

THE



BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXIV  ISSUE 4  APRIL 2014

SPRING CLEANUP DAY TO BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 12

ANNUAL BHA EVENT PROMISES TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER - DON'T MISS OUT!

It's official; spring is here, and so is the community's Annual Spring Cleanup Day. The BHA has partnered with the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners, Sheriff's Department, and UrbanErecycling to provide residents with a one-stop opportunity to get rid of J-U-N-K, yes, junk, for free.

Most of us have unwanted items that has been sitting in our homes, garages, and back yards for months, and even years. Your BHA wants to help you get rid of it. Why take a costly trip to the county landfill when you can dispose of that wreck of a couch, rusted refrigerator, and more right in your own neighborhood?

This year's cleanup will be held Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (or until trash bins are full). As in past years, the collection site is on Natures Way at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility near Alafia Elementary School.

What's new this year?

Popular demand caused the BHA to look for an organization that would take items that typically could not be taken at past cleanup events. Joining forces with the BHA is UrbanErecycling (an organization that recycles material with



Photo: Joy Boisselle

**Does your garage look something like this?
Clean it up at the Annual BHA Spring Cleanup Day
Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

our environment in mind), ensuring nothing will end up in landfills. In addition, they will perform data destruction on hard drives to DOD standards free of charge, and provide a certificate of that service to residents via email.

UrbanErecycling will be on location to accept the following items for recycling purposes: computer keyboards, laptops, desktop computers, tower computers and servers, scrap computers, telecom equipment, rack servers, cell phones, laser printers, flat screen monitors and flat screen TVs, battery backups, ion lithium batteries, circuit boards, and computer cables.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office will also be on hand with its popular Operation Medicine Cabinet

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PLEASE  RECYCLE

Winner

**2014
Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award**

**Best Communications
Newsletter Category**

**ARE YOU
READY
TO
VOTE?**

SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. (Sonnet XCVIII) *William Shakespeare*

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 7221 - Brandon, Florida 33508 - (813) 681-2051

Email: BloomingtondaleHomeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtondaleGazette.com

BHA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Offices of Bloomingtondale Special Taxing District:

3509 Bell Shoals Road

Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

President: *George T. May IV*

Billy Hightower *Joanie Wilson*

Treasurer: *Dennis Osborn*

Mary Galin *Ken Smith*

Secretary: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Dina White

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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**Tampa Bay Times
Community
Development
Team**

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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

YARD OF THE MONTH



Photo: Suzanne Jones



Vicki & Terry Rogers
3815 Windtree Court (Bloomingdale West)

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



APRIL COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tai Chi / April 8 / 3:30-4:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. / Tai Chi reduces stress and increases stamina, flexibility, and alertness. Bring a mat or towel and wear comfortable clothing. Limited to 25 participants. All ages welcome! Call 813-273-3652 for more information.

National Library Week Centennial Celebration: Florida History With Stories and Songs / April 12 / 3:30-4:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. / Using original songs and songs written by friends, folk musician James Hawkins will perform live music and discuss the dynamic history of Florida. James's songs have been recorded by several Florida folk artists, and he has performed at many Florida folk festivals. This program is part of the library's Centennial Celebration, in partnership with The Tampa Tribune and TBO.com, funded by the Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Library. Call 813-273-3652 for more information.

Be a Ballerina Princess Party / April 12 / 3:30-5:30 p.m. / Brandon Ballet / 161 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon / Join Brandon Ballet's real life ballerina princesses for a lot of dancing, tasty treats, and dress up! Wear your favorite princess costume, decorate a delicious cupcake, and learn a dance from Brandon Ballet's dance company members—you can take a picture with them too! Ages 4-7 only. Tickets \$20; first come, first served. Call 813-684-4282 to register.

Book Drive / April 14-18 / 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. / The Village Early Learning Center / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / The Village Early Learning Center is hosting a community book drive to encourage literacy. Please share your new and gently used books by dropping them off at the school office between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. during the week of April 14-18. Books collected will be distributed to area children and families following the event. For more information, call Tami Howell at (813) 651-0779.

Midnight Basketball / April 18 / 9:30 p.m.-12 a.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / Calling all teens and almost teens – don't miss out on this fun after-hours event at the Campo Y! There will be scrimmages, a 3-on-3 tournament, and contests all night long. Grab some friends and show off your hoops' skills. Cost: \$10 for members/\$15 for program members; Ages: 12-17.

Hansel & Gretel / April 25 / 7 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc. / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Who's that nibbling on the gingerbread house? Why it's Hansel and Gretel, of course. When these hungry, lost children are captured in the haunted forest by the wicked witch, the excitement begins. Stages Productions for ages Pre-K through 3rd grade. Tickets \$6 for members; \$7 for non-members. Visit www.centerplacebrandon.org for more information.

Brandon Ballet Presents Cinderella / April 26 / 7 p.m. / Spoto Auditorium / 8538 Eagle Palm Dr., Riverview / Join Brandon Ballet and Artistic Director, Octavio Martin, for a one-night performance event as he presents a contemporary twist of the classical, full-length ballet Cinderella. Featuring a unique musical score by Johann Strauss and innovative choreography, this classic fairy tale sprinkled with humor is sure to charm your entire family. Cinderella is the perfect ballet for families with children of all ages, or a romantic date night with your own Prince Charming. Be sure to buy your ticket today to see how Brandon Ballet demonstrates that dreams do come true! Ticket prices: \$25 Adult, \$15 Child (18 and under), and \$20 Senior (55+). Tickets can be purchased online at <http://web.tututix.com/tickets/193951> or by calling 855-222-2849 (ask for tickets to Brandon Ballet's Cinderella).

Kentucky Derby Party / May 3 / 4-8 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc. / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / The Brandon Outreach Clinic is hosting its Second Annual Kentucky Derby Party. All proceeds will benefit the Brandon Outreach Clinic, the area's only clinic providing free healthcare to the low-income uninsured. Attendees will view a live stream of the race as well as enjoy Kentucky Hot Browns, free open bar, and dessert and coffee bar. What would a Kentucky Derby Party be without a Mint Julep and fancy hats?! So put on your finest and see if you can win the Most Beautiful Hat Contest, the Most Creative Ladies' Hat Contest, or the Dapper Gentleman Contest. In addition, there will be a silent auction featuring items such as Disney tickets, dinner cruises, and spa packages. Tickets are \$75 per person. Call 654-1388 or visit www.brandonoutreachclinic.com for more information.



ORANGE HOME ACCESSORIES

1046 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico
Live Jazz Music, Appetizers and Wine
Friday, April 11th, 6PM to 9PM

Evening Sponsored by Michael Aram, Celebrating 25 Years. \$10 Donation to attend. 100% of proceeds will benefit Family Promise of Greater Brandon, a non-profit organization that helps families regain their housing, their independence, and their dignity.

Your donation enters you in a drawing for a chance to win one of five Michael Aram pieces. Receive 15% off your Michael Aram purchase of \$75 or more during the evening event.

For more details please call Debbie at 813-681-8686.

SUMMER CAMPS

It's not too early to begin thinking about how to keep the kids occupied this summer. Check upcoming issues for more camp listings.

