



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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Summer...It's all About the F.U.N.!



Luke (9) and Rosie Sumner (3) enjoy Campo YMCA's Splash Pool on a hot summer day! Water play is a great summer benefit for Y members. See summer safety tips, page 19.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop. *Confucius*

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Photo: Kayla Hayes

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Hillsborough County
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Newsletter Category

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Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road

Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Secretary: *Suzy Watts*

Treasurer: *Mary Galin*

Billy Hightower

Charlie Woodcock

Joanie Wilson

Beth Smedley

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

Senior Staff Writers: Miriam Leech and Mack Austin

Staff Writers: Kayla Hayes 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 Bloomingdale residents on the first Saturday of each month.

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Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle

John & Lynn Herrick

1445 Monte Lake Drive Valrico, FL 33596 (Augusta Village/Stratford Place)



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



Bloomingdale Real Estate & Housing Update

The summer busy season is in full swing so if you're thinking about selling, now is a great time to do so before the hustle and bustle of getting the kids back to school. There are many factors to consider before listing your home including timing, price, and getting your home show ready.



By Ryan Brantley

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-924-8187

Ryan@RyanBrantley.org
www.chaddertongroup.com

Despite being busy overall, with only 18 new listings in June, inventory is still very low and there are many anxious buyers out there eager to get into Bloomingdale schools. In fact, 23 properties went under contract in June, which clearly does not balance out. If priced right, putting your property on the market now could mean multiple offers from quality buyers. Pricing could make or break the sale of your home so listening to agent advice and forgoing the "Zestimate" can get you under contract much faster.

Consider giving your house a spruce before listing – clean up the yard, maybe apply some fresh paint, or anything else to make it feel light and airy. To make the entire process even easier, consider having a home inspection before listing to anticipate any issues that could come up during the selling process. Fix major items to ensure a smooth transaction from start to finish. After all, the best type of transaction is a stress free one.

** MLS statistics include Bloomingdale East and West valid June 1 through 23. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*



Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Seeks New Board Members

Do you care about our Bloomingdale Community and want to take an active role in its future?

Then, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) wants you to become part of "Team Bloomingdale." The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office on Bell Shoals Road at 6:30 p.m.

Board members serve our community through committees including:

- The Bloomingdale Gazette
- Bloomingdale HOA website and Facebook
- Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit/Charity Food Drive
- Annual Clean-up
- Charity Golf Tournament
- Fall Festival
- Scholarship
- Deed Restriction Compliance/Education/Information
- And More

Not sure you have the time? The BHA encourages all interested residents to attend a few board meetings to see the Association at work, and to determine if joining the Board is a good "fit." Remember, the current board members are residents, like you, who have the betterment of our community as their number one goal.

Call 813-681-2051 or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.

www.BloomingdaleHOA.com



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! 

2015 Membership Drive at Halfway Mark

Please join today! Membership dues continue to trickle in, but at a much slower pace than expected. With six months remaining and two upcoming and large-scale events – the annual Fall Festival followed by our Santa visit and food drive – we need your support.

Your \$25 contribution funds all services and programs of the BHA. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. **Note: The BHA no longer has an active post office box address. Please update your automatic bill pay if applicable.**



BHA BRIEFS



Board Meeting Highlights

Many residents attended the June meeting to discuss various issues and concerns. The board discussed upcoming events and the deed restriction revitalization project. A meeting took place on June 29 to assess the current situation. Details will be published in the August Gazette.

Save the Date! Fall Festival is Oct. 24

Plans for this year's event include a larger venue, food trucks, entertainment and more business participation. Volunteers are needed and business participants are encouraged to contact the BHA to reserve their space.



BHA EVENT CALENDAR

If you have events pending in our community, e-mail bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com, or call 813-681-2051. We want to help you promote your event.

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

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

Thursday, July 18, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

Meet Your BHA Board

By Kayla Hayes

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association welcomes newly appointed Director-at-Large – Charlie Woodcock.

Woodcock, now retired, comes to the board after serving as a U.S. Navy Officer in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, and then working corporately as a trouble-shooter and strategist for various global corporations. He brings skills in long-term strategic planning, strategic analysis, logistics and financial analysis to the board.

Woodcock's vision for Bloomingdale is a simple, but important one. "Make it [Bloomingdale] a destination where people desire to live, a family-friendly place where people can raise their families and empty-nesters desire to continue living," he stated. His vision also includes encouraging better utilization of the parks and community areas, and having more "block parties" where neighbors can socialize.

What Woodcock enjoys most about living in the community is the quality of our schools, the proximity of goods and services and how the community supports the military and their families. He and his wife of 32 years have two children who both attended Alafia Elementary School, Burns Middle School and graduated from Bloomingdale Senior High School.

Besides serving on the board, Woodcock enjoys reading, playing video games, watching sporting events and occasionally crewing for various sailboat-racing teams. In his youth, Woodcock practiced competitive karate, powerlifting and played 12 seasons of collegiate and international Rugby, so he tends to "take it easy" these days.

"I enjoy the board's passion for, and dedication to the community by trying to improve the quality of life in all of Bloomingdale," concluded Woodcock.



Photo: Woodcock Family

Charlie Woodcock, a recently appointed BHA board member, enjoys his Florida retirement with a day on the water and clear, sunny skies.

Dining with Dave



Name: Trust Me BBQ
Cuisine: Barbecue
Location: 8624 US Hwy 301 S, Riverview, FL 33569
Phone: 813-919-6410

Home-style delicacies sold out of trailers behind gas stations certainly add color and variety to our local culinary landscape and several have become my favorite haunts. Occupying both an outside trailer for cooking and utilizing the minimart counter to conduct business, Trust Me BBQ is about as good as it gets, albeit with a limited menu.

The key to good BBQ is in the sauce, and at Trust Me BBQ, the homemade Caribbean style sauce is smoky and sweet with profound allspice and nutmeg undercurrents. It is quite tasty for the pulled pork and ribs, but makes the Jerk Chicken a true treat for the taste buds.

The ribs themselves are slow roasted with a rub that produces a robust bark which seals in the juices and keeps the meat from falling off the bone too readily – important when dining al fresco out of a Styrofoam container.

Their Jerk Chicken is amazing and includes both on-the-bone and chopped chunks that are perfectly moist with bold flavor and rich coloration. An ample dollop of the Trust Me sauce adds flavor and doubles as a condiment for the sides, which include baked beans, Mac and Cheese, red beans, and collard greens.

These may seem like standard side dishes, but just like everything else at Trust Me BBQ, these home-made dishes are some of the best around. A peach cobbler for dessert completes the BBQ experience.

The portions are good size and prices are reasonable. As a special bonus, the owner bottles his sauce so that you can add it to your own home recipes.

So, the next time you travel Hwy. 301 near the Balm Riverview Road traffic light, roll down your windows. With luck, a gust of wind will blow the sweet and smoky BBQ aroma in your direction. Then, take a chance, pull into the minimart and treat yourself to a side trip of deliciousness ... Trust Me.



Photos: TrustMeBBQ

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

Happy 4th of July!

Brandon Fourth of July Parade / July 4 / 10 a.m.

