



# **BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE**

# YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

BHA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office.

**President:** George T. May IV Vice President: Suzy Watts Secretary: Joanie Wilson **Treasurer:** Grace Lewis



## Directors at Large:

Daniel Berkowitz Sean Donahue Bobbi Ferraro Carl Hallinan Billy Hightower Beth Smedley Charlie Woodcock

# YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



# JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette 3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

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# **TONY DEL CASTILLO**

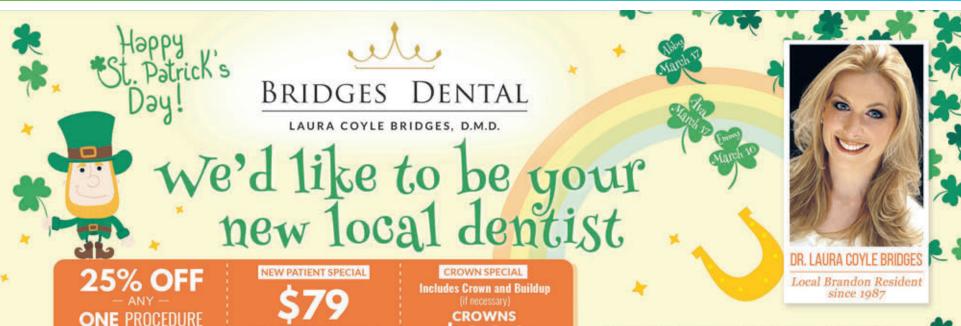
**Advertising Manager** Brandon & Southshore Times

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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



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# **BHA COMMUNITY CORNER**

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

## Community Clean-Up Offers One-Stop Convenience Today!

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Location: The Parks and Recreation Facility off Natures Way behind Alafia Elementary

Today is the day residents can take advantage of a variety of services designed to declutter and spring clean their homes. The BHA community clean-up event provides residents with an opportunity to skip the drive to the county landfill, and discard their unwanted items at an "incommunity" location.

The best part according to many residents is that the event is free. Volunteers will be available to help with vehicle off-loading.

Onsite are UrbanErecycling (an electronics recycler), HCSO's Operation Medicine Cabinet for outdated/unwanted medicine disposal, Lighthouse Ministries accepting serviceable donations for local families, the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District providing information about their organization and your host, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.

#### What you need to know:

#### Not Accepted!

NO Hazardous materials accepted. This includes paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercials activities NO Yard Waste.

NO old style box televisions.

Hillsborough County residents can dispose of hazardous materials for free on the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South County Collection Site, 13000 US 41, north of Big Bend Road, phone: 813-671-7611.

## Accepted!

In 10 Commercial Roll-offs provided by Republic Services and a grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, residents may discard:

- Refrigerators, ovens, water heaters
- Steel and other metals
- Furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses)
- Construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials)

• Tires



## UrbanErecycling will accept:

- Computer keyboards, laptops, desktop computers, tower computers and servers, scrap computers
- Telecom equipment, rack servers, cell phones, laser printers
- Flat screen monitors and flat screen TVs
- Battery backups, ion lithium batteries, circuit boards, and computer cables

## packaged drug items • Patches, Powders, Liquids (properly sealed), Inhalers

• Pill bottles, Boxes and/or

Cabinet" will accept:

HCSO's "Operation Medicine

• Veterinarian Prescription

And, our newest edition, Lighthouse Ministries requests serviceable donations of any kind! This can be clothing, furniture, household items, appliances and more.







# BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Jan. 1- Dec. 31/2018 Membership drive continues! Don't delay, join today!

Monday, March 12, 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, March 13, 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, March 15, 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.

Sunday, April 1/ Scholarship Application Deadline

# Your Support of the 2018 Membership Drive Helps Pay for Events like the Community Garage Sale and Clean-Up! Please, Join Today!

We can't do it without you, the backbone of our Association. Events like today's clean-up and last week's garage sale are paid for through membership funds provided by you – our residents.

This all-volunteer organization works tirelessly to improve our community. Board members attend county meetings to address Bloomingdale concerns with government officials. They plan and put on events throughout the year aimed at keeping our area a great place to live, work and call home.

While off to a good start, the membership drive is slightly behind this year's goal. Be a part of making our community better by sending in your membership card today!

Your \$35 membership fees are returned 100 percent to the community. And, every member and dollar matter. 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, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. 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.



# **BHA BRIEFS**

# **Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News**

Bloomingdale Cove HOA president Claire Letkiewicz and her husband Ray attended the February board meeting. As a new HOA president, Claire wanted to make contact with the Association and gather information for her upcoming meeting.

Look for an exciting announcement or two in next month's Gazette!

#### Scholarship Deadline Nears!

The application is available at the BHA office, and online at the BHA website at www.bloomingdalehoa.com The winning student will be announced at the May BHA board meeting. For information or to request an application, call 813-681-2051, or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com Applicants will be judged solely on merit, not financial need.





MARCH 2018 # 5

# March Community Calendar

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

#### FREE SPRING BREAK SWIMMING LESSONS AT CAMPO Y

The world is 71 percent water and kids are 100 percent curious. To remind the community to be water smart from the start, the Tampa Y is teaming up with the Tampa Bay Rays to offer free Safety Around Water lessons March 12-15 to coincide with Hillsborough County Public Schools spring break.

Thanks to the generosity of the Rays, the free Safety Around Water program is offered annually in the spring to help keep kids stay safe at the beach, pool, lake and while boating. It's open to the entire community, beginners and non-swimmers, ages 3-12 years.

During the free 4-day course, certified instructors teach children a sequenced set

of skills that will reduce the risk of drowning and give them confidence in and around water. Participants must be present on the first day of class and bring their own swimsuit and towel.

A YMCA membership is NOT required; however, pre-registration is required due to limited space. For information or to pre-register, contact the Campo Family YMCA, 3414 Culbreath Rd. at 813-684-1371.