The Dance Center Schedule of Summer Classes / Ongoing / The Dance Center of Brandon / 161 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon / Summer is a great way for you or your dancer to work on technique and artistry and to increase your knowledge of advanced dance steps. Dancers may start their new dance level in the summer program. Camps and workshops are for students ages 3 and up. Offerings: June Evening Workshops, July Evening Intensives, Summer Ballet Camps, Summer Acrobatics Camp, and July Ballerina Princess Camp. Please see www.brandondance.com for specific dates and times or call the studio at (813) 684-4282 for more information. A schedule can also be picked up at the front desk. Registration is ongoing.

Summer Golf Camps at River Hills Country Club

June 9 Aug 15, three levels to choose from: Beginners (8:30-12:30), Intermediate (8:30-12:30) and School Competition (8:30-5:30). \$350 for Beginners/Intermediate, \$595 for School Competition

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

Campo Family YMCA Summer Camp

Sign your kids up for the Campo YMCA's summer camps—registration is open! Summer camps focus on nurturing the potential of children and helping them grow in spirit, mind, and body. The Y encourages fun and friendship and provides the opportunity for young people to build self-esteem, develop interpersonal skills, and make lasting memories. Campo has a variety of summer camps for you to choose for your kids.

Day Camp

Location: Will be held off site at South Brandon Worship Center, 4929 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico

Ages: 5-12

Date: Weekly Sessions begin 6/9/14 and end 8/15/14

Times: 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (drop off 7 a.m.-9 a.m., pick up 4 p.m.-6 p.m.)

Cost: \$140 Facility/\$195 Program

LIT Camp (Leaders in Training)

Location: Will be held off site at South Brandon Worship Center, 4929 Bell Shoals Rd. Valrico

Ages: 11-15

Date: Weekly Sessions begin 6/9/14 and end 8/15/14

Times: 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (drop off 7 a.m.-9 a.m., pick up 4 p.m.-6 p.m.)

Cost: \$140 Facility/\$195 Program

Sports Camp

Location: Campo Family YMCA

Ages: 8-13

Date: Weekly Sessions begin 6/9/14 and end 8/15/14

Times: 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (drop off 7 a.m.-9 a.m., pick up 4 p.m.-6 p.m.)

Cost: \$140 Facility/\$195 Program

Half Day Specialty Camps

Various Specialty camp types ranging from Basketball, Triathlon, Princess Adventure, Dance, Volleyball, Science, and much more!

Date: Weekly Sessions begin 6/9/14 and end 8/15/14

Times: Half day camps are from either 8 a.m.-12 p.m. or 12 p.m.-4 p.m. depending on the camp

Cost: \$115 Facility/\$150 Program

Our specialty camps range in variety of age from 4-15 depending on the camp and curriculum. Some of our week-long specialty camps to choose from are: Basketball Camp, Volleyball Camp, Fairytale Adventure Camp, Dance Camp, Triathlon Camp, Drama Camp, Mad Science Camp, and Magical Princess Camp. For more information please call the Welcome Center at the Campo Family YMCA today (813) 684-1371 or contact Senior Program Director Dan Ribas a Dan.Ribas@tampaymca.org.

Title Boxing Club Brandon & Hot Ninja Defenders Women's Self Defense Seminar, in honor of Queena!



Title Boxing Club Brandon is partnering in a THREE hour women's self defense seminar with Hot Ninja Defenders.

Saturday April 12th from 1:00-4:00pm

A minimum \$25 donation is required to attend the seminar.

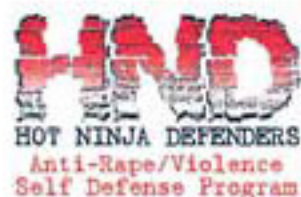
Please contact the Brandon location to register for this very knowledgeable and hands on event.

Join Queena, Hot Ninja Defenders, and
Title Boxing Club!

"Learn to defend, in honor of Queena"

(813) 324-8867 * Tampa Bay@TitleBoxingClub.com
829 EBloomington Ave * Brandon, FL 33511


**JOIN
QUEENA**



There are 143 days until the August 26 primary election. And the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office is already in full swing preparing for what Supervisor Craig Latimer compares to putting on a Super Bowl. "Except ours has 550,000 invitations, 347 venues, lasts for 2 weeks, requires a trained staff, and must report the outcome in a timely and accurate fashion!"

PRE-VOTING CHECKLIST

- Register to vote by deadline
- Determine how and when you will vote
- If voting in person, locate your precinct in advance
- Ensure all information is up to date (address, phone and signature)

Between now and primary day, the SOE office will increase from 40 full-time staff members to 4,000 full-time and temporary employees. The number one goal of the staff is to make sure voters feel confident in the process. Quality control, quality assurance, counting, and recounting are built into every step of preparation and execution of the election process. And then they will turn around and do it all over again for general election on November 4.

For Bloomingdale voters, this intense preparation means the staffing of six polling places and, for Early Voting, the Bloomingdale Library. "Always remember, Election Day is not the first day to vote but the last day to vote," commented Supervisor Latimer. Early voting and vote by mail are easy alternatives to voting in person on Election Day.

Early Voting

While the closest Early Voting location for Bloomingdale is the Bloomingdale Library, this location has been one of the busiest in previous elections. In 2012, it was the second busiest Early Voting place in Hillsborough County with 2,641 voters. To help avoid waiting in line, voters should remember that they can vote at any Early Voting location and their ballot will be printed on demand. Additionally, the SOE website will post wait times at each location during Early Voting, which runs August 14-24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. for the primary election, and October 23-November 2, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., for the General Election.

Vote by Mail

The SOE is also heavily promoting Vote by Mail. Voters may request one of these ballots online, by phone, or in person at the SOE offices by 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the election. Return postage is paid by the SOE, and the ballot can be tracked online to reassure voters their ballot has not been lost. Once requested, the voter will automatically receive a Vote by Mail ballot for the following two primary and General Elections. On primary and General Election evenings, these are the first results reported.

Every Vote by Mail ballot has a bar code so that it can be matched to the precinct and voter who requested it, and then verified that as received back at the elections office. Once received, ballots are separated by hand from the return envelope, still in the security sleeve, rendering it a secret ballot. Ballots are counted and recounted to ensure accountability.



Voting by mail, but absolutely must have an "I Voted" sticker?

Find out how and where to pick up a sticker during the Early Voting period by visiting the SOE website.

Where to Vote on Election Day

Residents of Bloomingdale are assigned one of six precincts.

- 804 Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale
- 805 Bloomingdale W. Recreation Center
- 806 Bloomingdale Golfer's Club
- 807 Bloomingdale Athletic Complex
- 808 Campo Family YMCA
- 809 Bloomingdale Regional Library



Unsure of your polling place? Visit www.votehillsborough.org and click on Where Do I Vote?

Voters with Disabilities

Hillsborough County is especially proud of the AutoMark voting machines--provided for voters with disabilities and allowing them to mark their ballots using an audio function with a headset, a Braille keypad, a zoom-in large-print feature, a sip-and-puff device, or a two-switch pedal device. These are available during both Early Voting and Election Days.

Bloomingdale voters can be proud of the fact that during the 2012 election, each of the six precincts assigned to this community had well over 70 percent voter turnout. Residents are encouraged to visit the SOE website, www.votehillsborough.org, to learn more about registering to vote, Early Voting locations, request a Vote by Mail ballot, and/or verify their precinct or voter registration information.



Photo: Gerri Kramer

Privacy partitions (used to create voting booths) are stacked in the SOE warehouse and ready for delivery to the 347 precincts in Hillsborough County.

