

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

MARCH 2009 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

Volume XXX
Number 3

Widening Needs Support

Tired of Lithia Pinecrest being a parking lot? Let your voice be heard.

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The March Of The Rajun Bulls

Bloomington's marching band enjoys the Super Bowl.

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Real People, Real Spaces

Designer focuses on how people live.

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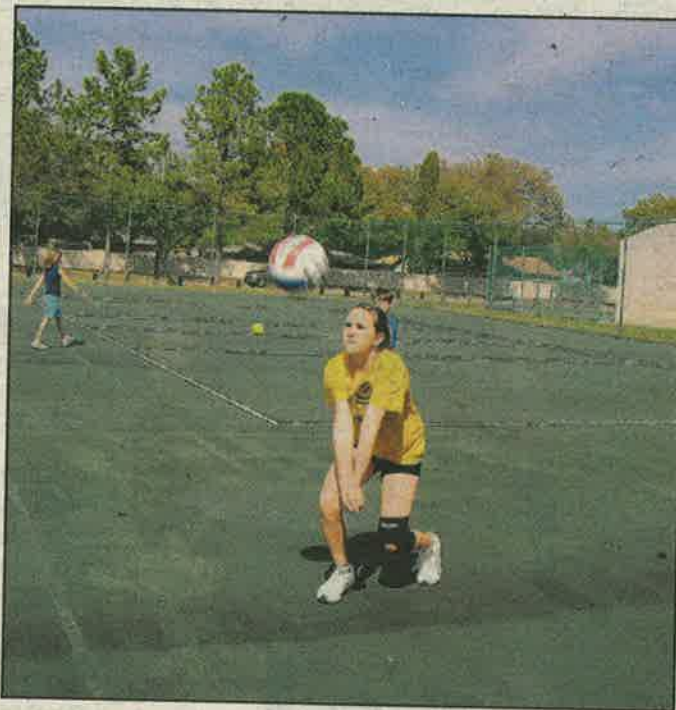
A Day At Bloomingdale East Park



Two heads are better than one...Evan Peerless, 2, and his buddy, Nolan Woodyer, 3, enjoy weekly play dates at the park.



Can't decide between football and soccer? Pals Dahlia Philip and Adrian Montanez, both 5, think any ball sport is a good one.



Shannon Dougherty, 12, demonstrates the perfect volleyball bump.

With cold weather soon to be a distant memory, Bloomingdale residents enjoyed a beautiful "almost spring" day at Bloomingdale East Park. Amenities at the park include a tot play area, basketball, volleyball, handball and tennis courts, water fountain and bathroom facilities.

We want your Bloomingdale community photos! Find out how to submit your work by e-mailing InBloomingtonNews@tampabay.rr.com.

Photos by Joy Boisselle

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Abraham Lincoln

St. Andrew's Hosts St. Patrick's Day Variety Show and Dinner

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church (UMC) is giving you a chance to bring out your inner Leprechaun and join them as they host a St. Patrick's Day Variety Show and dinner on Saturday March 14. Dinner will consist of traditional Irish fare and begins at 6 p.m. The variety show will follow at 7 p.m. and will have a South Seas theme.

Tickets are on sale before each service on Sunday beginning Feb. 15 and going through March 8. The cost for adults is \$10, children are \$5; or you can purchase a family ticket for \$25. Tickets also can be purchased at the St. Andrew's main office during office hours. All proceeds benefit the general mission fund at St. Andrew's, which includes the Zambia Medical Mission, Texas and Mississippi Hurricane Relief Mission, as well as the dozens of local ministries supported through

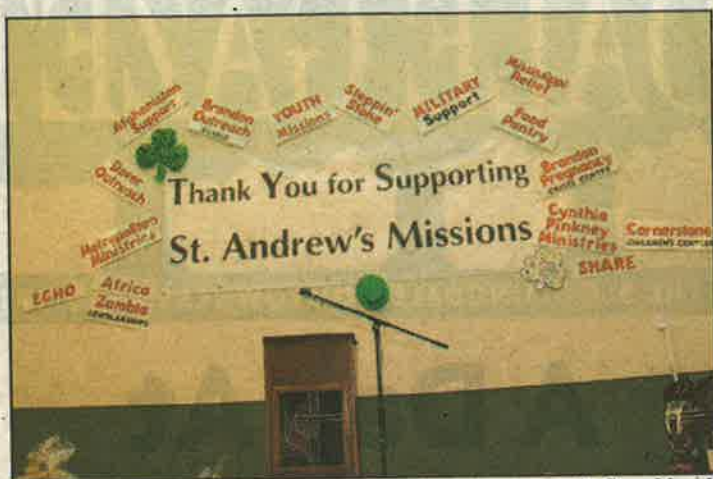


Photo by Garry Metcalf

The stage at St. Andrew's shows just a few of the missions the church supports.

missions such as ECHO, Brandon Outreach Clinic, LifeCare of Brandon, I Am Hope Cafe, Steppin' Stone Farm, Metropolitan Ministries, Dover Outreach, and many more.

