

BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road Valrico, Florida 33596

President: George T. May IV Vice President: Daniel Berkowitz

Secretary: Suzy Watts Treasurer: Mary Galin

Directors at Large:

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

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051 Email: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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\$155 per week
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Top-rated Program in Lithia and FishHawk –

Preparation for National Common Core Kindergarten Standards

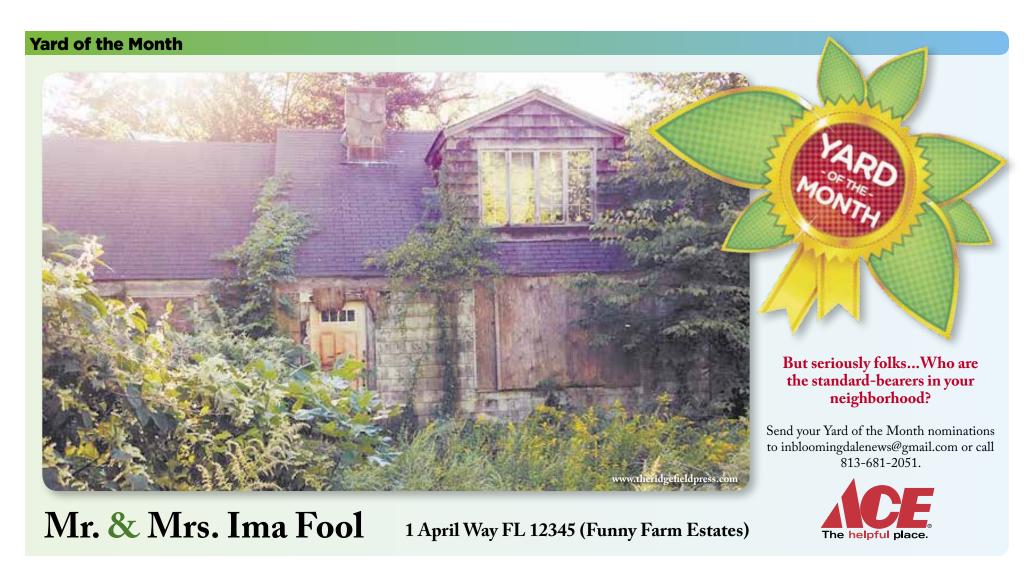
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Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary

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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.

Happy spring! Daffodil is a 2-year old, shiny black, short-haired male cat. He may be dark in color, but his disposition is sunny! This cutie is gentle, social, playful, and ready to help you usher in the glorious days of spring. Adopt Daffodil (ID#31109817) for just \$20.







Looking for a devoted companion? Junior longs to bond with a loving human or family. Animal Safety Officers rescued this 3-year old, medium-sized hound from neglect. Shy at first, he warms up quickly to friends and enjoys dashing around the play yard. Junior would especially appreciate a somewhat quiet home, at least during his initial adjustment. \$20 and you can take this "friend in need" home to a better life. Adopt Junior (ID#29385256); he is ready to be your best friend.

Vaffodil



Junior









Food % Music % Exhibitors % Free Admission

- In recognition of Heartworm.Awareness Month, we're celebrating with \$20 adoptions for all "Ready-To-Go" animals.
- The first 100 dogs adopted weighing 26 pounds and over will receive 6 months of heartworm preventative. Quantities will vary among sizes while supplies last
- All adoptions include spaying/neutering, vaccinations, a County license tag, and microchip with free registration (valued at \$250-\$400).



First Saturday Celebration at the Pet Resource Center, The First Place for Pets. HillsberoughCounty.org/Pets - Facebook.com/PRCPets

peto: RESOURCE CENTER. The Frat Page For Page



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



2016 Membership - 2nd Quarter Begins

The 1st quarter membership drive was the best ever, but the BHA still needs your support. Based on membership numbers so far, the Association is considering the feasibility of adding a second annual clean up in the fall. Dues intake will be a deciding factor in this decision.

Please consider joining and strengthening the one organization that advocates for the entire community of nearly 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. For the first time in 20 years, the Association approved a rate increase to help defray costs of running the organization and supporting the many services and programs it sponsors. As a non-profit, BHA funds are returned 100 percent to the community.

The BHA thanks all who have joined and/or donated to our scholarship fund. Your membership in the Association helps to pay for events like February's community garage sale, a new service the BHA added to improve our community; and last month's annual clean-up, an ongoing event held for over 15 years. See full clean-up coverage on pages 12-13.

Dues fund all special programs and services including this newspaper, a part-time staff, website/Facebook, the annual Santa visit, a community scholarship and the fall festival. The BHA is currently exploring new initiatives with county and state officials including a new dog park and funding for Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia Pinecrest Road improvements.

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.

Don't hesitate, join today! 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!

An easier method is to use 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, April 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, April 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, April 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

March Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

General - Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management official James Ransom delivered a presentation on county's recycling efforts. See next month's edition for recycling do's and don'ts.

Deed Update - The BHA's deed restriction update affecting non-mandated neighborhoods in the community has ended. Based on extensive research and several attorney consultations, the initiative must begin from within individual communities and not come from the voluntary Association.

Each neighborhood has different requirements. The BHA is available to assist those communities with the process. Email bhadeedupdate@gmail.com for information or contact an HOA attorney.

The Association is preparing a list of neighborhood standards based solely on county code ordinances. The BHA through the

county code department will report and enforce these standards. Residents may continue to report violations and remain anonymous.

A new attorney will be in place to represent the BHA in April. Continue to monitor the BHA's webpage, Facebook page and the Gazette for updates.

Board Vacancies - Two seats remain vacant on the 12-member board as well as three alternate positions. Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings to see if joining the volunteer board is something they would consider.

2016 Scholarship Deadline Passes

The scholarship committee is currently weighing applicant packages to name the newest recipient of the BHA's \$2,000 community scholarship. The BHA will present the scholarship at the May 10 board meeting.



SAVETHE DATE! SAVETHE DATE!

Fall Festival is Oct. 22! More Information to Come!

Planning has begun for the biggest event of the year. This year, arts and crafts vendors will be asked to join the fun. Back this year are several food trucks, entertainment, activities for kids, a Trick or Treat Street, local business booths and more, more, more! Volunteers are needed. Email bhafallfest@gmail.com or call

813-681-2051 for information.

1 ♦ THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Deputy Sheriff John Robert Kotfila, Jr.

End of Watch: Saturday, March 12, 2016

On behalf of the Bloomingdale community, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association extends our sincere gratitude and heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Deputy Sheriff John Robert Kotfila, Jr. Many will remember his selfless service and his endearing smile. Godspeed, Deputy.



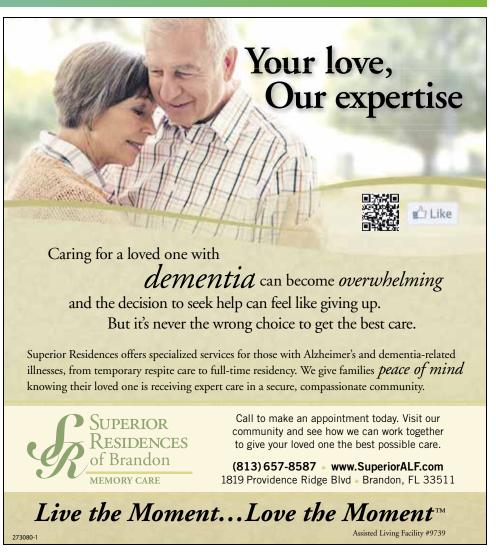
Deputy John Kotfila Jr., center, pictured with his father Massachusetts State Police Sergeant John Kotfila Sr., and his brother Michael, a Plymouth Mass police officer.