ATTENTION YOGA LOVERS!

Have your candles been burning at both ends? Looking for some simplicity and zen? There's good news—Bloomingdale Back2Basics Yoga is on the horizon! This FREE weekly class has been approved for a three-month trial basis at the private park at the dead end of Culbreath. The gates will be open 8-10 a.m. with class from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Classes will be Hatha-based, focusing on the simple basics of breath, relaxation, and stretching while enjoying the scenic surroundings of nature. All age groups and activity levels will be welcome. The main organizer, certified instructor and sponsor is Dina White. Be sure to check upcoming issues of the Gazette for a start date. For more information regarding this exciting initiative, please call 813-509-7780 or email dina.white@century21.com.



NEW WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Beginning Saturday, March 1, Hillsborough County residents will have two days a week to water their lawns, instead of one. The new schedule for watering established lawns and landscaping in unincorporated Hillsborough County, as well as the City of Tampa, is:

- Addresses ending in 0, 1, 2 or 3 - Mondays and Thursdays
- Addresses ending in 4, 5 or 6 - Tuesdays and Fridays
- Addresses ending in 7, 8 or 9 - Wednesdays and Saturdays
- Locations with no address (common areas) and locations with mixed addresses (such as office complexes and shopping centers) - Wednesdays and Saturdays

All watering must be done before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m., and only once on your designated days. For complete information on these and other water rules in unincorporated Hillsborough County visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/WaterRestrictions.



Amazing Stories. Tampa Bay Times

People in FishHawk Ranch create amazing stories every day, and the *Tampa Bay Times* tells them like no one else. Turn to the *Times* in print or online.

Read the stories behind the photos
tampabay.com/amazingstories





BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By: Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren

CELEBRATING 4TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY AS BLOOMINGDALE CRD

On March 22 I completed my 4th year as your Community Resource Deputy (CRD) for Bloomingdale. Thank you for a very busy, great four years! I look forward to working with all of you in continuing the outstanding work that has been done to make Bloomingdale and the surrounding communities safer and more secure places to live and work.

Stolen Property - Contact HCSO First

At a recent monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC), Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Detective James Howell, District IV Latent Investigations Section, briefed members of the BACC on home and vehicle burglaries that recently occurred in the Bloomingdale area.

Detective Howell emphasized that residents should report any stolen property immediately to the Sheriff's dispatch at 813-247-8200 before posting any news on social media. This action will help deputies and detectives to possibly apprehend the thieves and also improve their investigations and ability to find and have the property returned.

Detective Howell also noted that any person finding lost or abandoned property is required by law, specifically 2013 Florida Statue 705.102, to report the description and location of the property to a law enforcement officer. This officer will determine whether the person reporting the lost property wishes to make a claim to it if the rightful owner cannot be identified or located. Any person who unlawfully appropriates lost or abandoned property for their own use has committed a theft as defined by Florida Statue 812.014 and is subject to punishment.

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

Detective Howell and Deputy Warren also emphasized the importance of residents properly securing valuable items such as weapons or jewelry in safes or other special containers! Our Sheriff's deputies and detectives are working hard to protect the residents of our area, their homes and their property. But it takes a joint effort to continue to reduce crime in our area and arrest those who choose to break the law. Crimes will continue, especially with our economy as it is today. Do your part to help stop crime!

Stop Illegal Dumping - Dispose of unwanted items at BHA's upcoming Community Cleanup

Several cases of illegal dumping have been reported in our community. Anyone even thinking about illegally dumping trash or other items in our area should know that increased alarm monitoring and surveillance has been put in place in several areas. Those caught illegally dumping will be paying heavy fines that can include charges for illegally dumping hazardous waste.

The best way to dispose of unwanted items is to take them to the County's Waste Management facilities or take part in the BHA Community Cleanup Day taking place on April 12 at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility on Nature's Way by Alafia Elementary.

Any residents seeing suspicious dumping activity in the Bloomingdale area should call the Sheriff's Dispatch at 813-247-8200.

REMEMBER:

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

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

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

Day/Date: Saturday, April 12, 2014
Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Location: Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance II Area at 1626 Natures Way Drive (By Alafia Elementary School)

- Protect your family and your environment!
- Do not flush medications or put them in the trash!
- Collect your old medications and drop them off to ensure proper disposal.

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

Bloomington resident, Michelle Montella, had been in the liquidation business for ten years on a part-time basis before she recently decided to dedicate all of her energy to estate liquidations. As she gained more and more business and dealt with



the liquidation of two estates with her husband Adam Montella (the estates belonging to two of Adam's uncles), she realized that there was a big need in the community.

"We went through the entire process with our family, and it was tough on us," Michelle commented. "So that's what pushed us to start this."

Fresh Start Estate Liquidators is a one-stop shop for all of your liquidation needs. The Montella's and their six part-time employees venture through the entire process of liquidation with their clients to make sure that every need is met. They meet with families and analyze the contents of the estates to determine how items should be sold or donated; they work with contractors and realtors to aid in selling houses; and, they arrange estate sales themselves handling every item with special care.

"Basically, we like to follow families through the whole process and help them out if we can," Michelle said.

As a teenager, Michelle's mother worked for an auctioneer company and Michelle would help by researching items and holding them up at the auctions. "Ever since then that's always been my passion—finding antique things and researching them," she said. Michelle is interested in helping people and learning about their journeys. She enjoys perusing estate sales rather than flea markets, because she gets to hear the stories behind the items

"Sometimes it seems that people don't care at estate sales. Stuff is thrown in a pile and not priced. It seems disrespectful," Michelle commented. "We catalog everything and go through the entire home. We tell people not to throw anything out, but to let someone come out and look at it. We do the research to find out the value of items," she continued.

Fresh Start Estate Liquidators handles up to two sales per month in the greater Tampa Bay area, with four to six employees running each sale. Michelle recognizes that it can be difficult to put a value on an item belonging to a loved one, so Fresh Start Estate Liquidators coaches people along the way.

Visit freshstartoftampabay.com for more information on Fresh Start Estate Liquidators and "Like" them at [Facebook.com/freshstartoftampabay](https://www.facebook.com/freshstartoftampabay). Michelle can be reached at 813-785-7750 or michelle@freshstartoftampabay.com.



Adam and Michelle Montella co-own new business, Fresh Start Estate Liquidators. Their motto? "Trust Us With Your Fresh Start."



Join the Fun and Support a "Dog Gone" Good Cause
at

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

Charity Golf Tournament

to benefit

K9S FOR WARRIORS



BLOOMINGDALE[®]
Golfers Club

May 10 • 1 p.m.

Shotgun Start

Registration begins at 12 p.m.

Bloomingdale Golfers Club

4113 Great Golfers Club, Valrico 33596

Register by May 5 • \$85 per person, \$300 for a foursome
Includes dinner after tournament; tax deductible

Corporate Sponsorships Available

Raffles • Putting Contest • Longest Drive • Closest to Pin

For more information call Heather Michael
813-340-6547, email hgolf75@yahoo.com
or
the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association
813-681-2051
email Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com

PROUD SUPPORTER OF



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

Learn more at www.k9sforwarriors.com.



BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

BLOOMINGDALE

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

David P. West, President
Mike Chanen, Vice President
Mark Horst, Treasurer
Jereme Monette, Secretary
Robert Ellis, Trustee
Russell Jones, Trustee
Mark Vargo, Trustee

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS IN APRIL

By: Kayla Hayes

Activities abound in April at the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library. We've included just a sampling. For a full calendar, go to www.hcpl.org/hcpl/locations/bdl.