Florida Strawberry Festival / March 1-11 / Festival Grounds at Alexander and Reynolds Streets, Plant City / Each spring the Florida Strawberry Festival rolls out the red carpet to welcome visitors from all over. Guests enjoy agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture exhibits, and crafts. And, it's the perfect time to enjoy eating ripe strawberries.

Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission: Adults (ages 13+), \$10; Children (ages 6-12, \$5; Children (ages 5 and under) FREE. Admission: Adults (ages 13+), \$10; Children ages 6-12, \$5; Children ages 5 and under FREE with paid adult admission. Discount tickets are available at Publix. For information, visit www.strawberryfestival.com.



G.F.W.C. Valrico Service League's Putting on the Ritz Bunco / March 6 / 6 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts Center, 619 Vonderburg Dr. / Come join us for a night of Bunco fun! Dinner starts at 6 p.m. followed by Bunco at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 and include light dinner, drinks and prizes. Purchase at Center Place or contact Claudia Yake at 685-7998. Proceeds support children and families in need in our community via A Kids Place, Brandon Outreach, Campo YMCA, Cards for the Troops, Center Place, Apostles Village and Family Promise.

Free Microirrigation Workshop / March 8 /10:30 a.m. / County Extension Conference Center / 5339 County Road 579, Seffner / Irrigate your landscape and vegetables with microirrigation. Receive your free microirrigation kit at the 1-hour workshop and get started immediately. Advance Registration Required: visit https://march8microirrigation.eventbrite.com. Questions? Email: monahans@hillsboroughcounty.org

Create a Family Cookbook / March 10 / 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library, Rm 8 / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue / Come to a Create Workshop and learn how to assemble and organize a family cookbook. Participants should bring recipes, photos and any other embellishments to help create their cookbook. Basic tools such as scissors, glue and paper will be provided. Register for this free class at the library Ask Desk, or online at HCPLC.org.





Spring Shabby Chic Vintage
Market & Artisan Days / March 18 / 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. /
Westfield Brandon | 459 Brandon Town Center Dr.,
Brandon / Shabby Chic Vintage Market and Artisan Day
events are growing fast. The brings its own unique crowd of
furniture artists, and the best local artisans offering all kinds of
Shabby Chic items and decor, artisans, unique food options,
original art, painted furniture, antique & vintage items,

Cottage Glam items, pallet art and signs, boutique clothing, jewelry and more. Free to attend and park. We also feature live entertainment, DIY craft workshops and paint demos provided by our local sponsor Dixie Belle Paint Company.

Fundraiser! Breakfast with ECHO / March 21 / 8-9 a.m. / The Regent / 6437 Watson Road, Riverview / Join the team at ECHO of Brandon for a complimentary fundraising breakfast. Learn about ECHO's programs that provide food, clothing, and back-to-work programs for over 13,000 neighbors per year, and how you can help! R.S.V.P. to eleanor@echofl.org, or call 813-685-0935 for more information. Seating and breakfast to begin promptly at 8 a.m.

Brandon Sports and Aquatics Center 10th Anniversary Casino Night / March 23 / 7-11 p.m. / The Regent / 6437 Watson Road, Riverview / Casino Night is back and bigger than ever! BSAC's signature event is an incredible opportunity to give back to the Brandon community while enjoying table games, a silent auction, open bar, and 50/50 raffle. Held at

the Regent, Tickets are only \$60 per person. Childcare is conveniently located at the venue for children aged 3-14. All Proceeds Benefit Families by Providing Financial Assistance Scholarships. BSAC's Casino Night has provided over \$500,000 in scholarships and financial assistance to hundreds of families in our community over the past several years. To purchase tickets or submit a sponsorship request, visit our website at www.mybsac.org.





Riverview Easter Egg Festival / March 24 / 11 a.m.-3 p.m. / Summerfield Crossings Golf Club / 13050 Summerfield Blvd, Riverview / Who wants to Find EASTER EGGS? / Join us Saturday and have a great time finding eggs and winning prizes. We will even have an Adult Easter Egg Contest! Meet the Easter Bunny, eat some great food, shop our vendors, enjoy face painting, Bounce houses, and a Photo opportunity with a real live bunny (digital downloads for \$5) provided by Heather Rose Photography. For information, call 813-671-3311or email info@summerfieldgc.com.

# THIS WEEKEND

The 72nd Florida Azalea Festival in Palatka is one of the longest-running festivals celebrated in Florida. Held today and tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The kid-friendly event averages over 35,000 visitors and offers offer a glimpse into true Southern Hospitality with food, music, craft vendors, entertainment, Shriners, Parade and much more. Visit the event page at www.facebook.com/events/928015170707564/.



**6 €** THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

# Your Home Air Conditioning, Flumbing & Electrical Specialist

# Cornerstone Air & Plumbing Extolls the Many Benefits of a <u>Woman-Owned</u> Business.



The Cornerstone Family: Joshua Spears (son), Hannah Goldsborough (daughter), James Spears (husband), Dana Spears (owner), Justin Spears (son), Dolores Deckard (Dana's mother), Taylor Goldsborough (daughter), Michael Morrow (future son-in-law), Morgan Goldsborough (daughter) and Ronnie Mullens (boyfriend-in-law).

Behind every successful business there is a leader whose vision has shaped the company as it overcame the challenges of growth, and has put in place the groundwork needed for continued success.

Dana Spears is that leader at Cornerstone Air Conditioning, Plumbing & Electrical, one of Pasco's most successful family businesses. Dana has lead Cornerstone for over 11 years. Her determination and never-give-up attitude have resulted in the company growing from six to sixty employees, with over \$8 million in

Dana attributes much of Cornerstone's success to its status as a woman-owned business. "Women understand that nothing is more important than being customer centered. It's the little things that we do in the first 30 seconds that set the tone for exceeding customer expectations," said Dana.

