



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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Nuts, Who Needs 'Em?



Photo: Robert Jaeger

Bloomingtondale has many kinds of wildlife to enjoy. Here, a white tail squirrel samples a hibiscus flower. Robert and Sigrid Jaeger submitted this photograph taken in the front yard of their Bloomingtondale West home. Want to show off your photography skills? Send your photo to inbloomingtondalenews@gmail.com to share with the community!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Nothing is Impossible, the word itself says I'm Possible" *Audrey Hepburn*

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Hillsborough County
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THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road
Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

*Sean Donahue
Billy Hightower
Bobbi Ferraro
Beth Smedley
Joanie Wilson
Charlie Woodcock*

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Secretary: *Suzy Watts*

Treasurer: *Mary Galin*

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

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Tampa Bay Times

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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

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317427-1

Yard of the Month



Photo: Cummings Family



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

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



Donell & Emily Cummings 3710 Kingsford Place, Valrico FL 33596 (Cypress Reserve)

Wanted: A Forever Home and Family

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center has the Right Pet for You

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center (PRC), the county's animal shelter has many cats and dogs looking for their "forever" homes. At your county shelter, dogs and cats are surprisingly affordable – at one location – open seven days a week. Each comes fully vetted with a complement of services (adding up to a savings of hundreds of dollars). While some fees may apply, PRC adoption packages can save "prospective parents" anywhere from \$250 - \$400.

For information on adoptions and foster care, lost pets or spay/neuter vouchers, contact the PRC at 813-744-5660 or visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets. Located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd., the center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Manny (A1643390) is a playful 1-year-old that is ready to go home with his new family!



Manny



Lana

Lana (A1644517) is an amber-eyed 2-year-old on the lookout for her new family. She has been spayed and microchipped, and is up-to-date on her shots.



Provided By The Pet Resource Center

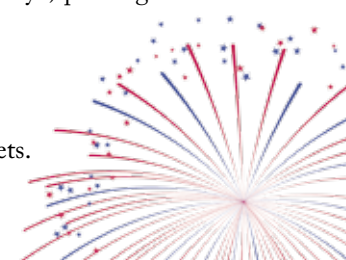


Red, White & Bark!
Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center Celebrates Heroes during July

Celebrate our military heroes and first responders. Today, adoption fees will be waived for military personnel and first responders with Valid ID. In addition, adoption fees for all ready-to-go dogs on July 2 are just \$4. After today, the \$4 offer will apply to dogs 40 pounds or larger.

The First Saturday Celebration is July 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adoption packages include spaying/neutering, vaccinations, microchip with free registration, and Hillsborough County pet license tag (a package valued at \$250 to \$400). Come enjoy refreshments and music, special guests, exhibitors, rescue partners, and foster pets ready for adoption. As always, parking and admission are free.

For information, call (813) 744-5660 or visit HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets.





BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



Join today!

Simply cut out the membership notice, 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. If you come by the office, ask for your special gift!

2016 Membership Drive Continues

Please consider joining and strengthening the one organization that advocates for the entire community of nearly 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. As a non-profit, BHA funds are returned 100 percent to the community through the many programs and services the Association sponsors.

To those who have joined and/or donated to our scholarship fund, we thank you. The Association will continue to develop ways to improve the quality of life of residents. The annual fall festival is fast approaching and the board is working to add a second community clean-up also in the fall.

Every member and dollar matter. The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. Your membership helps this dedicated group of volunteers continue to keep Bloomingdale a great community in which to raise a family and a great place to call home.

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.
3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33596 • bloomingdalehoa.com


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

Name: _____

Address: _____

2016 BHA MEMBERSHIP
\$35.00 to Join or Renew!

Return This Card With Payment



2016 Membership \$35.00

Community Scholarship Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Check Number # _____

You may also join the Association through our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. ALL membership funds go back to our community, and all residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.

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

BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Monday, July 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, July 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, July 21, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Master Deputy Curtis Warren, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

BHA BRIEFS

June Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

General – County Code department officials David Cansler and Christine Zien talked to the board about the county's new outreach program headed by Zien. The board asked for their support with the community standards initiative, which is based on county code ordinances which are enforceable. The board expects to have the neighborhood standards list ready for publication in next month's Gazette.

Board Vacancies - Two seats remain vacant on the 12-member board as well as two alternate positions. Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings to see if joining the volunteer board is something they would consider. Residents may also volunteer for board committees without having to become a full board member.

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

Want Improved Roads? Then, The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association needs your support!

What and Why:

In an effort to improve Lithia-Pinecrest Road (Section B: from Lumsden to Bloomingdale), the BHA asks residents to attend the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting in September to amend the MPO plan. An approved amendment will allow the County Commissioners to consider funding improvements in the next few fiscal years. Without the amendment, funding for Lithia-Pinecrest Road improvements will not be considered for decades.

Who: Area Residents

As a show of support for this initiative, the BHA requests residents wear green.

When: September 6, 6 p.m.

NOTE: Date and Time are subject to change. The BHA will update as needed in the Gazette and on the Bloomingdale HOA Facebook page.

Where: County Center

26th Floor Conference Rooms A&B
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602

For information, call 813-681-2051 or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.

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



Fall Festival is Oct. 22 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club!

Planning continues for the biggest event of the year. Sponsors are signing up weekly including Jeremiah's Italian Ice who will once again bring free samples to the family fun day.



Also onboard is Sarge's BBQ serving the best barbecue around, The Chadderton Real Estate Group sponsoring a bouncy house and more, more, more! 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 or call 813-681-2051 for information.

The Commissioner's News

By Commissioner Stacy White Board of County Commissioners, District 4

(Editor's Note: Commissioner Stacy White represents District 4, which includes our Bloomingdale community. He was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in 2014. A Valrico native, White seeks to improve communities like ours. Prior to his election, he served the county as a member of the Hillsborough County School Board.)



There has been a lot of recent county government activity that affects the Bloomingdale community.

I'm glad to see that plenty of road construction is under way. As frustrating as it is to deal with right now, I have no doubt that it will ease congestion in the area once completed. I am pleased to announce that I recently championed another \$1 million in impact fees from a nearby project to be spent on even more road improvements in the area!

After an arduous process with plenty of debate, the County Commission has decided to move forward with a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) plan for transportation infrastructure improvements. I supported this plan and a close financial analysis tells me that it will allow the County Commission to plow approximately \$1 billion into our roads and other transportation needs over a 10 year period without raising your taxes! The analysis also shows that this can be done in such a way that other county services, such as parks, don't suffer.

Speaking of parks, I've received a lot of calls to the office asking if it's possible to have a dog park in the Bloomingdale community. In talking with county staff, it seems that there is a high likelihood that one of our existing parks in the Bloomingdale community can be partially retrofitted to accommodate a dog park component. I'll keep you posted on that!

Finally, I wish to thank all of the citizens that came out to my recent community office hours at Bloomingdale Library. I look forward to seeing you at future office hours or just out in the community in general.

I look forward to sharing more news with you in the next column. In the meantime, I'm just a phone call or email away at 813-272-5740 or whites@hillsboroughcounty.org.



Commissioner Stacy White, center, and BHA President George May, second from right, at the grand opening of Fire Station 7 on Bloomingdale Avenue last year.

