



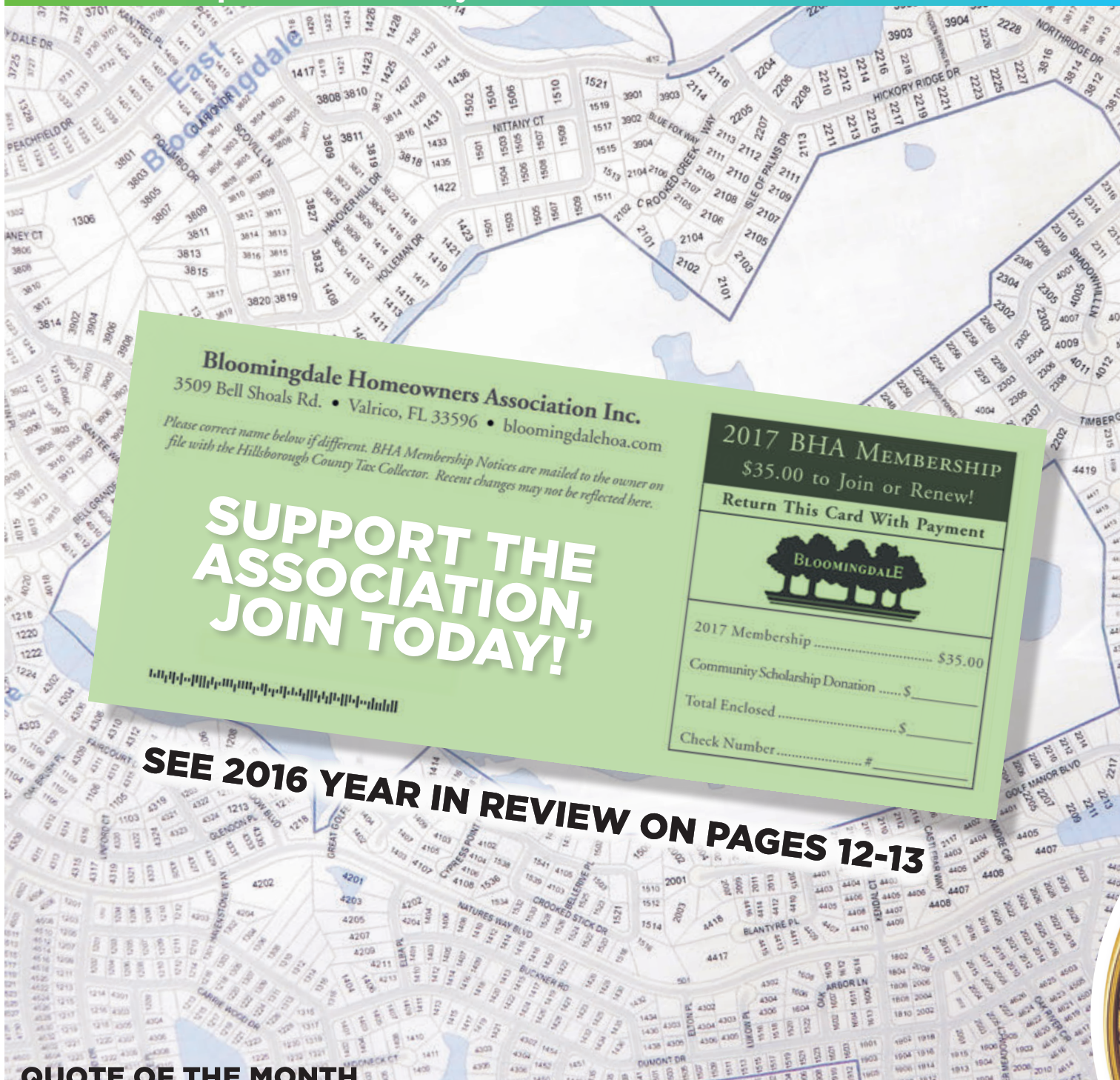
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Happy New Year

VOLUME XXXVII ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2017 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

2017 Membership Drive is Underway!



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PLEASE RECYCLE

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Hillsborough County
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THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road

Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

Mary Galin

Billy Hightower

Bobbi Ferraro

Beth Smedley

Joanie Wilson

Charlie Woodcock

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Secretary: *Suzy Watts*

Treasurer: *Sean Donahue*

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomington Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

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Tampa Bay Times

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



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Yard of the Month



Photo: Susan DeDeLuca



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



George & Monica McDonald 2333 Eagle Bluff Drive, Valrico, FL 33596 (Bloomingdale Ridge)

Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

(Editor's Note: Real estate columnist Ronnie McLaughlin's moves from Michigan, New Jersey, Dubai, and eventually to Valrico, helped her find her niche in residential real estate. She has lived in Bloomingdale for six years with her husband and two children, a son attending University of Florida and daughter at Bloomingdale High School. A productive Realtor, she is also active in the Bloomingdale High School PTSA and Girl Scouts.)

Put Your House at the Top of a Buyer's Wish List

There are many people ready to buy a home in Hillsborough County, and not many homes are for sale. Per My Florida Regional Multiple Listing Service (MLS), the supply of homes for sale is down 10.8% and home prices are up over 11% compared to a year ago in Hillsborough County. I'm predicting that the banks will release more bank-owned homes for sale this year because of this price increase.

If you are thinking of taking advantage of this great time to sell, let's start with a honey-do list for the interior of your house. It is important that your house is in pristine condition so that you can win the beauty contest over bank-owned houses.

Keep in mind that most buyers do not want to do repairs or redecorate right after moving in. So first, fix the small things like broken switch plates, leaky faucets, and bathtubs that need to be re-caulked.

Second, paint your rooms a neutral color and repaint baseboards, which really seem to take a beating over the years. And it's a good idea to take down that wall paper.

Next, brighten-up the house. Wash the windows and the blinds, make sure all light bulbs are working and take down heavy drapes.

With this advice and the decluttering advice from my January column, you are well on your way to getting top dollar for your house and beating out your competition.

Neighborhood Snapshot Cambridge Cove

The gated community of Cambridge Cove is located along Natures Way just west of the Bloomingdale Golf Club entrance. Sixteen homes in this upscale subdivision line a pond that hugs the 10th fairway. Homes were built between 1985-2006 with a couple new construction homes built in 2015 and 2016. This neighborhood boast 69 homes with three sales over the past year priced at \$358,000, \$411,000 and \$479,400. The average square footage is 3245 and the average number of bedrooms is four.

**MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold between Dec. 19, 2015 – Dec. 19, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*



By Ronnie McLaughlin

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BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

2017 Membership Drive Begins

Help the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) make 2017 a year filled with improved services and programs designed to make our community a great place for all. Please consider joining and strengthening the one organization that advocates for the entire community of nearly 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. Your membership funds are returned 100 percent to the community.

Check your mailboxes for the BHA's annual membership drive letter and scholarship donation request. Your mailer will contain a letter, front and back, with details about the Association's role, events, programs and a scholarship donation request. A green membership card and a return envelope is also included.

Every member and dollar matter. Your membership funds all special programs and services including this newspaper, a part-time staff, the annual Santa visit, the annual community yard sale, the community clean-up, which will be expanded to spring and fall, and the fall festival. The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods.

To help with planning and budgeting, join today or at least within the next 90 days. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road., Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check. An easier method is to use our PayPal

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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**YOUR NAME
AND ADDRESS**

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. See pages 12 and 13 for a complete synopsis of what the BHA offers to its members.

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, Jan. 9, 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, Jan. 10, 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, Jan. 19, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Luke Hussey, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, Feb. 25 / First-ever Community-Wide Yard Sale, Stay tuned for details in the Gazette and on Facebook.

Saturday, March 4 / Annual Community Clean-Up, Stay tuned for details in the Gazette and on Facebook.

WHAT'S MISSING FROM THE 2017 BHA BOARD? YOU ARE!

Introducing the 2017 BHA Board: Pictured at the last month's Santa visit, left to right: Mary Galin, Beth Smedley, George May, Bobbi Ferraro, Billy Hightower, Santa, Dann Berkowitz (kneeling), Suzy Watts, Sean Donahue and Joanie Wilson. Come to a board meeting to learn what these selfless volunteers do for this community! Not pictured, Charlie Woodcock.



