



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



VOLUME XXXVI ✨ ISSUE 8 ✨ AUGUST 2016 ✨ www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

Vote Yes for Bloomingdale on August 30!
See full story on page 12-13!



Photo: Tom Leech

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PLEASE ♻️ RECYCLE



The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) needs the community's support. On Aug. 30, the BSTD Board of Trustees is asking you, all Bloomingdale property owners, to rally and support the community with a "yes" vote for the proposed special tax increase referendum on the upcoming primary ballot. Our community's way of life depends on it. **See full story on p. 12-13.**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I believe that voting is the first act of building a community as well as building a country." *Senator John Ensign*

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
 Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road
 Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

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

President: *George T. May IV*
Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*
Secretary: *Suzy Watts*
Treasurer: *Mary Galin*

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomington Gazette

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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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BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



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Join today!


Simply cut out the membership notice below, make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check. If you come by the office, ask for your special gift!


2016 Membership Drive Continues

Please consider joining and strengthening the one organization that **advocates** for the entire community of nearly 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. As a non-profit, BHA funds are returned 100 percent to the community through the many programs and services the Association sponsors.

To those who have joined and/or donated to our scholarship fund, we thank you. The Association will continue to develop ways to improve the quality of life of residents. The annual fall festival is fast approaching and the board is working to add a second community clean-up also in the fall.

Every member and dollar matter. The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. Your membership helps this dedicated group of volunteers continue to keep Bloomingdale a great community in which to raise a family and a great place to call home.



Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc. 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33596 • bloomingdalehoa.com <small>Please correct name below if different. BHA Membership Notices are mailed to the owner on file with the Hillsborough County Tax Collector. Recent changes may not be reflected here.</small>	2016 BHA MEMBERSHIP \$35.00 to Join or Renew! Return This Card With Payment
Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ _____	 2016 Membership \$35.00 Community Scholarship Donation \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____ Check Number # _____

You may also join the Association through our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. **ALL** membership funds go back to our community, and all residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.

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

BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Monday, Aug. 8, 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, Aug. 9, 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, Aug. 18, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

BHA BRIEFS

July Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

General – No residents attended last month’s meeting, but the board did discuss several important topics. Bloomingdale Special Taxing District president Dave West attended to discuss the upcoming tax increase referendum vote on Aug. 30, see pages 12-13 for detailed information regarding this vote.

In addition, the BHA voted to approve the Neighborhood Standards program, see pages 8 - 9. This program establishes enforceable property standards in the community and is based entirely on county code ordinances. The BHA will work closely with the Hillsborough County Code Department in an effort to uphold the standards.

BHA Opposes Rezoning Request off Bloomingdale Avenue

On July 18, several BHA board members attended a county public hearing in opposition to a rezoning application (RZ 16-1789) for property located north the intersection at Bloomingdale Avenue and Springvale Drive. Property owners are requesting the property currently zoned ASC-1, Agricultural, Single-Family Conventional be rezoned to PD, Planned Development. This development would allow at a minimum a 92-unit apartment or townhome complex to be built on the land.

BHA president George May attended the meeting and said, “The BHA board has gone into proactive mode when it comes to problems with unmanaged growth and safety issues. This situation falls into both categories. Part of planning is looking into the future to see how development affects our community.”

With new retail and other commercial businesses scheduled for construction in the upcoming months, BHA president George May said, “We have yet to begin to see the horrors of gridlock traffic and the other problems that come with a failed road. It's time we spoke up and say no more until we can get some relief on Bloomingdale Avenue. Enough is enough.”

Speakers for and against the rezoning request reached the podium at 10 p.m. and spoke for nearly an hour on the issue. Eventually the Land Use Officer’s zoning recommendation will reach the Board of County Commissioners who will vote on the request. Speakers who attended this public hearing will be able to address the BOCC at their next meeting in August, date to be determined.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Board member Mary Galin spoke of the needs of the Bloomingdale community and her reason for attending. “We as a community need to come together and stand up for ourselves. If we miss the opportunity to voice our opposition, then we have nobody to blame but ourselves.”

For information, contact Hillsborough County Development Services at 813-272-5600.



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



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

BHA BRIEFS (CONTINUED)

BHA Wins County Award at 13th Annual Neighborhoods Conference

Winners, Again! The BHA took home another award at this year's Neighborhood Conference. This year, the association's Youth Involvement Program garnered praise from county leaders. The BHA was recognized for establishing community service hour opportunities for youth and a volunteer registry, providing a scholarship for higher education, and rewarding outstanding youth through the "Best of the Best Student of the Month" initiative and the Student

Volunteers of the Year. The program that resonated with leaders most was the association's use of student volunteers that contribute to The Bloomingdale Gazette as writers and photographers. Not only do the students benefit from the opportunity, but the community gains as well. Pictured left to right are Sean Donahue, Suzy Watts, George May, Commissioner Stacy White, Beth Smedley and Dann Berkowitz.



Photo: Hillsborough County

County Repairs Drainage Issue on Isleton Road

The north entrance to Isleton Road has been blocked for over two weeks as county engineers repaired a damaged drainage pipe. The BHA is checking to see if this repair is related to the much-needed repair on Bloomingfield Drive. At press time, that information was not received. Updates will be posted on Facebook and in the Gazette as they are received.

Photo: Billy Hightower



NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

Want Improved Roads? Then, The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association needs your support!

What and Why:

In an effort to improve Lithia-Pinecrest Road (Section B: from Lumsden to Bloomingdale), the BHA asks residents to attend the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting in September to amend the MPO plan. An approved amendment will allow the County Commissioners to consider funding improvements in the next few fiscal years. Without the amendment, funding for Lithia-Pinecrest Road improvements will not be considered for decades.

Who: Area Residents

As a show of support for this initiative, the BHA requests residents wear green.

When: September 6 - 9 a.m.

NOTE: Date and Time are subject to change. The BHA will update as needed in the Gazette and on the Bloomingdale HOA Facebook page.

Where: County Center

26th Floor Conference Rooms A&B
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602

For information, call 813-681-2051 or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.

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



Fall Festival is Oct. 22 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club!

Planning continues for the biggest event of the year. Sponsors are signing up weekly including Earthwise Pets sponsoring our pet costume contest, Yo-Yo Juice serving smoothies and more, and a host of others. Mascots joining the fun are the Chick-fil-A cow, Mathnasium's A+, Brandon Crossroads Bowl KingPin and the incomparable Lightning Thunderbug! 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 bhaffallfest@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051 for sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.



Gazette File Photo/Miriam Leech

**PRC Receives National Awards
for Advancing Animal Welfare**

Hillsborough County Press Release

On July 20, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners recognized the County's Pet Resource Center (PRC) and Director Scott Trebatoski for receiving a 2016 Maddie Hero Award from Maddie's Fund, a national family foundation that advocates for animal welfare. The Pet Resource Center was one of nine award recipients and the only government-operated shelter in the nation to receive the recognition and accompanying \$10,000 grant.

The Maddie Hero Award was presented to Trebatoski for his groundbreaking, innovative efforts to bring progressive programs to the Pet Resource Center, such as the Wait Until 8 kitten foster program and the expansion of public-private partnerships with community foster and rescue groups. These efforts have led to a nearly 90 percent live-release rate within two years of their implementation, dramatically increasing the adoption and live outcome rates for pets at the shelter. The Pet Resource Center will use the \$10,000 grant for shelter improvements and pet enrichment.

The Pet Resource Center is also the recipient of two national awards from the Best Friends Animal Society. In February, the shelter received The One Award from Best Friends for having the highest percent of adoptions at a shelter with a monthly intake of 300-plus stray or surrendered animals. Best Friends presented the Pet Resource Center with a \$6,000 grant, which will also be used for shelter improvements and pet enrichment. In May, Best Friends also presented the Pet Resource Center with a \$10,000 Big Dog Adoption grant to fund a DNA testing pilot project on large dogs to increase adoptions of larger-size dogs.

For information, call 813-744-5660 or visit HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets



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

BACK TO SCHOOL

Tax Free Holiday Weekend / August 5-7 / Don't miss out on this back-to-school event! Back to just three days in 2016, during this period no Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected on clothing, footwear, wallets, and bags that cost less than \$60, and school supplies that cost \$15 or less. Personal computers and related accessories are not tax-free this year. For complete details, visit the Florida Department of Revenue website www.dor.myflorida.com.

