

THE

BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXIV  ISSUE 5  MAY 2014

BEAT THE PRO!

NEW PUTTING CONTEST NOW PART OF THE MAY 10 BHA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



J.D. Carino, John E.S. Cochrane Golf Schools Director of Operations, works with budding pro, Noah, on putting techniques.

competing against Carino to beat his putt in a "Beat the Pro" format. Those who do will be entered into a drawing where the winner will receive five private golf lessons, valued at \$295. Others who beat him will receive coupons for 20% off of private lessons.

Competing with a PGA pro is a dream for most golfers. This dream will come true for many participants in the upcoming May 10 Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Charity Golf Tournament thanks to the newest sponsor, John E.S. Cochrane Golf Schools Director of Operations, J.D. Carino.

Carino will sponsor and run the tournament's putting contest with a twist. Instead of golfers attempting to make the putt or get closest to the hole, they will be

In addition, Carino will be available during registration to give golfers an edge by providing a free putting clinic valued at \$100. Participants need to arrive early to take advantage of this free clinic.

Carino, a 23-year Air Force veteran, considers this event a must-do, not only for the community, but for his military brothers and sisters who have served and continue to serve their country.

The tournament's chosen charity is K9s for Warriors, and Carino is fully behind the organization's objectives of teaming veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder with service dogs. "I adopted two animals from the Humane Society, and I know first-hand the calming effects they have had on me," he explained. "Sometimes an animal is the only 'person' you can talk to [other than your therapist] who can understand what you [returning military] are going through." Few people know what our returning military have experienced during war, he said.

For more information about the upcoming tournament, see article in this issue, "Don't Miss Out on BHA's May 10 Charity Golf Tournament."

CAMPO YMCA MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL



Former Harlem Globe Trotter Larry "Shorty" Coleman (blue uniform) and former NBA player Jim Price spent the evening with 30 teens at the recent Campo YMCA's Midnight Basketball event.

Midnight Basketball started as a 1990's initiative to curb inner-city crime by keeping urban youth off the streets and engage them with alternatives to drugs and crime. Today, it's becoming a fun tradition for pre-teens and teens at the Campo Family YMCA. On select Friday nights from 9:30 p.m.-midnight, kids ages 12-17 participate in scrimmages, a 3-on-3 tournament and contests. Along the way, they build leadership, team and interpersonal skills and learn the benefits of activity, well-being and responsibility.

On Friday, April 18, the Campo Y had 30 teens come out to midnight basketball. The night started with former Harlem Globe Trotter Larry "Shorty" Coleman playing with the kids in a 3-point shoot out completion. Coleman also gave an inspirational speech and then he performed a short routine for them. Later, Coleman officiated the scrimmage game for the teens and judged a fun dunk contest with former NBA player Jim Price.

For more information, contact kaliegh.hincman@tampaymca.org or 813-684-1371.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands? *Milton Berle*

This Month



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PLEASE  RECYCLE





YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road - Valrico, Florida 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: BloomingdaleHomeowners@gmail.com

Website: 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:

President: *George T. May IV*

Treasurer: *Dennis Osborn*

Secretary: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Billy Hightower

Mary Galin

Dina White

Amy Luhmann

Joanie Wilson

Ken Smith

Beth Smedley

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please check the BHA Community Corner for activities and events right here in our community.

Ask the Doc / May 6 / 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / Presented by Dr. Lisa Wildcatt of Pediatric Associates, expectant parents and parents of kids as old as 12 may learn about: the role of the pediatrician, normal newborn findings, normal development and milestones, secrets of the first year of life. RSVP at the Campo Y Welcome Center by Sunday, May 4.

The Ugly Duckling's Journey to Away/ May 9 / 7 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc. / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Springtime in the farm yard is the grandest of times for the Ducking Household. But it won't be grand for long, because the garbage is piling up and threatening the environment. Join the Ugly Duckling as he learns to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle garbage. Stages Productions for ages Pre-K through 3rd grade. Tickets \$6 for members; \$7 for non-members. Visit www.centerplacebrandon.org for more information.

Charity Golf Tournament / May 10 / 1 p.m. / Bloomingdale Golfers Club / 4113 Great Golfers Club, Valrico / Join the fun and support a "Dog Gone" good cause. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is holding its Charity Golf Tournament to benefit K9s For Warriors. Raffles and contests (putting, longest drive and closest to pin). Registration begins at Noon-; shotgun start. \$85/person; \$300/foursome, includes dinner after tournament. Corporate sponsorships available. Register by May 5. For more information contact Heather Michael at (813) 340-6547, hgolf@yahoo.com or contact the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association at (813) 681-2051, bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.

The Arty Party / May 10 / 7 - 10 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc. / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / The Greater Brandon Arts Council presents the 7th annual open-to-the-public, fun-filled party! A lively celebration of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts that includes food, drinks, and entertainment in the price of a ticket; plus silent auction and prizes. \$25 per person includes the benefits of Arts Council membership; \$15 for non-members; up-to-date paid GBAC members admitted free. Contacts: Meletha Everett (813) 685-1675 or Wendy Pettys (813) 601-6691. For more information visit www.brandonarts.org.

Tai Chi / May 13 / 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.

Upcoming and Ongoing

Little Monsters Create 2nd Annual Children's Art Show / July 2014 / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc. / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Is your child an artist? We would love to have him/her be a part of our Community Children's Art Show! Entries may be submitted June 23 - 27 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association. \$5 entrance fee per piece of art or 3 pieces for \$10 (limited to 3 pieces per artist). An Artist Reception will held July 17 at 6 p.m. with awards presented at 6:30 p.m. For details, visit www.centerplacebrandon.org/upcoming-exhibits/childrens-community-art-show.aspx.

Call for additional information 813.685.8888 or email Dawn Galia at cpfinearts@verizon.net.

SUMMER CAMPS

School's Out - Camps to the Rescue!

Looking for something safe and fun for the kids to do this summer? Here is a short list of camps in the Bloomingdale area for children and teens.

BSHS Bulls Basketball Day Camps at Bloomingdale High School Gym

Ages: Boys and girls entering grades 4-9 in the fall

Dates: M-TH, 6/9-6/12, 6/16-6/19, and 6/23-6/26

Time: 9 a.m.-Noon students entering grades 4-6;
1-4 p.m. students entering grades 7-9

Cost: \$75.00 per session. Fees include camp T-shirt; and, instruction from boys head coach Joe Willis, girls head coach Joel Bower, and Bulls Varsity team girls and boys. Contact Coach Willis for multiple week and sibling discounts. For more information and registration forms contact Joe Willis at joseph.willis@sdhc.k12.fl.us or by phone (813) 298-3448.

Campo YMCA - 3414 Culbreath Rd, Valrico.