APRIL 2016

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

TODAY!

5th Annual Village Family Foundation International Festival / April 2 / 11 a.m.-2 p.m. / The Village Early Learning Center / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / Visit more than 40 countries and experience international food, crafts, and live cultural entertainment at this annual event. Performers include Tampa Taiko Drummers, Bagpipes by Shane Twaddell, Team K Martial Arts, Bhangra Dancing by Aman Dhillon, Drama Kids, and The Village Adventure Club! Experience international flavors from Mmm BAP Korean Cuisine, Krepelicious and handcrafted ice cream from The Revolution Ice Cream Company.

Admission is free, and the first 200 children receive a passport for stamping as they travel from country to country. View artifacts from the countries represented by Village students and families. A variety of crafts and activities will be offered and The Village Family Foundation will provide a free book to the first 100 families.

The Village Early Learning Center invites any international community members, organizations, or groups that wish to participate. Free parking. For details, contact Tami Howell at 813-651-0779.



Source: Village Early Learning Center

The Village Players Present The Little Mermaid / April 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 at 8 p.m.; April 3, 10 at 3 p.m. / James McCabe Theatre / 506 N. Fifth Street, Brandon / Somewhere under the sea and beyond your imagination is an adventure in fantasy. Join The Village Players as they present The Little Mermaid. Tickets \$15; \$13 for students, seniors, military with I.D.; \$12 for groups of 10 or more. Doors open 30 minutes prior to performances. For tickets or information, call 813-643-8292 or visit www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com.

A Night at the BULLagio Casino Night / April 16 / 7 p.m. / The LOFT Event Lounge / 709 W. Lumsden Road, Brandon / The Bloomingdale High School Ragin' Bull Band invites you to join them for an adult-only evening of high-rolling fun and silent auction. Tickets on sale NOW for \$35 single/\$60 couple. Ticket price includes drink tickets, chip voucher,



and unlimited hor d'oeuvres. Table sponsorships available for \$200 and up; includes VIP reception from 6-7 p.m. and silent auction preview. Must be over age 18 to attend. All proceeds benefit the Ragin' Bull Band. See BSHS band member for ticket and table sponsorship sales, or e-mail raginbullfundraising@gmail.com.

Crafts for Kids: Paper Bag Puppets / April 14 / 3-3:45 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue / Join us as we make paper bag puppets! Supplies provided, just bring your creativity. For information, call 813-272-3652.

Paint the Town 5K & Family Fun Run Patron Event / April 16 / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Registration is now open for the 2016 "Superheroes Assemble" Paint the Town 5K and Family Fun Walk/Run and Children's Obstacle Course.

- 5K Registration begins at 7 a.m. Paint the Town 5k start time 8 a.m. This is a timed event. T-shirts provided to the first 50 Pre-Registered 5k runners. 5K runners have a chance to win \$100. Prizes awarded to the three fastest times in three categories: Men, Women, and Children.
- Register for the Family Fun Run/Walk at 9 a.m. The race begins at 10 a.m. A Children's Obstacle Course will be located at the end of the race. T-shirts are available for purchase at the event.

After the race, enjoy all day family fun including games, sand & marble art, balloon bending, photo booth, face painting, food, drinks, and more! Shop the raffle baskets and "BUY IT NOW!" baskets that include tickets to Walt Disney World, airline tickets, and more! Music and entertainment provided by Big Beats Entertainment!



Source: Center Place

Don't forget to dress in your favorite Superhero Costume! Four Prizes awarded for best costumes: Men, Women, Girls, and Boys! This "FUN" draiser will help keep the arts alive in our community!

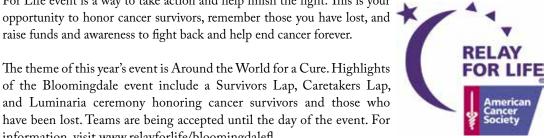
6th Annual Crawfish Festival / April 16 / 11 a.m.-4 p.m. / Winthrop Town Center / 6037 Winthrop Commerce Avenue, Riverview / The Rotary Club of Fishhawk-Riverview presents the 6th Annual Crawfish Festival benefiting local scholarship funds and other charities. The free event features music, entertainment, and plenty of activities for the children. Crawfish dinners are \$20.00 each and include approximately 2 lbs. of crawfish with corn and potatoes sides. Family packs are available for \$50.00 and include two crawfish dinners, two hot dogs or hamburgers, two sodas and two beers. Additionally, Crawfish Festival t-shirts may be purchased for \$15.00 each (specify SM, MD, LG, XL). For information, visit www.fishhawkriverviewrotary.org.

Bloomingdale High School Academic Foundation Spirit Night/Networking Event / April 16 / 5-7 p.m. / J.F. Kicks / 3345 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico / Come out and support the Bloomingdale Academic Foundation through this amazing networking opportunity. All invited!!! Bring your business cards and calendars along with your wallet! Enjoy dinner, appetizers, drinks, and the opportunity to make a new business connection all while supporting a foundation whose goals are solely to put supplies in classrooms at Bloomingdale High School. J.F. Kicks has graciously supplied the space and a kickback of 10% of all tickets so make sure to stop by and mingle!

Relay for Life of Bloomingdale / April 22-23 / 6 p.m.-6 a.m. / Bloomingdale High School / The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement symbolizes hope and our shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love. If cancer has touched your life, participating in a Relay For Life event is a way to take action and help finish the fight. This is your

The theme of this year's event is Around the World for a Cure. Highlights of the Bloomingdale event include a Survivors Lap, Caretakers Lap, and Luminaria ceremony honoring cancer survivors and those who have been lost. Teams are being accepted until the day of the event. For information, visit www.relayforlife/bloomingdalefl.

raise funds and awareness to fight back and help end cancer forever.



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

Healthy Kids Day at the Campo Family YMCA / April 30 / 9 a.m.-1 p.m. / 3414 Culbreath Road / Healthy Kids Day at Campo will be a free community event with 30+ vendors from the community, ranging from doctors, restaurants, stores, and more. Come enjoy an obstacle course, bounce house, face painting, the Tampa Bay Rays street team and Ray, and a BIG raffle prize! This is the 25th annual YMCA's Healthy Kids Day®, the Y's national initiative to improve health and well-being for kids and families. For information, call the Campo Family Y at 813-684-1371.

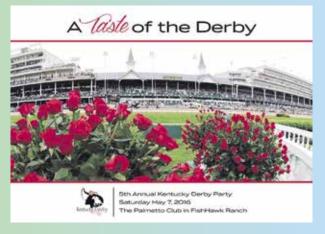
Taste of Brandon / April 30 / 12-5 p.m. / Hillsborough County Fairgrounds / 215 Sydney Washer Road, Dover / The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce hosts the Taste of Brandon at The Hillsborough County Fairgrounds. Enjoy tastes from your favorite restaurants, caterers, and bakeries. Cast your vote for 2016 Best Taste Awards. This year's event will include beer and wine tastings, music, arts, crafts, and an extended activity area for children. Get your pre-sale tickets at a discount until April 15. Tickets are \$15, regular admission (includes food sampling); \$25, VIP (food plus beer and wine sampling); \$5, kids age 3 to 11; under age 3 free. Seniors and active-duty military can get a \$2 presale discount by purchasing their tickets at the Chamber (330 Pauls Drive, Brandon) and presenting a valid ID. Sampling ends at 4 p.m. The event is held rain or shine, and there's plenty of cover at the county fairgrounds. For information, call 813-689-1221.

