

## Public Meeting To Address BL East and West Park Renovations on July 11

See pp. 4 & 5 for details.



### COMMUNITY PARK: BLOOMINGDALE EAST PARK

Site Location: 1221 Natures Way Blvd, Valrico, FL

#### Existing Park Facilities

- One playground
- Six tennis courts
- Two basketball courts
- One volleyball court
- One picnic shelter
- Park Restroom Building

#### 3. Proposed Park Enhancements

- Install a splash pad
- Upgrade park restroom
- Remove tennis & racquetball courts
- Upgrade basketball court
- Expand parking area
- Miscellaneous amenities: new signage; water fountain; benches; tables; remove trees; & landscaping as project budget allows.

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$400,000

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves." *Abraham Lincoln*

### This Month



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**2013 & 2014**  
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# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

## YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

### Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: [Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com](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:

*Daniel Berkowitz*

*Bobbi Ferraro*

*Mary Galin*

*Carl Hallinan*

*Billy Hightower*

*Grace Lewis*

*Beth Smedley*

*Charlie Woodcock*

**President:** *George T. May IV*

**Vice President:** *Suzy Watts*

**Secretary:** *Joanie Wilson*

**Treasurer:** *Sean Donahue*

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



### JOY BOISSELLE

#### Editor - The Bloomington Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

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# Tampa Bay Times

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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

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[www.krkcirca.com](http://www.krkcirca.com)  
**5815 Kids Crossing Drive**  
Located between Stowers Elementary & Mosaic

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



## Yard of the Month



Photo: Susan DeDeLuca



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



**Cris & Pat Brown** 404 Bayfield Drive, Brandon, FL 33511 (Bloomingdale Estates)

## Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

*(Editor's Note: Realtor Ronnie McLaughlin has lived in Bloomingdale for six years with her husband and two children. She is also active in the Bloomingdale High School PTSA and Girl Scouts.)*

### Renter? Here's How to Become a Homeowner Instead

Ninety percent of non-homeowners in the US dream of being homeowners one day. Today I want to share with you a misconception about home buying through two couples, John and Beth and Mike and Sue. Both couples lived with relatives for a couple of years working on their credit scores and building their savings with amazing patience knowing one day they would not be sharing a kitchen with mom. In 2016, both became homeowners even sooner than they thought they could be.

According to National Association of Realtor's Aspiring Home Buyer Profile in 2016, 39 percent of non-owners believe they need more than 20 percent for a down payment, 26 percent believe they need 15-20 percent and 22 percent believe they need 10-14 percent. However, the real story is that the median down payment for first-time buyers has been just 6 percent for the last three years.

There are options to help non-homeowners transition into homeowners.

- While funds last, the Florida Hardest Hit program offers \$15,000 to qualifying buyers towards closing costs and down payment.
- Several local mortgage companies offer 5, 3.5, 3 and 1% down payment products for qualifying buyers.
- Many builders offer closing cost assistance for new home purchases. Most Realtors receive inventory and incentive updates from builders and can help you choose the right builder for your needs and wants.



By Ronnie McLaughlin

The Chadderton Real Estate Group  
Keller Williams Realty

813-601-5659  
ronniemclaughlin@kw.com  
www.chaddertongroup.com

- "Rent to own" programs are perfect for people who need to rent now and know that they want to buy within the next couple of years. The benefit of this option is having a larger inventory of homes to choose from and not having to move twice.

Beyond the down payment, don't forget to consider other home-buying costs including closing costs, inspections and appraisals.

### Neighborhood Snapshot - Fairway Manors

Fairway Manors is located on Natures Way, east of the Bloomingdale East Park and just over a half mile west from Alafia Elementary. It consists of 134 homes located on Clarion Drive, Hanover Hill Drive, Nittany Court, Pumbo Drive, Scovill Lane and a section of Holleman Drive. Most of the homes have four bedrooms, three bathrooms and were built between 1986-1995. Thirty-four homes are two-story and 19 homes line the Bloomingdale Golf Course. Over the past year, seven houses sold at an average sales price of \$258,000. Six of the seven houses sold have private pools.

*\*MLS statistics are based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold May 18, 2017 - June 18, 2017. Other statistics are based on National Realtor Association studies.*





# BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



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

## Membership Drive Enters Second Half

Join today; help the Association help the community. 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.

Your \$35 membership fees are returned 100 percent to the community. And, every member and dollar matter. Programs like this newspaper, clean-up, garage sale and fall festival would not be possible without your support. The Association attends monthly county meetings and advocates on behalf of the entire community. In addition, they work weekly with county code enforcement to improve neighborhood standards and keep property values from slipping.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c)(4) non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. ALL membership funds go back to our community to help keep the community a great place to live. And, all residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.



**Note: The BHA no longer has an active post office box address. Please update your automatic bill pay if applicable.**

## BHA EVENT CALENDAR

If you have events pending in our community, email [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com), or call 813-681-2051. We will help you promote your event on our Facebook page.

**Monday, July 10, 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 11, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office,** 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

**Saturday, July 15 /14h Annual Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference,** Sheraton Tampa East, 10221 Princess Palm Ave. Visit: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/calendar/04-publicevents/2017/20170715-neighborhoods-conference](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/calendar/04-publicevents/2017/20170715-neighborhoods-conference) to register.

**Thursday, July 20, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Cliff Fletcher,** Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

## BHA BRIEFS

### JUNE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AND OTHER BOARD NEWS

Focus of June's meeting included new financial accounting procedures using Quicken and a Fall Fest planning and meeting overview. Grace Lewis, a new board member was welcomed bringing the board to full capacity for the first time in over 10 years.

### NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

In accordance with enforceable county code ordinances, residents are reminded to keep their property maintained. Be a good neighbor and follow the basic standards below.

1. Do not leave garbage cans out on non-garbage pick-up days. Store the can out of view, either corralled or garaged.
2. Mow, edge, trim bushes and trees, weed plant beds and mulch.
3. Keep home and mailbox clean with address clearly visible.
4. Pressure wash your home, driveway and sidewalks to reduce mold and mildew.
5. Paint, as needed.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS, BLOOMINGDALE RESIDENTS!

*County Public Meeting on July 11 to Discuss*

*Bloomingdale East and West Park Renovation/Improvements*

Source: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/county-projects](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/county-projects)

#### Project Description:

- Central County Splash Pad
- A new splash pad at Bloomingdale East Park, and the removal of old tennis/racquetball courts
- Central County Tennis Courts Upgrade
- Renovating/expanding the tennis courts, racquetball courts, restrooms, shelters, and parking at Bloomingdale West Park

#### Public Meeting:

The purpose of this meeting is to present the proposed project to the public early in the planning and design stages. Based on public comments and the engineering analyses and surveys, Parks & Recreation may refine the project or decide the project should not move forward.

**Public Comment Period** - Tuesday, July 11 through Tuesday, July 25, 2017. Comment form is available on the county website.

#### Project Cost & Funding:

The Central County Splash Pad project is currently budgeted at \$400,000, and Central County Tennis Courts Upgrade is budgeted at \$600,000. Both projects are being funded with Central County Parks Impact Fees.

#### Project Timeline:

- Design – Fall/Winter 2017
- Permitting – Winter 2017/2018
- Construction – Spring 2018 to Early Fall 2018

#### Contact Information:

Project Manager - Chris Postiglione, Project Manager III, Real Estate & Facilities Services Department 813-273-3769





**Hillsborough  
County Florida**  
Parks & Recreation

## Open House

### Bloomingtondale East and West Parks Improvements

**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Bloomingtondale West  
Recreation Center  
3940 Canoga Park Drive  
in Brandon

**Purpose:** Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation will hold a meeting to review two proposed Brandon-area projects:

- Addition of a splash pad at Bloomingtondale East Park, 3902 Natures Way Blvd. in Valrico
- Renovation and expansion of tennis courts, restrooms, shelter, and parking at Bloomingtondale West Park, 3940 Canoga Park Drive in Brandon

The meeting will have an open-house format with information centers where residents can review plans, ask questions of staff, and leave written comments about the proposed improvements and amenity options.

Additional project information is available online at [HCFLGov.net/CountyProjects](http://HCFLGov.net/CountyProjects) under the **Building/Community Projects** link.

**Contact:** Questions about the meeting and the project may be directed to Kyla Booher at (813) 307-1891. Para información, llamar al (813) 272-5275. For hearing and speech impaired assistance, call 711.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodations to participate, and those seeking an interpreter, should contact Hillsborough County at (813) 307-1891 no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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

Fall Festival is Oct. 28 at our new venue – the BSHS Football Stadium! Planning continues for the biggest event of the year. Activities for kids, a Trick or Treat Street, costume contest for kids and pets, local business booths and crafts round out this community-building event. Email [bhfallfest@gmail.com](mailto:bhfallfest@gmail.com) or call 813-252-0252 for sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.