The event will be located in the St. Andrew's UMC Family Life Center, located at

3315 Bryan Road in Brandon Florida. For further information on this or other events at St. Andrew's please call (813) 689-6849 or visit standrewsbrandon.org.

For additional questions, contact Missions Team Leader Mike Bass mbass33511@aol.com (813) 662-0663

Just Like Mike



JOY BOISSELLE/Gazette Photo

Dahlia Philip, 5, practices her dribbling skills.



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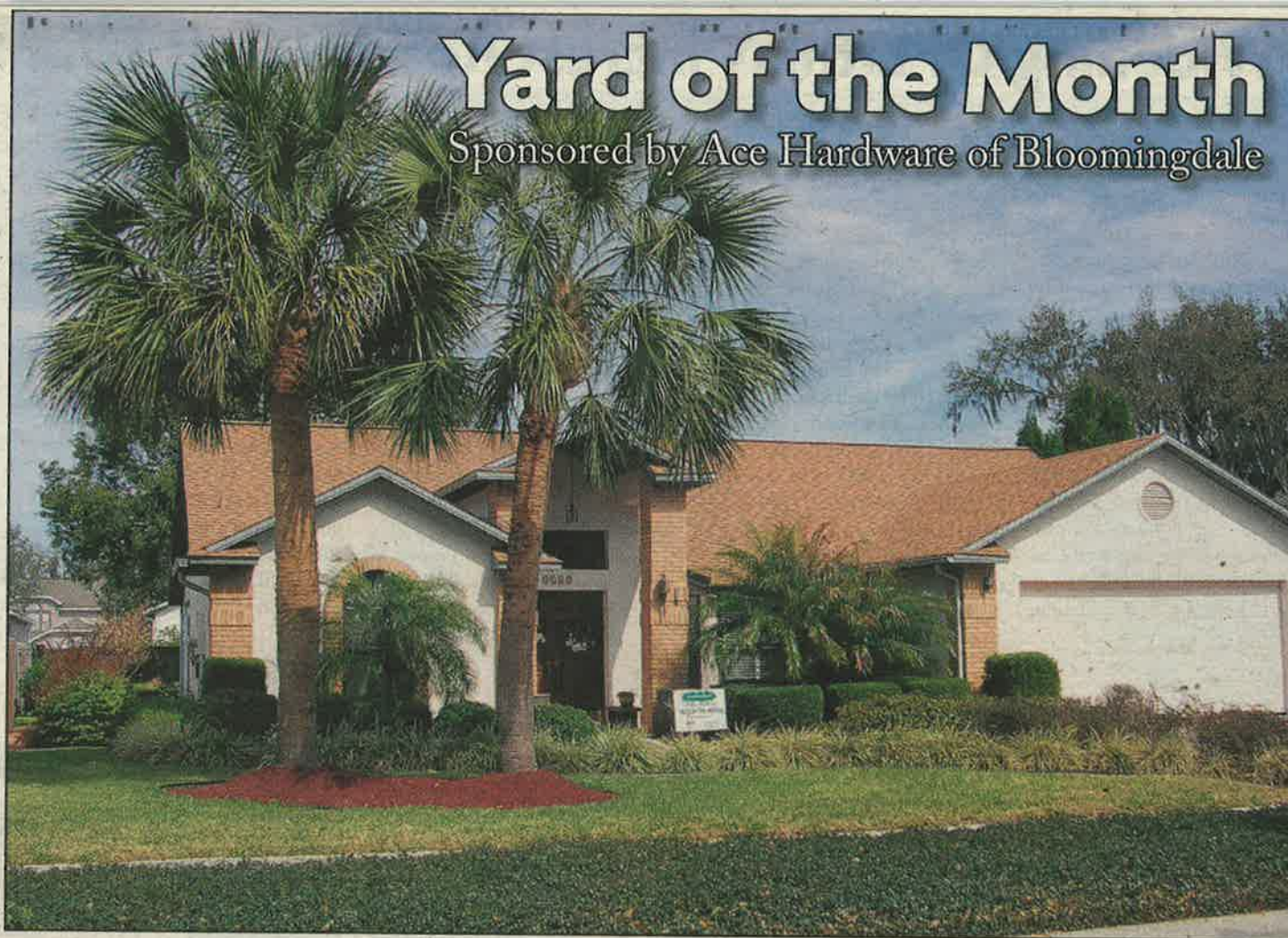


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Yard of the Month

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Widening Of Lithia Pincrest Road Needs Your Support

By GEORGE MAY

Are you tired of sitting in traffic on the Lithia Pincrest parking lot? Rest assured, the problem will not take care of itself nor is it going to get any better.

National statistics are being estimated that between now and 2025, there will be 30 million more homes built. It is also estimated that the average person will be getting in and out of their vehicle 10 times a day. Living in an area as nice as ours, you can bet we will get our fair share of homes being built here.

More homes are not all that

bad when you take the transportation issues out of the equation. New homes provide jobs and generate the funds for our government to meet their budgetary needs. Factor in transportation and proper planning is needed to correctly solve the problem.

Which brings me to Lithia Pincrest. This is a failed road as defined by the Dept of Transportation. The road isn't wide enough to accommodate the amount of traffic that is using it daily. Plus there's the safety issue of daily wrecks. And this is a designated evacuation route in the event of a hurricane.

