



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXV 🌿 ISSUE 6 🌿 JUNE 2015 🌿 www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

Congratulations, Class of 2015!



Photo: Heather Hanks, BSHS teacher

Jordan Howard, Brad Johnson and Minh Nguyen flash the bull symbol at the 2015 Bloomingdale High School graduation at the Florida State Fairgrounds on Thursday June 4. The top three in their class, they represent the 52% of the 546 graduates who graduated on honor court with a 4.0 weighted GPA or higher. The Class of 2015 brought in \$4.6 million dollars in scholarships and 92% plan to go on to a postsecondary education.
Photo: Heather Hanks, BSHS teacher

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. *Dr. Seuss*

This Month

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WINNER

2013 & 2014
Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
Newsletter Category

PLEASE RECYCLE



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 Offices of Bloomingdale Special Taxing District:

3509 Bell Shoals Road

Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Secretary: *Suzy Watts*

Treasurer: *Mary Galin*

Billy Hightower

Mary Galin

Joanie Wilson

Beth Smedley

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

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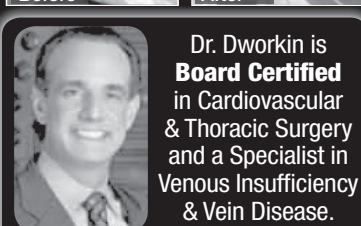
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Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Bob & Michelle Dresden

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



Bloomingdale Real Estate & Housing Update

Are you thinking about moving from the rental market and into purchasing or do you have a son or daughter who is looking for their first affordable home? It may be harder than you think. Here in the Bloomingdale community and throughout Hillsborough county, affordable houses in ideal locations are few and far between. According to the Tampa Bay Times, of the 220 metro areas, Tampa Bay ranks 107th in affordability.

Due to the lack of inventory and a changing market, house prices are rising. This is great news if you're looking to sell but if you're looking into that first purchase, it could be a long heartbreaking journey. When a house in this area hits the market and is well kept and priced right, there are multiple offers within the first few days of being active. For FHA buyers in particular, this can make it almost impossible to outbid their competition.

Many first time buyers also have a hard time making a quick decision because it is their first big purchase. Unfortunately, taking time to "think about it" really isn't an option. While they're thinking about it, three other buyers have seen the property and put in offers. It is important to work with an agent who can get you into a property as soon as it hits the market to heighten chances of getting your offer in front of the seller first.

Of the 29 houses that sold in Bloomingdale in the month of May, 15 were on the market less than a month. Of those, 12 went under contract in less than a week. It is apparent now more than ever to act quickly if you're thinking of buying or selling.

**MLS statistics include Bloomingdale East and West valid May 1 through May 26. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*



By Ryan Brantley

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

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www.chaddertongroup.com



Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Seeks New Board Members

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

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

Board members serve our community through committees including:

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

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

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

www.BloomingdaleHOA.com



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! 

2015 Membership Drive Exceeds 2014 Total

Great news and thank you, residents! With seven months remaining of the 2015 Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Annual Membership Drive, dues taken in exceed that collected for last year's drive.

Please join today! Our next two events are the annual Fall Festival followed by our Santa visit and food drive. Your continued support will ensure that these events are bigger and better than before. Your \$25 contribution funds all services and programs of the BHA.

We need your support to continue to make a difference in our community. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. **Note: The BHA no longer has an active post office box address. Please update your automatic bill pay if applicable.**



BHA BRIEFS



May Board Meeting Highlights

With several major events behind them, the BHA took a few moments to recognize the winner of the annual community scholarship – Christopher Santarlas. In addition, the board discussed the Hillsborough County Neighborhood Conference where the community took home top honors in three award categories. See full stories this issue.

The deed restriction revitalization project is progressing slowly. The intent is to update all voluntary HOA deed restriction documents and to create a mandatory HOA under the Bloomingdale HOA. Updates will continue.

Fall Festival

Planning for the community Fall Festival begins this month. If you are interested in helping the board pull this major event together, attend the first meeting on June 28 at 3 p.m. at Panera. Plans for this year's event include a larger venue, food trucks, entertainment and more business participation.

Facebook

The community's Facebook page is nearing 500 likes. Stay connected with ongoing events and information affecting our area at FB/Bloomingdale HOA.

BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, June 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, June 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.

Sunday, June 28, 3 p.m. / Fall Festival Planning Meeting #1, Panera, Lithia-Pinecrest Rd. Help plan the community's largest event.

ATTENTION: Seniors, Parents and Friends! We want your graduation photos!



The Gazette wants to help you celebrate your graduation. Send your graduation photos to inbloomingalenews@gmail.com by June 15. Identify from left to right those pictured and a brief explanation of what is happening in the photo. For example John Smith, graduate and parents Bob and Mary Smith; taken after graduation at a family celebration. Or, Mary Smith receives her diploma. Send only high resolution photos. Don't forget to provide contact information just in case there are questions. Photos will be published in the July Gazette.



Image: Hillsborough County

The Hillsborough County official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Public Safety Operations Center (PSOC) is set for June 11 at 9 a.m. at 9450 E. Columbus Drive, between Falkenburg Road and U.S. Highway 301 in the Brandon area. This \$26.5 million dollar, 52,000 square foot complex on 20 acres will house the office of Emergency Management, Fire Rescue administration offices and training facilities, and an Emergency Dispatch Center. There will also be a 10,000 square foot area for Fleet Operations and a 15,500 square-foot warehouse.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will include state-of-the-art technology with increased living areas for more employees. The Fire Rescue training center will include areas for urban search and rescue operations and there will be training areas for handling hazardous materials.

Completion of the PSOC is scheduled for September 2016.

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Valid at FishHawk Ranch Location only.
EXP. 7/30/15 BG060615

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

SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Summer Golf Camps /
Beginning every week
June 1 / Monday-Friday,
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
(Competitive 8:30-3:30

p.m.) / River Hills Country Club / 3943 New River Hills
Parkway, Valrico / Bloomingdale Golfers Club will be offering
John E. S. Cochrane Golf Schools summer camps at River Hills
Country Club for boys and girls ages 8-17. Call 813-957-3205
and ask for J.D. For information or to sign up for junior camps,
go online to www.cochranegolfschools.com.

Technology for Kids—Learning to Code / Thursdays
beginning June 11 / 11 a.m.- noon / Bloomingdale Library
/ 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue / Learn to code at Code Studio.
Classes offer a variety of fun, hour-long tutorials that are self-
guided, allowing students to work at their own pace and skill-
level. Open to ages 8-11. Basic keyboard skills needed. Call 813-
273-3652 for information.

Heroes: The Event of the Summer / June 11 / 2-3 p.m.
/ Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue
Join Evans Entertainment on a magic, music, balloon artistry,
and puppet-filled adventure of storybook heroes, heroes of
innovation and discovery, and true modern day heroes. For
grades K-5. Funded by the Friends of the Bloomingdale
Regional Library. Call 813-273-3652 for information.

Interactive Superhero Movie / June 15 / 2-4 p.m. /
Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue
Superheroes no longer needed! What happens next? See what
happens in this hilarious, animated movie with interactive props
and actions. Materials available for the first 48 participants. For
grades K-5. Call 813-273-3652 for information.

Summer Art Workshops / Beginning June 15 / Center Place
Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive,
Brandon / Dive into the arts this summer with drawing, painting,
pottery, and more! Center Place offers summer workshops for
children ages 5 and up in our Discovery Zone Summer 2015
Art Workshops! All classes require ADVANCE registration
and payment. Students can sign up at Center Place or print and
mail the workshop form with a personal check to: Center Place
Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc., 619 Vonderburg Drive,
Suite B, Brandon, FL, 33511. Payment MUST be received at
the time of registration. For information and a list of classes visit
www.centerplacebrandon.org or call 813-685-8888.