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# Annual Fall Festival

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**Saturday, October 28, 2017 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Bloomingtondale High School Stadium**  
**1700 E Bloomingtondale Ave.**

This event has become so popular it has moved to the Bloomingdale High School Stadium to accommodate growing attendance, greater event visibility and more convenient parking. Bloomingdale boasts over 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. The Fall Festival is a great opportunity to market your business and build local awareness. Limited booth space is available.

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- Your business will be the only business of its kind at the event
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- Ability to place item in 300 guest goody bags
- Business name and logo on banner at event entrance

### Gold \$250

- Booth space
- Business info in the Bloomingdale Gazette
- Business info and link on the BHA website through 2017
- Ability to place item in 300 guest goody bags
- Business name on banner at event entrance

### Silver \$100

- Booth space
- Business info in the Bloomingdale Gazette

Sponsors will need to provide: Table, chairs and canopy; Candy, treat or activity for kid's "Trick or Treat Street".



## Our FREE family-friendly event features:

- Local small business tables
- Business booth decorating contest
- Children's and pet's costume contests
- Bouncy house
- Food trucks
- Face painting and games
- Obstacle course
- Crafts
- "Trick or Treat" Street

For more information, contact the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at (813) 252-0252 or email [BHAFallFest@gmail.com](mailto:BHAFallFest@gmail.com).

[BloomingtondaleHOA.com](http://BloomingtondaleHOA.com)



BloomingtondaleHOA

BHA Board of Directors IRC 501(C)(4)

This event is made possible, in part, through a grant from the Hillsborough County BOCC.



## The Commissioner's News

### By Commissioner Stacy White Board of County Commissioners, District 4

*(Editor's Note: Commissioner Stacy White represents District 4, which includes our Bloomingdale community. He was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in 2014 and Chairman of the Board in November. A Valrico native, White seeks to improve communities like ours. Prior to his election, he served the county as a member of the Hillsborough County School Board. Contact Commissioner White at 813-272-5740 or whites@hillsboroughcounty.org.)*



Hello again, Bloomingdale residents. It is always a pleasure having the chance to speak to you through this column. I would like to take the opportunity to provide some important suggestions as we enter into the Hurricane season.

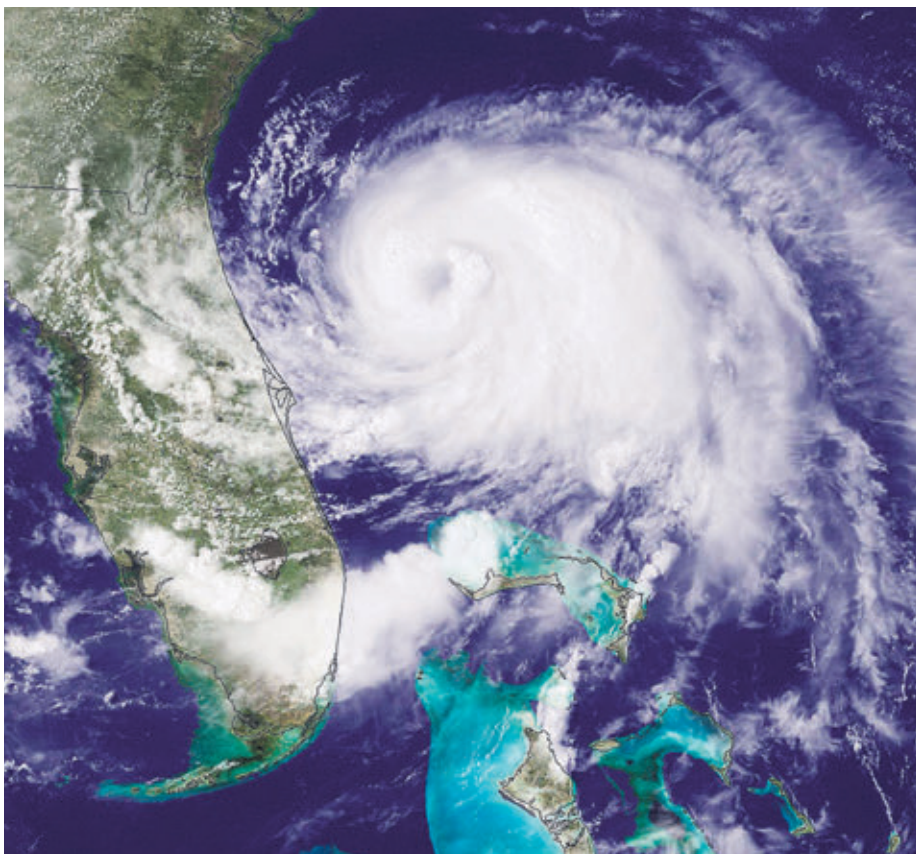
**1. Prepare Your Disaster Plan** - Prevent panic and confusion by making sure everyone knows where to go and what to do in an emergency, whether at home or at work. At a minimum, pick two meeting places, choose a contact person, keep your contact information up to date and think ahead about evacuation

**2. Gather Disaster Supplies** - Your Disaster Supply Kit should include medicines, food for three to seven days, drinking water/containers for at least 7 days, batteries, and infant and pet supplies.

**3. Bracing for a Hurricane** - As the storm approaches, monitor weather updates on local stations and on NOAA Weather Radio, clear or store items that can become windborne and cause damage, protect windows and glass doors with plywood or storm shutters, and if flooding is possible, move important items off the floor. In addition, fill vehicle gas tanks and make sure they are road-worthy. Remember to get cash as ATMs and banks may not be operating.

I hope this information is helpful, and please stay safe as we expect more changing weather patterns. As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your County Commissioner in District 4, and my office is always open to you if you need assistance with any other matter.

The 2017 Hillsborough Disaster Planning Guide is available on the county's website at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/library/hillsborough/media-center/documents/emergency-management/2017-hillsborough-disaster-planning-guide-english.pdf](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/library/hillsborough/media-center/documents/emergency-management/2017-hillsborough-disaster-planning-guide-english.pdf).



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## The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District: The Community's Common Area Connection

### BSTD Passes FY 2018 Budget

By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

#### 2018 Budget

During a series of budget meetings beginning in March, the BSTD Board of Trustees finalized the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18). On Monday, June 12, a Public Hearing was held at 6:15 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, and the budget passed with a vote of 5 to 0. For FY18, the District's total budget amount is \$753,697. The full budget can be viewed at the District website, [www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org](http://www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org).

#### District Improvements

Property management company Merit, Inc., continues to work diligently to make sure TECO, Frontier, and Spectrum maintain utility boxes located throughout the District. Additionally, Merit has requested improvements from Hillsborough County, recently having them re-paint curb markings, clean street signs, and remove dead trees. While individually small items, all together this maintenance improves the appearance of our community for all who drive, walk, or bike the streets.

#### Meet Your BSTD Board

Over the next several months, this column will highlight the Trustees who make up the BSTD Board.

This month, meet Trustee Mark Vargo. Vargo has served as a Trustee for the BSTD since January 2013, and currently holds the position of Secretary. He is the Director and Co-Owner of Southern Funeral Care in Riverview, and is married with three sons and two granddaughters.

Vargo, who grew up in Brandon, enjoys the small, hometown feel of his community. His vision for the BSTD is to "financially maintain and update our community through beautification of the common areas as progress happens around us." Vargo wants Bloomingdale to keep its family-centered identity and signature look. He believes he can best do this by serving as a Trustee to have a say in how tax dollars are spent.

In his spare time, Vargo enjoys his family, camping, shooting, and fishing.



#### BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

# BLOOMINGDALE

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

[www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org](http://www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org)

Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

BSTD Trustee Mark Vargo and his wife, Patti, have been residents of Bloomingdale for 30 years.

## A Corner Lot = Two Front Lawns

By Paula Staples, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County, Public Education Program Coordinator

Corner lots are attractive to homebuyers. You have two sides with no neighbors.

But there is an added cost most buyers don't think about. Corner lots have two sides of a lawn open to public viewing. In a Homeowner Association (HOA) this could mean twice the amount of upkeep at the HOA expected level of care.

Removing turfgrass by expanding a landscape bed and adding microirrigation can save an average of 23,688 gallons per year per 1,000 square feet.