This summer, the Campo Y offers: Traditional Day Camp with theme weeks; Leaders in Training (LIT) Camp for teens and pre-teens; Sports Camps like volleyball, basketball and triathlon; Dance Camp; Cheerleading Camp; Specialty Camps including, Princess Adventure, Dance, Volleyball, Science, and much more! To ensure all youth have the chance to experience camp, the Campo Y offers financial assistance to those in need. For more information, contact Dan Ribas at Dan.Ribas@tampaymca.org or 813-684-1371.

Continued on Next Page

SUMMER CAMPS (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Florida Academy of Performing Arts (FAOPA) – Music Showcase,

The Florida Academy of Performing Arts' Music and More Camps offer acting, crafts, games, singing, drums, musical theatre, beginner guitar, beginner violin, fun activities, and much more.

Ages: 5 and up

Dates/Times: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F, 6/16-6/20, 6/23-6/27, 7/7-7/11, 7/14-7/18, 7/21-7/25, 7/28-8/1, 8/4-8/8, 8/11-8/15

Cost: \$175 per week

Contact FAOPA at (813) 490-2787 for details and pay-for-a-day pricing, or visit www.faopa.org.

Discovery Zone Summer Workshops at Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon

Dive into the arts this summer with drawing, painting, pottery, musical theatre, and more! Center Place offers a variety of Children Art Workshops through our Discover Zone Summer Art Workshops, Monday through Friday from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. Ages vary. Due to the popularity of the programs, all classes require advance registration and payment. Do not miss out on all the fun! For more information and how to register call (813) 685-8888.

TechPlayzone Summer Camps at Bell Shoals Baptist Church 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon; and Seven Mountains Academy, 540 S. Oakwood Drive, Brandon

Hands on! High tech! Kids ages 7 to 17 learn how to design, program, problem solve, create, and have fun with LEGO Mindstorms Robotics, Minecraft, movie making, game design, and science. Parents' Presentations are held each Friday at 11:30 a.m. of each camp for parents/grandparents/friends to see what the campers have accomplished. Ages: 7-17

Dates/Times:

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 6/16-6/20

Theme: Oceanography (Bell Shoals Baptist Church)

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 6/23-6/27,

Theme: Force In Motion (Bell Shoals Baptist Church)

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 7/21-7-25

Theme: Space Travels (Seven Mountains Academy)

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 7/28-8/1

Theme: Chem-Is-Try (Seven Mountains Academy)

Cost: \$100 per week; registration online or by mail.

Contact information: (813) 684-7329, or visit www.techplayzone.com

Karma Kids Summer Mini Camps at Karma Yoga

4363 Lynx Paw Trail, Valrico

Your child's yoga mat becomes a magic carpet! Hang on and enjoy the ride as kids soar in yoga class specially designed for them, plus adventure through magical games, music and dance, story-telling, art, fitness, and healthy snacks. Relaxation techniques, yoga postures that promote balance and flexibility, self-esteem builders, and tons of fun are all a part of the plan this summer! To keep things fun- space is limited.

Dates/Times: 12:00-2 p.m., 6/9-6/13, 7/7-7/11, 8/4-8/8

Contact information: (813) 489-9644, or visit www.karmayogafitness.com.

The Dance Center Summer Camps

161 E. Bloomingdale Avenue, Brandon

Summer Ballet Camp, Summer Acrobatics Camp, and July Ballerina Princess Camp will keep dancers having fun all summer! Registration is first come, first served. Class size is limited. Campers need to pack a light snack and water.

Acrobatics Summer Camp

Ages: 6 and up

Dates/Times: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 7/7-7/11 (Acro 1,2,3 & 4I), 7/14-7/18 (Acro 4A,5, & 6), 7/21-7/25 (Acro 1,2,3 & 4I), 7/28-8/1 (Acro 4A,5, & 6).

Tuition: \$150 per week

Ballerina Princess Camp

Ages: 4-5 (Theme: The Nutcracker)

Dates/Times: 9:30-11:30 a.m., 7/14-7/18

Tuition: \$120

Ages: 5-6 (Theme: Sleeping Beauty)

Dates/Times: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 7/21-7/25

Tuition: \$150

Ballet Camp

Ages: 6-9

Dates/Times: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 7/28-8/1

Tuition: \$150

Contact information: (813) 684-4282, or visit www.brandondance.com

The Village Early Learning Center Summer Program

3741 Canoga Park Drive (Bloomingdale West)

Fun field trips, lots of projects, and a variety of experiences will keep your child busy all summer long! "The World Is Your Canvas!" with weekly themes that explore culture, art, food, and music from 10 different countries around the world. Activities take place both at the Village and also on a variety of field trips within the Brandon/Tampa area.

Ages: Kindergarten through 5th grade

Camp Dates: 6/9-8/16

Cost: Weekly rate \$145 (\$85 registration fee) (Camp tee-shirt required for field trips costs \$8.50)

Contact information: 813-651-0779 or www.villageelc.com

Summer Golf Camps at River Hills Country Club

June 9 Aug 15, three levels to choose from: Beginners (8:30-12:30), Intermediate (8:30-12:30) and School Competition (8:30-5:30). \$350 for Beginners/Intermediate, \$595 for School Competition. Kids enjoy the summer earning the great game of golf—full swing and short game fundamentals, and on course play. Sign up on line (www.CochraneGolfSchools.com) by clicking on the Junior Programs banner. Or 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, summer golf camps will be held at only the Riverview location.)



Photo: Miriam Leech

Eight-year-old Cooper Hinson collected 455 pounds of food to donate to Meals on Wheels of Brandon in lieu of a throwing a traditional birthday party.

Eight-year-old Cooper Hinson loves baseball, soccer, and mostly helping others. So instead of throwing a traditional birthday party this year, Cooper decided to hold a canned food drive to benefit Meals on Wheels of Brandon.

When the Alafia Elementary School 2nd grader was asked by his mom, Jessica Hinson, if he would like to have a party to celebrate his March birthday his response was, "I don't want people to have to buy gifts for me." And from that sentiment the idea of asking his friends to donate canned foods was born.

Cooper's mom began making some inquiries about donating the canned foods, and learned that Meals on Wheels of Brandon does not receive government funding like its Tampa counterpart, but instead depends solely on donations of cash and food. This hit particularly close to home for the Hinson family—Hinson's grandmother lives with them and probably would be dependent on the services of a charity like Meals on Wheels if she did not share their home.

By word of mouth, Cooper's birthday idea began to spread—he set a goal of 323 pounds of food to commemorate his 3-23 birth date. And on April 25 Cooper's family, friends, and teachers gathered at Bloomingdale East Park to celebrate "Coopalooza," where 455 pounds of canned goods were collected. Guests were treated to food and cupcakes, and even Kona Ice made an appearance, while Cooper and his friends enjoyed playing baseball and having a fun afternoon in the park.

