



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXVI ❧ ISSUE 1 ❧ JANUARY 2016 ❧ [www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com)

## Santa's Visit Delights Residents

Staff Report



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Sometimes communication is done most effectively through the eyes of children... Brilyn Capling (3) shares a sweet moment with Santa during the BHA's annual Santa visit and charity food drive held Dec. 5 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club. Santa's visit is just one of the many services the BHA provides to residents each year. See the full story on page 10. See what else the BHA does for the community on pages 4 and 12-13.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one. *Brad Paisley*

## This Month



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# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road  
 Valrico, Florida 33596

### Directors at Large:

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

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**Vice President:** *Daniel Berkowitz*  
**Secretary:** *Suzy Watts*  
**Treasurer:** *Mary Galin*

# YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



## JOY BOISSELLE

**Editor - The Bloomington Gazette**  
 3509 Bell Shoals Rd.  
 Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051  
 Email: [InBloomingtonNews@gmail.com](mailto:InBloomingtonNews@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.BloomingtonHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtonHOA.com)

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: [tcastillo@tampabay.com](mailto:tcastillo@tampabay.com)

# Tampa Bay Times

The official publication of the BHA since 1980  
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## Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle

**Thomas & Carlene Carlin**

106 Bayfield Drive Brandon, FL 33511 (Bloomindale Estates)



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](http://www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets). Located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd., the center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Here are just a couple fabulous faces:

## Mrs. Claus



After Christmas, what's left for this public servant to do but look for her forever home, right? Mrs. Claus (ID30371285) is a year-old petite and perky female all-black cat. She's been a good girl all year. Make her your New Year's resolution!



Farrah (ID30283093) is a 49-pound hound made of pure sugar. She arrived to the shelter as a stray mama with a litter of adorable Christmas pups, and now it's her turn to find forever love. Farrah is as mild-mannered and huggable as they come. Make her New Year a happy one!

## Farrah



Provided By The Pet Resource Center

## TODAY!

Today's First Saturday Celebration:  
"New Year, New Hope, New Home"  
\$16 Adoptions Featured

**FIRST SATURDAY**  
Celebration

What's new in 2016? More free, family-friendly fun and pet adoption specials! Stop by the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center (PRC) at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd. for today's First Saturday Celebration! Enjoy music, food, a bounce house, and more from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and better still – \$16 adoption specials. The special is on all ready-to-go pets meaning spayed, neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, licensed and vet checked.



# BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



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

## 2016 Membership Drive Begins, Dues Increase to \$35 Annually

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

Check your mailboxes after Jan. 4 for the BHA's annual membership drive letter and scholarship donation request. Your mailer will contain a letter, front and back, with details about the Association's role, events, programs and a scholarship donation request. A yellow membership card and a return envelope is also included.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association thanks all who joined last year making it the most successful membership drive yet. The BHA still needs your support. When you receive your membership card and scholarship donation request, we ask that you again support the Association. 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.

Your dues fund all special programs and services including this newspaper, a part-time staff, the annual Santa visit, the upcoming first-time community yard sale, the community clean-up and the fall festival. Every member and dollar matter. The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods.

To help with planning and budgeting, join today or at least within the next 90 days. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road., Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check.

An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://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.

**Chadd's Ford Residents and the 2016 Membership Drive** – Chadd's Ford residents will receive their notices after Jan. 9 when the results of their deed update vote are tallied.

## Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33596 • [bloomingdalehoa.com](http://bloomingdalehoa.com)

*Please correct name below if different. BHA Membership Notices are mailed to the owner on file with the Hillsborough County Tax Collector. Recent changes may not be reflected here.*

## 2016 BHA MEMBERSHIP

**\$35.00 to Join or Renew!**

**Return This Card With Payment**



2016 Membership .....	\$35.00
Community Scholarship Donation .....	\$ _____
Total Enclosed .....	\$ _____
Check Number .....	# _____

**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](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com), or call 813-681-2051. We will help you promote your event on our Facebook page.

**Saturday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** / Chadd's Ford Final Vote Day / Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Chadd's Ford residents are asked to vote by mail or come by the office. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

**Monday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.** / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Have a common area issue? Attend the BSTD's monthly meeting to voice your concerns. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

**Tuesday, Jan. 12, 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, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.** / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Master Deputy Curtis Warren, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

### Save the Date!

**Saturday, Feb. 27** / First-ever Community-Wide Yard Sale, Stay tuned for details in the Gazette and on Facebook.

**Saturday, March 5** / Annual Community Clean-Up, Stay tuned for details in the Gazette and on Facebook.

# BHA BRIEFS

**December Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News** The Board voted to approve the 2016 budget at the December meeting. With the deed initiative beginning, the document will be adjusted as needed. Planning updates for the membership drive, scholarship program, new yard sale and clean-up were provided to members.

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

## 2016 Scholarship Dates/Deadlines Set

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

Jan. 15 - Scholarship applications available at [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://www.bloomingdalehoa.com)

April 1 - Scholarship Deadline, No exceptions

May 10 - Winner announced at monthly BHA board meeting



## First-Ever Community Yard Sale

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

## Annual Community Clean-Up

The BHA's ever-popular annual community clean-up will be Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At least five commercial trash roll-offs will be on site as well as our returning partners, Urban E Recycling, a computer and electronics recycling company, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet program. More details in next month's Gazette.

## What's missing from the 2016 BHA Board? You are!

Introducing the 2016 BHA Board. Pictured, left to right, front row: Joanie Wilson, Secretary Suzy Watts, Santa (not a permanent member), Beth Smedley and Bobbi Ferraro. Back row: Billy Hightower, Sean Donahue, Treasurer Mary Galin and President George May. Not pictured: Vice-President Dann Berkowitz. New members welcomed and needed.



Photo: Joy Boisselle



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

**Bloomington Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Spring Registration / Jan. 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. & Jan. 12, 6-9 p.m. / 2215 Bloomington Ave. /** Registration fees: T-Ball (ages 4-6), \$105; Baseball, \$155; Softball \$155; Sibling Discount, \$25. For information, visit [www.bysafl.com](http://www.bysafl.com).

**Annual Plant City MLK Festival / Jan. 8 & 15-18 / Times and Locations Vary /** The Plant City Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Arts Festival is a 5-day cultural event including an Opening Ceremony, Freedom Parade through historic downtown (Jan. 16, 1 p.m.), Leadership Breakfast, Freedom Walk, and Street Fest. Enjoy ethnic foods, health fair, carnival rides, concessions, goods, and educational exhibits. This year's theme is Faith, Culture, Community and Unity. Visit [www.plantcitymlkfestival.com](http://www.plantcitymlkfestival.com) for information.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade / Jan. 18 / Noon / Downtown Tampa /** Tampa's Martin Luther King Day Parade is an integral and exciting component in a week of activity celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King, and the beautiful diversity and community spirit throughout the Tampa Bay Area. The parade begins at Cuscaden Park and ends at Middleton High School. Visit [www.mlkjrparade.com](http://www.mlkjrparade.com) for parade route and information.



**The Emperor's New Clothes / Jan. 22 / 7 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc. / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon /** This endearing musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen Classic is sure to weave its way into your heart. Nothing pleased the pompous Emperor more than a suit of new clothes. So when he heard of a magic material that had the remarkable quality of being invisible to anyone who was not good at their job or who was intolerably stupid, he called for tailors at once. Join the crafty swindlers, the bumbling Emperor, and his entire court as they learn the cost of conceit in the original "fashion faux pas." Ticket pricing: \$6 members; \$7 non-members. All shows are approximately 50 minutes. Recommended for ages 3 & up. For information visit [www.centerplacebrandon.org](http://www.centerplacebrandon.org) or call 813-685-8888.

**The Village Players Present Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure / Jan. 22, Dinner Theater Premier, \$25, Limited Seating; Jan. 23, 29, 30 & Feb. 5 and 6, 8 p.m.; Jan. 24 and 31, Matinees at 3 p.m. / The James McCabe Theater / 506 N. 5th St., Valrico /** A reinterpretation of Sherlock Holmes' last great story, involving his arch nemesis, Professor Moriarty. The King of Bohemia is blackmailed, and opera singer, Irene Adler,

may be one of the suspects. Somehow, Moriarty and his henchman, one of whom is Adler's husband another of whom is her maid, are behind this, and Holmes must walk right into his trap in order to solve his final mystery. Tickets (except for Jan. 22) \$15 General Admission; \$13 Students, Seniors, and Military with I.D.; \$12 Groups of 10 or more. Visit [www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com](http://www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com) or call 813-643-8292 for information.