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317060-1

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

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

Brandon Fourth of July Parade / July 4 / 10 a.m. / Bring your folding chairs, suntan lotion, and sunglasses and enjoy the largest Fourth of July Parade in Florida! This year's theme is Celebrate America! This family event is the perfect start to the day. The parade is about 2 miles long, beginning at the corner of Lumsden Road and Parsons Avenue and winding through the center of Brandon with typically 100 entries. Come early to reserve your spot along the route. For information visit www.communityroundtable.org.



Channelside Bay Plaza 4th of July Celebration / July 4 / 6-10 p.m. / Billed as the Tampa area's largest summer fireworks show, the July 4 event takes place at 615 Channelside Drive in Tampa. The festivities kick off with live music, entertainment and family friendly activities at 6 p.m. The celebration is set to end at 10 p.m. For details, visit Channelside online.

Democratic Women's Club / July 7 / 6-7:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library Community Room / The Democratic Women's Club of Southeast Hillsborough will host Tampa lawyer and community activist Pat Kemp and Clerk of the Circuit Court Pat Frank at their July meeting. Hear these two distinguished women present their campaign platforms and perspectives on current key issues in Hillsborough County. Ms. Kemp is running for Hillsborough County Commissioner (Countywide, District 6) while Ms. Frank seeks re-election to the post she has held since 2004. Call 813-654-7464 for information.

ONGOING FOR SUMMER

Summer Palooza at the Campo Family YMCA / July 9 / 4-7 p.m. / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / The Epic Mid-Summer Bash will feature a pool party, ring toss, mega bubbles, arts and crafts, dive-in movie, refreshments, music, food, prizes, and more! Participation in some activities for members only. Look for the next Summer Palooza event on August 6. For information, call 813-684-1371.

AARP of Greater Brandon / July 11 and the 1st Monday of Every Month / 11:30 a.m. / Brandon Community Center / 502 Sadie Street, Brandon / The AARP of Greater Brandon hosts speakers, parties, games, etc. Beverages and dessert are furnished. Anyone over 55 is welcome and may bring a friend. July and August are picnics, trips, etc. For information, call Jean Popovich at 813-689-6590.

Hogwarts Summer School / Mondays and Wednesdays Continuing Through July 27 / 2-4 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / This summer school is designed specifically for Muggle students ages 10 to 17 who can be underprepared for magical studies. This 6-week program will consist of magical remedial studies. Monday studies include science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM); Wednesdays a movie showing. Robes/ Harry Potter attire are not mandatory but encouraged. For information, call 813-272-3652.



Little Lads and Lasses/ July 9 - August 6 / 10-11 a.m. / Bloomingdale Golfers Club / 4113 Great Golfers Way / John E. S. Cochrane Golf Schools offers a great way for kids (Ages 4-6 years old) to start enjoying the great game of golf. During the hour, we focus on your kid having fun first, learning the basics of golf second. The basics include: putting, chipping, pitching, hitting out the bunkers (sandbox) and full swing. There are many games for the kids to play and have fun without realizing they're learning. Make sure your child has the right clubs. Starter sets can be bought at your local sporting goods store. They will have the age/height stated on the box, usually ages 2-5 (45" and under) and 5-8 (46"-52"). For information: Contact J.D at 813-957-3205



Dementia Support Group / July 15 and continuing every 3rd Friday each month / 1:30-3:30 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / Does your loved one have memory loss? Concerned about the forgetfulness of your spouse or aging parent? Learn about dementia at this support group for family members and friends. Topics include an overview of dementia, communication and what to say and what not to say, safety and security for your home and the individual, caregiver sanity, and care options. Facilitated by Jill Andrew of Superior Residences of Brandon Memory Care. Non-members welcome. For information, call 813-684-1371.

BACK TO SCHOOL!

14th Annual Back to School Festival / July 17 / 1-4 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / This year's 14th Annual Valrico/FishHawk Chamber of Commerce Back to School Festival will continue to benefit local needy children with back to school supplies. The event will stay indoors this year at the Campo Y gymnasium. Admission is free but \$10 worth of new school supplies or a \$10 cash donation is requested. The supplies will benefit the Y's migrant children effort. Last year, more than 400 students received supplies as the result of the event.

In addition to food and business booths, Pure Power Productions will emcee the event and there will be performances by local after school programs and extra-curricular activities. The event is sponsored by the Tampa Bay Times/Brandon Times, Kids 'R' Kids Valrico and Circa FishHawk, Tutoring Club of Valrico, Chick-fil-A Lake Brandon Village and Westfield Brandon, Mosaic, Cardinal Roofing & Solar Technologies, Canine Cabana, Mathnasium, and Edward Jones-Melissa Haskins.

Tax Free Holiday Weekend / August 5-7 / Don't miss out on this back-to-school event! Back to just three days in 2016, during this period no Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected on clothing, footwear, wallets, and bags that cost less than \$60, and school supplies that cost \$15 or less. Personal computers and related accessories are not tax-free this year. For complete details, visit the Florida Department of Revenue website, www.dor.myflorida.com.



INs & OUTs WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HOME RAIN SENSORS...

Functioning Rain Sensors Conserve Water
Paula Staples, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County
Public Education Program Coordinator

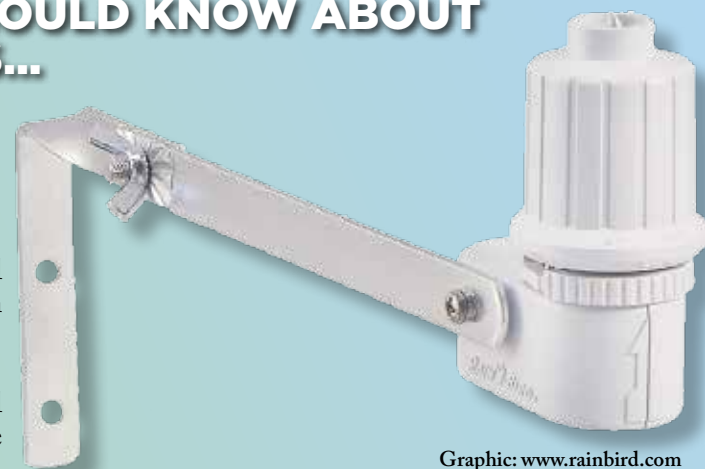
After sufficient rain has fallen, this important piece of irrigation equipment interrupts the electrical connection that turns your system on for the days and times you have selected on your irrigation controller. It prevents turf grass overwatering, which can stress turf grass and lead to disease.

The results of a University of Florida study reveal the cork-like disk inserts within the rain sensor fail after one to three years. These inserts can become moldy or begin to fall apart. This can prevent the individual disks from swelling, making them undetectable by the interrupt sensing switch.

As summer begins, check your rain sensor to make sure it is functioning. To inspect and test your rain sensor, you first need to locate it. The rain sensor is usually located along the roofline. If wired directly to the irrigation controller, it is often found on the outside wall of the irrigation controller that is typically installed inside the garage.

When located, turn on one of your irrigation zones. Select one that when on, is visible from the rain sensor location. Press the small button at the top of the rain sensor. The zone should turn off. After the release of the button, the zone should come back on and continue spraying water. If it does not, then your rain sensor is not working.

Repair or install a functioning rain sensor and save 2,541 gallons of water a year for every 1,000 square feet of pervious lawn and landscape area in your yard. If your monthly average water bill shows your household water consumption use at 15,000 gallons or more, call me at 813-744-5519 Ext. 54142, to see if a free irrigation evaluation will save you money and help conserve water for future use. Go to <http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu/fyn/community.shtml> to find out what a free evaluation includes.