- All ages - The Bloomingdale Giveback Program on Wednesday, April 2. Learn how to sew and crochet. All handmade items will be donated to local organizations, such as the Neonatal center, shelters and nursing centers.
- For children - CoderDojo Tampa Bay Area: Teaching Kids to Code on Mondays, April 14 and 28. A free environment to teach children about programming. Young people will learn how to code, develop websites, apps, programs, games and more from experienced mentors.
- For adults - Craigslist on April 8-10. Learn how to become a member to browse, search, buy and sell items on craigslist.

Additionally, Principal Librarian Eloise R. Hurst recommends the following reads:

- Adult Books - The Bleeding Edge by Thomas Pynchon (e-book format available)
- Young Adult Books - Butter by Erin Jade Lange (e-book format available)
- Children's Books - Bad Kitty for President by Nick Bruel

Come out to the library on April 12 for a very special all-day National Library Week Centennial Celebration.

BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

Ongoing 2014 Annual Membership Drive- The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Annual Membership Drive continues. Since our membership mail-out on Jan.15, the community has responded generously. Thank you to all who have already joined the association, donated to our scholarship fund, and purchased Bloomingdale Pride license plates. The good works provided by the association are completely funded by your \$25 contribution. We need your support to continue to make a difference in our community. Please join today. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalegazette.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

April 12- Annual Spring Clean-up Day- Save a costly trip to the county landfill! The BHA's annual clean-up day is Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., or until all dumpsters are filled. The collection site is on Natures Way at the Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Maintenance Facility near Alafia Elementary School. See this Gazette issue for more details.

April 26- River Crossing Community Garage Sale, 8 a.m. - Noon

May 10- Annual Charity Golf Tournament- The BHA is pleased to announce its Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club in Valrico on Saturday, May 10. Registration begins at 12 p.m. This year's event will benefit K9s for Warriors, a non-profit dedicated to training rescue dogs to become service dogs for our military members with PTSD and traumatic brain injury.
Coming Soon!

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

DINING WITH DAVE

Restaurants trying to make a go of it at Plaza Bella have been the urchin children of Bloomingdale for far too long. There have been some solid attempts over the years, but the location does not lend itself to easy access. Anyone wanting to dine here and deal with evening traffic had best be committed to the cause. Fortunately, the Shrimp Boat offers a dining experience that is worth the effort.

Name: Shrimp Boat 1020 Bloomingdale Avenue
Cuisine: Seafood and Steak Corner of Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals
Location: Plaza Bella Phone: (813) 571-5858

Having enjoyed great success on Lumsden Road, the new digs offer faithful diners who followed them to our doorstep a larger and more accommodating dining room, updated bar facilities and an overall more grandiose appearance. Even the outside atmosphere while waiting for a table is a bit more conversation friendly and interesting.

Starting with the bar, the beer taps and bottles have a selection of Tampa standards plus a short but solid line up of micros that rotate regularly. The full bar offers a variety of boat drinks to start you up before dinner and coffee / liquors to slow you down afterwards. Like the other bar choices, the wine list is short but thoughtful with enough variety to compliment everything on the menu.

For dinner, I went the surf route while my dining companion opted for turf. The Shrimp Boat does NOT skimp on the shrimp in their Scampi! Good sized and plentiful shrimp, mushrooms and spinach mixed with a lemony touched creamy garlic sauce were served over perfectly cooked angel hair pasta and topped with smooth asiago cheese. The Shrimp Boat offers a good steak as well. The prime rib, light and buttery on the taste buds, was cooked to perfection.

For a side dish we tried the cheddar and bacon grits with chive—a little on the dry side, but served to compliment the saucy scampi. For dessert we took our server's recommendation and had the in-house salted caramel ice cream, which had the texture of sorbet and could, by itself, be a reason to dine here. Live music on the weekends adds a dash of date-night flair to a reasonably priced meal of this quality.



BHA EARNS NEIGHBORHOOD RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is pleased to announce the receipt of two 2014 Hillsborough County Neighborhood Recognition Awards: Best Communications Newsletter/Website for its monthly publication, the Bloomingdale Gazette and Best Environmental Program/Project for Yard of the Month sponsored by ACE Hardware.

“The BHA is extremely proud of these awards. The Gazette received a complete make-over in October 2013, as well as a new publisher. We have received high praise from many residents, both for the new professional look as well as the high quality of the content provided,” commented BHA President George T. May IV. “The Yard of the Month program has been integral in allowing us to reach out to our community in a visual and positive manner, encourage property maintenance through recognition and reward, and develop a lasting partnership with a local area business.”

Neighborhood Recognition Awards are presented annually and sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and the Office of Neighborhood Relations. The awards were announced at the Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference luncheon, which was held at the Hillsborough Community College Dale Mabry Campus on Saturday, March 15.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

The Bloomingdale Gazette is delivered to 5,200 residences, reaching over 23,000 residents, and is the Bloomingdale community's number one resource for association information and local news. Editor, Suzanne Jones, has assembled a talented group of reporters, both paid and volunteer, who have helped the paper evolve from a 2-page word document to a 24-page color production with eye-catching graphics, and important news for our residents. Pictured: Tony DelCastillo (Advertising/General Manager, Tampa Bay Times), Suzanne Jones (Editor, Bloomingdale Gazette) and George T. May IV (President, Bloomingdale Homeowners Association). The Gazette has been the official publication of the BHA since 1980.



Photo: Suzanne Jones

Locally-owned Bloomingdale ACE Hardware has been sponsoring Yard of the Month since the beginning of the program over 10 years ago. Each month, submitted nominations are reviewed, the winner selected and notified, and a YOM sign is erected in their yard. A photo of the winning yard is included in the upcoming issue of the Gazette, and a \$25 gift card donated by Ace Hardware is presented to the winner. Pictured: Bloomingdale ACE Hardware Owner Bruce Korte and BHA President George T. May IV.

INs & OUTs

WHAT EVERY BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HOW THE BHA WORKS WITH RESIDENTS TO RESOLVE COMPLAINTS.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association works behind the scenes on many issues brought to us through resident calls and emails. While we are not always able to fix the issues completely, most of the time, we help to make the situation better, usually much better. Recently, the BHA received high praise for our assistance in helping to resolve a community issue in Bloomingdale Estates. The letter below, written by Linda Newcomb, a long-term Bloomingdale Estates resident, is an example of how the BHA, working with residents, can make a difference in our community. Thank you, Linda!



Resident Letter:

County repairs pump station driveway hazard on Bloomingfield Drive

In February, concerned neighbors in the 200 block of Bloomingfield Drive, spearheaded by resident John Hnizdil, talked with Hillsborough County Public Works representatives regarding standing muddy water across the sidewalk of the Bloomingfield County Pump Station. The issue was not only very unsightly, but presented a slip and fall hazard for residents. At that time, it was suggested that a drain could, possibly, be installed to take care of the problem, but according to a County worker that inspected the area, he doubted anything would be done.

Following the communication with County, one of the neighbors contacted the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association via email. Pictures of the area were forwarded with explanation of the frustration the neighbors were experiencing who lived near this site and the BHA's help was requested.

