



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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Girl Power! Lady Bulls Win Third District Title!

Staff Report



A dynasty in the making! Lady Bulls Flag Football team wins third District Championship title.

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PLEASE ♻️ RECYCLE

Photo: Christine Hester

While winning back-to-back District Championships is a feat, winning three titles back-to-back is the beginning of a powerhouse. Last month, the Lady Bulls flag football team became that powerhouse as it successfully claimed the 2016 6-2A District Championship title for the third year in a row.

The team entered the 2016 regular season as a heavy favorite to continue their winning tradition. Led by Coach Mike Lankford, the ladies racked up a 7-2 record overall on their way to the playoffs. Entering the District tournament with a 6-1 district record landed the team in the first seed position. The ladies downed East Bay, 20-7 on April 25, then Plant City 20-7 in the title game on April 27.

Continued on Page 18

"The only place SUCCESS comes before WORK is in the dictionary." *Vince Lombardi*



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomingtondale.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road
Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

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

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Secretary: *Suzy Watts*

Treasurer: *Mary Galin*

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomingtondale Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingtondaleNews@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci

Senior Staff Writers: Miriam Leech and Mack Austin

Staff Writers: Nicole Cluck and Deidre Morgan



TONY DEL CASTILLO

General Manager

Brandon & Southshore Times

11268 Winthrop Main Street, Suite 101

Riverview, Florida 33578 - (813) 661-2438

Email: tdelcastillo@tampabay.com

Tampa Bay Times

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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

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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: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com or call (813) 681-2051

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



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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.

Lola, (ID # 30913859) is a three year-old Boxer / Retriever, Labrador mix. This pretty girl is very sweet; she sits and takes treats gently. Housebroken and looking for a loving family, adopt Lola!



Moo

Moo (Moo Baby), ID # 7377214 is a seven-year-old domestic shorthair/mix. She is loving, snuggly and lap loving. Moo is a sensitive lady whose confidence is improving, but she prefers a home with no children or other pets.



Lola



Provided By The Pet Resource Center

FIRST SATURDAY Celebration

**First Saturday Celebration highlights
"Be Kind to Animals Week" on May
7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.!**

The American Humane Association started "Be Kind to Animals Week" in 1915 to raise awareness about the importance of showing kindness and compassion for animals. This month specials include \$20 adoptions for all ready-to-go pets. The deal includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations, microchip with free registration, and Hillsborough County pet license tag (a package valued at \$250 to \$400). The event features refreshments and music, special guests, exhibitors, rescue partners, and foster pets ready for adoption. As always, this event is free!

Note: The shelter is closed on May 8.



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



2016 Membership – The BHA Needs Your Support



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 and/or donated to our scholarship fund. Your membership in the Association helps to pay for events like our new community garage sale, the annual clean-up, an ongoing event held for over 15 years; and the fall festival to name just a few. Your membership will help us to add more services including a second clean-up event this fall. Dues will be the deciding factor as to whether or not the second clean-up is feasible.

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 2016 rate increase to help defray costs of running

Your support funds all special programs and services including this newspaper, a part-time staff, website/Facebook, the annual Santa visit, and a community scholarship. The BHA is currently exploring new initiatives with county and state officials including a new dog park and funding for Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia Pinecrest Road improvements.

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! 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, May 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.

Tuesday, May 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.

Thursday, May 19, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Master Deputy Curtis Warren, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

BHA BRIEFS

April Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

General – Several residents attended last month's board meeting. The hot topic concerned ways to improve safety and security in the community. The board is researching options including promoting individual neighborhood watch programs, encouraging resident involvement in the HCSO Citizens Patrol program and the feasibility of hiring off-duty patrol officers for a "Community Cop" program. This program would require funding the BHA does not currently have and would require much community support. Another initiative discussed was the National Night Out program. This would also require individual neighborhood support. Details will be released when decisions are made.

Deed Update – The Association is preparing a list of neighborhood standards based solely on county code ordinances. The BHA through the county code department

will report and enforce these standards. Residents may continue to report violations and remain anonymous.

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

2016 Scholarship Winner Announced
The BHA is proud to announce Jacob Miller, BSHS senior, as the winner of the \$2,000 community scholarship. The BHA will present the scholarship at the May 10 board meeting.



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

Fall Festival is Oct. 22! More Information to Come!

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



Meet Your BHA Board

By Suzanne Jones

Villas of Bloomingdale resident, Bobbi Ferraro, recently retired from her long-held executive position at Raymond James Financial and plans to enjoy life to the fullest, including travel. That doesn't mean she has sunset her commitment right here in Bloomingdale. To the contrary—Ferraro's full steam ahead.

The mother of two and grandmother twice over is an inspiration to family and friends, using her boundless energy to volunteer in numerous ways. The Villas of Bloomingdale HOA President is also a Tampa Bay RIMS (Risk Management Society) board member. "Staying involved with RIMS allows me to help plan our annual charity luncheon for the benefit of Metropolitan Ministries," she stated. Keeping her calendar full, Ferraro also enjoys planning Homecoming and Gasparilla events with her University of Tampa sorority sisters.

And, for the past 7 months, she has served the community as a Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Director-at-Large. Why, with a full life of travel, family, and volunteer commitments, would this busy woman offer her time to the BHA? Clearly, it's her appreciation of the Bloomingdale community.

"I have wonderful friends and neighbors in my sub-division," commented Ferraro. "I truly appreciate the family atmosphere, excellent schools, and all of the great friendships over the past eighteen years!"

Serving on the BHA Board has enabled the outgoing resident to meet many new Bloomingdale neighbors and contribute with her fellow board members to making community events special for all. "My vision for Bloomingdale is to keep the friendly, safe environment for our current and future residents."

As for the BHA, she plans to help continue efforts to maintain the aesthetics (and property values) of the homes in the community. "This will help keep Bloomingdale the special place that it is to live and raise our families."



Ferraro gets busy at the BHA's annual Santa event last December. Over the last seven months, she has been an invaluable member of the board and community.



BHA Board member Bobbi Ferraro and her son Joe at retirement festivities honoring her 25 years of service with Raymond James Financial. She brings a wealth of experience and talents to the BHA.

Photos: Bobbi Ferraro

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THIS WEEKEND

Sunflowers on the Ranch / May 7-8 / 10 a.m.-5 p.m. / Single R Ranch / 3002 Charlie Taylor Road, Plant City / Visit this unique event where you are surrounded by dazzling sunflowers and brightly colored zinnias. Bring your camera and enjoy a nature walk and indulge in some good ole fashioned pulled pork and lemonade. Shop in The Ranch Store where you will find antiques and more. Games, arts and crafts and vendors complete your day. "U Cut Flowers" also available (bring your own bucket and shears please). Adults 18 and older \$8; Children \$7 (+ tax); ages two and under free of charge. Parking fee of \$1. For information, visit www.foxsqurrelcornmaze.com.



Relay for Life "Cutathon" Hosted by Kim Mitchell with Stacia Michaels / May 22 / 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. / Located at Salons by JC / 3348 Lithia Pinecrest Rd / All Proceeds go to The American Cancer Society. Services offered: Woman's haircut \$50, Blow Dry Style \$30 and Men's haircut \$25. Call or Text Kim at 813-417-6691 for an appointment. New Guests Only Please.



Staying Balanced INSIDE & OUT / May 23 / 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. / Brandon Community Center / 502 E. Sadie Street, Brandon / Better Living for Seniors Hillsborough presents a FREE event open to the public - Q&A with Health Experts, Exhibits, Free Hearing Check, Games and an Exercise Demonstration. Enjoy free refreshments and great information! To learn more, call the Call Brandon Community Center at 813-635-8179 or email michelle@mydreamsupport.com.

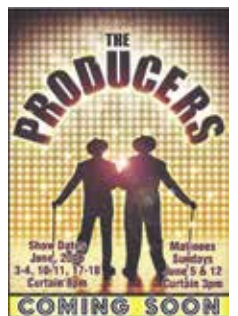
ONGOING

Dementia Support Group / May 20 and continuing every 3rd Friday each month / 1:30-3:30 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / Learn more about dementia at this support group for family and friends. Topics include communication, safety and security for your home and the individual, caregiver sanity, and care options. Facilitated by Jill Andrew of Superior Residences of Brandon Memory Care. Non-members welcome. For information, call 813-684-1371.