Graphic: www.rainbird.com

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The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District
The Community's Common Area Connection

Staff Report

Editor's Note: The BHA welcomes our community partners, the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD). This 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 to bstd@verizon.net. Office hours are flexible, so call before you come by for a visit.

THE COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT:
BSTD TAX INCREASE SOUGHT

Taxes – we all pay them. Did you know that every year Bloomingdale property owners pay a special tax of \$130 with their county property tax bills?

The tax, in place since 1986, has not increased in ten years. However, on Aug. 30, the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) Board of Trustees is asking you, all Bloomingdale property owners, to rally and support the community with a “yes” vote on a proposed special tax increase referendum on the upcoming primary ballot.

Should this referendum pass, property owners will see the increase reflected in their 2018 annual property tax bill under the ad valorem section. The referendum specifically requests a \$70 increase of the special tax from \$130 to \$200. The \$200 is a cap amount meaning that the board can raise the taxes all or just a portion of the \$70 increase. If the entire \$70 increase is not assessed to property owners immediately, the board will have flexibility to increase up to the cap in the future. Residents will be asked to voice their views on the specific amount of the tax increase at a future public meeting.

BSTD Chairman Dave West said, “The board is looking at assessing an increase of \$20.00 for fiscal year 2018 based on our current projections. We have asked for a \$70.00 cap to assist us in being able to replace and repair our aging infrastructure, which will include rebuilding our entrances once the Bell Shoals Road widening is finished.”

The BSTD consists of seven elected trustees who one, are residents in the Bloomingdale community, and two, perform their management duties on an unpaid, strictly volunteer basis. Their job is to oversee the special tax funds, which are primarily allocated towards the maintenance of the community's common areas.

So why the increase? Simple – The Bloomingdale infrastructure is aging and in many sections is over 30 years old. The costs of maintaining our beautiful community have increased significantly over the last ten years. Key increases have occurred in landscape maintenance, property management fees, irrigation repair and plant replacement.

While funds have been adequate in the past, community needs are at a critical stage. Hence the request from the BSTD to you, our residents, to support the upcoming referendum. Should the referendum fail to pass, residents will see a decline in the community and in services the BSTD is able to provide now. Possible cuts include plant replacement, trash pick-up and the ability to maintain our office hours which we have cut in half this year already. The BSTD is aware of resident perceptions stemming from the change of landscape contractors last year. This unforeseen issue created a backlog of area maintenance from which the new contractor is still working to correct.

According to President West, the BSTD will be more open to resident suggestions on community enhancements and work to form and strengthen a bond with those they serve. He explained, “We work for you [the resident]. Your recommendations will be honestly considered and implemented if funds are available.”

The board asks for your trust and support. As fellow residents, their only desire is to see

Bloomingdale continue to thrive, improve and remain a community where all can be proud to live, work and call home.

On Aug. 30, support the referendum and vote “YES” for additional funding for the community. Your support is critical to maintain our property values and to keep Bloomingdale a great place to live.



ATTENTION BLOOMINGDALE VOTERS!

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DEPENDENT TAX DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that a referendum will be placed on the August 30, 2016, Primary Election ballot for all voters in the Bloomingdale Special Dependent Tax District. The wording of the referendum is as follows:

REFERENDUM TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM TAX OF THE
BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DEPENDENT TAX DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees of the Bloomingdale Special Dependent Tax District shall be authorized to increase the assessed tax from \$130.00 to not to exceed \$200.00 per annum per improved residential parcel. This proposed assessment is sufficient to continue existing and projected maintenance projects.

Yes _____

No _____

Polls open on August 30, 2016 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. All qualified voters residing within the limits of Bloomingdale Special Dependent Tax District may vote on said referendum.

THE BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
SEEKS OFFICE MANAGER

Job Description:

- Responsible for maintenance and utilization of the office and equipment.
- Familiar with Microsoft Word, Excel, and QuickBooks
- Form a good working relationship with, and communicate directly to, board members and the property manager, ensuring a fast turnaround of all contractual documents, proposals and purchase orders.
- Prepare for evening board meetings and support the Trustees in their decisions, with accurate minutes and follow up.
- Responsible to ensure that County and State regulations are adhered to as well as resolving public enquiries in a professional manner.
- Take an active role in preparing budgets and maintaining accurate records of expenditure, and negotiating payments from insurance companies after auto accidents within the district.
- Complete a Public Records Certification Course and be responsible for correct storage of all records.
- Work closely with the Bloomingdale HOA and foster good relationships all members of the community.
- Hours are flexible. Expect to work between 8 and 16 hours a week.



Send resumes to bstd@verizon.net or call 813-684-6667 for information.

BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

BLOOMINGDALE

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

David P. West, President
Mike Chanan, Vice President
Mark Horst, Treasurer
Russell Jones, Trustee
Chris Papp, Trustee
Mark Vargo, Trustee
Tom Leech, Trustee

Heidi's Gourmet Hut Brings a Touch of the Old Country to Bloomingdale

By Miriam Leech

If it's bratwurst or schnitzel you are hankering for, look no further than Heidi's Gourmet Hut at the Rainbow Food Store. For the past 3 years, Heidi Quinn has been serving up fresh, authentic German meats, sandwiches, salads, and desserts to her dedicated customers.

The native of Ludwigshafen, Germany, celebrated the third anniversary of her deli on June 21. Quinn describes her customers as a big family, and says, "I look at my customers and I know exactly what they want." That loyal following includes workers who come for her burgers (Frikadellen broetchen), pastrami sandwiches, and fresh sunflower or rye bread at lunchtime, and her German customers who come from all over the area for a taste of home to celebrate special occasions.

Quinn's most popular menu item continues to be her Cuban sandwich. While it may seem odd that it is not a German dish, the secret to her success with the sandwich is the fresh roast pork that she prepares especially for the Cuban.

Over the last three years, the deli's catering business has continued to grow as well. When Lufthansa began its non-stop service from Tampa International Airport to Frankfurt last September, the airline asked Quinn to provide German desserts for its launch. For four weeks, the deli owner provided cheesecakes, apple strudels, and plum cakes to passengers to give them an Old World sendoff.

The Bloomingdale resident has lived here for 12 years. "My son and I love it here and are so happy," says Quinn. Opening the deli in the United States was a dream come true when she moved to this area—Quinn had owned her own deli in Germany as well as worked at the country's best deli in Munich where she often served the German President's wife. Now she has a loyal following here, and new customers are finding her every day.

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



Bloomingdale resident Heidi Quinn celebrated the third anniversary of her German deli, Heidi's Gourmet Hut, on June 21. The deli is located inside the Rainbow Food Store on Bell Shoals Road.

Photo: Miriam Leech



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



Go Team!... As Far Away As Possible



Oh, yippee. I just received an invitation to my high school reunion. I can hardly wait.

Yeah, I know. Most people get filled with latent school spirit and begin fantasizing about what a great time they're going to have rekindling friendships and rehashing memories. I can't do it. It's a little tough to get enthusiastic about a school whose mascot was a slug. We only had one school color...gray. And then, of course, there was the all time favorite football cheer. "Stay in the locker room! Stay on the bus! Stay off the field so they can't kill us! Hiiiiide, Slugs!" The competitive spark flickered out early with us.

