

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXIV  ISSUE 3  MARCH 2014

## NAME YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD VOTING EXTENDED TO MARCH 31

Over Valentine's Day weekend, Bloomingdale High School volunteers canvassed homes in Section M in an effort to provide the easiest possible means for residents to choose their community's future name. The students walked the entire neighborhood, gathered votes, and handed out over 100 flyers when residents were unavailable. This volunteer effort was coordinated by the BHA because many residents in Sections A and M had not voted via email, phone or U.S. mail—options offered to residents since January 1.

The BHA is attempting to reach at least a 50% voting response to accurately portray residents' wishes when selecting the final name. To that end, voting has been extended from the end of February to the end of March. At the end of March, the neighborhood name garnering the most votes in each community will be selected.

Continued on Page 4



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Bloomingdale High School students Bobby Michael, Allison Fritz, and Taylor Cona earned community service hours on Feb. 14 by assisting the BHA in the ongoing "Name Your Neighborhood" project. The students walked the Section M neighborhood and gathered more than 50 resident votes.

## RELAY FOR LIFE AFOOT AGAIN AT BLOOMINGDALE HIGH

By: Deidre Morgan



Photo: Deidre Morgan

Bloomingdale High School will be hosting its annual Relay for Life event on March 29 at the school's Charley Harris Stadium. The opening ceremony begins at noon and will include words from cancer survivors and their care takers. The event is open to the community and will feature activities such as a survivor lap, the luminary ceremony, dance parties, concerts from local bands, capture the flag and other forms of entertainment. Teams raise money through various fundraisers, booths they set up at the event, and their entry fees.

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Relay for Life committee members pictured: Gillian Foster, Co-chairs Sarah Walker and Marcus Butler, and Maggie Roggeman. Not pictured are Corey Geer, Alex Geer, Jacob Miller, Sam Miller and Jordan Goodson.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Nothing is impossible; the word itself says 'I'm possible'! *Audrey Hepburn*

## This Month



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PLEASE  RECYCLE





# **SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS:** **Get Back To** **A Healthier, Happier YOU!**

**bar·i·at·ric (noun) –**

a branch of medicine that deals with the control and treatment of obesity and related diseases.

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**March 20th @ 6:30 p.m.**

presented by Alfredo Fernandez, MD  
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presented by Joseph Chablis, MD  
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## YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

**Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 7221 - Brandon, Florida 33508 - (813) 681-2051  
Email: [BloomingdaleHomeowners@gmail.com](mailto:BloomingdaleHomeowners@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.BloomingdaleGazette.com](http://www.BloomingdaleGazette.com)

BHA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Offices of Bloomingdale Special Taxing District:  
3509 Bell Shoals Road  
Valrico, Florida 33596

### Directors at Large:

<b>President:</b> <i>George T. May IV</i>	<i>Billy Hightower</i>	<i>Joanie Wilson</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b> <i>Dennis Osborn</i>	<i>Mary Galin</i>	<i>Ken Smith</i>
<b>Secretary:</b> <i>Daniel Berkowitz</i>	<i>Dina White</i>	

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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**Tampa Bay Times**  
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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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

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## YARD OF THE MONTH



Photo: Suzanne Jones



**Carl & Kathy Adkins**  
4141 Springway Circle (Bloomington East)

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

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



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## MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Spring Fling** / March 1 / 2-6 p.m. / Alafia Elementary School / 3535 Culbreath Road / Join Alafia Elementary School at its annual Spring Fling event, featuring bounce houses, food trucks, small business vendors, a cake walk, Scholastic Book Fair, and Art Monkey ceramics painting. Open to the community. Call 813-744-8190 for more information.

**The 17th Annual FishHawk Ranch Road Race** / March 1 / Park Square in FishHawk. Kids Race at 5 p.m. (\$15) and the 5K starts at 5:30 p.m. (\$30).

**Lunch and Learn for Senior Citizens** / March 6 / 11 a.m.-1 p.m. / The Bridges Retirement Community / 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / The Bridges Retirement Community, partnering with Brandon Regional Hospital and the Campo Family YMCA, presents *Understanding Aches & Pains in the Active Senior*. Dr. Edward Becker, a fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon, will specifically address rotator cuff tears, shoulder pain and meniscus tears. An exercise demonstration by a YMCA instructor will give attendees the opportunity to practice proper stretching to keep joints and muscles flexible. There is no fee to attend. Lunch will be provided. To reserve a seat, please call Brandon Regional Hospital's reservation line at 813-653-1065.

**Twilight Ride** / March 7 / 4:30-8:30 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / The Campo Family YMCA's twilight bicycle ride benefits the organization's Annual Community Support Campaign. Participants ride stationary bikes and will receive a t-shirt plus a chance to win a door prize. Sign up at the Welcome Center. \$30 for 30 minutes, \$50 for 1 hour, \$75 for 2 hours, and \$125 for 4 hours. Call 813-684-1371 for more information.

**Songwriting Workshop** / March 7 / 6-8 p.m. / Music Showcase / 402 Oakfield Drive, Brandon / Learn the basics on how to write your own music! In this workshop, you will learn from singer/songwriter Daira, a Contemporary Christian artist, some of the valuable techniques she has learned over the years while in Nashville. She will be teaching knowledgeable information shared at professional songwriting workshops and courses taught at Belmont University for a fraction of the cost. Additionally, students will immediately get to put to practice what they learn! This 2-hour workshop will be hands on. Bring a guitar, if you play, and be prepared to share ideas. Ages 13 and up. Cost \$50. Call 813-685-5998 for more information.

**VPK Informational Night** / March 6 / 7 p.m. / The Village Early Learning Center / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / Learn all about The Village ELC's VPK program--with governmental rules discussed, and The Village VPK programs explained. All current preschool students please attend, and prospective community students welcome to attend. Free babysitting with RSVP. Please call (813) 651-0779.

**Tai Chi** / March 11 / 3:30-4:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. / Tai Chi reduces stress and increases stamina, flexibility, and alertness. Bring a mat or towel and wear comfortable clothing. Limited to 25 participants. All ages welcome! Call 813-273-3652 for more information. (See Library Happenings in this issue of the Gazette for additional offerings.)

**Rajun Bull Band Casino Night** / March 22 / 7 - 11 p.m. / The LOFT Event Lounge/ 711 W. Lumsden Rd., Brandon / Bloomingdale High School Band is hosting a casino night to help students raise funds for general band expenses and upcoming trips (Rome in December 2014). Casino night will feature professional dealers, food, drink, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and great prizes. Tickets are \$40 and include two drink tickets and a 2500 chip gaming voucher. Table sponsorships are still available. For more information or to purchase tickets email [rajunbullfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:rajunbullfundraising@gmail.com).

**6th Annual Winthrop Arts Festival** / March 22-23 / 10 a.m.-5 p.m. / Winthrop Town Centre / 11252 Winthrop Main Street, Riverview / The Winthrop Arts Festival is passionate about creating an arts environment for Winthrop and the greater Brandon area. The festival strives to bring together the community through the beauty of the artistry and musical performances to enhance the art appreciation of everyone attending this wonderful event. This year the festival will showcase the work of one hundred artists, in categories ranging from oil paintings to ceramics to jewelry, with musical entertainment provided by local musicians and schools. For more information visit [www.winthropartsfestival.org](http://www.winthropartsfestival.org).

