



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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First-Ever Community Garage Sale!

By Miriam Leech

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Sat. Feb. 27
8 a.m.



Sponsored by the
Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association

The Bloomingtondale Homeowner's Association's (BHA) inaugural Community Garage Sale is just around the corner, beginning at 8 a.m. on Feb. 27. Residents need only collect unwanted treasures and set up a garage sale at their home. Easy, right?

After all, group sales tend to be more successful because more stuff means more traffic, and the BHA is taking care of advertising and signage. But pulling off a successful garage sale also takes planning and preparation on the part of the seller.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Without Valentine's Day, February would be... well, January. *Jim Gaffigan*

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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

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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

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Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle



Yard of the Month is sponsored by Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale. Send your Yard of the Month nominations to:
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Winners will receive a \$25 gift card redeemable at Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale



Laura Coyle

3909 Northridge Drive, Valrico, FL 33596 (Fox Run)

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. Here are just a couple fabulous faces:

Greylie

Greylie (ID30355349) is a 2-year old petite princess stray. She's healthy and affectionate and available for a song – a love song – just \$20 fully spayed, vaccinated, microchipped and more.



Reba

Reba (ID30654854) is 6-year old female hound destined to be your perfect family dog. With large and loveable paws, she bounds across the yard spreading sunshine and good cheer to all, including other doggies. She wants to be your valentine!



Provided By The Pet Resource Center



Meet your perfect pet match and take advantage of a Valentine-themed special adoption price. The Pet Resource Center is celebrating true love this February by offering \$14 adoptions for "ready to go" cats and dogs all month long. Call 813-744-5660 or visit HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets.



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



2016 Membership Drive Off to Good Start

BHA membership notices and scholarship donation letters mailed early last month to all Bloomingdale homeowners, including Chadd's Ford. A yellow membership card and a return envelope is also included. So far, resident response has been strong.

Please consider joining and strengthening the one organization that advocates for the entire community of nearly 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. For the first time in 20 years, the Association approved a rate increase to help defray costs of running the organization and supporting the many services and programs it sponsors. As a non-profit, BHA funds are returned 100 percent to the community.

The BHA thanks all who have joined, but we still need your support. Your dues fund all special programs and services including this newspaper, a part-time staff, the annual Santa visit, the upcoming first-time community garage sale, the community clean-up and the fall festival.

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.

Don't hesitate, join today or at least within the next 60 days. 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!

An easier method is to use 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, Feb. 8, 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, Feb. 9, 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, Feb. 18, 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.

Save the Date! See Pages 12 and 13 for details!

Saturday, Feb. 27 / First-ever Community-Wide Garage Sale

Saturday, March 5 / Annual Community Clean-Up

BHA BRIEFS

January Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

Several residents attended to hear about the deed restriction update and the Chadd's Ford vote, which concluded on Jan. 9.

Committee chairman Charlie Woodcock released the following statement: "The amended Deed Restrictions and Covenants for Chadd's Ford did not pass; not enough votes were cast and the results were inconclusive. The BHA Board greatly appreciates all those who voted. The existing Chadd's Ford Deed Restrictions established in May, 1984, which were automatically extended through April 30, 2024, remain in effect.

Based on the Chadd's Ford vote and information garnered from residents, the BHA Board voted on exploring other options for moving forward in developing amended Deed Restrictions and Covenants for all non-mandated neighborhoods. In the coming months, the Deed Committee will actively solicit your comments and suggestions."

Continue to monitor the BHA's webpage, Facebook page and the Gazette for updates.

Two seats remain vacant on the 12-member board as well as three alternate positions. Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings to see if joining the volunteer board is something they would consider.

2016 Scholarship Dates/Deadlines Set

Important dates and deadlines for the \$2,000 Bloomingdale Community Scholarship in honor of former Bloomingdale Senior High School principal, B.J. Stelter are as follows:

Jan. 15

Scholarship applications available at www.bloomingdalehoa.com

April 1

Scholarship Deadline, No exceptions

May 10

Winner announced at monthly BHA board meeting



First-Ever Community Garage Sale

Wanting to provide a service all residents could take advantage of, the BHA voted late last year to add a community garage sale. This year's inaugural event is Feb. 27, 8 a.m. until... The BHA will advertise in several media outlets and post signage throughout the community. Residents need only supply their unwanted treasures and conduct a garage sale at their home. Too easy, right? See page 12 for more information.

Annual Community Clean-Up

The BHA's ever-popular annual community clean-up will be Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ten commercial trash roll-offs will be on site as well as our returning partners, Urban E Recycling, a computer and electronics recycling company, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet program. See page 13 for more information.



Elvis tribute performer Jeremy Wayne Ewbank sings Mess of Blues during the 50's portion of his show celebrating the King's birthday on Jan. 8 at the Bloomingdale CARES (Community Aging and Retirement Services, Inc.) Adult Day Care Center.

Seniors at the Bloomingdale CARES (Community Aging and Retirement Services, Inc.) Adult Day Care Center broke out their "Blue Suede Shoes" and got "All Shook Up" to celebrate the birth of the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley on Jan. 8. On hand to help them shake, rattle, and roll was Elvis tribute performer Jeremy Wayne Ewbank.

Ewbank is hugely popular with the seniors. He started performing as Elvis on a volunteer basis for CARES about a year ago and has since been hired as a full-time employee. CARES mission is to provide a caring, stimulating, and enjoyable environment for seniors while offering peace of mind to caregivers. Ewbank supports the mission by not only entertaining the seniors, but by getting them moving with his music and giving them one-on-one attention with his serenades.

As Elvis, Ewbank puts on a two-part show—the first half as '50's Elvis and the second half as '70's Elvis. The tribute artist explained, "My parents were huge Elvis fans, and my dad is a musician, so I have been exposed to Elvis' music since I was 5 years old."

Ewbank covered hits like Mess of Blues, Jailhouse Rock, Love Me Tender, and Burning Love. And of course no birthday celebration would be complete if the seniors didn't sing Happy Birthday to the King.

Said the performer, "I love being here, and I love putting smiles on people's faces." The seniors loved him right back, singing each lyric by heart and dancing to their favorites—

whether on the dance floor or sitting in their wheel chairs.

The birthday celebration was topped off with peanut butter and banana sandwiches, an Elvis favorite, and sparkling grape juice. It was a day fit for . . . a King.

CARES is located at Bloomingdale West Recreation Center, 3940 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon. For information on their services, call 1-844-313-CARE, visit www.CARESFL.org, or e-mail CARES Communications Director Brenda Martyniak at bmartyniak@caresfl.org.

For information on Elvis tribute performer Jeremy Wayne Ewbank, visit www.jeremyelvis.com.



Luis and Bonita Morales dance to the music of their youth during the Elvis birthday celebration held at the Bloomingdale CARES Adult Day Care Center.



CARES (Community Aging and Retirement Services, Inc.) new President/CEO Jemith Rosa receives special attention during the center's Elvis tribute featuring performer Jeremy Wayne Ewbank. Rosa brings 20 years of experience to the CARES community.



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Angie's list 2013

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FEBRUARY 2016

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

UPDATE! Campo Y Kid Zone Hours Change

Effective Jan.18, the Kid Zone Learning & Play Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday. Weekend hours remain the same: Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



The Florida State Fair / Feb. 4-15 / Florida State Fairgrounds / 4800 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa / Mark your calendars! The Florida State Fair attracts up to 500,000 people in twelve days. Each year Florida residents create exhibits for Aquaculture, Horticulture, Woodcarving, Needlework, and more. Bragging rights are still won for the prized bull, best pie, and the most beautiful quilt. Being an Independent Midway, all rides are selected by the Fair Authority to provide our visitors with all the thrills and chills they've come to expect. As the first State Fair of the year, we get all the latest and greatest in Fair foods such as the Pizza Cone, Redneck Burger, Bacon Ice Cream, and more! It's affordable family fun at its best! Nobody does it better than the Florida State Fair! Visit www.floridastatefair.com for events, tickets, and more.

Ask-A-Lawyer: Family and Estate Law / Feb. 10, Wednesday / 7 p.m. / Brandon Regional Library / 619 Vonderburg Drive / Local attorneys from the Brandon Bar Association will present a brief overview of family legal issues, including divorce and child custody, wills, power of attorney, health care surrogates, and living wills. A question and answer session will follow. For adults. Presented in partnership with the Brandon Bar Association.

