



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXVII ♻️ ISSUE 6 ♻️ JUNE 2017 ♻️ [www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com)

## Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

***It's Two, Two, Two Bulls on One...***

Jessica Daly, University of South Florida  
and Justin Daly, BSHS Class of 2017.



Photo: Anne-Marie Daly

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Wherever you go, go with all your heart." Confucius

## This Month



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## WINNER

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# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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### Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: [Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com)

Website: [www.BloomingtonHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtonHOA.com)

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road

Valrico, Florida 33596

### Directors at Large:

*Daniel Berkowitz*

*Bobbi Ferraro*

*Mary Galin*

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**Vice President:** *Suzy Watts*

**Secretary:** *Joanie Wilson*

**Treasurer:** *Sean Donahue*

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



### JOY BOISSELLE

**Editor - The Bloomington Gazette**

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: [InBloomingtonNews@gmail.com](mailto:InBloomingtonNews@gmail.com)

Website: [www.BloomingtonHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtonHOA.com)

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci, NTZ Studios

Senior Staff Writer: Miriam Leech

Staff Writers: Wendy Knipp, Susan DeLuca and Deidre Morgan



### TONY DEL CASTILLO

**Advertising Manager  
Brandon & Southshore Times**

11268 Winthrop Main Street, Suite 101

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Email: [tdelcastillo@tampabay.com](mailto:tdelcastillo@tampabay.com)

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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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

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Yard of the Month



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

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



Photo: Susan DeDeLuca

**Peggy Kennedy**                      4502 Preston Woods Drive Valrico, FL 33596 (Preston Woods)

Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

*(Editor's Note: Realtor Ronnie McLaughlin has lived in Bloomingdale for six years with her husband and two children. She is also active in the Bloomingdale High School PTSA and Girl Scouts.)*

**Bloomingdale's Real Estate Stats: Where does your home fit in?**

As of May 23, the Bloomingdale community had 32 actives homes for sale. The homes averaged 2,569 square feet and had an average current sales price of \$332,889 and a median sales price of \$260,000. The average active listing had 4 bedrooms and had been for sale an average of 56 days. The reason for the wide difference between the average sales price and the median sales price is that one house currently for sale at just under \$1.3 million is well above the average for Bloomingdale.

As of this same date, there were 45 current pending sales meaning 45 buyers have found homes in Bloomingdale recently and are waiting to get through inspections, appraisals and loan approvals before closing on their new home. Current pending homes have an average sales price of \$189,554, a median price of \$229,000 and have been on the market for 35 days.

Over the past 30 days, twenty-seven homes have sold at an average sales price of \$256,543 and a median sales price of \$233,000 averaging 30 days on the market.

**Neighborhood Snapshot: The Links**

The Links located along Culbreath Drive boasts 96 homes averaging 2,606 square feet built between 1995 and 1998. Thirteen of the homes line the Bloomingdale Golf course and most have four bedrooms, three baths and private pools. The Links is a mandatory HOA neighborhood with three streets – Delamere Court, Duncombe Drive and Swift Circle. Ten homes sold over the past year at an average sales price of \$312,465 and an average of 33 days on the market.

*\*MLS statistic were based on rough property lines between May 23, 2016 through May 23, 2017. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*



**By Ronnie McLaughlin**  
The Chadderton Real Estate Group  
Keller Williams Realty  
813-601-5659  
[ronniemclaughlin@kw.com](mailto:ronniemclaughlin@kw.com)  
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Photo: Ryan Chadderton





# BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



**DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

## Membership Drive Hits Halfway Mark

Join today; help the Association help the community. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road., Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://www.bloomingdalehoa.com), look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

Your \$35 membership fees are returned 100 percent to the community. And, every member and dollar matter. Programs like this newspaper, clean-up, garage sale and fall festival would not be possible without your support. The Association attends monthly county meetings and advocates on behalf of the entire community. In addition, they work weekly with county code enforcement to improve neighborhood standards and keep property values from slipping.

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



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

## BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

**Monday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting,** Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

**Tuesday, June 13, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office,** 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

**Thursday, June 15, 6:30 p.m. / 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Jim Brodie,** Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

## BHA BRIEFS

### MAY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AND OTHER BOARD NEWS

The BHA scholarship was presented to this year's winner Kevin Coomber at the May 9 monthly board meeting. See article on p. 7.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE COMING IN JULY

Coming Next Month! The Gazette will present an overview of the many developments ongoing in our area.

### NATURES WAY STUDY COMPLETED

After many months of waiting, the BHA met with Hillsborough County Public Works officials on May 3 to discuss the 51-page Natures Way study requested by the Association. The study looked at several different options to improve traffic, neighborhood aesthetics, walkability and to improve bicyclist safety. The options focused on the stretch of Natures Way consisting of the approximately 1-mile thoroughfare with four lanes. Details of the study will be released soon for public review and comment. Note: Nothing will be done with the study unless funding is approved and public hearings are met with positive support.

### SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

**Fall Festival is Oct. 28 at our new venue – the BSHS Football Stadium!** Planning continues for the biggest event of the year. Activities for kids, a Trick or Treat Street, costume contest for kids and pets, local business booths and crafts round out this community-building event. Email [bhaffallfest@gmail.com](mailto:bhaffallfest@gmail.com) or call 813-252-0252 for sponsorship and volunteer opportunities. See p. 6 for sponsor details.



### ATTENTION! CALLS FOR AN AREA DOG PARK ARE ANSWERED

When County Commissioner Stacy White took office in 2014, the BHA asked for his help to bring a dog park to one of our local community parks preferably in BL East or West. We, of course, were not the only ones pushing for this community amenity, as several residents from across the Brandon-Valrico area approached White with the same idea. On May 23, a public meeting was held in Brandon to announce the new dog park's location at Saladino Park on Bryan Road, and to discuss the proposed facility concept, see diagram right.

While we cannot take full credit, the board is pleased that an initiative they worked to pass and many residents desired has been approved. Costs for the park are \$450,000. Construction will begin this winter with completion scheduled by spring 2018.

