

TODAY! TODAY! TODAY!

2016 Annual
Clean-Up Day
 March 5, 2016
 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **OR** until bins are full
 Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility
 1629 Natures Way (behind Alafia Elementary School)

Featuring:
 Ten - 30 cu.yd. commercial trash bins!

AND

Our Clean-Up Partners:



UrbanErecycling - accepting electronics and more

Operation Medicine Cabinet - accepting outdated meds and sponsored by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

AMVETS - accepting serviceable donations to help veterans

This event is made possible in part by a grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Friends are like four-leaf clovers... Hard to find and lucky to have. *Unknown*

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PLEASE RECYCLE

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

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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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Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Jack & Shelly Harrell

4607 Oak River Circle, Valrico, FL (River Crossing)



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



Wanted: A Forever Home and Family

Provided by the Pet Resource Center

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. Here are just a couple fabulous faces:

Desmond is just one of those all-around great guys that every house needs. This 8-year old mix was DNA tested to reveal that he's part Golden Retriever. He's just as friendly, mellow, and affable as can be – a great companion and housebroken, too! Adopt Desmond (ID# 30798180) fully neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and more for just \$20!

Desmond



Simba

Simba is a large and healthy 5-year old male domestic short-haired cat who has been coming out of his shell and chatting up visitors lately. The 13-pound orange and white pal is fully neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and more – stop in for a meet and greet! Adopt Simba (ID26812348) for just \$20.



TODAY!

Don't forget today's First Saturday Celebration! Bring some love and luck into these pets lives at the PRC.





BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



2016 Membership Returns Strong

The 2016 membership drive is proving to be the best in many years thanks to residents like you. Please consider joining and strengthening the one organization that **advocates** for the entire community of nearly 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. For the first time in 20 years, the Association approved a rate increase to help defray costs of running the organization and supporting the many services and programs it sponsors. As a non-profit, BHA funds are returned 100 percent to the community.

The BHA thanks all who have joined and/or donated to our scholarship fund, but we still need your support. Your membership in the Association helps to pay for events like last month's community garage sale, a new service the BHA added to improve our community; and, today's annual clean-up, an ongoing event held for over 15 years.

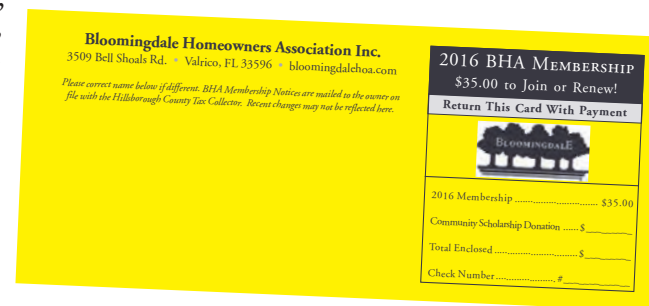
Your dues fund all special programs and services including this newspaper, a part-time staff, website/Facebook, the annual Santa visit, a community scholarship and the fall festival. The BHA is currently exploring new initiatives with county and state officials including funding for a dog park, adding an additional fall clean-up, procuring money for Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia Pinecrest Road improvements, and continuing to strengthen ties with other HOA boards in the community

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.

Don't hesitate, join today! 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!

An easier method is to use 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.

Tuesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

Monday, March 14, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Master Deputy Curtis Warren, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.



BHA BRIEFS

February Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

Deed Committee member Charlie Woodcock delivered an update regarding the deed restriction project. See page 12 for a statement from the BHA regarding this issue.

The search is on for a new BHA attorney – the committee has spoken to 25 attorneys via telephone with four attorneys selected for a face-to-face consultation. A decision will be made this month as to who will get the position and the status of the deed restriction project. Continue to monitor the BHA's webpage, Facebook page and the Gazette for updates.

Two seats remain vacant on the 12-member board as well as three alternate positions. Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings to

see if joining the volunteer board is something they would consider.

Fall festival planning will begin in April. Residents interested in helping out should call 813-681-2051.

2016 Scholarship Deadline Approaches

Bloomingdale community seniors, the deadline to submit your application for the \$2,000 Bloomingdale Community Scholarship is April 1, no fooling! Applications are available online at www.bloomingdalehoa.com or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com for a copy. The winner will be announced at the May 10 board meeting.



New: AMVET Charity Truck will be ONSITE

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Community Clean-up Day is today from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. **(or until trash bins are full)**. This event is for Bloomingdale residents only, no businesses or contractors.

Due to last year's overwhelming response, ten commercial trash bins will be available, five more than last year. The collection site is on Natures Way at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility near Alafia Elementary School. Like last year, the BHA will partner with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet and UrbanErecycling.

This year AMVET is joining the BHA's clean-up effort. A truck will be onsite accepting serviceable donations that will help veterans in need.

Clean-up Accepted Items List

UrbanErecycling will accept the following electronics for recycling purposes: computer keyboards, laptops, desktop computers, tower computers and servers, scrap computers, telecom equipment, rack servers, cell phones, laser printers, **flat screen monitors and flat screen TVs**, battery backups, ion lithium batteries, circuit boards, and computer cables.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office through "Operation Medicine Cabinet" will accept: Pill bottles, Boxes and/or packaged drug items, Patches, Powders, Liquids (properly sealed), Inhalers, and Veterinarian Prescription Drugs.

AMVETS, new this year, will accept any serviceable donations for veterans in need.

Hillsborough County Roll-off accepted items include: Refrigerators, ovens, water heaters, Steel and other metals, Furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses) and Construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials), and tires.

Items not accepted are: televisions, microwaves, computers or radios **(UrbanErecycling will take flat screen TVs and computers as noted above.)**, yard waste, regular household trash, hazardous materials including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercial activities.




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



Florida Strawberry Festival / Through March 13 / Festival Grounds at Alexander and Reynolds Streets, Plant City / Each spring, the Florida Strawberry Festival rolls out the red carpet to welcome visitors from all over. Guests enjoy agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture exhibits, and crafts. And, it's the perfect time to enjoy eating ripe strawberries. Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission: Adults (ages 13+), \$10; Children (ages 6-12), \$5; Children (ages 5 and under) FREE. Discount tickets are available Publix Super Markets: Adults (ages 13+), \$8; Children (ages 6-12), \$4. For information visit www.flstrawberryfestival.com.

Puttin' on the Ritz Bunco / March 8 / 6-7 p.m., Social/Dinner; 7 p.m., Bunco / Center Place Fine Arts Center / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / A night of fun, food, and prizes will be held at the G.F.C.W. Valrico Service League's

Puttin' on the Ritz Bunco. Proceeds help support local schoolchildren and families in need. The Valrico Service League has supported A Kids Place, Brandon Outreach Clinic, Camp Family YMCA, Cards for Troops, Life Care Network, Mary & Martha House, Metropolitan Ministries, and One Voice, and provided books, educational activities, food, clothing, and shoes for Title I elementary school children. Tickets cost \$20 and include light dinner, drinks, and prizes. Purchase tickets at Center Place or contact Claudia Yake at 813-685-7998.



Ask-A-Lawyer Series: Family Law / March 9, Wednesday/ 7 p.m. / Brandon Regional Library, Community Room 2nd Floor / 619 Vonderburg Drive / Attorneys from the Brandon Bar Association will present a brief overview of family legal issues, including Family Law, Estate Planning and Bankruptcy: Dealing with Financial Hardships. A question and answer session will follow. For adults. Presented in partnership with the Brandon Bar Association.