Brandon Ballet Presents Aladdin / April 30 / 7:30 p.m. / Spoto Theater / 8538 Eagle Palm Drive, Riverview / The Brandon Ballet presents an original ballet production by Artistic Director Octavio Martin. Tickets \$25, Adults; \$20, Seniors; \$15, Ages 12 and under. Buy tickets online at www.tututix.com/brandonballet or visit www.brandonballet.org.

UPCOMING

5th Annual A Taste of the Derby Party / May 7 / 5-9 p.m. / The Palmetto Club in Fishhawk Ranch / 17004 Dorman Road, Lithia / The Brandon Outreach Clinic is hosting its 5th Annual Kentucky Derby Party fundraising event! Dress in your

Best Kentucky Derby Attire! Our Red Carpet Photo Shoot will begin your evening with complimentary Mint Juleps. Watch the race LIVE on a 25-foot screen. Enjoy over 20 different participating restaurants with a wide selection of food and desserts for all. Open Bar sponsored by Winthrop Liquors, Music, Raffles, Silent Auction, Contests and more!



Funds raised support The Outreach Clinic, a 501(c) 3 non-profit providing free medical care throughout Hillsborough County. Tickets are tax deductible and are \$75 per person; tickets are available by calling 813-654-1388 or visiting www.brandonoutreachclinic.com.



APRIL 2016

the card for other transactions. For new accounts, the APR for Purchases is 28.99%. If you are charged interest in any billing cycle, the minimum interest charge will be \$1.00. If you use the card for cash advances, the cash advance fee is 5.00% of the a

The Community's Common Area Connection

Editor's Note: The BHA and Gazette are pleased to introduce a new column penned by 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 Board of Trustees meets monthly 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.

SPRING IS HERE

Spring has arrived and this month our new landscaping company, Buccaneer, will be installing new foliage in the beds. The past few months have been a challenge. The Trustees dealt with changes in landscapers and made some difficult decisions as to where they spend your tax dollars. Cuts have been made because the budget does not stretch as far as it used to.

The Trustees, all homeowners in Bloomingdale, want this community to be a place of sanctuary, with tree-lined streets, full beds, green turf, and walls and fences that are clean and well maintained. However, they have to decide what is most important and run with it.

This year, the Trustees will be seeking an increase in the annual \$130 special tax assessment, so they can do more to keep Bloomingdale beautiful. They need your support. If you want to know more, attend a board meeting – the Trustees would love to meet you.

CREEPING FIG

In recent years, the walls of Bloomingdale went from bare stucco to a covering of the vine creeping fig. Research shows that this type of landscaping has a calming effect on drivers resulting in safer roads. Visually, it is also more attractive.

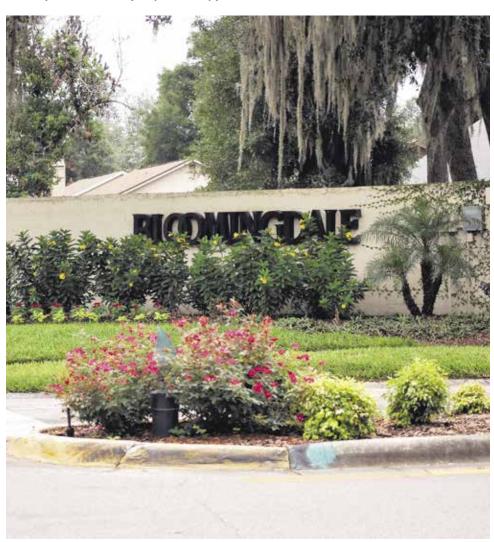
This year, the vine will be trimmed to six inches in order to keep it manageable. If allowed to grow thicker, it becomes too heavy and can sag and fall down. During this time, the vine will lose its leafy appearance. However, it won't take long for new growth to return the vine to a lush green appearance.



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 Chanen, Vice President
Mark Horst, Treasurer
Russell Jones, Trustee
Chris Papp, Trustee
Mark Vargo, Trustee
Tom Leech, Trustee



Do you want a say in how your tax money is spent in Bloomingdale?

The Bloomingdale Taxing District Board of Trustees, who ensure that your community's landscaping is maintained, are residents in the community.

They are not only volunteers, but also elected officials.

Trustees serve a four-year appointment, and this election year, four of the seats on the board expire. Those four Trustees, in place, must run for re-election in the primary election on Aug. 30.

If a resident is interested in running for a seat on the board, contact the BSTD office or the Hillsborough Elections Office. Deadline to submit a petition to qualify for the ballot is May 23.

R 🐫 THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Easter was Egg-cellent

While Easter is a religious holiday, the Easter Bunny and his egg-hiding prowess is a beloved tradition for many. Several egg hunts took place around the area not only for children, but for pets too.



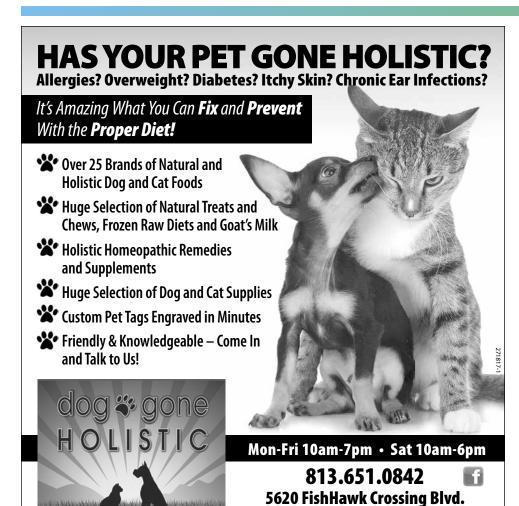


The Easter egg hunt at Bell Shoals Baptist Church held March 26 features 10,000 eggs. Young egg-hunter Siena displays her basket of goodies.

Photos, unless otherwise noted: Nicole Cluck



Ringo Leech, an Australian Shepherd, gets up close and personal with his Easter Basket treats.

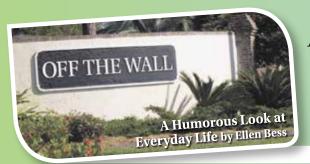


a natural pet market

Located in the FishHawk Ranch Publix Shopping Center

www.doggoneholistic.biz





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.



Getting the Shaft from Otis

I do not like Otis. Oh, I've tried. As a matter of fact, I've spent a lifetime trying to get used to Otis' unpredictable nature. But each and every time I encounter Otis, I wonder if this is the occasion I'm going to wind up getting the shaft. Let's face it; the relationship has been nothing but a continuing series of ups and downs. I speak, of course, of that insidious creation, that malevolent moving machine...the elevator.

I think my distrust of elevators must date back to when I was a kid and an excursion in an elevator was accompanied by the ominous "clang" of a cage door slamming behind me (yes, I am "that old"). It always sounded so... final.