**Community Park: Saladino Park**  
1. Site Location: 1705 Bryan Road, Brandon  
2. Existing Park Facilities  
• One Playground  
• One Softball Field  
• Two Basketball Courts  
• One Picnic Shelter  
• Park Restroom Bldg.  
3. Desired Park Enhancements  
• Overall Beautification  
• Install a Dog Park  
• Construct a Walking Trail/Exercise Stations  
• Replace Basketball Courts and Install a Roof  
• Add New Bleachers  
• Install Sun Shades  
• Install Additional Picnic Shelters  
• Renovate Restroom  
• Replace Fencing  
• Upgrade Lighting  
• Resurface Parking Lot  
• Construct Additional Parking Lot  
• Construct an Obstacle Course  
• Miscellaneous: New Signage, Water Fountains, Benches, Picnic Tables, Trim Trees, Landscape  
Total Estimated Cost: \$750,000





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It's official! The BHA's Fall Festival will move to the Bloomingdale High School Stadium. This year's event is Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. According to event organizers Suzy Watts and Bobbi Ferraro, the expanded venue will allow for more free family fun activities, more food trucks, more sponsors and more parking.

"We simply outgrew the golf course, which is a great problem to have," explained Watts. "Our best guess is we will have over 2,000 guests at our event this year."

Activities this year include a trick or treat street, kid costume contest, pet costume contest, crafts for kids, photo opportunities, bouncy house, obstacle course, booth decoration contest, food truck and more. Volunteers are also needed and community service hours are offered. As a community effort, the Fest is an exciting event to participate in on every level.

The call for sponsors is now! Don't wait as space is limited! The Fall Fest is an excellent marketing tool and business owners may use this event to introduce their business to the 5000+ homeowners in the Bloomingdale Community. It is a great way to build business awareness and community influence. See the Fall Fest flyer this page for details on how to participate.

For information, contact the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at 813-252-0252 or email [BHAFallFest@gmail.com](mailto:BHAFallFest@gmail.com).



The Fall Fest brings families, pets and local businesses together for a day of fun and community-building. Gazette File Photo

## Sponsorship Opportunity



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# Annual Fall Festival

**Saturday, October 28, 2017 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Bloomingdale High School Stadium**

**1700 E Bloomingdale Ave.**

This event has become so popular it has been moved to the Bloomingdale High School Stadium to accommodate growing attendance, greater event visibility and more convenient parking.

Bloomingdale boasts over 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. The Fall Festival is a great opportunity to market your business and build local awareness. Limited booth space is available.

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

#### Platinum \$500

- Premium booth space
- Business info and profile in the Bloomingdale Gazette
- Your business will be the only business of its kind at the event
- Business info and link on the BHA website through 2017
- Ability to place item in 300 guest goody bags
- Business name and logo on banner at event entrance

#### Gold \$250

- Booth space
- Business info in the Bloomingdale Gazette
- Business info and link on the BHA website through 2017
- Ability to place item in 300 guest goody bags
- Business name on banner at event entrance

#### Silver \$100

- Booth space
- Business info in the Bloomingdale Gazette

#### Food Truck Gold \$250

- Premium location at entrance
- Business info in the Bloomingdale Gazette
- Business info and link on the BHA website through 2017
- Ability to place item in 300 guest goody bags

Sponsors will need to provide: Table, chairs and canopy; Candy, treat or activity for kid's "Trick or Treat Street".



- Local small business tables
- Food trucks
- Children's crafts
- Children's and pet's costume contests
- Face painting and games
- Business booth decorating contest
- Bouncy house
- Obstacle course
- "Trick or Treat" Street

For more information, contact the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at (813) 252-0252 or email [BHAFallFest@gmail.com](mailto:BHAFallFest@gmail.com).

[BloomingdaleHOA.com](http://BloomingdaleHOA.com)



[BloomingdaleHOA](https://www.facebook.com/BloomingdaleHOA)

BHA Board of Directors IRC 501(C)(4)

This event is made possible, in part, through a grant from the Hillsborough County BOCC.



## Coomber Wins Scholarship

By Wendy Knipp

Congratulations to Bloomingdale Senior High School (BSHS) student, Kevin Coomber, for earning this year's Bloomingdale Community Scholarship worth \$2,000. He is a High Honor Role student with a 5.45 GPA, over 120 hours of community volunteer hours and he scored 1310 on the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT).

"The applicant pool was the best we have ever had with 15 applications received," said Scholarship Chairman Dann Berkowitz. "Most attended BSHS, but Strawberry Crest and Armwood were also represented."

"Kevin's application was exceptional," Berkowitz added. "He truly represents the best of the best in our community."

Academically, Kevin's accomplishments are second to none. In addition to his high GPA, he has already completed four weeks of college-level STEM courses, become a certified Internet Web Professional, and earned a perfect score in Science on the FCAT.

Always looking for a challenge, Kevin routinely took advanced placement courses. This year, he raised the bar taking four AP classes – Calculus, Economics, Physics and Computer Science Principals. Teacher Patrick Sheehan, Kevin's AP World History teacher admires Kevin for more than just his academic accomplishments and said, "Kevin is a great student, with stellar grades, but he is also funny, friendly, personable, and down to earth."

Outside of school, Kevin is a 2nd degree black belt in Taekwondo. He has completed 10 years of Boy Scouts and has achieved Eagle Scout status – the gold standard of scouting. He serves as a Senior Acolyte at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church. He has participated in community genealogy research and has hiked 55 miles of the Appalachian Trail. In addition, he has volunteered at numerous charitable organizations such as ECHO, MOSI, the Lemur Conservation Foundation, and his church youth groups.

Kevin will attend the University of South Florida and intends to study Mechanical Engineering. He is "incredibly grateful" for this scholarship. "I'm glad that people believe in my ability to succeed," he stated.

Photo: Joy Boisselle



Kevin Coomber and his proud parents Patricia and Steve reside in Bloomingdale Ridge. Our community is very proud as well. Congratulations, Kevin and good luck! And of course, "Go Bulls!"