Bloomingdale High School Open House / August 8 / 4:30-8:30 p.m. / 1700 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / The Bloomingdale High School Academic Foundation is hosting an open house for businesses who are interested in making an impact at BSHS. This showcase will allow vendors to provide information on their businesses while supporting academics in the community.



First Day for Students in Hillsborough County / August 10 / Schools in Hillsborough County are beginning two weeks early for the 2016-2017 school year. Be cautious as vehicle, bus, and pedestrian traffic increases on our streets.

The Village Players Present a Broadway Musical Review/ August 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20, 8 p.m.; August 14, 3 p.m. / The James McCabe Theater / 101 W. Morgan Street, Brandon / The Village Players present this celebration of Broadway, performing the most famous songs in Broadway history, one right after the other. Join them for this trip down memory lane. Doors open 30 minutes before curtain time. Tickets: \$15, regular admission; \$13, senior citizens, students, or military with ID; \$12, groups of 10 or more. For information, call The Village Players Hotline at 813-643-8292.

Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce Candidate Hob Nob / August 10 / 5-7:30 p.m. / Pepin's Hospitality Centre / 4121 N. 50th Street, Tampa / At the Greater Brandon Chamber's Candidate Hob Nob, you can meet candidates for local, state and even federal races all in one place. You can learn where the candidates stand on important issues. Presale tickets are \$15; tickets at the door are \$20. For information, visit www.brandonchamber.com or call 689-1221.

ECHO of Brandon Mini-Trunk Show / August 13 / 8 a.m.-12 p.m. / Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) / 507 N. Parsons Avenue, Brandon / Name brands such as Ann Taylor, Banana Republic, and White House Black Market will be featured, just to name a few, during this thrift sale to benefit ECHO. Also loads of high-quality jewelry, handbags, and even vintage clothing will be available at great prices. Doors open at 8. Bring a girlfriend! For information, call 813-685-0935.



Pokemon Go Paint Party / August 16 / 4-5:30 p.m. / River Hills Country Club / 3943 New River Hills Pkwy, Valrico / Draw Pikachu in watercolor with hostess, Diane Carter. Admission: \$15 per person; reservations required. RSVP to TheDrawingPoint@gmail.com.

Dementia Support Group / August 19 and continuing every 3rd Friday each month / 1:30-3:30 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / Does your loved one have memory loss? Concerned about the forgetfulness of your spouse or aging parent? Learn more about dementia at this support group for family members and friends. Topics include an overview of dementia, communication and what to say and what not to say, safety and security for your home and the individual, caregiver sanity, and care options. Facilitated by Jill Andrew of Superior Residences of Brandon Memory Care. Non-members welcome. For information, call 813-684-1371.

Puppet Show: Jack and the Beanstalk / August 23 / 11 a.m.-12 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / Fee, Fie, Foe, Fun! A Giant is loose in Cloudland. Jack climbs the magic beanstalk skyward. Marionettes, big and small, perform together on stage in this traditional Celtic music puppet play. For information, call 813-273-3652.

UPCOMING

Masterpieces & Martinis / September 16 / 6:30-9:30 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Create a beautiful masterpiece all in one evening! Tickets include dinner and martinis--\$40 per person, \$70 per couple. Come out and support the arts! For information, call 813-685-8888.



Casino Night Party / September 16 / 6:30-11 p.m. / The Regent / 6437 Watson Road, Riverview / The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce invites you to a Casino Party Night to benefit A Kids Place foster home. Food, open bar, and casino money included in this all-inclusive ticket event. Presale tickets available through September 3 for \$50 per person; after September 3 tickets are \$65 per person. Bring a new pair of children's shoes (grades kindergarten through 6 needed the most)—help kids put their best foot forward and receive three raffle tickets for the Chest of Cheer spirits basket. For information, call 813-689-1221.

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Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle



Yard of the Month is sponsored by Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale. Send your Yard of the Month nominations to: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com or call (813) 681-2051

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



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The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) adopted new Neighborhood Standards during the July 2016 board meeting with an effective date of August 1, 2016. Developed in partnership with the county's Code Enforcement Department and based solely on existing Hillsborough County Code Ordinances, the standards are legally enforceable by county code officers.

While aimed primarily at our non-mandated neighborhoods (see list to the right), the standards are applicable to our mandatory HOA neighborhoods too. These standards provide residents a baseline for property maintenance and are designed to protect property values and quality of life.

Our mandated HOA neighborhoods already have enforceable deed restrictions in place that typically are more restrictive than the county ordinances that make up the new standards document. In addition, our mandatory HOA neighborhoods have violation and assessment committees, and procedures well established and working successfully.

There are two options for residents in any Bloomingdale community to submit complaints. Residents may contact county directly or the BHA. See boxed insert on page 9 for contact information. Complaints in our mandated neighborhoods must first be submitted to the appropriate mandatory board or property management company.

The new standards follow the Association's three-year undertaking to update deed restrictions and create a mandatory master association in our voluntary neighborhoods. While this effort did not pass, the BHA continued to seek ways to keep our community thriving and a place we can all be proud to call our home...hence the neighborhood standards program.

Non-Mandated neighborhoods include:

- Augusta Village**
- Bloomingdale Estates**
- Bloomingdale Oaks**
- Bloomingdale Trace**
- Bloomingdale West**
- Chadd's Ford**
- Cypress Reserve**
- Fairway Manor**
- Fairway Park**
- Oakcrest**
- Sandy Creek Manors**
- Bloomingdale Pointe**
- Pine Oaks**
- Spring Lake**
- Stratford Trace**
- Windsor Woods**

NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

1. **Accumulations:** All exterior property areas and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. It shall be unlawful for any owner, occupant, tenant, lessee, or other person responsible for the condition of property to permit or maintain, or for any person to cause, an accumulation of rubbish, waste, trash, or debris, yard waste, exposed salvageable material, or other manmade materials.
2. **Nuisance Conditions:** All exterior property areas and premises shall be free from any nuisance condition to include a visual nuisance, breeding spot for vermin, breeding spot for mosquitos, fire hazard, traffic hazard, or nuisance defined by law or other unsanitary condition.
3. **Overgrown Conditions:** Grass and weeds higher than 10 inches in height within 200 feet of any property or street right-of-way is not allowed.
4. **Fences:** Fences shall be maintained in sound structural condition, and free from defect, which may cause injury. Fences may not exceed four feet in the required front yard, or six feet in the side and rear yard. It must be constructed of materials consistent with the neighborhood and of commonly used materials (no scrap metal or other offensive material).
5. **Signs:** No sign shall be erected on the public right-of-way and publicly dedicated easements except signs installed by governmental units having jurisdiction as may be required by law or to protect the public health, safety and welfare, bench signs, and signs authorized to be placed on transit shelters. Any other sign located upon, within or otherwise encroaching upon the public rights-of-way of Hillsborough County shall be subject to immediate removal by the County at the expense of the owner, agent, lessee or other person determined to have beneficial use of the sign. Signs specifically prohibited include: 1) snipe signs and 2) signs attached to trees, utility poles or fences.
6. **Exterior of structures:** All residential structures must be maintained in a good working condition at all times; precluding any unsanitary conditions or anything offensive to the senses or dangerous to health of humans and pets. Painting or other protective covering shall protect all exterior services. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted.
7. **Roofs:** The roofs and all parts thereof of every building, structure, or accessory structure shall be maintained in a safe manner, free from defect, and shall have no defects, which might admit rain or allow dampness in the walls or interior portion of the building, structure, or accessory structure. Roof drains, gutters and downspouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions. All chimneys shall be maintained structurally safe and sound, and in good repair.
8. **Swimming Pools, spas or hot tubs:** Swimming pools, hot tubs and spas shall be maintained and operated in a clean, safe and sanitary manner at all times; and secured from unauthorized entry. A barrier must be placed and maintained around the perimeter of the pool, spa or hot tub.
9. **Properties in Foreclosure, Vacant or Abandoned:** Property owners or their agents must register properties abandoned, vacant or in foreclosure with the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Department. Properties must be secured and maintained in accordance with relevant sanitary codes, building codes, and local regulations concerning external and/or visible maintenance. Public nuisances are prohibited.
10. **Home-Based Businesses:** The use of the dwelling unit for home-based business shall be clearly incidental and secondary to its use for residential purposes. No traffic shall be generated by such home-based business in excessively greater volume than would normally be expected from the principal use. No truck deliveries are permitted, except for parcels delivered by public or private services that customarily make residential deliveries.
11. **Animals:** Animals customarily kept for personal use or enjoyment that are not exhibited to the public nor raised for commercial purposes are permitted in residential neighborhoods. Household animals include domestic dogs, domestic cats, white mice, domestic rabbits, birds, fish, and other similar pets. However, in no case shall household animals include farm animals, exotic animals, and animals used for breeding.
12. **Garage, Yard, Etc. Sales:** Garage, yard, tag, patio and apartment sales are permitted. They are limited to one during each six-month period, for a duration not to exceed three days.
13. **Property Address Requirements:** All Residences are required to have an address number clearly visible and legible from the public or private right of way posted on the front facade of property, or on a separate structure such as a mailbox, post or other visible structure. The numerals shall be of a color contrasting with the

immediate background of the building or structure on which such numerals are affixed.