Cancer Survivor Support Network Group / Feb. 11 / 10-11 a.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / The Campo Family YMCA is proud to launch a Cancer Survivor Support Network Group with opportunities to engage and connect with survivors and their families, provide a comfortable and discreet group environment, develop a support network, get plugged in to outside professional, local resources, regain or tap into your personal empowerment, and meet the Livestrong Program Coaching Team. For more information contact the facilitator, Dina Warych, at the Campo Y, 813-684-1371.

Portamento of Hope Benefit Sale / Feb. 12-13 / 10 a.m.-2 p.m. / 303 S. Parsons Ave. / Come join Portamento of Hope, a non-profit soup kitchen, for a benefit sale to raise funds for the organization and to offset shipment costs for much needed supplies in Haiti. Volunteers are needed to pack supplies for Haiti orphanages and to help serve in the soup kitchen. This is a community and kid-friendly event with a bounce house and more. Come join us! For information, contact Lela Lilyquist at 813-493-9644.

3rd Annual Cardinal Roofing Sporting Clays Event / Feb. 12 / 11:30 a.m., Sign In; Noon, Start Time; 2:30 p.m., BBQ, Raffles, Silent Auction, Prizes / Fishhawk Sporting Clays / 13505 Hobson Simmons Road, Lithia / Come out and shoot clays to raise \$10,000 for Honor Flight of West Central Florida! Honor World War II veterans with a trip to Washington, D.C., to celebrate their service and sacrifice. Sponsor a station, donate raffle items, and promote your business while helping a worthy cause! Single shooter ticket, \$150; team of 4 shooters, \$600. Donations to Honor Flight are welcome. Call Bridget at 813-478-ROOF to donate today!

Chili Cook-Off / Feb. 13 / Noon-5 p.m. / Moose Lodge of Brandon / 804 S. Miller Road, Valrico / Who doesn't like



Chili? Come one, come all, and YOU be the judge. Free admission and parking. Samples \$1 (proceeds help local charities) plus multiple toppings bars, beer truck, and live entertainment and vendors. Contestant prizes for Best Heat, Best Vegetarian, Best Chili! Event starts at noon for taste testers and voting. To register yourself or a team to compete, visit SimplyEventsFL.com.

10 Easy Ways to Organize Your Life / Tuesday, Feb. 16 / 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. / Join professional organizer Pam Hoepner as she shares organizational and time management tips, and how to become more organized on a tight budget using ingenuity and easy steps. Learn how to gain time, save money, and get peace of mind with these 10 easy techniques.

Puppet Show: Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock / Feb. 19 / 11 a.m.-Noon / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / Based on a West African tale, Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock is a timeless story about a tricky spider who uses his wits and a magic rock to steal food from his animal friends. The last laugh is on Anansi when he gets a taste of his own medicine, but does he learn his lesson? For ages 4 and up. This program is part of the library's Black History Month celebration. Presented by Creative Arts Theatre of the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department. For information, call 813-273-3652.

Tampa African Violet Society Annual Show / Feb. 26-27 / Farm Bureau / 100 S. Mulrennan Road, Valrico / The Tampa African Violet Society will be holding its annual show with this year's theme of A Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Society members are tasked with displaying their beautifully grown plants in multiple categories for a judged event. Plants, pots, soil, and fertilizer will also be available for purchase. Please join us on Friday, Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for sales and 12-5 p.m. for the show (show plants will not be available for viewing prior to 12 p.m.) and again on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for show and sale. Hope to see you there! Visit www.tampafricanviolets.com for more information.

Daddy-Daughter Dance / Feb. 20 / 7:30-9:30 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / Dads, throw on your favorite tie and come enjoy a special evening of dancing with your little princess at our first annual Father-Daughter Dance! From delicious desserts to photo opportunities, and moving your two left feet with Daddy's Girl, you and your daughter are sure to create a special memory that will last a lifetime. Get your tickets today! Snack buffet provided. Tickets are available at the Campo Y and at the Chick-Fil-A stores in Lake Brandon Village and Westfield Brandon Mall. Price is \$20 per daddy/daughter pair, \$5 for additional daughters. For information, contact Alicia Bentley at alicia.bentley@tampaymca.org.



UPCOMING

Florida Strawberry Festival / March 3-13 / Festival Grounds at Alexander and Reynolds Streets, Plant City / Each spring, the Florida Strawberry Festival rolls out the red carpet to welcome visitors from all over. Guests enjoy agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture exhibits, and crafts. And, it's the perfect time to enjoy eating ripe strawberries. Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission: Adults (ages 13+), \$10; Children (ages 6-12), \$5; Children (ages 5 and under) FREE. Discount tickets are available Publix Super Markets: Adults (ages 13+), \$8; Children (ages 6-12), \$4. For more information visit www.flstrawberryfestival.com.



Rotary Club of Brandon's 40th Annual Wild Game Dinner / March 4 / 6-10 p.m. / Boggy Bottom Ranch / 8407 Lupton Place, Plant City / Calling all Gentlemen! Enjoy a night out while supporting local Brandon charities through the support of the Rotary Club of Brandon. General Admission, \$100; VIP Ticket, \$150. For more information on this annual event, contact Joe Campoamor at 813-748-2076 or jcamoamor@interityft.com.

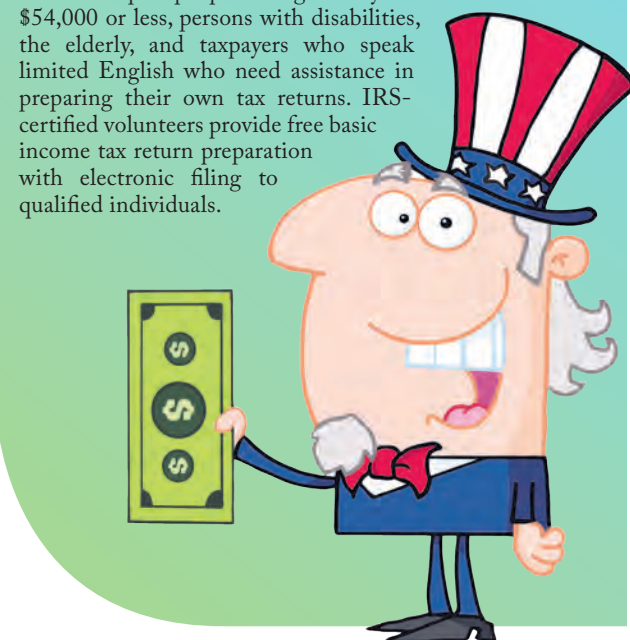
Puttin' on the Ritz Bunco / March 8 / 6-7 p.m., Social/Dinner; 7 p.m., Bunco / Center Place Fine Arts Center / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / A night of fun, food, and prizes will be held at the G.F.C.W. Valrico Service League's Puttin' on the Ritz Bunco. Proceeds help support local school children and families in need in our community. In the past year the Valrico Service League has supported A Kids Place, Brandon Outreach Clinic, Camp Family YMCA, Cards for Troops, Life Care Network, Mary & Martha House, Metropolitan Ministries, and One Voice, and provided books, educational activities, food, clothing, and shoes for Title I elementary school children. Tickets cost \$20 and include light dinner, drinks, and prizes. Tickets may be purchased at Center Place or contact Claudia Yake at 813-685-7998.

FREE TAX HELP IN FEBRUARY

Hillsborough County Press Release

Tuesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 13, 20 and 27 at 10 a.m. at the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. For adults. Presented in partnership with the Free Tax Preparation Program of Hillsborough County. Customers desiring assistance should bring all tax-related documents with them.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and taxpayers who speak limited English who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.



INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SANDHILL CRANES... RESPECT AND PROTECT THEM

By Mack Austin

As winter storms battered the mid-west and east coast last month, residents there saw little beyond piles of snow and ice. While we experienced some cold weather, we could still enjoy flowers blooming and a variety of wildlife including turtles, foxes, raccoons, the occasional alligator, and even bald eagles. Perhaps the most impressive and stunning of our community's wildlife are the Sandhill cranes that routinely roam our parks, sidewalks and back yards.

With an average 20-year lifespan, Sandhill cranes are a beautiful grey color and sport a crimson head cap. On their long slender legs, they can stand up to 4 feet tall with a 5 to 6 foot wingspan and typically can weigh up to 14 pounds.

