



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXVI 🌿 ISSUE 9 🌿 SEPTEMBER 2016 🌿 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

The Bulls Are Back in Town!



Photo: Dann Berkowitz

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PLEASE RECYCLE

WINNER

2013 & 2014
Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
Newsletter Category

2016-2017 School Season Kicks Off With Multiple Events, read pp. 12-13 and the School section.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself." *Chinese Proverb*

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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Yard of the Month



Photos: Suzanne Jones

Bob & Elna Grant

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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



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.

Lady



This four-year-old Lady, A1647072, is a little ball of energy that would love to have an active household who will shower her with tons of love and affection. Could that be you?

Liddy



Are you looking for a happy, go-lucky dog? If so, you're in luck! This smiling 1-year-old is Liddy, A1651996. She is spayed, microchipped, vaccinated, and is heartworm negative. Long story short – she's ready to go home...with you!

Sugar



Sugar, spice and everything nice...That's what this girl is made of! Interested in adding something sweet to your life, come meet Sugar, A1137334. Come on in, we're open until 7 p.m.!

Provided By The Pet Resource Center



The Pet Resource Center's August First Saturday Celebration features "2 for \$25, Build Your Dream Team" Adoption Specials!

First Saturday Celebrations are always a great time to find your fur-ever friend, but this month you, your friends and family can score big with the Pet Resource Center's "Build Your Dream Team" adoption specials. All ready-to-go pets are 2 for \$25! You don't necessarily have to adopt 2 pets – go with a friend and each of you adopt a pet; pay it forward to the next adopter, etc. Don't let this opportunity pass you by... Fifi and Fido are ready to join your dream team!

The First Saturday Celebration is **TODAY** 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!

The BHA needs your continued support. Simply cut out the membership notice below, make checks payable to the BHA for \$35 and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check or cash. If you come by the office, ask for your special gift! 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.

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.

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Address: _____

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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, Sept. 6, 9 a.m. / Metropolitan Planning Organization, County Center, 26th Floor Conference Rooms A&B, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. See details below.

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m. / Land Use Hearing, County Center, 26th Floor Conference Rooms A&B, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Agenda includes the Bloomingdale Avenue Planned Development vote and a discussion of the proposal to allow chickens on residentially zoned property. See p. 5 for information. .

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

BHA BRIEFS

August Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

General – HCSO District IV Commander Major Robert Bullara attended and introduced incoming Community Resource Deputy Luke Hussey. See story on page 19. Bullara, a Bloomingdale resident, shared that a new District 5 will stand up next year and will include Bloomingdale.

Plans continue to develop for the fall festival. Volunteers are always needed and community service hours are earned. See page 10. Contact the committee via email at bhafallfest@gmail.com.

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, 9 a.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

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.)



You may have heard a lot of talk about the idea of chickens coming to neighborhoods in Hillsborough County. At the July 20 Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting, a fellow board member requested that county staff bring back a report regarding rules that the board could enact to allow chickens on property zoned for residential use. Currently, this is not allowed under the County's Land Development Code (LDC).

This report will be brought back to the BOCC at the Sept. 13 Land Use meeting. As it stands right now, there are several possible outcomes when the Board is presented with the report:

- 1) Nothing is changed; or
- 2) A commissioner makes a motion to have language drafted for a Land Development Code (LDC) change.

If an LDC change is recommended, it could result in either:

- 1) the BOCC moves to adopt the change, which requires public hearings; or
- 2) it could fail, resulting in no changes.

I would like to stress that I am **not** championing an effort to allow this or to prevent it, but I would like to ensure that you are well-prepared for any possible changes.

While we cannot know at this time what the eventual outcome will be, I wanted to ensure neighborhoods are fully prepared for any change that could be coming, and encourage you to contact the attorney for your Homeowners Association in order to review your covenants. It is my understanding from talking with County legal staff that even should the LDC change, allowing chickens on residentially zoned property, it will not prevent HOAs from disallowing them under your own covenants and rules.

Now is the time to make sure your HOA covenants are clear on the topic. I will also keep HOAs apprised of developments, including any potential public hearing dates, on this important issue.

BHA OPPOSES "CHICKENS" IN BLOOMINGDALE

On behalf of the community, the BHA board thanks Commissioner White for clarifying the land use change proposal to allow chickens on property zoned for residential use.

If the proposal passes, this is what it will mean for Bloomingdale residents. Our 16 mandatory HOAs consisting of nearly 1,700 homes will be able to control whether or not they want to allow chickens in their neighborhoods. They will do this through their enforceable deed restrictions.

Our 16 voluntary HOA neighborhoods consisting of nearly 3,300 homes will not be able to affect this proposal should it pass. Residents in these neighborhoods have no mandatory board and no enforceable deed restrictions. All of west Bloomingdale and portions of east Bloomingdale would be affected.

The BHA board does not support this proposal for many reasons. Our property lots are too small to keep chickens from offending other neighbors, and chickens will attract insects, rodents and predators. Whether you are for or against this proposal, please attend the Sept. 13, 9 a.m., BOCC Land Use Hearing at County Center in Tampa to let your opinions be known. The "chickens in residentially zoned neighborhoods" proposal will be on the agenda. It is a public meeting.



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654-8113

3248 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.
BLOOMINGDALE

654-9292

1025 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
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684-4499

913 Brandon Blvd.
BRANDON

643-6944

1836 W. Lumsden Rd.
FISHHAWK

654-7991

16707 FishHawk Blvd.
PLANT CITY

752-6631

2621 Thonotosassa Rd.
(Plant City Crossings)
RIVERVIEW

672-1832

11697 Boyette Rd.
RIVERVIEW

671-4156

13196 Hwy. 301 S.
SEFFNER

684-5897

1515 N. Parsons Ave.
VALRICO

654-2324

1999 E. Brandon Blvd
(SR 60)
VALRICO

643-4825

2511 S.R. 60 E.

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

Network Professionals, Inc., Valrico-Fishhawk (Breakfast) Chapter / Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. / Courtside at Starling Tennis Club / 15921 Courtside View Drive, Lithia / Network Professionals, Inc., is a select group of highly-qualified men and women, one in each professional category, who bond together for the sole purpose of helping each other succeed in business by networking through the exchange of qualified business referrals. Join this brand new NPI chapter meeting every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. Category-specific, so join now to nail down your profession's slot. Contact Guy Howerton at 813-310-2860 for information.



Dementia Support Group / September 16 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.

Bedtime with Books / September 16 / 7-8 p.m. / The Village Early Learning Center / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / It's a "Bedtime with Books" Pajama Party! Join us for this FREE family event! Open to the public: reservations are required. Bedtime with Books is a night of storytelling, a craft, and a snack. Children in attendance will receive a free book! Appropriate for children ages 2 to 5. Children come dressed in PJ's. You must RSVP for this event by signing up your child at the signup sheet at the front desk or call 813-651-0779.

Masterpieces & Martinis / September 16 / 6:30-9:30 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Create a beautiful masterpiece all in one evening! Tickets include dinner and martinis--\$40 per person; \$70 per couple. Come out and support the arts! For information, call 813-685-8888.