14. Residential Trash Collection Service: Containers shall be set out prior to 6:00 a.m. on the day of collection, but in no case shall such containers be placed on the public-maintained roadway prior to 6:00 p.m. the day proceeding the day of collection. The normal hours of collection are after the hour of 6:00 a.m. and prior to 6:00 p.m. on days designated by the franchise collector. On non-collection days, containers shall be placed out-of-sight on the property of the residential customer.

15. Vehicles:

a. Parking of Domestic and Commercial Vehicles, Private Pleasure Crafts, Recreational Vehicles, Utility Trailers and Hobby Vehicles on Residential Property:

- i. Vehicle shall be kept in a clean and neat appearance and in usable condition at all times. All must have current registration plates.
- ii. Only one utility trailer and one recreational vehicle, hobby vehicle or private pleasure craft, which are not in an enclosed structure such as a garage, shall be allowed.
- iii. No vehicle or pleasure craft shall be lived in, have housekeeping maintained, or have hook-up to utilities while parked or stored on any lot.
- iv. If greater than 20 feet in length and cannot be parked in an enclosed structure:
 1. The vehicle may be parked or stored in the side or back yard as long as it is not nearer than five feet to any side or rear lot line.
 2. If space is not available in the side yard, or there is not reasonable access to either the side or rear yard. It may be parked or stored on the front driveway, provided it is 20 feet from the front property line and five feet from side property line.
 - a. Except all recreational vehicles, hobby vehicles, utility trailers and private pleasure craft great than ten feet in height shall be setback seven and one-half feet from the side and front property lines.
- v. All recreational vehicles, hobby vehicles, utility trailers and private pleasure crafts greater than ten feet in height shall be setback seven and one-half feet from the side and rear property lines.
- vi. No recreational vehicles, hobby vehicles, utility trailers or private

pleasure crafts shall be parked or stored in the public rights-of-way.

vii. Additional restrictions apply as outlined in Hillsborough County Land Development Codes.

- b. Repairs and Maintenance: Minor repairs are permitted. All repairs and maintenance shall be limited to vehicles and craft registered to or owned by the resident of the property on which the services are performed. Body work and/or the painting of vehicles are prohibited. Repair and/or maintenance of other vehicles shall be prohibited. Vehicle parts cannot be stored outside. This includes, but not limited to, parts belonging to an automobile, truck, boat, or aircraft parts.
- c. Commercial Vehicles: The parking of commercial vehicles/trailers, capacity of more than one ton and made by the manufacturer or altered to be used for commercial use, is prohibited. This requirement shall not be interpreted to prohibit vehicles from loading and unloading.
- d. Inoperable vehicles: Inoperable vehicles are prohibited. Inoperable vehicle means a vehicle or trailer, excluding a hobby vehicle, which is incapable of being lawfully operated on the streets of the State, or is in a state of disrepair. A vehicle is deemed inoperable if missing one or more parts required for operation, is without a valid license plate, abandoned, wrecked, scrapped, junked, or partially dismantled.

16. Zoning: All property owners must abide by Hillsborough County Zoning and permitting ordinances. Bloomingdale is zoned as a residential single-family zone. Building permits are required for the construction of any permanent structure. A zoning variance may also be required.

References:

1. Code Enforcement Procedures, Link:

https://www.municode.com/library/fl/hillsborough_county/codes/code_of_ordinances,_part_a?nodeId=HICOCOORLA_CH24COEN

2. Ordinance 09-63 Property Maintenance Code, Link:

https://www.municode.com/library/fl/hillsborough_county/codes/code_of_ordinances,_part_a?nodeId=HICOCOORLA_CH8BUBURE_ARTIVPRMACO&searchText=

3. Hillsborough County Land Development Code, Link:

https://www.municode.com/library/fl/hillsborough_county/codes/land_development_code?nodeId=HILLSBOROUGH_COLADECO



There are many beautifully maintained homes in our community as evidenced in these photos. It is the BHA's goal to improve the aesthetics of our community with county-enforceable neighborhood standards. Do your part, report violations.

To Register a Complaint:

1. Submit to Hillsborough County Code Enforcement online at <https://webapps.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce/resources/onlineservices/enforcement/home.cfm> OR <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/> OR call 813-272-5900.
2. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact the BHA through the contact form online at www.bloomingdalehoa.com, via email at bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com, or call 813-681-2051.



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



Yo, Noah! Let's Talk!

I recently read that somewhere in the Kentucky backwoods, a group of ministerial entrepreneurs has erected a new tourist trap...I mean "attraction"... based on Noah's ark. Yep, a real Ark built to biblical specifications and carrying replicas of two of each animal! Lions! And tigers! And bears! And...and...dinosaurs? Ah, yes, they have dinosaurs. Well, far be it from me to quibble over the skajillion years of science and history separating Homo Erectus and dinosaurs. They can have pairs of vampires and werewolves as far as I'm concerned. I have far more serious bones to pick with said Noah. Let's just say I realize there was a bit of a panic and what with trying to organize everybody and building the boat and watching weather reports and all, it's understandable he got a little slack. But, really, some of this wildlife that's hanging around just has to be a mistake.

Consider the cockroach. Deep in my heart, I would like to believe that Noah did not take cockroaches with him on purpose. It would comfort me to know he accidentally carried them on board in the grocery bags, but even my forgiving nature finds this a little iffy. Cockroaches are filthy, sneaking, blatant, mannerless little party crashers, timing their uninvited appearance at any social gathering to coincide with the arrival of the town gossip. Yet Noah took it upon himself to preserve not one, but two of these foul creatures? A tad overzealous, wouldn't you say?



And snakes. Surely that was a massive error. What have they got going for them? They cannot be taught to fetch, roll over, use a litter box or play catch. They will neither greet you at the door in uncontrolled paroxysms of joy nor snuggle up next to you on a cold winter's night (Note to snake lovers and others of dubious mental competence: Your pet boa constrictor is not trying to give you a big, affectionate hug. It is merely trying to determine when you will be "ripe".) Snakes are incapable of entering a crowded room and having it remain that way. Besides, I find it hard to trust any animal that doesn't have shoulders. They're creepy. The only contribution they make to mankind is their undeniably voracious appetite for rats. Which reminds me...

Rats, Noah? Why? Rats are vermin. Filth-laden objects of disgust. With teeth. Big, pointy teeth. And spare me that garbage about how rats and bunnies belong to the same zoological family. When was the last time you met a rat named "Thumper"? Right.

And then there's...wait a minute. What's that noise? Oh. Just rain. Gee, a minute ago, it was so nice and clear and blue. Not a cloud in the...ooops.

Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

Home Inspections: The Basics

The moving process is often very stressful no matter how much preparation is involved. Knowing what is ahead and being as knowledgeable as possible can ease some of that stress. Whether buying or selling, it is important to understand the entire process, particularly the major hurdles such as inspections.

Typically, inspections are conducted within 10-15 days of a contract. During this time, the buyer has the opportunity to determine any defect the home may have through a full home inspection, which checks for functionality of major systems and current codes. In addition to the full home inspection report, buyers may choose to get additional reports such as a Wood Destroying Organism Inspection (WDO) (commonly referred to as a termite report), 4-Point, and Wind Mitigation.

