



The  
Graduation  
Issue

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

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## GRADUATION

Coverage starts on page 11



BSHS graduates Maya Barera (USF), Elizabeth Corn (FSU) and Courtney Walsh (UF). Photo: Tracey Corn

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### WINNER

2013, 2014 & 2016

Hillsborough County  
Neighborhood  
Recognition Award

Best Communications  
Newsletter Category

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." *Confucius*



# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

## YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

### Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: [Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com](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 Bloomington Community Office.

**President:** *George T. May IV*

**Vice President:** *Suzy Watts*

**Secretary:** *Joanie Wilson*

**Treasurer:** *Grace Lewis*



### Directors at Large:

*Daniel Berkowitz*

*Sean Donahue*

*Bobbi Ferraro*

*Carl Hallinan*

*Billy Hightower*

*Beth Smedley*

*Charlie Woodcock*

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



### JOY BOISSELLE

#### Editor - The Bloomington Gazette

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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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## Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

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

### Out-of-State Buyers Want the Florida Lifestyle - Don't Forget Your Lanai!

The Tampa Bay Times recently published an article stating 55,000 people moved to the Tampa Bay area last year. I see a fair amount of these buyers coming from Northern states.

One area sellers forget about is the lanai and pool area. I show so many homes where the outdoor space is bare or just boring. The photo illustrates my point. While the size of the space is great, just a couple of chairs and a pretty outdoor rug in this screened-in patio could help sell this home!

When I help our Northern buyers find their forever Florida home, most consider the lanai and patio an important part of their decision. As the seller, it's important to paint a picture of outdoor entertaining, relaxing poolside or simply enjoying a morning coffee so that buyers can imagine their new Florida lifestyle in your house.



By Ronnie McLaughlin

The Chadderton Real Estate Group  
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### Neighborhood Snapshot - The Villas at Bloomingdale

The Villas at Bloomingdale, located between Natures Way and Greenhollow Lane, is a mandatory HOA neighborhood of 18 homes. Callista Avenue is the only street in the community. The single family homes average 1671 square feet and were built between 1997-1999. Per the Multiple Listing System, there were no sales over the past 365 days. Eight of the homes boast wooded backyard views and at least seven of the homes have private pools. One distinguishing feature of this community is the orange tiled roofs.



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# BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



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

## BHA Membership: What do you get for \$35 a Year?

Join the BHA! As we enter the mid-point of our annual membership drive, we still need your support! Membership is not pro-rated and your \$35 membership is returned 100 percent to the community.

Your \$35 includes The Fall Festival, Clean-Up Days, A Dedicated Board that advocates for community improvements to government officials, The HOA website, Facebook and Twitter Pages; and The Award-Winning Bloomingdale Gazette. Also provided: An Office with Part-Time Staff to assist with inquiries, Community-Wide Garage Sale, Santa Visit and Charity Food Drive, Scholarship and Community Service Hour Opportunities; and the Yard of the Month. Finally, a Neighborhood Standards Program helps maintain our property standards and quality of life. We do not enforce deed restrictions; rather we work with county code officers to report code violations. See the standards list at [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://www.bloomingdalehoa.com).

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.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. 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.



## 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 11, 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 12, 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 21, NEW TIME: 6 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council** chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Cliff Fletcher, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

## BHA BRIEFS

### Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

The May meeting again focused on county code ordinance enforcement. Nearly 60 violations have been reported since the April board meeting. The majority of complaints are overgrowth, accumulations and RV/boat parking, size and setbacks. Neighbors are encouraged to speak to their neighbors first before initiating a complaint to the BHA or county code. Sometimes a simple conversation is all that is needed. Remember complaints to the BHA are confidential and reported anonymously to county. Check out the neighborhood standards list at [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://www.bloomingdalehoa.com).

### One-on-One Office Hours with Commissioner Stacy White

*June 14, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

Commissioner White is holding Community Office Hours at the Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue in Valrico. Meetings will be held one-on-one, on a first-come, first-served basis. This is the time to sit down in a personal setting with Commissioner White without having to come to Downtown Tampa! For information, call 813-272-5740.



### BHA wins Neighborhood & Community Partnership Award

While winning awards is not the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's priority, the board appreciates the nod to the good work they do. Since the Hillsborough County's award program began, the BHA has earned nine awards over a 5-year period.

Congratulations to the BHA and Bloomingdale Community for winning the Hillsborough County Neighborhood and Community Partnership Award at the 15th Annual Neighborhoods Conference on May 12. See BHA President George May's video interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdgv6S2trq8&feature=youtu.be>.

### Street Flooding, Drainage Issues?

Put a service request in through Hillsborough County @ <https://service.hillsboroughcounty.org/311/flooding/>. **Reminder: Do not blow lawn clippings into residential streets. This contributes to clogging our aging sewer systems.**



Photo: Beverly Harbord



## **Bethany Gallagher Awarded BHA Scholarship** By Wendy Knipp

Congratulations to Bloomingdale High School senior (now graduate) Bethany Gallagher for earning the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 2018 B.J. Stelter \$2,000 Scholarship. The BHA awards the scholarship to a deserving senior in the Bloomingdale community to assist with college expenses.

According to scholarship chairperson Dann Berkowitz, Bethany's essay helped put her on top of the fierce competition. "It was extremely well written and very personal. It gave the committee insight into who she is as a person and a future scholar," explained Berkowitz.

Gallagher's drive inside the classroom and passion for helping in our community is what makes her a success. She takes on academic challenges with determination and ease while all the while staying active in school clubs. Boasting a 5.66 GPA, this talented academican has completed numerous Honors, Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes.

Her clubs include Color Guard, Crimson Guard, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, the Brain Bowl team and Jazz Band. She credits her teachers with inspiring to learn and fall in love with science.