Photo: Joy Boisselle.

BHA BRIEFS

December Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

The Board voted to approve the 2017 budget at the December meeting. Feedback from the Santa event was overwhelmingly positive. 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.

2017 Scholarship Dates/Deadlines Set

Important dates and deadlines for the \$2,000 Bloomingdale Community Scholarship in honor of former Bloomingdale Senior High School principal, B.J. Stelter are as follows:

Jan. 1 - Scholarship applications available at www.bloomingdalehoa.com.

April 1 - Scholarship Deadline, No exceptions.

May 9 - Winner announced at monthly BHA board meeting.



Second Annual Community Yard Sale

Wanting to provide a service all residents could take advantage of, the BHA will again organize a community garage sale. This year's event is Feb. 25, 8 a.m. until... The BHA will advertise in several media outlets and post signage throughout the community. Residents need only supply their unwanted treasures and conduct a yard sale at their home. Too easy, right? More details in next month's Gazette.

Annual Community Clean-Up

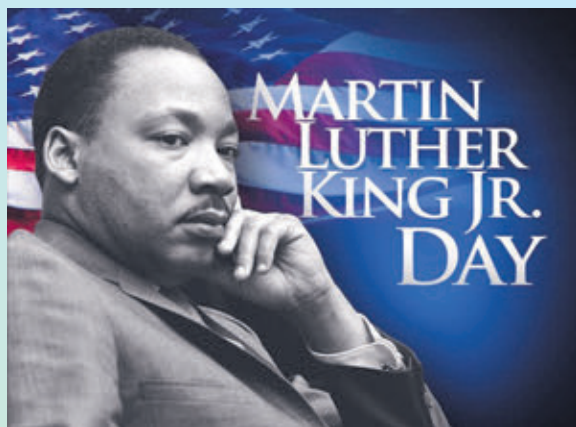
The BHA's ever-popular annual community clean-up will be Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At least eight to 10 commercial trash roll-offs will be on site as well as our returning partners, Urban E Recycling, a computer and electronics recycling company, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet program. More details in next month's Gazette.

Speeders Beware!

At the request of the BHA, HCSO has been a more visible presence on Natures Way and Canoga Park Drive. In conjunction with a speed study request, HCSO deputies targeted Canoga Park in December. 1,500 vehicles were surveyed at an average speed of 30 mph in a 25 mph zone. Deputies issued five citations and 11 warnings. Deputies will continue to be a presence in this area.



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



31st Annual Plant City MLK Festival / Jan. 6-21 / Event Times and Locations Vary / The Plant City Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Arts Festival features a variety of family-oriented activities. At the Festival, citizens of every ethnic background can experience and celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the culture of Hillsborough County & West Central Florida. Festival highlights include the Opening Ceremony, Spoken Word, Old School Gala, Freedom Parade, High/Middle School Drumline Showdown, Sunday Leadership & Community Awards Breakfast, College Scholarship Awards, Gospel Fest, Plant City African American Driving Tour including the Bing Rooming House Museum and a one-day street venue with ethnic cuisine, and concerts for children and adults. For information, visit www.plantcitymlkfestival.com.

28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade / Jan. 16 / Noon / Downtown Tampa / The City of Tampa's Martin Luther King Day Parade is an integral and exciting component in a week of activity celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King, and the beautiful diversity and community spirit throughout the Tampa Bay Area. The parade begins at Cuscaden Park and ends at Middleton High School. Visit www.mlkjrparade.com for parade route and information.

AT THE LIBRARY!

Ukulele Workshop / Jan. 17 / 7-8:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. / Join members of the Tampa Bay Ukulele Society (TBUS) for a free beginner's ukulele workshop! Learn about the instrument, how to tune, hold and strum, play chords, learn two songs, and meet other local "uke" enthusiasts. Ukuleles will be available to play at the program or bring a "uke" from home—or check out a ukulele from the library lending collection made possible by TBUS! For information, call 813-273-3652.



HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Florida Licensing on Wheels / Jan. 18, 10 a.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. / Skip the lines at the DMV, Go to the Library! Florida Licensing on Wheels brings the following motorist services directly to customers: first-time licenses, conversion of out-of-state licenses, renewals, replacements for lost or stolen licenses, address/name changes, ID cards, reinstatements, emergency contact information registrations, vehicle registration renewals, and disabled parking placard issuances and renewals. Fees may vary. Visit GatherGoGet.com for a complete listing of documents needed. This program is in partnership with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.



AARP Driver Safety Classes / Jan. 23 & 24, 12:15 p.m. / Brandon Hospital / Room 228, Oakfield Plaza / \$15 for AARP Members, \$20 non-members. Call 813-681-5044 or go to www.aarp.org/drive for details.

Biscuit, The Musical / Jan. 27 / 10:15 a.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association, Inc. / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / ArtsPower's newest musical features a frolicking little puppy named Biscuit who loves exploring, making new friends, and even stirring up some mischief. Along the way, Biscuit learns about the joys of having a family. Pre-K through 3rd grade. Ticket pricing: \$6 members; \$7 non-members. Advance ticket purchase required. For information, visit www.centerplacebrandon.org or call 813-685-8888.



Brandon Senior Center / 612 N. Parsons Ave. / Ongoing / 813-635-8066 / The Senior Center offers a variety of activities for adults 50 and over. Activities this month include:

- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. - NEW - Color me calm: Learn popular and therapeutic adult coloring techniques
- Jan. 10 at 10:15 a.m. - The Drawing Point: Painting with a Twist (Preregistration required, materials provided)
- Jan. 12 at 1 p.m. - Pool Tournament: Come test your skills (Call for details)
- Jan. 20 at 12:30 p.m. - Lunar New Year Festival: Celebrate the New Year with dancing and music
- Jan. 25 at 9 a.m. - Gasparilla Pirate Invasion: Party with the Pirates (Preregistration required, dancing)

UPCOMING

The Village Players Present Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap / Feb. 4, 10-11, 17-18, 8 p.m.; Feb. 5 & 12, 3 p.m. / The James McCabe Theater / 506 N. 5th St., Valrico / The scene is set when a group of people gathered in a country house cut off by the snow discover, to their horror, that there is a murderer in their midst. Who can it be? One by one the suspicious characters reveal their sordid pasts until at the last, nerve-shredding moment the identity and the motive are finally revealed. Visit www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com or call 813-643-8292 for information.

The Florida State Fair / Feb. 9-20 / Florida State Fairgrounds / 4800 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa / Mark your calendars! The Florida State Fair attracts up to 500,000 people in twelve days. Each year Florida residents create exhibits for Aquaculture, Horticulture, Woodcarving, Needlework, and more. Bragging rights are still won for the prized bull, best pie, and the most beautiful quilt. Being an Independent Midway, all rides are selected by the Fair Authority to provide our visitors with all the thrills and chills they've come to expect. As the first State Fair of the year, we get all the latest and greatest in Fair foods such as the Pizza Cone, Redneck Burger, Bacon Ice Cream, and more! It's affordable family fun at its best! Nobody does it better than the Florida State Fair! Visit www.floridastatefair.com for events, tickets, and details.



TODAY!

Bloomingdale Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken Spring Registration / Jan. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. & Jan. 10, 6-9 p.m. / 2215 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico / Registration fees: T-Ball (ages 4-6), \$105; Baseball, \$155; Softball \$155; Sibling Discount, \$25. For information, visit www.bysafl.com.



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

Editor's Note: The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District's (BSTD) monthly column informs readers about the BSTD, its mission and ongoing and new initiatives. The BSTD meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Questions? Call 813-684-6667 or email bstd@verizon.net. Office hours are flexible, so call before you come by for a visit.

A Look Back at a Year of Change in 2016

By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

New years usually bring about changes...and for the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD), 2016 was no exception.

In February, the District brought aboard a new landscape maintenance company, Buccaneer Landscape Management, to keep Bloomingdale looking beautiful. Under the leadership of owner Chris Witherington, Buccaneer is a premier West Central Florida landscape service provider tasked with keeping our common areas and irrigation system maintained and repaired.