As far as being eager to renew old acquaintances, my thrill level is about a quart low there, too. I distinctly recall my graduation yearbook and the highlighted seniors:

First of all, there was Sparkle McDavitt, captain of the cheerleading squad and noted for possessing the most remarkable set of...uh...pom-poms...in school. She was voted "Most Likely to Develop Early Back Trouble." When asked by the Yearbook Committee what she wanted most out of life, Sparkle blinked her vacant blue eyes and chirped, "A set of angel pink sheepskin seat covers for my Mustang." Sparkle wasn't renowned for her razor-sharp intellect.

Theodore "Skullcrusher" Swensen was the captain of the football team and, as nature would have it, the perfect match for Sparkle. "Skullcrusher" did not gain his nickname for his fierce prowess on the football field, but because of his penchant for slamming his forehead on even numbered lockers as he traveled between classes. Unanimously voted "Most Likely to Do Time Even if He Can't Tell It," Skullcrusher's unsurprising goal in life was to "Punch da lights outta anybody calls me 'Theodore'."

"Brains" Lezoritz ("Most Likely to Disprove The Theory of Relativity") was the sort of guy who wore Hushpuppies and listed to one side if you took his slide rule off his belt. He was the kid you'd sit next to in Geometry, but not at lunch. We had a lot in common.

The most important person in school, naturally, was our principal, Mr. Puffin. He delivered a most stirring Commencement speech which began, "Today, we send a new generation of Slugs into the world." My folks weren't sure whether to brag to my grandparents or call Orkin.

And now we're having a reunion? I don't know. Might be fun. Prom night was interesting, even though my date was a dead ringer for the banjo player in "Deliverance." And the Senior Picnic became memorable when Skullcrusher "cannonballed" into the pool with a screaming Coach Dunderly in his arms. And...wait a minute...maybe I had a better time than I thought.

Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

This summer's housing market may be a bit unusual because of the early start to the school year. With children going back much earlier, July is expected to be even busier than previous years with the busy season slowing down sooner than normal.

Bloomingdale has already experienced an incredible few months of buying and selling. Currently there are 39 active listings and 60 properties under contract. Of these, 27 went under contract in June and 18 homes sold. At the time this article was written, 16 additional homes were expected to sell in the month of June.

Neighborhood Snapshot - Bloomingdales Estates

Bloomingdale Estates is located closest to the John Moore entrance and includes Applegate Circle, Bayfield Drive, Bessemer Circle, 105 to 109 Bloomingfield Drive, 104 to 114 Bloomingfield Drive, 111 to 313 Bloomingfield Drive, Butternut Court, Buttonwood Court, Rosedale Drive, and Sabal Palm Court. Most homes were constructed in the early 1980's with a few along Bloomingfield Drive built in the early 2000's.

Most homes in this area are larger and on bigger lots with a higher price point than neighboring areas of Bloomingdales West. Its location and tree-lined streets make this a highly desirable area for buyers.



By Ryan Brantley

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Keller Williams Realty

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www.chaddertongroup.com

Currently, Bloomingdale Estates has no active listings, two pending listings and only one sold property in the last month. Inventory is severely lacking and it is a great time to sell. In the last year, there have only been eight sold properties ranging from \$205,000 - \$324,000 with a sold price per square foot of \$94 - \$114 for non-distressed properties.

* MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold May 22, 2015 through May 22, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.

Michigan

Comic strip artist Will Leech is a Strawberry Crest High School graduate who will attend Florida State University this fall. Through his creation "Michigan," he shares his view of the world around us.

Michigan by Will Leech



Lean Left, Head Left... Great for Chipping

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

Has your golfing buddy told you to hit down on the ball so it'll go up? Or, has he told you to quit trying to help the ball get up in the air? Lots of advice, but no course of action.

A few simple adjustments to your chipping setup and both of the previous issues will be resolved – Lean left, head left. The great thing about this setup is it's so close to how you look like when you strike the ball in a full swing.

The goal is for your total weight to be more on your left side (80 percent). Having your left leg straight and right knee bent forward at address puts the center of your chest and head to the front side of the ball.

Move your hands, arms and shoulders back and through together. The club head will strike the ball first while the club head still going down.

Next lesson covers a golf rule that will help you more than hurt you. Any questions or for lessons, call J.D. 813-957-3205.



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JULY 2016

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Congratulations graduates! After four years of memories, hard work, and great experiences, the class of 2016 has graduated. Strawberry Crest High School seniors graduated on June 7 while Bloomingdale High School held their graduation on June 9 at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Area middle, elementary and pre-schools also celebrated their graduations throughout the month.

This was a bittersweet time filled with many tears, smiles and laughter. The community is proud of its youth and wishes all graduates success in their future endeavors. Special thank you to all who submitted photos of their graduates for this issue!

Bloomingdale High School Graduation at a glance:

- 437 seniors graduated at the Florida State Fairgrounds on June 9.
- 53 percent graduated on honor court with a 4.0 weighted GPA or higher.
- The class of 2016 earned \$6.2 million in scholarships.
- 92% plan to go on to a postsecondary education.



Following the BSHS ceremony, a Kyle Gavagan gets a hug from someone special.
Photo: Natalia Langone



2016 BSHS graduate Evan Brown and his family are all smiles. Photo: Natalia Langone



Rylie Smith celebrates her special moment with family. Photo: Natalia Langone



BSHS Ambassadors, seniors only, deliver performance during the BSHS graduation.
Photo: Angela Davies



Artist Morgan Smedley, BSHS graduate, will begin theatrical make-up studies at the Joe Blasco Professional Make-Up Artist Training Center in Orlando this fall. In May, she received the high school's scholastic excellence in art award.
Photo: The Smedley Family



Displaying "Bull Pride" times five, Austin James, 2016 BSHS graduate, celebrates with Bull alums (left to right) Jeff Kelley, Class of 1999, Jacqueline Marcellin Kelley, 2001, Nicole Marcellin 2008, and Danielle Marcellin James, 1995.
Photo: Maryanne Marcellin (proud mom, grandmom and mother-in-law)



Proud graduate Zac Davies displays his BSHS diploma. He plans to attend the University of South Florida this fall. He is majoring in Computer Engineering.
Photo: The Davies Family



Emma Donahue is a BSHS graduate attending Florida State University in the fall majoring in Business Management with an emphasis in sports management. Photo: The Donahue Family



Parties and cakes add to the celebration. This one made by Mylene Lee, of Cakes by Mylene located in Fishers Ranch, honored the accomplishment of Will Lee, a 2016 Strawberry Crest International Baccalaureate graduate.
Photo: Miriam Lee



Zach Turner, Adam Faucett, Ty Bates, Derek Bates and Nick Menia (top), Andrew Bailey and Rylie Smith (bottom) following the June 9 BSHS graduation ceremony. Photo: Natalia Langone



BSHS graduate Nick Montella and twin sister Lexi at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Photo: Beth Smedley



Noah Poirson, BSHS graduate, shares the celebration with his family – brother Jacob, Mom Kelly and Dad Michael. Photo: The Poirson Family



Lauren Roberts waits patiently to receive her diploma from Strawberry Crest High School at the June 7 ceremony. Photo: The Roberts Family



International Baccalaureate graduates of Strawberry Crest High School Lauren Roberts and Austin Williams display happy smiles following their graduation ceremony. Photo: Karen Roberts



Ashley McIntyre, Class of 2016, with appreciative family members following graduation. Photo: Natalia Langone



BSHS Junior ROTC Color Guard begins the graduation festivities by posting the colors. Photo: Angela Davies



Strawberry Crest HS graduate Will Leech will be heading to Florida State University in the fall. The National Merit Finalist is pictured with his proud family including brother Jake, Mother Miriam and Father Tom. Photo: The Leech Family