Outside of the classroom, she gives back to the community completing over 300 community service hours. She assists mentally and physically challenged students in the Special Olympics, plays piano for a local nursing home and feeds the homeless.

Gallagher lives at home with her mom and dad, Marie and Jay. She feels that staying in the same school district (Alafia, Burns, Bloomingdale) helped her succeed and says, "I've loved having the consistency of being around the same people in the same neighborhood while going through major school, interest, and life changes. Having those constants made growing up easier and more comfortable than if I didn't have a solid foundation."

As for the award, Gallagher said, "[I am] so incredibly grateful to be chosen for this scholarship, as it shows this community's support for students furthering their education."

She plans on studying Neuroscience and Computer Science at Florida Atlantic University in the Fall. Congratulations, Bethany!



The Gallagher family, Dad Jay, Bethany and Mom Marie with scholarship chair Dann Berkowitz at the May 8 board meeting where Bethany received the community's \$2,000 education scholarship.

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# June Community Calendar

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

**Fitniche & Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co Pub Run / June 6 / 6:30-7:30 p.m. / Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co., 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Rd // 5k Run starting and Ending at Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co. Runners get Buy One, Get One Free Beer. Call 813-703-8835 or email jamie@bullfrogcreekbrewing.com for details.**



**T Marie's Valrico Sunday Market / 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. / 3407 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Valrico/http://www.ValricoSundayMarket.com**

// Our market under the Grandfather Oaks is a weekly event that offers fun in the sun, fresh shopping, and serves as a gathering place for families and friends to bond, mingle, and buy local. We have live entertainment, and tons of unique vendors ranging from fresh produce, homemade foods, jewelry, home decor, woodworking, gift items, kid and pet friendly products, and so much more. For information, call 813-530-0922.

**Parents Night Out: Bricks 4 Kidz / June 8 / 6:30-9:30 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA, 3414 Culbreath Rd // Parents, have an evening to yourselves! Sign your kids up (5-12) for our Parents Night Out: Bricks 4Kidz edition. Pizza dinner INCLUDED! Registration is now open! Bricks 4 Kidz wants everyone to know just how AWESOME LEGO® can be! In this fun filled Friday night workshop, kids will build a fun motorized LEGO® robotic creation with one of our Master Builders from Bricks 4 Kidz-Tampa, FL! Everywhere members: \$10, Here members: \$20, Non-members: \$30.**



**Boots on the Beach Country Party / June 14 / 6-Midnight / Circles Waterfront Restaurant 1212 Apollo Beach Blvd, Apollo Beach**

// Come enjoy a boot-slappin' country party, 21 & Up - No Children! Every 2nd THURSDAY of the Month June through December. VIP Patio Seating Available. \$10/seat at the door or purchased in advance (20% auto-gratuity in VIP). For information, call 813-641-3275 or email info@circleswaterfront.com.



**Crystal Bowls Concert and Educational Talk / June 15 / 2-3:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue / www.HCPLC.org. // 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. Adults, please.**

**Libraries Rock, Readers Roll! / June 21 / 2-3 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue / www.HCPLC.org // Music, magic, puppets, illusion, comedy, and audience participation create a symphony of fun. Presented by Stage Right Live. Grades K-5.**

**Mosquito's Worst Enemy is Free / HC Press Release // More than 40 species of mosquitoes reside in Hillsborough County, but you don't have to let them live in your backyard. Hillsborough County Mosquito Control will provide larvae-eating mosquito fish for residents at two nearby events this month. Residents must bring a photo ID showing their local address to receive fish, while supplies last.**



June 24, 9 to 11 a.m. – Bloomingdale Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. in Valrico

June 24, noon to 2 p.m. – Riverview Branch Library, 10509 Riverview Drive in Riverview

The county's program is aimed at curbing the spread of diseases like the Zika virus. To access the Zika Virus Info Hotline, call 855-622-6735. To view a county video about mosquito fish, go to <https://youtu.be/f45DUIUJCRO>.

**6th Annual Children's Community Summer Art Show / Entries may be submitted: June 25 – 29 / 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon // \$5.00 entrance fee per piece or 3 pieces for \$10 (3 pieces maximum per artist). Awards will be given in THREE age categories: Ages 4-6, Ages 7-9, Ages 10-13. Drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, jewelry, clay and wood mediums accepted. Two typed 3"x5" index cards/cardstock must accompany each piece of artwork with the following information: Name, Age, Title of Work and artistic statement. Also, list your phone number on the back of each card. An Artist Reception, including refreshments will be July 26 at 6 p.m. with awards presented at 6:30 p.m. All artwork can be taken home the night of the reception and no later than July 30 at 5 p.m.**



Discover the Arts  
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**Mark Your Calendars! Brandon Fourth of July Parade / Brandon Parade Route / July 4 // For over 60 years, The Community Roundtable has put on the largest Independence Day parade in Florida! Come watch the parade along its two-mile long route on the day we celebrate our great nation's birth.**

**Riverview First Friday Food Truck Festival / July 6 / 6-9 p.m. / Summerfield Crossings Golf Club, 13050 Summerfield Blvd, Riverview // Now EVERY MONTH! Featuring Bars, Music and Vendors. No Charge for admission and FREE parking -- No Shuttle Required - Parking is now on site! As many as 15 food trucks on site- BBQ, Thai, Vietnamese, Greek, Seafood, Mediterranean and more!**

**Does Your Yard Have What It takes To Win? / Paula Staples, Public Education Program Coordinator / UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County // Do you have a healthy landscape that balances attractive design with plants, landscape elements and water-efficient irrigation? Submit your yard or business landscape to the Tampa Bay Community Water-Wise Awards contest. The Community Water-Wise Awards program recognizes both businesses and individuals committed to conserving our water resources and protecting the environment by using Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles. Visit <http://tampabaywaterwise.org/> to enter your landscape by June 30**



A beautiful landscape could win you the top award in the Tampa Bay Community Water-Wise Awards contest. Apply by June 30.



