BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

BHA PARTNERS WITH TAMPA BAY TIMES FOR GAZETTE PUBLICATION

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) is pleased to announce our new partnership with the Tampa Bay Times (TBT) who will now lay out, print and distribute the Bloomingdale Gazette, in addition to selling advertising for the monthly publication. "Residents were unhappy with unreliable delivery of the Gazette for some time," commented BHA President George May. "The Times is known for its consistent delivery; they also offered to package the Gazette with a once-monthly complimentary issue of the Saturday Times. The BHA Board is always looking for ways to offer our residents more and improved benefits that are funded by BHA voluntary dues. This new partnership is a terrific way to improve distribution of a very popular publication to our community."

The Tampa Bay Times' Community Development Program currently publishes newsletters for a number of other Homeowners Associations and groups, such as FishHawk Ranch. They also may assist with community events sponsored by the BHA.

The Bloomingdale Gazette has been the official publication of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 1980. While the look and size of the publication has varied over the years, it remains a valuable way to communicate information to residents who live in the nearly 5,000 homes within Bloomingdale East and Bloomingdale West. "The new relationship with the Tampa Bay Times offers us a chance to start anew, and we hope to gradually grow the publication making it again more attractive to advertisers," expressed Suzanne Jones, Gazette Editor. "We hope to establish

an online presence as well, but we really need residents to become involved in our growth. Story ideas, suggestions for regular columns, and information about people in the community and local activities—send it in." Inquiries and submissions should be sent via email to inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.

For advertising opportunities in the Bloomingdale Gazette, the Tampa Bay Times, or on Tampabay.com, please contact Kelly Mariskanish at kmariskanish@tampabay.com or Tony Del Castillo at tdelcastillo@tampabay.com.



The Bloomingdale Gazette will continue to be delivered to residents on the 1st Saturday of each month. The Gazette will be packaged with a once-monthly complimentary issue of the Saturday Tampa Bay Times.

BLOOMINGDALE HIGH RAMPS UP FOR VICTORY

Bloomingdale Senior High School held its fall sports pep rally on Aug. 30. The school's enrollment this year is approximately 2240 students - most of whom gathered in the gym before school to usher in the academic year with some pep. The Aug. 30 event was especially exciting since the school won the MyFoxPrep rally and was visited by the Good Day Tampa Bay crew (complete with Charley Belcher and 101.5 FM radio DJ Ekin) and was featured on FOX 13.

Starting at the beginning of the week, students, faculty and parents voted every day to be the first MyFoxPrep pep rally of the football season with Charley Belcher of Fox 13 News. The Pep Rally was a huge success with the Senior Class of 2014 winning the spirit stick and tug-of-war. Belcher interviewed head coach John Booth, SGA president Marcus Butler, and of course BSHS principal Sue Burkett.



BSHS Senior Class (left) tugs against Junior Class for bragging rights at Bloomingdale's first pep rally of the year. Senior's won!





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BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 7221

Brandon, Florida 33508 - (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

President: George May
Vice President: Jim Harris

Secretary: Daniel Berkowitz
Treasurer: Dennis Osborn

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



SUZANNE JONES

Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette P.O. Box 7221

Brandon, Florida 33508 - (813) 681-2051 Email: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com Website: www.BloomingdaleGazette.com



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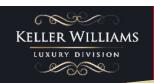
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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



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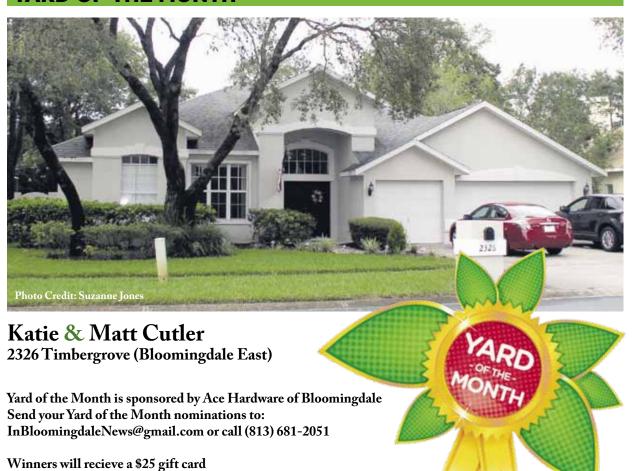
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OCTOBER 2013

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BHA 2013 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Pay now and support your community

The 2013 Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) membership drive is ongoing through the end of this year. We need your support to continue with the many programs and activities funded solely by your annual \$25 dues payment. While membership figures to date are promising, we are still short of where we need to be for the year. Remember, 100 percent of collected dues go back to our community.

Thanks again to those who have already joined, donated to our scholarship fund, or purchased a "Neighborhood Pride" license plate. If you haven't received your notice, you can still pay by check made payable to the BHA, PO Box 7221, Brandon, FL 33508. An easier method is to use our new PayPal option. Go to www. bloomingdalegazette.com, look for the PayPal link, and follow the simple instructions provided. A \$1 processing fee is added.







Crape Myrtle trees line the Bloomingdale High School parking lot.