And while their sheer size seems to urge people to enjoy them up close, steer clear as they can be downright dangerous. For them, the greatest danger they face is when they slowly move across our busy, high traffic residential areas. The delicate birds are large and graceful and seem to stroll in slow motion as they feed off bugs, mice, worms and even snakes in our yards.

Enjoying our wildlife is one thing but doing our part to protect it is another. All residents need to know how to protect our wildlife.

So how can we protect these cherished members of our Florida ecosystem?

Don't feed them; it is against the law. Sandhill cranes when fed by humans can become aggressive, especially if they have young cranes with them. There have been cases of children being attacked by cranes.

Cover reflective surfaces when cranes are around your home. They can damage window screens, patio doors and other property. Their reflection in windows can trigger a territorial defense behavior.

Make sure your pets are indoors if the birds make an appearance. Dogs can pose a serious threat to the slow-moving birds. Finally, take care with pesticides and other yard chemicals. It doesn't take much to poison the birds.

Enjoy the majestic creatures we are so fortunate to have in our community. Respect their presence and do what you can to protect them.

Remember these four rules to help protect our beautiful Sandhill cranes:

1. Never feed cranes.
2. Cover or move vehicles so cranes cannot see their reflections in windows or shiny surfaces.
3. Temporarily cover windows or screens if cranes are present.
4. Accept that the cranes will dig for food. They may damage some lawns as they dig for crickets or grubs. In some cases, they may be helping the lawn.



These beautiful Sandhill cranes are roaming through our neighborhoods looking for food. Do not feed them. It is against the law!

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



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.



Pre-WHAT?!

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors, all major department stores

FROM: Ellen Bess, on behalf of Southern women everywhere

Gentlemen:

I received an interesting piece of mail yesterday. It was a mini-catalog from your department store, all slick pages and bright colors. On the cover were five cadaverous, scantily clad young ladies gaily tossing a beach ball around. Boldly printed at the top screamed the words "GIGANTIC PRE-SPRING SALE!" Gentlemen, I'm not real clear on how you look at things up North where your department store headquarters are, but here in the South, we have a word for "Pre-Spring." It's "Winter." Ever heard of it?

Now, maybe the snowbound ladies of Billings (Montana), Portland (Maine), and Montpelier (Vermont), like looking at bathing suits and tennis outfits in God-save-us-all February. They're already a little feeble minded anyway or they wouldn't be living in Billings, Portland or Montpelier in February in the first place.

Perhaps, after months of wearing itchy wool and a glazed expression, looking at page after page of dewy youth, cheerful hues and skimpy clothes would either give one the needed reassurance that Spring is, indeed, coming or send one headfirst into the nearest snow bank. You must remember, however, that Spring



temperatures come about 2 months earlier in the South, which means we have two less months to shed the "Pre-Spring" thigh dimples we've been hiding under our baggy sweat suits. In other words, your catalog is not greeted by Southern women as you might have hoped. Instead of your anticipated "o-o-o-o's" and "isn't-that-cute's," Dixie women are much more likely to begin shrieking and questioning your parentage.

And some of those clothes! Holy cats! Take a gander at Item "A" on page 2. It's described as a "kicky new look in swimwear! Comes in pastels, brights and all sizes 2 to 6!" Gentlemen, "2 to 6" are not sizes. "2 to 6" are Open House hours. The only person I know who wears a size 2 just started pre-school. We are not amused.

And how about that little number on page 6, Item "E"? The one that "comes complete with 2 extra thongs and a list of bail bondsmen!" Right.

Oh, and I love the shorts outfits, especially the one whose top you described as "rib tickling" because that's where the hem hits. If I wanted my ribs tickled, I'd wear a tighter bra.

Getting back to the original reason for this memo, I think I can speak for most women when I tell you that we are perfectly aware that Spring is on its way; however, it is now February, which is Winter. And when you rub our noses in this wanton disregard for time with a catalog full of half-"nekkid" models, you are begging for trouble. In other words, while it might not be nice to fool Mother Nature, trying to trick the entire South full of pre-diet women with something called "Pre-Spring" is sheer suicide. You have been warned.

Bloomingdale Golfers Club Instructor Scores with Kids

By Miriam Leech

For the past 5 years, J.D. Carino has served as Director of Operations at the John E. S. Cochrane Golf Schools at both River Hills Country Club and Bloomingdale Golfers Club. A graduate of the Golf Academy of America (Orlando) with honors, Carino teaches golf to all levels, ages, and organizations; however, it is with young golfers that he really shines.

Carino is known for the attention to detail with which he teaches his students in understanding how their swing works, even the littlest golfers. As they mature, this allows his students to fix swing problems on the golf course faster and helps prevent higher scores.

Says Carino, "Most instructors are focused on resolving a swing issue by giving a fix to the student that works for awhile but doesn't increase the student's knowledge on what they should be accomplishing."

Carino especially enjoys teaching at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club because of its location in the middle of so many neighborhoods. Says the instructor, "This is a great location for kids to start new friendships in a safe environment while learning a lifelong sport." In addition, he loves the beauty of Bloomingdale and seeing all the families running or walking around Nature's Way with their children and dogs in tow.

For the past 2 years, the golf school has participated in the annual Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Fall Festival. Carino sets up an area where children take their first swings with a golf club. The best part, according to Carino, is "seeing the look on the parents' faces when their kids are hitting golf balls in the air for the first time."

This spring, the golf school will begin an after school golf program and a "Kid's Night League" at Bloomingdale Golfers Club. The goal is to give kids in the community a place close to home where they can walk or ride their bikes to after getting out of school. And according to Carino, they will be able to leave their clubs at the school.

The John E. S. Cochrane Golf School is open year round, 7 days a week, sunrise to sundown. The Little Lads and Lasses Program is for ages 4 to 6 and includes putting, chipping, pitching, hitting out of bunkers (sand), and full swing. The Junior Golf Program is for ages 8 to 16 and includes full swing fundamentals, short game drills, performance development games, prize competitions, and a 1:6 instructor to student ratio.



For information on the golf school, contact Carino at 813-957-3205.

J. D. Carino teaches 4- to 6-year-olds the fundamentals of perfecting their swing at the John E. S. Cochrane Golf School located at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club on Natures Way in Bloomingdale. Pictured with Carino are Tripp Whittington, Evan Lewis, Mia Metcalf.

Gazette File Photo

Using the Railroad Track Analogy to Aim Correctly...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingtondale CC campus)

When your golf buddy says "aim for the target," most of us aim our body to the target. Great for bowling, pool and shooting guns. Not so great for golf.

In bowling, pool and shooting guns, our body is aligned behind the target. In golf, our body is aligned alongside the target, i.e. the golf ball is a few feet in front of you. See photo.

As a result, if you align your body to the target (incorrect), with a good swing the ball will go right of where you aimed.

The outside track (red arrow) in which the ball travels is the target line. The inside track (yellow arrow) is the body/stance line; which consists of feet, knees, hips and shoulders all square and parallel (railroad tracks) to the target line.

When aimed correctly, your left shoulder (and body) will be aligned left of target. The next time you buddy says you are aiming wrong; tell him about the railroad tracks and how this train is staying on for 18 holes!

Next month: Not holding the putter like all the other clubs in your bag. Any questions or for lessons, please visit CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. 813-957-3205.



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS



BSTD Awards Landscape Contract to Buccaneer Landscape Management

Staff Report

Buccaneer Landscape Management is awarded the community's common area landscape contract as of Feb. 1 according to Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District property manager Joe Harless. The two-year contract includes mowing, fig trimming, irrigation, entryway landscaping and more. The company will begin raising the tree canopy along sidewalks and major thoroughfares this month. For concerns or issues regarding common area maintenance, contact the BSTD at 813-684-6667 or email bstd@verizon.net.

Look for trucks like this one as Buccaneer Landscape Management begins tree trimming in the community.