Now, of course, elevators are considered marvels of computerized genius. One merely presses a button and waits for the car to glide open its doors so one can enter its climate-controlled jowls and be whizzed away to one's desired destination ...or plummeted to the depths of the basement, depending upon Otis' whim-of-the-day. Personally, I don't like the odds (some of whom invariably share my elevator space).

One of the worst things about elevators is that they're so sneaky. It's impossible to tell exactly when an elevator is going to stop. Just when I think I can relax, good old Otis screeches to a jolting halt, driving my brain into the top of my skull and forcing my stomach to nod a cordial "howdy-

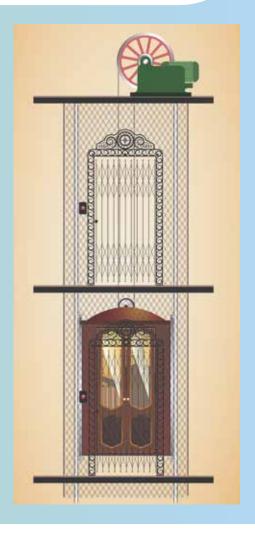
do" to my larynx. Is this any way to encourage trust? Of course not.

And as if regular elevators weren't terrifying enough, some brilliant sadist decided to increase the fear factor even more by enclosing the elevator car completely in glass. Glass? You mean, so I can actually watch as the ground drops beneath me? Goody. I rode in a glass elevator once. Really. I'm the only person I know who has managed to fog up an entire glass elevator by hyperventilating between the first and third floors.

Oh, so you think I'm being silly, do you? Okay. Ask yourself a few questions. Come on. Humor me.

When you get on an elevator, do you find yourself immediately checking the date on the inspection certificate, just to see if it's current? Do you look around at your companions and ask yourself, "Are these the type of people I want to die with?" Do you check the ceiling to see if there's anything you can leap up and grab because you read somewhere that if the elevator fails, you can save yourself by jumping just before impact? Do you look for the "Emergency" button and phone? If you answered "Yes" to one or more of these questions, you don't like Otis any more than I do.

See ya on the Fire Stairs.



Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

Bloomingdale is one of the most sought after areas in Tampa Bay with great schools, family activities, and low crime rates. Even so, your car or home could still be at risk for burglary. Luckily, there are many precautions you can take to keep yourself from being a victim.

Did you know burglars are less likely to enter a home if there is an outdoor light, a dog, or an alarm system? Simply having a motion sensor light could significantly reduce your chances of being victimized. The culprits are often people who have been in your home.

Be sure to take extra precautions by making sure all of your windows, including those upstairs, stay locked at all times - double check them when you have had an unknown person in your home. Mix up your schedule. If your home is being watched, they will know the times you regularly come and go as well as when you may be on vacation. Following these simple rules could keep the police far away from your doorsteps.

Neighborhood Snapshot - Bloomingdale Ridge

The neighborhood of Bloomingdale Ridge is comprised of both Fox Run and The Greens. Established in 1986, these homes are some of the most sought after homes in all of Bloomingdale with many properties directly on the golf course. These homes have an average





ne Chadderton Real Estate Group Keller Williams Realty 813–924–8187

813-724-8187 Ryan@RyanBrantley.org vww.chaddertongroup.com

of 2,580 square feet with most having at least four bedrooms and many with private pools. In 2015, there were 18 homes sold in this community with an average sales price of \$295,000 - up from 11 homes sold in 2014 with an average sales price of \$283,000.

* MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold March 22, 2014 through March 22, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.

↑ THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Michigan

Comic strip artist Will Leech is a Strawberry Crest High School senior. Through his creation "Michigan," he shares his view of the world around us.

Mischi Gem by Will Leech





Chipping Using the "Air to Ground" Ratio Method

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC campus)

Instead of trying to fly the ball all the way to the flag, chip the ball to a spot on the green and let the ball roll the rest of the way to the hole. Your landing spot remains the same no matter where the flag is. You simply choose the club (correct ratio) based on how much air you need and get the roll you want.

Ratios of air time to ground time (roll) SW: 3/4 to 1/4, PW: 1/2 to 1/2, 8 iron: 1/3 to 2/3, 6 iron: 1/4 to 3/4

Next month: The club may change but your posture stays the same. Any questions or for lessons, call J.D. (813) 957-3205 or visit www. CochraneGolfSchools.com









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Annual Clean-up Packs in the Trash!

Define success. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association defines it by the numbers: nearly 15,000 pounds of bulk trash, 5,000 pounds of recyclable electronics, over 150 pounds of outdated medications and approximately 400 pounds of serviceable goods. These figures are the final tallies for the community's March clean-up effort.

The event, funded by the BHA and a grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners was held at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility off Natures Way. Volunteers provided the muscle with over 28 adults and students, many from the Bloomingdale High School's Student Government Association participating.

"This year's event was a resounding success," said Committee chair Charlie Woodcock. "We

are constantly looking for ways to improve this well-received community event." An example of that was the late addition of AMVETS, a non-profit that benefits veterans.

Several organizations collaborated with the BHA to provide a one-stop and drop capability for resident convenience. Included were UrbanERecycling, the Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet with Home Instead Senior Care, and Hillsborough County's Parks and Recreation.

The BHA is researching the possibility of holding two clean-up events a year in the spring and fall. And, if there is enough interest, an onsite shredding company might be added to further meet the community's needs.



Volunteers unload "junk" at the Annual Clean-up Day on March 5. Ten commercial containers were filled to capacity totaling over 15,000 pounds of bulk trash and debris.







Resident Caroline Tetreault and her companion Buddy wait for the clean-up start.



Resident Debbie Schofield drops off serviceable furniture to AMVETS representative Jay Tobin. Home pick-ups are available in the Bloomingdale area, call 866-294-4488 to schedule a pick-up.



Resident Kevin Haga receives a "swag bag" from BHA board member Joanie Wilson.



Residents began lining up early for the always-popular community clean-up.



It may not take a village, but the BHA's clean-up does require the services of a front loader manned by Clayton Weaver, Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility. Pictured clockwise: Weaver, volunteer Kevin Hayes, BHA board members Sean Donahue, George May and Suzy Watts.

12 E



A job well-done – BHA president George May, HC Office of Neighborhood Relations (HCONR) director Wanda Sloan and BHA clean-up chairman Charlie Woodcock at the end of the over-the-top successful event.

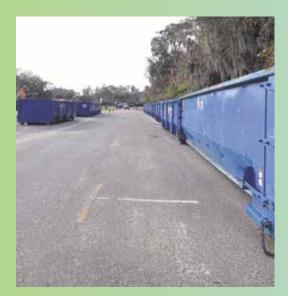


The peace chair donated to AMVETS by resident Tony Anderson was one of the most interesting items brought to the clean-up. Also pictured: Wanda Sloan, HCONR.



Residents George and Elain Iantosca made a second trip to the clean-up event specifically to donate serviceable items to the newest clean-up partner AMVETs. Also pictured center: Jay Tobin. "This is so close to the house," George said, adding, "This is a great event, especially for vets."

BEFORE & AFTER



The calm before the storm – Ten containers at the ready just prior to the start of the community's annual clean-up sponsored by the BHA and the Hillsborough County BOCC.



At day's end, ten commercial containers containing everything from water heaters to stoves to furniture were completely filled with resident cast-offs. More than 300 residents deposited over 14 tons of bulk trash.