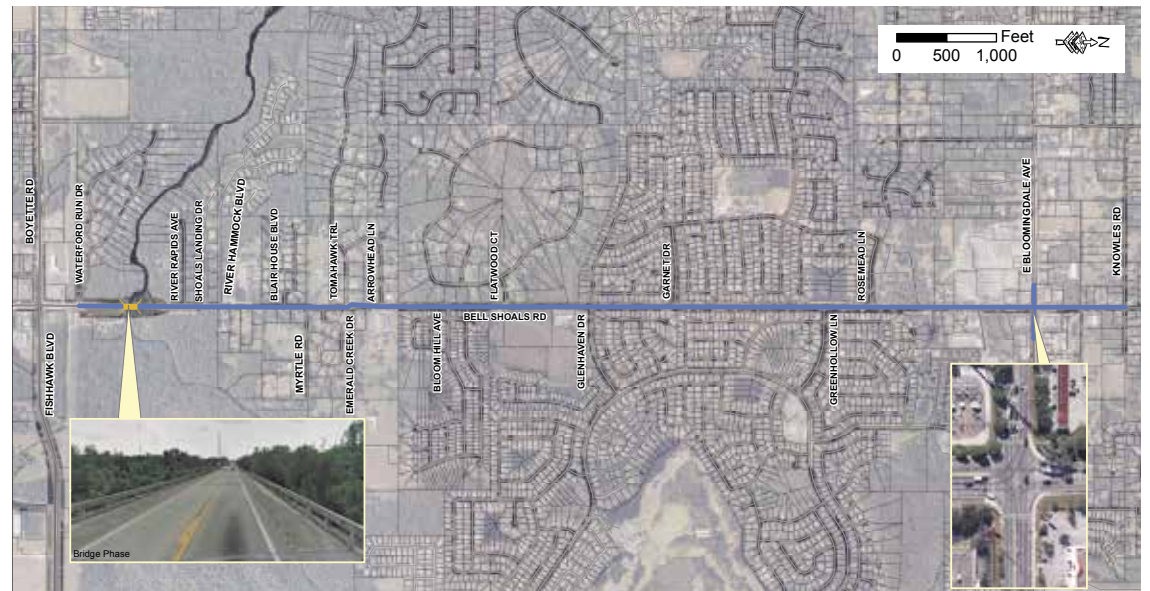


Principal Sue Burkett addresses the Class of 2016 prior to presenting diplomas. Photo: Angela Davies

Bell Shoals Road Widening Project Update Hillsborough County Public Works Brief

Last year we re-engaged community leaders in preparation for the beginning of a multi-year project to widen Bell Shoals Road between just south of the Alafia River to north of Bloomingdale Avenue. The project will widen this stretch, including the bridge over the river, from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway in order to accommodate high traffic volume, increase the level of service, and maximize safety along the corridor. Since the expected timeline has been delayed, we wanted to provide you this update on the project.

The County continues to focus its efforts on the needed land acquisition and easements to support the Bell Shoals Road widening capital improvement project. It is our goal to facilitate construction in an efficient manner and minimize impacts to residents by adhering to the projected 36-month construction duration. To ensure continuous construction without delays, the contractor will not start the project until sufficient land acquisition has occurred to eliminate possible conflicts with the construction schedule. At this time, we forecast land acquisition will reach an acceptable stage to support a late 2016 construction start.



As a reminder from our earlier public outreach efforts, the County will conduct a formal Preconstruction Public Meeting, advertised at least three weeks in advance, before construction starts. Affected homeowners and neighborhood associations will receive updates, along with a dedicated point of contact for questions and concerns during construction.

Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the timing of this critically needed project in your community.

Editor's Note: The Gazette will publish updates when available.

Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road Intersection Nears Completion

Construction is on track for a mid-2016 completion of road improvements at the intersection. Traffic lights are operational and synced with those at Lithia Pinecrest and Bell Shoals Roads. Bus Bay construction is ongoing. Safety improvements include protected turn signals for those turning east or west onto Bloomingdale Avenue.



New Traffic Light

Coming to Bloomingdale Square

Within the next month, a new traffic signal will be installed on Bloomingdale Avenue at the Dunkin Donuts and Bloomingdale Square/Chipotle Mexican Grill intersection. The new signal will help patrons enter and exit the plaza and make driving safer. Poles are already on site and awaiting installation. Updates will be published when available.



BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

Source: Wekiva Youth Camp, Compiled by Gwen Graverson

...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Editor's Note: A column for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden experts and amateurs from the Valrico Garden Club (VGC). To learn about the VGC, contact Mary Kay McMahan at 813-684-6323, email danmcmahan@aol.com or visit Facebook/Valrico Garden Club.

Homemade Water Fountains - In All Shapes and Sizes

By Gwen Graverson

What intrigues me most are homemade items especially when the homemade items are made with someone in mind for a gift or as a family project. In doing so, we nurture our ingrained talents with time, effort and lots of imagination... and realize that anything is possible, whether it's building a birdhouse, birdfeeder or a homemade water fountain.

Homemade water fountains can be made in all shapes and sizes for either indoors or outdoors. My interest in making one started last June when my husband Scott and I were visiting his brother Russ in Jamestown, N.C.

Over the years, Russ, along with his wife Joyce, have transformed their backyard into a tranquil sanctuary where everything is in harmony. Accentuating the relaxed feeling are the gentle sounds of the homemade water fountains.

If you should decide to start this project, one word of advice is patience. Something may go wrong...better yet, it will go wrong as you learn how to build your first water fountain.

My husband Scott's water fountain, pictured, is comprised of terracotta pots in different sizes to create a tiered look. The terracotta saucers should fit closely to the same size as the pots. The base pot/dish is the largest in order to hold the water, especially when the pump is off. Electric pumps are preferred over battery operated ones. Tubing is required to help direct the water flow upward, and last, but not least, large pebbles or river rocks.



Scott purchased a base pot/dish that had an opening at the bottom, which had to be sealed by using a small saucer and silicone. He also recommends soaking the remaining terracotta pots/saucers in water prior to drilling holes large enough for the tubing to fit through. There's a degree of assembly required to ensure everything fits prior to sealing the terracotta pots to the saucers. Don't seal to the base (pot/dish), as this will need access to the pump when necessary.

To achieve the tier effect: start first with the largest pot at the bottom and last, the smallest one at the top. **NOTE: Place the largest one upside down and remaining ones right-side up.** Saucers are sealed on top of the pots in the mid-section of the tier. Drill a small hole in the back of the large pot at the water line, as this will help with the water flow. Place the stones in such a matter as not to be in direct contact with the pump or tubing. Notches were carved out at the different levels of the terracotta pots/saucers to create the desire effect for water flow.

Maybe the next water fountain will be made using our wine bottles (hint-hint), since we make our own "homemade wines" as a hobby and give as gifts.

For information on fountains and water gardens, check out the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) website links at <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/outdoor-living/fountains.html> and <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/types-of-gardens/water-gardens.html>.



The Valrico Garden Club dedicates this month's column to long-time member and Garden enthusiast Ramona Thomas Pettigrew, 1930-2016. She will be missed.

The University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is an educational service that provides courses, seminars and print material for the casual to more accomplished gardener. A valuable tool for gardeners is the Extension Service's monthly "To Do List."

What to Plant in July

Bedding Plants: Coleus, crossandra, ornamental pepper, and tropical milkweed planted now should last until November. As the heat continues, keep annuals evenly moist.