JUNE 2017

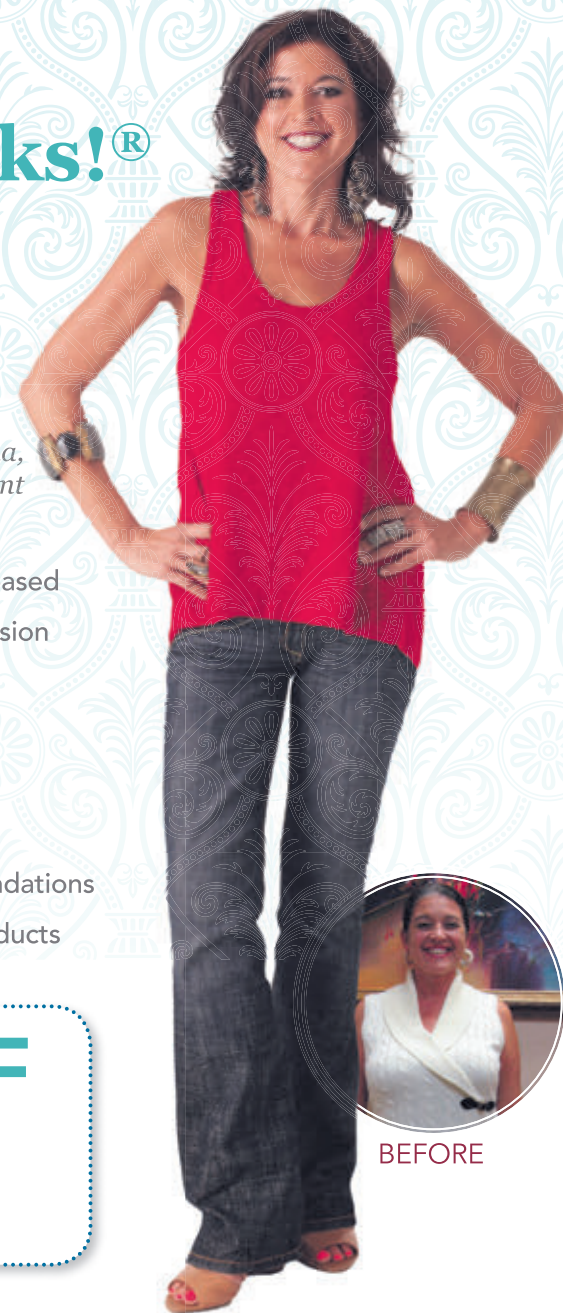
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Proposed Bell Shoals Medians Maintain Bloomingdale “Signature” Look; Public Hearing Scheduled for FY18 Budget

By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

**Bell Shoals Update**

Thomas (Tommy) Rawls, P.E., Program Manager and new Project Manager for the Bell Shoals Widening Project attended the May 8 regular monthly Board meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) Trustees. Rawls told Trustees that their relationship would be a long-term one, and that his focus is on the design and construction aspects of the road project. Additionally, Rawls noted that property acquisitions remain ongoing.

While possibly three years from project completion, planning is moving swiftly—including requiring BSTD Trustees to decide on the Bell Shoals median landscaping. After careful consideration of increased costs and the desire to have Bloomingdale maintain its signature look, the Trustees voted 5-2 to have County install irrigation and colorful but low-maintenance plants and shrubs in the medians. All medians will have Cathedral Live Oaks as well.

**Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Budget**

During a series of budget meetings, the Trustees finalized the proposed budget for FY18. On Monday, June 12, a Public Hearing will be held at 6:15 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, to present the budget and hear public comment. The hearing will take place immediately preceding the regular monthly meeting of the Trustees at 6:30 p.m. View the proposed budget on the BSTD website at [www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org](http://www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org).

**Public Hearing**

The Bloomingdale Special Dependent District is conducting a public budget hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding its proposed FY 18 budget. The Trustees will vote on the budget. The hearing will be conducted at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, on Monday June 12, 2017, at 6:15 p.m.

In accordance with Chapter 286, Florida Statute, the public is advised that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Trustees with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

All meeting facilities are accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any additional necessary accommodations will be provided with a 48-hour notice. For information, call 813-684-6667.

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

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

District Tightens Water Restrictions throughout 16-County Region, Restrictions Start June 5

Courtesy Southwest Florida Water Management District

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board voted to increase water restrictions throughout the region. The modified Phase III water shortage order affects counties throughout the District's boundaries including Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter.

District hydrologists report a rainfall deficit of 11-inches since the start of the dry season last October. In fact, this is the driest dry season in the past 103 years. Even though the region is experiencing drought conditions, there is adequate public water supply available. Florida's dry season runs October through May.

Under the new water shortage order, lawn watering is reduced to once-per-week and allowable watering hours also are reduced. Micro-irrigation and hand watering of non-lawn areas are still allowed any day, if needed. Additionally, there are now limits on car washing and homeowners' associations may not enforce any deed restrictions, which could cause an increase in water use. The restrictions will remain in effect through August 1, 2017. Additional details regarding the watering of new lawns and plants, reclaimed water and other water uses can be found at "[www.WaterMatters.org/restrictions](http://www.WaterMatters.org/restrictions)."







Source: HCSO

# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy James Brodie  
and C.S.O. Sandy Capitano

## AREA LAW AND ORDER

Between May 8 and May 25, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 26 traffic stops in Bloomingdale East and Bloomingdale West. Those traffic stops resulted in 22 written warnings, two verbal warnings and two citations. Since the realignment of districts on May 8, we are able to provide statistics just in the Bloomingdale area.

One statistic increasing in the area is traffic crashes within our subdivisions. We have had five crashes without injuries and one with injuries. Those kind of numbers in such a short span of time tells us that we need to slow down, stop at all stop signs and above all be courteous drivers. These are not crashes on Bloomingdale Avenue, but rather inside Bloomingdale East and West!

Also in Bloomingdale, there were two drug law violations, one residential burglary and four vehicle burglaries. Only one vehicle was unlocked. There were a few criminal mischief calls, but none that resulted in a report.

Remember to watch out for what is happening in your neighborhoods. If you see something, make sure you call the HCSO Non-Emergency number at 813-247-8200. Please remember to lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors, secure your guns and lock up your vehicles. This will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim.

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

We are still seeing an overwhelming number of our citizens targeted by phone scams.

Use caution when dealing with people over the phone that you don't know, especially when you're asked to send money to someone you don't know. Verify the caller's story with friends or family members before withdrawing money and sending it in the mail. Remember, you can always help by occasionally looking at the alerts on the HCSO website at [www.hcso.tampa.fl.us](http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us).