Photo: <http://www.buccaneerlandscape.com>

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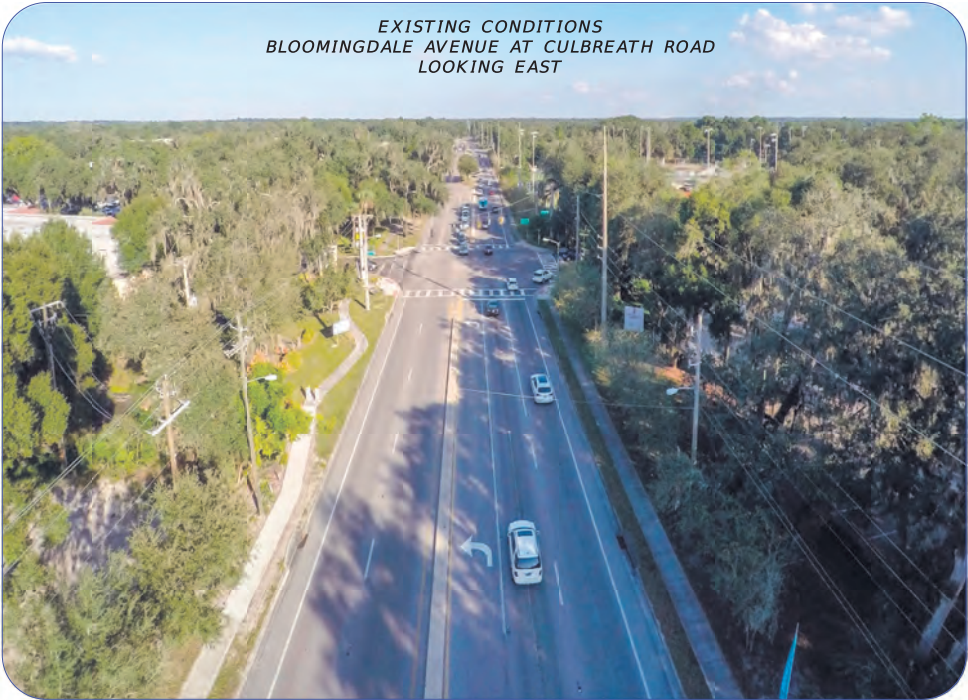
CONSTRUCTION *Update*

Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road Intersection Improvement

Hillsborough County Public Works project engineer Anjana Swann stated that this “project is moving forward. Our contractor has started on Culbreath Avenue with the installation of the bus bays. TECO has moved their facilities on Bloomingdale Avenue, out of the way of our contractor. Within the next few weeks residents will be seeing more activity on the Bloomingdale Avenue/Culbreath Road Intersection Improvement project.”

These Hillsborough County Public Works graphics provide a “Before” and “After” projection of the Bloomingdale Avenue/Culbreath Road Intersection Improvement project. Residents are asked to be extra careful, allow additional travel time and to slow down and watch for workers in the area!

Source: Hillsborough County Public Works



INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT
BLOOMINGDALE AVENUE AND
CULBREATH ROAD

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INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT
BLOOMINGDALE AVENUE AND
CULBREATH ROAD

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The sign says it all. The project to make improvements at the very busy intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road is officially underway and making good progress. Note the "Completion Date of Mid-2016."



Contractors are making progress on the two bus bays between the Campo YMCA and Bloomingdale Little League fields. Drivers are asked to use extreme caution when driving in this very busy area. With workers present, traffic laws will be strictly enforced and citations will be expensive!



Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes & Super Walmart

The front entrance to the new Super Walmart in the Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes on Bloomingdale Avenue is almost ready for the first shoppers. The water fountain is on and there are ducks in the retention pond. The Walmart is scheduled to open March 9. The Bloomingdale Publix is looking at moving to the site of the current Walmart. No plans are in place for the current Publix.

Breaking News! Starbucks is scheduled to open in July!

Bell Shoals Road Widening Project Update

A lot of the critical work on this project is not readily visible but is certainly being aggressively worked to get the project started and completed properly. Current plans estimate a construction start date of the first or second quarter of this year.

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TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SALE

1. **Be clear on the purpose of your sale.** Are you selling things to make money or to get rid of them? This question affects everything you do, from how you price things to how willing you are to negotiate. Surprisingly, you can often make more money (and get rid of more junk) by pricing things low. (If your goal is to get top dollar, you should really be selling on eBay or Craigslist.)
2. **Get cash.** Get a roll of quarters, a stack of twenty-five \$1 bills, and a few \$5 bills. Do this ahead of time so you aren't scrambling the day of the sale.
3. **Be ready to go the night before.** Early birds are inevitable, and you don't want to be rushing around the morning of the sale.
4. **Prepare your staging area.** People will be more inclined to stop if you set up shop in your yard or driveway. Some people are reluctant to enter a dark and dreary garage. Make your sale inviting and easy to browse. You can lure customers by placing highly desirable items near the street. During your sale, keep your sale tables attractive by filling in the empty spots on your tables as things get sold.
5. **Make it easy for shoppers to test electronic items.** If you're selling electrical items, make sure you have an extension cord handy so that people can test them. No smart person is going to just take your word that your television "works great." They're going to want to see it in operation. Also, have some batteries on hand so that a prospective buyer can test that old Nintendo Gameboy for himself.
6. **Label things well.** Put prices on everything. The price should be on top of an item, not on the bottom. The bigger the item, the bigger the price tag should be. Make it obvious.
7. **Make sure any items you don't want to sell are put away.** If you don't, that will be the one item the buyer wants.
8. **Be friendly.** Greet people as they arrive, and chat if they are chatty.
9. **Do NOT bad-mouth your items.** Remember, these are treasures you are selling.
10. **Be willing to bargain.** You can be less flexible at the start, but be realistic (see Tip 1).
11. **Be a considerate seller.** Have plastic grocery bags available to put sold items in. If selling breakables, have newspaper available to wrap fragile items.
12. **Keep a ledger.** Jot down a description of each item and how much you sold it for.
13. **Do NOT use a cash box.** Keep your money on you at all times. Don't accept checks unless you are willing to take the risk of getting a bad check. Having a calculator handy is helpful in totaling up purchases.

A garage sale can also be a good time to teach little ones about being entrepreneurs. Get them involved by letting them run a bake sale. Nothing says SHOP HERE like a cute face and a hot cup of coffee!

For more tips, visit www.yardsalequeen.com. And happy selling!

COMMUNITY
GARAGE SALE

Sat. Feb. 27
8 a.m.

Want to participate?
Contact the BHA at 813-681-2051 or by email at blomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. Provide your community name and address. On the day of the sale, put signage from your neighborhood entrance to your home. The BHA will do the rest. Let's get selling, Bloomingdale!



2016 Annual
Clean-Up Day

March 5, 2016
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **OR** until bins are full
Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility
1629 Natures Way (behind Alafia Elementary School)

Featuring:

Ten - 30 cu.yd. commercial trash bins!

AND

Our Clean-Up Partners:



UrbanErecycling - accepting electronics and more
Operation Medicine Cabinet - accepting outdated meds
and sponsored by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

*Check the **Bloomingdale Gazette** for a complete listing of items acceptable for drop-off!*

This event is made possible in part by a grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

BHA Community Office: 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596 • Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(813) 681-2051 • Email: blomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com • www.BloomingdaleHOA.com



BloomingdaleHOA

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Community Clean-up Day is Saturday, March 5 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. (**or until trash bins are full**). This event is for Bloomingdale residents only, no businesses or contractors.

Due to last year's overwhelming response, ten commercial trash bins will be available, five more than last year. The collection site is on Natures Way at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility near Alafia Elementary School. Like last year, the BHA will partner with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet and UrbanErecycling.

The BHA needs volunteers. High school students earn community service hour credits for helping with this project. For information, contact the BHA at 813-681-2051 or by email at blomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.



Start your spring cleaning early at the BHA's Annual Clean-up Day, Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **OR** until trash bins are full. Gazette File Photo

CLEAN-UP ACCEPTED ITEMS LIST

UrbanErecycling will accept the following electronics for recycling purposes: computer keyboards, laptops, desktop computers, tower computers and servers, scrap computers, telecom equipment, rack servers, cell phones, laser printers, flat screen monitors and flat screen TVs, battery backups, ion lithium batteries, circuit boards, and computer cables.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office through "Operation Medicine Cabinet" will accept: Pill bottles, Boxes and/or packaged drug items, Patches, Powders, Liquids (properly sealed), Inhalers, and Veterinarian Prescription Drugs.