The good news is, the PD&E

study will be completed this year. After this step, funds are needed to go forward with the widening. There was a request to have the study done to meet Federal standards. This was done with the foresight of where to get funds for this project. To be eligible for funds, Lithia Pincrest has to be on the list of recommended roads for improvement by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO has a short-term list (5 years) and a long-term list (20-25 years). Presently Lithia isn't on either list.

The bad news is, there is a small group of people (less than 50) who live at the south end

of Lithia who are determined to completely halt this project. Some are not willing to plan for the future, some who don't travel Lithia during rush hour traffic.

How can 50 people affect the approximately 50,000 people who use Lithia? By being the squeaky wheel. Our county commissioners and the MPO have heard from this group, now they need to hear from the rest of us. Your voice needs to be heard by the county commissioners. Let them know you support the expansion of Lithia. A simple email saying, "Yes, I want the Lithia Pincrest road transportation problems solved" will

do the trick.

- higinbothama@hillsboroughcounty.org
- becknerk@hillsboroughcounty.org
- ferlitar@hillsboroughcounty.org
- normanj@hillsboroughcounty.org
- hagank@hillsboroughcounty.org
- sharpm@hillsboroughcounty.org
- whitek@hillsboroughcounty.org

If the e-mails don't start pouring in, then we could be sitting in the worsening congestion for the next 20 years,

TALK AROUND TOWN

By JOY BOISSELLE

"Talk around Town" is a section of your hometown newspaper that seeks to reach out to the community. Every month, residents and those who work in our community will be asked a question, sometimes light-hearted, sometimes serious, and asked to respond.

Do you have a question you would like to have asked?

E-mail your suggestions to InBloomingtonNews@tampabay.rr.com.

This month's question:

If you could add a business or service to the Bloomingdale community, what would it be and why?



Jim Dougherty, Calista resident

"I like our newspaper [The Bloomingdale Gazette], but I would like to see crime reports specifically for our community, Bloomingdale East and West. This kind of information helps us to stay aware of what is happening in our neighborhoods."



Amy Peerless, Oakcrest resident

"A movie theater close by would be great. You can add an hour to a night at the movies when you have to fight the mall traffic. Having one [a theater] here would be convenient. Also, anything kid-friendly would be a great addition."



Ikin Philip, Oakcrest resident and Caribbean native

"In the islands, we are used to eating fresh...fresh from the sea, fresh from the ground. I'd like to have an international restaurant featuring fresh foods and dishes that most American people are not accustomed to, so much here is burgers and fries."



Sarah Woodyer, Riverhills resident

"I'd like to see an outdoor water park or a bouncy facility like "Pump It Up," anything to keep the kids cool and busy. It would also be nice to have a restaurant with an outdoor seating area."

Splish Splash



JOY BOISSELLE/Gazette Photo

Who says bath time isn't fun? Noah Burnett, age 2, enjoys his day at the Campo Family YMCA Splash Pool.

Whitney Turns Sweet 16



Photo provided by Wallace Family

Rick and Kim Wallace of Bloomingdale surprised their daughter Whitney with a Sweet 16 party held at the Bloomingdale Golfers clubhouse with family, friends and a DJ to commemorate the occasion. Pictured are Kim and Whitney Wallace.

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Meetings: second Monday each month, 7 p.m.
President: Thom Snelling
Vice president: Russell Jones
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Property manager: Al Devney
Trustees: Joe Harless; Joe Liguori and James Laughlin



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The Gazette is delivered free to
 Bloomingdale residents along with
 The Tampa Tribune on the first
 Saturday of each month.

Still Counting...

The bean counting contest sponsored by The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and Ray Chadderton of Keller Williams Realty/The Chadderton Group is still open. The sponsors are offering two \$50 gift certificates to

Stonewood Grill & Tavern in a month-long community contest. To play, visit either Peterbrooke Chocolatier at 3476 Lithia Pinecrest Road or Car Wash on the Greens at 3618 Lithia Pinecrest Road and simply estimate the number of jelly

beans in the jar at one of the two locations. The person closest without going over at each location will win. The contest runs until March 11.

Winners do not have to be present to win and will be contacted by phone. You

may enter more than once, and you may enter at one or both locations.

If you are a Bloomingdale resident or business owner and would like to sponsor a contest of your own please e-mail inbloomingdalenews@tampabay.rr.com.

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Fundraisers for Steppin Stone

Last year on March 16, at Beef O'Brady's on Kings and March 19, at Cherry's on Bloomingdale many diners enjoyed a great meal and a feeling of satisfaction knowing that 10 percent of their bill would benefit Steppin' Stone Farm. These two restaurants, many local businesses and organizations, and Breakthrough Student Ministries at St. Andrew's are working together to raise funds and awareness for Steppin' Stone Farms, a Christian-based residential group home for teenage girls located in Lithia. It emphasizes that through accountability and personal responsibility each

girl has a chance to change her destiny.

