

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXVI  ISSUE 6  JUNE 2016  www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

"Summer, Summer, Summer Ti-i-ime!"



Photo: Miriam Leech

Nothing signals summer's presence like a sunflower in full bloom with an appreciative winged companion. This photograph was taken at Single R Ranch located at 3002 Charlie Taylor Road in Plant City. Want to show off your photography skills? Send a "front cover worthy" photo to inbloomingtondaleneews@gmail.com to share with the community!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think," said Christopher Robin to Pooh.

This Month

- BHA COMMUNITY CORNER
Page 4
- COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Page 6
- COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
Page 7
- BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
Page 8
- SQUIRTLE SQUAD SCHOLARS
Page 12
- LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!
Captain America Movie Review
Page 14
- PICKLEBALL
Page 18
- SCHOOL NEWS
Pages 20 - 24

PLEASE  RECYCLE



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.
 3509 Bell Shoals Road - Valrico, Florida 33596 - (813) 681-2051
 Email: Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com
 Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

BHA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Offices of Bloomington Special Taxing District:

3509 Bell Shoals Road
 Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

Sean Donahue
Billy Hightower
Bobbi Ferraro
Beth Smedley
Joanie Wilson
Charlie Woodcock

President: *George T. May IV*
Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*
Secretary: *Suzy Watts*
Treasurer: *Mary Galin*

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomington Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.
 Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051
 Email: InBloomingtonNews@gmail.com
 Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci
 Senior Staff Writer: Miriam Leech
 Staff Writers: Nicole Cluck and Deidre Morgan
 Student Writers: Abigail Hernandez, Natalia Langone and Evan DeGraff



TONY DEL CASTILLO

General Manager
Brandon & Southshore Times

11268 Winthrop Main Street, Suite 101
 Riverview, Florida 33578 - (813) 661-2438
 Email: tdelcastillo@tampabay.com

Tampa Bay Times

The official publication of the BHA since 1980
 The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomington residents on the first Saturday of each month.

AC Broke?

0% interest for 15 months*

BAD CREDIT? NO PROBLEM!*



TRANE It's hard to stop a Trane

\$1000 Trade-In Allowance

Now is the time to **SAVE** money on the install and up to **50%** on your monthly electric bill.

Time to get rid of that old inefficient A/C & Heating System!

Plus! *Special Financing subject to credit approval. Call for details.

We Service and Sell all Brands

\$59 Tune-Up
 (regularly \$99, 1st time service)

If you do not save \$75 in 1 year, we will send you a check for \$75.

SAME DAY SERVICE

FREE SECOND OPINIONS

Air Masters
 of Tampa Bay, Inc. Since 1983
 Air Conditioning & Heating
 Family Owned and Operated Since 1983



CMC124947
813-252-1110



© 2012 Air Masters of Tampa Bay. All Rights Reserved.

a. See your independent Trane Dealer for complete program eligibility, dates, details and restrictions. Special financing offers valid on qualifying equipment only. All sales must be to homeowners in the United States. Void where prohibited. *The Home Projects® Visa® credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Financial National Bank, an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 4 years 00 months apply to qualifying purchases charged with approved credit at participating merchants. The special terms APR will continue to apply until all qualifying purchases are paid in full. The monthly payment for this purchase will be the amount that will pay for the purchase in full in equal payments during the promotional (special terms) period. The APR for Purchases will apply to certain fees such as late payment fee or if you use the card for other transactions. For new accounts, the APR for Purchases is 28.99%. If you are charged interest in any billing cycle, the minimum interest charge will be \$1.00. If you use the card for cash advances, the cash advance fee is 5.00% of the amount of the cash advance, but not less than \$10. This information is accurate as of 01/06/2016 and is subject to change. For current information, call us at 813- 234-2419. Offer expires 06/30/2016.

Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Danny & Tracy Blevins

4415 Swift Circle, Valrico FL 33596 (The Links)



Yard of the Month is sponsored by Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale. Send your Yard of the Month nominations to: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com or call (813) 681-2051

Winners will receive a \$25 gift card redeemable at Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale

ACE
The helpful place.

Wanted: A Forever Home and Family

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center has the Right Pet for You

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center (PRC), the county's animal shelter has many cats and dogs looking for their "forever" homes. At your county shelter, dogs and cats are surprisingly affordable – at one location – open seven days a week. Each comes fully vetted with a complement of services (adding up to a savings of hundreds of dollars). While some fees may apply, PRC adoption packages can save "prospective parents" anywhere from \$250 - \$400.

For information on adoptions and foster care, lost pets or spay/neuter vouchers, contact the PRC at 813-744-5660 or visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets. Located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd., the center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tortilla (ID A1642616) is a 4-year-old gray and white pitbull mastiff mix who is looking for a new place to call home. She's playful and affectionate – and who can resist those ears and that award-winning smile?!

Tortilla



Rengar

Rengar (ID A1642513) is an amber and blue-eyed beauty ready to turn that unique gaze your way. As part of this month's PRC feline adoption special, she can be your summer sweetie for \$10.



Provided By The Pet Resource Center

FIRST SATURDAY
Celebration

Find Your Feline Friend at Pet Resource Center's June First Saturday Celebration, \$10 Cat Adoptions!

Take part in our June cat adoption promotion and find your feline friend at the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center's First Saturday Celebration on June 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This month, the Pet Resource Center is partnering with the Best Friends organization to promote cat adoption. Throughout June, the shelter will offer \$10 adoptions for all cats, a deal, which includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations, microchip with free registration, and Hillsborough County pet license tag (a package valued at \$250 to \$400). Dogs are still a bargain at \$20. The Pet Resource Center will also highlight their Wait Until 8 Program, which empowers volunteers to become at-home caregivers for stray and neonatal kittens until 8 weeks of age, when they can be returned to the shelter for adoption.

The celebration features refreshments and music, special guests, exhibitors, rescue partners, foster pets ready for adoption, and free parking and admission.

For information, call (813) 744-5660 or visit HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets.



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



 **DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

Don't hesitate, join today!



2016 Membership Drive Hits Halfway Point

Please consider joining and strengthening the one organization that advocates for the entire community of nearly 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. As a non-profit, BHA funds are returned 100 percent to the community through the many programs and services the Association sponsors.

Thank you to all who have joined and/or donated to our scholarship fund. With your continued support, the Association will continue to develop ways to improve the quality of life of residents. The annual fall festival is fast approaching and the board is working to add a second community clean-up also in the fall.

Every member and dollar matter. The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. Your membership helps this dedicated group of volunteers continue to keep Bloomingdale a great community in which to raise a family and a great place to call home.

Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check. If you come by the office, ask for your special gift!

You may also join the Association through our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. **ALL** membership funds go back to our community, and all residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.

Note: The BHA no longer has an active post office box address. Please update your automatic bill pay if applicable.

BHA EVENT CALENDAR

If you have events pending in our community, email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com, or call 813-681-2051. We will help you promote your event on our Facebook page.

Monday, June 13, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Master Deputy Curtis Warren, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

BHA BRIEFS

May Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

General – Several residents and guests attended last month's board meeting. Hot topics were a crime briefing delivered by Deputy James Howell, National Night Out options for the community at large, new programs and leadership at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club.

Also discussed was the community standards initiative based on county code ordinances and thereby enforceable through the county code department. The BHA deed committee continues to fine-tune this standards list targeted at our voluntary HOA neighborhoods.



Deputy James Howell met with the BHA and residents to discuss safety and security in the community. Photo: Joy Boisselle

Board Vacancies - Two seats remain vacant on the 12-member board as well as two alternate positions. Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings to see if joining the volunteer board is something they would consider. Residents may also volunteer for board committees without having to become a full board member.



SAVE THE DATE!
SAVE THE DATE!
SAVE THE DATE!



Fall Festival is Oct. 22 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club!

Planning has begun for the biggest event of the year. This year, arts and crafts vendors will be asked to join the fun. Back this year are several food trucks, entertainment, activities for kids, a Trick or Treat Street, local business booths and more, more, more! Volunteers are needed. Email bhfallfest@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051 for information.



Sean Donahue - Dedication to serve; desire to make a difference

A sense of adventure, leadership, organization, teamwork, time management – skills born of military training? Absolutely. Attributes of a BHA Board Member? Definitely, that is if you are Sean Donahue.

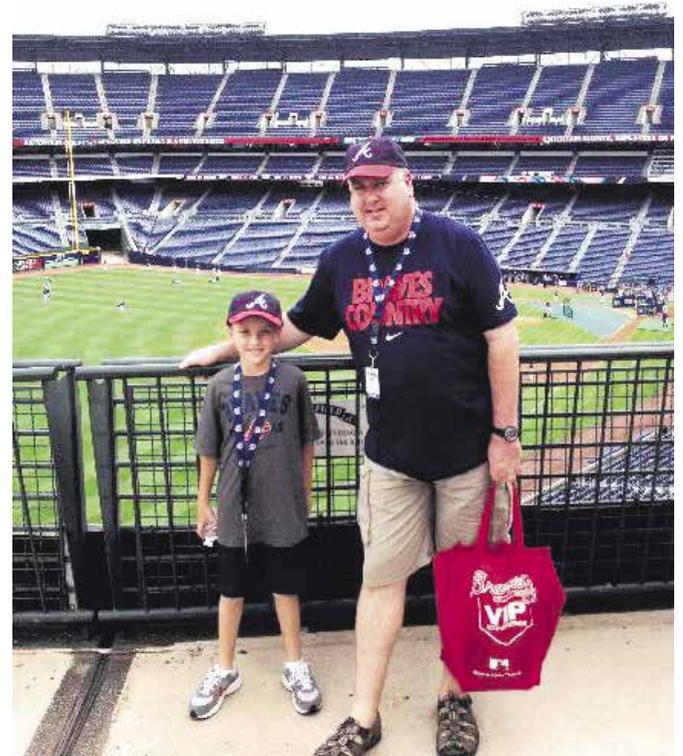
Former military, Donahue now works for Vistra Communications as a government contractor and lives in River Crossing. He enjoys the sense of community, tree-lined streets, low crime and good neighbors that living in Bloomingdale affords his family.