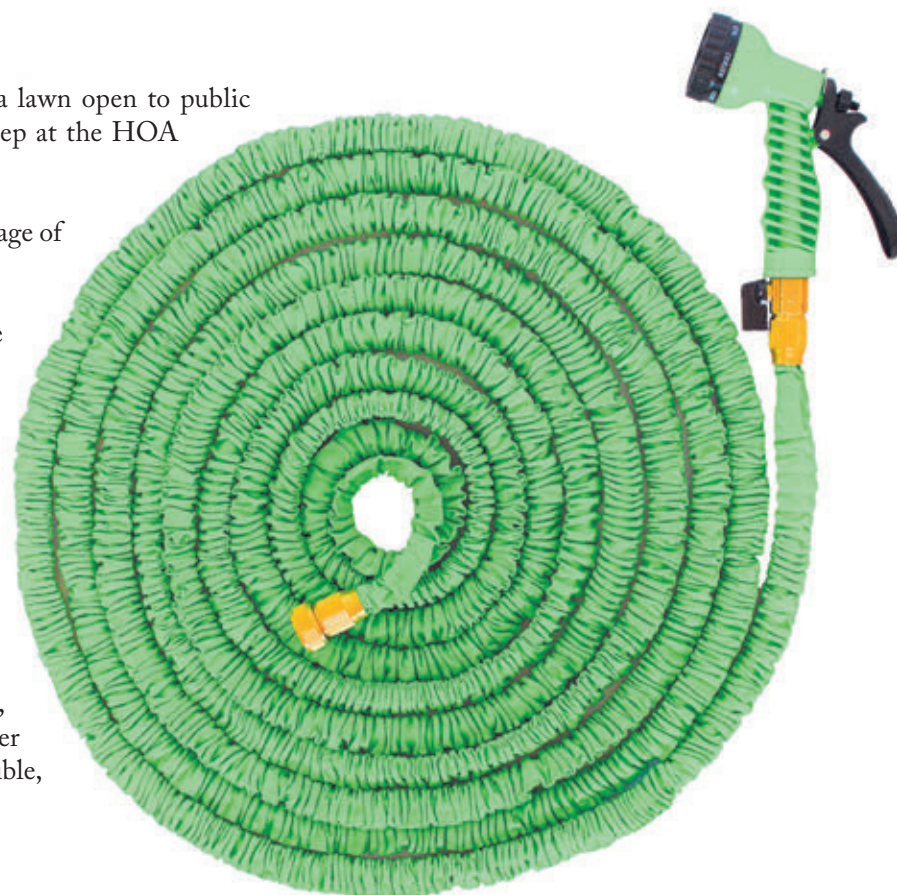
Why does a landscape bed need less irrigation water than turfgrass? Because in a landscape bed the soil is enriched with organic matter as organic mulch decomposes. For every additional 1 percent of organic matter in an acre of soil, 16,500 extra gallons of water are held in the root zone.

Turfgrass is not mulched. Fine grass clippings, less than 1/2", left on your lawn make excellent fertilizer, but don't provide organic matter to the soil.

Consider transitioning turfgrass to a landscape bed with drought tolerant Florida-Friendly plants.

According to the University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, Hillsborough County's population could see a 60 percent increase by 2040; expanding to over 2.2 million residents. (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/INC110212/12057/accessible>, [https://www.bebr.ufl.edu/sites/default/files/Research%20Reports/projections\\_2015.pdf](https://www.bebr.ufl.edu/sites/default/files/Research%20Reports/projections_2015.pdf))

Conserve water for the future by reducing your landscape's water needs today.







# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy James Brodie and C.S.O. Sandy Capitano

## THANK YOU, BLOOMINGDALE!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Bloomingdale area for welcoming me into your neighborhoods. I am sad to say that I will be moving out of the Bloomingdale area, but things will continue to run smoothly with Deputy Cliff Fletcher taking over the reins. Deputy Fletcher has been with the office for a long time and has a significant amount of experience as a Community Resource Deputy. Again, thank you.

## AREA LAW AND ORDER

Between May 18 and June 21, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 53 traffic stops in Bloomingdale East and Bloomingdale West. Those traffic stops resulted in 46 warnings, 5 citations and 1 arrest. Since the realignment of HCSO districts on May 8, we are only able to provide statistics just in this area.

One area on the rise in Bloomingdale is traffic crashes within subdivisions. Again this month, we have had five crashes without injuries and one with injuries. These crashes aren't on Bloomingdale Avenue, they are inside your neighborhoods. Remember, slow down, stop at all stop signs and above all, be a courteous driver.

Also, there were eight vehicle burglaries. Most involved unlocked doors and some of those vehicles had firearms stolen from them.

There were no residential burglaries this month, a positive statistic. However, there were

a few criminal mischief's incidents including graffiti on Erindale Drive and damages done to vehicles by throwing rocks and or bricks.

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Remember to watch out for what is happening in your neighborhoods. If you see something, make sure to call Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency number at 813-247-8200.



We can't stress the following enough: Remember to **lock** the doors to your home, **secure** your garage doors, **secure** your guns and **lock** up your vehicles. This will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim.

## GETTING INVOLVED

You are invited to attend our monthly Bloomingdale Area Community Council meeting as a representative for your neighborhood. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month: this month's meeting is July 20 at 7 p.m. This group works directly with the HCSO to identify community concerns and to find solutions to all types of problems. Interested residents can call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station located at 3622 Erindale Drive.



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484757-1



## July Community Calendar

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

### Fourth of July Events!

**Brandon Fourth of July Parade / July 4 / 10 a.m.** / Celebrating 60 years, the theme of the annual Fourth of July parade is Through the Decades! Bring your folding chairs, suntan lotion, sunglasses, and water to enjoy the largest Fourth of July parade in Florida. And meet the new Honorary Mayor of Brandon! The parade begins at 101 E. Lumsden Rd., Brandon.

**Light Up Tampa Bay Fireworks / July 4 / 6 p.m.** / Channelside Bay Plaza, Tampa / Tampa's largest Fourth of July Celebration with live music, entertainment, family-friendly activities, and a festive waterfront fireworks display at 8:45 p.m. Standing room only event.



**Little Monsters Create Children's Art Show / July 10-28 / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon** / Children ages 4-13 will have their artwork on display. Stop by and see drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, jewelry, clay, and wood creations made with little hands. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**National Piña Colada Day / July 10 / 1 p.m. / Brandon Senior Center / 612 N. Parsons Ave., Brandon** / Join in the celebration of the National Drink of Puerto Rico, the non-alcoholic version. For information, call 813-635-8066.

For those who want to celebrate with the alcoholic recipe:

**The Original Piña Colada:**

**Ingredients:**

2 oz. White Rum  
1 oz. Coconut Cream  
1 oz. Heavy Cream  
6 oz. Fresh Pineapple Juice  
½ cup Crushed Ice

**Directions:**

Add the rum, coconut cream, heavy cream and pineapple juice together in a blender. Add the ice and blend for about 15 seconds or until smooth. Serve in a 12-ounce glass. Garnish with a fresh pineapple wedge and a maraschino cherry.



**Matinee Showing of The Secret Life of Pets / July 12 / 2 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue** / Come join us for popcorn and a movie at the library! The quiet life of a terrier named Max is upended when his owner takes in Duke, a stray Max instantly dislikes. Rated PG. 1 hour and 27 minutes. Funded by the Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Library.

**Weird Dragon Music Summer Jam for ECHO of Brandon / Aug. 5 / 1 p.m. / O'Briens Irish Pub / 701 W. Lumsden Rd., Brandon** / Join us for a benefit concert including a silent auction, food, drinks, and more. All proceeds benefit the Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) Foundation. For information, call 813-651-1246.



**Emergency Care  
Help Organization**



**Xscape Riverview 14**  
6135 Valleydale Drive  
Riverview FL 33578

FREE kids' movie each Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday this summer! Seating is limited. Please arrive early for the best seating. Film titles are not guaranteed, subject to change. Concession stands will be open during shows.

- 🍿 July 4, 5, 6 - Hotel Transylvania 2 PG
- 🍿 July 11, 12, 13 - Angry Birds PG
- 🍿 July 18, 19, 20 - Ice Age: Collision Course PG
- 🍿 July 25, 26, 27 - Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2 PG
- 🍿 August 1, 2, 3 - Surprise Feature

**AMC Regency 20 Theatres**  
2496 W. Brandon Blvd  
Brandon FL 33511

\$1/person; \$4.48 AMC Kids Snack Pack available for all (Proceeds will benefit local charities) Tickets can be purchased in advance at the AMC box office. Tickets are assigned seats except Harry Potter double header showings. Those are general admission.