Hillsborough County Roll-off accepted items include: Refrigerators, ovens, water heaters, Steel and other metals, Furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses) and Construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials), and tires. Items not accepted are: televisions, microwaves, computers or radios (**UrbanErecycling will take flat screen TVs and computers as noted above**), yard waste, hazardous materials including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercials activities.



Sponsored by the
Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

Source: Wekiva Youth Camp, Compiled by Gwen Graverson

...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

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.

Wekiva Youth Camp Offers a Once-in-a-Lifetime Summer Experience Registration has begun...do not delay

Wekiva Youth Camp is a residential nature camp for 3rd through 8th Grade youngsters sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) for the purpose of instilling a love and respect for the REAL Florida in our youth through nature study, conservation and protection of our environment for the future of our state and our planet. Wekiva Youth Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association.

Wekiva Youth Camp is comprised of six one-week sessions during June & July in Wekiwa Springs State Park (North of Orlando), where FFGC (a not-for-profit organization) partners with the Florida Parks Service to improve and maintain the facilities. Wekiva Youth Camp promises an unforgettable experience enjoying nature, crafts, and the beauty of the natural world in a magical, pristine setting. Campers should be interested in nature and like the outdoors. Florida residency is not required and campers are welcomed without regard to race, color, religion or ethnicity.

Campers enjoy a unique outdoor living and learning experience, with close supervision. Our motto for our youth is "Campers Today – Environmental Leaders Tomorrow".

The 2016 Camp Schedule is now posted and Online Registration is open. Spaces fill up quickly and it is a good idea to register early to not be disappointed. For the younger child, Critter Camp is a mini-camp experience open to children that are currently attending 1st or 2nd Grade. The three-day, two-night session is well-suited for younger campers.

Financial Assistance -Through the generosity of Garden Clubs, Circles, and Members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., we are able to offer a meaningful, environmental experience at an incredibly affordable cost. Financial assistance is often available for families that need help with some (or all) of the cash payment necessary to send a camper to Wekiva Youth Camp.

Through the Sally Rahm Campership Endowment, the complete cost of one week at camp is available each summer. This includes all programs, lodging, activity fees and registration fees. Transportation to and from Camp is the responsibility of the Parent or Guardian. A completed Wekiva Youth Camp Sally Rahm Campership Application along with two letters (one from a President of a Florida Federated Garden Club or Circle and another from the applicant's teacher) and a paragraph written by the Camper must be received by March 1 to be considered for this Campership. Award notification will be made by April 1.

Additionally, many Clubs and Circles donate funds specifically for helping a Camper get to Camp. These Campers are asked to submit a paragraph about "Why I Would Like to Go to Camp" written by the Camper to be considered for this assistance. Please contact the Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman for additional information.

At this time, financial assistance is not available from the Sally Rahm Endowment or the Wekiva Youth Camp Chairman for assistance for Critter Camp or the 9th Grade Leaders In Training Program.

For summer camp registration and contact information:
<http://www.wekivayouthcamp.org>.

For additional information about Wekiwa Springs State Park, regarding daily hours of operation, admission fees and camping fees, call 407-884-2009. The park is located at 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka, FL 32712; website: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Wekiwa-Springs>.



Exploring the environment is just one of the experiences campers enjoy at Wekiva Youth Camp.



Water activities at the youth camp include canoeing and swimming. For complete offerings, visit the website at www.wekivayouthcamp.org/.



At Critter Camp, critters learn about critters.



Photos: www.wekivayouthcamp.org/

Coming Soon!

Gardening Workshop – Get Those Hummers! Wednesday, March 2 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue – This lively program is all about the beautiful hummingbirds that make Hillsborough County home. Learn their habits and how to attract them to your yard. For information, call the library at 813-273-3652.



Source: <http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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.



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I have learned you just cannot "throw" weights; you have to control movements and make sure you work the right muscle group.

The best part of all the effort is the results. By January 2016, I have lost 55 pounds, lowered my blood pressure to 100 over 70, and the doctor cut my Diabetes medication in half.

My goal is to lose 20 more pounds so I can be off all medication. The Studio has great equipment, the staff is outstanding and they make you work hard even when you do not want to.

I play golf in Brandon at Buckhorn Country Club and I refer everyone that is looking for a trainer and location, I tell them to go to Fitness Studio.

Ron Waldo, 55, Valrico, FL

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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



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OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE...

As of this month, it has been 18 years since the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station opened in Bloomingdale. That was 1998. Just try remembering how much gasoline cost in 1998 or how much homes sold for back then!

At the Jan. 21 Bloomingdale Community Council (BACC) meeting, guest speaker Master Deputy Jennifer Smith attended. She and I spoke about concerns in the Bloomingdale area as well as surrounding areas. Residents are still leaving their vehicles unlocked and their houses unsecured. Again, the Sheriff's Office needs your help; we can't be everywhere all the time.

Your eyes and ears help us when you report suspicious activity.

Our success is greatly due to the outstanding cooperation and support given by residents to our law enforcement team. These days, it totally takes teamwork to make our community a safer and more secure place to live and raise our families. Groups like the Sheriff's BACC have continued to work directly with us in identifying critical concerns and working with us to find solutions.

We can always use more council members from more homeowners' associations. More BACC members will help improve the safety and security of our district and the Bloomingdale community. Interested residents can call the Community Station at 813-635-8040, come by the station at 3622 Erindale Drive (Intersection of Erindale and Lithia-Pinecrest Road) or attend the next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the station.

Hillsborough County's Sheriff David Gee, his staff and the many professional teams that make up the Sheriff's Office continue to provide dedicated service in spite of facing tough financial times. Programs such as the Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program have provided outstanding assistance to those of us in law enforcement and improved our ability to provide Bloomingdale's residents with the secure home and work environments you want and deserve.

Foreclosures and squatters continue to be a problem in our community. County Code Enforcement officers work directly with the Sheriff's Office and other agencies to prevent foreclosed homes from becoming illegally occupied or used for other illegal purposes. If you have a foreclosed home in your area, report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office at 247-8200 or Code enforcement at 274-6600.

January BACC Hot Topics:

Felony Lane - Organized groups throughout Florida have been traveling the Interstates and targeting local businesses like Fitness Centers, YMCAs, Daycares and other places where women may leave their purses in their cars just long enough for these groups to steal them. Several purses were recently stolen from vehicles parked at the Bloomingdale YMCA. Reports have also been received of personal items stolen from lockers at local fitness centers. In my article last month, I explained this type of activity and the next day we had three cars broken into and purses stolen.

Detective James Howell has noticed a new trend in the area. When you leave your vehicle unlocked and parked in the driveway, this can give criminals access to your home. One case occurred where two juvenile males went into an unlocked F150 pickup truck and backed the truck out of the driveway. They then opened the garage door using the garage door opener from the unlocked truck. The juveniles backed a vehicle out of the garage gaining access to a \$16,000 ATV. They stole the ATV while two of the residents were asleep in the home. Luckily, the two juveniles were captured and arrested by Detective Howell.

Economic Crimes - It's time to file our taxes. I'm sure that most of you have heard about people out there stealing your identity then filing a false income tax report using your information. This can become a headache for you to clear your name and fix the problem. If you find that you have had this false income tax filed with your information, contact CSO Sandy Capitano at 813-242-5501.

STAY SAFE AND SECURE!

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff David Gee

Tampa, FL



OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET RETURNS

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet and Home Instead Senior Care will again join the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at the community's annual clean-up day on March 5. This popular program provides residents a safe way to dispose of dangerous, outdated, unwanted prescription medicines and drugs.

Protect your family and your environment! Collect your old medications, then, drive up and drop off – it is as simple as that. Help us spread the word. Pictured below, Master Deputy Curtis Warren and Home Instead representative Kristi Campbell display a portion of last year's haul.

Representatives will be on site from **9 a.m. until noon, one hour less than the BHA's actual scheduled clean-up closing.** See clean-up details in this issue for more information.



Photo: Gazette File



Local Youth Learn Street Hockey

Source: Tampa YMCA

Tampa Bay Lightning and JP Morgan Chase & Co. partnered with the Tampa YMCA to be a part of a new initiative to grow the game of hockey in Tampa Bay. Nearly 50 after-school students at Alafia Elementary took part in an inaugural two-hour event at the school on Jan. 20.