Bulbs: Butterfly lily, gladiolus, and society garlic are bulbs that can be planted during the middle of the summer.

Vegetables: Watermelon, pepper, okra, southern pea, and eggplant can be planted now as long as water is provided during dry spells. Watch for caterpillars and aphids on leaves and fruit.

Palms: Continue planting palms while the rainy season is in full swing. Support large palms with braces for 6-8 months after planting. Nails should not be driven directly into a palm trunk.

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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren and C.S.O. Sandy Capitano



Source: HCSO

Area Law and Order

Between May 22 and June 15, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) conducted 131 traffic stops in the Bloomingdale and surrounding area known as J04 Zone. Our District IV deputies who work in the J04 zone have a very large area to respond to. J04 zone encompasses not only the Bloomingdale area but also reaches all the way down to the Lithia area.

In the Bloomingdale area, there were five auto burglaries and three residential burglaries including one armed burglary, meaning a firearm was stolen from that residence. There was one robbery of a person, which was cleared by arrest, and one robbery of a business.

There was also a large number of criminal mischief incidents involving smashed vehicle windows. Remember to lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors and lock your vehicles. This will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim.

Remember: lock your doors and never leave valuables in plain sight.

Grow House Busted

On May 19, deputies executed a court-authorized search warrant in Bloomingdale. During the search, detectives discovered two rooms converted for the sole purpose of cultivating marijuana. TECO responded and discovered an illegal electrical connection providing un-metered electricity to the residence. The estimated theft of electricity was over \$9,000.

The seized marijuana weighed approximately 345 pounds, which carries a street value of \$690,000. A person was arrested and charged with Trafficking in Marijuana, Cultivation of Marijuana, Grand Theft-Electricity, Own/Lease/Rent for Purposes of Trafficking and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. This is the 20th marijuana grow operation that has been eradicated in 2016.

*You can read more about this incident at www.hcso.tampa.fl.us (press releases).

Remember: if you see something suspicious, say something!

A Scam is only a Phone Call Away

There has been an increase in scams in the area so beware. Within two hours on June 16, two residents reported scams to the Bloomingdale Community Station. The victims lost two thousand dollars each, one a "Grandparent" scam and the other an "IRS" scam. Please remember your first defense – If you do not know who is calling, let the call go to voice mail.

Things you should know about scams and scammers:

- The Internal Revenue Service **WILL NOT CALL** you to advise you of your arrest or a lawsuit and will **NEVER** ask for payment with any sort of gift card.
- If someone asks you to pay with gift cards such as Amazon or iTunes gift cards, it is a **SCAM**. Once you give the scammer the card number, it is next to impossible to track. The person could be outside of the United States.
- A scammer will play on your emotions to victimize you: fear, worry, love, excitement, joy, embarrassment and they induce great stress. Grandparent scams play on all of these.
- Do not respond to unsolicited telephone offers or e-mails.
- Banks will **NEVER** call or email you to update your information.
- If someone wants to sell you something you didn't plan to buy, say no and hang up.
- **NEVER** give out personal information over the phone; never "confirm" personal info, it is a trick to get it from you. Never press anything to "remove" yourself from the call list: Just hang up.
- **NEVER** deposit a check sent to you for "payment," deposit it and then wire or deposit the funds to an account that is not yours. The funds might be available in 3-5 days but in 10-12 days the check might very well be returned as a fraudulent check. If that happens, it is debited from your account.
- Scammers also spoof their phone numbers so your caller ID will show a government agency or a company phone number. This way, when you research it, you find the number actually does belong to an agency, and drop your guard.
- Report anything suspicious to the police.

- You can research common scams at sites such as the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov. You can find the National Do Not Call Registry on the site and get information on the many different scams that are out there.

Burglary Facts

- Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. A person can be convicted of burglary even if nothing was actually stolen.
- A burglary occurs approximately every 15 seconds in the United States.
- On average, a burglary results in a dollar loss of about \$1,600.
- About 30 percent of all burglaries are classified as "unlawful entry", meaning the burglar was able to gain entry without using force, often through an unlocked door or window.
- Nearly 66 percent of all burglaries are residential, and of those, 62 percent occur during the daytime. Most burglaries occur between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., when no one is likely to be at home.
- Renters are more likely to be victims of property crime than homeowners.
- Only 13 percent of reported burglaries are solved, or "cleared," by the police.
- Only about 15 percent of property stolen in burglaries is recovered.
- The highest percentage of burglaries occur during the summer months of July and August, when many people are away from their homes on vacation, or have left windows open for ventilation.
- About 30 percent of private homes have security systems. Homes without security systems are two to three times more likely to be broken into.

Home Burglary Prevention

- Know who your neighbors are and what type of vehicles they drive.
- Call law enforcement when you see something that is suspicious in your community.
- Start a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood and be an active member.
- Make sure your neighborhood has an effective e-mail and/or telephone tree in place.

Gas Station Thefts

Where can you find a place where people leave their wallets, purses, cell phones, navigation systems, or cars unattended and ripe for theft? Your local gas station or convenience store, of course. Most of the time, gas station customers leave their car doors unlocked. This enables a thief to drive up next to the victim's car, open an unlocked door, and grab any valuables within reach. Then, the thief quickly drives off. It's a crime of opportunity that takes only a few seconds to commit.

Gas station thefts can be easily prevented. You can keep from becoming a victim of gas station theft by keeping the following tips in mind.

- Always remove car keys, close windows, and lock doors while pumping gas.
- Pick gas stations that have good lighting and have video surveillance cameras at the pump.
- Pay attention to your surroundings and don't let your cell phone distract you.
- Keep valuables out of plain view in your vehicle and lock the doors even if you are going inside for just a moment.

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Enjoy Horses and More at R&R Ranch Summer Camp

By Natalia Langone

Family-owned R&R Ranch is a place where horseplay is allowed and even encouraged – especially during summer camp. Campers, ages 5-14, can enjoy a variety of activities including trail rides, hayrides, a petting zoo, horse painting and many other fun activities!

The camp is a perfect introduction to all things “horse.” Many different breeds, ranging from large to small to miniature, are onsite including a retired Arabian racehorse, a Tennessee Walker, the smooth riding Paso Fino and the cowboy’s American Quarter Horse to name just a few.

Owner Barbara Childs said, “The purpose of this camp is to create a safe environment for the kids so they will enjoy horses for the rest of their lives.”

The camp is held at the ranch at 9805 Bryant Rd., Lithia. Upcoming camp sessions are available July 5-8 (4 days), 11-15, 18-22, 25-29, and August 1-5. Camp prices range from \$50 a day to \$195 for the week. For information, call 813-653-3819/661-1481, email LithiaRanch@yahoo.com or visit the website at www.rrranchlithia.com/Camps.html.



Jeremy Childs, the son of owner Barbara Childs, takes campers on an ATV ride around the ranch.



Elijah Madera pauses to view the progress of his artwork. Katie, the pony canvas, is one of several miniature ponies at R&R Ranch.



Young camper Mia Fridenberger sits attentively atop a horse ready to go on a morning trail ride. No experience is necessary and all levels are welcome.

Photos: Natalia Langone

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Editor's Note: Evan DeGraff is a Bloomingdale High School student and Bloomingdale resident with a passion for movies. Each month, he will review a current movie release. He hopes one day to follow in the footsteps of acclaimed movie critics the likes of Siskel and Ebert.

