



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXVIII 🌿 ISSUE 1 🌿 JANUARY 2018 🌿 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

Goodbye 2017! Hello 2018!

2018 Membership Drive Begins; Join the BHA Today!

Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association Inc.
3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33596 • bloomingtondalehoa.com

Please correct name below if different. BHA Membership Notices are mailed to the owner on file with the Hillsborough County Tax Collector. Recent changes may not be reflected here.

Your Name
Your Address

2018 BHA MEMBERSHIP

\$35.00 to Join or Renew!

Return This Card With Payment



2018 Membership \$35.00

Community Scholarship Donation \$

Total Enclosed \$

Check Number #

This Month

BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

Pages 4-5

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Page 6

BL SPECIAL TAXING
DISTRICT UPDATE

Page 9

SANTA VISITS BLOOMINGTONDALE

Pages 10-11

2017 YEAR-IN-PICTURES

Pages 12-13

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
HELPERS

Page 14

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Page 18

SCHOOL NEWS

Pages 19-23

PLEASE ♻️ RECYCLE

WINNER

2013, 2014 & 2016

Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
Newsletter Category

"Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit." *Vince Lombardi Jr.*

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

BHA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomington Community Office.

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Suzy Watts*

Secretary: *Joanie Wilson*

Treasurer: *Grace Lewis*



Directors at Large:

Daniel Berkowitz

Sean Donahue

Bobbi Ferraro

Carl Hallinan

Billy Hightower

Beth Smedley

Charlie Woodcock

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomington Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingtonNews@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci, NTZ Studios

Senior Staff Writer: Miriam Leech

Staff Writers: Wendy Knipp, Susan DeLuca and Deidre Morgan



TONY DEL CASTILLO

Advertising Manager Brandon & Southshore Times

11268 Winthrop Main Street, Suite 101

Riverview, Florida 33578 - (813) 661-2438

Email: tdelcastillo@tampabay.com

Tampa Bay Times

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



Happy New Year

We'd like to be your new local dentist

25% OFF
— ANY —
ONE PROCEDURE

Coupon can not be combined with insurance benefits. Invisalign excluded.

BRIDGES DENTAL
813-654-3399

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 12-31-18

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$79

Includes exam, x-rays and healthy mouth cleaning
(0150, 0210, 1110)

BRIDGES DENTAL
813-654-3399

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 12-31-18

CROWN SPECIAL

Includes Crown and Buildup (if necessary)

CROWNS \$899
(D2750 and D2950)

BRIDGES DENTAL
813-654-3399

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 12-31-18



DR. LAURA COYLE BRIDGES
Local Brandon Resident since 1987

Proudly in network with the following dental insurance providers:

- Aetna
- Ameritas
- Assurant PPO
- Cigna
- Delta Dental PPO
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- BlueDental Choice
- GEHA/ Connection Dental

- Guardian
- Metlife
- Principal
- United Healthcare
- Delta Dental Premier
- Premier
- Humana PPO

3646 LITHIA PINECREST RD • ERINDALE PLAZA • VALRICO

Mon-Thurs: 8am-5pm **813-654-3399** www.bridgesdental.com

The patient and any other person responsible for payment has a right to refuse to pay, cancel payment, or reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination, or treatment that is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free, discounted fee, or reduced fee service, examination, or treatment.

Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle



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



Marlene Williams 1109 Callista Drive Valrico, FL 33596 (The Villas of Bloomingdale)



evolution
primary care





Convenient Evening and Weekend hours

Now Accepting New Patients

We offer convenient hours into the evenings and on weekends

Monday - Friday	12pm - 9pm
Saturday	12pm - 5pm

Book Today at evolutionprimary.com

11264 Boyette Road, Riverview, Florida 33569 | **813.672.2014**

573537-1



Your love,
Our expertise



Caring for a loved one with *dementia* can become *overwhelming* and the decision to seek help can feel like giving up. But it's never the wrong choice to get the best care.

Superior Residences offers specialized services for those with Alzheimer's and dementia-related illnesses, from temporary respite care to full-time residency. We give families *peace of mind* knowing their loved one is receiving expert care in a secure, compassionate community.



SUPERIOR
RESIDENCES
of Brandon
MEMORY CARE

Call to make an appointment today. Visit our community and see how we can work together to give your loved one the best possible care.

(813) 657-8587 • www.SuperiorALF.com
1819 Providence Ridge Blvd • Brandon, FL 33511

Live the Moment...Love the Moment™

569993-1

Assisted Living Facility #9739



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

2018 Membership Drive Begins! Join Today!

Soon residents will receive their 2018 invitation to join the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. Established in 1980, this group has steadfastly worked on behalf of our community to provide cohesion-building programs and services aimed at keeping our area a great place to live, work and call home.

Please join the BHA! Your \$35 membership fees are returned 100 percent to the community. And, every member and dollar matter. As a united community, we can make our neighborhoods better.

You are the backbone of our Association. The programs and services offered are for you! But, these events don't just happen. Hard work, volunteers, time and yes, money make these events happen – Money the BHA receives from you, the resident, during the annual membership drive.

Programs and services designed to build neighborhood cohesion include our annual Santa visit and charity food drive, the Fall Festival, the upcoming Clean-Up and Garage sale, and service hour and scholarship opportunities for youth. The Association also highlights community needs and issues to government officials, like development, road and sidewalk issues, and amenities like our parks and the new dog park coming in 2018. The BHA also provides residents with communication lines, which include this paper, the website, Facebook, twitter and a staffed office to assist with inquiries.

So, when you receive your membership card, we need your support. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road., Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. ALL membership funds go back to our community to help keep the community a great place to live. And, all residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.



Note: The BHA no longer has an active post office box address. Please update your automatic bill pay if applicable.

BHA EVENT CALENDAR

If you have events pending in our community, email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com, or call 813-681-2051. We will help you promote your event on our Facebook page.

Jan. 1/2018 Membership drive starts! Look for your membership invitation! We need your support!

Monday, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

Thursday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Cliff Fletcher, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 8 a.m., Community-wide Garage Sale / We provide advertising and entryway signage. You provide the "stuff."

Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Annual Community Clean-up / Save a trip to the dump and let the BHA take your bulk junk off your hands and out of our neighborhoods.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association sponsored events



Bloomingdale Annual Community Garage Sale
February 24, 2018
8 a.m.



2018 Bloomingdale Resident Clean-Up Day
March 3, 2018
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. OR until bins are full



Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility
1629 Natures Way (behind Alafia Elementary School)
(Bloomingdale Gazette will post a list of acceptable items)

Visit our Facebook page or see the Bloomingdale Gazette for updates.

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

Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!

IMPORTANT DATES

January 15 - April 1
Applications accepted.

April 1
Application deadline (firm).

May 8
BHA Board meeting and announcement of scholarship winner.



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to sponsor the

Bloomingdale High School

\$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidate

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

Candidate's Parent/Guardian


- Must be a resident of the Bloomingdale community.
- Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 2018 membership dues must be paid prior to the scholarship application deadline. Membership drive begins January 2018. **Deadline is April 1, 2018.**
- Proof of residency is required.

Selection Criteria

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

Scholarship information will be available January 15, 2018 online at BloomingdaleHOA.com, at Bloomingdale High School and at the Bloomingdale Community Office.



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

2018 Community Scholarship Applications Available!

Don't let the opportunity for \$2,000 in college scholarship money slip through your fingers. Applications are available online at www.bloomingdalehoa.com, the BHA office, and via email at bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. The deadline is April 1. Mail completed applications to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596. Or, drop off the application at the office. **Good luck, seniors!**

BHA BRIEFS

December Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

Farewell and Thank you!