Participants learned hockey rules, teamwork and sportsmanship with a bit of science and math thrown in for good measure. Besides the fun of learning a new skill, the event was a confidence builder allowing students to make new friends and learn from positive adult role models.



Photos: Tampa YMCA



Bloomingtondale Real Estate Update

By Ryan Brantley



The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-924-8187

Ryan@RyanBrantley.org
www.chaddertongroup.com

By now, everyone is fully aware that 2016 is an election year and signs of impending change are everywhere. Change can often lead to wariness when it comes to making big decisions such as buying or selling a home. That is why many experts believe the real estate market for 2016 will remain roughly the same. Home prices are expected to increase but only slightly.

In the Valrico area, there is still an extreme shortage of inventory. Buyers are dealing with multiple bid situations especially for properties in the \$200,000-\$220,000 price range. If you are thinking of selling, we need you! Traditionally, sales pick up beginning in March and sellers who get their houses on the market prior to then have a better chance of selling their properties quickly and for the right price.

Neighborhood Snapshot - The Links

The Links is one of the most highly sought after neighborhoods in Bloomingtondale East. Nearly all of the homes are over 2,000 square feet and have private pools. Homes were built in the mid 1990's and are close to the golf course making the neighborhood highly desirable. There is also very little turnover in the area with only 24 homes being sold in the last 5 years, six of these being in the last year. Of the six, the average square footage was 2,685 with an average sales price of \$311,000. There are currently only two active listings in The Links.

**MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold January 26, 2015 through January 26, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*

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During a winter storm last month, three tornadoes made direct hits in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Local news and weather sites had Bloomingdale and Fish Hawk as potential targets. Fortunately, the storm lessened in severity and changed direction before reaching these communities.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting many severe storms over the next three months that could make this winter the most destructive in more than half a century. The reason –El Nino, which is blamed for January storms that damaged 200 homes, caused \$6 million in damages and killed or injured many.

Why is this important? Unlike hurricanes where some degree of warning exists, tornados can happen in a matter of seconds. The only way to protect your family is to follow the weather, track the storms and be prepared.

Before the storm:

- With your family, develop a storm plan.
- Prepare a storm kit. Include a good weather radio, protective clothing including heavy boots or shoes, blankets, flashlights and batteries, charged cell phones, water, snacks, any special meds, a First Aid kit and any other items you may need or want such as photos or important documents like insurance papers. Don't forget pet needs!
- Monitor the weather closely. Check before going to bed; it may be the most important thing you do. Decide if someone should stay up and monitor the storm. This could be your only warning!
- Sign up for the Hillsborough County "HCFL Alert" program, their official mass notification system designed to inform residents about emergencies and disasters. Registration is free at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org/HCFLAlert.

During the storm:

- Get everyone, including pets, to an indoor bathroom or hallway.
- Monitor the storm.
- Stay away from windows or glass doors.
- Keep calm. Most storms pass through quickly.

After the storm:

- Ensure everyone is safe. Safety is your first priority.
- Use caution when leaving your safe area. There may be loose roofing, broken glass, nails and other hazardous material around the area.
- Watch for downed power lines or fallen tree limbs. Be alert for any fires that might break out.
- Provide aid to others.

Winter storms in Florida can be dangerous and also deadly. Take the time to prepare for them now. Protect your family. You will not get a second chance. Stay safe!

Photo: WFLA



A tornado in Sarasota demolished this home last month. Be prepared if disaster strikes.



Graphic: Wikipedia

You Dream It – Local Builder Makes It Happen

By Suzanne Jones



Bloomington resident Larry Galin searched far and wide for the perfect tub to accommodate his 6 foot-plus frame. His construction company offers a range of services from minor repairs to custom home building.

Ask anyone who has had a custom home built, kitchen updated or bathroom remodeled what the experience was like, and the reply will likely be about the contractor, not the plywood. Nightmare or dream come true, selecting the right builder or contractor makes all the difference. For over 15 years, Galin Homes of Tampa Bay has assured clients that it truly is the best builder for the job by offering unique design, quality materials and exceptional customer service.

Since 2010, Galin Homes' owner Larry Galin and his wife Mary proudly call Bloomingdale their home and contribute to the community in a variety of ways. Mary serves as a Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) board member, and Larry generously supports the BHA Fall Festival through his company's participation as a sponsor.

"I have been affiliated with this event for its second year running," said Galin. "The best part is to watch residents

walking around meeting their local businesses for the first time and being surprised that they never heard of them."

Galin Homes of Tampa Bay is a small, personally run business that works with proven contractors to provide custom, client-centric service to customers. In short, the company is focused on helping homeowners achieve their dreams.

While Galin Homes' building projects extend around the greater Tampa area, the company's craftsmanship can be seen right here in Bloomingdale. This includes the Galin's own residence. "I just recently completed construction of our house in Cambridge Cove," beamed Galin who is clearly happy with the outcome and his choice of locations. "What I like most about our community is the closeness of Bloomingdale. Everything is in proximity; you almost never have to leave. Bloomingdale is very peaceful, quiet and a highly desirable neighborhood."



Galin Homes of Tampa Bay recently completed construction of owner Larry Galin's personal residence in Cambridge Cove. Helping clients realize their dreams is a goal Galin strives to achieve.

Galin Homes of Tampa Bay advertises a wide array of services: additions, kitchen and bathroom remodeling, custom flooring, garage conversions, mother-in-law suites, and custom homes (new construction on the customer's lot). To learn more about Galin Homes, visit www.galinhomesoftampabay.com or contact Galin directly via email at Larry@GalinHomesOfTampaBay.com or by calling 813-695-1598.

Photos: Galin Homes of Tampa Bay

Happy Birthday, Leaplings!

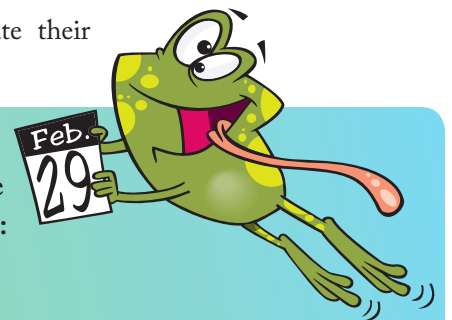
By Nicole Cluck

Leap years occur every four years, but why do we have them at all? It's all about synchronization. The calendar used today is the Gregorian calendar. In use since 1582, the calendar accounts for a time difference between the "solar year" and the "calendar year" by adding an extra day in February, February 29, every four years.

Leap Year Facts that will Surprise and Amaze You or Just Make You Laugh:

- Babies born on February 29 are known as "leapers" or "leaplings."
- The chance of being born on a leap day is one in 1,461.
- There are five million leaplings around the world.
- Most states consider March 1 the acceptable day for leaplings to legally obtain a driver's license or buy a drink.
- Astrologers believe people born on February 29 have unusual talents such as the ability to burp the alphabet or paint like Picasso.
- The frog is a symbol associated with February 29. The Australian rocket frog can leap over two meters.
- There are about 200,000 leapers in the U.S. and over 10,000 leapers will be born on Feb. 29.
- The "solar year," the number of days it takes the earth to revolve around the sun, is slightly longer than 365 days – nearly six hours longer.
- Julius Caesar is responsible for the creation of the Leap Year.
- The tradition of women proposing on leap day goes back to the 5th century.
- Many believe leap years bring freakish weather and are not good for farming and livestock.
- Some leaplings have also died on a leap day. They include James Milne Wilson, the eighth premier of Tasmania, who was born on February 29, 1812 and died on February 29, 1880.
- In the traditional Chinese calendar (and in the Hebrew and Hindu calendars) a whole leap month, rather than just a day, is added to the year.
- The first warrants were issued in the Salem witchcraft trials in Massachusetts on February 29, 1692.
- In off-leap years, some leapers celebrate their birthdays on Feb. 28 or March 1 or both.

"Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November; All the rest have thirty-one - excepting February alone: Which hath but twenty-eight, in fine, 'Till leap year gives it twenty-nine."



Sources: www.infoplease.com/spot/leapyear1.html, www.11points.com/, www.statisticbrain.com/leap-year-statistics/

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



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Feb. 9 – Math Fair, Flyers with details will be in Tuesday folders
Feb. 11 – Times Square Pizza Spirit Night

Alafia Progress Award

Beginning this 9 weeks grading period, we will add an "Alafia Progress Award." This award can be earned by students who show progress from their first report card at Alafia to their second report card. This can be demonstrated by a student maintaining his or her grades and by an increase of at least one academic grade and/or by decreasing at least one behavior indicator, if any.