Casino Night Party / September 16 / 6:30-11 p.m. / The Regent / 6437 Watson Road, Riverview / The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce invites you to a Casino Party Night to benefit A Kids Place foster home. Food, open bar, and casino money included in this all-inclusive ticket event. Presale tickets available through September 3 for \$50 per person; after September 3 tickets are \$65 per person. Bring a new pair of children's shoes (grades kindergarten through 6 needed the most)—help kids put their best foot forward and receive three raffle tickets for the Chest of Cheer spirits basket. For information, call 813-689-1221.



Giant Book Sale / September 24 / 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / The Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Library will hold a Giant Book Sale this month. All bookstore items will be marked down and specially priced for inventory reduction on this day only. Check out the wide assortment of books, CDs and DVDs available for purchase, all at unbeatable prices. All proceeds from the sale provide funding for library programs. For information, call 813-273-3652.

Jeff Klinkenberg's Bucket List Places to Visit in Florida / September 27 / 7-8 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / Jeff Klinkenberg will present a program of Bucket-List places to visit in Florida. He is an award-winning columnist who wrote for the Tampa Bay Times for almost 4 decades and author of several books about Florida. The stories of people he has met and places he has seen of "Real Florida" promise to be humorous and enlightening. His books will be for sale at the end of the program. Funded by Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Library. For information, call 813-272-3652.

UPCOMING

9th Annual Cards for Troops / October 1 / 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Join us for our FREE community event and show your support for our troops. Let your inner artist shine as you help make handmade holiday cards for our service



men and women. The decorated cards (blank inside) are sent to deployed and hospitalized service members, who will be able to write a sentiment inside each card and send to their loved ones. Ages 16 and up. No childcare will be provided. Purchase raffle tickets at the event for great prizes! Donations will be accepted at the door to help offset the cost of supplies and postage. Sponsored by Center Place and The Community Roundtable. For information, call 813-685-8888.

5th Annual Gifts & Crafts Fair at The Bridges / October 8 / 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. / The Bridges Retirement Community / 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / Vendors with unique gifts and crafts are invited to register for the annual Gifts & Crafts Fair held at The Bridges Retirement Community. "Due to the positive feedback from those who attended last year, and the fact that we were filled to capacity with vendors, made the event a huge success!" says Janet Noah, Community Relations Liaison and event organizer. Interested vendors please contact Janet at 813-413-8900 or jnoah@thebridgesbvm.com.

Hillsborough County Fair Recycled Yard Art Contest / October 20-23 and October 27-30 / Hillsborough County Fairgrounds, State Road 60 and Sydney Washer Road in Dover, east of Valrico / Join us at the Hillsborough County Fair for this year's Recycled Yard Art Contest! Accepting two and three-dimensional art created from items already used for their original purpose. Apply in one of our four categories: Elementary School, Middle School, High School, and Adult consisting of individual and group submissions. First place awards will be given to individual and/or group entries. For information, contact Lisa Meredith, Compost, School & Community Garden Program Coordinator UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County, at MeredithL@hillsboroughcounty.org or 813-744-5519 x 54146.



2nd Annual Goody Goody Turkey Gobble 5K / November 24 / 6 a.m. / Begins and ends at Amelie Arena / 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa / The Goody Goody Turkey Gobble 5K is a chip-timed race, USATF certified course #FL05053DL in downtown Tampa. Proceeds support the LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA program for cancer survivors and their families. Registration is available NOW at runsignup.com: \$30 per person for individual 5k, \$15 per person for run/walk 1 mile, and \$30 per person for team 5k. Participants will enjoy a post-race breakfast from Goody Goody Restaurant! Prizes will be awarded to 1st place overall male/female adult and 1st place overall male/female youth (ages 9 and under). First place prizes will also be awarded by age groups. Strollers and dogs are welcome to join the race, music and family fun. For information, call 813-229-1305.



BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE PART-TIME POSITION OPEN!

Wanted: an experienced reporter/photographer for the Bloomingdale Gazette. Hours are very flexible and pay is on par with other local newspapers. Contact the BHA at 813-681-2051 or via email at InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com.



BLOOMINGDALE

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

BLOOMINGDALE

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BSTD Welcomes New Property Manager

By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

The Board of Trustees of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District is pleased to welcome Rick Pitrowski, President and owner of Merit, Incorporated, as the new property manager for the Bloomingdale community. Pitrowski brings not only a wealth of experience in property management, but also a special affinity for Bloomingdale as a onetime resident.

For over 15 years, Pitrowski lived in the Bloomingdale community, moving here in 1992. He quickly became involved with the BSTD and served as its President from 1992 until 1998. During his tenure, he was involved in all aspects of the property management and also developed the Board's landscape maintenance contract.

Since 1998, Pitrowski has been involved in property management as his business. He currently manages the three other largest special taxing districts in Hillsborough County—Logan Gate Village since 1998, Northdale since 2002, and Westchester since 2006. Additionally, he manages two local homeowners' associations—the Estates at River Crossing and FishHawk Trails.

The new property manager hit the ground running on August 19, meeting with the community's landscape maintenance contractor, Buccaneer. He will be inspecting property conditions, reviewing processes, and following up with residents on outstanding issues, all while working closely with the BSTD Trustees to ensure a smooth transition. In the coming weeks, he plans to meet with homeowners' association boards throughout Bloomingdale.

Pitrowski provides both physical and administrative property management, and intends to provide Bloomingdale with an attention to detail and an eye on the extras the community needs. "I envision Bloomingdale continuing to be a premier community in Eastern Hillsborough County."

One focus of the new property management team will be entryway maintenance throughout the community. A Buccaneer Landscaping employee cleans an entryway bed.



Photo: Rick Pitrowski

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↑↓ INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS AND PARKING...

Provided By The Neighborhood Standards Committee (NSC)

(Editor's Note: Each month, the NSC will address a new standards issue for our readers. Address questions/complaints via email to bloomingtondale.homeowners@gmail.com)

Our residents' #1 **complaint** is parking. There are many misunderstandings about parking regulations. The BHA Neighborhood Standards released in August are based on Hillsborough County Ordinances and address, among several property issues, some of the most commonly violated parking regulations. The Standards are enforceable by County Code Enforcement or the Sheriff's Office. Violations can result in fines, court hearings, and even impounding the vehicle.

Motorcycles, automobiles, and pick-up trucks, **under one-ton capacity** - in a clean, usable condition and displaying current registration at all times - **may be parked** within Bloomingdale residential areas.

Parking on public streets is allowed; unless restricted by a lawful organization or noted below. Parking on county property is **prohibited** unless authorized.

Parking commercial vehicles/trailers over one-ton capacity or altered for commercial use is **NOT** allowed, unless loading or unloading.

NOT allowed, unless stored in an enclosed structure are:

- 1) Inoperable vehicles; those needing one or more parts, in disrepair or invalid registration,
- 2) Spare parts or pieces of vehicles, boats, trailers, or even aircraft.