An upcoming farm fundraiser is a benefit concert featuring BarlowGirl Friday, March 6 at 7 p.m. in the St. Andrew's sanctuary. BarlowGirl is a Christian rock band comprised of three sisters which has accumulated multiple Gospel Music Awards. Among their many hits are their award-winning songs "Never Alone" and "I Need You to Love Me." Also performing that night will be Point 04.

Profits from the concert will be donated to Steppin' Stone Farm in Lithia. Gift cards from Home Depot and Lowe's

will be collected the night of the event for those people who want to contribute directly to Steppin' Stone Farm.

Benefit concert tickets are available online at steppinston-farm.eventbrite.com. Prices are \$15 for advance purchase tickets and \$20 for day of the event tickets. St. Andrew's UMC is located at 3315 Bryan Road in Brandon. For more information on this event or other youth programs please visit www.StAndrewsBrandon.org, or call (813) 689-6849 ext. 217.

For additional questions please contact Dan Segale, (813) 689-6849 ext 217.



From Left to Right, Lydia Dees, Sean Humphries, Nolan Hammer, Betty Boop, Jacob Parrish, Rudy Dees, Erin Bazemore, Elizabeth Uchimura. Breakthrough Youth at Cherry's gives back 10 percent to Steppin' Stone Farm event.

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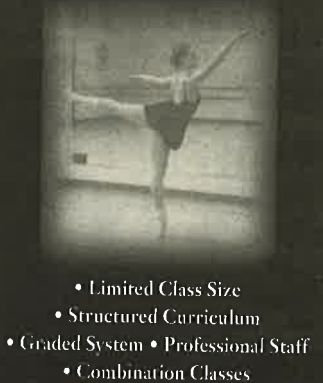


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Rajun' Bull Marching Band Enjoys Success

By LESLIE WHITE

Bloomington High School's Rajun' Bull marching band had the honor of performing for VIPs at Super Bowl XLIII. The band, under the leadership of band director Jon Sever, was the only one invited to entertain dignitaries as they entered the VIP tent, as well as play for those visiting the NFL experience. Bloomington resident Jill Paules, mother of drum line member, Trenton Paules, said, "It was quite an honor to be the only high school band invited to play at the Super Bowl 'NFL Experience. Our band is filled with a lot of amazing talent." The Rajun' Bull marching band also will participate in the Strawberry Festival Parade Monday, March 2, which begins at noon that day.



Photos by Leslie White
The Rajun' Bull marching band enjoyed their experience at the Super Bowl.

Bloomington Baseball Schedule

March 3	7 p.m.	vs. Wharton (Tampa)
March 6	7 p.m.	@ King (Tampa)
March 11	7 p.m.	@ Freedom (Tampa)
March 13	7 p.m.	vs. Newsome (Lithia)
March 14	1 p.m.	@ East Bay (Gibsonton)
March 17	7 p.m.	@ Brandon (Brandon)
March 20	7 p.m.	vs. Armwood (Seffner)
March 24	7 p.m.	@ Tampa Bay Tech (Tampa)
March 26	7 p.m.	@ Wharton (Tampa)
March 31	7 p.m.	vs. King (Tampa)
April 2	7 p.m.	vs. Freedom (Tampa)
April 14	7 p.m.	@ Newsome (Lithia)
April 17	7 p.m.	@ Durant (Plant City)
April 21	7 p.m.	vs. Riverview (Riverview)

Support The Bull Booster Barbecue!

By LESLIE WHITE

The Bloomington High School Athletic Booster Club will be hosting its second annual "BBQ" on Friday, March 13, 2009 from 4:30 - 7 p.m. at the football stadium concession stand. This is a great fundraiser and great way to support all of the athletes at Bloomington High School.

A ticket will presale for \$8 and includes a BBQ pork sandwich, beans, coleslaw, hush puppies and a drink provided by Jimbo's BBQ. Homemade cookies and brownies also will be available for dessert. Come out and support the Bulls.

For more information please feel free to contact Brenda at (813)643-5833.



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5049 Bell Shoals Rd. Valrico
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By Leslie White

Bloomington High School recently erected a new electronic sign to replace the old marquis that had been out front for more years than the current administration could remember. The new sign was a gift to the school from the Class of 2007, Class of 2008, the Student Government and Teen Scene Driving Academy.



The Black Pearl

Hi, I am Pearl a three and half year old white parakeet. My owner, Olivia, named me after the ship the "Black Pearl" on the Pirates of the Caribbean because I have black spots on my back. I also have turquoise and yellow feathers.

My cage has an array of different toys that Olivia changes out weekly. My favorite toy is my bell. When she has to leave for school, it is never quiet. She leaves on the radio for me to listen too. When she comes home, I will ring my bell and chirp loudly when I hear her voice.

I also travel to her friend's home to visit other birds. I had a friend named Skittles, a Sun Conure; I used to ride his tail feathers. Now Booger, a Quaker parrot, comes to my house for visits.



If you have a favorite pet and would like to feature them in the Bloomington Gazette, send in a picture along with a little bit about your pet. You can e-mail it to inbloomingtondaleneews@tampabay.rr.com.

Strawberry Dreams Forever

By JOY BOISSELLE

It's strawberry season in Florida and that means it's time for the annual Florida Strawberry Festival. This favorite event takes place in Plant City and has become one of the best strawberry festivals in the nation, ranking among the Top 50 Fairs in North America, according to the Festival's official website.