## SOME THINGS ARE GREENER IN BLOOMINGDALE...

District 5 personnel hit the ground running on May 8. I am excited to say that the transition was very smooth and went off without any real hiccups. This is mainly due to the men and women you see in uniform in our communities. If you have a chance to say hello, let them know what a great job they are doing for our communities.

## GETTING INVOLVED

We would like to invite someone from each community to attend our monthly Bloomingdale Area Community Council meeting as a representative for your neighborhood. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month: this month's meeting is June 15 at 7 p.m. This group works directly with the HCSO to identify community concerns and to find solutions to all types of problems. Interested residents can call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station located at 3622 Erindale Drive.



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Valid on incoming orders only.  
**No exceptions.** Not valid with other coupons or promotions.  
Expires 7/1/17 BG

MAJIK TOUCH CLEANERS

## Attention Residents!



### 2017 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

Source: <http://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/Pages/default.aspx>

The 2017 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, passed by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Scott, runs through Sunday, June 4 ending at 11:59 p.m. During this sales tax holiday, qualifying items related to disaster preparedness are exempt from sales tax.

For information, visit the Department of Revenue's Tax Information Publication (TIP) on the 2017 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday at <http://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/Pages/default.aspx>.

#### Qualifying Items

**Selling for \$10 or less:** Reusable ice (reusable ice packs)

**Selling for \$20 or less:** Any portable self-powered light source (powered by battery, solar, hand-crank, or gas): Flashlights, Lanterns, Candles

**Selling for \$25 or less:** Any gas or diesel fuel container, including LP gas and kerosene

**Selling for \$30 or less:** Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only (excluding automobile and boat batteries): AA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, 9-volt, Coolers and ice chests (food-storage; nonelectrical)

**Selling for \$50 or less:**

- Tarpaulins (tarps), Visqueen, plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths, and other flexible waterproof sheeting
- Ground anchor systems, Tie-down kits, Bungee cords, Ratchet straps
- Radios (powered by battery, solar, or hand-crank): Two-way, Weather band

**Selling for \$750 or less:**

- Portable generators used to provide light or communications, or to preserve food in a power outage.
- First-aid kits (always exempt)

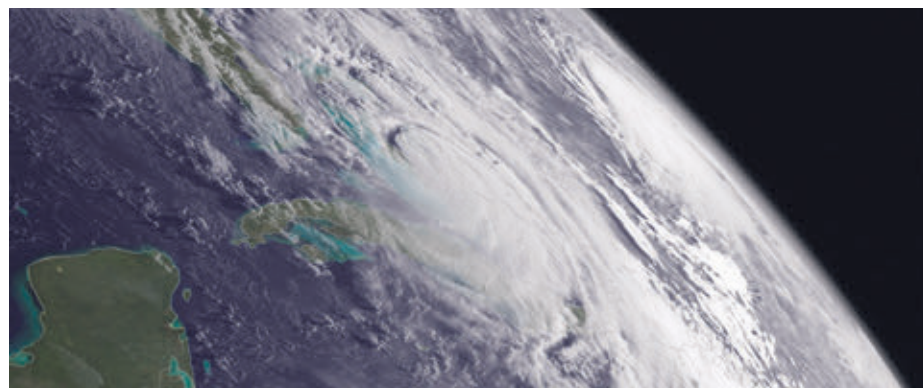
*Note: Eligible light sources and radios qualify for the exemption even though they may have electrical cords.*

### 2017 Hurricane Season Starts, Above-Normal Season Predicted

From the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has issued its annual Atlantic hurricane season outlook. The season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

This year, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) forecasts an above-normal hurricane season with a 70 percent likelihood of 11 to 17 named storms, five to nine hurricanes and two to four major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). An average season produces 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes.





As if being a busy high school principal, single mother of two, and involved community volunteer isn't enough, Bloomingdale Senior High School's (BSHS) Sue Burkett couldn't say no to the moms who are part of the school's Academic Foundation when they asked her to run for Honorary Mayor of Brandon. Why? Because it is for the kids.

"It's hard to say no when money is being raised to support children," said Burkett.

The race for Honorary Mayor of Brandon, which kicked off June 1, is an opportunity for candidates to raise thousands of dollars for their favorite charities. It was originated by The Community Roundtable in 1959. Every dollar raised is a vote, and on July 4 Burkett will find out the total amount she raised and whether she will be riding in the Brandon Fourth of July Parade as the new "Mayor."

In keeping with her For the Kids campaign slogan, the BSHS principal has chosen to raise money for organizations close to her heart—the Bloomingdale High School Academic Foundation, Center Place for the Fine Arts, and the Boys & Girls Club of Tampa/Clair Mel.

- Bloomingdale High School Academic Foundation was started in 2014 to meet the needs of teachers in the classroom to provide the highest level of academic instruction. All funds go directly back to the classroom to provide technology, specialized equipment, or supplemental textbooks.
- Center Place, established in 1976, has made the arts accessible to the community through classes, exhibits, and performances. Many children in the area have grown up attending events and learning about the arts at Center Place.
- The Boys & Girls Club of Tampa/Clair Mel building was under renovation when fire destroyed the entire structure in December 2016. BSHS adopted the children of the club to make sure that they still had a Christmas celebration, and the school continues to support the club during the rebuilding process. Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay provide safe environments for youth between the ages of 5 and 18 years old during out of school time as an alternative to being on the streets or home alone.

Burkett is supported in her campaign for mayor by her own kids, Jake, 19, who attends Florida State University, and Becca, 16, who attends Durant High School, as well as her fiancé, Steve Baricko. And then there are the 2,300 students at BSHS that she considers a part of her extended family.

Added Burkett, "I want my students to be good citizens, and this [mayor's race] is a great life lesson for me to lead."

The candidate for mayor has been principal at BSHS since February 2013. Before that she was principal at Burns Middle School for 4 years, and was an assistant principal for curriculum at BSHS from 2005 to 2009. Burkett has lived in the Bloomingdale area for 14 years.

No matter how things turn out in the Honorary Mayor of Brandon race, Burkett will have something to celebrate. On July 5, she and Baricko fly to the Cayman Islands to be married.

Good luck, Sue—for the kids and for the future! Visit [www.sueformayor.com](http://www.sueformayor.com) for more information.