## UPCOMING

**The Florida State Fair / Feb. 4-15 / Florida State Fairgrounds / 4800 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa /** Mark your calendars! The Florida State Fair attracts up to 500,000 people in 12 days. Each year Florida residents create exhibits for Aquaculture, Horticulture, Woodcarving, Needlework, and more. Bragging rights are still won for the prized bull, best pie, and the most beautiful quilt. Being an Independent Midway, all rides are selected by the Fair Authority to provide our visitors with all the thrills and chills they've come to expect. As the first State Fair of the year, we get all the latest and greatest in Fair foods such as the Pizza Cone, Redneck Burger, Bacon Ice Cream, and more! It's affordable family fun at its best! Nobody does it better than the Florida State Fair! Visit [www.floridastatefair.com](http://www.floridastatefair.com) for events, tickets, and more.



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



# INs & OUTs WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE AMENDED DEED RESTRICTION AND MANDATORY HOA INITIATIVE...

Staff Report

The deed restriction update began with the mailing of the new documents to Chadd's Ford residents on Nov. 18. A town hall meeting for the neighborhood took place Dec. 19 with the BHA board and attorney. Residents asked questions and raised their concerns during the meeting. Final voting for Chadd's Ford is Jan. 9. The initiative requires a homeowner majority "yes" vote to pass – For Chadd's Ford, this means 25 of the 48 homeowners.

Regardless of the Chadd's Ford outcome, the BHA will continue the initiative with mail-outs to Windsor Woods and Bloomingdale Estates residents in the spring. The board's goal is to gauge support for the initiative in these three neighborhoods prior to moving forward with the remaining voluntary HOA neighborhoods. Currently, this update does not affect our neighborhoods where a mandatory HOA is currently in place.

To view the new document, visit [www.BloomingdaleHoa.com](http://www.BloomingdaleHoa.com) and click on the pdf link. After the first town hall, a "frequently asked questions" document will be posted as well.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Chadd's Ford resident Robert Kittner signs in at the Town Hall registration table manned by BHA director Billy Hightower in Chadd's Ford. Final voting for Chadd's Ford residents will close at 5 p.m. on Jan. 9. Residents may mail their proxies to the BHA office or come by on Jan. 9 to drop off their vote in person.

## Bloomingdale Neighborhoods

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is the umbrella association for thirty-two neighborhoods. Sixteen neighborhoods have their own mandated Homeowner Associations, and the remaining are non-mandated communities. Whether living in a mandated or non-mandated neighborhood, ALL deed restrictions are mandatory.

## Neighborhoods Affected by the Update and Mandatory HOA Initiative

Augusta Village / Stratford Trace: Section W	Fairway Manor: Section L
Bloomingdale Estates: Sections D1- D3	Fairway Park, Section M1 and M2
Bloomingdale Oaks: Section XX	Oakcrest: Section R
Bloomingdale Pointe: Sections A1-A4	Sandy Creek Manors, Section H2, Sections I1 and I2
Bloomingdale Trace: Section O	Pine Oaks of Bloomingdale, Sections B1 and B2
Bloomingdale West: Sections C1-C4, Section E, Sections H1, H3-H4	Spring Lake: Section FF
Chadd's Ford: Section N	Windsor Woods: Section P/Q
Cypress Reserve: Section J/K	

## Perspectives on mandatory HOA's and deed restrictions...

Everyone has an opinion. Several people were asked to provide their thoughts on why a mandatory homeowners association is a positive part of homeownership. Asked were a resident in a mandatory HOA, a resident in a voluntary HOA and a real estate professional. This month, BHA supporter and real estate mogul Ray Chadderton weighs in on the initiative.



**Ray Chadderton**  
The Chadderton  
Real Estate Group

"Most buyers look at four things in a neighborhood when purchasing a home: location, schools, amenities,

and neighborhood appearance. Of these four, neighborhood appearance can be directly controlled by the homeowners. While most homeowners have pride of ownership and work to maintain their home and property, others don't make this a priority and it is those properties that can make or break the first impression for a buyer.

In most cases, homebuyers don't want their future property values left to the mercy of someone who paints their home vibrant colors or has a dead lawn, falling fence and multiple vehicles in the front yard. If you have several of these unkempt properties in a neighborhood, homes can take longer to sell and usually at a lower price than a comparable home in another neighborhood with enforced deed restrictions."



## Make Your Financial Future a Priority.

Unlike other chores that pile up in the driveway, clutter the garage or run wild in the front yard, your financial situation is a little less obvious. That's why it's so important to take advantage of our complimentary financial review at least once a year.

We will discuss the different strategies available to help put your finances in line with both your short- and long-term goals.

**To schedule your complimentary financial review, call or visit today.**

**Dan Sammons, CLU®, ChFC®**

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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.*



## New Year's "Revolutions"

Oh, great. It's New Year's Resolutions time again, isn't it? Time for us to rediscover that, while the rest of our bodies may be constructed of flesh and blood, our feet are made of clay.

Why does the human race persist on beginning a perfectly good year by making itself miserable on purpose? Here we have 12 brand new months, all nice and clean, and what do we do? We turn them into "The Enemy."

This year, I'm going to try something a little different with my NYR's... like being realistic:

Resolution # 1: I am going to KEEP those previously unwanted pounds that have clung to me like an ugly blind date for what seems like centuries. After all, they've stuck with me longer than some husbands I could name. They are my faithful friends who have been with me through thick and thin (mostly thick) and I shall treat them accordingly.

Resolution # 2: I shall no longer read ANY article that promises "Tips on Looking Your Youngest!" The last one promised me that cucumbers were "The New Fountain of Youth!" I rested them on my eyes, slathered them on my face, ate them, bathed with them and took them for long walks in the country. The result is that I not only don't look any younger, I

smell funny and have the only body in the Free World that has to rotate its crops.

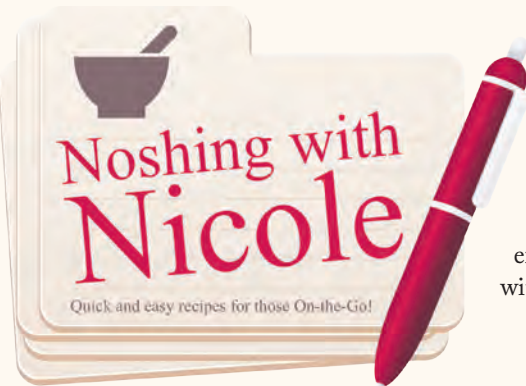
Resolution # 3: I will begin my quest for "high fiber" chocolate. I realize the search could be tedious and my mission dangerous (eating your way through a Godiva shop is not a task to be undertaken lightly), but think how grateful the world will be when I uncover this missing dietary link.

Resolution # 4: I will lose my fear of flying by never... ever...leaving the ground.

Resolution # 5: I will look upon my hall closet as a treasure trove of lost family heirlooms, not a "massive pile of assorted crap," as asserted by a certain male Philistine who shares my home. Any attempts to clean out this museum will be greeted with horror and disdain.

See how easy it is? I have ensured that I will not enter 2016 by setting myself up for failure, but clean of heart, brave of spirit, my head held proudly high. And pretty much full of baloney. Which reminds me. I'm hungry. I think I'll take my "faithful friends" into the kitchen and rustle up a sandwich.

Happy New Year!



### Candy Mousse Pie – Decadent, Delicious and Deceptively Easy

January is the time of year for New Year's resolutions – goals that encourage positive change. This month's recipe, Candy Mousse Pie, is sure to satisfy many. For parties, its simplicity will make any "I'll get it at the store" cook look as if they are the next Master Chef. With few ingredients, it is not a budget buster and is perfect for "always broke" college students.

As we roll into the New Year, I want to make your lives just a little simpler with an effortless recipe that will make any future hectic days a thing of the past. So, come cook with me, and live life simple.

#### Directions:

- 1) Set aside 1/3 cup of M&M's for garnish later on
- 2) Place the rest of the M&M's into a food processor, or blender, and pulverize until it is a small stone gravel texture. See photo.
- 3) Scoop the entire cool whip container content into a medium bowl, and then fold in the pulverized M&M's until a consistent texture is formed throughout.
- 4) Spoon the mixture into the graham cracker crust and level it until even on top.
- 5) Garnish the pie with the remaining candy. Create a design or crush and sprinkle on top.
- 6) Although it can be eaten as is, the pie tastes best when frozen for a few hours. Let it thaw slightly and enjoy!

#### Ingredients:

Medium (11.40 ounce) bag of M&M's, Note: Any candy can be used as long as it has a solid consistency such as M&M's, Butterfingers, Heath, Whoppers, and Reese's Pieces. Candies with softer centers will not work such as Snicker's, and Three Musketeers. You may adjust the quantity of candy based on your sweetness preferences.