**Multi-Cultural Fair** / March 29 / 10 a.m.-2 p.m. / The Village Early Learning Center / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / The Village Early Learning Center will host its third Multi-Cultural Fair on March 29, a free community event where families can experience dancing, music, food, and crafts from all over the world. Children who attend will be given a "passport" that will enable them to "travel" from country to country within the school and on campus, as well as to hear stories and see items from the countries being studied by the Village students. Additionally, "traveling" children will be able to do crafts native to the different countries represented. The Village ELC is also celebrating the grand opening of its Outdoor Classroom on March 8, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call (813) 651-0779 for more information.

**Relay for Life** / March 29-30 / Bloomingdale High School. (See story in this issue of the Gazette for details.)

## SPRING BREAK

**YMCA Spring Break Camp** / March 10-14 / Drop off 7-9 a.m.; Pick up 4-6 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / Campers will get to take a splash in the pools, play indoor and outdoor games and sports, go rock climbing, participate in arts and crafts, and much more. Spots are filling up, so sign up at the Campo Welcome Center today. Call 813-684-1371 for more information.

**Spring Break Celebrate Broadway Theater Workshop** / March 10-13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; March 15; 12-5 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc. / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Center Place Fine Arts & Stages Productions is offering a 1-week theater workshop featuring some of the best songs, dances, and scenes from classic Broadway Shows. This intense workshop is the perfect ticket to improving young performers' musical theatre skills with instruction from Rick and Terri D'Onofrio of Stages Productions. The week will end with a fully-staged showcase performance featuring all the students on Saturday, March 15, at 6 p.m. \$150 per student. Visit [www.centerplacebrandon.org](http://www.centerplacebrandon.org) for more information.



*John E.S. Cochrane*  
GOLF SCHOOLS

### Spring Break Golf Camp at River Hills Country Club

Mar 10-14/ 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m./ 6 openings. \$350/child

Kids enjoy spring break learning the great game of golf—full swing fundamentals, short game fundamentals, and on-course play. Sign up on line by clicking on the After School banner, call (813) 957-3205 and ask for J.D. Carino. (The John E.S. Cochrane Golf School is also located at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club; however, spring break camp will be held at only the Riverview location.)



## BHA MEMBERSHIP FOR FEBRUARY EXCEEDS PAST YEAR

### Board optimistic for 2014

To those who have newly joined the BHA, renewed membership, donated to the community scholarship fund, and purchased a Bloomingdale Pride license plate, the board sends a heartfelt thank you. The board of directors is thrilled to report that dues paid this year in the month of February exceed those from last year.

If you haven't yet submitted membership dues, the annual \$25 membership is a bargain, and buys residents a "large bang for their buck." This issue of the Gazette is rife with examples: Community Cleanup Day, the Charity Golf Tournament, a Community Scholarship, Volunteer Registry program and active board involvement with our neighborhoods.

If you didn't receive your notice, you can still pay by check made payable to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to [www.bloomingdalegazette.com](http://www.bloomingdalegazette.com), look for the PayPal link, and follow the simple instructions provided. A \$1 processing fee is added. The BHA needs your support now. Please submit your membership notice today.

For more information, call (813) 681-2051, or email [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com).

## NEIGHBORHOOD (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

In Section M, residents have the following options: Fairway Park, Parkside, Bell Grande Heights, Hacienda Grande, Hacienda Heights, and Callista Heights. Parkside and Hacienda Heights are write-in suggestions received from a residents in February.

In Section A, the choices are: Bloomingdale Pointe, Bloomingdale Springs, Bloomingdale Hollow, Spring Hollow Estates, Springvale Greens Reserve, and Orangepointe Estates. Write-in votes will be counted.

There are many ways to have your vote count. Submit your choice either via email at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com), by phone at 681-2051, by Facebook message, or by mail, or in person at the BHA office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. You must include your name and address for accounting purposes. This information is not shared with anyone.

Once the votes have been tallied, the BHA will announce the neighborhood names in the Bloomingdale Gazette, Facebook, and the Bloomingdale website. In addition, an unveiling ceremony will be held when the signs are completed and ready for installation. Details will be provided in the newspaper, on Facebook, and the BHA website. For information, contact the BHA at 813-681-2051, or by email at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com).



St. Stephen Catholic Church  
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# SPRING JUBILEE

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114328-01



## HELP FEED THE BAY ON MARCH 23

By: Kayla Hayes

On March 23 Feed the Bay trucks will take up a few extra spaces outside of participating super markets in our area. Feed the Bay is an annual “coordinated community outreach” among Publix super markets, Sweetbay super markets, Walgreens stores and the Hillsborough County community to stock shelves of participating food pantries and food agencies all over Tampa Bay.

Last year the community collected 160,000 lbs. of food. Participating is easy. Shoppers simply pick up a few extra items before heading to the register, and hand off the purchased donations to Feed the Bay volunteers on the way out!

Bloomingtondale East resident, Taylor Lipsey, 21, participated in Feed the Bay in 2011. “A few friends and I went to Sweetbay right after church. We each bought something to put in the food truck. It was a good feeling to help people in need!” Lipsey said.

Lisa Curcio, a Valrico resident with friends in the Bloomingtondale area, has volunteered for Feed the Bay every year since its start in 2006. “I’ve volunteered since

the very first Feed the Bay. The first two years I was a store facilitator, working with the store manager and employees to coordinate stocking, check out, etc. Every year since I’ve worked in the stores as a ‘spokesperson,’ handing out grocery lists, explaining to customers what Feed the Bay is, and asking them to donate whatever they can,” said Curcio.

“Why do I continue to volunteer? Oh, that’s any easy answer!” Curcio continued. “I know where the food goes, who it feeds, and the lives it changes. Every year during Feed the Bay, I meet at least one person whose life has been blessed by the items donated to the local food pantries.

What’s better than helping to provide the most basic essential of life?”

For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.feedthebay.org](http://www.feedthebay.org).



Feed the Bay comes to the Bloomingtondale/Valrico area every Spring to collect non-perishable food items for food pantries all over Tampa Bay. Visit your local Publix, Sweetbay or Walgreens on March 23 to participate.

## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS IN MARCH

By: Kayla Hayes

From “Tail Waggin’ Tutors” on March 14 (children take turns reading to adorable dogs), to “Living Wills” on March 12 (Attorney Katherine Haromy Woltmann of Bay Areas Legal Services will discuss important legal matters pertaining to adults), there are events for everyone this month at the Bloomingtondale Regional Public Library!

### For Adults

- “Social Security Timing,” Tuesday, March 4
- “Master Gardener: Succulents and Cacti 101,” Wednesday, March 5
- “Whodunit Book Club,” a book discussion on *The Foreign Correspondent* by Alan Furst (copies available at the library), Thursday, March 6
- “Create!: Collage,” Saturday, March 8 (limited to 20 participants)
- “Five Million Steps on a Journey of Hope Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail,” Monday, March 10
- Brandon Area Historical and Genealogical Society meeting, Tuesday, March 11
- “Living Wills,” Wednesday, March 12

### For Children

- “Motion Commotion” (ages 2-5) and their parents, Monday, March 3
- Teen Advisory Board meeting (grades 6 -12), Monday, March 3
- “Tai Chi for Teens,” Tuesday, March 11 (limited to 25 participants)
- “Tail Waggin’ Tutors,” Friday, March 14

On Tuesday, March 4, the library is celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday at 10:30 a.m. All ages are invited. Seuss fans of all ages are invited to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday at the library! There will be games, crafts, cake and refreshments.