Meals on Wheels representatives were there, too, to pick up the donations. "He is a precious, precious boy," said Dale Graves, coordinator for the 18 churches the charity serves. "We serve approximately 400 people every week, and they will be so blessed by these donations."

By his request, Cooper's philosophy was reflected on the t-shirt dad Nick had made for him to wear to his event, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." When asked who his inspiration is the 2nd grader replied simply, "My mom." His stay-at-home mom not only volunteers at Alafia Elementary, but is a guardian for foster children in Hillsborough County, and has passed her passion for service along to her only child.

"It is humbling to be his dad," said Nick Hinson. And as evidenced by the overwhelming support Cooper received in his charitable efforts, his work has only just begun.

Alafia Elementary 2nd grader Cooper Hinson celebrates his birthday with over 60 friends and family who generously donated canned foods to support a good cause.



Photo: Jessica Hinson

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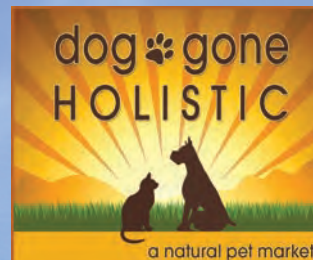
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Kim's Natural Pet Foods, located at 3110 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., is the only pet supply store in Valrico that focuses on holistic foods for dogs and cats. Owner Kim Albright worked at Bloomingdale Pet Foods for six years before the business closed and she purchased the property to continue offering pet foods to her customers, who she says had become like family to her.

"People who love pets, they're just very kind people, because they love something other than themselves," Albright said. And she was overwhelmed by how the community came together to help get Kim's Natural Pet Foods up and running. "I had an outpouring of customers who came and wanted to see it," Albright said.

"A customer completely gutted the bathroom and put in a new vanity and everything, and another donated the beautiful paw-print curtain at the front of the store," Albright said. "Customers have done wonderful things for me." One customer, Dave Willits, took a number of pictures of the store from the day it was gutted to the day it was finished, and created a kind of photo storyline. These photos can be viewed on the business' Facebook page, "Kim's Natural Pet Foods," which was also set up by a customer.

Kim's Natural Pet Foods celebrated its Grand Opening on April 5. The store, which caters to dogs and cats, offers a variety of holistic food brands, including Fromm, Earthborn, Blue, Canidae, Merrick, Taste of the Wild and Nutrisca (known to help dogs with health issues, like diabetes).

"My belief is that you can take most issues with pets, such as allergies, skin issues and things of that nature, and correct them with the proper diet," Albright said.

"All of our foods are holistic foods. Everything is natural and USA made. That's one thing I cater to, is USA products. I find a lot of people like that. That's a really big attention-getter for people here," Albright said. Another up-and-coming pet food option the store offers is frozen and freeze-dried treats, such as Stella & Chewy's.

"I have all of the accessories that a pet would need, litter to toys to treats. All of our bones and treats, again, are USA made," Albright said. She also acknowledges that taking care of pets can be expensive. To help alleviate some of the expense, Kim's Natural Pet Foods offers affordable shot clinics once a month in the store, making veterinary needs affordable to the community. Rabies shots are as low as ten dollars.

For more information on Kim's Natural Pet Foods, please call 684-FOOD (3663).



Kim's Natural Pet Foods opened on April 5 just north of Bloomingdale Avenue on Lithia Pinecrest Road. The location was formerly home to Bloomingdale Pet Supply.



Kim Albright's dachshund, Mercedes, hopes for another game of fetch with a customer. Albright takes turns bringing her five dogs – Mercedes, Candy Cane, Kacy, Bently and London – into the store with her.

FIRST-EVER BLOOMINGDALE ROUNDTABLE BRINGS COMMUNITY LEADERS TOGETHER



Photos: Joy Boisselle

As our community grows and properties mature, having a cohesive leadership team is paramount to keeping our neighborhoods a great place to live. To that end, Bloomingdale Homeowners Association members met with several leaders of mandatory homeowners association neighborhoods at the first-ever Bloomingdale Roundtable held March 29 at the Bloomingdale Community Office.

The meeting purpose was two-fold: to develop a network of like-minded residents for the purpose of preserving the community's aesthetics and property values; and, to open and strengthen communication.

Pictured left to right: Wanda Sloan (Office of Neighborhood Relations), Dann Berkowitz (BHA), Jim Pryor (Bloomingdale Village), Eric Gardner (Bristol Green), George May (BHA), Sean Donahue (River Crossing), Duke Dunnigan (Somerset), Dennis Osborn, (BHA), Mike Rollman (Cambridge Cove), and Carlos Cruz (The Links).

YARD OF THE MONTH



Photo: Suzanne Jones



Richard & Hazel Munetz
4529 Oak River Circle (Bloomingdale East)

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

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



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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By: Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren

SHERIFF'S 2014 OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET A SUCCESS

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office completed another successful special Operation Medicine Cabinet last month at the Hillsborough County Park's Maintenance Department site in Bloomingdale. Bloomingdale Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren worked with Kristi Campbell from Home Instead Senior Care of Brandon, District IV Sheriff's Deputy Jennifer Smith and Mack Austin, a Sheriff's Honorary Deputy and BACC member to collect 108.45 lbs. of unused and outdated prescription medicines and drugs. The drugs were collected and destroyed to prevent abuse and keep these medications from ending up in our water system or landfills.



Photo: Mack Austin

Bloomingdale Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren (Right), Kristi Campbell from Home Instead Senior Care of Brandon and Deputy Jennifer Smith at the Sheriff's 2014 Operation Medicine Cabinet in Bloomingdale.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Hillsborough County Parks Department for use of the collection site and members of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association team for their personal assistance at the site. Special thanks to the Lithia-Pinecrest Publix Pharmacy for helping publicize this special event. And a very big thank you to all of the Brandon and Valrico residents who took the time to bring in their expired and unused drugs and medicines for proper disposal and destruction!

Bloomingdale Area Crime Update

At the April meeting of the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) members were provided with a briefing on recent crime activity in our area. The good news is that crime activity has decreased—evidence that when residents take the time to better protect their valuables and possessions, crime goes down. Please continue to lock your vehicles, lock your homes, close your garage doors and secure the valuables in your home. Also, report immediately any burglaries or thefts so that our detectives can work to solve the crimes. We'll never eliminate crime but we can sure kick it in the butt!

Are You And Your Family Ready for the 2014 Hurricane Season?

Hurricane season is less than a month away! Even before it gets here we have already seen severe storms and tornadoes. The Sheriff's Office would like to encourage all residents to start their hurricane season preparations. Now is the time to take precautions to ensure your families, homes and businesses are ready.