- 🍿 July 11- Kung Fu Panda 3 OR Harry Potter 1 & 2 (double header)
- 🍿 July 18 - LEGO Batman OR Harry Potter 3 & 4 (double header)
- 🍿 July 25 - Ice Age: Collision Course OR Harry Potter 5 & 6 (double header)
- 🍿 August 1- Monster Trucks OR Harry Potter 7a & 7b (double header)

**Riverview 14 GDX**  
I-75 and Gibsonton Drive.  
10550 East Bay Rd.  
Gibsonton, FL 33534

Frequent Moviegoer Rewards (FMG) members see any movie in the series free-of-charge when they present their FMG card at the box office. Each member will get up to six free admissions with their FMG card per show. Non-members will be charged \$1.00 per ticket. It's easy to become an FMG member for FREE today or at the theater! Every Weekday at 10 a.m.

- 🍿 7/3 - 7/7: Rock Dog
- 🍿 7/10 - 7/14: Storks
- 🍿 7/17 - 7/21: Peanuts Movie
- 🍿 7/24 - 7/28: Monster Trucks
- 🍿 7/31 - 8/4: Trolls
- 🍿 8/7 - 8/11: Sing

**FREE Movies at the Bloomingdale Library**

- 🍿 July 12 - Movie Matinee: The Secret Life of Pets
- 🍿 July 26 - Movie Matinee: Sing



## 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.

The PRC, located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd., is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. View adoptable pets online at [HCFLGov.net/Adopt](http://HCFLGov.net/Adopt).



### Provided By The Pet Resource Center

**FIRST SATURDAY**  
Celebration

For information, call  
(813) 744-5660 or visit  
[HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets)

Give a four-legged friend a special Independence Day and adopt at the Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center First Saturday Celebration today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Below are just a few fabulous faces to choose from.

## Koda



Plays well with others! (1763211)

## Ollie



Gives great kisses! (1733338)

## Jenny



12-year-old sweetie wants to retire... at your place! (1686615)



## Your love, Our expertise




Caring for a loved one with *dementia* can become *overwhelming* and the decision to seek help can feel like giving up. But it's never the wrong choice to get the best care.

Superior Residences offers specialized services for those with Alzheimer's and dementia-related illnesses, from temporary respite care to full-time residency. We give families *peace of mind* knowing their loved one is receiving expert care in a secure, compassionate community.



**SUPERIOR RESIDENCES of Brandon**  
MEMORY CARE

Call to make an appointment today. Visit our community and see how we can work together to give your loved one the best possible care.

(813) 657-8587 • [www.SuperiorALF.com](http://www.SuperiorALF.com)  
1819 Providence Ridge Blvd • Brandon, FL 33511

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of Brandon

**813-530-0920**  
802 E. LUMSDEN RD.

[www.TampaPuppyPalace.com/Brandon](http://www.TampaPuppyPalace.com/Brandon)



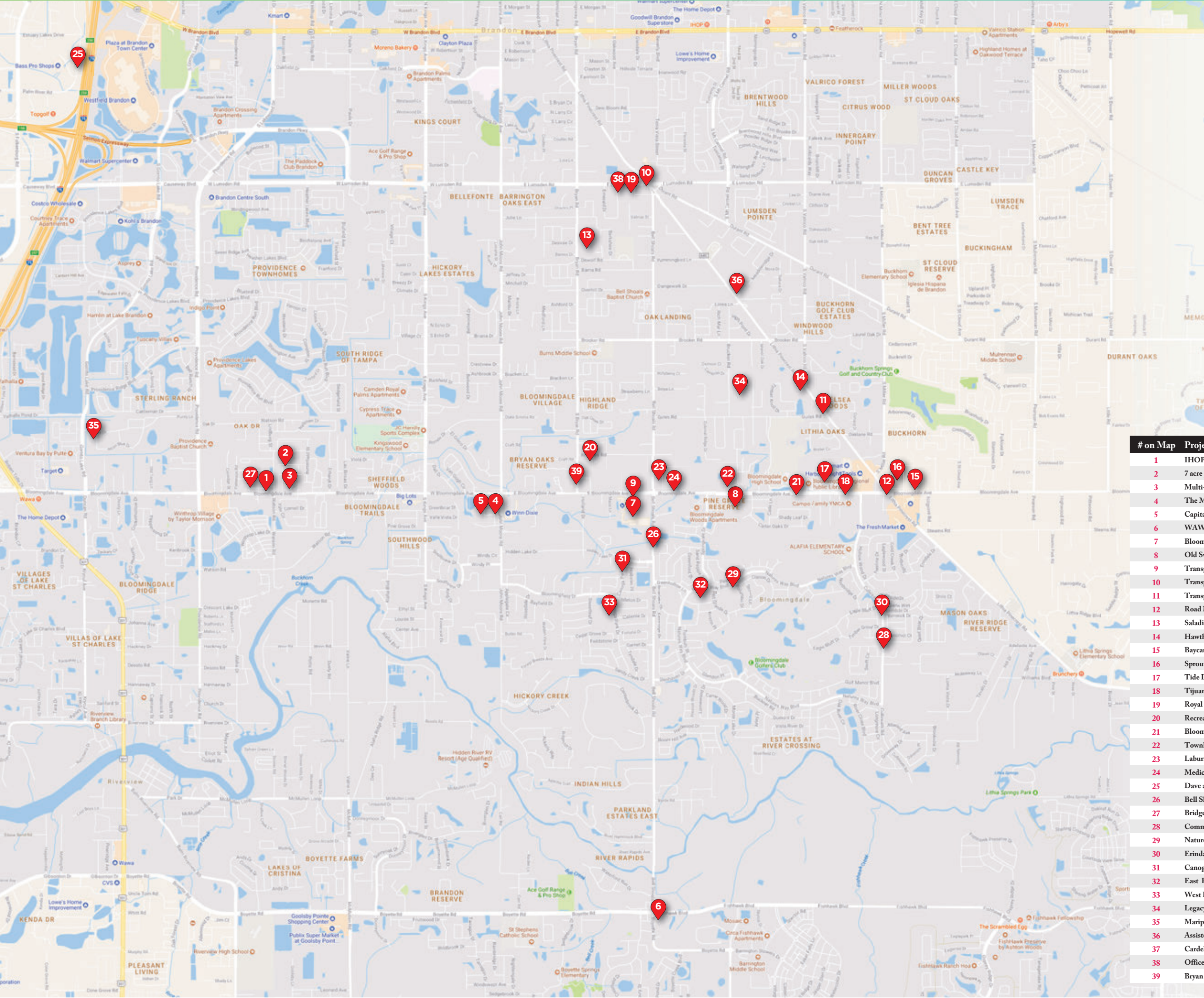
**\$20 OFF**

**ANY SERVICE**

**FOR ALL NEW CUSTOMERS**

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Development indicates progress to some, while to others it is a dirty word. Whatever your feelings are, it cannot be denied that our area is experiencing a tremendous surge in development projects. From a positive view, development can create more jobs, a stronger economy, more services and attract more people. Conversely, development can create traffic woes, attract more people, and lead to a general shift from the suburban lifestyle many seek.

In order to see the development projects in total instead of piecemeal, the Gazette staff, with significant help from Brian Bokor, certified real estate appraiser, created an interactive online map, which shows the many development projects currently underway or in some phase of planning. The red pin-numbered map includes 39 projects in and around the Bloomingdale community.

**VIEW THE MAP AT:**  
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[www.facebook.com/BloomingdaleHoa/](https://www.facebook.com/BloomingdaleHoa/) • <https://www.facebook.com/bokorscorner/>

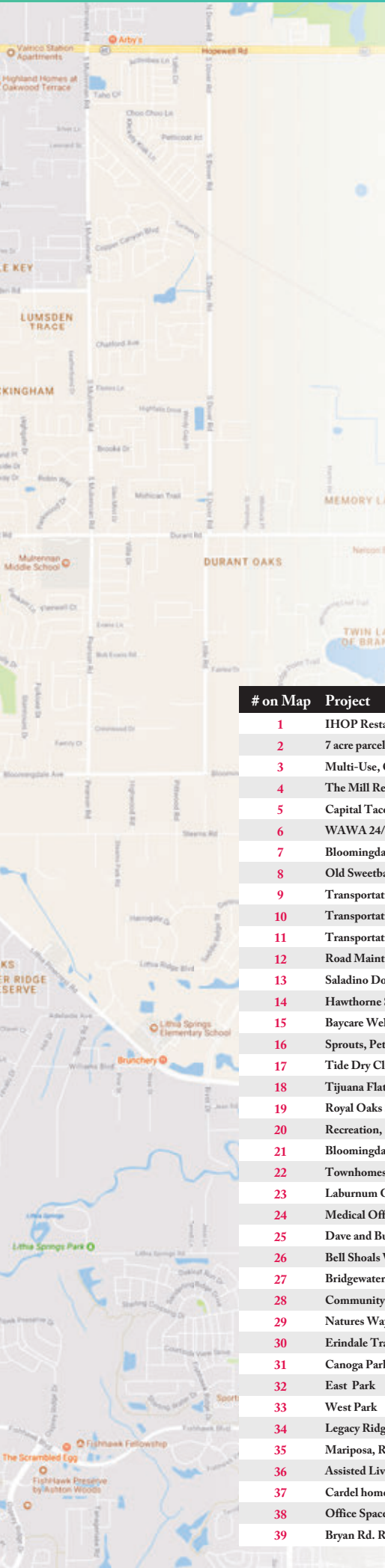
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Bokor, who compiled much of the specifics for the project chart, said, “I think it is important that developers consider the impact on residents particularly with regard to project start dates, estimated length of project, points of contact, etc.” To that end, he will be a periodic Gazette columnist where he will address these issues and more.