BEFORE & AFTER



Nearly 5,000 pounds of recyclable e-waste was collected during the community's clean-up.



Residents took full advantage of UrbanErecycling depositing over 2 tons of e-waste with the local recycling company. Pictured are Darren Highsmith, left, and Greg Rabinowitz.











Thank you, Volunteers! Staff Report

Thank you to our volunteers! Volunteers are the backbone of this event. It simply could not be done without them. A special thanks to the Bloomingdale High School Student Government

Association that provided at least 15 of the 28 volunteers. Volunteers not pictured: Deputy Jeff Merry, Abby Hernandez; Dann, Sam, and Nick Berkowitz.



After dropping his own items, resident Terrence Harvey, right, returned as a volunteer. Pictured with Harvey is fellow resident Kevin Hayes, a clean-up volunteer for at least the last four years.



From left to right: Gabriella Hughes, Liberty Dixon and Nicho Perez.



Our volunteers from left to right: Sam Steck, Chris Desmond, Ahan Jain and Frank Tavares.



More volunteers: Mother-Son Duo Sherri and Jack Bales.



BHA board members Suzy Watts and Joanie Wilson at the welcoming tent with BSHS volunteers Kendra Schofield and Alysea Jackson.



From left to right: Andrew Bailey, Jacob Miller, Will Steck, Jack Bales and Jacob Beebe.



Members of the "Squirtle Squad Scholars," an all-girl robotics competition team assisted their team sponsor UrbanERecycling. Pictured left to right: Bloomingdale resident Daryl Bagley, Camille Brosch (11), Dariya Bagley (11), Abby Peterson (12), Deshara Bagley (9) and Coach Eric Brosch.

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:

The Annual Clean-up Day is a free service provided to residents by the BHA and a valuable membership benefit. Your support to fund this annual, and possibly bi-annual, event is needed. Join the Association today for \$35, and help keep our community trash-free. Cut out the membership card and mail to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. For information, call 813-681-2051 or email bloomingdale. homeowners@gmail.com.

14. 🔻 THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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.

Wildflowers...Bursts of Color Brighten Florida's Highways and Byways

Compiled from The Florida Gardener By Gwen Graverson

Years ago, the Department of Transportation teamed up with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) and Florida Atlantic University to determine the most promising wildflowers for planting in the state. In 1991, coreopsis was adopted as Florida's official state wildflower. The vibrant, primarily yellow flower now dots our highways from Miami to Jacksonville to Pensacola.

The Panhandle is considered the best place in Florida to view native wildflowers. Now everyone can easily find the best sites with a new guide available at Florida Welcome Centers, regional visitor centers, and chambers of commerce. The pamphlet features viewing routes, a brief history of wildflowers, tips for best viewing, and beautiful photos and descriptions of 40 common regional native flowers. You can download a PDF copy at http://flawildflowertrips.org.

Many Florida garden clubs, FFGC members, have adopted their own unique wildflower. The Valrico Garden Club's wildflower is Rudbeckia hirta, commonly known as Black-eyed Susan, a common and abundant native biennial or short-live perennial.

The bold flower is part of the sunflower family. It is striking with a center "black eye" which contrasts sharply with its surrounding bright yellow petals or ray flowers. Travelers can see these beauties beginning in May through October in open fields and along roadways. Home gardeners should begin planting now and many varieties are available at local garden centers. The plant can grow between 3-4 feet tall and about 1.5 feet wide.

Another organization dedicated to wildflowers is the Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF). Its mission is to enrich lives with Florida's native wildflowers. With the sale of each State Wildflower license plate, the foundation funds research, education and planting projects statewide.

The FWF vision within the next decade is to achieve the following: Highly Visible Roadside Wildflowers, Scientific Research; Elementary Education with native wildflowers integrated into school curriculum standards; Wildflower Tourism for Florida, much as New England is known for fall foliage; Wildflower Festivals and Annual Florida Wildflower Symposiums.

Join the fight to preserve and conserve Florida's native wildflowers by joining the FWF. Membership benefits include an e-newsletter, action alerts, a packet of Florida native wildflower seeds, discounts on FWF events and field trips; and a copy of Real Florida Gardener magazine. A membership application form is available on the FWF website at http://flawildflowers.org/. If you already have a Florida State Wildflower license plate, membership is free!

Spring and fall typically are the best seasons to view showy stands of wildflowers in every colr of the rainbow. What are you waiting for...get out and explore!



The purchase of an environmental license plate aids the Florida Wildflower Foundation in its mission to spread wildflowers across the state.

Courtesy: http://www.flhsmv.gov The Florida State Wildflower: Coreopsis





The University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) located in Hillsborough County provides a valuable monthly tool for the budding nature lover. Visit their website at http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden.

Gardening Workshop – Wildflowers, Native Plants, and Native Ferns

When: Thursday, April 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: Town 'N Country Regional Public Library, 7606 Paula Dr. #120, Tampa

Description: This program on wildflowers and native plants is hands-on and very informative. The Master Gardener speakers are very knowledgeable and grow many of the natives in their own yards. For information, call 813-273-3652.







BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



MONTHLY BACC

At our March Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC), we reviewed some of the recent criminal activity in our area and the surrounding areas. In reviewing the crime statistics, we noticed some obvious patterns as to the types of crimes and possible causes.

Of note are vehicle burglaries. In all incidents, the vehicles were either left open or had valuables left in them. This is just an open invitation for criminals.

The Solution – Do these three things:

- 1. LOCK YOUR VEHICLES!
- 2. REMOVE ALL VALUABLES FROM YOUR VEHICLES! AND,
- 3. CLOSE YOUR GARAGE DOORS!

JOIN THE BACC TEAM

If you have concerns or issues involving your neighborhood and you would like to discuss and work together with other members of the Bloomingdale community, I would like to invite you to become a part of our team. The BACC is made up of concerned residents, homeowners' association members and Sheriff's officers who work together to improve our community. The BACC meets the third Thursday of each month at 7PM at the Community Station located at 3622 Erindale Drive.

"FIND MY IPAD" APP LEADS TO ARREST

On March 17, the Sheriff's Office received a call from a resident in Bloomingdale East whose vehicle had been broken into. The suspects stole several expensive items, including an iPad. Luckily, the owner had installed the "Find my iPad" app and we received an address where the iPad was located. The sheriff's office responded to the location and after Detective Howell wrote a search warrant, we were able to recover the stolen items and make an arrest. If the owner hadn't installed the "Find my iPad" app on his equipment we wouldn't have been able to recover the items. If you haven't installed these types of apps on your phones or other devices, now is the time to do so. It will help us if your property gets stolen.

VANDALISM - A VERY SERIOUS CRIME!

Vandalism comes in all shapes and sizes. It can be kids putting graffiti on a wall or building or more destructive like tearing down fencing or destroying other private property. It can also be very costly in time and money spent to repair any damages. When vandals are found and prosecuted, even if they are minors, the parents can be held liable for the cost of any damages and repairs. The vandals can wind up with criminal records that can affect their future lives.

Anyone finding vandalism should call the Bloomingdale Sheriff's Community Station at 813-635-8040. Please note the date, time and location of the vandalism and descriptions of the vandals and any vehicles they are driving. Take photos if possible. If you observe the vandalism, keep your distance and do not confront them!