Bring your folding chairs, suntan lotion, and sunglasses and enjoy the largest Fourth of July Parade in Florida! The theme for this year's parade is Red, White, and Blue. The parade route is about 2 miles long, beginning at the corner of Lumsden Road and Parsons Avenue

and winding through the center of Brandon with typically 100 entries. Come out early to reserve your spot along the route.



Brandon Blast 2015 / July 4 / 6-9 p.m. / Brandon Town Center Mall

Enjoy live music, great food, family fun, and fireworks, plus a chance to win a Westfield Shopping Spree! Sponsored by WQYK 99.5 and Tampa Bay Moms Group, Westfield Brandon will be open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Restaurants and select Food Court retailers will remain open throughout the evening. No personal BBQs or cookouts, alcoholic beverages, and personal fireworks.

Lowry Park Zoo: Red, White & Zoo Holiday Weekend / July 4-5 / 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lowry Park Zoo: Red, White & Zoo Holiday Weekend / July 3-5 / 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. / Military (active-duty, retirees and veterans) and up to three direct dependents are invited to visit the Zoo free July 3-5. A valid military photo ID must be shown at the Zoo's ticket counter. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult with a valid military ID must accompany minors. Not valid with any other discounts or offers. No rain checks. Also, during Red, White & Zoo, don't miss the Teddy Bear Picnic from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Grab your teddy bear and head to the Zoo for a "beary" good time! For more information visit www.lowryparkzoo.com.

Summer Events

Ask a Lawyer series / Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m. / Brandon Regional Library Community Room, 619 Vonderburg Drive

As a public service, members of the Brandon Bar Association provide brief presentations on legal topics and attorneys answer questions from the audience. This month's topics are Domestic Violence Injunctions, Elder Issues and Personal Injury Law. The series continues on the second Wednesday of every month through September. Questions? Contact Attorney Brent Rose at 813-712-9121.

Summer Power Math Workouts / Monday-Friday, 2:30-7:30 p.m., through August 28 / Mathnasium / 1048 Bloomingdale Avenue, Brandon

Preventing summer learning loss and help students prepare for what lies ahead. For some, that means a solid review of previous material. Others benefit from previewing upcoming concepts. Most will get some of both. Featured programs include **Summer Pass** - 12 sessions of Power Math Workouts (1 hour each) (\$99 enrollment fee; max \$149 per family), **Extended Summer Pass** - 18 sessions of Power

Math Workouts (1 hour each) (\$99 enrollment fee; max \$149 per family), **Mathnasium Membership** - Get the best rate with unlimited sessions each month. Choose the membership level that works for you and see your knowledge and enjoyment of mathematics grow.

For information, call 813-655-MATH (6284), e-mail brandon@mathnasium.com, or visit www.mathnasium.com/brandon.

\$1 Summer Movies!

Summer Fun Flicks / Tuesdays in July and August / 10 a.m. / AMC Regency 20 Theatres / 2496 West Brandon Blvd., Brandon / \$1 movies presented every Tuesday. Doors open at 9 a.m. PG-13 option each week. Tickets can be purchased in advance.

Schedule:

July 7: Despicable Me 2 or Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

July 14: TMNT (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles) or Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

July 21: Rio 2 or Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1

July 28: The Lorax or Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2

August 4: Dolphin Tale 2 or X-Men First Class

August 11: Annie or X-Men Origins: Wolverine



Adult Art Workshops / Mondays and Tuesdays / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Center Place offers a variety of art workshops. Due to program popularity, all classes require advance registration and payment. Students can sign up at Center Place. Call 813-685-8888 for pricing and registration information.

Mondays, July 13, 20 & 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., or Tuesday, July 14, 21 & 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Light & Shadow: The Art of Pencil Drawing

Mondays, July 13, 20 & 27, 6-8:30 p.m. - Contemporary Painting Techniques

Tuesday, July 14, 21 & 28, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - First Steps to Oil Painting

The Mid-Florida Summer Home Show & Taste of Plant City / July 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; July 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. / Expo Hall, Florida Strawberry Festival Grounds, 2301 W. Oak Avenue, Plant City / Over 100 unique exhibitors will be on hand so don't miss the opportunity to meet with the area's top home

improvement specialists and artists! Also offering a Taste of Plant City, July 11, 12-5 p.m. FREE admission and parking. For information, contact Simply Events at 727-674-1464.

Shark Con 2015 / July 11, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; July 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. / Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 US Hwy. 301 North, Tampa

Shark Con, a festival for everyone who loves the oceans. Highlights include speakers from Shark Week and National Geographic, mermaids, robotic sharks, touch tanks, presentations, sailing clinics, SUP clinics, Jaws screening, and more. Sponsored by The Florida Aquarium, SeaWorld, Mote Marine Aquarium, Wyland's Ocean Realm, and more. Tickets are \$19.99 for a single-day adult pass, \$39.98 for a two-day adult pass, \$4.99 for a one-day child pass, or \$9.98 for a two-day child pass. Proceeds benefit The Florida Aquarium rehabilitation programs, Mote Marine Laboratory's shark research, and Shark Angel's Fin Free and Kids and Sharks projects. For information, visit www.flaquarium.org.



Family Fun Friday / July 17 / 6-9 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / Join the Campo Y for a Sock Hop and Ice Cream Sundae Family Fun Friday event! Although free, registration required! Signup sheet will be at the Welcome Center. ***This is a member only event.*** For more information call 813-684-1371.

Vacation Bible Schools

Brandon Assembly of God / July 12-15 / 7:15-8:45 p.m.

/ Toys: No One Gets Left Behind / 710 S. Kings Avenue, Brandon

Join us as we learn to trust God through the Bible, games, crafts, snacks, great songs and much more. There will be door prizes each night and a Grand Prize on the last night! Children age 4 to 5th grade. Free. For information, go to www.brandonag.com/vbs.

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School / July 13-17 / 9 a.m.-noon / Scruffy's Time Machine Adventure / 2913 John Moore Road, Brandon

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School will hold FREE Vacation Bible Camp (VBC for children ages 3 (potty trained) through 5th grade Come share Bible stories, sing songs, have snacks, play games and make crafts. For information, go to www.godsoloved.org.

Bell Shoals Baptist Church / July 20-24 / 8:45 a.m.- noon / Journey Off the Map / 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon

Take the journey! This summer journey with Bell Shoals Baptist Church to uncharted territory. Registration is FREE for all kids age 4 (before September 2015) through 6th grade. For information, go to www.bellshoals.com.



On the Road with Ryan

Scalloping in Steinhatchee: Different and Delicious



School's out for summer! For some, this means endless hours of trying to entertain the kids and for others, it means getting ready for the big family vacation. This could be a week at the beach, a trip to see the in-laws, or a few days exploring our nearby Disney parks. Another fun family vacation that not all Floridians know about is scalloping.

Bay scallops, the delicious white seafood that tastes best with lots of butter and garlic are abundant in the brackish waters of Florida's gulf

coast. The idea is simple: grab a boat, grab your snorkel gear, a saltwater fishing license, and head out on the water in search of supper.

If you have a few days or even a week to spend, drive four hours northwest to Steinhatchee, an old Florida fishing town known for excellent scalloping. Ask locals where the biggest catch is and steer your boat in that direction.