Bloomingdale Senior High School Principal Sue Burkett hopes to raise the most money to support local charities in her race to become Honorary Mayor of Brandon on July 4. Her campaign slogan is For the Kids. Photo Provided By Sue Burkett

# SUE BURKETT

## FOR HONORARY MAYOR OF BRANDON

[WWW.SUEFORMAYOR.COM](http://WWW.SUEFORMAYOR.COM)

<b>LAUNCH PARTY</b> JUNE 1, 6 P.M. THE LANDING DUNK LOCAL PRINCIPALS	<b>GARAGE SALE</b> JUNE 3, 8 A.M. BLOOMINGDALE HS ALL CLOTHING \$2	<b>MOVIE NIGHT</b> JUNE 13, 6:30 P.M. WONDER WOMAN AMC REGENCY \$25 TICKETS INCLUDE FOOD
<b>BINGO NIGHT</b> JUNE 14, 6 P.M. HAMBURGER MARY'S BRANDON	<b>CASINO NIGHT</b> JUNE 16, 6 P.M. CENTER PLACE \$50 TICKETS IN ADVANCE	<b>RETRO PROM</b> JUNE 24, 6 P.M. THE BARN AT WINTHROP \$50 TICKETS IN ADVANCE
<b>GRAND FINALE</b> JULY 1, 6 P.M. O'BRIEN'S		

### FOR THE KIDS!

BLOOMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL  
ACADEMIC FOUNDATION

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF TAMPA BAY

Discover the Arts  
CENTER PLACE



# Congratulations, Class of 2017!

On behalf of a proud community,  
we wish you all the best in your  
future endeavors.

As you begin your journey, we  
leave you with the wise words of  
Jedi Master Yoda:

“Do, or do not. There is no try.”



Mikayla Mullen-Vo with her  
Dad Todd McNatt



Theadra Turaga, Class of 2017



BSHS gradu  
parents M



Robin English and Katherine  
MacGregor, friends since  
attending Alafia Elementary



Robin English, BSHS  
Class of 2017



BSHS Soccer Stand-  
Out and 2017 graduate  
Nick Diaz with parents  
Christopher and Kelly Diaz



Ryan Pena, Student Government  
Association president



BSHS Bulls (l. to r.) Justin  
Gross, Cody Wilson, Jacob  
Hedgpeth, Nathan Chevalier  
and Julian Machado receive an  
A+ for award-winning smiles.



And so it begins – Class of 2017 Bloomingdale g



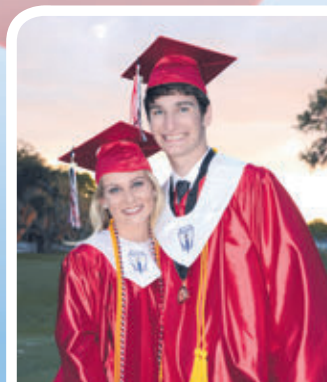
Colin Boutin, Cross  
Country star and BSHS  
Class of 2017



Brianna Cullinan,  
BSHS Class of 2017



BSHS graduate Pascual  
Muniz Jr., Coast  
Guard-bound!



As the sun sets on their  
high school careers, BSHS  
graduates Alexis Shepard and  
Nick Lewis share a moment.





Kayla McDermott with Mike and Lori McDermott



Bailey and Sydney Betts, BSHS Class of 2017



2017 BSHS graduates Jason and Jonathan Rosado flanked by their Brooker Elementary teachers Patricia Tyson and Joanie Wilson.

### Bloomington High School Graduation at a glance:

- 479 graduates
- 231 honor grads (48.2% of class, 4.0 weighted or higher)
- Reported scholarships of \$2,388,511 (actual number much higher)
- 98% students requested transcripts to attend 2-year or 4-year college
- Class weighted GPA: 4.004521



Graduates celebrate the completion of a milestone!



Nick Diaz, BSHS Class of 2017



Doctor Jenn Boisselle, Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy, 2008 BSHS and 2013 UCF graduate



Jake Leech, Florida State University, flanked by parents Miriam and Tom Leech



From boys to men – BSHS Class of 2017 (L-R) Steven Mullen, Evan Knapp, Justin Gross, Nick Lewis, Julian Machado and Vladimir Zavala



Cross country Coach Jenn Beach with her graduating BSHS seniors!



Dan Boisselle, 2012 BSHS and 2017 University of Central Florida grad, attending UCF Master's program in the fall pictured with Dad Jim Boisselle



# Congratulations, Class of 2017!



Evan Knapp will attend Florida State University.



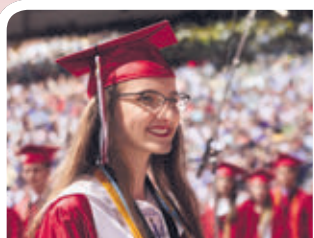
This BSHS trio will join the FSU Seminoles this fall. Pictured l. to r. Evan Knapp, Nick Lewis and Ahan Jain.



BSHS Graduates Catherine Schilling, Brianna Velazquez and Jack Bales



Singing Bulls, l. to r., Dakota Hawkins, Natalie Mack, Christopher Bass, Alyssa Yates and Christian Rodriguez deliver a heartfelt BSHS Alma Mater song.



2017 BSHS Graduate Kaylin Chastain



Jaidon Angel, Kaylin Chastain, Erin Martin and Jacob Harding present the sign of the Bull after receiving their diplomas.



Switching tassels from right to left signifying their status as high school graduates are: Valedictorian Zachary Neidig, Salutatorian Jessica Follmer and Senior Class president Jessica Wehinger.



Cameron Healy receives his diploma and a warm handshake from Principal Burkett. Healy was a standout player on the Special Olympics third place state soccer team.



2017 Class Valedictorian Zachary Neidig



Kevin Coomber, winner of the 2017 BHA Community Scholarship, attending the University of South Florida



Maggie Watts, University of North Florida, will attend UCF Master's Program this fall



Many thanks to this extraordinary teacher, role model and mentor Heather Hanks who provided all BSHS ceremony photos. A Bloomingdale resident, Hanks considers her Facebook graduation albums as "my gift back to the seniors." View

the albums at [https://www.facebook.com/hlhanks/media\\_set?set=a.1011102952016998.1.1073741849.2001647&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/hlhanks/media_set?set=a.1011102952016998.1.1073741849.2001647&type=3).