THIS MONTH: "FINDING DORY"

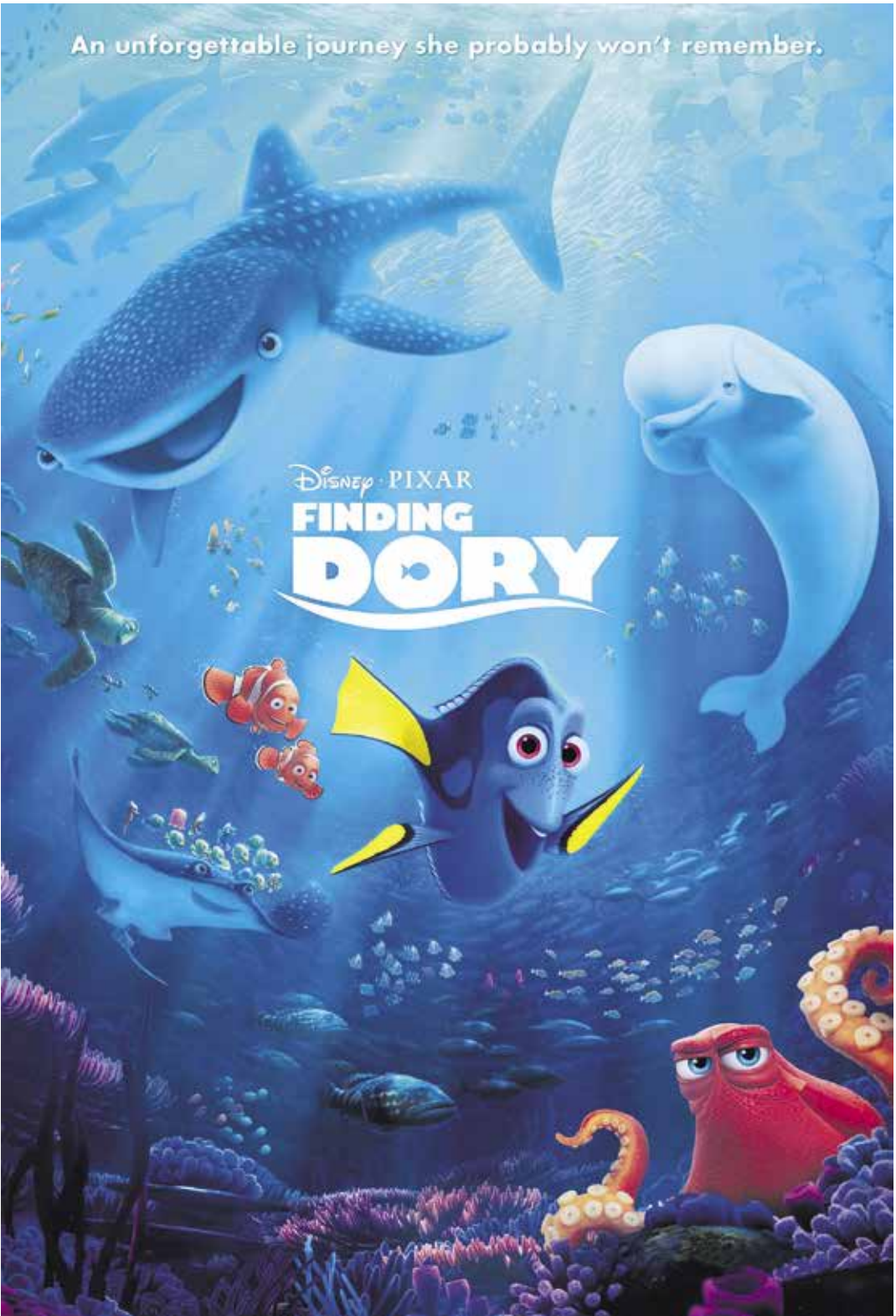
"Finding Dory" is the long-awaited sequel to the beloved Pixar movie "Finding Nemo." The sequel does not disappoint. The movie takes us on a journey where Dory, voiced by Ellen DeGeneres, sets off to find her parents. The action begins about a year following the end of "Finding Nemo."

I was very impressed with the movie because it paid respect to the first movie, but can stand on its own. The voice acting by DeGeneres was perfect and showed that she/Dory can carry a movie. Not that she has to as a cast of new and returning characters the audience will love surrounds her.

The animation was spot on and I could see real improvement from the first movie. The water is crystal clear and the colors are vibrant and bright. The scenes with Hero, the grumpy octopus, voiced by Ed O'Neill literally revolutionize animation. I believe "Finding Dory" represents the best animation yet and sets a new already high standard for the genre.

The fast-paced movie will keep the audience engaged, but I think the beginning of the movie took some time to get going. I also don't think the characters have the same magic as characters from the first, but it doesn't detract from the overall fun factor.

"Finding Dory" is a great movie experience for both young and old. I give it 4 fishes out of 5.



On June 20, Jeremiah's Italian Ice held a benefit where 100 percent of their proceeds were donated to the Equality Florida's Pulse Go Fund Me. The account was established to support the shooting victims and their families at the Pulse Nightclub tragedy that killed 49 people and injured 53 others in Orlando on June 13.

Store Supervisor Cayla Barnes said, "Jeremiah's first store was built in 1996 in Winter Park and this was their way of giving back to the community that has supported them over the years." Jeremiah's has 14 locations in Florida, which include Jacksonville, Tampa, Brandon and Orlando.

As a way to help, customer Keziah Fontanez said, "I am supporting the cause because a close friend of my brother was killed in the attack and several friends were injured."

Thanks to Jeremiah's and to all the people in the Bloomingdale community who turned out to support those affected by this devastating event.



Bloomingdale High graduate Savanna Picariello helps customers decide what to order at community favorite Jeremiah's Italian Ice. The popular franchise donated proceeds from the June 20 fundraiser to the Orlando Pulse Nightclub victims.



Keziah Fontanez (left), a Strawberry Crest graduate and Kaitlyn Harper, a Bloomingdale High graduate show their support for victims of the Orlando tragedy at a benefit held at Jeremiah's Italian Ice last month.



Crowds gather to support a worthy cause.



Supervisor Cayla Barnes (left) and Shelby Williams, who will be attending UCF this fall, are ready to take orders and proud to be a part of last month's fundraiser.



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

AUGUST 10

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

July 18 – New Student Registration, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

August 8 – New Student Registration: Last Names A - L, 11 a.m. to noon, N - Z, 1-2 p.m.

School Paks are Back!

School paks are back and ready for purchase. All the lists have been approved by Cimino teachers. They are available for purchase until July 12 and can be shipped to the home, but shipping charges will apply. Go to www.schoolpak.com/catalog/cimino-elementary to purchase one. Get yours now and save some shopping time over the summer!

2016-2017 School Supply List

For the complete list of supplies, visit the website: http://cimino.mysdhc.org/?Templates=RWD&object=/School_News/S68D510C1-68D51878&infobar=no.



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

July 11 - 21 – Color Guard Camp (visit http://burns.mysdhc.org/Full_Calendar for information)

July 28 – Accelerated Math Test, 3:30 p.m.

July 28 – Ice Cream Social for incoming 6th graders, 5:30 p.m.

July 30 – Dads Clean Up, 8-11 a.m.