BBQ Throw Down / March 12 / 12-5 p.m. / Brandon Moose Lodge Activities Field / 804 S. Miller Road, Valrico / The 2016 Brandon Family Fun Series is back featuring a BBQ Throw Down benefitting the Moose Lodge of Brandon and the Association of the United States Army, Suncoast Chapter. Come purchase BBQ from different BBQ businesses. Also includes a fun kid area, variety of tasty food options, interactive games, live entertainment, and a local businesses and exhibitor area filled with great shopping opportunities for everyone in the family. Presented by The Moose Lodge of Brandon, and sponsored by Cricket Wireless, My House Fitness, and Money Mailer of Eastern Hillsborough. Free admission and parking. For information, call 727-674-1464.



Safety Around Water Event / March 14-17 / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / The Safety Around Water course is open to swimmers and non-swimmers, ages 3-12 years. During the FREE 4-day course, certified instructors teach a sequenced set of skills that will reduce the risk of drowning and build confidence in and around water. YMCA membership is NOT required; however, pre-registration is required due to limited space. Participants must bring their own swimsuit and towel. For information, call the Campo Family Y at 813-684-1371



Source: Winthrop Arts

8th Annual Winthrop Arts Festival / March 19 & 20 / 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. / Winthrop Commons at Winthrop Town Centre in Riverview / Winthrop Arts Festival strives to bring together the community through artistry and musical performances. The festival will showcase 100 artists, in categories ranging from oil paintings to ceramics to jewelry, musical entertainment provided by local musicians and schools. For information, visit www.winthroparts.org.

7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt / March 26 / 10 a.m. Sharp! / Kerby's Nursery / 2311 S. Parsons Ave., Seffner / Bring your Easter

basket and get ready for a whole lot of fun... it's the 7th annual Easter Egg Hunt at Kerby's. Starting right at 10 a.m. Be ready to hunt and see how many Easter Eggs you can find hidden among the beautiful flowers.

Insert Community Calendar – Easter Egg
Source: Kerby's Nursery



Source: Kerby's Nursery

2020 Vision: Library Open House / March 29 / 6-8 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library McLean Community Room / Help Hillsborough County build a vision for the future of libraries in our community, setting the agenda for the next 5 years – our 2020 Vision. We want to hear from you. Attend an Open House to discuss the library's current level of services and the future. Visit 2020vision.hcplc.org.

UPCOMING

5th Annual Village Family Foundation International Festival / April 2 / 11 a.m.-2 p.m. / The Village Early Learning Center / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / Visit more than 40 countries and experience international food, crafts, and live cultural entertainment at this annual event. Performers include Tampa Taiko Drummers, Bagpipes by Shane Twaddell, Team K Martial Arts, Bhangra Dancing by Aman Dhillon, Drama Kids, and The Village Adventure Club! Experience international flavors from Mmm BAP Korean Cuisine, Krepelicious and handcrafted ice cream from The Revolution Ice Cream Company.



Source: Village Early Learning Center

Admission is free, and the first 200 children receive a passport for stamping as they travel from country to country. View artifacts from the countries represented by Village students and families. A variety of crafts and activities will be offered and The Village Family Foundation will provide a free book to the first 100 families.

The Village Early Learning Center invites any international community members, organizations, or groups that wish to participate. Free parking. For details, contact Tami Howell at 813-651-0779.

Paint the Town 5K & Family Fun Run Patron Event / April 16 / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Registration is now open for the 2016 "Superheroes Assemble" Paint the Town 5K and Family Fun Walk/Run and Children's Obstacle Course.

- 5K Registration begins at 7 a.m. Paint the Town 5k start time 8 a.m. This is a timed event. T-shirts provided to the first 50 Pre-Registered 5k runners. 5K runners have a chance to win \$100. Prizes awarded to the three fastest times in three categories: Men, Women, and Children.

- Register for the Family Fun Run/Walk at 9 a.m. The race begins at 10 a.m. A Children's Obstacle Course will be located at the end of the race. T-shirts are available for purchase at the event.

After the race, enjoy all day family fun including games, sand & marble art, balloon bending, photo booth, face painting, food, drinks, and more! Shop the raffle baskets and "BUY IT NOW!" baskets that include tickets to Walt Disney World, airline tickets, and more! Music and entertainment provided by Big Beats Entertainment!

Don't forget to dress in your favorite Superhero Costume! Four Prizes awarded for best costumes: Men, Women, Girls, and Boys! This "FUN"draiser will help keep the arts alive in our community!



Source: Center Place

INs & OUTs

By Mack Austin

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE ZIKA VIRUS ... AND, HOW THEY CAN HELP FIGHT THE MOSQUITO-BORNE VIRUS...

Note: Governor Rick Scott declared a health emergency for the state in January. A Zika information hotline for obtaining information has been established at 855-622-6735.

Anyone who has lived in Florida for any length of time knows that fighting mosquitos is nothing new. In Hillsborough County, we've seen our share of over 40 species including the West Nile virus. Most know the basic steps to help reduce problems with mosquitos. Of course, how effective these steps are depends on how many residents actually take the time to do them.

Today, we face a very dangerous species of mosquito that carries the Zika virus. This virus has caused serious health problems, especially in pregnant women. Pregnant women are especially vulnerable because the virus has been directly linked to a birth defect called microcephaly, which causes babies to be born with abnormally small heads and brains.

The virus has been reported in over 30 countries. However, eighty percent of Zika patients show no symptoms, which means it's likely that there are many more cases than the official numbers indicate. In Florida, officials report 44 confirmed cases with three in Hillsborough County.

There is currently no Zika vaccine and no antidote. The main method for fighting the virus is to destroy or eliminate the breeding areas for the mosquitos.

Hillsborough County Mosquito Control has developed an outstanding interactive website that contains detailed information on how you can help in the fight against this dangerous mosquito and other mosquitos. Go to www.hillsboroughcounty.org then Departments, then Public Works and then Mosquito Control. Once there go to "How Can I Help" and you'll see the interactive site graphic, "Common Backyard Mosquito Sources." Click on the areas shown and then take action by following the directions to rid your yard of mosquito breeding areas. Other topics on this site include "Mosquito Resources and Education," "Surveillance and Inspections" and "Mosquito Control 101."

Residents looking to spray their yards or hire a pest control company should proceed with caution. Spraying chemicals can also kill other useful insects. Do your research to learn what is dangerous to other insects or animals.

Share this information with your neighbors and friends. If everyone will implement basic prevention measures, we will reduce the mosquito population and the possibility of contracting this dangerous virus.

Source: Hillsborough County Mosquito Control

Common Backyard Mosquito Sources



Source: Hillsborough County Mosquito Control



Source: WPBF Health

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251787-1



A Humorous Look at
Everyday Life by Ellen Bess

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.



Curse you, FDA!

It's finally reached the point where I can't put anything in my mouth without wondering which enemy I've unleashed this time. And for that, I can thank the Federal Voice of Doom, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It all started years ago when that venerable collection of old fusspots snatched away my buddy saccharin.