With restrictions, recreational vehicles, hobby vehicle, private pleasure craft and utility trailers are allowed:

- 1) **Under twenty feet in length**, same as automobiles; though only one trailer and one other of above is allowed outside of an enclosed structure,
- 2) **Over 20 feet in length**, must be in an enclosed structure, or parked on your property in the side or back yard with a minimum setback of five feet from side or back property lines.

There are **some exceptions** to these restrictions. Complete details of exceptions and other requirements for parking may be found online. Search for "Hillsborough County Codes." The complete BHA Neighborhood Standards List may be found online on the BHA Home Page at www.bloomingtondalehoa.com.

In September, a team of Code Enforcement Officers will conduct a "Blitz" blanketing various Bloomingdale neighborhoods and issuing Violation Notices to residents, not just violating parking codes, but all County Codes. Follow-up inspections will verify if violations have been corrected or if additional action will be taken.

Code violations are publicly posted on the Hillsborough County website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org. To submit a complaint or search active cases, search the site using "Register Complaint / Search Active Cases." Or, submit a complaint through the BHA at bloomingtondale.homeowners@gmail.com.



Bloomingtondale Real Estate Update

During a real estate transaction, there are a couple steps that all parties can agree are stressful. In today’s market, the biggie is the appraisal. An appraisal is an estimation of value and is usually required by the lender when a loan is involved. In order to prevent another real estate bubble, lenders want to ensure they are not lending more money than a property is worth.

Obviously sellers want to get the most they can from the sale. The buyer hopes it will appraise so they don’t have to come up with additional money out of pocket to make the deal work. If a buyer doesn’t have the additional funds, they stand to lose the home altogether.

When going through the process, it is important to remember an appraisal is not an exact science. It is based on the homes sold within the same area with the same attributes including, similar square footage, lot size, age, bedrooms, bathrooms, etc. Special consideration is given for items such as pools and fences. One mistake many sellers make is overspending on upgrades, which may help the home sell faster, but does not add any real value to the property.

Neighborhood Snapshot - Bloomingtondale Trace

Bloomingtondale Trace was developed in the mid-1980s and is comprised of Carrie Wood Drive, Ellenville Place, Havenstone Way, Lorenwood Drive and 1201-1314 Monte Lake Drive. This area has experienced less turnover than other areas of Bloomingtondale with only 7 homes sold in the last year. The average sales price for homes sold in the last year was \$241,000 at an average of \$105 per square foot.

**MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold August 21, 2015 through August 21, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*



By Ryan Brantley
The Chadderton Real Estate Group
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Over 50 participants will headline the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's upcoming Fall Festival. The popular event is Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club off Natures Way.

According to event Co-chair Suzy Watts, the Fall festival is all about residents and the community. "This is our home, our neighborhood. The Fall Festival gives us a chance to get together and have fun."

Businesses are providing activities for kids and adults, games, demo teams, unbelievable raffles, costume contests and a safe "trick or treat" street experience. Young and the young at heart will enjoy static displays from the Hillsborough County Fire Department featuring our community's own Quint 7 and the Sheriff's Office Citizens Patrol cruiser.

Craft tables, balloon makers and face painting will keep the kids busy and a free photo booth will help residents create some lasting memories. Mascots including Mathnasium's A+, the Chick-fil-A Cow, and everyone's favorite the Tampa Bay Lightning ThunderBug are sure to provide fun and laughter.

In support of October's National Adopt-A-Shelter Dog month, the Festival will again feature an animal rescue group. Please remember to bring a canned or dry food donation and be prepared to take a four-legged friend home!

Hungry? The Fall Festival can fill you up! The first 100 kids will receive a goodie bag filled with coupons and a free hotdog ticket. Sarge's BBQ is returning with the area's finest barbecue offerings, and the Golfers Club will offer food as well. Also available will be free ice cream samples from Jeremiah's Italian Ice and YoYo Juice's full menu of smoothies and delicious drinks.

Volunteers are needed! The BHA provides community service hours for the Bright Futures Scholarship program for high school students in the area. The volunteer service is more fun than work. Contact the BHA at bhafallfest@gmail.com for details.

Check the October Gazette for complete details about this community-building event.

Our FREE, family event features:

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There will also be appearances from the Tampa Bay Lightning Bug, the Hillsborough County Fire and Sheriff's Departments, and other demonstrations.

Visit us at the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association web page, Facebook page or check your Bloomingdale Gazette for updates and additional information about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.

(813) 681-2051 • Email: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com

BloomingdaleHOA.com



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

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Michigan

Comic strip artist Will Leech is a Florida State University freshman. Through his creation "Michigan," he shares his view of the world around us.

MichiGan by Will Leech



Making more putts with better aiming...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

Most missed putts from a short range (4-6 feet) are often a result of incorrect alignment of your body during the putting set up. We make similar mistakes of incorrect alignment during our full swing set up.

Here are a few guidelines for better aiming to make more putts:

Red Line - The line the ball travels on is your target line.

Yellow Lines - The other line we call the body line; consisting of your feet, knees, hips and shoulders. They need to all be square or even.

Both red and yellow lines are aimed parallel to each other like a railroad track.

If you aim your body incorrectly (right at the hole), you will compensate by rotating your body or putter face to get the ball back to the left and get it in the hole.

Compensating is the main reason why your score varies from round to round. Aim better...putt better...no compensation.

Next lesson: Ball on the sidewalk, which way do I go? Any questions or for lessons, visit CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. 813-957-3205.



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Welcome Back, Bulls!

"Meet the Bulls Kick Off" Introduces Fall Activities

Brief By Deidre Morgan

On Aug. 12, Bloomingdale High School held a "Meet the Bulls" event to provide a snapshot of upcoming fall activities for new and returning students, families and Bulls fans. Under the leadership of first year Head Coach Max Warner, the football team headlined the event with a friendly scrimmage to give the crowd a sample of what's to come offensively and defensively this season. Helping to put the crowd into a spirited mood was the BSHS JV and Varsity cheerleading squads.

Half-time featured introductions of fall sports teams including volleyball and swimming followed by a well-received show by the Rajun' Bull Band. The Booster Club provided concessions and raffles for prizes and booths were set up selling baked goods and team spirit items. A great time was had under the "Friday Night Lights" and expectations are high for an excellent year. Go Bulls!

Packed stands are expected at BSHS home football games, but a surprise rainbow is not.