"When people call, they assume we have the technical expertise to solve their problem," she continues. "What they remember is how they felt when they first talked to our customer service rep, or first met our technician at their door. It's the kind, helpful voice, the clean uniform and shoe covers, the tech who focuses on them ... that sets us apart."

Every Cornerstone employee is trained to meet the company's high customer-service standards. "As a mom and wife, I know how it feels to allow someone into your home," Dana explains. "When we send a tech to a customer's home, I feel just like I am sending them to my own home. Over two-thirds of our calls come from the woman in the family, and as a woman, I fully understand her concerns and expectations when she allows someone into her home."

# Genuine Employees

Outstanding customer service begins with hiring the right people who exemplify her company's values, Dana said. "We hire people who are genuine, honest, trustworthy, cleancut and live their life with good ethics and morals," said Dana. "Most are local people who live in our service area, and are committed to their community."

Cornerstone was founded in 2006 as an air conditioning service company. In 2012, it expanded into plumbing services, and two years later, added electrical services. "We expanded because our customers kept asking if we could provide other home improvement services," said Dana. "They trusted us and were comfortable having us in their homes, and we wanted to accommodate them."

Dana's husband, James, has a strong background in both air conditioning and plumbing, and has led the company's advancement in technical services. "James is a problem solver with great technical knowledge and the ability to understand what's going on very quickly," said Dana. "Our company was able to expand successfully because of his technical expertise in so many areas.

All of Cornerstone's technicians are specialists who have specific training in their field. "This means our A/C guys are experts at air conditioning, and do not go out on plumbing and electrical calls," said Dana. "We have certified plumbers and electricians for those

Cornerstone warranties all of its work, and has a dedicated team of experienced technicians who follow up on any warranty problem. There is no charge for this service, and techs keep coming back until the problem is 100 percent resolved.

Cornerstone also maintains a separate maintenance department for customers who want regular cleaning services and preventive checkups. These technicians focus on service only, and do not promote additional services or products during their visit.

Also working in the family business are Dana's mother, Dolores: daughters Morgan and Hannah; son Josh; soon to be son-in-law Michael; and boyfriend-in-law Ronnie. (Daughter Taylor works in banking.) Dana and her children are all graduates of Land O'Lakes High School. Her youngest son will be starting kindergarten this year.



"We are successful because we've built our business on reputation and trust," said Dana. "James and I are hands-on business owners, and always stand behind the work of our employees. Our motto is to go above and beyond customer expectations, and every one of our employees strives to make that happen every

Cornerstone phones are answered 24/7. and technicians are available around the clock, including weekends and holidays. Call 813-343-0964 anytime, day or night. For more information, visit their website at CornerstonePros.com.



# BL@MINGDALE Special Taxing District

(Editor's Note: The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District's (BSTD) monthly column will inform readers about the BSTD, its mission and ongoing and new initiatives. The BSTD meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Questions? Call 813-684-6667 or email bstd@verizon.net.)

THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

#### **Aging Walls About to Get a Facelift**

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) is about to make its largest expenditure to date to repair walls throughout the community. Over 100 square feet of wall, totaling over \$28,000, will undergo a facelift as soon as permits are obtained by Tampa contractor Innovative Building Design.

The District frequently is required to repair or rebuild walls after traffic accidents—this money is sometimes recouped if there is an accident report and the driver has insurance. However, this current expenditure for wall repairs is a direct result of aging and exposure to the elements. And as time continues to march forward, residents can expect to see an increased need for large expenditures to repair our walls.



Photo: Miriam Leech

## **Budget Discussions Begin**

This month, the BSTD Trustees will begin meeting to discuss the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. As part of this discussion, decisions regarding further cuts to spending in certain areas (for example, for the last 2 years there have been no Christmas decorations in Bloomingdale) will need to be considered so that there are funds available to continue basic maintenance of our aging community. It is becoming imperative that a tax assessment increase be passed to keep the Bloomingdale common areas maintained at a level the residents have come to expect (see From the Trustees inset).

# From the Trustees: Why a Tax Assessment Increase?



We, as a community, need to either increase the annual assessment or accept declining capabilities to keep Bloomingdale attractive for potential new homeowners and us.

The proposed increase of \$40 per year will allow us to "catch up" with previously deferred actions, like adequate tree trimming, grass and plant replacements, seasonal decorations, painting of signage, etc., as well as make much-needed enhancements.

The bottom line is we need your help. To adequately do our job we need additional revenue to meet current and future requirements to keep our tree-lined neighborhood beautiful. The per household assessment increase from \$130 to \$170 per year is a little over \$3 per month, and we're asking for your support.

As most of you are aware, the BSTD revenue source is \$130 per year paid per Bloomingdale household as part of your annual real estate tax bill. That special assessment was last increased 10 years ago and stopped being sufficient to meet requirements approximately 5 years ago. This has resulted in continuing selective cutbacks to minimize the adverse impact.

Most of the BSTD budget goes to maintaining our common grassy areas and tree-lined streets in Bloomingdale East and West, predominantly Culbreath Road, Natures Way Boulevard, Erindale Drive, and Canoga Park Drive.

Broken down, this amounts to:

- 43 acres, or 17 miles, of turf that is mowed and edged over 40 times per year, watered year round, treated for insects and fertilized 4 times per year, and has litter picked up weekly.
- Over 3 miles of wall that gets pressure washed, painted, and repaired.
- Approximately 1,200 trees that are fertilized and trimmed once a year, including about 700 oak and 400 palm trees, 200 crepe myrtles, as well as over 3 miles of creeping fig that grows on the walls that is trimmed twice per year

Continued on Next Page

# BLOOMINGDALE Special Taxing District

3509 Bell Shoals Road Valrico, Florida 33596 (813) 684-6667 Office (813) 684-2358 Fax

BSTD@verizon.net

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

#### **Monthly Meeting**

The residents of Bloomingdale, as always, are invited to attend the next meeting of the BSTD on Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. If you would like to speak at the meeting, members of the public are allotted 3 minutes to make comment or ask questions per Hillsborough County policy. Hope to see you there!