Fifteen hundred pots of Crape Myrtle trees lined the parking lot of Bloomingdale High School on Saturday, July 27. The trees were being sold for \$4 by the staff of the Tampa Bay Times (TBT) and some community volunteers. The tree sale raised more than \$5,300 to offset the cost for the Newspapers in Education (NIE) program. Grower Bill Reese, from Greenbriar Nursery in Ocala, provided the trees at cost. Bill was also on hand to answer customers' questions about care and planting of their newly purchased trees. Sue Bedry, TBT staff member and coordinator of the event said, "This is the first time we have ever done this in Hillsborough County; we usually do the sale in Pasco County somewhere or Clearwater, but our turnout today has been great! We were very pleased by the number of people who came out to support us!"

NIE has been around since the mid-1970s, at no cost to teachers or students. The program provides print and electronic newspapers to enhance the classroom curriculum. NIE provides a vital link between the student and real-world current events going on around them. Incorporated into the curriculum, students develop daily reading habits, which can carry on through their lives. It has been proven that

minority and low-income middle school students with NIE programs scored 30% higher on statewide standardized tests, and overall research showed that students in general scored 10% higher. "The Tampa Bay Times in a cooperative effort with NIE, provides about 5 million newspapers to students in Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, and Pinellas Counties, as well as an electronic edition to the students in Manatee County," explained TBT staff member Jodi Pushkin.

NIE materials cover a variety of subjects that are compatible with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and Common Core State Standards. For more information on the program visit www.tampabay. com/nie or call 1-800-333-7505 ext.8138. Also, the program can be followed via twitter, www.Twitter.com/TBTimesNIE.



Bloomingdale resident, Harriet Parker, chooses several trees to place around her yard. "They are so beautiful when they bloom," remarked Parker.

"STRENGTH IN NUMBERS" IS THE CRY OF CAN-DO LEADERS

Bv: Kavla Haves



Rodney Biddle (center) speaks with community members before the CAN-DO meeting on Sept. 9 at The Bloomingdale Regional Public Library. After months of research, CAN-DO came prepared to inform the community on where they stand in their fight against the Bloomingdale development.

On Sept. 9, The Bloomingdale Regional Public Library – abutting the "Big Box" development planned for the vacant 43 acre parcel on Bloomingdale Ave. across from the Bloomingdale East neighborhoods – opened its Community Room at 7 p.m. for a community CAN-DO meeting.

Roughly 100 individuals from the community showed up to the meeting where CAN-DO leaders presented a 5-slide Power Point on their updated research and options for continued opposition to the Big Box (a building in excess of 150,000 sq. ft. that has been approved for development alongside a four-story apartment

complex that is not currently on the blue print). For more than an hour after their updates, CAN-DO leaders listened to concerns and responded to questions from the passionate attendees. The attendees make up most of the "core group" of activists. Nearly 100 percent of them (by a show of hands) attended the public meeting with County Commissioner, Al Higginbotham, on June 21, as well as several other county meetings.

"The reason we've come together is because we're concerned with over-burdening the community," said CAN-DO leader Rodney Biddle.

President of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA), George May, presented that roughly 95 percent of Bloomingdale home owners who responded to a recent survey conducted by the BHA are against the development. "We are adamantly against this," May asserted.

Because the developer (now RedCast LLC, the partnership of CASTO Corporation and the initial Redstone Developers dedicated specifically to the Bloomingdale development) has approved site plans, and based on the month-long research in "tens of thousands" of official Hillsborough County documents, CAN-DO leaders see no other option except to take legal action against the developers.

At the June 21 meeting \$712 dollars was collected, which was used to hire a specialized attorney to work alongside CAN-DO. Only \$10.68 is left.

CAN-DO asserts that if 400 households would contribute \$100 each to help pay for the attorney (who estimates a 50/50 chance of success), a lawsuit can be filed and defended on the basis of "illegal" rezoning amendment of the parcel in December 2011.

Records show the developer attempted a rezoning in 2010 from Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Greenfield to TND Infill. After opposition, they pulled the request and in 2011 initiated a Land Development Code Text Amendment to redefine requirements under TND Greenfield. CAN-DO researchers claim that the text amendment was a fraudulent rezoning.

Attendees of the Sept. 9 meeting pledged time and financial support by filling out a card at the meeting. This pledge card can be obtained on www.bloomingdalebigbox.com.

CAN-DO invites interested residents to follow them on Facebook at "Bloomingdale Big Box," and to email CAN-DO leaders at bloomingdalebigbox@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 2013

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

October is frightfully full of fall festivities. Here is a just a sampling of events in and around the Bloomingdale community. Be sure to contact the venues to confirm dates and times before heading out.

School Festivals

Cimino Elementary Fall Festival / Nov. 1 / 4-7 p.m. / Happy Fall Ya'll from Cimino Elementary! Come enjoy bounce houses, games, food, music, a silent auction, and much more! There's something for the whole family! Located at 4329 Culbreath Road, Valrico. Parking is free.

Halloween Events

Costume Crusade for Spinal Muscular Atrophy at The Village Early Learning Center / Oct. 25 / 10 a.m. / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / The Village Early Learning Center is holding its 13th Annual Costume Crusade to raise money and awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). Silent auction and basket raffle. Funds raised go to FSMA (Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy) for research and support. For more information call 813-651-0779 or visit www.villageelc.com.