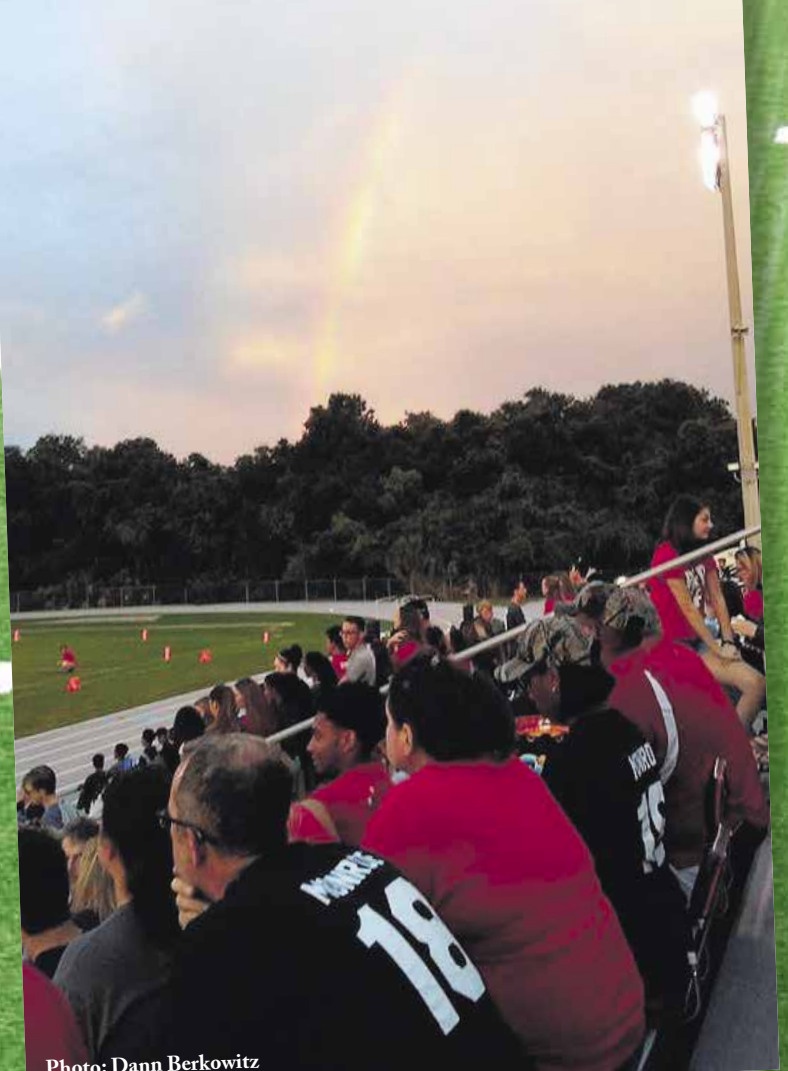


Photo: Dann Berkowitz



Photo: Deidre Morgan

The Bulls football team takes the field heralded by the great sounds of the Rajun' Bull Band.



Photo: Deidre Morgan

Football team moms Cyndi Holcombe and Cheri Pignataro man the spirit booth at the Meet the Bulls event.

Go, Fight, Win! BSHS JV and Varsity cheerleaders demonstrate Bull Spirit.

Photo:
Dann Berkowitz



At Meet the Bulls, the 2016/2017 football team provided a hint of this season's game plan.

Photo:
Dann Berkowitz

Photo: Deidre Morgan



Varsity cheerleaders sold sweet treats to appreciative attendees.



The Girls Volleyball team, a district powerhouse, is ready to serve up a winning season.

Photo:
Deidre Morgan

...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.

Homegrown Pineapples in Bloomingdale? Who Knew?

By Patti Philipsen

Cube it, slice it, shred it, juice it, grill it, cook with it – Pineapples are a delicious treat or complement to any dish. Many people think of Hawaii as the pineapple capital of the United States. However, pineapples were cultivated first in Florida before Hawaii was even a U.S. territory.

The temperatures in our area provide a good growing platform for this tropical plant. A member of the bromeliad family, it grows well in Zones 9-11 and can reach 4 feet in height and 6 feet in width. Watering needs are few – water them when you remember, but just don't over water them. As with many of our tropical plants, cover your pineapples when a freeze warning is announced. And, unlike some of our garden beauties, pineapples like full sun or dappled shade...shade that has sunlight peeking through.

The flowers are the most important part because this is what eventually develops into the mouth-watering fruit. Ranging from purple to pink-red on a stalk, the pineapple flower blooms during late winter to early spring. From time to time, a fertilizer boost may be necessary. Stay away from the center leaves and fertilize around the bottom of the plant. Pests can be an issue too, take care to use a method that is safe for birds and good insects.



The flower is the source of the pineapple fruit.
Photo: Patti Philipsen

So how can you grow your own fresh pineapple? Start with a fresh mature pineapple that has healthy, firm, green leaves (not yellow or brown) and with a fruit skin that is golden brown (not too green). You can find one at any grocery store.

1. You need the pineapple's leafy crown. While you can remove the crown yourself either by twisting or cutting off the crown, I have gotten several cut at Publix for free. The crown is the part of the pineapple that makes more pineapples. Cut or twist about one inch below the leaves. Trim any adhering flesh and strip off three or four basal leaves.



The pineapple crown is the first step to growing your own delectable fruit.
Photo: Patti Philipsen

2. Place the crown upside down in a dry shady place for a few days. This lets the cut end harden and doing this will prevent rot. Once dry, you can plant the crown in a pot or in the ground.
3. Planting in pots. Plant the crown in a good 12-inch pot in a rich potting mixture. Make sure there is good drainage because pineapples don't like wet feet. **Gardening tip:** If you're worried about soil washing out of the bottom of your pot, put a paper coffee filter, a piece of screen, or a shard of pottery over the drainage holes before adding dirt. I prefer to place gravel or small rocks at the bottom of my pots...this keeps them from easily tipping over.
4. Planting in the ground. Pineapples grow best in moderately fertile, sandy loam soils just like we have here in Florida! So, simply plant the pineapple in the ground.
5. Tap the soil firmly around the base of the crown. Be sure not to get any of the soil into the leaves or the crown.
6. Water it in, then water once a day for the first two weeks and after that, once a week till you see new growth. Then as I said before, when you think about it.

You just planted a pineapple!

Now comes patience. Your ready-to-eat pineapple won't happen overnight...try about 780 nights. But, it is worth the wait. Pleasant things happen while you wait for the fruit. In about 16 months, an inflorescence bud shoot will form in the center. Two months later a red cone appears. Then, the flowers appear and open in about two weeks' time. As the last flower dies, your fruit will begin to develop. When your fruit is about six months old, it becomes sweeter. When the fruit changes from green to a rich gold halfway up your pineapple, it is ready to be picked.

Twenty-six months is a long time to wait for anything, even a pineapple. But, they are so good and they are made all the more sweet because you grew them yourself. Happy gardening!



Pineapple tops growing at Butterfly World.
Source: <http://etc.usf.edu>

Plan Your Parks

Hillsborough County Press Release

The Hillsborough County Property Appraiser sent out nearly 450,000 of the Truth in Millage, or TRIM, notices last month letting property owners know how much their property is worth and information about what their taxes are likely to be. This year, through an agreement with the County Parks & Recreation, the notices also tell property owners how to take an important survey on parks.

Parks & Recreation officials are in the midst of a major survey designed to gather residents' input on facilities, programming, and recreational needs throughout the county. The information will be used for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

The survey is available through PlanYourParks.org. In addition to the TRIM notices, the County is sending postcards with information about the survey to 20,000 households. The County also held a series of meetings throughout the county to solicit residents' opinions on parks earlier this summer.