In July, the District said farewell to its long-time office manager, Derry Wilson, who decided to enjoy retirement with her husband. Taking over office duties was Miriam Leech, a Bloomingdale resident and also a writer for the Bloomingdale Gazette. Office hours changed from 7 to 11 a.m. to 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday.

In August, the District once again welcomed a new partner when it brought aboard Rick Pitrowski of Merit, Inc., as the new property manager. Pitrowski adds experience with his management of the three other largest special taxing districts in Hillsborough County.

The new manager immediately replaced trashcans and dog-i-pots throughout our common areas, and recently completed a report on the unsafe conditions of common area sidewalks throughout the District. The report is in the hands of County officials and was shared with the District's partner, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA).

Additionally, in August, the Primary Election was held with a ballot referendum that would have increased the BSTD tax assessment amount an initial \$20 per year, with a potential

increase up to \$70 over coming years. By a margin of 81 votes, the referendum did not pass. The Trustees were forced to make difficult decisions moving forward on the use of funds. And, sadly, this meant that there were no Christmas decorations displayed at Bloomingdale's entrances in December.

Finally, in November, the BSTD welcomed a new Trustee to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Trustee Mike Chanen. Jay Kittle, a resident of Windsor Woods, will now fulfill a 4-year term.

2017 is sure to mean more changes. Be a part of that change and attend a BSTD Board meeting held the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. The next meeting is Jan. 9, and Hillsborough County Commissioner Stacy White will be attending.

Happy New Year from your BSTD!



BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

BLOOMINGDALE

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

www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org

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

David P. West, President
Mark Horst, Treasurer
Russell Jones, Trustee
Chris Papp, Trustee
Mark Vargo, Trustee
Tom Leech, Trustee
Jay Kittle, Trustee

Hillsborough County Recycling Says NO to Plastic Bags

Going bagless is the hottest trend in recycling! Plastic bags gum up the sorting machines and hurt recycling efforts. Return them to the store instead. Share the knowledge and help spread the word! Plastic bags create the most confusion when it comes to people trying to recycle properly. Plastic bags are fine for your garbage, but an absolute no-no when it comes to recycling. Do NOT put your recyclables in plastic bags. Those bags can tangle up the machine, which can stop the process, harm the machine, and potentially harm our workers.

(Via www.facebook.com/HillsboroughFL)

NO plastic bags in your recycling.

Go Bagless!

More tips
HCFLGov.net/Recycling

Hillsborough County | Florida





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.



What Happened to Real Music?

This is really no way to kick off a brand new year. I mean, instead of feeling the giddy excitement of an approaching unsullied 12 months, I feel the weight of encroaching years. My step, just yesterday jaunty and carefree, is teetering on the brink of feeble. And all because my miserable wretch of a granddaughter, visiting from The University of Know-It-All, caught me in the kitchen dancing and singing, along with Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs, the immortal lyrics to "Stay." As I recall, her response to my stellar performance was something along the lines of, "Good Lord, Grandma! 'STAY?' How old ARE you anyway? I bet you even remember 'The Twist,' don't you?" And, rather than pass her comments off as the obviously mad pratings of an unwashed little heathen, I have found myself wandering down a musical Memory Lane, wondering what ever happened to **real** songs with **real** lyrics sung by **real** singers.

Ah, yes. Real songs. Deep, meaningful ditties with a message. Like "Louie Louie." Now, there was a masterpiece. In case you're wondering, the "message" imparted by "Louie Louie" was, "We can sing so badly and enunciate so poorly, you will not be able to understand a word, which will create tremendous havoc within the music world in general and your parents in particular and make everybody think we are singing something perverted when, in reality, this is the most innocuous tripe." Wow. Deep, huh?

Oh, and who could ever forget the haunting lyrics of "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida?" Except, of course, those of us who never understood them in the first place. Nope, they're not writing songs like that anymore.



And when we weren't writhing to the mesmerizing beat of our more hard-hitting heroes or dissecting Dylan doggerel, we Children of the '60's could be found humming unforgettable melodies about mystical dragons, albino bunnies, suicidal unicorns and fugitive butterflies.

We sounded more like zookeepers than singers, but at least the words rhymed, which is more than I can say for most of the vaporizing piffle I've been subjected to lately.

Even the names of the groups had a lyrical quality. "Herman's Hermits." "Moby Grape." "Strawberry Alarm Clock." "The Velvet Underground." "The Electric Prunes." Gad, what poetry.

Now, my fellow former Flower Children, it's all faded into oblivion. It seems like only yesterday we were walkin' down the street with Manfred Mann singing do-wah-diddy-diddy-dum-diddy-do and today we're twisting radio dials trying to find a "Golden Oldies" station and nostalgically mumbling, "Jeez, I remember that."

Oh, I know that Paul Simon, Mick Jagger and Paul McCartney are still hanging around, geriatric reminders of better days. But things just aren't the same. I mean, when your own kids think that "Purple Haze" has something to do with the ozone level, you have a right to be depressed.

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BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

...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.

Arbor Day is for Everyday

By Gwen Graverson

Most states celebrate National Arbor Day on the last Friday in April; others like Florida observe Arbor Day based on the best tree planting weather in their area. For the Sunshine State, Arbor Day is always the third Friday in January and this year that date is Jan. 20.



Arbor Day is all about tree planting and care. The National Arbor Day Foundation website at www.arborday.org/ has links those wanting to organize an Arbor Day event or volunteer at one. Checklists are available to help you stay on track as well as free forms to build custom, print-ready PDF flyers for your Arbor Day event. Forms can be tailored for businesses, schools, clubs, churches, or civil organizations.

You also can become a part of the Arbor Day Foundation with memberships starting as low as \$10. With your \$10 membership, you may choose one of three gifts: Get 10 free trees for yourself or someone else; Plant 10 rain forest trees and get a free t-shirt; or Plant 10 trees in our nation's forests.

Some families may want to plant a tree on their own property instead. If so, contact the Tampa Electric Company first at 811, or go to sushine811.com at least two full business days prior to digging to get underground utility lines marked at the dig site. The slogan "Call Before You Dig" may serve as a reminder, but there's also a Florida state law that property owners and excavators must abide by. And always...safety first.

This year, Arbor Day may impact more people than ever before, especially with the news coverage of the November forest fires in Gatlinburg, TN. This area of Tennessee, which is part of the Smoky Mountains, is also part of Dolly Parton's back yard. She has started a web-based fund at www.DollywoodFoundation.org to aid families who lost their homes due to the wildfires. The Dollywood Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and 100 percent of your donation will go directly to the families affected by the wildfires.

You can also mail your tax-deductible donation to: The Dollywood Foundation, My People Fund, 111 Dollywood Lane, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863. Please include the following "My People Fund" on the memo line and provide a return address for a tax receipt. For updates, there's also a Facebook page "The Dollywood Foundation."

Hearing about forest fires is one thing...seeing the aftermath in person is something else. Last year in March, my husband Scott and I went on a short hike through the Black Forest near Colorado Springs. Let's just say, it was a very sobering experience to realize that it will be decades before the forest will be fully restored. June 2017 will make the fourth anniversary of the Black Forest Fire. The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum has an area dedicated with items donated or recovered from the forest fires.

Another Arbor Day option is donating to Penny Pines. The Valrico Garden Club has donated to Penny Pines during the past few years. The National Garden Clubs, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service are saving forests at \$68 per donation. Anyone can participate in this program by donating in multiples of \$68. You may make donations in honor or memory of one individual, organization or theme. For information on how to make a donation or other details about the program, go www.gardenclub.org/.

I am reminded of how important Arbor Day is to maintaining our environment when I hear the words and music from "This Land is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie – one lyric particularly rings true today..."This land was made for you and me." Let's all protect it.

Photos: Scott Graverson



Seedlings planted in the Black Forest will take years to restore this forest to its previous splendor.