I remember that awful pronouncement like it was yesterday: "Hi, Folks! This is the FDA and, hey, looks like we may have slipped up a teensy bit. Remember the saccharin we put out during The Big One to keep you from buying sugar? Remember how we told you it was not only a perfect sugar substitute, but had no calories? Well, all that's still true, but we fed like 22 pounds of the stuff to a 5-1/2 ounce mouse named Curtis and you know what? Curtis died! Just keeled right over and died! So we're taking it off the market just in case any of you 5-1/2 ounce people out there might be tempted to eat 22 pounds of saccharin and wind up sharing old Curtis' fate. Have a nice day!" Or words to that effect. The results were the same.

Soon came mumbles about "red meat."

Overnight, a juicy steak went from being a tasty treat to a time bomb. A tender pork chop suddenly should be wearing a ski mask and packing a gun. "Hi there, guys! FDA again! Listen! About all that red meat you've been stowing away like it was TicTacs? Now, we can't prove it...I mean, we're into 'Fear and Scare.' 'Proof' is the Surgeon General's department.....but, we're pretty sure all those steaks and chops and roasts you've been gobbling up are slowly killing you. Isn't that awful? So how about a little chicken tonight, huh? Or fish! Fish is good. Brain food, dontcha know! Now, we're not telling you to not eat any red meat. Just stop enjoying it so much. Have a nice day!" You bet.

THEN.....THEY WENT... TOO.....DARNED.....FAR.

"Good morning! FDA here! Enjoying that first cup of coffee? MMMMMMM. Tastes good, huh? Too bad it's destroying your stomach, raising your blood pressure and playing havoc with your nerves. Now lookee what we got here! It's a low-acid, sodium free, chicory-based, caffeine-free, sort-of-coffee substitute! Sure, it tastes like melted balloons and smells like wet dog, but it's good for you! Trust us! After you've gone through the initial withdrawal period during which you will hallucinate, climb walls, and alienate most of your family and all of your friends, you'll thank us for this friendly warning! Honest! Have a nice day!" *Sigh*

And the list of FDA "No-Nos" goes on and on, ad infinitum, ad nauseum. That's it. I refuse to buckle under to a bunch of yogurt-slurping, tofu-pushing fanatics who apparently have nothing better to do than meddle with my groceries. The time to organize, folks, is now, and I intend to get right on it. Just as soon as I finish my Twinkie.



Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

In the digital age, buyers are able to flip through houses from the comfort of their couches but showings are still key to getting houses sold. Obviously, making a house show ready is important but one big factor many sellers neglect to take into consideration is smell.

Whether it is from smoke, pets, or mildew laundry, smell is sure to get the buyers' attention...and not in a good way. While it seems like something buyers should be able to look past, many fear that they may not be able to get rid of unwelcome odors.

Even when you think your house smells amazing, have a friend or a neighbor give you the harsh truth. However, don't overdo it with too many artificial fragrances. It's spring and we only have a short time to enjoy the warm but not too hot breeze. Open those windows and let the fresh air in and you're sure to get a buyer who feels right at home.

Neighborhood Snapshot - Windsor Woods

Windsor Woods is located within walking distance to both Cimino and Alafia Elementary schools and is near two Bloomingdale exits via Erindale Drive and Culbreath Avenue. Homes in this area were built anywhere from the late 1980's to 2000 and have an average of 2,250 square feet of living space. A majority of homes in the area have at least 4 bedrooms and an average of 2.5 baths.



By Ryan Brantley

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-924-8187

Ryan@RyanBrantley.org

www.chaddertongroup.com

Momentum appears to be picking up in Windsor Woods with 21 houses sold in the last year and an average sales price of \$232,000. Last year at this time, there were no sold, under contract, or active houses on the market. In 2016, there have already been three homes sold, two under contract, and currently there are two active listings on Treeline Drive. This could be a great year for change in this established community.

** MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold Feb. 23, 2015 through Feb. 23, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*

Holding your putter like no other (club)...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

The majority of golfers hold putters just like any other club in the bag – with the grip underneath the **heel pad** of our hands. This causes the putter to be held at an incorrect angle.

With this grip, the putter head is toe up which causes the ball not to be hit solidly and places the path of the putter more on an arc than usual. This results in misses in both directions.

In the photos below, the putter grip is held underneath the **thumb pad** with the putter shaft going right up the forearm. The putter and arm act as one unit.

This will allow you to set your eyes over the ball, have more of a straight back and through putting arc and more center contact on the putter face.

Next month: Chipping by using “air to ground” ratio, not the military version. Any questions or for lessons, call J.D. (813) 957-3205.



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

BLOOMINGDALE

3509 Bell Shoals Road
Valrico, Florida 33596
(813) 684-6667 Office
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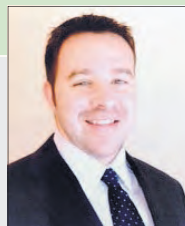
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DIGITAL MONEY: Advice for Today's Investor

I want to store my financial documents in the cloud
— what should I know?



By Nathaniel Goldenberg, CFP®
Rockport Global Advisors, LLC

Cloud storage in its simplest form is online file storage – your own personal digital storage unit. Many use the service for the convenience of having 24/7 access to the information they store no matter where they are so long as there is an Internet connection. With the added convenience,

of course, come added security risks.

While some people believe certain information should stay in the house filing cabinet, others feel there are high-security online options available. If you are thinking about storing financial documents or anything else in the cloud, here are a few things you should be asking when choosing a service provider.

1. Does the service provider have a good reputation for security?
2. Will your data be encrypted both while in the cloud and while being transferred to and from your device?
3. How much space will you need? Do you have any current services that may include free cloud storage? (i.e. Amazon Prime/Office365)
4. What options do you have if there is ever a breach or if your data is lost?
5. What type of access can be granted if you wish to share a file from the cloud with someone else?

Most importantly, pick a good password and never share it. When it comes to passwords, longer is better, and use multiple types of characters (i.e. letters, numbers, symbols etc.). It may be a hassle sometimes to remember, but having your information stolen is a much bigger hassle.

For more information, you can contact
Nate at 813-448-6367
or NGoldenberg@RockPortGlobal.com



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CONSTRUCTION Update

Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road Intersection Improvement

This Hillsborough County Public Works project is continuing to move forward. On Culbreath Road, the center median and tress work is well underway and the two bus lanes are nearly complete. Bloomingdale Avenue construction is ongoing with lane closures and an increase in worker activity around the site. Traffic will be congested and slow moving. Expect delays. Plan trips to allow for extra time and use caution in this area.



One of the most dramatic changes to this intersection so far has been the removal of the large oak trees and the center landscape median. The median flagpole is gone too, but a new site is being selected to replace it.



Concrete barriers are in place along Bloomingdale Avenue just east of Culbreath Road. Work will soon begin on additional turn lanes at the intersection in an effort to improve traffic congestion and safety in the future. A completion date of mid-2016 is expected.

Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes & Super Walmart



Yes, the new Super Walmart will be opening on March 9 – in just FOUR days. The landscaping is in place including a water feature. Soon, construction will begin on the smaller parcels to make room for Starbucks, Chic-Fil-a, Wendy's, Tijuana Flats and several other stores. Completion is estimated to be in Spring/Summer 2016. Construction plans on the new development in this area are ongoing.



The old Walmart closes after thirty years! On March 8, the Bell Shoals/ Bloomingdale Avenue Walmart will be no more. Shoppers will enjoy a larger store down the street complete with familiar faces, as many employees from the old store will make the move to the new one.