This year's festivities began Feb. 26 and will run until March 8. Originally started by the Plant City Lions Club to celebrate a great harvest of strawberries, the festival has grown since its 1930 inception. Plant City is now one of the largest agricultural counties in the nation, with over 5,000 acres devoted to growing strawberries in over 2,600 farms, creating over \$400 million in revenue. The festival features an array of performers, fine arts, plants and crafts, a midway full of rides and games. And of course, all things "strawberry," including the popular Strawberry Shortcake. For a list of all festivities, visit flstrawberryfestival.com.



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Community Involvement Requested

By CRD PETE MAURER

There are several specific areas where the deputies who patrol the Bloomingtondale community need special cooperation and assistance from members of the Bloomingtondale Community.

The specific areas of concern include:

1. Traffic accidents and drivers violating traffic laws.

There is no magic answer to these very big problems. Obeying traffic laws is totally a personal decision. Each and every driver makes the decision every time they drive.

The time we as law enforcement officers have to spend writing citations is valuable time we could spend solving other crimes.

Parents, set the example for your teen drivers, obey the traffic laws and save a lot of money on auto insurance.

There are several new traf-

fic violation fines that went into affect Feb. 1, 2009.

These include:

- Child Restraint violations = \$151
- Red Light Violations = \$216
- Speeding Over Posted Limit = Up to \$266
- Speeding in School Zone or Construction Zone = Up to \$416
- Failure to Stop for a School Bus = \$191

Folks, paying these fines because you got in a hurry or were not paying attention is senseless. Save your money for your bills and your family.

SCAMS AGAINST RESIDENTS

Several scams have hit local neighborhoods including one involving teams soliciting, supposedly selling "cleaners" while their main purpose is to check out homes to rob.

Another involves criminals

approaching seniors posing as contractors hired to spray their homes, then "accidentally spraying the homeowner, helping them remove the spray and then running off with their jewelry."

One very important point. Keep your garage doors closed if you're not in them. This is how the thieves get in.

CRIME IN PARK AREAS

We all enjoy our parks and want them to be safe. But, there are those who use them as places to commit crimes. Some gangs like to hang out in them. County rules state that parks are to be closed at night. If you live near a park or drive by one, keep an eye out and report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office.

FIRE WATCH

In cooperation with the Hillsborough County Fire/Rescue we are asking all residents to be pre-

pared for the possibility of wild fires. The recent freezes, coupled with very low amounts of rain and a severe water shortage in affect equals extreme conditions for wild fires. Residents who live near wooded areas are especially asked to make preparations and check your areas closely. All outside cooking must be very closely monitored. No outside burning is allowed! Be extra careful using equipment that is gasoline powered and that have hot exhausts.

Do not throw your cigarette butts onto grassy areas!

These extreme conditions will exist for a very long time.

Be very careful! Fire destroys and fire kills!

REMEMBER

If you notice any suspicious activity or a crime being committed, get all the information you can - descriptions of individuals, descriptions of vehicles and license numbers, and immediately call the Sheriff's Dispatch at (813) 247-8200! Time is very critical.



Deputy Pete Maurer

GANG ACTIVITY AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

The Sheriff's Office completed another successful operation last month to help reduce the gang activity in our County. This latest operation netted over seventy gang members from 17 gangs and included confiscation of over \$60,000 dollars in cash and several guns.

See REPORT, Page 11

OMG!

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HCSO RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY DISTRICT IV-BLOOMINGDALE AREA

These items were recently taken from vehicles in the Bloomingtondale area and recovered during the arrest process. The HCSO would like to return them to their rightful owners. If anything looks familiar, please contact Detective Curtis Warren at (813) 247-0421.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Dewalt Sawsall | 15. Yellow Nylon Tow Straps |
| 2. Dewalt Circular Saw & Drill Set | 16. Misc. Sunglasses |
| 3. Wood Handle Folding Knife | 17. Black Digital Scale |
| 4. Ozark Trail folding Knife | 18. Motorola Bluetooth-Gray |
| 5. Toshiba DVD player | 19. CVS Extracare card |
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| 7. Audiovox DVD Monitor | 21. Pierre Cardin Pen Set in box |
| 8. Black Leather CD Case w/ CD's | 22. Unknown Brand Bluetooth |
| 9. Green & Orange Tape Measure | 23. Cans of Krylon Spray Paint- Purple |
| 10. Silver Flask | 24. Men's Fossil Watch-Silver |
| 11. DVD Remote Control | 25. Handicap Placard |
| 12. Ziplock Bag containing several Calculators | 26. Trutech CD Player |
| 13. Dustproof Facemask (For concrete work?) | 27. Guess Cologne in Green Box |
| 14. CD Holder | 28. Misc. Electrical Cords |
| | 29. Cobra Radar Detector |
| | 30. Tackle Box |
| | 31. White Florida Gators Cap |

Paws Up: Call for Volunteers!

Hillsborough County Animal Services is looking for pet-loving residents to volunteer at its shelter!