Depending on the type of financing a buyer is obtaining, a WDO report may be required, but even if it is not, it is a good idea to have this done - especially in Florida. The 4-Point and Wind Mitigation reports are generated for obtaining and negotiating homeowner's insurance. There are also property specific inspections a buyer may want to consider such as radon, septic, well, lead-based paint, or defective drywall.

Clearly, many things could go awry with all of these different inspections, which is why many homeowners are choosing to perform inspections prior to putting their home on the market. It will take some of the guesswork out of the entire process. Either way it is important to choose an agent who can guide you on the types of reports needed and areas where there may be a higher risk of certain contaminants.



By Ryan Brantley

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-924-8187

Ryan@RyanBrantley.org
www.chaddertongroup.com

Neighborhood Snapshot - Spring Lake

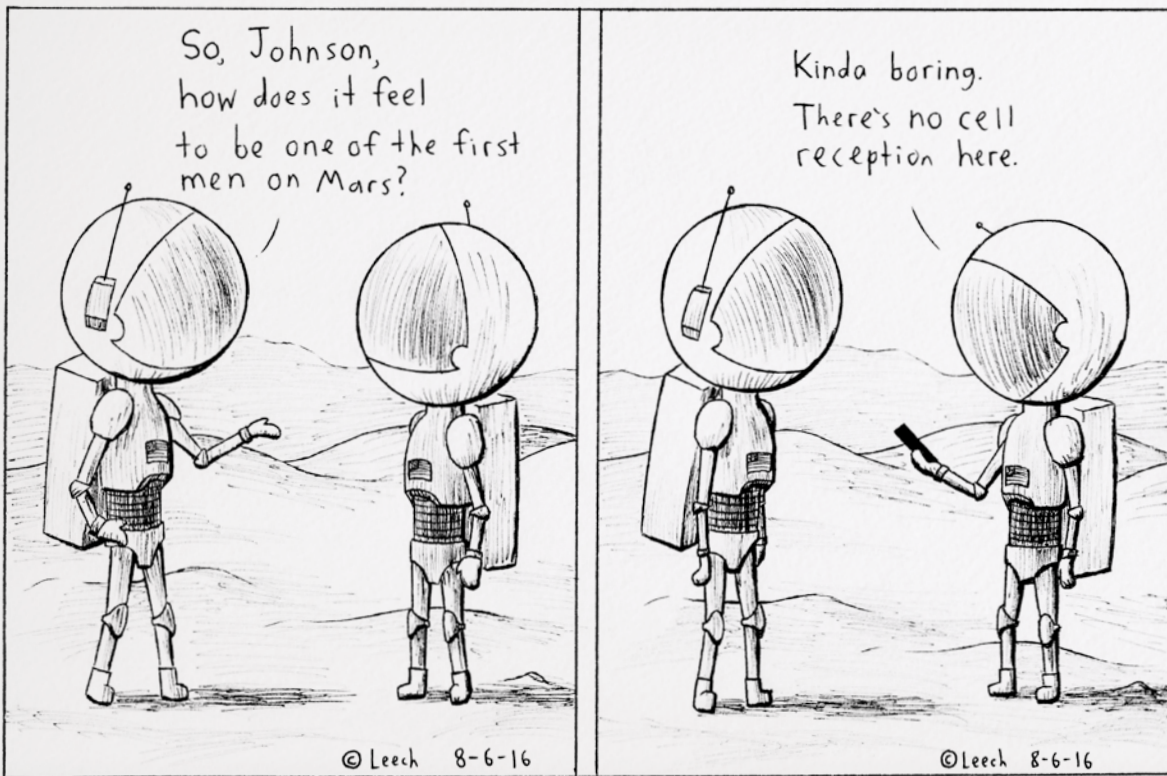
Spring Lake is located adjacent to the Glen Haven exit onto Bell Shoals and encompasses Elm Grove Lane, Spring Way Circle, and Cameo Crest Lane. Homes in this community were built in the mid 1980's and have an average of three bedrooms and two baths with sizes ranging from 1,200-2,500 square feet. The affordability of this neighborhood make it ideal for first time homebuyers. The area is severely lacking inventory with no active listings and two currently under contract. In the last year, only four homes have sold in this area ranging in price from \$167,000-\$200,000.

** MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold July 25, 2015 through July 25, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*

Michigan

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

Michigan by Will Leech



Into The Woods We Go...

Rule 28 "Ball Unplayable"

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

You hit your drive 240 yards with a five-yard right hand turn into the woods. Fortunately, knowing the rules provides an option not known to most.

A player who declares their ball unplayable has three options. The first option is to go back to where the original ball was last played but lose 240 yards.

The second option is to take a drop two club lengths from where the ball is currently located. In this case, still four yards in the forest. The ball (yellow) is behind the middle tree, the flag (red) is on the other side of the trees.

The last option is to drop a ball behind where the unplayable ball was, on a straight line pointed directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind. Look at the view from twenty yards back. The flag is on the other side of those trees. You make the call.

Next lesson: Making more putts with better aiming. Any questions or for lessons please visit CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. (813) 957-3205.



John E.S. Cochran
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BSTD President Addresses Proposed Special Tax Increase

A Candid Conversation between Dave West, President of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) and Miriam Leech, Gazette Senior Staff Writer

On August 30, Bloomingdale voters will be asked to weigh in on a proposed special tax assessment increase referendum on the primary ballot. The referendum, initiated by the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) Board of Trustees, specifically asks for an increase from the current \$130 to \$200 per residence. If the referendum passes, the initial increase will be to \$150 for fiscal year (FY) 2018. Additional increases would be incremental and as needed in the future--not to exceed \$200.

This will be only the third increase in 30 years . . . and the first in 10 years.

Here, BSTD President Dave West answers important questions regarding the referendum, and why it is so important for Bloomingdale residents to vote YES.

--What is the purpose of the August 30 Referendum?

The purpose of the referendum is to increase the assessment used to maintain the Bloomingdale community, including landscaping, irrigation, property management, and infrastructure such as walls and fences.

The mission of the BSTD is to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money and keep Bloomingdale an attractive place to live.

--Why the need for the Referendum NOW?

*Bloomingdale is an aging community. Like your house as it ages, the cost of maintenance increases as larger and larger projects must be undertaken. The BSTD has reached a point where our revenue is not sufficient to maintain and **IMPROVE** the community.*

--How much of an increase are you asking for?

The BSTD Board of Trustees is asking for an increase of \$70 per residence; however, the full amount will not be assessed immediately. The initial increase will be \$20, from the current \$130 to \$150, for FY 2018. We asked for \$70 on this referendum to give us the flexibility to increase in increments as necessary in the future [but not to exceed \$200].

The original tax assessment in 1980 was \$80 per residence. The last time the assessment was increased, to its current rate, was 10 years ago.

--Do we have a budget shortfall?

No. BUT WE WILL. *Currently, the maintenance of the community is existing but not thriving. The BSTD is able to keep running, but we are unable to be proactive in making the corrections, upgrades, and enhancements our aging community needs.*

--What is the largest expense each year of the BSTD?

The largest expense each year of the BSTD is landscaping maintenance. Maintenance costs increased \$36,000 in fiscal year 2016, post competitive bid.

--What specifically will the additional funds be used for, and how was this amount calculated?

To date, the Board of Trustees has been diligent in taking steps to keep costs down. For example, the creeping fig planted along all the walls that line our streets not only looks appealing, but also keeps down the cost of power washing and painting the walls.

Now, the Board feels it must be proactive in revamping the irrigation system, sinking new wells to reduce rust stains, adding fig to wall sections, and, in the future, re-doing the entrances to the community affected by road construction. Based on historical increases in costs, we calculated the tax assessment increase needed to bring the community improvements.

--You say an increase from \$130 up to \$200 . . . how will residents know what to expect or if you are asking for too much? How are you accountable to the community?

All BSTD meetings are open to the public, and all decisions are made in that public forum. We serve the Bloomingdale community, and are always glad to listen to the residents and get their input. We encourage the community to attend our monthly meetings, held the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

We wrote the referendum for a \$70 increase as a cap. Our intent is to only increase the assessment \$20 for FY 2018. The cap gives us flexibility in increasing the assessment in the future as needed.

