

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXXII  
Number 2

FEBRUARY 2013 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



KIM MILLER

Coach Steve Littleton and Sam Miller at a training workout. Littleton donates his time to BSHS runners while working full time at MacDill Air Force Base.

## Going the distance

Running coaches train year round with Bloomingdale runners – while working their day jobs at MacDill.

See story, page 9.

### INSIDE

#### Remembrance

The award winning Bloomingdale Senior High School show choir, the Ambassadors, remember fellow musician and friend Zach McCarthy. See story, page 2.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The phoenix must burn to emerge.”

*Janet Fitch*

# Ambassadors remember fellow musician, friend

BY SUZANNE JONES

Bloomingtondale High School's award-winning show choir, the Ambassadors, is known for outstanding singing and performance. They are also known to be a small, tight-knit group. Zach McCarthy was heavily involved in the BSHS music department, playing in band, singing in chorus, and performing with the Ambassadors show choir. With Zach's passing, the Ambassadors lost not only a talented musician, but a good friend. Zach made a positive impact on those in the community and especially in his school. This can surely be felt in the words of his fellow Ambassadors.

- ♦ Zach was so kind and he was always just smiling. -Emily Jackson
- ♦ He would always leave me laughing uncontrollably when he did his famous "hip dance". -Jonathan Riviere
- ♦ Zach was one of the sweetest people I have ever met. I will never forget him. -Michelle Rogers
- ♦ I never saw Zach with a frown on his face. -Lindsay Lee Bone
- ♦ He was just one of those infectiously happy people. -Ian Crumpton
- ♦ I never heard anyone say anything bad about him. He was just that amazing. Taylor Pomerleau
- ♦ Zach was a kind person and I am honored to have

known him. -Rachel Steinbacher

- ♦ I'll never forget him. Nobody who met him ever could. He was just one of the most magnificent people you could ever know, and it showed. -Jenna Remmert

- ♦ Zach was a true example of a Christian. His death has made me rethink the way I live and has immensely increased my faith in God. I will always remember this kid, not only for his impact on the community, but also for his impact on my heart and my relationship with God. -Damon Bell

- ♦ Zach was my first dance partner in Ambassadors, making my experience in this group so special. Every moment spent with him is a moment I can never forget. Every time I looked at him I could see the light of Jesus Christ shining through him. His faith and love for God was so genuine and real. He is a wonderful representation of a strong man of God. He has inspired me so much. -Kylie M. Hall

- ♦ Zach was a charming person and he will be missed. -Cassie Newman

- ♦ So many people have been brought closer to their Heavenly Father because of Zach, and THAT is a beautiful thing! He will continue to inspire us. Once an Ambassador, always an Ambassador. -Amelia Tam

- ♦ Zach was always smiling and always willing to help everyone. He brightened everyone's day. -Sammi Rexroad

- ♦ His smile can change your whole day -Bianca Caballero

- ♦ No matter how bad



SHAPHALI JAIN

**Zachary McCarthy (far right) performs with the Bloomingdale Senior High School Ambassadors in the school's Nov. 8 Veterans Day Concert.**

something got he would always smile and make everyone feel better -Alexander Olivera

- ♦ I just hope you'll miss me as much as I'll miss you. -Cal Nelson

- ♦ Death is not the end of life but the beginning of a new world. -Trenton Hardy

- ♦ Zach was always kind and always positive. I feel so lucky to have known him. -Haley Janeda

- ♦ I could say a million and one things about Zach. He is a little brother to me. I miss hearing his voice next to me every day. He is my inspiration and I hope to become half the man he is. I can't wait to see him again. -Jareb Mendez

- ♦ Zach has left a legacy stronger than anyone could have imagined. His happiness and faith inspired a community to gather together in the face of death, to celebrate life. -Corey Geer

- ♦ He always had a constant smile and infectious happiness; you could see God working through his life each and every day. -Cayla Duckworth

- ♦ Zach was one of the

most inspiring people I've ever met, his chill personality always made it fun to hang out with him. He made me realize how any dilemma wasn't really a big deal, how man won't have anything they can't handle. Every problem you can overcome. So I want to

thank Zach, for making me laugh with his sarcastic comments, his calm persona, and his lesson to me on one of the most important lessons of life. -Gilda Pelaez

- ♦ Just smile. -Joey Herr
- ♦ With a smile that could light up any room, a sense

of humor that could make anyone laugh, and a heart of gold, Zach McCarthy was one of the best friends anyone could ask for. I'm proud to say he was one of my true, close friends and each day I will try to be more like him. WWZD. -Courtney Saffko

## McCarthy family thanks community for support

To the Bloomingdale Community, the McCarthy family extends our most heartfelt and sincere gratitude for your support following the passing of our beloved Zach. The kindnesses and generosity that we have received have been greater than we had known were possible. We could not feel more loved by our family, friends and neighbors. God has been ministering to us through you.

Especially to the students at Bloomingdale High School, the way you love each other, loved Zach and are now loving us, is astounding. The stories and memories you continue to share with us are very precious. It is so good to be able to mix some laughter in with the tears.

We could not imagine having to go through an event like this without all of you. We are truly blessed to live in this community.



Zachary McCarthy

PROVIDED

## FEBRUARY YARD OF THE MONTH

sponsored by  
Ace Hardware  
of Bloomingdale

**Michael and  
Colleen Watts**  
708 Redondo Drive  
(Bloomingdale West)

Michael and Colleen credit their landscaper, The Grass Rat (813) 924-0022, for helping them maintain their yard.



SHAPALI JAIN



Scott Arnold, DMD, FAGD

## *Arnold Dentistry*

**Dr. Scott Arnold** maintains many area family smiles. He is first and foremost a family dentist; however, he has the extra training and technology to give your smile that extra help if you want or need it. His team will make you feel welcome and is committed to your comfort. **We accept most insurance.**

**Call to schedule your FREE smile evaluation today!**



**330 EAST BLOOMINGDALE AVE., BRANDON**  
Bloomingdale Executive Park (1/2 block west of Bryan Rd.)

**(813) 689-1529**

**MyArnoldSmile.com**

## YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC.

PO Box 7221,  
Brandon, FL 33508  
Phone: (813) 681-2051

E-mail: [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com)

Meetings: first Tuesday in January, March, May, September and November at 6 p.m.