New volunteer orientation sessions—held at the Animal Services shelter, 440 N. Falkenburg Road, in Tampa—have been scheduled:

- Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.
- Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 29, 5:30 p.m.

Every effort truly makes a difference! Time spent volunteering for shelter animals is rewarded by camaraderie and the satisfaction of helping vulnerable creatures.

Volunteer job duties include:

- walking, socializing, bathing and grooming shelter animals

- customer service and escorting adopters to kennel areas
- taking digital pictures of animals
- assisting veterinarians and shelter staff
- community outreach at special events and adopt-a-thons
- providing temporary homes for animals in need

Animal Services requires volunteers to be at least 16 years of age (parents must accompany minors to an orientation session). Applicants for Reserve Animal Control Officer (RACO) must be 18 years or older.

For more information, call Hillsborough County Animal Services at (813) 744-5660 or log onto hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices.

National Consumer Protection Week Provides Tools For Today's Economy

The economic crisis has many people facing financial difficulties and stretching their paychecks. The last thing anyone needs is a scam artist taking advantage of consumers who may be underwater financially. Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Agency joins federal and state government agencies to launch the 11th annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), March 1-7, to help consumers become better informed.

The theme of this year's NCPW is Nuts and Bolts: Tools For Today's Economy, and aims to educate consumers so they make smart financial decisions in

today's marketplace. Consumer education can help people get the most for their money, improve their credit history, and learn to tell the difference between a real deal and a potentially fraudulent product or service.

During NCPW, the County's Consumer Protection Agency will bring its teen fraud prevention program, Adding Teen Consumer Fraud Education to the 3 Rs, to seniors at Sickles High School. The topics will include:

- Teen Credit & The Identity Theft Crisis
- Cyber Crime & Social Networking
- How to Buy a Car
- Lease Agreements & Florida's

Landlord/Tenant Law

In addition, log onto the County's Consumer Protection Web site at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/consumerprotection for a wide range of tools to use to recognize a rip-off, sniff out a scam, deal with debt and face foreclosure. You also can find a special "Consumer Protection Tip Of The Day" for each day of National Consumer Protection Week. The tips will deal with a variety of topics ranging from safe online socializing to getting a good car deal.

For more information, contact Kevin Jackson, Consumer Protection Agency, at (813) 903-3425.

REPORT

From page 10

SPECIAL WORKSHOP NOTICE

A special "GANG AWARENESS WORKSHOP" will take place in our neighboring community, FishHawk. We need to team up with our neighboring communities if we are going to get the gangs out of all of our neighborhoods.

Following is information on this special gang awareness program:

What: gang awareness workshop

When: Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 pm

Where: Newsome High School Auditorium

Purpose: to educate and inform all of our residents about local gang activity and how to stop it

Make plans to attend, become informed and help make our communities safer!

SHERIFF'S MIGRANT OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is collecting items to provide to migrant members of our local community.

These items include shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothbrushes, washcloths, toothpaste, combs and brushes.

Your assistance is much appreciated with this special project to help others in need!

Items may be dropped off at the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station.

Contact Sgt Bradford or Deputy Taveras at 247-0455 with any questions.

"Let's all be careful out there!"

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Real People, Real Spaces Is Designer's Motto

By LESLIE WHITE

Most people think an interior designer is a luxury they can't afford, but that simply isn't true according to Bloomingdale resident, owner and operator of The Interior Design, Co., Christa Delgado.

"I design real spaces for real people," says Delgado, who brings a fresh eye and 12 years of experience to each project.

"I love to use what my clients already have and give them a new look without spending any money," she said, adding that her "passion has always been to make each house feel like a home."

Delgado is a military wife, and all that moving around forced her to learn to make the best of whatever space her family landed in. Delgado offers a variety of design services that include budget planning; conceptual and design development; fabric, furniture, upholstery, flooring, tile, rug, hardware,

fixtures, lighting, window treatments and paint selection. She also helps coordinate and lay out spaces.

"We want to get to know what the purpose of the space will be used for so we can help create the proper environment," she said.

Her services extend to home staging, organizing and holiday decorating, and event planning. A unique feature offered by Delgado is her online design services. No matter where a client lives, Delgado uses the latest technology to help create a new design plan without ever having to actually set foot into the space.

"Yes, you can e-mail me pictures and I will give you design advice right over the internet!" said Delgado.

The Interior Design, Co., doesn't just do residential spaces.

"I also can help businesses get their areas to become more efficient," said Delgado.

She also regularly hosts workshops in which attendees learn different design techniques, events during which she assures, "you will have so much fun." Her next event is "A Pajama Party" March 13 from 7-9 p.m. at The Tea Cup, where guests will enjoy high tea while she discusses creating relaxing spaces within the

home. The cost of the workshop is \$25.

Her next event will be March 20 at Consign DeZigns from 7-9 p.m. where Delgado will discuss personal style. The cost of that workshop is \$20. Space is limited, so contact Delgado to reserve a spot.

Beyond these workshops,

Delgado also offers "workshop parties" on a variety of topics, which she says "make great ladies' night out."