- Eight major entrances and over 70 minor entrances with over 100,000 square feet of landscape beds that are maintained by either planting, mulching, weeding, and/or trimming.
- Over 14 miles of irrigation lines with over 8,000 sprayers that draw from over 20 wells that are continually tested, adjusted, repaired, and maintained.

A Referendum will appear on the August 28 Primary Election Ballot. Please vote YES to keep our community a wonderful place to live!



# 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. 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.)

## **Commissioner White Remains Concerned about Frontier** Source: The Commissioner's February Newsletter

As we all know, there was an unfortunate incident where the County's 9-1-1 system was taken down by an error from Frontier Communications at the end of January for several hours. While service was not offline for an entire day, it was still a very disturbing and concerning event – especially as the County was not immediately notified by Frontier that the outage had occurred or the causes for it.

Commissioner White addressed the outage the next day in the Board of County Commissioners meeting, stating: "911 is supposed to be the constant that the public can count on in the event of an emergency, to the extent that all phone providers are required to connect a call to an emergency call center. For this system to be down, for so long, and with very little explanation – if any – amazes me. People could have suffered serious harm or even died as a result of this."

As the commissioner with the largest amount of rural residents and retirement communities, Commissioner White is deeply concerned for the ability of his constituents to reach their emergency response agencies.

While Frontier did meet with Commissioner White and County staff

to address these concerns, he still has some reservations about their ability to respond to emergencies in the future. They are currently scheduled to make appearance at the March Board Meeting. Residents can watch on TV or via the internet. Find out how to watch http://hillsboroughcounty. org/en/government/meetinginformation/hillsboroughtelevision.





# **MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS**

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**BLOOMINGDALE 654-8113** 3248 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

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1025 E. Bloomingdale Ave

**BRANDON MALL 684-4499** 913 Brandon Blvd.

BRANDON 643-6944 1836 W. Lumsden Rd.

**FISHHAWK 654-7991** 16707 FishHawk Blvd.

PLANT CITY 752-6631 2621 Thonotosassa Rd. (Plant City Crossings)

RIVERVIEW **672-4022** 11444 Hwy. 301 S.

RIVERVIEW 672-1832 11697 Boyette Rd.

**RIVERVIEW 671-4156** 13196 Hwy. 301 S.

**SEFFNER 684-5897** 1515 N. Parsons Ave.

**VALRICO 654-2324** 1999 E. Brandon Blvd. (SR 60)

> **VALRICO 643-4825** 2511 S.R. 60 E.

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# **Blankets**

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#### **Area Law and Order**

Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 12, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 19 traffic stops in Bloomingdale East and Bloomingdale West. Those traffic stops resulted in five verbal warnings, eight written warnings and six citations.

We are happy to report there were NO traffic crashes at the entrances coming into Bloomingdale East or Bloomingdale West or within the subdivisions. That is wonderful news, but there were three accidents at the intersection of Bell Shoals Road and Bloom Hill Avenue, which is the entrance to Oakdale Reserve.

With the condition of Bell Shoals Road, we all need to take special care on that road. Watch for updates the Bloomingdale Gazette. As of today, county representatives are anticipating Bell Shoals improvements will begin this fall.

In the Bloomingdale area there were four vehicle burglaries, all were all unlocked, and one of those burglaries involved a stolen firearm. The simple solution – lock your doors and don't leave firearms in your vehicle at night.

Good news! There were no residential burglaries. There was only one drug law violation last month, this month, there were four which is four too many! Finally, there were eighteen arrests made for various crimes in the Bloomingdale area between Jan. 21 and Feb. 12.

## 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.

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. Do your part; don't be a victim!

#### **HCSO Website: Valuable Info for Residents**

Did you know there is a lot of information on the Hillsborough County Sheriff's web site at www.hcso.tampa.fl.us/? For example:

- 1. Run crime mapping for your neighborhood. Using your address, do a radius map 1 to 5 miles. The maps and data will keep you in touch with what is happening in and around your neighborhood.
- 2. Search for arrested persons and warrant information.
- 3. Current traffic accidents in Hillsborough County and monthly accident hotspots.
- 4. Request copies, records and reports online.
- 5. Read the latest news about events and incidents in Hillsborough County.
- 6. Contact us by using our on-line question and comments section for general concerns.

# Source: www.hcso.tampa.fl.us

# Report, Report!

Keeping our community safe is our top priority. tip411 is a community-partnering tool to fight crime. All you have to do is download it to your smartphone or tablet. tip411 is simple yet effective and jas led to many arrests.

You can find the app through the Apple App store or Google Play. Just type in "HCSOSHERIFF" (no space). Download it and keep it handy. To send us a tip, press "New Tip." You can also include a photograph or video. Just touch the camera icon at the bottom.

All tips transmit instantly to our Communications Center, where the information is directed to the appropriate area, i.e. patrol, narcotics, warrants, etc. We monitor tip411 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

#### All tips are anonymous. Remember: in the event of an emergency, always dial 9-1-1.

However, don't let that stop you from calling or visiting your local Bloomingdale station and speaking with our Community Service Officer. We will be happy to assist and direct any of your questions and concerns. We are located at 3622 Erindale Dr. and our phone number is 813-635-8040.

#### Be a Part of the Solution

Just like weeds in your garden, we must rid our communities of drug dealers, criminals and would be predators before they spread! Take time to learn how you can make a difference in your community. Taking ownership of the neighborhood you live in can make a big difference.

Alerting law enforcement is something residents can do to help remove criminals from our neighborhoods and put them in prison where they belong. The cooperation of residents is critical and we want anyone involved to be safe.

Here's how you can safely help law enforcement identify and eventually arrest criminals in our community.

