training show horses, instructing budding riders, and boarding horses, Andy and Patsy created the name by pairing the Latin prefix meaning "for" with their own name. The farm may mean "for the Grims," but they are a couple willing to share their knowledge with any student of horsemanship.



Photo by Tim Golden

Sarah Vestal on "Cappy" listens to instruction from Evelyn Stephens, mother of Patsy Grim.



Photo by Tim Golden

Andy and Patsy Grim with one of their equine friends.

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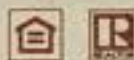
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## Bits N Pieces Around Bloomingdale



Two next door neighbors in Bloomingdale East gave "keeping up with the Joneses" new meaning this summer when both families brought new babies home just days apart.

Christopher and Susan Deem, added a baby girl to their family tree. Melissa Leigh was born on July 21. She weighed 8-lb, 13 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long. Melissa was welcomed by her big brother, two-and-a-half-year-old Bryan. Pink balloons on the mailbox let neighbors know Susan and Chris finally had their little girl. Both sets of out-of-town grandparents were on hand for the happy event.

The following week, Dana Matthew was born to proud parents Christine and Zane Phlegar. A big blue stork in the Phlegar's front yard let neighbors know that Dana was born on July 30 in Brandon. He was 9-lb, 9 1/2 oz., and measured 21 1/2 inches long.

### Birthday Milestones

Alexander Palmer, described by those who love him as a good-natured, cuddly little boy, will be one year old on Sept. 13. He is the son of Marty and Jean Palmer who reside in Bloomingdale West. Celebrating this very important birthday are his big brother Jeremy and big sister Elizabeth.

Happy birthday to Rio Oros who just turned 13 on Aug. 29. The now-teenage son of Rick and June Oros of West is an 8th grader at Burns. Rio is an honor student and enjoys playing soccer.

What a surprise for Gene Sciulli of East when he turned 40 last month. Not expecting any type of celebration, he was suspicious when friends began showing up for an unannounced Sunday visit. As they popped in during the day, all of them had convincing reasons for visiting. While wife Rozel snuck food and party goodies in the back door, the gullible birthday boy made small-talk with relatives and long time friends wondering all the while if they were ever going to leave in time for him to sit down and enjoy his normal Sunday dinner. Finally, when the last guest arrived with the cake, the cat was let out of the bag.

Please send us your social news. *The Bloomingdale Gazette*, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594. Photos are accepted. Please be sure to include a telephone number.



Alexander Palmer

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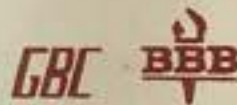
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## Youth Group Works Toward Philadelphia Trip

by Erin Mule'

Church...Fun. Many teenagers don't think of the two going together. But, for Madonna Fuller and Teri Nedeau, the leaders of the St. Stephen's teen youth groups, they're a natural.

Madonna wants to "let kids know it's okay to have fun with each other and have fun at church." Teri, who says she watches MTV to keep up with teen interests, likes to use current music to discuss values. These two dynamic, brave women are taking 12 teens to Philadelphia for the National Catholic Youth Conference this fall.

The conference, which convenes every two years, will meet from Nov. 11-14. Once there, teens will choose to attend meetings on topics which interest them ranging from teen suicide to putting prayer into their life. There is even an aerobics class being offered. According to Nedeau, each topic will be presented from the Catholic perspective.

The teens won't spend all their time in conferences, however. They have set aside one day to tour historic Philadelphia with the perfect guide, Fr. Tom Anastasia, a native of that area and the newest clergy member at St. Stephens.

Many of the teens have been working all summer to raise money for their trip. They have washed windshields during masses and most recently held a flea market. On Sept. 25, they plan a Rock-a-thon - not of music but rocking chairs. Taco Bell is providing fuel for the rockers. Then, on Sept. 28, the teens will hold a Burger King Night with a percentage of all sales at the Bloomingdale store going to the youth group. The teens are also accepting donations which can be made at the church office or by calling 6894900.

The church's youth groups have taken a month off this summer, but are ready for a year of activities. Fuller will be leading the group of approximately 180 junior students in a combination of religious, social, and service activities. Nedeau, who last year headed the pre-k through 5th graders, will make the jump to lead the senior high group. She credits her youth council with helping guide her in planning this year's functions.

The senior high youth will begin by attending "A Night of Joy" featuring Christian rock groups on Sept. 11 at Disney World. They are also planning to help out at Villa Madonna School, a Catholic school in Tampa for underprivileged children.



### BHA Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will be held Tuesday evening, Sept. 14, at 7:30, in the Community Office at 3232 Lithia Pincrest Rd., Suite 101. All Bloomingdale residents are invited to attend.