## Cimino Elementary Applauds Former Students

Staff Report

Last month, 850 Cimino Elementary students clapped out more than 50 high school graduates, all former Cimino students. The clap out, a tradition established last year by Principal Cindy Dowdy, shows current students that hard work pays off, while for former students, it is their moment to shine as the entire Cimino student body applauds their achievement during a courtyard walk through.

The graduates, primarily from Bloomingdale High School, represented Bell Creek, Blake, Durant, Newsome, Riverview, Spoto and Strawberry Crest High Schools. Also attending were Florida Virtual School and homeschool graduates.



Photo: Dea Knapp



Pools are everywhere in Bloomingdale and if you don't have a pool, chances are that your neighbor does. We want our kids to have fun, but according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), drowning kills more children from ages 1 to 4 than anything else, except birth defects.

So, how do you balance having fun with being safe? The CDC has several recommendations.

1. Swim classes are an effective way to prevent accidental drowning. Classes begin as early as 6 months of age. Swim programs such as KinderSwim, Inc. ([www.KinderSwim.com](http://www.KinderSwim.com)) teach young children aquatic techniques such as "float, swim, float" until they reach the side of the pool or until someone can rescue them. As children age and progress, so do the swim classes.  
  
Katja Borosch is the Owner of KinderSwim, Inc. and she teaches swim lessons to all skill levels including to special needs children. Borosch believes, "Skills first, fun later." She believes in empowering children to be responsible around the pool and expanding those skills as the child grows.
2. Fences around the pools are important because they create a primary boundary. The CDC recommends a four-sided isolation fence with self-closing and self-locking latches.
3. Life Jackets for weaker and younger swimmers or those who can swim but are in a large body of water are important. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests parents not substitute water wings for a life jacket because they can give a child and adult a false sense of security.
4. Finally, learn CPR because it can save a child's life. CPR classes are offered throughout our county. Contact your local Red Cross for more information at 1-800-733-2767.

Nothing on this list is more important than proper supervision by adults who can swim. Drownings happen quickly and quietly so a fast response is critical.



Katja Borosch, center, owns KinderSwim, Inc. and she offers swim lessons for children as young as 6 months old.  
Courtesy Photo: Christi Allen Curtis Photography

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

## TODAY

Residents and families can prepare, plan, and stay informed for the 2017 hurricane season at Hillsborough County's free Hurricane Expo today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the WestShore Plaza Mall.



**Summerpalooza Party / 1-4 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Rd. /** The entire community is invited to join the Y to celebrate the start of a summer full of family fun. The free summer bash will feature pool parties, family fun games, arts & crafts, healthy refreshments, music, prizes, and more! For information, call 813-684-1371.



**My YoYo Juice Summer / Begins June 3 through Aug. 5 / YoYo Juice / 1044 Bloomingdale Ave. /** From June 3 until Aug. 5 you can enter to win FREE SMOOTHIES FOR A YEAR simply by stopping into the store. There are many ways to enter, download our new App, check in using the App, post a photo and tag us on social media, five ticket Friday and more. For information, call 813-653-4300.



**Art Exhibit / June 6-28 / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Dr. /** Doreen's Traveling Paint Brush exhibit is open to the public and showcases the travels of artist Doreen Donovan. Come meet the artist at a reception on June 8 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For information, call 813-685-8888.

**Leggo My Magic Show / June 8 / 2-3 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. /** Learn about all kinds of building through comedy, magic, music, and audience interaction. For grades K-5. Funded by the Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Library.

**The Three Musketeers / June 9, Premiere at 7 p.m.; June 10, 16, 17, 23, and 24, 8 p.m.; June 11 and 18, 3 p.m. / James McCabe Theatre / 506 5th Street, Valrico /** Follow the adventures of d'Artagnan as he befriends three formidable musketeers of the age – Athos, Porthos, and Aramis – and gets involved in affairs of the state and court. General admission, \$18; Seniors, \$15; Military, \$15; Students, \$15; Groups of 10 or more, \$15. To reserve seats, call 813-480-3147.

**Juneteenth Celebration / June 15 / 1 p.m. / Brandon Senior Center / 612 N. Parsons Ave. /** Entertainment and a look at "What is Freedom." Free event. Call 813-635-8066 for information.

**Patriotic Concert / June 15 / 7 p.m. / New Hope United Methodist Church Logan Hall / 115 N. Knights Ave. /** The Eastern Hillsborough Community Band (EHCB) is celebrating our country's birthday by inviting the local community to EHCB's eighth annual patriotic concert. The performance includes marches and patriotic music, and veterans from all five branches of the military will be recognized. Donation of \$5 at the door. Reservations are not required.



**The Splash Pad Grand Opening / June 16 / The Florida Aquarium / 701 Channelside Drive, Tampa /** Fantastic froggy fun comes to The Florida Aquarium this summer with a new rainforest-themed Splash Pad complete with all-new kids' dry and wet play elements, sandboxes, lush landscaping, and more! Sandy's Snack Shack, and shaded pergolas and decks overlooking beautiful Tampa Bay complete this awesome combination of downtime and playtime experiences. The zero-depth water play area features all-new water elements including water dump buckets, spray zones, and a designated water play area for toddlers. Included with admission. Call 813-273-4000 for information.



**Crystal Bowls Concert and Educational Talk / June 16 / 2-3 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. /** Join Crystal Bowl Musician, Patricia Nielsen, as she discusses the many health benefits of listening to crystal bowls. Then enjoy a relaxing concert as Ms. Nielsen plays harmonizing sounds and music from crystal bowls. Please bring mat or towel and wear comfortable clothing. Funded by Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Library.

**Brandon Fourth of July Parade / July 4 / 10 a.m. /** Celebrating 60 years, the theme of the annual Fourth of July parade is Through the Decades! Bring your folding chairs, suntan lotion, sunglasses, and water to enjoy the largest Fourth of July Parade in Florida! The parade begins at 101 E. Lumsden Rd., Brandon.



## Golf for Kids Classic is a Hole-in-One

Brief and Photos by Wendy Knipp

On April 28, The Bloomingdale Golfers Club hosted the 2017 Golf for Kids Classic. The Epilepsy Services Foundation and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors fundraiser took in over \$12,000 to benefit children in the Tampa Bay area who are living with epilepsy. For information about The Epilepsy Services Foundation, contact Thomas Orth at 813-374-8907.