Bloomingdale Avenue Light Update



Progress continues on the new traffic signal located at Bloomingdale Avenue just west of Bell Shoals. The new light and associated construction will change the current traffic pattern and ultimately alleviate difficulties drivers experience getting in and out of the shopping center. The light is expected to be operational this month.

Photo: Suzanne Jones

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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.



Ah, The Great Indoors..

Let's make something perfectly clear: I...Do...Not...Camp. Even though I have dear friends and a spouse who have tried to convince me otherwise, my idea of "roughing it" is when the ice melts in my drink. Are we clear here? Good.

Now, before you decide that I am merely speaking through my Davy Crockett Coonskin Cap, let me assure you that I have, indeed, been camping. Twice. And both occasions are indelibly etched in my memory.

The first Great Camping Adventure was the result of my parents' sudden conviction that we had not spent nearly enough time doing "family things" together. We needed to strengthen our "family bonds." I vocalized the opinion that since I had somehow managed to make it nearly to puberty without relying on a swamp to instill me with familial devotion, I could manage without it, thank you very much. My folks firmly believed in patiently hearing out their offspring and giving us the benefit of clearly and concisely explained options. In this particular case, I was given the choice between "camping" and "or else."

I must admit that those three days did draw us together as a family. Mainly because only one tent remained erect during the hurricane. My brother endeared himself to absolutely no one by announcing that he had, within an hour of our arrival at Camp Catastrophe, identified 12 different types of poisonous or otherwise hazardous critters. From my mother I learned a wonderful new nighttime recognize-the-sound game called, "My God, what was that?" And my father taught me that man does not live by fire alone through these immortal words: "I am aware that the fire is out again, Ellen. See those sheets of water pouring from the sky? That's called 'rain,' and the only way I can keep the fire going during this deluge is by holding something big and stupid over it. Would you care to volunteer?" Ah, yes. So much for "togetherness."

A mere 25 years later, I braved the wilds again, this time with 14 Girl Scouts in tow. It was a memorable experience in sharing. I taught them "The Buddy System."

They taught me "The Disappearing Act." I showed them "Knot Tying." They responded with "Not Trying." I sang "The Friendship Song." They warbled "Let's Get Physical." I worked on their badges. They worked on my nerves. It was a very long weekend.

So just for the record, all you campers out there, let's see if I have this straight: You want me to trade my Serta, my microwave and my central air for sleeping on rocks, prehistoric cooking techniques and heat stroke? Sure. Sounds like fun to me. I'll dash right into my office and put that on my "List of Things to Do." Right under "Set Fire to My Hair."



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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: "WAR DOGS"

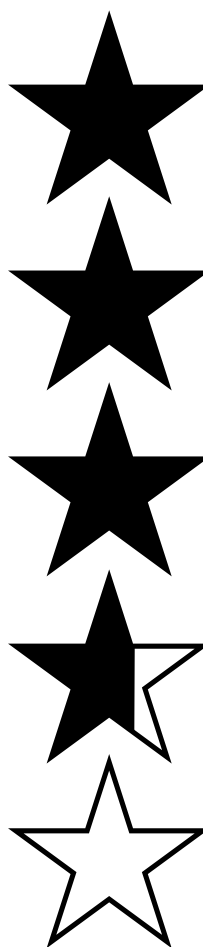
"War Dogs" is the raunchy yet serious R-rated movie. It uses comedy to its advantage to express its commentary on the American gun cartel. Miles Teller as David and Jonah Hill as Efraim carry this movie with incredible acting and fantastic chemistry. The director, Todd Phillips, has not made a good movie since the "Hangover" until now.

There were times in the movie that the story became cluttered through ill-timed editing. Several scenes had me completely riveted, then poor editing would completely distract me. In one scene, David was not wearing a bullet proof vest, but then in the next shot there was a vest on him. To me, the small little mistakes bump the quality of a movie down.

On the other hand, I was a huge fan of how the story was told. Since it was such a dark story about the gun cartel, the use of comedy balanced out the seriousness. "War Dogs" reminded me of last year's 'Big Short,' an Adam McKay film, for the same exact reasons.

Actors Miles Teller and Jonah Hill were definitely the highlights of this movie. Miles Teller killed the role of David, a desperate mid-20's man who needs money for his daughter. An always-consistent Jonah Hill played cocky best friend Efraim who becomes hungry for money. The drug use and coarse language at first seemed overused, but made sense given the movie's subject.

With Teller and Hill carrying the movie and giving great performances, they make up for the lackluster performance by Todd Phillips and the editing team. And, I believe the good outweighs the bad – I give this movie a 3.75 out of 5.



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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Luke Hussey and C.S.O. Sandy Capitano



Source: HCSO

AUGUST BLOOMINGDALE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING (BACC)

The August BACC meeting on Aug. 18 was well attended. Major Robert Bullara, District IV Commander, was present, along with Master Deputy Curtis Warren to introduce the newly assigned Community Resource Deputy Luke Hussey. Discussions included the traffic issues around Alafia and Cimino Elementary Schools, concerns with the new medians installed at the Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale intersection and the area crime statistics.

AREA LAW AND ORDER

Between July 18 and Aug. 14, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 95 traffic stops in the Bloomingdale and surrounding area known as J04 Zone. Remember to obey all traffic laws! School Zone enforcement will be a priority for our Traffic Enforcement Unit, as well as the patrol deputies assigned to the J04 area. District IV deputies who work in the J04 zone/area have a very large area to patrol, respond to calls for service and enforce traffic laws in. The J04 zone encompasses not only the Bloomingdale area but also reaches all the way down to the Lithia area as well. Please be patient when you are requesting a deputy for a non-emergency incident.

In the Bloomingdale area, there were only one auto burglary and one residential burglary in the last month, a significant decrease. Please remember to lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors and lock your vehicles. These small steps will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim. Roughly 80 percent of our crimes are considered crimes of opportunity, beginning with unsecured vehicles. During the same time frame, there were also two criminal mischief incidents, one involving a vehicle and one where lights in a subdivision were damaged. Always report suspicious activity to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

ESTABLISH GOOD HABITS AND ROUTINES

We are all creatures of habit. Try to train yourself and your family to get into the habit of always securing all doors and valuables. "Smart-Homes" and garage door monitoring systems make it easier to secure your garage and other doors in the event you forget. If you find yourself forgetting regularly, it may be worth the investment to purchase some security items that are currently available on the market today. Check online, with your current cable or internet providers or at any of your big electronic stores for ideas or details. Remember, you can never be "too" safe.

Know your neighbors and their habits, allowing you to spot something out of the ordinary. Be aware of what is going on in your neighborhood without invading anyone's privacy. Observe and report ANY suspicious activity to law enforcement.

The non-emergency phone number for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is 813-247-8200.

REMINDERS

Make sure vehicles are locked and never leave valuables in plain sight.

We reminded everyone last month but it requires another mention: do not leave your firearm in your vehicle overnight. Bring your firearm inside and store it safely.