While he now serves our community, BHA Board member Sean Donahue had the honor of serving several of our nation's vice-presidents as an Air Force 2 crewmember. Pictured are Donahue and his family beside a C-37A Gulfstream he crewed while stationed at MacDill Air Force Base.

A husband and father of three children (elementary, middle and high school aged) Donahue oozes dedicated family man. "I love watching my kids play lacrosse and baseball," says Donahue, "and [I love] my honey do list." When he's not working or "thrill riding" roller coasters with his family, Donahue also spends time fishing, traveling and "fixing things."

The pleasure of fixing things translates to his work on the BHA Board. Donahue has been a BHA Director-at-Large for seven months. "I value the opportunity to serve our community. I love participating and making a difference," he explained. His personal BHA Wish List includes drivers doing the speed limit on Nature's Way and Culbreath, and seeing that Bloomingdale obtains the resources it deserves that are available from the county and state.



BHA Board Member Sean Donahue with his son at an Atlanta Braves baseball game. Donahue is president of the River Crossing HOA and a BHA board member.

"We are a fairly large community and I think if we stick together and address concerns to lawmakers together, we can achieve more." Donahue adds, "I would love to see all of Bloomingdale incorporated under one set of deed restrictions— one standard, one community. 'A rising tide lifts all boats.'"



DR. ROBERT A. NORMAN, DO, MPH, MBA
CERTIFIED DERMATOLOGIST

- FREE Skin Screenings
- Diagnosis & Treatment for Skin Cancer
- Shingles Vaccine Available
- Treatment for Psoriasis, Eczema
- Chemical Peels & Facial Products
- Botox, Restylane & Latisse
- Specialize in Image Products

NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT FOR SKIN CANCER AVAILABLE

Same-Day Appointments
 Accepting MOST Insurances

CALL TODAY!
 813.880.SKIN (7546)
 800.488.7336

Tampa Riverview
 8002 Gunn Hwy. 10422 U.S. Hwy. 301

www.drrobertnorman.com






296041-1

Your love, Our expertise




Caring for a loved one with *dementia* can become *overwhelming* and the decision to seek help can feel like giving up. But it's never the wrong choice to get the best care.

Superior Residences offers specialized services for those with Alzheimer's and dementia-related illnesses, from temporary respite care to full-time residency. We give families *peace of mind* knowing their loved one is receiving expert care in a secure, compassionate community.

SUPERIOR RESIDENCES of Brandon
 MEMORY CARE

Call to make an appointment today. Visit our community and see how we can work together to give your loved one the best possible care.

(813) 657-8587 • www.SuperiorALF.com
 1819 Providence Ridge Blvd • Brandon, FL 33511

Live the Moment...Love the Moment™

304451-1 Assisted Living Facility #9739

PLEASE CHECK THE BHA COMMUNITY CORNER FOR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS RIGHT HERE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Village Players Present The Producers / Regular Shows June 4, 10, 17, & 18, 8 p.m.; Matinee Shows June 5 & 12, 3 p.m. / The James McCabe Theater / 506 N. 5th Street, Valrico / Enjoy the comedy of Mel Brooks in this story of two theatrical producers who scheme to get rich by overselling interests in a Broadway flop. Ticket prices: \$15 Regular Admission; \$13 Senior Citizens, Students, or Military with I.D.; \$14 Groups of 10 or more. Doors open 30 minutes prior to curtain time for all shows. For information, call 813-643-8292.

AARP of Greater Brandon / June 6 and the 1st Monday of Every Month / 11:30 a.m. / Brandon Community Center / 502 Sadie Street, Brandon / The AARP of Greater Brandon hosts speakers, parties, games, etc. Beverages and dessert are furnished. Anyone over 55 is welcome and may bring a friend. May, June, July, and August are picnics, trips, etc. For information, call 813-689-6590.



Adult Coloring / June 9 and Every Thursday through June 30 / 7-9 p.m. / Books-A-Million / Westfield Brandon Mall / 459 Brandon Town Center, Brandon / Bring your coloring books (or purchase some new ones!) and grab a cup of coffee at Books-A-Million's Adult Coloring event. For information, call 813-571-2062.



Hogwarts Summer School / Mondays and Wednesdays Beginning June 13 / 2-4 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / This summer school is designed specifically for Muggle students ages 10 to 17 who can be underprepared for magical studies. This 6-week program will consist of magical remedial studies. Monday studies include science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM); Wednesdays a movie showing. Robes/ Harry Potter attire are not mandatory but encouraged. For information, call 813-272-3652.



Tampa Theatre Film Camp / Beginning June 13 / Tampa Theatre / 711 North Franklin Street, Tampa / Each summer, Tampa Theatre's historic auditorium lights up with young filmmakers working together to produce their visions on-screen. Campers entering grades 3-12 work in small groups to learn the creative process of digital filmmaking, from brainstorming, storyboarding, and scriptwriting to filming, lighting and editing. All equipment is provided, including cameras, lights, sound equipment, Mac computers and software. By the end of the filmmaking session, each production team will have a 3-5 minute movie to showcase. Both the popular live-action and stop-motion animation camps will once again be offered. The Theatre will also add a weeklong "Movie Download" camp as well as a Saturday session full of helpful tips for cell-phone filmmakers. For questions about Film Camp and registration, please contact Nicole Southworth at nicole@tampatheatre.org.



Veterans/Military Focus Group / June 14 / 10-11 a.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / Join the Veterans/Military Focus Group at the Campo Family YMCA for Yoga Nidra using the iRest Protocol. Perfect for those affected with PTSD/TBI—it helps to reduce stress, anxiety, headaches, and sleep issues, and increases mental focus. Facilitator for the session is LaMor Silas, owner of Yoga'mour, LLC, of Valrico. Sign up at the Campo Welcome Center. Members and non-member welcome! For information, call 813-684-1371.



SUMMER Palooza!
at the YMCA

KICKOFF PARTY
YOU'RE INVITED to splash into our FAMILY FUN POOL PARTY at your local Y.
Saturday, June 11 from 4-7pm
Enjoy DJ/music, food, entertainment, and more.

MOVIES
FREE AND Open to the community!

"Scams, Schemes, and Scoundrels" Workshop / June 14 / 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. / The Bridges Retirement Community / 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / The fraud business is booming. Avoid being a victim by attending the "Scams, Schemes, and Scoundrels" workshop. Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Agency Investigator Debbie Brown will present the latest information on recent scams, home solicitations, hiring a contractor, tax return fraud, data breaches, and ID theft. Education and information is considered the first line of defense in the battle to protect consumers from victimization. The workshop is free and includes lunch. Space is limited. Call Janet Noah at 813-413-8900 to reserve your seat.

Dementia Support Group / June 17 and continuing every 3rd Friday each month / 1:30-3:30 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / Does your loved one have memory loss? Concerned about the forgetfulness of your spouse or aging parent? Learn about dementia at this support group for family members and friends. Topics include an overview of dementia, communication and what to say and what not to say, safety and security for your home and the individual, caregiver sanity, and care options. Facilitated by Jill Andrew of Superior Residences of Brandon Memory Care. Non-members welcome. For information, call 813-684-1371.

Upcoming! Fourth of July

Brandon Fourth of July Parade / July 4 / 10 a.m. / Bring your folding chairs, suntan lotion, and sunglasses and enjoy the largest Fourth of July Parade in Florida! This family event is the perfect start to the day. The parade is about 2 miles long, beginning at the corner of Lumsden Road and Parsons Avenue and winding through the center of Brandon with typically 100 entries. Come early to reserve your spot along the route. For information visit www.communityroundtable.org.



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) congratulates Bloomingdale High School Senior Jacob Miller, this year's winner of the \$2,000 Bloomingdale Community Scholarship in honor of former Principal, B.J. Stelter. Chosen from a field of highly qualified applicants, Miller received the award at the May 10 Board of Directors Meeting.

BHA Scholarship Committee Chairman, Daniel Berkowitz said, "I am amazed at the depth of exceptional youth in our community. As in years past, competition was unbelievably intense and the quality of applicants made this decision a tough one."

Winner Miller managed to rise to the top of the strong field submitting an application with quality essays, strong academic and extra-curricular achievements and a solid record of volunteer service. He boasted a 6.4971 weighted GPA, was selected as an AP Scholar with Distinction, and for membership in numerous scholastic honors societies. In addition, he was a student athlete, participating in lacrosse, cross-country, track and field and local soccer leagues.

Beyond the classroom, Miller amassed 195 community service hours most in positions of leadership. In his community service essay, he wrote, "It is never too late to make a difference, to appreciate what opportunities that we have, and that we can all touch the lives of others in a positive way."

The 4-year Army ROTC Scholarship recipient will attend The Citadel this fall to study engineering with a long-term goal of pursuing a military career. During the awards presentation, he said, "I am honored to be recognized by the board and my community."



Jacob Miller received the \$2000 Bloomingdale Community Scholarship at the May 10 BHA Board meeting held at the Bloomingdale Community Office. Sharing in the accomplishments of this remarkable young man are his parents Kim and Steve Miller.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- 6 Weeks Through 12 Years
- Open: M-F 6am to 6:30pm
- APPLE Accreditation and CITA Approved Curriculum
- Security Code Access Entry
- FREE Internet Viewing of Your Child's Day
- Outdoor Playgrounds with Water Park
- Nutritious Meals & Snacks: Low Salt & Sugar
- Spanish & Music Included
- Brainwaves Curriculum
- ABC Mouse Computer Technology
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)
- Trained Professional Staff, Certified in First Aid & CPR



NOW ENROLLING SUMMER CAMP

*\$155 per week
Includes meals, trips & transportation*

Pick up and drop off at Stowers, Valrico Academy, Bevis, Fishhawk Creek, Lithia Springs, Foundation Christian, Alafia and Cimino.