Web site: [bloomingdalegazette.com](http://bloomingdalegazette.com)

**President:**

George May

**Vice president:**

Jim Harris

**Secretary:**

Daniel Berkowitz

**Treasurer:**

Dennis Osborn

**Director at Large:**

Bob Boettger

### THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

The official publication of the BHA since 1980  
Post Office Box 7221,  
Brandon, FL 33508  
**Editor: Suzanne Jones**

**Phone number:**  
(813) 681-2051

**E-Mail:**  
[inbloomingdale-news@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdale-news@gmail.com)

**Web site:**  
[bloomingdalegazette.com](http://bloomingdalegazette.com)

The Gazette is published by Sunbelt Newspapers  
202 S. Parker Street,  
Tampa, FL 33606-2395  
Ph: (813) 259-7479  
Advertising: 627-4771

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

# Just another Manners Monday

BY SUZANNE JONES

Bloomingdale High School's Student Government Association (SGA) recently kicked off a program that wouldn't be found in most public high schools—Manners Monday. "Our goal is to promote manners, patience, kindness, and thoughtfulness in our school and our community," explains Candice Remmert. Ms. Remmert is the SGA sponsor and knows a thing or two about manners; after all, she is the Career and Technical Education Department Head and teaches Family and Consumer Sciences courses at Bloomingdale. The idea for Manners Monday came from the realization among Student Government representatives that society as a whole is less kind, less well-mannered than in the past. "Historically, manners were taught in the home, but

nowadays parents are all working and don't have the time to do so," commented Remmert.

BSHS Student Government plans to use vehicles like the school's morning show to equip their peers with knowledge about such things as properly greeting others or setting a table correctly. Students will also be encouraged to practice behaviors like patience and kindness during the school day through Random Acts of Kindness awards. Teachers will be asked to nominate students for the award by submitting names of students who display kindness, politeness, etc. Each Friday a drawing will take place on the morning show from the names submitted. Winners will receive prizes like restaurant gift cards. It is hoped that this new initiative will help prepare Bloomingdale students to more positively interact with others, not



SUZANNE JONES

**Bloomingdale's Student Government takes a moment away from routine meeting activities to show off their Manners Monday shirts.**

only while they attend high school, but also after they leave Bloomingdale to pursue further education and careers.

Bloomingdale's Student Government kicked off Manners Monday on Jan. 14. They ran an ad introducing the idea on WBUL, the BSHS morning show. "We purchased t-shirts for the entire faculty, custodians, cafeteria workers, administration. They say BLOOMINGDALE MANNERS MONDAY on

the front and 'where class is always in style' on the back," said Remmert. SGA representatives will also be wearing the shirts on Mondays. BSHS Junior, Corey Greer heads the SGA committee that oversees Manners Monday. "We had a lot of positive comments from teachers and students," said Greer the day after the program was first announced. "Several teachers commented that they already noticed students making the effort to

be more helpful." Greer continued, "It starts with us in Student Government demonstrating good manners inside and out of the classroom, and practicing behaviors like making eye contact when speaking with someone." While the program is in its infancy at Bloomingdale, Ms. Remmert anticipates success. She hopes that other schools will adopt the idea of Manners Monday after seeing the positive outcomes at Bloomingdale.

## Access Church makes its debut in Bloomingdale

Bright blue banners waved in the January wind as Access Church made its debut in the Bloomingdale area on Sunday, Jan.13. The Bloomingdale area Access Church is the second in a planned series of locations; the original Access Church is located in Lakeland. The Bloomingdale group meets at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays at Bloomingdale Senior High School. Each week, Lead Pastor Jason Burns and his team transform the high school halls into a place of worship, including vibrant, inviting, clean rooms for children and babies, and a sanctuary in

the school's auditorium.

Access Church believes that its simplicity, unique approach to services, and focus on family, outreach, and community set it apart from other area churches. Their official goal is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Pastor Burns and his family moved from Lakeland to help launch this second campus of Access Church, while the Lakeland campus continues to hold two services every Sunday morning. For more information on Access Church, visit [www.access.tv](http://www.access.tv).

Story submitted by Access Church



PROVIDED

**Access Church made its debut Sunday, Jan. 13 at Bloomingdale Senior High School.**

# Residents work for improved safety measures on Natures Way

SUBMITTED

Bloomingtondale residents and schoolmates of Zachary McCarthy are working to create safety improvements on a particularly dangerous curve on Natures Way in Bloomingtondale East. Zach McCarthy (age 16) died on Jan. 2 after losing control of his car near the intersection of Natures Way and Golf Meadow Boulevard. McCarthy's death is the second traffic fatality in just over two years that has occurred near the entrance to Cambridge Cove.

"Something must be done to slow down or caution drivers on that stretch of road," said Barbie Reeves. Reeves was one of

several area residents and Bloomingtondale High School students who addressed the Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District (BSTD) Board at its Jan. 14 meeting. The BSTD Board expressed sympathy to those assembled and to the McCarthy family; however, they informed those in attendance that BSTD could not directly address the problem because Natures Way is a county road and therefore, must be handled at the Hillsborough County level. Several members of the BSTD Board offered to support the group's efforts as did Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association President, George May who was also in attendance.

"Attending the BSTD Board meeting was only the first step for us," said Reeves. "Since then we have contacted County Commissioner Al Higginbotham's office, and they in turn have requested Public Works to research available options."

The concerned group of Bloomingtondale residents will also be working to gather support from within the community, especially from drivers. They have launched a petition to improve the safety of the Natures Way loop. Dedicating their efforts to the loving memories of Zachary McCarthy and Nicole Petracci, a teen who lost her life in 2010 on this particularly dangerous



SUZANNE JONES

**A temporary memorial created by area residents and friends marked the location on Natures Way where Bloomingtondale teen resident, Zachary McCarthy lost his life.**

curve, petition organizers are working to turn these tragic losses into action that will create a safer road

and save lives. Citizens interested learning more about the petition, signing it or volunteering to help

should contact Mary Ellen Tipaldo at (813) 505-3077 or Barbie Reeves at (813) 758-8028.