Schools are back in session so pay attention to school zones. The fact that we need to slow down and obey the speed limit in the school zones is not negotiable. The fines for speeding are very expensive. So slow down and obey the speed limit! Drive as if your kids walk to and attend those schools. Be careful!

Record your serial numbers and take photos of your valuables. Having your serial numbers on file will assist in identification of your property and make it possible for you to get the property back if it is ever stolen.

A MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS FROM DEPUTY HUSSEY

As of Aug. 1, I became the new Community Resource Deputy for the Bloomingdale and Gibsonton communities. I am honored and humbled to be selected for such an important position within not only District IV, but also the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. I plan on continuing the same great service Deputy Warren gave to the Bloomingdale community and Deputy McMurtry gave to the Gibsonton community.

With Community-Law Enforcement relations at a boiling point throughout different areas/cities around the U.S, with this new position and role in the community, I feel as if I have an obligation and duty to uphold and strengthen the great relationship that the citizens of Hillsborough County have with our agency, specifically my areas of assignment. From Sheriff Gee to the newly hired Deputy-Recruit that just graduated our academy, our agency as a whole believes in the value of community service, community relations and giving back, all while protecting and serving our great citizens.

We all work diligently and very hard to keep everyone safe and to reduce crime, but we need the community's help. That's where I come in. I will be out contacting businesses, business owners, home owners associations and neighborhood watches to get help in not only solving cases but more importantly, preventing them.

Information sharing and open lines of communication, whether it be social media or simple phone calls, are the quickest and easiest forms of assistance we look and hope for. I plan on making that a priority. If all goes well, crime will go down, relationships between the HCSO and the community will continue to go up and we will continue to be a model for law enforcement agencies and communities around the nation.

Photo: The Hussey Family



Bloomingdale welcomes Deputy Luke Hussey and his wife Jennifer to the community.

There's a New Deputy in Town, Bloomingdale!

By Miriam Leech

Deputy Luke Hussey wants to hear from you, Bloomingdale! As the new Community Resource Deputy (CRD) for the Bloomingdale and Gibsonton areas in District IV, he sees two-way communication as his number one job to keep our community safe.

Deputy Hussey took over his duties at the Bloomingdale Community Station on August 1, replacing long-time CRD Curtis Warren. "I plan on continuing the same great service Deputy Warren gave to the Bloomingdale community. From Sheriff Gee to the newly-hired Deputy-Recruit, our agency as a whole believes in the value of community service, community relations, and giving back, all while protecting and serving our great citizens."

He joined the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) in 1999 as a Digital Communications Dispatcher. After graduation from the University of South Florida and the Law Enforcement Academy at Hillsborough Community College, Hussey became a Law Enforcement Deputy in 2002 and began patrol in District I.

Since that time the new CRD has worked undercover as well as patrol throughout the County, and in 2009 was selected as part of the first Intelligence Led Policing-District Intelligence Unit for District IV. In 2013, he was transferred back to patrol and worked primarily Gibsonton with short stints in the Bloomingdale area.

At the community meeting held August 18 to introduce Deputy Hussey, District IV Commander Major Rob Bullara described the Bloomingdale Community Station as "one of the busiest substations in District IV." He assured residents in attendance that Deputy Hussey's assignment to both Bloomingdale and Gibsonton does not mean service will diminish.

Said Hussey, "I see my role as in between patrol [deputies] and the community. I want information from you so that I can get it to the proper place to make a difference in crime statistics." He noted that he is impressed with how involved the residents of Bloomingdale are in the community—not just with their own individual homes.

Deputy Hussey is married with three children and four step-children, and resides in Riverview. He is looking forward to working in the Bloomingdale community, and will be contacting businesses, business owners, homeowners' associations, and neighborhood watches to assist in solving crimes and most importantly, preventing them. "Two-way communication will make my job easy," said the new CRD.



New Community Resource Deputy (CRD) Luke Hussey (left) was introduced by Major Rob Bullara, District IV Commander (center), and Deputy Curtis Warren, outgoing CRD (right), at a community meeting on August 18 at the Bloomingdale Community Station.

Photo: Miriam Leech

Bloomingdale thanks Master Deputy Curtis Warren for his dedicated service to the Bloomingdale Community. His tireless efforts on our behalf have helped make Bloomingdale a safer and more secure place to call home. Best wishes in all your future endeavors!

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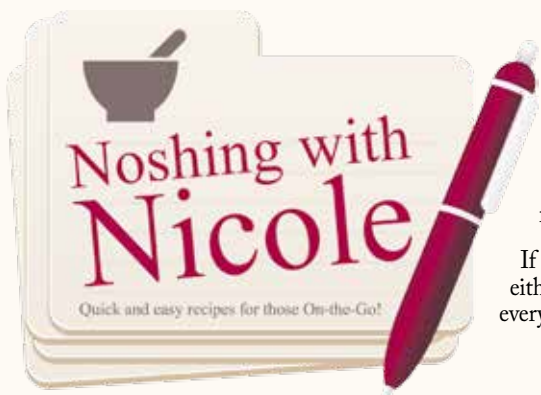
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Easiest Mushroom and Rice Casserole Ever!

Photo: Nicole Cluck

Weekday dinners during the year can be exhausting. To be nutritious, they are usually more work than you want to put in after a long day. Or, they're quick but not always healthy.

With school back in session, parents are juggling not only their busy schedules but those of their kids too. For many, your high schooler has a meet to attend, your middle schooler needs help with their homework, your preschooler is roaming the house on an adventure and your newest addition to the family needs a diaper change – and by the way, everyone is hungry.

If you ever feel like this, I have the perfect recipe to help reduce the stress of your after-school or work routine. Mushroom and Rice Casserole...It can either be a side, or, like my family makes it, a main dish by simply adding a protein, and/or vegetable. Just prep the protein whenever you have time, and pop everything else in the oven. Be sure to set the timer then do whatever you need to do in the meantime.

Mushroom and Rice Casserole:

Serving size: about 4

1 cup rice (dry)

1 to 2 cans mushroom stems and pieces

1 can beef consume

½ -1 stick butter

1 can French onion soup

Optional:

2/3-1 lb. ground beef, fully drained (or any protein you would prefer to make it a main dish). A small bag of frozen peas (or any vegetable you would prefer).

Directions:

Combine all of the ingredients in a casserole dish except for the optional ingredients. There will be a lot of liquid in the beginning. Cook for 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 minutes at 350°F. About 15 minutes into the cooking time, stir in the cooked ground beef. There will still be a lot of liquid in the dish. It will thicken as the rice cooks. Let cool. Serve with the cooked peas either mixed in or as a side.

Tips:

- Place casserole dish on a cookie sheet in the oven to prevent spills.
- A 13 x 9-casserole dish is perfect for tripling the recipe.



