



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XXXVIII 🌿 ISSUE 7 🌿 JULY 2018 🌿 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

BHA + BSTD + Commissioner White = Sidewalk Repairs in Bloomingtondale

See this and other development stories on pp. 12-13



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Community leaders BHA president George May (l.) and BSTD president Dave West (r.) celebrate the start of sidewalk repairs with Commissioner Stacy White.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games." *Babe Ruth*

This Month

BHA COMMUNITY CORNER
Page 4

FALL FEST SPONSORS
WANTED
Page 5

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Page 6

BSTD: THE COMMUNITY'S
COMMON AREA CONNECTION
Page 8

RESIDENT PHOTO
OF THE MONTH
Page 11

WHAT'S HAPPENING
IN AND AROUND OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD?
Page 12-13

ANDREW "THE CAN MAN"
SPRUILL
Page 14-15

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!
Pages 18

SCHOOL NEWS
Pages 22-23

PLEASE ♻️ RECYCLE

WINNER

2013, 2014 & 2016

Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
Newsletter Category



YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road - Valrico, Florida 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

BHA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office.

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Suzy Watts*

Secretary: *Joanie Wilson*

Treasurer: *Grace Lewis*



Directors at Large:

Daniel Berkowitz

Sean Donahue

Bobbi Ferraro

Carl Hallinan

Billy Hightower

Beth Smedley

Charlie Woodcock

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci, NTZ Studios

Staff Writers: Wendy Knipp, Deidre Morgan, Jessica Hinson
and Student Reporter: Jon Alfano

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



ANDREA DALY

Community Development

Program Manager, Advertising

11268 Winthrop Main Street, Suite 101

Riverview, Florida 33578 - (813) 731-2490

Email: adaly@tampabay.com

Tampa Bay
Times

YOUR BABY RELIES ON YOU FOR NUTRITION, AND YOU CAN RELY ON US.

Motherhood is an incredible adventure, and your labor and delivery experience is just the beginning. St. Joseph's Hospital-South is proud of the support our staff provides to the breastfeeding mother.

Breastfeeding may seem natural, but is a "learned art" for both mother and baby. The nursing staff on the mother-baby unit will provide assistance and support as you begin your breastfeeding experience.

At St. Joseph's Hospital-South, a Certified Lactation Consultant is available to provide free information and consultation. We're dedicated to providing lactation education, support and supplies for the breastfeeding family.

For maternity preregistration or for a physician referral: StJosephsSouthMaternity.org



BayCare

St. Joseph's Hospital-South



Yard of the Month



Photos: Wendy Knipp

Barbara Fauerbach 3812 Hanover Hill Drive Valrico, FL 33596 (Fairway Manor)



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

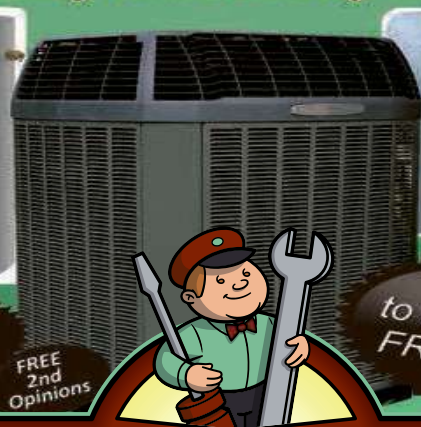
Winners will receive a \$25 gift card redeemable at Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale



24/7 SAME-DAY SERVICE. AIR CONDITIONING • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL



REPLACE, REPAIR, MAINTAIN



Senior & Military Discounts

FREE 2nd Opinions

Call today to schedule your FREE estimate!

CORNERSTONE™

AIR CONDITIONING • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL
CORNERSTONEPROS.COM

813-343-0964

Lic: #CFC1428982 #CAC1816647 #EC0001103

Same Day Installation & Financing Up To 5 Years Approved Credit



\$25 OFF ANY SERVICE REPAIR
AIR, PLUMBING OR ELECTRIC



Must present coupon. Cannot be combined. One per visit. Offer expires 7/31/18 BG

\$39.95 77-Point A/C
Cleaning & Checkup



FREE 1 lb Freon
6-MONTH GUARANTEE
Must present coupon. Cannot be combined. One per visit. Offer expires 7/31/18 BG

\$39.95 SERVICE CALL
M-F • 7am-7pm



Must present coupon. Cannot be combined. One per visit. Offer expires 7/31/18 BG

FREE ESTIMATES & 2ND OPINION



- ✓ NEW AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM
- ✓ AIR QUALITY INSPECTION
- ✓ DUCTWORK REPLACEMENT
- ✓ WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT
- ✓ PLUMBING WHOLE HOME REPIPE
- ✓ WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS
- ✓ WHOLE HOME GENERATORS



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Become a BHA Member! Support programs and services that benefit our community!

Join the BHA! As we enter the last six months of our annual membership drive, we still need your support! The Fall Festival is right around the corner followed by our Santa visit and food drive in December. Membership is not pro-rated and your \$35 membership is returned 100 percent to the community.

Your \$35 includes:

- The Fall Festival
- Annual Clean-Up Days
- A Dedicated Board that advocates for community improvements to government officials
- The Award-Winning Bloomingdale Gazette
- A Neighborhood Standards Program to help maintain our property standards and quality of life. We do not enforce deed restrictions; rather we work with county code officers to report code violations. See the standards list at www.bloomingdalehoa.com.
- The HOA website, Facebook and Twitter Pages
- An Office with Part-Time Staff to assist with inquiries.
- Community-Wide Garage Sale
- Santa Visit and Charity Food Drive
- Scholarship and Community Service Hour Opportunities
- Yard of the Month

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. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by unpaid volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. 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.



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, July 9, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information. Special guests are Tom Rawls, Bell Shoals project Manager and Wanda Sloan, Office of Neighborhood Relations.

Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information. Special guests are Tom Rawls, Bell Shoals project Manager and Wanda Sloan, Office of Neighborhood Relations.

Thursday, July 16, NEW TIME: 6 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Cliff Fletcher, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

BHA BRIEFS

Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

The June meeting again focused on county code ordinance enforcement. Guests included several residents and three county code officers – Supervisor Derrick Grace, 33511 Code Officer Kirk Bowling and 33596 Code Officer Jason Zalva. Nearly 60 violations have been reported since the May board meeting. Topics included county standards for reporting and updates on ongoing issues.

Neighbors are encouraged to speak to their neighbors first before initiating a complaint to the BHA or county code.



Sometimes a simple conversation is all that is needed. Remember complaints to the BHA are confidential and reported anonymously to county. Check out the neighborhood standards list at www.bloomingdalehoa.com.

Temporary Office Closure

The BHA office will be closed from July 23 to August 3 at a minimum. Phone calls will not be monitored or returned during this timeframe. Please use the Association email for all communications – bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Fall Fest Date/Location Confirmed, Sponsors Wanted

The BHA's Fall Festival is coming! Stay tuned for details here, on the website and on the HOA Facebook page! Contact the committee at bhafallfest@gmail.com for information.



Annual Fall Festival Sponsorship Opportunities

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to present our Fall Festival, Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bloomingdale High School Stadium (1700 E. Bloomingdale Avenue). Bloomingdale boasts over 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents and the Fall Festival is a great opportunity to market your business and build local awareness. Limited booth space is available.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

Gold \$750

- Your business will be the only business of its kind at the event
- Premium booth space close to entrance
- Business name, contact information and profile in the Bloomingdale Gazette
- Business info and link on the BHA website through July 2019
- Opportunity to place item in 300 guest goody bags
- Business name and logo on banner at event entrance
- Business logo on all Fall Festival marketing material

Silver \$250

- Booth space
- Business name and contact information in the Bloomingdale Gazette
- Business info on the BHA website through July 2019
- Opportunity to place item in 300 guest goody bags
- Business name on banner at event entrance

Bronze \$100

- Booth space
- Business name in the Bloomingdale Gazette



Sponsors will need to provide: Table, chairs and canopy; candy, treat or activity for kid's "Trick or Treat Street". For more information, contact the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at (813) 727-3606 or email BHAFallFest@gmail.com.



JOIN US! JULY 14 & 28

TRU-HARVEST MARKET

SUMMER FUN

2nd & 4th Saturday of Every Month! 9am-1pm

Tru-Harvest Market is a local market with a variety of vendors, giving you the opportunity for **one-stop shopping**. Get a bite to eat, shop for produce from **Cypress Creek Co-Op**, pick up unique gifts, buy some healthy microgreens or some fresh-baked goodies. Tru-Harvest Market has a fun-packed summer planned for the whole family.

ADULT & TEENAGER CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
Register at the market during the month of June

JUNE: CARNIVAL month with fun games, coloring & more!

JULY: PATRIOTIC month with lots of patriotic activities & projects for the kids!

AUGUST: SUPERHERO month with superhero sand art activities!

10701 Bloomingdale Ave. • Riverview
For more information call or visit our website
813-833-2436 • www.tru-harvestmarket.com
carolyn@tru-harvestmarket.com



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.

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

SUPERIOR RESIDENCES of Brandon
MEMORY CARE

Live the Moment...Love the Moment™
Assisted Living Facility #9739

July Community Calendar

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

TODAY!

Aethertopia / July 7 and 8 / 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / Florida State Fair Grounds, 4800 US HWY 301 N Tampa / <http://aethertopia.com> // The biggest Steampunk Show to come to Florida. A nomadic City full of Steampunk artists/artisans, performers and makers, authors and more, to astound the senses. An extraordinary event compiling art of all mediums. From Armor and hats, Garb to gauntlets, dancers, singers, theater and authors from all around the state and beyond. Activities list is on the website, All Steampunk and all gathering under one roof! Family friendly! Tickets on sale now!