Reports of vandalism will be investigated and arrangements made to repair any damage. Remember, there are only a few deputies in our area, but there are thousands of homeowners. We need your eyes and ears to help protect tax dollars and property.

If you witness a crime, drop a dime. Remember, you can remain anonymous!

REPORT, REPORT!

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

MARCH "OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET" A SUCCESS

To help residents properly dispose of outdated and unused medicines and drugs, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office completed another successful "Operation Medicine Cabinet" on March 5 as part of the Bloomingdale Annual Clean-up. Working with Kristi Campbell from HOMEINSTEAD Senior Care, Sheriff's deputies and volunteers collected over 150 pounds of unused and outdated prescription medicines and drugs.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) for their assistance and the help of their volunteers. Also, thanks to the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance staff who provided invaluable support during this project. A special thanks to the many residents who took the time to bring in their expired and unused medicines for proper disposal and destruction.

For residents who still have old meds they want to properly dispose of, the Sheriff's Office has special receptacles at the District Offices where these old meds can be dropped off. Only pills are accepted. No liquids or sharps can be dropped off. The nearest offices in our area are District II at 2310 North Falkenburg Road, Tampa and District IV at 508 33rd St SE, Ruskin. These offices are open 24 hours.



16 🔻 THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

DEPUTY SHERIFF JOHN ROBERT KOTFILA, JR.: HIS WATCH HAS ENDED

Over the last several weeks, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) has had a very rough time with the death of one of our own law enforcement brothers, Deputy John Kotfila. In the early morning hours of March 12, Deputy Kotfila was killed in a head-on collision while serving the citizens of Hillsborough County.

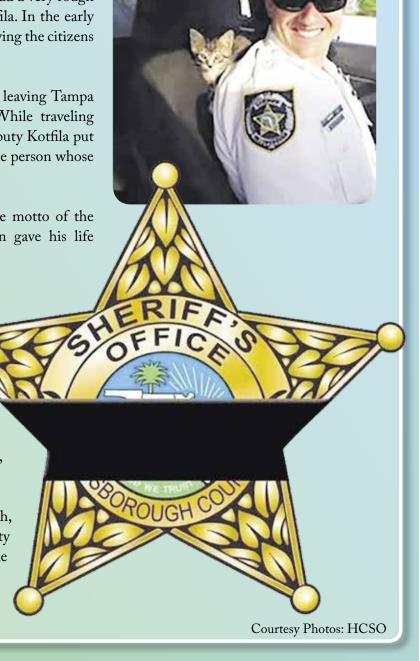
John was in the 13th hour of his shift headed back to the Bloomingdale area after leaving Tampa General Hospital, where he was checking on his latest traffic accident victim. While traveling eastbound on the Selman Expressway, he observed a wrong way driver. Selflessly, Deputy Kotfila put himself in the path of the wrong way driver to save the life of another, according to the person whose life he saved.

That was who Deputy John Kotfila was – a man with a great moral compass. The motto of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is "TO PROTECT AND SERVE." John gave his life protecting and serving the citizens of Hillsborough County.

The dedicated deputy came from a family with a long history of service and honor. Both grandfathers, his father, brother and uncle were and are police officers, which says it all...policing was obviously in his blood.

For the past six years, the 30-year-old HCSO deputy served as a traffic accident investigator. He spent many days at the Bloomingdale Substation working accident investigations in the area. Some may also remember Deputy Kotfila as the deputy that rescued a kitten out of a storm drain that received much press coverage. In addition, he was well known as one of the founders of Safety Net, which is an organization that helps tag and locate missing adults and children.

As I sit and write this article, John is being laid to rest in his hometown in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Writing this article about such a fine deputy killed in the line of duty has to be one of the most difficult things I have ever had to do in my career with the Sheriff's Office. Deputy John Kotfila was a friend to me, an exemplary deputy, and he will be greatly missed. God rest your soul, John.







Photos: Mack Austin, unless otherwise noted

CONSTRUCTION Update





Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road Intersection Improvement

Progress continues on this Hillsborough County Public Works project. So far, the two bus lanes on Culbreath Road are ready for use. Workers are finishing the east and west right-turn lanes, sidewalk work continues and road stripping is underway. Officials estimate the project will complete in May. Congestion continues to be a problem - slow down, plan your trips and use caution in this area.



Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes

The Lithia-Pinecrest Road entrance into the Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes does not have a traffic signal. Walmart has hired two off-duty HCSO deputies to provide traffic control during peak traffic hours for the next few months.

Hot Topic! Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes Residential Plan

Redstone Investments owns the 14+ acreage at the northwest corner of the Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes site next to the library. It is still available as a TND/MUD style residential development. While it can be developed, there are no plans at this time. We will keep you informed via the Gazette and our Facebook page, as details are known.

Crest Point Towne Shoppes Outparcels

Sites for the outparcels at the Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes continue to be prepped. Outparcel stores include a Chick-fil-A, Wendy's, Tijuana Flats and Starbucks, which is tentatively scheduled to open in July.

Bloomingdale Square Update

For now, the Goodwill donation site north of the old Walmart will remain in place. Plans for the shopping center will be published when known.

Staff Report WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SIDEWALKS...

In Bloomingdale, the superstition "step on a crack, break your mother's back," could be changed to "step on a crack, break your own back or worse." Many residents have complained about the state of sidewalks in our neighborhoods and in the community's common areas—some have commented on the general conditions while others have experienced falls and injuries.

While there are a few mandatory homeowner associations in Bloomingdale that do maintain their roads and streets, the majority of the community's roads and sidewalks are Hillsborough County Public Works responsibility. Residents may have noticed yellow caution tape at several hazardous sidewalk locations. The tape has been put in place by county and the sidewalks affected have been scheduled for repair.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association has submitted numerous complaints to county on behalf of residents regarding hazardous sidewalks. In many of those cases, repairs are pending or complete. However, we need your help with reporting these problems. County will not pressure wash, but they will act on road flooding issues, potholes, and sidewalk repairs.

Residents can report issues directly to Public Works by phone via the Customer Service Line, 813-635-5400. The easiest method is through county's online service request system "24/7 At Your Service" at https://service.hillsboroughcounty.org/311. The phone number for At Your Service is 813-272-5900.

The system is exactly what it says it is – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. On the site, residents can report in 15 categories including water and sewer, roads and sidewalks; animal issues, code violations and more. Requests are routed directly to the team responsible for providing that service.

Or, continue to send your concerns to bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. Attach a photo and a location of the sidewalk using main thoroughfares and cross streets.

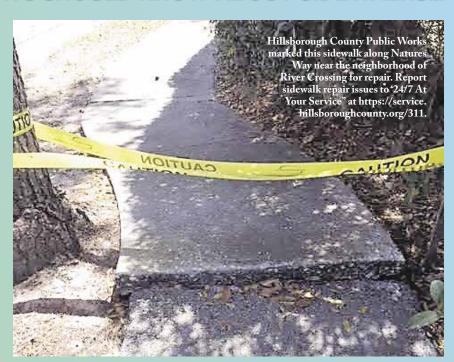


Photo: Resident Submitted



www.HillsboroughCounty.org

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Photos: Suzanne Jones

The once hotly-protested Walmart Supercenter on Bloomingdale Ave opened its doors to the public on March 9 to rousing refrains from the Bloomingdale High School Rajun' Bulls Marching Band. The retail giant's store manager Peter Peck, and a host of Walmart executives and employees were on hand to meet and greet patrons gathered to celebrate this locally-awaited event—a first step to building community relations.