### Burger King Night for St. Stephens Youth

The St. Stephen's Youth Group will benefit from the sale of food at Burger King on Bloomingdale Tuesday evening, Sept. 28. A percentage of the sales that night will be donated to the teens to help with the expenses of their scheduled trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference this November in Philadelphia. (See related story this issue).

Patrons will need to show a coupon in order for a portion of their purchase to be credited to St. Stephens. Coupons will be available in the St. Stephens Church office on Bell Shoals or from youth group members.

### BLFA Artfest '93

Art lovers can browse and hopefully shop to their "art's" content when the Brandon League of Fine Arts sponsors its 17th annual Artfest on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Regency Square. Artists from this area and all over the state will display their works for sale. Visitors will be treated to art forms in oil, acrylics, watercolor, three dimensional art such as sculpture, pottery and glass, creative crafts, and other artistic media such as photography and graphics.

### New Share Food Site

The First Presbyterian Church of Brandon, located at 121 Carver St., is now a SHARE food program host site. Two hours work helping others and \$13 cash or food stamps entitles participants to receive a SHARE food package comparable to \$25 to \$35. Registration will be held at the church Sept. 5, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Sept. 8, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Food must be picked up at church on Sat., Sept. 25, between 10:00 a.m. and noon. For more information call 654-6736, 685-5578, or 689-4597.

See Hear Ye, page 15



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# Business Notes



## Nature's Medicine Chest Celebrates Grand Opening

Steve Kozak of Valrico will soon soar above Orlando as winner of the romantic hot air balloon ride compliments of Nature's Medicine Chest on Lithia Pincrest Road. Christi Ford and JoAnne Natica of Brandon and Linda Nasworthy of Valrico can all enjoy meals at Adam's Mark Caribbean as the lucky winners of gift certificates from the grand opening of the store.

Owner Kathi Mitchell said the store received many inquiries about their weight loss program as well as suggested treatments for chronic fatigue syndrome and candida yeast infections. Mitchell gives mini-lessons in iridology, a technique used to pinpoint inherent weaknesses in the body and will soon have a machine to enhance the lessons.

Mitchell also recommends the mood enhancing CD's by Narda Productions and Mannheim Steamroller, which feature violin, flute, guitar, and woodwinds.

## Shirley's Dance Studio Plans Open House

Parents and prospective students are invited to Shirley's Dance Studio for an open house on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Guests will be able to view classes in progress in the studio located at 4326 Bell Shoals Road. Refreshments will be served.

## Local Realtor Honored

Bloomington resident Bill Thompson of Century 21 Link Realty, Brandon, recently returned from Marco Island where he attended the 20th Southern Florida Convention and was honored as the #3 top agent in Hillsborough County. Thompson was singled out for his high level of success and was inducted into the prestigious Masters Club.

## Realtors Pair Up

Coldwell Banker's Pat Wheeler and Andy Joiner have announced that they are now working as partners in residential real estate sales. They have an average joint marketing time of 28 days in the Brandon Marketplace. They have a combined 20 years experience in residential real estate and are frequently recognized for their professionalism and friendly service.

## Fort Brooke Names New Director

Richard Eatman, president of the locally-owned Fort Brooke Bank, is pleased to announce that H. Rex Etheredge has been appointed to the bank's Board of Directors. Etheredge has over 16 years of top-level hospital administration experience, including that of executive director of Brandon Hospital since 1989. Etheredge was the hospital's top man as well from 1979 to 1984.

A graduate of Auburn University with an M.A. in Economics, Etheredge also serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida League of Hospitals, the Brandon Rotary Club, the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, and the Brandon unit of the American Cancer Society.



Photo by Gwen Szafarski

Jeb Bush, in Brandon to promote his gubernatorial bid, pauses for a photo with Buddy Johnson at an August 27 luncheon in Bush's honor at the Outback Restaurant.

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## Real Estate Moves: Something For Nothing?

by Michael Davis

You've just run an ad in the paper to sell your car. The first caller is interested and comes by to take a look. After seeing your car, the prospect asks if you will take a lower price, and throw in the gas grill on your back porch at no extra charge.

As ridiculous as that may sound, it happens often when owners attempt to sell their home "by owner." Imagine how you would react if a prospective buyer indicated an interest in buying your home, if you throw in the countertop microwave or the children's swing set.

At first you might feel indignant at the request. After a few moments, however, you might quickly justify giving away an item of personal property to achieve the greater objective of selling your house. Is that really necessary?

For the record, there is a difference between real estate and personal property. Real estate is the land and any

improvements permanently affixed to it, i.e. the house, a built-in range, or a hot tub attached to the deck. When real estate is sold, personal property is not included. Thus, the refrigerator, countertop microwave, or gas grill on wheels are not part of the real estate transaction.