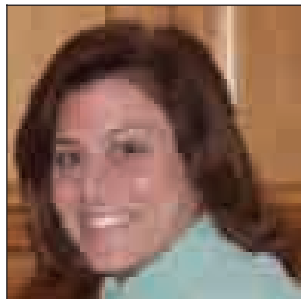
## Bloomingtondale Buzz

SUZANNE JONES

Monday, Feb. 18 is Presidents Day—a day set aside to celebrate all Presidents of the United States past and present. Americans also honor the birthdays of two presidents in the month of February, George Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Washington (Feb. 22). To commemorate these special presidential holidays, Bloomingtondale residents were asked to share with us their favorite United States president past or present, and why they selected this individual.

♦ "John F Kennedy," responded Lauren Fleischman of Somerset, "for the love and passion he showed towards the citizens and country."

♦ Deidre Morgan, who also lives in Somerset, chose Barack Obama "because he defied the odds and made history by be-



**Gayle Borgen**

coming the first African American President. Osama Bin Laden was caught under the Obama administration. President Obama ended the war in Afghanistan and is bringing our troops home."

♦ "Bill Clinton," replied Tara McRae. "He did more for the military than anyone else!!" Tara and her family live in the River Crossing neighborhood.

♦ Cambridge Cove resident Gayle Borgen answered, "Ronald Reagan, because he was a no-nonsense guy and didn't care what people thought of



**Deidre Morgan**

him."

♦ Pam Provenzano responded, "George Washington was my favorite president because he was the only one who never bashed the previous administration!" Pam also lives in the Cambridge Cove neighborhood.

♦ "I decided (after watching the Obamas all day) that they are my favorite first family. Maybe it is because I am their age or because they have teenagers. They seem relatable, like ordinary people," responded Amy Weinstein of Preston Woods.

## School sports spring preview

BY KIM MILLER

Tis' the season for a different bunch of school sports: baseball, softball, soccer, track and more. Spring sports kick off very soon at Bloomingdale Senior High School and Burns Middle School. Catch some of the teams in action at early season events.

### BSHS Boys and Girls Track and Field

Feb. 19 Armwood Quad at Armwood High, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 23 Charles Johnson Relays at King High, 9 a.m.  
March 2 Nash Higgins Relays at Leto High, 9 a.m.  
March 8 Jack Rice Invite at Easy Bay High, 6 p.m.  
March 16 Steinbrenner Invite at USF, 9 a.m.  
March 22 Strawberry Crest Quad at Straw. Crest, 7 p.m.  
March 26 Western Conference at Spoto High, 2 p.m.  
March 30 Manual-Griffin Relays at King High, 9 a.m.

### BSHS Girls Softball

(played at BSHS, 7 p.m. start)  
Feb. 5 Armwood  
Feb. 12 Chamberlain  
Feb. 19 Alonso  
Feb. 22 Durant  
Feb. 26 Newsome  
March 7 Lennard

### BSHS Boys Baseball

(played at BSHS, 7 p.m. start)  
Feb. 12 Chamberlain  
Feb. 19 Alonso  
Feb. 22 Durant  
Feb. 26 Newsome  
March 7 Lennard

### Girls Flag Football

(played at BSHS, 7:30 p.m. start)  
March 19 Hillsborough  
March 21 Brandon  
Note: BSHS boys and girls tennis also kicks off in February with several matches scheduled this month. Contact Bloomingdale High School for dates and times of early season matches. Be sure to read the March issue of Bloomingdale Gazette for an update on the teams' progress.

### Burns Middle School Boys and Girls Soccer

(girls games start at 6 p.m. and boys games follow)  
Feb. 5 Randall at Bloomingdale High  
Feb. 12 Rodgers at Riverview High  
Feb. 14 Barrington at Bloomingdale High  
Feb. 19 McLane at Bloomingdale High  
Feb. 26 Mann at Brandon High  
March 5-7 County Championships

## Resident hosts tribute golf tournament to honor father

JAKE PEACOCK

My father put a golf club in my hand when I was 18 months old and I haven't put it down since. You could say I was basically raised on the golf course. My mom, dad, sister and I have had more laughs and memories on a golf course than anywhere else. My dad has always been my swing coach, my friend, and my hero.

Since 2002, my hero has been battling cancer on and off and with recent very bad turns for the worse, he has decided that he cannot fight any longer. It was discovered recently that my father has a cerebral aneurism and because of his current health conditions, surgery is not an option. The doctors told him that if he let the cancer go untreated, he would have about a year left. That was a year ago.

My dad and I have played in father-son tour-

naments every year since I can remember but over the last few years we haven't been able to find a golf tournament that he could play in. Every father-son tournament we have found is a two day tournament that starts at 8 a.m. Dad's declining health prevents him from playing golf for two days in a row, and getting out of bed before 11 a.m. is nearly impossible because of his pain levels. Since our time is running out, and we cannot find a tournament that will work, I am going to host my own tournament as a SURPRISE tribute and thank you to dad. Of course we hope that dad will live many years to come, but if not, I want this parent-child tournament to be the best round of golf he and I ever play.

The Larry Peacock Parent Child Tournament will be held at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club on March 30, 2013 (shotgun



PROVIDED

Jake Peacock and his dad, Larry, enjoy a Christmas present round of golf at Bay Hill Club & Lodge in Orlando

start 12:30 p.m.). Entry fee is \$65 and includes: Range Balls, 18 Holes of golf with cart, food stations on course, two drink tickets, long drive contest, closest to the pin contest, post tournament raffle/awards, and all the fun you can have. A range of sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information contact Jake Peacock by phone (813) 283-

8981 or send email inquiries to parentchildchampionship@yahoo.com. Be sure to visit us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/parentchild-tournament](http://www.facebook.com/parentchild-tournament).

Jake, his wife Christine, and their 15 month old son Jake Jr. live in Bloomingdale's Fairway Manors neighborhood. Jake is a personal trainer at LA Fitness in the Royal Oaks Plaza on the corner of Lithia Pinecrest and Bloomingdale Avenue.