The new 153,000 square foot store located at 2140 Bloomingdale Ave. replaced its predecessor situated just a few blocks away. The much larger store offers the community 24/7 access to an assortment of groceries, electronics, clothing, home goods, sporting goods, outdoor items and more. It also offers pharmacy, optical and limited financial services.

Despite controversy surrounding the store's construction, shoppers appear to be embracing its presence if evidenced strictly by full carts leaving the store. Speaking with some customers however, uncovers the more conflicted or even adverse reactions that still exist in the community about shopping at the new location.

"It has put increased traffic on the roads...common sense tells you that there is only so much room," commented Rodney Ray as he and his wife loaded two carts full of purchases into their car.

While the community continues to wrestle with mixed opinion, Walmart Foundation is doing its best to win over area residents by including them in the store's grand opening and by giving back financially. Not only did the retail giant invite the Bloomingdale Band to kick off the Grand Opening, the store also donated \$500 to Bloomingdale High School to foster a strong relationship with this important neighbor. To further promote community harmony, the Supercenter also hosted a Family Fun Day on March 12.

Supercenter employees dole out Grand Opening cake to customers flocking into the new store for the first time.









Photo: Kelley Kilpatrio



At age 7, Kelley Kilpatrick knew she wanted to be a nurse. At age 10, she knew she wanted to find a cure for cancer. Now all grown up and a pediatric oncology nurse, the Bloomingdale Senior High School (BSHS) graduate will be leading her second Relay for Life event at her alma mater from 6 p.m. April 22 until 6 a.m. April 23.

This year's event will see over 20 teams and over 200 participants raising money to support the American Cancer Society (ACS). Relay for Life is the ACS's signature event with participants all over the globe. With the fitting theme of Bloomingdale's event Around the World for a Cure, each team's members will dress and decorate their campsite to represent a country.

"With every team a different country we should get very interesting food," said Kilpatrick. Food is sold as an onsite fundraiser during the event.

The 12-hour, overnight walk symbolizes that cancer never sleeps. Other event highlights include a Survivors Lap, a Caregivers Lap, and the moving Luminaria Ceremony that celebrates survivors and honors those who have been lost.

The loss of two grandparents to cancer is what makes Kilpatrick so passionate about supporting Relay for Life. She began as a participant in the event at BSHS in 2002 and went on to become a team captain.

As a nursing student at Florida State University (FSU), which has one of the largest and most successful Relay for Life events in the country, Kilpatrick served as Vice President of Mission. She also ran the ACS Cancer Prevention Study 3 for all of North Florida, which began in 2006. This year marks her 13th year with Relay for Life.

The Bloomingdale event is a family affair for Kilpatrick. Her parents, Tracey and Steve Corn, residents of The Greens, and sister Elizabeth, a sophomore at BSHS, all participate.

"My Mom is the Survivor Chair, my sister is the Entertainment Chair, and my Dad just follows directions," Kilpatrick joked.

The fundraising goal for this year's event is \$60,000. Last year under Kilpatrick's leadership the total raised was \$55,000--\$20,000 over the goal. "I cried when we reached \$50,000," said the passionate nurse. Teams and participants will be accepted until the day of the event. Each participant is asked to raise \$100 in pledges or by fundraising, at which point they receive an event t-shirt.

"We hope to make this year's event like a party, with games and live music," says Kilpatrick, who will begin planning next year's event the night of April 22. To learn more about Relay for Life of Bloomingdale, or to participate, visit the event's website at www.relayforlife/bloomingdalefl.



Event Lead and Bloomingdale Senior High School alumna Kelley Kilpatrick (far left) and team members Angela Pandolfo, Isabella Ramirez, Shelby Harwood, Lisa Simms, Sydney Young, and Jaslie Louis helped raise an overall \$55,000 at the 2015 Relay for Life of Bloomingdale

I Love My Mom!

Enter to Win Mom a Makeover for Mother's Day!

Does your Mother, Grandmother, wife, sister, or friend deserve recognition and pampering for being an amazing Mom! Of course, she does! Surprise her this Mother's Day with a makeover from head to toe! In 250 words or less, tell us what makes the special Mom in your life one-of-a-kind.

Email your nomination to bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com no later than May 1. Include your name and contact information as well as your nominee's name and contact information. The winner will be notified before Mother's Day on May 8.

Questions? Contact the BHA at (813) 681-2051.

Contest period: Now – May 1

Restrictions: This contest is open only to Bloomingdale residents.

Sponsored by:
The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association
~ \$50 gift card ~

Services generously provided by:

Heather Michael, stylist, Salon Jennifer & Co. ~ haircut, color and style ~

Angela Folley, nail artist ~ manicure and pedicure ~

Christine Rabel, a Mary Kay independent beauty consultant ~ make up application ~









School News!

April 18 – Report Cards Go Home May 2-6 – Teacher Appreciation Week

ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

April 14 – Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night

Alafia Mint

Book swap and Spirit store located in Room 208. 7:30 a.m. to 7:55 a.m.

School Spirit Day

Be sure to show your school spirit and wear your Alafia shirts every Friday

Coming Soon...Relay for Life

The Annual Relay for Life is April 22 at Bloomingdale High School.

Alafia will be holding a silent auction. Prizes so far include a round of golf for 4 at Summerfield Golf Club, Vera Bradley items, Thirty–One bags, Legos and more. Donations are still being accepted. For information, contact Mallory McLean at 813-254-3630.





CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

April 15 – All Pro Dads – 7am in the Multi-Purpose Room

Florida Furtal Program

What is FURTAL? It is a way for parents, teachers and community members to help raise money for our school simply by using our school's portal to shop online. By shopping at your favorite online

retailers through our Cimino portal page, you will generate cash back for our school. The program



is FREE. The money generated will go directly to the school for projects and improvements! For information, go to: http://www.furtal.com/school/cimino-elementary-school#

La Cubanita Café Supports Cimino

Remember that whenever you eat at La Cubanita (in the plaza behind Topper's & KFC) and mention you are from Cimino, they will donate \$1 for every meal ordered.



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

April 4 – PTSA Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m.

April 8 – 8th Grade Pancake Breakfast, 7:45 a.m.

April 11 – Burns MS Band/Orchestra 6th Grade Concert, 6:30 p.m. @ BSHS

April 11 & 12 – FSA Math Test 6th grade

April 13 & 14 – FSA ELA 6th grade

April 13 – Flag Football and Volleyball vs Randall, 6 p.m.

April 15 – 8th grade FCAT Science

April 18 – 22 – FSA 7th grade Math Testing

April 20 – Flag Football and Volleyball @ Shields, 6 p.m.

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

April 25 – 29 – FSA 8th grade Math (Pre-Algebra students)

May 2 – 6 – Geometry EOC Testing

May 6 – Dress to Impress Dance, 6 p.m.

Morning Tutoring New Schedule

For information, contact Mr. Riley at 813-744-8383 ext. 235. New schedule is Language Arts: Monday and Wednesday, Math: 6th/7th Grade Thursday and 8th Grade Friday, Social Studies: Wednesday and Friday; and Science: Monday and Friday.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

April 4 – Flag Football vs East Bay - 6:15 p.m.

April 5 – PTSA meeting, 6 p.m.