How can you avoid giving those items away when selling? When offering your home for sale, make it clear to all prospective buyers that personal property is not included. If you do plan to include the refrigerator, make sure that you clearly identify what goes and what stays. This does not mean buyers will automatically stop asking for concessions of personal property. It does mean that all negotiations will favor your interests.

This is the best way to achieve an acceptable sale for your home without giving away your personal property. Depend on it.

Michael Davis is a realtor with RE/MAX Realty Unlimited.

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**ZONING, from page 1**

residents to get our input. They knew in 1987 that the property (on Erindale) has been zoned municipal since 1975. We would love to see a library or park go onto that land."

"A park is very appealing," said Erin Arbor resident Skip Rainey. "There are no parks easily accessible to our kids, and a park would not destroy the natural areas."

"It's 6 1/2 miles to the nearest library," said Pitrowski, citing another possible use of the Erindale property.

The citizen's group has armed itself with statistics from "experts" in the areas of law enforcement and real estate.

"Apartments bring transients and with them comes crime," said Pitrowski, pointing to statistics of high crime areas where 80% of the population lives in apartments. "North Brandon used to be a beautiful area. With the increase in apartment complexes the community went downhill along with its businesses, and is now part of the highest crime area of

Brandon."

The group also fears that apartments or low-cost detached housing will cause their property to lose value.

Pointing out that it is both difficult and dangerous to exit onto Lithia-Pinecrest from Erindale and onto Bloomingdale from Springvale, the group will also present its traffic concerns to the hearing master.

According to county officials, the developers will have to prepare a traffic analysis of the impacted areas.

Pitrowski said the group is willing to work with Metropolitan Life to reach an agreeable compromise.

"If this doesn't happen, we'd like to have a say in what does happen," he said. "They're trying to cram this change down our throats."

"Metropolitan Life is based in New York. They don't care what happens here."

The final decision rests with the board of county commissioners who will take input from the property owners, area residents, and the recommendation of the hearing master into consideration.

The Bloomingdale group is hoping a large turnout and sound input based in fact and findings will make a point with the hearing master, who will then have 15 days in which to make a recommendation to the county.

**SIBLINGS, from page 1**

from a distance, even in later years, patronizing Dianne's workplace just to watch her.

When Dianne turned 18 in 1962, Carolyn and Helena contacted her and asked to meet her. According to Helena, her youngest sister agreed to meet with Carolyn and her, but not with the mother who gave her up. "Dianne has always felt that she was given up, not the way we had to be taken away," Helena explained, adding that Dianne is still not comfortable around her birth mother.

Dianne later became estranged from her sisters when she married a military man and moved away.

For the next 28 years, Carolyn and Helena, with a total of 15 children between them, raised their families together, satisfied with having each other and their mother, but always feeling an emptiness inside.

**Piecing The Puzzle**

Margaret, who was living in Illinois in 1990, had been working through the ALMA organization, which assists adults in finding birth parents and siblings. Old enough at the time of the separation to remember her mother's maiden name, she visited the cemetery in Richmond and found the grave markers of her grandparents. Through the cemetery office, she was able to locate a cousin who knew of her mother's whereabouts.

Living in Gadsden, AL, Martha made a frantic phone call to Helena. "She was hysterical," recalled Helena. "All I could get out of her was 'Margaret'."

Married and with five children of her own, Margaret was reunited with Carolyn, Helena, and their mother that summer in Bloomingdale West.

All that remained was the search for Richard and Irene.

In 1992, Helena and her husband Gil sold their Bloomingdale home and moved to Indiana to be close to her sisters.

When Richard and Irene were adopted, their caseworker sent Martha a photograph of them sitting on the front porch of their new home. Two of the four house numbers were visible behind little Irene's legs. With that clue and the information from the caseworker that the

children would be fine "because they lived across from a school play yard", sisters Helena and Margaret began their search.

They took this information to the Dayton, Ohio library where, in the 1946 city directory they found that 29 houses were situated across from elementary schools at that time.

"We went house to house," said Helena. "Wouldn't you know it was the 28th house."

To their disappointment, the house was empty, but neighbors, who had to be convinced of their relation, knew how to find their brother.

"Dick was elated when he heard from us," she said. "He wanted to speak to his adoptive mother first before meeting us."

One week later, the four held their first reunion in the park.

Irene, who had been named Kathy by her adoptive parents, was living in Titusville. The adoption was never discussed in their home while they were growing up. Dick assumed that Irene, three at the time of the adoption, had the same memories he had. It wasn't until Dick called to tell her of the reunion that he learned for the first time Irene did not know she had sisters.

**Finally At Peace**

This past July, Helena, Carolyn, Margaret and Richard celebrated their mother's 80th birthday with a reunion in the park where they had once played. Dianne, who was found again, and Irene, did not attend.

"Playing in Glenn Miller Park is one of the only memories we have from our childhood," said Helena, who has since moved back to Bloomingdale.