# Are you Ready for Storm Season?

Hillsborough County Press Release

Less than a year since Hurricane Irma, residents are reminded to Have a Disaster Plan and Stay Informed. June 1 starts the official hurricane season; now is the time to check evacuation zones, develop a plan and build a supply kit, secure homes and businesses, and stay informed by signing up for real-time emergency alerts. Hurricane seasons runs through Nov. 30 and will be at its peak from mid-August to late October.

Here are nine tips every Hillsborough County resident should keep in mind when preparing a hurricane safety plan or checklist for their families, homes, and businesses:

**1. Have a plan.** Share your efforts with family members.

**2. Register for alerts:** HCFL Alert (<http://hcf.gov.net/residents/public-safety/emergency-management/hcfl-alert>) is Hillsborough County's official mass notification system.

**3. Know your evacuation zone:** The Hurricane Evacuation Assessment Tool (HEAT) can tell you if you are in one of the five evacuation zones.

**4. Pack an evacuation kit:** Include, at least, water, food, medication, personal hygiene items, important papers, clothing and footwear, blankets or sleeping bags, a battery-powered radio and flashlight, a first-aid kit, and cash.

**5. Prepare your pets:** know where pet evacuation shelters are located and make sure you bring necessary supplies for your pet, including a pet carrier, food, medications, and proof of current rabies vaccination and registration tag.

**6. Register for Special Needs Disaster Assistance:** Residents with special needs, seniors, and those without transportation can register for Hillsborough County programs in place to help these individuals prepare and find safe shelter and transportation.

**7. Get your property storm-ready.**

**8. Help your business weather the storm:** Protect your business by taking advantage of no-cost expert consultation form the Florida SBDC at Hillsborough County.

**9. Stay Informed:** Follow Hillsborough County's official social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Hillsborough County residents who use Nextdoor are encouraged to review their email, text message, and urgent alerts notification settings within the app to ensure they receive important weather-related messages.

For complete information, view the Annual Planning Guide at <http://hcf.gov.net/en/residents/public-safety/emergency-management/annual-disaster-planning-guide>.

More information is available on the following webpages:

Ready.gov - Hurricane Preparedness tips from FEMA, the National Hurricane Center - provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Hurricane Safety - American Red Cross.

## Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday Through June 7

### Tax Free Items Include:

Flashlights and lanterns costing \$20 or less.

Radios and Tarps costing \$50 or less.

Coolers costing \$30 or less

Generators costing \$750 or less.

Get the supplies you need for the Hurricane Season well before any storm threatens - the best way to stay safe is to stay prepared!

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# BLOOMINGDALE

## Special Taxing District

THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION  
By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

### They're Baaaaaack!! Signs are Up at Bloomingdale and Culbreath!

The beloved *Bloomingdale* signs at the Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road entrance to the community are back! After more than 2 years the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) has re-installed the signs that were removed during that intersection's construction in 2016 thanks, in part, to a mini-grant awarded to the District by the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations.

Over the last 2 years, the District has received numerous inquiries about the signs from residents who expressed concern over the loss of "identity" for the community. The District will hold a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the signs' return once re-landscaping and planting is completed.

Signs throughout Bloomingdale play a large role in the community's distinct look. Recently, the *Bloomingdale Ridge* AND *Bloomingdale Directory* signs at the intersection of Culbreath Road and Erindale Drive were vandalized. The cost of replacing just one sign - \$2,325. That is money that comes directly from your tax assessment dollars.

Speaking of your tax assessment... the increase proposed in the Referendum that will appear on the August 28 Primary Election ballot will not only enable the BSTD to continue to repair and replace damaged signs but will allow aging signs to be repainted and refurbished in order to keep the community looking beautiful.

Continued sign maintenance and so much more—43 acres of mowing and landscaping, 17 miles of irrigation systems, trimming of 1,200 oak and palm trees, maintenance of trash and Dog-I-Pots, maintenance of entrance lighting, electric, and flag poles—are all at stake with the August Referendum.

With an increase, equal to just \$3.33 more per month per residence, the BSTD will not only be able to continue its current level of maintenance but also:

- ✓ Display holiday lights and decorations once again (approximately \$8,000 annually).
- ✓ Contract with off-duty Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office deputies to patrol our streets and provide additional security (approximately \$35,000 annually for 60 hours of extra patrols each month).
- ✓ Replace aging and deteriorated walls (approximately \$9,000 per 30 linear feet).
- ✓ Upgrade aging irrigation and wells, as well as landscaping, signs, and lighting (currently, cost estimates for landscape replacements for natural attrition and freeze damage alone is \$28,842 for this current fiscal year).
- ✓ Maintain new medians to be installed during the Bell Shoals Road widening project (approximately \$36,000 annually).
- ✓ Implement a new, comprehensive tree maintenance plan for our most-valued asset that will not only enhance the look of the community but will, over time, save annual tree-trimming costs (cost to be determined).

Questions about the tax assessment and need for an increase? The BSTD invites residents to attend the upcoming Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Public Hearing on June 11, 2018, at 6:15 p.m., at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. This is your opportunity to see the proposed budget and the impact the increased costs of maintaining an aging community have. Members of the public are allotted 3 minutes to make comment or ask questions per District policy. Hope to see you there!

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



The *Bloomingdale* signs at the Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road entrance to the community once again stand to welcome residents and visitors after a 2-year absence. Look for details in this column on a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate their return.

Photo: Miriam Leech



Within days of each other, the Bloomingdale Ridge AND Bloomingdale Directory signs were vandalized at Culbreath Road and Erindale Drive. This kind of vandalism costs residents thousands of dollars in tax money and puts an additional burden on the budget of the BSTD.