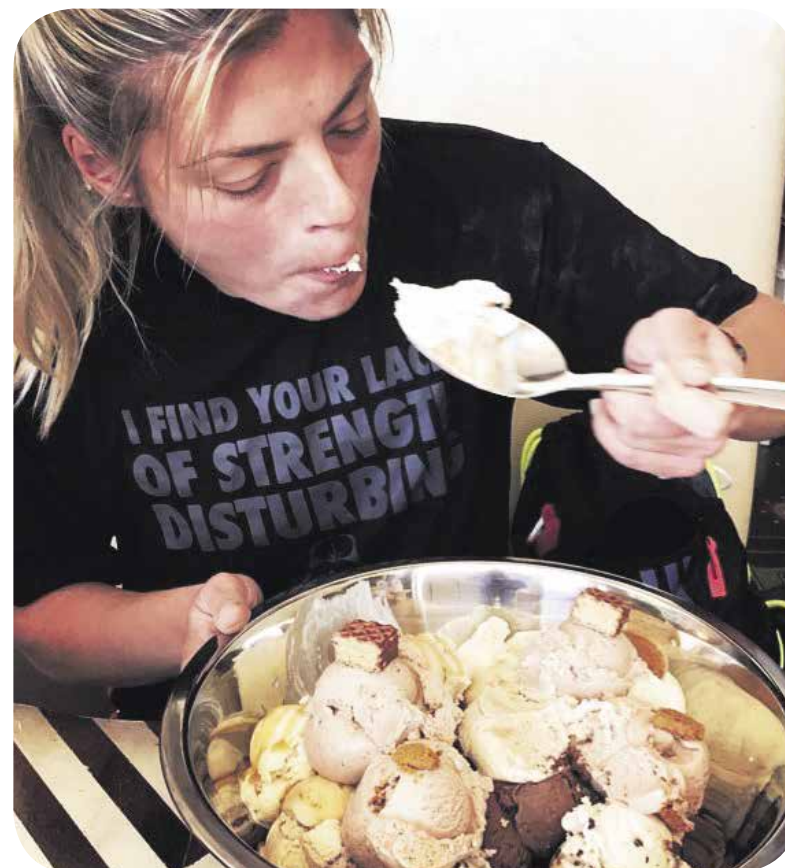
Mushroom and Rice Casserole is a simple easy “go to” dish that uses only five main ingredients.

Local Resident Keeps the Flavors Coming

By Abby Hernandez

With a 4.8 star rating on Google Reviews, The Revolution Ice Cream Co. is nothing short of revolutionary. The owner, Bloomingdale's own Bill Workman, says his goal is to “take over the world” with his ice cream shops. Workman, after having his first location in Brandon for over 3 years, recently opened a second location in Seminole Heights.

A major focus of this team is to give back and do what they can for the community. The Revolution team serves the underprivileged, donates ice cream to churches, and even sells local art for no charge. Regarding their products, The Revolution never fails to take ordinary ice cream favorites and turn them into something so much more. Their ice cream is intended to accommodate all taste interests and invite customers to step outside their comfort zone.



Samantha Norman, first winner of the "Anarchy Challenge" in which the participant must eat 24 scoops (6 pounds) of ice cream in under 30 minutes. With ice cream flavors like blueberry, praline, pancakes and Oreo, this challenge may be easier than it sounds.

Source: www.facebook.com/TheRevolutionIceCreamCo/

Where to find The Revolution:

Seminole Heights

6701 N Florida Ave, Tampa FL. 33604

813-513-5053

Tues-Sat: Noon-10 p.m., Sun: 1-9 p.m.

Brandon

220 W Brandon Blvd #104, Brandon, FL 33511

(813) 857-3250

Monday-Saturday: Noon-10 p.m., Sunday: 1-9 p.m.



SEPTEMBER 5 - LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Kindergarten Donations

Each kindergarten classroom received a play kitchen set but the cupboards are bare. If you would like to donate play food, dishes or tea sets please drop them off at the kindergarten pod, thanks!!

Clinic Wish List

The clinic is in need of Band-Aids and Resalable Sandwich Bags. Please drop off at the front office.

Spirit Day

Every Friday show your school spirit and wear your Alafia shirts!

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Sept. 16: Cougar Challenge Kickoff, go to www.ciminopta.com/events for up to date information.

Sept. 22: Burger Monger Spirit Night, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Join us for our first Spirit Night on Thursday, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to close. Be sure to mention Cimino when you order and the school will receive a percentage of the profits. See you there!

Sept. 30: Cougar Challenge, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers School Program

For more information on how to raise money for Cimino visit <http://www.buccaneers.com/schoolprogram/>



Show Your Cougar Pride

Make sure to order a Spirit Shirt newly designed for the 2016-17 school year. Stop by the office to pick up an order form. We will fill orders and send them back to the classroom as soon as possible! We still have many sizes in stock, but they are going fast! If we do not have your size, we plan on a re-order soon. All T-shirts are \$12. We accept cash (exact change please) and checks made out to Cimino PTA.



Burns Bruins Banter

Sept. 6 - Progress Reports

Sept. 8 - Conference Night, 5 p.m.

Sept. 8 - Band Parenting Meeting, 7 p.m.

Sept. 9 - PTSA Board Meeting, 8 a.m.

Sept. 9-13 - 6th Grade Hearing Screening, 8:30 a.m.

Sept. 14 - Picture Day

Sept. 14 - Basketball @ Burns, 6 p.m.

Sept. 16-Oct. 28 - School Fundraiser begins, information will be sent home with each student

Sept. 22 - Basketball @ Burns, 6 p.m.

Sept. 29 - Basketball @ Burns, 6 p.m.

Sept. 30 - Band plays at Bloomingdale Football Game, 6 p.m.

Yearbooks Are Now On Sale

A limited number of books will be ordered and once they are gone, that's it. There's no guarantee that copies will be available when the books arrive, so don't miss out! Place your order at YearbookOrderCenter.com.



HOT NEWS! Peachjar E-Flyers Have Arrived!

Welcome to Peachjar! Hillsborough County Public Schools has adopted Peachjar to provide electronic delivery of district-approved flyers to keep you informed about upcoming activities, programs and events. You can register or login by visiting the Peachjar website at www.peachjar.com/ and clicking on "My Account." Thank you for helping Hillsborough County Public Schools save time, money, and lots of trees!



Bloomingdale High Bull Business

Sept. 6 - Herff Jones Junior Ring Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 6 - JV/V Volleyball vs Plant, 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 8 - JV/V Volleyball @ TBT, 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 8 - JV Football vs Blake, 7 p.m.

Sept. 9 - Football @ Armwood, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 - 13 - Herff Jones ring order, 10 a.m.

Sept. 12 - Junior ring parent night, 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 - Volleyball @ Steinbrenner, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12 - General Booster Club Meeting, Media Center, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 - Senior Yearbook Ad Night, Media Center, 5 p.m.

Sept. 14 - JV/V Volleyball vs East Bay, 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 15 - JV Football vs Durant, 7 p.m.

Sept. 16 - Football vs TBT, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 17 - JV Volleyball Tournament @ Riverview, 8 a.m.

Sept. 20 - JV/V Volleyball @ Durant, 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 22 - Melissa Snively Meeting, Media Center, 6 p.m.