UPCOMING

Bet a Buck Charity Auction for the Arts / June 3 / 6:30-9:30 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / A fun and inexpensive way to get GREAT stuff and support the arts! Purchase your paddle, then bid! Never pay more than \$3 for an item! \$20 includes auction paddle, finger foods, wine, and beer. Space is limited; make reservations today. Call 813-685-8888 or visit www.centerplacebrandon.org for more information.

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



Veteran and Military Family Initiative / May 10 / 10 a.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Rd / Help the Campo Y serve you and your family! Join veteran Keely Seymour for a brainstorming session. Stop by the Welcome Center to sign in or call 813-684-1371 for information.

Celebrating One Year: Shaunessy's Décor & More

By Miriam Leech

Bloomington resident Shaunessy Dobish celebrated the 1-year anniversary of her eponymous home décor store on April 2 and 3 with huge discounts as well as complimentary sweets, food, and Mimosas. Said Dobish, "The store has been a work of passion, but it has brought together the greatest, loving, hard-working people I could ever dream of."

Shaunessy's Décor & More is warm and inviting, housed in a two-story house and patio with well-decorated rooms and offering décor items as well as custom design packages for all budgets. The store is located at 3619 Lithia Pinecrest Road, across from the Car Wash on the Greens. Store hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The parking lot is newly paved and waiting for you to drop in!

Photo: Shaunessy's



Staff Report



Photo: David Garcia

Coming Soon! Commissioner White has agreed to pen a column in the Bloomingdale Gazette. He will focus on subjects of interest to the community. Have a question or issue you would like to see addressed? Email inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com. You must provide your issue and contact information.

By Miriam Leech

Four-year-old Y kid Titus, disguised as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Raphael, enjoyed math games at the Mathnasium of Brandon table. Other vendors included, Carr Pediatric Dentistry, Birthdays to Banquets, Publix, Pediatric Associates, King of Bounce, Tutoring Club, Dream Vacations, Walgreens, and many, many more.



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The Community’s Common Area Connection

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

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Bloomingdale was created in the eighties. Since that time, the community has blossomed into a beautiful neighborhood that we can all be proud to call home. However, those years do present us with challenges. The community infrastructure is aging and in need of attention. One visible area undergoing repairs and improvements is the community’s irrigation system.

TAX INCREASE VOTE

The BSTD board’s intent is to maintain and in fact, improve the community. To do this, more funds are needed. In August during the Primary Election, they will be asking the community to step up and vote for an increase in the annual special tax assessment.

Currently, residents pay a \$130 ad valorem tax earmarked for the special taxing district as a portion of their annual Hillsborough County property taxes. This tax covers all common area services provided by the BSTD including common area maintenance, repair and improvement. Community landscaping, while a large part of the BSTD budget is just one of many services resident tax dollars cover.

The \$130 tax no longer covers all expenses incurred in the community and some difficult choices have to be made. When the time comes, your vote is needed to help keep Bloomingdale a great place to live.



Last month, vandals tore down nearly 75 feet of creeping fig off Garnet Road. Repair costs for this vandalism including repainting and replanting had not been totaled at press time. The BSTD have been covering the walls in Bloomingdale with fig. This helps with costs and adds to the green environment that deters speeding cars. This fig is the property of the BSTD. If destruction costs are more than \$1,000, it is a 2nd degree Misdemeanor Felony.



On Culbreath Road, vehicles driving on the right of way continue to damage the turf. These repairs are costly requiring soil and new sod.

Photos: Joe Harless, BSTD Property Manager

BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT



3509 Bell Shoals Road
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(813) 684-2358 Fax
BSTD@verizon.net

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Tom Leech, Trustee

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: RECENT “OTHER” EXPENSES

These are just some of the costs incurred by the BSTD on the community’s behalf aside from normal landscaping maintenance and irrigation repairs. With nearly \$15,000 spent recently for repairs, you can see that your support of the tax increase in the upcoming August election is needed more than ever.

- Community Signs repainted and repaired - \$5,460
- Canoga Park Drive Wall Repair due to age/ removal and reinstallation of plants - \$4,302
- Wall Pressure Washing - \$2,271
- April Vandalism: lights deliberately broken, plants stolen and vehicles driving on grass - \$1,217
- Yellow Jack nest removal on Culbreath – \$275

This August, vote YES for Bloomingdale!

CONSTRUCTION

Information is current as of deadline and subject to change.

BLOOMINGDALE AVENUE AND CULBREATH ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT



Tampa Electric technicians are busy completing work on the traffic signals at the intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road. Officials are now estimating a mid-2016 completion date.



SPEED LIMIT REDUCED!

The speed limit on Bloomingdale Avenue across from the new Crest Pointe Shopping area is now 30 mph.



Update



PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS COMPLEX (PSOC)

Construction is progressing on the Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Complex (PSOC) located off Falkenburg Road. The complex is scheduled for completion this summer just in time for the 2016 hurricane season!



CREST POINTE TOWNE SHOPPES (CPTS) TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Drivers have created their own left turn lane at the CPTS exit to Bloomingdale Avenue. County officials have been made aware of the situation.



ACE HARDWARE IS MOVING!

After decades of providing outstanding service to the Bloomingdale community Ace Hardware is in the process of having a new store built on Bloomingdale Avenue just west of the Wells Fargo Bank near Bryan Road.



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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.



Summer's a Bummer

Oh, how I miss winter. Well, not the frigid winds and grim days part of it. And I don't exactly miss stepping from my warm shower into a blast of Arctic air. I don't suppose it's so much that I miss winter as it is that I dread summer. I have, after all, just spent several blissful months enveloped in layers of comfy camouflage. And now along comes summer with its unreasonable demand that I shed my wooly security and don what amounts to the adult version of a "Onesie." It's not fair. But it is consistent.

I can remember way back in high school when my friend Myrna wanted to fix me up with a blind date for the annual Beach Frolic. Now, let's face it: When you have a body like mine, there is no such thing as a Beach "Frolic." Disaster, yes. Catastrophe, definitely. But "Frolic?" Never. I recall Myrna asking, "Well, how should I describe you?" "Tell him I have lovely eyes, a devastating smile and adorable dimples." "I've never noticed that you have dimples." "That's because you've never seen me in a bathing suit." "If I tell him you have dimples, he'll be expecting to see them in your cheeks." "He won't be disappointed." "Your other cheeks."

Oh, the years have passed, but with memories like that, is it any wonder I hate swimsuit season? It's very difficult for a person whose mother raised her on such pearls of haute couture wisdom as, "Buy the one with the 'little boy' legs. They hide a multitude of sins" to adjust to a world where "The Thong's The Thing".

Where do swimsuit designers hatch their harebrained ideas anyway? How many women do you really know who can afford to be seen in public wearing a bathing suit with a "tummy cut-out?" If we could "cut out" our tummies, we would already have done it. What escaped lunatic came up with the "high rise cut?" One lives in a "high rise." One may perhaps work in a "high rise." One does not wear a "high rise."

And there is the "Thong," bathing attire obviously inspired by what we used to call a "wedgie." The only people who can actually wear a "thong" and get away with it live in Borneo.

Do you perchance have any idea when fashion designers are going to come up with a bathing suit that flatters the figure of the average woman? Oh, you do? When? Hmmmmmm. Well, how long, exactly, will it take to freeze over?



Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

Renovations – Look before you leap

In a world with popular networks like HGTV and DIY, buyers have developed unrealistic expectations about what renovations entail and how much they will increase the value of a property. It is true that upgrades add to the appeal of a home and may even help it sell faster but when it comes to an appraisal, comparable homes dictate the market value and shiny granite countertops are unlikely to increase its value.