2016 Summer Reading

Summer is a great time for students to choose what they want to read and read for fun! Check out www.bitly.com/HCPSLibrary for reading suggestions and resources for the summer.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

July 11 – Senior Portraits, 9 a.m. in the Auditorium

August 3 – Boys Golf Tryouts, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club; email: william.new@sdhc.k12.fl.us for details

August 4 – Girls Golf Practice, 3:45 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club; email: sbcohen@tampabay.rr.com for details

August 5 – Band Sneak Peek for Parents, 6 p.m. in the Gym

BULL BRIEFS

FAST Camp for Incoming Freshmen

FAST Camp is a free three-day summer program for incoming freshmen to make friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers and counselors and get to know Bloomingdale! It will be held July 25-27 from 8 a.m. to noon. For information visit: http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/?Templates=RWD&object=/School_News/S697AE1AD-697AE1F3&infobar=no.

Tax Free Holiday Weekend / August 5-7 / Don't miss out on this back-to-school event! Back to just three days in 2016, during this period no Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected on clothing, footwear, wallets, and bags that cost less than \$60, and school supplies that cost \$15 or less. Personal computers and related accessories are not tax-free this year. For complete details, visit the Florida Department of Revenue website, www.dor.myflorida.com.

BLOOMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL'S 2016 Freshman Academic Summer Transition (FAST) Camp

for all incoming 9th graders

July 25th - 27th

8AM to 12PM

- 🐮 **FREE** Three-day summer program
- 🐮 Make new friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers and counselors, and get to know Bloomingdale!
- 🐮 Learn about our campus, extracurricular activities, clubs, traditions, resources, AP programs, college/university awareness and much more!
- 🐮 **REGISTER TODAY!**
 - Go to <http://www2.sdhc.k12.fl.us/FAST/>
 - Complete the online registration form.
 - After completing the online registration, print the "Registration and Registration Receipt" form, be sure to sign it, and either drop it off at Bloomingdale or mail the form to Bloomingdale (Summer Camp) at 1700 E. Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico FL 33596
- 🐮 Once received we will contact you via email to confirm.





Cimino Elementary Holds First Ever Clap Out for Class of 2016

Brief/Photos by Miriam Leech

On June 8, Cimino Elementary School Principal Cindy Dowdy led Class of 2016 graduates who had attended the school on a clap out through the courtyard to celebrate their accomplishments. This was the first year for the event, and over 30 former students returned to Cimino to participate. While most were Bloomingdale High School graduates, Strawberry Crest, Riverview, and Durant High Schools were also represented. Said Dowdy to the Class of 2016, "Our message to our students is keep going, be strong, and they will finish like you!"

Former teachers and students embraced, and a group photo was organized in the school all-purpose room. Elizabeth Sanchez, a current fifth grade teacher who taught the Class of 2016 students when they were in fourth grade, said it was an emotional day for the staff. "I remember all of these faces even though they have matured. I hope this [clap out] is a tradition that carries on each year."



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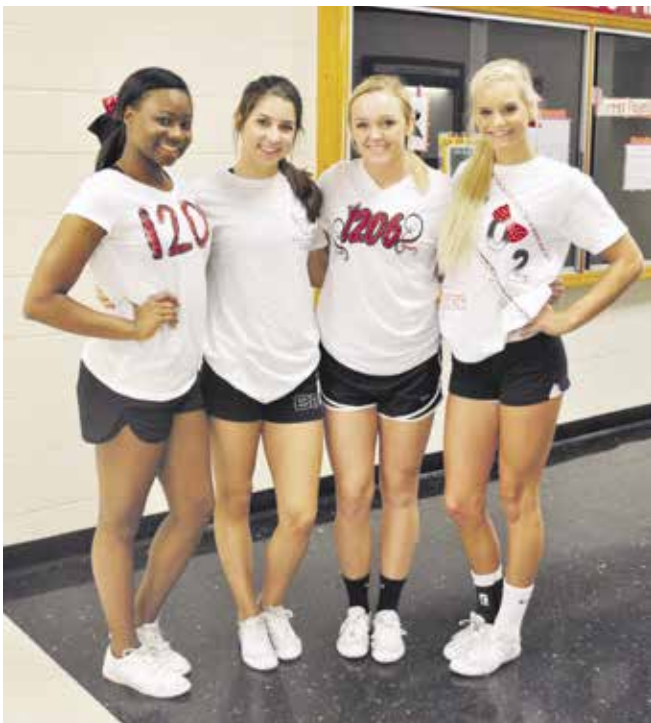
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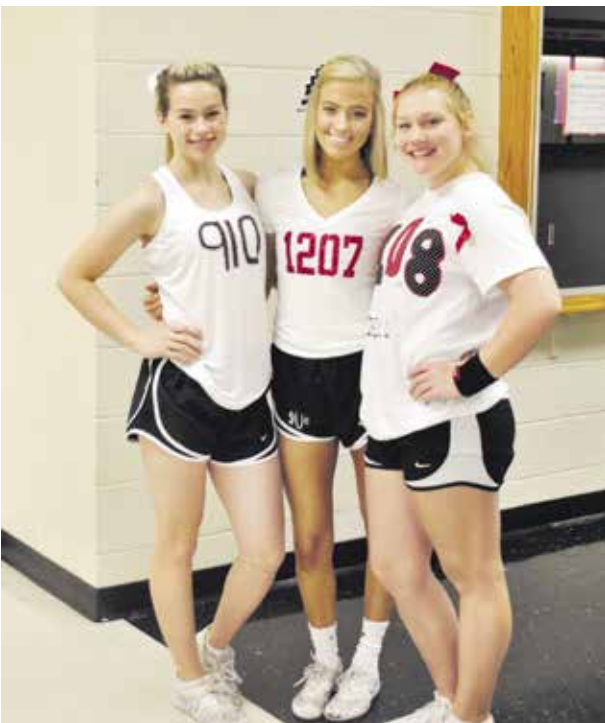
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The Bloomingdale High School Cheerleaders held tryouts on June 13 – 15. It was a time for learning new routines, meeting new friends and lots of stress! Led by Head Coach Michelle Groat the girls were nervous and excited but eager to show their stuff. Congratulations to all the girls who tried out and made the squad! Go Bulls!



Raven Gadson (Senior), Tessa Monroe (Junior), Taylar Haywood (Senior) and Kayla Dotson (Senior) are all smiles after their cheerleading squad tryouts.



Freshman Kenlee Milton, Senior Delaney Odiorne and Junior Emily Rulli strike a pose while waiting their turn for BSHS cheerleading tryouts.



A great group of girls represented Bloomingdale High School Cheerleading during tryouts at the school last month.



Congratulations to Some of our Youngest Graduates!

Photos: Village Early learning Center



The Village Early Learning Center 2016 Pre-Kindergarten class, 95 strong, graduated on June 4 at Riverview High School. Students perform for parents and friends during the ceremony.



Upward and onward, students switch their tassels from right to left to signify their new status as pre-kindergarten graduates.



Court is Back in Session during Bulls Basketball Camp

Brief/Photos: Deidre Morgan

Over three sessions in June, Head Basketball Coach Joe Willis hosted the 7th Annual Bloomingdale Basketball Camp for students entering grades 4 thru 9. This year's camp was a sell out for all three sessions. Not only did the kids learn the fundamentals of basketball but they gained new friendships as well.



Campers learn basic basketball dribbling skills under the watchful eye of Coach Joe Willis at the Bulls Basketball Camp held last month. Want to play ball? Then dribbling is a must-have skill fundamental.



Bulls basketball players/instructors and fellow campers cheer on their teammates during drills.



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