View the library’s events calendar online at [www.hcpl.org/hcpl/locations/bdl](http://www.hcpl.org/hcpl/locations/bdl) for details on March events and more.

## BLOOMINGTONDALE HIGH SENIOR TO ATTEND USMA

Sam Miller, son of Kim and Steve Miller of Bloomingtondale East has been appointed to the United States Military Academy (USMA). Miller received his nomination from Congressman Dennis Ross on October 29, 2013 and his official appointment from USMA on January 1, 2014. “I am very excited to be a part of the West Point family,” said Miller. “Ever since I attended the Summer Leadership Experience last year it is the only place I have seen myself attending college. I worked really hard to get here and plan on making the most of this opportunity.” Miller joked that his biggest challenge would probably be getting used to the winters in New York.

Like other new cadets, Miller will report to West Point on July 2 and will be expected to complete six weeks of cadet basic training (CBT). Also referred to as “Beast Barracks,” CBT is thought to be the most challenging training that cadets encounter over the course of their four years at the academy.

The initial military training program provides cadets with basic skills to instill discipline, pride, cohesion, confidence and a high sense of duty to prepare them for entry into the Corps of Cadets. Areas of summer instruction included first aid, mountaineering, hand grenades, rifle marksmanship and nuclear, biological, and chemical training.

Miller will begin classes August 16. The West Point curriculum offers 45 majors balancing physical sciences and engineering with humanities and social sciences leading to a Bachelor of Science degree.

Miller plans to graduate from West Point in 2018 and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.



Bloomingtondale High School senior Sam Miller received his Letter of Appointment to the United States Military Academy in January.



For Bloomingdale pool owners who like to support local businesses Apollo Pools should appear near the top of the list for maintenance and remodeling services. The company is co-owned by Bloomingdale residents and brothers John and Paul Pignataro; and, the Lithia Pinecrest storefront is located less than two miles from the Bloomingdale community. That's about as local as it gets!

In business for over 25 years, Apollo Pools has expanded from a two-man operation offering basic cleaning services, to a company with over fifteen employees capable of pool repair, resurfacing, and new pool construction to design and build-outs of fire pits, sidewalks, driveways, and outdoor kitchens. The fact that Apollo Pools is considered a dominant pool company in Hillsborough County is no shock given John and Paul's service-oriented business model—greeting customers when they visit the showroom and providing close oversight of contractors in the field.

John and Paul eagerly explain the turbidity of information that many pool owners do not understand or have time to research—phasing out of marcite, nuances between quartz and pebble finishes and warranties. Apollo also offers the latest technology in variable-speed pool pumps, using one-eighth the energy and saving up to \$40 per month on electric bills. All that said, both acknowledge the number one factor in a healthy pool is its chemistry: the water must be properly balanced and maintained to add life to filters, pumps, and surfaces.



The Pignataro brothers, pictured here by a remodeled Apollo pool, pride themselves on attention to detail and swift follow through.

Apollo Pools is located at 3709 Lithia Pinecrest Rd. in Valrico. For more information, visit [www.apollopools.net](http://www.apollopools.net) or call 813-689-5197.



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## BHA BOARD HOLDS INAUGURAL RETREAT

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Board of Directors held the first-ever BHA Board Retreat on Jan.25 at the community office. The primary goals were to reflect on the previous year's activities, focus their priorities for the upcoming year, and strengthen the board's cohesiveness. Pictured are BHA board member Joanie Wilson and Wanda Sloan, Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations representative. Sloan gave an overview of homeowner association fundamentals, and provided guidelines for board functions and operations. In addition, the board discussed upcoming projects including cleanup day and a golf charity fundraiser.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

## NEW SHOPPERTUNITIES IN STORE FOR AREA RESIDENTS

By: Miriam Leech

There are changes in store for shoppers in the Bloomingdale area! Kite Realty has announced the April 2nd Grand Opening of specialty grocer The Fresh Market in the Lithia Crossing Shopping Center. The grocer is known for its fresh produce, full-service meat counter, and convenient prepared foods.

Across the street in the Shoppes at Lithia Shopping Center, Publix is undergoing renovation and updating its store space. According to Brian West, media relations representative for Publix, customers can look for new showcases to better display their favorite products, fresh paint and new signs, as well as the addition of olive and soup bars in the deli area. Renovations are expected to be completed in April.



Photos: Miriam Leech

And just down the road, the grand opening of Wawa at the corner of Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Bloomingdale Avenue is set for early to mid-July. The popular convenience market, which officially entered the Tampa area in February of 2013, specializes in signature-brand fresh-brewed coffee, fresh soups and custom sandwiches, and ready-to-go salads. According to Lori Bruce, Wawa public relations representative, the stores have been warmly received in this area.

With construction at all three locations moving quickly, Bloomingdale area residents will have plenty of specialty choices to put on their shopping lists!

The new Fresh Market façade gets some finishing touches. The specialty grocery store plans to celebrate its Grand Opening on April 2 in the Lithia Crossing Shopping Center.



With a target opening set for early to mid-July, construction crews have been working diligently at the site of the new Wawa. The convenience store will be located at the corner of Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Bloomingdale Avenue next to the Verizon store.



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114326-01





# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By: Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REQUESTED

At the last Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) meeting several areas of specific concern were discussed for which the deputies who patrol the Bloomingdale community need special cooperation and assistance from members of the Bloomingdale Community. These included:

### 1. Traffic Accidents and New Construction

Traffic accidents continue to be a serious challenge in our area. The fatal Bloomingdale Avenue accident on Feb. 9 and the deadly accident on I-275 plus several others in our area should be a wakeup call for all of us. Speeding kills, drinking and driving kills and distracted driving kills. The only drivers who can stop these types of accidents are you! Each driver makes a personal decision every time they drive as to whether or not they will drive safely. Do not put the lives of others at jeopardy when you drive!

Plans have been delayed for a short time on the project to widen Bell Shoals Road. Also, the plans to build a super Wal-Mart on Bloomingdale Avenue are still being discussed. Once these projects begin we know that traffic will be even more confusing and congested. Keep up on the status of these projects so you can be prepared for delays and congestion for a long time, 18 – 24 months.

### 2. Residents – Be Alert For Safety Notices and Scams

Our Community Services Officer, CSO Sandy Capitano, has been monitoring several scams and product alerts that could directly affect you and your family. Following is information on these scams and product alerts to help protect and your family.

#### Graco Child Seat Recall

Graco has determined that food and dried liquids can make harness buckles more difficult to open over time or become stuck in the latched position. A voluntary recall has been made on the harness buckles used on all Graco toddler convertible car seats and harnessed booster seats manufactured from 2009 to July 2013. This does not directly affect the performance of the car seat or effectiveness of the buckle but can make using these devices very difficult.