As part of their annual hurricane season preparation, Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa Emergency Management personnel are holding a special event:

2014 Hurricane Expo
Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI)
4801 East Fowler Ave, Tampa
Saturday, May 31, 9AM - 2PM

There will be lots of current information, disaster experts on hand to answer your questions and many other activities offered by the museum. Take your family to MOSI for this special event and get them involved in getting ready. It only takes one dangerous storm to change thousands of lives for years to come.

New Web-based "Inside HCSO" Newscast

The Sheriff's Office now offers "Inside HCSO," a web-based newscast offering information, announcements and special features with a unique perspective on Sheriff's Office operations and personnel. Check it out to learn more about how we keep Hillsborough County safe and secure. To access the newscasts go to www.youtube.com and then search on "Inside HCSO."

Honoring Our Fallen Heroes

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, at Sheriff Gee's direction, has created a memorial on the Sheriff's Office website to honor our fallen heroes! Sheriff Gee had the new website feature created to "remind everyone of the sacrifices our troops make around the world." You can access the memorial page at www.hsco.tampa.fl.us.

Is Your Homeowners' Association or Neighborhood Represented on the BACC?

The Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (B.A.C.C.) is made up of concerned residents from homeowners associations and neighborhoods in our community. They work directly with me and our Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano and other local government representatives to coordinate plans and actions on community issues and items of concerns that will help improve the quality of life in our community. The B.A.C.C. meets monthly on the third Thursday at 7PM at the Sheriff's Community Station on Erindale Drive. Check with your HOA or subdivision group to be sure you are represented. If not, make plans to attend the next meeting!

On April 12 the BHA once again hosted a successful annual community Cleanup Day at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility. The event began at 9 a.m. and lasted until the four roll-off dumpsters onsite were full, which due to an overwhelming response from the community, happened around 11 a.m.

The project was funded through a grant from Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners and a portion of the Bloomingdale residents' annual membership dues. The BHA partnered with the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners, Police Department and Urban eRecycling to collect items this year.

The BOCC collected some household appliances, steel and other metals, furniture and construction debris in the dumpsters. Urban eRecycling accepted various types of computer equipment, such as computer keyboards, laptops, ion lithium batteries, circuit boards and more; and, The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office through "Operation Medicine Cabinet" collected 108.45 lbs. of drugs, such as pill bottles, packaged drugs and inhalers.

BHA members greeted residents as they pulled into the lot, directed them to the unloading area where student volunteers helped unload the unwanted items.

For more information on "Operation Medicine Cabinet," please visit pcsoweb.com and see the Community Station Notes column in this issue of the

Gazette. To learn more about the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, please visit bloomingdalehomeowners.com and "like" their Facebook page (facebook.com/BloomingdaleHOA).



Photos: Kayla Hayes

Volunteers unload "junk" at the Annual Cleanup Day on April 12. The four roll-off dumpsters were full within a matter of two hours.



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DINING WITH DAVE



Name: Sluggers Neighborhood Bar & Grill
Cuisine: Bar Basics (Burgers, Wings, Sandwiches, Appetizers)
Location: 109 W. Bloomingdale Avenue (Corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and John Moore Road)
Phone: (813) 661-6700

Sluggers is the sort of family friendly, catch a game with a burger and beer, kind of joint that every neighborhood should have. Tucked in to the Corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and John Moore Road, there is easy access and ample parking (even on nights when a Cornhole Tourney takes up spaces). Joining me for the dining experience were my teenage kids who attend Bloomingdale High and Burns Middle Schools. For them, going out on a weeknight for burgers, fries and a soda is quite the treat and Sluggers is a perfect choice.

The burgers at Sluggers are of a good half-pound dimension, with ample toppings and options. The fries and onion rings are quite tasty just the right size. The wings are a pretty standard fare—I wouldn't go out of my way to dine on them, but as an appetizer offering they are quite satisfying. For variety, I ordered from the sandwich menu and ended up with half a chicken breast that substituted for the standard burger. It was a little dry but fulfilled what pint-size promise was expected.

And speaking of pints, I was delighted to find that the beer selection offered a couple of local options tucked in among the standard big brews. With more than a dozen televisions spread throughout the bar and dining area, pretty much any sporting event you need is available. And if you don't see the one you want, just ask your server for a channel change.

Sluggers may not produce the best burgers and wings I have ever had, but they are certainly far from the worst. The same goes for the sides and drinks. Good, solid, dependable staples with a pleasant atmosphere. This is a good place to bring the family when you just don't feel like cooking, or you need to commune with other locals for the big game, and have a hankering for comfort food on a budget.

BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

Ongoing 2014 Annual Membership Drive - The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Annual Membership Drive continues. Since our membership mail-out on Jan.15, the community has responded generously, but we are still well shy of last year's membership numbers.

Thank you to all who have already joined the association, donated to our scholarship fund, and purchased Bloomingdale Pride license plates. The good works provided by the association are completely funded by your \$25 contribution.

We need your support to continue to make a difference in our community. Please join today. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalegazette.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

"Name Your Neighborhood" Program - Congratulations to residents of Fairway Park, formerly known as Sections M1 and 2, and Bloomingdale Pointe, formerly known as Sections A1, 2, 3, and 4. After a three month voting period, residents have made their desires known. Signs are in production, and a projected installation date is scheduled for the middle of June. Watch for installation news on our Facebook page. Residents will be invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate their new neighborhood designation.

Bloomingdale Estates Deed Restriction Update - The resident-driven process continues, and a final draft is nearing completion. Once the draft passes

resident review, the BHA attorney will evaluate the document. If there are no further revisions, the business of gathering resident votes will begin.

May 10 - Annual Charity Golf Tournament- We need players! Please support this worthy cause. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's Annual Charity Golf Tournament is Saturday, May 10 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club, Valrico. Registration begins at noon. This year's event will benefit K9s for Warriors, a non-profit dedicated to training rescue dogs to become service dogs for our military members with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries.

May 13 - BHA Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. The BHA Community Scholarship winner will be announced at the meeting, as well as in the June issue of the Bloomingdale Gazette, and on our website and Facebook page.

Coming Soon!

The BHA will unveil a new website in the next few months. The new website will be the "go to" place for all Bloomingdale-related information. Stay tuned for details.

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

ASK THE DOC EVENT HIGHLIGHTS SECRETS YOUR PEDIATRICIAN FORGOT TO TELL YOU

By: Miriam Leech



Dr. Lisa Wildcatt will be presenting information for expectant parents and parents of children up to age 12 at the Campo Family YMCA Ask the Doc event on May 6.

In collaboration with Brandon Regional Hospital and Pediatric Associates of Brandon, the Campo Family YMCA will be hosting its first Ask the Doc event on May 6. Secrets Your Pediatrician Forgot to Tell You will feature Dr. Lisa Wildcatt, who will be discussing topics such as the role of the pediatrician, normal newborn findings, normal development and milestones, and secrets of the first year of life.