Participants, including from left, Rich Kemper, Karen Howe, Wally Fitzgibbons and Tom Brophy enjoyed raising money for a worthy cause.







## June School News - A Look at What's Happening

Compiled by Deidre Morgan

School News!



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



### ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

No information available at this time.

### CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

#### Enrichment Camps

Summer Enrichment Camps at Cimino are June 5-8 and June 12-15. Look for more information on Peachjar. There are six fun camps for current k-5 students. Ratio is 15 students per teacher and slots will fill on a "first come, first serve" basis. Transportation, breakfast and lunch are not provided. Students may bring drinks and snacks if they would like.

#### Summer Reading

Reading on a daily basis over the summer is very important. Find out how to use Istation at home during the summer months at <http://info.istation.com/summer>. Don't forget to grab the summer e-book!

#### 2017-2018 Supply Wish Lists

The Classroom Supply Wish List for 2017-2018 is available online at [http://cimino.mysdhc.org/?Templates=RWD&object=/School\\_News/S6BBC5850-76E02356&infobar=no](http://cimino.mysdhc.org/?Templates=RWD&object=/School_News/S6BBC5850-76E02356&infobar=no).



### BURNS BRUINS BANTER

No information available at this time.



### BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

June 5-7 - Yearbook Team Building in Room 259, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

June 12-13 - Senior Picture Day in the Auditorium, 7 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

### BULL BRIEFS

#### Freshman Book for Class of 2021

Incoming freshman can view the Welcome to Bloomington Handbook on line at [http://bloomington.mysdhc.org/School\\_Newsletters/freshmanbook2021.pdf](http://bloomington.mysdhc.org/School_Newsletters/freshmanbook2021.pdf).



### DimensionU Summer Math Splash

DimensionU announces the 2017 Summer Math Splash virtual math games competition for Hillsborough County Students in grades 3-8. A Kindle Fire Tablet will be awarded each week to a new winner! For information, visit [myspot.sdhc.k12.fl.us](http://myspot.sdhc.k12.fl.us).

## Today! Today Today!

**Dover Football Youth Camp / 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. / Dover Patriots Field, 1300 Sydney Dover Rd, Dover /** Make the right call and join Durant head Coach, other Coaches and College Players for a one-of-a-kind football camp. Registration is \$50 and includes camp t-shirt, lunch and drinks. Call Coach Nelson @ 486-9981, mike @ 764-1176, Curtis 562-8105 or Gary @ 863-409-2753.





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The BSHS Crimson Guard has grown exponentially in recent years providing hundreds of students an amazing opportunity to participate in this extracurricular sport. While strictly an afterschool activity, they have filled the School's trophy case with prestigious awards under Band Director, Jon Sever and coach, Billy Sullivan.

The time and commitment needed to achieve this form of success is considerable. Practice begins in the summer months before school begins and a typical school week consists of at least eight hours of team practice. This program teaches students more than just drills and techniques; it teaches them the importance of work ethics, team building, time management and perseverance. They also have memorable experiences and a whole lot of fun.

The Crimson Guard performances include football half-time shows with the Ragin' Bull Band, the Brandon 4th of July parade, Snow on 7th parade in Ybor and pep rallies at Bloomingdale. They also offer a friends and family performance at the beginning of Winter Guard season and just before State Championships in Daytona. The last performance of the year was April 29 for Prisms. The Crimson guard featured Dance, Sabre, Rifle and Flag to a Britney Spears mash up. To see the team in action, visit [https://youtu.be/rzCCX4JV\\_58](https://youtu.be/rzCCX4JV_58).

As the team has grown and become more successful, so have the costs. For the first time ever, the team is looking for T-shirt and Banner Sponsors for Marching season and Winter Guard. This year was extremely challenging with more than 90 Guard members and not all members able to cover the cost of equipment, uniforms, and performance fees. The faculty and coaches try not to turn students away based on their ability to pay, but scholarship funds have run out and fundraisers are becoming less effective, especially for those with the least resources.

This outstanding group needs your help. To be a part of this worthy group's continued success, contact Coleen Petree in the main office at Bloomingdale High school at 813-744-8018 or Lynn Rodriguez at 813-770-6117.



Crimson Guard Marching Squad



Crimson Guard B Team

### Crimson Guard Award Highlights

*30 years to date -- Straight Superior Marching Band/Guard Performances FBA/MPA*

- 2011 FFCC Scholastic AA State Champions
- 2012-2015 WGI Orlando Regional Finalist
- 2012,2014 Southeastern Elite Championship Semi-finalist
- 2012,2014,2015,2017 Top Five (State) Varsity Team National A Class
- 2014 Top Five (State) JV Team Scholastic AAA Class
- 2014 JV State Sportsmanship Award Winner
- 2015,2016 Southeastern Elite championship Finalist
- 2016 JV State Champions FFCC B Class
- 2016 Varsity Bronze Medalist National A Class
- 2016,2017 WGI Tampa Regional Finalist
- 2017 JV WGI Regional Champions
- 2017 JV State Silver Medalist FFCC AAA Class



Crimson Guard Varsity Squad



Crimson Guard Varsity Squad



Crimson Guard JV Silver Squad

Photos Courtesy: Crimson Guard





## 1st Annual BSHS Football Golf Classic Benefits Athletes

Brief and Photos By Deidre Morgan

Coach Max Warner along with his coaching staff hosted the 1st Annual Bloomingdale Football Golf Classic at Bloomingdale Golfers Club on May 5. The event was held to raise funds for the football team and to get the community, players, coaches and parents together for some fun. Money raised will help the team with equipment, uniforms and participation in local camps and scouting events. Local businesses donated raffle prizes and provided food for the event. It was a great success and the team was very appreciative for all the support from the community and the Bloomingdale Golfers Club for hosting the event.



Melanie Skinner concentrates on her putt while Roy Kerr looks on.



Head Coach Max Warner (right) gets ready to hit the links with Defensive Coordinator Coach John Lima (left) and Linebacker Coach Bruce Gifford.

The first place team, with a score of 59, were Brian Hollister, Gary Mounce, Jason Barnett and Kevin Ramsey (left to right).



Cheri and Paul Pignataro man the Par 3 Poker table and explain how the game is played.