The Toddler Convertible Car Seats affected include the Cozy Line, Comfort Sport, classic Ride 50, My Ride 70, My Ride 65 with Safety Surround, Size4Me 70, My Size 70, Head Wise 70, Smart seat. The Harnessed Booster seats include the Nautilus 3-in-1, Nautilus Elite and Argos.

If you are experiencing difficulty with your harness buckles contact Graco at 1-800-345-4109 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or contact Graco at [consumerservices@gracobaby.com](mailto:consumerservices@gracobaby.com).

### “One-Ring” Cell Phone Scam

Scammers using auto-dialers call cell phones and let the phone ring once. If you call back you will hear a response like, “Hello, you’ve reached an operator, please hold.” You are now being slammed with very high per minute phone call rates with international rates added. If you get a call like this, do not call the number back! If you do get slammed contact the Federal Communications Commission.

### Phone Bill Crammers

Phone cramers are swindlers who sneak charges onto your phone bills. This illegal practice has been occurring for several years. These charges are hidden in your phone bill. Some occur when customers receive calls and are asked to approve additional charges by “pressing a number”; not realizing the call is a scam. Many customers have been paying these illegal charges for years in amounts in the hundreds or thousands of dollars.

One of the major companies cramming customer's phone bills is USBI. Customers of several different phone companies have been victims of this scam.

The best protection you have is to very carefully check all of the charges on your phone bill every month. If you do not understand a charge contact your carrier.

### Energy Billing Statements

This scam comes as an email asking you to review your energy bill before it is processed by clicking on a special “click here” link.

The simple solution is not to click on anything. Our energy companies do not email customers. If you receive this email contact your energy company's fraud department. Then delete the email.

### Fake Funeral Notice

This scam is a new low. Scammers send bogus emails with the subject line “funeral notification.” It appears to be very legitimate. It invites you to click on a link for more information. The link sends you to malicious software that includes viruses or spyware.

Again, simply delete these messages! Also keep your security software updated.

### REMEMBER:

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



On Tuesday, Feb. 4, the Hillsborough County Department of Public Works held a public meeting in the Bloomingdale High School Auditorium to hear the community's input on upcoming traffic improvements in the greater Brandon area. County workers and a facilitator from Gainesville, FL listened to more than thirty residents contribute comments and questions on upcoming traffic issues and improvements during the 90 minutes allotted for comment. Most of the queries went unanswered with the county promising written responses later.

The primary question community members wanted answered was where and how the \$564,000 owed for traffic improvements from Red Cast LLC (the developer on the "Big Box" project) would be mandated; it was for this reason that the county called the meeting. The Board of County Commissioners had determined in December 2013, that allocation of funds would not take place before giving the community a chance to provide public feedback on where the monies should be spent. The February meeting did little to reassure residents that the funds will be directed to the area immediately affected by the Big Box project.

Large maps in the lobby outside of the auditorium at Bloomingdale High School showed the locations of projects that will take place this year (including the widening of Bell Shoals Rd. and improvements on the traffic lights at the Lithia Pinecrest and Lumsden intersection) and some projects that are on hold, but attendees were concerned that no improvements were listed for the Bloomingdale and Lithia Pinecrest intersection. With Lithia Pinecrest rated a "Failed" road according to Hillsborough County standards, and Bloomingdale Ave. very close to the same, it seems clear to many residents that improvements should be made to this area.

The County scheduled a follow-up meeting with a smaller group of community representatives on Feb. 27. The meeting's objectives included establishing the community's expectations for the use of the available funds and determining next steps.

At the same time that the county is deciding where to allocate these funds from Red Cast, they are dealing with a lawsuit filed by CAN-DO, the community organization against the Big Box development. According to an January update from CAN-DO, on Jan. 6 Hillsborough County filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, and on Jan. 10 the developer filed a motion to join the county's motion to dismiss. The lawyer representing CAN-DO's case expected this and began working with the county to set a hearing date.

"The case is going before a judge in March for review. At that time the judge will make a decision as to whether the case should move forward," commented Rodney Biddle, CAN-DO member.



Photo: Kayla Hayes

Residents line up to express concern over many issues with upcoming transportation projects, including how long the projects will take and whether they will be finished in a timely manner. Residents also shared concerns in the Feb. 4 meeting about traffic issues related to the "Big Box" project, including how EMS vehicles will handle increased traffic, what the county is doing to ensure child and pedestrian safety and more.

"This is an event we are looking forward to as it has a good chance of negating the county's claims that they did nothing wrong, and would show the community that our position is a good one. If, on the other hand, the judge decides our case is not valid, we would be forced to take a step back and re-evaluate our position. This could involve a new strategy, or even deciding not to move further. However, we are confident that our case merits will be validated and that we will move forward," Biddle continued.

Visit [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/countyprojects](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/countyprojects) for a list of active and upcoming transportation projects. Join CAN-DO's email list or support them financially by visiting [www.bloomingdalebigbox.com](http://www.bloomingdalebigbox.com).

## BECOME A BHA VOLUNTEER, GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY

The volunteer spirit is alive and well in the Bloomingdale community. Last year, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association board created a community volunteer registry, whereby those wanting to give back to the community sign up to be contacted for volunteer opportunities. At over 55 registered volunteers, the registry is growing, but volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- **Community Cleanup Day:** An annual event where residents are provided with free bulk trash drop-off within the community. This includes furniture, mattresses, and miscellaneous items. This is a one-time Saturday event offering five community service hours for high school students. Volunteers will help with setup, off-loading vehicles, and site teardown. This year's clean-up is April 12.
- **Neighbors Helping Neighbors:** A new program in which volunteers will be called to assist neighbors in need with various tasks. Tasks can include property cleanup, mowing, and others as determined by the BHA. Community service hours will vary.
- **Annual Charity Golf Tournament Fundraiser:** This upcoming event will require pre- and post-tournament tasks such as bag stuffing, and site setup and teardown. Between three and eight community service hours will be offered. This year's tournament is May 10.



These are just a few ways that volunteers can support their community. If you would like to become a BHA volunteer and make our community a better place to live, work and call home, contact the BHA office at 813-681-2051 or by email at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com).



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# YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Please help the Sheriff's Office publicize the upcoming "OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET". Copy and share the following information with your family, friends and neighbors! Thank you for your help with this critical project!

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association and the Hillsborough County Parks Department will be providing area residents a way to properly dispose of dangerous, outdated, unwanted prescription medicines and drugs.

Day/Date: Saturday, April 12, 2014  
Time: 0900 – 1200  
Location: Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance II Area  
1626 Natures Way Drive. (By Alafia Elementary School)

- Protect your family and your environment!
- Do not flush medications or put them in the trash!
- Collect your old medications and drop them off so they can be properly disposed of.

An easy drop off will be provided. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**



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# INs & OUTs

## WHAT EVERY BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TRASH COLLECTION CARTS

The automated collection of garbage and recyclables in Hillsborough County's solid waste service area is well under way. This process has included the replacement of trash cans and recycling bins with new roll carts that are larger than the typical receptacles they are replacing. Though designed for maximum efficiency and user friendliness, the new units (grey for trash & blue for recycling) have the unfortunate side effect of being less than conspicuous.

Rules for storage of trash cans/carts are provided in the overall Bloomingdale Homeowners Association and sub-section deed restrictions. Maintaining a healthy, attractive community by adhering to these restrictions is the responsibility of each and every resident.