A forest fire devastated the Black Forest near Colorado Springs, CO in 2013. This photo was taken in March of 2016. "Over 14,000 acres were burned, at least 509 homes were said to be destroyed and two people had died. This was the most destructive fire in the state's history, surpassing the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire which also began near Colorado Springs." Source: Wikipedia.



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— Kenn Wells, former lead dancer of the English National Ballet

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Venice Performing Arts Center

Ticket Online: Shenyun.com/FL

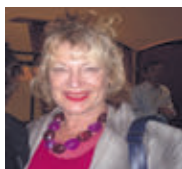
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THROUGHOUT HISTORY, almost every culture looked to the divine for inspiration. Art was meant to uplift, bringing joy and renewal to those who created and experienced it. Today, Shen Yun's artists follow in this noble tradition, incorporating study of traditional culture, meditation and a mindful lifestyle into their rigorous daily training. This spiritual connection is the heart behind each dance movement and each musical note. It is why audiences feel there is something different about Shen Yun, something deeply heartening that continues resounding long after the performance.



Presented by Florida Falun Dafa Association



“I was moved to tears a few times. It was very uplifting. They use their costumes brilliantly with their movement. I've never seen anything like that before.”

— Carol Miller, former Ballet teacher



“I would say come and see it for yourselves, because you will have never seen anything like this before. It's really so beautifully done, so energetic, and the choreography is spectacular.”

— Edward Chapman, CEO of Marchesa Fashion House



“I probably have reviewed over three to four thousand shows, which still cannot compare to what I saw tonight. I give this production Five Stars, that's the top! The best word to use is 'mind-blowing'!”

— Richard Connema, Talkin' Broadway critic

EXQUISITE COSTUMES

Apparel has always been an essential part of China's five-millennia-old culture, and Shen Yun Performing Arts brings this heritage to life on stage. From radiant golden-hued Tang Dynasty gowns to elegant Manchu chopine shoes, each costume is designed and tailored with meticulous care.



STUNNING BACKDROPS

Shen Yun's breathtaking dynamic backdrops bring classical Chinese dance into the 21st century, adding visual depth and grandeur. Each backdrop is custom designed to exactly match the costumes, storyline, lighting, and even choreography of each dance.



Thank you to the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association for arranging to bring Santa Claus and his merry band of elves all the way from the North Pole. Not only did the children get one-on-one time with Santa, but also they enjoyed arts and crafts and special balloon toys made just for them. Once their visit was complete, they happily received a cookie, toy, and peppermint candy cane.



Emergency Care
Help Organization

Said one child, “This is wonderful!” Said several parents, “My children loved it!”

This was the 30th year that the BHA has been able to book Santa for a visit from the North Pole. The visit’s purpose is two-fold: neighborhood cohesion and giving back to those in need through a food drive. This year’s food drive netted Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) over 200 pounds of food items for use during the holiday season! In addition, hundreds of children enjoyed a visit with the jolly one! See more photos on our Facebook page.



Peyton Erickson, 8 ½ months old, made Santa’s day.



Kinsley Woods, 14 months, had one moment to many with Santa... perhaps next year.



Tom and Michelle Ferguson, watch as their kids T.J. (2), Brady (5), and Gemma (4) wait patiently for their balloon toys courtesy of Glenn D. Paulsen from The Family Clown Company. Paulsen helped make the wait to see Santa go by quickly.



Santa and his elves get ready for the 30th annual visit and food drive held Dec. 3 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club.

Photo: Joy Boisselle



Dominick (2 months), Lester (9) and Rhyse (7) Martinez enjoyed seeing Santa.



Lily and Darren O’Neill came prepared for their visit; both brought Christmas lists for Santa complete with stamps for the North Pole.



All eyes on the jolly one...Santa divides his attention between Vanessa (6) and Nathan Lastra (3).



Maaliyah (4) and Amira (2) Delantar enjoy their visit with Santa.



**Santa Came to
Bloomingtondale...**
"He brought his elves and
some presents, too,
And listened to children and
babies who cooed.

**While some were not happy,
as they sat on his lap,
Their parents they smiled as
their phones they did tap.**

**And as they finished their
talk with St. Nick,
They left with a smile and a
peppermint stick."**

Original Poem by Susan DeLuca

Photos: Susan DeLuca
unless otherwise noted



Even our four-legged friends
love Santa. Dezi Boisselle (13)
and his sister Jenn (26) came to
wish Santa a Merry Christmas!
Santa promised Dezi dog treats
in his stocking.

Big sister Jasmine Colon
(10) and brother Cayden
(5) pass the time working
on Christmas crafts. This
popular station featured
coloring, Christmas
ornament making, and
magnet production.

Photo: Joy Boisselle



Bloomingtondale residents Pam and Joe Liguori share a
special moment with Santa. Many will remember Joe
and Pam as Bloomingtondale's Santa and Mrs. Claus for
an astounding 26 years. Santa to Joe: "Even grownups
need to be on Santa's good list to get presents." Good
luck with that, Santa!

Photo: Joy Boisselle



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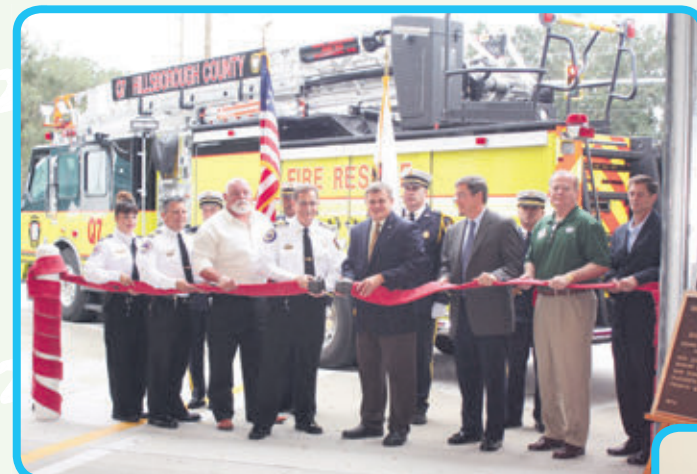
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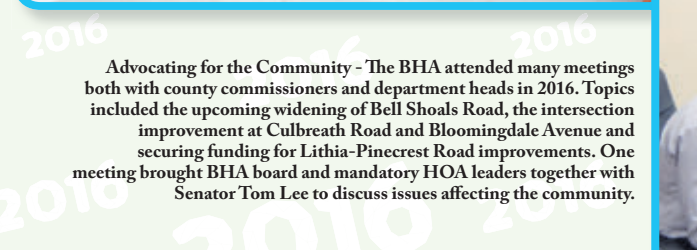
2016 – A Look Back and 2017 – A Look Forward

Staff Report

Gazette File Photos, unless otherwise noted.



A Partnership Formed - Commissioner Stacy White, center, and BHA President George May, second from right, at the grand opening of Fire Station 7 on Bloomingdale Avenue last year. Commissioner White pens a bi-monthly column in the Gazette and continues to be a supporter of the community.



Advocating for the Community - The BHA attended many meetings both with county commissioners and department heads in 2016. Topics included the upcoming widening of Bell Shoals Road, the intersection improvement at Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue and securing funding for Lithia-Pinecrest Road improvements. One meeting brought BHA board and mandatory HOA leaders together with Senator Tom Lee to discuss issues affecting the community.



Preserving Property Values - The BHA established a Neighborhood Standards list in collaboration with the county code department. The enforceable standards will help maintain properties in the community. Case in point - squatters were identified by a concerned resident who reported the issue. County code officers assisted in the removal of the squatters and property abatement.



A Community Gathers - The 2016 Fall Festival, the BHA's annual neighborhood building event, was the best yet. More than 50 area businesses took part in this year's event to the delight of residents and their families.



A Community Cleans Up - A BHA service to residents for over 10 years, the annual community clean-up provides residents the opportunity to get rid of their junk without leaving the neighborhood. Last year, the BHA and volunteers filled 10 commercial containers with resident throw-aways.



Winners - The BHA took home another award at the 2016 Neighborhood Conference. This year, the association's Youth Involvement Program garnered praise from county leaders. Pictured left to right are Sean Donahue, Suzy Watts, George May, Commissioner Stacy White, Beth Smedley and Dann Berkowitz.