The siblings had lunch together the day before the picnic to talk about their lives growing up in separate adopted families. They even gathered for a slumber party, just to remember what it was like to sleep under one roof again.

"It's too painful for mother to remember those days," said Helena. "We all felt like a part of us was missing, so we get together without mother to try to blend our lives together."

"For the first time in my life I'm at peace knowing that everyone is okay and

that they have had a good life. It has made my life complete knowing that our mother has peace of mind."

When their father Edgar died in 1955, his last wish was to see the wife and children he had left behind. Only Carolyn and her mother were left to face the man who had abandoned his family after the war.

Now the picture of his grave marker is part of the fragments that make up Helena's life. Every photograph and city hall record that helped her in her search is preserved in a scrapbook that binds the pieces of her past.

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# Runners Take Off For Charity



Photo by Tim Golden

High school gridiron action is underway in Hillsborough County. The Bulls opened their season Friday night against Gaither. A match-up against Dist. 7 foe Plant City is on tap for Friday, Sept. 10. The local home opener will pit the Bulls against the King Lions on Sept. 17.

Bloomington East will be the site of the first ever Run for Habitat on Saturday, Sept. 25. A four-mile race and one-mile fun run are being sponsored by the St. Andrew's United Methodist Men, and will cover an area along Nature's Way and Culbreath.

Proceeds from the race will benefit Tampa Habitat for Humanity, Inc., the local chapter of the national self-help organization founded by former President Jimmy Carter. Habitat builds houses for the less fortunate but only after they have completed 3,000 hours of volunteer work for Habitat.

The four-mile race will start at 8 a.m., beginning at Park East and heading east on Nature's Way to south on Culbreath and back onto Nature's Way, finishing at the park. The one-mile fun run which begins at 9 a.m. will also start at Park East and head south on Nature's Way to Lomewood where runners will turn around and return to the park.

The cost is \$10 in advance or \$13 the day of the race. The entry fee for children under 12 who are

accompanied by an adult is \$5. Advanced entries must be postmarked by Sept. 20, according to race organizer Jim Allen, who added that runners will receive a T-shirt, plenty of refreshments, fruits, and snacks. Same-day registration begins at 6:45 a.m. at Park East.

Awards will be presented to three places in each of the age groups for both males and females in the four-mile event. The first place male and female winners of the one-mile fun run will receive awards, and ribbons will be given to all race finishers.

"The Habitat project is something worthwhile," said Allen. "Recently they were completely out of money and construction came to a stop."

Allen hopes this race will attract as many as 300 runners which would allow the Men's group to make a generous donation to the Habitat chapter.

Entries may be made by mail to the St. Andrew's United Methodist Men in care of Jim Allen, 620 Rapid Falls Drive, Brandon, 33511.

## Soccer Tourney This Weekend

Over 100 soccer teams from around the state will take part in the first ever Brandon Labor Day Classic Soccer Tournament this weekend at J.C. Handley Complex on Kings Avenue in Brandon. Hosted by the Brandon Area Youth Soccer League (BAYSL), the tournament runs Sept. 4, 5, and 6, and will feature athletes from under nine to under 19.

The tournament is expected to showcase Brandon's youth soccer talent as well as the league's home playing fields. BAYSL was chosen as one of the premier soccer leagues in Florida by tournament sponsor Adidas, which also sponsors the United States World Cup Soccer Team.

According to tournament director John Bard, the event is expected to generate thousands of dollars for the local economy as well as provide an income for league improvements.

"Once people come out and see what terrific playing fields BAYSL has, the tournament will continue to grow more each year," Bard said.

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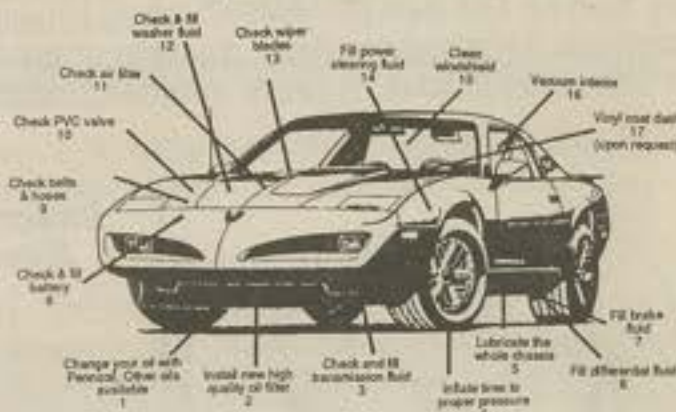
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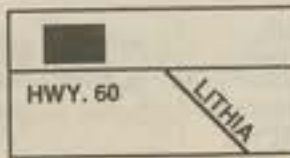
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