FREE VPK
VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN

Now Enrolling Summer and Fall 2016 VPK

Top-rated Program in Lithia and FishHawk – Preparation for National Common Core Kindergarten Standards

Accelerated Pre-K Curriculum with Math, Science, Spanish, Music, Sign Language, APPLE & Gold Seal, Technology & Field Trips.

813-657-6200
www.krkvalrico.com
4321 Lynx Paw Trail

Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary

813-526-7000
www.krkcirca.com
5815 Kids Crossing Drive

Located between Stowers Elementary and Mosaic

The Community's Common Area Connection

Editor's Note: The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District's (BSTD) monthly column will inform readers about the BSTD, its mission and ongoing and new initiatives. The BSTD meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Questions? Call 813-684-6667 or email to bstd@verizon.net. Office hours are flexible, so call before you come by for a visit.

BUCCANEER LANDSCAPERS

The rainy season is just around the corner, but recent rains have caused rapid growth of community foliage, turf and trees. Our landscapers, Buccaneer, are out in full force, mowing and trimming. With nine miles of creeping fig to cover, there is no rest for the workers who are charged with maintaining growth control in our area.

PRESSURE WASHING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

With less pollen in the air, pressure washing of the walls throughout the community has become a priority. Rust stains on the walls have been an eyesore over the past few months, but they will be a thing of the past as the walls are spring-cleaned. Pictured is the freshly cleaned Cambridge Cove entryway.



Photo: Lloyd Radder

Below, the wrought-iron fence on Culbreath near Erindale, is undergoing a much needed make over. Workers have been scraping rust and dirt in preparation for a new paint application – another good thing.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

The BSTD Trustees are not ignoring the road construction still underway at the intersection of Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue. They continue to monitor the situation and plans are being developed to install new beds and foliage once the work is completed.

THE BOTTOM LINE

All this work and more is done with your special tax dollars. The BSTD Trustees

love living in this community and would like to see more improvements. However, we need your help.

THE AUGUST REFERENDUM

This is your chance to get involved. When you go to the polls and we encourage you to do so, **Vote YES** for a tax increase for Bloomingdale. Currently, you pay \$130 a year.

The proposed referendum asks for an increase up to \$200 a year, but the Trustees do not have to ask you to pay the full amount. Should the referendum pass, a vote will be taken at a public hearing in June 2017 to decide on the new assessment amount. This will be your

opportunity to talk to the Trustees and have your say on what the actual assessment should be. Then, after the public hearing, an increase will go into effect in October 2017.

Depending on your decision at the polls in August this year, the Trustees can continue with much needed improvements in the Bloomingdale Community.

If you want to know more, go to our website www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org and see the names of the Trustees who live in this community, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact them via their listed email addresses .

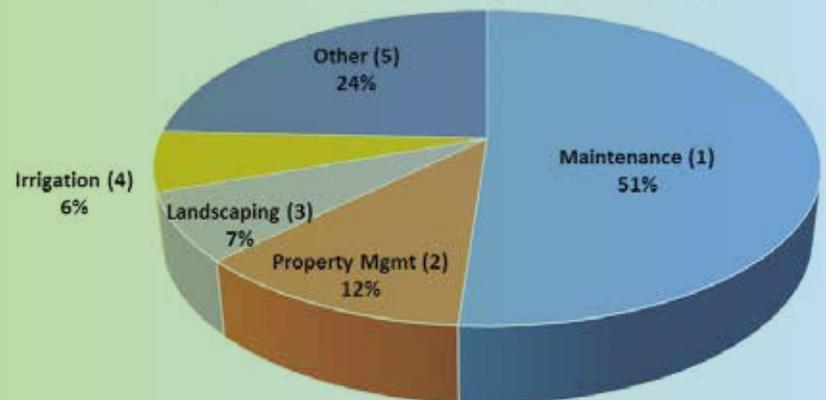
Don't forget the Trustees are residents first and Trustees second. Like you, they want what's best for Bloomingdale too.

BSTD TAX INCREASE EXPLAINED

The mission of the BSTD is to be good stewards of taxpayers' funding and keep the District as an attractive place to live (we compete with communities such as Fishhawk and River Hills). The cost to provide services needed to maintain the District have increased over the years. Example: Maintenance cost increased \$36K in FY 2016 post competitive bid.

- Background:
 - Volunteer seven Trustee Board
 - Serve 4 year terms
 - Terms expire for four Trustees on 9/30/16.
 - Four Seats up for vote during August 30 Primary election.
- Last assessment increase was 10 years ago
- Current annual assessment is \$130/year (Non Ad valorem tax)
- Projected spending for Fiscal 2017 is about \$649K.

Projected F2017 Spending (% by Category)



CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

- (1) Mowing, fertilizer, insect control, irrigation inspect/adjust, tree/shrub prune, fig trim, mulch, edging, weed control, annuals planting
- (2) Property Manager, trash pick-up and PT administrative support
- (3) Sod, tree, shrub and fig replacement and new plantings
- (4) Irrigation heads, lines, control boxes, well pumps and new wells
- (5) Legal, accountant, audit, phone, electricity, surety bonds, office rent/cleaning, community wall repair, pressure cleaning and painting, holiday decorations, office supplies, publication fees, vandalism repairs and vehicle accident damage repairs

VOTE YES FOR BLOOMINGDALE, in the upcoming referendum in August. This will ensure that your Trustees can continue to do what's best for Bloomingdale.

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT



**3509 Bell Shoals Road
Valrico, Florida 33596
(813) 684-6667 Office
(813) 684-2358 Fax
BSTD@verizon.net**

**David P. West, President
Mike Chanen, Vice President
Mark Horst, Treasurer
Russell Jones, Trustee
Chris Papp, Trustee
Mark Vargo, Trustee
Tom Leech, Trustee**

Bloomingtondale Roundtable Focuses Leaders on Issues,

Senator Tom Lee Attends

Staff Report

For over two years, the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association has hosted the Bloomingtondale Roundtable – a meeting of community leaders and guests designed to help preserve the community's aesthetics and property values and to define emerging issues and implement programs to address the community's future needs. This year's roundtable featured special guests Senator Tom Lee, county engineer Ben Kniesly and Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District (BSTD) Vice-P resident Mike Chanen. The roundtable was held Saturday, May 2, at the community office.

Over a 4-hour period, leaders discussed issues ranging from the transportation problems on Bloomingtondale Avenue and Lithia Pinecrest Road, ongoing construction projects with an emphasis on the upcoming Bell Shoals widening, vacant big box stores, speeding in neighborhoods and sidewalk conditions in common areas, and the BSTD tax increase proposal. Sen. Lee addressed the group and provided insight on how to improve transportation needs in the area.

Senator Lee

Of the issues facing our area, Lee said, "What people and businesses want are safe streets, a reasonable commute, an affordable workforce, and a good public education system. The number one priority is quality of life. How do we keep pace with infrastructure needs of the community and keep pace with growth?" Lee offered advice to the group and concluded with, "This [area] is my home and I care about it. I am happy to be of help."

Construction Updates

County engineer Ben Kniesly provided updates on the various construction projects and the status of the Bell Shoals widening project. Of Bell Shoals, leaders questioned the apparent lack of progress. Kniesly explained that parcel acquisition is still the major hurdle stalling the \$60 million, 3-mile, two- to four-lane road improvement. Currently, there is no set date for the project's start; however, the project timeline is still set at 36 months. He informed the group that "more clarity" is expected in the next 90 days.

BSTD Tax Increase

BSTD Vice-President Mike Chanen presented a detailed synopsis of where the \$649,000 community annual tax money is spent and why the BSTD needs the proposed tax increase. "The last increase was 10 years ago," he explained, adding, "We are at a critical juncture right now and we need the community's support."

Board members peppered Chanen with questions. In turn, he responded that the BSTD would welcome the opportunity to attend mandatory HOA meetings to explain the BSTD's position more fully.

He cited five funding areas (see page 8 for a detailed breakdown): maintenance, property management, landscaping, irrigation and other costs. He stated, "Many [community] enhancements are on the back burner and we can't [do them] because of budget constraints." The proposed tax increase will be on the August primary ballot for vote.

The Roundtable was well-attended with many issues receiving attention and direction. Have an issue you would like to see addressed? Contact the BHA or your mandatory HOA leadership. With a commitment for more roundtables, BHA President George May closed the program stating, "We all need and desire to make Bloomingtondale a good place to live with increasing property values and nice neighborhoods." The Roundtable is one more step towards achieving that goal.

The BHA board and mandatory HOA leaders met to discuss ways to improve the community at the Bloomingtondale Roundtable on May 21 at the Bloomingtondale Community Office. Pictured left to right: Senator Tom Lee, BHA President George May and BSTD Vice-President Mike Chanen.



Photo: Joy Boisselle



MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

"Experience the Difference"



SHIRTS
\$1.89
Only With Coupon

SHIRTS \$1.89 Ea.
Laundered only

Valid on incoming orders only. No exceptions. Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
Expires 7/1/16 BG

15% OFF ENTIRE ORDER
Dry Cleaning

Valid on incoming orders only.
No exceptions. Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
Expires 7/1/16 BG

20% OFF Wedding Gowns,
Alterations & Drapes

Valid on incoming orders only. No exceptions. \$5 minimum order. Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
Expires 7/1/16 BG

20% OFF ENTIRE ORDER
Comforters & Blankets

Valid on incoming orders only.
No exceptions. Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
Expires 7/1/16 BG

APOLLO BEACH
645-1499

220 Apollo Beach Blvd.
BLOOMINGDALE

643-0922

3425 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

BLOOMINGDALE

654-8113

3248 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

BLOOMINGDALE

654-9292

1025 E. Bloomingtondale Ave.

BRANDON MALL

684-4499

913 Brandon Blvd.

BRANDON

643-6944

1836 W. Lumsden Rd.

FISHHAWK

654-7991

16707 FishHawk Blvd.

PLANT CITY

752-6631

2621 Thonotosassa Rd.

(Plant City Crossings)

RIVERVIEW

672-1832

11697 Boyette Rd.

RIVERVIEW

671-4156

13196 Hwy. 301 S.

SEFFNER

684-5897

1515 N. Parsons Ave.

VALRICO

654-2324

1999 E. Brandon Blvd

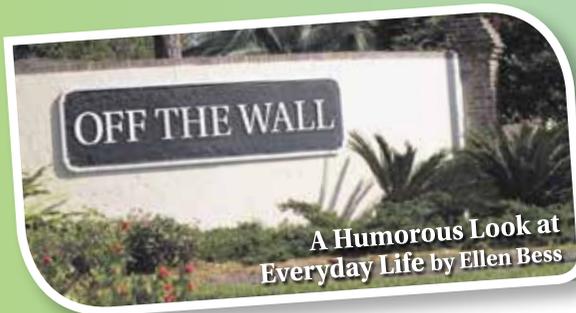
(SR 60)

VALRICO

643-4825

2511 S.R. 60 E.

304784-1



A Humorous Look at
Everyday Life by Ellen Bess

Ellen Bess has been writing for nearly as long as she can remember. Her humor columns have appeared in newspapers and periodicals in North Carolina, Georgia and central Florida. She lives with her husband, Frazier, a retired high school Chemistry teacher, one cat and two dogs (all rescues) in Bloomingdale West.