The BHA thanks Mary Galin for her service to the board and the community. Since 2013, Galin served as director, treasurer, and the driving force for returning the Fall Festival to the community. The board wishes her the best as she and her family depart the area.



Photo: Gazette File Photo

Santa Visit

Last month, the BHA celebrated the return of Santa at the Village Early learning Center. The new venue provided more parking, a kid-friendly environment, a successful charity food drive and a chance to visit with Santa and his merry band of elves. See story on p. 10-11.

This is a beloved community event, having been on the Association agenda for 31 years! Pictured are Santa and BHA board members from front to back and left to right: Committee Chair Beth Smedley, Vice-President Suzy Watts, Treasurer Grace Lewis, Secretary Joanie Wilson, Directors Sean Donahue and Billy Hightower, President George May, and Director Dann Berkowitz.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

2018 Budget

The 2018 Budget was approved unanimously. As part of the Association's expansion, the neighborhoods of the Estates of River Crossing, Pine Grove Condominiums, Pine Grove Reserve, Savannah Landings and Bloomingdale Woods Condos will receive membership invitations this month. With new members, the BHA hopes to expand services and programs.

CORRECTION!

Last month, the Bloomingdale Gazette incorrectly identified Cimino Principal Joanne Griffiths as Dr. Joanne Fitzgerald. We regret the error.



6 Weeks thru 12 Years

- Nutritious Meals & Snacks: Low Salt & Sugar
- Spanish & Music
- Brainwaves Curriculum
- ABC Mouse Computer Technology
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)
- Extracurricular Programs
- Outdoor Playgrounds with Water Park
- Trained Professional Staff, Certified in First Aid & CPR
- Security Code Access Entry
- FREE Internet Viewing of Your Child's Day



- Pre-School
- Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten
- Before- and After-School Care
- Summer and Holiday Camps

Now Enrolling for Holiday Camp 12/26-1/5

- Curriculum
- Field Trips
- Meals



Florida Association For Child Care Management
FACCM
Florida's Voice for Early Learning

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!



Serving Stowers, Valrico Academy, Bevis, FishHawk Creek, Lithia Springs, Foundation Christian, Alafia and Cimino.

813-657-6200
www.krkvallrico.com
4321 Lynx Paw Trail
Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary

813-654-7000
www.krkcirca.com
5815 Kids Crossing Drive
Located between Stowers Elementary & Mosaic

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

This Month! Tax Prep Sign-up



BECOME A TAX VOLUNTEER FOR THE AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM.

Training begins in January at the Bloomingdale Library.

Google AARP Foundation Tax Aide Volunteer Opportunities to Sign Up.

For more information e-mail Lee Neal at lee45neal@gmail.com • 813-654-1720

Life Story Writing Classes / January / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / The award-winning Life Story Writing Classes, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, are scheduled to begin this month. The ten-week program is offered through three separate classes, which run simultaneously. The first option starts on Tuesday, January 16, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; the second, Friday, January 19, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and the third, Saturday, January 20, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A brochure providing more information is available in the library foyer. Please plan to attend all ten classes. Register for the classes at the library's "Ask Desk," or by emailing LifeWritersBloom@msn.com. Space is limited in this popular program.

FishHawk Market Day / January 7 / 9 a.m.-2 p.m. / Park Square / Free event featuring handmade one-of-a-kind gifts, crafts, fresh produce and treats from local artisans. Market runs the first Sunday of every month through May. For information, call 813-657-6629.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Freedom Parade / January 13 / 1-2:30 p.m. / Plant City Historic Downtown / Visit www.plantcitymlkfestival.com for information. Dr. Martin Luther King Day Parade / January 15 / Noon / Downtown Tampa / Thousands line the streets of a 2-mile route winding through East Tampa beginning at Cuscaden Park and ending at Middleton High School. This parade gets bigger and better every year and attracts bands from as far away as Kingston, Jamaica. Visit www.mlkjrparade.com for information.



Class of the Titans / Monday, Wednesday, Friday Starting January 15 / 5:15-6:15 a.m., 8-9 a.m., and 9-10 a.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / A unique 8-week team training program designed to build strength and functional fitness through a variety of intense intervals for a 1-hour period. Modifications and adjustments available for differing fitness levels. Cost: \$72 for Everywhere Members; \$96 for Here Members; \$120 for Non-Members.

Drawing for Kids / January 16, 23, 30 / 6:30-7:30 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Center / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / This class is for beginning and serious students who want to develop their drawing skills. Students will build on basic drawing techniques and studies of light, value, and form using a variety of subject matter. Cost: \$30 members/\$40 non-member.



Protecting Your Online Privacy / January 23 / 2-3 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / More of our information is becoming available online. In this class, we will focus on trying to control the amount of information that we are surrendering without our knowledge. For information, call 813-273-3652.

Shabby Chic Vintage Market & Artisan Days / Various Dates and Locations

Sunday, January 28 / 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Grove At Wesley Chapel / 6105 Wesley Grove Blvd / Shabby Chic Vintage Market & Artisan Days are now in 5 locations with 10 shows a year. These events are quickly becoming one of Tampa Bay's most unique shopping events where people can not only shop but also create at our newly added DIY Workshops & Paint Demos.

Other dates and locations: February 11/ Safety Harbor, March 4/ Citrus Park Mall, March 18 / Brandon Mall, and March 25 / Bradenton.



UPCOMING

4th Annual Zephyrhills Snowbird Palooza / February 3 / 10 a.m.-3 p.m. / Zephyr Park / 38116 5th Ave, Zephyrhills / A senior expo featuring family-fun activities, free health checks, different card games and tournaments, fun contests like "Show Off your State Spirit," entertainment that even the most local of locals can enjoy and several health & wellness type businesses that cater to senior health. This event is free to attend, free to park, and free to participate in all tournaments & contests. Call 727-674-1464 for information.



The Florida State Fair / February 8-19 / Florida State Fairgrounds / 4800 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa / Mark your calendars! The Florida State Fair attracts up to 500,000 people in 12 days. Each year Florida residents create exhibits for Aquaculture, Horticulture, Woodcarving, Needlework, and more. Bragging rights are still won for the prized bull, best pie, and the most beautiful quilt. Being an Independent Midway, all rides are selected by the Fair Authority to provide our visitors with all the thrills and chills they've come to expect. As the first State Fair of the year, we get all the latest and greatest in Fair foods such as the Pizza Cone, Redneck Burger, Bacon Ice Cream, and more! It's affordable family fun at its best! Nobody does it better than the Florida State Fair! Visit www.floridastatefair.com for events, tickets, and more.





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



Fairytales for Felons

When I was a kid, reading was classified as “An Adventure!” Classroom walls were decorated with posters promising “Books Are Our Friends!” and “Reading is Fun!” Well, now I’m retired with a delightful 4-year-old granddaughter and I’m beginning to wonder about all that.

While I’m not a believer in book banning or any of that balderdash, I am starting to cast a wary eye on some of the stars of our childhood favorites. Seems to be a whole passel of lawbreaking going on, if you ask me.

Take, if you will, “Hansel and Gretel.” This little charmer opens up with dear old dad taking his kids for a stroll in the woods where he dumps them like picnic leavings. I believe this is what’s known as “Abandonment.” The waifs wander up to a house made of gingerbread and candy and begin to systematically dismantle it and eat the pieces. “Vandalism” and “Destruction of Evidence.” The abode’s owner, justifiably miffed, attempts to do away with them by turning them into her next entrée’. “Cannibalism?” In a children’s story? Wiley little brats, H & G turn the tables on their hostess by using her for fuel. Ye gods.