Summer Camp Registration Open / Camps begin June 8
and run through August 21 / Campo Family YMCA / 3414

Culbreath Road / The Campo Y's summer camp offers a mix of
fun and learning activities aimed at improving kids' well-being,
such as traditional day camp, dance camp and sports camp. The
Y focuses on three areas proven to impact kids' development:
friendship, accomplishment, and belonging. Day camps for
ages 5-12: Everywhere Member- \$135.00, Everywhere Youth
Member- \$155.00, Here/Here & There Member- \$155.00,
Non-Member- \$190.00 and Program Member- \$190.00.
Extended and specialty camps are available. For information,
contact 813-684-1371, or visit www.tampaymca.org.

TechPlayzone Half-Day STEM Camps / June, July, August
/ 9 a.m.- noon / TechPlayzone is pleased to partner with the
Barn at Winthrop and FISH at Bell Shoals Baptist Church
for Summer Camp 2015. All camps are open to the public.
Workshops will continue at BSAC on Saturdays only during
the summer. Science, technology, engineering, and math for
students, ages 7-13, has never been so cool! To register, visit
www.techplayzone.com/stem-camps.

STEM Camps at the Barn at Winthrop (All camps
\$100), 11349 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview,
June 22-26 – Deep Space Astronomy, July 6-10 –
Engineering for Kids, July 20-24 –Circuit Breakers/
Electricity

STEM Camps at Bell Shoals Baptist (All camps
\$125), 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon, July 27-31
– Chem-Is-Try: Amazing Science Experiments, Aug
3-7 – Rocket Science: Blast Off, Aug 10-14 – Optical
Illusions and Dissections

Vacation Bible Schools



Jesus Church / June 8-12 /
6:30-8:30 p.m. / The Wacky
World of Water / The Regent,
6437 Watson Road, Riverview
/ Dive into the New WACKY World of Water Vacation Bible
School sponsored by Jesus Church. This is a FREE event for
your kids age 3 through 5th grade to learn about God's Word
while playing Rush 'n' Gush games, making cold water crafts
and having the best first week of summer you've ever had!
Register online at www.myjesuschurch.com/vbs.

St. Stephen Catholic Church / June 22-26 / 9 a.m.- noon / A
Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer / 5049 Bell Shoals Road,
Valrico / For information, go to www.ststephencatholic.org.

First Baptist Church of Brandon / June 22-26 / 9 a.m.-
12:15 p.m. / Journey Off the Map / 216 N. Parsons Avenue,
Brandon / Come join us for a week of crafts, snacks, games, and
Bible lessons. Don't miss the best week of your summer!! Age
4 (by September 1, 2015) through 5th grade completion. For
information, go to www.fbcbrandon.org.

Brandon Assembly of God / July 12-15 / 7:15-8:45 p.m.
/ Toys: No One Gets Left Behind / 710 S. Kings Avenue,
Brandon / Join us as we learn to trust God through the Bible,
games, crafts, snacks, great songs and much more. There will
be door prizes each night and a Grand Prize on the last night!
Children age 4 to 5th grade. Free. For information, go to www.brandonag.com/vbs.

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School / July 13-17 / 9 a.m.-
noon / Scruffy's Time Machine Adventure / 2913 John Moore
Road, Brandon / Immanuel Lutheran Church & School will
hold FREE Vacation Bible Camp (VBC for children ages 3
(potty trained) through 5th grade Come share Bible stories, sing
songs, have snacks, play games and make crafts. For information,
go to www.godsoloved.org.

Bell Shoals Baptist Church / July 20-24 / 8:45 a.m.- noon
/ Journey Off the Map / 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon /
Take the journey! This summer journey with Bell Shoals Baptist
Church to uncharted territory. Registration is FREE for all
kids age 4 (before September 2015) through 6th grade. For
information, go to www.bellshoals.com.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church / July 27-31 / 9 a.m.-
12:15 p.m. / Cruisin' Through the Bible / 3315 Bryan Road,
Brandon / Sign up your child for the "best week of the year"
at St. Andrew's UMC. Children must be 3 years of age by
September 1, 2014, AND potty trained to attend. The cost is
\$40 per child, \$90 maximum per family. Space is limited. For
information, go to www.saumc.net.

Fourth of July Events

Lowry Park Zoo: Red, White & Zoo Holiday Weekend /
July 3-5 / 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. / Military (active-duty, retirees and
veterans) and up to three direct dependents are invited to visit
the Zoo free July 3-5. A valid military photo ID must be shown
at the Zoo's ticket counter. Dependents may take advantage of
the offer without their service member, though an adult with a
valid military ID must accompany minors. Not valid with any
other discounts or offers. No rain checks.

Also, during Red, White & Zoo, don't miss the Teddy Bear
Picnic on Saturday, July 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Grab your teddy bear
and head to the Zoo for a "beary" good time!
For more information visit www.lowryparkzoo.com.

Brandon Blast 2015 / July 4 / 6-9 p.m. / Brandon Town Center
Mall / Enjoy live music, great food, family fun, & fireworks,
plus a chance to win a Westfield Shopping Spree! Sponsored
by WQYK 99.5.

Brandon Fourth of July Parade / July 4 / 10 a.m. / Bring your
folding chairs, suntan lotion, and sunglasses and enjoy the largest
Fourth of July Parade in Florida! This family event is the perfect
start to the weekend. The theme for this year's parade is Red,
White, and Blue. The parade is about 2 miles long, beginning at
the corner of Lumsden Road and Parsons Avenue and winding
through the center of Brandon with typically 100 entries. Come
early to reserve your spot along the route. For information visit
www.thecommunityroundtable.org.



Introducing our newest column... “Wanted: A Forever Home and Family”

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center, the county's animal shelter has many cats and dogs looking for their “forever” homes. Each month, we will showcase a few of those pets that need your help. Most animals will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, licensed, and microchipped with free chip registration. Some fees may apply.

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



Tad is a 2-year old medium-sized boy with a friendly personality. He used to live with a small terrier sister in a home that could not afford to care for animals, but he was clearly loved and knows how to give and receive affection. He is housetrained, happy, and labeled as a Shiba Inu mix. Shelter veterinarians discovered minor health issues, like a broken tooth, but Tad never complains. Adopt this adorable boy, ID #27816844.



Taking cover under the hood of a vehicle can be hazardous – just ask Oreo. The 5-month old kitten lost a leg over the incident, but he is as healthy and sociable as a kid should be! Adopt him during National Shelter Cat Month, ID# 25257758.





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JUNE 2015

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



Why don't we just SAY what we MEAN?

The other day, a friend asked my opinion on a particular book we had both recently read. I responded with characteristic snottiness that I was “underwhelmed.” She then made the observation that she had heard of both “over” and “under”whelmed, but had never come across anyone who admitted to being just plain old “whelmed.”

That got me thinking and, try as I might, I couldn't recall anyone saying that they were “whelmed” by anything either. So I grabbed my trusty Webster's and, sure enough, there it was. “Whelm” means “to cover with water” or “submerge.” So, when we say we're “overwhelmed” by something, we're saying that we're “over under water,” which makes no sense whatsoever. “Underwhelmed,” then, must mean you're “under under water,” which is not only redundant, it repeats itself.

This sort of mind boggling discovery always has a mental domino effect on me and I began wondering about all the other words and phrases that have become a part of our everyday communication; things we say to each other all the time that, when dissected, are blatantly incorrect, but which we not only accept, we clearly understand.