Pet CPR and First Aid Certification class / July 8 / 10 a.m. -1 p.m. / Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co., 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Rd // Become certified in canine and feline CPR and First Aid.

Earn CEU's. The skills and topics covered in this class include: Safety techniques when working with sick and/or injured animals, How to restrain and transport sick and/or injured animals, Taking vital signs (temperature, pulse, respiration, CRT), Importance of the first aid kit, How to manage common medical emergencies such as severe wounds, poisoning, burns, choking, etc., Performing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation on dogs and cats. Class is \$69.95 per person and includes a copy of the Manual, 2 CPR certification wallet cards, a certificate and a 2-yr. subscription to our online resource center.



Tampa Bay Rays vs Detroit Tigers / July 9, 10 and 11 / 7:10 p.m. / Tropicana Field, One Tropicana Dr, St. Petersburg / http://tampabay.rays.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=tb // Take me out to the ballgame!

Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training – Hillsborough / July 10 / 5:30-7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave // Consider becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister and help change the life of a child facing adversity for the better, forever. It doesn't take a lot of time (between 4-8 hours a month, depending on the program). The real focus is on being consistent, and spending one-to-one quality time with your Little. Being a Big often means just including your Little in things you already like to do — going to a ball game, or a museum, or the beach, or a bike ride. Get more information about volunteering at <https://bbbstampabay.org/be-a-big/>.

Trivia Night at Topgolf Tampa / July 11 and 18 / 8:30-10:30 p.m. / Topgolf Tampa, 10690 Palm River Road // Join us at Topgolf Tampa for FREE Trivia every Wednesday night hosted by Challenge Entertainment! Sometimes it pays to be a know-it-all! Bring a team, win some green! There is no limit to size of team! Prizes will be given to the top 3 teams every week.

Jamaican Music and Poetry / July 11 / 2 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave // Join Jamaican musician and poet Lasana Bandelé as he shares a brief history of his beloved country through poetry and folk songs. Discover the beauty of Jamaican culture as Bandelé weaves a tapestry of life, love, hopes, and dreams on vocals and guitar. For adults.

Two Hurricanes and Trees Workshops / #1 - July 11, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Hillsborough County Extension, 5339 County Road 579, Seffner / #2 - July 25, 10 a.m. to noon at Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa // It's hurricane season! University of Florida IFAS - Hillsborough Extension will share up to date knowledge on how to manage your trees to resist wind damage; recognize trees that may be hazardous during a strong storm; restoring wind damaged trees; and how to document damage to trees following a hurricane for an insurance claim. While there is no charge, participants must register. Space is limited to 75. To register for the July 11 workshop, go to <https://hurricanesandtrees.eventbrite.com>. For the July 25 workshop, <https://treesandhurricanes2.eventbrite.com/>.

3rd Annual Back to School Bash / July 14 / 10 a.m.-3 p.m. / Westfield Brandon Mall // The first 250 children will get to participate in a Scavenger Hunt where they will complete fun activities with local businesses, and then collect a free backpack stuffed with school supplies. The mall will open as early as 9 a.m. for the backpack giveaway line to start. Event features Mascot Meet & Greet from noon-2 p.m. Free Activities include Face Painting, Photo Booth, MOSI Science Lab, kids Fashion Show, live GoGo SqueeZ demos and samples, Live Happy's Happy Wall, Water Color painting, Hillsborough County Fire Safety Demo, and more. Call 727-674-1464 for information.

Free Patio Watering and Container Plant Gardening Workshop / July 14 / 11:45 a.m. / Hillsborough County Extension, 5339 County Road 579, Seffner // Save water, time and money! Receive a free patio plant watering kit and learn how to install the kit with a hands-on demonstration. Learn how to plant containers. Walk through teaching gardens, view microirrigation installations, and receive brochures, booklets, door prizes and other items on gardening, water and environmental conservation. Advance registration required at www.eventbrite.com/e/patio-and-container. Valid for one Hillsborough County adult, one time only, one kit per household. Questions? Email: monahans@hillsboroughcounty.org



SharkCon 5 (2018) / July 14-15 / 10 a.m.-5 p.m. / Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 N US Highway 301, Tampa // SharkCon is an event that brings sharks, ocean conservation, scuba, and art together with the fun of a comic con. Speakers from the shark world including Shark week, kids' activities, marine themed vendors, scuba pool, art and more. Tickets are \$14.95 for a single day adult pass, \$19.95 for a two-day adult pass, \$4.95 for a one-day child pass or \$7.50 for a two-day child pass (Children ages 13 and under). Proceeds benefit three main recipients: The Florida Aquarium shark and coral rehabilitation programs and OCEARCH Shark Expedition Research. For information, visit <http://shark-con.com/>.



Christmas in July at TopGolf Benefiting the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay / July 22 / Noon-4 p.m. / TopGolf, 10690 Palm River Road // Join the Red Shoe Council of Ronald McDonald House Charities for our first ever Christmas in July Top Golf event. Event includes: Golf for 3 Hours and Full Lunch Buffet. Non-golfers enjoy lunch and games! Grab your family and come support the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay, so we can be sure to keep families close! Sponsorships Available, email RedShoe@RMHCTampaBay.org.

Parkinson's Disease Support Group / July 25 / 10:30-11:30 a.m. / The Bridges Assisted Living Community, 11202 Dewhurst Dr., Riverview // The Bridges Assisted Living Community will host a support group for those diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, family members and caregivers. The support group will meet quarterly on the last Wednesday of the month. Guest speakers will present on topics such as mobility, balance, cognition, medication, and nutrition. The purpose is to share information, offer mutual support and gain additional information from area experts. There is no fee to attend. RSVP to Janet Noah at 813-413-8900.

Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

(Editor's Note: Real estate columnist Ronnie has lived in Bloomingdale for eight years with her husband and two children, a son attending University of Florida and daughter at Bloomingdale High School. A productive Realtor, she is also active in the Bloomingdale High School PTSA and Girl Scouts.)



By Ronnie McLaughlin

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-601-5659

ronniemclaughlin@kw.com
www.chaddertongroup.com

Time to Renovate that Kitchen?

The National Association of Realtors 2017 Remodeling Impact Report states the top reasons why homeowners remodel their kitchens:

- 31% to upgrade worn-out surfaces, finishes and materials
- 23% to modernize
- 44% for better functionality and livability
- 91% for an increased sense of enjoyment when they are at home
- 89% to feel a major sense of accomplishment.

Per this same report, the average cost estimate for kitchen renovations is \$35,000 with a 57% recovery of value. 54% of Realtors surveyed have recommended kitchen renovations to prospective sellers.

Not ready to take on a complete renovation? I recently interviewed Nicholas Grassi with Get a Pro Painter, Inc. He transforms older wood cabinets by sanding down, priming and painting, using urethane Enamel paint. Depending on the size of the kitchen and the preparation work that needs to be done, Nicholas can update your cabinets for \$1000 - \$2000.



Nicholas Grassi with Get a Pro Painter, Inc. transformed this local kitchen for around \$1000. Photo: Get a Pro Painter, Inc.

There is a renovation to fit your budget. Ask friends, realtors and professionals for ideas and recommendations.

Neighborhood Snapshot - Windsor Woods

Windsor Woods is a voluntary HOA neighborhood located along Culbreath Road across from Alafia Elementary School. The street names are Blackwood Place, Cold Creek Drive, Eagle Wood Street, Hollow Wood Drive, Kiowa Lane, Timberfall Lane, and Treeline Drive. The homes were built between 1988-2000 with an average square footage of 2,295, and an average of 4 bedrooms and 2-3 bathrooms.

Over the past 365 days, 11 homes sold in Windsor Woods at an average of \$125 per square foot. Nine were pool homes. The lowest sales price was \$190,000 and the highest sales price was \$325,500.

**MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold between June 25, 2017 and June 25, 2018. Sales not entered into MLS did not count in these statistics.*



6 Weeks thru 12 Years

- Nutritious Meals & Snacks: Low Salt & Sugar
- Spanish & Music
- Brainwaves Curriculum
- ABC Mouse Computer Technology
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)
- Extracurricular Programs
- Outdoor Playgrounds w/Water Park
- Trained Professional Staff Certified in First Aid & CPR
- Security Code Access Entry
- FREE Internet Viewing of Your Child's Day
- Pre-School
- Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten
- Before- and After-School Care



Infant & Toddler Care

BACK TO SCHOOL

Now Enrolling - All Ages

FREE
VPK
VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN



Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten 2018-2019

Top-rated Program in Lithia & FishHawk -
Preparation for National Common Core Kindergarten Standards
Accelerated Pre-K Curriculum with Math, Science, Spanish, Music, Sign Language, APPLE & Gold Seal, and Technology.

813-657-6200

www.krkvallrico.com | 4321 Lynx Paw Trail
Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary
CHC431024

813-654-7000

www.krkcirca.com | 5815 Kids Crossing Drive
Located between Stowers Elementary & Mosaic
CHC432384

Pick up from Stowers,
Valrico Academy, Bevis, FishHawk Creek,
Lithia Springs, Foundation Christian,
Alafia and Cimino.

BLOOMINGDALE Special Taxing District

THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION
By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

Tax Referendum Vote is August 28!
Vote yes to increase the BSTD assessment from \$130 to \$170 per year on the Primary Ballot

What is the BSTD?

Special Districts, like our Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD), provide specific, local, governmental services for people that directly benefit from them. The Bloomingdale tax assessment is **100 percent Bloomingdale money**, spent **100 percent for the maintenance and beautification of the common areas** shared by the 32 subdivisions/5,300 homes/23,000 residents that comprise our Bloomingdale community. Bloomingdale resident Trustees who are unpaid volunteers manage the funds in accordance with County and State requirements.