Bell Shoals Road Widening Project Update

Hillsborough County Project engineers continue to coordinate the complex Bell Shoals widening plans, including utility placement and land acquisition. Surveyors have been onsite for weeks and drivers may have noticed paint markings and flag markers along the roadway. Current plans estimate a construction start date during the first or second quarter of this year. Watch for public meeting notices in the Gazette and on the BHA's Facebook page at Facebook/BloomingdaleHOA.com.

Lithia-Pinecrest Medical Complex

Public meetings are underway to discuss a proposed development (PD) of a medical complex north of Bloomingdale Avenue across from the Lithia Publix. Bay Care Health is asking for county approval of their application, PRS 16-0308, to build a 160,000 sq. ft. two-story building on the land. In addition, plans call to remove the existing berm on the north side of the western edge of the property and to allow an entrance/exit onto Miller Road by the old Albertson's. Should residents want to weigh in on this project, email the county commissioners at webappsnet.hillsboroughcounty.org/forms/Bocc/Contactcommissioners and the County Planner Marshall Robinson at robinsonm@hillsboroughcounty.org. Robinson may also be reached by phone at 813-276-8406. A meeting with county commissioners is scheduled for April 12, 9 a.m. at the County Center in downtown Tampa.

More Bloomingdale Avenue Construction; "The Learning Experience" Breaks Ground

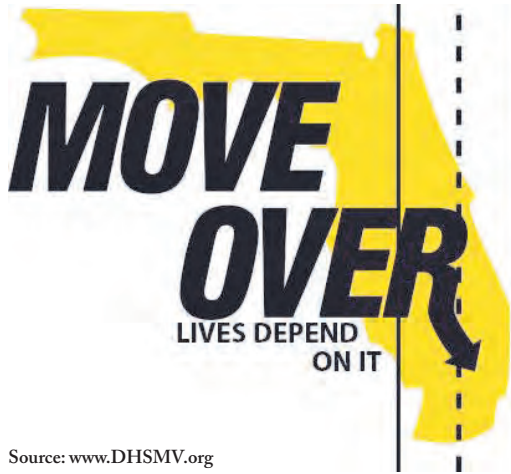
Construction has started on the site for "The Learning Experience" (TLE) next to the Wells Fargo bank at the intersection of Bloomingdale Avenue and Bryan Road. More to follow next month.



New traffic patterns, lights and signs added to ongoing construction, grand openings, and heavy traffic could be a recipe for disaster. In our community, all these situations exist. Safety – that of the workers, drivers, and pedestrians – is everyone’s responsibility.

Bottom Line: Pay attention. Situational awareness is key to navigating the hazardous driving conditions ongoing in our community. Slow down, plan for delays, follow road signs and caution lights, and stay focused on the task at hand...driving.

MOVE OVER - HELP SAVE A LIFE!



Source: www.DHSMV.org

We are very fortunate to have a new Hillsborough County Fire Station in our community. The professional firefighters and medics at this station are trained to respond to emergencies and save lives in our neighborhoods.

One of their greatest challenges is getting to the scene of an accident, a heart attack victim or a home or business fire as fast as they can. Unfortunately, some drivers in our area cause delays simply because they won’t move over so the emergency responder can get through traffic.

Many drivers are in such a hurry that they don’t consider what happens when these responders are delayed! Yes, lives can be lost and property destroyed.

Florida statutes clearly state the following:

“Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle while enroute to an existing emergency, the driver of every other vehicle shall, when such emergency vehicle is giving audible signals by siren, exhaust whistle or other adequate device, or visible signals by the use of displayed blue or red lights, yield the right-of-way to the emergency vehicle and shall immediately proceed to a position parallel to and as close as reasonable to the closest edge of the curb of the roadway, clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer.”

MOVE OVER! You may have just helped to save a life!



Source: www.ux.stackexchange.com



With the grand opening of the Super Walmart fast approaching, drivers should use caution around the east entrance across from the YMCA. While there is a painted curb, turn lanes and signage, there is no dedicated traffic light and light poles for night visibility are not in place yet.



At the same east entrance, the new turn-in lane heading west is clearly marked with a bike lane. Use care when entering and exiting this entrance.

Editor's Note: The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) funded solely by your voluntary dues consists of volunteers who are Bloomingdale residents. The BHA is a completely separate organization from the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD), which is a county organization, funded with your \$130 ad valorem property taxes annually.

Nearly three years ago, several concerned residents contacted the BHA wanting a Master Homeowners' Association (MHA). The Deed Restriction Committee (DRC) began researching the subject.

The DRC's mission was "to provide a set of community standards that are enforceable." The initiative was aimed at neighborhoods with no mandatory HOA. The number of resident homes affected exceeds 3,000.

What have we learned?

Initial research showed the complexity and enormity of this undertaking. Over 40 separate Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions (CC&R) aka deed restrictions exist in the community. There is little consistency among the CC&R documents across the various neighborhood sub-associations, including mandatory and voluntary HOA communities.

The effective lifespan of the CC&Rs is 30 years and many have expired with a few exceptions. See Boxed Insert this page. Through our research, we grouped sub-association CC&Rs into the following categories:

- Expired
- Existing
- Recorded / non-recorded with Hillsborough County
- And combinations thereof.

How did we get here?

Trying to produce a uniform set of standards for the voluntary HOA communities as well as the creation of a master association turned out to be very complicated. The task exceeded the BHA's expertise and legal counsel was obtained.

Our attorney provided legal opinion as to the wording of the first draft document produced by the BHA. As work proceeded, the lawyer became the primary author of a new document. Although an experienced litigation lawyer, he did not incorporate the committee's recommendations and the new document was written with an emphasis on being able to defend the document in court.

Late last year, Chadd's Ford was selected to be the first neighborhood to vote on the new CC&R document. A mailing of the document went to the 48 homeowners in November followed by a Town Hall meeting held in the target neighborhood in December.

At the meeting, vigorous discussion ensued. Both sides, for and against, were represented and numerous points were discussed. Thanks to all who attended the town hall and voting meetings. Your viewpoints were insightful and instrumental in helping the committee determine its next steps.

Voting in Chadd's Ford concluded on Jan. 9, 2016. There were insufficient votes cast – only 48% voted. Subsequently, the Board voted to suspend further voting in other neighborhoods and the DRC was tasked to determine the next possible course of action, if any.

What are we doing now?

The DRC is actively looking for a new attorney whose primary practice is HOA Law. The committee contacted 25 potential candidates by phone and four lawyers were selected for a face-to-face consultation at no cost to the Association. At press time, three interviews have taken place. Already, the committee has garnered valuable insight into the project.

Currently, the BHA is deciding whether it can continue the effort, or at least assist those neighborhoods with expired documents. Have a question? Email bhadeedupdate@gmail.com.



The Status of Bloomingdale Neighborhood Deed Restrictions

This list compiled via BHA official records and attorney research. Consult your closing documents to confirm. On our website, the BHA will post, as soon as possible, the Hillsborough County Official Book and Page for deed restrictions we have located.

Unofficial Sub-Associations: No county-recorded Deeds.