- Talk to your neighbors and work together. They may have noticed things you didn't.
- Watch for suspicious activity. Look for warning signs like excessive foot traffic and many cars coming in and out of your neighbor's home.
- Keep an eye out for drug paraphernalia. Users can be careless.
- Record as much detail as you can. Stay safe and don't approach potential criminals. Take note of license numbers, car models and types and colors. Write down descriptions of suspicious people - race, sex, height, build, and any identifying features. Be careful.
- Contact law enforcement. Call HCSO at 247-8200 or 911. Call from a safe place.
- Start a Neighborhood Watch Program. Work with community councils and local deputies. Together we can help each other make a difference.



10 THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

# **Sheriff Chad Chronister Issues School Safety Statement**

Source: HCSO

"The deep sorrow from the tragedy in Parkland is felt across our nation, as we all stand with those dealing with unimaginable grief. Children, especially school students who attend classes every day to learn and to grow, depend on the "system" to keep them safe – the system of law enforcement, educators and lawmakers. Nothing is more paramount in our mission than to protect our children.

To the parents of schoolchildren in Hillsborough County: The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, and our dedicated cadre of School Resource Deputies, remain hypervigilant to any threats or vows of violence, whether they are cryptic statements on social media, so called "copycat" threats or words spoken between students. Law enforcement and educators depend on students, parents and caregivers to alert us when they

hear something or sense that something isn't right. I implore everyone to do the right thing when it comes to our children's safety. Don't stay silent or in the shadows. Be heard and maybe save a life.

The citizens have my vow that we will work shoulder-to-shoulder with Hillsborough County Public Schools administrators and security to share information and respond to any and all threats. Communication is vital in our vigilance. We owe that to the children. We owe that to our future."





# 💐 Valrico Sprouts New Grocery **Store Choice**

Courtesy Excerpt/Photo: D'Ann Lawrence White, Patch Staff

See the full story at https://patch.com/florida/bloomingdale/valrico-sprouts

Sprouts Farmers Market is now open for business in Valrico. The Arizona-based grocery chain launched its newest store at 3315 Lithia-Pinecrest Road Wednesday, Feb. 21. Shoppers lined up anxious to check out the new 30,000-square-foot store and take advantage of the grand opening specials, giveaways and free food samples.

The store's opening not only offers an additional grocery shopping choice, it signifies the revival of a blighted shopping center. The Valrico Center Shoppes at the northeast corner Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia-Pinecrest Road has been on a downward spiral since its anchor, Albertsons, closed in 2012, 15 years after it opened at that location.

Sprouts has built its reputation on its natural meats, fresh produce and bins of bulk foods.

"Sprouts' 'Healthy Living for Less' approach to grocery shopping means potential team members should share a passion for healthy eating and the fresh, natural and organic products offered throughout the store," said the company in a press release.

The new Sprouts is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.



# We make math make sense.

At Mathnasium, we believe every child has the ability to be successful in math - it's a matter of teaching the way that makes sense to them. When math makes sense, kids excel - whether they're far behind or eager to get ahead.





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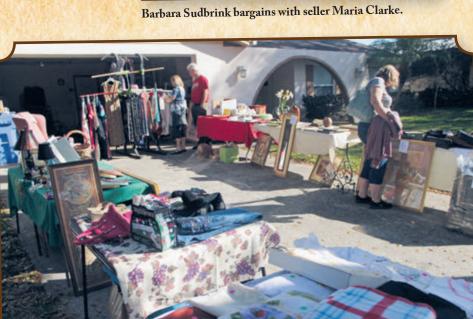


# Beautiful Weather + Motivated Sellers + Many Buyers = Garage Sale Success!

The 3rd Annual Community Garage Sale last weekend featured more than 200 sellers and hundreds of eager buyers on the hunt for treasures. Unique collectibles, large and small furniture, clothes in every size, toys for every age – there was something for everyone.

We would appreciate your feedback specifically on how to make our event better. Email bloomingdale. homeowners@gmail.com. The BHA thanks all who participated.





On Saturday, many driveways in Bloomingdale looked like this.



Ka-Ching! Mark Sweeney makes another sale!

Cindy Jones, Pam Foxworth, Allison Dunn and David Lees held one of several multi-family sales.



It is never too early to get ready for Halloween.
Debbie Cheyne had everything needed to get started on this year's festivities.



A drink stand manned by Lauren Slade kept buyer sugar levels high!



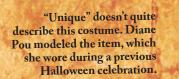
Jesus Berreto upon learning the baby in his arms is not real. Resident Maria Costa creates the handcrafted, one-of-a kind babies.

Raymond Persaud had a variety of items



Randy and Mandy Ruscin joined several neighbors for a mega-garage sale on their street.



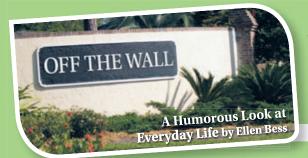




Wilma Bennett (l.) and Pat Hickey check out the candle décor







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.



# **Spring Break Makes My Head Ache**

Okay, okay. Things have gone just about far enough. Now, I hate to have anyone think that I've forgotten my own madcap experiences in college (I personally spiked the punch at Dean Reynolds' Honors Reception. Zany, huh?), but honestly, folks, things are getting a little weird. Not wild, mind you. Just weird.

The one common denominator of all college pranks seems to be that they coincide with the Vernal Equinox (also known as "Spring," to all you undergraduates who are still having trouble finding your dorms on a dark night). Apparently, the Earth shifts on its axis and students fall off their rockers. It's all a question of balance.

Actually, I can understand this. After a winter of cold weather and colder professors, Spring can do strange things to the mind. After all, it was during Springtime that the local constabulary pounded on my door, demanding an explanation for the peculiar decorations festooning a large oak tree outside the Admin Building (don't ask). It was also Spring when my brother and his cohorts chose to mortar shut the front door of a rival fraternity. And it was Spring just 2 short years ago when a dozen college students in various stages of undress appeared on my step informing me they were on a "Scavenger Hunt" and could I spare any of the attire they so obviously lacked. Now, really.