Scallops are often found in the sea grass of the brackish waters where the channel and the gulf meet in waters 4-10 feet deep. Scan the waters for glistening "teeth." Scallops are shelled creatures that snap their shells to move through the water so they are easiest to spot when their shells are partially open and it looks like little teeth glistening in the water. Catching them is relatively easy and kids of all ages can do it. They often snap closed when snorkelers approach making them easy to scoop up and put in your bag.

As with any fishing venture, there is a limit to how many you can catch. The bag limit is 2 gallons of whole scallops (in the shell), or 1 pint of scallop meat per person per day. In addition, no more than 10 gallons of whole scallops or 1/2 gallon of scallop meat may be possessed aboard any vessel at any time.

Place the scallops on ice instead of the live well. By the time you get back to land, they will be partially open and easier to clean.

Yes, clean. Many establishments provide areas to clean and dispose of the shells. A local clean-up favorite is the Sea Hag Marina where you can relax with a cold ice cream or refreshing cocktail while listening to the tropical tunes of Jimmy Buffett.

Ryan Brantley, a local Realtor and travel writer, has traveled extensively throughout Florida and the Caribbean. Put your seat belts on and enjoy the ride as Ryan shares her adventures with our community!



**ON
THE
ROAD
WITH
RYAN**

Lodging facilities open their rooms beginning January 1 and book up quickly. So, make reservations as early as possible. RV parking is also available. The 2015 scallop season in Steinhatchee begins July 1 and ends September 10.

If an extended vacation is not possible, check out Homosassa or Crystal River. Both offer scalloping charters and accommodations and are less than two hours away. It could be the perfect day or overnight vacation to round out the Florida summer.

For information, visit the Steinhatchee website at www.steinhatcheeriverchamber.org.

Scalloping is a great family activity and Steinhatchee, FL is a great place to try it out for the first time. Bay scallops may be harvested only by hand or with a landing or dip net. The season runs from July 1 through September 10.

Photos:
www.steinhatcheeriverchamber.org



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CONSTRUCTION Update

Fire Station 7 It's a beauty!

Hillsborough County Fire Station #7 is officially open. The Bloomingdale community welcomes our firefighters and other station personnel to our area. A grand opening ceremony will be held later; details will be posted on the Bloomingdale HOA Facebook page.



County News Briefs



Commissioner Stacy White Launches Newsletter

Commissioner Stacy White has just released a new quarterly newsletter to better communicate with District 4 residents. Follow the link to sign up to receive it: http://eepurl.com/bq_zuv. The inaugural issue features White's activities in his first six months in office including interactions with Bloomingdale residents.



Charter Board to Discuss Structure Changes

The Hillsborough County Charter Review Board (CRB) will hold final discussions and vote on changing the structure of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 7 from 6-8 p.m. at County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in the County Commission Boardroom on the second floor. This is the last opportunity for residents to comment on the proposals before the CRB votes on them.

The final discussion and vote will focus on two options: 4-3: maintaining the four single-member and three countywide districts, or 5-4: five single-member districts and four countywide districts.

County Drinking Water Report Available

Copies of Hillsborough County's annual reports on drinking water quality for tests performed in 2014 are available in print and online. To see the results online, visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/WaterQualityReport. Customers can obtain print copies by calling 813-246-3146 or visiting a Hillsborough County Public Utilities customer service center. The Brandon Support Operations Complex is located at 332 N. Falkenburg Road.

GO Hillsborough Findings and Recommendations Ready

HC Press Release Excerpt

Following GO Hillsborough's extensive citizen feedback, it is apparent that citizens believe Hillsborough County is facing a potential transportation crisis. In fact, it is the top concern for citizens, even twice that of jobs and our local economy.

The County's population is projected to grow 40 percent more in the next 25 years -- a half a million more people -- and at the same time, it is suffering from significant shortfalls in transportation funding.

GO Hillsborough is recommending a fair, balanced, and community-driven transportation plan that will fix our roads first, relieve congestion, redesign transit, and make our lives better. GO Hillsborough recommends funding this by placing a dedicated ½ percent sales tax referendum on the November 2016 election ballot. This will create \$117.5 million annually and \$3.5 billion over 30 years. At the same time a ½ percent sales tax is implemented, new growth will pay an increased and equitable share for its transportation impacts, too.

The GO Hillsborough Community Transportation Plan will fix and maintain existing roads; relieve traffic flow and congestion, including intersection bottlenecks; build and widen roads; double transit service; and make walking and biking safer.

"While this new revenue doesn't meet all of our needs, it meaningfully improves the lives of all Hillsborough County citizens. It will fund 100% of the backlog and future maintenance and 100% of bike and sidewalks safety needs, while creating better transit choices necessary to attract and retain jobs," commented Mike Merrill, Hillsborough County Administrator. "The GO Hillsborough Community Transportation Plan is based in consensus and is truly community-driven. It is viable and sustainable and can be supported by a majority of the citizens of Hillsborough County."

For information on how to get involved with GO Hillsborough, visit GOHillsborough.org.



Teacher Extraordinaire Heather Hanks is BSHS's Communication Expert

By Kayla Hayes

If you picked up last month's Gazette, you couldn't miss a captivating front page photo of Bloomingdale High's graduation. The photo credit belongs to a woman who is paving the way for Bloomingdale students to become successful adults in a technology-focused world. Meet extraordinary teacher and Bloomingdale resident Heather Hanks.

"I love Bloomingdale and being part of this community, and wherever I can use my talents to help make things better for Bloomingdale students, that's where I'm going to serve," she said.

She is an integral part of the teaching and learning community at BSHS, where she has taught communication courses – English, Journalism and Photography since 2007. Her involvement extends beyond the traditional classroom. A co-founder of the BSHS Academic Foundation and the school's yearbook advisor, Hanks defines dedication.

Her focus is to "help all students tell their stories, and find their voices."

Previous awards illustrate this teacher's excellence. In 2012, Hanks was named BSHS's Teacher of the Year, Journalism Education Association Rising Star, Florida Scholastic Press Association (FSPA) District Journalism Teacher of the Year and was a finalist for State Journalism Teacher of the Year. This year, she was awarded the FSPA Gold Medallion.

She constantly seeks ways to incorporate technology and social media in the classroom in an effort to connect in new ways with students. "Their culture is changing and the school must change with it if we, as educators, want to make a difference in their lives," she added.

This year, she is coordinating "Project Innovate," which will help create a more collaborative learning environment. Bloomingdale will be one of eight Hillsborough County schools to receive 225 laptops for students to use for project and problem-based learning.

"We're looking at putting in a collaboration and brainstorming space to help our students have discussions and use their technology in a meaningful way," said Hanks, who will be stepping out of the classroom for a year to focus on the project.

This cutting-edge program also features a "makerspace" in Bloomingdale's Media Center spearheaded by Hanks, where students will be able to explore technology like 3-D printers and electronic kits during lunch, club periods and before or after school.

"We need our students to think deeper, solve problems, and be prepared for a world where collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and communication are valued – and that starts in the classroom," Hanks said.



Last fall, Hanks and her newspaper students travelled to Washington D.C for the NSPA (National Scholastic Press Association) and met Bob Woodward, an American investigate journalist and non-fiction author.

Heather Hanks lives in Bloomingdale East with her husband, James, and two kids: Tegan, 4, and Atticus, 1. "My husband will be teaching Latin at Newsome next year, so the rivalry will only be getting more intense in my house!" Hanks commented.