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association wishes every resident a Happy New Year and proudly presents a look back at 2016 in pictures and a preview of what is to come in 2017.

None of the events and activities highlighted below would be possible without your support. Residents will soon receive 2017 membership notices. Your \$35 membership contribution allows the BHA to continue the programs and services that make our community special.

We need your support. When your membership notice arrives, don't think twice. Join the Association and be a part of helping to make our community better.

2016 was a busy year filled with development around the community and many initiatives spearheaded by the BHA. The board worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in Bloomingdale and protect property values and standards. 2017 promises to be an even busier year with new programs added and old ones revamped and refined.

Initiatives and activities include:

- Organizing the first of what is hoped to become a community tradition – the Community Garage Sale. This year's Garage Sale is scheduled for Feb. 25.
- Conducting the largest community clean-up event yet. Ten commercial trash containers were filled with resident trash. HCSO's Operation Medicine Cabinet, AMVETS and UrbanErecycling also participated. This year, the BHA will conduct TWO clean-up events, spring and fall. The spring clean-up is scheduled for March 4, while the fall event will be held in September.
- Winning one 2016 Hillsborough County Neighborhood Recognition Award for Best Youth Programs. The BHA provides youth with community service hour opportunities through the Fall Festival, Clean-up and our charity events. In addition, student writers regularly contribute to the Gazette.
- Attempting to preserve non-mandated neighborhoods' deed restrictions. Ultimately, this initiative did not succeed. However, the BHA, collaborating with the county code department, has developed a Neighborhood Standards Program. This program features a simple list of violations enforceable by county code. The BHA working with residents will continue to push for the adherence to these basic standards. See the list on the BHA's website at www.BloomingdaleHoa.com.
- BHA board members attending numerous county meetings to give our community a voice for issues relating to construction, developments and transportation issues on Bloomingdale Avenue, Bell Shoals and Lithia Pine-Crest Roads. Board members will continue to attend these meetings throughout 2017.
- The community's website, www.bloomingdalehoa.com, is a one-stop information source for residents and others. Since launching in 2014, the website has been viewed over 136,000 times.
- The community Facebook page, www.Facebook/BloomingdaleHoa.com is well established and has nearly 1,100 likes. It is a source for immediate community news and a forum for issues. The most viewed post last year topped over 15,000 views and 80 shares.
- Keeping the community informed about developments in the area, including the Culbreath and Bloomingdale Ave improvements, Bell Shoals widening, and more. See boxed insert this page.
- Providing a \$2,000 scholarship to a Bloomingdale resident and high school senior.
- Continuing the Bloomingdale Roundtable, a forum for community leaders to share ideas for community betterment.
- A fall festival, promoting neighborhood cohesion, was held in October. More than 1,500 residents and business owners attended. For 2017, organizers are planning an even bigger event.

Happy New Year, Bloomingdale!



Supporting our Youth - The BHA continues to provide a \$2,000 scholarship to exceptional high school seniors living in the community. Last year's winner Jacob Miller received his award at the May board meeting with his parents Kim and Steve Miller.



2016 a Year of School Sports Excellence - The BHA through the Bloomingdale Gazette takes great pride in showcasing the accomplishments of our amazing young people. In 2016, the Bloomingdale High Lady Bulls flag football team claimed the 2016 6-2A District Championship title for the third year in a row. In addition, the Squirtle Squad Scholars an all-girl robotics team made up of Bloomingdale residents who attend Cimino, Alafia and Burns schools represented the community at a national competition.



Trash to treasure - The inaugural Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association (BHA) Community Garage Sale brought out collectors, treasure hunters, and bargain hunters alike in February. This year's event is on Feb. 25.

2017 CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Looks like 2017 may be a busy time for development around our area. Compiled by Bloomingdale resident and Realtor Brian Bokor. Thank you!

- Bell Shoals Road Widening- expected start mid-2017, Capital Improvement # = 69112, for more information go to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/.../bell-shoals-road-widening
- Laburnum Gardens Complex - 81 apartments located behind Green Boutique / Shrimp Boat + Educational Building (in progress) + Medical Office Building on Bloomingdale Ave
- 116 Townhome project located on the North side of Bloomingdale between Bell Shoals and Springvale Drive, Public Meeting scheduled on Jan. 17 at County Center @ 6 p.m., RZ Application 17-0071
- Bayshore Medical Wellness Center located behind the Old Albertsons at the Miller / Bloomingdale / Lithia intersection, rezoning app 16-0308
- Hawthorn Senior Living Facility on the West side of Lithia at the intersections of Lithia / Valrico, rezoning application is 17-0166, public hearing date for the senior living development is scheduled for Feb 20th @ 6pm, county center
- 16-0621 (Approved) - Light Vehicle Repair and Oil Change Business across street from Car Wash at Lithia/Erindale intersection
- 14-0816 (Approved) Project ID #3003 "Legacy Ridge" - New 67 home Subdivision located at the northern corner of Guiles and Brucken Roads
- New SPROUTS Farmers Market still tentatively scheduled to open up in the Old Albertsons mid 2017
- Hillsborough County Storm Water Department retention pond and lift station at Lithia and Valrico Roads, northeast side.

Through the BHA Facebook page and Gazette, the BHA board will keep residents informed of these projects as information is received.



Keeping Residents Informed - Construction updates both on Facebook and in the Gazette provided residents with the most current information available from those directly responsible for the projects including the Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road intersection improvements.

Year and proudly presents a look back at 2016 in pictures and a preview of what is

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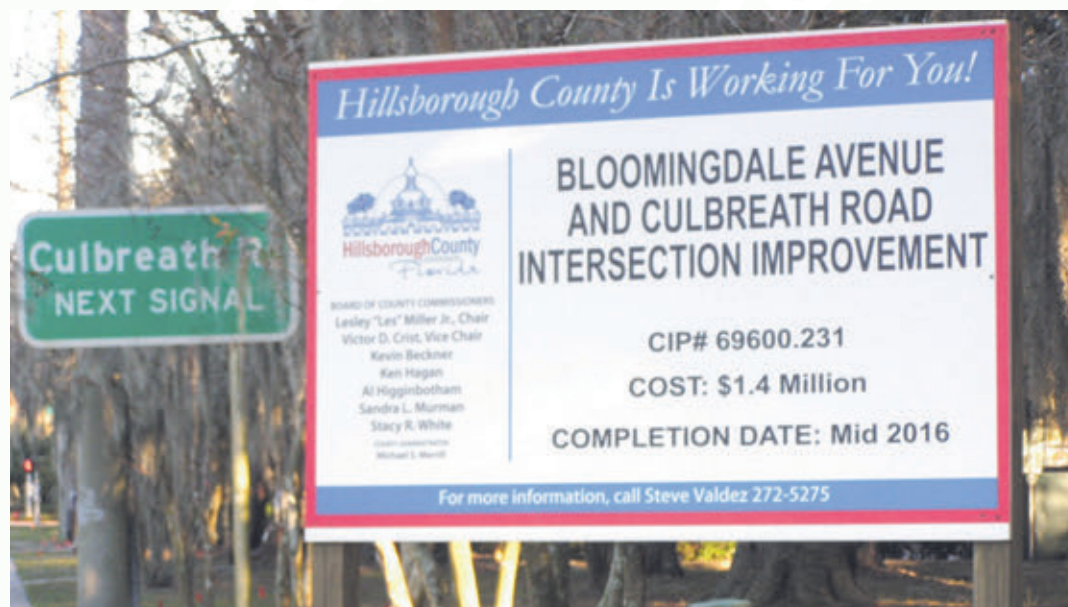
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Enjoy Bridge at Campo YMCA

Staff Report

The “Y” on Culbreath Road in Bloomingdale isn’t just about treadmills, weight lifting and swimming, it also features clubs such as the Duplicate Bridge Club. Bloomingdale Residents Chuck Schramm (left) and Lee Neal, who play on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, take their game seriously. For information, contact the Campo YMCA at 813-684-1371.