**In general, trash cans and recycling bins should NOT be readily visible from the street, except for a reasonable period of time when they are curbside before, during, and after collection hours. This reasonable period of time is typically considered to be 12 hours before and 12 hours after.**

Residents are required to store their trash cans and recycling bins in a location that is not easily viewable from the street, this includes inside their garage, to the side of their garage or home, or behind a fence or natural barrier such as plants or a hedge. Rolling carts should never be stored directly in front of a garage door or along the frontage of your home, and most certainly never in the street, on a driveway or a lawn except during the reasonable period of time before, during, and after collection hours. This rule also applies to yard waste cans.

**All trash and recyclables must be inside the can with the lid closed both while being stored and for pick-up by the waste contractors. Due to the automated nature of the collection systems, items left outside the cans will not be picked up and cans that have lids ajar due to overflow may also not be collected. It is requested that residents take the time to break down items (such as cardboard boxes) so that the collection trucks can go about their tasks with maximum efficiency. And it should go without saying that any refuse cans stored outside should always have their lids closed.**

**Residents have until March 15 to request a one-time size change for their trash cans and recycling bins. This typically means trading in the larger gray trash can for one that matches the smaller size of the recycling cart.**

**TRASH CANS & RECYCLING BINS SHOULD NOT BE READILY VISIBLE FROM THE STREET, EXCEPT WHEN THEY ARE CURBSIDE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER COLLECTION HOURS. TYPICALLY 12 HOURS BEFORE AND 12 HOURS AFTER COLLECTION.**

## CAMPO YMCA KICKS OFF ANNUAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

By:  
Miriam Leech

Dancing to the beat of the Village People's Y-M-C-A, approximately 100 members and guests helped the Campo YMCA kick off their annual community support campaign on Feb. 20 with energy and excitement. On hand to celebrate the kickoff were Rays' mascot Raymond, the Chick-Fil-A Cow, and of course, the Y Guy.



This year, the Campo Family and FishHawk YMCAs hope to raise \$237,000. Charitable gifts from donors help provide financial assistance for children, adults, and families to participate in Y programs. One hundred percent of funds raised go back into the community to help everyone regardless of age, income, or background.

Andi Cooke, Operations Executive at the Campo Y, explained that the goal of the YMCA is to recruit the community to volunteer. "We are a charity, not just a gym," said Cooke, "and we want to reach outside of our four walls." Her words resonate in the theme of this year's campaign—The Y. So much more.

Heading up the community campaign is Bloomingdale resident Cheryl Kehrmeier. "When I moved here 15 years ago, I chose to live in this location because the Y was here." This is the first year Kehrmeier has chaired the campaign, and this is her fourth year as a board member at the Campo Y.

Last year, as a result of funds raised during the community campaign, 306 kids learned life-saving swim safety skills, 193 kids went to summer camp, 1,600 students received backpacks and school supplies, 8,629 people were able to become more healthy and confident, 113 cancer survivors and family members participated in Campo's Livestrong program, and 400 teens were impacted through youth programming and leadership opportunities.

Testimonials by individuals who have benefitted from the financial assistance provided by the YMCA provided an emotional impact on the evening. A particularly touching story was shared by Betty Gravett who has lost 99 pounds since May of last year as a result of participating in the water aerobics and strength training programs. "Coming to the Y has been life-changing for me," a tearful Gravett shared. She has also been able to take advantage of the Livestrong Program as a cancer survivor and is participating in the Diabetes Prevention Class.

There are numerous ways to participate in the community support campaign—become a community partner in the campaign to raise funds; volunteer time at the Y during events or outreach programs; join the Youth Development, Healthy Living, or Social Responsibility committees; or become a Campo Family YMCA Board member.

"We are thrilled at the level of turnout and excitement," said Cooke at the end of the evening. If interested in being a part of the Campo Family YMCA community campaign contact the Y at 813-684-1371.

Campo Family YMCA staff and volunteers Kavita Marballi, Cheryl Kehrmeier, Chuck Ammons, and Andi Cooke celebrate to the beat of the Village People's Y-M-C-A at the kickoff of the annual community support campaign on Feb. 20. Funds raised provide financial assistance for all ages to participate in Y programs.



Photo: Miriam Leech



“Everyone has a mind for math,” says Becky McDaniels, and she would know. As the owner and director of Mathnesium learning center she helps students of all ages unlock that part of their brain to solve simple to complex math problems.

Located in Plaza Bella, Mathnesium opened on October 28 and currently has 53 students enrolled. McDaniels has been a teacher for 13 years in public, private, and charter schools. As she continually saw students struggle in math, her family and friends encouraged her to open her own Mathnesium franchise.

The Mathnesium Method was developed over 35 years ago by Larry Martinek, who was inspired to find a better way to teach math to his students. The method relies on identifying students’ current skill levels and then teaching them in a way that makes sense to them. It incorporates mental, visual, verbal, tactile, and written exercises. There are now 431 locations worldwide, and Mathnesium is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.



There are currently 10 instructors including McDaniels at the Brandon Mathnesium. “We are the students’ biggest cheerleaders,” says McDaniels. What the instructors all have in common is a love for math. Helping make up the team are a retired engineer, a math tutor, two high school seniors, and two college sophomores—Baylor Kull and Dalian Leigh are both 2012 graduates of Bloomingdale High School and students at USF.

Cimino Elementary 1st grader Sofia Mayorga learns to play chess with the assistance of instructor Emily Everett at a recent Mathnesium Club Radical event, where students got to dress in costume as a chess piece and enjoy snacks and playtime with their friends.

New students undergo an oral assessment and a written assessment, and parents are interviewed about how their child performs in math. McDaniels explained that much can be learned by how a student solves a question like “What is  $99 + 99 + 99$ ?” or answers the question “What was your best year in school?” From the three-pronged assessment, the team of instructors determine what techniques will work best for a particular student.

The Mathnesium instructors ensure that their students are challenged and motivated. Students are issued punch cards that mark each time they achieve a goal. Cards can then be traded in for prizes. The best moments for McDaniels and her instructors come when a student is excited to share the improved math grade on their report card.

The tutoring center also offers Club Radical on select Friday evenings, a combination of parents’ night out and a fun-themed game night for students. On a recent club night, students got to dress in costume as chess pieces while enjoying the opportunity to learn that game of strategy.

“Good mathematicians know where to look for tools or strategies to help them answer math problems. That is what we try to provide our students,” says McDaniels. Mathnesium is located at 1048 Bloomingdale Avenue. For more information call 813-655-6284 or visit: [www.mathnesium.com/brandon](http://www.mathnesium.com/brandon).

Becky McDaniels, owner and director of Mathnesium, dressed as the Red Queen for a recent chess-themed night of snacks and games that gave the students a chance to have fun and learn a new skill while parents enjoyed an evening off.



Photos: Miriam Leech

## BLOOMINGDALE RESIDENTS GET HELP WITH SPRING CLEANUP

### ANNUAL BHA COMMUNITY CLEANUP SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will be hosting its annual Community Cleanup Day on April 12, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (or until trash bins are full). The collection site is on Natures Way at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility near Alafia Elementary School.