Halloween in the Halls at The Village Early Learning Center / Oct. 26 / 5:30-8:30 p.m. / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / The Village Early Learning Center is holding its 2nd Annual Halloween in the Halls event with age appropriate activities for all. Decorated hallways and

Trick or Treat Street for ages 2-6, Haunted House for ages 6-11, bounce house, cake walk, face painting, and fun for the whole family. Admission is \$5 per family--each child receives a free hot dog and water (\$1 for adults), free parking, open to the community. Funds raised go to FSMA (Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy) for research and support. For more information call 813-651-0779 or visit www.villageelc.com.

16th Annual Halloween Horribles Parade at Center Place / Oct. 27 / 3 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Who said ghosts and goblins only come out at night? Costumed Munchkins through the age of 10 (accompanied by an adult) are invited to take part in a Halloween Parade and will enjoy lots of treat stations hosted by civic clubs and local businesses along the route.

Parade line begins outside on Center Place's deck area at 2:30 p.m. Tickets available October 1st at Center Place. There is no charge to attend, but tickets are required. Call 813-685-8888.

Trunk or Treat 2013 / Oct.27 / 5-7 p.m. / St. Andrew's United Methodist Church / 3315 Bryan Road, Brandon / Church members will be decorating their car trunks and handing out candy in the parking lot. Throughout the night there will be music, fun and games for all ages. Bring your bags and great ready to fill up on goodies! Trunk or Treat is offered by St. Andrew's as safe Halloween

alternative for kids. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 813-689-6849 or visit www.standrewsbrandon.org.

Trick or Treat at the Westfield Brandon Mall / Oct.31/6-8 p.m. / Westfield Brandon Mall / 459 Brandon Town Center Drive. Kids ages 12 and under are invited to trick-or-treat at participating retailers. No toy weapons or masks please.

Guppyween / The Florida Aquarium / Oct. 27 / 4-8 p.m. / Join us on the only day we let wild animals, ghosts and princesses roam the aquarium- Guppyween! Trick-or-treat tank-to-tank among over 20,000 sea creatures, making for the perfect family-friendly Halloween event. Entertainment and treats will be provided, so come dressed in your best costume! To purchase your tickets in advance, visit www. flaquarium.org, or contact the Aquarium at 813-273-4000 for more information. Kids in costume: \$5; Adults(12yrs and older): \$15; Florida Aquarium Members & children under 2 get in free.

Howl-O-Scream Busch Gardens / Select Dates Sept. 27-Oct. 26 / This fall, Howl-O-Scream 2013 unleashes thirteen evils—the Surgeon, Butcher, Psychopath, Clown, Voodoo Queen and their demented friends will torment you through unexpected terrors lurking around every corner, including new houses, all-new scare zones, and thrilling live entertainment. They will leave you screaming for more. Howl-O-Scream is a separate, ticketed night



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

event. No costumes are allowed. This event is intended for adults. For more information visit seaworldparks.com/en/howloscream-tampa.

Lowry Park's ZooBoo / Lowry Park Zoo / Select Dates

Tampa's largest family Halloween event, ZooBoo is an annual fundraiser for Lowry Park Zoo. ZooBoo 2013 opens with "Shriek Peek" preview weekend Sept. 27 and 28 for just \$12 per person, ages three and up. The Zoo's signature spooktacular event continues Oct. 4-5, 11-13, 18-20 and 24-27.

It's a ghoulish good time for all. Don't miss the thrills, chills and family frights with attractions ranging in "scare factor" including haunted houses and trails, Zoo-wide seasonal displays and lights, music, specialty gift shop, night rides and more. Hours are 7-11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 7-10 p.m. on other select nights. Children (ages 11 and under) are invited to come to ZooBoo in their most spooktacular attire. Toy weapons of any sort will not be permitted. For the comfort and safety of all guests, adults (ages 12 and older) are prohibited from wearing masks, wigs, face paint or costumes of any kind. For more information follow ZooBoo on Facebook, or visit http://www.lowryparkzoo.com or call (813) 935-8552.

Craft Fairs and Other Events

St. Andrews Fall Craft Fair / St. Andrews United

Methodist Church / Oct. 26 / 7 a.m.-5 p.m. / 3315 Bryan Road, Brandon / Annual craft fair is one of the largest in the area. Free parking. For more information call 813-689-6849 or visit www.standrewsbrandon.org.

Buccaneers at Bell Shoals Baptist Church / Oct. 28 / 6 p.m. / Student Center / 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon / Come on out and meet the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Bell Shoals Baptist Church. Free hot dogs from 6-7, then the Bucs will meet the community during this rare appearance in the Brandon area. Open to the community, free admission. For more information call 813-689-4229.

Gifts & Crafts Fair / Nov. 9 / 10 a.m.-3 p.m. / The Bridges Retirement Community / 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / It's not too early to start thinking about holiday shopping, and just in time The Bridges Retirement Community is hosting a gifts and crafts fair. This event is free and open to the community, free parking, and indoors. For more information call 813-413-8900 or e-mail jnoah@seniorcaregroup.com.

Project Cure / Oct. 26 / Project Cure is a 20-mile walk to end breast cancer sponsored by Hope Is Contagious, a ministry of St. Stephen Catholic Church. All funds raised will be donated to the Don and Erika Wallace Comprehensive Breast Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. Cycling begins at the Campo YMCA at 5:30 a.m., and the walk begins at the Bloomingdale East Park, 3902 Nature's Way Blvd.,

Valrico, at 6 a.m. A Fun Walk will be held from 9-11 a.m. at the same location. For online donations or registration visit http://ststephencatholic.weshareonline.org. For more information e-mail hopeiscontagious 2011@gmail.com.