Alafia Mint

Book swap and Spirit store located in Room 208. 7:30 to 7:55 a.m.

School Spirit Day

Be sure to show your school spirit and wear your Alafia shirts every Friday.



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

February 8 – Grade 3 Pastries with the Principal – 7:15 a.m.
Feb. 8 – Grade 3 Report Card Awards – 8:15 a.m.
Feb. 9 – Grade 4 Pastries with the Principal – 7:15 a.m.
Feb. 9 – Grade 4 Report Card Awards – 8:15 a.m.
Feb. 10 – Bullying Prevention with Officer White
Feb. 11 – Grade 5 Pastries with the Principal – 7:15 a.m.
Feb. 11 – Grade 5 Report Card Awards – 8:15 a.m.
Feb. 11 – Chuck E Cheese Spirit Night
Feb. 12 – Wear Purple for Perseverance
Feb. 19 – All Pro Dads in the Multi-purpose room – 7 a.m.
Feb. 25 – Spring Pictures
Feb. 29 – March 4 – Book Fair
March 4 – Wear Pink for Patience and Family Movie Night

PTA Membership

Join the PTA and become involved in the school! Fill out a membership form and bring it to the Media Center. You will also be able to purchase required student agendas, and some fun spirit items such as T-shirts and magnets.

Got Pictures?

Do you have pictures from the first day of School? How about the Fall Festival, All Pro Dad events or Spirit Nights? How about classroom, fieldtrip or club pictures? Share those pictures you have captured throughout the year with the Yearbook committee!



Instantly upload your pictures from your computer or smartphone/device directly to the yearbook design hub at HJShare.com OR via the FREE HJ eShare APP. Once on the website or APP, enter school code **ciminoyearbook**. Please tag pictures with Teacher's name and a short description of event (ex. Classroom, Storybook Parade, Florida Aquarium, etc.)

Don't wait for the last minute, start uploading pictures to eShare today. Together, we can make this the best yearbook yet! **Note: Photos are not guaranteed inclusion in the yearbook.**



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

Feb. 8 – PTSA Board Meeting – 7:30 a.m.
Feb. 8 – PTSA Pancakes with the Principal – 8 a.m. in the Media Center
Feb. 11 – Soccer vs Rodgers @ Riverview – 6 p.m.
Feb. 11 – Band Parent Meeting – 7 p.m.
Feb. 16 – Chorus Spring Concert @ Bloomingdale – 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 17 – Soccer vs. Eisenhower @ East Bay – 6 p.m.
Feb. 19 – Dance in the Cafeteria – 3:30 to 5 p.m.
Feb. 23 – Soccer vs. Shields @ Riverview – 6 p.m.
Feb. 24 – 7th grade field trip to Epcot – 7:30 a.m.

Feb. 29 – Conference Night – 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

March 1 & 2 – FSA Writing Test

March 2 – Soccer vs Randall @ Bloomingdale – 6 p.m.

Morning Tutoring

New Schedule: For information, contact Mr. Riley at 813-744-8383 ext. 235. Schedule follows: Language Arts - Mondays and Wednesdays; Math - 6th/7th Grade on Thursdays and 8th Grade on Fridays; Social Studies on Wednesdays and Fridays; and Science on Mondays and Fridays.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

Feb. 8 – Boys & Girls Lacrosse @ Wharton – 5 p.m.
Feb. 9 – JV Wrestling @ Lennard – 4 p.m.
Feb. 9 – Baseball vs Armwood – 7 p.m.
Feb. 10 – Girls Lacrosse @ Durant – 5 p.m.
Feb. 10 – Boys Lacrosse @ Tampa Catholic – 6:30p.m.
Feb. 12 – Baseball/Softball vs Plant – 7 p.m.
Feb. 15 – Boys & Girls Lacrosse @ Sickles – 5 p.m.
Feb. 16 – Baseball/Softball vs East Bay – 7 p.m.
Feb. 18 – Conference Night – 4-8 p.m.
Feb. 18 – Boys & Girls Lacrosse vs. Robinson – 5 p.m.
Feb. 18 – Junior Parent Night in the Auditorium – 6 p.m.
Feb. 19 – Baseball/Softball @ Durant – 7 p.m.
Feb. 23 – Boys & Girls Lacrosse vs. All Saints – 5 p.m.
Feb. 23 – Baseball/Softball vs Plant City – 7 p.m.
Feb. 25 – Baseball/Softball @ Riverview – 7 p.m.
Feb. 26 – Boys & Girls Lacrosse vs. Jefferson – 5 p.m.
Feb. 27 – Baseball @ Chamberlin – 10 a.m.
March 1 – Baseball/Softball @ Brandon – 7 p.m.
March 2 – Boys & Girls Lacrosse @ Newsome – 5 p.m.
March 3 – Boys & Girls Lacrosse vs Freedom – 5 p.m.
March 3 – Baseball/Softball @ East Bay – 7 p.m.



BULL BRIEFS

PTSA News

The PTSA is looking for volunteers interested in helping to plan events for next year. If you would like to get involved, please email the PTSA President, Stacey Donahue, at sldonahue3@verizon.net.

The PTSA awards scholarships to two deserving seniors, one female and one male, each year who demonstrate a positive attitude toward scholarship, leadership and commitment to community service. We would love to be able to award more than two, so if you know a business or person who would be interested in sponsoring a scholarship, please have them contact Stacey Donahue at sldonahue3@verizon.net.

Calling Community Partners

Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week of May. We are looking for donations, including meals, gifts, items or any way we can recognize the hard work of Bloomingdale's teachers. If your organization is interesting in sponsoring an event during the week, please contact Cheryl Rodriguez at cheryl.rodriguez@sdhc.k12.fl.us.



College Fair

The National Association for College Admissions Counseling will be hosting a National College Fair on Feb. 26 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Meet one on one with college representatives. Register before the fair to make the most of your time. Visit www.nacacnet.org/ncfstudent for details.



Florida Virtual School

Virtual School Graduation Requirement Seniors need to complete a course through Florida Virtual School by May 15. Students should sign up as soon as possible at FLVS.net.





BSHS Cheerleaders Place at State Championship

By Deidre Morgan

Led by Coach Michelle Groat, BSHS cheerleaders have an abundance of spirit. At the Western Cheer Competition held Jan. 22 at Durant High School, the Lady Bulls "toe-touched" their way to state finishing fifth in semi-final competition and fourth in final competition.

Their performance secured a berth to compete at the Florida High School Competitive Cheerleading State Championships, which took place Jan 29-30 at the USF Sun Dome. Even after an injury sidelined a squad member, the Lady Bulls reworked their routine and placed fourth at the championship.

Congratulations, Lady Bulls!



Photo: Deidre Morgan

Following the Western Cheer Competition, the BSHS cheerleaders held a pancake breakfast and sidewalk sale at Beef O Brady's on Bell Shoals Road on Jan. 23. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the BSHS Athletic Booster Club. Team members Delaney Odiorne, Lorin Lazzara, Tessa Monroe and Haley Lazzara collect presale tickets.



Photo: Deidre Morgan

The community showed lots of support for the cheerleaders at the fundraiser benefitting the athletic boosters.

Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!

IMPORTANT DATES

January 15 - April 1

Applications accepted.

April 1

Application deadline (firm).

May 10

BHA Board meeting and announcement of scholarship winner.



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to sponsor the

Bloomingdale High School \$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidate

- **Must be a resident** of the Bloomingdale community.
- Must be a graduating senior accepted at a 2 or 4-year college or university. Proof of acceptance is required.
- Weighted 3.2 GPA

Candidate's Parent/Guardian

- **Must be a resident** of the Bloomingdale community.
- Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 2016 membership **dues must be paid prior** to the scholarship application deadline. Membership drive begins January 2016. **Deadline is May 1, 2016.**
- Proof of residency is required.