## Get well with Livestrong at the Campo YMCA

BY SHAPHALI JAIN

February marks the second year that the Campo YMCA has offered its Get Well with Livestrong program to the community. It is an ongoing program with no fixed start date. "You are absorbed into the program when you come in, and [participants] become automatic members of the Y at no cost through the duration of the program," explains YMCA staff member Trisha Primiano. Livestrong at the YMCA is a twelve-week physical activity and well-being program specially designed for adult cancer survivors. The groups are small and the program

aims to fulfill an important need to support the growing number of cancer survivors who find themselves in the transitional period between completing their cancer treatment and the shift to feeling physically and emotionally strong enough to attempt to return to their normal life or their "new normal." The program is conducted outside of medical facilities to emphasize that Livestrong at the YMCA is about health, not disease.

The research-based program offers cancer survivors a safe and supportive environment to participate in physical and social activities focused on strengthening the whole

person. Participants work with YMCA staff trained in supportive cancer care to achieve their goals such as building mass and strength, increasing flexibility and endurance and improving confidence and self-esteem. Additional goals include reducing the severity of therapy side effects, preventing unwanted weight changes and improving energy levels and self esteem. A final goal of the program is to assist participants in developing their own physical fitness program so they can continue to practice a healthy lifestyle, not only as part of their recovery, but as a way of life. It also focuses on the emotional well-being

of the program members and their families by providing a supportive community where people impacted by cancer can connect during treatment and beyond.

This is a free program for cancer survivors and their family members and is open to the community. In addition to the physical benefits, the program provides participants a supportive environment and a feeling of community with their fellow survivors, YMCA staff and members. For more information on this program, contact Trisha Primiano, Steve Novitske or Sandy D'Amico at (813) 684-1371.

# BSHS alumni lend advice to current students

BY KIM MILLER

As a student or as a parent, have you ever wondered if you're getting what is needed from the education provided at Bloomingdale Senior High School? Without the benefit of having a family member who has recently graduated from BSHS and has gone on to higher education, it's hard to know. Recent high school graduates enrolled in college offer a unique perspective. Not only have they successfully navigated college entrance requirements, but they are living the undergraduate experience. Here's what some Bloomingdale Class of 2012 alumni had to say about how to get the most from the time spent at Bloomingdale.

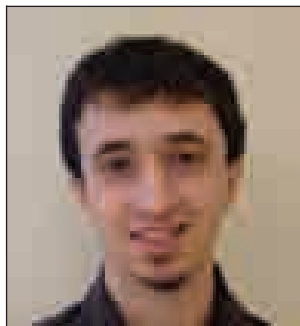
Noah Stebbins, 2012 class valedictorian, studies computer engineering at Columbia University. Stebbins was "caught off guard" his first semester at Columbia. He commented that most students who attend an Ivy League school come from private boarding schools; they are driven to succeed, and anticipate high collegiate expectations because of their boarding school educa-



**Cormac McCarthy**

tional experience. Coming from a public school, Stebbins was accustomed to a wider range of student intellect and academic success; at Bloomingdale a student will do well just by being smart and doing assigned work. Stebbins feels that BSHS students focus too much on taking as many AP courses as possible to boost their GPA. Instead he recommends that Bloomingdale students focus more on the quality of their work and learn as much as possible from the classes.

Cormac McCarthy is also studying computer engineering, but at the University of Florida. McCarthy misses the one-on-one experience he was able to have with his teachers at Bloomingdale. The AP courses at Bloomingdale



**Brett Berube**

helped him get a feel for college courses, but his grades in college are based on two or four exam grades. Homework grades, and grading of notebooks or note taking skills, are not part of his class grade in college.

Samantha Holsten felt her AP Statistics class was the best indicator of a college course. Now studying public relations at the University of Central Florida, Holsten reflects that some of the other AP courses she took were not truly college level because in college there are typically few or no ancillary grades. She encourages students to take as many AP courses as possible to avoid taking the general education classes that are mandatory in college.

And Eric Rawls is taking

pre-requisite classes at HCC with the intention of applying to the PharmD program at the University of South Florida. Rawls believes that taking dual enrollment classes in Astrology and Meteorology, as well as Bloomingdale's AP classes in Micro Economics, Macro Economics, and Physics most prepared him for the college experience because those classes used a syllabus with a defined timeline and outline of the class expectations, much like what is done in college.

Studying animal biological science at the University of South Florida, Brett Berube felt the rigorous AP course work at Bloomingdale helped prepare him for his college experience. Although there are fewer grades in college courses, the AP workload taught him the necessity of preparing on his own outside of class. He felt BSHS AP Environmental Science was taught most like a college course. The teacher expected the students to read; class time enhanced the concepts, but time needed to be put in by the students if they wanted to truly assimilate the knowledge.

## Been there, done that

With hindsight being 20/20, what would these students have done differently while attending Bloomingdale?

- ◆ Samantha would have taken more AP classes, but heavy yearbook involvement, and being Editor-in-Chief her senior year, made it difficult. Her experience with the yearbook taught her how to deal with stress by having to meet deadlines. She also learned people management and time management. These are real world experiences that many students don't get and that come in handy in college.
- ◆ Eric would have taken more dual enrollment classes as opposed to AP classes. Of the 24 credits he earned taking AP courses, only 18 were usable. More colleges accept dual enrollment, especially if the student is looking to study outside Florida.
- ◆ Brett wishes he would have pushed himself to excel more in music. (He was in the marching, jazz, and ensemble bands at BSHS.) Brett also would have geared more volunteer work toward his future interest. This would have opened up the chance for internships in his field of study.
- ◆ Noah and Cormac wouldn't change anything they did at Bloomingdale as far as being prepared for college. They both utilized what was available to them to be the best students they could be.