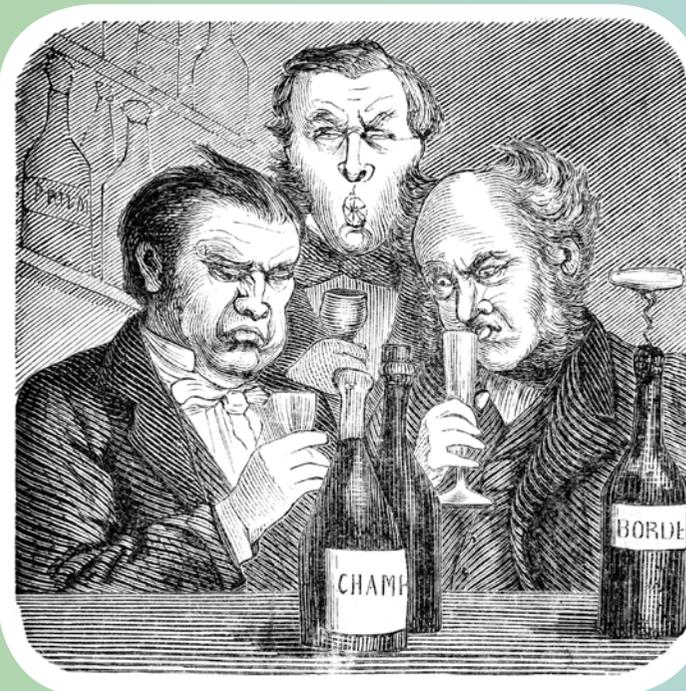
Want Some Cheese With That Whine?

Life used to be so much simpler. Once upon a time, it was considered adequate if one could discourse knowledgeably on topics such as world events and last night's hockey game. Now one is considered somewhat of a Spam-brain unless one possesses in-depth familiarity with a broad range of topics, most of which are pretty useless.

Take wines, for instance. Back in the good old days, it was sufficient to know that it wasn't necessary to sniff the bouquet emanating from the screw cap. In my crowd, you could draw admiring stares and a possible round of polite applause by demonstrating your ability to use a corkscrew without either breaking your wrist or sending chunks of cork adrift in a sea of Riesling. Those days are apparently gone.

At a recent formal dinner, our host opened the festivities with a "delightful little aperitif; just a little something to titillate the palate." I almost slugged him before I realized he was referring to the miniature glass of gunk he'd pressed into my hand.

At each course, a new wine was introduced like an honored guest. "Here we have an exquisite wine; unassuming, but with a rich bouquet." "Ah, a robust sampling



from the sun-soaked Italian vineyards which will enhance, rather than overpower, the entrée it accompanies." "What an amusingly subtle dessert wine!"

Everyone around me was nodding with sage wisdom and understanding. I refrained from confessing that up until a few years ago, I thought "decanter" was the guy who sang in synagogue.

It's not just wines, either.

My neighbor recently invited me to join her on a morning jog. When I arrived, she stared down at my feet and gasped, "My God, Ellen! You're not going to wear THOSE, are you? They have no proper ankle support, no arch support, no shock absorbers...you'll cripple yourself! Besides, jogging is more than just running around. It's an art that defines the runner from the cut of her sweatband to the style of her shoes. Look, I'll loan you my copy of 'Jogging Today' and when you think you're ready, let me know."

So now, I need a course so I can sweat in style? Great.

Maybe I should make a concerted effort to learn all this stuff so I, too, can spiel off information like a walking drivel factory. Then again, maybe I'll just go pour myself another glass of wine.

Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

Market Heats Up

Summer is upon us and the Bloomingdale housing market is hot, hot, hot. The summer months are peak season for the real estate market and this year is no exception. There are currently 64 listings under contract in Bloomingdale and nearly half of them were under contract in less than two weeks. There were 50 new listings in the month of May with more listings still needed for June. It is prime time for buying and selling and there are many buyers out there looking for homes.

Neighborhood Snapshot - Fairway Park

Fairway Park was established in 1981 and is ideally located between the golf course and the park. The streets comprising this community include Bell Grande Drive, Braun Way, Callista Avenue, Dunaire Drive, Haney Court, Kristin Place, Letona Lane, Santee Way and parts of Holleman Drive and Turnbury Street. Most homes in this neighborhood have four bedrooms, two baths, and range in square footage from 1,500-2,500 square feet. This neighborhood seems to have a very low turnover in comparison to others. Currently there is only one home actively



By Ryan Brantley

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-924-8187

Ryan@RyanBrantley.org

www.chaddertongroup.com

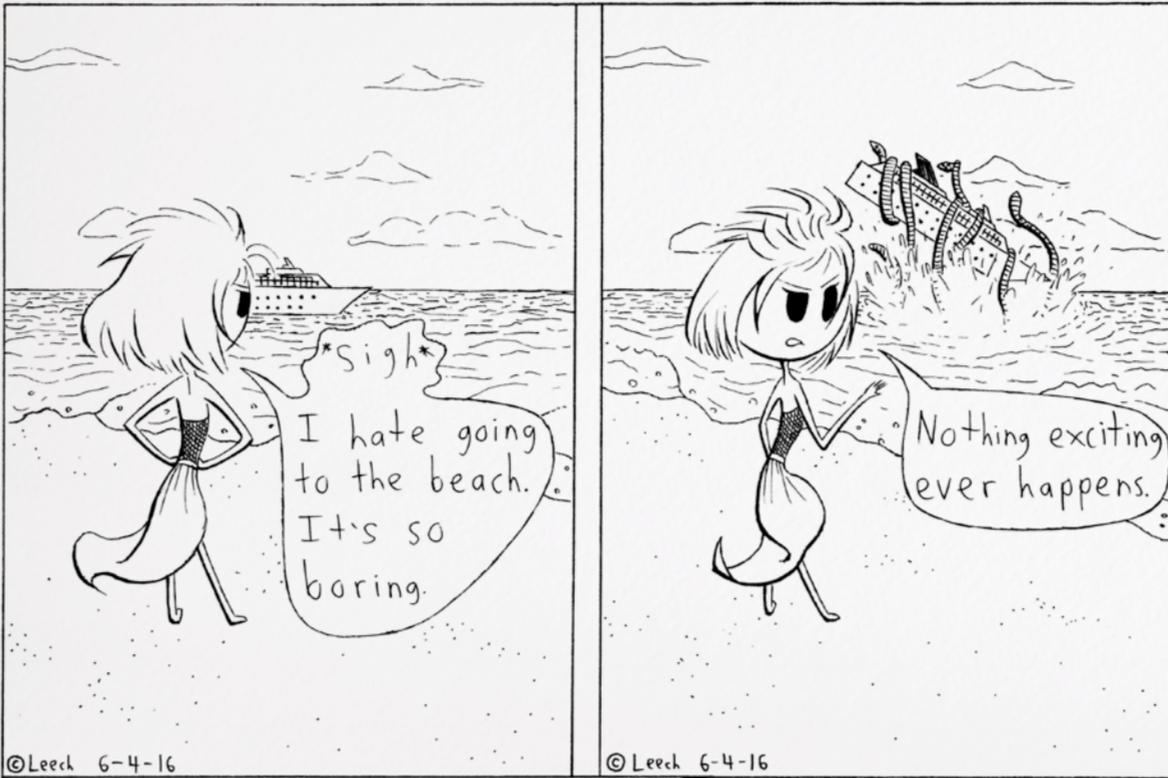
on the market, two homes under contract and only 11 homes sold in the last year. Of these homes, sold prices ranged from \$158,000-\$265,000 not including distressed properties.

* MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and in-cluded homes sold May 25, 2015 through May 25, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.

Michigan

Comic strip artist Will Leech is a Strawberry Crest High School senior. Through his creation "Michigan," he shares his view of the world around us.

Michigan by Will Leech



Letting both of our eyes control the distance...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

The amateur putter doesn't miss the hole three feet wide left or right. They miss it three feet short or long. The length of your putting stroke should dictate the distance your ball travels.

Let our eyes do the hard work by taking practice strokes while looking at the hole. Your eyes will tell your brain, how far back and through your hands need to go to get the ball to the hole.

Now let your actual stroke have equal distance back and through with the same tempo back and through as your practice strokes.

Taking your practice strokes from **behind the ball** involves both eyes to get the needed calculating information to the brain

Next month: Lean left, stay left. How weight positioning affects your chipping. Any questions or for lessons, call J.D. 813-957-3205.



John E.S. Cochran
GOLF SCHOOLS

HAS YOUR PET GONE HOLISTIC?

Allergies? Overweight? Diabetes? Itchy Skin? Chronic Ear Infections?