After only a few days, the County came to pressure wash the driveway. This was an improvement visually, but the standing water issue was not resolved. Surprisingly, the following week County workers were out with heavy equipment breaking up most of the driveway, removing huge chunks of concrete and installing a new driveway slanting to properly drain away the rain water.

PROBLEM SOLVED, thanks to concerned neighbors, the County, and especially, the Homeowners Association who greatly supported this effort. On a personal note and as a resident of this area for 24 years, it is vital that homeowners who have invested their lives in their neighborhoods get involved helping to improve and to keep Bloomingdale a nice place to live.

Sincerely,
Linda Newcomb



The BHA is committed to our residents, and the betterment of our community. Don't fume and let your frustration mount if you have a complaint or problem. Contact us. At a minimum, we will research the issue and try to resolve the problem entirely. If we cannot, we will help you explore your options in hopes of at least improving the situation.

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.



Photos: Linda Newcomb

The Bloomingdale Pump Station off Bloomingfield Drive before residents and the BHA contacted Hillsborough County Public Works. Slime, algae, and standing water coat the unsightly sidewalk and driveway.



New grass, fencing, and new cement sidewalks and driveway have completely transformed the former Pump Station eyesore.

As we spring into the second quarter, Bloomingdale’s real estate market is hopping with transactions! Behind the scenes of purchase prices and interest rates, buyers and sellers face not only exciting prospects of change and investment, but also emotionally exhausting decisions. Buying or selling a home is one of the most important, exciting, and stressful decisions you will make in your lifetime. That would imply that the licensed professional (real estate agent) you choose to represent you in the transaction will be just as significant. The fundamental skills your agent should possess include negotiation, networking, communication, prospecting, and contractual prowess—skills that must endure the range of emotional ups and downs both you and other parties to the transaction may experience.

Seasoned and well-trained agents recognize that buyers and sellers are happiest on the day all parties come to an initial agreement, also known as the day a contract becomes effective, or executable. The actual execution of a contract can be a roller coaster of excitement, disappointment, game-changers, contractual obligations, and deadlines. During this critical stage, your agent must remain assertive while competently navigating the transaction in an effort to accomplish your financial and personal objectives.

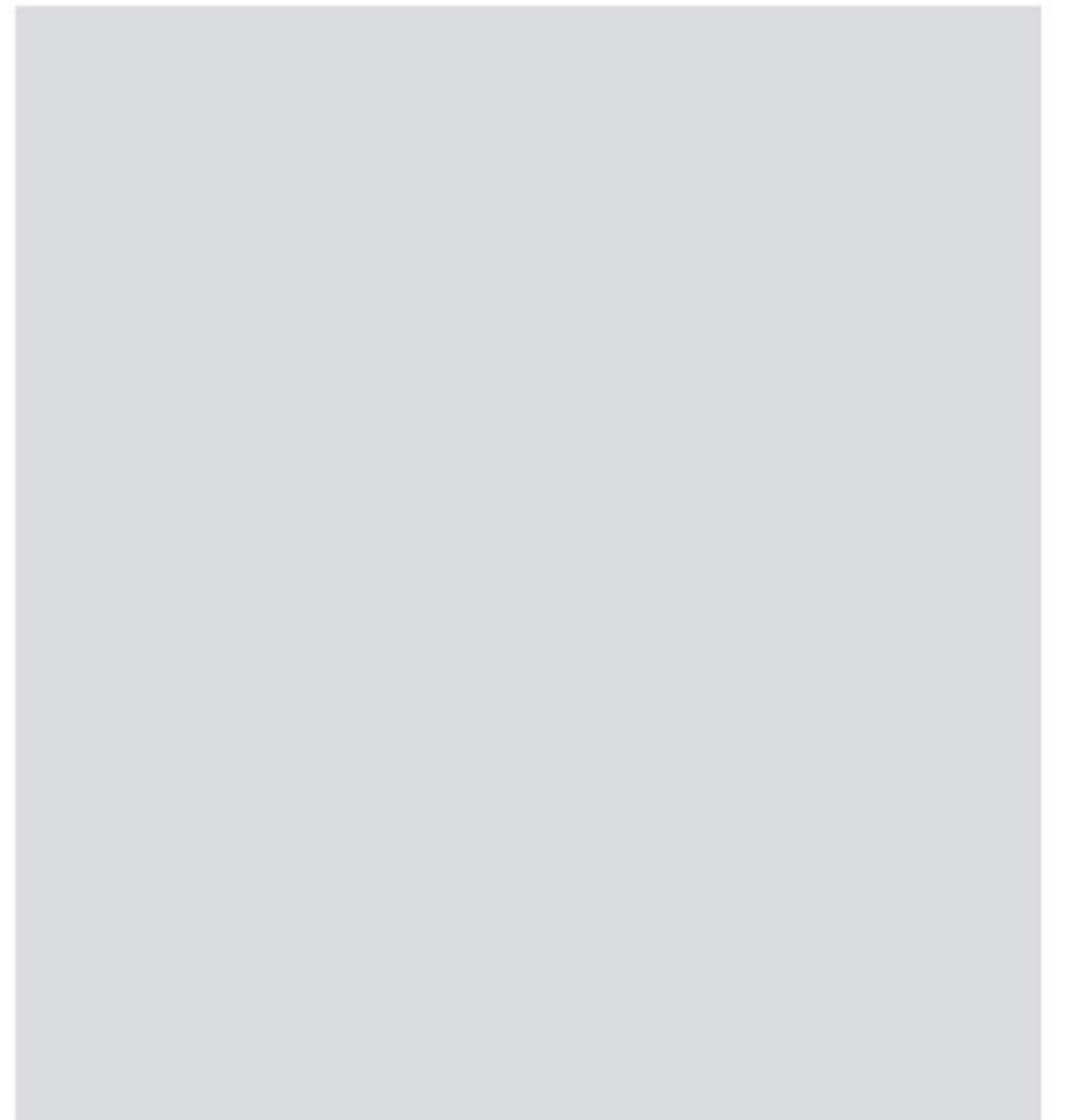
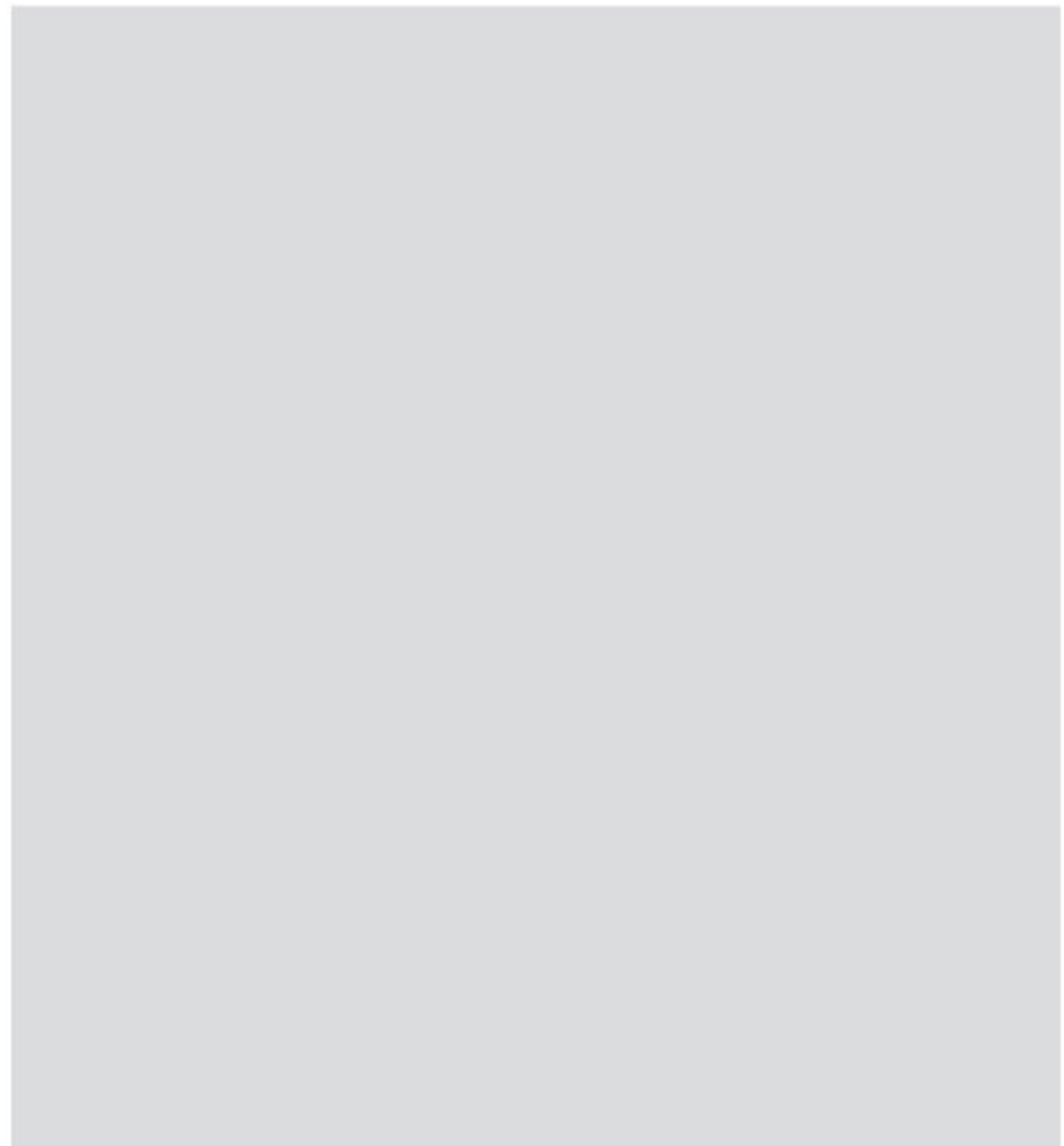