Selection Criteria

- Community service
- Extra-curricular activities
- Well-written essay
- Academic Standing
- Reference letters

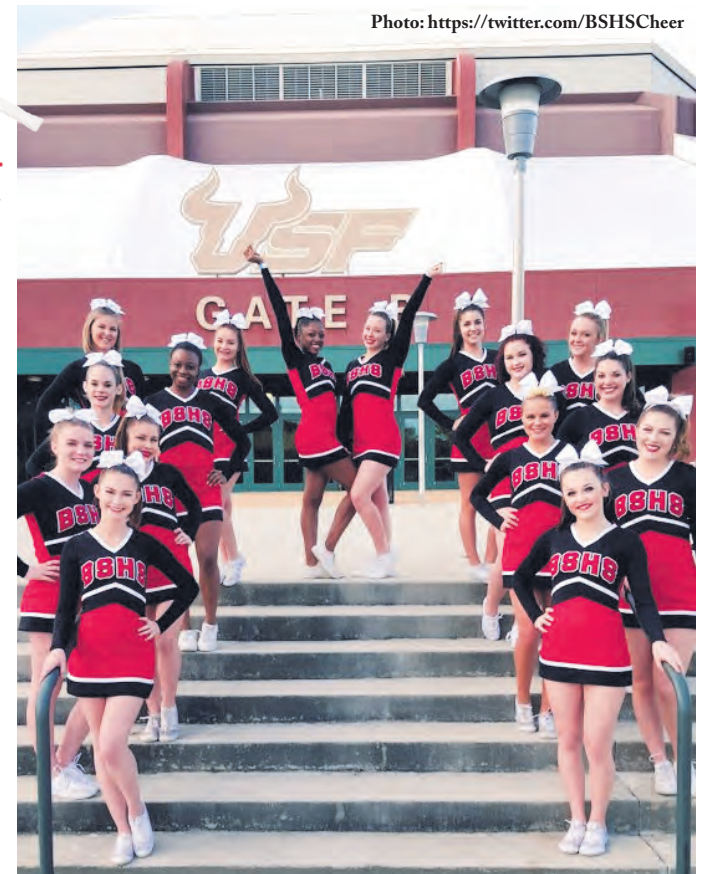
Scholarship information will be available January 15, 2016 online at BloomingdaleHOA.com, at Bloomingdale High School and at the Bloomingdale Community Office.



BHA Community Office: 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596 • Monday- Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(813) 681-2051 • Email: bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com • BloomingdaleHOA.com

BloomingdaleHOA

Photo: <https://twitter.com/BSHSCheer>



Posed to win – the Lady Bulls get ready to perform at the state championships held at the USF Sun Dome.



The Best of the Best Student of the Month Program (BOB) recognizes outstanding students in our community. If selected, the student receives a \$25 gift card provided by our sponsor, Ray Chadderton of The Chadderton Group of Keller Williams Realty. Send your nominations to bloomington.homeowners@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051. Nominees must be in home, public, or private school and residents of Bloomington. Include the nominee's name, address, phone number, email and school attending. In addition, provide a short paragraph detailing why he/she should receive the award.

Congratulations to Jacob Miller February's Best of the Best Student of the Month!

Bloomington High School senior Jacob Miller is a multi-talented and driven young man. Academician, Athlete, Volunteer, Leader – he is all these and more. His resumé is filled with accomplishments that would make most envious.

Academically, Miller ranks 16th in his class of more than 500 students and carries a weighted GPA of 6.07 and unweighted GPA of 3.83. Not content with basic graduation requirements, his demanding schedule includes numerous AP and dual enrollment classes. He has excelled in the rigorous course load earning the AP scholar award, the AP scholar with distinction award and two academic letters. Adding to these accomplishments, He is member of the Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), Rho Kappa (Social Studies Honor Society) and the National Honor Society.

Not content to excel in the classroom alone, Miller is an outstanding athlete. A member of the track and cross-country teams, he earned varsity letters in track beginning with his freshman year and received most improved cross country athlete in 2013. This year, he will add lacrosse to his pursuits. In addition, he is a member of the Fellowship of Christian athletes.

For many students, these activities would be time-consuming enough, not so Miller – he is perhaps an even more dedicated and service-minded leader. As a freshman, this exceptional student began a long association with student government first as a steering committee member, then as the Class of 2016 president his sophomore and junior years. This year, he is the student government president.

"I am most proud of my position as the Student Government President, because with that position I can really contribute and give back to my school," Miller stated.

Just contributing is not Miller's style as evidenced by the University of Virginia awarding him the Jefferson Book Award, which he received for representing the Jefferson Ideals of Scholarship, Leadership and Citizenship. With 135 documented community service hours, Miller epitomizes action and selfless service as a way of life. He has volunteered with Relay for Life, the Lion's Club, Challenger Baseball, Strides for Education, Metropolitan Ministries, Best Buddies Walk and GAP Camp Freshman Orientation. In addition to his daunting school and extra-curricular schedule, last year, he also found time to attend the Florida American Legion Boys State 72nd Session, the United States Military Academy Summer Leadership Experience and the West Point Society Leadership and Ethics Training Conference.

Wanting to continue to serve, Miller has applied to several military colleges with the intent of joining Army ROTC. He has been accepted at Norwich University and the Virginia Military Institute and is pending decisions from The Citadel and the University of Florida. However, having secured a congressional recommendation for Congressman Dennis Ross, Miller's top choice is to receive an appointment to United States Military Academy at West Point.

Regardless of his final college decision, Miller said, "In the future, I see myself serving as an officer in the United States Army Engineer Corps."

Steven and Kimberly Miller are the proud parents of this remarkable young man. The family, including brother Samuel (19), live in Bloomington Trace.

Keep up the great work, Jacob!



Photos: The Miller Family

Volunteering is an important part of Miller's life. Here he delivers food to Metropolitan Ministries in December.



With an eye to the future, Miller participated in the Summer Leadership Experience at the United States Military academy last summer. He hopes to attend the academy following graduation.



Determination is etched on the face of Jacob Miller, this month's Best of the Best winner. He is a member of the BSHS Cross Country and Track teams.





Lady Bulls Soccer Ends Season as District Champs, Regional Semi-Finalist

By Deidre Morgan

With not a senior in sight, the Bloomingdale girls' soccer team defied the odds and finished a stellar season as 2015-2016 District Champs and a 10-3-1 season record. The Lady Bulls starters included five freshmen, four sophomores and two juniors. Though young and untested, the squad posted seven shutouts in district play and gained valuable play experience throughout the season.

During the post-season district tournament, the varsity squad dispatched Armwood High School 8-0 and King High School 6-1. The team, led by Coach Heather Iverson and freshman standout and team high scorer Jordan Stack, put on an impressive display of skills and determination.

The Lady Bulls continued their quest for glory at the Class 4A Regional Tournament last month. They met and dispatched a tough Seminole High School team 2-1 in quarterfinal play. Then, the Lady Bulls took on a formidable East Lake squad (20-3) in the regional semi-final. This time, the ladies came up short with East Lake slipping by with a 1-goal win.

Bloomingdale has a tradition of soccer excellence and this year's Lady Bulls added to the sport's history. With a final season record of 13-4-1, this team can hold their heads high. A strong foundation has been built and the future promises to be a bright one.



Photo: <https://twitter.com/bloomingdaleshs>



Photo: Deidre Morgan



Photo: Deidre Morgan

The Lady Bulls huddle for a pep talk from Head Coach Heather Iverson before taking the field during the Class 4A Regional Tournament held last month.

The BSHS Girls Soccer team heads to the goal during regional playoffs.

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BSHS JROTC Competes in Marksmanship Tournament

By Miriam Leech

On January 9, the Bloomingdale Senior High School (BSHS) Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Marksmanship Team competed along with 24 other teams in the Bass Pro Shops Marksmanship Classic of West Central Florida in Brandon.

Pictured from left to right are Lt. Col. John Wayne, Alyssa Depaola, Dalton Hancock, Isaiah Walton, Leo Rubio, Alyssa Marasco, Kaitlyn Mulder, Carlos Velez, Julia Bravo, and Command Chief Master Sgt. (CCM) Lewis Singleton.

The inaugural event was sponsored by Sickles High School Air Force JROTC, and consisted of Individual and Team 3x20, twenty (20) shots in each of the three (3) positions--prone, standing and kneeling, in sequence, without finals. All JROTC teams use air rifles for shooting.

Although the BSHS team did not place, it was a great opportunity for the cadets to hone their marksmanship skills. Congratulations on a job well done!

Photo: BSHSJROTC



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