Then there’s “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” a



seemingly innocuous tale about a family of grizzlies and a little girl. Pere Bear, Mere Bear and, one can only assume, B’rer Bear decide to putter about in the forest while waiting for lunch to cool. Enter Goldilocks. Clearly, “Illegal Entry.” Spying the laden table, she helps herself. “Burglary.” Replete with her ill-gotten goodies, the little thug tries out the chairs, smashing Baby B’s all to smithereens. “Malicious Mischief.” She wanders upstairs, messes up all the beds and drifts off to sleep. “Vagrancy.” When the bears return and find their home a shambles, they naturally react a bit hostilely. They proceed to break every Anti-Vigilante statute in the books, taking off after Goldie, who scampers away, scot-free. Really?

Let’s not forget Jack of Beanstalk fame who disobeys his poor, hard-working mother, makes a lousy deal at the flea market, breaks into a castle, steals a goose and exterminates a giant who had not been bothering a soul, thank you very much. And “Tom, Tom, the Piper’s Son” who “Stole a pig and away he run.” Nice kid.

I think I might be better off writing my own fairytales to tell my innocent grandchild. “Okay, Sweetie. Climb up here on Grandma’s lap. Once upon a time, there was a little boy named John Dillinger. He lived in a far-off land called Chicago with his little friends ‘Scarface,’ ‘Machine Gun,’ and ‘Baby Face’...”

Hey, next to Hansel, Goldie and that group, these guys look pretty good.



Serenity Meadows
MEMORIAL PARK • FUNERAL HOME • CREMATORY

813-677-9494
6919 Providence Road,
Riverview, FL 33578

HELPING FAMILIES SINCE 1998 CREMATORY ON SITE

www.serenitymeadows.com



**Birthday • Anniversary • Special Occasion
Bridal & Baby Showers • Baby Gender Reveal**

Searching for the perfect spot to host a celebration?
Call about the Tasty Venues Experience.

Explore Your Culinary Curiosity
Weekday Lunch, Dessert & Beverage - \$11.95
(Prepared fresh from scratch daily ~ Menu posted on Facebook)

Saturday British Teas
Cooking Parties & Dinner with The Chef
Wine & Beer are NOW AVAILABLE for purchase with meals.

Retail section of culinary specialty items –
cookbooks, serving dishes, oils, spices and more!

For Cooking Parties or Dinner with The Chef, reservations are required.
951 E. Brandon Blvd. | Brandon, FL | 813.381.4999
Located on the south side of SR60, between Bryan Rd. and Mt. Carmel Rd.

MyTastyVenues.com



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher
and C.S.O. Sandy Capitano

Wow, where did 2017 go? As we usher in the New Year, get to know your neighbors, and spend time with friends and family members. I personally want to thank the Bloomingdale community for the warm welcome. Not a week has gone by that someone has not come up and said thank you for all that you do. In most cases, three or four times a week, I get to hear positive feedback from the community. Also thank you for the holiday cookies that were sent to the office.

AREA LAW AND ORDER

Between Nov. 21 and Dec. 19, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 49 traffic stops in Bloomingdale East and Bloomingdale West. Those traffic stops resulted in seven verbal warnings, 38 written warnings, five citations and one arrest.

At community entrances and within subdivisions, there were two crashes with injuries, six without injuries and two hit and run where one of those resulted in property damage. There was also one DUI, which is one too many! Do not get behind the wheel if you have been drinking as the results can be devastating to more than just you!

Remember to slow down, stop at all stop signs and above all be a courteous driver. And, wear your seat belt at all times.

There was only one vehicle burglary and two residential burglaries. There were also two drug law violations and 12 arrests for various crimes in the Bloomingdale area between Nov. 21 and Dec. 19.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Remember to watch out for what is happening in your neighborhoods. If you see something, make sure to call Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency number at 813-247-8200.

Remember to lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors, secure your guns and lock up your vehicles. This will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim.

GETTING INVOLVED

The deputies at the Sheriff's Office strive to provide Bloomingdale and surrounding areas with a safer place to live and raise our families. That is our reason for being here – to make your lives safer and provide a more secure place to live.

We work directly with concerned residents through groups like the Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC). You are invited to attend our monthly meeting as a representative for your neighborhood. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month: this month's meeting is Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. This group works directly with the HCSO to identify community concerns and to find solutions to all types of problems. Interested residents can call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station located at 3622 Erindale Drive.

VOLUNTEER CITIZEN PATROL PROGRAM (VCP)

We can use your help. We are working to expand the number of residents serving on the Sheriff's Volunteer Citizens Patrol Program (VCP). Residents interested in helping make Bloomingdale a safer and more secure community can contact the Sheriff's



Community Outreach Division at 813-247-8115 for information on this outstanding program.

"The VCP is based on the concept of utilizing the talents and skills of volunteers from within the local community as partners in public safety. Citizen patrol volunteers are specially trained by the Sheriff's Office to respond to many non-emergency and routine calls for service that do not require law enforcement or regulatory authority.

The VCP was created to reduce crime, improve the safety of our citizens, improve the quality of life within Hillsborough County and allow community members to become active participants in the process of crime control and prevention.

Volunteers donate their time to patrol while driving specially marked Sheriff's Office vehicles. Volunteers receive training in areas such as crime prevention, first-aid, traffic control, and community policing. The VCP consists of three shifts per day, patrolling up until midnight, seven days a week. Each VCP vehicle will patrol with two volunteers per shift."

(Source: www.hcso.tampa.fl.us/Featured-Info/News/Volunteer-Citizen-Patrol.asp)

LAST WORDS FOR A NEW YEAR

Some issues that continue to contribute to crime in our community include those that we constantly remind our residents about including open garage doors, unlocked vehicles and valuables left in vehicles. Lock your homes and your vehicles! Please do your part to reduce crime.

I know a lot of you may be thinking, well, we hear these same safety and security steps repeatedly every year. *"The simple fact is that they don't work until you take action and do them!" Thanks again for your support. We look forward to serving you and the community as we ring in the New Year.*



Breanna Rodriguez, local resident Steve Briggs and Master Deputy Cliff Fletcher at Brigg's 18th annual hay ride last month. Over 200 pair of shoes for children were collected and delivered to a local charity here in Bloomingdale area. Photo: HCSO

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District:

The Community's Common Area Connection

By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

(Editor's Note: The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District's (BSTD) monthly column will inform readers about the BSTD, its mission and ongoing and new initiatives. The BSTD meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Questions? Call 813-684-6667 or email bstd@verizon.net.)

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year from your Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) Board of Trustees!

Mini-Grant Awarded for Replacement Entry Signs

The Trustees start 2018 with the announcement that the District was awarded a Neighborhood Mini-Grant for \$2,500 from the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations! The Trustees applied for the grant in August with the specific goal of replacing the Bloomingdale signs at the entrance to the community at Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road. These signs were removed during construction at that intersection in 2016. Keep reading this column for updates on the new signs and ribbon cutting ceremony planned for the community once the project is completed!

2018 Tax Referendum

Also in 2018, the Trustees plan to have a tax assessment increase referendum on the ballot in August. The proposed increase is set at \$40, which will increase the current assessment of \$130 to \$170 annually.

So why the increase? Simple. The Bloomingdale infrastructure is aging, and in many sections, is over 30 years old. The costs of maintaining our beautiful community have increased

significantly over the last 10 years—the last time the assessment was increased was in 2006. Key increases have occurred in landscape maintenance, property management fees, irrigation repair, and plant replacement.