Assisting you with understanding contractual timeframes and knowing you’ve met key obligations not only keeps

you out of default, but also gives dedicated and savvy agents confidence and bargaining power. However, situations do arise outside the scope of the contract, such as a higher than agreed upon repair cost discovered during inspection, forcing both parties back to negotiations. In this situation, it’s important for an agent not to panic or tuck their tail, but rather face the new negotiations head on working on your behalf for a fair outcome. The other party may also default on the contract, putting the transaction at risk. Agents should recognize this immediately and be capable of explaining the potential impact to you while implementing possible repercussions to the other party.

Ultimately, the competency, skills, and overall effectiveness of your agent may make or break the deal. Not all agents have the contractual prowess and determination to understand this difference or the ability to communicate accordingly.

Don’t be afraid to ask hard questions at any time during the process, but especially during the initial meeting with your prospective agent. Strong agents are unafraid to have uncomfortable conversations and demonstrate empathy to your individual circumstances. Knowing and trusting your agent and how they will respond when the going gets tough will mitigate your stress levels, enabling you to make tough decisions with a higher degree of confidence.



BLOOMINGDALE ESTATES DEED RESTRICTION UPDATE NEARS COMPLETION

Following another meeting with neighborhood leaders and the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Bloomingdale Estates residents are one step closer to the final draft update to their neighborhood's outdated deed restrictions. The meeting, held March 25, was a review of all previously recommended amendments before the draft document is forwarded to the BHA attorney for examination.

Like many of the community's neighborhoods, Bloomingdale Estates deed restrictions are over 34 years old and need to be modernized and streamlined. This is the first-ever attempt by residents, with the assistance of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, to accomplish this task.

Long-term resident and local realtor, Mary Odum said, "I was involved with the creation of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District in 1984, and because of this, I recognize the importance of what we [residents] are trying to accomplish here now."

Odum added, "Because we have deed restriction standards, I have always had complete confidence and pride when showing homes [as a realtor] in the Bloomingdale area."

The process is time-consuming and has required patience from all involved. However, progress is being made. Once the latest meeting changes are added to the draft document, copies will be emailed to the core volunteer group for a final once-over. Then, the draft document will be sent to the BHA's attorney

for legal review. Best case scenario would be that no additional changes are required, and Bloomingdale Estates resident vote-gathering would begin. If you are a Bloomingdale Estates resident and would like to review the current draft documents, email the office at the address listed below.

Residents should continue to look for more information in the Gazette, on our Facebook site and on our community website at www.bloomingtongazette.com. Volunteers are welcome. For general information, contact the BHA at 813-681-2051, or email to bloomington.homeowners@gmail.com.

Bloomingdale Estates residents discuss changes to their neighborhood deed restrictions at a meeting held March 25 with the BHA at the Association office. Pictured: John Brooke II, Steven Woolheater, Mary Odum, Dann Berkowitz (BHA board member), Ken Simmons, and Linda Newcomb.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

SAVE THE DATE FOR BLOOMINGDALE'S FIRST ANNUAL FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

While it may be hard to imagine in the midst of spring, Memorial Day is right around the corner! As a known marker for the beginning of summer festivities, it may be challenging to remember the true meaning of a holiday that commemorates those who have died in active military service for our great nation. This year, a group of Bloomingdale residents and veterans would like to honor our nation's fallen by including Old Glory in our community's first Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 26 at the private park at the dead end of Culbreath. The ceremony will allow residents to retire their own flags as well as observe the retirement of several others. Those without a flag in need of retirement are also welcome to attend. The ceremony is expected to take around an hour. The first 10 Bloomingdale residents to sign up to retire their own personal flag will receive a replacement flag. For more information pertaining to the ceremony or the proper protocol of retiring a flag, please contact Dave Ervast at (813) 657-3086 or ervastdavesr@juno.com.



SPRING CLEANUP (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

program, which prevents potentially dangerous drugs from getting into the wrong hands. Representatives will be available to receive dangerous, outdated, unwanted prescription medicines and drugs. Accepted items include: Pill bottles, Boxes and/or packaged drug items, Patches, Powders, Liquids (properly sealed), Inhalers, and Veterinarian Prescription Drugs.

While the BHA has added these new partners to improve service to residents, the trash roll-offs provided by Hillsborough County still have certain guidelines as to what may be deposited.

Hillsborough County accepted roll-off items include:

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

Some Items cannot be accepted by Hillsborough County:

- No televisions, microwaves, computers or radios (UrbanErecycling will take flat screen TVS and computers as noted above.)
- No yard waste
- No hazardous materials including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercial activities

For information, contact the BHA at 813-681-2051 or by email at bloomington.homeowners@gmail.com.

HOLDING YOUR PUTTER LIKE NO OTHER (CLUB)

The majority of us hold our putters just like any other club in the bag - with the grip underneath the heel pad of our hands, causing the putter to be held at an incorrect angle.

Two things occur: the putter head is toe up, causing the ball not to be hit solid and the path of the putter to be more on an arc than usual (causing misses in both directions).