Photos: Hanks Family

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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. Each month, we will showcase a few of those pets that need your help. Most animals will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, licensed, and microchipped with free chip registration. Some fees may apply.

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 on Falkenburg Rd., the center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Butterfly, a lovable 3-year old medium-sized hound arrived at the shelter with an unusual eye condition that caused her eyelashes to grow in the wrong direction. She has since received corrective surgery and is ready for a loving family to take her home. Can that be you? Adopt Butterfly, ID# 27998139, so she can spread her wings and fly!



Boots is an all gray boy with itty-bitty white socks. After a shaky and sickly beginning, he's now 2-months old and up for adoption to a fabulous home. After living the stray life, Boots is a little nervous, but with a gentle hand and reassurance, he morphs into a purr-machine in no time. Adopt Boots, ID# 2775009; he needs some lovin'!

TODAY!

Name-Your-Own-Price Adoption Fees on Patriotic Pets at the Pet Resource Center

Celebrate a special Independence Day edition of Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center First Saturday Celebration today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 440 N. Falkenburg Road. The shelter's monthly adoption event offers free, family-friendly fun, music, and a special name-your-own-price pet adoption on many kennels marked "Ready to Go." All adoptions include spaying/neutering, vaccinations, County license tag, microchip with free lifetime chip registration, and a holiday tote bag.

In addition, enjoy an all-American cook out benefitting shelter pets, free pet adoptions on July 4 and 5 for active and retired military (proper ID required), and free patriotic pet name tags for event attendees.

Remember: Keep pets safely indoors during festive fireworks, with County ID tags securely fastened at all times. The shelter will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for adoptions and lost pet searches.



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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.



If you want to know anything, head to the kitchen.

I just read yet another article on parapsychology describing the manner in which mediums, soothsayers, "sensitives" and what-have-yous enter a home and wander from room to room trying to "pick up the vibrations" of bygone days. How ridiculous. They could save themselves some time and shoe leather just by heading straight for the kitchen. Anything worth remembering in a house happens in the kitchen. Any sayer worth his sooth knows that.

Ah, the kitchens of my lost single days. Why, my very thoughts are probably permanently implanted on those walls. Like, "Why did I invite this loathsome lout for dinner? Who picks up prime rib with their fingers? Bleah." Or even, "Dinner's a charred ruin, the candles are mere stubs and the wine has 'breathed' itself into hyperventilation. All my instincts are telling me that I have been stood up." Now that I think of it, there are a few stories I would prefer those big mouthed walls keep to themselves.

And only the kitchen could harbor the heart-warming tale of the close relationship between Master of the House and Family Dog. "Get down! Get down, I say! Darnit, get DOWN!" Ah, yes.

When I was growing up, the kitchen was the gathering place for virtually everything. It was a battleground, a conference room, a greenhouse, a pulpit, a soapbox and the most comfortable tavern around. The fact that we ate there was incidental.

My father made some of his most immortal statements from that very room. "Terrific.

My daughter's a bead-draped hippie, my son is a pompous ass, my wife's been going through 'The Change' for 15 years and the cat sleeps in the bathroom sink. And I'm the head of this family? Just terrific."

It was in the kitchen that my mother gave me her heartwarming blessing just before I left home to strike out on my own. "You've always been an idiot, you're still an idiot and I don't see that changing anytime in the foreseeable future. But, go ahead. Break your mother's heart. I'm used to it." What great memories, huh?

I'm pleased that my husband and I are carrying on this great family tradition. We spend much of our time in the kitchen. That's where the heart is. That's where the warmth is. That's where the bar is. Also where, according to said spouse, I wile away my days rearranging the cupboards specifically to confuse him. "Okay. Where did you hide the toothpicks (salt, vinegar, etc.) this time?" Apparently, I live for that.

Yes, the kitchen harbors the memories of the entire home. My kitchens, past, present and, I trust, those to come should prove a veritable treasure trove to some future buttinsky parapsychologist. Sort of like Norman Bates' attic.



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Graduation at a glance:

- 546 seniors graduated at the Florida State Fairgrounds on June 4.
- 52% graduated on honor court with a 4.0 weighted GPA or higher.
- The class of 2015 earned \$4.6 million dollars in scholarships.
- 92% plan to go on to a postsecondary education.

Thank you to all who provided photos, especially BSHS teacher Heather Hanks!



The Sandberg family celebrates son Doug's graduation from BSHS. He lettered in three sports and was named a member of the 2015 Academic All-State Team (12 boys, 12 girls). Pictured with Doug are his father Scott, sister Megan and mother Wanda.

Photo: Sandberg Family



Lindsey Cook and Rachel Steinbacher celebrate their achievements together. Rachel will attend the Manhattan School of Music in New York City to pursue a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance (opera).

Photo: Jani Steinbacher



Sam Berkowitz, son of Kate and Dann Berkowitz, plans to pursue a career in game deployment. He graduated in the top 20 percent of his class.

Photo: Heather Hanks



Bloomington resident Nicole Cluck will attend Hillsborough Community College to complete basic credit requirements before transferring to a university. She has been a writer and photographer for the Gazette this past year.

Photo: Heather Hanks



2015 BSHS graduate Tasha Golden, daughter of Christopher and Denise Golden will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville to study nuclear engineering.

Photo: Heather Hanks



It's official! Will Morgan (center), Tarick Barnes and Michael Angelo Alaimo (Brooklyn), pictured l. to r., are BSHS graduates.