Holiday Tradition Grows at Campo YMCA

Staff Report

Campo Y volunteers wrap gifts for the “Gift of Hope.” For more than five years, the Campo Family YMCA has partnered with the First Baptist Church on North Parsons Ave. to help families in need during the holidays. From Thanksgiving through mid-December, volunteers collected, organized, wrapped and prepared to deliver 1,230 gifts, which they did on Dec. 16.



Photo: Campo YMCA

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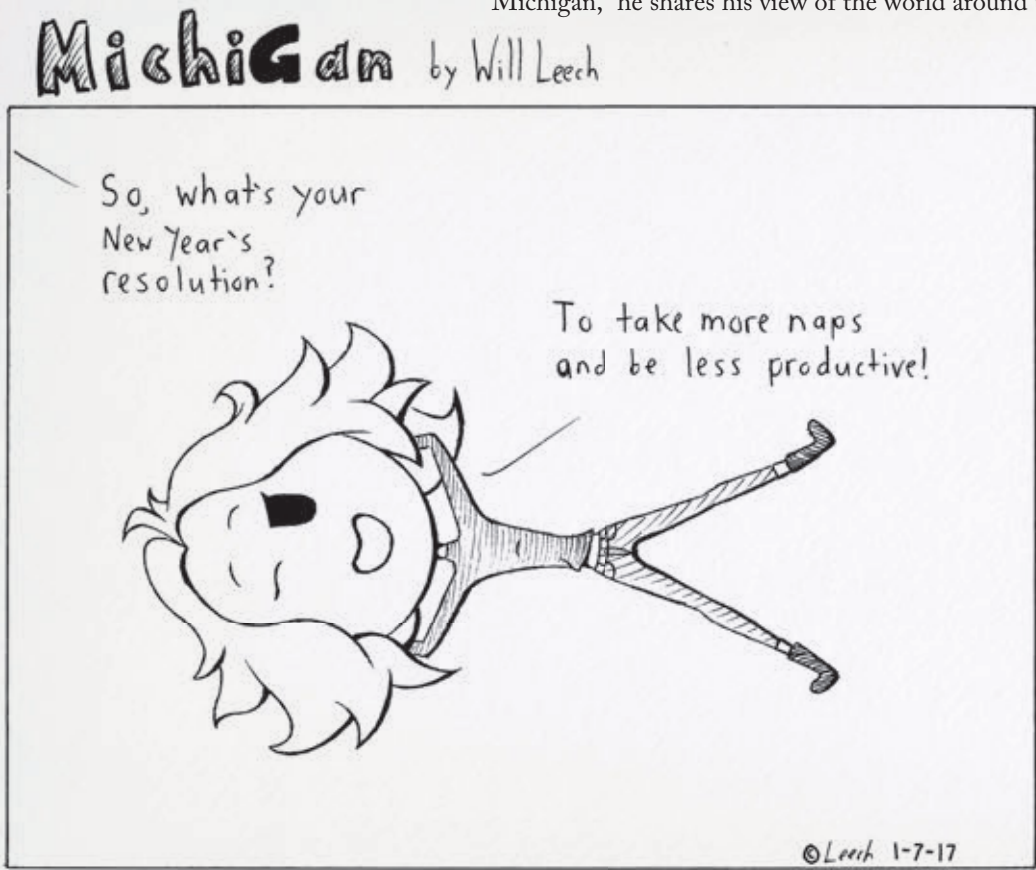
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Michigan

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



Using the railroad track analogy to aim correctly...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

When your golf buddy says “aim for the target,” most of us aim our body to the target. Great for bowling, pool and shooting guns. Not so great for golf.

In bowling, pool and shooting guns, our body is aligned behind the target. In golf, our body is aligned alongside the target, i.e. the golf ball is a few feet in front of you. See photo.

As a result, if you align your body to the target (incorrect), with a good swing the ball will go right of where you aimed.

The outside track (red arrow) in which the ball travels is the target line. The inside track (yellow arrow) is the body/stance line; which consists of feet, knees, hips and shoulders all square and parallel (railroad tracks) to the target line.

When aimed correctly, your left shoulder (and body) will be aligned **left** of target. The next time you buddy says you are aiming wrong; tell him about the railroad tracks and how this train is staying on for 18 holes!

Next month: Not holding the putter like all the other clubs in your bag. Any questions or for lessons, please visit CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. 813-957-3205.



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Golden City Gymnastics (GCG) has everything you can imagine. Enormous facilities, abundant classes, and superb coaching. About 700 kids attend classes each week ranging from 18 months to 18 years old. Brandon is lucky to have GCG because they not only produce highly competitive athletes, but they are a family-run facility that treat their gymnasts like family.

Owner Tonie Campbell founded GCG in 2004 by. Back then, her daughters were in local competitive programs, but resources weren't there to take them to the next level. Tonie decided to combine her passion for gymnastics with her passion for her children and start GCG.

Today, Tonie and her husband Sean are co-owners and daughters Marissa, Brienne, and Shauna run the facility and coach. The family focuses on not only developing technical skills but also enhancing the mind, body, and spirit. Their students are like family and that's important to parents.

Michelle Drielick's daughter Hannah is a Level 9 Competitive gymnast who spends 26 hours each week at GCG. She said, "We travel all the way from Land O'Lakes to go to Golden City because it's a family atmosphere and they nurture the kids so much further beyond gymnastics, it's life lessons, ethics, morals, everything."

GCG gymnasts achieve high levels of success. In addition to receiving hundreds of individual and team awards, GCG now has over 10 gymnasts who have been accepted into the nationally recognized TOPs (Talent Opportunities Program)/HOPEs programs. These programs identify young gifted gymnasts under 12 who may compete and train at the US Olympic Training Site and Developmental Camps. For college-bound gymnasts, GCG has a program that allows universities to view and recruit upcoming graduates.

Golden City Gymnastics is located at 930 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Brandon, FL. For information, visit www.goldencitygymnastics.com.



Hannah Drielick (12) pictured with mom, Michelle, has been training at GCG for 2 and a half years. "It's nice to be there because you know that everybody loves you and everybody cares about you."

Photo: Wendy Knipp



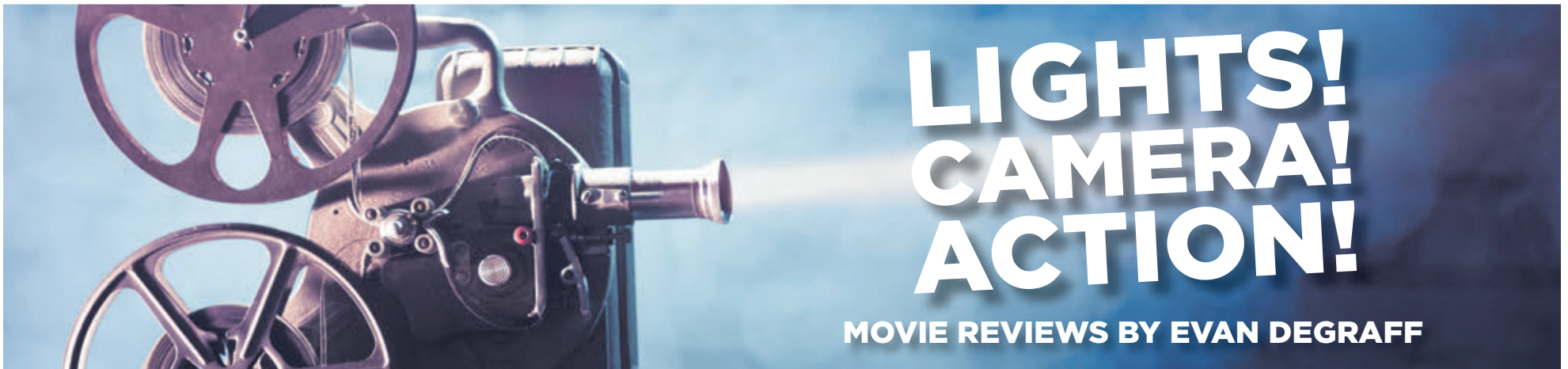
It's a family affair... Brianne Mendoza, Marissa Ramos and Shauna Swartz (pictured, l. to r.), daughters of Tonie and Sean Campbell built a winning team at GCG.