We are a part of the Hillsborough County government, and submit our budget to the County Commissioners. The BSTD is not allowed to "pad" our budget or carry over money. Should any increase prove to be too much, there would be a decrease the next year.

--How does this assessment amount compare to other communities in Hillsborough County?

Community Development District (CDD) fees in FishHawk range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per residence per year. We are a bargain comparatively.

--How soon will the additional funds be available, and when can residents expect to see a difference?

If the referendum passes, the tax assessment increase will take place in FY 2018, which begins October 1, 2017. The Trustees will begin to analyze needs as they work on the FY 18 budget.

--If the Referendum passes, what are the next steps? If a Public Meeting, when will that occur?

If the referendum passes, there will be a Public Meeting held for the FY 18 budget in May 2017, and Public Notice will be given.

--If the Referendum does not pass, what does the future hold for the community, i.e., what specifically will suffer/not get done?

If the referendum does not pass, revenues will stay at their current level and the appearance of the community will begin to suffer because the BSTD will not have the ability to keep up with maintenance. Our aging community will continue to show its age more and more.

**Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association
President George May Endorses BSTD Special
Tax Increase**

“As a long-time resident of Bloomingtondale, I fully understand the need for this proposed tax and I unequivocally support the referendum. If residents in our community expect our quality of life to be maintained and even better, improved, they must vote yes for this tax increase. Our community is aging and with age comes the need for repair and replacement of worn-out equipment. The BHA will do all it can to spread the word throughout the community to ensure enough votes are received to pass this referendum. If you care about your community and the Bloomingtondale way of life, you will vote, yes.”

George May, BHA President



ATTENTION BLOOMINGDALE VOTERS!

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL DEPENDENT TAX DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given that a referendum will be placed on the August 30, 2016, Primary Election ballot for all voters in the Bloomingtondale Special Dependent Tax District. The wording of the referendum is as follows:

**REFERENDUM TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM TAX
OF THE BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DEPENDENT TAX
DISTRICT**

The Board of Trustees of the Bloomingtondale Special Dependent Tax District shall be authorized to increase the assessed tax from \$130.00 to not to exceed \$200.00 per annum per improved residential parcel. This proposed assessment is sufficient to continue existing and projected maintenance projects.

Yes _____

No _____

Polls open on August 30, 2016 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. All qualified voters residing within the limits of Bloomingtondale Special Dependent Tax District may vote on said referendum.

**BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT**

BLOOMINGDALE

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

**David P. West, President
Mike Chanen, Vice President
Mark Horst, Treasurer
Russell Jones, Trustee
Chris Papp, Trustee
Mark Vargo, Trustee
Tom Leech, Trustee**

While most of us like hot dogs, hot dogs of the four-legged furry kind are not on this summer's menu. Here are tips to help you keep your most loyal friend comfortable and safe during the hot weather.

HOT PAVEMENT

Do you love walking the dog? Be aware of the temperature of the street and pavement. Test it before walking the dog. If you can't walk on it, he can't either. It can seriously hurt your dog's paws. So, if you can, walk him in the grass or in the shade.

SIGNS OF OVERHEATING

You know how miserable you have been the last few weeks; just try wearing a fur coat like Fifi does. Dogs can overheat too. Watch for the signs.

1. Heavy panting
2. Dry or pale gums
3. Increased drooling
4. Deep and rapid breathing

Just in case, be sure to have water available. Carry a bottle while you walk or engage in outdoor play with your dog. If you think your dog is overheated, put cold water cloths around his paws, head and neck.

FINALLY...

Never leave your dog in the car! The temperatures inside a vehicle can rise quickly and kill your pet in a matter of minutes.



Wanted: A Forever Home and Family

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center has the Right Pet for You

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center (PRC), the county's animal shelter has many cats and dogs looking for their "forever" homes. At your county shelter, dogs and cats are surprisingly affordable – at one location – open seven days a week. Each comes fully vetted with a complement of services (adding up to a savings of hundreds of dollars). While some fees may apply, PRC adoption packages can save "prospective parents" anywhere from \$250 - \$400.

For information on adoptions and foster care, lost pets or spay/neuter vouchers, contact the PRC at 813-744-5660 or visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets. Located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd., the center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Jack (A 1649618) is a handsome 7-year-old hound. He's a sweet and gentle boy who is hoping that his forever family will meet him soon and fall in love.



Jack

Kipling

Kipling (A1650068) enjoys running and chasing the ball, but is still working on bringing it back. He is 2 years old and is ready to go to his forever home.



Provided By The Pet Resource Center



The Pet Resource Center's August First Saturday Celebration features \$20 Adoption Specials!

While the First Saturday Celebrations are always a great time to find your fur-ever friend, this month is a perfect time to find your back to school furr-ever friend. There are \$20 adoptions for all ready-to-go pets. In addition, all adopted "big mutts" – dogs 40 pounds or more – will come with DNA results on exactly what breed they are. The Pet Resource Center is the first shelter in Hillsborough County, if not Florida, to implement this DNA testing pilot project.

The First Saturday Celebration is August 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adoption packages include spaying/neutering, vaccinations, microchip with free registration, and Hillsborough County pet license tag (a package valued at \$250 to \$400). Come enjoy refreshments and music, special guests, exhibitors, rescue partners, and foster pets ready for adoption. As always, parking and admission are free.

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

BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski



...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Editor's Note: A column for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden experts and amateurs from the Valrico Garden Club (VGC). To learn about the VGC, contact Mary Kay McMahan at 813-684-6323, email danmcmahan@aol.com or visit Facebook/Valrico Garden Club.

Community Gardening - Do It Year Round

By Gwen Graverson

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) is involved in a variety of community and statewide projects and programs for adults and youth. One of those programs is "Community Gardening" which in recent years is experiencing a wonderful resurgence! It is an ancient agrarian concept and a cooperative effort of many to cultivate a specific area for food production that has now evolved into more than just harvesting and sharing edible produce. It has become an opportunity for social change and intergenerational cooperation and interaction through awareness, education, experience, example, friendship and socialization.

At the core of the community garden are the PEOPLE involved. By participating in the community and MENTORING, we have an opportunity to bring people together and empower them with a new sense of pride, accomplishment and ownership as they learn about environmental issues, water conservation, organic gardening alternatives, pest control, and nutrition. Plant the seeds of a Community Garden in your area today!

Community Gardening includes back yard vegetable gardening, container gardening, gardening with edible accents, children's gardens, herb gardening, hydroponics, etc. Get involved in this exciting gardening opportunity by starting a community garden at a school, in your neighborhood, a vacant lot in a town or city, or at a church.

The FFGC is also part of the Deep South Region Unified Project - Community Gardening.

This two-year project is part of the theme of the Deep South Region Director's administration which expresses what gardeners do best, and that is to share; "Share the Beauty of Gardening". Sharing has many meanings and the Unified



Project brings sharing to the community through growing and sharing plants and vegetables in our Community Gardens.

For information, contact the staff at the UF/IFAS Extension (Hillsborough County), 5339 County Road 579, Seffner or by phone at 813-744-5519. Check for brochures on the subject or download on-line articles and fact sheets at the extension website including Starting a Community Garden at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep124> and Food Safety for Community Gardens at http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/lawn_and_garden/community_garden_food_safety.shtml.

Looking for a Community Garden in our Area?

The Seeds of Faith Community Garden, located at Bay Life Church, 1017 Kingsway Rd. in Brandon invites all garden enthusiasts to rent plots and try their own hand at gardening. Plot rental proceeds fund other plots at the garden, which support local food banks. The garden will open for the 2016-2017 season on Sept. 10. Every second Saturday of the month (starting on Sept. 10), volunteers are invited to help tend the food bank plots from 8 to 10 a.m. Discounted rates are offered to plot renters who commit to six or more volunteer hours throughout the garden season. Bay Life will begin renting out plots in August.

For information, contact missions@baylife.org or check out their Facebook page at Facebook/ Seeds of Faith Community Garden.com.



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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren and C.S.O. Sandy Capitano



Source: HCSO

AREA LAW AND ORDER

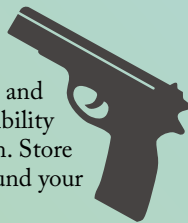
From June 20 to July 17, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 123 traffic stops in the Bloomingdale and surrounding area known as J04 Zone. This is a very large zone encompassing not only Bloomingdale but also communities in Lithia.