Photo: Morgan Family



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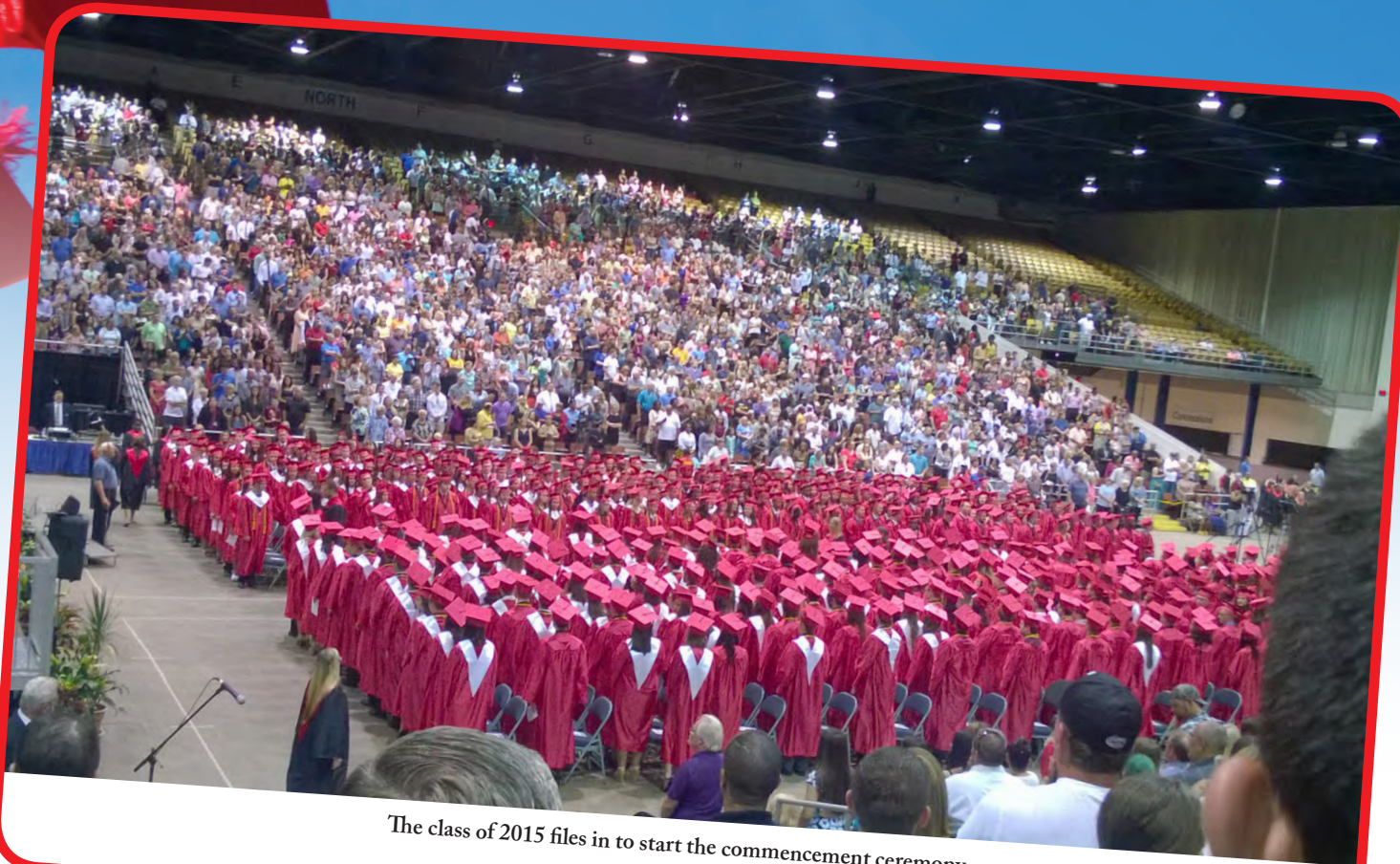


Gradua
Crys
Natalie



2015 scholarship winner Chris Santarlas with fellow graduates. Chris will attend the University of South Florida.

Photo: Heather Hanks



The class of 2015 files in to start the commencement ceremony.

Photo: Jani Steinbacher



ambassadors gather with Principal Sue Burkett (front) before their final performance.

Photo: Jani Steinbacher



ate Will Morgan pictured with his sister, mom Deidre, dad Terry and sister. The football standout will attend Ave Maria University.

Photo: Morgan Family



Mallory Hillary's smile says it all – happiness, pride, excitement. Hillary, granddaughter of Bloomingdale resident Mary Odum, wrote for the Gazette this year. She graduated with a 6.56 GPA and ranked 10th in the class.

Photo: Heather Hanks



From l. to r., friends Katie Gleason, Jessica Labadie, Abby Wingfield enjoy a moment after the ceremony.

Photo: Holly Wingfield

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.

Fairy Gardens - For the Young and Young at Heart

By Gwen Graverson

Childhood is truly a magical time. Even as we grow older, childhood memories reappear – fairies are one such memory. Take your childhood memory and create a fairy garden. There are no rules, just the limits of your imagination! Create a fairy garden at the base of a tree, in your flowerbed, birdhouse, wheel barrel, or even in a teacup. Don't worry about the Fairies; build it and they will come.

Remember, fairies are little, so the scale of the project is much smaller than a regular garden. Garden centers sell miniature flowering plants, ground covers along with trees, shrubs, herbs and moss. I recommend succulent plants which are great for forgetful gardeners and to use potting soil for a nice even finish. Consider using leftover aquarium gravel, and charcoal for making pathways in your fairy garden.

If you are like me, start with a weekend adventure and have family, children and grandchildren join the fun. Check out yard sales for bargains on miniature furniture, buildings and accessories. Don't overlook antique stores for doll house furniture. Two great places to browse are Somewhere in Time, 720 W. Lumsden Rd. and Sweet Memories Antiques, 608 N. Parsons Ave. Both are in Brandon.

For families with boys, use small plastic toys or rubber dinosaurs in place of fairies. And, don't forget about the Lincoln Logs or Lego's collecting dust, they make perfect additions to a boy's dinosaur lair.

To stay focused, decide on a theme and everything else will fall into place. If you need a visual aid prior to starting, go to one of the local libraries or check out Amazon, which has Fairy Gardening books for sale.

You can also buy fairy garden starter kits from a number of retailers. Target sells them for \$29.95 and it comes with a fence, fairy, garden arch, bench, sign, birdbath and watering can. A similar style sells for \$12.99 at Walmart.

Another option is Kerby's Nursery, located at 2311 S. Parsons Ave. in Seffner. They provide information to help you start your miniature garden, and if you should have any questions, you can call them at 813-685-3265. Check out their Facebook page and website at <http://www.kerbysnursery.com>.

By now, you probably can feel the magic...there must be fairy dust in the air.



Curtaz Rodgers, 10, used miniature accessories, Lincoln Logs and plants to create his one-of-a-kind "Down Home on the Farm" garden. Curtaz is the grandson of Bloomingdale resident Elaine Wilt.



Need inspiration? Check out The Magic Onions at <http://www.themagiconions.com>. Each year this group hosts a Fairy Garden contest from April to August. Pictured is the 2014 winner.

Photo: The Magic Onion



The University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) located in Hillsborough County provides a valuable monthly tool for the budding nature lover.

July "To Do List":

- **Trees:** Prepare for hurricane season, check trees for damage and weak branches. Prune, if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist, a good reference: International Society of Arboriculture at <http://isa-arbor.com/>.
- **Lawns:** Check general health and determine the cause of any lawn problems before taking action. If an insect is the culprit, treat only the affected area. Rule out disease or sprinkler malfunction. See, Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/TR00002848/00001>.
- **Vegetable garden:** Use summer heat to solarize the vegetable garden for fall planting. It takes 4-6 weeks to kill weeds, disease, and nematodes, so start now. See: Introduction to Soil Solarization at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in856>.

Shaunessy's Décor & More Opens near Bloomingdale

By Miriam Leech

Ever since she was a little girl, Bloomingdale resident Shaunessy Dobrish has been decorating rooms. So when her storefront opened on March 28, her lifelong dream came true.

Shaunessy's Décor & More is warm and inviting - just the way the owner envisioned it would be. The design center is housed in a two-story house and patio with well-decorated rooms and a "design bar" feature where clients can view pricing of design packages that meet every budget.

"I want everyone to feel welcome," says Dobrish. "The person who needs help picking out one paint color will be treated the same as someone paying to have their entire home decorated."

There are currently six employees at the store, including Dobrish's sister and daughter, who are knowledgeable about paint colors, window treatments, furniture placement, floor coverings, and the use of rugs, accessories, and lamps. Clients can browse rooms, peruse catalogs, look at samples, and ask questions.

Dobrish offers off-site interior decorating by appointment. Before opening her storefront the Bloomingdale resident had worked out of her home decorating houses and businesses for over 10 years. All of her business comes by word of mouth and

referrals. That is why her husband, Jeff, encouraged her to name the design center Shaunessy's—he told her, "People know YOU."