Wildcatt, a native of Fort Lauderdale, is now senior lead pediatrician at Pediatric Associates. Once in Brandon she became a member of the YMCA, and was approached by BRH Physician Relations Director Jill Lansky about kicking off an Ask

the Doc series. Says Wildcatt, "All the right places and people came together for me to continue doing classes."

Dr. Wildcatt is a board-certified pediatrician whose areas of interest include asthma, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and developmental delays. Her medical degree is from the University of North Dakota, and she was a resident at the Medical College of Georgia Children's Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia. She has four children.

Pediatric Associates is located at 602 Vonderburg Drive, Suite 101, in the Brandon Oaks Medical Center.

Ask the Doc takes place Tuesday, May 6, at the Campo Family YMCA from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Attendance is limited to 30 and the event is open to the community. RSVP at the Campo Welcome Center by Sunday, May 4.



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- Firefighters
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- Educators
- Healthcare Workers

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K9S FOR WARRIORS



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Registration begins at 12 p.m.

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email Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com

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K9s For Warriors is dedicated to providing service canines, rescued from shelters, to our military troops and veterans suffering from post traumatic stress and brain injury as a result of conflicts and war after 9/11.

Learn more at www.k9sforwarriors.com.



THANK YOU GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS AND DONORS!

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association thanks the following event sponsors and donors for supporting our upcoming charity golf tournament benefitting K9s for Warriors. Any person/business not listed in this edition of the Gazette, will be noted in the June edition.

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813-657-8166

The Tides Golf Club

Sluggers Neighborhood Bar and Grill, Brandon, FL
813-661-6700

Pedro Camacho, Tennis Coach, Valrico, FL
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Shannon Boland, Professional Groomer, Valrico, FL
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813-685-9494

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Big Frog Custom T-Shirts and More, Valrico, FL
813-684-2873

Heather Rose Photography
813-431-6102



DON'T MISS OUT ON BHA'S MAY 10 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT EVENT TO BENEFIT K9S FOR WARRIORS

In a week, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will host a Charity Golf Tournament to benefit a Florida-based charity, K9s for Warriors. Two of K9 for Warriors recent graduates will be at the tournament with their dogs to meet the players and put a "face" on the charity. The BHA needs your support to make this event a success.

By playing, sponsoring, or donating, your support ensures this deserving organization receives the funding they need to continue to take care of our military servicemen and women suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injury, and mobility issues.

When, where, and what time is the event?

Saturday, May 10 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club, Valrico, FL. Registration begins at noon. Tournament start is 1 p.m.

What are the costs to play?

Single player- \$85, Team of 4- \$300, Junior player- \$50

What kind of tournament is this?

This is a best-ball scramble. There will be several contests ongoing during the event including: Longest Drive Contest, "Beat the Pro" Putting Contest, 50/50 Raffle, and other door prizes. Be sure to bring extra cash to purchase raffle tickets.

Why should I participate?

The BHA routinely hosts charity events in the community. This charity,

K9s for Warriors, was selected because of the large military presence in the Bloomingdale and surrounding areas. In addition to helping our veterans, K9s for Warriors gets 90% of their dogs from rescue groups and shelters. By being a part of the event, you will be supporting two great causes. Want to know more? Go to www.k9sforwarriors.com.

What do I get?

Besides the good feeling that comes from helping others, each participant will receive dinner, a goodie bag with donated items from our sponsors, and chances to win door prizes.

Where do I sign up to play, sponsor or donate?

Players and sponsors can register online and pay via PayPal at www.bloomingdalegazette.com. Or, checks made out to the BHA may be mailed or dropped off at the office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596. For donations, contact the office, contact information below.

Who can I contact if I still have questions?

Call the BHA office at 813-681-2051 or email to bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.

Remember, this is a charity event for a more than deserving organization. Let's make this an event of which the community can be proud!

INs & OUTs

WHAT EVERY BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MUSCOVY DUCKS

Whatever you call them – ugly ducklings, Frankenstein’s fowl, or uniquely featured creature – Muscovy Ducks are a common sight along the running paths and ponds of Bloomingdale. Typically black in color with a purple sheen to their feather, Muscovies are large ducks with long, flattened tails and large claws. They are most easily identified by the presence of fleshy red caruncles, or warty bumps, on the face over the eyes and upon the bill. Muscovies do not “quack”; instead, the male’s call is a loud, dry hiss, and the female’s is a quiet coo.

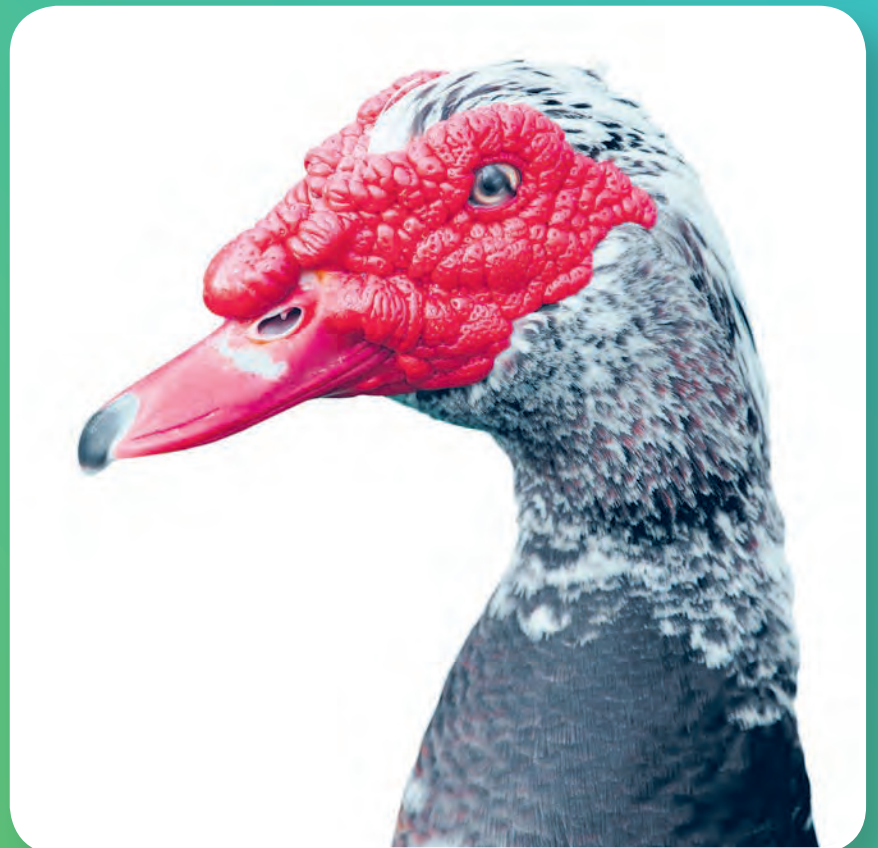
According to Steve A. Johnson and Michelle Hawk of the University of Florida, *Cairina moschata* is not wildlife but rather a “feral domestic” duck that not native to Florida. Quite often they are initially kept as domesticated animals until they escape or are released into the wild. It is, however, illegal to release Muscovy Ducks (or any non-native animal) into the local wildlife:

Unfortunately, Muscovies are prolific and if left uncontrolled, their population can increase dramatically in a very short time. This will create problems through competition and interbreeding with native species, damage to public and private property, and the transmission of disease to other water fowl. Since they are sedentary and tend not to migrate, their year round residency does not allow local habitats to recover during the cooler winter months.