Spring of '17 brought bobbing robins, budding roses and bubbling sorority sisters who asked if I would "sponsor a sit-in." I clearly recollect "sit-ins." If memory serves, they were socio-political gatherings during which 30 to 40 Age of Aquarius Alumni could be guaranteed an arrest record. They were everywhere. But rack my brain as I might, I couldn't recall anyone ever being asked to "sponsor" one. Further questioning revealed that they were going for the Guinness World's Record for "not moving" and they needed the money for media coverage. Let's be honest, kids. There's not a student in the world who couldn't claim to be an international contender for "not moving," especially if there's a lawn mower or dirty dishes involved.

Obviously, Spring is upon us again. About that phone call you fraternity clowns made this morning "conducting a poll of random women" (all in the interest of science, no doubt. Ah, the thirst for knowledge. It knows no bounds.). Just for your own edification, fellas, allow me to clue you in: Do you know what you have once you know the "clothing sizes and preferred sleep attire" of 20 "random" women? At best, you will have a complete set of "random" lies.

What a bunch of amateurs. Don't you people have term papers due or something?









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# Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center Named Best in State

# Provided By The Pet Resource Center

2017 was quite a year for Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center. The center hosted a statewide pet emergency exercise, operated nearly a dozen pet-friendly shelters during Hurricane Irma, and created an innovative vaccination program for canine influenza, all while continuing to find homes for thousands of dogs and cats.

Last month, those efforts were recognized by the Florida Animal Control Association (FACA), which named the Pet Resource Center the Outstanding Agency of the Year. The Association evaluates Florida agencies on their comprehensive programming, including spay/neuter programs, animal abuse investigations, public education, and efforts to increase adoptions and reduce euthanasia.

The PRC racked up impressive marks in 2017. Statistics include 6,031 spays/neuters for low-income residents, more than 2,000 animal cruelty cases investigated, more than 200 Foster Rescue program participants who combined to provided foster care to 3,124 pets, and more than 100 rescue partners who worked to help find homes for 4,763 pets decreasing euthanasia and providing quality adoptions.

The Pet Resource Center is the only open-admission facility in Hillsborough County, meaning it accepts dogs and cats regardless of breed, size, age, medical condition, or number of pets in the shelter. Throughout the year, the center maintained a live outcome rate of 92 percent for dogs and 82 percent for cats, even with an 18 percent increase in intake.

# Wanted: A Forever Home and Family

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center (PRC) has many cats and dogs looking for their "forever" homes. 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. Here are just a few fabulous faces to choose from.

# Sasha & Chloe



Sasha (A1156985) and Chloe (A1155951) arrived at the PRC together and there are hopes they will be adopted together. Sasha is a brown Black Mouth Cur mix and Chloe is a black Labrador Retriever. Both are spayed.



This male cutie (A1885524) arrived with no name. With that face, he will be easy to love. He is a domestic longhair and he is neutered.



Bella (A1674582) is 2 years old and 61lbs. She needs a home now. Bella knows basic commands, wants to be a lap dog and takes treat gently.



1-year-old Zeke (A1882948) is 44lbs and ready-to-go! Zeke was a PRC project dog. He came to the center scared and introverted. After just a few days, he came out of his shell and is ready to smile your way!



Nutritious Meals & Snacks: Low Salt & Sugar

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- Brainwaves Curriculum
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Servicing Stowers, Valrico Academy, Bevis, FishHawk Creek, Lithia Springs, **Now Enrolling:** VPK 2018-2019 **SUMMER AND FALL** Must be 4 years old

Foundation Christian, Alafia and Cimino. by 9/1/2018

Infant &

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Care

813-654-7000 www.krkcirca.com 5815 Kids Crossing Drive CHC432384 Located between Stowers Elementary & Mosaic

earning Academy

**6 Weeks thru 12 Years** 

Pre-School

Pre-Kindergarten

Voluntary

# 💐 Why we swing like we do...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC campus)

The Titleist Performance Institute's 90/90 test measures the player's range of external rotation in the shoulder and their ability to maintain scapular stability in a golf posture.

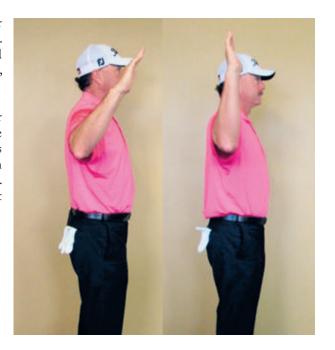
To perform the test: Stand tall and hold your right arm out to the side parallel to the ground. Without bending backwards try to rotate the hand up and back, similar to swearing in at court. Think, "Do you swear..."

In the pictures below, the golfer on the left has better mobility, range of motion and will most likely, have better golf technique. The golfer on the right needs exercise and stretching for better shoulder rotation or he will compensate to get the club back to the ball. Many golfers with limited mobility on the 90/90 test have a "flying right elbow" stroke.

Any questions or for lessons, please visit: CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. at 813-957-3205.



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS











# \*

# **Bloomingdale Real Estate Update**

(Editor's Note: Real estate columnist Ronnie has lived in Bloomingdale for seven years with her husband and two children, a son attending University of Florida and daughter at Bloomingdale High School. A productive Realtor, she is also active in the Bloomingdale High School PTSA and Girl Scouts.)

Spring Cleaning - Two ways to add value to your home

Last Fall I provided you with a healthy home "To Do" list that included cleaning your fan blades and windows, cleaning your gutters and changing your air handler's filters. How did you do? Guess what! It's time to check on those gutters again.

Leaves and other debris can build up in your gutters and should be emptied before our summer rainy season starts. Rusty Grow, the owner of Bug Man Pest Control, advises to check and make sure that your gutters are clean from debris and water build up. Water can start to overflow between the gutters and the fascia and cause wood rot. Water and wood rot can also attract unwanted pests.