8 ounce container of Cool Whip

9-inch graham cracker pie crust (or make your own)

Photos: Nicole Cluck



The central ingredient in Candy Mousse pie is the candy! Pulverize to coarse consistency.



Just out of the freezer, Candy Mousse pie will have everyone begging for the recipe. Yum!



## Living Well

By Teri Bartus, MA, CPT



Teri is the founder and practice director of Flourish Nutrition Center in Brandon. She considers it her joy and privilege to serve women in achieving their personal best. Teri has lived in the Central Florida area for over 25



years and resides in the Somerset development of Bloomingdale. She has three lovely daughters, two great sons-in-law and twelve amazing grandchildren.

To learn more about Flourish Nutrition Center contact Teri at (813)309-3349, email [teri@flourishdesigningwellness.com](mailto:teri@flourishdesigningwellness.com) or visit [www.flourishdesigningwellness.com](http://www.flourishdesigningwellness.com). The center is located at 716 South Oakwood Ave. in Brandon.

### Okay 2016, Here We Come!

Those delicious dinners, scrumptious cookies and crazy cocktails...It is back to reality from those December days of indulgence. Goodbye extra ten pounds. We won't miss you!

Yet returning to healthier habits does not have to be a miserable boot camp. A few simple changes will do the trick, and you will begin to look, think and feel better as you go. Follow these simple guidelines to get yourself back on track nutritionally...



Photo: [www.flourishdesigningwellness.com](http://www.flourishdesigningwellness.com)

#### Eat Whole Foods

You won't have to worry about complicated recipes or harmful additives when eating pure whole foods as much as possible. Food quality is the most important aspect of a healthy diet. A quality milk product will do you better than a commercialized soy beverage. If you are looking for that glow that shines from the inside out, you will get it with whole foods.

#### Eat Local

This is the best way to expect you are eating quality foods. Local farmer's markets can be more expensive, but we vote with our dollar. Treat your body with the care it deserves. Spending an extra couple of dollars on local foods is a great investment. Quality foods can save you from future medical costs.

#### Eat With Atmosphere

Make the time that you spend eating as enjoyable and relaxed as possible. What atmosphere do you prefer? People you love? Fresh air? Candle light? Magnify the elements of atmosphere.



Photo: [www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)

## Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

By Ryan Brantley



The Chadderton Real Estate Group  
Keller Williams Realty

813-924-8187

[Ryan@RyanBrantley.org](mailto:Ryan@RyanBrantley.org)

[www.chaddertongroup.com](http://www.chaddertongroup.com)

2016 is here with what should be an exciting year for the Tampa area housing market. According to the Tampa Bay Times, "Home prices in the Tampa Bay area rose 7 percent in the past year, enough to place this metro area in the top 10 cities for appreciation of at least one slice of the housing market." This is great news for Bloomingdale homeowners and will open the door to buying and selling opportunities in the near future.

In one year, Bloomingdale has already seen an upward trend. In all of 2014, there were 273 properties sold compared to 355 sold in 2015. That's 82 more houses sold in 2015! 2016 should see an even higher number of properties sold as well as an increase in sales prices.

Don't let another year go by. Take advantage of the increasing prices and low interest rates and think about making 2016 a year for change.

#### Neighborhood Snapshot - Bloomingdale Cove

Bloomingdale Cove is one of the newer communities in Bloomingdale East with homes built in the late 1990's and early 2000s. Over the last year, the average sales price was \$220,555 with a high price of \$252,000 and a low price of \$180,710.

Homes averaged 3.75 bedrooms and 2,115 square feet with the average home selling for \$104.73 per square foot. Parts of this neighborhood back up to rural areas leaving homeowners with a feeling of suburbia mixed with country. An added perk - it is one of two neighborhoods that have access to a private park at the end of Culbreath which is only accessible by key.

*\*MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold Jan. 1 through Dec. 20, 2015. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*

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Nearly 500 residents including 150 children and two dogs visited the jolly one and his merry band of elves last month at the BHA's 29th annual Santa visit and charity food drive benefiting Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO). The event returned to the Bloomingdale Golfers Club and featured many photo opportunities, crafts, elves, a balloon artist, cookies and a brunch sponsored by the golf club.

While Santa came without his better half Mrs. Claus, he still brought the smiles, joy and wonderment the community anticipates with each yearly pilgrimage. Santa embodies selfless giving and give is exactly what Bloomingdale residents did. Nearly 350 pounds of food donations were collected for ECHO, which were used to brighten the holidays of those in need.

In an email interview, ECHO Executive Director Eleanor Saunders said, "November and December are two of our busiest months, so your donations could not have come at a better time. On average, we serve 100 families a week (100 cartloads of groceries is a lot to go out the door every 5 days)!"

Help the BHA continue this beloved tradition. When you receive your membership letter this month, join. Every dollar goes towards making our community a better place.



Our community is a generous one as food donations more than doubled from Santa's 2014 visit. The day's haul reached nearly 350 pounds of food that ECHO used for families during the holidays.



Photos: Joy Boisselle

Even four-legged kids want to be on Santa's "Nice" list! Forrest, a 12-year-old retired service dog, smiles widely for the camera. He is the faithful companion of Brooker Elementary teacher Jennifer Brodsky.

**BHA Announces 2015 Student Volunteers of the Year**

The BHA's Student Volunteer of the Year program is in its second year. This program serves to thank those students who have selflessly made our community a better place to live, work and call home. This year, two volunteers were selected – Hunter Carlisle and Rachel Santarlas. Both participated in three or more BHA events last year.

Pictured with other volunteers are our 2015 winners at last month's community Santa event. Front row: Twins Travis and Tyler Matos, and Sam Berkowitz, one of last year's volunteers of the year. Second row: Nick Berkowitz, Haleigh Lung, Rachel Santarlas, Katelynn Lung, and Kodie and Karianna Kinslow. Top row: Hunter Carlisle, Santa and Makenzie Lung.

**Thank You 2015 Volunteers**

The BHA thanks all volunteers for their selfless contributions to our community.

- |                  |                  |                         |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Bobby Michael    | Vi Osborn        | Zach Cohen              |
| Sam Berkowitz    | Clayton Weaver   | Os'Stun Black           |
| Nick Berkowitz   | Matt Overly      | David Abraham           |
| Kate Berkowitz   | Sarah Overly     | Bill Hightower          |
| Tom Mcguire      | Heather Michael  | Ray Chadderton and Team |
| Sierra Michael   | Bobby Michael    | Hailey Hernandez        |
| Hunter Carlisle  | Daniel Berkowitz | Bobbi Ferraro           |
| Ryan Kehrmeier   | Heather Fenzau   | Joshua Martinez         |
| Bethany McCullum | Larry Galin      | Charlie Woodcock        |
| Sarah McCullum   | Sean Donahue     | Kaitlyn Harper          |
| Logan McDaniels  | George May       | Joshua Martinez         |
| Jesse Hunter     | Tom McGuire      | Mary Galin              |
| Mariah Diaz      | Joanie Wilson    | Travis Matos            |
| Beth Smedley     | Suzy Watts       | Tyler Matos             |
| Paul Santarlas   | Luke Beggs       | Makenzie Lung           |
| Chris Santarlas  | Cayden Raymond   | Katelynn Lung           |
| Rachel Santarlas | Mat Rosenberger  | Haleigh Lung            |
| Kevin Hayes      | Blake Gaertner   | Kodie Kinslow           |
| Dennis Osborn    | Brandon Zayas    | Karianna Kinslow        |



Photo: Joy Boisselle

The 2016 Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) Board of Trustees: Pictured clockwise from left, are Tom Leech, Trustee; Mike Chanen, Vice President; Dave West, President; Derry Wilson, Office Manager; Rusty Jones, Trustee; and Chris Papp, Trustee (not pictured, Mark Horst, Treasurer, and Mark Vargo, Secretary).

The BSTD is completely separate from the BHA although they both share a common desire to see our community prosper and continue to be a place all are proud to call home. The board meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and residents are welcome to attend.

The BSTD manages the \$130 annual special tax assessed each property owner in the community. The bulk of this special tax money provides for common area maintenance and repair, landscaping, entryway lighting and irrigation. The community landscapers, for example, work directly for the BSTD.

For information, visit [www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org](http://www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org) or call 684-6667.