Contact her at (813) 654-9015 or by e-mailing theinteriordesignco@yahoo.com for more information. Delgado also is on the web at christadelgado.com and theinteriordesignco.com.



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Outdoor Living Is In

By JOY BOISSELLE

How many times have you enviously flipped through a home and garden magazine or watched an HGTV outdoor design show? Admit it...there is something magical about watching a team of experts transform an outdoor area into a backyard paradise. And, with Spring less than three weeks away, there is no time like the present to explore the possibilities of outdoor living and turning your dreams into reality.

Jason Smith, owner of Outdoor Impressions, is ready to help with a wide variety of services and products.

While still a student at Bloomingdale High School, Smith began a simple lawn care and landscaping business. After graduating in 2002, he changed his business from landscape to hardscape, which encompasses any non-plant elements of landscape, including, stone, concrete, masonry, fire pits, lighting and pool decking. However, while his focus is hardscaping, Smith does coordinate with other businesses to give clients a one-stop design experience.

"I really like the rewards of hardscape as it allows me to show artistic ability and design as well," he explained, adding, "We are full-service, in that we work with other businesses that

we trust to help complete a project."

Hot outdoor trends are patio additions and renovations, outdoor living areas and kitchens, fireplaces and pits. "With the economy the way it is, it is tough for people to move. Instead, people are sprucing up their homes and adding livable square footage outdoors," Smith said, "When the economy does turn around, the people who have kept up with home trends will sell faster."

Design plans can be tailored to fit any pocket-book and any fantasy. Prices range from a simple fountain under \$1,000 to a gourmet kitchen and living area at \$15,000 to the sky's the limit. Various examples of Smith's work and available products can be seen at the Outdoor Impressions show room and design center located at 2224 Bloomingdale Ave. just west of Lithia-Pinecrest Rd. Or, visit the company website at www.outdoorimpressions.net or call (813) 684-6817. At Outdoor Impressions, estimates are free.

Customer service and his faith are number one for Smith, who studied for a time at seminary school. "Customer service is the main reason you should call me. I may be young, but I was brought up right and I am honest and have integrity. We do good work, we do call, we do show up, and my goal is 100 percent positive references."



Outdoor Impressions owner, Jason Smith, checks out the water feature at his store's new design center with his son, Andrew, age 4.

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Junior Golf: It's Not Just A Game

By BRAD COMPTON

Some of my fondest childhood memories are the days I spent playing golf with my father. I started playing when I was only 3 and a lot of who I am today is because of my time spent at the golf course. We at Bloomingdale Golfers club want to help our neighbors and community share these special times with your children as my father did with me. My daughter is now quickly coming upon 3 years and I cannot wait to get

her introduced to the game. She had her first pair of FootJoys and a set of junior clubs from the Masters before she was even born. It is hard not to get excited about sharing a game and a passion that has meant and blessed me with so much over the years. Not only is golf a great way to spend time with your kids, learning the fundamentals of golf will help your child develop life skills such as self-discipline and patience. On the course, they will learn the core values of the game, such as honesty and

integrity.

For those just introducing their children to the game, I would encourage you to watch a golf tournament on TV with your children. It will be surprising how much fundamental information you can teach about the game as you follow a player for a hole or two. Next, I would begin by taking them to our driving range. Be sure to brief them on safety rules. Give them a bucket of balls, suggest a simple baseball grip, show them how to put the ball on the tee, and then



Brad Compton

let them swing away. Whiffs will not bother them, and don't let them bother you. Even little children will connect with the ball enough times to make the experience a short one and leave as soon as they have lost interest. Finally, take your children on the golf course; you will know when to take them out for their first three holes or nine holes and eventually 18.

We want to help you get your children out and involved anyway we can. To that end, I would like to introduce the newest membership offering at Bloomingdale. Our junior golf membership is only \$50 per month and includes unlimited range balls and unlimited walking on the course after 4:30 p.m. This membership is available for ages 8-18.

Throughout the year, we also will offer junior specials and family tournaments. Stay tuned for details of our father child tournament on June 21, 2009. The best way to stay in on what is going on at the club is to join our Insider's Club. It is FREE to join and as a Florida Golf Trail Insider at Bloomingdale, you will receive monthly coupons, special events and the "inside scoop" on Bloomingdale Golfer's Club! This elite club also will reward insiders with opportunities to play many other clubs in the area at discounted rates. Registration is easy. Simply visit our Web site at bloomingdalegolf.com then click on News and then the Insider's Club link.

Bloomingdale Golfers Club also is home to the My Pro Golf School. Megan Younkman, our LPGA member and Director of Instruction, specializes in working with professionals, seniors,

beginners and especially juniors. Here at Bloomingdale Golfers Club our Junior Golf Academy (JGA) offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced group programs for ages 6 - 17. All Levels of junior golfers can attend for as little as \$8 per class! All JGA members receive a hat and earn pins for mastering different areas of the game such as full swing, around the green, putting, knowledge and scoring. All JGA classes are run by LPGA Class "A" Professional Younkman.

I leave you with this final tip.

Keep Practice Fun!