It's Amazing What You Can **Fix and Prevent** With the **Proper Diet!**

- Over 25 Brands of Natural and Holistic Dog and Cat Foods
- Huge Selection of Natural Treats and Chews, Frozen Raw Diets and Goat's Milk
- Holistic Homeopathic Remedies and Supplements
- Huge Selection of Dog and Cat Supplies
- Custom Pet Tags Engraved in Minutes
- Friendly & Knowledgeable – Come In and Talk to Us!



Mon-Fri 10am-7pm • Sat 10am-6pm

813.651.0842

5620 FishHawk Crossing Blvd.

Located in the FishHawk Ranch Publix Shopping Center

www.doggoneholistic.biz

IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING A HOME...

I'M YOUR AGENT
LOCAL. HONEST. ETHICAL.

CALL 813.494.5207

MARTINA MILLER
RET. MIL. SPOUSE

Re-Sale & New Construction

- ~ Innovative marketing strategies
- ~ Superior contract negotiation

304364-1

Bloomington sisters Deshara and Dariya Bagley do not remember a time when they were not involved with robotics. They watched both of their older brothers help establish the first robotics clubs in the Brandon area under the guidance of mom and TechPlayZone owner Desh Bagley.

Now, the Bagley sisters, along with Camille Brosch, Abby Peterson, and Bella Donnelly, make up the Squirtle Squad Scholars—a community First Lego League (FLL) robotics team representing the Brandon area. Both TechPlayZone and FLL promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). And the girls all met while learning about robotics at TechPlayZone.

Each girl has a specific role. Camille Brosch, 12, who attends Burns Middle School, is captain and technical lead for the team. Dariya Bagley, 11, is the research lead, and Deshara, 10, is the organization lead. Both attend Cimino Elementary School. Peterson, 12, who attends Turkey Creek Middle School, is the core values lead. Donnelly, a 10-year-old at Lithia Springs Elementary, who is the spirit lead, rounds out the team. Eric Brosch, Camille's father, coaches the team.

The Squirtle Squad Scholars have met with much success. For this, the team's second year, the girls focused on laptop computers and finding innovative ways to encourage people to recycle them.

For competition season, FLL teams worldwide get the same mat and Lego obstacles. Using Lego parts, Lego Mindstorms robots and software, teams design, build and program their own unique robot to score as many points as possible. The robots have 2 ½ minutes to complete their mission.

The teams are judged on their robots' mechanical design and durability, robot programming and the teams' strategy and innovation. Every robot looks different, and teams tweak their robots all the way up to—and sometimes at—competition.

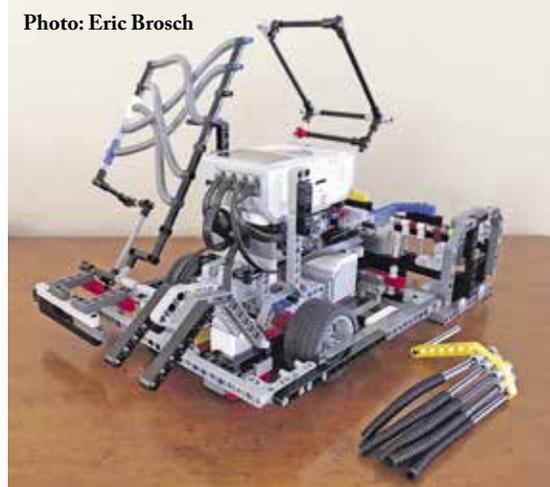
The Squirtles just returned from the University of Arkansas Razorback Invitational, held May 19 to 22, where they were one of just 72 robotics teams from all over the world invited to compete. The Squirtle Squad's path to the international competition included a championship at a qualifying tournament in Fort Meyers, a tie for second place at the regional tournament, and being one of 36 robotics teams qualifying to compete at the state tournament out of the 650 teams in Florida.

Coach Brosch said, "I'm so proud of their hard work, positive attitude, and focus on problem-solving throughout the competition and the season. They are already demonstrating the technical skills and the soft skills they will need for the careers of the future."

Of not winning any trophies in Arkansas, the girls echoed one of their core values, "It's not about if we win, it's about what we learn."

In addition to their time spent programming robots, the Squirtles held fundraising events, and outreach events to educate the community about robotics and the importance of STEM education and activities. The girls even volunteered at the Bloomingdale Community Clean-Up Day, assisting their sponsor UrbanERecycling with collecting electronics waste.

Photo: Eric Brosch



The Squirtle Squad Scholars built and programmed their own unique Lego Mindstorms robot that in competition was judged on its design and durability as well as its programming.

Photo: Miriam Leech



The Squirtle Squad Scholars, Camille Brosch, Abby Peterson, Dariya Bagley (back row, from left), and Bella Donnelly and Deshara Bagley (front row, from left), show off their robot, medals, and trophies from their successful second season as a First Lego League community robotics team representing the Brandon area.



Team captain Camille Brosch, 12, and Squirtle Squad member Abby Peterson, 12, discuss their uniquely-built and programmed robot at the First Lego League Razorback Invitational held May 19-22 at the University of Arkansas. They were one of 72 international robotics teams invited to compete. The all-girls team is known for its hand-crocheted caps made to look like the Pokémon, Squirtle.

Photo: Eric Brosch



Today's library has something for everyone. A reading nook, a rich resource for hard copy and online research materials, and hide your surprise, a popular event and meeting destination. It is truly the perfect hangout for everyone.

The Bloomingdale Regional Public Library, located literally in our back yard, is one of 30 Hillsborough County Public Libraries. All offer an array of activities including tea time, crafts, recycling pursuits, meditation, tax advice, games (trading cards, board and Wii games), book discussions, and more. Babies, preschoolers, tweens, teenagers and adults, there are activities offered for every age.

Two activities that have proven popular at the Bloomingdale location are the "Teen Game Zone" and "Gamers and Geeks Turn Up." The library provides an assortment of board and Wii games at these "gamer"-oriented events, but gamers can bring their own as well. Librarian Dottie Bradley spearheaded these popular activities having noted a need in the community to provide a casual safe setting where teens and others could gather, relax and have fun.

"Teen Game Zone" meets every Monday from 2:30-4 p.m. Teens, many from Bloomingdale High School, gather to socialize, make new friends and play a variety of Wii games from classics like Mario Kart to new releases. Gamer Jaeden Mendez said, "It is a good way to make friends and spend time with friends you already have." Another "Teen Game Zone" attendee, Markquell Jackson, simply calls the gamer's hangout "a magical place."

The other gamer offering is "Gamers and Geeks Turn Up." This group meets on the second Sunday of the month from 1-3 p.m. and this month will meet on June 12. This group offers a game library, which includes Settlers of Catan, Takenoko, collectible card games; and family/party games like Apples to Apples and Carcassonne. Members can participate in organized play, get help from the resident "game geek guru," teach others to play or just watch the action. Members include teenagers, young and older adults and even some entire families.

"The hobby has gotten a lot of interest in the media from celebrities playing [to] showcasing games on YouTube," said Allen Enyart, a faithful "Gamers and Geeks Turn Up" adult member. He explained that he first saw the game, Settlers of Catan, on the TV show, "The Big Bang Theory" and wondered if the game was a real one. Now, he plays it himself.

Perhaps the highest praise an event can receive is one offered by student Connor Rouse. "I wish [the] gaming would last a lot longer."

To find events at the Bloomingdale Library, visit the website at www.hcplc.org. Offerings are plentiful with something for everyone. Come hang out!



At "Gamers and Geeks Turn Up," socializing is an important part of the experience. Gamer José Vallecillo said, "These events bring together young and old in a common bond."



At a recent gaming event held at the Bloomingdale Library, Allan Enyart, his son and a gaming fan enjoy the board game Istanbul.



Gamers are transfixed during an action-packed Mario Kart competition. These teens are just a few of the students who routinely take part in the popular library program "Teen Game Zone."



Editor's Note: The Bloomingdale Gazette is proud to introduce our newest columnist, Evan DeGraff. DeGraff is a Bloomingdale High School student and Bloomingdale resident with a passion for movies. Each month, he will review a current movie release. He hopes one day to follow in the footsteps of acclaimed movie critics the likes of Siskel and Ebert.

THIS MONTH: "CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR"

"Captain America: Civil War" is a near perfect movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe's (MCU) Captain America trilogy. The third movie pits two teams of superheroes one led by Captain America Steve Rodgers and the other by Iron Man Tony Stark played by Chris Evans and Robert Downey Jr. respectively. The story follows the internal struggles of Rodgers and Stark and their opposing views of governmental superhero restrictions. Their struggles set them on a course to collide in a brutal battle.