Why is a tax increase is needed?

Like you, our expenses have increased since the BSTD was established in 1985. Hopefully unlike you, our income has stayed the same since the last tax assessment increase in 2006 despite inflation and the aging infrastructure issues that increase expenses year-to-year.

The tax assessment increase is critical for the BSTD to meet its primary responsibility, which is the maintenance of the walls, trees, lawn, landscaping, and community signage along Culbreath Road, Natures Way Boulevard, Canoga Park Drive, as well as along the ingress/egress roads of Rosemead Lane, Bloomingfield Drive, Garnet Drive, Glenhaven Drive, Green Hollow Lane, Springvale Drive, and Erindale Drive. In addition, once the Bell Shoals widening project is complete, the BSTD will inherit the maintenance of new landscaped medians placed to expedite traffic flow at those entrances to our neighborhood.

The History

Special Districts are not a new concept. Benjamin Franklin established the first special district in 1736 when he created the Union Fire Company of Philadelphia, a volunteer fire department. Residents in a defined neighborhood paid a fee to receive fire protection services.

That's the crux of a Special (Taxing) District—to provide a way for us to have local control over how our dollars are spent for the good of the community in which we live.

The BSTD was created in 1985 with an original assessment of \$80 per year. That means that in 33 years the per annum tax assessment has increased only \$50!

Help us keep Bloomingdale a neighborhood we're proud to call home! **Vote YES on August 28.**

(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 bstd@verizon.net.)

BLOOMINGDALE Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Road
Valrico, Florida 33596
(813) 684-6667 Office
(813) 684-2358 Fax
BSTD@verizon.net
www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org
Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

David P. West, President
Tom Leech, Vice President
Mark Horst, Treasurer
Jay Kittle, Secretary
Dann Berkowitz, Trustee
Russell Jones, Trustee
Bob Meginnis, Trustee



Monthly Meeting

The residents of Bloomingdale, as always, are invited to attend the next meeting of the BSTD on July 9 at 6:30 p.m., at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. If you would like to speak at the meeting, members of the public are allotted 3 minutes to make comment or ask questions per Hillsborough County policy. *Hope to see you there!*

Non-Ad Valorem Assessments

Levying authority	Rate	Amount
WATER / SEWER IMPACT FEE		\$289.39
LIGHTING DISTRICT 514		\$57.83
BLOOMINGDALE SDD		\$130.00
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT		\$36.00
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL		\$97.53
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION		\$131.43
Total		\$742.18

Every homeowner pays the Bloomingdale SDD non-ad valorem tax (highlighted) of \$130 to maintain our community. On the Aug. 28 Primary ballot is a Referendum to increase the tax assessment from its current annual amount to \$170. This would be the first increase in 12 years, and is necessary for the BSTD to continue to maintain the aging community at its current level.

Go to hillstax.org to review your taxes.

Wanted: A Forever Home and Family!

Source: Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center (PRC) has many cats and dogs looking for their "forever" homes. The PRC is the only open-admission facility in the county, meaning it accepts dogs and cats regardless of breed, size or medical condition. Residents can visit the center or search online to view hundreds of adoptable animals. All pets are microchipped, vaccinated, registered, and spayed or neutered before adoption.

The PRC, located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd., is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For information, call 813-744-5660 or visit www.hcflgov.net/pets.

Here are just a few fabulous faces to choose from:

Lima



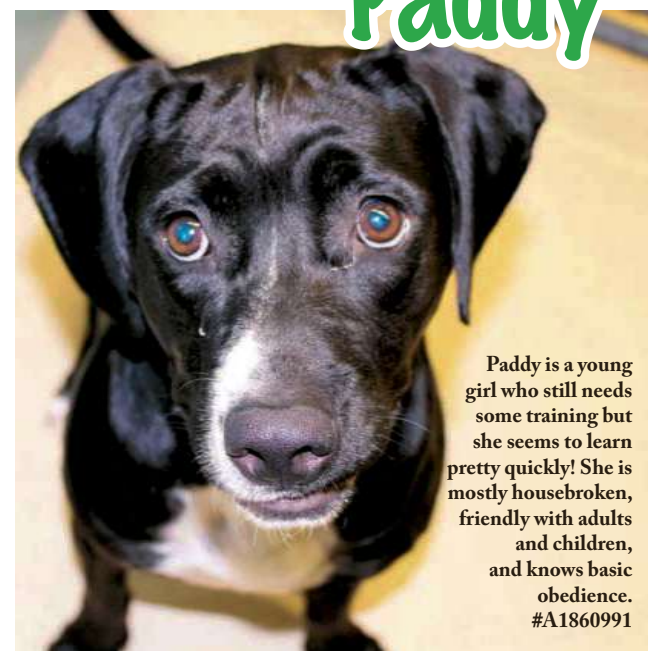
Lima, a 2-year-old female, is ready to go. She is affectionate and loves to cuddle. #A1906032

Simba



At 2 years of age and 61 lbs, Simba is a friendly guy who likes treats, attention and knows some basic commands. He is tolerant of other dogs. #A1902391

Paddy



Paddy is a young girl who still needs some training but she seems to learn pretty quickly! She is mostly housebroken, friendly with adults and children, and knows basic obedience. #A1860991



BRIDGES DENTAL

LAURA COYLE BRIDGES, D.M.D.

WE'D LIKE TO BE YOUR NEW LOCAL DENTIST

25% OFF

— ANY —

ONE PROCEDURE

Coupon can not be combined with insurance benefits. Invisalign excluded.

BRIDGES DENTAL
813-654-3399

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 12-31-18.

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$79

Includes exam, x-rays and healthy mouth cleaning
(D0150, D0210, D1110)

BRIDGES DENTAL
813-654-3399

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 12-31-18.

CROWN SPECIAL

Includes Crown and Buildup
(If necessary)

CROWNS \$899

(D2750 and D2950)

BRIDGES DENTAL
813-654-3399

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 12-31-18.

3646 Lithia Pinecrest RD • Erindale Plaza • Valrico

Mon-Thurs: 8am-5pm **813-654-3399** www.bridgesdental.com

The patient and any other person responsible for payment has a right to refuse to pay, cancel payment, or reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination, or treatment that is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free, discounted fee, or reduced fee service, examination, or treatment.



TAMPA TOP DENTISTS
BACK TO BACK WINNER
2017 & 2018
As voted by their peers



DR. LAURA COYLE BRIDGES
Local Brandon Resident since 1987

Proudly in network with the following dental insurance providers:

- Aetna
- Guardian
- Ameritas
- Metlife
- Assurant PPO
- Principal
- Cigna
- United Healthcare
- Delta Dental PPO
- Delta Dental Premier
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Premier
- BlueDental Choice
- Humana PPO
- GEHA/ Connection Dental



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher
and CSO Debbie Vijil

Area Law and Order

Between May 12 and June 12, there were 552 calls for service in the area. Deputies conducted 13 traffic stops in the Bloomingdale area. Those traffic stops resulted in six verbal warnings, five written warnings and two citations. There were ten non-injury traffic crashes and three injury traffic crashes.

There were nine incidents of criminal mischief reported in the area, which included the Bloomingdale Ridge sign and Bloomingdale directory sign, one reported residential burglary and three vehicle burglaries. Also, there were two thefts of motorcycles and three vehicle thefts. During this time frame there were four arrests, two for warrants, one domestic related and one as a result from a disturbance.

In My Corner

I recently heard on the news that the Federal Trade Commission has reported that scams now outnumber identity theft crimes. If something sounds too good to be true most likely it isn't. If you find yourself involved in a possible scam and have questions, call the HCSO or your local substation.



D5 Community Resource Deputy Breanna Rodriguez shares a "selfie" with BHA board member Billy Hightower who attends monthly BACC meetings on behalf of the Bloomingdale community. Meet area deputies like Rodriguez at the July BACC.

Next Bloomingdale Area Community Council Meeting (BACC)! New time!

Get involved; attend our monthly meeting as a neighborhood representative. Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month – this month's meeting is July 19 at 6 p.m. at 3622 Erindale Drive. The BACC works directly with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to identify community concerns and find solutions to all types of problems. For information, call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station.



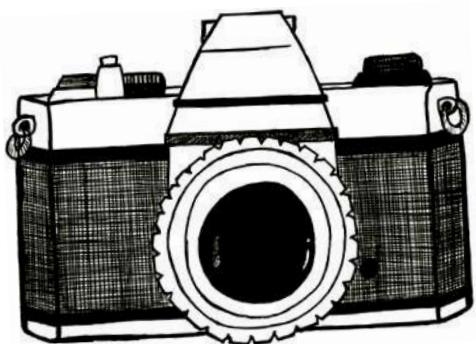
Summer's here - keep your family safe!

Summer is officially here and now is the time to give special attention to keeping your family safe. There are many activities that can present dangers throughout the year, most of which will be done outdoors. Below are several tips to help your family enjoy summer activities and teach them how to have a safe summer.

- Survive the heat this summer – stay hydrated. Summer heat can be dangerous. Take time to teach your children the best types of drinks to keep them hydrated starting with water.
- Never leave children or pets alone in a hot car. Children and pets have died after being forgotten! And, it is also illegal to leave your car running while unattended.
- Hurricane season is here – be prepared. Watch for severe weather warnings and take action to keep your family and home safe. Florida is the lightning capital of the United States. Many folks do not realize that lightning can strike from as far away as 25 miles! It is especially dangerous in open areas such as at the beach.
- Get your children swimming lessons. One of the most important things they will learn is how to "stay calm and not panic." Once they have learned to swim, they and you will have more fun. If you have a home pool make sure you have taken all actions required to secure it and make sure all children are monitored when they are around the pool.
- Driving for summer vacations? Ensure everyone buckles up. Teach your teens driving safety – no phone calls, no texting, and no drinking. Summer driving can be deadly for those who don't follow the rules.