Photo: Joy Boisselle

## BLOOMINGDALE

### Special Taxing District

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

[www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org](http://www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org)

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

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Jay Kittle, Secretary  
Dann Berkowitz, Trustee  
Russell Jones, Trustee  
Jay Kittle, Trustee  
Bob Meginnis, Trustee

### Monthly Meeting

The residents of Bloomingdale, as always, are invited to attend the next meeting of the BSTD on June 11 at 6:15 p.m., at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. If you would like to speak at the meeting, members of the public are allotted 3 minutes to make comment or ask questions per Hillsborough County policy. *Hope to see you there!*



## 4 Lucky Dogs Dedicated to Pet Rescue

By Jon Alfano



Around the Tampa Bay area, many organizations dedicated to helping animals have sprung up over the past several years. 4 Lucky Dogs Pet Rescue, a pet rescue committed to “providing compassionate support services for the abandoned, abused, neglected and suffering, as well as those left behind in kill shelters” is one such organization.

Seeing so many Tampa dogs dying in shelters was the inspiration behind the organization according to 4 Lucky Dogs founder Robin Marsh. “My partners and I had been involved in various rescues and we wanted to start our own rescue with our own philosophy,” she explained. Their goals include taking a little more time with dogs, specializing in herding/working dogs and dogs that need mental stimulation. Ultimately, they want to find the “best fit” for their rescues in a new home based on their mission to “RESCUE, REHAB, REHOME, REPEAT.”



4 Lucky Dogs partner Theresa Loenza (l.) and founder Robin Marsh enjoy attention from a few of their lucky dogs Diva (l.) and Monica.

Photo: Jon Alfano

One particular dog, Sammie Girl, has a particularly fascinating story. She arrived at 4 Lucky Dogs with a lump the size of a grapefruit that required medical attention. She is about to have her third surgery and the organization is actively looking to find her a loving home.

Founded in 2016, the rescue has made a significant impact on the community in just a few short years hosting numerous rescue events weekly. Their newest community partnership is with Bullfrog Creek Brewing Company at 3632 Erindale Dr. on most Thursdays. Yappy Hour Thursdays is a pet-friendly venue where dog owners can enjoy social interaction with other owners and their pets.

Marsh stressed the importance of “fixing” animals “We have a serious pet overpopulation problem and dogs are dying every day because of it. We must spay and neuter.”

To foster or adopt your lucky dog or cat, email [4luckydogspetrescue@gmail.com](mailto:4luckydogspetrescue@gmail.com), visit their website at <http://4luckydogspetrescue.rescuegroups.org/> and like their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/4luckydogspetrescue/](http://www.facebook.com/4luckydogspetrescue/).



Sammie Girl is looking for her forever home. She has had a tough life, but is, according to the 4LD website, Obedient, Playful, Affectionate, Eager to Please, Intelligent, Even-tempered, and Gentle.

Photo: 4LD Website

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# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher  
and CSO Debbie Vijil

## **BREAKING NEWS!**

On May 10, Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister and Hillsborough County Public Schools Superintendent Jeff Eakins announced the school security plan for our schools. New state laws require an armed, trained, individual on every school campus during the school day beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. In middle and high schools: you will continue to see a school resource deputy or officer from the Sheriff's office or Tampa Police Department. Starting new this fall, there will be an armed school security officer at every elementary school.

Hillsborough County Public Schools has had school security officers in our schools for 49 years. We are expanding that security team, to place one officer at every elementary school. Two-thirds of our district's current security officers are current or former law enforcement officers and one-third are current or former military service members.

"I'm confident the district's security officers are ready for this responsibility, because they have already been handling that role very well for years," said Sheriff Chad Chronister. "I can say, from first-hand experience, these school security officers work well with our law enforcement agency. Our relationship with Hillsborough School Security is almost half a century strong. They are professionals and this is the right solution for Hillsborough County."

Unfortunately, at this time, the School District does not have enough officers



Sheriff Chad Chronister with Superintendent Jeff Eakins, far left, announce new school security measures at the HCSO office on May 10.

Photo: <https://twitter.com/chadchronister>

to staff every school. To get there, the school district will be expanding their security team but it is going to take some time. HCSO will fill in the gaps where there are currently not enough officers until school security officers can be hired and trained. As the new officers come on board, those HCSO personnel will be replaced.

Needing to find 61 deputies almost overnight presents some challenges. In an effort to minimize the impact on our duties and service to the community, we are hiring certified law enforcement personnel on a contract basis for the school year to serve as newly formed School Security Deputies. These new positions will help minimize taking current Deputies out of the field. We anticipate the hand-off from law enforcement officer to Hillsborough Schools Security should take approximately two years.

## **Area Law and Order**

Between April 12 and May 12, Deputies responded to 620 calls in the Bloomingdale area. Many of these calls were self-generated, and not all were criminal reports. Some of the calls were traffic stops, civil issues and disturbances. Natures Way and Culbreath Road continues to have issues with traffic crashes. Slow down, Bloomingdale! There were 12 arrests for DUI, Hit and Run, Road Rage, Warrants, and one Burglary charge. HCSO conducted 35 traffic stops with 10 citations written.

## **Next Bloomingdale Area Community Council Meeting (BACC)! New time!**

Get involved; attend our monthly meeting as a neighborhood representative. Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month – this month's meeting is June 21 at 6 p.m. at 3622 Erindale Drive. The BACC works directly with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to identify community concerns and find solutions to all types of problems. For information, call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station.

## **Specialty Summer Camps Aimed at Kids with a Taste for Adventure**

HC Press Release

Nobody said summer camps always have to involve arts and crafts. Hillsborough County's specialty camps are aimed at adventurous kids who love outdoor activities.

Hillsborough County Parks will offer three specialty camps this summer: skating camp, eco-adventure camp, and fishing camp. All offer specialized instruction and activities for kids, from skateboard techniques to hiking excursions to how to throw a cast net.