Due to ready food supplies and good shelter, Muscovy populations tend to expand rapidly in suburban neighborhoods such as Bloomingdale. Feed them and they can become aggressive towards pets and have been known to bite children. Their excessive droppings not only decrease the aesthetic value of parks and lakes, but also contaminate water, presenting a significant hazard to the health of both humans and house pets.

This brings us to what you, the residents of Bloomingdale, can do to alleviate the problems caused by this intrusive, non-native water fowl. First and foremost, **DO NOT FEED THEM**. Whether intentionally or otherwise through unsecure garbage, pet food placed outside, or uncovered compost piles – feeding means breeding. Though it is not recommended that residents take matters into their own hands, nests should be removed or destroyed whenever feasible.

Currently, there is a duck removal program taking place within Bloomingdale and residents are asked **NOT** to touch or disturb any of the large cage-like traps situated alongside several local ponds. Remember, most of our ponds are privately-owned by the residents whose property surrounds the ponds, or by the mandatory neighborhood homeowners association.



GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH

by J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

CHIPPING USING THE "AIR TO GROUND" RATIO METHOD

Instead of trying to fly the ball all the way to the flag, chip the ball to a spot on the green and let the ball roll the rest of the way to the hole. Your landing spot remains the same no matter where the flag is. You simply choose the club (correct ratio) based on how much air you need and get the roll you want.



Ratios of air time to ground time (roll)

SW: 3/4 to 1/4, PW: 1/2 to 1/2, 8 iron: 1/3 to 2/3, 6 iron: 1/4 to 3/4

Next month: The club may change but your posture stays the same. Any questions or for lessons, please call J.D. (813) 957-3205.



John E.S. Cochran
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For the Bagley family of Bloomingdale, science and technology are as much a part of life as school and church. As founder of TechPlayzone, mom-of-five Desh Bagley designs curriculum and activities dedicated to encouraging young people to become better problem solvers, programmers, and future engineers. And the business is a family affair.

Bagley began TechPlayzone in 2005 when she received a \$5,000 grant to bring a science and technology program to Edison Elementary School in Tampa. With the help of her then 7-year-old son, Darian, Bagley included activities with snap circuits and game design in the program. In 2006, the Bloomingdale mom received a small business loan and opened the TechPlayzone location on Boyette Road in Riverview, and added Lego Mindstorms Robotics workshops, SCRATCH Game Design Workshops, Steve Spangler Amazing Hands-On Science Workshops, and Adobe Green Screen Movie Making Workshops for ages 7-17. Son Daryl, Jr., currently a senior IB student at Strawberry Crest High School, also became an integral part of the program, acting as a workshop facilitator along with his younger brother.

TechPlayzone programs proved popular with home-schooled students, and summer camps were extremely successful. However, like many small local businesses, the recession hit TechPlayzone hard. So in 2013, Bagley decided to let go of the Boyette Road location and take her business mobile.

Now TechPlayzone facilitators pick up from and return to a central location the equipment needed to hold workshops. Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), computer science, and robotics workshops are held for home schoolers at Bells Shoals Baptist Church and Seven Mountains Academy, and every Friday robotics workshops are held at Bell Shoals Baptist Academy.

This summer, TechPlayzone will be offering summer camps at Bell Shoals Baptist Church and Seven Mountains Academy. Each week will include robotics, game design, and hands-on science based on a specific theme—Oceanography, Force in Motion, Space Travels, and Chem-is-try. that are currently open for registration.

Campers will get to launch rockets during space travels week, and new this summer will be the opportunity to dissect sharks as part of oceanography week. “Each week holds its own excitement. Returning campers will feel challenged, and new campers will feel at home,” says Bagley. And on hand to facilitate will be sons Daryl, Jr., and Darian, now a sophomore IB student at Strawberry Crest.

TechPlayzone also will be offering six summer camps through the Hillsborough County School District HOST program for 4th and 5th graders. These camps will be facilitated by Tyler Bird, a graduate of Bloomingdale High School and rising junior in the Burnett Honors College at the University of Central Florida.

Bird grew up attending TechPlayzone, also serving as a volunteer and facilitator before leaving for college. “We like taking our programs into the schools,” says Bagley. “And we love having our volunteers from the local high schools like Bloomingdale, Strawberry Crest, Newsome, and Riverview become facilitators.”

As if that is not enough for the busy Bagleys, TechPlayzone also sponsors two champion First Lego League robotics teams that meet at Hillsborough Community College for ages 9-14.

Contact TechPlayzone at (813) 684-7329 or techplayzone@gmail.com for more information (also see the Summer Camp section of this edition for specific dates and times).



Photo: Desh Bagley

Owned by Bloomingdale resident Desh Bagley, TechPlayzone provides kids with opportunities to explore their techie side. Students attending TechPlayzone programs and camps show off their Lego Mindstorms creations.

HOMES FOR HEROES WELCOMES STEVE MARTIN

Steve and Nicole Martin are new to the area. Nicole is a stay-at-home Mom for their 4 month and 18 month old babies. Steve, originally from New Jersey, is currently stationed at MacDill Air Force Base as a Aerospace and General Aviation Mechanic and has seen service overseas in England, Germany, Italy and Africa. Steve met Nicole while stationed at MacDill AFB and they have wisely decided to make this their home. Steve’s most memorable military service moment was when he volunteered for an assignment to deliver relief aide to a poverty stricken African country. He will retire in April, after 20 years of very rewarding service and will be accepting a position as a Process Improvement Professional at Mosaic, a local Fortune 500 Company.

The Martin Family is the most recent participant in the Homes for Heroes Program offered by HomeXpress Realty, Inc. of Apollo Beach. Under this program HomeXpress Realty, Inc. will reward 25% of our commission back to the Martins at closing. Steve and Nicole will close on their very first family home in FishHawk very soon and this will help defray some of their home start-up expenses. This program is HomeXpress Realty’s way of recognizing the priceless contributions of military personnel, first responders, teachers and healthcare workers in our community.

Gene Batronie and Jim English, both of HomeXpress Realty, Inc have a tradition of giving back to the Community and both are very active members of their church and the Knights of Columbus. Gene along with Jim started the Military Appreciation Day at the Spring Jubilee carnival when Gene was the Chairman for three years and Jim was the Director of marketing and operations. Both Jim and Gene have volunteered for several local charity events including the running of their Church Christmas Tree Lot, Casino Night and several other family and community events.