Stay safe and have a great summer!

Resident Photo of the Month



This month's Resident Photo of the Month comes courtesy of Windsor Woods resident Charlie Woodcock. Want to show off your photography skills? Send your photo to inbloomindalenews@gmail.com to share with the community!



THIS is your time

It's time to get into the best shape of your life. Pure Barre is helping women all over Brandon become stronger, healthier, and happier.

You deserve this.

 pure barre®

857 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon | Regency Square - Next to Publix
(813) 968-1122 | www.purebarre.com/fl-brandon

\$99 **Intro Month**
for one month
of unlimited classes

637581-1

What's Happening In And Around Our Community

Photos, unless otherwise noted: Wendy Knipp

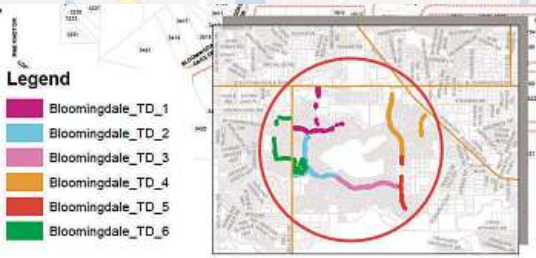
Last year, the Bloomingdale Gazette published a comprehensive development piece complete with an interactive map. Over 40 projects were profiled. This year, we will focus on just a few projects in our area. Sources include leasing companies, county representatives and public information resources. Reports will be coming at a later date on safety improvements on Natures Way, Canoga Park and Erindale Drives, paving of our neighborhood streets, and BL East and West Park Upgrades.

1. Sidewalk Repairs Begin



Photo: Joy Boisselle

A frequent champion of issues in the Bloomingdale community, Commissioner White said, "I heard loud and clear that Bloomingdale sidewalks were in a state of disrepair. Beyond just aesthetics, safety is a concern and residents should be able to walk on the sidewalk rather than the street. I am thankful I can be here to support the community and help it to continue to be the beautiful community it has always been. Thank you, Commissioner White!"



The three-year sidewalk repair program is split into six sections. Ongoing now are BL 1 (in purple) and BL 2 (in blue). These include Greenhollow Lane, Springvale Drive and portions of Natures Way to Kingsford Place and Elba Place. For close up detailed maps, a link will be posted on the HOA website homepage and FB page when available.

2. Bell Shoals Interim Repaving Project



Last month, Bell Shoals drivers received a welcome surprise – a smooth ride from Boyette Road to Bloomingdale Avenue. From the county website, "The roadway surface in this section is severely deteriorated, resulting in excessive maintenance activity to address repetitive potholes and roadway surface failures." County performed an asphalt overlay maintenance resurfacing instead of a traditional resurfacing to extend the roadway surface life until the road is completely reconstructed as part of the Bells Shoals Road Widening Project. The process involved an additional one-

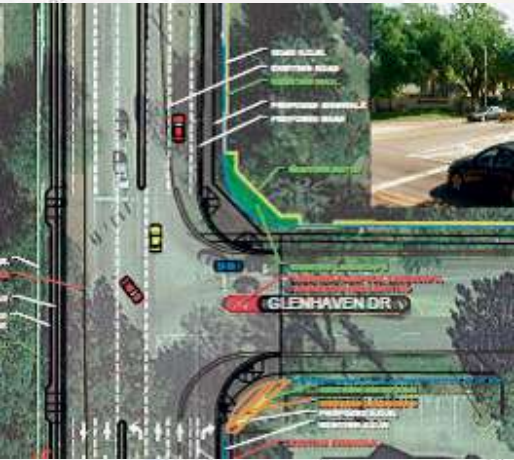
inch thin treatment of hot asphalt onto the existing roadway in order to create a uniform driving surface. The new surface will improve roadway drivability and safety, and restore surface conditions such as smoothness, friction, and aesthetics. (<http://hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/county-projects/transportation-projects/bell-shoals-road-interim-paving>)

3. Bell Shoals Widening Project

This project has been in the works for many, many years. Parcel acquisition issues have been resolved through imminent domain procedures. At this time, the project is expected to begin this fall and continue for three years. The project includes:

- Widening Bell Shoals Road from a two-lane, undivided rural road, to a four-lane, divided urban facility.
- Approximately 3.1 miles of roadway from just south of the Alafia River to north of Bloomingdale Avenue.
- Two 12-foot lanes for vehicles, a 4-foot bike lane, and sidewalks in both directions.
- Widening of the existing bridge over the Alafia River.
- Improvements to traffic signals at Glenhaven Drive, Rosemead Lane and Bloomingdale Avenue.

The new design will increase the level of service along Bell Shoals Road, accommodating higher traffic volumes while maximizing safety along the corridor. Project Manager Tom Rawls will be at both BHA and BSTD board meetings next week to provide updates. (<http://hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/county-projects/transportation-projects/bell-shoals-road-widening>)



This illustration depicts a portion of the Bell Shoals widening project at the Glenhaven Road entrance. Courtesy Hillsborough County

4. SweetBay/ Kash n Karry

Never have rumors flown more fast or furious on one vacant lot. The Vacant Sweet Bay/K-N-K at 1101 Bloomingdale Ave has been rumored to be many things for many years... a Hobby Lobby military medical complex, bowling alley, movie theater...the list goes on. The latest information is based on a Hillsborough County Zoning Verification requested and provided to McNeal Engineering on behalf of MG3 Development group. One of MG3's concentrations include charter school construction, which the site is zoned for. However, at this time, a Site Development application has not been submitted.



5. Bloomingdale Square

A close second at the rumor mill is the vacant Walmart in Bloomingdale Square. For more than two years, the Gazette has held information on the shopping center pending a release from the leasing manager. Reliable sources indicate demolition on the old Walmart site will begin this month. Plans for the Square include an exterior "facelift," new franchises and an additional anchor store. We expect to release all information next month.



6. Manhole Rehabilitation along Natures Way

County has begun a manhole rehabilitation program because of two sudden depressions along Natures Way in the last nine months. Both depressions were the result of cracks in manhole pipes. The most recent, but temporary, repair near Glenhaven and Natures Way should be permanently repaired the week of July 16. The intersection will be closed to all traffic during construction.

Also this month, county will perform rehabilitation on existing manholes along Natures Way Blvd from Lornewood Drive to Callista Avenue. The rehabilitation consists of installing a liner inside the old infrastructure to provide manhole structural reinforcement. In some areas, traffic lane or road closures may be necessary.



7. Springvale Drive and Bloomingdale Avenue

18-0510 - Proposed Childcare building on Bloomingdale Ave @ Springvale Drive. Entrances / Exits will be located on Springvale as well as Bloomingdale. Bloomingdale exits will only be able to make a right (east-bound) turn. Site Plans show two buildings on the property – the childcare center and a medical office complex.



8. Fifty49 Bell Shoals

The Board of County Commissioners approved rezoning of the former St. Stephens Catholic Church at 5049 Bell Shoals. Construction is slated for spring 2019 on a 260-bed, 10-building "aging-in-place" assisted living facility appropriately nicknamed Fifty 49 Bell Shoals. Developer Bridgepoint Lifecare Group LLC plans for the community to have a "neighborly" feel with gardens and courtyards.



9. Another Hole in the Wall...

First, everyone survived this accident, but no one should die or be injured on our residential roads. The speed limit in the majority of the community is 30 mph and in some cases, 25 mph.

This accident occurred in the early morning hours of July 1. A driver in a pickup truck traveling west on Erindale Drive missed the T-intersection stop sign, hopped the curb, took out the just replaced community signage and landscaping, blew through a screened lanai and ended up in the deep end of a resident's pool.



Photo: Sean Arnts

Why is this an update? These accidents cost taxpayer money. While insurance covers a great deal IF the driver has it and limits are not exceeded, there are still costs residents bear.

Over the past five years, there have been five fatalities, too many injury-accidents to count and since March 2018, five wall strikes. No cost can be assigned to loss of life or injury, but material costs so far are nearly \$34,000. The sign replaced last week cost \$2,500 alone.

Bottom line: slow down, don't text and drive, and don't drink and/or do drugs and drive...this must stop. This is just one more reason residents must vote yes on the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District proposed tax increase coming up for vote on the Aug. 28 referendum.



MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

"Experience the Difference"



**Employment
Opportunity!**
813-654-2323
NOW HIRING

SHIRTS
\$1.99
Only **With Coupon**

SHIRTS \$1.99 Ea.
Laundered only

Valid on incoming orders only.
No exceptions.
Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
8/3/18 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

15% OFF ENTIRE ORDER
Dry Cleaning

Valid on incoming orders only.
No exceptions.
Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
8/3/18 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

**20% OFF Wedding Gowns,
Alterations
& Drapes**

Valid on incoming orders only.
No exceptions.
\$5 minimum order. Not valid with other
coupons or promotions.
8/3/18 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

20% OFF ENTIRE ORDER
**Comforters &
Blankets**

Valid on incoming orders only.
No exceptions.
Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
8/3/18 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

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. Bloomingdale 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
672-4022
11444 Hwy. 301 S.

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.

653231-1



Young Entrepreneur Inspires a Community One Can at a Time

By Wendy Knipp



Photo: Alexandra Spruill

Andrew Spruill is quickly becoming the most talked-about resident in Bloomingdale. He is a "typical" 20-year-old who loves music, movies and fast food, who has quickly emerged as a community celebrity and inspiration to many.

Why, you ask? To start with, he is not so typical. Andrew has autism and cerebral palsy, conditions which have made it challenging for him to find a job. Not to be deterred, Andrew decided to focus on what he could do instead of what he couldn't do.