April 5 – Track @ Newsome, 6 p.m.

April 6 – Leadership Lock-in, 5-9 p.m.

April 7 – Flag Football vs Plant City - 6:15 p.m.

April 8 - Baseball & Softball @ Gaither, 7 p.m.

April 9 – ACT @ BSHS, 7 a.m.

April 9 – Prom @ T Pepin Hospitality, 8-11 p.m.

April 11 - District Softball @ Durant, 7 p.m.

April 12 - District Softball Semi-Finals @ Durant, 4 p.m.

April 12 – Baseball vs Strawberry Crest, 7 p.m.

April 13 - Track Districts @ Spoto, 11 a.m.

April 14 - Flag Football @ Durant, 6:15 p.m.

April 14 – District Softball Finals @ Durant, 7 p.m.

April 18-29 – US History EOC

April 18 - District Baseball @ Riverview, 7 p.m.

April 19 – District Track @ Spoto, noon

April 19 – District Baseball Semi-Finals @ Riverview, 4 p.m.

April 21 – Melissa Snively Meeting, 6 p.m.

April 21 – District Baseball Finals @ Riverview, 7 p.m.

April 22-23 - Relay For Life, 6 p.m. - midnight

April 25-29 - Geometry EOC

April 25 – District Flag Football @ East Bay, 5 p.m.

April 26, Herff Jones Cap and Gown Distribution, 8:30 a.m.

April 27 – District Finals Flag Football, 7 p.m. (Place TBD)

April 30 - Regional Track @ Osceola, 11 a.m.

May 2-6 – US History EOC, Algebra II EOC and AP Exams

May 2 – Booster Club General Meeting, 7 p.m.

May 3 – PTSA meeting, 6 p.m.

May 6 - State Track @ IMG, 9 a.m.

BULL BRIEFS

Calling Community Partners

Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week of May. We are looking for donations, including meals, gifts, items or any way we can recognize the hard work of Bloomingdale's teachers. If your organization is interesting in sponsoring an event during the week, contact Cheryl Rodriguez at cheryl.rodriguez@sdhc.k12.fl.us.





Compiled by Deidre Morgan

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



BULL BRIEFS CONTINUED

Virtual School Graduation Requirement

Seniors need to complete their courses through Florida Virtual School by May 15. Students should sign up as soon as possible at FLVS.net.

PTSA News

The PTSA is looking for volunteers interested in helping to plan events for next year. If you would like to get involved, email the PTSA President, Stacey Donahue at sldonahue3@verizon.net.

The PTSA awards scholarships to two deserving seniors, one female and one male, each year who demonstrate a positive attitude toward scholarship, leadership and commitment to community service. We would love to be able to award more than two, so if you know a business or person who would be interested in sponsoring a scholarship, contact Stacey Donahue at sldonahue3@verizon.net.



End Of Course (EOC) Boot Camps



Get prepared to take your EOCs! Check out these upcoming online EOC Boot Camps provided by Hillsborough Virtual School for all students. For information on how to access these camps, visit the Hillsborough Virtual School website or bloomingdale.mysdhc.org.

US History EOC Boot Camp: April 13 & 14, 7:15-8:15 p.m. Geometry EOC Boot Camp: April 18 & 19, 7-8 p.m. Algebra 2 EOC Boot Camp: April 24 & 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Algebra 1 EOC Boot Camp: May 2 & 3, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Biology EOC Boot Camp: May 9 & 10, 7-8 p.m.

Golf Tournament

The Bloomingdale Athletic Booster Club Golf Tournament will be at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club on May 14. It's limited to the first 36 paid teams, so reserve your spot now! The deadline to register is May 1. For http://bloomingdale. information, visit mysdhc.org/.



Athletic Boosters

The Athletic Booster club is selling Bulls Tervis tumblers. They are \$20 with a lid; straws are available for \$1. They are available at any spring sport concession stand, through a team parent, or at the main office. Contact Stacey Donahue at sldonahue3@verizon.net for information.



Pay Online Option



Did you know you can pay for in-school events, like prom and Grad Bash tickets online? Go to www.mypaymentsplus.com and use the same account you use for school lunch, or set a new account up. Transaction fees apply.



Correction! USS ALAFIA



Great job, USS Alafia! This photo ran last month, but several names were omitted. We regret the error.

Pictured back row: Debbie Gibson, teacher, and Andrea Carver, counselor.

Pictured front row: Reid and Blake Jacobus, Kailie Osburn, Brayden McNaiff and Isiah Hench.

Pictured second row: Bella McNaiff, Amanda Shaw and Ben Crizio.



Making a Difference the Campo YMCA Way

Hats off to Campo Y's Volunteer of the Year Jephunneh Hicks. The 17-yearold Bloomingdale High School student received one of 14 awards given during Tampa YMCA's annual Community Impact Dinner and Awards Ceremony in February.



Photo: Campo YMCA





ATTENTION: 2016 Graduating Seniors, Parents and Friends! We want your graduation photos!

The Gazette wants to help you celebrate your upcoming graduation. Send your graduation photos or selfies to inbloomingalenews@gmail.com by June 20. Identify from left to right those pictured and a brief explanation of what is happening in the photo. For example John Smith, graduate and parents Bob and Mary Smith; taken after graduation at a family celebration. Or, Mary Smith receives her diploma. She will attend ABC University in the fall. Send only high-resolution photos. Don't forget to provide contact information just in case there are questions.







BSHS Flag Football Host Season Opener

Photos/Brief by Deidre Morgan

On March 7, the Bloomingdale High School Flag Football team held their first non-conference season opener on the Bulls home field hosting the Ravens of Alonso High School. The Bulls came up short in their first regional season loss since 2014 with a score of 7 to 14.

The team then headed to Riverview on March 10 for their first district game of the year with a big 26 to 0 win over the Sharks. Junior Jaid Angel had three interceptions for the night, which helped lead her team to victory.

Catch all the action at the next home game on April 4 at 7:30 p.m. against East Bay. Continued success to the team as they move towards capturing a winning season!





Bloomingdale's Quarterback Sarah Tam sends a pass downfield near the end zone during the flag football team's season opener against Alonso High School.



Standing in for Flag Football Coach Mike Lankford, Soccer Head Coach Heather Iverson gives the team a prep talk before they take the field. Congrats to Coach Lankford who missed the game to "coach" his wife during the birth of his baby!

BSHS Dynamic Duos Named

At Bloomingdale High School, a new tradition has begun – the Dynamic Duo Competition. Formerly known as Beauty and the Bull, the new competition took place March 24 at the school.

The Beauty and the Bull competition relied on a beauty pageant format where male and female contestants performed a talent and a signature walk. Female contestants also answered a question. Both a male and female winner were chosen representing the beauty and the bull.

Departing from the heavy pageant format, the Dynamic Duo focused on student pairs walking the stage, performing together, and then, answering questions from the judges about each other. Vying for the title this year were five pairs of friends, couples and siblings.

The contest's only male duo was Quinton Shepard and Vincent Cassella, pictured center. Piano playing, singing with some funky dance moves in between, they stood out as the only contestants to perform a "talent" other than dancing – a move that earned them a trophy at night's end. Other winners that night were friends Ashley Weathers and Ariana Knowles, pictured left, and siblings Jessica and Wayne Valenti, pictured right.





Rajun' Bull Casino Night April 16



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