In the Bloomingdale area, there were three auto burglaries and no residential burglaries. The fact that no homes were burglarized is great news, but two of the three vehicles were unlocked and both had firearms stolen. There were also three criminal mischief incidents involving both vehicles and residences. Please remember to lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors and lock up your vehicles. This will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim.

Remember: lock your doors and never leave valuables in plain sight.

GUN OWNERS

Do not leave your firearm in your vehicle overnight. Bring firearms inside and store them safely. When adults choose to own guns, they must take responsibility for keeping them guns locked up, secured and out of the hands of children. Store your firearms responsibly with constant regard for children either in or around your home and vehicle.



Remember: a responsible gun owner should have the serial number stored in a safe place.

CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY

There is a black sedan, possibly a Honda Accord or Civic, which has been involved in at least three "crimes of opportunity" during the month of July near the Bloomingdale area. The driver cruises through neighborhoods looking for easy access to garages and lawn trailers. When no one is looking, the suspects steal items such as leaf blowers and weed eaters. Keep your garage doors down when you are not in the garage and warn your lawn service to keep a close watch on their equipment while busy with your lawn.

Remember: if you see something suspicious, say something!

THE DANGERS OF SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

Synthetic marijuana comes in colorful packaging and inviting names like "Berry Blend," "Fire and Ice" and "Blueberry Haze." The names are meant to entice and elicit a sense of innocent pleasure. While it may look and sound harmless, what you can't see can kill you.



There are no standards or regulations for manufacturing this designer drug. Usually the process is completed on tabletops in a warehouse. You can never be certain what chemical cocktail was used in the drug's creation.

Hillsborough County is battling this health menace with a unified effort. The Sheriff's Office, the Code Enforcement and Consumer Protection joined together to enforce the county's ordinance against possessing, displaying, selling, or manufacturing synthetic drugs. For information, check out the video on www.hcso.tampa.fl.us.

DANGEROUS THINGS TEENS DO IN CARS

Courtesy: Safe Kids Worldwide, <http://www.safekids.org/teen-drivers-infographic/>

The award-winning organization Safe Kids Worldwide is an excellent resource for parents. The following is an excerpt from their website. "Safe Kids Worldwide is a global organization dedicated to preventing injuries in children, the number one killer of kids in the United States. Around the world, a child dies from an unintentional injury every 30 seconds. And millions of children are injured in ways that can affect them for a lifetime." This safety excerpt focuses on seven risky behaviors for teen drivers.

1. Skipping seat belts. Nearly half of teens killed in crashes were not wearing seat belts.
2. Texting while driving. If your eyes are off the road for five seconds at 55 mph, it is like traveling the length of a football field blindfolded.
3. Passengers that are afraid to speak up when they are riding with an unsafe driver.
4. Too many passengers. When two or more teens ride in a car, the risk of a fatal crash can double or triple.
5. Drinking and driving.
6. Driving at night. The risk of a fatal crash at night can be more than three times higher for teens than adults.
7. Speeding. Nearly 1/3 of teens killed in crashes were speeding.

For information on keeping kids safe, visit the Safe Kids Worldwide website at <http://www.safekids.org/>.

THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

Recently, an appreciative resident left this thank you card taped to the front door of the HCSO Community Sub-Station off Erindale Drive.

Photo: CSO Sandy Capitano.

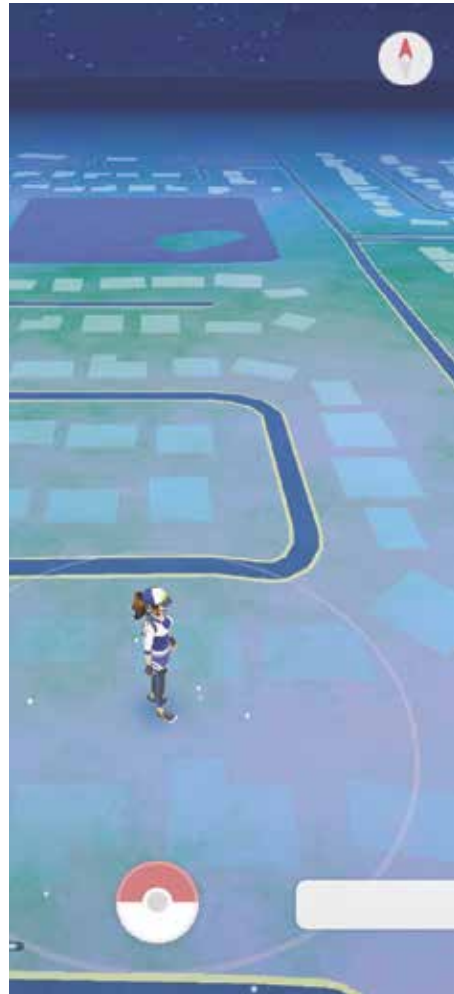


Pokémon at the Library

A new craze has spread across the globe – Pokémon hunting on the ingenious Pokémon Go app.

Released this past month, it has become a mega hit with all ages. Did you know the Bloomingdale Regional Library hosts monthly Pokémon events from 2-4:30 p.m. every first and third Sunday? According to the event description, players varying from beginners to masters are welcome to “share, trade, and play.” For information on this event and others, check out the library website at [www.http://hcplc.org/hcplc/events/](http://hcplc.org/hcplc/events/).

The image, pictured right, is a screenshot of the popular Pokémon Go app, the latest craze sweeping the country.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Beginner Ukulele Workshop with the Tampa Bay Ukulele Society, Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m., Join members of the Tampa Bay Ukulele Society for a free beginner's ukulele workshop. Learn about the instrument, how to tune, hold and strum, and play chords. Learn two songs and meet other local uke enthusiasts.



Ukuleles will be available to play at the program, bring a uke from home, or check out a ukulele from the library's new lending collection made possible by TBUS. For adults.



Puppet Show: Jack and the Beanstalk, Tuesday, Aug. 23 at 11 a.m., Fee, Fie, Foe, Fun! A giant is loose in Cloudland. Jack climbs the magic beanstalk skyward. Marionettes, big and small, perform together on stage in this traditional Celtic music puppet play. For children.



Hogwarts Summer Camp Enchants Local Wizards

There are many fun activities to do during summer including summer camps. In July, the Bloomingdale Regional Library offered a Hogwarts summer camp based on the popular Harry Potter series. Each year, the camp has a different Hogwarts theme and caters to a different age group.

One year, the theme was “back-to-school” Diagon alley for elementary age students. This year tween and teen “spell casters” enjoyed crafts, games, experiments, and technology all set in the wonderful environment of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. “Students” entered the Hogwarts portal and made origami owls, played quidditch (a wizard’s sport of choice) and herbology games, including mixing various Kool-Aid potions. In addition, students learned how to program a 3D printer.

Beverly Taylor, a former librarian at Bloomingdale, who coincidentally shares a birthday with Harry Potter, came out to support the kids in their summer camp fascination with all things Hogwarts. She remarked, “It’s just a good program...something a lot of the kids like.”

For a complete library events calendar, visit www.hcplc.org/hcplc/events/



Enjoying the Harry Potter ambiance, butter beer, and cake Hogwarts summer camp students Beverly Taylor, Rachel Day, Julian Rubin, and Molly Mulligan enjoy butter beer and cake during a break from spell casting and potion making.

Photos: Nicole Cluck



Using ingredients from the potion wall, Hogwarts students created Kool-Aid potions and inflated a balloon over a bottle with a potion inside.



Evan Fialla, 11, became a Harry Potter fan when his mother introduced the books to him. Now, he casts spells of his own and describes this camp as “fun, different, magic and enchanting.”

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Evan DeGraff is a Bloomingdale High School student and Bloomingdale resident with a passion for movies. Each month, he will review a current movie release. He hopes one day to follow in the footsteps of acclaimed movie critics the likes of Siskel and Ebert.