Do you have questions regarding developments in our area? Email [inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com) or email Bokor directly at [bsbokor@gmail.com](mailto:bsbokor@gmail.com). Your questions will be addressed in future development-focused columns.

# on Map	Project	Description
1	IHOP Restaurant	Under Construction
2	7 acre parcel includes Residential	63 Townhomes
3	Multi-Use, Car Wash, Minor Vehicle Repair, Office/Specialty Retail, Town Homes	All parcels will prohibit Convenience Stores, Fast Food Restaurants, Drive-thru facilities, Gas Station / Gas Pump and Adult uses
4	The Mill Restaurant, Bloomingdale Commons	4,000 square feet, 180 seats, with 150 inside and 30 outside, voted Best New Restaurant in Florida by Florida Trend magazine.
5	Capital Tacos Restaurant, Bloomingdale Commons	Under Construction
6	WAWA 24/7 Convenience Store	Under Construction
7	Bloomingdale Square, Retail Plus	Ongoing to replace old Walmart and add other retail / restaurants. Owner already added stop light on Bl Ave west of Bell Shoals.
8	Old Sweetbay	Zoning Verification request submitted
9	Transportation-Lumsden, Lithia-Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Ave Improvements	Community meeting held Wed., May 17 presented option of a reversible lane during peak traffic hours to ease congestion along Bloomingdale Avenue.
10	Transportation-Lumsden, Lithia-Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Ave Improvements	Hillsborough MPO and the Planning Commission - Brandon Corridors and Mixed-Use Centers Study. Option presented to widen Lumsden to 6 lanes from 4.
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13	Saladino Dog Park, Parks and Rec	Approved by BOCC, community meeting held last month, planned opening spring 2018
14	Hawthorne Sr. Living Facility, Residential, Currently denied	Three-story 166-bed treatment facility
15	Baycare Wellness Campus, Medical	160,000 sf, larger than new Walmart
16	Sprouts, Petsmart, Orange Theory- Retail/Grocery	Valrico Landing at old Albertson's
17	Tide Dry Cleaners, Service Plus, Creste Pointe Towne Ctr	Tide Dry Cleaners, 3,000 sf, behind new Starbucks, additional 1600 sf available at this location, also Mattress Firm
18	Tijuana Flats Restaurant, Creste Pointe Towne Ctr	Alcohol Permit approved
19	Royal Oaks Senior Facility Medical	9 acres with 72 assisted living units and 36 memory care units. 75 Parking spaces provided.
20	Recreation, Knowles Rd	Knowles Rd, 8.15 acre parcel, former Hidden Palms Tennis Club
21	Bloomingdale Ave Repaving Project Road Maintenance	4.6 miles Providence Road to Lithia Pinecrest Road, Look for signage posted at least 1-2 weeks in advance of new start date. Work conducted after 9 p.m.
22	Townhomes Residential	116 town homes or 58 duplex or 71 single family homes on 5,000 sq ft sites. 2 exit and 1 entrance lane.
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24	Medical Office	Behind the Animal Medical Center near Shrimp Boat / Green Boutique.
25	Dave and Buster's Entertainment	Under Construction near Ifly and Top Golf
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28	Community Sidewalk Repairs	Ongoing, County project with BSTD
29	Natures Way Traffic Study	Ongoing
30	Erindale Traffic Study	Ongoing
31	Canoga Park Drive Traffic Study	Minor Improvements
32	East Park	Park Renovations at 3902 Natures Way Blvd and 3940 Canoga Park Dr
33	West Park	Park Renovations at 3902 Natures Way Blvd and 3940 Canoga Park Dr
34	Legacy Ridge, Residential	Legacy Ridge at Brucken/Guiles, 67 new homes
35	Mariposa, Residential	85.5 acres between Gornto Lake and Providence
36	Assisted Living Facility	Proposed 30 bed ALF on Lithia Pinecrest Ave and MeadowRidge Dr
37	Cardel homes	33 homes on a 9.44 acre parcel south of the Bell Shoals / Boyette Rd / Fishhawk intersection
38	Office Space and Minor Auto Repair	Erindale Dr. and Lithia Pinecrest
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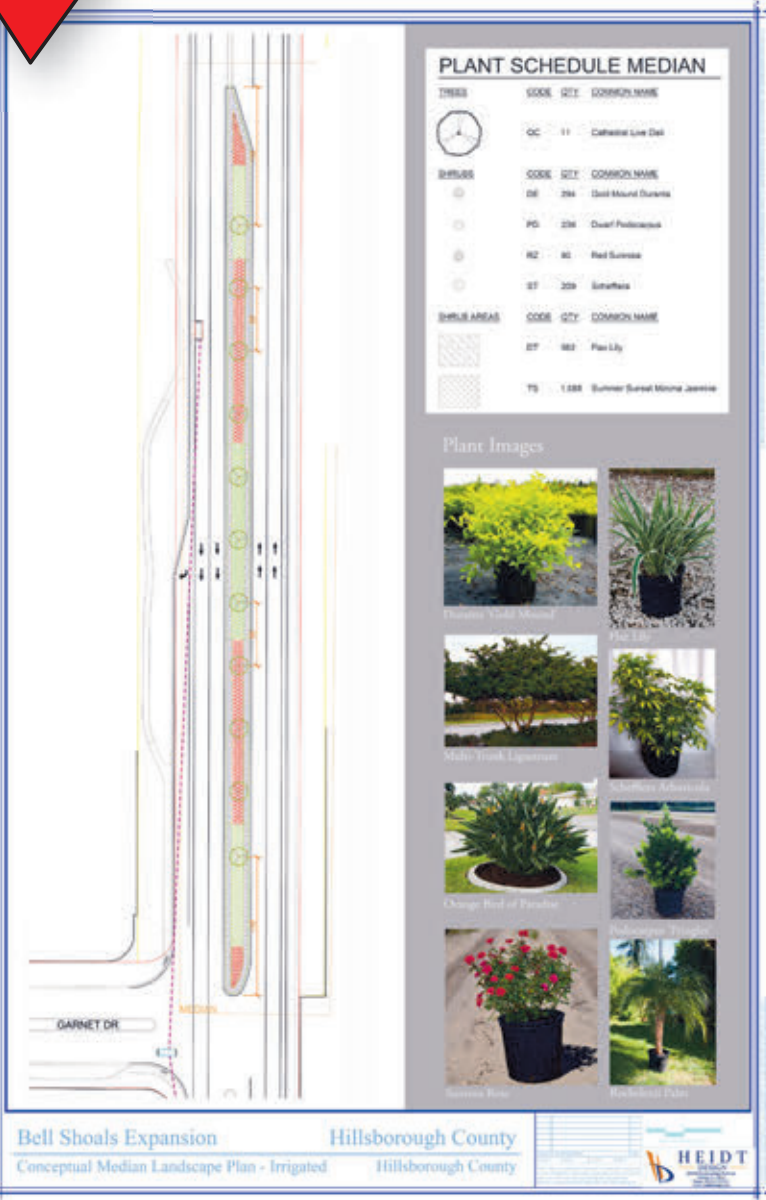
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BELL SHOALS WIDENING

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/county-projects/transportation-projects>



16

OLD ALBERTSONS

Sprouts, PetSmart, Orange Theory



4

5

The Mill Restaurant and Capital Taco

Bloomingdale Commons



15

BAYCARE WELLNESS CAMPUS



8

OLD SWEETBAY



14

Hawthorne Senior Living

Currently Denied



19

ROYAL OAKS SENIOR LIVING





23 24

**Laburnum Gardens Apartments and Medical Complex**



24

**Medical Complex**  
Artist Rendering



20

**Knowles Road Rec Center**



17

**Tide Cleaners**  
Crest Pointe Towne Center



33

**BL West Park**  
[www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/county-projects/building-community-projects](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/county-projects/building-community-projects)



2 3

**Multi-Use Parcels**  
Car Wash, Minor Vehicle Repair, Office/Specialty Retail, Town Homes





Now that summer is here to stay, make sure you keep your pets in mind. From overheating because of the scorching sun to getting sick from eating backyard plants, the summer months can be harmful to your pets if you aren't aware and don't prepare.