Fiercely independent, Andrew decided to start his own recycling company, Andrew's Aluminum with the slogan, "Supporting Myself One Can at a Time." Always interested in helping the environment and meeting new people, the new business was a perfect fit.

In June, the entrepreneur went door-to-door collecting his neighbors' empty cans. His mother, Tina, posted his business on Facebook and was pleasantly surprised by the community's immediate and overwhelming response.

She said, "It's easy to feel isolated in this situation and then you put something small out there like a post and immediately strangers come forward and want to help. It reminds you that you're not alone. I can't thank the community enough."

Andrew was also surprised as he "didn't think it was going to be as successful as it became" and now he feels "like a million dollars."

Starting a business like this is not without its challenges including the amount of time it takes to collect the cans, remove the tabs, crush the cans, and then drive them to Trademark Metals to turn them in for cash. Andrew explained, "It takes hours and hours each day, but it's worth it." Andrew plans to reinvest the money into the business by purchasing additional drop-off bins for more collection locations around town and hiring extra help when needed.

Many local businesses are stepping forward to help Andrew by donating their aluminum cans and/or making room for a public drop-off bin. The Village Early Learning Center is proud to be doing both. Andrew has a drop-off bin located outside their front door.

Owner Susan Miller stated, "Andrew's Aluminum gives us an opportunity to support Andrew Spruill, our former student, while educating our current students about our recycling for our environment and helping others at the same time."



Photo: Wendy Knipp



Students at The Village ELC are learning about recycling and are excited to have one of Andrew's new drop-off bins located by the front door. Shown in the picture is (rear, left to right) Susan Miller and Andrew Spruill and (front, left to right) students Sage Bussey and Benjamin Versnick.

Andrew is paying his success forward in many ways. He is donating the can tabs to Shriners Hospitals for Children for their Aluminum Can Tab Collection Program. Also, as the business grows, he plans to hire additional workers, including those with special needs. Andrew has also become an inspiration for anyone struggling to meet goals.

Andrew advised others, "You have to have a plan and don't give up. You are your own person and you have to decide what makes you happy. My goal is to be successful and make this business bigger and better and that's what I'm going to do.

Find out how you can help by visiting "Andrew's Aluminum Bloomingdale" Facebook page, a fundraising page at www.gofundme.com/andrew039s-aluminum or contact Tina Spruill at 813-447-7772.



Andrew spends hours each day processing the cans for recycling.

Photo: Wendy Knipp



Contemporary Elegance

WELLBORN
CABINET, INC.

NAFFCO
FLOORING & INTERIORS

Proudly serving Tampa Bay
since 1937.

At NAFFCO, we carry a full line of cabinet styles from Wellborn cabinets.

Since starting as a small cabinet shop in 1961 for the local residents of Ashland, Alabama, Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. has grown their business into a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. With over 56 years of experience in high-quality cabinetry behind them, their attention to detail and customer service are impeccable.

SOUTH TAMPA • 254-4066
1510 S. MacDill Ave.

CARROLLWOOD • 961-1362
14306 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

BRANDON • 413-8313
1920 W. Brandon Blvd.

www.NAFFCOFloorAndInteriors.com

650718-1

**18 MONTHS SAME AS CASH
NO INTEREST**

Miss Out on Comic Con? In-con-ceivable!

By Wendy Knipp

Tampa Bay Comic Con is almost here and as usual, it's packed with lots of fun things to do for the entire family. Fans of all ages are encouraged to dress up as their favorite character and can choose between meeting celebrities, attending discussion panels, shopping vendors, and entering contests. Be forewarned, if you dress up, be prepared to have your picture taken!

Celebrities will also be on-hand for photographs and/or autographs. Followers of *Stranger Things* should grab their Eggo waffles and come on down to meet David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper) and Noah Schnapp (Will Byers).



Jason Knipp enjoyed meeting Nightwing (left) and Blue Beetle (right).

If you love the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros, then harness your direwolf and come see Rory McCann ("The Hound" Clegane/*Game of Thrones*). Other actors appearing include Matthew Lewis (Neville Longbottom/*Harry Potter films*), Brett Spiner (Lieutenant Commander Data/*Star Trek: The Next Generation*), Brianna Hildebrand (Negasonic Teenage Warhead/*Deadpool*), Walter Jones (Zack Taylor/*Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*) and an actor who made fans long to hear the words, "As you wish," Cary Elwes (Westley/*The Princess Bride*).

Many talented voice actors, comic creators, authors and cosplay guests will also be in attendance including artists from Disney, Star Wars, DC Comics, The Simpsons and voice actors from Disney, Spongebob and Dreamworks.

Tampa Bay Comic Con takes place August 3-5 at The Tampa Convention Center. Tickets range from \$30 - \$60 (12 & under are free), but be sure to bring extra money because autographs and photo ops are extra. For information visit <https://tampabaycomiccon.com> and in the wise words of Miracle Max and Valerie from *The Princess Bride*, "Have fun stormin' da castle!"



Comic Con vendors offer a treasure-trove of collectibles for purchase. Tyrell White (left) and Michael Knipp (right) enjoyed checking out classic action figures.

Coyotes Howl in Bloomingdale, Be Safe

By Jon Alfano

Recently, interactions between people and coyotes have been occurring more and more frequently. While these animals pose little threat to an adult, pets especially are at a higher risk if they encounter one of these canines.

If you do happen to come across a coyote the most effective action is to try and scare the animal off. Remember, coyotes are not large animals, so they will most likely be intimidated by the average adult human. An easy method to get a coyote to retreat is to yell and wave your arms in the air, this will usually get the trick done, but occasionally it may take a bit more effort.

Throwing objects can be another effective method, but it is important to make sure you only throw things towards the animal and not directly at it, to minimize the chance it will try to defend itself. If you have children with you, it is crucial that they do not attempt to run away, as this will likely cause the coyote to give chase.

The ones more at risk are our pets. Unfortunately, coyotes can and will prey on our lovable little friends, but there are steps we can take to protect them. For starters, keep cats indoors. A common housecat is an extremely easy target for a coyote. Small dogs need to be kept on a short leash when being walked, especially at night, and it is important to be more cautious in wooded areas, where coyotes are more likely to hide.

The idea of coyotes in your neighborhood may sound scary at first. However, knowing what to do should you encounter one will minimize the threat they pose. For information, download the Fish and Wildlife Commissions coyote brochure, A guide to living with Urban Coyotes at <http://myfwc.com/media/2675483/Living-With-Urban-Coyotes.pdf>.





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, in Bloomingdale West.



Being a “Loser” Can Be a Very Good Thing

Dieters are a strange breed. I know. I’ve been a card-carrying dieter for most of my adult life and heaven knows I’m peculiar. What you may not know is that we are also very methodical and will only approach our Period of Deprivation step-by-orderly step.

Dieters do not just haphazardly leap into a diet. We first spend anywhere from 30 to 60 days talking about how badly we need to lose weight. This is known as “Facing the Facts.” We become paranoid over clothes shopping and quietly pray that Jane Fonda will get stuck mid-squat. Finally, when we have reached that all-consuming rage of self-disgust, comes the first step: “Planning the Diet.”

This is not as simple as it sounds. First, the dieter must decide exactly what type of self-sacrifice seems best. The Atkins Diet, under which one ingests nothing but protein and fat, makes eating out a tad embarrassing as the server slaps a 20-ounce ribeye with a side of spareribs down in front of you. Taking certain diet pills can make you leery of straying too far from a restroom and delicacy prohibits describing the results of the “Cabbage Soup Diet.” In the end, your average dieter will fall back on the most commonly relied upon method: Counting Calories.

Any diet veteran will tell you that, in order to accurately track calories, one must first invest in the “Diet Diary.” This is a little book in which the dieter can note each morsel consumed and the accompanying

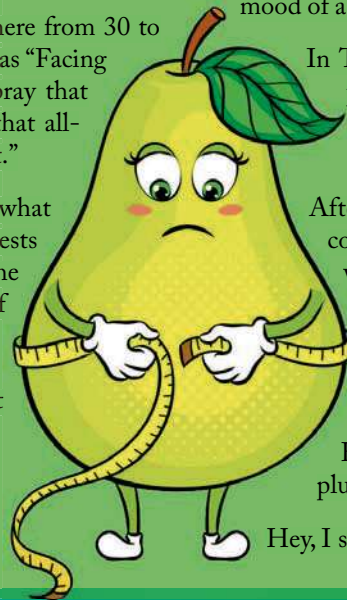
calories, as well as each diet-related thought, hope and desire. Every Diet Diary begins the same way: “Day # 1 of The Great Diet! This time I will succeed!” Or words to that effect. By the end of the first week, however, the notations begin to take on the ugly mood of a Donner’s Pass survivor: “Day # 7. The dog is starting to look pretty good.”

In The Diet Diary, pounds and inches lost are highlighted by exclamation points, underscoring and brightly hued ink. “Plateaus,” during which the dieter has lost nothing but his will to live, are indicated either by blank pages or colorful expletives.

After The Decision and The Diary comes, unfortunately, The Fanatic. Avid counters can tell at a glance how many calories are sitting on your plate and will rudely blurt, “Good Lord, man, you have enough calories there to feed a small nation for a week!” Ignore us. This stage will pass.

Once we have planned, journaled, proselytized and starved ourselves to success, we pat ourselves on the back and celebrate victory. Frequently, this takes the form of a Sara Lee cheesecake or an entire six-pack of Heineken, all of which will reflect on our scales the very next day, plummeting our self-esteem straight down the dumper.

Hey, I said we were methodical. I never said a word about “smart.”



FACT:

High-quality after school programs are associated with better peer relationships.