Each of the specialty camps cost \$120 for a two-week session, with the first sessions beginning in early June. Children who receive free or reduced-price lunches might qualify for a discount.

For information on the skate camp, call 813-744-5319. For the eco-adventure camp, call 813-734-4712. For the fishing camp, call 813-672-1120.





## Congratulation, 2018 Graduates!

Many students and their families celebrated one of life's most memorable milestones last month – Graduation. From pre-school to college graduations, thank you to all who shared their accomplishment and photos with the Bloomingdale Gazette and the community.

Cimino and Alafia Elementary Schools lauded soon-to-be graduates that spent their early years at the elementary schools with “clap outs.” Parents, friends at current students lined school walkways to provide a rousing send-off. Both 5th Grade students heading to middle school and area high school seniors joined the celebration. Burns Middle School held a “clap out” for their students getting ready to embark on their high school adventures.



Class of 2018 graduates from Bloomingdale, Strawberry Crest and Newsome attend the Clap Out at Cimino Elementary. Photo: Mary Lilly

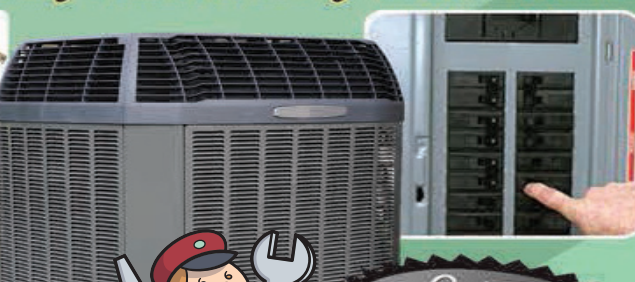


Alafia Elementary's first senior clap out. Photo: Katie Millet

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Burns Clapout, 6th and 7th grade students at Burns Middle School lined the corridors to clap-out 8th graders moving on to high school. Congratulations 8th graders!  
Photos: Wendy Knipp



An inaugural "legacy" program at Cimino leaves behind something special from each graduating class. This year, a flag was gifted as a remembrance to the school.  
Photo: Wendy Knipp



Jillian Ruck (left) and Tessa Monroe sit on the tiled stairs at Cimino. Best friends since elementary school, they will attend UCF and The University of South Carolina, respectively.  
Photo: Nikki Monroe



Leah Angelina Pignataro, 2018 UF grad with proud parents John and Michelle.



Josh Parrish, Durant High School Graduate



2018 Newsome Graduates (L-R) Alec Huskey, Will Bartlett, Victoria Mount



Brenna Dowd and Jessica Ely  
Photo: Debi Dowd



Jason Knipp leaves Cimino for Burns Middle.  
Photo: Wendy Knipp



Erica Floyd and Christina Keith at the clap out.



Cimino friends moving on to Middle School.



Strawberry Crest senior Jeanne Dryer joins Bloomingdale seniors Caitlin Salerno and Julia Harbord at the 1st Alafia Elementary seniors clap out.  
Photo: Beverly Harbord



Molly Klaeren smiles brightly for the camera as she walks by during the Clap Out. Molly has earned her Nail Tech certification and works at Nail World on Lithia Pinecrest.  
Photo: Michele Klaeren



Tori Robertson, who will be attending FSU, strikes a pose with her friend and neighbor Cameron Cornett, who will be attending UF.  
Photo: Dawn Robertson



5th Grade Alafia Elementary Graduate Kayla Hanson with mother Jennifer Hanson



Bennett Brown with his grandmother and Cimino employee, Joyce Crute-Crist (L) and mom, Lori Crute-Brown. Bennett will continue his Bull Pride at USF in the Fall.  
Photo: Lori Crute-Brown



Class V-P Will Steck, Zack Beach & Chris Yecora.



There were three graduations in the Baudrit family in May – Raquel Baudrit from American University with a B.S. in Economics, Isabel Baudrit from Burns Middle School and Felix Baudrit from Bloomingdale High.

**Bloomingdale Principal Sue Burkett's message to Bloomingdale graduates:**

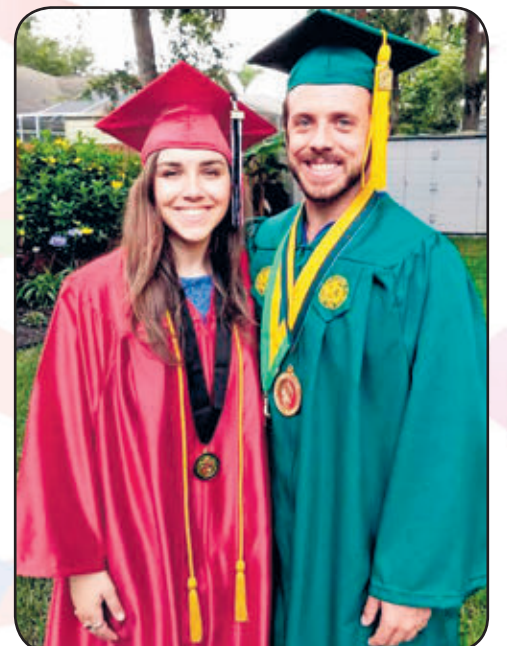
"You did it! Be proud of everything you've done to make it to this day. Your #BullPride, diversity & willingness to overcome make our school special. You're leaving it in a better place. The world belongs to you!"

585 @BloomingdaleSHS Bulls are graduating tonight! They're heading to colleges with \$2m in scholarships, dozens will be serving our country. Never forget how much power you have to change the world! #BullPride"

BSHS graduate Geovannie Fuentes with Abby Spano.



From left to right, Bailey Simon (2011 Riverview High School), Ted Simon, 2018 BSHS graduate Marley Simon, Ty Simon (2015 Robinson High School) and Angie Simon. Marley will attend Florida Gulf Coast University in the fall majoring in Marine Biology.