Already in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) the District has earmarked \$28,195 in wall repairs (with a budget of only \$5,000 for the fiscal year) deemed necessary because of safety issues. Last fall, \$26,302 was spent on planting and replacing the creeping fig that lines the walls of our community. In addition, an electrical inspection and resulting repairs of irrigation pumps and timers cost \$3,000. And with the pending increased maintenance that will come with the completed Bell Shoals Road widening project, the Trustees find it necessary to ask for the increase.

Look for more information on the tax assessment increase referendum in this column.

Next Meeting

Bloomingdale residents, as always, are invited to attend the next meeting of the BSTD on Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. If you would like to speak at the meeting, members of the public are allotted 3 minutes to make comment or ask questions per Hillsborough County policy. Hope to see you there!

BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

BLOOMINGDALE

3509 Bell Shoals Road
Valrico, Florida 33596
(813) 684-6667 Office
(813) 684-2358 Fax
BSTD@verizon.net

www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org

Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

David P. West, President
Tom Leech, Vice President
Mark Horst, Treasurer
Dann Berkowitz, Trustee
Russell Jones, Trustee
Mark Vargo, Trustee
Jay Kittle, Trustee



PRIMROSE SCHOOLS®
.....
SUMMER
ADVENTURE CLUB

Now Enrolling!

Experience the excitement of our Summer Adventure Club where imaginations are free to run wild. Get ready for engineering design challenges, discoveries, outdoor exploration and more. It's going to be one epic summer.
Fun for ages 5 - 10.*

Learn more at PrimroseSummer.com.

Exciting Adventures and Fieldtrips
10 Weeks of Curriculum • Limited Space – Call Today!

Primrose School of Bloomingdale
813.438.5980 • PrimroseBloomingdale.com

Each Primrose School is a privately owned and operated franchise. Primrose Schools is a trademark of Primrose School Franchising Company. ©2017 Primrose School Franchising Company. All rights reserved.
*Ages for Summer Adventure Club programs vary by location.



567511-1

Santa Delights Residents for the 31st Year

Last month, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association brought Santa back to the community for a heart-warming day of fun, crafts, balloons and photo opportunities. More than 300 two- and four-legged visitors met Santa and donated to the annual charity food drive.

Held at the Village Early Learning Center, this venue is the beginning of a new partnership and new memories for both organizations. The BHA sends a special thank you to the VELC's Susan Miller and Tami Howell for welcoming our community.

Wholesome Ministries in Wimauma, selected by the VELC, received more than 600 pounds of donated food, double the amount collected last year. The generosity of our residents allowed the charity to add Christmas presents for children who may have gone without.

The BHA also thanks our 20-plus volunteer elves from Bloomindale High School and Foundation Christian Academy. Without them, this event just would not be the same.



Happy Kids Olivia and Xavier



Delilah Loves Santa



Aanya Jithin



Dominic and Adrian Hurd



Volunteers
Photo: Joy Boisselle



Fionnuala Hallinan



Sydney Hanson



Amelia Ramos



John Michael



Theo Hoyng



The McKendree Clan:
Madison (10), Emma Kate
(7) and Tucker (3)
Photo: Emily McKendree



Jacob Lewis and Twinkles aka Sjaelan Vieira



Haley and Joshua Smith



Henry Brennick



Santa

Air Conditioning • Plumbing • Electrical

A/C SYSTEM SPECIAL!

All these amazing deals with the Cornerstone Pros Summer Package

- Cash Rebate up to \$1500.00* Instantly • 0% Interest for Months *w.a.c.
- 12 Year Parts warranty, up to 12 Year unit replacement warranty* & extended 12 Year Labor warranty* • 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Same Day Service
24/7 Emergency Service
Senior & Military Discount



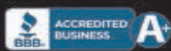
CORNERSTONE

AIR CONDITIONING • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL

CORNERSTONEPROS.COM

813-343-0964

CAC1816647 & CFC1428982 • EC0001103



Cornerstone Pros has been serving our community for 11 years with fast, fair and friendly service!

*APPLIES TO SPECIFIC QUALIFYING DAIKIN EQUIPMENT



575068-1

\$25 OFF
ANY SERVICE
REPAIR
AIR, PLUMBING
OR ELECTRIC

Must present coupon. Cannot be combined one per visit.
Exp. 1/31/18
TBT-BG

\$3995
77 PT. A/C CLEANING
& CHECKUP
6 Month Guarantee
FREE 1lb Freon

Must present coupon. Cannot be combined one per visit.
Exp. 1/31/18
TBT-BG

\$3995
SERVICE CALL
M-F 7am-5pm

Must present coupon. Cannot be combined one per visit.
Exp. 1/31/18
TBT-BG

**FREE ESTIMATES
& 2ND OPINION**

- New A/C System
- Air Quality Inspection
- Duct Work Replacement
- Water Heater Replacement
- Water Treatment
- Plumbing Whole Home Repipe

TBT-BG
HMAG
Exp. 1/31/18



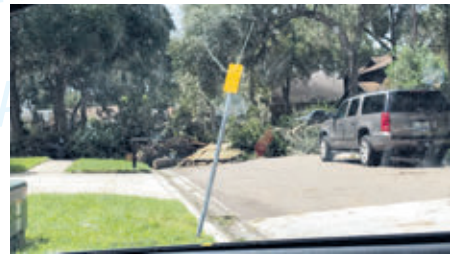
The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association wishes every resident a Happy New Year.

This year's membership card will be in your mailbox soon. Please return the yellow card with your membership check and scholarship donation.

None of the events and activities highlighted below would be possible without your support. Your \$35 membership contribution allows the BHA to continue the programs and services that make our community special.

The Association needs your support! When your membership notice arrives, don't think twice. Join the Association and be a part of helping to make our community better.

2017 was a year of growth. The BHA board grew to full 12-member capacity and area development continued at a dizzying pace. We anticipate the pace will continue in 2018.



Hurricane Irma in September had the entire community on high alert. While most sailed through the experience with little to no damage, others were not so lucky. In Fairway Manors, tree damage closed streets.



The community welcomed new Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher to Bloomingdale in July.



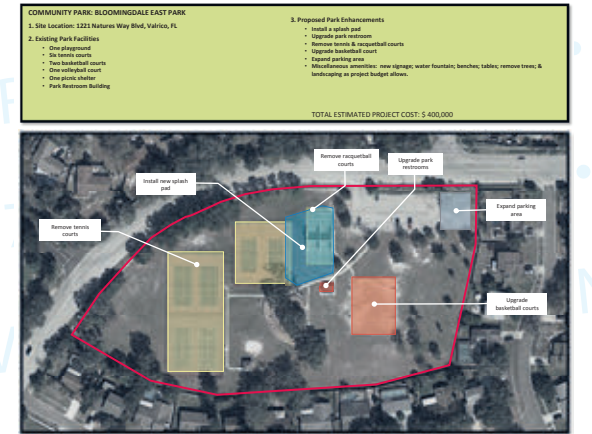
In May, BHA awarded a \$2,000 community scholarship to Bloomingdale resident Kevin Coomber. **Deadline for this year's scholarship is April 1.**



The July Gazette featured an ambitious interactive map compiled by Brian Bokor and the Gazette staff. The map displayed ongoing and future developments in and around the local area. Plans are to update the map at least annually.