As more millennials enter the market place, they have been groomed to believe they can afford all of the bells and whistles, and if they can't, they'll just renovate. These television shows lead buyers to believe that renovations are easy and costs can simply be added on to the overall mortgage when in reality, renovation loans are not easy to come by and include lots of strings and hoops. It's also dangerous to start a renovation without any experience. It could open up more problems and lead to higher costs, leaving buyers in a very costly and unfortunate situation.

Neighborhood Snapshot - Oakcrest

Oakcrest is comprised of 483 homes and was established in 1985. The average square footage of homes sold here in the last year was 1,586 square feet with an average sales price of \$163,000 making it an ideal neighborhood for first time homebuyers and investors. 34 homes sold in the



By Ryan Brantley

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-924-8187

Ryan@RyanBrantley.org

www.chaddertongroup.com

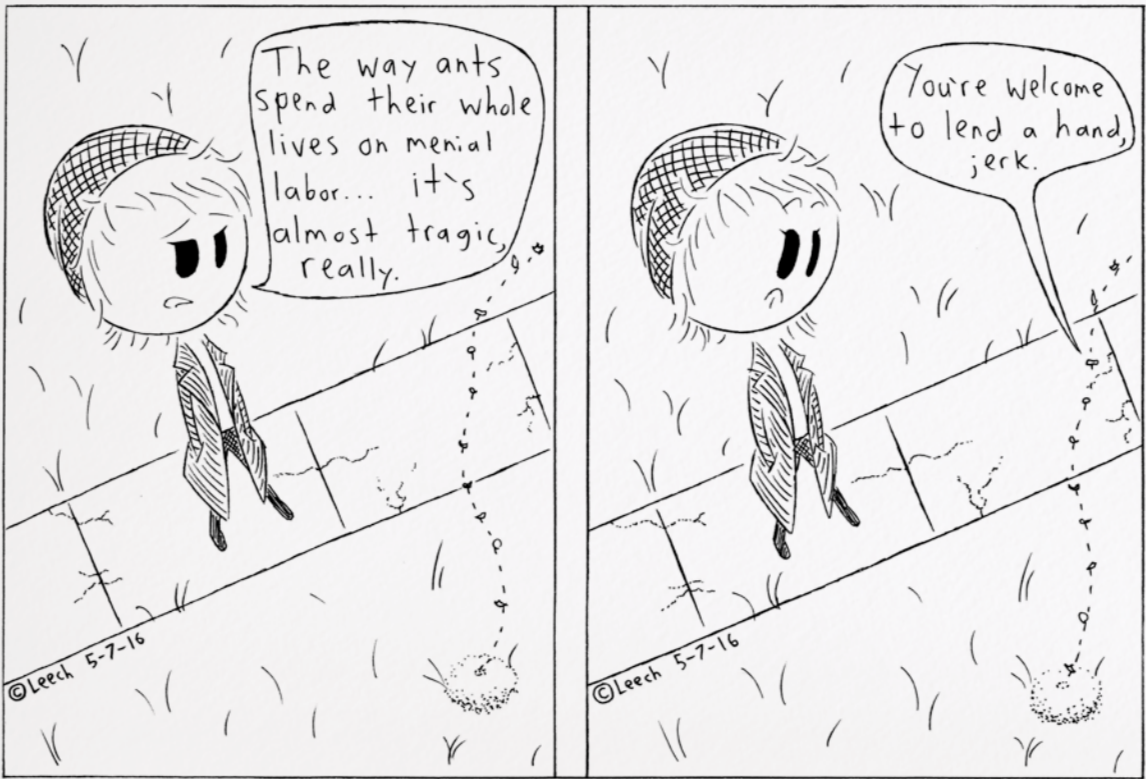
last year and there are currently two properties that are actively for sale and three under contract. First time homebuyers flock to this area due to the affordable prices within excellent school districts. It is also centrally located between both Cimino and Alafia Elementary schools with easy access to Lithia Pinecrest via Erindale.

** MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold April 28, 2015 through April 28, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*

Michigan

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

MichiGon by Will Leech



How far away should I stand from the ball?

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

The length of your clubs and your posture should dictate how far away you stand from the ball. There is one constant: the distance between each club and your body is about the same.

Easy measure: The width of your hand is how much space there is between your left thigh and the butt end of your club.

If you stand too close or too far away from the ball at address, your swing will automatically adjust to find a more natural and comfortable swing path and plane.

In either case, it will very often cause you to strike the ball out on the toe (hands too far away) or on the heel (hands too close)...shanks.

Next month: How to let your eyes do the hard work in lag putting (distance control). Any questions or for lessons, call J.D. (813) 957-3205.



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Your Summer Starts Here!

Schools is almost out and summer vacation is right around the corner. After the initial excitement dies down, many parents are sure to hear the dreaded words "I'm bored." Be ready.

There are many summer camps in our area. The following is a small sample of camps and activities available for all ages and interests. And, don't forget to check out the offerings at the Bloomingdale Library; many are free!

Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center / Weekly Summer Camps, June 8-August 21 / 405 Beverly Blvd. / The Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center (BSAC) has the most comprehensive summer camp in the greater Brandon area for ages 3-14, offering swimming, tennis, diving, and more. Each child has the option to attend summer camp per day or per week. Full-day program, 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m., \$145/child/week. Half-day program, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. or 1-6:30 p.m., \$85/child/week. One-day drop-in with advance notice, \$35/child/day. Registration fee, \$35. Weekly Themes include: Aloha to Summer (June 13 - 17), It's A Jungle Out There (June 20 - 24), Super Sleuth (June 27- July 1), Around the World (July 5- 8), Game Mania (July 11 - 15), Let It Snow (July 18 - 22), Imaginarium (July 25 - 29), Summer Olympics (Aug 1 - 5). For information, call 813-689-0908.



Kids R Kids Learning Academy of Valrico / Summer Games 2016 Camp, June 13-August 5 / 4321 Lynx Paw Trail / Campers ages 5-12 will experience the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, exploring participating countries' cultures, customs, cuisine, and more. Add to that games designed to instill confidence, encourage teamwork, and foster fun. Cost \$155/week for new families only and includes field trips, meals, and transportation. Weekly Themes include: June 13: The Greek Story, June 20: USA Strong, June 27: Rio de Janeiro in 2016/The Pride of Spain, July 5: Bowling to Beijing, July 11: Italy Competes, July 18: The Brits, July 25: Mighty Africa, and August 1: Hola Mexico/Got Games. For information, call 813-657-6200.



R&R Ranch / Summer Camps, June 13-August 5 / 9805 Bryant Road / R&R Ranch specializes in horse experiences for ages 5-14. Campers enjoy daily trail and hay rides while learning about grooming and the care of horses and farm animals. Field trips, pony rides, and pony painting are offered, as well as movies and popcorn in the air-conditioned camp house and a petting zoo. Day Camp, \$50/day; Beginner Camp, \$195/week; 4-Day Camps, \$175; 3 Extra Lessons, \$50. \$50 deposit required. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., but young campers may elect to leave earlier as camp can be exhausting! For information, call 813-653-3819 or visit www.rrranchlithia.com.



Bloomingdale Bulls Basketball Day Camps (For Boys and Girls of All Skill Levels) / Bloomingdale High School / June 13-16, June 20-23 & June 27-30 at \$75.00 per session / 1700 E. Bloomingdale Ave / Come run with the Bulls this summer! Camps are Monday-Thursday for students entering grades 4-9. Emphasis will be fundamental skills and sportsmanship. Campers are grouped according to age, size, and ability and will participate in daily skills instruction and drills. Each will receive a premium camp t-shirt. Sessions are limited to 40 Campers. Registration may be mailed and check-in begins at 8:15 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. each Monday. Make checks payable to: Bloomingdale High School and mail to: Head Coach Joe Willis, Bloomingdale High School, Valrico, FL 33596. RSVP to hold space. For information, call Willis at 813-298-3448 or email joseph.willis@sdhc.k12.fl.us org.