Keep practice fun by practicing with your child. Add games to the practice, and have good communication. Your tone of voice should be full of emotion using inflection to commend your child on a good shot. Use the same inflection while encouraging your child after a poor shot. Pay attention with enthusiasm when your child begs you to "look" or to "watch." Saying your child's name in each sentence lets your child know that he/she has your attention. If using training aids, make them colorful to keep the activity fun. Drills should be put into games where the child can earn points and small prizes. Incentive is very important to keep interest. Most importantly, the more you enjoy practice and play, the more your child will! Your child is a part of the future of golf. This is a game he/she can enjoy the rest of their life. Whether your child becomes another Tiger Woods or a Saturday morning golfer, he/she will thank you for bringing them into one of the best games on earth!

Please call anytime if there is anything I can do to help.

17th Annual Apollo Beach Manatee Festival of the Arts



Saturday, March 14

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, March 15

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Apollo Beach

Tampa Electric South Shore
Community Events Center

302 Noonan Branch Road, Apollo Beach
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\$5 adults; free to children under 12
Admission includes parking, entry into the
festival, plus free shuttle to the Manatee
Viewing Center and parking areas.

The purpose of the festival is to promote the awareness and preservation of the West Indian Manatee, as well as the visual, performing and culinary arts.
www.apollobeachchamber.com/manatee.htm

At-A-Glance

- Juried artists and fine craftsmen from around the country
- Patrons Program available for art enthusiasts including a preview party
- 3rd Annual Culinary Arts Competition
- Wine Tastings, Guest Chefs and Nutritionist
- Children's Creativity Center with hands-on arts and crafts
- Collaborative murals for all ages
- Live Entertainment
- Food and beverage vendors - Beer garden
- Main exhibition tent with organizations on hand to educate and demonstrate ways to protect Tampa Bay waters, wildlife, boating environment, and non-profit causes.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to organizations and others working with this cause to further ensure the preservation of the species through research and education and contributing financially to local schools art and culinary endeavors. For more information, call the Apollo Beach Chamber of Commerce at (813) 645-1366 or visit our web site at www.apollobeachchamber.com.



SOUTH SHORE NEWS & TRIBUNE THE TAMPA TRIBUNE LIFE. PRINTED DAILY.

Dinner @ 6

6 ingredients, 6 servings or 6 hours in the crock pot
These recipes will help your family have dinner @ 6!

Strawberry season got off to a rough start this year with all the freezes but in spite of it all, the berries are some of the sweetest I remember tasting in years past. I usually serve strawberry shortcake throughout the season to my family as well as make a batch of preserves with a recipe that not only preserves the berry but their beautiful red color as well. That recipe will be on the Dinner@6 blog.

Now, on to that all important last meal of the day. Dinner! A friend suggested I try the "strawberry onion" that's grown in the fields during the off-season, saying it had a very distinctive and sweet taste. She was right, and I found a great way to serve them alongside a

quick and easy entrée for 6.

Mashed potatoes are the perfect side dish to serve along side this biscuit-sopping entrée.

And, don't forget to check the blog for a few of my favorite recipes featuring Plant City's finest.

Simple. Satisfying. Savory. That's this month's dinner @6! Until next month

Leslie White can be reached by e-mailing: lwhite_bloomingtondalegazette@yahoo.com. For more recipes visit Dinner @ 6 online at www.dinnerat6-lesliewhite.blogspot.com. Readers are invited to share their quick and easy meal solutions, comments and ideas.

Pork Chops with Gravy & Onions

½ c. flour
2 ½ teaspoons dry ground mustard
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon garlic powder
6 pork chops (1" thick)
16 oz. chicken broth, heated
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 strawberry onion, slice (both the green & white part of the onion)

Combine first 4 ingredients in a shallow dish; dredge chops in mix and set aside. Combine remaining flour mix and heated chicken broth in a 3 ½ quart slow cooker, stirring until lumps are gone. Sauté chops in oil in skillet on medium high just until browned. Place browned chops down in gravy in slow cooker. Sauté sliced onion in pan that chops were cooked in, scraping the bottom of the pan to get the bits & pieces left by the chops. At this point, you may need to add another tablespoon of oil. Sauté until tender. Once onions are cooked to tender, add to slow cooker on top of chops and cook on high for 2-2 ½ hours.



Strawberry Onions A Seasonal Treat



With the onset of strawberry season, these "Strawberry Onions" are a seasonal treat on their own. This sweet onion is grown alongside the strawberry plants as a natural form of pest control and are available earlier than most onions. The great part about these onions is not just the flavor, but the attached greens that are just as good as the onion itself. These onions are available at the local produce stands along with Plant City strawberries.

Photo by Leslie White

Scholarship Deadline Approaches

By JOY BOISSELLE

Attention Bloomingdale High School seniors living in the Bloomingdale community. You have 38 days — until April 7 — to apply for the \$2,000 B.J. Stelter Bloomingdale Community Scholarship. For eligibility information or an application, go online to the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Web site, bloomingdalehomeowners.com. At Bloomingdale High School, interested applicants should see Alexia Haldane, the school's guidance resource specialist.

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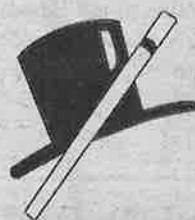
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