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BSTD@verizon.net

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5815 Kids Crossing Drive



OCTOBER 2013

4321 Lynx Paw Trail

Bleu Salon teamed up with other businesses to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) at a charity event on Sunday, Sept. 22 in the Royal Oaks Plaza on Lithia Pinecrest Road. LA Fitness provided its parking lot for the event, which featured an auction, food trucks and other vendors to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. WWP is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with headquarters in Jacksonville, FL. The group raises awareness and enlists the public's aid for the needs of injured service members. They also provide programs and services to severely injured service members during the time between active duty and transition to civilian life. See www.woundedwarriorproject.org for more information on this charity.

Bleu Salon decided to organize the event in support of WWP, with silent auction and donation totals directly benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project. "Bleu Salon is really focused on being part of the community and wants to support those who have sacrificed for our country and community," explained salon owner Mike Jonson. Bleu Salon recently moved across the street from its former location near Stein Mart. The salon is now located at 3451 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Valrico. Visit www.bleusalon.com for more information about the salon.



Primary event organizers Mike Jonson and Kayla Givens (of Bleu Salon) worked with LA Fitness and other participating businesses to show support for WWP. Pictured: Mike Jonson (owner) and stylists Brittney Blake, Kayla Givens and Troy Peirce.



Early event goers peruse vendor wares at the Wounded Warrior charity event hosted by Bleu Salon and LA Fitness.





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JOIN THE REVOLUTION

By: Kim Miller

Parents are unlikely to be upset if their children join the newest local revolution—that is, unless they are not invited! The Revolution Ice Cream Co., located at 220 West Brandon Blvd., opened in March of this year and has already scooped out a niche for itself in the local ice cream world. Owned and operated by Bloomingdale residents Bill and Leslee Workman, the parlor offers ice cream lovers a unique variety of frozen treats in an artistic setting.

Although The Revolution is tucked away in the corner of the plaza it calls home, Bill Workman has regular customers that travel from Riverview and South Tampa to enjoy his synthesis of ice cream flavors. The décor appeals to ice cream loving customers with an aesthetic sensibility. Leslee Workman, a graphic designer, has done wonders with decorating the ice cream shop; it is a treat for the eyes whether you label it bohemian or eclectic. The Workmans display work from local artists, and it is all for sale.

Bill happened upon the idea of The Revolution Ice Cream Co., when he went to visit his uncle in Pittsburgh and they experienced a unique type of ice creamery. "I thought to myself, why isn't there something like this in Florida where it is summer year round?" After two years of experimenting in his home kitchen, and getting to the point of selling approximately 200 pints a month, Bill decided it was time to start the business. A little leery, Leslee was worried how a family of six was going to survive on ice cream.

However, the doors opened and the people came. They came for the fresh, hand-crafted ice cream with the funky names like Chocolate Habanero, Chocolate Shock, Curried Sky, Drunken' Brownie, Porky's Delight and Irish Car Bomb. Bill always carries 12 of his "regular" flavors, two of his "special" concoctions of the month, one adult sorbet and one adult ice cream (the adult flavors have an alcohol ingredient).

The Revolution Ice Cream Co. has been featured on several local TV news programs and in print publications. You can follow The Revolution on Twitter @ revicecream and Facebook (therevolutionicecreamco). Bill posts specials and offers free taste testing when he is trying out new fusions of flavors in ice cream. The Revolution is open Tuesday-Saturday, noon-10 p.m., and Sundays 1-9 p.m.

On Oct. 13, from 1-7 p.m., The Revolution along with ECHO will be hosting a food truck drive at their store

location. Event patrons will receive a ticket worth \$1 off food or ice cream purchases for every two food items they donate. There will also be a mobile video game truck and a bounce house for the children to enjoy. Workman hopes he will be able to use students from the local high schools to staff the event in exchange for volunteer hours.

The Workmans' philosophy is to take over the world, one ice cream store at a time. They plan to hit the road, open a store where there is need, aid in community development, share their philosophy and ice cream,

and then move onward. They are, after all, The Revolution.

> Bloomingdale resident Bill Workman prepares one of his special ice cream concoctions for an already loyal customer following.



DASH AND SPLASH

By: Kim Miller

They dashed, they splashed, and they had a great time at Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center, on Sept. 14, for the Second Annual Dash and Splash Aquathon. The aquathon consisted of an adult 2 mile run, 1/4 mile swim, and 1 mile run. Children ages 7-10 and 11-14 competed in a number of swimming and running events.

Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center is a community-based, non-profit organization. Their purpose is to impact lives through education and athletics and help enhance physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Florida led the nation in youth drowning last year; The Dash and Splash Aquathon helped raise funds to promote awareness and education in the community to prevent this tragedy.

Many of our Bloomingdale residents took part in the September event. Nick Lemar, a sophomore at Bloomingdale High School, and a member of their swim team said, "I did it because it was for a great cause, and Brandon Swim is a great place." David Mitchell, a freshman swimmer from Bloomingdale found it to be a long race. "It was different than just going out there and swimming a race, having the run thrown in there made it more of a mental challenge," he explained. It must not have been too stressful—Mitchell finished first in his age division.