The Village Early Learning Center / Engineering, Arts, and Science Camp / June 13-16, June 20-23 & June 27-30 at \$75.00 per session / 1700 E. Bloomingdale Ave / Come run with the Bulls this summer! Camps are Monday-Thursday for students entering grades 4-9. Emphasis will be fundamental skills and sportsmanship. Campers are grouped according to age, size, and ability and will participate in daily skills instruction and drills. Each will receive a premium camp t-shirt. Sessions are limited to 40 Campers. Registration may be mailed and check-in begins at 8:15 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. each Monday. Make checks payable to: Bloomingdale High School and mail to: Head Coach Joe Willis, Bloomingdale High School, Valrico, FL 33596. RSVP to hold space. For information, call Willis at 813-298-3448 or email joseph.willis@sdhc.k12.fl.us org.



The Campo YMCA splash pool is a great summer activity for the whole family.

The Florida Academy of Performing Arts (FAOPA) / Music and More Camps, June 13-August 5 / Music Showcase, 402 Oakfield Drive, Brandon / Summer camp for ages 5 and up at the FAOPA allow a child's creativity to surface through music, acting, singing, guitar, and drums. Acting in musicals will be offered—Knight at Dawn Kids, Fiddler on the Roof, High School Musical, and HONK! Cost \$175/week with one-time \$25 registration fee per student (includes t-shirt and recorder), 9 a.m.-5 p.m., with free early drop off and late pick up available. Pay for a day option, \$35/day. For information, call 813-490-2787 or visit www.faopa.org.



Rolling Pin Kitchen Baking Camps / June 14-August 5 / 402 Oakfield Drive, Brandon / Summer camp for ages 5 and up at the Rolling Pin Summer Cooking Camp allow a child's creativity to surface through different cooking themes. Each child will receive a pair of apron, toe shoes and a restraining apron. The goal is to encourage your child to have fun while building a life-long love for cooking. FUN provided! \$200/week. For information, call 813-490-2787 or visit www.rollingpinbaking.com.

Learning Center / STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Camps, June 13-August 5 / 3741

The Village ELC offers STEAM-focused activities with professional coaches; lunch and snacks included in the cost; transportation to field trips; and affordable rates for K-5: \$55/week; one-time \$85 registration fee. There is a field trip, and the camp tee shirt (required on field trips) must be in their classrooms by 9 a.m. in order to participate. Swim lessons and Aquatic activities are available for an additional fee. Details—space is limited—has begun. Call 813-651-0779 or visit www.villageelc.com.



Daily. Gazette File Photos

Kitchen Emporium / Kids and Tweens Summer Cooking Camp, June 13-August 5 / 2080 Badlands Drive, Brandon / Rolling Pin Kitchen Emporium camps teach new skills in the kitchen! Camps have sessions each week! The only things you need are closed-toed shoes for shoulder length hair. Students learn to use all kitchen appliances safely under adult supervision. Our goal is for each child to be a help in the kitchen and learn to have fun while practicing good skills. All the ingredients, tools, and equipment are provided. Cost: \$15/child/week (4 daily sessions); register before May 15. Kids (ages 6-9) 9-11 a.m. Tweens (ages 10-12) 1:30-4 p.m. Call 813-653-2418.



TechPlayZone / Summer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Camps beginning June 20/ Bell Shoals Baptist Church - The Annex, 2102 Bell Shoals Road / Hands on, high-tech camps for kids ages 7 - 12 offer robotics, Minecraft, science experiments, App Inventor, and 3D printing. Campers learn how to design, program, problem solve, create, and have fun. Attend one week of TechPlayZone Camp or all four weeks. Cost \$125/week, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Campers will be placed in either 3D printing or App Inventor based on their interest level and or skill. Weekly Themes: June 20-24: Rocket Science (Physics and Energy), July 11-15: Chem-Is-Try (Chemistry), July 25-29: Circuit Breakers (Electricity), and August 1-5: Deep Space (Stars, Moon, Planets). For information, visit www.techplayzone.com.



Saladino Baseball Academy / Summer Baseball Camps beginning June 20 / Brandon Sports & Aquatic Center (BSAC), 405 Beverly Blvd., Brandon / Saladino Baseball Academy has partnered with BSAC to host 5 weeks of summer camps for ages 6-12. Each child will need to bring a lunch AND their baseball equipment (glove, bat, helmet, and protective cup) every day. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Cost \$115/week, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Full-day camp available 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m., \$165/week and full-day campers must bring swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen. Camp Weeks: June 20-24, June 27-July 1, July 11-15, 25-29, and August 1-5. For information, call 813-684-8226 or visit www.saldinobaseballacademy.com.



The Peacock's Plume / Christian Curriculum Summer Camps, June 13-August 5 / 1094 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / Camps offer a rigorous Christian curriculum along with a language program for ages 6 weeks to 5 years. There is a sign-language program for babies-up to 2 years old. There is a foreign language program for the 3- and 4-year olds including Mandarin Chinese and Spanish instruction. A free summer VPK program is available for students going to kindergarten in the fall but who have not attended VPK. Camps are \$125/week. Weekly Themes: June 13: Circus Fun, June 20: Travel & Vacation, June 27: Water Fun, July 5: In God We Trust, July 11: We Are Chefs, July 18: Imagination Fun, July 25: Teddy Bear Picnic, and August 1: Back to School Bash. For information, call 813-684-0700 or visit www.thepeacocksplume.com.



Mathnasium of Brandon / Summer Mini-Camps / beginning June 20 / 1048 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / Mathnasium of Brandon offers mini-camps as well as other summer options to keep children on top of math. Multiplication Camp will focus on multiplication. We will be using Mathnasium curriculum along with other games and manipulatives to enhance the learning experience. Rising 3rd through 6th grade. June 20-23 or July 18-21; 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; \$89. Light snacks provided each day. Equation Camp will focus on Algebraic equations, which will enhance your student's addition/subtraction and multiplication/division and provide problem-solving strategies. Rising 3rd through 6th grade. June 27-30 or July 25-28; 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; \$89. Light snacks provided each day. For information, call 813-655-6284.



Campo Family YMCA / Weekly Summer Camps, June 13-August 5 / 3414 Culbreath Road / YMCA camps offer educational adventures and exciting exploration for kindergarten through 8th grade. Camps start at \$135 per week, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with extended care from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. at no additional charge. Themes include: June 13: Movies-Red Carpet, June 20: Super Heroes-Hall of Heroes, June 27: Decades, July 5: Around the World/USA, July 11: Holiday Week, July 18: Carnival, July 25: Secret Agent, and August 1: Olympics/Color Wars. For detailed information or to register online, visit www.tampaymca.org.



Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / Art Workshops beginning June 20 / 619 Vonderburg Drive / At Center Place, 7 to 16-year-old students can learn about painting, drawing, pottery, modeling, and more. Classes are offered 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and include art journaling, art mural, photography, 3-D masks, pottery, paper sculptures, recycled art, space art, and more. All classes require advance registration and payment. Sign up at Center Place. Payment must be received at the time of registration. Call 813-685-8888 or visit www.CenterPlaceBrandon.org.



Realistic Fitness: Setting and Reaching Your Goals

By Kevin Marcoux



Bloomington resident and owner of Eternal Muscles, Kevin Marcoux lives and breathes fitness. He attended Burns Middle and Bloomington High Schools and he is a military veteran. His goal is "to slow the aging clock through unique healthy and empowering workouts." Periodically, Kevin will share his extensive fitness knowledge with our readers. Questions? Email him at Fitnezz.Trainer@gmail.com.

Whether starting a workout program or already a long-time fitness enthusiast, a fitness professional can help you reach your goals or take your fitness regimen to the next level.