## What advice do BSHS alumni have for current students?

- ◆ "Have a plan and stick to it. Have fun, after knowing all your work is done. Have a goal and keep in mind what it takes to reach that goal." -Noah
- ◆ "Continue to do what works for you. Rely on yourself." -Cormac
- ◆ "Don't take any crap; stand up for what you believe." -Samantha
- ◆ "Don't take AP classes just for the credits, especially if you plan on going out of state for college. Go for dual enrollment." -Eric
- ◆ "Senior year seems stressful, but college isn't as stressful. It's the transition that is stressful." -Brett

## Part Time Assistant Wanted

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) is seeking a part-time office assistant to work afternoons in the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District office located off Bell Shoals Road. The selected candidate will work approximately 15 hours each week performing a variety of duties from answering and returning Bloomingdale resident telephone phone calls and email messages, to basic data entry and record keeping. The BHA Office Assistant must demonstrate a high degree of professionalism and be able to work independently. A more detailed position description will be posted to the BHA Web site ([www.bloomingdalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingdalegazette.com)) when available. Interested persons may submit a resume to the BHA mailing address or email address:

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association  
Post Office Box 7221  
Brandon, Florida 33508  
[Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com)

Need something small to go  
RIGHT HERE!

# Fostering animals today provides future companions

They volunteer time and home to give military veterans and others just the right animal companion

BY SHAPHALI JAIN

One look at Miss Pat will tell you she was raised in a good home. She's happy, healthy and well-behaved. Give her a pet and Miss Pat wags her tail with pleasure. Not only is Miss Pat a dog, she is a very lucky dog, being raised for a special purpose by Bob and Debbie Clark.

The Clarks have been area residents for more than 30 years and have lived in Bloomingdale's River Crossing neighborhood for eight. Bob is a retired project engineer from Tampa Electric and Debbie is in her 28th year as a Realtor with Century 21 Link Realty. Though Debbie maintains a rigorous career, they recently became "puppy raisers" for Southeastern Guide Dogs (SEGD). Miss Pat, their first puppy, is a yellow Labrador retriever that has been with them since she was 14 weeks old. The Southshore puppy raiser chapter of SEG D named the puppy after Miss Pat Frey, a former manager of the Sun City Bob Evans Restaurant who was a loyal and active group supporter.

"Only Labradors and Golden Retrievers are chosen by SEG D," specified Bob. "They are intelligent and their size and disposition is most suited to what they need to do."

Miss Pat was bred and born at SEG D's home, a 24 acre facility in Palmetto and was one of a 12 pup litter. Now a year old, she is scheduled to be handed back to SEG D on June 8,

when she'll be evaluated. Depending on her performance, she could become a guide dog or a service dog for wounded veterans (through Paws for Patriots), be utilized for therapy, find a career as a companion dog or even get into nonaggressive law enforcement. For the Clarks, the day will come with mixed emotions.

"We'll be sad and we'll miss her but this is what we signed up for," said Debbie. "We'll also get another puppy very quickly so that will keep us busy for sure."

Bob got involved with SEG D through friends who work at MacDill with the Special Operations Command and have raised several such dogs. He remembers attending a charity golf tournament for Paws for Patriots and playing a round with Col. Kathy Champion who happens to be blind. She was involved with the beginning of Paws for Patriots and got one of their first dogs, Angel, which inspired Bob to get involved.

SEG D carefully selects its volunteer puppy raisers. After submitting a comprehensive application, those interested are required to attend three to four training sessions. Prospective puppy raisers must agree to a home inspection by an area coordinator and to attending training sessions every two weeks. Miss Pat was given to the Clarks only after all of these requirements were met. As raisers (versus trainers) they are responsible to teach pup-

pies socialization and house manners, and are to expose them to as many situations as possible.

"[Miss Pat] goes where we go and is permitted anywhere an adult guide dog can go, even on a plane," said Debbie.

The Clarks are also tasked with teaching basic obedience. What does it take to be a good raiser?

"You have to be someone who works from home or at least one out of the two adults has to be home to get involved in something like this, Bob said. "These dogs need care during the day. You need to have time to spend with them."

In order to expose Miss Pat to various situations, she has been to the Performing Arts Center, the Brandon Mall, Tampa International Airport, and was even on the AMVets Post #44 float in Brandon for the 4th of July Parade.

"Miss Pat is learning how to make decisions," said Debbie. "Our job is to help her learn how to make the right decisions. Before long, she will be responsible for someone's welfare and she has to have enough confidence to handle different situations."

Veterinary care for Miss Pat is provided through a network of area doctors that are approved by SEG D. The Clarks provide food, their time and other basic necessities. SEG D is always looking for new puppy raisers and volunteers for dog walking and puppy hugging on campus. More information is



SHAPHALI JAIN

**Miss Pat spends some additional time with foster parents, Bob and Debbie Clark before heading off to fulfill her calling with Southeastern Guide Dogs.**

available on the SEG D Web site, [www.guidedogs.org](http://www.guidedogs.org).

As if all this were not enough, Debbie is also a key volunteer for Cat Call, Inc., a Brandon area 501 c (3) which rescues and rehabilitates cats, while educating the public about spay and neuter programs. They are a no-kill facility that works on finding a forever homes for every cat.

Because Cat Call has no shelter, "we depend on our volunteers and foster families to provide care for our

cats until they are old enough and ready to be adopted," explained Debbie. "We are always in need of volunteers, especially foster families. This opportunity is perfect for families with responsible children, or anyone who can provide love and attention in an indoor and safe environment."

For more information or to volunteer for Cat Call, go to [www.catcall.org](http://www.catcall.org).

Why do the Clarks commit their time and energy to helping animals?

"Bob and I both love

animals," remarked Debbie. "Being puppy raisers as well as working with Cat Call affords us the opportunity to experience hands-on interaction with our puppy and the cats. There's a huge amount of satisfaction in seeing the puppy grow and learn, knowing she's going to be someone's angel and make a huge difference in their life. And taking a cat or kitten off the street and adopting it into a forever home – well, you know you've helped instead of ignoring a bad situation."



# Assistant coaches go the distance

BY KIM MILLER

Dale Bateman and Steve Littleton are names you won't find listed in Bloomingdale High's staff and faculty directories. That doesn't mean that they are less dedicated or less influential in students' lives. In fact, it is fair to say that the BSHS boys and girls cross-country, and track and field teams would not have experienced so much success over the past 20-plus years without them. Both retired military, Bateman and Littleton help coach BSHS runners, and train with these runners almost year round despite working full-time jobs at MacDill Air Force Base.