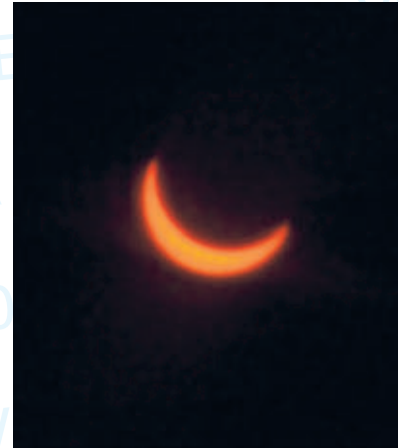


Community Garage Sale – A new program established in 2016, the BHA advertises and provides entryway signage. This year's Garage Sale is for Feb. 24.



Also in July and December, the BHA provided information to the community and county representatives concerning park improvements in Bloomingdale east and west. County is still in the design process and residents can provide input to county via email. A survey in December helped define resident priorities including bathrooms at the west park and the desire to keep racquetball courts in the east. All residents agreed that facilities in both parks need upgrading and repair.

Bloomingdale had a great seat for the Aug. 21 total eclipse termed "A Once-In-A-Lifetime Event."



In July, The Association won three **2017 Hillsborough County Neighborhood Recognition Awards**. The BHA received three of the nine awards, which included: *Best Neighborhood Communications* for the Bloomingdale Gazette, *Best Neighborhood Improvement* program for the standard sweep program in partnership with Hillsborough County Code and the first-ever *Most Effective Board* award. The association earned high praise for their efforts on behalf of Bloomingdale residents.



The BHA, collaborating with the county code department, developed a Neighborhood Standards Program in 2016. This program features a simple list of violations enforceable by county code. In February 2017, code officers conducted a standards "sweep" of non-mandated neighborhoods. The sweep program will continue this year in an effort to educate residents and maintain property values. See the list on the BHA's website at www.BloomingdaleHoa.com.



The community clean-up held March 4 was a huge success. Residents filled ten commercial trash containers to the brim. HCSO's Operation Medicine Cabinet, AMVETS, Legal Shredd and UrbanErecycling also participated. **The spring clean-up is scheduled for March 3**, and depending on membership numbers, a second may be held in the Fall.



Staying Connected – The community's website, www.bloomingdalehoa.com, is a one-stop information source for residents and others. Since launching in 2014, the website has been **viewed over 223,000 times**. The Facebook page, www.Facebook/BloomingdaleHoa.com, is well established and nearing 1,800 likes. It is a source for immediate community news and a forum for issues.

The BHA welcomed Commissioner Stacy White at the community's annual Fall Festival held in October. Maintaining a strong relationship with our commissioner is an important goal of the Association.



In October, the BHA held their Fall Festival at their new venue – Bloomingdale High School. Many thanks to Principal Sue Burkett- Baricko and Assistant Principal Donnie Peek for their valuable support.



To close out the 2017 year, the BHA welcomed Santa for the 31st time. Dumbo, a five-month-old rescue, enjoys his first visit with the jolly one! Photo: Dan Boisselle



On Thanksgiving Day, a large hole literally stopped traffic on Natures Way. This was the second pipe issue to occur in the same area; the other pipe repair took place in April. Both issues occurred due to pipe collapses in the sewer drain lines. This month, the temporary repair on the second collapse will be reopened and a permanent fix installed.

Also in November, a Tampa Bay Times article highlighted speeding issues on Natures Way. Between 2013 and 2017, County, at the BHA's request, has conducted three traffic studies on Natures Way and one on Canoga Park Drive. County engineers are researching possible traffic calming measures for Natures way. The results of the Canoga Park study did not justify new measures on this road.

New Year's Resolution Helpers!

Work Out and Help Out in 2018

Source: Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA

Along with singing "Auld Lang Syne" at the start of the New Year, making resolutions is a tradition for millions of Americans. However, while choosing a resolution can be easy, sticking to it can be impossible. A nationwide YMCA survey found less than a quarter of respondents kept their resolutions. Many (71 percent) tried, but stated they fell short of their goals, while 40 percent confessed they gave up within the first few months, even weeks, of the New Year.



This year, the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is encouraging community members to give their New Year's resolutions a boost by creating smaller, more manageable goals that can lead to success of a larger one. Reframing your goals in a positive way can help you stick to them. And, don't get discouraged by setbacks. Even though you may experience some missteps – it doesn't mean you have to give up.

Below are four tips the Tampa YMCA recommends to help 2018 New Year's resolutions stick:

1. Start small. Break big resolutions into small, achievable goals. Instead of cutting chocolate out of your diet for good, vow to only have it a few times a week. Or trade your two sodas a day for one soda and a glass of water.
2. Take it one step at a time. Trying to change too many habits at once can easily lead to frustration. Instead of a New Year's resolution, make a new month resolution. Focus on that one change for the month, and add another (small) change when the new month rolls around.
3. Choose a facility that focuses on a holistic approach to health. When it comes to adding healthy behaviors, like increasing physical activity, it's important to find a facility that keeps you motivated. Case in point, the Y is not just a gym, but a community organization that focuses on a holistic approach to health.
4. Talk it out. Team up with someone to set your 2018 goals and help each other establish a game plan dedicated to achieving them.

The Y can help make 2018 your year to feel supported, improve your well-being and learn healthy habits that last a lifetime. New members who join between Jan. 1-31 will pay a \$0 join fee, which is up to \$49 in savings! Log on to <https://www.tampaymca.org/> for details.



Rejoice, Outdoor Enthusiasts and Couch Potatoes: Hiking Spree is Back!

Source: Hillsborough County Press Release

The Hiking Spree program encourages people to exercise, explore the outdoors, and experience nature through the County's numerous parks and preserves. This year's trail list features 20 hikes. Complete at least eight hikes between now and March 31, 2018 and earn a patch, or a medallion for a walking stick. One of the hikes can be at a location of the participant's choice that is not on the list.

The Hiking Spree is timed to take advantage of the cooler, drier weather and to coincide with prime bird-watching times. Participants are encouraged to post photos from their hikes using the hashtag #TakeAHikeHC.

For information and registration, go to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/recreation-and-culture/recreation/hiking-spree.



And, Right Here in Bloomingdale! The Bloomingdale Fitness Facebook group! Insert Community - New Years Helpers Bl Fitness

Photo: Travis Hawkes

Resident Bobby Smathers created the Bloomingdale Fitness Facebook page. He noticed there wasn't an organized group of like-minded physically active residents. The group's goal is to focus on the fitness community and allow for a common area to collaborate and help each other get fit, stay fit and be healthy. Check out the page at www.facebook.com/groups/1417759531655036/about/ and get moving, Bloomingdale!



Florida's Aquifers and Irrigation Maintenance

Paula Staples, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County
Public Education Program Coordinator

If you want to learn how Florida's aquifers were formed, view this video titled Florida's Aquifers – The Treasure Below at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6A5AZ-yveA>. You'll see it takes a long time to create an aquifer and store fresh, potable water.

Fifty percent of water withdrawn from Florida's aquifers is for lawn watering. Use a mild winter day to "wet walk" your turfgrass and look for easily, correctable maintenance issues. As a Hillsborough County resident, you are allowed to turn your irrigation system on any day or time, once a week, as long as there is an attendant outside. Each zone can be run for ten minutes to find and correct irrigation inefficiencies. Use this time to clean filters, adjust nozzle arcs, raise sunken spray heads and make sure they are upright and spraying on pervious surfaces.

Managing your irrigation system saves water for the future. Making sure the system is applying water efficiently makes good economic sense as well.



MATHNASIUM[®]
The Math Learning Center

MATHNASIUM^{online}

Now available!

Is your child on pace for math success?



The fall semester is well underway, and it's time for a math checkup! Can your child answer these mental math questions? The results may surprise you! If they can solve questions at and above grade level, they could be ready for a challenge! If they are unable to answer questions at their grade level or below, they may be in need of extra help.