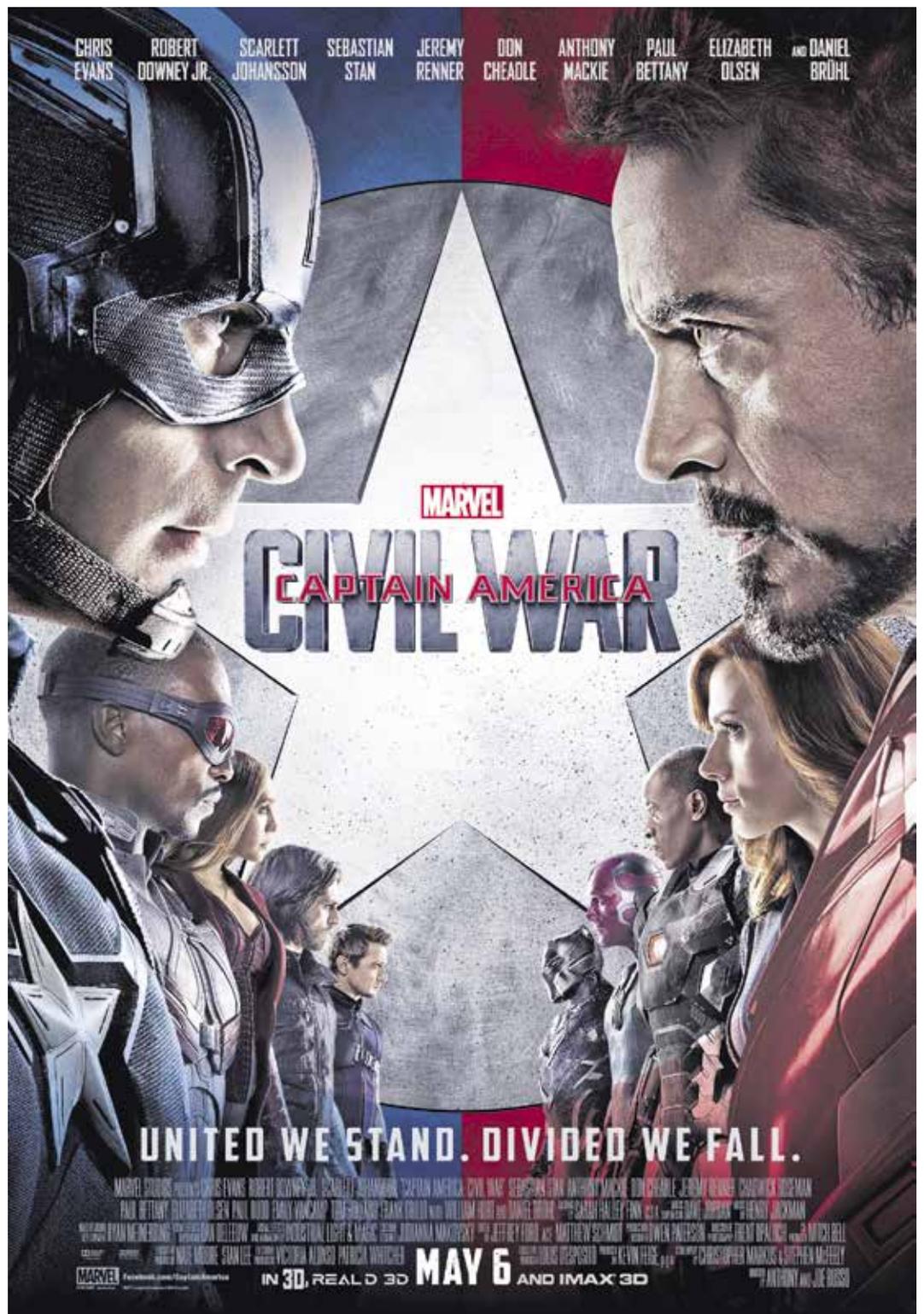
From start to finish, "Captain America: Civil War" is an adrenaline rush with one of the greatest action scenes in cinematic history – the airport scene. While all characters shared a spotlight in the fight, what made it interesting was that each of the characters had their own agenda. New characters in the movie, Black Panther and Spiderman, were well-developed and added to the storyline.

But, where this movie excelled is in depicting Captain America's struggle between fighting for the government or fighting for what he believes is right. This movie leaves viewers switching sides between Team Captain America and Team Iron Man because both had valid points for their beliefs.

Villain Zimo is not a throw away character in contrast to many MCU villains. He finds a way to pit Captain America and Iron Man against each other to cause the final confrontation between the two. Zimo is a villain never seen in comic book movies before as he uses psychological warfare over simple violence to achieve his goals.

However, Zimo wasn't a fully developed character and there were contradictions in the story that could be confusing. Moviegoers may have difficulty following the story and why certain characters are where they are if they have not seen "Avengers: Age of Ultron" and "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."

Great action scenes, memorable characters and a strong story line make this a must see for superhero enthusiasts and those just wanting a good time at the movies. I give "Captain America: Civil War" a 9 out of 10.



BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE



...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

Editor's Note: A column for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden experts and amateurs from the Valrico Garden Club (VGC). To learn about the VGC, contact Mary Kay McMahan at 813-684-6323, email danmcmahan@aol.com or visit Facebook/Valrico Garden Club.

Garden Clubs - Perfect Venues for Special Events

By Gwen Graverson

June continues to be regarded as the most popular month for wedding celebrations. When searching venues for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, promotions, fundraisers and so-forth, consider local Garden Clubs that have their own facilities to rent.

Consider the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC), which has been located in historic Winter Park for more than 50 years. A beautiful example of mid-century design, the headquarters building features a brick exterior, wide portico, and generous patio. Their 47 x 33 reception room seats 99 and enjoys plenty of natural light from windows and three sets of French doors over-looking the lower patio. The high ceilings allow many decorating options.

The grounds are filled with flowering shrubs, mature trees and an expanse of lawn where you can dine under the canopy or enjoy games. Several brick paths, iron benches, and vine-covered arbors provide a beautiful backdrop for photos.

The FFGC venue is located at 1400 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. Operating hours are Tuesday through Friday 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Call 407-647-7016 to visit the facility or check out their website at <http://ffgc-orlandowedding.com/about-ffgc>.

Another venue closer to our area would be the Tampa Garden Club, which is located at 2629 Bayshore Boulevard. The Club

features a spacious ballroom with floor to ceiling windows facing Hillsborough Bay. The Conservatory overlooks the spectacular "Wedding Garden" and the gorgeous moss draped oak trees. The spacious building and grounds are an event decorator's dream.

Parking is plentiful and free. Your event is private and exclusive as only one event is booked per day. You can choose your caterer, decorator, photographer, musician, etc. Their friendly staff is poised to work with you to make your special event a memorable one. For additional information call 813-251-5059, email Tampagardenclub@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TampaGardenClub.

A final "don't forget about" is flowers...and here again, don't overlook the opportunity of checking with local garden clubs that may have members that are certified in floral arranging.

On a personal note: my family will take part in such a special occasion, with not one, but two weddings within a three week window. My niece Pam and her fiancé Elmer will tie-the-knot in Gulf Breeze; followed by my nephew Charlie and his fiancée Kate, who will exchange vows in Maryville, TN. I would like to wish both couples, many blessings as they start their respective lives together as husband and wife. There are three things that will endure... Faith, Hope and Love...and the greatest of these is Love.



Courtesy: Tampa Garden Club



Courtesy: FFGC

DON'S BAY AREA PAINTING

Professional Painting

All Phases ♦ All Applications

- * Commercial
- * Residential
- * Interior
- * Exterior

Free Estimates

Meet or beat our competitors' prices

813.661.9006

www.DonsBayAreaPainting.com

20 years in Bloomingdale

Re-paint Specialists

Pressure Cleaning

License #PA 2653 Bonded & Insured

302637-1

AIR CONDITIONING • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL

CORNERSTONE

AIR CONDITIONING • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL

SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNT

- ✓ FULL SERVICE A/C, PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
- ✓ FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW A/C SYSTEMS
- ✓ FREE 2ND OPINIONS
- ✓ FREE ESTIMATES ON RE-PIPES
- ✓ 5 YRS NO INTEREST FINANCING ON NEW A/C SYSTEMS* WAC
- ✓ A/C, PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE PLANS
- ✓ AIR DUCT CLEANING
- ✓ STOPPAGES, LEAKS, WATER PURIFICATIONS
- ✓ WATER HEATERS
- ✓ PLUMBING INSPECTIONS
- ✓ ELECTRICAL PANEL UPGRADE
- ✓ CEILING FAN INSTALLATION
- ✓ LED & CAN LIGHTING

24/7 - EMERGENCY

\$20 OFF tb1

SERVICE REPAIR

AIR, PLUMBING OR ELECTRICAL

MUST PRESENT COUPON. CANNOT BE COMBINED - ONE PER VISIT. EXP. 6/30/16

\$39.95 tb1

INCLUDES 6 MO. GUARANTEE

A/C, PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL CHECKUP

MUST PRESENT COUPON. CANNOT BE COMBINED - ONE PER VISIT. EXP. 6/30/16

FREE ESTIMATES tb1

NEW A/C OR WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT

MUST PRESENT COUPON. CANNOT BE COMBINED - ONE PER VISIT. EXP. 6/30/16

FREE SERVICE CALL tb1

WITH REPAIR

AIR, PLUMBING OR ELECTRICAL

MUST PRESENT COUPON. CANNOT BE COMBINED - ONE PER VISIT. EXP. 6/30/16

DAIKIN

www.CornerstonePros.com

813-949-4445

Local, Family Owned & Operated

License #CAC1816647 CFC1428982 EC0001103



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



Source: HCSO

AREA LAW AND ORDER

Between April 22 and May 18, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 73 traffic stops in the Bloomingdale and surrounding area known as J04 Zone. There were 11 auto burglaries and four of those autos were **UNLOCKED**. There were three residential burglaries. Just remember to **lock** your doors at home, **secure** your garage doors and **lock** up your vehicles. Then, the opportunity for you to become a victim is significantly lower!

Remember: lock your doors and never leave valuables in plain sight.

SUMMER IS HERE! POOL SAFETY TIPS

With summer here, we need to stress Pool Safety! Here are some safety tips for having a safe summer.

- Never assume an infant or toddler can't get into a pool.
- Always supervise children or non-swimmers in or near the pool.
- Insist on safe water toys... and NO horseplay.
- Keep a shepherd's crook (a long stick with a hook on the end) and a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver close by.
- Keep the pool area free of debris all year long. This reduces trip and fall hazards on the pool deck.

VACATION TIPS

Complete a **VACATION WATCH** (available online at www.hcso.tampa.fl.us) so that law enforcement can periodically check on your house.

- Before you leave unplug or turn down the volume on your telephone so it cannot be heard from outside.
- Set up a timer on an inside light so they turn on and off during evening hours.
- Unplug all electrical appliances such as radios, televisions and washers to prevent possible damage.
- Turn off the water to your washing machine to prevent water damage in case of a broken hose.
- Lock all windows and doors.
- If you leave a car in the garage or the driveway, make sure it is locked.
- Have a trusted neighbor or relative pick up your newspaper and mail daily or call and stop delivery for the time you are gone.

BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

- "Use your head, wear a helmet." It is the single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes.
- Make sure your child has the right size helmet.
- Children learn from watching...so to all parents: wear a helmet, even if you did not when you were a kid.