Both Bateman and Littleton have known success as runners. Bateman attended high school in the Baltimore/Washington area where he earned seven state titles between track and cross-country. Though recruited by colleges all over the United States, Bateman had his heart set on attending the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., where he continued his running career. Bateman set three school records while at the Naval Academy, one of which was broken just five years ago. He graduated with a degree in analytical management, and obtained his masters online from the University of Southern California in systems management. Bateman is married and has two children who both attended BSHS.

Fortunate for Bloomingdale High, Bateman was sent to US CentCom at MacDill in 1990. BSHS was looking for a distance coach in 1991 and Bateman was happy to oblige.

This started his highly regarded volunteer career with the cross country and track teams. In 1993, he served as head coach – the only year he has been compensated – but he doesn't care.

"I enjoy running and the kids, even when we had some lean years," he said. "If I can help a kid improve, it is a success to me." The most exciting event that stands out in his mind was when the girls cross country team went to states for the first time and finished second.

Coach Steve Littleton went to high school outside of Philadelphia, where he won the state title in the two-mile race. He continued his running career at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, and attained his degree in Political Science. While at UPJ, he set records in the mile and 5k. He then went on to attend the main campus of the University of Pittsburgh, to get his masters in Administrative Justice, and ran for Team Nike. He finished second in one of the most popular races put on by the city, The Great Race, a 10k race up and down the hills of the city.

Littleton served as a police officer for a while as well as the head of security at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh before joining the Navy at the age of 26. Being in the Navy is what led him, his wife and daughter to Tampa. His daughter Amber graduated from and is currently teaching at BSHS.

In 1991 his friendship with Dale Bateman enticed him to volunteer with the Bulls cross country and track and field teams. He was there for



KIM MILLER

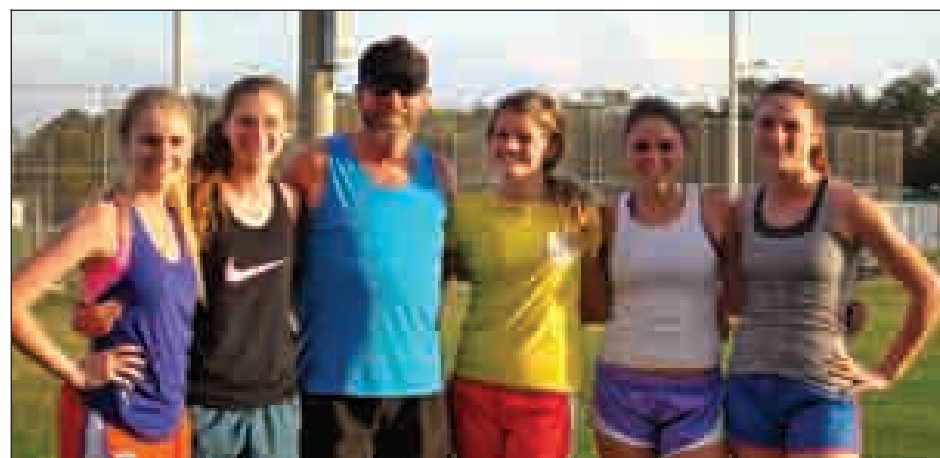
Coach Littleton (center) putting Andrew LeBlanc (left) and Sam Miller (right) through the paces at practice.

two years before he was transferred out for his job, but returned in 1997 to the benefit of BSHS. He volunteers his time because he loves running, enjoys coaching, and sharing his experience with young runners.

"Running is 95 percent mental, and it is the biggest obstacle for a runner. My job as a coach is to make them do the work, so they get the confidence to believe they can do it, and get past their mental blocks."

Littleton will never forget 2001, when the boys cross country team won districts, won regionals, and were favorites to finish first or second in the state.

Bateman and Littleton are examples of truly giving back to their community. They don't do it for the money, or the recognition; they give their time freely because they love the sport of running, and love seeing a kid excel beyond their personal best. Over the years they have enjoyed working with many head coaches, and are thankful these coaches



KIM MILLER

Coach Bateman gives the girls a breather during practice. Pictured from left: Lisa Kauffman, Kendall Hayes, Coach Bateman, Heidi Earl, Julie Roggeman, Abby Wingfield.

continue to allow them to volunteer their time to work with their Bulls athletes.

[Photo: BSHS Assistant coaches - Littleton] Photo Credit: Kim Miller

Cutline: Coach Littleton (center) putting Andrew LeBlanc (left) and Sam Miller (right) through the paces at practice.

[Photo: BSHS Assistant coaches] Photo Credit: Kim Miller

Cutline: Coach Bateman gives the girls a breather

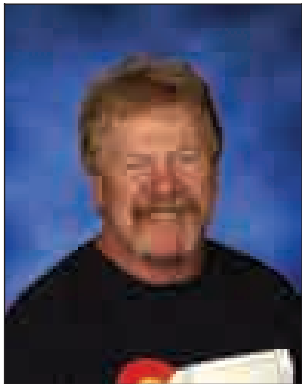
during practice. Pictured from left: Lisa Kauffman, Roggeman, Abby Wingfield, Kendall Hayes, Coach Bateman, Heidi Earl, Julie Roggeman, Abby Wingfield

# Area schools announce teachers of the year

BY SHAPHALI JAIN

Editor's note: Neighborhood elementary school teachers of the year, Ms. Mulvihill and Ms. Sanchez, were featured in the January 2013 issue of the Gazette. Part 2 of 2

## Michael Williams (Jan. 09, 1956 – Nov. 4, 2012) Burns Middle School



Michael Williams was born in South Kingstown, RI, on Jan. 9, 1956 and passed away on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. After graduating from the University of Rhode Island, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army for four years. Michael then began a 27 year teaching career as an educator teaching in Colorado, Texas, and for the last 16 years, at Burns Middle School.

While Mike was a great

teacher who embraced personal and professional growth and brought enthusiasm and passion into his classroom every day, it was in teaching the lessons of life that earned Williams the title of Teacher of the Year. Williams taught his students and colleagues to assess and properly prioritize the most important things every single day of his life. His priorities began with his family. He rejoiced in every last minute he spent with his wife Judy and his daughters Abby and Kelly (who both attend Burns Middle School) and enjoyed doing for them. That attitude spilled over to his students, friends, and coworkers.