When the putter grip is held underneath the thumb pad, the putter shaft follows right up the forearm. The putter and arm will act as one unit.

This will allow you to set your eyes over the ball, have more of a straight back and through putting arc and more center contact on the putter face.

Next month: Chipping by using "air to ground" ratio, not the military version. Any questions or for lessons, please call J.D. (813) 957-3205 or visit www.CochraneGolfSchools.com.



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS

More than 120 Florida YMCA Youth in Government (YIG) high school students from the Tampa area took charge at the 57th Annual Florida State Assembly held February 20-22 in Tallahassee. Most of them were members of the Campo YIG Chapter, the largest chapter in Hillsborough County. Teens had the opportunity to sit in the same chamber seats that senators and representatives use. They experienced the steps necessary to pass and debate laws and also campaigned for different state-wide positions in YIG, including State Governor.

The Assembly acts as the culmination of the YMCA YIG program. The YIG is a year-round civic engagement and service learning experience that offers students around the state the opportunity to participate in a student-run, student-led model government process.

“[YIG] trains nearly 3,000 students state wide on how to be civic-minded citizens. It teaches students how to interact with their government effectively in ways that affect change,” explains outgoing YIG State Governor Seth Reid. Reid is a Bloomingdale resident and home-schooled senior, and member of the Campo YIG Chapter. “Students learn the process of law-making, the judicial system, our executive branch, and how lobbyists can affect the government. It’s a wonderful program which truly does train leaders for tomorrow—leaders this world needs.”

Local chapters like Campo work together on debate practices, service-learning projects, fundraising efforts, and State Assembly preparation. Students choose an area of focus, and through these personas delegates are given the means to learn about their specific role in the context of state government.

Led by volunteer advisor Patty McClure, the Campo Chapter has grown over the last 6 years to approximately 90 members including both middle school

(junior YIG) and high school-aged teens. The chapters are non-partisan, which allows the teens to explore and develop their own political beliefs as well as appreciate those of others. An important skill the teens learn is to debate an issue from both sides, no matter their own opinion.

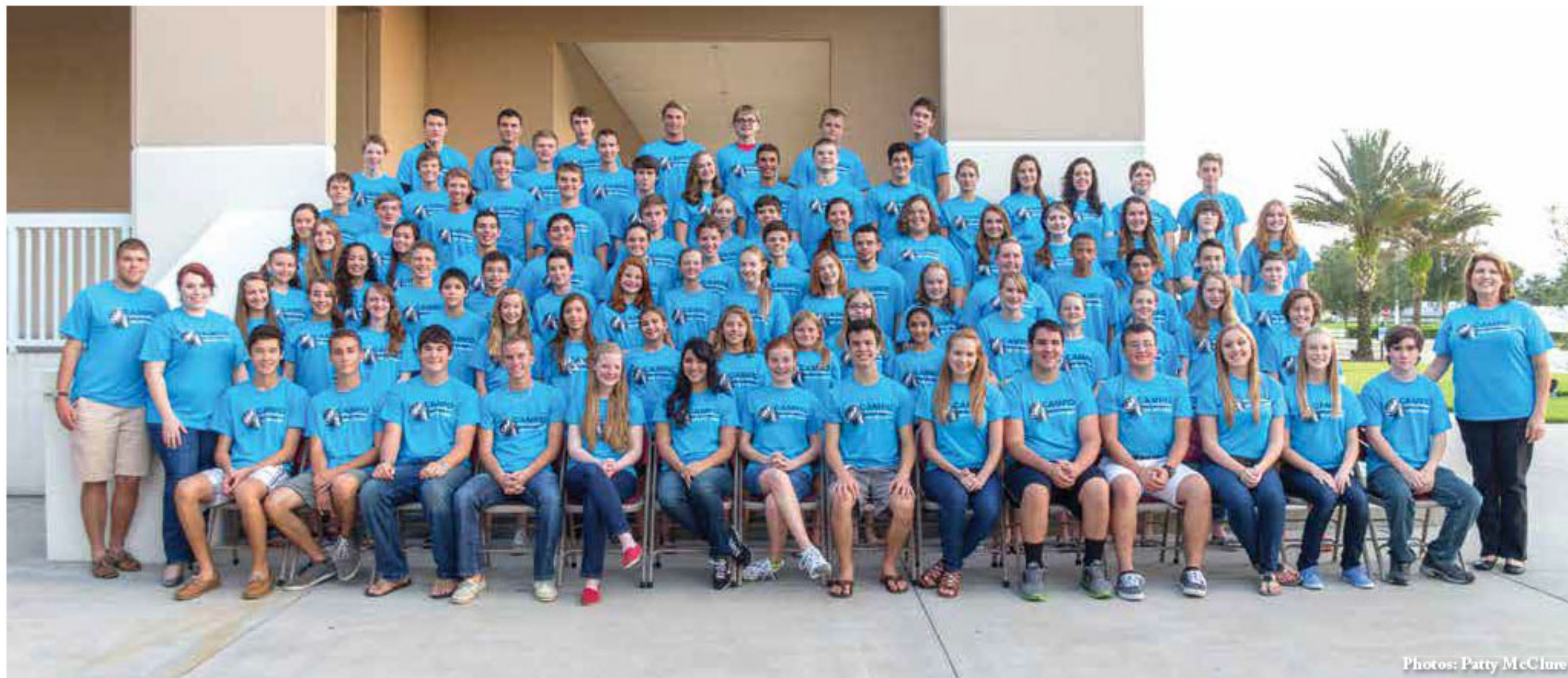
David Little, also a Bloomingdale senior home schooler, observed, “YIG members are empowered to form and express opinions on important issues, then debate with their peers in the community and the state without judgement.” Some YIG teens hope to run for public office one day; others know they will come away as informed voters.

This year’s state assembly proved very successful for the Campo Chapter, with numerous members being elected to state YIG positions as well as receiving Outstanding Statesman, Cabinet Member, and Civil and Criminal Attorney awards. Members Becca Ross, Colin Pearson, and Braxton Mann had bills passed to the Cabinet, and Pearson and Mann’s bills were signed by the YIG State Governor.

The YIG program is based on the Y’s values of responsibility, respect, caring, honesty, and faith. If interested in learning more about Florida YIG, contact the Campo Family YMCA at 813-684-1371.



Seth Reid, member of the Florida Youth in Government (YIG) Campo Chapter and outgoing State Governor, addresses delegates at the 57th Annual Florida State Assembly. Reid is a Bloomingdale resident and home-schooled high school senior who hopes to run for public office.



Photos: Patty McClure

The Campo Chapter of Florida YIG has approximately 90 members comprised of middle school- and high school-aged teens led by chapter sponsor Patty McClure (pictured far right).

On March 8 The Village Early Learning Center (VELC) introduced their new Outdoor Classroom to the community. The Grand Opening Garden Party included a ribbon cutting ceremony featuring some of the students at the learning center, bird house building sponsored by Lowe's and other eco-friendly crafts.

The new Outdoor Classroom features a vegetable garden, outdoor musical instruments, sandboxes, a build-a-creek station, tree stump game boards, an outdoor chalkboard, and much more to engage the students in learning.

When asked why VELC built the Outdoor Classroom, Owner/Director Susan Miller explained, "Because research shows that the trend in today's society is that children are getting less exposure to nature... so we're combating that."