Photo: Miriam Leech

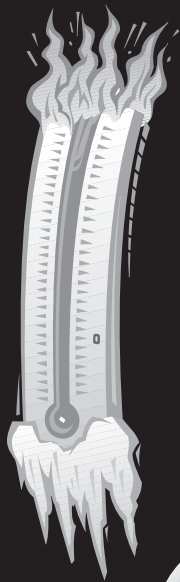


**BLOOMINGDALE  
SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT**

**BLOOMINGDALE**

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

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\*W.A.C.



# 2015 - A Look Back and

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association wishes every resident a Happy New Year and a preview of what is to come in 2016.

Initiatives and activities included:

- Winning three Hillsborough County Neighborhood Recognition Awards including Best of Bloomingdale (BG), best special event for the Fall Festival and best environmental program.
- Spearheading the single deed restriction document and mandatory HOA initiative to improve neighborhood standards. This initiative affects nearly 3,300 residents currently living in the community coming year.
- Meetings with county commissioners and officials seeking a resolution on the transportation issues on Crest Roads.
- Establishing a construction update and Hillsborough County news section in the Bloomingdale Gazette.
- Providing a \$2,000 scholarship to a Bloomingdale resident and high school senior.
- Continuing the Bloomingdale Roundtable, a forum for community leaders to share ideas and concerns.
- Providing our youth with community service opportunities through the Fall Festival.

2016 will be another great year for our community. Your membership will provide for:

- Our staff, newspaper, website, Facebook page, clean-up day, scholarship, Fall Festival and more.
- A new service to the community – the first-ever community garage sale coming in 2016.
- The ongoing single source deed restriction initiative.
- A continued and strong voice at county and state meetings dealing with transportation issues.

None of the events would be possible without your support. Residents will soon receive their membership cards to continue the programs and services that make our community special. We need your support.



A Community Gathers - The 2015 Fall Festival, the BHA's annual neighborhood building event, was bigger and better than ever. More than 70 area businesses took part in this year's event to the delight of nearly 1,000 residents and their families.

Photo: Heather Rose Photography



A Community Cleans Up - A BHA standard for over 10 years, the annual community clean-up provides residents the opportunity to get rid of their junk without leaving the neighborhood. Last year, the BHA and volunteers filled five commercial containers with resident throw-aways.



Advocating for the Community - The BHA attended many meetings both with county commissioners and department heads in 2015. Topics included the upcoming widening of Bell Shoals Road, the intersection improvement at Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue and securing funding for Lithia-Pinecrest Road improvements.



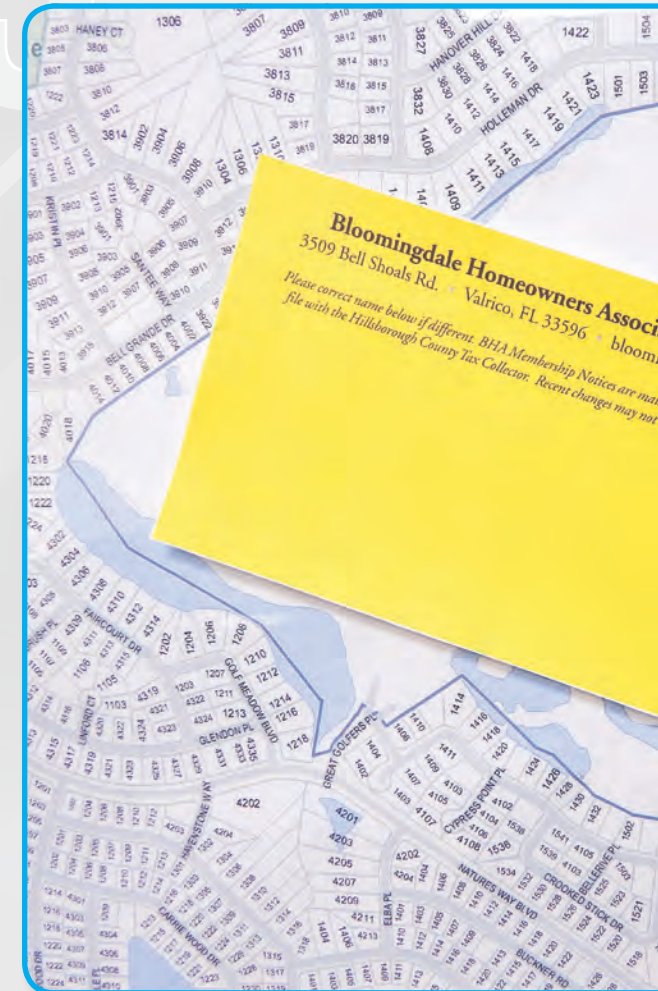
Giving Back - One of two charity events run last year by the BHA, the charity golf tournament netted \$4,000 for K9s for Warriors. Pictured are Army veteran Matt Metts and Bouncer.



An Award-Winning Association - While the Association is run by volunteers, their desire to provide the community with the best is evident in the number of awards they received at last year's county Neighborhood Conference. Last year's awards included recognition for the Bloomingdale Gazette, the Fall Festival and the Community Clean-up.



Supporting our Youth - The BHA continues to provide a \$2,000 scholarship to exceptional high school seniors living in the community. Last year's winner Chris Santarlas received his award from BHA vice-president Dann Berkowitz at the May board meeting. Chris was also the January Student of the Month.



This year's membership card will be in your mailbox with your dues check and scholarship donation. All monies received are used for the benefit of the community.

# 2016 - A Look Forward

Happy New Year and proudly presents a look back at 2015 in pictures and

winning a repeat win for best large-scale communications for the Bloomingdale community for the annual community clean-up.

initiative for non-mandated neighborhoods helping to preserve property values and

transportation issues affecting Bloomingdale Avenue, Bell Shoals and Lithia Pine-

BG to help keep residents apprised of ongoing improvements in the area.

and a student of the month program.

ideas for community betterment.

and other annual charity events.

and Santa visit and charity food drive.

February.

and other issues affecting our quality of life and much more!

their 2016 membership notices. Your \$35 membership contribution allows the BHA support. Don't think twice. Join the Association today.



Spreading the Word - The Bloomingdale Gazette is the community's voice. Besides BHA and county information, Gazette staff routinely write articles about Bloomingdale residents and local businesses. Pictured (l. to r.) are the Sarge's BBQ team of Chris Capazola, Brian Burt, and Bloomingdale resident Ken Sebourn.



Return this card soon. Please return the yellow card with your membership dues as they are tax-deductible. Photo: Joy Boisselle

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

  
 The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

First Annual  
**Community Garage Sale**  
February 27, 2016  
8 a.m.



---

**2016 Annual Clean-Up Day**  
 March 5, 2016  
 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **OR** until bins are full



Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility  
1629 Natures Way (behind Alafia Elementary School)

Visit our Facebook page or see the Bloomingdale Gazette for updates.

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



Rewarding Standard-bearers - The Yard of the Month program continued to be a crowd pleaser. Ace Hardware has been the program sponsor for over 10 years.



Preserving Property Values - The BHA officially began the deed restriction update and mandatory HOA initiative in December with Chadd's Ford residents. Final voting for this neighborhood concludes on Jan. 9. Other non-mandated neighborhoods will be scheduled to vote throughout 2016.

Gazette File Photos, unless otherwise noted.

# 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.*

### Florida's Arbor Day is Jan. 15; Think Penny Pines

By Gwen Graverson

*"Reversing deforestation is complicated; planting a tree is simple."* Martin O'Malley



Celebrate Florida's Arbor Day this year by donating to the Penny Pines program. For several years, the Valrico Garden Club (VGC) has made donations to Penny Pines, a national conservation project managed by the National Garden Clubs and the USDA Forest Service. The program helps deter the costs of replanting indigenous trees to areas damaged through fire or other natural catastrophe. Last year, the VGC as part of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. District VIII helped to restore 533 acres.

According to the NGC website, "the Forest Service will do the planting, using your donation together with Federal funds, and will provide to the plantation the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas. The plantations are a part of the regular National Forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brush-covered areas, which are potentially productive timberlands. Reforestation provides soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation."

Your donation can help make a difference. Donations are made in multiples of \$68 and may be made in honor or in memory of an individual, organization or theme. In addition, you may designate a specific state to benefit from your contribution.

Why this amount? When the program began in 1941, seedlings cost about a penny each and 680 seedlings were used to plant a typical acre. For \$68.00, seedlings for ten acres could be purchased. ([www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov))

For each \$68 contribution, you receive a Penny Pines Certificate from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. made "In Honor of" or "In Memory of." You can make an online donation or download a printable Penny Pines Donation Form through the National Garden Clubs (NGC) website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). For information, contact Isabel Olsen, Chairman, NGC Penny Pines at [issyolsen@yahoo.com](mailto:issyolsen@yahoo.com).