Photo: Wendy Knipp



GCG gymnasts (l. to r.) Rayna Light, Nhi Nguyen, Lila Couture and Asia Reid attended the Olympic Developmental Invite Camp in November.

Courtesy Photo: Golden City Gymnastics



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: “ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY”

“Rogue One” is a must-see movie for “Star Wars” fans, new and old. I saw the movie at the AMC Regency Brandon in Dolby Cinema format, which creates a spectacular visual and sound experience.

Director Gareth Edwards takes the helm on this intense addition to the “Star Wars” franchise. He has created the darkest film ever shot in the Star Wars universe. Bringing his vision to life are the film’s rebel heroes Felicity Jones as Jen Urso and Diego Luna as Captain Cassian Andor.

This movie is the prequel to “Episode IV: A New Hope” and the rebels are on a mission to steal plans for the Death Star. While a Disney movie and still PG-13, this was the first “Star Wars” movie not directed towards children. In my mind, a completely new side of Disney filmmaking was exposed and nothing about this film felt “disney-fied.”

The action-packed film features through-the-roof performances by a stellar cast. In true “Star Wars” fashion, the comedic relief provided by K-2SO, a reprogrammed Imperial droid fighting for the alliance, lifted the darkness of the film. Actor Alan Tudyk was fantastic in the role.

On the other hand, I was not a fan of character Saw Gerrera played by Forrest Whitaker. This is the second film appearance for this character, the first coming in “Star Wars: The Clone Wars.” As a rebel leader in this film, I found his character unnecessary to the overall story.

To keep from ruining the movie for you, all I’m going to say is that the third-act of this film is potentially the best third-act in movie history. That is all.

I am so excited for everyone to see this movie. It is one of the great “Star Wars” movies to come out ever and based on its success, expect more to follow. This movie is 4.5 out of 5 Death Stars.



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Lotus Nails & Spa Gives Clients a Unique Experience

By Miriam Leech

For Ha Pham, giving her clients a well-deserved pampering is the most important service she can provide at her newly-opened Lotus Nails & Spa.

Pham dreamed of owning her own salon here in the United States. She had owned a salon in her native Vietnam, and loves the industry and “making people feel better about themselves.”

What makes Pham’s salon unique is her environmental and health conscious approach to providing service. Lotus is equipped with a Healthy Air Machine that removes all chemical fumes and allergens from the air, and essential oils are used for a nice aroma in the salon. All pedicure tubs have disposable plastic liners to combat bacteria, and the filing kits are also disposable and thrown away after each use. Stainless steel equipment is thoroughly sanitized after each use as well.

The salon provides full service manicures, pedicures, brows and lashes, and waxing. Pham’s favorite pedicure is the Tea for Two, which includes hot stone massage, paraffin wax treatment, and a green tea and peppermint scrub that promotes blood circulation and relaxes muscles—all for \$45.

Since the salon’s opening on Nov. 19, Pham has offered first-time clients \$10 off of a service. She also offers a loyalty program, with \$20 toward a service after 10 visits.



Ha Pham offers her clients a unique experience at her newly-opened Lotus Nails & Spa, a full-service nails, brows and lashes, and waxing salon.



Even the youngest clients get special treatment in this Hello Kitty pedicure chair at Lotus Nails & Spa.



Photos: Miriam Leech

Lotus Nails and Spa is located at 3513 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and closed on Sunday.



The spa features a Healthy Air Machine to remove all fumes and allergens from the air.

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Bell Shoals Barber Shop Celebrates its First Year

By Miriam Leech

For Will Senquiz, it was important for his clients to have an old-school barber shop experience when he opened his business. Now, Senquiz is celebrating his 1-year anniversary as owner of Bell Shoals Barber Shop.

Staffed with four barbers, Bell Shoals Barber offers hot towel and straight razor shaves to clients – a rarity these days. And, those who try it have turned into loyal customers.

Senquiz and his wife, Karelia Martinez, who manages the shop, saw a need for a barber shop in the Bell Shoals/Bloomington area, and wanted to open a family establishment not a franchise.

Senquiz, who has been a barber for 9 years, says, “I am very pleased with our loyal client base.”

Bell Shoals Barber Shop is located at 3515 Bell Shoals Road, next to Papa John's Pizza. All barbers work Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Happy Anniversary to Will and Karelia!



Bell Shoals Barber Shop owners Will Senquiz and Karelia Martinez wanted a family business versus a franchise when they opened their shop one year ago.

Photos: Miriam Leech



Neighbors Lotus Nail & Spa and Bell Shoals Barber Shop have a lot to celebrate these days – for one, a grand opening and for the other, an anniversary!



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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

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

Bloomingtondale Area Community Council Meeting (BACC)
The next scheduled BACC meeting is Jan.19 at 7 p.m. at the Erindale Station.

AREA LAW AND ORDER

Between Nov. 27 and Dec. 27, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 167 traffic stops in Bloomingtondale and the surrounding area known as J04 Zone.

During the same period, there were fifteen auto burglaries in the Bloomingtondale area, which is a huge number! There was a large amount of property stolen, including two guns, one being an AR-15 style rifle, all taken from unlocked vehicles. This number reflects only the Bloomingtondale area, but many more burglaries occurred in Regal River, Shetland Ridge, Lithia Ridge and Buckhorn. Arrests have been made in connection with these burglaries spanning parts of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, but only a small amount of property has been returned.

There were two residential burglaries, both occurred due to unsecured areas. There were also five criminal mischief incidents reported, with three cleared with no report due to no damage. Please remember to lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors, secure your guns and lock up your vehicles.

DON'T BE A VICTIM

Due to a rapid and disturbing increase in thefts from unlocked vehicles and open garages, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is asking that residents reduce the potential of becoming victims of criminal activity by doing the following:

- Remove valuables from your vehicle and lock the doors when you leave or park your car. Purses, Laptops, GPS and cell phones are common items that are being left in plain sight in these unlocked vehicles. If possible, park in the garage with the door secured.
- Secure your firearms. Conceal carry if you have the proper permit or leave them locked up at home. Leaving a firearm in an unlocked vehicle is not acceptable.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running. This is State law and opens you up to being a victim.
- Secure your garage doors anytime that you are not in your garage. Too many times, residents become victims simply by leaving these doors and the rest of their home wide open for anyone to enter and take what they want, usually bicycles and tools.
- Record your serial numbers and take photos of your valuables. Having your serial number on file will assist in the possible return of your property should you become a victim. A perfect time to record the serial numbers of the newly purchased items received at Christmas is NOW!



Use your resources: Know your neighbors and their habits, which will allow you to spot something out of the ordinary. Be aware of what is going on in your neighborhood without invading anyone's privacy.

DON'T WAIT TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY!

In the event you observe such activity, please call the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office non-emergency dispatch line at 813-247-8200 or, if it is an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS FROM ALL OF US AT THE HCSO

As we begin this New Year, all of us at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office want to wish each and every resident of Bloomingtondale and the surrounding communities a very safe and secure New Year. We also want to especially thank those who provided support and help to us during this past year!

The Sheriff's Office will continue to provide Bloomingtondale and the surrounding areas of Hillsborough County with a safer and more secure place to live, to work, to run your businesses and to raise your families. Your safety and security is our number one priority.

Our continued work with concerned residents from your community will help expand our resources to ensure we provide you with the best service possible. We will expand the Sheriff's "Volunteer Citizens Patrol Program" and seek active participation in the BACC. We will continue to utilize programs such as the Sheriff's "Operation Medicine Cabinet" to improve the safety of families in our communities.

If you have any programs or events in mind that you think could raise awareness to particular issues or help our relentless efforts to deter crime, please contact the Bloomingtondale Community Substation at 813-242-5501. Our relationship with you, our community, is unprecedented, unparalleled and cherished throughout our agency. We look forward to serving and protecting you even better in 2017.

BLOOMINGDALE'S TOP COP RETIRES



Source: HCSO

Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee (l.) congratulates Master Deputy Curtis Warren at his retirement ceremony held Dec. 2 in Plant City. Warren served the county and its residents since 1988. From 2010 to his retirement, he served our community directly as the Bloomingdale Community Resource Deputy.