To learn more about Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center programs visit www.mybsac.org.

Bloomingdale High School student David Mitchell, shows off his first place trophy in the 11-14 kids category.





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Member SIP



Cutline: Bloomingdale resident and long-time event volunteer Carol Scheafnocker chaired the Tampa YMCA Backpack Outreach Event held August 10 at Camp Cristina.

The Tampa YMCA held its 15th consecutive, annual Backpack Outreach event on Saturday, Aug. 10, at Camp Cristina. The backpacks came in all shapes and colors, some with Minnie Mouse and some with Spiderman, but none disappointed the 1,624 children who attended.

"The backpack outreach event is one of the ways the Tampa Y is working to close the achievement gap between low-income and middle to upper-income students. It's important for us to reach outside our Y walls and provide educational resources and community support to those who need it the most," said Lalita Llarena, YMCA Communications Director.

Approximately 676 Dover, Plant City, and Valrico-area families in need of assistance with back-to-school preparation registered for the event. Backpacks were filled with school supplies donated from throughout the community. Free haircuts by Johnny, bags of food from Seeds of Hope food bank, toothbrushes, and blood pressure testing from Suncoast Community Health Centers were also available.

Chairing the event this year was Bloomingdale resident Carol Scheafnocker, a long-time and dedicated Y volunteer. She coordinated approximately 200 volunteers to ensure the event went smoothly. "I have signed on to chair the event again next year. It is a lot of hard work but so worthwhile," said Scheafnocker.

Local businesses also did their part to add to the festivities. The Valrico Home Depot #6305 had volunteers working with the children to make wooden birdhouses and cars with kits and paint donated by the Casper's Company store. McDonald's provided smoothies from one of their food trucks. And Ani Hudgens, with her puppet Miss Buckle-Up Princess, talked to children and adults alike about the importance of using car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.



Seven-vear-old Helen Vera and her sister Ellen, 5, show off the backpacks they received at the annual Tampa YMCA Backpack Outreach Event held August 10 at Camp Cristina.

"It's so rewarding to see the look on the kids' faces when they get to pick out their own backpack stuffed with everything they'll need to be successful in school. For us, these backpacks carry more than school supplies; they help students reach their full potential," said Llarena.



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Bloomingdale.

inside of Rainbow

Heidi's Gourmet Hut serves up fresh baked German breads, pretzels, apple strudel and cheesecake.



A little slice of Deutschland can be found right here in Bloomingdale with the arrival of Heidi's Gourmet Hut. Located inside the Rainbow Food Store on Bell Shoals Road, owner Heidi Quinn has set up her deli filled with Old World favorites like Bierschinken, Jagdwurst, Nuernberger Bratwurst, and of course, apple strudel.

A native of Ludwigshafen, Germany, Quinn owned her own deli in Germany for years, and worked at the country's best deli in Munich where she often served the German President's wife. She moved to the United States nine years ago, and has now fulfilled her dream of opening her own deli again.

All of Quinn's deli selections are imported from Germany and prepared fresh every day. Her breads and pretzels are delivered frozen and then baked every morning. Customers are giving her food rave reviews.

"Her German hamburger is the bomb, and the bread it is served on is to die for," said regular Terie Auer.

Other deli items include cucumber salad, German potato salad, and German cheesecake. Quinn even makes a mean Cuban sandwich using her own baked pork loin (Schnitzel Brotchen). In addition to making her sandwiches and salads, Quinn also caters.

The Bloomingdale resident has been surprised at the number of Germans who have visited her deli. "Good food always talks," said Quinn about her love for what she does and her customers. She did a lot of research to make sure she could acquire authentic German foods.

Heidi's Gourmet Hut is open Monday through Wednesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday and Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is located at 4322 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico.

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BSTD DONATES FORMER CONFERENCE TABLE TO BROOKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What's too small for BSTD board meetings, but is just the right size for staff at Brooker Elementary? A used and well-maintained conference table. On Aug. 7, Brooker Elementary ESE Specialist Joanie Wilson and her family moved a used conference table from the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) office to the Brooker Elementary guidance suite, just in time for the new school year. "I heard that the BSTD had outgrown their conference table and was possibly interested in donating it to another organization when I attended one of the BHA board meetings," commented Wilson. "Brooker has been using a smaller, 1970s-era table in our guidance suite for a long time, but funds were not available to purchase a newer table that would better suit our needs." BSTD President Dave West and the board responded quickly to the school's request, pleased to see the conference table go to a local school. Wilson

Photo Credit: Suzanne Jones

says that the table will benefit the entire school since teacher, team leader and staff meetings all take place in Brooker's conference/book room, which is its new home.

ESE Specialist Joanie Wilson, Jeff Wilson (left) and their son, Michael, tackle the move one piece at a time. Joanie and Jeff (along with Brooker principal Julie Kelly) are Bloomingdale residents.

Father and son load the largest table piece into the family's truck for transport from the BSTD office to Brooker Elementary. The "movers" also work for local schools—Jeff (right) for Burns Middle School and Michael for Bloomingdale High.









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OOMINGDALE COMMUNITY

By: CRD Master Deputy Curtis Warren

Do Your Part To Stop Crime!



The good news is that crime in our area has dropped. The bad news is that crimes still occur. There have been some home burglaries, vehicles vandalized and retail thefts right in our own Bloomingdale Wal-Mart.