With a grant from the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners and volunteer support from the BHA board, high school students, and residents, Cleanup Day provides residents with an opportunity to skip the drive to the county landfill, and discard their unwanted items at a location inside our community. Drop off and disposal services are free, which according to many residents is the best part.

Accepted items include:

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

New this year, the BHA has contacted a recycling firm that will accept computers, both tower and laptop, keyboards, cell phones, flat screen monitors, UPS battery back-ups and more.

Some items cannot be accepted:

- No televisions, microwaves, computers or radios
- No yard waste
- No hazardous materials including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercials activities

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

Volunteers are needed to help unload cars and direct traffic. High school students earn community service hour credits for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships for helping with this project. For information, contact the BHA at 813-681-2051 or by email at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com).



## DINING WITH DAVE



Living out in the Tampa suburbs, it is easy to consider that the finest dining in the area must only be available in Hyde Park, Ybor City or (gasp) Carrollwood. I mean, seriously, who has the time to travel so far afield for simple dining. But fear not fellow Bloomingdale residents, for a plethora of excellent dining options exist right outside our front doors. In the coming months I look forward to introducing you to many of the fine restaurants in and around our community.

### Restaurant Review March 2014

Name: Mai Thai  
Cuisine: Thai and Asian  
Location: Bloomingdale Square, 875 E. Bloomingdale Avenue  
Phone: (813) 681-4470



Tucked into a corner of Bloomingdale Square, Mai Thai is family owned and serves authentic Thai cuisine. Though small in size (the dining room has about a dozen tables), the wait staff is fast and friendly and on any given evening the take-out service is hopping. The menu is comprised of standard Thai fare and has enough variety to appease anyone who enjoys the cuisine. It is very easy to discuss options with the staff and they understand the nuances of spicy versus not too spicy. I must admit that I am a semi-regular customer as this is a 'go-to' place when my spouse and I don't feel like cooking at home. I am a fan of the noodle options and find the Pad Thai and Pad Mee to be especially good. My partner tends towards the rice options and greatly enjoys the Pineapple or Basil Fried Rice. Other yummy options include the Yum Nua (Beef Salad) and Panang Curry. The drink menu is rather limited, but as long as they have Singha beer and Thai Iced Tea I'll not complain.

Open Monday thru Saturday, the overall atmosphere is semi-casual dining and family friendly (there is NO separate kids menu) and good for a date night. The prices are very reasonable and the portions of such a good size that you feel you are getting an honest meal at an honest price. If I have one complaint, it is that they serve your order when it is ready and do not hold meals back to serve a whole table at once. This means that sometimes you find yourself diving in while your dining partner's order has not yet appeared. But, given the nature of sharing in Asian cuisine, this usually is not a problem.

## PINOT'S PALETTE

By: Dina White



Photo: Dina White

Paint. Drink. Have fun! A new upscale studio recently opened in Brandon where friends, family, and strangers can get together and do just that. At the end of a two- or three-hour class at Pinot's Palette, clients leave with a smile and a delightful canvas painting, stylish enough to grace their home's interior!

Pinot's Palette offers a library of over 500 paintings, from which customers may pick online when scheduling a festive night out. There are a multitude of themes suitable for all ages, groups, and genres.

With a brand new studio rich in bold color and chic details, co-owners Beverly and Dennis Walker, and Jennifer and Jeff Crum, have created an inspirational, trendy feel with an open loft ceiling, wood floors, warm lighting, and surround sound. The bar area features a wide selection of beer and wine.

The main studio can seat up to 36 aspiring painters looking to tap into their creativity and find their fun zone. Additionally, Pinot's Palette offers private studio space, known as the Gasparilla room. This room can be especially reserved for parties and comes complete with a Gasparilla-themed wall mural, designed and painted by instructors-in-training. Pinot's Palette can accommodate bridal, bachelorette, girls-night-out, children's parties, and team building or corporate groups with counter space and supplies for those wishing to bring additional food or drink items. Any occasion can be customized by calling the studio direct, which has a minimum of five professional art instructors capable of guiding various groups and themes.

Prices start at \$35 per person per session, all supplies included. Students are asked to bring an open mind and willingness to paint, drink, and have fun!! (Drinking is optional, of course, and water is provided at no charge.) For information, please visit their website at [www.pinotpalette.com/Brandon](http://www.pinotpalette.com/Brandon).

The Gasparilla Room wall mural was designed by Pinot's Palette instructors-in-training. It took less than 24 hours from concept and design to mural.



Hello Bloomingdale Market watchers. As you may recall from last month, this is Bloomingdale's peak season for real estate. Topping off the surge, Hillsborough and surrounding counties will become home to numerous new employees in 2014. Dozens of companies, including Amazon and the new St. Joseph's Hospital, will be bringing an estimated 3,000 jobs to the area. This positive influx of new residents may result in a spike in demand for Bloomingdale's top-rated schools, central location, and pride of ownership. If you're not interested in selling at this time, please keep an eye on the Bloomingdale real estate market over the next several months.

Those thinking of selling have reason to be optimistic! On average, Bloomingdale saw a 10.91% increase in purchase prices between the months of January and July for both 2012 and 2013, and over the last two months we have experienced a 6.37% increase in price per square foot! The statistics\* are promising and exciting, but also dependent on interest rates, local employment, and our overall grassroots effort. Until next month, please stay informed and involved as Bloomingdale can't be Bloomingdale without you!



The new St. Joseph's Hospital-South is scheduled to be completed in 2015.



**Dina White**  
Realtor

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Shaw Realty Group  
1725 Highway 60 East  
Valrico, FL 33596  
813.509.7780  
dina.white@century21.com

\*Statistics encompass all of Bloomingdale and were compiled from the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) using closed sales between January 01, 2012 and December 31, 2013, and December 16, 2013 thru February 15, 2014. Special condition sales not included and data does not include For Sale by Owners. For a comprehensive breakdown by neighborhood, square footage, or price range, please contact me directly.



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103976-01



If you have ever driven by the Natures Way tennis courts, chances are you have seen Bloomingdale resident and tennis coach, Pedro Camacho hard at work coaching aspiring tennis players. He is difficult to miss with his trademark ball cap perched on his lanky frame, racquet in hand, and hopper full of tennis balls.

A Peruvian native, Camacho honed his tennis skills as a youth on the country's red clay courts. "I started playing tennis late at age 13, but quickly realized how much I enjoyed the sport," he says. "And I was good at it." By the time he turned 18, he was ranked among the top 5 juniors in the 18 and under category in Peru, and had been recruited to play tennis in the United States at a small, Midwestern university where he received a 2-year scholarship.

After college, Camacho came to Florida, settling in the Miami area. As a single man, he continued to play tennis competitively and recreationally, and he worked teaching tennis in local parks with the city's Parks and Recreation Department. After getting married, however, family priorities won out over the uncertainty of life as a tennis player. For the next 25 years, Camacho directed his energy towards a successful real estate career until his retirement in 2011. Tennis, while on the back burner, was never far from his mind, and he continued to play recreationally and teach privately.

Following retirement, family priorities, again, became the driving force behind his latest move from Miami to the Bloomingdale community in late 2011. Miami's loss is the Bloomingdale community's gain as Camacho is again pursuing his first love, tennis, through competing locally and on the national stage, and by coaching tennis throughout the Brandon-Valrico area.