### Do's

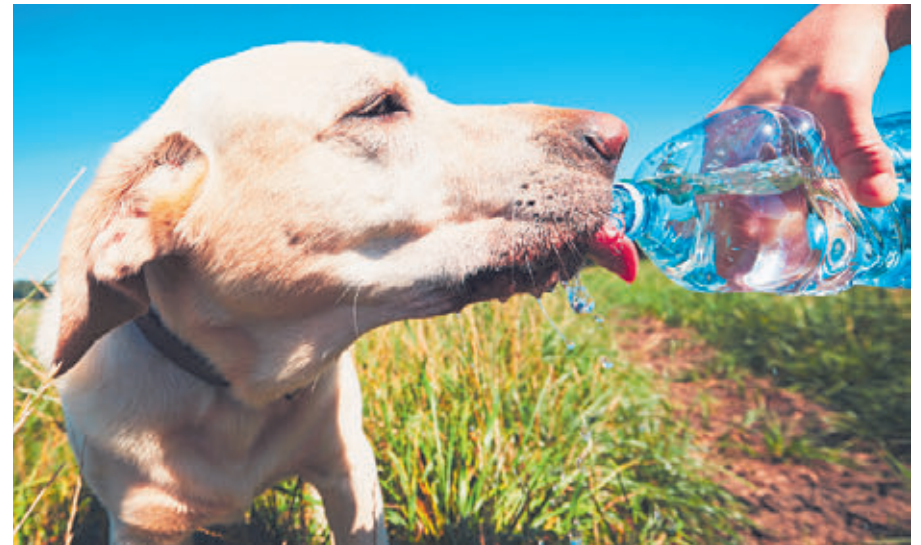
- ✿ Do avoid dehydration. Keep water on hand, give ice cubes or pet-friendly frozen treats to help keep them cool.
- ✿ Do walk your pets in the early morning or late evening.
- ✿ Do know the symptoms of heat stroke - excessive panting and drooling, weakness, disorientation, and/or seizures.
- ✿ Do update your contact information on your pet's collar and microchip.
- ✿ Do groom your dogs and cats to keep their coats light. However shaving a double-coated dog is not recommended and can be harmful.
- ✿ Do use pet-safe sunscreen on hairless or short-haired pets and pets with white coats.
- ✿ Do monitor your pets around pools and large bodies of water. Boaters, do have pet life vests.
- ✿ Do have a disaster plan for your pets.
- ✿ Do know where dog-friendly places are located in your neighborhood.

### Don'ts

- ✿ Don't leave pets unattended in cars.
- ✿ Don't walk pets on hot pavement; paws can burn.
- ✿ Don't shave a double-coated dog. Shaving them does not help keep them cool.
- ✿ Don't let pets eat backyard plants; many are toxic.
- ✿ Don't forget flea and tick medication.
- ✿ Don't let pets drink liquids from the ground. Leaked substances can be extremely toxic.

### If you think your pet is suffering from heatstroke, you need to:

- ✿ Cool them by submerging them in water or running a hose over the pet. It is very important to cool the animal's head but be sure to keep water out of their airways. Put the animal in an air-conditioned vehicle, building or at least in the shade.
- ✿ Call your veterinarian immediately.
- ✿ Notify authorities. To report an animal in danger or heat distress, immediately notify a law enforcement officer and call the Pet Resource Center's Animal Control Division at 813-744-5660.



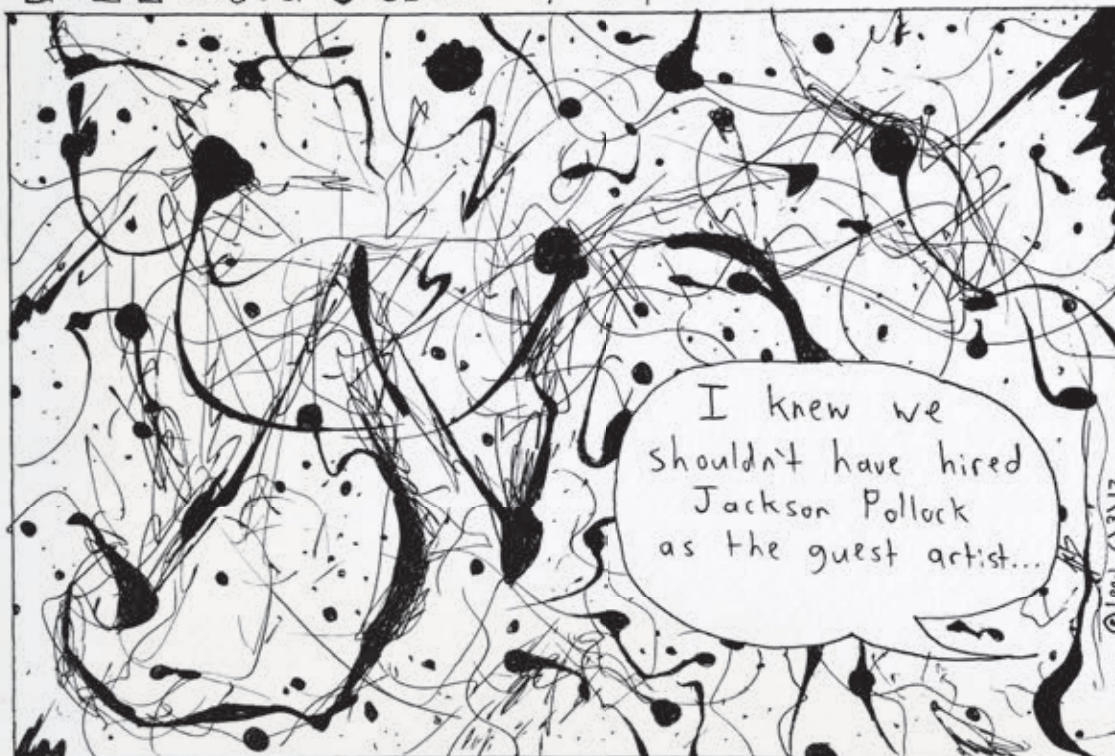
**Remember, Keep Fido and Fifi Safe this Fourth of July!**



## Michigan

Comic strip artist Will Leech is a Florida State University sophomore. Through his creation "Michigan," he shares his view of the world around us.

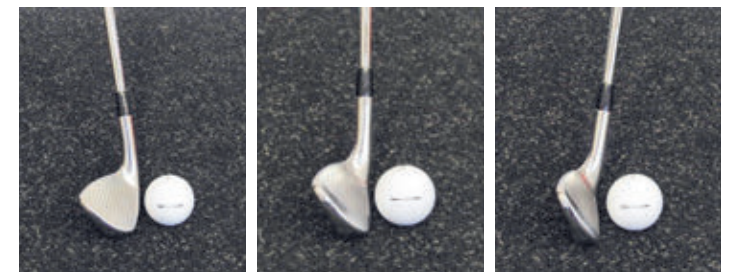
Michigan by Will Leech



## What does effective loft really mean...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC campus)

Ever wonder why your buddy's 9 iron shots go 145 yards but yours goes 120 yards. It's because you are not using your club's loft correctly. It's called measured loft versus actual loft or effective loft. Look at the three different shaft angles below.



My 9 iron, center picture, has a measured loft of 43 degrees (depending on manufacturer) and typically goes around 145 yards.

Amateurs help the golf ball in the air by flipping their wrists adding effective loft 47 degrees to the 9 iron causing the ball to go higher and shorter distance. See the reverse shaft lean pictured in left picture.

Professionals keep their hands in a forward shaft lean and decrease loft creating a lower ball flight and increased distance effective loft 39 degrees, see right picture. This is one big reason professional golfers can hit their ball a long way.

Any questions or for lessons, visit [CochraneGolfSchools.com](http://CochraneGolfSchools.com) or call J.D. at 813-957-3205.



**John E.S. Cochrane**  
GOLF SCHOOLS





*Ellen Bess has been writing for nearly as long as she can remember. Her humor columns have appeared in newspapers and periodicals in North Carolina, Georgia and central Florida. She lives with her husband, Frazier, a retired high school Chemistry teacher, in Bloomingdale West.*



## That's What I Like About the South

Despite the castigations heaped upon her of late, I truly love the South. My mother had the great wisdom to give birth to me in the South. I was brought up in the South. Educated in the South. And, over the years, I have learned that being a Southerner is not the same as being a Mid-Westerner, a South-Westerner, a Westerner or (heaven forbid) a "Yankee." As a matter of fact, it's a lot like being from another country entirely.