For instance, if you have a lot on your mind or are exceptionally busy, you excuse yourself by explaining that you are “preoccupied,” right? Let's take a look at that. You've got the first three letters “pre,” which are from the Latin “Prae,” meaning “before.” Then you have the word “occupied,” from “occupy,” meaning, “to engage, employ or busy oneself.” So preoccupied actually means, “I'm just before getting busy, so I've got lots of time on my hands right now. Go ahead. Bother me.” Why, when we're trying to convey a state of busy-ness, do we use a word which obviously tells the world we're idle?

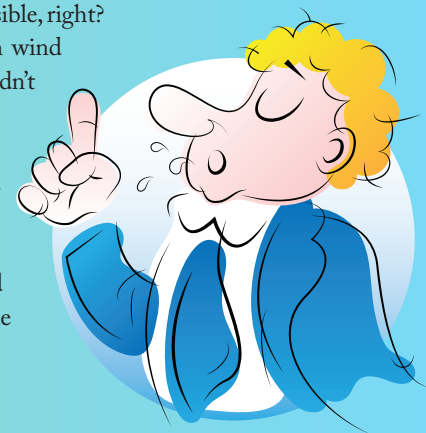
And it's not just individual words. We use entire sentences to muddy up conversations. You can ask a Southerner his opinion on something and, if it really doesn't affect him one way or

the other, he is very likely to respond with, “It don't make me no never mind.” Now, you gotta admit, that's about the most unholy combination of words imaginable; a grammatical outrage. But what's really frightening is that when we hear “It don't make me no never mind,” we don't even have the good sense to question it because we understand it. We know precisely what this person meant and that makes my head spin.

The South, by the way, has not cornered the market on the varied and incorrect ways in which to say, “I don't care.” My Auntie Maim (I know her. You don't. I spelled her name right.) came to visit from New Jersey. When I asked her what she would like for dinner, she allowed as how she “...could care less.” To my way of thinking, if she “...could care less,” that meant she cared enough for a lesser amount to be feasible, right? Because if she truly didn't give a hoo-rah in a high wind what she ate, she would have said that she “...couldn't care less,” right? Wrong, apparently.

The list, terrifyingly enough, goes on and on. As a writer, I could find all of this pretty frustrating. Words are my life, but I can't afford to get overwhelmed by the situation. Besides, I'm not only pretty preoccupied right now, in the final analysis, it really don't make me no never mind because I could care less.

Ouch.



Construction Update

Photos: Mack Austin



Slow, but Steady Progress Describes Construction Site

Walls are finally rising on the construction site of the new Super Wal-Mart on Bloomingdale Avenue. Current completion estimates from officials are for the “first of next year.”



Warning - Warning - Warning

New emergency signal lights on Bloomingdale Avenue at the soon-to-open Fire Station #7 alert travelers to slow down and drive carefully. The lights were installed well in advance of the station's opening to get drivers used to the new flashing caution lights. The station is scheduled to open in mid-June.



BLOOMINGDALE: A COMMUNITY OF WINNERS

BHA Announces 2015 Scholarship Winner

Staff Report

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) congratulates Bloomingdale High School Senior, Christopher Santarlas, this year's winner of the \$2,000 Bloomingdale Community Scholarship in honor of former Principal, B.J. Stelter. Chosen from a field of highly qualified applicants, Santarlas received the award at the May 12 Board of Directors Meeting.

Presented by BHA Scholarship Committee Chairman, Daniel Berkowitz, he said, "The quality [of applicants] every year is excellent." Of Santarlas' selection, he added, "Besides an outstanding GPA and quality of his essay, Christopher stood out in his volunteerism to the Bloomingdale community."

Sixteenth in his class of more than 500 students, Santarlas boasted a weighted GPA of 5.96 and unweighted GPA of 4.0, a benchmark he has maintained since third grade. He is a member of Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), Rho Kappa (Social Studies Honor Society), the National English Honor Society, and Bloomingdale's Medical Club. In addition, he is the Vice President of the National Honor Society and is a section leader in the award-winning Rajun Bull Band. He is also a student athlete and competes on the Bulls track team.

Not only dedicated to academics and athletics, Santarlas amassed over 200 community service hours.

"My motivation to volunteer is the faces of happy people when the job is done," he explained. "The joy of people I have helped is what pushes me to continue volunteering because I want more people to experience that same happiness."

Santarlas will enter the 2015 Freshmen Class at The University of South Florida where he will be a member of the Honors College. His long-term goal is a career in medicine.

He thanked the board and community for the scholarship opportunity. "My fondest memories of my community are the days I spent volunteering with the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association giving back to our community."

To other Bloomingdale youth, he advised, "Get involved in your community because giving back is a great

thing. You would be surprised at how many people start to recognize you in random places, which can help in everything from getting a job to being awarded a scholarship because you've established a reputation for yourself and the kind of person you are."

Paul and Teresa Santarlas are the proud parents of this exceptional student. Paul said, "He [Chris] has shown us time and again that anything he sets his mind to he will succeed at. His personality and thirst for knowledge will take him far." The family, including sister, Rachel, live in Windsor Woods.



Photos: Joy Boisselle

Christopher Santarlas, 2015 BHA Community Scholarship Winner, receives his award from Scholarship Chairman Daniel Berkowitz at the May 12 BHA Board of Directors Meeting at the Bloomingdale Community Office. The annual scholarship is worth \$2,000 and is only open to Bloomingdale residents. Pictured from left to right: Rachel (sister), Paul (father), Chris, Berkowitz, Teresa (mother), and BHA president George May.



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BLOOMINGDALE: A COMMUNITY OF WINNERS

Bloomingdale Receives County Recognition Gazette Repeats Communications Honor

Staff Report

If there was ever any doubt that hard work pays off, one need only to have attended the 12th Annual Hillsborough County's Neighborhoods Conference held May 9 in Tampa and sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and the Office of Neighborhood Relations. This year, the Bloomingdale community received multiple awards for excellence including Best Environmental Program/Project for the annual clean-up program, Most Successful Special Event for the Fall Festival, and a 2nd consecutive award for Best Communications Newsletter/Website for its monthly publication, The Bloomingdale Gazette.

President George May said, “These awards mean a lot to our community and the homeowners association. 2014 was a busy year for the board and to receive recognition for the hard work involved to bring the programs and services we provide to residents is a real honor.”

While all the awards received are well deserved, The Bloomingdale Gazette’s repeat award for Best Communications is a source of pride for the Association, the Gazette staff and the paper’s publisher The Tampa Bay Times. Celebrating its 35th year in print, the Gazette has evolved from a one-page front and back, hand-typed newsletter to a full-color professionally published community newspaper. Distribution has grown from a few hundred homes to more than 5,200 homes monthly.

The Gazette is perhaps the most recognizable service of the BHA.

“Our unofficial motto is ‘By residents, For residents,’ because all but one of our nine writers live in Bloomingdale,” explained Editor Joy Boisselle. “Our writers are the unsung heroes of the paper as each month they work tirelessly to bring news about the community and its residents to print.”

The work never ends and the Association and Gazette staff are already working hard to bring the awards home again next year.



The BHA Board, Bloomingdale Gazette staff, and Tampa Bay Times (TBT) representatives gathered to celebrate The Bloomingdale Gazette’s repeat win for Best Communications at the 12th Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference. Pictured clockwise from top left: : Andrea Daly (TBT), Deidre Morgan (Staff Reporter), Mary Galin (BHA Board), Miriam Leech (Staff Reporter), Chris Pascucci (NTZ Studios), Suzy Watts (BHA Board), Joy Boisselle (Gazette Editor), Mack Austin (Staff Reporter), Tony Del Castillo (TBT), Billy Hightower (BHA Board), George May (BHA Board), Dann Berkowitz (BHA Board)and Kayla Hayes (Staff Reporter).