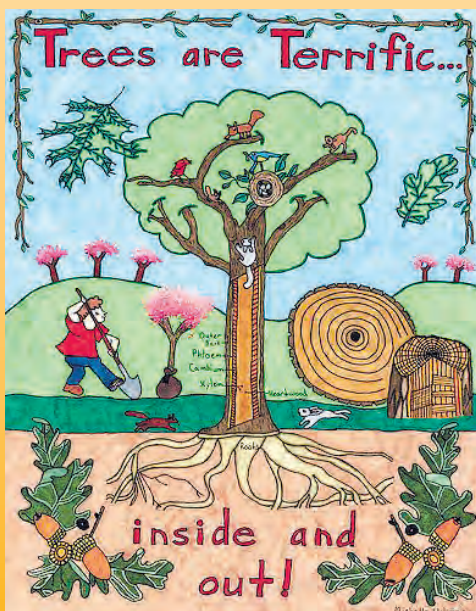


Photo: <http://myfloridahistory>

Photo: <http://myfloridahistory>



This marker commemorates a Penny Pines forest project in the Hillsborough River State Park.

Photo: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)



Arbor in Latin means tree and Arbor Day is a holiday where all are encouraged to plant and care for trees. Visit a local nursery for your choice of trees from seedlings to mature varieties.



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. Visit their website at [http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn\\_and\\_garden/calendar/pdfs/June\\_Central.pdf](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/calendar/pdfs/June_Central.pdf).

Or, tune in weekly to Garden Talk every Saturday on WTIS 1110 AM Radio, from 8 to 9 a.m. Horticulture and Landscape topics brought to you by the staff of UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension.

#### Upcoming Classes

**Gardening Workshop – Modern Roses in Florida / Wednesday, Jan. 6, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. /** A beautiful talk on growing modern roses. Planting, maintaining, pruning, fertilizing and pest control are all discussed and explained. Great handouts and a lot of individual rose selections from which to choose. Contact the library for additional information at 813-273-3652.

**Compost/Water-Wise and Rainwater Harvesting Workshops /** Plan now for these popular workshops. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, sign is -up early. The first group of workshops begins on Saturday, Feb. 6, Compost starts at 8:30 a.m.; Water-Wise starts at 9:30 a.m.; and Rainwater Harvesting starts at 10:30 a.m.

Register online at <http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml> or stop by the UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County office, 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584. Call 813-744-5519 for additional information.

## Michigan

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

Michigan by Will Leech



## Rule 24-2 Immovable obstruction (sidewalk)...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC campus)



John E.S. Cochrane  
GOLF SCHOOLS

When a ball lies on the sidewalk or the sidewalk interferes with or your stance or swing, you are entitled to relief from that immovable obstruction – in this case, the sidewalk.

First, find your nearest point of relief. In the photo, it is less distance to move your ball to the left side of the sidewalk than to the right side.

Drop the ball within one club length and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief without penalty. Once the ball is dropped within the one club length rule, it can still roll another two club lengths from where it was dropped and still be legal.

Next month: Getting kids the right size clubs – does it matter? Any questions or for lessons, please visit [CochraneGolfSchools.com](http://CochraneGolfSchools.com) or call J.D. 813-957-3205.



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# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



www.newsradioklbg.com

## A Special New Year Message...

With each New Year, we can reflect on the memories of the old year and think about the hopes and challenges for the upcoming year. 2016 promises to be a year of more changes and more challenges for us as a community, as a County, as a State and as a Nation.

As we begin this very challenging New Year of 2016, know that each of us in the Sheriff's Office want to wish every resident of Bloomingdale a safe and secure New Year. We want to especially thank each and every one of you who provided support and help to us during this past year!

The Sheriff's Office will continue to progress in providing Bloomingdale and the surrounding area with a safer and more secure place to live, to work, to run your businesses and to raise your families. The safety and security of the residents and their homes and businesses in your community and your county is our very reason for being here. Our continued work with concerned residents from your community will continue to make this possible. The continued expansion of the Sheriff's "Volunteer Citizens Patrol Program" and active participation by the Sheriff's Community councils will help us all make even more improvements towards making Bloomingdale safer and more secure.

## Traffic Concerns

Since Bloomingdale's residents work throughout Hillsborough County, we all know how continued growth in our area continues to affect us in terms of increased traffic. Significant improvements have been made and will continue to be made in 2016. We will finally see the beginning of the widening of Bell Shoals Road, the improvements to the intersection of Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Road and the opening of the new Walmart Super Center.

The major key to improving traffic flow and congestion in our communities does not just come from widening more roads, but from you the driver. When you slow down and obey the traffic laws, to include no texting, you prevent accidents that cause deaths and serious injuries and tie up traffic. You also save a lot of money on expensive citations and increases in personal auto insurance.

We want to challenge all of you to make it a personal resolution in 2016 to slow down, drive safer and obey traffic laws. We all will benefit. Our deputies can then spend more time working on other law enforcement issues and providing the security you want and need.

## Property Concerns

The holidays are over and residents are enjoying the nice gifts they received, everything from new bikes to new cars. You must take the time to ensure these new gifts are kept safe and secure and not let criminals take them.

Make sure your garage doors are locked, outside vehicles are locked and all valuables, to include your firearms, are removed from them. We have had a rash of vehicle burglaries where people have left their firearm inside unlocked vehicle. This is inexcusable. If you carry a firearm then you need to be responsible enough to not leave it in an unlocked vehicle. These will ultimately end up in the hands of criminals.

When you do leave your home, ensure it is secured. If you will be away for any length of time, always arrange with a friend or neighbor to get your mail and paper or have them stopped until you return.

I know a lot of you may be thinking that you hear these same safety and security steps repeatedly every year. The simple fact is that they don't work until you take action and do them!

## What is the "Felony Lane Gang?"

According to the FBI, "the Felony Lane Gang is a group of thieves based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, that travels across the United States stealing identities and checkbooks from unattended cars ("smash and grabs"). With the stolen checkbooks and driver's licenses, the gang cashes checks using the drive through lane of banks."

The group usually works in two vehicles that travel the major interstates dumping off at intersections and ending up in towns - just like Bloomingdale. They seek out fitness centers, daycare facilities, malls and even recreation centers waiting for you to exit your car without your purse. One criminal will approach your car while the second acts as a look out. Quickly, a window is broken and a purse stolen - hence the term smash and grab.



Within minutes, they are at the closest bank drive through using the farthest outside lane to cash your checks and use your credit cards. This bank lane is nicknamed "Felony Lane." How can you stop them? Put your purse in the car trunk or take it with you.

## Parking Illegally in Bloomingdale

It has been brought to my attention about illegal parking throughout Bloomingdale. Florida State Statute 316.1945 and County Ordinance 98.48 clearly states the do's and don'ts of parking.

- No parking on sidewalks.
- No parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- No parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk.
- No parking within 30 feet of a stop sign.
- No parking where signs are properly displayed.



These are just a few of the violations listed. All of these violations are subject to receiving a citation at the discretion of a law enforcement official.

## Drone Laws Change

Own a drone? You must register it with the Federal Aviation Administration's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) registry. A federal law effective Dec. 21, 2015 requires unmanned aircraft registration. You will be subject to civil and criminal penalties if you do not register.

You can read up on this new federal law, and register your drone (if you have one) on FAA's website at [www.faa.gov/uas/registration/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/).



## Final Thoughts

Let's make 2016 a safe and secure year. Take personal responsibility for your property, your home and your vehicles. No one will miss them more than you. Also, be a good neighbor and watch out for your neighbors. Drive safe, obey the traffic laws and please buckle up!

# Have a great 2016!





**7 out of 10 kids in child safety seats are not properly buckled in.**

Have your child's safety seat inspected. Use booster seats to make seat belts fit kids right.

Graphic: <http://www.seatcheck.org>

This may seem a simple question, but the answer can have serious consequences. Not only must you be sure your children are properly secured in their car seats, but also, that their car seats are properly installed in your vehicle.

Case in point: A fatal, single-car accident last month on the Courtney Campbell Causeway demonstrated just how important this question is. A 19-year-old mother was distracted by a text message, lost control of her vehicle and hit a concrete barrier. Her two-year-old daughter was strapped in her car seat, but the car seat wasn't properly installed. The child in the car seat was ejected from the car. She is still in serious condition. The mother wasn't wearing her seatbelt and was killed.

You only get one chance to ensure your child is protected in your vehicle. Statistics show that properly installed car seats can reduce the risk of injury by 71 to 82 percent and reduce the risk of death by 28 percent. Unfortunately, 75 to 85 percent of car seats are improperly installed.