Take our cities, for instance. The South boasts some of the most beautiful, culturally-rich cities in the United States, but you won't find the cities Southerners love best in any Atlas or through any Google search. For example, one of my personal favorites is Nawluns, the gracious Grande Dame of Loozeeanna. Steeped in history, Nawluns is a unique blend of international ethnicities and traditions and known for its jazz, crawdad cookin' and the soft Cajun lilt in the voices of her residents. But you won't find Nawluns on any map. Nor will you find Shahlet. Shahlet is secretly the capital of Nawth Cahlina. Just ask any Shahletean. Myamuh, an outpost of New York located on Florida's Atlantic coast, is another well-known Mecca. And, for all its size, Lanna, the sports and cultural center of the state of Jawja, is continuously ignored by cartographers.

Knowing what I do, it beats me how visitors from other parts of the country find their way around. They're apparently missing all the good stuff.



We also have our own language. Just as an example, people in the South never die. They are "lost," generally by their nearest and dearest. As in, "It's been an awful year. First we lost Uncle Harry. Then we lost Grampa Mose. And now we're fixin' to lose Auntie Reba." Granted, the expression makes us sound like a colossally careless group (most folks lose watches, rings and keys. Southerners lose each other.), but it does tend to keep the tourists on their toes.

The ability to turn a simple declarative statement like, "This room is small" into an imaginative sensory experience is also a trait indigenous to Southerners. My doctor recently described the size of his examination room this way: "Ain't enough room in here to cuss a cat without gettin' a mouth full of fur." A friend plagued with severe hay fever complained that her nose, "...was runnin' like a Wal-Mart shoplifter." Only a true Southerner would be capable of such a vividly entertaining verbal portrait.

Most Southerners are warm, open, generous and opinionated. They will give you time, money, food and a piece of their minds, all without you ever asking for any of it. They will open their hearts, their homes, their wallets and their mouths with little, if any, provocation. And if they love you, they love you unqualified and forever.

And that's what I like about the South.

## severe weather alerts

Get notified when a hurricane, or other severe weather, is brewing.



Download the  
**tbo weather app**

Need to know?  
Go to **tbo**

## VOTED BRANDON'S #1 ROOFING COMPANY 8 CONSECUTIVE YEARS!

SAVE MONEY ON HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE



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

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

**Financing Available. Lifetime Workmanship Warranty Available.**

**Shingle Masters  
Roofing  
& Construction**

**(813) 661-4600**

**www.Shingle-Masters.com**

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# On and Off the Beaten Path...

*(Editor's Note: Periodically, this column will feature things to do around our area. Some will be well-known, while others less so. All, in our opinion, will be places or events that could be an "add" to your personal "bucket list." Should you know of an interesting attraction, let us know. We welcome resident input.)*

## Tampa Bay's Margarita Festival – An Annual Must-Do for Locals and Visitors

By Wendy Knipp

In May, approximately 15,000 people descended on downtown Tampa for the 5th annual Tampa Bay Margarita Festival. The event, held in Curtis Hixon Park, featured live entertainment, games, food and drinks from noon to 11p.m. Over 54,000 margaritas were served and more than 45 tequilas were available for tasting! The "cool" event kicked off with the 2nd annual Tampa Margarita Run 5K on the Riverwalk for those wishing to burn off a few calories before the festivities began.

Throughout the upper level of the park, food tents served everything from pizza and chicken to tacos and fried margaritas. The lower level featured the entertainment stage and alcohol tents. Patrons could choose between more than 50 varieties of margaritas, an assortment of beer, and bottled water.

Headlining the live bands was 90's sensation, Barenaked Ladies. Other bands included Cowboy Mouth, RIPT, The Whole Damn Mess, The Getbye, The Ries Brothers, and Parrotfish.

Having attended the festival, I can report many positive reasons to attend including a lot of food and drink choices, a variety of bands, smiling vendors, easy cashless food and drink purchases thanks to RFID wristbands, and no long line for the bathrooms. On the negative side, there were long lines for everything else, fireworks were cancelled, the food and drinks were pricey and there was a lack of shade to escape the Florida sun.

Overall, producer Big City Events did a good job with the Festival and it should be even better next year. Check out the festival's website at [www.tampamargaritafest.com](http://www.tampamargaritafest.com). For those that can't wait, mark your calendars for the Summer of Rum Festival featuring Shaggy on Sept. 2. Tickets are already on sale at [www.SummerofRumFest.com](http://www.SummerofRumFest.com).



Bartenders worked hard to keep up with demand.



Beer and margaritas were flowing at the Festival.

Photos: Wendy Knipp



More than 15,000 people showed up at Curtis Hixon Park for the Margarita Festival.

Barenaked Ladies took the stage and drew a huge crowd.



Margarita-lovers enjoyed live music from various bands throughout the day.



## Enjoy a Perfect Afternoon at The Keel & Curley Winery Tour

By Wendy Knipp

Just 30 minutes away in Plant City is The Keel & Curley Winery. Opened in 2003, the small vineyard started out producing just 10 gallons of wine; today, it produces more than 20,000 cases each year. Also on site is Two Henrys Brewing Co. for those more inclined to craft beer sampling.

Owner Joe Keel experienced initial success with variations of blueberry wine made from locally grown blueberries but over time, he found equal success with traditional grape wine, ice wine, and innovative fusion wines. Fusion wines are created by combining grape wine with fruit juice and their results have produced some very popular sellers such as Strawberry Riesling, Wild Berry Pinot Noir, and Peach Chardonnay. Today, the winery makes 19 different wines, craft beers and hard cider.

Tours take place on weekends and last about two hours. Starting in an open-air trolley, tourists learn about the history of Keel & Curley while they are taken through the blueberry fields to the winery on the back of the property.

Once inside, the winemaking process is explained and the tour concludes in the tasting room where sommelier Kay provides pre-plated food and select wines to demonstrate how to effectively pair flavored wine with different foods. The tour ends back at the main building where there is a bar (of course), a pub-style restaurant, and a gift shop.

Many tours are offered, however the wine tour with tasting simply cannot be passed up. The average cost is \$30 per person and Groupon discounts may be available online. It is located at 5210 Thonotosassa Rd, Plant City, FL 33565. View winery details at [www.KeelandCurleyWinery.com](http://www.KeelandCurleyWinery.com).



An open-air trolley allows a full view of keel and Curley blueberry fields, the source of the winery's beginning.



One of 30 certified wineries in Florida, The Keel & Curley Winery offers weekend tours complete with tastings.



Photos: Wendy Knipp

The winemaking process is explained in detail during the tour.

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## ...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.*

### VICTORY GARDENS: PATRIOTISM ON THE HOMEFRONT

By Patti Phillipsen, Valrico Garden Club Historian

Victory gardens, first promoted during World War I and again during World War II, encouraged Americans to produce their own food. Nearly 20 million Americans answered the call.

They planted gardens in backyards, empty lots, schoolyards, churchyards, and even on city rooftops. Neighborhoods pooled their resources, planted different kinds of foods and formed cooperatives. War gardening, or victory gardens, provided American citizens an opportunity to assist with the war effort. All in the name of patriotism.