Rachel and Chris Santarlas, 2018 BSHS graduate and USF graduate respectively. Chris graduated (in 3 years) with a degree in Biomedical Science. He is currently doing research for a doctor at Johns Hopkins in St. Pete while studying for his MCAT.





Leah Angelina Pignataro, 2018 UF grad with proud parents John and Michelle.



Josh Parrish, Durant High School Graduate



2018 Newsome Graduates (L-R) Alec Huskey, Will Bartlett, Victoria Mount

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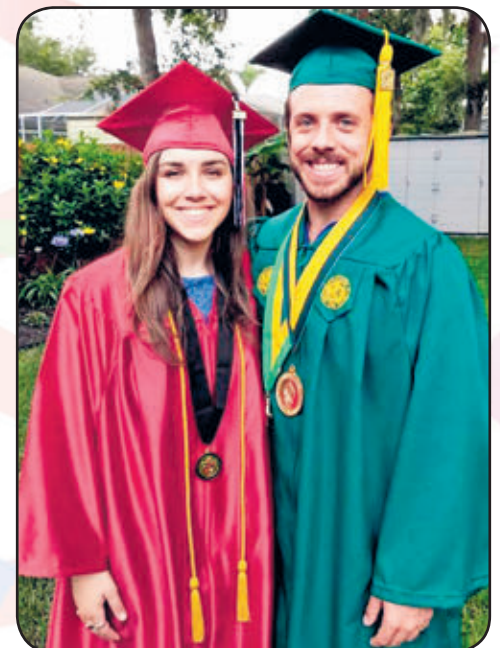
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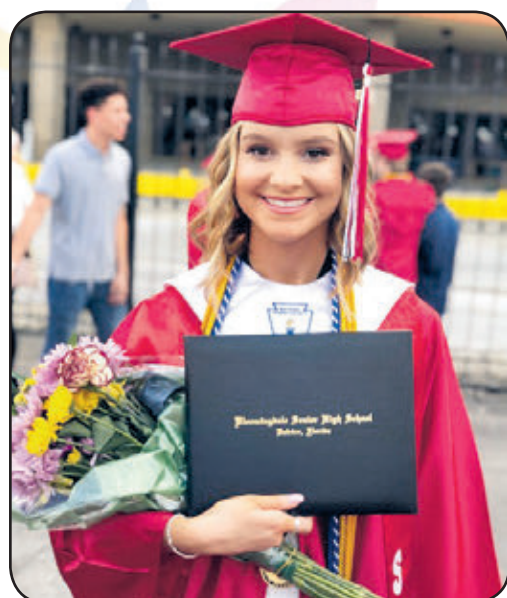
Cole Eskine, a homeschooled senior will study Criminal Justice and play baseball at Adrian College in Michigan



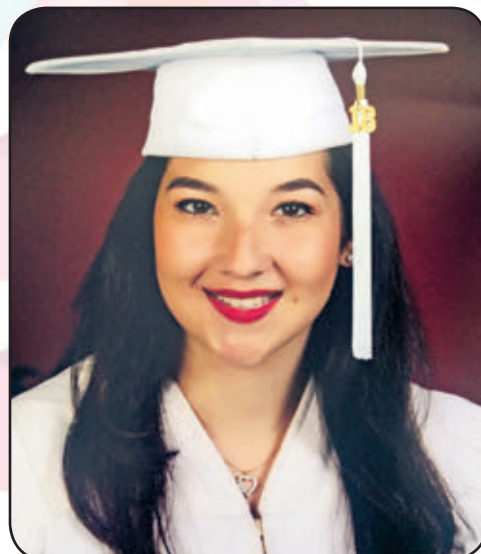
Bloomingdale graduate Bri Patton will serve her country in August as an Army medic. Pictured with her sisters Abby and Kenzie.



Graduating from Bloomingdale is a family affair...Hope McDaniels, 2018 grad Logan (Hootie) McDaniels and Lance McDaniels. Hootie heads to Montreat College in Black Mountain, NC to study cyber security this fall.  
Photo: Becky McDaniels



Julia Odiorne Bloomingdale HS Graduate



Elizabeth Corn, Bloomingdale High School and attending Florida State University.



Valrico resident Grace Daigle graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Strawberry Crest High School IB program. She heads to the University of Florida this fall.



Strawberry Crest Graduate Jason Kaelin exits with his graduating class full of smiles.  
Photo: Jessica Hinson



John Cloyd, Austin Garrett & Zack Dean.





Leah Angelina Pignataro, University of Florida, B.S. statistics and actuarial science. 2014 BSHS grad.



BSHS Graduate Amy Daniels



Evan Philip DeGraff heads to FSU.



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GRADUATION 2018 GRADUATION 2018 GRADUATION 2018



Ivey Soto with her parents, Lenny and Wendy Soto.



SHS Grads (l to r) John Ooroth, Class V-P Will Steck, Zack Beach, Chris Yecora and Tony Alvarez



Shaun Fidler, 2018 BSBS graduate, with brother Ryan and parents Leslie and Dave.





Tony Alvarez, Augustina Fargi, Chris Yecora and Zachary Beach.



Caitlin Laviano, Durant high school, with her brothers Joseph and Scottie.



Graduates with Principal Sue Burkett  
Photo: HCPS Twitter

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SUMMER FUN

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**JUNE: CARNIVAL** month with  
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**JULY: PATRIOTIC** month with  
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**AUGUST: SUPERHERO** month with  
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**[carolyn@tru-harvestmarket.com](mailto:carolyn@tru-harvestmarket.com)**





BSHS grad Brenna Dowd proudly displays shirts from all four years of Rajun Bull Band Show Themes. Dowd was a Crimson Guard member.