Different car seats have different installation procedures. Make sure you know how to install your make and model. There are many websites and other information sources to help you pick the appropriate car seat for your child and to ensure that the car seats are installed properly. The American Automobile Association's (AAA) site <http://safeseats4kids.aaa.com/car-seat-guide> provides an excellent car seat guide.

Once you have purchased and installed your car seat, register it with the manufacturer. This will ensure you receive any product updates and safety recall notices. If you still have concerns, let an expert inspect the seat. Call 1-866-Seat-Check to find an expert in your area or contact AAA in Brandon at 813-443-3074.

You will never carry a more precious cargo than your children. Select the proper car seat for your child's age and weight and be sure it is properly installed. You get one chance to get it right!

Note: If your car seat is removed by others during cleanings or maintenance, be sure to double check that the car seat has been re-installed properly.



Graphic: <http://dropitanddrive.com>

USE THE APPROPRIATE SAFETY SEAT	
	<b>REAR-FACING SEATS</b> from birth until age 2, or until your child reaches the upper weight limit of their rear-facing convertible seat, which will be around 35 pounds.
	<b>FORWARD-FACING SEATS</b> once your child reaches the upper weight or height limit of their rear-facing convertible seat. It is safest to keep your child in a forward-facing seat with a harness until they reach the maximum weight limit (40 - 65 pounds) or height restriction of their seat.
	<b>BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER SEATS</b> once a child outgrows the upper weight or height limit of their forward-facing harness. Children should use belt-positioning booster seats until they are at least 4'9" and are between 8 and 12 years of age.
	<b>LAP &amp; SHOULDER BELTS</b> once the belt fits properly. All children under age 13 should ride in the back seat!

**INSTALL THE SAFETY SEAT CORRECTLY**  
 Car seats are most effective when used properly. Make sure you read the installation instructions correctly. There are certified child safety seat technicians who can help. Contact 1-866-SEAT-CHECK for additional information.

Graphic: <http://safeseats4kids.aaa.com/car-seat-guide/>

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## Wrapping It Up, Thank You Fall Festival Sponsors!

Platinum sponsors are those whose combined donations of cash, goods, and services total more than \$250. This month, we feature DJ Monica Van Liew, West Coast Landscaping and Lawns Inc. and the Fitness Studio. Next month, we close out our sponsor profiles with Galin Homes of Tampa Bay and Cochrane Golf Schools.



# Platinum Sponsors

## Westcoast Landscape and Lawn – Keeping It Green One Yard At a Time

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Photos: <http://westcoastlawns.com>



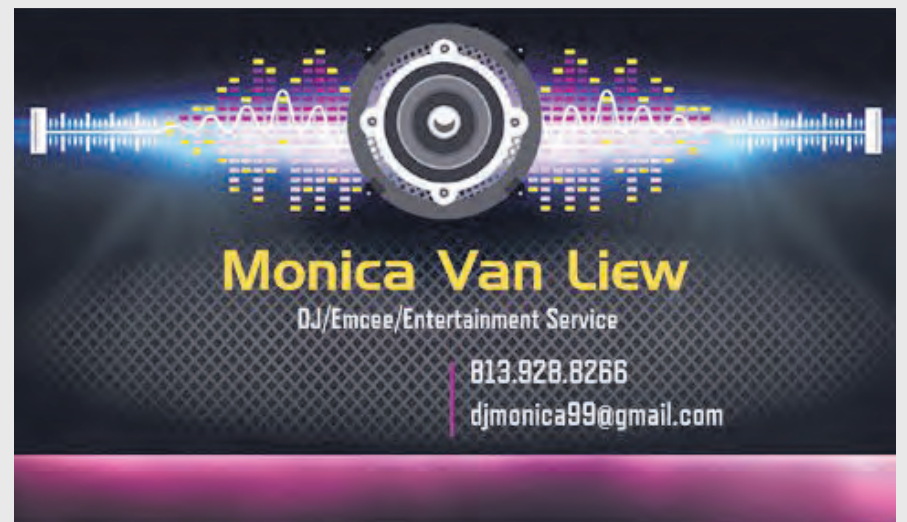
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## DJ Monica Van Liew – Bringing the Hits to Your Event

A good DJ can make or break an event. DJ Monica Van Liew rocked the community's Fall Festival playing not only the latest hits, but also a selection guaranteed to please all ages and music tastes. For all your entertainment needs including DJ and event emcee, contact Van Liew at 813-928-8266 or email her at [djmonica99@gmail.com](mailto:djmonica99@gmail.com).



Photo: Joy Boisselle



## Strengthen Your C.O.R.E. at Fitness Studio

By Miriam Leech

Photos: Miriam Leech

The New Year signals the perfect time to get healthy and strive to be the new you. If you are looking for a place that provides instruction, training, and motivation for functional fitness, Fitness Studio is it. Their philosophy, Controlled Outcomes from Reasonable Efforts, or C.O.R.E., represents their commitment to safety by seeking maximum benefits from minimal risks.

Bloomington residents Eileen and Joe Raymond established Fitness Studio (formerly C.O.R.E. Fitness Studio) in 2005 as a small, private facility offering fitness-training programs for individuals, "buddy" teams and small groups where there are no membership contracts or long-term agreements.

The staff at Fitness Studio is comprised of three instructors—Joe Raymond along with Kristine Howell and Sebastian Perez. Raymond acts as director of the studio and leads in the development of training programs. Howell has 20 years of experience in group fitness and 8 years in personal training. Her focus is on middle-age women and teenage girls. Perez has been at Fitness Studio for about 1 year and specializes in corrective exercise, fitness nutrition, and lifestyle management.

The instructors' credentials include education, experience, accredited certifications (e.g., ACE, ACSM, AAFA,) and CPR training. They inter-coordinate their knowledge and skills, as well consult with each other on individual client needs, which sets them apart from mainstream trainers and benefits their clients immeasurably.

Says Perez, "Life is about movement. We have clients with Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's, we have cancer patients and young mothers—I am inspired by them and what we are doing here." Functional fitness is the hallmark of Fitness Studio—objectives apply to daily activities such as carrying groceries, house/yard chores, occupational demands, athletics, recreation, etc.



Judy Gilman has been working out with Fitness Studio owner Joe Raymond for about 15 years. While coy about her age, Gilman visits the studio three times a week, and as a result has built up her bone density to fight her osteoporosis.

Training programs are customized to meet individual needs. However, because cardio control is a major part of fitness training, all clients are required to wear a heart-rate monitor to learn safe limits and maximize fat burning. Individuals may sign up for 2- or 4-week fitness programs or can join in small groups of 3 to 6, still receiving customized and individual attention.

New clients are screened for core strength, balance, stability, and body fat to establish a baseline fitness determination. The 4-session evaluation process serves to develop a personalized regimen for self-direction.

Pricing is based on the number of sessions. Individual sessions are either 1 hour or 30 minutes, and group sessions are 45 minutes. Howell noted, "With my background in group training, I can watch a group of six clients and still see individuals to ensure their safety and customized program."

Fitness Studio is located at 1064 Bloomingdale Avenue in the Plaza Bella shopping center. To get started on a new you, as well as strengthen your C.O.R.E., contact Fitness Studio at 813-681-3000 or visit their new website at [www.healthfitstudio.com](http://www.healthfitstudio.com).

**FITNESS STUDIO**  
 Training based on "CORE"  
 Controlled Outcomes from Reasonable Efforts  
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Clare Vaughn (pictured left), 76, started working out at Fitness Studio with her husband Gary and has continued since his passing 1 year ago. Here trainer Kristine Howell guides Vaughn through her customized fitness program.