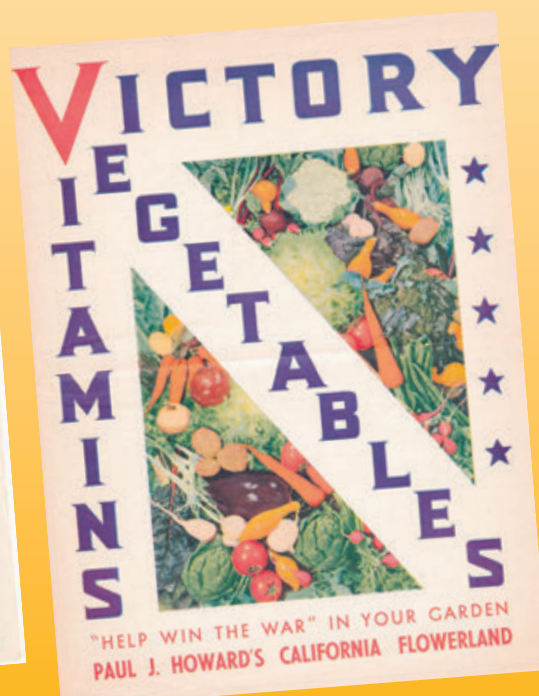
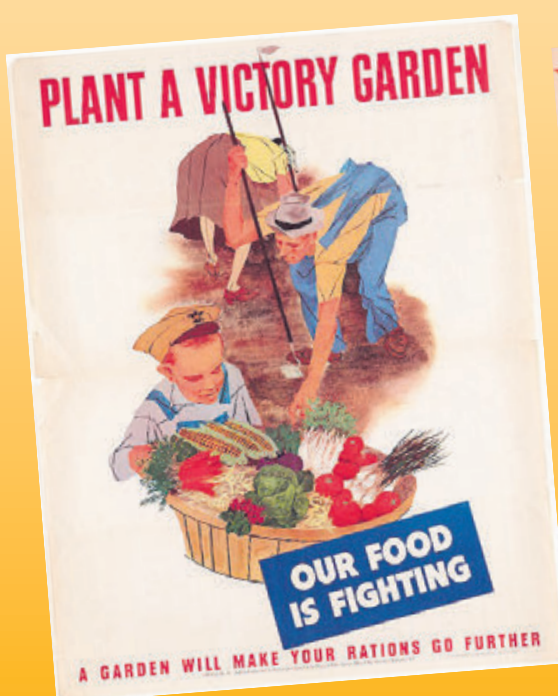
More than 70 years have passed since the first turn of Victory Garden soil. With today's high fresh food costs and liberal use of pesticides, it makes sense to turn our backyards, churchyards, city parks, schools and playgrounds once again into Victory Gardens.

Edible gardening is becoming extremely popular, with edible varieties added to traditional landscapes rather than planted in separate plots. Who says you can't grow shrubs and eat them too? Try substituting small blueberry bushes for foundation shrubs.

An edible garden can teach children the magic of gardening. Kids can help you plant, water, weed, and harvest their own produce. You may be surprised at their willingness to sample the produce they helped to grow.

Whatever you choose to grow, you will know what went into your garden...like choosing "NO GMO" (genetically modified) seeds, the fertilizer type and strength and what if any pesticides you may choose. And, knowing how your food is grown and what is used in the process can be reason enough to grow your own. In the morning, you can pick your veggies, fruits and herbs and at night, you can sit down to for dinner and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

As we celebrate Independence Day, try your starting your own Victory Garden. From the planting, to tending, to picking – there is nothing like the fresh flavors of homegrown vegetables, herbs and fruits harvested at the peak of their freshness.



### Victory Gardens Facts

- During World War I, a severe food crisis emerged in Europe as agricultural workers entered military service and farms were transformed into battlefields. Victory Gardens were established to help feed millions.
- Even children were encouraged to help and were referred to as "soldiers of the soil."
- In 1918, an estimated 1.45 million quarts of canned fruits and vegetables were generated from more than 5.2 million "Victory Garden" plots.
- Victory Gardens reemerged during World War II to help prevent food shortages in the United States.
- Eleanor Roosevelt even planted a victory garden on the White House lawn.
- Some of the most popular produce grown included beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, tomatoes, turnips, squash and Swiss chard.
- By 1944, an estimated 20 million victory gardens produced roughly 8 million tons of food—which was the equivalent of more than 40 percent of all the fresh fruits and vegetables consumed in the United States.



## Near Tragedy Motivates Swim Instructor Katja Borosch

By Wendy Knipp

Katja Borosch loves children. A resident of Bloomingdale Estates since 2002, she is not only a loving mother to two teenage girls, but she has dedicated her life to teaching infants and children how to swim and feel confident around water.

This dedication came from a 2003 incident that changed her life forever – her 18-month-old daughter fell in a pool. While she was pulled out quickly with no injuries, Katja decided at that moment that swim lessons for her daughters would be the most valuable gift she could give them, especially here in Florida. She soon realized that there was a desperate need for qualified instructors in our area and her path was set.

In 2004, Katja enrolled in a rigorous instructor-training program called Pedia Swim at Southwest Aquatics in Orlando. That summer, she began her home business, Kinder Swim, Inc. Since completing the program, she has taught thousands of children, including special needs children, as young as 6 months old how to swim and feel confident around water.

Her background in early childhood development coupled with experience working at local daycare centers helped her understand how important these years are for teaching children water safety. She also makes it a priority to stay abreast of the latest techniques. Katja said, "learning how to swim is hard work but knowing how to swim is safe and fun!"

One new addition to her teaching arsenal is the amazing underwater photography of Christi Curtis of Unique Portraiture. Children are fascinated by their one-of-a-kind images Curtis catches underwater.

Katja is a member of Infant Aquatics Network, the World Aquatic Baby & Children Network (WABC), and holds current certification in the American Red Cross Learn-To-Swim Program (WSI) as well as Infant/Child CPR and First Aid. For more information, visit [www.kinderswim.com](http://www.kinderswim.com).

Thank you for making our community safer for our children, Katja!



Katja Borosch made sure her daughters could swim from an early age - Natalya (l.) and Kara (r.)



Katja loves children and enjoys teaching them how to be safe around the water – the younger, the better.

Photos:  
Christi Allen Curtis Photography

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



### August 10 - BACK TO SCHOOL!

#### ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Fall Registration: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
2017- 2018 School Supply Wish List: View at [alafia.mysdhc.org](http://alafia.mysdhc.org).



#### CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Aug. 8 - Meet and Greet with Tour of the Campus  
2017- 2018 School Supply Wish List: View at [cimino.mysdhc.org](http://cimino.mysdhc.org).



#### BURNS BRUINS BANTER

July 27 – Incoming 6th grade Ice Cream Social, 5:30-6:30 p.m.



#### BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

July 10 – Senior Picture Day in the Auditorium, 7 a.m.  
July 13 – Summer Graduation – 3 p.m. in the Auditorium  
July 13-14 – Max Warner Bulls Football Camp, Fishhawk Sports Complex, 16120 Fishhawk Blvd., Lithia  
July 31-Aug. 1 – Freshman Bull Camp



#### BULL BRIEFS

##### 9th Grade Camp

Complete the online application to enroll in Bloomingdale High School's Incoming 9th Grade Camp. This FREE two-day summer program is July 31-Aug. 1 from 8 a.m. to noon at the high school.

Future Bloomingdale students will make new friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers, counselors, and get to know our school! They will also learn about our extracurricular activities, clubs, traditions, AP programs, college/university awareness and more! Questions? Contact Cara Diehl at [cara.diehl@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:cara.diehl@sdhc.k12.fl.us).

Summer Reading List for all English classes: [http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/School\\_Documents/summerreading2017.pdf](http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/School_Documents/summerreading2017.pdf)

### Westfield Mall Full Inclusion Back to School Bashes

Westfield Brandon July 15 / Westfield Citrus Park July 22 / Westfield Countryside July 29

Come and join us at the 2nd annual Westfield Mall Full Inclusion Back to School Bash where we aim to support Tampa Bay families and their diversities. Event runs 10 a.m.-3p.m. Mall doors open at 9 a.m.

Westfield Mall, Simply Events and My Brother Rocks the Spectrum present an event for families that supports our children and their differences in a fun, safe and interactive learning environment. The Full Inclusion Back to School Bashes cater to both neuro-typical and neuro-diverse children with hands on activities, family and school resources, health & wellness services, after school programs, learning centers, safety resources and more.

The events start at 10 a.m. with the first 250 kids receiving scavenger hunt pages. After completing the hunt, each child will receive a free, full-size backpack courtesy of DACCO Be the Wall campaign. All families can enjoy local Tampa Bay mascots, princesses, super heroes, an entertainment stage, interactive workshops, tons of free school supplies and back to school discounts at mall retailers.

For information, contact Simply Events, Inc. at 727-674-1464 or view info online at: <https://www.simplyeventsfl.com/westfield-mall-back-to-school-bash/>.



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## They've Got Spirit!

Brief/Photo: Deidre Morgan

On June 2, the 2017-2018 Bloomingdale High School JV and Varsity Cheer Squads were announced amidst tears and cheers from the over 30 Lady Bulls selected. New Head Cheer Coach Tracy Diprima returns to Bloomingdale taking over from departing Coach Michelle Groat. She coached the 2008-2009 squad, when the team made its first-ever state cheer competition appearance. Bethany Wallace, a 2012 Bloomingdale cheerleader, joins the experienced coach bringing her talents from the 2012 Western Conference Regionals and State squads. Congratulations to the Lady Bull Cheer Squad and welcome back Coach Diprima!



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**GREAT BLOOMINGDALE LOCATION!** 3/2.5/2 + bonus home that is immediately available! Neutral paint colors & Pergo flooring make this home feel so large & spacious! Wood-burning fireplace, generous room sizes & kitchen with white cabinets complete the package! \$216,900



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