This Month: Reasons to Contact a Certified Fitness Professional

1. Not Seeing Results - After exercising consistently and not reaching your goals, hiring a certified professional may be a good choice. The trainer can look at your current program and make changes to produce more effective results.
2. Don't Know Where to Start - A fitness expert can create a complete exercise program that includes cardio, weight training and flexibility that maximizes your time while ensuring you don't overdo it.
3. Boring Workouts - An instructor can bring a fresh perspective and challenging new ideas to your routines. New workouts add variety and help to keep the beginner on track and the seasoned fitness enthusiast motivated.
4. Not Challenged - If it is easy to slack off, especially when things get tough. A trainer can push past self-imposed limits, encouraging you to lift heavier and go longer.
5. Learn How to Exercise on your Own - A fitness professional can teach the right way to exercise. Even a few sessions can teach you a lot about how to train effectively.
6. Need Accountability and Motivation - Trainers come with built-in motivation. Not only are you investing money into an exercise program...you're investing time as well. Consistency is key!
7. Specific Illness, Injury or Condition - An experienced professional can help create an individually tailored program for a safe, effective workout.
8. Training for a Sport or Event - Make sure your trainer has experience in the sport you're training for as not all instructors do sport-specific training. A trainer can make sure your preparation does not take away from your normal fitness regimen.



INs & OUTs

By Mack Austin

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT STOPPING POWER, PHONE AND/OR CABLE OUTAGES

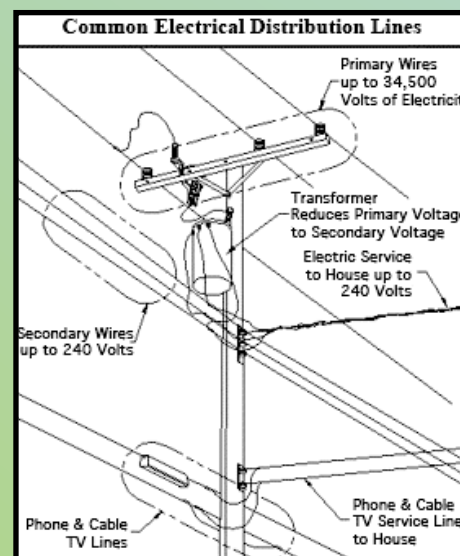
Anyone who has experienced an extended power, phone or cable outage knows what an inconvenience these can be. Tampa Electric, Bright House Services and Frontier all have proactive programs that work to prevent these types of incidents. One program is to identify transmission lines that have tree limbs growing in or near the lines. Once identified, the responsible agency will trim and remove the overgrowth.

Residents can really help this effort by reporting these issues to the correct service provider. So how can you help?

Identify the type of line affected by a tree limb hazard. There are two main types of transmission lines: power and communication. In the diagram below, power lines are the upper lines while communications lines are the lower lines. Once identified, contact the responsible organization for assistance.

Hurricane season is just two months away. Do your part to help prevent outages by identifying possible problems with tree limbs in transmission lines in your area.

For tree overgrowth in power lines, call TECO at 813-223-0800. In communication lines, call Bright House at 813-684-6400 or Frontier at 1-800-921-8101.



This graphic shows transmission line types and identification by location.

Graphic: TECO



Photo: Mack Austin

The communications lines at Bloomington Avenue and Bryan Road were obscured by tree overgrowth, which could have caused a loss of services to residents in our area. A call to Bright House Services resulted in the limbs being trimmed.

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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 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.

Bromeliads...Beautiful, Exotic and Easy

By Gwen Graverson

Bromeliads are the perfect plant especially if you are a bit absentminded about plant care – they require very little attention and reward you with exotic foliage and beautiful blooms that last many weeks, to several months. Florida is home to 16 native species of bromeliads and most are tropical/subtropical and can be grown either in/outdoors in areas that get indirect sunlight.

Tips for the perfect bromeliad:

1. Often called “air plants,” bromeliads grow on other plants. First, identify the name/type of bromeliad that you have or want to grow. The more information you gather will help you achieve success.
2. Determine what type of planting material to use – use bromeliad specific potting mixes. Different varieties have different soil needs. If a “fast drainer,” the soil mixture can hold more moisture. Mix two parts ordinary potting mix with one part perlite or sand. If the plant’s leaves hold water, use a coarsely packed, well-draining potting mix, or mix your own with equal parts pine bark nuggets, or mulch, perlite, and soil-less professional potting mix.
3. If planting indoors, plastic pots will hold moisture for longer periods and are a good option for homes with low humidity.
4. While Bromeliads can handle dry conditions, water when the top two inches are dry and keep the base of the plant moist. Never use a metal watering can, as trace amounts of metal that enter the water have a negative impact on the plant.

If your bromeliad has a cup or cylinder in the center of the leaves, keep it filled with rainwater/distilled water vs. tap water (especially if it’s hard water). Mosquitoes may breed in the standing water, but can be held at bay by adding a biological, mosquito control product available from garden centers and home supply stores. With outdoor plants, know when to water and avoid high temperatures; heated water can burn your plant.

5. Bromeliads typically only flower once...but the lifespan may cover several years before it dies. Look for buds of new plants call “pups” under the base of the lowest leaves. Once the pup has had six months of growth, cut them off near the base with a sharp knife and plant them in separate pots (for indoor plants).

Two local organizations are dedicated to the beautiful bromeliad, see boxed insert. These organizations are a great way for the novice bromeliad grower to begin what could be a life-long love affair with the unique plant.

For general information on bromeliad care, check out www.wikihow.com/Care-for-a-Bromeliad or Bromeliads at a Glance by Sydney Park Brown on the UF/IFAS Extension website <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep337>.



In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt. ~ Margaret Atwood

TODAY!

Honoring “Mother” Nature

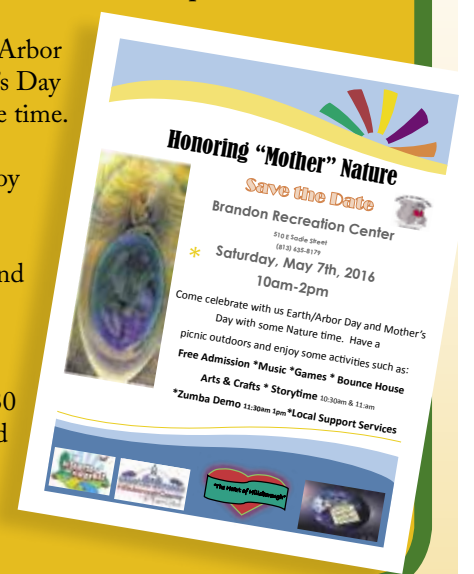
Brandon Recreation Center
510 E Sadie Street
(813) 635-8179

Saturday, May 7th, 2016 - 10am-2pm

Celebrate Earth/Arbor Day and Mother’s Day with some Nature time.

Have a picnic outdoors and enjoy Free Admission, Music, Games, Bounce House, and Arts & Crafts .

There will be Storytime at 10:30 a.m. & 11a.m. and a Zumba Demo at 11:30 a.m. and More!



For the love of Bromeliads!

The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church, 821 South Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa (Mary Martha Center, room 201-202). For information, contact Tom Wolfe, 813-961-1476 or e-mail: bromeliadsociety@juno.com.

Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society (FWCBS) meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Boulevard in Pinellas Park. For information, call or e-mail Judy Lund at 727-439-7782 or glund@tampabay.rr.com. or, visit their website at floridabromeliads.org,

Don't Miss this! The FWCBS will host the University of South Florida (USF) Botanical Gardens Summer Plant Sale June 25 and 26. Information is available at www.cas.usf.edu/garden.



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



Graphic: www.HCSO.com

MONTHLY BACC

At the April Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC), we discussed the traffic, scams, bicycle registration, and vehicle and residential burglaries in the Bloomingdale area. Our BACC meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Station located at 3622 Erindale Drive.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office completed 262 traffic stops between March 1 and April 22 in the Bloomingdale and surrounding area known as the Juliet 4 zone.

SPEED LIMIT CHANGE ON BL AVE

Drivers should have noticed new speed limit signs posted along Bloomingdale Avenue east of Bloomingdale High School near Lithia Pinecrest Road. Installed by Hillsborough County Public Works, the new speed limit signs reduce the speed limit to 30 mph from the previous 45 mph limit.

Cpl. Greg Wynn, District IV Traffic Coordinator, provided a reason for the recent change in the speed zone on Bloomingdale Avenue: Safe drivers will recognize that increased development and recreational facilities nearby require careful and prudent attention to posted speed limits. If more drivers travel at about the same speed, it will reduce the likelihood of crashes. Crashes cost money, crashes cost time, and most importantly, crashes cost lives. Please drive carefully.