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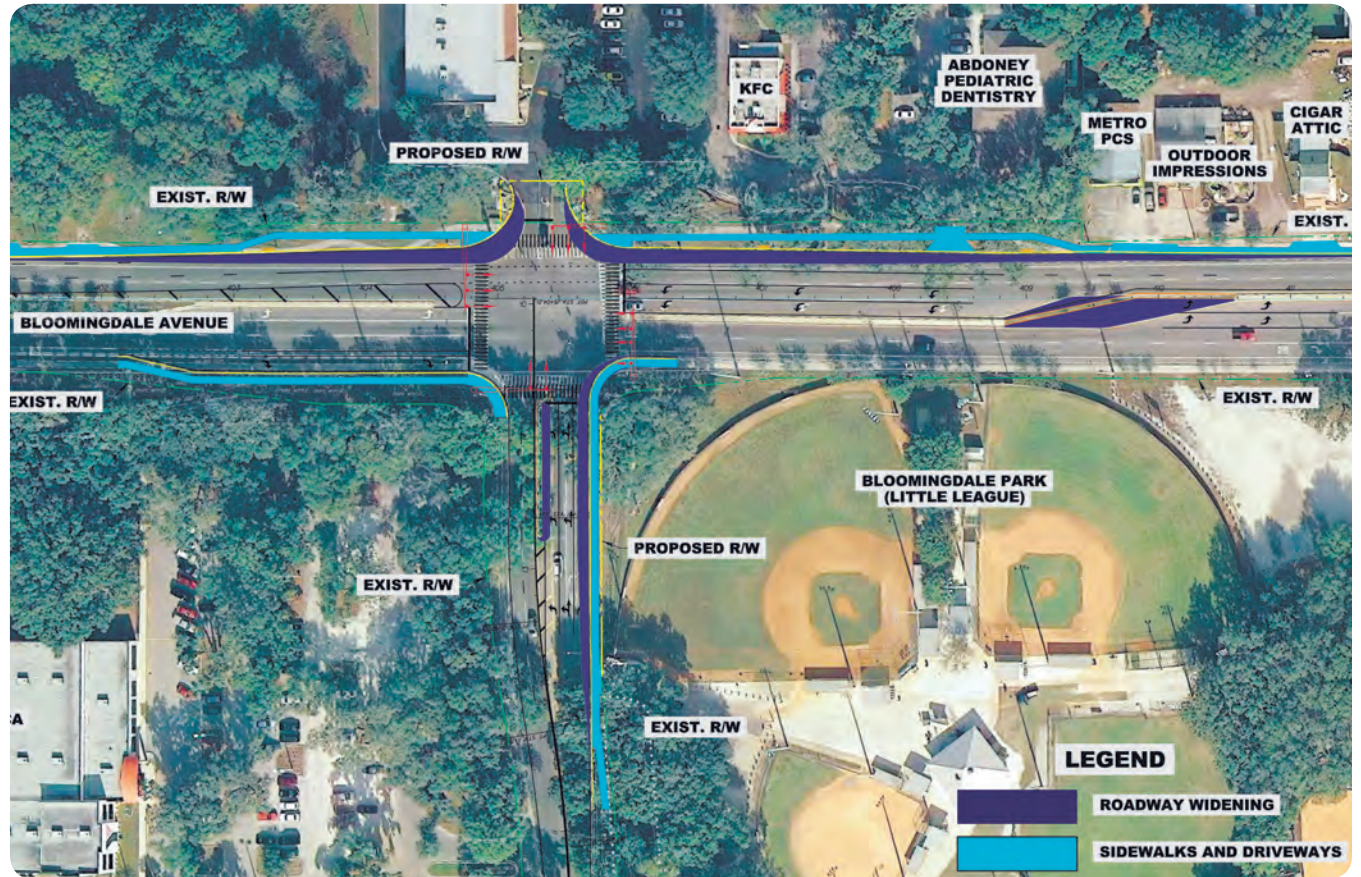
# CONSTRUCTION Update

## Bloomington Avenue and Culbreath Road Intersection Improvement

On Dec. 3, Hillsborough County Public Works project engineers Thomas Capell, Anjana Swann and staff held an open house information meeting at the Bloomington Library to give residents an opportunity to view graphic illustrations of the Bloomington Avenue/Culbreath Road Intersection Improvement Project. The graphics provided a “Before” and “After” projection of the project. Residents who attended the meeting were able to review the graphics and get any questions they had answered right on the spot.

The project will include adding an eastbound right turn lane and a second westbound left turn lane on Bloomington Avenue, northbound dedicated left and right turn lanes and a southbound right turn lane on Culbreath Road into the YMCA. Signal light improvements including light synchronization will be also be made. Bus bays and shelters will be completed on both sides of Culbreath Road, approximately 600 feet south of the intersection.

This important construction project has started and has a projected completion date of early summer of 2016. Residents are asked to be extra careful and allow for extra travel time when driving in this area. Be sure to slow down and watch for workers and pedestrians.



Graphic: Hillsborough County Public Works

## Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes & Super Walmart



The front entrance to the new Super Wal-Mart in the Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes on Bloomington Avenue is taking shape. Palm trees are planted and the Walmart is currently scheduled to open in February/March. Residents will be doing a lot of their holiday shopping here this time next year!



The Crest Pointe Towne Center sign is up. Once the Super Walmart is completed, construction will begin on the new business scheduled for the Center, including Starbucks, Wendy's and others. Construction plans for the residential parcel are still being finalized.



The new turn-lanes and traffic signals at the main entrance to the new Crest Pointe Towne Center have been installed and will be ready to use early this year. Drivers should be extra careful when driving in this area as major construction will be underway for several more months!

## Bell Shoals Road Widening Project Update

Hillsborough County Project engineers for this project are making headway with land acquisition. They are focused on the complex issue of advanced utility relocation. Current plans estimate a construction start date of the first quarter of this year. There may be public meetings required for this project. These will be publicized when dates, times and locations are known.



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



**JANUARY 4 - RETURN TO SCHOOL**  
**JANUARY 18 - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL**  
**JANUARY 19 - NON STUDENT DAY**

### ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Jan. 14 - Little Greek Spirit Night  
Jan. 26 - PTA Science night, 6 p.m.



### CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Jan. 15 - All Pro Dads in the Multi-purpose room, 7 a.m.  
Jan. 21 - Kindergarten Round-Up in the Multi-purpose room, 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 22 - Math night 6 - 8 p.m.



### BURNS BRUINS BANTER

Jan. 11 - PTSA Board Meeting, 7:45 a.m.  
Jan. 14 - 16 and 21 - 23, All County Music Festival at Jennings Middle School, 9 a.m.  
Jan. 21 - Burn's Bruins Dad's Group Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 25 - PTSA Color Fun Fundraiser Kick-Off, 8 a.m. in the Gym  
Jan. 25 - Winter Dance, 3:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria



### BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

Jan. 5 - Boys & Girls Basketball vs Durant, 6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 6 - Cheer at Spoto, 6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 7 - Boys Soccer @ Leto, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 9 - District Soccer, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 12 - Semester Exams 1 and 2  
Jan. 12 - Girls District Soccer, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 13 - Semester Exams 3 and 4  
Jan. 14 - Semester Exams 7 and 5  
Jan. 15 - Semester Exams 8 and 6  
Jan. 15 - Boys & Girls Basketball @ Lennard, 6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 15 - Girls District Soccer Finals, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 16 - Varsity Girls Basketball @ Plant City, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 19 - Boys District Soccer @ Armwood, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 20 - Boys & Girls Basketball @ Newsome, 6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 20 - Wrestling @ Jefferson, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 21 - Melissa Snively Meeting in the Media Center, 6 p.m.  
Jan. 22 - Wrestling Divisional Duals @ Bloomingdale, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 22 - Western Conference Cheer @ Durant, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 22 - Boys District Soccer Finals @ Bloomingdale, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 23 - Wrestling Divisional Duals @ Bloomingdale, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 25 - Bloomingdale Idol Auditions in the Auditorium, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 25 - District Girls Basketball @ Plant City, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 26 - District Semi-Finals Girls Basketball @ Plant City, 5 p.m.  
Jan. 26 - Boys Basketball vs Blake, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 28 - District Finals Girls Basketball @ Plant City, 7 p.m.



### BULL BRIEFS

#### The Gazette Wants Student News Hounds!

Want to see your name in print and be a published writer? The award-winning Bloomingdale Gazette is pleased to offer you "your name in lights" and an opportunity for community service hours. While helping to keep your community in-the-know, you will also hone your writing and photography skills. For those college-bound students, the writing piece is a must-have skill!

We are looking for responsible individuals who can meet deadlines and are willing to write about school events, sports and special interest stories. Clear direction and guidance will be given, so don't let nerves stop you from considering this opportunity. One student writer is now working part-time with the paper while attending college locally.

Community service hours will be determined based on the assignments given, but will not normally exceed five hours per assignment. Call 813-681-2051 or email [inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com). Deadline is coming, call soon!

## Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!

### IMPORTANT DATES

**January 15 - April 1**  
Applications accepted  
**April 1**  
Application deadline (firm).  
**May 10**  
BHA Board meeting and announcement of scholarship winner.



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to sponsor the

**Bloomingdale High School**

## \$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

### REQUIREMENTS:

#### Candidate

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

#### Candidate's Parent/Guardian

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

#### Selection Criteria

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

Scholarship information will be available January 15, 2016 online at [BloomingdaleHOA.com](http://BloomingdaleHOA.com), at Bloomingdale High School and at the Bloomingdale Community Office.