"In reflecting on Mike as a teacher, friend and colleague, we categorically agreed that while Mike undoubtedly did those things he would have liked to do, such as buy a new boat, we believe he was truly blessed with never having had to say, 'I should have...' He did all the things that mattered. He did all the things that were important, really important. He has taught his greatest lesson by instilling a desire in the hearts of all who knew him to live their lives as he did," reflected teaching associate and friend, Melissa Maurello.

According to colleagues,

Williams always had a story to tell. He was a Parrot Head, loved Jimmy Buffett and wore a tropical shirt every Wednesday to celebrate his passions. Williams called it "Festive Wednesday." Burns has continued in this tradition since his passing. He was also a huge Patriots fan. He enjoyed teaching about space and his passion for the history of the Space Race was contagious. He had fish tanks in his room and enjoyed creating a calm and inviting experience for his students. Williams was also the Burns boys track coach for several years.

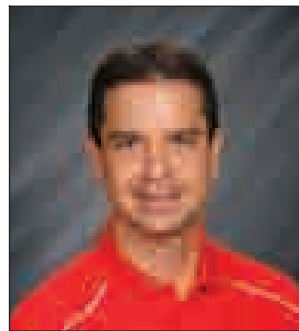
Sue Burkett, Principal of Burns Middle school, included several remarks about Mr. Williams during the November Veterans Day assembly.

"Our Veteran's Day assembly this year [is] even more meaningful for us. It is an opportunity to remember and pay respect to an extraordinary veteran, teacher, husband, father, and man, Mike Williams. The empty chair not only represents a fallen soldier, but the hole in our heart here at Burns for the loss of a family member. What I've learned from him is to remember what's important – to always smile; and to never forget to tell the people you care about how much you love

them. Ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary things; simply put, that's who Mr. Mike Williams was and how he'll always be remembered in our house."

*Information provided by Ms. Melissa Maurello, including the Bruins school newsletter and comments from school colleagues.*

## Anthony Pendino Bloomington Senior High School



Anthony Pendino was quite surprised when he was told that he had been selected Teacher of the Year for Bloomington High School.

"As an instructor, I am obviously more visible to our students than to my fellow teachers," he said. "The process for determining teacher of the year is completed through an anonymous ballot of the faculty, so being selected

by my fellow teachers for this was truly an honor." He felt that it was most certainly a vote of inspiration and confidence with regard to what he does each day to help his students succeed.

Pendino has been teaching for eight years, all of which have been at Bloomington High School in the math department. His path to teaching was not a straight one although the foundation was established early on. Education is in his blood. Pendino comes from a family of educators; his mother and all of his aunts were teachers, and his grandfather was Superintendent of Schools for Citrus County. His sister is the administrative librarian at Hillsborough Community College. After graduating from USF, Pendino spent several years working in the business world and noticed that with each company, he typically ended up in some sort of training role even though it wasn't what he had been hired to do.

"I think that deep in my soul I knew I should be a teacher and my employers knew it too," he said.

Eventually, he decided to leave the corporate world and start teaching. He started out by substituting at various schools and then ultimately se-

cured a full time position at Bloomington in the math department. During his time at Bloomington, he finished his teacher certification and also completed a second bachelor's degree in mathematics.

Pendino is often asked by his students and friends why he teaches. Many of them know that he used to work in the financial services industry making more money than he does now, and that was a decade ago.

"I'd have to say that this is my life's calling," he said. "Even when I wasn't officially an educator, I was teaching. Maybe good teachers are born, not made? Either way, I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing. I teach by choice. I teach because I love it. It inspires me to inspire others."

When asked what advice he would give to new teachers, Pendino reflected, "I would tell them to learn the true value of patience. Teachers are the ultimate managers. We manage students, parents, curriculum, paperwork, state standards, and national standards. All of this cannot be done without patience. My grandfather told us to 'be quick to listen and slow to speak.' I can't think of a better mantra for each day of a teaching career."

## Area school happenings

### CIMINO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Debbie Minichbauer, Cimino's guidance counselor, received the Hillsborough School Counseling Association's Elementary Guidance Counselor of the Year Award. Minichbauer was nominated by her peers and chosen from a committee of guidance counselors from the district on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates desirable personal qualities as a counselor
2. Provides outstanding service to the school or community
3. Provides leadership to counselors at

the district, state or national level.

4. Responsible for innovations in the counseling program.

Cimino music teacher James Rigby was recently selected as All-County Chorus conductor. Mr. Rigby will lead an "all star" group of elementary students from schools all over the county. He will be directing approximately 120-150 students from the East region, which includes schools East of I-75. Rehearsals begin in April and the concert is in May at the Carol Morsani Hall at the Straz Center.

On Feb. 5 author Suzin Carr will share her book, "I Choose." Carr, a Lutz resi-

dent and author of two other books, I Choose Too! and Yo Elijo, will discuss her writing experience with Cimino students.

"I Choose" is a children's book about the choices humans make every day. The book won first place in the 2009 Florida Writer's Association Royal Palm Literary Awards (Children's Category).

### ALAFIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Photos and story from Alafia's Jan. 31 Health and Safety Fair will be included in the March issue of the Bloomington Gazette.

### BURNS MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### Geography Bee

Results from the Burns Geography bee (scheduled for Jan. 24) will be posted in the March edition of the Bloomington Gazette. January's competition is a preliminary round for the National Geography Bee which is held every year in Washington, D.C. The winner will take a written test to see if he/she qualifies for the state competition, which will be held in the spring. State winners go on to compete in Washington, D.C.

## More than 15 years of service

February 2013 marks 15 years that the Sheriff's Community Station has been open in Bloomingdale. Think back to 1998. What was going on in the world and in our community? Perhaps these will jog your mind – the Clinton/Monica affair, Windows 98 and the founding of Google.

The Community Station's new location on Erindale Drive continues to give law enforcement space to coordinate assignments and provide better service to residents. In short, the station's presence has increased the number of crimes solved, due in part to the outstanding cooperation and support given by area residents. Only through close teamwork can we make our community a safer and more secure place to live and raise our families.