BALANCED LEARNING® WAY:

No wonder so many BFFs get their start here.

REGISTER FOR THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR. CALL FOR A TOUR TODAY.

Infants – Private Kindergarten & After School

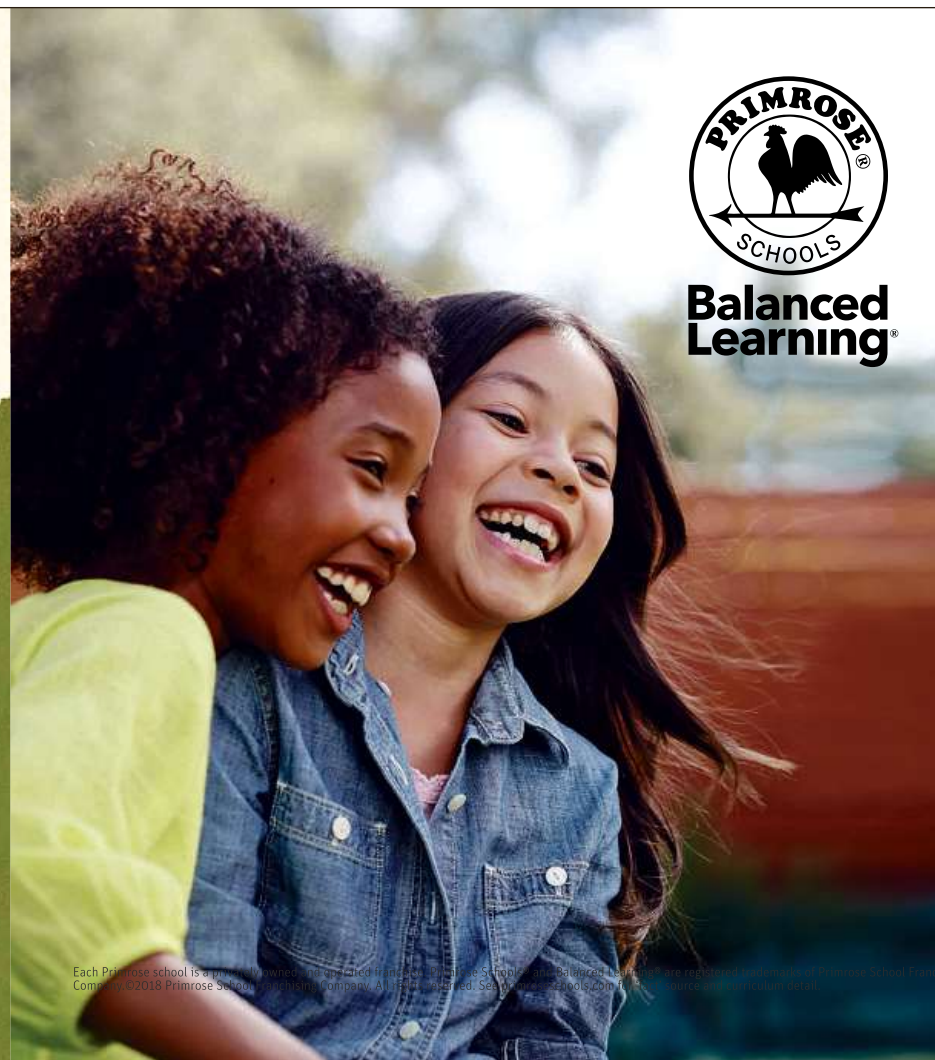
Primrose School of Bloomingdale

1280 Bloomingdale Avenue | Valrico, FL 33596

813.438.5980 | PrimroseBloomingdale.com



Balanced Learning®



Each Primrose school is a privately owned and operated franchise of Primrose Schools and Balanced Learning are registered trademarks of Primrose School Franchise Company. ©2018 Primrose School Franchise Company. All rights reserved. See www.primroseschools.com for more information and franchise details.

653237-1

Lights! Camera! Action!

Movie Review by Jon Alfano

(Editor's Note: Jon Alfano is a Newsome HS student with an interest in journalism and a passion for movies.)

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom

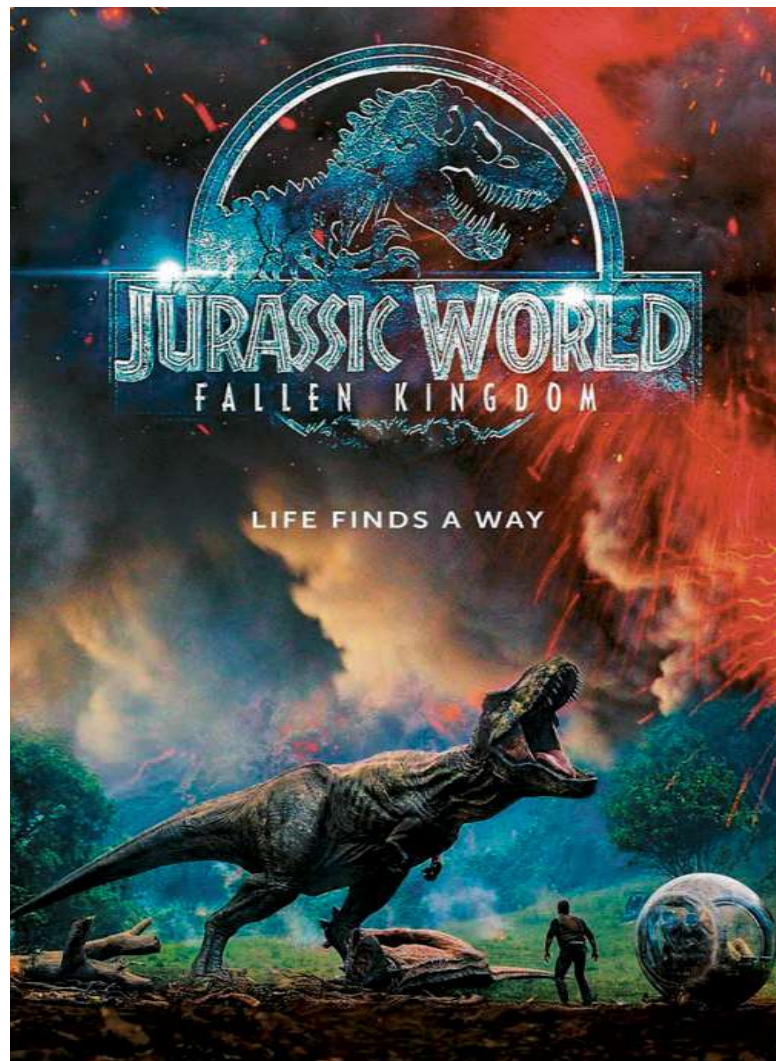
Even though Jurassic Park is renowned as one of the greatest blockbusters of all time, none of its sequels capture what made the original movie so special. 2015's Jurassic World came close, but it was still a far cry from the classic. Now, Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom is the latest sequel to fall flat in an everlasting attempt to recreate the original.

The film isn't bad by any means, the effects and the action are top notch. The reintroduction of animatronics after being almost completely absent from the last movie is very refreshing and helps make the animals look more convincing. The movie features some of the most suspenseful scenes since the original. And, Chris Pratt, again, is enjoyable as Owen Grady and Bryce Dallas Howard is much less one-dimensional than she was in the last movie.

However, the main thing holding Fallen Kingdom back is the plot, which is okay at times and a complete mess at others. The film falls into the same trap as all Jurassic Park sequels – the plot advances because the characters are completely incompetent. In fact, it's the driving force behind a good portion of the major plot points.

Another negative, there is too much going on. Several plot lines emerge and then are never resolved when they could have made the story more interesting. The film becomes a monster movie in the latter half, which is an extreme shift in tone from the first half. Even worse, the villains in the movie have about as much depth as a cartoon character with the most generic motivation imaginable.

Bottom Line: *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom* fails to separate itself from the rest of the franchise. If you're looking for mindless dinosaur action, then I could easily recommend it. If you're looking for a deep and engaging story, then you're best off looking elsewhere. I give this movie 3 out of 5 dinosaurs.



Help Your Neighbor, the Gopher Tortoise

By: Aymee Laurain, Director of Imagine Our Florida

(Editor's Note: Director and Vice President of Imagine Our Florida for two years, Aymee Laurain is a native Floridian and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology major who has lived in Bloomingdale for eight years. She is also a life-long nature enthusiast. After seeing several Facebook postings about gopher tortoises, she decided to write an article to educate residents and help our area tortoises and turtles.)

Tortoises and Turtles are two different animals. Here in Bloomingdale, we are fortunate to have both.

Many well-intentioned people mistake tortoises for turtles and place them in water. Tortoises are not capable of swimming and can often drown. Becoming familiar with these animals can prevent you from making a deadly mistake while still helping our non-human neighbors.

If you see a tortoise or a turtle crossing a road it's important to identify which species you are dealing with. Turtles are easily distinguished by their flipper feet, while Tortoises have feet that resemble an elephant foot. Once identified, you can decide the next course of action.

While moving a turtle, make sure you flip them onto their back when you carry them. This is for your safety and theirs. Turtles can get a bit protective and may try to nip your fingers. If bitten this could cause you to drop the turtle. Flipping the turtle onto its back will keep it inside of its shell. Once you help the turtle cross the road in the direction it's heading, place it in a safe location.

Tortoises are a bit more docile. You want to pick them up from behind with a hand on each side of the shell. Grasp them firmly and pick them up slightly away from your body. Sometimes, a tortoise will get scared and may empty its bladder when handled. Once you help them cross the street in the direction they're traveling, set them down on a grassy area. It's very important that you do not relocate gopher tortoises.