THIS MONTH: "GHOSTBUSTERS"

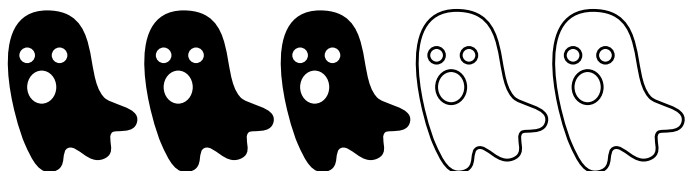
"Ghostbusters" is the latest horror comedy movie to come to theaters. With the fantastic cast of Kristen Wiig (Erin), Melissa McCarthy (Abby), Kate McKinnon (Jillian), and Leslie Jones (Patty), Ghostbusters is a fun watch. The director Paul Feig, known for his terrific work in "Heat" and "Bridesmaids," delivers a good movie.

Rebooting the original "Ghostbusters" with an all-female ghost-hunting team is a daunting task, but these comedic forces of nature are up to it and armed with humor and onscreen chemistry. The unlikely group – a professor, two paranormal enthusiasts, and a subway worker – sets out to save Manhattan from ghostly apparitions of the "threatening and evil" kind. Rounding out the group is receptionist Kevin, played by Chris Hemsworth. Personally, I believe Chris Hemsworth was the funniest actor in the movie because of the dumb-minded character he played.

Appearing later in the movie is villain Rowan North (Neil Casey), who plans to unleash ghosts upon the city. I believe that this character fell flat because he didn't fit in during the movie. The purpose made sense but the execution was poor.

While the movie had a fairly simple plot, at times it felt like a failed Saturday Night Live skit. This movie had three cameos from original "Ghostbusters" giants Bill Murray, Ernie Hudson, and Dan Akroyd. The cameos were very funny and showed that the actors still have their chops.

This movie does have a few good scares; and I would not take children under 8 or 9 years old. While it does not have the magic of the old "Ghostbusters", the movie is still worth watching. I give it 3 out of 5 ghosts.



Courtesy: Ghostbusters.net

Billed as the largest Fourth of July parade in Florida, the Community Roundtable hosted its annual Independence Day celebration on July 4 in downtown Brandon. The crowd pleaser featured businesses, military, county organizations and area high schools along the 2-mile route.



Bloomington's Connie White proudly represented the Military Women of Tampa Bay.



Members of the BSHS Crimson Guard perform in the summer heat for thousands of spectators.



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Relay for Life of Bloomingdale Needs YOU!

By Miriam Leech

On April 23 of this year, Relay for Life of Bloomingdale hosted 25 teams, 351 individual participants, and 30 cancer survivors at Bloomingdale High School - and raised \$52,664 to support the American Cancer Society.

According to event chair, Kelley Kilpatrick, planning for next year's Relay began on April 24. And while the Bloomingdale community has shown continued support, Kilpatrick still needs your help.

If you are interested in joining Relay for Life of Bloomingdale, please call Samantha Schneider, Community Manager, at 813-319-5920, or email her at Samantha.Schneider@cancer.org. The website, www.relayforlife.org/BloomingdaleFl, is expected to go live in early September, so check there for more details soon.

Together, this is a fight we can win!

Photo: Kelley Kilpatrick



Native Ornamental Grasses Improve Soil UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

Paula Staples, Public Education Program Coordinator

Native ornamental grasses can have extensive root systems. A native switch grass, *Panicum virgatum*, can have roots over nine feet in length. Some roots store proteins and sugars, other roots are more fibrous and contribute to building soil.

Just how do fibrous roots help build soil? Well, during winter months a percentage of the roots dies back and releases the easy to digest protein and sugars into the soil. These are quickly consumed by the many soil organisms that live, reproduce and die beneath our feet. But the fibrous parts of roots are harder to break down. The extra work of soil organisms while feeding on complex fibers build soil by forming aggregates in soil. Aggregates are soil particles of organic matter, microorganism wastes and sand, silt and clay physically bound together by soil life processes in varying sizes of crumb to clump. Encased in these soil aggregates, resources of water, nutrients and oxygen are protected from loss, available for later use.

In a home landscape, ornamental grasses can anchor a landscape bed. It can be the star you plan to build the bed around, provide a background setting that showcases your favorite plants or be used as a hedge for privacy all the while enriching the soil, keeping your plants healthy and saving you time and money.



New Rapid Response Headquarters Means Quicker Cleanups and Enhanced Public Safety

Hillsborough County Press Release/Photos

Rapid Response finally has a home of its own, and Hillsborough County will be cleaner and safer because of it. The County's Rapid Response team put the finishing touches on its new headquarters at 122 W. Bloomingdale Ave. in Brandon and celebrated its completion with a grand opening celebration held on July 25.

The 19-member Rapid Response team was created to quickly resolve problems before they pose a threat to public safety or diminish a neighborhood's quality of life. The unit's duties include investigating and cleaning up illegal dumping and gang graffiti, securing and demolishing dangerous structures, assessing and repairing damage after natural disasters, providing outreach and recovery assistance to the homeless, marine safety, and assisting the Sheriff's Office after raids and Fire Rescue after fires.

The new headquarters, the former Bloomingdale Fire Station 7, houses two of the team's most heavily used pieces of equipment: a Lightning Loader, which is a brush- and debris-clearing vehicle, and a specially equipped graffiti abatement truck that allows team members to blast away graffiti and repaint - with the original color - in a matter of moments.



Commissioners Stacy White and Kevin Beckner flank Rapid Response director Jon-Paul Lavandeira. Behind them is the county's super-efficient graffiti removal truck.



Members of the County's Rapid Response Team are ready for action at the facilities grand opening held last week.

Campo Y Helps Bridge the Reading Gap

By Miriam Leech

For six weeks this summer, beginning June 14, 35 children grades kindergarten through 5th grade received tutoring at the Campo Family YMCA to improve their reading skills. Called Bridging the Gap, the program was the brainchild of Kavita Marballi, Associate Membership Director, and was implemented by volunteers who jumped at the opportunity to help children who struggle to read. Teachers, homemakers, Y staff, and high school students alike pitched in to assist with the program.

According to Marballi, one of the focuses of the Y is to help close the achievement gap among youngsters.

Teacher recommendations and parental approval were required for the children to enroll. The curriculum developed by Julie McKenna and implemented by lead volunteer teacher Ann Shipley included keeping a reading journal and writing answers to questions about the stories they read. Shipley was especially adept at keeping the attention of the few autistic children in the program. The children also spent time learning some basic Spanish words, taught by volunteer Ivelis Gonzalez.

At the graduation ceremony on July 21, students received completion certificates and Chick-Fil-A lunches and goodie bags courtesy of the Brandon Village restaurant. Marballi also took the opportunity to thank the many volunteers who helped with the new program, and presented Shipley and Gonzalez each with a copy of the book *Today I Made a Difference*.

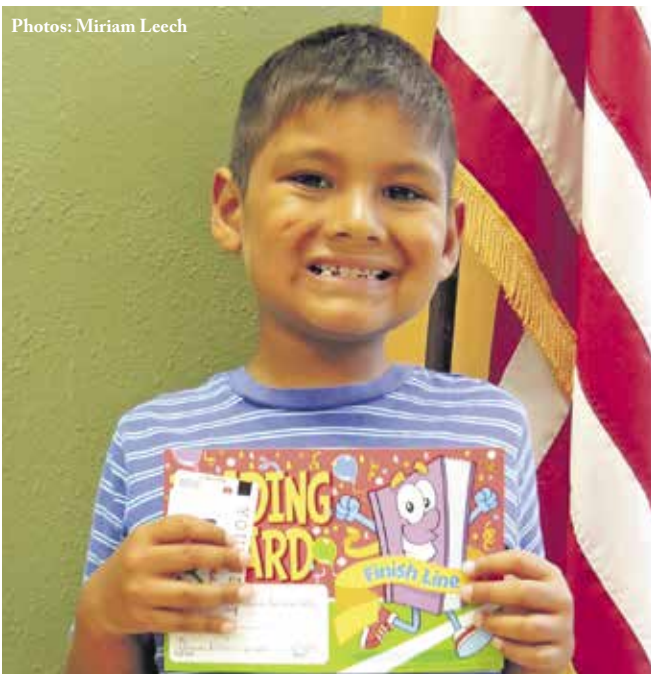
"This program would not have been a success without these two ladies," said Marballi.