The garden teaches kids how to grow food and eat healthy. Right now the students are growing lettuce, peppers and other vegetables.

Debbie Garrigues and Jennifer Kelly – two Pre-Kindergarten and VPK teachers at the school – had been working on the project since mid-November, 2013.

The Village Early Learning Center – voted a top rated VPK school in the greater Brandon area in Hillsborough County – was founded in 2000 on the principle that "It takes a village to raise a child." There are currently 243 students enrolled in the learning center, including the afterschool program.

The VELC is located at 3741 Canoga Park Dr. in Brandon. For more information visit www.villageELC.com, or contact The Village Early Learning Center at 813-651-0779.



Luke and Bradley Youmans check out the vegetable garden in VELC's new Outdoor Classroom.



Students Nate Terrell, Nick Terrell, Alex Pearson and Michael Galin cut the ribbon at the March 8 Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening Garden Party at The Village Early Learning Center.

Photos: Kayla Hayes

BLOOMINGDALE YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION HOLDS OPENING CEREMONIES

The Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association (BYSA), formerly Bloomingdale Little League, officially opened its spring/summer baseball and softball season on February 28.

Teams from t-ball to seniors, boys and girls lined the field while BYSA president Kenny Hawkins welcomed them and gave spoke words of encouragement for the coming season. The core of his speech to players and the parents was to have fun! He reminded the crowd that BYSA is completely made up of volunteers, from the board to the coaches, and the games are about the kids.

The Bloomingdale Senior High School drum line was on hand to provide entertainment and music as the teams were announced and paraded around the diamond. Kudos were given and balls awarded to championship teams from last year's season.

If you are in the mood for a baseball or softball game, check out the Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association at the corner of Bloomingdale and Culbreath. On any given night and any Saturday afternoon you are surely to find something going on.



Photos: Kim Miller

Bloomingdale High drum line keeps event upbeat!

Players and coaches line the diamond for BYSA opening ceremonies.

CAMPO FAMILY YMCA COMMUNITY SUPPORT CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

By: Miriam Leech



Photos: Miriam Leech

Y Guy says, "Y Not support the Annual Community Campaign," to help families of all income levels take advantage of the programs for healthy living the Campo Family YMCA has to offer!

Thanks to the generous support of the local community, the Campo Family YMCA Annual Community Support Campaign (together with the FishHawk Y) is at over 20 percent of its goal to raise \$237,000!

Since the high-energy kickoff on February 20, dozens of active, dedicated campaigners have teamed up to raise funds. "We have a long way to go before May 31st, so we need more members of our community supporting the programs and the missions of the Y that promote youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility," said Community Campaign and Bloomingdale East resident Chair Cheryl Kehrmeyer. "Reaching the fundraising goal takes all of us working together to invest in our kids, our health, and our neighbors."

One hundred percent of funds raised go back into the community to allow the Y to open its doors to all children and adults, regardless of income. This means programs from family fitness classes and quality out-of-school care to youth sports and engaging activities for seniors are available to develop a healthy mind, body, and spirit for all.

On May 1, 4-9 p.m. the Campo Family Y will host a Spirit Night at Chipotle Mexican Grill on Bloomingdale Avenue. Chipotle will donate 50 percent of the proceeds to the Y's Community Campaign! Be sure to mark your calendars, invite your friends and family, and wear your Y t-shirts.

The Campo Y has also recently earned the much-coveted 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. If you are interested in supporting this great organization by being part of the 2014 Community Support Campaign, contact the Campo Family YMCA at 813-684-1371 to volunteer or make a donation from your family or business.



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

ALL SCHOOLS

April 18 – Non Student Day

ALAFIA ELEMENTARY

(No listings this month)

CIMINO ELEMENTARY

April 15

Bloomingtondale Pizza Spirit Night

Bloomingtondale Pizza, 4334 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico

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

BURNS MIDDLE

April 14 Chamber Strings Spring Concert – 6:30 p.m. at BSHS

April 17 PE Fitness Challenge Run, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

April 22 - 25 FCAT

April 24 Burns Talent Show at BSHS

BLOOMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL

April 8 Rajun' Bull Band Spirit Night at Chipotle (Bloomingtondale Ave), 5-8 p.m. – 50% of all sales benefit the band!

April 11 Humane Society Club at Bloomingtondale High School will be holding their annual Dodge Ball tournament in the high school gymnasium starting at 7p.m. All proceeds go to the Humane Society.

April 11-13 Music Department Spring Trip

April 30 Sophomore class hosts Bloomingtondale's Got Talent in the high school auditorium at 7 p.m. All proceeds from this event benefit the sophomore class fund.

April 24 Cap and Gown Distribution

May 1 Students of Bloomingtondale take on the teachers in the annual Student vs. Faculty basketball game in the high school gymnasium.

May 31 Save the Date - Rajun' Bull Band 5K Walk/Run (see May issue of the Gazette for more details)



ALAFIA ELEMENTARY FLINGS INTO SPRING

By: Miriam Leech

"It's a gorgeous day," commented Alafia Elementary School Principal Lisa Jackson, and that it was for the school's annual Spring Fling held on Saturday, March 1. Bounce houses, face painting, food trucks, local vendors, and even a cake walk provided entertainment for students and their families. The event also hosted the school's Scholastic Book Fair, and Art Monkey ceramics studio provided students the opportunity to create their own artwork.



Fifth graders Christine Kang and Emma Wu peruse cookbooks at the Alafia Elementary School Book Fair opened to Spring Fling goers.



Bounce houses prove to be very popular at the Alafia Elementary School Spring Fling event.

Photos: Miriam Leech



ALAFIA ELEMENTARY 5TH GRADERS CROWNED MATH BOWL CHAMPIONS

By: Miriam Leech

Fifth graders from Alafia Elementary were crowned the champions at the Hillsborough County School District Math Bowl held on March 25 at One Buc Place. The five team members (pictured from left Christine Kang, Adriana DuPont, Joey Neidig, Will Harrison, and Malikai Madray with Academically Gifted Program (AGP) and teacher Jane Ham) were chosen based on their Sunshine State Math Test scores. Led by Ham, the team had already finished in first place among Area 5 elementary schools. At the District competition they competed against the other eight area winners. All of the math problems were related to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, reflecting the partnership between the team and the Hillsborough County Elementary Math Council.



Photos: Sherry Madray



CIMINO FAMILY FUN FIT NIGHT

Cimino PTA held its first Family Fun Fit night on March 18. Information booths from local health related businesses were set up in the multi-purpose room where parents and kids could ask questions and get some giveaway goodies. The Fun Fit Night also included Zumba, karate and lacrosse stations where kids could try out the different activities. A healthy recipe contest gave some lucky cook the chance to have a winning recipe served in the cafeteria. Sponsors included Smoothie King (who gave sample smoothies to everyone), Campo YMCA, Pro Martial Arts, Abdoney dentistry and orthodontics, Total Pediatric Healthcare, Centra Care urgent care and The Salt Grotto.



JUST A LITTLE OFF THE TOP...

By: Deidre Morgan



Photos: Deidre Morgan

Burns Middle School Resource Officer and Boys Soccer Coach, Deputy Roger Bradley, found a unique way to motivate his team this year. He told his boys that if the team went undefeated for the season they could shave his head. Well, the team went 6-0 for the season! While losing in the first round of playoffs, several of the 8th grade team members were thrilled for the chance to give Deputy Bradley a fresh cut.