Don't make it easy for the criminals! Home security is a full-time responsibility. Remember to lock your vehicle, take your valuables inside your home or business and close your garage door. The one time you forget, may be the time you are targeted.

Deputies and Volunteer Citizens patrolling our community need the support and cooperation from all of the residents in our community. By being vigilant and reporting suspicious activity crime in our area we can all work together to reduce crime even further. Call 247-8200 as soon as possible to report suspicious activities!

Tips for parents:

- 1. If you do let your kids go trick or treating, ensure that they are safe by going with them or having someone you trust
- 2. Make sure everyone has a flashlight and wears light colored clothing or costumes.
- 3. Only stop at homes with the front porch lights are on.
- 4. Cross only at intersections and not between parked cars.
- 5. Check all treats your kids get. When in doubt, throw them out.
- 6. Consider alternative activities. Many churches and schools have organized fun activities.
- 7. Ensure everyone wears their seat belts when driving around.
- 8. Ensure your pets are kept under control.

Tips for teens:

- 1. If you go to Halloween parties, use your seat belts and don't drink if you're underage.
- 2. If you're old enough to drink, don't drink and drive.
- 3. Don't ride with anyone who has been drinking.
- 4. Don't use any illegal drugs.
- 5. Have fun, but remember that bad "tricks" can be very costly and get both you and your parents into a lot of expensive trouble.
- 6. Have a good time but don't spend it at the Emergency Room.

SPECIAL NOTICE

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

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

Thank you in advance for your help with this critical project!

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE **OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET**

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with Home Instead Senior Care of Brandon will be providing area residents a way of properly disposing of dangerous, outdated, unwanted prescription medicines and drugs. This special event will be held:

DAY/DATE: Thursday, October 10, 2013 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. TIME:

LOCATION: Hawthorne Village of Brandon Assisted

Living Facility, 851 West Lumsden Ave. Brandon, FL (West Of Kings Avenue)

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

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SAVVY SENIORS IN-THE-KNOW

Thanks to a cooperative effort between Brandon Regional Hospital (BRH), The Bridges Retirement Community, and the Campo Family YMCA, Savvy Seniors in the local area are treated to quarterly "Lunch and Learn" events about health and fitness issues especially suited to the silver set.

At the most recent event on Sept. 10, Dr. Kelly Grabbe, an emergency room physician at BRH, spoke about recognizing the signs and symptoms of heart attacks versus strokes. About one dozen seniors enjoyed lunch provided by the hospital while being taught about the differences between a "heart attack" and a "brain attack." "The information they are giving out is so important," offered



Donald and Gloria Juceam take notice as Dr. Kelly Grabbe explains signs and symptoms associated with heart attacks and strokes and how to recognize the difference.

Gloria Juceam. Gloria and her husband, Donald attend many of the Savvy Seniors events. For the Juceams (both age 85), teaching has been a way of life. Both spent 30 years as teachers in their native New York City. Now, as Savvy Seniors, they are leaving the teaching to someone else as they increase their knowledge about health and fitness.

The Savvy Seniors program is entering its second year. "It meets so many needs for the seniors because they are getting out of the house, socializing, and learning about health and exercise," explained BRH Physician Relations Director Jill Lansky. The goal of this particular presentation was for the seniors to take away information that could empower them to help themselves or someone they love if ever stricken.

Following lunch and Dr. Grabbe's presentation, the seniors were treated to a

chair yoga lesson by an instructor from the Campo Family YMCA.

RIDGE

Savvy Seniors meet quarterly at The Bridges Retirement Community, 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview. The next Lunch and Learn event is scheduled for Dec. 3, 2013. For more information contact Janet Noah, The Bridges Community Relations Liaison, at jnoah@seniorcaregroup. com or RSVP at (813) 653-1065.

Dr. Kelly Grabbe, an emergency room physician at Brandon Regional Hospital, explains the signs and symptoms associated with heart attacks and strokes and how to recognize the difference.

BELL SHOALS ROAD WIDENING

By: Suzanne Jones

RECEIVES MIXED REVIEWS

It was a standing room only at the Sept. 10 meeting at Boyette Springs Elementary School. Area residents gathered en masse to learn more about the county's plan to widen 3.1 miles of Bell Shoals Road from just south of the Alafia River to north of Bloomingdale Avenue.

According to the county's project description, the revamped roadway will have two 12-foot lanes for vehicles, a 4-foot bike lane, and sidewalks in both directions. This project also will improve the traffic signals at Glenhaven Drive, Rosemead Lane and Bloomingdale Avenue.



Approximately 300 area residents squeeze into the Boyette Springs multipurpose room in anticipation of learning more about how the Bell Shoals Road widening will affect their property and neighborhoods.

Attendees at the September meeting were largely disappointed at the amount of information presented. After a brief welcome by William "Reg" Alfred, attendees were asked to seek out one of three representatives posted by the project design models around the room. The room was hot with few seats available, but many residents stuck around for a chance to talk with project representatives. During the wait, Bloomingdale residents Lin and Robert Rockwood shared their thoughts. "Our main concern is what the road widening will do to our home values." The Rockwoods live in Bloomingdale East in the Pine Oaks of Bloomingdale neighborhood. "Our property backs up to Bell Shoals Road. Road widening will remove a substantial portion of our yard, which we have landscaped nicely and with great expense in the 21 years we've owned this property."