Sept. 22 - JV/V Volleyball @ Strawberry Crest, 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 22 - JV Football @ Lennard, 7 p.m.

Sept. 23 - Improv Show, Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Sept. 24 - Volleyball Tournament @ Cardinal Mooney, 8 a.m.

Sept. 26 - Orchestra Fall Concert, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 - Senior Yearbook Ad Night, Media Center, 5 p.m.

Sept. 27 - JV/V Volleyball @ Robinson, 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 28 - Academic Breakfast, Cafeteria, 8:30 a.m.

Sept. 29 - Senior Big Picture, Gym, 7:45 a.m.

Sept. 29 - Fall Showcase, Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 - JV Football @ East Bay, 7 p.m.

Sept. 30 - Football vs Durant, 7:30 p.m.



Bull Briefs

Get Connected



Scholarship Opportunity!

Wendy's High School Heisman due Oct. 3. Up to \$10,000 for seniors who excel in the class, on the field and in the community. Apply at <https://www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com>.

To learn about this and more opportunities follow Bloomingdale Guidance on Twitter @bdaleguidance.



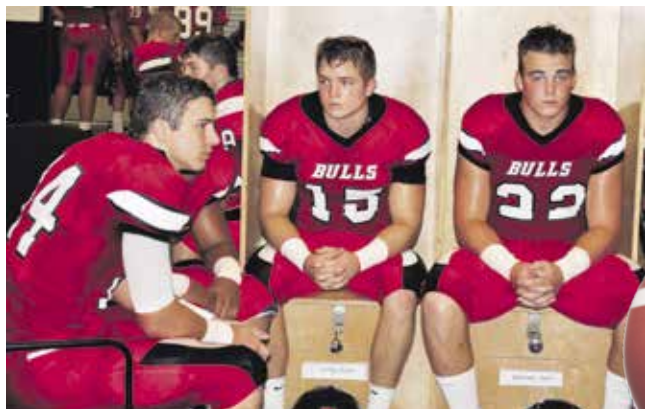
Inside The Locker Room – New Year, New Team, One Dream

Brief/Photos By Deidre Morgan

Inside the recently painted locker room of the Bloomingdale Bulls football team, you could feel the tension and excitement that starts a new season. Players and coaches are looking forward to taking the field and giving the Bloomingdale community something that was missing last year – a winning record.

In their preseason opener on Aug. 19 against the Chamberlain Chiefs, the Bulls came away with a 16 – 10 victory. Highlights of the game were an 80 yard sprint by running back DJ Williams into the end zone and wide receivers Edward Amos and Sam Gonzalez racking up a combined 105 receiving yards. The Bulls are looking for a standout year from seniors Sam Skinner (Defensive End), Dalton Carde (Left Tackle), Sam Gonzalez (Wide Receiver), DJ Williams (Running Back) and Colin Errity (Middle Linebacker).

Good Luck and Go Bulls!



Seniors Sam Gonzalez, Colin Errity and Sam Skinner are game ready.



Sophomore Center Justin Keijers is pumped and ready for action



Players discuss game strategy during the half-time locker room huddle. Perhaps, the freshly painted locker room coupled with a fresh player attitude will help secure a positive beginning for the team.



BSHS Thespians are Ready for the Spotlight

By Evan DeGraff

This school year promises to be a busy one for Bloomingdale High School's Thespian Troupe 4235, a select group of approximately 40 theater students inducted into the International Thespian Society. Led by theatre director and Thespian sponsor Rachel Cox, the group will present three shows this year, compete in the Fall Individual Events festival, a One Act Festival, and the Thespian State Festival in the spring.

Shows planned this year include "Alibis," "A Deep Poetic Journey Into Something," and "[No] Vacancy." "Alibis" is a murder mystery written by Peter Kennedy. The story is about the death of a famous actress and the detective who must come in to solve the case. "A Deep Poetic Journey Into Something" by Forrest Musselman is a dramatic one-act play that the Thespians will be taking to competition to USF against other Hillsborough County schools. The thespians will stretch their repertoire with Katelyn Beyke's comedy "[No] Vacancy."

In addition, the talented students will host four improv shows and two showcases to perform their individual events. The first Improv Night is on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. The focus on this night is spontaneity where the actors will rely on their creativity, quick thinking and audience suggestions to create an entertaining and comedic evening for everyone.



Photo: www.facebook.com/bloomingdalethespiansboosters/

Thespian Troupe president Mallorie Ruiz said, "As troupe 4235 president, I do what I can to make the troupe move forward as a whole. I have never been prouder of anything else." As the year begins, break a leg, Bulls!

For information, visit the Troupe's website at <http://bloomingdalehigh.wixsite.com/theater>.

BSHS Thespian Troupe 4235 is ready for their closeup. The drama students have a packed schedule for the 2016/2017 season.



Photo: Bloomingdale Theatre Troupe Historian Jessie Valenti

Gavin Gomes, Evan DeGraff, Mallorie Ruiz, and Marley Simon promote Drama Club at Bloomingdale High School's open house held Aug. 8.



Rajun' Bull Marching Band and Crimson Guard Fired Up for 2016-2017 Season

By Amy Fluty, Rajun' Bull Publicity Chair

The 2016-17 Bloomingdale Rajun' Bull Marching Band season is here! Honing their skills over the summer, the award-winning group, along with the Crimson Guard, performed in the Brandon Fourth of July parade under sweltering conditions. A month later, the students were back at it for band camp week where incoming freshman were welcomed and taught marching basics – Rajun' Bull style.

This year, the band's size increased to well over 200 members. Their first "official" school performance was at the "Meet the Bulls" pep rally held Aug. 12 at the school. It was a big success and everyone had a good time.

Next up, Bulls Football Season! Half time promises to be exciting and nostalgic, as the music from The Eagles will feature

prominently in performances by the band and dance troupe. Mark your calendars now for the annual Homecoming BBQ on Oct. 14. A popular event, the band looks forward to seeing many alumni, parents, and students there.

Also in the works, a Veteran's Day concert tentatively scheduled for the night of Nov. 10 at the school. Updates will be provided when available. The band is also preparing for a future trip to Europe in two years. Possible destinations are London, Madrid, or Paris.

These talented students need your support this year – attend performances, become a band booster, help with fundraising. And don't miss your chance to see a spectacular Rajun' Bull Marching Band and Crimson Guard Show!

Catch their performances at all upcoming football games. The schedule is:

- 8/26 @ Newsome
- 9/2 Home vs Gaither
- 9/9 @Armwood
- 9/16 Home vs TBT
- 9/30 Home vs Durant (also Middle school band night)
- 10/7 @Plant city
- 10/14 Home vs East Bay (Homecoming night and BBQ)
- 10/28 @Strawberry Crest
- 11/4 Home vs Brandon High (Senior night)

GO BULLS!



Photos: Kristin Witt

The Rajun' Bull Band and Crimson Guard entertain family and friends during the August preview night.



Learning marching skills at band camp is the first step to becoming a Rajun' Bull Marching Band member.



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