Another value adding "to do" is to have your air condition system(s) inspected. Air conditioning companies become very busy once the warmer weather moves in and it's more difficult to get a last minute appointment when your system is all of sudden acting up.

Also, an interesting spring cleaning tip from Realtor.com is to clean your light bulbs. Cleaning your light bulbs is not just allergy related, it actually keeps your home bright, and helps save on your electricity bill.

Last, but not least, pressure wash your home's exterior. Rent a washer from a hardware store or hire a local business. This is a quick way to add value, improve the condition of your home and add to the neighborhood aesthetic.

Smart homeowners know home maintenance is necessary to continue to add value to your home.





# By Ronnie McLaughlin

The Chadderton Real Estate Group Keller Williams Realty

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

#### **Neighborhood Snapshot - Preston Woods**

Preston Woods, a mandatory HOA neighborhood, located between Glen Haven Drive and Natures Way Blvd was developed between 1998 and 2002. It features 95 homes averaging 1700 square feet, 3-4 bedrooms

and 2 bathrooms. All of the homes have two car garages and many have double front doors.



Neighborhood roads are Madison View Drive, Mallory Point Drive, Morgan Manor Drive and Preston Woods Drive. Eight homes sold over the past year at an average sale price of \$205,000 or \$120 per square foot. Average time on the market was 18 days and seven of the eight homes were non-pool homes.

\*MLS statistics are based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes.





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MARCH 2018 # 17



# 🕮 March School News: A Look at What's Happening

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

Compiled by Deidre Morgan





#### **ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY**

March 6 – Spirit Night at Square One Burgers

March 6 – Science Night, 6-7:30p.m.

March 8 – Nursery Celebration

March 21 – 5th Grade Kick Off, Percy Jackson Reading Program

March 21 – 5th Grade visit to Burns Middle School

March 29 - 4th Grade SLAM (Student Literacy and Media), Battle of the Books

## Congratulations!!

The 5th grade Math Bowl Team, a county-level finalist, competed at the District Championships on Feb. 28 at Raymond James Stadium. Results were not known at press time.

Alafia Mint - Every Wednesday in Room 208 from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m. come in, do a book swap, and visit the Spirit Store.

Spirit Day - Remember to wear your Alafia shirts every Friday to show your school spirit!



#### **CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL**

March 9 - Field Day, 8 a.m. to noon.



#### **BURNS BRUINS BANTER**

March 8 - Chorus Concert, 7 p.m. at Bloomingdale High School March 29 - PTSA Fundraiser Bombardment Tournament, 1 p.m. on the school fields



## **BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS**

March 1 – 9, FSA Writing

March 5 – JV/V Flag Football @ Newsome, 6:15 p.m.

March 6 – Boys/Girls Lacrosse vs Durant, 5 p.m.

March 6 - Track Meet @ Strawberry Crest, 5 p.m.

March 8 – JV/V Flag Football @ Riverview, 6:15 p.m.

March 19-29, FSA Reading/Algebra 1 Retakes

March 20 - Baseball & Softball @ Durant, 7 p.m.

March 22 - Bloomingdale's Got Talent, 7 p.m.

March 23 – Flag Football Tournament, 4 p.m.

March 23 – Improv Show, 7 p.m., Auditorium

March 27 – Baseball & Softball @ Riverview, 7 p.m.

March 28 - Graduation Announcement Distribution, 10 a.m. Cafeteria

March 29 – Baseball & Softball @ Brandon, 7 p.m.

April 2 – JV/V Flag Football vs East Bay, 6:15p.m.

April 3 – Baseball & Softball @ East Bay, 7p.m.

April 5 – JV/V Flag Football @ Durant, 4 p.m.

April 5 – Track Meet @ Newsome, 6 p.m.

April 6 - Relay for Life, Stadium, 6 p.m.

April 6 - Baseball & Softball vs Durant, 7 p.m.



#### **BULL BRIEFS**

Lady Bulls Soccer

Congratulations to Coach Heather Iverson and the Lady Bull Soccer team for another outstanding season. District Champions again, the team lost in Regional finals to Estero 3-1.

## Duke Summer Programs

Apply by April 16 to take advantage of Summer College, Summer Academy, STEM and other great camps. For information, visit the Bloomingdale High School Guidance website @ www.bloomingdaleguidance.org.

#### PERT Math Tutoring

PERT Math tutoring will be available next semester during 4th and 6th periods with Mr. Pennant. This is a great opportunity for students needing to earn a concordant score on the Algebra 1 EOC, and for students needing to earn college ready test scores for dual enrollment. See Mr. Pennant in room 311 for more information.

#### TeachaBULL Moments

Introducing a new program through the PTSA: TeachaBULL Moments will gives parents and students an opportunity to acknowledge a teacher that goes above and beyond. You can email to TeachaBULLmoments@gmail.com or drop a note in the front office of how a teacher has gone above and beyond for a Bloomingdale student or students. We want to take time to acknowledge our teachers for the great work they do. Each month one teacher will be chosen from letters that have been turned in and will receive a gift card. PTSA wants to give Bloomingdale families an opportunity to let our teachers know what great work they do!



# 🔐 USS Alafia Helps Paws for Patriots

Courtesy: Alafia Elementary

USS Alafia students took part in the Alafia Elementary Spring Fling on Feb. 23. The military kids club hosted a "Puppy Pound" fundraiser to raise money for Paws for Patriots. Visitors paid to place others in the pound, and a fee could be paid to avoid pound time. For their efforts, the students netted \$130, which will be used to support the Paws for Patriots program and the training of a future service dog. Also, lending support was VETSports who provided an obstacle course and a representative from MacDill Puppy Raisers, a group dedicated to preparing puppies for service animal training with the Southeastern Guide Dog's Paws for Patriots program.