If you haven't noticed the new speed limit signs, you may have noticed more flashing red and blue lights. Be a safe driver and know your limit...your speed limit that is!

VEHICLE BURGLARIES

Vehicle burglaries are a continuing issue in the Bloomingdale Community. The unlocked vehicles are an open invitation for thieves to do what they do best! This type of crime is known as "Car Hopping." Never leave valuables in sight!

The time it takes for a thief to break into a car and steal your valuables is 30 seconds... to secure your valuables takes 20 seconds! When you leave your vehicle unlocked, it is like giving permission to take whatever the thieves want.

There was recently a string of vehicle burglaries, **all unlocked**, in the area. One of the vehicle burglaries quickly became a burglary of a residence. Thieves gained access to the vehicle via an unlocked door. Then, the thieves used the vehicle's garage door opener to open the garage and remove items valued at over a thousand dollars.

Within a short period, three neighborhoods were targeted and numerous vehicles entered. All of the burglarized vehicles had something in common: They were **UNLOCKED!**

DON'T BE AN EASY TARGET!

- Always close your windows and lock car doors.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight.
- Park where your car will be seen frequently.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Install and use a car alarm.
- Never leave an unattended vehicle with the engine running, even for a minute. This is a State law.
- If possible, park in a garage with the door secured.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

There were 10 reported residential burglaries between March 1 and April 22. The majority of residential burglaries are easily prevented by doing one thing: Keep your garage door closed.

There are thieves that drive or walk by your home looking for an opportunity to remove bicycles, golf clubs and tools from open garages. They do this while you are inside your home or in the back yard. The good news is that when residents take the time to lock their vehicles and close their garage doors they are protecting their valuables and possessions.

When residents get better at protecting their personal property, crime goes down. When you take away a criminal's opportunity to commit a crime, you do your part to help fight crime.

Please continue to lock your vehicles, lock your homes, close your garage doors and secure your valuables. The HCSO Community Outreach Division offers confidential free security surveys for your home, office or business. Call 813-247-8115 for information.

FRAUD

There are many phone scams – popular ones are the IRS, computer virus, grandparent and jury scams. The first line of defense is to let calls go to voice mail if you do not recognize the phone number.

While these calls may sound legitimate, remember:

- the IRS and the court system (jury duty) do not request pre-paid cards as payment,
- Microsoft does not call you about a virus on your computer,
- if you think your grandchild has gotten into trouble and needs money, hang up and call a family member to make sure it is not a scam.
- if a person or organization is requesting you send payment via gift cards, MoneyGram or Western Union, it is just like handing them cash. Cash you will never get back.

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

To properly dispose of medication, go to any district office. Offices are open 24 hours and do not accept liquids medications. The closest district offices are District II at 2310 N. Falkenburg Road and District IV at 508 33rd Street SE, Ruskin. There are no Operation Medicine Cabinet events scheduled until later in the year but we will keep you informed!



HELP PREVENT CRIME: OBSERVE AND REPORT!

If you see any suspicious activity or crimes in progress, observe and note details so you can give a good description of the suspect and or vehicle. Call HCSO Dispatch at 813-247-8200 immediately!

PROTECT YOUR BIKE

By Community Resource Officer Sandy Capitano

Bicycle thefts in our area is a growing issue. To help combat this problem, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) established the "Bicycle Theft Prevention and Registration Program." If a bicycle is either lost or stolen and the owner has properly registered it, the HCSO will be able to return the bicycle to its owner if it is found or have the serial number on hand to help with the investigation. The success of the program is dependent upon having the bike's serial number noted in your records and registered through the HCSO program.

To register, Bloomingdale residents can contact the Bloomingdale Community Station at 816-635-8040 to make an appointment. Download the bicycle registration form by going to www.hcso.tampa.fl.us. Search for "Bicycle Theft Program" and click on the "Bicycle Registration Form." Copy the form, fill it out and bring it with you to the Community Station at 3622 Erindale Drive.

Registration takes 10 minutes. The owner completes a registration form. Information is entered into the HCSO system and a sticker is applied to the bike. If the bike is stolen or found, the information can be found via the name, serial number or sticker number. Even if the sticker is removed, the bicycle's owner can still be found via the serial number or the name. NOTE: take a good photo of your bicycle to help with proper identification as well.

Remember, call for an appointment!



Graphic: www.HCSO.com



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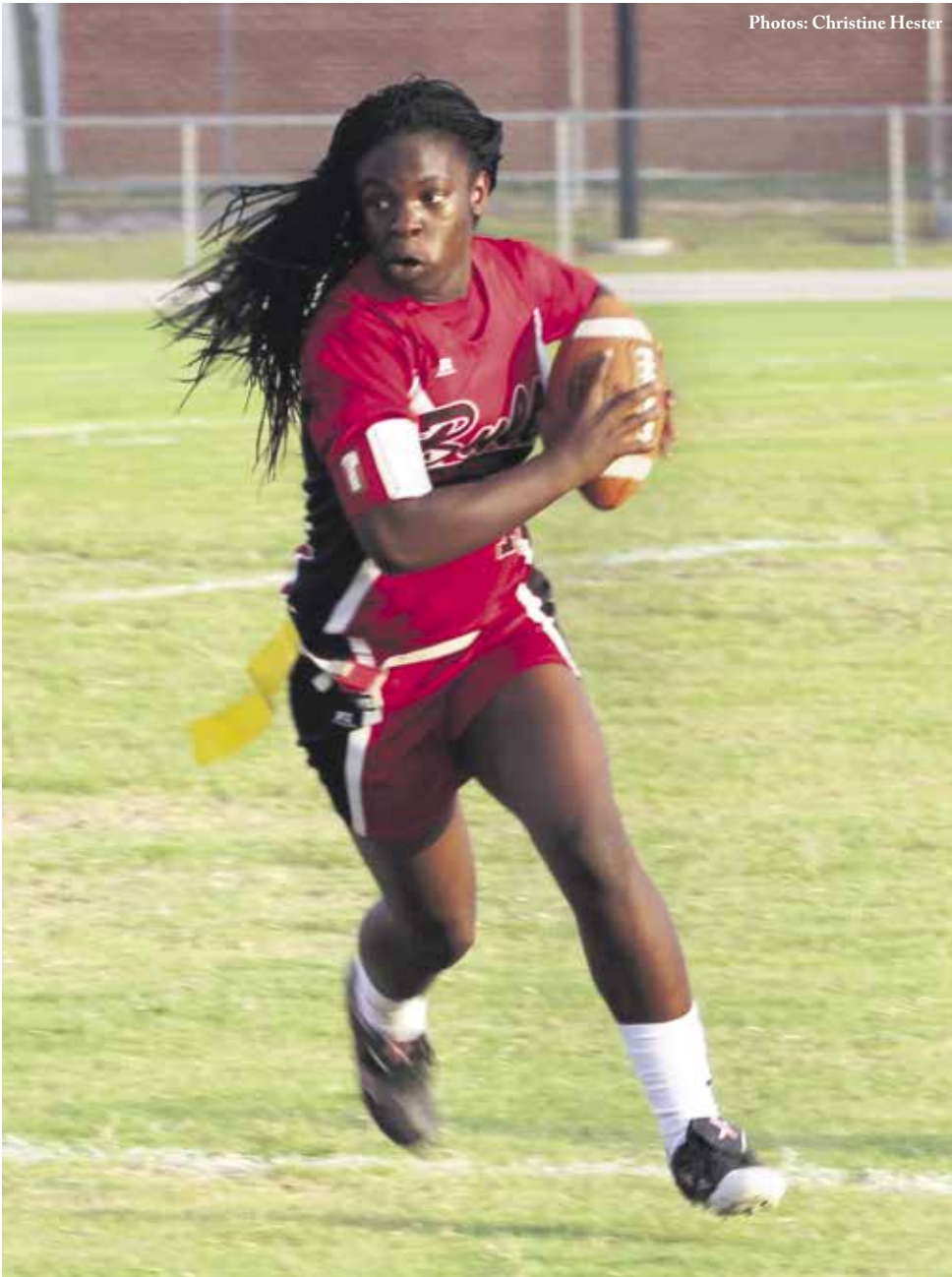
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Adding to the team’s outstanding season, several player standouts received individual awards. Kristen McLean (senior), Jaid Angel (junior) and Olivia Correll (sophomore) were selected for 1st Team Western Conference honors. McLean also was designated a member of the State All-Star Team.