Whether your child is far behind, performing at grade level, or eager to get ahead, Mathnasium's personalized programs can help. Contact us today to get started!

For answers and explanations, visit:
mathnasium.com/answers

Mathnasium of Brandon
813-655-MATH (6284)
mathnasium.com/brandon/promotions
1048 E Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico, FL 33596



First Grade	11 + 12 = ____
Second Grade	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 = ____
Third Grade	How much is 99 plus 99 plus 99?
Fourth Grade	Count by $1\frac{3}{4}$ from 0 to 7.
Fifth Grade	Which is greatest: $\frac{17}{18}$, $\frac{23}{30}$, or $\frac{18}{19}$? (Explain how you got your answer.)
Sixth Grade	Halfway through the second quarter, how much of the game is left?
Seventh Grade	How much is $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ of 250?
Pre-Algebra	On a certain map, 6 inches represents 25 miles. How many miles does 15 inches represent?
Algebra	When you take 3 away from twice a number, the answer is 8. What is the number?
Geometry	What is the Absolute Value of the point (3, 4)?

575506-1

BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

(Editor's Note: A column for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden enthusiast Gwen Graverson. Have a gardening question? Contact Gwen at inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.)

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PLANTS FROM FREEZING

Even in Florida, a freeze is possible. Most of us don't think about it until it's almost too late. Last week's cold weather made many residents worry about the weather's impact on their plants.

Our area, zone 9b, averages annual extreme minimum temperatures of 25 to 30 degrees. A Frost Advisory can be issued when temperature is expected to fall to 36 degrees down to about 32 degrees. A Freeze Warning is issued when there is at least an 80 percent chance that the temperature will hit 32 degrees or lower. Finally, a Hard Freeze occurs when the temperature falls below 28 degrees.

Now that cooler weather is here, it's best to relocate potted plants closer to your home or bring them indoors (house or garage) when a freeze is forecast. For plants in the ground, keep a supply of fabric, old bed sheets, quilts, burlap, or plant coverings that can be purchased at local nurseries. After draping plants, use rocks or bricks to hold the coverings in place.

I have even used leftover plastic drop cloths with no damaging side effects. I recommend

only using it to cover plants that are not in direct sunlight. Also, don't leave coverings on all day. Condensation can build up and freeze under the covering, which will damage the plant.

Protect the base of your plants with mulch, leaves, hay, or even pine needles...remember to clear the area during the spring as the pH of your soil can affect plant growth and health. Watering early in the day warms the soil and helps the plant survive the cold.

Don't fret if you notice some damage to your plants after a freeze (leaves turning brown, or shedding) and avoid the impulse to prune them. Those brown leaves will help protect the interior of the plant from future freezes.

For more information, check out the Hillsborough County Extension office's Fact Sheet: Ten Tips to Protect Landscape Plants from the Cold at <http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu>.



FLORIDA ARBOR DAY 2018 IS JAN. 19 UF/IFAS EXTENSION FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY [HTTP://EDIS.IFAS.UFL.EDU/TOPIC_ARBOR_DAY](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_arbor_day)

Florida has celebrated Arbor Day since 1886 and has one of the first Arbor Day celebrations in the nation, on the third Friday in January. Over 200 communities in Florida celebrate Arbor Day, either as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with some other occasion. [Source: Florida Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry page]

Celebrate this year by planting a tree to restore areas devastated by hurricanes this past year. See how to help on the Arbor Day Foundation's website at <https://www.arborday.org/>.



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

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

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

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



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

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



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS

Michigan

Comic strip artist Will Leech is a Florida State University sophomore. Through his creation "Michigan," he shares his view of the world around us.



NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL

Trane 5-Star Dealer

We service
and sell all
brands

**FREE 2nd
Opinions**

**SAME-
DAY
SERVICE**



TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

Trane and Air Masters would like to help you out!

**TUNE-UP
SPECIAL
BUY ONE
GET ONE
FREE**

NEW CUSTOMERS
ONLY

**UP TO \$1,500 TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE
WITH EXISTING UNIT; UP TO \$900 IN
UTILITY REBATES – THAT'S UP TO
\$2,400 IN SAVINGS!**

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE*

No-Hassle Financing

Subject to credit approval, call for details. We get a 99% approval rate!

813-344-4007

Family Owned and Operated
Since 1983

Air Masters
of Tampa Bay, Inc. Since 1983
Air Conditioning & Heating



*W.A.C. - CMC1249497

*Call for details. Exp 2/2/18.

Let Your Creative Side Shine at The Art Factory!

**PAINTING & DRAWING • CERAMICS & MOSAICS
FABRICS • MIXED MEDIA & MORE!**

**Winter
Classes Start
January 9th**



WINTHROP ARTS, INC.

UNIQUE FINE ART PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Now Accepting Students Ages 5 – 18 Yrs. Old

Programs offered Monday - Friday

For program details, pricing, or to sign up,
visit us at ...

www.WinthropArts.org

The Art Factory at Winthrop Arts

11267 Winthrop Main Street, Riverview

Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

(Editor's Note: Real estate columnist Ronnie has lived in Bloomingdale for seven years with her husband and two children, a son attending University of Florida and daughter at Bloomingdale High School. A productive Realtor, she is also active in the Bloomingdale High School PTSA and Girl Scouts.)

Financing options can attract more buyers; more buyers = more offers

Did you know that in Bloomingdale there are five popular financing options available to buyers? These options include Cash, Conventional loans, VA loans, FHA loans and Non-Conforming Jumbo loans.

Per the Greater Tampa Association of Realtors September 2017 Monthly Report, 310 (22 percent) of the 1,384 single-family homes sold in Hillsborough County were cash sales. This means the remaining 78 percent of buyers obtained a loan to purchase their home.

Many buyers obtained VA or FHA loans, which are attractive to military and first-time homebuyers. These loans are appealing because of their zero or low down payment options.

It's a good idea to have your house ready for the minimum standards to pass VA and FHA appraisals. Rich Reynolds, Supreme Lending advises, "FHA and VA appraisals have two objectives – to determine the current market value of the home and to determine if the property meets minimum standard for health and safety. If any issues are found during an appraisal, these items are required to be corrected prior to closing."



By Ronnie McLaughlin

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-601-5659

ronniemclaughlin@kw.com

www.chaddertongroup.com

Some examples of items appraisers look for are:

- Adequate heating and cooling systems
- No exposed electric wiring
- Full exterior walls that are undamaged – no chipped paint
- Proper drainage
- Quality roof not in need of repair

Neighborhood Snapshot – Pine Oaks of Bloomingdale

Pine Oaks of Bloomingdale is a non-mandated HOA neighborhood comprised of 115 one- and two-story homes averaging 1,730 square feet. The neighborhood, established between 1979-1981 is located off Natures Way and borders Bell Shoals Road. Streets include Briarlake Drive, East Ridge Drive, Highgrove Court, Greenmark Lane and Orangefield Drive. Fifteen of the homes on Briarlake Drive backup to wooded areas. Two homes sold over the past 365 days. 4002 Briarlake Drive sold in July for \$155,000 or \$79.16 per square and 3911 Briarlake Drive sold in December for \$192,500 or \$105.66 per square.



GET 3 FOR FREE!



If you'd like to sell your watch or your PC, just place an ad in the *Times* for free. From surfboards to scanners and your old jewelry, the *Times'* Classifieds sells your stuff without fee.

Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com/freeads

Get three lines in the *Times* for free, visit tampabay.com/freeads and see!

573928-1

VOTED BRANDON'S #1 ROOFING COMPANY 8 CONSECUTIVE YEARS!