BHA Community Office: 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596 • Monday- Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
(813) 681-2051 • Email: [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com) • [BloomingdaleHOA.com](http://BloomingdaleHOA.com)  
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## Bloomington Cheerleaders Prepare for Western Conference Contest

By Deidre Morgan

BHS Cheerleaders strike a pose! - On Dec. 9, the Bloomington High School cheerleaders placed third at a cheer competition held at Blake High School in Tampa. The competition will help the team as they prepare for the Western Conference Regional and State competitions on Jan. 6 at Spoto High School. Michelle Groat and Shelly Teal coach the team. Good luck, ladies and bring home the gold! Go, Fight Win!

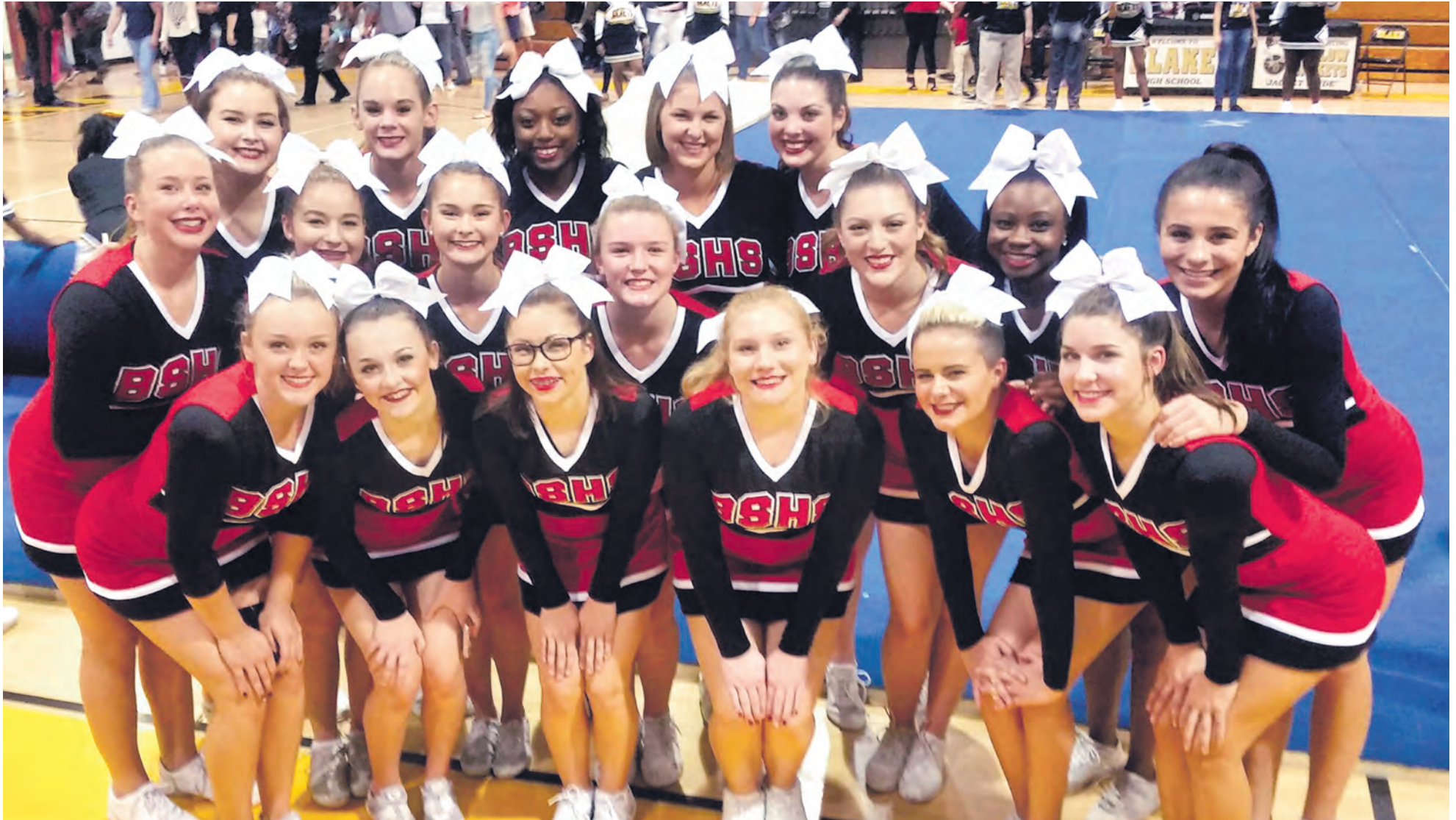


Photo: Nikki Monroe



## LEAD - District Wide Student Contest

HCPS Press Release

### DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 4 P.M.

In celebration of Black History Month, Hillsborough County Public Schools is proud to announce the LEAD (Learn, Empower, Advocate, Dream) Student Contest. Leaders impact us in so many ways. We encounter leaders at home, in our schools, religious institutions, on the playing field, and many other places throughout our community. The LEAD contest challenges students to create an artistic interpretation expressing how he or she has been inspired by a local black leader. Examples include Pastor, Advisor/Mentor, Teacher/Principal, Fire Fighter, Family Member, Musician, Military Member and more. The possibilities are endless!

### Are there different categories?

There are three arts categories: Literature, Performance, and Visual Arts. Winners will be selected in each category from each student division. An entry will be judged primarily on originality, creativity, and how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

### What kind of prizes can students win?

Student prizes include scholarships, technology, sports memorabilia, and more.

### When is the contest entry deadline?

All entries must be submitted by **4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8**. Winner notifications will be the first week of February and winners will be invited to the School Board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 16, to be recognized.

For information and contest rules, visit the Hillsborough County School Board website at [www.sdhc.k12.fl.us](http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us).





The Bloomingdale High School Football team held their annual awards banquet on Dec. 10, at St. Andrews Methodist Church. Awards were handed out to the best of the best, and even though the team had a 1-9 record, it did not reflect the love, fight and determination these young men displayed each time they took the field. Coach Surcy and his staff are now focused on next year and bringing Bull Pride back to BSHS with a winning season. GO BULLS!

### Awardees were:

- Special Teams Most Valuable Player (MVP): Freddy McCoy
- Leadership Award: Colin Errity
- Offensive MVP: Jordan Keijers
- Defensive MVP: Sam Skinner and Ryan Voyles
- Black Helmet Award: Ryan Voyles
- Highest GPA: Ryan Voyles
- 2nd Annual Coach Hutch Award: Ryan Voyles
- Evolution of Life Award: Carson Crouse and Bobby McIntyre
- Black Out Award: Carlos Bingham



Photo: Sheila Voyles

Senior Ryan Voyles (center) with Coach David Hutcherson, L., and Coach Brian Surcy receives the 2nd Annual Coach Hutch award and a \$500 scholarship. Ryan also received awards for Highest GPA, Defensive MVP and the Black Helmet Award.



Photo: Melanie Skinner

Junior Sam Skinner receives the BSHS Defensive MVP award from Coach Surcy. He shared this year's award with linebacker Ryan Voyles.



Photo: Melanie Skinner

Players wrap their hands around the "pigskin" one last time as BSHS football players.



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## Score! Kicking For a Cause

Staff Report

Photos: Kelly Diaz

Once again, the BSHS Boys Soccer Team, along with local non-profit Creative Kids, brought joy to hospitalized children through a kick-a-thon fundraiser held Dec. 17. Blindfolded teammates participated in the goal-kicking contest where they raised over \$1,600 topping last year's donations by more than \$500. Afterwards, the team headed to Walmart where they purchased 300 gifts for children at All Children's Hospital. Gifts were delivered on Dec. 21.

"We are so excited to be able to provide these toys to the children. They [the team] really put so much effort and thought into the gifts," Kelly Diaz of Creative Kids and mom to participant and organizer Nick Diaz said. "[At] Creative kids it's never too early to have kids get involved and help others in need."



A strong supporter of the event, Coach Mike Lankford tries his hand, rather foot, at the blindfolded goal-shooting contest. Also pictured is senior Eli Hay.

On Dec. 17, the Bulls Boys Soccer Team hosted a kick-a-thon fundraiser at the school to raise money to purchase gifts for children spending the holidays at All Children's Hospital. Pictured at Walmart, the team raised enough funds to purchase 300 gifts. This is the second year the soccer team has spent the holidays bringing Christmas cheer to children.

Junior Nick Diaz (l.), Creative Kids event organizer, and freshman Jacob McDonald get ready to clear the toy shelves following the soccer team's annual kick-a-thon. The team raised more than \$1,600 at the event held Dec. 17.

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