By publication, the Lady Bulls will have faced off against the Saint Cloud High School Bull Dogs at the 2016 FHSAA Class 2A Flag Football Championship held May 6. Go Bulls!



A determined Miya Franklin takes off for the end zone.



In full extension, Jada Flowers successfully grabs an opponent’s flag.



Quarterback Sarah Tam receives the snap from Kristen McLean as Miya Franklin looks on.



Airborne Jaid Angel edges out her opponents to complete a mid-air reception.



Kristin McLean snags the flag and stops the forward momentum of the Plant City offense.

Campo Youth in Government Chapter Leads the Way in Tallahassee

By Miriam Leech

Photos: Campo YIG, unless otherwise noted

Members of the Florida YMCA Youth in Government (YIG) Campo Chapter joined nearly 700 students, advisors, and volunteers from around the state participating in the 59th Annual Florida State Assembly in Tallahassee March 31-April 1. The yearlong program allows students to improve their public speaking and debate skills while they express their opinions, ignite change, and represent their generation.

The State Assembly acts as the culmination of the YMCA YIG program. Students learn the process of law making, the judicial system, the executive branch, and how lobbyists can affect the government. Delegates to the Assembly may serve in a number of roles—Presiding Officers, Supporting Officers, Legislators, Attorneys, Lobbyists, Press Corps, and Pages, giving them the opportunity to sit in the same chamber seats senators and representatives use.

Led by volunteer advisor Sue Pearson, the Campo Chapter has 60 members including both middle school (Junior YIG) and high school-aged teens. The chapters are non-partisan, which allows the teens to explore and develop their own political beliefs as well as appreciate those of others. Junior YIG members attended their own State Assembly held in February.

This year's state assembly proved very successful for the Campo Chapter, with numerous members being elected to state YIG positions. Chapter President and Bloomingdale resident Katie Douglas served as Legislative Whip, had a joint resolution pass to make Florida an open primary state, and was voted Best Statesman. Another Bloomingdale resident, Bradley Harwood, served as Editor-in-Chief of the Assembly newsletter as a member of the 4-person press corps. Members Emily Mattox, Ethan Eggert, Alana Fay, Marina Fredrickson, and Andrew Sims also received awards.

The YIG program is based on the Y's values of responsibility, respect, caring, honesty, and faith. If interested in learning about Florida YIG, contact the Campo Family YMCA at 813-684-1371.



Bloomingdale resident and YIG Campo Chapter President Katie Douglas served as Legislative Whip, a new and highly regarded position at the annual YIG State Assembly held in Tallahassee.



YIG Campo Chapter Officers (front row, from left) Becca Ross, Katelyn Belisario (President, Junior YIG), Katie Douglas (President), Brianna Brunner, Marina Fredrickson, (back row, from left) Cabell Vildibill, Bradley Harwood, Daniel Eisele, Ben Eggert, and Caleb Miranda led their chapter to a successful State Assembly.

Photo: Miriam Leech

Florida YMCA Youth in Government (YIG) Campo Chapter poses in front of the State Capitol in Tallahassee for the 59th State Assembly held March 31-April 2.



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May 30 - Memorial Day - No School June 10 - Last Day of School



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

May 11 - Nurse's Day
May 12 - Bob's Ice Cream and Gelato Spirit Night
June 2 - Battle of the Books
June 10 - Early Release - 11:45 a.m.

Alafia Mint

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

School Spirit Day

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

Buddy Benches

First graders are working on a service project and collecting donations for Buddy Benches for the playground area. The concept for the project is if a student needs someone to play with or talk with during recess time, they can go and sit on the bench. This will signal other students who can play with or include the sitting student in their game or conversations. Funds have been raised to complete two benches, but more benches are needed. For information or to contribute, contact Lynne Little or Lindsay Gregg at Alafia Elementary.



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

May 10 - National Elementary Honor Society Induction
May 11 - Grade 4 field trip to Cracker Country
May 13 - Safety Patrol Picnic
May 18 - Battle of the Books - 9 a.m., Multi-purpose room
May 20 - All Pro Dads - 7 a.m., Multi-purpose room
June 3 - PTA Meeting and Dance, 6 p.m.
June 7 - Variety Show, 7 p.m.
June 10 - Last Day of School - 11:30 a.m., 5th Grade Clap out - 11:45 a.m. Dismissal



Florida Furtal Program

What is FURTAL? It is a way for parents, teachers and community members to help raise money for our school simply by using our school's portal to shop online. By shopping at your favorite online retailers through our Cimino portal page, you will generate cash back for our school. The program is FREE. The money generated will go directly to the school for projects and improvements! For information, go to: <http://www.furtal.com/school/cimino-elementary-school#>



La Cubanita Café Supports Cimino

Remember that whenever you eat at La Cubanita (in the plaza behind Topper's & KFC) and mention you are from Cimino, they will donate \$1 for every meal ordered.



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

May 9-13 - Algebra EOC Test
May 11 - PTSA General Meeting, 8 a.m.
May 12 - Battle of the Books, 9 a.m.
May 16 - Movie Spirit Day, 3 p.m.
May 16-20 - Civics EOC Test
May 19 - 6th Grade Awards Ceremony, 9 a.m.
May 19 - Awards Ceremony, 7 p.m.
May 20 - NJHS Ceremony, 7 p.m.
May 23 - Chorus Final Concert, 6:30 p.m. at BSHS
May 24 - Orchestra End of Year Music Showcase, 6:30 p.m. at BSHS
May 25 - 8th Grade Field Trip, 9:10 a.m. at The Alley, Riverview
June 1 - Million Word Readers Lunch 7th and 8th grade, 11 a.m.
June 1 - Million Word Readers Lunch 6th grade, 12:30 p.m.
June 6 - PTSA Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
June 10 - Last Day of School Early Release, 1:45 p.m.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

May 9-13 - AP Exams
May 9 - Booster Club General Meeting, 7 p.m., Media Center
May 9 - Crimson Guard Information Meeting, 7 p.m., Cafeteria

May 10-13 - Algebra 1 EOC (FSA)
May 10 - Flag Football Regional Finals, 7 p.m., BSHS
May 12 - NHS Induction Ceremony, 6:30 p.m.
May 14 - Athletic Club Golf Tournament, 8 a.m., Bloomingdale Golfers Club
May 14 - BSHS Band Prisms Concerts, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
May 17-19 - Biology EOC
May 17 - Orchestra Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
May 18 - Senior Awards Night, 6:30 p.m.
May 19 - Football Jamboree - 6 p.m. at Brandon HS
May 19 - Chorus Spring Concert - 7 p.m.
May 20 - Humane Society Dodge Ball - 5 p.m.
May 21 - Rajun Bull 5K - 7 a.m.
May 25 - BETA Induction - 6:30 p.m.
May 26 - Melissa Snively meeting - 6 p.m. in Media Center
June 2 - B'dale vs Newsome Faculty Basketball game - 6 p.m. at BSHS
June 4 - SAT testing at BSHS
June 5 - Graduation Rehearsal - 11 a.m. at the FL State Fairgrounds
June 9 - Graduation - 4:30 p.m. at the FL State Fairgrounds
June 10 - Last Day of School - Early Release 12:30 p.m.
June 10 - Volleyball meeting for new athletes - 7 p.m.
June 13 - 15 - Cheer Tryouts - 9 a.m. in the Cafeteria



BULL BRIEFS

Virtual School Graduation Requirement

Seniors need to complete their courses through Florida Virtual School by May 15. Students should sign up as soon as possible at FLVS.net.