For other residents who attended the meeting, the priority was ensuring that safety not be compromised by the new traffic flow when several neighborhoods are no longer allowed a left-hand turn to travel north on Bell Shoals Road. Since the meeting, the Riverwoods subdivision (south of Bloomingdale West) held a protest to again voice their displeasure with the county's plans.

Attending in an informal capacity, one law enforcement official lent some positive feedback explaining that relieved traffic congestion resulting from the Bell Shoals expansion may facilitate emergency response along the heavily traveled corridor. Some of the residents also expressed optimism about the changes, expressing hope that less traffic congestion and new bike paths will be good for the community.

The \$19,000,000 construction project is being funded by Newland Communities and Hillsborough County. Construction is expected to begin in January of 2014 and be finished within 18 to 24 months. For additional information on the project visit the Public Works area of the county's website, www.hillsboroughcounty.org.

GARBAGE COLLECTIONSAME DAYS, NEW WAYS

New automated garbage collection service began the week of Sept. 30. You should have received a packet with your new carts that explained their use and collection days. Please take the time to read the packet and if you find you still have questions, you can visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org. Here are some reminders:





Gray cart for garbage: household garbage, food waste, soled paper, diapers, non-recycling packaging.

Blue cart for recycling: paper, cardboard, No. 1-7 plastics, aluminum cans and foil, steel and tin cans, milk and juice cartons, glass bottles and jars.

Yard waste: collected manually at curbside in containers provided by residents, or in bundles or bags.

Positioning: Follow three-foot rule. Keep the carts at least 3 feet away from other carts, mailboxes, cars, trees, shrubs, fire hydrants, and utility poles. Place carts curbside with the arrows pointing toward the street.





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SCHOOL SPORTS

FALL 2013 SCHEDULES

Fall sports are well underway at local schools. Schedules shown are subject to change. Please double check dates and times prior to hauling out the seat cushions, folding chairs and bug spray. But by all means, come out to support our local teams!

Bloomingdale High School Sport Schedules

Boys and Girls Golf

Oct. 7 - Bloomingdale vs East Bay, 3 p.m., Apollo Beach Racquet and Fitness Club

Boys and Girls Cross Country

Oct. 8 - Freshman/Sophomore Invite, 5 p.m., Chamberlain High School

Oct. 12 - FSU Invitational (varsity), 8 a.m., FSU

Oct. 12 - Miller Schumate (jv only), 8 a.m., Picnic Island host: Robinson High School

Oct. 18 - County Championships 8 a.m., Pebble Creek host: Armwood

Oct. 24-26 - District 7 Championships, TBA

Oct. 31-Nov.2 - Region 2 Championships, TBA

Nov.9 - State Championships, Apalachee Regional Park; FSU

Boys and Girls Swimming

Oct. 9 - Western Conference Championships 3 p.m., TBA

Oct. 17 - BSHS vs Durant and Tampa Bay Heat, 7p.m., Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center

Girls Volleyball

Oct.9 - BSHS at Plant, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 16 - BSHS at Durant, 7 p.m.

Boys Varsity Football

Oct. 11 - BSHS at East Bay, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 18 - BSHS at Riverview, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 25 - Newsome at BSHS, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 1 - Wharton at BSHS, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 8 - BSHS at Middleton, 7:30 p.m.

Burns Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball Schedule

(All games start at 6 p.m.)

Oct. 10 Eisenhower at Burns

Oct. 15 Burns at McClane

Oct. 16 Mann at Burns

Oct. 22 County Championship



BSHS football players get pumped up for 1st game of the season against Strawberry Crest. Bloomingdale came out on top, 23-12.

MEDAL-WINNING GYMNAST

By: Miriam Leech

IN MOTION AT CAMPO YMCA



Water in Motion instructor Sylvia Reger medaled in rhythmic gymnastics in her native Hungary.

Members of the new Water in Motion class at the Campo Family YMCA work it in the pool to thumping musical beats. Led by instructor Sylvia Reger, a former gymnast from Budapest, Hungary, students of all ages enjoy a high-intensity workout designed for all fitness levels.

Students give the new class glowing reviews; however, it is Reger herself who receives the highest accolades. "She's the very best," says regular Janet Heinemann, who has been attending since the class began right after Easter.

Born in Budapest in 1976, Reger began dancing and gymnastics at the age of 4. She participated in gymnastics competitions from the age of 7 until she turned 14, when a

knee injury slowed her down. During her active years she won both a gold and a bronze medal in rhythmic gymnastics during local competitions. Reger remains very proud of her accomplishments in her native Hungary.

In 1997, Reger arrived in the United States and made her way to Florida. She was anxious to continue her ballet training, but after the unexpected deaths of two instructors, Reger decided to turn to fitness. And it was there that she found a new passion, Body Combat and CXWorx core training. After becoming certified in both, Reger became an instructor. "I found I loved the classes," said Reger.

In January of this year she took Water in Motion training and has been teaching the class since then. "She keeps us moving the whole time, and her background in ballet and gymnastics shows in her teaching," noted Heinemann.