For more information on Homes for Heroes please visit: www.HomesforHeroes.com or for Gene and Jim’s website you can go to www.homesforheroestampa.com.



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April showers have brought May flowers, and our community is looking fabulous and prepped for a summer full of change and opportunity! Sale prices continue to recover and interest rates remain at record lows. Governor Scott is bringing thousands of jobs to the Tampa area, which was rated the second best market in the country for first-time buyers by Realtor.com! Great things are happening and many families find this an opportune time to list, move, and settle before the new school and fiscal years begin. As discussed last month, the prospect of change may often be accompanied by the stress of selling your home and choosing the right agent and company is crucial. One of the most common complaints sellers have against their agents is the perceived lack of effective marketing: their agents aren't bringing in buyers!

In this day and age, approximately 90% of buyers hunt for homes on the Internet. Taking fuzzy, unflattering pictures from a smart phone, writing minimally descriptive sentences, and entering into MLS is simply not sufficient in grabbing prospective buyers. Internet marketing is competitive and a home has approximately three seconds to grab a buyer's attention. Agents should be using either an SLR camera or a professional photographer to capture complimentary angles, lighting, and strong selling features. Photographs matter. Period. Cluttered counters, cramped quarters, and poor lighting can kill the mood of buyers ruining any chance of them walking through the door.



Dina White
Realtor

Century 21
Shaw Realty Group
1725 Highway 60 East
Valrico, FL 33596
813.509.7780
dina.white@century21.com

Of course, photographs can't bring in buyers unless they reach buyers! Established agents and companies have the ability to market on over 800 websites, in multiple languages, and capture a home's online presence and activity in reports emailed directly and periodically to sellers. Agents that go above and beyond will put commission fees to good use by featuring and showcasing their listings on popular websites such as Zillow and Realtor.com, allowing homes even more visibility over the competition. The bottom line is sellers can expect and should demand a well-designed marketing plan. Agents that cut corners can cost sellers valuable time and money. Go with the agents and companies that you know and trust to get the job done and have an established Internet presence! Until then stay informed, call with questions, and check back next month for insight into appraisals and determining the true market value of your home.



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LIBRARY HAPPENINGS IN MAY

The Bloomingdale Regional Public Library offers lots to do in May for persons of all ages. We've included just a sampling. For a full calendar, go to www.hcpl.org/hcpl/locations/bdl.

- All ages – Library Expansion Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, May 23, 10 a.m. Bloomingdale Regional Library will celebrate the opening of its new building expansion with a ribbon cutting ceremony. There will be special guests, including local and regional leaders, members of the Library Board, Friends of the Library and supporters. The public is invited. The Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Library will host a reception following the ceremony with light refreshments and music by the Braden Piano Trio.
- For children – Block Party on Sunday, May 25, 2-4 p.m. Kids (grades K-5) use Lego building blocks to have a fun, interactive and creative afternoon. The library provides the Legos; kids provide the imagination! New theme each month.

- For adults – Social Security Timing on Tuesday, May 6, 6-7 p.m. Social Security has many intricacies that make applying for it difficult. Representatives from the Tax Advisory Group, Inc. will be at the library providing information about the timing issues and the different strategies involved in Social Security.
- For adults – Master Gardner: Butterfly Gardening on Wednesday, May 7, 6:30-8 p.m. Become skilled at identifying the many types of butterflies in our area and learn the two types of butterflies require to create a sanctuary for these beautiful creatures.

Principal Librarian Eloise R. Hurst recommends the following reads:

- Adult Books - The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (e-book format available)
- Young Adult Books – Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein
- Children's Books – A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka

BIG BOX UPDATE

EFFORTS TO BLOCK BUILDING A BIG BOX STORE ON BLOOMINGDALE AVE. CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD AS OF APRIL



On March 18, the CAN-DO attorney met with Judge William Levens and several attorneys from the county and Red Cast. During this meeting the Judge reviewed the request by the county and Red

Cast to dismiss the case filed by resident Fred Brown (plaintiff) against the county. This case proposed that the county did not follow proper zoning processes and community notifications, but rather used a text amendment change process to re-write the zoning for the property. The dismissal request was made by the county and Red Cast on the grounds that the plaintiff's case was not valid. The judge did not agree with the dismissal request issuing his decision on March 31 to deny it. In Judge Levens' decision he not only denied the motion to dismiss the case, but ordered the Plaintiff and Defendants to establish mediation within the next few months.

Mediation is scheduled for June at which point the plaintiff (Fred Brown) and defendants (County and Red Cast) will meet to try to come to an agreement. If no agreement is reached, a court date will be set.

CAN-DO considers this a good first win and hopes that the community will realize that these are successes. Many voices have said that it is a done deal. But the judge has agreed that the county's motion to dismiss does not hold water and that there is validity enough that this should proceed to mediation and to court.

The county is also moving through the process of planning to sunset (retire/discontinue) the code amendment changes that allowed for a change in zoning without requiring community input or a meeting with the community—in this particular situation, allowing development of the big box store. Representatives for the county have said that the current code is too difficult to work with and their plans to abandon it will provide new means for future changes.

Coming up in the next few months CAN-DO will be moving forward with new fundraising events and is looking for interested individuals wanting to participate at any level with its efforts. To learn more visit <http://www.kwuick.com/bloomingdalebigbox/SitePages/Home.aspx> - or <https://www.facebook.com/BloomingdaleBigBox>.



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Malia Blythe has been swimming for only a year and a half. But with the guidance of Campo Family YMCA Coach Joey Sheppard, Malia has not only excelled at swimming but has gained confidence to overcome her biggest challenge--auditory processing disorder.

The Cimino 3rd grader swims for YMCA's competitive swim team, the TYS Stingrays. Her disorder means she is unable to process the information she hears in the same way as others because her ears and brain don't fully coordinate. Something adversely affects the way the brain recognizes and interprets sounds, most notably the sounds composing speech. Background noise, particularly in the pool, only complicates her understanding.

Blythe has found in Sheppard a coach who is patient and willing to repeat things she does understand. Through her swimming and encouragement from Coach Joey she is learning the coping skills necessary to succeed.

Sheppard has found his true passion in coaching both YMCA and USA swimming at the Campo Y for the last 2 years. A 2009 graduate of Bloomingdale High School, he attends the University of South Florida, where he switched his major to economics so he could spend more time coaching.

In a letter to the Y commending Sheppard, Alacia Blythe, Malia's mother wrote, "As you can imagine, teaching a child with this disorder in a noisy pool environment is challenging, to say the least. In spite of the many other swimmers he has to deal with Joey has an endless amount of patience for Malia. He has studied up on her condition and adapted to her way of learning and he takes the time to make sure she understands."