1. Erindale Oaks (Section BL 28) New sub-association, listed as mandatory), Deeds could not be located in county records.
2. Bloomingdale Oaks (Section XX), Deeds could not be located in county records, listed as voluntary.
3. Villas at Bloomingdale (Section B!a), HOA listed as mandatory but was unable to find in county records. On Sunbiz, there is a listing for Villas at Bloomingdale Property Owners Association.
4. The Cove (not BL Cove), identified as mandatory, Deeds could not be located in county records.

Sub-Associations with Recorded/yet

Possibly Expired Deed Restrictions:

1. Bloomingdale Pointe (Sections A 1 -4)
2. Bloomingdale Estates (Sections D1 - 3)
3. Bloomingdale West (Sections C1 -4)
4. Bloomingdale West (Section E)
5. Spring Lake (Section FF)
6. Bloomingdale West (Sections H I & 3)
7. Sandy Creek Manors (Section H2)
8. Sandy Creek Manors (II & 2)
9. Bloomingdale West (Section H4)
10. Cypress Reserve (Section J&K)
11. Fairway Manor (Section L)
12. Fairway Park (Section M1 &2)
13. Chadd's Ford (Section N)
14. Bloomingdale Trace (Section O)
15. Oakcrest (Section R)
16. Augusta Village/Stratford Trace (Section W)
17. Pine Oaks (Section B1/B2), possibly expiring in April 2016
18. Windsor Woods (Section P/Q), possibly expiring November 2016

Not Expired, Mandatory HOAs,

Sub-Associations with Recorded Deeds

1. Bloomingdale Village (Section AA/GG), good to2026
2. The Links (Section AA/GG), good to2025
3. Bristol Green (Section AA/GG), good to2025
4. River Crossing (Section BB), good to2018
5. Somerset (Section CC), good to2025
6. Bloomingdale Cove (Section DD), good to2026
7. Preston Woods (Section EE), good to2027
8. Eagle Point (Section BL), good to2028
9. Erin Arbor (Section JJ), good to2018
10. Heritage Park (Section LL), good to2026
11. Cambridge Cove (Section NI), good to2024
12. Bloomingdale Ridge: Fox Run and The Greens (Sections U & V), possibly expiring in December 2016 or good to2018

Community Garage Sale Brings Out Treasure Hunters

Photos: Miriam Leech

The inaugural Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association (BHA) Community Garage Sale brought out collectors, treasure hunters, and bargain hunters alike on Saturday, Feb. 27. Garage sale shoppers were not deterred by the chilly start to the day, and had items ranging from handmade jewelry to large appliances and from baby items to high-end handbags to choose from. Overall, 27 of Bloomingdale's 32 neighborhoods participated. The BHA is already planning next year's sale and your feedback matters. Email suggestions for improvement to bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.



Even pop star celebrities were on hand for the garage sale at the home of Tracey and Steve Corn in Bloomingdale Ridge. See photos top and bottom.



All types of items were on sale at Tim and Lori Brown's home in Bloomingdale Cove, including this Cross Bow workout machine.

**GARAGE
SALE**



Ed and Ruthann Bollmann of Somerset attracted many buyers with the variety of items they had for sale. Handmade jewelry in a display case caught the eyes of many shoppers. See photos top and bottom.



Baby items were popular at the home of Becky Miller in Bristol Green.

BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski



Source: Wekiva Youth Camp, Compiled by Gwen Graverson

...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.

Growing Herbs in Pots Outdoors... Easy-Peasy

By Gwen Graverson

Growing herbs is easy: Pick a spot with plenty of sunlight right outside your kitchen. This will provide you with quick and convenient access to the flavor enhancers!

First, decide what to grow. A few suggested herbs are Oregano, Rosemary, Basil, Peppermint, Chives, Parsley and Thyme. Then decide if you want to start your herb garden from seeds or plants. Beginners may want to start with plants. If you decide to use seeds, some will grow quicker if soaked overnight in water.

Assemble your supplies including pots with drainage holes, gravel, potting soil, seeds and/or starter plants. Don't forget labels or plant markers to help you keep your herbs identified.

Each herb plant should have its own home (pot). Don't overwater. Let the soil dry out between waterings, and if the leaves start to yellow, that is a sure sign to water less.

Some herbs will need at least 6 to 8 hours of sun per day. An advantage for having your herbs in pots is you will be able to move them around for more sunlight. One light-lover herb in particular is oregano. Turning the plant will provide for even growth.

Involve your kids. Teach them that herbs are plants whose leaves, seeds or flowers can be used as an ingredient for flavor (as spices), fragrance, or medicines. To keep their interest, pick a theme – a pizza herb garden featuring basil, oregano, rosemary, parsley and chives.

Or, teach them about drying techniques for sachets or potpourri. Scented geranium and lavender are two herbs grown specifically for their lovely fragrance.

Introduce your kids to fresh peppermint. Talk about its use in toothpaste, candy canes and chewing gum. This plant needs lots of water, rich soil and good drainage. It won't tolerate dry conditions and planting in full sun will increase the potency of its oils and medicinal qualities. This plant has a tendency to spread and for that many gardeners prefer growing peppermint in containers.

Store your herbs in clean, airtight containers in a cool dry place (cupboard or drawer). Experts recommend using amber glass and keeping stored herbs away from heat and light. Shelf life of herbs differ between whole or ground, but a sure bet is to pinch and taste the spice before using, if there's no favor, it might be time to say goodbye.

For more information on starting your herb garden, stop by Kerby's Nursery located at 2311 S. Parsons Ave., Seffner, call 813-685-3265 or visit their website at www.kerbysnursery.com.



www.herbgardendesigns.org



Source: homeinformationguru.com



The University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) located in Hillsborough County provides a valuable monthly tool for the budding nature lover. Visit their website at http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden.

Herbs in the Florida Garden, a resource publication, can be accessed online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>, or viewed on the Valrico Garden Club's Facebook page.

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.



National Merit Finalist Named

Staff Report

Congratulations to Will Leech, a Bloomingdale resident and Strawberry Crest High School International Baccalaureate Senior! Last month, Leech was named a National Merit Finalist, one of the nation's highest academic honors. Less than 1 percent of seniors in the state receive this designation, which is based on SAT scores, academic performance, and essays. Leech is pictured left with other SCHS finalists.

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Photo: Strawberry Crest @ TheSCHSChargers

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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



www.newsradioklbj.com

MONTHLY BACC

Detective James Howell and I briefed members of the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Council (BACC) at the February meeting. This month, we focused on areas that deputies who patrol Bloomingdale felt needed cooperation from residents. The good news is that crime is down in District IV to include Bloomingdale, Fish Hawk, and the surrounding areas.

TRAFFIC LAWS, ACCIDENTS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Traffic congestion is an ongoing problem. Construction on Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road coupled with the imminent grand opening of Super Walmart has made delays an everyday commuting fact of life.

One of the major ways to improve traffic flow in our area is for every driver to improve their driving habits to reduce traffic accidents. Do this by: slowing down, obeying traffic laws and putting down cell phones. Busy traffic is a big enough distraction without adding distracted drivers to the situation!

Watch your speed, your fellow travelers and look out for pedestrians. Bottom line: Be careful!

NATURES WAY SPEEDING, SPEEDING TICKETS ARE VERY EXPENSIVE!

Recently, the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District and Bloomingdale Homeowners Association requested that the Sheriff's Office increase traffic patrols in the Bloomingdale area, especially on the Natures Way "Raceway," as some have called it.