Luis Bustamante, whose son Rodrigo, a rising 2nd grader at Cimino Elementary School, completed the program, said, "This program really helped Rodrigo keep up his reading this summer and made him more confident. The activities kept him engaged, and he learned to identify characters and tell about the stories he read."



The Chick-Fil-A cow was on hand to help children celebrate their graduation from the Bridging the Gap summer reading program held at the Campo Family YMCA. Volunteer teacher, Ivelis Gonzalez (facing, far left), congratulates her students on learning numbers, letters, and colors in Spanish during the 6-week program.

Photos: Miriam Leech



Cimino Elementary School 2nd Grader Rodrigo Bustamante shows off his completion certificate at the Bridging the Gap graduation ceremony held July 21 at the Campo Family YMCA. Students received tutoring in reading during the 6-week summer program.



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VALRICO

643-4825

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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!
SEPTEMBER 5 – LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

August 8 – BooHoo Breakfast. 8 - 9 a.m. in the cafeteria
August 8 – Sneak Peek, Visit your child's classroom, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Kindergarten BooHoo Breakfast

Do you have a child starting kindergarten at Alafia this year? If so, come join us for Alafia Elementary Kindergarten BooHoo Breakfast on Monday, August 8 from 8 - 9 a.m. in our cafeteria. The "BooHoo" is for parents, as they are the only ones who leave us that day teary-eyed as they prepare to watch their little ones begin their wonderful Kindergarten journey!

Sneak Peek

Please join us for Sneak Peek on Monday, August 8 from 2:30 - 4 p.m. Drop in at any time during these hours and visit your child's classroom. The PTA will be selling agendas in the cafeteria and all students must have an Alafia agenda.



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

August 8 - Meet the Teacher, 11 a.m. to noon, Last names ending A - L and 1 to 2 p.m. for last names ending M - Z

August 25 - Curriculum Night, 5:30 p.m.

2016-2017 School Supply List

List may change based on teacher requirements. For the complete list of supplies please visit the website: http://cimino.mysdhc.org/?Templates=RWD&object=/School_News/S68D510C1-68D51878&infobar=no.

Back to School Welcome Packet

Information coming soon!

Visit the following website for updates: http://cimino.mysdhc.org/?Templates=RWD&object=/School_News/S6B4E6C75-6B4EE080&infobar=no



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

August 8 – Sixth Grade Open House, 1 - 3 p.m.
August 8 – Seventh and Eighth Grade Open House, 3:30 - 5 p.m.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

August 8 – Open House, 5 p.m. for Freshmen and 7 p.m. for returning students
August 18 – Melissa Snively Meeting, 6 p.m. in the Media Center
August 19 – Football vs Chamberlain, 7:30 p.m.
August 22 – Golf @ Durant (River Hills Country Club), 2 p.m.
August 23 – Volleyball vs Freedom, 7 p.m.
August 25 – Golf vs Plant City (Bloomingdale Golfers Club), 3 p.m.
August 26 – Football @ Newsome, 7:30 p.m.
August 29 – Golf vs East Bay (Bloomingdale Golfers Club), 2 p.m.
August 29 – JV/V Volleyball vs Wharton, 6:15 p.m.
August 31 – Golf vs Brandon (Bloomingdale Golfers Club), 3 p.m.
September 1 – JV/V Volleyball vs Plant City, 6:15 p.m.
September 1 – JV Football @ Newsome, 7 p.m.
September 2 – Band Pictures, 5:15 p.m. in the Gym
September 2 – Football vs Gaither, 7:30 p.m.

BULL BRIEFS

Get Connected

Twitter is just one method BSHS uses to keep students and parents informed. Follow the school for updates:
Official school twitter, @BloomingdaleSHS
Student online news, @BSHSbullseye
Yearbook updates, @BloomingdaleYBK
Videos & lunch menu, @WBUL
Student Government, @BloomingdaleSGA
Guidance Information, @BloomingdaleCCC
Sports Updates, @BdaleAthletics
District Updates, @HillsboroughSch



Tax Free Holiday Weekend / This Weekend / Don't miss out on this back-to-school event! Back to just three days in 2016, during this period no Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected on clothing, footwear, wallets, and bags that cost less than \$60, and school supplies that cost \$15 or less. Personal computers and related accessories are not tax-free this year. For complete details, visit the Florida Department of Revenue website, www.dor.myflorida.com.





Back-to-School Expo Gets Youth Ready for School

Brief/Photos By Miriam Leech

The Valrico-Fishhawk Chamber of Commerce sponsored its 14th annual Back-to-School Expo at the Campo Family YMCA on July 17 to collect back-to-school supplies for needy children in the area. Many local businesses and restaurants joined organizers to make the event a success and more than 1,000 supplies and \$1,500 in donations were gathered. Admission was free, but the community was asked to donate \$10 worth of school supplies or \$10 cash. Donated supplies were given to students at the 18th Annual Backpack Outreach Event held at Camp Cristina on July 30, and hosted by the Campo Y and the Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) of Brandon.



Mathnasium of Brandon owner Becky McDaniels entertained children with math goodies during the 14th Annual Valrico-Fishhawk Chamber of Commerce Back-to-School Expo.



YoYo Juice owners Scott and Rose Laviano (center) participated in their second back-to-school expo, serving up refreshments to the community and helping collect supplies for needy children.



Jennifer Montgomery and Jeannette Barone (l. to r.) of the Valrico-Fishhawk Chamber of Commerce greeted the community during the Chamber's back-to-school event at the Campo Family YMCA.



Making Movies is a Passion for Student Filmmaker

By Evan DeGraff

Editor's Note: Martin Scorsese, watch out! Derrick Bell Perez, a Bloomingdale High School student, has plans – big plans. Perez just wrapped his newest project, "Rosalina," a feature film. He has made many films and plans to write, direct, and produce many more. Movie critic and fellow Bloomingdale student Evan DeGraff sat down for a one-on-one interview last month.

What was your inspiration to make your new feature film, "Rosalina?"

[The movie] "Sinister 2." I enjoyed the family concept of the film, the abusive father, and more. It really helped out with the writing process.

When you look back at your film, what is your one take away?

Learning to work with loyal people. They work hard for me and know my goals. They might have not understood my vision, but the cast and crew were the hardest workers nevertheless.

Is there something that you want people to know about film making in general?

A misconception with anything in life is that you need things to accomplish your goal, but in reality, you just need to put your heart into it. While filming "Rosalina," there were many obstacles, and get this, there was only a \$25 budget. It just proves that anyone can do it.

What are your plans for the future?

I have mad plans [like] "Queena," the story of the Bloomingdale library rape case. This film will show what actually happened rather than just the rumors. And, Star Team 2, a sequel to an earlier action movie, is starting pre-production.

I have an action web series coming out called, "Vigil." It's the story of a vigilante who stopped crime, but is forced back into that lifestyle.

I have also cofounded with Ryan Brison, another filmmaker in the area, a production team called Indomitable Productions. We have similar goals in life and want to help each other.

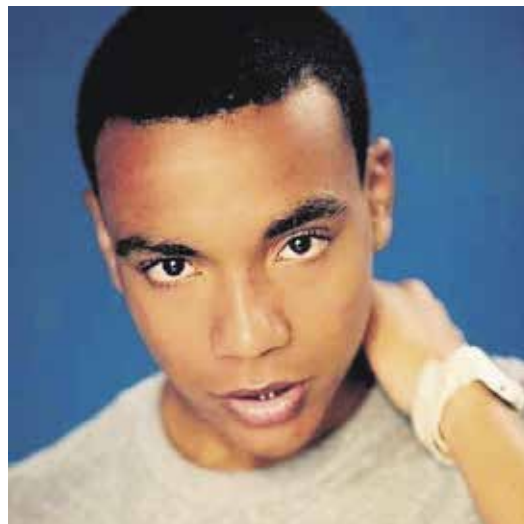
Where can people find "Rosalina?"

I will be selling DVD copies at Bloomingdale High School or you can contact me at indomitableproductions@gmail.com.

Photos: Derrick Bell



Michelle Giorgi stars as the lead character, Rosalina, in student filmmaker Derrick Bell's just released project, "Rosalina." Contact Bell at indomitableproductions@gmail.com for a copy.



Filmmaker Derrick Bell Perez is a student to watch. The aspiring filmmaker just released his newest feature and has other projects already in production.



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