Camacho began playing competitively again in 2012; and he now plays in the Adult 55 and over group. Currently, he is ranked 14th in Florida, and 41st nationally. Playing competitively may be his first passion, but coaching and teaching tennis are not far behind.

Bloomingdale resident and Bloomingdale High School tennis player, Chrystee Brinegar, has been improving her game with Camacho's help for the last few months. "Pedro has really helped me with my ground strokes, serve, and maybe more importantly, my mental game", she says, adding, "I really like that he stays on top of the things I need to correct without stressing me out."

Corey Karlen, long-time player, and one of Camacho's first students, echoed Brinegar's comments. "Pedro has helped my confidence where I feel I am really in the point, I am playing better than ever, and I have a renewed love of the game."

Perhaps the best compliment a student can offer a coach in terms of their impact is one shared by Brinegar. "Pedro is now in my head when I play. I can hear him saying, 'slow down, fix that' and it helps me to stay focused."



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Pedro Camacho, tennis coach and Bloomingdale resident, stretches to return the ball with an "on the run" forehand at Bloomingdale East Park off Natures Way.

**Interested in learning to play tennis or improve your game? Contact Pedro Camacho at 813-707-3227, or by email at [pedrocamacho10@gmail.com](mailto:pedrocamacho10@gmail.com).**

## SAVE THE DATE: BHA TO HOLD CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT IN MAY

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is pleased to announce its Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club on Saturday, May 10! This year's charity has been identified as K9s For Warriors, which transforms rescued shelter dogs into service canines for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress.

As one of the most established and unified communities in the area, this event will be open to all golfers, near and far, for a day of fun and prizes, with team of four prizes starting at \$300. We are also inviting area businesses to participate in sponsorship efforts and gain exposure to the 5000+ homeowners in the Bloomingdale Community. Volunteers will be needed throughout the day. More information will follow, so stay tuned!

If you know of a Bloomingdale-based veteran that could benefit from a service canine, we want to hear his or her story. Please contact the BHA at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com) or attend the next meeting on April 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bloomingdale Taxing District office, behind Citgo on Bell Shoals Rd. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas!



**USING THE RAILROAD TRACK ANALOGY TO AIM CORRECTLY**



*John E.S. Cochran*  
**GOLF SCHOOLS**

When your golf buddy says “aim for the target,” most of us aim our body to the target. Great for bowling, pool and shooting guns. Not so great for golf.

In bowling, pool and shooting guns, our body is aligned behind the target. In golf

our body is aligned alongside the target (golf ball is a few feet in front of you).

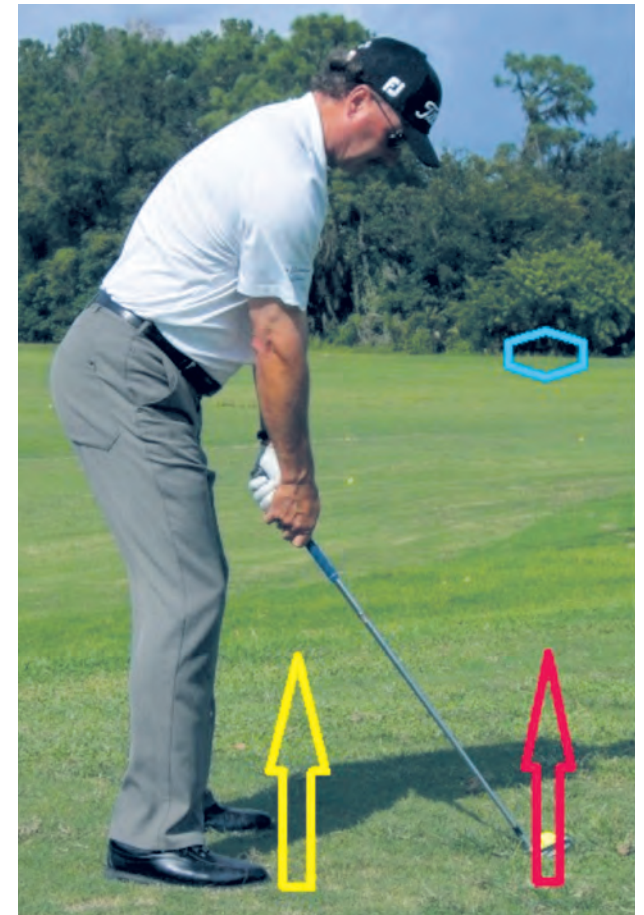
As a result, if you align your body to the target (incorrect), with a good swing the ball will go right of where you aimed.

The outside track (red) in which the ball travels on is the target line. The inside track (yellow) is the body/stance line; which consists of feet, knees, hips and shoulders all square and parallel (railroad tracks) to the target line.

When aimed correctly, your left shoulder (and body) will be aligned left of target. The next time your buddy says you’re aiming wrong; tell him/her about the railroad tracks and how this train is staying on for 18 holes.

Next month: Not holding the putter like all the other clubs in your bag.

Any questions please call me: (813) 957-3205



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### MARCH 10-14 SPRING BREAK

#### BLOOMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL

- March 6 Orchestra Post-MPA Concert, 7 p.m.
- March 7 Scholarship Workshop, 10 a.m.–1:14 p.m. Contact Guidance Office for details.
- March 22 BSHS Band Casino Night fundraiser, 7–11 p.m.
- March 25 Chorus Pre-MPA Concert, 7 p.m.
- March 29-30 Relay for Life (See Gazette story this issue for details.)

#### BURNS MIDDLE

- March 6 Conference night, 5-9 p.m.
- March 20 Burns and Barrington Orchestras Pre-MPA, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at BSHS
- March 25 Spring Chorus Concert, 7-8 p.m. at BSHS

#### ALAFIA ELEMENTARY

- March 1 Spring Fling, 2-6 p.m. Featuring bounce houses, food trucks, small business vendors, a cake walk, Scholastic Book Fair, and Art Monkey ceramics painting. Open to the community.

#### CIMINO ELEMENTARY

- March 18 General Assembly and Family Fit Night. Join Coach Macko and the PTA for a general assembly with family friendly activities and games, 6-8 p.m. in the Media Center.
- March 21 All Pro Dads Breakfast in the multi-purpose room at 7a.m.
- March 27 Chipotle Spirit Night, 5–8 p.m. Chipotle will be donating 50% of their proceeds for all Cimino purchases.

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

#### BLOOMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL RAJUN' BULL BAND CASINO NIGHT

MARCH 22, 2014, 7-11 P.M.  
\$40 PER PERSON  
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BRANDON



INFORMATION:  
RAJUNBULLFUNDRAISING@GMAIL.COM

### SUNSHINE STATE SPIRIT SHOWDOWN

Fan voting is underway for the Sunshine State Spirit Showdown. Bloomingdale's TV Production class, under the guidance of Mr. Anteau, submitted a video to the FHASAA showing our school spirit. That video has been selected as one of the 16 finalist of the Sunshine State Spirit Showdown.

Please vote for Bloomingdale's video!

You can vote until Thursday, March 6.