Groups like the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) continue to work directly with us in identifying critical concerns and finding solutions. The BACC

needs more members from homeowners' associations actively involved to help improve the safety and security of the community. Residents interested in information can call the Community Station at (813) 635-8040 or come by 3622 Erindale Drive (intersection of Erindale Drive and Lithia-Pinecrest Road). You're also welcome to attend the next BACC meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Community Station.

Programs such as the Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program have provided outstanding assistance to those of us in law enforcement and improved our ability to provide Bloomingdale residents with secure home and work environments. But, more residents are needed to help build this valuable source of support for the community Sheriff's office operations. Residents who are interested can go to the Sheriff's website at [www.hcso.tampa.fl.us](http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us) for information or call Deputy Loraine Jordan at (813)

247-8223.

### Sheriff's school security program

Providing safe environments at our community schools is one of the Sheriff's highest priorities! With memories still fresh from the tragic loss of life at Sandy Hook elementary, all parents have the safety of our schools on their minds. The Sheriff's school security program has placed deputies at all of our schools. Ongoing studies are also being conducted to identify additional ways to improve security and safety.

Those of us in law enforcement would also ask that parents become more vigilant when at our schools. If you notice anyone acting suspicious please contact the deputy on duty or call the Sheriff's dispatch at (813) 247-8200. Keeping our children safe will take a team effort. Also, parents, take the time to talk to your kids about stranger danger and how to help protect themselves.

### Teen Driver Challenge Program

One of the Sheriff's newest programs provides teen drivers with critical driver training. Statistics show that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for drivers 15 to 20 years old. The Bloomingdale community has lost too many teens in vehicle accidents. Driving safely on our roads is a high priority for Sheriff Gee, and he and his deputies are very committed to helping our teens get the proper training.

The Teen Driver Challenge is a two-day defensive driving and vehicle control program designed to provide teen drivers with additional knowledge and understanding of how to safely handle a vehicle in a variety of conditions and situations. The objective is to enhance a young driver's awareness of the complex task of operating a motor vehicle, and to create and practice skills that will prepare teens to anticipate and handle hazards that occur daily in normal driving conditions. The Teen Driving Challenge is an effective program at reaching teens, modifying their attitudes and producing better, safer drivers.

All classes are conducted under the direct supervision of certified driving instructors. The classroom portion of the training is held from 6 to 10 p.m. at 2008 E. 8th Ave., Tampa. The driving segment is conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sheriff's training site, 14603 State Road 39 in Lithia.

For more information contact the Sheriff's Community Outreach Division at (813) 247-8115, or visit the Sheriff's website at [www.hcso.tampa.fl.us](http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us) to obtain the proper forms for the classes. Classes are currently being scheduled for March and April. Space is limited.

## Burns Middle School: as prepared as we can be

Dep. Roger Bradley, Principal Sue Burkett and PTSA officers, Kristine Schroeder (President) and Nicole Cloyd (Ways and Means Chairperson) voiced disappointment about the small turnout for the Burns Middle School PTSA General Assembly on Jan. 16. Less than 10 parents were on hand for the session entitled, "Ask the Deputy," where parents were encouraged to ask questions on and hear from School Resource Officer Bradley on the topic of student safety. The small turnout did not deter Bradley from presenting the full docket of safety-related information and taking time for parent questions. Three messages came across loud and clear.

Monitor children's internet activity. "Other than Facebook, gaming sites are the biggest danger to kids," Bradley explained. Interacting with complete strangers is often a big part of online gaming. According to Bradley, predators have been known to use online interactions to lure kids to meet them, sometimes under the guise of giving out free game applications. Facebook and other social networking sites can prove harmful because they serve as a vehicle for bullying. The deputy reminded parents that cyber bullying is a misdemeanor crime – an arrestable offense. He routinely talks with Burns students about online dangers and encourages parents to monitor what their children are doing when online. Both Bradley and Principal Burkett reminded parents that kids are often one step ahead of parental monitoring. For example, Facebook users

can have multiple pages. An absence of daily Facebook postings may be an indicator that the child is using a different Facebook page for routine communications. To assist parents with monitoring, Bradley introduced "ComputerCOP," a free software application that can be loaded on any home PC. With this software parents can monitor what their child encounters while online, from photos and conversions to websites visited. ComputerCOP is distributed by numerous law enforcement agencies including the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Bradley invited anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the software to contact him at (813) 744-8383.

Keep abreast of drug trends among children and teens. Spice (sometimes known as K2) is a popular synthetic drug that is relatively easy to come by. Bradley explained that Burns is doing its best to prevent students from obtaining Spice while at Burns. This can be challenging since positive identification of the drug can only be made by a lab. Burns will take disciplinary action if possession of the drug is suspected, but cannot make an arrest until after the substance has tested positive as Spice.

Burns is doing all it can to keep students safe. Burns Middle School started taking a strong stance on bullying approximately three years ago, and the number of reported bullying incidents has dropped to nearly zero this year.

"We changed the climate by talking with students," explained Burkett. "We went from a school where the saying was

'stitches for snitches' to 'not in our house.'"

Burns is also seeing fewer fights among students.

"Burns is the most structured school I've ever worked in," said Bradley. The students are kept moving throughout the day from one class to another. He sees this as one of the factors that keeps the school running smoothly. After the Newtown, Conn. shootings, Burns Middle School also enhanced its security measures by asking teachers to lock classroom doors when classes are in session.

"We are as ready as we think we can be," said Sue Burkett. "Between 9:10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. there is only one way into the school."

In the unlikely event of a situation similar to Sandyhook Elementary occurring at Burns, Principal Burkett assured parents, "we have a plan in place should anything ever happen here." Lockdown drills are performed routinely to prevent a panic from breaking out in the event of an armed intrusion. In addition, Bradley and other area school resource officers are required each summer to undergo specialized training to intervene in school shootings. Burkett summed up the meeting by assuring parents that Burns is becoming a safer and friendlier school due to the involvement of students, administration, faculty, and specialized officers such as Bradley.