Neighborhood Recognition Awards are presented annually and are sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and the Office of Neighborhood Relations. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association received three awards at the 12th Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference held at the Sheraton Tampa East on May 9. Pictured left to right are board members Dann Berkowitz, Beth Smedley, and George May. Presenting the awards were Commissioner Victor Crist and Wanda Sloan, Neighborhood Relations Manager.



The BHA Board proudly displays the three awards won at the county Neighborhoods Conference. Pictured clockwise from top left: Dann Berkowitz, Suzy Watts, Joy Boisselle (Gazette Editor and BHA Office Manager), Billy Hightower, Mary Galin and George May.

The BHA earned top honors for The Bloomingdale Gazette at the 12th Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference for Best Communications repeating last year’s award.



Photos: Daniel Boisselle, unless otherwise noted.

BLOOMINGDALE: A COMMUNITY OF WINNERS

Mother's Day Contest Winner Revealed

Staff Report

Congratulations to Joyce Evans, a resident of Somerset, for winning the Bloomingdale Mother's Day contest. Nominated by her daughter, Skye, Joyce received a day of pampering which included from Salon Jennifer, a manicure and pedicure from Angella Foley; a cut, color and style from Heather Michael; from Mary Kay, a make-up application from Chris Cartaya, and finally, a \$25 restaurant gift card from the BHA.

Heather Michael, who suggested the contest, said, "I just wanted to make a mom smile and feel loved; knowing that you are loved and appreciated makes us all feel good. Sometimes we forget to tell our family members that we love them."

Those who submitted entries were asked to write in 250 words or less, what makes the special Mom in their life one-of-a-kind. Several worthy nominations were received and it is clear that Bloomingdale is home to many great Moms.

In part, Skye wrote: "My mom is my hero. She does everything in her power to make me happy. Yes, that does mean I am a little spoiled. She is the most wonderful woman in the world. Not only is she my mother, she is my best friend. She is beautiful. I wish to grow up [to be] like her when I am older!"

When my mom wants something, she goes for it. She is never afraid. She is very strong, emotionally and physically. She is always thinking of others. I'm so proud of her. I love her very much. She is the best mother in the world. And, I cannot tell you enough how much she means to me. That is why I think you should pick my beautiful mom."

"Skye and I have been through a lot together," said Evans, "Her nomination, made me feel very special."

Congratulations, Joyce!



Mother's Day contest winner Joyce Evans and her daughter Skye enjoyed a day of pampering at Salon Jennifer. Evans said, "I can't imagine not sharing this with my daughter. She is my mini-me."

Beautiful smiles are evident on the faces of Mother's Day contest winner Joyce Evans and daughter Skye after enjoying services provided by Salon Jennifer's Heather Michael (far right) and Angella Foley (far left). Not pictured, Chris Cartaya an independent Mary Kay consultant.



Photos: Joy Boisselle

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BLOOMINGDALE: A COMMUNITY OF WINNERS

Mayoral Races Draw Bloomingdale Residents

By Miriam Leech

Honorary Mayor of Brandon Candidate is Familiar Face



Bloomingdale's own Michelle Hernandez hopes to raise the most funds for local charities to become the next Honorary Mayor of Brandon.

Photo: Hernandez Family

You probably know the face, even if you don't know the name. Most likely, she was the smiling face that served you at Beef O'Brady's, where she worked for 10 years, or at The Brunchery, where she worked for 5 years. Now Bloomingdale's own Michelle Hernandez is running for Honorary Mayor of Brandon.

The honorary mayor's race began in 1959 as a means to involve the community in raising funds for local charities. Candidates may choose up to three organizations to fundraise for from June 1 to July 3. Every dollar raised is a vote, and on July 3 Hernandez will find out the total amount she raised and whether or not she will be riding in the Brandon Fourth of July Parade as the new "Mayor."

"I want to capture the small town feel of bringing people together," said Hernandez.

She has chosen fundraising events that are true to who she is and to raise money for organizations close to her heart—Center Place for the Fine Arts, the Brandon Foundation Angel Program, and the Bloomingdale High School Academic Foundation, of which she is President.

- Center Place, established in 1976, has made the arts accessible to the community through classes, exhibits, and performances. Many children in the area have grown up attending events and learning about the arts at Center Place.
- The Brandon Foundation Angel Program was established to help families in the greater Brandon community who have suffered a catastrophic event such as terminal illness, fire, flood, etc. Because money is not the only necessity during these events, the Angel Program partners with local businesses to provide services to meet all the needs of the families in crisis.
- Bloomingdale High School Academic Foundation was started in 2014 to meet the needs of teachers in the classroom to provide the highest level of academic instruction. All funds go directly back to the classroom to provide technology, specialized equipment, or supplemental textbooks.

"It's because of organizations like these that our community has grown and thrived through the years," says Hernandez.

Hernandez is currently working as Community Liaison for Romero Insurance and Financial Services. She is supported in her race for Honorary Mayor of Brandon by her husband of 18 years, Kenneth, and her three children, Jimmy, Kenneth, and Abby. Keeping Hernandez on track to success is Campaign Manager Hope Schneider.

For more information visit www.michelleforhonorarymayor.com. Good luck, Michelle!

To support Bloomingdale's own Michelle Hernandez, attend the following events through July 2:

TODAY! Upscale Sale, June 6, 8 a.m., Bloomingdale High School: Pancake Breakfast, \$5. Shop gently-used upscale clothing.

Designer Bag Bingo, June 16, 6 p.m., Center Place: \$25 tickets include refreshments and 10 rounds of Bingo, wine pull, and raffles.

Sketch & Sip, June 18, 6 p.m., Center Place: \$40 tickets include hand-painted canvas, signature drink and heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and raffle.

Cheeseburger in Paradise, June 27, 6 p.m., Center Place: \$30 per person, \$50 per couple; tickets include cheeseburger bar, open bar, cigars, music, raffle, live auction and left/right/center game.

Throwback Thursday Toga Party, July 2, 7 p.m., O'Brien's Irish Pub: Animal House-inspired party, \$20 armband includes beer and appetizers, drawings for traveling raffle tickets, silent auction, and raffles.

Honorary Mayor of Riverview Candidate is Known for Her Bubbles

Anyone who knows Jill Andrew knows she loves to celebrate any and every occasion with bubbles. And on July 23 the Bloomingdale resident hopes to be celebrating her election as the Honorary Mayor of Riverview with her infamous bubbles.

Sponsored by the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's race runs similarly to the Honorary Mayor race in Brandon. To win the title, candidates must host fundraisers between May 1 and July 23. The candidate who raises the most dollars (votes) is declared the winner and assumes the position at the Chamber's annual dinner in January 2016.

Andrew has chosen two charities very close to her heart to benefit her fundraising efforts—the Riverview Chamber of Commerce and YMCA Camp Cristina, where funds raised will go to provide free swim lesson for campers.

- The Greater Riverview Chamber of commerce was established in 1966 and has a long history of making a difference. The purpose at the chamber is to create a family environment that ensures the success of our community, and our members.
- YMCA Camp Cristina prides itself in teaching children the fundamentals of growing new friendships. It offers the community a wide variety of experiences including sports and swim lessons, afterschool programming, school field trips, birthday parties, corporate retreats and company picnics, and during the summer—one of the largest day camp programs in the area.