Parents, talk to your teenage drivers about obeying traffic laws and driving distractions, mainly cell phone usage and texting. Most of all be the right example for your teen drivers. Remember, the life they save may be their own.



VANDALISM BLOOMINGDALE GOLFERS CLUB

The Bloomingdale Golfers Club contacted me concerning vandalism at the course in excess of \$1,500. In the restrooms located on holes 3 and 13, juveniles broke sinks and pulled them away from the walls. Detective Howell and I have identified the juveniles responsible and they have been arrested.

FORECLOSURE HOMES

I've mentioned before that some foreclosure homes are being vandalized or used for illegal purposes. Report any suspicious activity in your area. Note: The same

kids that damaged the golf course also vandalized a foreclosure house in the community.

SPECIAL REPORT:

The HCSO February "Operation Medicine Cabinet" was a success! The event helps residents properly dispose of outdated and unused medicines and drugs. Meds collected are destroyed.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank Kristi Campbell from HOMEINSTEAD Senior Care, Brandon Health and Rehab Center and their staff, Sheriff's deputies and the many volunteers for their outstanding assistance and support during this project. Also, thanks to residents who took the time to bring in their expired and unused medicines for proper disposal and destruction.

For residents who missed the February event, the Sheriff's Office has special receptacles at the District Offices where old meds can be dropped off for disposal. **Only pills can be accepted.** No liquids or sharps. The nearest offices in our area are District II at 2310 North Falkenburg Road, Tampa and District IV at 508 33rd St SE, Ruskin. These offices are open 24 hours.



Don't forget today's Operation Medicine Cabinet event at the community's clean-up at the Parks and Recreation facility off Natures Way. We will be onsite from 9 a.m. to noon.

SECURITY REMINDER!

Keep your garage doors closed and your car doors locked. This is an open target for thieves!

REPORT, REPORT, REPORT

If you notice any suspicious activity or a crime in progress, 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.



Salons by JC is not a typical beauty and wellness facility. The salon, located next to Fresh Market in the Lithia Crossing Shopping Center, totals 6500+ square-feet, with 36 fully fitted suites. Over 100 people attended the Salons by JC Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting event in January.

Opening Ribbon Cutting event in January.

Salon owner Denise Cooke explained, "Our Mission is to provide the very best salon suite opportunity for beauticians and wellness practitioners, while offering the highest standards of ethics, value, client care, and the very best in customer satisfaction."

Salons by JC leases luxurious and fully customizable salon suites to beauty and wellness practitioners. With highly personalized service and an exquisite contemporary design, Salons by JC enables beauty and wellness professionals to become their own "Chief Creative Officer" without the expense or hassle of opening up a salon.

"It's an excellent opportunity for stylists to start their own businesses," said Cooke. "We care about the success of all our tenants, and that's why we provide a full time salon concierge, allowing each stylist to focus on their clients, their craft and creating a vision."

She added, "Not only is it our job as a salon owner to make sure the place is fantastic and beautiful to work for, but we want to make sure those clients are coming in feeling the same way."

Clients can enjoy a variety of beauty and wellness services inside modern salon suites, customized to their specialist's needs. Services offered include hair styling, hair coloring, hair extensions, eyebrow extensions, eyebrow threading, permanent make-up, massage, facials, make-up, weight loss and more.

Two Bloomingdale residents are already in residence in the new facility. Pearl Knapp-Chiarenza, owner of Bodyworks Health and Wellness Center, specializes in weight loss and nutrition. To learn about her services, call 813-449-3308. Debra Dakin, owner of In The Pink, specializes in eyebrow shaping, facials and make-up. Call 813-416-0508 for an appointment.

For information about suites and available leases, email dcooke@salonsbyjc.com or call 813-569-0103. Check out the new facility at www.salonsbyjcvalrico.com or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/salonsbyjcvalrico.



Salons by JC officially opened its doors at their grand opening and ribbon-cutting event held Jan. 25 at the Lithia Crossing Shopping Center next to Fresh Market.



Salons by JC owner Denise Cooke offers beauty and wellness specialists an opportunity to be their own boss in a nearly stress-free environment. Concierge services are provided in all 36 available suites.

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Campo YMCA is Tops in Treadmill Tuesday Challenge

Photos: Campo YMCA

The Tampa YMCA, including Campo YMCA, competed against the First Coast YMCA on Treadmill Tuesday for the greatest distance traveled on a treadmill. The friendly competition took place in February and promotes healthy living among community members in the Tampa Bay and Northeast Florida communities.

While Tampa narrowly missed claiming the win, Campo YMCA's 270 participants snagged bragging rights for logging the most miles of any Tampa facility at nearly 609 miles. Participant Stephanie Parks logged 5.38 miles in 30 minutes and received a Fitbit for her efforts.



Dipping into St. Patrick's Day

Experience the luck of the Irish this St. Patrick's Day! Whether you will be celebrating big or small this is a great dip recipe, and one I have made on many occasions. It's versatile, tasty and contains only three ingredients – chili, cream cheese and shredded cheddar cheese. For the busy host, nothing is better than a quick and easy one dish party dip that packs a powerful flavor punch. This is the pot of gold leprechauns have been hiding!

Directions:

1. Spread the softened cream cheese onto the bottom of an ungreased baking dish.
2. Spread chili evenly over the cream cheese.
3. Top with shredded cheddar cheese.
4. Microwave on high for four minutes.
5. Continue process in 1-2 minute increments until the cheese is completely melted.
6. Serve with tortilla chips, Fritos, or your favorite dipper!

Chili Cheese Dip

Ingredients:

1 - 15 ounce can chili (with or without beans, any flavors –however I use beans for a creamier texture)

1 - 8 ounces cream cheese, softened

2 cups (or more) of shredded cheddar cheese

Photo: Nicole Cluck



Source: <http://countryoutfitter.life/8-yummy-new-years-eve-appetizers-with-three-ingredients-or-less/>



Bloomington resident Kevin Marcoux found his passion for fitness while serving as a military policeman in the Army. Now he wants to share that passion through his fitness business, Eternal Muscles.

Marcoux's fitness training is based on precision—he works with his clients one-on-one to make sure they have a foundation of strength and correct form. The fitness professional has launched a free application called Trainerize that enables clients to track not only their training regimen but also what they eat. Using Evolution Nutrition, Marcoux can provide assistance with a nutrition plan based on his clients' likes and dislikes. Clients can then access recipes and even download shopping lists to make eating healthy as easy as possible.

“This is my way of giving back to people,” says Marcoux. “I feel like I have a duty to make people feel better.”

The high-energy fitness trainer is working on building his client base, and is willing to travel to his clients. He does some training at The Worx 24-Hour Fitness in Lithia. Marcoux is hoping to add trainers to his business, and also hopes to begin offering a Boot Camp workout here in Bloomington. For Marcoux, fitness is all about “overcoming weakness and building individual strengths.”

A native of Michigan, Marcoux attended both Burns Middle School and Bloomington High School and was drawn back to Bloomington by family after leaving the military. He and his wife Treisha, a makeup artist, have two daughters – 16-year-old Britanna, who attends the high school and 5-year-old Elisse.