18 🕙 THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



# 📤 They Came, They Saw, They Ran!

Submitted By Amy Fluty, Rajun' Bull Publicity Chair

Who says you can only run with the bulls in Spain? In January, runners met at Bloomingdale High School for the Running of the Bulls 5K, a fundraiser for the Rajun' Bull Band. Over 100 participants took part in the run which organizers deemed "a great success." As this event raises money for instrument upgrades and maintenance, planners hope to make it an annual event.







The 2017-2018 Bloomingdale Varsity and JV Winterguard squads continue their winning traditions! At the Florida Federation of Colorguards (FFCC) Premiere West competition held in January, the teams both earned first place finishes. See them compete at Durant High School on March 10.









# And, The Blue Ribbon Goes to Burns Middle School!

Each year, the Florida State Fair holds numerous competitions throughout its 12-day run. You've probably heard of many of them including baking, livestock, horticulture, and dancing, but did you know that they also have art competitions? While many artistic contests were held, this is the first year that they've held the Middle School Collaborative Art Contest and big congratulations to our own Burns Middle School for

beating out some tough competition and winning First Place!

Numerous middle schools competed in this inaugural event. The judging panel consisted of community members who work within the art field and in art education. Judges looked at everything from the variety of the works submitted to the originality of their pieces. Finally, they assessed the overall presentation and craftmanship.

Burns' art pieces fell into the artistic realms of surrealism, conceptual portraiture, pop art, and graphite rendering. Burns' winners were both honored and inspired by the award. Isabel Baudrit, one of the winners, said, "When I found out we won First Place, I was amazed and happy. It really motivates me to continue working on my art."

Burns' winners were each awarded gift cards to BLICK Art Materials and they will each receive a personalized certificate. Select pieces will be showcased in The ROSSAC Building's lobby in downtown Tampa during Youth Art Month in March.

Burns Middle School Visual Arts teacher Pamela Reeves is the at and she is proud of her students. She said, "It's been so wonderful watching all of these young ladies grow in their art. It's great to see their work getting recognized."

Congratulations to the winners and the Burns Middle School Art Department!







Middle School Collaborative Art Contest held during the state fair.







THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



# Athletes Move On To the Next Level

On Feb. 7, two Bloomingdale athletes signed their National Letters of Intent (NLI) to play their sport at the collegiate level. National Signing Day, usually the first Wednesday in February, is the first day that a high school senior can sign a binding National Letter of Intent for a college sport with a school that is a member of the United States National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Family, friends and coaches gathered to watch Madeline Kosky (Volleyball) and Jake Gilbert (Baseball) sign their NLI's to begin their new college sports journey. Kosky will play for the University of the Cumberlands in Kentucky, while Gilbert will play ball at Felician University in New Jersey. Congratulations to all the players and their parents on this great achievement. Go Bulls!









# **3rd Annual IncrediBULL Games are Incredible!**

The IncrediBULL Games, a Special Olympics Field Day, was held Feb. 8 at Bloomingdale High School. The daylong competition featured over 250 student athletes from 10 East Hillsborough County Schools and even more volunteers giving it their all to make this event a spectacular success. The field day would not be possible without the help and support of area businesses and



clubs such as Best Buddies, AVID, Student Government, National Honor Society, Beta Club and Freshman and Sophomore Steering, to name just a few. The Rajun' Bull Band Drumline started the activities with music for the Parade of Athletes and lunch was prepared by the Culinary students of Bloomingdale. It was an IncrediBULL day! Congratulations to all the athletes!

Athletic Director Donnie Peek and Principal Sue Burkett-Baricko take a quick break from the activities to join some student volunteers and athletes.

Varsity Cheerleader, Morgan Robertson, enjoys some sidewalk chalk art with a student from Lennard High School.





Members of the BSHS Football team pose with a participant after the shot put event.





Student athletes cross the finish line in the 50-yard dash with a 3-way tie for first place.



Mr. Bloomingdale Spirit Man, Jalen Fretts, poses with some of the Special Olympians after they had competed in their events.





THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



# **Cimino Attends the State Fair**

Photos By Dann Berkowitz

Cimino Elementary also participated at the Florida State Fair with a display illustrating the school's "Character" programs.





# 26th Annual REALH

# MARCH 10-11, 2017 • 10am-5pm

- Juried fine arts & crafts show
- Over 100 artists!
- Kid's Firehouse Art Station
- Beer/wine

- Commercial & nonprofit vendors
- Local food vendors

# LIVE MUSIC DAILY

# Saturday, March 10th

Matt Billor - new country 10am-11am 11:15am-12:15pm Harrison Jazz Ensemble 12:30pm-1:45pm Dark Horse - southern rock 2:00pm-3:15pm Kozmic Pearl - '60s & '70s 3:30pm-5pm **Damon Fowler - blues** 

# Sunday, March 11th

10am-11:15am 11:30am-1pm 1:30pm-3pm 3:30pm-5pm

John Puckett - beachy **Hummingbirds - Americana** Willow Hill - pop country **Selwyn Birchwood** Band - R&B

Festival Admission: \$5 • Under 12yrs FREE E.G. Simmons Park • 2401 19th Ave. NW, Ruskin 33570 Active duty & veterans: FREE festival entry with I.D. For more information: Call (813) 645-1366

SouthShoreChamberofCommerce.org

## **SPECIAL SUNDAY PERFORMANCES**

3-3:30pm

**Tampa Bay Martial Arts Academy Students Armetta's Grand Jete** Studio of Dance Students

Both on the grass in front of the stage.

There is a \$2 entry fee, per carload, to enter E.G. Simmons Park (it will help to have exact amount). This fee goes directly to Hillsborough County Parks & Rec





Tampa Bay Times













# You Don't Need the Luck of the Irish When You Have The Brenda Wade Team!

**Current Listings** 



203 Locust Dr



121 Holly Tree Ln



519 Centerbrook Dr





708 Caliente Dr



3823 Cold Creek

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