"I had a cousin who drowned at the age of 5 who was my best friend, and a good friend whose granddaughter drowned," says Andrew. She also noted that Florida leads the country in drownings, and Hillsborough County is number one in drowning deaths in the state.

"I want to get rid of that statistic. Before I leave this earth it (Hillsborough County) won't be number one any longer."

Andrew grew up swimming on a YMCA swim team in New Castle, Pennsylvania, and she considers herself a Y kid. She also grew up seeing her dad serve as Executive Director of The Greater New Castle Association—the chamber of commerce.

"The opportunity to support two of my passions when no one else would," is what drove Andrew to get in the race despite her busy schedule.

Andrew works as Senior Solutions Expert at Superior Residences of Brandon Memory Care and has worked in the retirement industry for almost 30 years. On weekends she works with youngsters as Director of the Children's Ministry at Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale.

For more information visit www.riverviewchamber.com. Good luck, Jill!



Known for her bubbles, Bloomingdale resident Jill Andrew is running for Honorary Mayor of Riverview to benefit The Riverview of Chamber of Commerce and YMCA Camp Cristina.

To support Bloomingdale's own Jill Anderson, attend the following events through July 16:

Drink and Draw, June 25, 6-9 p.m., Sketch and Sip at Winthrop: \$40 per person includes dinner, libations, and your very own work of art.

Poker Night, July 10, 6:30-10:30 p.m., Summerfield Crossings Golf Club: \$25 buy in and snacks with \$15 rebuys, raffles and 50/50, and libations available for purchase.

Camper Scamper BBQ and Team Game Challenges, July 16, 5-9 p.m., YMCA Camp Cristin: Gather up a team of 4 to 10 players, \$300 includes dinner and libations for up to 10 players, individuals may register for \$50, raffles and 50/50, cash prizes for the winning team. Challenge your friends, your church, other businesses. Hamster ball, giant swing, card board boats, and old-fashioned games.

BLOOMINGDALE: A COMMUNITY OF WINNERS

Charity Chicks Raise Big Bucks for Campo Y

By Miriam Leech

The Charity Chicks are a group of local women, many of whom live in Bloomingdale, with big hearts who raise thousands of dollars every year for local charities. Representatives of the group recently presented a check for \$12,006 to the Campo Family YMCA for drowning prevention.

Pictured are from bottom row left Trisha Primiano, Beth Huth, Kendall Duncan, Laura Dye, Amber Brown, Tammy Holmberg and standing from left Bridget Wilson, Candy Wells, Jill Andrew, Najla Furgason, Jeanne Burkeson, Jenny Roberts, Kavita Marballi, Debbie Kyle, Cathy Belton, Nancy Kelley, Jane Gilblair, Cindy Sofarelli, Claudia Yake, Marie Gilmore, Jackelen Boyer, Kitty Cunningham, and Joan Crane). Bloomingdale resident Jill Andrew said, "It's amazing what a few good 'chicks' can do!"



Photo: Huth & Booth

Bloomingdale's Becky Jordan Awarded BSA Soaring Eagle

By Miriam Leech



Since 2011, the Gulf Ridge Council Timucua District Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has presented the Soaring Eagle Distinguished Citizen Award to someone who has made a significant impact on the Boy Scouts in the southern Hillsborough County area. This year's recipient was Bloomingdale resident Becky Jordan.

Jordan is a fifth-generation native of Hillsborough County and has an impressive resume of service to the Brandon community.

She has served as Honorary Mayor of Brandon, past president of Emergency Help Care Organization (ECHO), Brandon Outreach Clinic board member, past president of Brandon Service League, past president of Ruskin Chamber of Commerce, and former ambassador of The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce. Jordan was honored as Brandon's Key Citizen for 2010.

The honoree is a past president of Rotary Brandon '86, and was the 2007 Rotarian of the Year. In addition, Jordan serves as the chartered organization representative for BSA Pack 61 and Troop 1986 sponsored by Rotary Brandon '86. She has raised over \$100,000 in support of scouting.

Says Jordan, "I have a spiritual gift of serving and leadership. My example was my father."

It is because of that gift that Jordan was given the Soaring Eagle Award on April 28 during a ceremony held at The Regent. "Becky has been absolutely integral to scouting in this area, and I can't think of a better advocate or honoree," said Greg Huff, Senior District Executive for the Timucua District BSA.

Jordan is also a partner in The Chadderton Real Estate Group and a member of First United Methodist Church of Brandon where she helped begin a multicultural ministry. She has been married to her husband, Ron, for 28 years, and has "... two beautiful daughters, two handsome sons-in-law, and seven perfect grandchildren."

Congratulations to Bloomingdale's own Becky Jordan!



Photos: Jordan Family

Bloomingdale resident Becky Jordan received the BSA's Soaring Eagle Award honoring her service to scouting on April 28 at the Regent.

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.

Summer Gardens for Kids... Let 'em play in the dirt! By Gwen Graverson

Rule Number One: Keep it fun!

As a family, decide on the type of garden you want to start...will it be a flower or vegetable garden or both. Make sure that little hands are involved with planting seeds, or starter plants and depending on the age of the child decide on whether it will be a container or in the ground garden.

Consider raised garden beds for children, the result will be more successful as it will be easier to keep weed free and look after. Don't forget to buy some "kid size" gardening tools for safety and to really get your kids excited about the garden.

Rule Number Two: Make it a learning activity! Teach your child facts about the state and climate!

You can easily do this by organizing a family outing to the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden in Seffner. The Discover Garden features a collection of six themed gardens, which convey landscape design, and maintenance ideas based entirely on the nine principles of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program (FYN).

These principles include right plant/right place, water efficiently, mulch, recycle yard waste, fertilize appropriately, control yard pests responsibly, reduce storm water runoff, attract wildlife and protect the waterfront. If you decide to be part of a tour, call 813-744-5519, x 145, otherwise you can visit the discovery garden Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. The Discovery Garden is located at 5339 County Road 579 in Seffner.

Rule Number Three: Ask questions! Keep a journal! Take lots of photos!

For example, what kinds of flowers will attract butterflies or why do lawns look greener after a lightning storm? If your child doesn't know the answer, have them "Look It Up." Keep a log of the garden project, start date, when the plants were watered (or if it rained that day), weeded, etc. Take plenty of pictures as the plants grow, include your child in the photos.

Rule Number Four: Go back to rule number one.

By the end of summer, your child will have learned new things and had plenty of time to think creatively. For parents, it will be a two for one done deal, think upcoming school year science fair project! There are some great ideas at 1000sciencefairprojects.com for grades 2-9.



The Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden in Seffner is located conveniently close to Bloomingdale. Take your kids on a garden adventure this summer and follow up with an inspired summer gardening activity.

Father's Day is June 21!

A unique gift to give for Father's Day is a coffee plant. It makes a great houseplant, can grow up to six feet tall and yes, you can pollinate them to produce berries that contain coffee beans. The result might only be enough for a cup of coffee or two, but certainly enough to generate a smile.

"A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty." – Author Unknown



Photo: www.gurneys.com

Valrico Garden Club Elects New Officers

Photo: VCG



The Valrico Garden Club elected new officers for 2015 – 2017. From left to right are President Audrey Hill, First Vice President Sharon Marie Rentz, Second Vice Presidents Mary Kay McMahan and Linda Bowers, Recording Secretary Nancy Wilcox, Corresponding Secretary Maggie Apgar and Treasurer Karen Adams. Not pictured are Historian Pat Philipsen and Dr. Scott Graverson, who conducted the installation. Visit the Valrico Garden Club's garden theme display in celebration of National Garden Week (June 7-13) at the Brandon Regional Library at 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon. The display will be on site for a month beginning June 7. Come and learn about your local garden club.