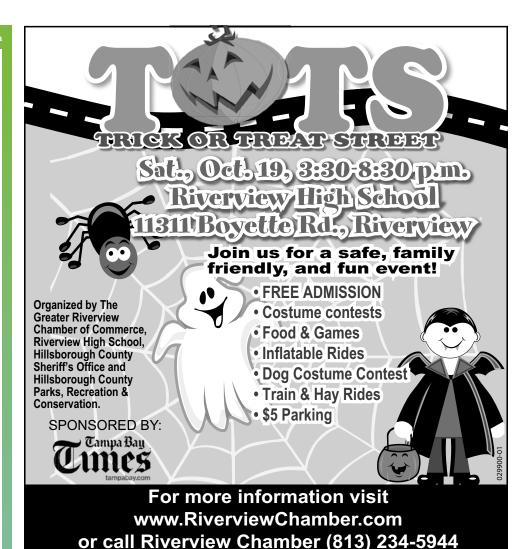
Reger continues to teach core training classes at the Brandon YMCA. And when not teaching fitness classes, Reger is also a dog groomer.

Water in Motion is offered Mondays, 7-8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m.; Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.; and Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. Monday and Tuesday classes are led by Reger. For more information contact the Campo Family YMCA at 813-684-1371.

Former gymnast and Hungary native Sylvia Reger leads a Water in Motion class at the Campo Family YMCA.

Students splash into fitness in Water in Motion, a high-intensity workout class designed for every fitness level and offered at the Campo Family YMCA.







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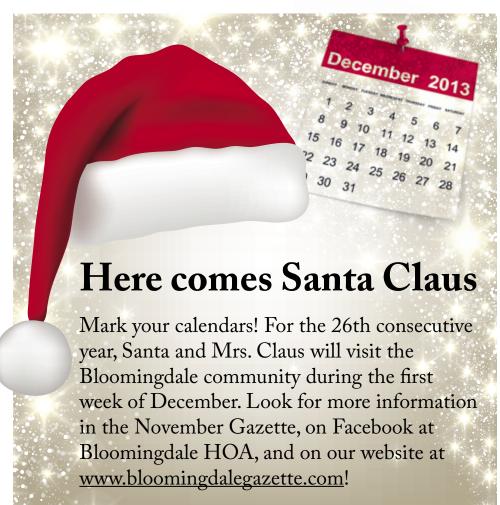
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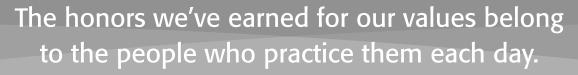
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GET INVOLVED IN PLANNING

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY'S FUTURE

If you skipped the Sept. 10 monthly BHA board meeting, you missed an interesting presentation by the Hillsborough County Planning Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The two groups have teamed up to gather ideas and information for use in developing a new vision for Hillsborough County. They call the initiative Imagine 2040 Scenario Planning—the effort to update the Hillsborough County Long Range Transportation Plan, and the Comprehensive Plans for Tampa, Plant City, Temple Terrace and Unincorporated Hillsborough County. Citizens across Hillsborough County are invited to weigh in on the future of transportation, jobs, development, and taxes in Hillsborough County through the year 2040 by completing the Imagine 2040 interactive survey by Oct. 20. Several scenarios for growth and infrastructure in the year 2040 will then be drafted, and circulated for public comment. To complete the survey or learn about other ways to become involved, visit http://www.planhillsborough.org/















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INS & OUTS WHAT EVERY BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW

Did you know that every Bloomingdale neighborhood is bound by *mandatory* deed restrictions, even if governed by a voluntary homeowner association? Each developer, beginning in March of 1979, established deed restrictions for their new subdivisions within Bloomingdale. According to Florida Law, all homeowners should receive a copy of their neighborhood section's deed restrictions along with their closing documents; however, many residents are unaware of the requirements in their area.

Deed restrictions are the "do's and don'ts" that residents must abide by; they are intended to maintain a community's property value through uniform property appearance, and to promote good relations among neighbors. For example, keeping the exterior of your property maintained is a basic rule of home ownership, and one covered in each neighborhood's deed restrictions.

Here are some typical deed requirements:

- Lawn kept cut and edged
- Home painted and in good condition,
- Fences in working order,
- Vehicles parked on the driveway—not on the grass.
- With the new trash collection roll carts, residents should know that unless it is trash pickup day in your neighborhood, the cans are to be stored behind barriers or in the garage.

Parking is a constant issue in our community. Some neighborhoods allow boats and trailers to be parked in the driveway; others direct that they be placed behind fences or not visible from the street; and, still others disallow them in the neighborhood at all. Spend just a little time to learn about your neighborhood's requirements.

Each Bloomingdale neighborhood is governed by Mandatory Deed Restrictions - conditions and restrictions attached to each owner's property.

Obtain a copy at:
www.bloomingdalegazette.com
- or - http://pubrec3.hillsclerk.com

Today, Bloomingdale consists of over

40 neighborhood sections, each with their own unique deed restrictions. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association currently has more than 30 deed restriction documents available for online viewing and downloading at www.bloomingdalegazette.com. While some communities have not been able to provide a copy of their restrictions in the format required for posting to our site, the Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court maintains all documentation submitted by the original developers and subsequently, any changes submitted by our mandatory homeowners associations. The website link for this information is: http://pubrec3.hillsclerk.com/. New or prospective Bloomingdale homeowners may wish to contact their real estate agent in order to obtain a copy of their restrictions.

Do you have a question on deed restrictions or other local home ownership requirements? Email your questions to bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com, and check the Gazette for answers.



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