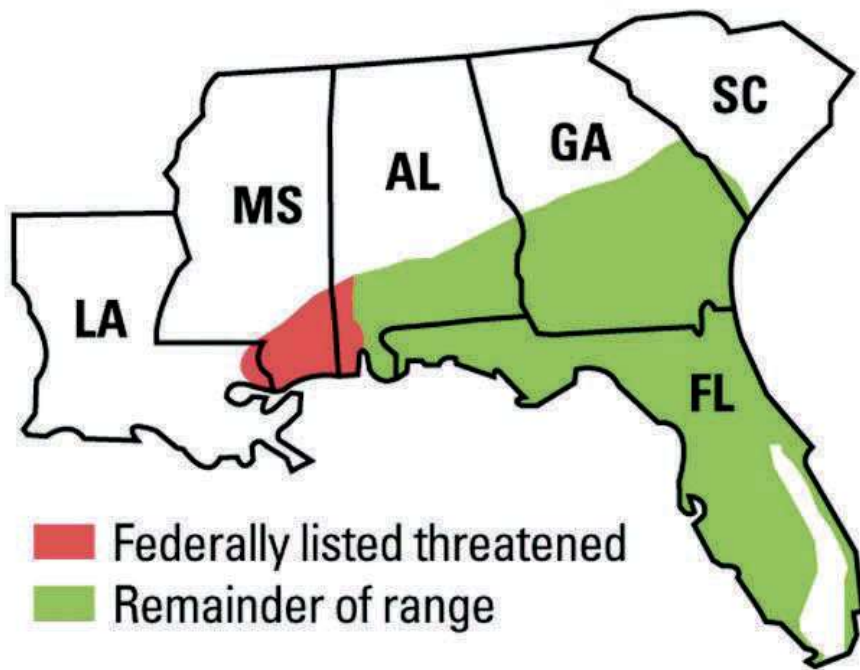
Gopher tortoises are a threatened species and it is illegal to remove them from their home range. Gopher tortoises have a very strong homing range. If removed, they will try to return. Oftentimes this can lead to death as the tortoises will cross several more roads to reach their home range and will likely be exposed to heat exhaustion or predation.

It's also important that you handle a gopher tortoise as little as possible. Studies have shown that handling tortoises for more than ten minutes causes a spike in cortisol levels, which indicates chronic stress.



Continued on Next Page

Gopher Tortoise Range Map



Gopher tortoises are a keystone species. This term comes from the keystone in an archway. If the keystone is removed the archway will collapse. Similarly, if a keystone species is removed from an ecosystem, that ecosystem will collapse.

Gopher tortoise burrows provide homes for a diverse range of species. Having a variety of species in the area is a sign of a healthy ecosystem. The contributions of these gentle reptiles helps keep the green spaces surrounding our neighborhood healthy and vibrant.

Let's make sure gopher tortoises stay safe so we can continue to enjoy the beautiful natural spaces that they helped create. If you observe anyone removing a tortoise from their home range or harming any wildlife, report the incident to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).



TECHPLAYZONE®

Summer Camp 2018

**Award-Winning
STEM Camps**
Since 2005

**Where Bright & Creative
Kids Play to Learn**



3D Printing



Self-Driving Vehicles Programmed by Campers



LEGO® Mindstorms® Robotics

Register today at:
www.techplayzone.com

All camps held at the Brandon Campus of
Hillsborough Community College
813-684-7329 | techplayzone@gmail.com

650324-1

BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

(Editor's Note: A column for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden enthusiast Gwen Graverson. Have a gardening question? Contact Gwen at inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.)

Busy Hands...Busy Minds...Grow Orchids This Summer

By Gwen Graverson

Are you wondering what to do with your kids this summer? Learning to grow orchids is a summer activity the whole family can enjoy.

Florida hosts ninety-nine native orchid species. Here are some Orchids for beginners to choose from:

Cattleya Orchid – It is native to tropical America and is referred to as the “queen of the orchids.” This beauty is a tree-growing orchid requiring little more than soil, bark, rocks, or perlite. If you want to grow one in a pot/container, they grow by means of a branching, creeping rhizome with thick clinging roots. When it's time to repot for more growing space, do it during the spring. Repotting can be stressful to orchids and may require a season to recover.

Moth Orchid (Phalaenopsis) – This is a popular houseplant native to Australia and southeastern Asia. Like Cattleya, Phalaenopsis (Phal for short) are epiphytic plants or plants that grow on other plants. They are long-flowering, thrive in average home temperatures and come in many colors.

Cymbidium Orchid – Also native to tropical areas of Australia and Asia, this is the right orchid for outside growing. Florida winters are ideal, and the plant can tolerate cooler weather.

Supplies and Care:

Right Pot for the right plant - Orchid Pots have larger holes and more of them, both on the bottom and sides. This ensures better drainage, which also helps with proper air ventilation for the root system. Both drainage and ventilation are essential for thriving orchids. You can choose from plastic, clay (terracotta), or wooden baskets. Note: Most orchid varieties flower well when kept moderately pot-bound.

Potting Medium/Fertilizing – Check for orchid mixes, including pine bark, clay pellets, perlite, charcoal, or any well-draining medium. Orchids need potting material that drains rapidly, retains moisture, and decomposes slowly (this helps extend the time between repotting). The best fertilizer sprays for orchids are those that are specially formulated for orchids and must be water-soluble (dilute to one-quarter/one-half). More research is required to determine the time schedule needed to fertilize your orchid (this includes factors such as the season, weather, if the plant is flowering, etc.).

Watering depends on several things, but for beginners, try the old fashion way by sticking your fingers in the potted medium and determine if there's moisture present. If on the dry side, it's time to water. Water in the morning and use tepid water (cold water could shock your orchid). If you have access to rainwater (rain barrow), you can avoid tap water which may have higher salt and calcium content. Avoid overwatering, which can cause root rot and kill the plant.

Light and Location – Give your orchid at least 6 hours of indirect sunlight (bright shade) each day. Indoor plants can be moved for sunlight conditions, but remember, orchids like to stay put vs. being moved around.



Columnist Gwen Graveson received this stunner from Bloomingdale neighbor Mary Kay McMahan, a member of the Valrico Garden Club.



Orchid enthusiast Myrtle Cail boasts a stunning assortment of outdoor tree-growing orchids. She is also a member of the Riverview Garden Club.

A great place to learn more about this unique plant is through the Tampa Bay Orchid Society. The society meets the 3rd Thursday, each month at Christ The King, McLoughlin Center – Conference Room C., 821 South Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa. View the website at www.tampabayorchidsociety.shutterfly.com.



Photos: Gwen Graverson

Golf Camp Mixes Fun and Sports

By Jon Alfano

As summer reaches its midpoint, parents may still be looking for a summer camp for their kids. Many of these parents want the camps to be outdoors and their children physically active. If you happen to fall into this category, one summer camp that will get your kids moving and leave them with a smile on their face is at Ace Golf. The camp is available at both the Brandon and Riverview Ace Golf locations. Camp lengths vary and are held from 9 a.m. to noon.



Photo: Jon Alfano

Alice Brown, the coach of the team at Ace Golf Brandon, said, "The best part of instructing kids here is watching them grow, to start off not knowing anything and having a great player in a few weeks."

At the week-long camp, kids learn various golf skills such as the short game and the basics of swinging a club. At week's end, a celebration is held featuring a cake with a picture of all the campers. The reaction to the camp has been overwhelmingly positive, Bella, a camp-goer at Ace Golf Riverview said, "The staff quality and everything that you learn here and all the fun games they come up with are amazing, and all the people here are really nice."

If your child is looking for something more competitive, then there is also the PGA Junior League, a country-wide league where the best golfers from ages 5-15 can showcase their skills. Tiana, a four year veteran of the league said, "When I was in the PGA Junior League, I met a lot of new people and that helped me be more competitive with golf." The league garnered over 42,000 participants in 2017 and its ambassadors include famous golfers like Rory McIlroy and Rickie Fowler.

For information, contact Ace Golf at Ace Golf Riverview, 12910 Boyette Road, 813-672-7750 or Ace Golf Brandon, 820 S. Kings Ave., 813-651-GOLF (4653).

Holding your putter like no other (club)...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC campus)

The majority of golfers hold putters just like any other club in the bag – with the grip underneath the heel pad of our hands. This causes the putter to be held at an incorrect angle.

With this grip, the putter head is toe up which causes the ball not to be hit solidly and places the path of the putter more on an arc than usual. This results in misses in both directions.

In the photos below, the putter grip is held underneath the **thumb pad** with the putter shaft going right up the forearm. The putter and arm act as one unit.

This will allow you to set your eyes over the ball, have more of a straight back and through putting arc and more center contact on the putter face.

Any questions or for lessons, call J.D. at 813-957-3205.



John E. S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS

www.CochraneGolfSchools.com

**VOTED BRANDON'S
#1 ROOFING COMPANY
8 CONSECUTIVE YEARS!**
SAVE MONEY ON HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE



Tampa Bay's leading family-owned and operated roofing company, **Shingle Masters** provides every re-roof customer with a wind mitigation inspection to measure hurricane protection, saving most homeowners hundreds of dollars each year on insurance.

Shingle Masters also maximizes roof ventilation to lower cooling costs and extend the life of the shingles.

Financing Available. Lifetime Workmanship Warranty Available.

Shingle Masters
Roofing
& Construction

(813) 661-4600

www.Shingle-Masters.com

Licensed Certified General Contractor // CGC 1513621
Licensed Certified General Contractor // CCC 1328724

633307-1

SUMMER SPECIALS

Trane 5-Star Dealer

We service
and sell all
brands
**SAME-
DAY
SERVICE**

**FREE 2nd
Opinions**



TRANE

It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

CALL NOW and avoid SUMMER'S HEAT!