What makes the location of her new store even more special is that Dobrish has lived in Bloomingdale her whole life. She, her daughter, Caitlin Owens, and this year her son, Daylon Owens, are all graduates of Bloomingdale Senior High School.

"Bloomingdale is so close to my heart, and the location of the store spoke to me," she explained.

Before becoming a decorator, Dobrish had spent years working in family businesses doing accounts payable and scheduling. "I was working a desk job, and it was very monotonous," she said. "I would daydream about decorating houses and having a decorating center one day." She credits her husband for giving her the courage and opportunity to follow her dream.

So far, the dream is not only reality but also an overwhelming success. "I just booked 28 jobs in 25 days," says the decorator.

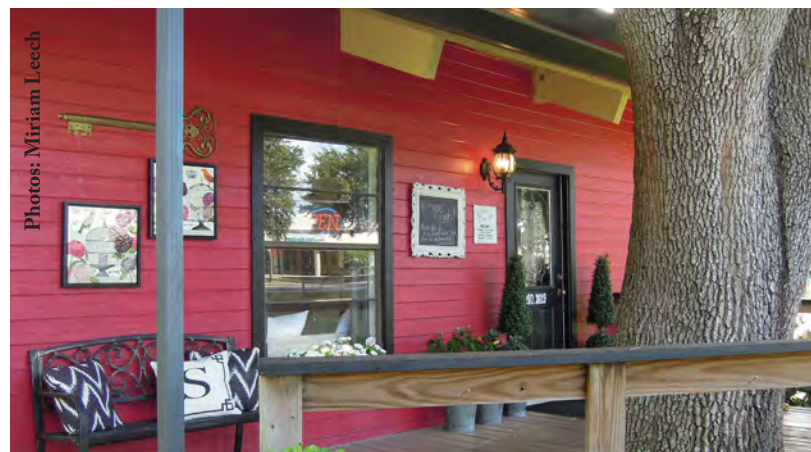
Shaunessy's Décor & More is open Tuesday through Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call (813) 655-4432 or visit online at www.shaunessydecor.com.



Bloomingdale resident Shaunessy Dobrish fulfilled a lifelong dream when she opened her design center on March 28.



Shaunessy's Décor & More is located at 3619 Lithia-Pinecrest Road next to the Kiwi Nursery in a 1980's red two-story home that welcomes all those in search of decorating help.



Photos: Miriam Leech

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Make Disaster Planning a Priority

By Mack Austin

For our new residents, June marked the beginning of the 2015 Hurricane Season. The weather throughout our nation has already been tragic and destructive with tornadoes and deadly flooding. The loss of lives and the unbelievable destruction caused by flooding in Texas and Oklahoma demonstrated just how powerful nature can be and how quickly things can happen!

While hurricanes top our “worry” list, we also need to be prepared to protect our families and property from other types of disasters including tornadoes and flooding. Now is the time to prepare. Florida has some unique weather conditions and there is no substitute for preparing and planning for both the expected and the unexpected.

The County and local television station websites offer many hurricane guides with information on how to prepare your families, pets and homes for hurricanes. However, this information also applies to many other types of disasters.

Hillsborough County Emergency Management has an outstanding website with lots of great information to help you prepare for storms, evacuations and recovery. Go to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/emergency to access critical information on disaster preparations. Also, check out www.redcross.org for more disaster preparedness information.

Many of us saw last month just how dangerous and destructive even flooding can be in our area. Get prepared – now!



Recent flooding in Tampa on Bayshore Avenue was some of the worst in many years. Some Bloomingdale residents who work at MacDill AFB were caught in this storm.

Photo: www.tampabay.com.



In May, flooding in Texas destroyed this home. The average utility pole is 45 foot tall and flood levels reached 43 feet. Imagine flooding like this in our area.

Photo: Associated Press

“We weren’t prepared, We’ve lost everything!”

By Mack Austin

The best way I know to tell folks who have not experienced a hurricane, flooding or other disaster is to share my personal experience with Hurricane Andrew. I deployed with the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS), Florida Air National Guard, to the Miami area after Hurricane Andrew in August 1992. Do note that 1992 was considered a “light year” for hurricanes!

Our first task was to set up tactical communications systems for the governor and other federal, state and local organizations to use to communicate and coordinate recovery operations. Then we worked with local officials providing aid to the victims of the hurricane.

This was the eye-opener for our team. As we moved throughout the area, we saw every type of destruction imaginable – boats wrapped around trees, homes leveled, and entire neighborhoods and businesses destroyed.

Meeting victims of the hurricane really underscored the importance of personal preparation for disasters. Many victims actually told us that they “had lost everything.” Their beautiful homes (not just houses) were “nothing but concrete slabs.

They had very few items with them. Some had lost all of their personal papers, precious photos, keepsakes and other irreplaceable possessions. Their kids lost their toys. Several families lost their pets. Some had just left them at home thinking they would soon return.

Others shared something not often mentioned – they had little if any home or life insurance. Yes, several people died during this hurricane and their families now faced another financial burden. Some did not have adequate home insurance policies for hurricane damages and loss.

Many said that they had not prepared a family disaster plan. They said they would “just wait and see how bad it gets!” A common sentiment heard by many in our area.

Some folks don’t like to hear about this “disaster preparation” stuff! I can only say from personal experience that if you don’t prepare your family and home and disaster strikes, you will experience more stress and personal loss than you can imagine.

So, please, take the time now to prepare. It only takes one major disaster to change your lives forever.



This is all that is left of the base chapel on Homestead Air Force Base after Hurricane Andrew hit the base in 1992, a “quiet” hurricane season.

Photo: Mack Austin

Flip through the pages of any Bloomingdale Gazette and you'll see many bylines with her name. A dedicated Gazette writer since May 2013 – it's time to go behind the byline and meet Miriam Leech.

With an English degree to her name and experience as a technical editor and writer, Leech has covered a wide range of community topics for the Gazette.

"I have interviewed many wonderful people for my articles, but some really touch my heart," she said. "Joe and Pam Liguori, better known in Bloomingdale as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus are those kind of people," she continued, referencing an article she wrote for the December 2014 issue.

Besides contributing her writing, interviewing and organizational skills to the paper, Leech has many friends and connections in the community that lead her to new and interesting stories.

"I see the Gazette as serving several functions," Leech shared. "It is a way for the BHA to communicate with its members and residents, it brings news and feature stories of interest to the residents of Bloomingdale, and it spotlights the talents of our residents as well as their contributions to not only Bloomingdale but the greater Brandon community as well."

Her vision for the paper is that the number of pages will increase, "so that we can bring more great stories to the residents," she said.

Besides writing for the Gazette, Leech volunteers her time at Strawberry Crest High School (SCHS) where her son Will, 16, attends. She also enjoys card-making, the beach, dogs, Maryland (her home state) and '70s classic rock.

Leech lives in Somerset (Bloomingdale East) with her husband of 23 years, Tom, Will, and their 7-year-old Australian Shepherd, Ringo.

"My vision for Bloomingdale would be to continue to be the friendly, welcoming, safe and well-kept neighborhood we have come to call home," Leech said.