As for Malia, her favorite part of swimming is "... when I take a stroke how I can feel the rush of the water over my hand." She swims at the silver level for the TYS Stingrays, and has achieved "B" times in the breast stroke and freestyle for USA swimming, a level only about 54 percent of swimmers achieve. Her favorite stroke is the butterfly, and her swimming idol is Michael Phelps.

There is no cure for auditory processing disorder. However, Malia has found a champion in Sheppard and his gift for knowing what his swimmers need as well as his profound interest in their success both in and out of the pool. They truly make a winning team.



Photo: Miriam Leech

Elementary School 3rd grader
Malia Blythe practices her
strokes during Campo Family
YMCA's TYS Stingrays practice.

Photo:
Alacia Blythe

Campo
Family
YMCA swim
coach Joey
Sheppard and
swim student,
Malia Blythe.



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All Schools

May 26 Memorial Day- No school

Alafia Elementary

May 6 Spirit Night at McDonald's on Bloomingdale

May 22 Spirit Night at Toppers

Cimino Elementary

May 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6 Art show and Chorus play, "Princess and the Pea," 6 p.m.

May 13 Spirit night at Chick-fil-A on 60 in Valrico, 4-8 p.m.

May 30 5th grade celebration starting at 12:30. There will also be a school dance at 6 p.m. The theme is Sock Hop/50's.

Burns Middle

May 5 Teacher Appreciation

May 6-7 FCAT

May 15 Incoming 5th Grade Orientation, 6 p.m.

May 16 National Junior Honor Society Induction, 7 p.m. (Tentative)

May 19 Awards Night, 7 p.m. (Tentative)

May 28 Math League, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

May 29 Orchestra End of Year Concert, 6:30 p.m. at BSHS

Bloomingtondale Senior High

May 6 Chorus Banquet, 6 p.m.

May 9 Orchestra Banquet/Awards, 6 p.m., Fishhawk Palmetto Club

May 13 Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.

May 14 Band Banquet/Awards (and silent auction), 6 p.m.

May 15 Chorus Concert, 7 p.m.

May 17 Band Prism Concerts, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

May 22 Football Spring Jamboree, 6:30 p.m.

May 31 Rajun' Bull Band 5k Run & Family Walk

June 1 Graduation Rehearsal, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Florida State Fairgrounds

June 5 Graduation, 8 p.m. at Florida State Fairgrounds

Alafia Mint is open for deposit every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. Alafia Mint in partnership with Suncoast Schools will be raffling off a second Kindle Fire at the end of the school year! Participants receive 1 raffle ticket entered in the drawing for every \$5 minimum deposit per week.

The Gator Book Exchange is held every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. The Exchange

is in need of gently used books grades 2-5. Our students LOVE this program and any donations will be greatly appreciated. Donations may be made to the front office, to the book exchange on Wednesday mornings, or by contacting Jessica Hinson at jessicahinson916@gmail.com to make arrangements.



Runners and walkers, adults and children of all ages are invited to participate in this fun local event! All proceeds benefit the Bloomingtondale High School Band. Race t-shirt included in advance registration fee. Bloomingtondale bull mascot will be on hand to greet the kids!

Location: On the grounds of Bloomingtondale High School
1700 Bloomingtondale Ave, Valrico, FL 33596

Registration: Register online at [Active.com \(www.active.com/valrico-fl/running/distance-running-races/rajun-bull-band-5k-and-fun-walk-2014\)](http://www.active.com/valrico-fl/running/distance-running-races/rajun-bull-band-5k-and-fun-walk-2014), or in-person at the band's annual Prisms concerts on May 17.

Cost: Adults \$25, Students (k-12) \$20, Children under age 5 free

Race Day: 8AM start (staggered race time for runners and other participants). T-shirt & packet pick up 7-7:45AM (additional pickup times available 5/30).

Questions: rajunbullfundraising@gmail.com



AMERICAN HONEY STEALS THE SHOW AT BURNS GOT TALENT

By: Miriam Leech

Burns Middle School 6th grader Morghan Copeland was awarded first place for her performance of Lady Antebellum's song American Honey, which stole the show at the 3rd Annual Burns' Got Talent on April 24.

Singers, dancers, musicians, and even a gymnast were part of the ten acts selected during auditions and performed for a panel of three judges. Backstage, first-time performer Macaila Billouin reflected the stage jitters of the contestants, saying "At school all day today my heart kept beating really fast." The 7th grader performed the song A Team with no sign of her nerves.

Scoring the performances to determine who would win first, second, and third place trophies was no easy task for judges Renée Melanson, owner of Academy of Dance Dynamics; Desiree Parrish, an alumna of Burns Middle and Bloomingdale High Schools and piano teacher at the School of Fine Arts in Brandon; and Marcia Rains-Nadal, a Bloomingdale High School parent.

Second place winner Kassidy Gavagan performed the song Hurt, and 7th grader Lindsay Gaertner performed a lyrical dance to the song Somewhere Over the Rainbow, which earned her the 3rd place trophy.

New this year was the Audience Choice Award, which guests voted on with their ticket stubs during intermission. The inaugural award was given to 8th grader Mabel Kerker, a returning talent show performer who delivered a moving rendition of the song Oceans.

Other performers included Julia Cleyman; Katherine Torres; Tylynn Krohne; Makaila Redus, Gabriella Martinez, and Lexi Bishop. The Burns Show Choir opened the show with the National Anthem and a Grease medley. Special performances were put on by the Burns Jazz Band and the Academy of Dance Dynamics. Parent organizers were Carla Overly and Lynn Rodriguez.

The top performers at this year's Burns Got Talent Show: Mabel Kerker (Audience Choice), Kassidy Gavagan (Second Place), Morghan Copeland (First Place), and Lindsay Gaertner (Third Place).



Photos: Miriam Leech



The Burns Show Choir opened the 3rd Annual Burns' Got Talent Show with the National Anthem followed by a Grease medley.

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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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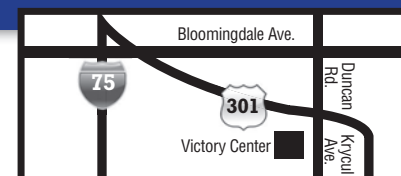
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BSHS RELAY FOR LIFE

Bloomington Junior and two-year cancer survivor Anthony Alvarez (center with purple shirt) is now healthy, cancer free and enjoying life. As a freshman Anthony was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma but fought the disease with support of his family, friends and his strong faith.



Bloomington Senior High hosted its annual Relay for Life on March 29 at the school's Charley Harris Stadium. The event was open to the community and featured activities such as a survivor lap, the luminary ceremony, dance parties, concerts from local bands, capture the flag and other forms of entertainment. Teams raised money through various fundraisers, booths they set up at the event, and their entry fees.



Photos: Deidre Morgan

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