HOME SECURITY TIPS

- Keep shrubs trimmed away from windows and doors so you do not provide a convenient hiding place for a burglar.
- Maintain adequate exterior lighting, especially on vulnerable access points of your home.
- Don't leave ladders around the exterior of your home where it can be used to break into your home.
- Keep garage doors closed and locked even if you are working in the back yard.
- Display your house number conspicuously and have it well illuminated. This will aid police, medical or other emergency vehicles in finding your home quickly if summoned.
- Consider a safe that can be secured to the floor to store your valuables in.
- Always be aware of who you allow in your home because you never know what a "friend of a friend" will help themselves to when you are not looking. This rule also applies to your teenager's "friends."



We have a new tool to help you help us keep our county safe. It's called tip411. All you have to do is download it to your smartphone or tablet. tip411 is simple yet effective.

You can find the app through the Apple App store or Google Play. Just type in "HCSOSHERIFF" (no space). Download it and keep it handy.

tip411 is easy to use. To send us a tip, press "New Tip." You can also include a photograph or video. Just touch the camera icon at the bottom.

All tips transmit instantly to our Communications Center, where the information is directed to the appropriate area, i.e. patrol, narcotics, warrants, etc.

We monitor tip411 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. And all tips are anonymous.

Remember: in the event of an emergency, always dial 9-1-1.

INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Squatters Rusted from Bloomingdale West Property Staff Report

Thanks to the actions of County Commissioner Stacy White, the County Code Department, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and most importantly, a determined and dogged group of residents, squatters have been ejected from one of our neighborhoods. The property is currently in foreclosure with an active county code case since 2013 and fines accruing in excess of \$50,000 dollars.

Resident complaints centered on suspicious people who began occupying the long-vacant house in early May. Many calls and emails later and with the help of an equally determined code officer, it was determined that the “tenants” were not occupying the house legally. As of May 26, the squatters have vanished. TECO and Public Works are actively monitoring electricity and water usage. County code performed an emergency abatement whereby the county’s rapid response team was activated to secure the property and perform general outside maintenance. And finally, HCSO is performing periodic property checks at the location.

While the outcome of this situation is turning from a negative to a positive, it is a cautionary tale to all residents. The residents involved in this action felt something was “not quite right” and alerted the proper officials to help take care of the problem. This safety and security issue could have turned from bad to worse easily.

The residents in this neighborhood trusted their instincts and reported the situation. You, the resident, should know what “normal” looks like in your neighborhood. Trust your instincts and report. You can make a difference in our community.



Squatters occupied a vacant property in Bloomingdale early last month. Sharp-eyed residents reported their suspicions and authorities have gotten involved. The property does have an active code complaint for numerous violations including the pool, pictured.

Photo: Joy Boisselle

EARN EXTRA MONEY!

You can earn **\$800 to \$1,700 per month** as an independent distributor for the *Tampa Bay Times*.

As we continue to grow, you will too!

Tampa Bay Times

Must be 18 years of age or older with valid Florida driver’s license, proof of insurance and dependable vehicle.

Visit tampabay.com/distributor or call 855-506-2740.

\$500
Signing Incentive
available for a limited time.

Dine & Learn

Join Us For...

A FREE Dinner & An Education

June 28th



2042 Badlands Dr.,
Brandon

June 30th



13326 Lincoln Rd.,
Riverview

813-334-8000

Please call today for details. Seating is limited.



We'll Explain:

HOW and WHY it's important to PRE-PLAN your final arrangements.

Planning for life's big events, such as weddings, graduations and retirements, is something most of us do automatically. Unfortunately, many of us put off – or don't even think about – planning ahead for funeral and cemetery arrangements.

Yet this is one of the greatest gifts you can give your family, for their peace of mind – and yours.

No Pressure. Just Information.

Our Family Caring for Your Family.

10 Bay Area Locations
To Serve Your Family

HILLSBORO MEMORIAL
FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

2323 West Brandon Blvd., Brandon • 813-334-8000

www.dignitymemorial.com



Join Us For A Free
Dinner Seminar



It is the fastest growing sport in America. A cross between tennis and badminton and table tennis, it is called Pickleball. The seniors at the Campo Family YMCA relish their sport. And that is no joke.

Pickleball was introduced at the Campo Y in November 2012 under the direction of Silver Sneakers Coordinator Kavita Marballi. Beginning with two men and nine women, the program has doubled in participants. Says Eileen Kaminski, one of the original players, "We have such good picklers, and there is so much camaraderie."

Pickleball, as the story goes, got its name back in 1965 from the dog of the man who originated the game, Washington Congressman Joel Pritchard. Pritchard and his friends improvised a game of badminton with a wiffle ball because they could not find the shuttlecock. And Pickles, the family cocker spaniel, liked to chase and then hide the ball.

The game is played like doubles tennis on a 20-by-44 foot court, with the net set at 34 inches in the middle and 36 inches on the ends. Special equipment includes paddles, which come in four types: graphite, wood, composite, and aluminum and a perforated plastic ball, similar to a wiffle ball. The game is played to a score of 11, with a win by one point.

The picklers now have their own in-house referee for tournaments, Satar Abdool, who is training to become a Pickleball official. The average age of players is 70, but according to pickler Cindy Figh they are really just "recycled teenagers."

Some players have a background in tennis or racquetball, but anyone of any ability can play. According to Marballi, the game helps strengthen balance and coordination, burns calories, and improves heart health. Says the Silver Sneakers Coordinator, "We have people joining the Campo Y just to play Pickleball."

Starting June 13, Pickleball will be played on Wednesdays and Sundays at the Campo Y. Once summer camps are over Pickleball will resume to Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, with Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. reserved for beginners or players wishing to work on specific skills. Campo provides all the necessary equipment, and players of all skill levels are encouraged to join.

For information, contact Kavita Marballi at 813-684-1371, ext. 212.



Betsy Sarao, an original Campo Y pickler, serves while partner Cindy Figh readies for play during a recent Pickleball tournament.

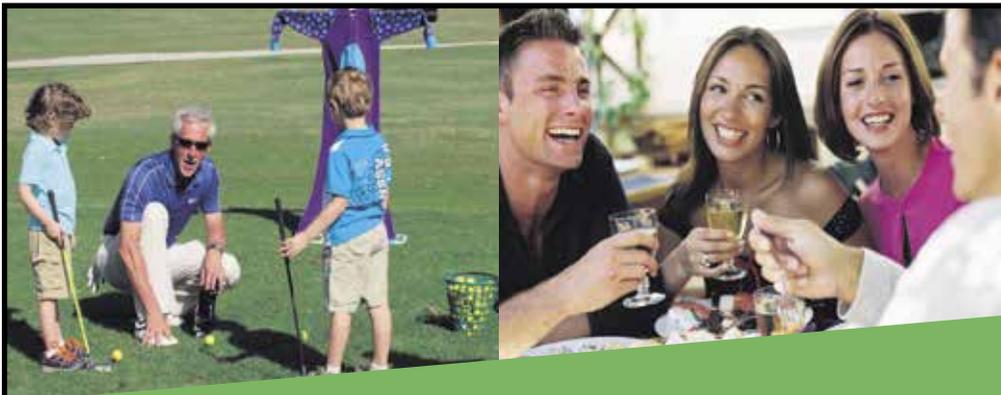
Photo: Miriam Leech



The lady picklers at the Campo Family YMCA are proud to be part of the fastest growing sport in America, Pickleball. Silver Sneakers Coordinator Kavita Marballi (front row, far right) helped bring the program to the Y in 2012.

Photo: Lee Lipscomb





Bloomingtondale Golfers Club Open House

Thursday, June 23rd 6pm - 9pm

We Invite You to Enjoy a Fun-Filled Evening for the Entire Family

Complimentary Food & Craft Beer Tasting
Fun Golf Contests for All Ages, Prizes & More!



Call for More Information
813.685.4105

Sponsored by:



BloomingtondaleGolf.com

SCHOOLS OUT FOR SUMMER



Lake Brandon Village & Westfield Brandon

**\$1.00
MOVIES**
EACH WEEK / EITHER FILM

Summer Fun Flicks

Proceeds to Benefit:



**PG-13
OPTION
EVERY WEEK!**

It's BACK! No really - Movies for \$1!

Where: AMC Regency 20 Theatres
2496 W. Brandon Blvd Brandon, FL 33511
813-685-3396

When: 10 a.m. Showtime and Doors open at 9 a.m.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the box office. Enjoy a \$6.42 small drink & popcorn combo. Proceeds benefit Derrick Brooks Charities, Safety Net Tracking Systems & Metropolitan Ministries.

What's Playing!

- June 14: Alvin & The Chipmunks - Road Trip & Hunger Games
- June 21: Minions & Catching Fire
- July 5: Hotel Transylvania & Mocking Jay - Part 1
- June 30: Goosebumps & Mocking Jay - Part 2
- July 12: Kung Fu Panda 2 & Twilight
- July 19: Home & Twilight Saga - New Moon
- July 26: SpongeBob & Twilight Saga - Eclipse
- August 2: Paddington & Twilight Saga - Breaking Dawn 1
- August 9: The Peanuts Movie & Twilight Saga - Breaking Dawn 2

Wellness & Weightloss of Tampa

STOP suffering!



Can you answer YES to more than one of the following:

- Over the age of 30
- Hot flashes
- Night sweats
- Weight gain
- Difficulty sleeping

We now accept most insurances!

If so, Hormone Replacement Therapy may be your answer!

Call today to set up a FREE CONSULTATION: 813-689-9911.

We now offer Massage Therapy

LASHES BY KAT

\$99 Full Set Special (\$200 value)
*this special is for new clients only
Call 813.716.7014 to schedule your appointment today.



1135 Professional Park Drive, Brandon
www.WellnessBrandon.com
813.689.9911

BLOOMINGDALE PAINTING

"A Brush Of Quality"

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
PRESSURE WASHING
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL

Bloomingtondale Resident-Tod Howard
FREE ESTIMATES, EXPERIENCED and RELIABLE

(813)654-5646 | (813)966-3601

www.BloomingtondalePainting.com

License#PA3694 Bonded & Insured





CONGRATS, GRADS!