(Editor's Note: Behind the Byline will introduce our community to the many talented and dedicated people who are the backbone of this award-winning newspaper. All but one of our writers live in Bloomingdale, thus our unofficial motto, "By residents, for residents.")



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Miriam tells Joe and Pam Liguori (a.k.a. Santa and Mrs. Claus) what she wants for Christmas after she wrote the feature article on them for the December 2014 issue.



Photo: Leech Family

Diehard 'Noles fans, the Leech family and Chief Osceola during the 2013 Florida State Parents' Weekend football game. Son Jake, 19, is a rising junior at the university. Pictured left to right are sons Jake, Will, Miriam and husband, Tom.



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INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PROTECTING YOUR CHILD'S IDENTITY...

As the Bloomingdale Community Service Officer, almost every week I assist local adult residents who have had their identities stolen. An area many don't consider is protecting children's identities from being stolen.

Each year more than 50,000 children in Florida become victims of identity theft and more than \$100 million is stolen from children whose identities have been compromised. This is a staggering statistic. Identity thieves target kids because they generally have clean credit histories and years will pass before the crime is detected. It's never too early to start protecting your child from identity theft.

One step you can take is to freeze your child's credit. A new Florida law gives kids an extra line of defense against identity theft. The law requires reporting agencies to establish and freeze a credit record for a minor upon request by a parent or guardian. All that is required is to contact one of the major credit reporting agencies— Equifax, Experian, TransUnion. The fee is a mere \$10.

Simple steps can help you keep your child's information safe:

- Keep birth certificates, Social Security cards and other sensitive documents in a secure place such as a safe deposit box or home safe. Avoid carrying these documents with you.
- Shred old documents before throwing them out.
- Avoid giving out your child's Social Security number unless necessary.
- Use strong computer passwords.
- Avoid personal information sharing on social networking sites.
- Use only secure websites when sharing financial information online.
- Teach your teens how to safeguard their credit cards and personal information, especially those going away to college.

If you think your child's identity has been stolen, take immediate action. Take the following steps:

- Contact local law enforcement and report the crime. Keep a copy of the report to show credit reporting agencies.
- Contact the three major credit reporting agencies and request any information they might have on your child's credit.
- Ask the credit reporting agencies to place a fraud alert on your child's credit report.
- Freeze your child's credit.

For information, go to FreshFromFlorida.com/ProtectYourChild.



You Get What You Pay For...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC Campus)

Recently, a parent said our kids' golf camps might be a little pricey compared to other camps in the area. He's absolutely right...but you do get what you pay for.

Make comparisons (apples to apples, not apples to oranges) when evaluating area golf camps. Other golf camps have a higher student to instructor ratio; ours is 6 to 1. Some hire teenagers to monitor the kids – our instructors are all highly qualified trained teaching professionals. Finally, our kids get to apply their learning to actual playtime on the golf course.

Visit our website and see the programs available: Summer camps, New Years/Spring Break/Easter camps, After School (Fall/Winter/Spring) and Kid's Night League. We are the golf school for your kids...you get what you pay for.

Next lesson: What does hinging mean? Any questions or for lessons, visit CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. at 813-957-3205.



Photo: J.D. Carino

At Cochrane Golf Schools, students benefit from low student to teacher ratios, and personalized instruction from professionals. Contact J.D. Carino, pictured far right, to sign your child up for summer golf camps and lessons.



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS

Summer is officially here and now is the time to give special attention to safety. All kinds of activities can present dangers – from swimming to biking to traveling to driving. Following is a list of summer activities along with information to share with your family and teach them how to have a great summer and a safe summer to remember:

July 4th safety: Many folks enjoy fireworks displays on Independence Day. The displays can be beautiful but each year serious injuries occur when untrained individuals use fireworks. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public fireworks show put on by professionals.

If you do use them, safety precautions are necessary. Use them in open areas. Use safety goggles and have water and first aid items on hand. Keep kids a safe distance away, and remember, alcohol and explosives do not mix.

Surviving the heat: We are fortunate to live in a beautiful state with lots and lots of sunshine. Add high heat and humidity and you have a combination that can be dangerous. Teach your kids about the importance of staying hydrated. Show them what is best to drink – water and sports drinks – not soda!

Individual needs vary, but if you are thirsty, you are already experiencing dehydration symptoms according to experts. Drink lots of water before, during, and after activities. Teach children how to pace themselves and take cool-down breaks.

Never leave children or pets alone in a hot car. Heat stroke is deadly and happens quickly. It is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths for children and, Florida is one of many states with unattended child laws – translate...you can go to jail. There is no safe amount of time to leave a child or pet in a vehicle. Just don't do it!

Watch the weather closely and take cover: Florida is the lightning capital of the United States. Did you know lightning can strike from as far away as 25 miles? It is especially dangerous in open areas such as at the beach and on golf courses.

It is also hurricane season. Watch for severe weather warnings and take action to keep your family and home safe (see related stories this issue).

Learn to swim: As early as possible get your children swimming lessons. One important thing they will learn is how to “stay calm and not panic,” sounds simple, but it could be the difference between life and death.

If you have a home pool, take precautions to secure the pool and monitor children at all times. It only takes a few unsupervised minutes for tragedy to strike and for your child to become a summer drowning statistic. The same applies to our many lakes, ponds and beaches. Finally, wear sunscreen! Besides being uncomfortable, serious sunburns can lead to cancer scares.

Boating safety: If you are lucky enough to own a boat, have it inspected for sea-worthiness. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Flotilla 74 located in Brandon performs vessel safety inspections each month for free at Williams Park, 9425 Highway 41 South. Call 813-644-2894 or Google “USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 74” for inspection information. Ask the about their boating safety classes as well.

Boating can be fun but it can also be dangerous. Train and prepare for emergencies before heading out for a day on the water. And, use personal flotation devices, they increase your chances of survival.

Safe driving: Families will hit the road this summer to visit relatives and enjoy the many tourist attractions we have in our state. Wear seatbelts. Take the time to teach your teens about driving safety – no phone calls, no texting, and no drinking. Summer driving can be deadly for those who don't follow the rules.

Last...Get someone in your family trained in CPR/First Aid. It can save lives. The Red Cross and Campo YMCA offer classes. Have a safe summer!



One way to prevent drownings...get your kids into swim lessons by certified instructors. The Campo YMCA offers classes throughout the summer. Call 813-684-1371 for class schedules.



Follow safety tips to keep your kids smiling brightly this summer.

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



ALL SCHOOLS AND DISTRICT OFFICES CLOSED FRIDAYS THIS SUMMER

All Hillsborough County public schools and district offices will be closed on Fridays through Friday, August 14. Summer hours Monday through Thursday are 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

New Student Registration: Registration for the 2015-2016 school year begins August 3, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Registration information is posted under the Resource Tab on the school's home page at www.alafia.mysdhc.org.

Supply List: Now available online at www.alafia.mysdhc.org.

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

School-Paks are Back: School-paks (pre-packaged school supplies) for the 2015-2016 are now available. The school-paks are filled with all the items the teachers request for each specific grade. Spirit t-shirts are available on the individual package link. All paks include an agenda and PTA membership. One stop shopping with pick up at meet the teacher day will be in August. T-shirts, agendas and memberships will be placed inside your box. Orders can be placed between June 10 and July 12, but will be shipped to your house and a shipping charge applies. Go to <http://www.schoolpak.com/catalog/cimino-elementary> for information.