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Burns Middle School is proud to have as an outstanding choral program, which is winning both individual and group awards. Below is a recap of their stellar 2016-2017 year.

### Individual Recognition

- All County Honor Choir – Eight students selected including Chelsie Archuleta, Adriana DuPont, Jake Kehrmeyer, Maria Kelly, Morgan Moody, Jonah Peacock, Emily Pouder and Kailah Royal.
- All State Honor Choir – Four students selected including Chelsie Archuleta, Adriana DuPont, Morgan Moody and Jonah Peacock.
- American Choral Directors Assn., Florida Men's Honor Choir - Four students selected including Braedon Ferger, Everin Hawman Rae, Jonah Peacock and Joshua Lacy.
- American Choral Directors Assn., National Honor Choir – Three students selected including Alaina Barry, Jonah Peacock and Madeline Peacock.

### Group Awards

During District competition, Burns earned the following for Solo and Ensemble performances:

- Solos – 2 Superiors
- Duets - 3 Superiors and 1 Excellent
- Quartet – 1 Superior
- Show Choir – 1 Superior

During the Music Performance Assessments, Burns earned the following group awards:

\*Symphonium (Men's Chorus) - Excellent for performance and Superior for sight-reading.

\*Legacy (Intermediate Ladies' Chorus) - Superior for performance and Superior for sight-reading.

\*Ovation (Show Choir, which performed as a Chamber Choir for this event) - Superior for performance and Superior for sight-reading.

\*Bravura (Advanced Ladies Chorus) - Superior with Distinction for performance and Superior for sight-reading. Bravura was one of only 11 middle school choral groups in the state selected as a Middle School Choir of Distinction. This is a significant accomplishment and honor. Both the Bravura group and Burns' Choral Director Mrs. Andrea Peacock will be recognized at the Florida Vocal Association Summer Convention in July.

Congratulations to Mrs. Peacock and the entire Choral Group at Burns Middle School!



On May 12, Burns Middle School's 7th and 8th grade Chorus students performed at Universal's CityWalk. Burns' Band and Orchestra also performed later that day.

Photo: Debbie Pouder



Here’s an end-of-season shout out to the BSHS Lady Bulls Flag Football team...Congratulations on another fantastic season. After advancing to their 5th consecutive district championship final with a semifinal 33-0 win over Plant City on May 1, the Lady Bulls fell just short of taking home the crown in a hotly contested game against East Bay. The May 3 final ended with the Lady Bulls losing 14-13 in double overtime. They finished the year with a 10-4 win-loss record.

Courtesy Photo: <https://twitter.com/bdaleflag>



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## Spring Football Jamboree!

Brief and Photo: Deidre Morgan

Newsome High School was the site for this year's annual spring football game. Four local high schools participated in the event where the teams played for 2 quarters each. First up were the Brandon Eagles against the Durant Cougars. Durant came away with a 21-7 victory over Brandon.

Bloomington and Newsome were up next. Bloomington received the opening kick and Edward Amos ran the ball back 80 yards for a touchdown. The Bulls beat the Wolves 21-16.

The Bulls put on an impressive showing and we are looking forward to the upcoming season!



## Congratulations to Some of our Youngest Graduates!

Photo: Village Early Learning Center



The Village Early Learning Center 2017 Pre-Kindergarten class, 93 strong, graduated on May 20 at Bell Shoals Baptist Church. Students perform for parents and friends during the ceremony. Twelve more students will graduate in July. This summer, the VELC will host a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) class. Register now.







# Seniors Play Pivotal Role in Bulls Baseball Success

Staff Report

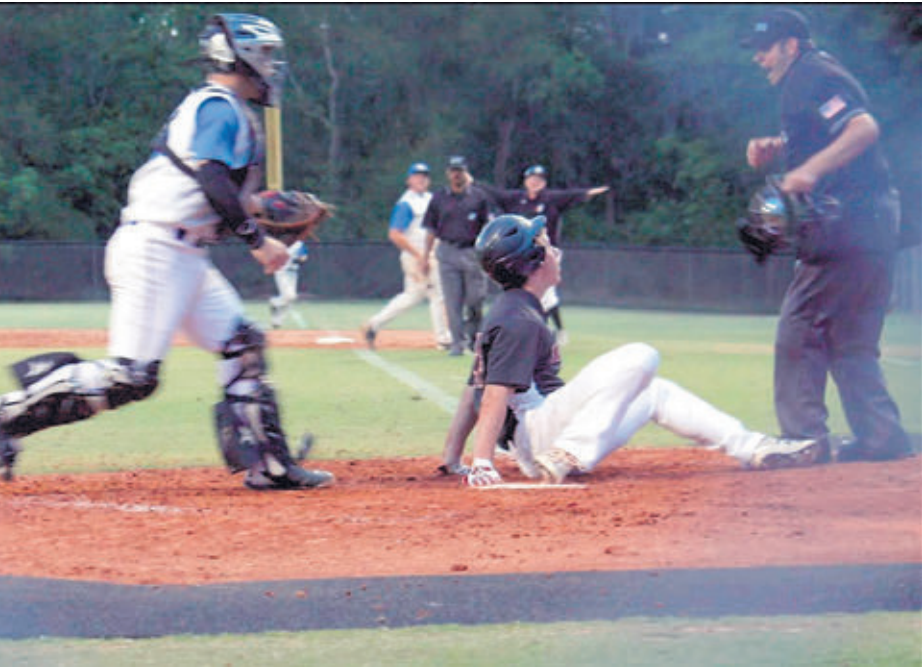
Photos: David Gonzalez


BSHS Bulls Baseball finished the regular season with a record of 14-11. During post-season play last month, the team faced Plant City in the FHSAA Baseball Championship play-offs. There the season ended with a 1-0 loss against the tough Panther squad.

Seniors (lower right) led the way this year with many of the athletes continuing to play at the college level. Luckily, for Head Coach Kris Wilken, next year's team will boast a talented and experienced returning roster.



During the District Championship game against Riverview High on May 5. Parent and photographer David Gonzalez captured the "Play of the Day." His son and 1st year Senior, Sam Gonzalez somersaults over Riverview catcher, Josh Rulli. Although called out for illegal sliding, the sell-out crowd went wild. Sam also was a star receiver on Bloomingdale's Varsity Football team.






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