Rachel Santarlas with parents Paul and Teresa. Rachel will attend HCC followed by USF.



Bloomington residents Sheri Silva and Allison Sprigg graduated from BSHS.  
Photo: Heather Hanks



2018 BSHS graduates and Geniuses from Tech Support--Imanol Perez, Seth DeCort, Carter Clements and Sheri Silva.  
Photo: Heather Hanks



Erica Floyd and her grandma GeeGee.



2018 BSHS Graduates Erica Floyd and Sarah Overly.







Sloan Brazas graduating VPK from Westminster Academy with her teacher Ms. Kathy. Sloan will attend Lithia Springs Elementary and says she wants to be a dentist when she grows up.  
Photo: Lindsay Brazas



VELC Class of 2018- Graduation was May 19, at Riverview High School. 96 students graduated from the program.



Emma Carroll graduated from Primrose School of Bloomingdale on May 25. She is counting the days until she starts kindergarten at Cimino Elementary.



2018 Primrose School of Bloomingdale graduates



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\*depends on study





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

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

Compiled by Deidre Morgan



## ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

No School Updates at This Time

## CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Back to School Supplies: June 15 Deadline

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## BURNS BRUINS BANTER

No School Updates at This Time

## BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

June 7 – Volleyball Informational Meeting, 7 p.m. in the Gym

June 11-12 – Senior Portraits, 9 a.m. in the Auditorium

## BULL BRIEFS

*Need Community Service Hours This Summer?*

Summer is a great time to work on community service hours for Bright Futures. Print the Community Service Proposal and Hour Log from the Bloomingdale Guidance website ([www.bloomingdaleguidance.org](http://www.bloomingdaleguidance.org)) or pick them up in the guidance office. A list of volunteer sites can be found on the Hillsborough County Schools website.

## FLVS Online Classes

Consider taking a class online through Florida Virtual School ([www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net)) to meet the online requirement for graduation or to make up for required classes you may need.

## RaiseMe Offers Scholarship \$

RaiseMe partners with universities to offer students scholarships for their achievements during high school and community college. Update or start your RaiseMe account at [www.raise.me](http://www.raise.me). Add more accomplishments, change/add colleges you are following and more.



## Class of 2022 Incoming Freshmen Bull Camp, July 30 and July 31

Complete the following online application at <https://goo.gl/forms/XnRWf7UOI8VVxGTH3> to enroll in Bloomingdale High School's Incoming 9th Grade Camp. It is a FREE two-day summer program scheduled for July 30-31 from 8 a.m. to noon at Bloomingdale High School.

Future Bloomingdale students will make new friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers, counselors, and get to know our school! They will also learn about our extracurricular activities, clubs, traditions, AP programs, college/university awareness and much more! If you have any questions, contact Amanda Lafoe at [sgabloomingdale@gmail.com](mailto:sgabloomingdale@gmail.com). For information, visit the Bloomingdale High School website at <http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/>.

# School News!



## Summer Reading Challenge for Elementary and Middle Schoolers!



## READING CHALLENGES!

Win great prizes reading this summer!

**May 28th – August 10th**

Read 5 books (myON or any other book) to earn 1 (one) entry.

Earn a weekly entry by answering challenge questions!

Maximum 10 entries per student.

To enter in the summer reading challenge and learn more, go to:

[www.readonmyon.com](http://www.readonmyon.com).

You can also check out the awesome prizes that will be awarded!



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

[@myONStreetTeam](https://twitter.com/myONStreetTeam)

## Hometown Press Release

Sigma Alpha Lambda is proud to announce that David Quintero-Ochoa of Brandon, FL has recently become recognized as a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization at the University of South Florida. Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national leadership and honors organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and lifelong professional fulfillment. Congratulations to David Quintero-Ochoa.





## Local Schools Increase Security This Fall

By Wendy Knipp

In the wake of the recent school shootings, the State of Florida passed a law requiring each public school to have a trained and armed first-responder on campus each school day. Local schools will be affected.

Currently, elementary schools share a rotating School Security Officer (SSO) who already has an extensive background in safety. Superintendent Jeff Eakins says, “Two-thirds of our district’s current security officers are current or former law enforcement officers and one-third are current or former military service members.”

SSO training will now require at least 132 hours of active shooter response, crisis intervention and defensive tactics. Local schools welcome the changes and want all children to have a safe environment.

Cimino Elementary School Principal Joanne Griffiths said, “At Cimino, we remain focused on making safety our first priority. We continuously evaluate our procedures and take necessary steps to reinforce their effectiveness.”

Each middle and high school already has a dedicated Hillsborough County School Resource Officer (SRO) onsite and that will remain the case. Master Deputy Roger Bradley is the SRO at Burns Middle School and he is confident that SROs will continue to keep our kids safe.

Bradley said, “Our number one goal is the safety of the students and staff on every campus in Hillsborough County. The Sheriff’s office that I’ve worked for over the last 26-plus years has always been ahead, in my opinion, with training and preparedness. The new law will just ensure that even more.”

According to HCPS, the State of Florida has increased our district’s funding by approximately \$6 million to pay for the additional SSOs and supervisors. The initial cost will be about \$7 million for the first year and then \$5.3 million each year thereafter.

For more information, visit <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/departments/9/security>.



Master Deputy Roger Bradley always makes safety a priority at Burns Middle School where he is the School Resource Officer.

Photo: Wendy Knipp

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## Burns Creativity Shines at 1st Annual Art Show

Brief/Photos: Wendy Knipp

Talented artists from the Art Club at Burns Middle School held the first annual Art Show in their classroom on May 3. The show coincided with orientation for incoming 6th graders which made it a perfect night to showcase their best pieces to new students and parents.



8th grade artist Nadia Nijjer exhibits her creative works of art at Burns.