New Student Registration: Registration for new students will resume on July 27, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday – Thursday in the school office.

Drama Kids Camp: When school is out – Drama is IN! If you are looking for a fun camp for your kids this summer, and want to help support the PTA at the same time, look no further!

Drama Kids offers different weeklong programs that run on half day and full day schedules. Children participate in a variety of activities including speech, creative movement and improv. They will also be directing and producing their own show...everything from scripting to blocking, backdrops, props and costumes. Classes are available for children ages 4-17.

To register, go to Drama Kids International website at <http://dramakids.com/fl6/camps-events/>. Ten percent of all proceeds will go back to our school when you enter the promo code "Cimino" in the registration comments section.



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Math League Team: Congratulations to the Burns Math League Team, which finished third out of forty-five teams at the district competition last week. The following students won individual awards in their divisions: Joseph Neidig - 2nd place 6th grade, Don Chen - 4th place 6th grade, Jude Delikat - 9th place 6th grade, Jordan Chastain - 7th place Algebra and Madeline Pena - Honorable Mention Algebra.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS BULLS BRIEFS

Bloomingdale High School 2015 Graduation: Watch BSHS's graduation Ceremony! If you missed the ceremony, visit YouTube, search Bloomingdale HS Graduation 2015 or follow the link <https://youtube.com/watch?v=jPoI-K0824o&feature=youtu.be>. It is also available on the school's website at www.bloomingdale.mysdhc.org.

Senior Graduation Photos: BSHS teacher Heather Hanks has posted a treasure trove of high-resolution graduation ceremony photos on Facebook. Check them out at https://facebook.com/hlhanks/media_set?set=a.10107001424321351.1073741845.2001647&type=3

Summer Reading: Get a jump on your summer reading. Visit www.bloomingdale.mysdhc.org, books are listed by grade.

Freshman GAP Camp: Make new friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers and counselors, and get to know Bloomingdale during this four-day summer program! Two Gap camps are offered: August 3-6 and August 10-13 from 8 a.m. to noon. Learn about our campus, extracurricular activities, clubs, traditions, resources, AP programs, college/university awareness and much more! For information, contact Cara Diehl at cara.diehl@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

Social Media: Remember to follow all the latest news and updates of Bloomingdale on Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat and You Tube by using @BloomingdaleSHS.





HCPS Launches Newsdesk

Hillsborough County Public Schools News Release

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) announces the launch of “newsdesk,” a new online source for good news happening in our schools! “newsdesk” features outstanding and engaging stories relevant to students, families, employees, and the community. Come see what makes our schools so special and unique at <http://communication.sdhc.k12.fl.us/news/>.



Bulls Basketball Camp was a Slam Dunk!

By Deidre Morgan

Last month, Bloomingdale High School hosted the 6th annual Basketball Camp for students entering grades 4 to 9. Head Coach Joe Willis proclaimed this year’s program “by far the best yet.” There were three 4-day programs offered with two sessions per day. Afternoon sessions for each of those days was sold out. But, the best part – kids had fun while learning the fundamentals of basketball.



Coach Willis gives instructions to the camper.



The campers put their skills to the test with drills.



Campers take a water break after drills.

Photos: Deidre Morgan



Summer Workouts Help Build Bull Stamina

By Deidre Morgan

The Bloomingdale Bulls football team is hard at work with summer workouts. The team is getting stronger in the weight room and practicing drills on the field. Head Coach Brian Surcy is looking forward to another great season.



Even in the Florida heat, players run “bleachers” as a conditioning drill.

Several Bulls players stop for a photo op during drills. Pictured l. to r., Sam Skinner, Howie Blair, Colin Errity, Reggie Burney and Ryan Voyles.



Photos: Deidre Morgan



Bloomington's Best of the Best... Recognizing Excellence in Our Community

Staff Report

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 Douglas Sandberg July's Best of the Best Student of the Month!

Impressive – that's what comes to mind when reviewing the accomplishments of this exceptional young man. Douglas Sandberg is a graduate of the Class of 2015 at Bloomington High School.

Academically, he ranked 14th in his class of more than 500 students and carried a weighted GPA of 6.5 and unweighted GPA of 3.9. Outside of the classroom, Sandberg was a member of the National Honor Society, English Honor Society, Rho Kappa, Mu Alpha Theta and Science Honor Society.

This gifted student is also an outstanding athlete. A triple threat on the sports field lettering in baseball, football and soccer, his efforts contributed to the success of both the school's baseball and football teams. The baseball team went to the state championships and the football team, of which he was the team Captain, had its best record in its 27-year history.

With awards too numerous to list, Sandberg is a recipient of the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award, Florida Class 8-A Offensive Honorable Mention and Perfect Game Preseason Underclass All-American Honorable Mention in baseball.

Even after graduation, he continues to earn awards. On June 8, the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) recognized him as an Academic All-State Team member. Athletes who receive this award are chosen for their accomplishments on the field, their hard work in the classroom and service to the community.

While his accomplishments are considerable, Sandberg is proud of his community service record. With over 100-logged

hours, he has volunteered at Strides for Education, Relay for Life, the Humane Society, the Crossing Church, Fishhawk Little League and Metropolitan Ministries. "Volunteering allows me to engage with my community and help those less fortunate than myself," he said.

A Bloomington resident for 15 years, Sandberg appreciates the community's great schools, activities available at Campo YMCA and baseball fields, and the closeness of the Alafia River. "It's just a great place to grow up," he stated.

After enjoying some deserved down time with friends and family, Sandberg will attend the University of Florida to study biomechanical engineering. "I was born with a heart condition known as Atrial Septal Defect, which was corrected with an implanted medical device when I was a sophomore in high school," he explained. "Biomechanical engineering combines medicine and engineering, so I have a vested interest, and hope to advance health care treatment through research and development."

Of his many accomplishments, Sandberg said, "I'm proud that I've been able to maintain my grades and participate in sports, school activities and volunteer efforts while making great friends with classmates, parents, teammates, coaches and faculty members at Bloomington, Newsome, Riverview, Durant and Brandon High Schools."

Scott and Wanda Sandberg are understandably proud of this amazing young man with a bright future. The family, including sister Megan a 2013 BSHS graduate, live in Fairway Park.

Keep up the great work, Doug! Your community is proud!

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Photos: The Sandberg Family

Pictured are Doug Sandberg and sister Megan at the 21st Annual Florida High School Athletic Association's (FHSAA) Academic All-State Awards Banquet. Sandberg credits his sister with his competitive nature and "pushing me to do my best."



Travel is a favorite Sandberg family activity. After hiking up "Half Dome" in Yosemite National Park, Doug enjoys a view from the top.



JROTC Students Train with HCFR

Bloomington High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) hosted the "JROTC Fire Muster" at the school on June 18. At the event, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue (HCFR) personnel provided hands-on training and demonstrations to more than 70 JROTC students. Students participated in CPR training, saw an extrication, learned about patient immobilization and had a chance to do the firefighter challenge interactive obstacle course.



Photo: HCFR



Photo: Tami Howell

Congratulations to some of our youngest graduates! The Village Early Learning Center 2015 Pre-Kindergarten class crossed the stage on May 30 at Riverview High School.

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