PTSA News

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

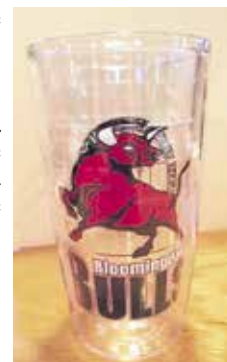


Summer Driver's Education

Driver's Education is offered this summer in two sessions: June 20-30 and July 11-21 (Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.). The cost is \$250. The course can earn your student a waiver from the driver's test and insurance discounts. To register, visit http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/?Templates=RWD&object=/School_News/S689A7384-689A7623&infobar=no. Pay by May 13 in the main office, cash or money order only.

Athletic Boosters

The Athletic Booster club is selling Bulls Tervis tumblers. They are \$20 with a lid; straws are available for \$1. They are available at any spring sport concession stand, through a team parent, or at the main office. Contact Stacey Donahue at sldonahue3@verizon.net for information.



Cheerleading Information

There will be a cheer information meeting for current BI parents on May 25 at 7 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Cheer tryouts are 1.





Attention! BSHS JROTC Participates at the 2016 National JROTC Drill Competition

Staff Report



For Bloomingdale High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) a day at the beach involved more than sun, sand and surf. The JROTC cadets participated in the 2016 National JROTC Drill Competition held April 29-May 1 at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. Eight teams numbering 41 cadets represented the Bloomingdale JROTC program. The teams competed against 25 other schools from around the country in color guard, unarmed and armed inspections, and more. Judging was intense with military bearing and precision at the center of team evaluations.

Pictured right is a BSHS team preparing to enter for their unarmed inspection.

A BSHS Color Guard performs at the 2016 National JROTC Drill Competition in Daytona Beach. Pictured left to right are Cadet 2nd Lt. David Martinez, Color Guard Commander Cadet Col. Kristen McLean, Cadet 2nd Lt. Deliana Montalvo and Cadet 2nd Lt. Doren Kempher.



Photos: Bea McLean



Are you ready to run with the bulls?

Runners and walkers, adults and children of all ages are invited to participate in this fun local event! All proceeds benefit the Bloomingdale High School Band. Race t-shirt included in advance registration fee.

Location: On the grounds of Bloomingdale High School
1700 Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico, FL 33596

Registration: Register online at Active.com www.active.com/valrico-fl/running/distance-running-races/rajun-bull-5k-walk-and-fun-run-2016?int=, or in person by contacting organizers at the email address below.

Cost: Adults \$25, Students (k-12) \$20, Children under age 5 free

Race Day: 8 a.m. start (staggered race time for runners and other participants). T-shirt/packet pickup 7-7:45 a.m. (Advance pickup in front of BSHS 6-8 p.m. on Friday, May 20).

Questions: rajunbullfundraising@gmail.com





Bloomingtondale High School Academic Foundation Holds Networking Event

By Deidre Morgan

JF Kicks Sports Bar in Valrico was the place to be on April 21 as the BSHS Academic Foundation held a Spirit Night and Networking Event to get the word out about their organization's vision. For every purchase made at the event, JF Kicks donated a portion back to the foundation.

The purpose of the event was to encourage partnerships with local businesses and corporate sponsors to help bring classrooms and instruction into the 21st century. Academic Foundation Vice President Becky McDaniels, owner of Mathnasium, said, "Donations will go directly to the classrooms so that the teachers can apply for grants through the foundation to meet needs for such things as technology, supplemental text books, field trips and specialized equipment."

To learn more about this great foundation or to make a donation, go to www.bloomingtondaleacademics.org or visit their Facebook page Bloomingtondale High School Academic Foundation.

Academic Foundation members and supporters greeted the organization's networking attendees at the door of JF Kicks on April 21. Pictured, from left to right, are Kavita Marballi (YMCA), Hope Schneider (Freedman's Office Furniture), Sue Burkett (BSHS Principal), Michelle Hernandez (Academic Foundation President and Honorary Mayor of Brandon) and Becky McDaniels (Academic Foundation Vice President and owner of Mathnasium).



Photo: Deidre Morgan



BSHS Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

Brief/Photo: Deidre Morgan

On April 20, Bloomingtondale High School athletes Freddy McCoy (Football - Wittenberg University), Carson Crouse (Baseball - Seminole State College) and James "Bo" Benik (Track & Cross Country - Mars Hill University) signed their Letters of Intent to play sports at the collegiate level. Friends, family and teammates were on hand to witness the special event. Congratulations and good luck to these awesome athletes!





New Head Football Coach Stampedes His Way into Bull Territory

By Deidre Morgan

Photos: Deidre Morgan

Spring has sprung and with that, new life is blooming for Bloomingdale High School Football! On April 11, the team welcomed new Head Coach Max Warner. Warner replaced former Coach Brian Surcy after the Bulls posted a 1 – 9 record for the 2015 season.

Coach Warner is no stranger to Florida. He was the offensive coordinator under long time Hillsborough High School Head Coach Earl Garcia. His most recent assignment was with Head Coach Frank Beamer of the Virginia Tech Hokies as the offensive quality control coordinator.

He brings 10 years coaching experience at every level of football from little league to D1, but this will be his first head coaching position, one he does not take lightly.

Coach Warner said, “It’s time for a change. It’s time to make Bloomingdale and the community proud of their football team.” He also stated that communication and trust are needed for the team to be successful.

According to Athletic Director Donny Peek, 42 applicants applied for the Bulls head coaching position. He told the assembled crowd of athletes, parents and well-wishers that as soon as Max Warner walked onto the campus and interviewed, his mind was made up as to who could lead the Bulls on the right course.

During his remarks, Coach Warner stressed his commitment to the program and to the players. “Operating as a Bloomingdale family is how you win games,” he said summing up his coaching philosophy.

Welcome to Bloomingdale, Coach Warner, and good luck on the upcoming season! Go Bulls!



Athletic Director Donny Peek, Head Coach Max Warner and Principal Sue Burkett show their school spirit! Warner has been tapped to lead the Bulls Football program



New Head Football Coach Max Warner talks to players, coaches and family during his first meet and greet on April 11.



BSHS Leadership Lock-in Promotes Student Involvement

By Abigail Hernandez

Photos: Alyséa Jackson, SGA member



Strong student leadership and involvement is a critical component of good high schools. On April 6, Bloomingdale Senior High School (BSHS) student leaders held their annual Leadership Lock-In to promote and teach fellow students about leadership and encourage participation in student council and the Student Government Association (SGA). This year's theme "Leaders are just superheroes in disguise" clearly shows the importance of student leadership to a school's overall success.

When initially created, the event goal was to teach leadership skills to participants and select Student Government members based on applications and evaluations. This year, the SGA reached out to other school clubs and honor societies to

encourage experienced leaders to contribute in the community-building endeavor.

Senior Ali Kagey, Lock-In committee member, stated, "It's an opportunity for students who want to be a part of school leadership to meet peers with that shared interest and discover ways to better themselves as leaders, together."

Upon arrival, students "lost" their cell phones and were divided into groups in order to focus on the people and activities around them. Teams competed in a series of fun activities that at first appeared to be simple games, but actually required the use of team-building and leadership skills.

This year's superhero-themed event was a huge success, resulting in many applications from students wishing to be officers in both student council and SGA.

Team Captain America participating in "The Human Chair," understanding the importance of communication and trust in leadership.



ATTENTION: 2016 Graduating Seniors, Parents and Friends! We want your graduation photos!



The Gazette wants to help you celebrate your upcoming graduation. Send your graduation photos or selfies to inbloomingtonnews@gmail.com by June 20. Identify from left to right those pictured and a brief explanation of what is happening in the photo. For example John Smith, graduate and parents Bob and Mary Smith; taken after graduation at a family celebration. Or, Mary Smith receives her diploma. She will attend ABC University in the fall. Send only high-resolution photos. Don't forget to provide contact information just in case there are questions.



2015 BSHS Ambassadors gather with Principal Sue Burkett (front) before their final performance. We want your 2016 photos to include in our July Gazette. Email inbloomingtonnews@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051 for information.

Gazette File Photo