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

June "To Do List":

- **Irrigation** – June is normally the start of the rainy season, but if rainfall is spotty, monitor lawns for drought stress and water as needed. Focus on new plantings and follow watering restrictions. When rains begin, shut down irrigation system.
- **Propagation:** Now is a good time to produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings.
- **Palms and cycads:** Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems and use an appropriate treatment. For information on physiological disorders of landscape palms, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep263>.
- **Pruning:** Summer flowering shrubs, like hibiscus, oleander, and crape myrtle, bloom on new growth; lightly prune often during the warmer months. Azaleas can still be pruned without harming next spring's buds.



Teri Bartus is the founder and practice director of Flourish Weight Loss Center, in the River Hills Professional Center of Valrico. She considers it her joy and privilege to help women design and achieve



their personal best in wellness. Teri has lived in the Central Florida area for over 25 years and now resides in the Somerset development of Bloomingdale. She has three lovely daughters, two great sons-in-law and twelve amazing grandchildren.

To learn more about Flourish Weight Loss Center, contact Teri at (813)309-3349, email teri@flourishdesigningwellness.com or on the web at www.flourishdesigningwellness.com.

Summer To Do's

One thing that I love about serving as a health and nutrition educator is having the opportunity to work with many people who love to work with food and desire to see their food affect people positively. I have been a part of cooking demos with great local chefs and have tasted some of the area's finest in seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Recently, I had the pleasure of sampling a fresh blueberry pie from Roger and Pat's Farm Fresh Produce Market on the corner of Bloomingdale and Kings Avenues. Roger and Pat have been at this location for almost 30 years and they absolutely love what they do.



Roger and Pat's Produce Stand is close to home and offers a variety of fresh area produce. Pat also offers fresh baked breads, shortcake and fruit 'n' cream milkshakes. Open daily, call 813-684-8983 for special orders.

I stopped in to pick up some fresh mint for a cooking demonstration and was delighted to find a blueberry pie – freshly baked from Pat's oven. Made with wheat flour and fresh blueberries- no added sugar, salt or preservatives, it was a perfect Mother's Day surprise for my Mom who adores blueberries.

The pie was a hit and each slice, with lite whip cream was less than half the calories of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich! My Mom loves a great dessert, but with recent cardiac surgery and Type II diabetes, she has to be selective. This was a perfect end to our day.

I have already received strong hints promoting a return visit for Father's day! Over the years, my grandchildren have loved the fresh-fruited ice cream treats there after a visit to Paul Sander's Park located just across the street. In their eyes, a visit to the produce stand is a true taste of summer!

Do you have a family "hot spot" to share? We would love to know! Email us at teri@flourishdesigningwellness.com.



With no added sugar, salt or preservatives, Pat's blueberry pie is a must try.

Photos: Roger and Pat's Farm Fresh Produce Market

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Congregation Beth Shalom Turns 25

By Cynthia Goldstein

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon, an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, located at 706 Bryan Road celebrated its 25th year in the Brandon community on May 17. Families and guests attended the event, which honored past and present members with an evening of food, music, dancing and fellowship.

“While twenty-five years is not a long time for a synagogue, the growth and warmth of Beth Shalom makes it a special place for Jews and their families in the Brandon area,” said Betsy Torop, the congregation’s rabbi, “and we look forward to many more years of Jewish life and connection in the Brandon community.”

The synagogue began in 1990 with 10-15 families from the area who were seeking to form a temple of their own. Like nomads in the desert, every meeting and every decision was made in people’s homes. Through trial and error, hundreds of phone calls and tireless work, Beth Shalom was chartered, incorporated and became an integral part of the community.

Today the synagogue is a bustling, busy spiritual home to nearly 150 families. The synagogue’s mission is to help and encourage the Congregation to participate in activities, thus enhancing their own lives through Torah (study), Avodah (worship), and gemilut Chasadim (deeds of love and kindness).

This year, Congregation Beth Shalom established a program called United Together 25. The program is a way to honor the heritage and hard work of the past while establishing a culture of volunteerism for the next 25 years.

Temple president, Jeff Newman, remarked, “Our original families worked tirelessly to establish our Jewish home and now it is our time to embrace that foundation and build upon it to ensure that the next generations of Reform Jews in East Hillsborough County continue to have a spiritual home in which to thrive.”

For more information visit www.bethshalom-brandon.org.



Photos: Scott Pitchon



Fellowship was a top priority at Congregation Beth Shalom 25th anniversary celebration. One past president remarked, “the idea of a Congregation Beth Shalom didn’t just fly... it soared.”

A panel of Congregation Beth Shalom past presidents spoke to attendees at the temple’s 25th year anniversary event on May 17. Pictured are Jeff Newman, current President (standing), and left to right, Hank Mart, Sheila Fishman, Jon Ellis, Barbara Glaser (widow of Past President Richard Glaser), Sheryl Finke, Julie Shienbaum, and Gail Jayson (who was the second president of the congregation). Not pictured: David Richter and Sam Greenberg.

What can I do in the tee box...?

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC Campus)

I always ask my students two questions about the tee box. What is the playing area of the tee box? And, if during your waggle, you knock the ball off the tee does it count?

The first answer is a tee box consists of the leading and side edges of the tee markers going back two club lengths (driver). Any ball hit that is teed up outside the marker has to be re-hit with a two-stroke penalty.

The second answer is in the tee box, a waggle isn't considered striking the ball and the ball is re-teed. Outside of the tee box, the ball is considered in play and having moved the ball while wagging is a stroke penalty.

Next lesson: What do I do with my kids this summer? Any questions or for lessons, please visit CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. (813) 957-3205.



John E.S. Cochrane
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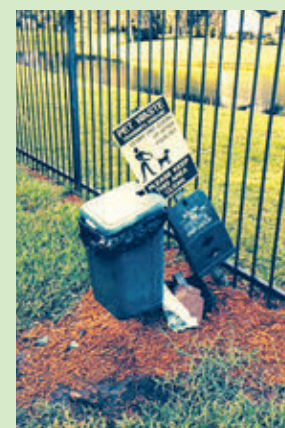
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Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD)

Vandalism Report

Vandalism continues to cost residents money. In May, light and outlet repairs, graffiti coverage and dogi-pot repairs cost the community nearly \$700. Please report vandalism to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's office at 813-247-8200. Then, follow up with the BSTD at 813-684-6667. Pictured is one of two dog waste receptacles requiring repairs last month. This incident occurred on Culbreath Road on May 26.

Photo: BSTD



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BLOOMINGDALE

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(813) 684-2358 Fax
BSTD@verizon.net**

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INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT STOPPING DRUG ACTIVITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Last month, several drug dealers were arrested in a Bloomingdale home as part of a major drug investigation tagged “Operation Déjà Vu.” Many law enforcement agencies including the Polk County Sheriff’s Office and the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office spearheaded the joint methamphetamine drug trafficking organization investigation.

Shock, dismay, concern – words residents used to describe their reaction to the news. Fortunately, the dealers in our area had only a small amount of drugs and money in their possession when they were arrested – HCSO SAT Team members and detectives found and seized approximately \$8,400 in US currency, 2 vehicles and approximately 3.5 grams of methamphetamine. Drugs were not being manufactured in the home.

Conversely, one of the main groups of dealers arrested during “Operation Déjà Vu” was in Polk County. These dealers were arrested with over 74 pounds of meth valued at over \$3.3 million dollars, 106 weapons and \$308,000.00 in their possession.