Pamela Reeves (middle) is the Visual Arts teacher at Burns and is "crazy proud" of her students.



7th grader  
Dylann  
Laufenberg.



8th grader  
Anna  
McIlece



## Bloomingdale Spring Football Jamboree

Brief: Deidre Morgan

Durant High School was the host of this year's Annual Spring Football Jamboree on May 17. Four schools participated in the event. The first two quarters of the game was played by Brandon and Newsome High Schools. Brandon came out on top with a score of 19-7.



Bloomingdale and Durant played the last two quarters. The Bulls had a very impressive game with a 27-0 win over the Cougars. The Bulls are off to a great start and we look forward to seeing them continue to show their stuff in the upcoming season. Go Bulls!

The Bloomingdale Bulls Football team takes the field at the Spring Jamboree at Durant High School.

Photos: Bloomingdale Bulls Football Twitter



Running Back Rodney Roseboro heads for the end zone to score one of his two touchdowns on Jamboree night.





# Burns Orchestra Ends the School Year with a Bang!

By Jessica Hinson

On May 15, Burns Middle School Orchestra performed their end of the year concert at Bloomingdale High School. The lineup for the evening included performances by the Beginning, Philharmonic, Symphonic, and Chamber Strings.

Director Sandy Neel chose songs for each group to perform that showed off their talents. Beginning Strings performed 4 pieces – the highlight being “Dragon Hunter”, with an interactive Dragon making an appearance on stage. The Philharmonic Strings performed “Stairway to Heaven”, which quickly became a crowd favorite. The combined Philharmonic and Symphonic Orchestra performed current day music, including titles “Uptown Funk” and “Shut Up and Dance.” Chamber Strings took selections from several pieces they performed throughout the season and arranged a medley of their favorite pieces for their Showcase performance.



7th Graders Kyra Knapp, Emily Gundin and Charlotte Mirabella

Burns Orchestra has a tradition of excellence. Of the 227 students, 82 were 6th graders that just began playing in January. Ten students were chosen for All-County Orchestra and two were chosen for All-State Orchestra this past fall. This year at Solo and Ensemble competition seven students performed solos, 15 performed duets, and three performed ensembles. Superior ratings were received by all 25 acts entered into competition, including two awards for Superior with Distinction, the highest honor possible.

Orchestra Booster President Shari Smith stated, “I want people to understand how hard-working these kids are, and how many hours they put into pulling off these pieces of music. It always amazes me how I think they are never going to get it to sound right, and then I am so proud of them all because they always exceed my expectations.”

In today’s age of electronics and social media, the end of year concerts were a breath of fresh air. Kudos to Director Neel for teaching a love of music these students will never forget.



Lala Freeman, 7th grade



Photos: Dea Knapp

Double Bassist Cristian Rios-Oliveras



Owen Donahue - 7th



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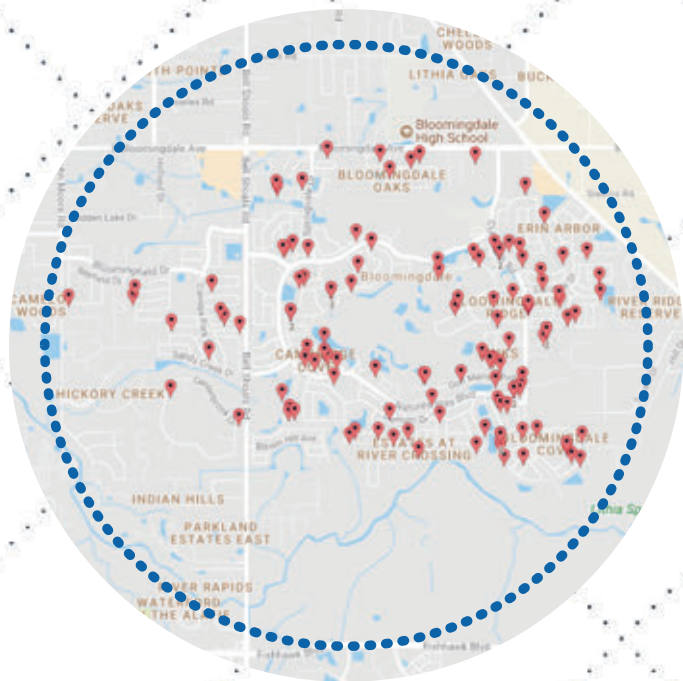
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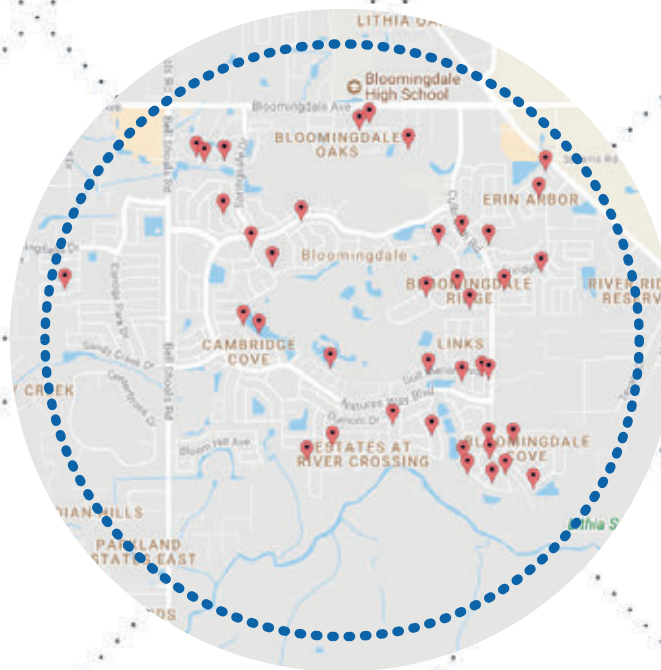
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