June 7
Strawberry Crest Graduation, 8 p.m., Florida State Fairgrounds

June 9
Bloomingtondale Graduation, 4:30 p.m., Florida State Fairgrounds

June 10
Last Day of School!



HOT! HOT! HOT!

Middle and High School Students! Electronic Final Report Cards

All Middle School and High School report cards will be available for access online. Links to access the report card will be available through the district website, mySPOT, and Edsby. The new online report card will replace the previously mailed final report card.

To ensure that this confidential information is delivered securely, your student will receive a letter containing a unique Personal Identification Number from their school. Parents will need this PIN, along with other student specific information, to access the online report card.

When the electronic report card becomes available, notification will be sent by a phone call, email, and/or text message using the contact information listed on the Student Emergency Information Card. Please report any changes to your phone number and/or email address to the school immediately.

If for any reason you are unable to access the report card electronically, a printed copy may be picked up from the school after they are made available online.

Events listed may be subject to change. Check with your school to confirm event dates and times prior to attending.

Attendance Matters



Congratulations to Andrew Updegrave for his perfect attendance record every year from Kindergarten through 12th Grade! What an accomplishment!

Summer Reading Lists Available

Check out the summer reading lists at http://bloomingtondale.mysdhc.org/News_Newsletters.

FAST Camp for Incoming Freshmen

BLOOMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL'S 2016 Freshman Academic Summer Transition (FAST) Camp

for all incoming 9th graders
July 25th - 27th
8AM to 12PM

- ✔ **FREE** Three-day summer program
- ✔ Make new friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers and counselors, and get to know Bloomingdale!
- ✔ Learn about our campus, extracurricular activities, clubs, traditions, resources, AP programs, college/university awareness and much more!
- ✔ **REGISTER TODAY!**
 - Go to <http://www2.sdhc.k12.fl.us/FAST/>
 - Complete the online registration form.
 - After completing the online registration, print the "Registration and Registration Receipt" form, be sure to sign it, and either drop it off at Bloomingdale or mail the form to Bloomingdale (Summer Camp) at 1700 E. Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico FL. 33596
- ✔ Once received we will contact you via email to confirm.



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

June 10 – Early Release, 11:45 a.m.

Battle of the Books Winners

Congratulations to the 4th grade Battle of the Books competitors. Mrs. Chastain's class (Sophia Orrego, Luke Gibson, Ava Hageman, and Kassie DuPont) won the competition. They will represent Alafia Elementary at district competition Thurs., June 2.



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

June 7 – Varsity Show, 7 p.m.

June 10 – Last Day of School, 11:30 a.m.-5th Graders Clap out, followed by 11:45 a.m.- Dismissal



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

June 6 – PTSA Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m.

June 10 – Last Day of School, Early Release at 1:45 p.m.

2016 Summer Reading

Summer is a great time for students to choose what they want to read and read for fun! Check out www.bitly.com/HCPsLibrary for reading suggestions and resources for the summer.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

June 5 – Graduation Rehearsal, 11 a.m. at the FL State Fairgrounds

June 10 – Last Day of School, Early Release 12:30 p.m.

June 10 – Cross Country meeting – 6 p.m. in the Cafeteria

June 10 – Football meeting – 6 p.m. in the Media Center

June 10 – Volleyball meeting for new athletes – 7 p.m.

June 13 – 15 – Cheer Tryouts – 9 a.m. in the Cafeteria

June 13 – Senior Portraits – 9 a.m. in the Auditorium

June 13 – Girls Basketball meeting – 4:30 p.m. in the Gym



Alafia Unveils First Buddy Bench

By Deidre Morgan

On May 5, Alafia Elementary School first graders unveiled their first Buddy Bench. The bench is a tool for students to let others know that they are in need of a buddy. Students who are looking for a friend sit on the bench signaling other students to come spend time with them. Once a student realizes someone is on the bench, they approach and interact with the student. Then, the students who are now buddies leave the bench so that it is available for others. So far, the bench has had great success!

Students have been very excited about the project and the school is continuing to accept cash donations to create more benches to place in other locations throughout the campus. Each bench costs approximately \$75. If anyone is interested in helping with the project, contact teachers Lynne Little or Lindsay Gregg at 813-744-8190.



First graders at Alafia Elementary surround the new Buddy Bench at the unveiling on May 5. Photo: Lynne Little



tampabay.com/do

Free, unlimited access to all the fun things to do in Tampa Bay.

No time like the present to keep your future on track



Life changes – and your finances need to keep up. At Edward Jones, we know it's important to review your finances regularly. That's why we provide complimentary portfolio reviews.

Have you reviewed your portfolio lately? Call to schedule an appointment to help ensure your finances are keeping pace with you.

Dan Sammons, CLU®, ChFC®
 Financial Advisor
 3616 Erindale Drive, Valrico, FL 33596
 Office 813-681-1462
 dan.sammons@edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC



Alafia Elementary School students took center stage to showcase their talents on May 6 during the end of the year PTSA meeting. Proving "American Idol" is not the only place where talented young people can get a break, students danced, sang, played piano and even performed stand-up comedy to the delight of all who attended. Congratulations to all the brave boys and girls who showed off their amazing skills!



Angelina Cruz belted out Adele's "Hello" to the appreciative crowd.



The comedy duo of Dylan Karnowski and Grady Duncan has the crowd in stitches!



Playing the guitar and singing "Ring of Fire" was Vinnie Disbennett.



Alexis Alsup performed a tap dance routine to the music of "Runaway Baby."



Sophia Brosch tickled the ivories performing "Firefly."



A very dapper Cooper Hinson sings John Legends' "All of Me."



Pitching for Pets

Brief/Photos: Abigail Hernandez

Bloomington High School's annual dodgeball tournament, hosted by the school's Humane Society Club, is one of many ways that Bloomington brings their faculty and students together to give back to those in need. What looks like a regular sporting event actually goes much deeper – ALL money raised is donated to the Humane Society.

"The dodgeball event is one way we get students, faculty, and parents involved in raising money for the humane society in a fun and interactive way," stated Megan Kirkham, current president of Bloomington's Humane Society Club. "The students get really into it, and I am so proud to be the president of the club."

Jake Cannon, graduating member of this year's winning team "Dirty Mike and the Boys," said, "They [The Humane Society] work hard to not only put together my favorite event of the year, but to support our local shelters and animals in need. It feels right knowing that I'm playing for a just cause, and I hope they continue their great work at Bloomington."

In addition to the nearly \$4,000 donated by the club earlier this year, the club also plans to donate an additional \$1,000 by the end of the school year.



Winning dodgeball team "Dirty Mike and the Boys" competed to raise funds for the Humane Society at the school's annual fundraiser held May 20. Pictured front to back are Jake Cannon, Jordan Revis, Ryan Voyles, Tom McGuire, Nick Lewis and Parker Reeves.

Austin James and Cody Wilson prepare to race for a ball during the annual dodgeball fundraiser at the school.



Bulls Football Team Participates in Spring Game

Brief/Photos: Deidre Morgan

Under new Head Coach Max Warner, the Bloomington Bulls faced the Brandon Eagles at Brandon High School for the Spring Jamboree Game on May 10. Four teams participated with each team playing 2 quarters. First up were the Newsome Wolves versus the Durant Cougars. The cougars pulled off a tightly contested half, 7-6.

In second half action, the Bulls took the field against the Eagles with new energy and a determination not to have a repeat of last year's rout when the Eagles posted a decisive 38-0 win. This time, the Bulls claimed victory with a 7-0 win. Players and coaches are pumped up and looking forward to an awesome fall season of Bloomington Bulls Football...Go Bulls!



Head Coach Max Warner leads the team in warm ups before the Spring Game at Brandon High School.

Quarterback Tyler Hunter has time to look for receivers thanks to great blocking by the Bulls offensive line.





ATTENTION: 2016 Graduates, Parents and Friends!

WE WANT YOUR GRADUATION PHOTOS FOR OUR JULY ISSUE!

The Gazette wants to help you celebrate your upcoming graduation moments. These can include kindergarten graduations, Alafia and Cimino clap outs, parties, and more! Send your graduation photos or selfies to inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com by June 20. At a minimum, identify those in the photo from left to right, the school graduating from, and the future plans of the graduate. We will do the rest! Don't forget to provide contact information just in case there are questions.



We want your graduation celebration photos to include in our July Gazette. Email inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051 for information. From last year, 2015 BSHS graduate Will Morgan celebrates his accomplishment with his family.



Gazette File Photo



Outstanding Seniors Rewarded at BSHS Awards Night

By Natalia Langone

Photos: Natalia Langone

Recognition for four years of hard work was the focus of Bloomingdale Senior High School's Senior Awards Night held May 18 at the school. A variety of awards was presented to the students ranging from college scholarships to academic subject recognition to extracurricular honors. Presenters included the school's teachers, Principal Sue Burkett and other administrators as well as representatives from the military and local businesses.

Senior Jacob Canon received many awards including the teenager of the year award and the Tampa Tribune honor student designation. In addition, he received a scholarship from the Bloomingdale Booster Club. Canon said, "I was surprised, any money for college helps a lot."

Some students received awards through teacher nominations. Yearbook and Journalism adviser Jenn Abbott selected senior Heather Holt for this year's yearbook award. Of the award, Holt said, "I feel pretty good. I'm really happy that all of my hard work has paid off."

Other awardees included Bloomingdale residents Morgan Smedley, Kristen McLean and Jacob Miller. The night was a special one for seniors, their parents and their teachers.



Jacob Canon and Principle Sue Burkett pose for a photo during the BSHS Senior Awards Night held May 18. According to Canon, his parents are "overjoyed and happy" with his accomplishments.



Pictured left to right, parents Leroy and Kim Holt, Heather Holt and Yearbook and Journalism adviser Jenn Abbott after the senior awards ceremony at BSHS.