So, it should be no surprise to learn that there are drug dealers in our neighborhoods, just like there are drug dealers in other cities, counties and states. Arresting these dealers is a major priority for local law enforcement.

Finding these drug dealers and alerting law enforcement is something residents can do to help remove them from our neighborhoods and put them in prison where they belong. Resident cooperation is critical and a big part of catching the bad guys.

How can you help? The following information can help residents safely identify possible activity in their area. These include:

- Talk to your neighbors; they may notice things you missed. Work together.
- Watch for suspicious activity. Look for warning signs like excessive foot traffic and cars coming and going at all times of the day and night.
- Keep an eye out for drug paraphernalia. Users can be careless. Don’t touch or take the items. Note where you found it and contact HCSO.
- Record as much detail as you can. Don’t approach potential dealers. 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 813- 247-8200 or in an emergency, 911. Call from a safe place.
- Start a Neighborhood Watch Program. Work with community councils and local deputies.

Your help can make a difference. While boasting crime rates lower than all surrounding communities, Bloomingdale is not immune to crime. Just like weeds in your yard, we have to get rid of drug dealers in our communities before they spread!

For information about Operation Déjà Vu, go to <http://www.polksheriff.org> and search the news Room.

if you
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REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Call
813-247-8200 or
in an emergency,
dial 911.



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



MONTHLY BACC HIGHLIGHTS: CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

At the May Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) members were briefed on recent "crimes of opportunity" in our community. The most recent involved the theft of a very expensive high-tech bicycle by a teenager who then had an older friend pawn the bike. Fortunately, the pawnshop owner had recorded the ID # and the owner was able to get his bike back.

Since this incident involved the sale of stolen property, these criminals were charged with a 2nd degree felony. The teenager was then involved in a crime spree in Boyette Springs in which several teens went "car hopping," broke into a vehicle and stole sports equipment. Fingerprints led to their arrest.

These cases highlight critical factors that can either prevent these types of crimes or help solve them. First, residents must properly secure their valuable property. Second, record ID numbers and take photos of the items.



Third, register bikes with the Sheriff's Office. Go to www.hcso.tampa.fl.us/ and search for the bicycle registration program. At this site, you can find the registration form and helpful hints on securing your bikes.

Finally, report any thefts so they can be investigated and critical information placed on file. The number of incidents not reported is unbelievable.

Do you see the most important element in preventing crimes? You can do the most to stop crimes and keep your property safe and secure.

PARENTS, SCHOOL IS OUT, TALK TO YOUR KIDS!

Now that school is out, it won't take long for kids to get bored. Parents need to sit down with their kids, especially their teens and talk about having a safe summer and a summer without getting into trouble. Make it a summer to enjoy and remember, not one to regret!

Parents, work out a plan and set very specific rules. Some kids will be busy with lots of activities. Some will be latchkey kids at home alone. Work out the details for emergencies, who to call and where the phone numbers are located.

Many will be home alone with their computers and cell phones, something that can lead to trouble. Make sure you know where they are at all times and who they are with. Ensure they know the consequences of getting into trouble and especially if it is something that could result in a criminal record.

When teens get together with other teens the trouble can really start, especially at night at events like sleepovers. They're bored and someone may suggest "having some fun." This fun may or may not involve drinking and using drugs.

To keep this kind of event from happening parents need to know where their teens are going and whom they will be with. Visit and get to know the parents of the other kids. You would be surprised how many times these teens are all alone with no adults. Peer pressure can be a motivating factor in negative ways.

Your teens will have more time to drive. Be sure teens know and obey the rules of the road. We want them to enjoy their summer vacations and not end up in trouble or injured in an accident. Again, make it a summer to remember, not regret!

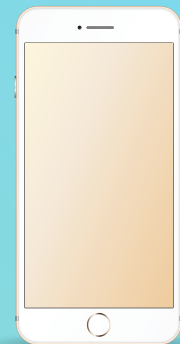
Check on activities that teens can do that will help them spend their time in a safe and productive manner. Things like joining the YMCA, volunteering at church, and working – anything that keeps them busy and out of trouble!

NEW LEGISLATIVE BILLS SIGNED

Governor Rick Scott signed over thirty-six new bills into law last month, many of which affect you, your family and even your business. These bills include a variety of subjects including cyberbullying, car seats, education, license plates and the environment.

For detailed information on these new bills, go to www.flgov.com. Also, remember to let your state representatives know your concerns and topics you want addressed

Remember: If you notice any suspicious activity or a crime being committed, get all the information you can - descriptions of individuals, descriptions of vehicles and license numbers, and immediately call the Sheriff's Dispatch at 247-8200! Time is critical!



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

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!

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The Best Leading The Rest!

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Burns Battle of the Books Team places second! 

BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

Check out the BSHS calendar at <http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/> for more summer events.

June 8-12 – Cheer try-outs, BSHS Café
June 15-17 – Senior Pictures, 9 a.m., Auditorium
June 16-18 – ROTC Cadet Leadership Course, Contact school for details
June 18 – School Board member Melissa Snively Meeting, 6 p.m., Media Center
June 22 – Report Cards Mailed



Photo: Burns Middle School

Congratulations to Tallis King, Priscella Shreve, Thuy-Han Nguyen, Jacob Kehrmeyer, Yasith Yapa and Trey Hydock for a second place finish at the Hillsborough County Battle of the Books competition. Leading the way was Media Specialist, Jeanette Stratton. Way to go Bruins!




BULLS BRIEFS

Graduation Video: Posted to YouTube after Graduation
We are pleased to announce that all graduations will be video recorded and posted on the district's YouTube channel for view. Please allow 24-48 hours after your graduation ceremony to access the video. Website address is <https://www.youtube.com/user/HCPSTVideoChannel>.

Cheer Tryouts Schedule: Contact Coach Michelle Groat for more info at michelle.groat@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

Monday, June 8 – 8:30 a.m. to noon
Tuesday, June 9 – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 11 – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Friday, June 12 – Results posted

Summer Basketball Camp: Bloomingdale will be hosting its annual summer basketball camp on campus for students entering grades 4 - 9. There are three weeks to choose from June 8-11, June 15-18, and June 22-25. For information and to register, go online to http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/School_Documents/BasketballCamp. 

Freshman GAP Camp: Make new friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers and counselors, and get to know Bloomingdale during this four-day summer program! Two Gap camps are offered: August 3-6 and August 10-13 from 8 a.m. to noon. Learn about our campus, extracurricular activities, clubs, traditions, resources, AP programs, college/university awareness and much more! For information, contact Cara Diehl at cara.diehl@sdhc.k12.fl.us Register online at <http://www2.sdhc.k12.fl.us/gapi/>. After completing the online registration, print the "Registration and Registration Receipt" form, be sure to sign it, and drop it off at Bloomingdale or mail the form to Bloomingdale (Summer Camp) at 1700 E. Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico FL 33596. Once received we will contact you via email to confirm.

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Tough, Talented and Smart...a Winning Combination for the Lady Bulls Flag Football Team

Team Captures 2nd Flag Football District Crown, Ends Year as #3 Team in State

Staff Report

Even though this was the youngest team Coach Mike Lankford had ever coached, he knew the Lady Bulls Flag Football team had a great opportunity to defend last year's district title. With a dominating undefeated regular season, they did just that defeating East Bay 27-6 on April 27 at Bloomingdale to claim their second consecutive title.

While the team's state championship bid will have to wait another year, the Lady Bulls finished the season 11-1 with a tough loss to eventual state runner-up Robinson, 19-14 on May 2.