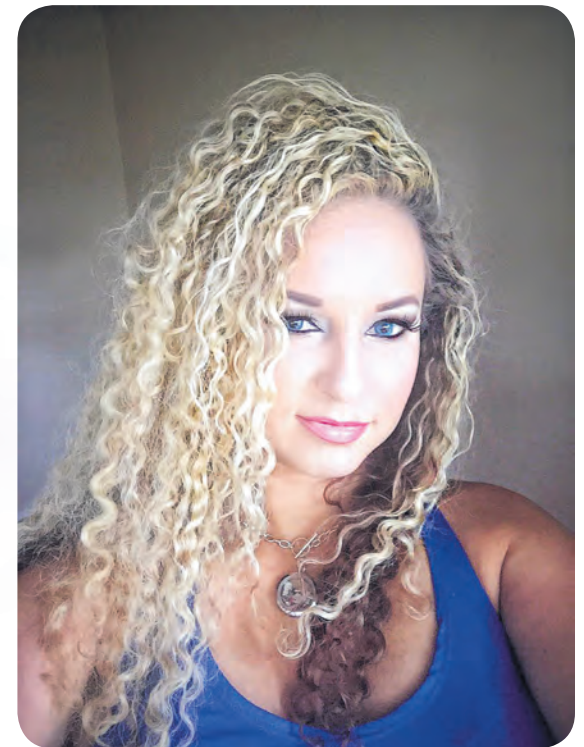
For information on Eternal Muscles, or to get started with a fitness program, visit Marcoux's website at www.eternalmuscles.com. You can also visit his Facebook page, Eternal Muscles, or contact him by e-mail at Fitnezz.Trainer@gmail.com.



Bloomington resident and veteran Kevin Marcoux has been a fitness professional for five years. His fitness training business, Eternal Muscles, is based on high-energy, precision workouts structured to each client.



Marcoux's wife of 7 years, Treisha is a make-up artist with a studio in their home. She teaches make-up artistry on YouTube, and has a website, www.GlaMarcoux.com. Her mission is to empower women by helping them discover their true inner and outer beauty.





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



March 14 - 18 - Spring Break
March 25 - Non Student Day



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

March 9 - Burger Monger Spirit Night

Coins for a Cure

Students and faculty will be collecting coins/change for their Relay for Life team to donate to The American Cancer Society. Any one is welcome to stop by the school office and drop off a donation in the Coins for Cure jar for the entire month of March. If writing a check, please make it out to The American Cancer Society.

Alafia Mint

Book swap and Spirit store located in Room 208. 7:30 a.m. to 7:55 a.m.

School Spirit Day

Be sure to show your school spirit and wear your Alafia shirts every Friday.

Coming Soon...Relay for Life

The Annual Relay for Life event will be held April 22 at Bloomingdale High School. Alafia will be holding a silent auction. Prizes include a golf for 4 at Summerfield Golf Club, Vera Bradley items, Thirty-One bags, Legos and more. Donations are currently still being accepted. For information, please contact Mallory McLean at 813-254-3630.



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

March 10 - Conference Night
March 11 - Field Day - All day event at the school with games and fun activities

Florida Furtal Program

What is FURTAL? It is a way for parents, teachers and community members to help raise money for our school simply by using our school's portal to shop online. By shopping at your favorite online retailers through our Cimino portal page, you will generate cash back for our school. The program is FREE. The money generated will go directly to the school for projects and improvements! For information, go to www.furtal.com/school/cimino-elementary-school#



La Cubanita Café Supports Cimino

Remember that whenever you eat at La Cubanita (in the plaza behind Topper's & KFC) and mention you are from Cimino, they will donate \$1 for every meal ordered.



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

March 7 - 9 - Soccer County Championships - TBA
March 7 - PTSA Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
March 22 - Burns Philharmonic & Symphonic Strings Pre MBA, 5:30 p.m. at Bloomingdale HS
March 30 & 31 - Band MPA, 9 a.m. at Durant HS

Morning Tutoring New Schedule

For information, contact Mr. Riley at 813-744-8383 ext. 235. New schedule is Language Arts: Monday and Wednesday, Math: 6th/7th Grade Thursday and 8th Grade Friday, Social Studies: Wednesday and Friday; and Science: Monday and Friday.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

- March 7 - Booster Club Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- March 8 - Baseball/Softball vs Durant, 7 p.m.
- March 9 - Boys /Girls Lacrosse vs Durant, 5 p.m.
- March 9 - Bloomingdale's Got Talent, 6 p.m., Auditorium
- March 9 - Track @ Spoto, 6 p.m.
- March 10 - Flag Football @ Riverview, 6:15 p.m.
- March 10 - Baseball/Softball @ Newsome, 7 p.m.
- March 22 - Bloomingdale Music Department Masterworks Concert, 7 p.m.
- March 24 - Boys /Girls Lacrosse @ TBT, 5 p.m.
- March 24 - Melissa Snively Meeting, 6 p.m., Media Center
- March 24 - Baseball/Softball @ Plant City, 7 p.m.
- March 28 - Boys /Girls Lacrosse @ All Saints, 5 p.m.
- March 28 - Flag Football vs TBT 6:15 p.m.
- March 29 - Baseball/Softball vs Riverview, 7 p.m.
- March 30 - Herff Jones Announcement Delivery, 10:30 a.m., Cafeteria
- March 31 - Flag Football @ Newsome, 6:15 p.m.
- April 1 - Boys /Girls Lacrosse @ Alonso, 5 p.m.
- April 1 - Baseball/Softball vs Wharton, 7 p.m.



BULL BRIEFS

PTSA News

The PTSA is looking for volunteers interested in helping to plan events for next year. If you would like to get involved, email the PTSA President, Stacey Donahue at sldonahue3@verizon.net.



The PTSA awards scholarships to two deserving seniors, one female and one male, each year who demonstrate a positive attitude toward scholarship, leadership and commitment to community service. We would love to be able to award more than two, so if you know a business or person who would be interested in sponsoring a scholarship, contact Stacey Donahue at sldonahue3@verizon.net.



Calling Community Partners

Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week of May. We are looking for donations, including meals, gifts, items or anyway we can recognize the hard work of Bloomingdale's teachers. If your organization is interesting in sponsoring an event during the week, contact Cheryl Rodriguez at cheryl.rodriguez@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

Virtual School Graduation Requirement

Seniors need to complete their courses through Florida Virtual School by May 15. Students should sign up as soon as possible at FLVS.net.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Varsity Winterguard team for placing 2nd and the JV team for 1st at the Riverview High School FFCC Winterguard show on Feb. 12! The JV team has been to three competitions and placed 1st every time.

Summer Dual Enrollment

Deadline for dual enrollment paperwork is April 4. Dual Enrollment paperwork will not be accepted after Monday, April 4. Dual Enrollment student registration begins April 18. Classes begin May 16. Classes end by Aug. 8. Please see your counselor at least two weeks ahead of the deadline to ensure you have the necessary paperwork.



Bloomingtondale Hosts Pre-Season Baseball Tournament

By Deidre Morgan

Baseball season is under way at Bloomingtondale High School and the Bulls were host to a two-day tournament on February 2 and 3. The Bulls started the season off with wins on both nights. Currently the Bulls are 5-3 and are looking forward to another winning season. Good luck Bulls!



LA Dodger Logan Crouse (right) and US Marine Tommy McLaughlin were on hand to throw out the first pitch for the two preseason games. Both are Bloomingtondale Alum and former pitchers with the Bulls baseball team.

Photo: Melanie Crouse



Senior catcher Chase Lackman heads to the batter's box on night one driving in two runs with a hit to right field.