Link to view Bloomingdale's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KVk0fJv8oE>

Link to vote:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FLSQuad>

### CIMINO SPIRIT NIGHT

March 27

Chipotle

829 E Bloomingdale Ave, Brandon

There is no time limit on when purchases can be made. Parents are encouraged to let co-workers and friends know that purchases made during lunch, or any time during the day of our event will support Cimino as long as they mention us to their server. Cimino staff members will be on site 5-8 p.m. The student's name and teacher's name should be written on the receipt or the flyer provided because the class with the most representation will receive a prize. Some locations require the flyer in order for Cimino to receive a percentage of the sale. Thanks so much for your support!





Themed laps will take place all night and with closing ceremonies at 6 a.m. on March 30.

Co-committee Chair Sarah Walker has personal reasons for wanting to chair this year's event. She has very close family members who are cancer survivors—both of her great grandparents, father and two very close friends have all been affected by this disease. She stated that their strength and endurance is something that she is very thankful for and the reason she wants to give back.



Funds raised through Relay for Life go to the American Cancer Society. The donations are used to fund cancer research, meet the needs of those currently fighting the disease and assist those who are in the recovery stages.

This is a great time for students to earn volunteer hours and for anyone in the community to help out with a great cause. To learn more or to donate to the Relay for Life event please visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org).

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Dawn stated, "The fact that all the staff at Superior understands Alzheimer's makes us comfortable. And Mom has felt safe and comfortable since the day she got there." Terrie agreed by emphasizing, "They're wonderful caregivers. It's a special gift they have and we're fortunate they're here. They know our mother and they love her."

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## BSHS ATHLETES SIGN FOR COLLEGE PLAY

By: Deidre Morgan

Families and coaches gathered in the Bloomingdale High Media Center on Feb. 5 (National Signing Day) to witness and celebrate the 2014 athletic signings of three student-athletes: Andrew LeBlanc - UNF (Track), Sydney Ross - University of Tampa (Women's Soccer) and Ryan Kelley - Lake Sumter CC (Baseball). National Signing Day takes place the first Wednesday in February and ceremoniously kicks off the two-month signing period for high school senior athletes in several sports: Football, Baseball, Field Hockey, Soccer, Track and Field, Cross Country and Men's Water Polo. While signing does not guarantee a spot on the team or playing time, it is celebrated as the next phase of life as a college student-athlete. Bloomingdale High congratulates its class of 2014 athletes on their special accomplishment.

Photos: Deidre Morgan



Helping to celebrate with Ryan Kelley are his parents, Dean and Heidi, sister Jessica and other family members. Ryan Kelley signed to play baseball at Lake Sumter Community College.



Andrew LeBlanc signed his Letter of Intent to run track for the University of North Florida with his parents, Laurie and Kevin and brother Matthew by his side.



Sydney Ross will play soccer for the University of Tampa. Pictured are Sydney's dad Jack Ross, mom and stepdad, Susie and Alan Berrios, brother Chris and many other family members and friends.





## 2014 BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS APRIL 1

Don't let the opportunity for \$2,000 in college scholarship money slip through your fingers.

Applications for the BHA Bloomingdale Community Scholarship are available now at the Bloomingdale High School Guidance Office, the BHA office, and via email at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com). The deadline is April 1, and completed applications can be mailed or dropped off in person to the BHA office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596.

Applicants must be residents of the Bloomingdale community, and the applicant's parent/guardian must be a current member of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. In addition, the applicant must have at least a weighted 3.0 grade point average at the time of scholarship disbursement, and must be accepted at a two- or four-year accredited college or university. The application selection criteria includes: community service, extra-curricular activities, essay, academics and letter of reference. Applicants will be judged solely on merit, not financial need.

For more information, call 813-681-2051, or email [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com).



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“Impossible is nothing—always be motivated; nothing is handed to you. If you want something you have to work for it!” BSHS goalie Sydney Ross adopted this mantra from Coach Heather Iverson, Bloomingdale High School’s head women’s soccer coach. Ross lives by the mantra will realize her dream of playing college soccer when she enters the University of Tampa this coming fall with a soccer scholarship in hand! Her achievement is especially remarkable because it demanded a strong counterattack to both a learning disability and ADHD, while coping with the struggles of growing up in a single-parent home.

“Playing college soccer has been a goal of mine since I was 14 years old,” explained Ross. “But academics were first, and if they came together...well you know, it’s even better!” Academics didn’t start coming together for Ross until fourth grade. After transferring from a private school to a public school in Bradenton, a teacher noticed that something wasn’t clicking with her. Mom Suzi Berrios had her tested and Ross was diagnosed with a learning disability. Berrios explained, “We would have never known if it weren’t for this teacher being on the ball. At the private school she was getting As and Bs!” So, Berrios, Ross and the school worked to get an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in place for her, which allowed for accommodations to aide Ross in the learning process. However, it was a little too late and she had to be held back.

Sydney transferred to BSHS in the 10th grade, but was deemed ineligible to play soccer because of the FHSAA rules. But she came out covering the goal with super like powers as a junior.

Despite her daughter’s success with soccer and moderate academic gains, Berrios noticed something still wasn’t quite right. Soon after, Sydney was diagnosed with ADHD, and was put on medicine. This, along with the IEP enabled Sydney to improve both her grades and her game.

As a junior, with veteran defenders, Brittany and Amber Coca, Bri Berrios, and Nichole Malozzi playing in front of her, Sydney saw only 8 shots on goal and gave up only 0.4 goals per game. This year with a new defensive line in front of her Sydney saw 15 shots on goal per game, gave up 1.2 goals, and had 130 saves (10 per game). She was named to the All-Conference team, All-County team, and was the only keeper chosen to represent Hillsborough County in the Senior Soccer Challenge on March 7, at Countryside High School.

Ever since seeing the University of Tampa Sydney knew she wanted to go there, even though her mother made her go and look at other colleges whenever they travelled to soccer tournaments. “She would always find something wrong with [other colleges],” laughed her mother.

To be accepted into the University of Tampa, Sydney had to retake some courses online; however, she kept thinking, “Impossible is nothing, always be motivated, nothing is handed to you.”



Photos: Kim Miller

Great coaching on the part of Allan Berrios (club coach) and Heather Iverson (BSHS coach) gave Ross the confidence to take her skills and work ethic to the next level—college soccer. Pictured: Coach Iverson and Ross.



Goalie Sydney Ross stops a score. Ross plans to major in communications/sports marketing at the University of Tampa. With the school’s mandatory three-hour study halls and classroom accommodations Ross has a good chance of earning the spot of starting keeper for the Spartans. “I like to earn what I get,” communicated Sydney, “I know it’s not impossible.”





Bloomington High School's National Honor Society held a Capture the Flag Tournament Saturday, Feb. 1 to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). Final standings:

- 1st place team – Can't Touch This
- 2nd place team – Red Lightning
- Team Spirit Award - Team America won the spirit medals for their great uniforms and good sportsmanship.

The February event did not raise as much money as students had hoped, but at the end of the day, all of the teams had a great time, and the event promoted awareness for the well being of our nations veterans. The National Honor Society is planning on hosting another event at the Ice Sports Forum in March to raise more money for the Wounded Warrior Project, if you would like to support them, or attend, please contact Bloomington High School or keep checking the Bloomington High school website.



Tournament Champions - Can't Touch This.

Abby Wingfield (L) and Troy Johnson (R) attempt a takeaway from Matthew Butler.



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