**CALL IN
JULY & RECEIVE
A FREE WIFI-
PROGRAMMABLE
THERMOSTAT
WITH UNIT REPLACEMENT!**

**UP TO \$1,500 TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE
WITH EXISTING UNIT; UP TO \$900 IN
UTILITY REBATES – THAT'S UP TO
\$2,400 IN SAVINGS!
SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE***

No-Hassle Financing

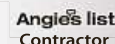
Subject to credit approval; call for details. We get a 99% approval rate!

Great financing plans with convenient monthly payments.

813-344-4007

Family Owned and Operated
Since 1983

Air Masters
of Tampa Bay, Inc. Since 1983
Air Conditioning & Heating



*W.A.C. • CMC1249497

*Call for details. Exp 9/30/18.

640095-1

July School News: A Look at What's Happening

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

Compiled by Deidre Morgan



First Day of School – August 10, 2018



The 2018 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday began yesterday, August 3, and runs through Sunday, August 5. Qualifying items will be exempt from tax including: certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item; and clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less per item. For information and a list of qualifying items, check the Department of Revenue website at <https://revenue.law.floridarevenue.com/>.



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Fall 2018 New Student Registration

The front office will be open this summer during the following dates/times for new student registration: July 16-26, Open Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. After July 30, Open 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. Look on the school website at www.alafia.mysdhc.org for Registration Information and the school supply list.



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Fall 2018 New Student Registration

New Student Registration begins July 16 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit the website at www.cimino.mysdhc.org for updated information as it becomes available.

August 8 – Meet the Teacher (A – L) – 11 a.m. (M – Z) – 1 p.m.



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

July 16 – Ice Cream Social, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

August 7 – 6th Grade Open House, 1 to 3 p.m.

August 7 – 7th & 8th Grade Open House, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Bloomingtondale High Bull Business

July 9 – Senior Portraits, 9 a.m. in the Auditorium

July 9-12 – Ambassadors Camp, Auditorium

July 26 – Yearbook Bootcamp, 8 p.m. in Room 259

July 30-31 – Volleyball practice, 8 a.m. in the Gym

July 30-31 – Bulls Camp, 8 a.m. – Noon

August 1 – Volleyball practice, 8 a.m. in the Gym

August 3 – Band Parent Sneak Peek, 3-9 p.m., Auditorium

BULL BRIEFS

Need Community Service Hours This Summer?

Summer is a great time to work on community service hours for Bright Futures. Print the Community Service Proposal and Hour Log from the Bloomingtondale Guidance website (www.bloomingtondaleguidance.org) or pick them up in the guidance office. A list of volunteer sites can be found on the Hillsborough County Schools website.

RaiseMe Offers Scholarship \$

RaiseMe partners with universities to offer students scholarships for their achievements during high school and community college.



Update or start your RaiseMe account at www.raise.me. Add more accomplishments, change/add colleges you are following and more. You can earn scholarship dollars for the accomplishments on your profile.

Class of 2022 Incoming Freshmen Bull Camp, July 30 and July 31

Complete the following online application at <https://goo.gl/forms/XnRWf7UOi8VVxGTH3> to enroll in Bloomingtondale High School's Incoming 9th Grade Camp. It is a FREE two-day summer program scheduled for July 30-31 from 8 a.m. to noon at Bloomingtondale High School. Future Bloomingtondale students will make new friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers, counselors, and get to know our school! They will also learn about our extracurricular activities, clubs, traditions, AP programs, college/university awareness and much more! If you have any questions, contact Amanda Lafoe at sgabloomingtondale@gmail.com. For information, visit the Bloomingtondale High School website at <http://bloomingtondale.mysdhc.org/>.

New Courses for 2018 – 2019

Check out all the new courses available for the upcoming school year at http://bloomingtondale.mysdhc.org/School_Documents/newcourses2018.pdf.



HCPS NEWS

School Grades Released

2017-2018 Florida school grades are now available online at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/>. Students in Hillsborough County Public Schools continue to make significant gains.

Some of the highlights from the 2017-2018 school grades include:

- 53 traditional schools graded "A" in 2018, up from 51 in 2017
- 40 traditional schools graded "B", up from 38
- All high schools earned either an A, B or C
- Three traditional schools improved their grade from an "F" to a "C" - Potter Elementary, B.T. Washington Elementary and Sullivan Partnership School

Attention, Volunteers And Community Partners!

All volunteers and community partners must complete the HCPS online Volunteer Application each school year. Registration is open now.

There are two ways to access the online volunteer application:

1. From the District website (www.sdhc.k12.fl.us), click on the "Families" menu. Then click on the "Volunteering in HCPS" link. Finally, click on the "Y.E.S." icon on the right.

2. From a school website, click on the "Community" menu. Then click on the "Volunteer Information" link. Finally, click on the "Y.E.S." icon.



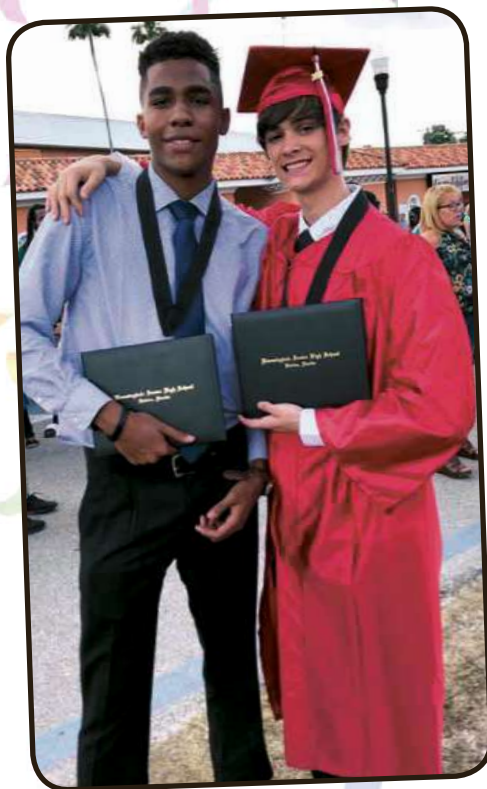
Congratulation, 2018 Graduates!

Congratulations to the last of our graduates! Thank you for sending us your photos. The community wishes you all the best!



Erin Elliott, Bloomingdale HS
HCC in the fall, and then
transfer to USF

Jayson Hayes & Nick Golden
Bloomingdale HS
Jayson (Air Force); Nick (Marines)

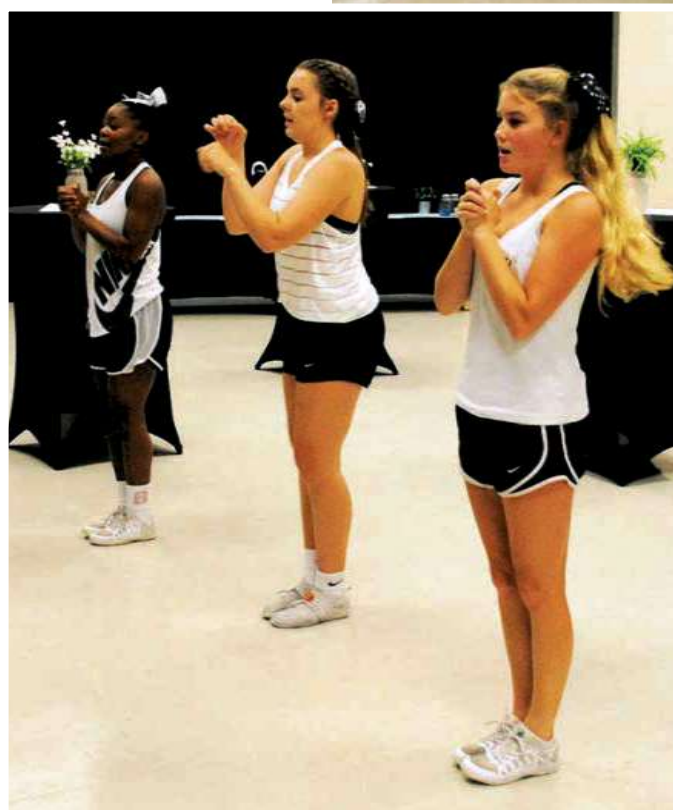


Come On Bulls Let's Fight!

Brief/Photos: Deidre Morgan

Red, Black and White –
Come On Bulls Let's Fight!
That's the chant that dozens
of girls are hoping to shout
from the sidelines in the fall.
Bloomingdale High School
held its cheerleading tryouts
on May 31. For two days,
returning and new recruits
practiced new cheers,
stunts and jumps hoping
to impress the judges.
Congratulations to all the
girls who made the squad!

Go Bulls!



BLOOMINGDALE PAINTING

"A Brush Of Quality"

Since
1989

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
PRESSURE WASHING
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL

Bloomingdale Resident-Tod Howard
FREE ESTIMATES, EXPERIENCED and RELIABLE

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

www.BloomingdalePainting.com

License#PA3694 Bonded & Insured

632137-1



**Serenity
Meadows**

MEMORIAL PARK • FUNERAL HOME • CREMATORY

813-677-9494

6919 Providence Road,
Riverview, FL 33578

HELPING FAMILIES SINCE 1998

CREMATORY ON SITE

www.serenitymeadows.com

633493-1

Brenda Sells

BLOOMINGDALE

Current Listings



1328 Monte Lake Dr \$283,000



3823 Hanover Hill Dr \$319,900



2108 Golf Manor Blvd \$339,900



2404 Groveway Dr \$350,000

Call Brenda Today!

BW
BRENDA WADE
TEAM
Signature Realty Associates

Direct (813) 924-8677
Office (813) 655-5333
Brenda@BrendaWade.com
www.BrendaWade.com