SAVE MONEY ON HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE



Tampa Bay's leading family-owned and operated roofing company, **Shingle Masters** provides every re-roof customer with a wind mitigation inspection to measure hurricane protection, saving most homeowners hundreds of dollars each year on insurance.

Shingle Masters also maximizes roof ventilation to lower cooling costs and extend the life of the shingles.

Financing Available. Lifetime Workmanship Warranty Available.

**Shingle Masters
Roofing
& Construction**

(813) 661-4600

www.Shingle-Masters.com

Licensed Certified General Contractor // CGC 1513621
Licensed Certified General Contractor // CCC 1328724

575607-1



December 25-January 8, 2018 - Winter Break

January 9, 2018 - Students Return to School

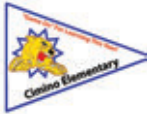
January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Non-Student Day



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Alafia Mint – Every Wednesday in Room 208 from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m., come in, swap a book and visit the Spirit Store.

Spirit Day – Remember to wear your Alafia shirts every Friday to show your school spirit!



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Jan. 12 – Wear Black or White for Honesty

Jan. 18 – 5th Grade field trip to Biz Town

Jan. 19 – All Pro Dads, 7:15 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room

Jan. 22 – Report Cards

Jan. 25 – 3rd Grade pastries with the principal, 7 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room

Jan. 25 – Math Night, 6 p.m.

Jan. 26 – 4th Grade pastries with the principal, 7:15 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room

Jan. 26 – 1st Grade Field Trip to Lowry Park Zoo

Jan. 29 – 5th Grade pastries with the Principal

Jan. 30 – Cougar Cool Cats Ceremony

Feb. 1 – Spring Pictures

Feb. 2 – Wear Purple for Perseverance



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

Jan. 19 – General PTSA Meeting, 8 a.m., Media Center

Jan. 25 – Report Cards

Feb. 1 – Band Parent Meeting, 7 p.m. in Band Room (Room 146)

Yearbooks - Order yearbooks online at <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com>. You will be asked for Burns' order number, which is 443. The final opportunity to purchase a yearbook will be no later than mid-January. Purchases may be made online, by cash or check made payable to Burns Middle School.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

Jan. 9 - Cheer Competition, 6:30 p.m. in the Gym

Jan. 9 – Girls & Boys Basketball @ Lennard, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 10 – Girls Basketball @ Spoto, 7 p.m.

Jan. 12 - Girls & Boys Basketball vs Plant City, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 16 – Girls & Boys Soccer vs Durant, 6 p.m.

Jan. 16 - Girls & Boys Basketball @ TBT, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 17 - Girls & Boys Basketball vs East Bay, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 18 – Western Conference Cheer @ Durant, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 19 - Girls & Boys Basketball @ Durant, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 19 – Boys Soccer vs East Bay, 7 p.m.

Jan. 20 – FFCC Premiere Winter Guard Competition, Plant City HS

Jan. 23 - Girls & Boys Basketball @ Strawberry Crest, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 23 – Girls District Soccer @ King, 7 p.m.

Jan. 25 – Boys Soccer @ Riverview, 7 p.m.

Jan. 26 - Girls & Boys Basketball vs Lennard, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 26 – Boys Soccer vs Hillsborough, 7 p.m.

Jan. 26 – Girls District Soccer Finals @ Kings, 7 p.m.

Jan. 27 – Run with the Bulls 5K, 7 a.m.

Jan. 29 – Girls Basketball vs Jefferson, 7 p.m.

Jan. 30 – Boys District Soccer @ Bloomingdale, 3 p.m.



Jan. 30 - Girls & Boys Basketball vs Riverview, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 31 - Boys District Soccer @ Bloomingdale, 5 p.m.

Feb. 2 - Girls & Boys Basketball vs Alonso, 6:30 p.m.

BULL BRIEFS

PERT Math Tutoring

PERT Math tutoring will be available this semester during 4th and 6th periods with Mr. Pennant. This is a great opportunity for students needing to earn a concordant score on the Algebra 1 EOC, and for students needing to earn college ready test scores for dual enrollment. See Mr. Pennant in room 311 for more information.

HEF Scholarships

Attention 9th graders & seniors! Time is almost up to apply for the Hillsborough Education Foundation scholarships! With just one application, you are applying for tons of scholarships and you may be granted more than one. Last year, 312 scholarships were awarded with a value totaling \$1.4 million!

Apply online by Jan. 10 at www.educationfoundation.com/scholarships

TeachaBULL Moments

Introducing a new program through the PTSA! TeachaBULL Moments will give parents and students an opportunity to acknowledge a teacher that goes above and beyond. You can email to TeachaBULLmoments@gmail.com or drop a note in the front office of how a teacher has gone the extra mile for a Bloomingdale student or students. We want to take time to acknowledge our teachers for the great work they do. Each month one teacher will be chosen from letters that have been turned in and will receive a gift card. PTSA wants to give Bloomingdale families an opportunity to let our teachers know what great work they do!

Start Your Year Right at the Running of the Bulls 5k

Date: Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, 8 a.m., Bloomingdale Senior High School.

Come out for the Running of the Bulls 5k! The Running of the Bulls 5k is a community race that takes place on the Bloomingdale High School campus. All proceeds go to the Bloomingdale High School Rajun' Bull Band! Be a part of this fantastic community event and help the band raise money for instrument upgrades and maintenance. The race starts and finishes on the track. Runners and walkers are welcome. To sign up, visit: <https://fitniche.com/event/running-bulls-5k/> OR www.facebook.com/bloomingdalebulls5k/.



Florida State University Symphonic Band Free Concert

The Florida State University Symphonic Band will perform a free concert at Bloomingdale High School on Friday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. This is the last concert of their tour before their Premiere Performance at the University of South Florida, which will host the College Band Director Association conference. The band will perform World premieres by John Mackey and Dr. Kim Archer. For more information, contact the band director at Bloomingdale High School, Jon Sever, at jonsever@sdhc.k12.fl.us.





For years, Cimino Elementary School has prided itself not only on its academic success, but also building core values such as respect, honesty, and patience. In fact, it's been designated a "National School of Character" by the Character Education Partnership since 2012.

Cimino's character building programs are the result of teamwork and Principal Joanne Griffiths is "thrilled to support the work that has been an ongoing effort at Cimino."

Perseverance and Honesty. Students have always logged 30 minutes of nightly reading. Griffiths recently created "10,000 Hours of Reading" which is based on the premise that if you practice a skill for 10,000 hours, you will master it. She explained, "Our goal is to promote the importance of reading by challenging our students to collectively read for 10,000 hours this school year." Griffiths also implemented a new program called "Reading with Hope." Hope is a service dog that visits the media center weekly for students who need reading intervention.

Respect and Gratitude. The Great American Teach-In allows parents and community volunteers to come in once a year and share their careers with the students. Griffiths has expanded this program to be year-round and will include speakers connected to Florida's Standards that teach life skills. For example, a Master Gardner will help 5th graders better understand life-science.



Cimino Students and visitors are greeted with reminders around the campus of their Character program. Photo: Wendy Knipp



Principal Joanne Griffiths (upper right) loves connecting with her students. During the Character Parade in October, she high-fives a student. Photo: Kathy Luckner

Responsibility. Griffiths recently began the Suncoast Credit Union Student-Run Branch which allows students to work with money and learn fiscal responsibility.

Caring. Griffiths feels it's important for her to personally encourage character growth. Each Monday, she appears on the Morning Show and reads an inspirational quote from 365 Days of Wonder, Mr. Browne's Precepts by R.J. Palacio. She says, "It's a way to connect with the kids and it's been really enjoyable."