What a season it was – the team tallied the most wins in school history and thoroughly outplayed their opponents scoring 372 points and allowing only 51 points through 12 games, seven of which were complete shutouts. With a final nod to the team's excellent season, The Florida Flag Football Power 25 ranked the Lady Bulls as the number three team in the state for 2015.

Attributing their strong season to multi-sport players, athleticism and defense, Lankford said, "Everyone seemed to click as a team and we built on that chemistry throughout the season."

Having coached the Lady Bulls for four years, he has seen the sport grow in popularity. This year's roster boasted 37 athletes on the varsity and junior varsity squads, a number that bodes well for next year. "The thing I always hear from the girls [is] it's just fun. There is no pressure to get a scholarship because there is no flag football in college," he explained.

Fun definitely, but the Lady Bulls competed hard and took their sport seriously. There were many standout players this season according to Lankford, a fact borne out by the numerous awards and post-season selections. (See boxed insert this page) Not just athletes, the team also received county and state academic honors. They had the third highest GPA in Hillsborough County for the 3rd nine week grading period, and for the state cumulative GPA, they finished eighth out of 207 teams.

Going forward, the Lady Bulls will return six of their seven offensive starters and three defensive starters. "New expectations and higher goals" will be the team focus for next year. The season will start early with July and August tournaments in Plant City and USF.

"Our future looks great," said a proud Lankford.

Congratulations, Ladies!



The Lady Bulls Flag Football Team dominated regular season play with an undefeated record. Pictured, the team celebrates their second consecutive District Title crown with a win over East Bay 27-6 on April 27.

LADY BULL FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Alysia Welker – Selected 1st Team All-State player, first ever in Bloomingdale history; also selected to the FACA Senior All-Star game, 1st Team All-District, 1st Team TBO All-Hillsborough County flag football team and 1st Team Western Conference player.
- ★ Sarah Tam – Played as first year varsity Quarterback, selected as All-State Honorable Mention, 1st Team Western Conference and Honorable Mention for the TBO All-Hillsborough County flag football team.
- ★ Lauren Buford – a dynamic rusher, set a school record in sacks last year, and bested that record this year with a staggering 38 sacks. Also selected as 1st Team Western Conference and Honorable Mention for the TBO All-Hillsborough County flag football team.
- ★ Kristen Mclean- Team center, selected for 2nd Team Western Conference and Honorable Mention for the TBO All-Hillsborough County flag football team.
- ★ Jareilys Castro – Running Back, selected 2nd Team Western Conference and Honorable Mention for the TBO All-Hillsborough County flag football team.



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BSHS Senior Selfies: Last Day of School Photo Ops

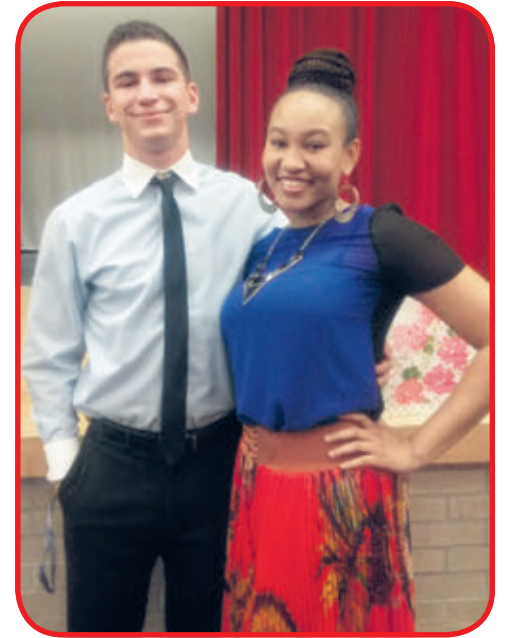
By Nicole Cluck, 2015 BSHS Graduate



Friends Abigail Miller, Ashleigh Khronne, and Amara Hensley write their goodbyes to each other after receiving their yearbooks on their last official day of school. All AP Photography students, the girls plan to use their love of photography to stay in contact with one another.



Seniors Gregory Hunsberger, Tyler Caudillo and Nicole Cluck smile brightly during the Senior Breakfast Send-off knowing while it is goodbye for some; they will remain friends even as they begin a new chapter in their lives.



Bloomington High School's music department says goodbye to their graduating seniors with a gift exchange. Robert Ross and Jacquelyn Oliver smile and hug when they realize they gave each other the same gift.



Spring Football Jamboree Showcases Local Teams

By Deidre Morgan



Bloomington High School was once again the host for the Annual Spring Football Jamboree held on May 21. Four local schools participated in this event. Newsome and Durant played the first half with Newsome coming out on top 14-0. Pictured, Bloomington Bulls take the field for the opening second half kickoff against the Brandon Eagles with the Bulls losing 38-0. There was great community support and everyone is looking forward to the upcoming season.



The Best of the Best Student of the Month Program (BOB) recognizes outstanding students in our community. If selected, the student receives a \$25 gift card provided by our sponsor, Ray Chadderton of The Chadderton Group of Keller Williams Realty. Send your nominations to bloomington.homeowners@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051. Nominees must be in home, public, or private school and residents of Bloomington. Include the nominee's name, address, phone number, email and school attending. In addition, provide a short paragraph detailing why he/she should receive the award.

Congratulations to Neeley Heilman June's Best of the Best Student of the Month!

As our first elementary school winner, Neeley Heilman who just graduated from Alafia Elementary has set the bar high for others. Many would assume that at the tender age of 11, this student's resume would be short – not so with this accomplished and multi-talented young person.

Nominated by 5th Grade teacher Karen Chastain, she said, "Neeley is a SUPER achiever and strives hard to do her very best every moment of every day...in her work, attitude and with her peers."

Academically, this student has maintained a flawless straight A record for all six years at Alafia. She has participated in the school's Math and Reading Bowls nearly every year and attended the county science fair twice, placing first with one project. The winning project was also selected by Moffitt Cancer Center for an award in medical research. Of her Alafia experience, this outgoing achiever said, "I have had the most amazing teachers!"

Neeley shines outside of the classroom too. She has participated in the school's Kindergarten Buddy program, chorus, talent shows and the art program. Later this month, a recycling art project created by Neeley and three others will be featured at the Tampa History Museum.

A talented athlete, Neeley is a three-year member of the West Florida Flames Premier Girls Soccer team. This year, the team won the U11 Region C cup and placed third at the State Cup. In addition, she has participated in several US Soccer Federation Clinics honing her soccer and leadership skills.

The future appears very bright for this outstanding citizen. Her goals are many including becoming a professional women's soccer player and should that not happen, a pediatric doctor focusing on medical research. With the ambition and drive Neeley displays now, these paths should both be attainable!

Her personal experiences have shaped her medical goal. Sister Halle, struggles with a number of medical issues. "I would like to help find a cure for kids with rare medical conditions so they can live longer, happier, healthier lives," she said. "My hero is my sister Halle. She keeps going without giving up, even though her fight never stops. She taught me to be brave and strong."

Neeley displays rare clarity for one so young. She strives to be a "good friend to others and a good person in the community." Wise words from which all could benefit.

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Literally a life-long Bloomington resident, Neeley lives in Windsor Woods with her proud parents, Jill and John, siblings Halle (15) and Ben (9); and pups Abby and Santabear.

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



Beaming with pride, Neeley Heilman with Coach Remo Hernandez displays the Most Valuable Player trophy awarded her during the May 2015 Adidas Cup. The soccer team also placed first.



The Best of the Best Student of the Month for June is Neeley Heilman. She is the first elementary student to receive the award. This is a young person to watch in the future!

Photos: The Heilman Family

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