Photo: Deidre Morgan



Coach Willis Leads Bulls Basketball to Slam-dunk Season Boys Win District Title, Lose in Regional Semi-Final

By Nicole Cluck

Photos: Nicole Cluck



Teamwork was Bloomingtondale's strongest weapon, particularly when passing the ball to an open shooter. A perfect pass led this shooter to a perfectly executed two-pointer.

Bloomingtondale boys' basketball coach Joe Willis has a greater mission than just coaching a winning team. A former high school and collegiate basketball player, he is not new to the sport. Willis has been coaching for 16 years at both collegiate and high school level - eight of those years have been on the court at BSHS.

Coach Willis brings more than just experience to the game. Together with his players, season goals were set. This year's goals were "to compete," and "be excited and grateful for everyone in the program." Win or lose, Willis pushed the team to have pride in their efforts and respect for their teammates.



Coach Willis gives the BSHS basketball team a pep talk during the intense District Championship game held Feb. 3 at Bloomingtondale. The Bulls took the crown edging Plant City 59-58 in double overtime.

With six players graduating from last year's team, it was uncertain how this year's team would fare. Drive and determination propelled the team to a winning season capped by a District Champion Title and an 11-2 record. The district final was a hotly contested game between BSHS and Plant City on Feb. 3. The lead changed often and in a nail biter, the Bulls pulled out a win in double overtime, 59-58.

The team advanced to Regional competition in a bid to make the State championship final four. Here the team faltered during semi-final play on Feb. 16 losing to St. Petersburg 78-55.

Strong teamwork and a dedicated coach elevated this team to a 20-6 season. Go Bulls!

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BSHS Athletes Sign National Letters of Intent

By Deidre Morgan

February 3 was a day filled with pride and emotions as five Bloomingdale High School seniors signed their National Letters of Intent to play sports at the college level on National Signing Day. Family and friends were present to see a dream fulfilled for the students representing softball, cross country and football. Congratulations and good luck to these awesome athletes!

Pictured left to right are: Kali Clemmer – Cross Country for Mars Hill University, North Carolina; Isiah (Bobby) McIntyre – Football for Coffeyville Community College, Kansas; Taylor Engman – Softball for the State College of Florida, Tyler Farrell – Softball for Peru State College, Nebraska; and Alyssa Farinas – Softball for Pasco-Hernando State College, Florida.



Photo: Deidre Morgan



Lacrosse Enters Second Season as BSHS Varsity Sport

By Abigail Hernandez

Photos: Dea Knapp

Though quite unfamiliar to many, lacrosse is actually considered America's first sport. Native American Indians played to "toughen up" young warriors for war, as well as for religious and recreational reasons. Formerly known as "stickball," the odd combination of street hockey and soccer is one of the most intense, as well as dangerous, sports in America.

Both men's and women's lacrosse have increased in popularity with Bloomingdale High School adding lacrosse to the varsity sports line up last year. An experienced coach is a plus when introducing an unfamiliar sport and teaching the basics of catch, cradle, and pass.

Coach Sarah Ginn was more than willing to take on the challenge of bringing a brand new team of girls to her sport. The 24-year-old honed her lacrosse skills as a captain of her high school and college lacrosse teams. While in high school, Ginn broke three high school records just in her senior year.

Noting improvements on both boy's and girl's teams from last season, she remarked, "For being such a new program, we have so much room to grow, and the team shows that they are up for that challenge and are taking it head-on." Ginn also assists Coach Bradley Gordon with the boy's team.

The future looks bright for Bloomingdale lacrosse according to Ginn. "Our team is a positive group that loves to have fun and loves the sport of lacrosse. That love for the game shows every time they step out on that field."



Bloomingdale sophomore Paul Dobler runs the ball during a tightly contested boy's lacrosse match against Robinson High School. The team won the home game 16-10 on Feb. 18.



Senior Jordan Revis, #26, receives a pass from junior Evan Knapp, #13, in a boy's lacrosse match against Tampa Catholic on Feb. 10.



The BSHS Girl's Lacrosse team prepares to take the field against Sickles High School on Feb. 15.



At the Alafia Spring Fling last month, the crew of the USS Alafia raised money for "Paws for Patriots." The students are sons and daughters of military members.

Pictured back row: Debbie Gibson, teacher, and Andrea Carver, counselor.

Pictured front row: Reid and Blake Jacobus, Kailie Osburn, Brayden McNaiiff and Isiah Hench.



Puppy raiser Nicholas VanRiper is pictured with Tommy, a Golden Retriever/Lab mix.



Bloomington residents Bob and Debbie Clark are currently training McDonald to be a service dog. They will have McDonald for a year of initial training and socialization where she will then head to Guide Dog University to be trained in specialized areas to meet the needs of wounded veterans.

Alafia Elementary School held its annual Spring Fling at the school on Feb. 19. Along with the fun, this year's event included a fundraising effort for "Paws for Patriots." Guidance Counselor Andrea Carver and teacher Debbie Gibson, a military veteran spearheaded the effort. Together, they formed USS Alafia – a group of students with moms and dads in the military. The group allows the kids to be a part of something special and to give back to the military community.

"Paws for Patriots" is a project to raise money and to award a scholarship through the Southeastern Guide Dog Association. Funds help to provide a service dog to a wounded veteran that has suffered hearing or vision loss or suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The cost to train a service dog can near \$45,000 and training can take anywhere from 1 to 2 years. Through the fundraiser, USS Alafia kids are doing their part to help with that expense.

Judging from the great turn out and people lined up to pet the puppies; it looked as if the USS Alafia could reach their goal of \$2,500 to donate to the project.

Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!

IMPORTANT DATES

January 15 - April 1
Applications accepted.

April 1
Application deadline (firm).

May 10
BHA Board meeting and announcement of scholarship winner.



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to sponsor the

Bloomington High School \$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidate

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

Candidate's Parent/Guardian

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

Selection Criteria

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

Scholarship information will be available January 15, 2016 online at BloomingtondaleHOA.com, at Bloomingdale High School and at the Bloomingdale Community Office.



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

[BloomingtondaleHOA](https://www.facebook.com/BloomingtondaleHOA)



While this is the last year for TV's popular American Idol contest, Bloomingdale residents can still get a taste of the show by attending Bloomingdale Senior High School's (BSHS) version called "Bloomingdale Idol."

BSHS held its annual version of the singing contest last month. Just like American Idol, there are multiple steps to the school's competition. Two shows are held on different nights – the premiere was Feb. 8, and the finale on Feb. 15. Premiere night showcased all contestants. Judges selected that evening's top singers who performed for the title on finale night.

Eight contestants performed during the finale, a crowd pleaser. The winner was determined by judge and audience vote. When the music stopped, the Bloomingdale Idol title went to junior Abby Hernandez.



Jake Simms and an unidentified contestant perform a duet at the Bloomingdale Idol competition. Photo: Lizzy Roth



Bloomingdale Idol champion Abby Hernandez receives the Bloomingdale Idol title and trophy following the schools' annual singing competition held Feb. 15. Photo: Nicole Cluck



Bloomingdale freshman Alexa Figh, pictured left, secured a 3rd place finish at the school's American Idol style singing competition. Joining her after the competition is Bloomingdale Idol winner Abby Hernandez. Photo: Kenneth Hernandez

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