For more information about Cimino Elementary School, call 813-740-4450.

BLOOMINGDALE PAINTING

"A Brush Of Quality"

Since 1989

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
PRESSURE WASHING
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL

Bloomington Resident-Tod Howard
FREE ESTIMATES, EXPERIENCED and RELIABLE

(813)654-5646 | (813)966-3601

www.BloomingtonPainting.com

License#PA3694 Bonded & Insured

575485-1



Carpet &
Laminate
Sales,
Installation
& Cleaning

Brewer's Carpets 'R' Us

(813) 315-9678

6 ROOMS

Basic
Cleaning

\$99⁹⁵

5 ROOMS

Basic
Cleaning

\$79⁹⁵

3 ROOMS

Basic
Cleaning

\$49⁹⁵

REG. SOFA
& LOVESEAT

Basic
Cleaning

\$79⁹⁵

www.brewerscarpetrus.com



5/07/2011



Students at Cimino Elementary School recently collected 69 stuffed animals to donate to Brandon Regional Hospital's Pediatric Center. The PTA and teachers were also instrumental in this charitable donation.

Photo: Janine Kurto



Principal Joanne Griffiths (left) and Assistant Principal Amber Norris are proud of their school's generosity.

Photo: Wendy Knipp

severe weather alerts

Get notified when a hurricane, or other severe weather, is brewing.



Download the
tbo weather app

Need to know?
Go to **tbo**

RELAX...SOAK IN SAVINGS—IT'S THE PERFECT TIME FOR YOUR NEW HOT TUB



**GET 0%
INTEREST
90 DAYS
SAME AS
CASH!**

With approved credit

We sell more spas and hot tubs than anyone else, why?

Biggest Selection—Best Quality—Guaranteed Lowest Price

CHOOSE FROM AMERICA'S TOP BRANDS LIKE BULLFROG, DREAM
MAKER, SUNRISE, SIGNATURE AND MORE

5-PERSON ACRYLIC SPAS FROM \$2695

RECREATIONAL
POOLS • SPAS • MORE

509 West Brandon Boulevard
(Corner of 60 and Kings)
BRANDON

813.324.8824

recreationalpoolsspasandmore.com

573628-1



Art Students Give Back Through “The Memory Project”

By Wendy Knipp

Burns Middle School is bursting with talented art students who are donating their talents to create smiles around the world through The Memory Project.

In 2004, Ben Schumaker, an American college student volunteering in Guatemala, noticed that many underprivileged children had no special belongings to take with them into the future. He decided to draw portraits for the children and it was so well-received that when he came home, he began The Memory Project.

The Memory Project is a charitable non-profit organization that pairs talented art teachers and students with underprivileged kids around the world. Photos of the children are sent to the artists and the artists return a hand-drawn portrait thereby giving that child a tangible memory to carry into their future.

Pamela Reeves, Visual Arts teacher at Burns Middle School heard about this project through a colleague and she “fell in love with the idea.” When she told her students about it, her students were excited but also emotional and empathetic.

Said Reeves, “I think doing a project for someone less fortunate and close to their age gave them a unique compassion.” Art students have been working diligently on this project through December and Reeves will send the portraits this month to be distributed.

Students will also include a personalized message to each recipient in their native language and a picture of the artist. To enrich the experience further, The Memory Project will record the children receiving their portraits, which will then be sent to Burns Middle School for the students to see.

Reeves is so proud of her students and “overwhelmed with their dedication and investment in their projects.” For information about The Memory Project, visit www.MemoryProject.org.



Talented eighth grader Abby Voehl proudly displays a stunning portrait she worked on through The Memory Project. Photos: Pamela Reeves



Eighth grader Anna McIlce creatively adds color and background to this amazing portrait. Photos: Pamela Reeves



Best of the Best Honored at BSHS Football Banquet

Brief by Deidre Morgan

On December 11, the Bloomingdale Football team held their End-of-the-Year Banquet to celebrate a great season and award players for their efforts on and off the field. The combined team GPA was 3.14 and 34 players made the All -Academic Team.

The following players received awards presented by Coach Max Warner and staff:

Jacob McDonald – Special Teams Player of the Year
 Terrel Ferrell – Offensive Player of the Year
 Hunter Delones – Co-Defensive Player of the Year
 Landon Moody – Co-Defensive Player of the Year
 Tyler Hunter – Most Valuable Player
 Josh Thomas – Weight Room Award and Principal's Award
 Rodney Roseboro – Big Stick Award
 Zach Warhul – Coach Hutch Award
 Levi Williams – Head Coach Award
 Jon Catala – Defense Coach Award
 Joe Pignataro – Offense Coach Award
 Charles Montgomery – Rookie of the Year
 Ethan Carde – Trenches Award
 Wa'Myron Howard – JV Most Valuable Player
 Gabe Jones – Most Improved Defensive Player
 Conner Pouchie – Most Improved Offensive Player
 Antonio Pineda – Spirit Award

Congratulations to all the players and coaches on an awesome year...Go Bulls!



Zach Warhal (center) receives the Coach Hutch award from Coach David Hutcherson (left) and Coach Max Warner. The award, started in 2014, is given to the player that shows leadership on and off the field. Photo: Ursula Warhal



Joe Pignataro receives the Offensive Coaches Award from Coach Max Warner. Photo: Cheri Pignataro



Landon Moody (left) and Josh Thomas proudly display their awards. Landon was named Co - Defensive Player of the Year and Josh was awarded the Principal's Award and Weight Room Award. Photo via Twitter



MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

"Experience the Difference"



SHIRTS
\$1.89
Only With Coupon

APOLLO BEACH
 645-1499

220 Apollo Beach Blvd

BLOOMINGDALE
 643-0922

3425 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

BLOOMINGDALE
 654-8113

3248 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

BLOOMINGDALE
 654-9292

1025 E. Bloomingdale Ave

BRANDON MALL
 684-4499

913 Brandon Blvd.

BRANDON
 643-6944

1836 W. Lumsden Rd.

FISHHAWK
 654-7991

16707 FishHawk Blvd.

PLANT CITY
 752-6631

2621 Thonotosassa Rd.
 (Plant City Crossings)

RIVERVIEW
 672-4022

11444 Hwy. 301 S.

RIVERVIEW
 672-1832

11697 Boyette Rd.

RIVERVIEW
 671-4156

13196 Hwy. 301 S.

SEFFNER
 684-5897

1515 N. Parsons Ave.

VALRICO
 654-2324

1999 E. Brandon Blvd.
 (SR 60)

VALRICO
 643-4825

2511 S.R. 60 E.

SHIRTS \$1.89 Ea.
 Laundered only

Valid on incoming orders only.

No exceptions. Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
 2/3/18 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

15% OFF ENTIRE ORDER
Dry Cleaning

Valid on incoming orders only.

No exceptions. Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
 2/3/18 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

20% OFF Wedding Gowns,
Alterations
& Drapes

Valid on incoming orders only. **No exceptions.**

\$5 minimum order. Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
 2/3/18 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

20% OFF ENTIRE ORDER
Comforters & Blankets

Valid on incoming orders only.

No exceptions. Not valid with other coupons or promotions.
 2/3/18 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

*It's a new year,
it's a great time to sell!*

Brenda
SOLD homes
OVER 400 in
2017!

No one sells for
more, and no one
takes better care of
their customers
than Brenda
and her team!

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

You deserve
more, the
right choice
is Brenda!

Call Brenda
to get your
SOLD sign
in 2018!



direct 813-924-8677
office 813-655-5333
Brenda@BrendaWade.com
BrendaWade.com