Photo: Art Jorgensen



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Must present coupon. Cannot be combined.
One per visit. Offer expires 1/31/17 BG

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JANUARY 16 - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

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



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Jan. 19 – Square 1 Burgers Spirit Night

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Jan. 19 – Box Tops for Education Collect Day
Group Picture Day
Math Night



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

No Information available at Press Time



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

Jan. 9 – Bloomington Idol Auditions, 2-4 p.m.
Jan. 10 – Girls/Boys Soccer vs Plant, 6 p.m.
Jan. 10 – Girls/Boys Basketball vs TBT, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 10 – Cheer Competition @ Lennard, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 11 – Girls/Boys Basketball @ East Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 13 – Girls/Boys Basketball vs Durant, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 13 – Girls/Boys Soccer vs Plant City, 7 p.m.
Jan. 17 & 18 – District Girls Soccer @ Lennard, 4 p.m.
Jan. 17 – Girls/Boys Basketball vs Strawberry Crest, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 17 – Boys Soccer @ Riverview, 7 p.m.
Jan. 18 – Girls/Boys Basketball @ Alonso, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 19 – Cheer Western Conference @ Durant, 4 p.m.
Jan. 19 – Boys' Soccer vs East Bay, 7 p.m.
Jan. 20 – Girls/Boys Basketball vs Lennard, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 20 – Boys Soccer @ Leto, 7 p.m.
Jan. 24 & 25 – District Boys Soccer @ King, 4 p.m.
Jan. 24 – Girls/Boys Basketball vs Newsome, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 25 – Girls/Boys Basketball @ Riverview, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 26 – Melissa Snively Meeting, 6 p.m. in Media Center
Jan. 27 – Girls/Boys Basketball vs Steinbrenner, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 28 – Cheer States @ Gainesville, 9 a.m.
Jan. 30 – Bloomington Idol Finals, Auditorium, 5 p.m.
Jan. 31 – Girls Basketball Districts @ TBT, 4 p.m.
Jan. 31 – Boys Basketball vs Armwood, 6:30 p.m.

BULL BRIEFS

Follow us @BloomingtonSHS



SCHOOL BRIEFS

Source: <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/>

Hillsborough County Public Schools Continue to Show an Increase in Student Success

As Hillsborough County Public Schools students take exams this week, seniors are one step closer to graduation and have some big shoes to fill. The state released the 2015-2016 graduation rates and Hillsborough County Public Schools' graduation rate has increased to 79.1%, up 3-percentage points from last year. The increase is a direct result of the tenacity exhibited by all in our District. From students, to administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and all of those who serve in support roles to ensure our students are on track to graduate, tenacity is the common bond.



LEAD Student Contest

In celebration of Black History Month, Hillsborough County Public Schools is proud to announce the LEAD (Learn, Empower, Advocate, Dream) Student Contest. Leaders impact us in so many ways. We encounter leaders at home, in our schools, religious institutions, on the playing field, and many other places throughout our community. The LEAD contest challenges all students from grades 3-12 to create an artistic interpretation expressing how a local black leader has inspired him or her. All entries must be submitted by the close of business, 4 p.m., Monday, Jan. 16. Visit www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/list/lead/about/179-877/ for details.



Say Y.E.S. and Apply Online to be a Volunteer

There is a new way of volunteering at Hillsborough County Public Schools. The volunteer application will now be online. By making the process better, easier, and faster, more volunteers and community partners will be saying "Y.E.S." (You Empower Students). For information, view <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/>



BSHS Bulls Football End of Year Banquet

Brief By Deidre Morgan

Bloomington High School honored its football players on Dec. 15 with an end of year awards banquet for all their hard work during the season. The Bulls ended the season with a 6-4 winning record under new Head Coach Max Warner. Thanks for a great season, Bulls and here's to an even better season next year! Go Bulls!

2016 AWARDEES:

DJ Williams:
Principal Award

Drake Tutt:
Junior Varsity MVP

Chris Clapham:
Weight Room Award

Xavier Hernandez:
Big Stick Award

Quinton McCoy:
Rookie of the Year

JaDarrien Quails:
Spirit Award

Tyler Hunter & Jon Catala:
Coaches Award

Colin Errity:
Coach Hutch Award

Dalton Carde:
Lineman Award

Justin Keijers:
Special Teams Player of the Year

Zach Warhul:
Most Improved

DJ Williams:
Offensive Player of the Year

Colin Errity:
Defensive Player of the Year

Sam Skinner:
Most Valuable Player



Sam Skinner receives the MVP Award from Head Coach Max Warner.



Offensive line Coach Matt Hike presents Dalton Carde with the Lineman Award.



Bringing Joy to Kids One Soccer Goal at a Time

Staff Report

For the third year, the Bloomingdale High Boys Soccer team working with the non-profit Creative Kids hosted a kick-a-thon fundraiser in December benefitting St. Joseph's and All Children's Hospitals. This year, Valrico Academy students joined the effort to bring Christmas cheer to hospitalized children during the holidays.

Senior and soccer team captain Nick Diaz who created the event asked the team to set a goal for this year's event. This year, the students raised \$1,800 dollars besting last year's total by \$200. Afterwards, the team shopped for gifts and through Creative Kids delivered a whopping 900 gifts to the area hospitals.

"I was so happy to see these boys giving back to these kids who would be spending Christmas in the hospital," said Kelly Diaz. "I can't say enough about our coaching staff who encourages the boys to give back to the community and to the boys for working so hard."



Loading the goodies after some serious shopping are Bull soccer players Myles Routh, Will Steck and Matt Allred.



Getting the job done, Nick Diaz and Nathan Gross took top scoring honors in the blindfolded kick-a-thon fundraiser. They scored 33 goals together in the two-minute time limit.



In December, the Bulls Boys Soccer Team hosted a kick-a-thon fundraiser at the school to raise money to purchase gifts for hospitalized children. Following the kick-a-thon, the team shopped for gifts.



Creative Kids volunteers get ready to deliver a portion of the 900 gifts collected to St. Joseph's Children's Hospital.

Photos: Kelly Diaz



The Best of the Best: 2016 Hillsborough County All Star Game

Brief By Deidre Morgan



Following a stellar performance at the 2016 Hillsborough County All Star Game, Bloomingdale's Defensive End Sam Skinner received the Defensive MVP award.

Courtesy Photo: Big County Preps

On Dec. 3 at Raymond James Stadium, the top senior high school football players in the area met on the field to prove why they were selected by their coaches to play in this year's All Star Game. For the second year, the best players from the east beat the best from the west with a score of 9 to 6.

This year's East team coached by Mike Thornton of Riverview HS included four Bloomingdale High School Bulls seniors: Running Back DJ Williams, Offensive Lineman Dalton Carde, Defensive End Sam Skinner and Linebacker Colin Errity. A spectacular performance by Skinner, including a 4th quarter quarterback sack with 10 seconds remaining, assured the East's win. Congratulations to the East on their win and to our Bloomingdale Bulls for representing our school with pride!

Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 15 - April 1**
Applications accepted.
- April 1**
Application deadline (firm).
- May 9**
BHA Board meeting and announcement of scholarship winner.



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to sponsor the

Bloomingdale High School

\$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidate

- Must be a resident of the Bloomingdale community.
- Must be a graduating senior accepted at a 2 or 4-year college or university. Proof of acceptance is required.
- Weighted 3.2 GPA

Candidate's Parent/Guardian

- Must be a resident of the Bloomingdale community.
- Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 2017 membership dues must be paid prior to the scholarship application deadline. Membership drive begins January 2017. **Deadline is April 1, 2017.**
- Proof of residency is required.

Selection Criteria

- Community service
- Extra-curricular activities
- Well-written essay
- Academic Standing
- Reference letters

Scholarship information will be available January 15, 2017 online at BloomingdaleHOA.com, at Bloomingdale High School and at the Bloomingdale Community Office.



BHA Community Office: 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596 • Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(813) 681-2051 • Email: bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com • BloomingdaleHOA.com

BloomingdaleHOA

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