

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

VOLUME XXXIV ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2014 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

2014 BHA Fall Festival: Mission Accomplished

Staff Report

THE BLOOMINGDALE FALL FESTIVAL

For three years, the BHA's Fall Festival was just a distant memory. A new energetic board with a goal to bring the crowd pleaser back to the community did so on Oct. 25 at the Bloomingtondale Golfers Club. Nearly 500 fest-goers and 35 businesses attended the event and enjoyed beautiful weather and an opportunity to share in a celebration of community.

Of the event, organizer Mary Galin said, "I want to bring our community closer. I want neighbors to know neighbors. I want residents to get to know their small business owners and develop relationships. And, I want residents to know that the BHA is about giving back to the community."

While the ever-pleasing bounce houses and Trick or Treat Street drew the younger set, adults strolled the grounds learning about animal rescue groups and local business partners in the area. Everyone enjoyed the DJ entertainment provided by Ricky Mondelli; mascot visitors, The Tampa Bay Lightning's Thunderbug and Mr. KingPin from Brandon Crossroads Bowl; and the many activities, games and raffles available. (See full list of participants this issue.)

Platinum sponsor and event supporter since 2008, Ray Chadderton of "The Chadderton Group," a Keller Williams Realty Company, commented, "What a great day! More communities should do events like this; it's important and brings the community together in a positive way."

Continued on Page 12



Two bounce houses proved to be a kid favorite. One included a slide and tunnel.

Photos: Joy Boisselle



The Fall Festival was all about family, fun, dogs and kids. Illustrating that philosophy are members of the Baker family: Sasha (purple tutu), Julia aka batgirl (4), Jonathan (7) Rosie and Mom, Amy.

Keegan Harris (5) lofts a bowling ball while brother, Dylan (3), looks on. Brandon Crossroads Bowl, a platinum sponsor, provided the 30-foot bowling lane as well as family fun bowling raffles.



Daylight Saving Time:
Don't forget to fall back
one hour TONIGHT!

CHANGE YOUR
CLOCKS

This Month

BHA COMMUNITY CORNER
Page 4

ELECTION NEWS
Page 5

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Page 6

BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGTONDALE
Page 8

SANTA'S COMING
Page 10

FALL FESTIVAL
Pages 12 & 13

VETERANS DAY
Page 14

INs & OUTs
SHARING THE ROAD
Page 18

BEST OF THE BEST
Page 20

SCHOOL NEWS
Page 21 & 23

IB PINNING CEREMONY
Page 22

LADY BULLS VOLLEYBALL
Page 22

PLEASE RECYCLE

Winner

2014
Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
Newsletter Category

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way. *Native American Saying*

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:

President: *George T. May IV*

Treasurer: *Dennis Osborn*

Secretary: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Billy Hightower

Mary Galin

Joanie Wilson

Ken Smith

Beth Smedley

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

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Tampa Bay Times

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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





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Thanksgiving Trivia:

TURKEY TALK FOR THE TABLE

More than 115 million households are potential gathering places for the uniquely American tradition, Thanksgiving. This upcoming holiday is a time for families to gather, give thanks and express gratitude for all they have, as well as share with the less fortunate.

The tradition traces its roots back to centuries-old harvest fests around the world. In the United States, Thanksgiving began in 1621 with the Pilgrims of Plymouth, MA. That year, the Pilgrims and their Wampanoag Indian neighbors gathered for a three-day feast to give thanks for a bountiful harvest.

From then, the holiday was observed randomly. History credits President Lincoln with making the observance an annual event. Thanksgiving became an official national holiday when President Franklin Roosevelt established the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 26, 1941.

When you sit down this year to give thanks with your family, get ready to liven up the dinnertime conversation and astound your friends with a few tidbits of Thanksgiving trivia.

Did you know that...?

- Every year, the President of the United States will just prior to "execution," pardon the National Thanksgiving turkey and an alternate. On Nov. 27, 2013, President Barack Obama pardoned "Popcorn" and alternate, "Caramel" at the National Thanksgiving Turkey Ceremony.
- More than 46 million turkeys will be cooked and eaten.



- Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird.
- Pilgrims had no pumpkin pie at the first feast, but did have beer.
- Turkeys really can drown if they look up when it's raining.
- Plymouth Rock is the size of a car engine.
- Male turkeys gobble, but only during mating season and when going to sleep. Female turkeys cluck.
- Neil Armstrong was the first astronaut to eat turkey on the moon.
- A mature turkey has over 3,500 feathers.
- Approximately 88 percent of American homes will eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day.
- The biggest turkey was 86 pounds, the size of a large dog.
- The number in miles of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is 2.5. 50 million people will watch the parade.

(Sources: www.census.gov, www.infoplease.com/, www.cnn.com)

Staff Report

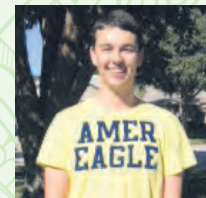
Talk Around Town

Welcome to "Talk around Town," a place to share your opinions and be heard. Each month, our reporters will ask residents a question; some questions are light-hearted, some are serious.

This month's question:

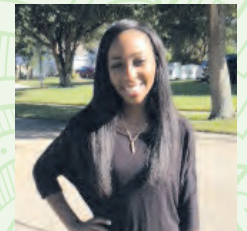
What are you most thankful for as the holiday season approaches?

Todd Swoope
"I'm thankful for my family and just getting a new job."



Noah Poirson
"I'm thankful for my family because they are always there for me when I need them."

Crystal Morgan
"I'm thankful that my Dad is back in the country and we will be able to celebrate the holidays as a family."



Photos: Deidre Morgan

Meet Your BHA Board

By Kayla Hayes



BHA board member, Mary Galin, considers Disneyland in Orlando her family's hobby. "We visit as much as we can," she explained. Pictured are Mary, son Michael, husband Larry, and Disney's Beast. Photo Source: Mary Galin

Mary Galin has been a part of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association as a Director-At-Large for more than a year. With a six-year-old son and a baby girl on the way, what Galin loves most about Cambridge Cove and the Bloomingdale neighborhoods in general is the "peace and quiet."

"I also enjoy Nature's Way for running and having the YMCA so close to home," she said. Galin believes that one of her strong "skills" is her commitment to her community.

"I believe in neighbors knowing neighbors," she said. She counts organization skills as a strength having headed last month's successful Fall Festival.

When she's not serving her community through the BHA, Galin works as a banker, underwriting and approving small loans.

"If it was up to me, I would like to see Valrico become its own separate town...I also would love to see breakfast places," she commented. Her vision for the BHA is for it to become the "voice of power" when representing the community in local, county and state matters.

Galin would like to personally thank everyone who participated in the Fall Festival.

"I hope you enjoyed yourself," Galin said.



Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Seeks New Board Members

Do you care about our Bloomingdale Community and want to take an active role in its future?

Then, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) wants you to become part of "Team Bloomingdale." The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office on Bell Shoals Road at 6:30 p.m.

Board members serve our community through committees including:

- The Bloomingdale Gazette
- Bloomingdale HOA website and Facebook
- Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit/Charity Food Drive
- Annual Clean-up
- Charity Golf Tournament
- Fall Festival
- Scholarship
- Deed Restriction Compliance/Education/Information
- And More

Not sure you have the time? The BHA encourages all interested residents to attend a few board meetings to see the Association at work, and to determine if joining the Board is a good "fit." Remember, the current board members are residents, like you, who have the betterment of our community as their number one goal.

Call 813-681-2051 or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.

www.BloomingdaleHOA.com



BloomingdaleHOA

BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! 

2014 Annual Membership Drive Winds Down

Just over 60 days remain of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 2014 Membership Drive. The Association is closing out a busy and financially expensive year with one last event, the Dec. 6 Santa and Mrs. Claus visit and charity food drive. Please show your generous spirit and join before the end of the year.

Major events this year included a spring community cleanup, the awarding of a \$2,000 scholarship, a charity golf tournament benefitting K-9s for Warriors, the fall festival and the upcoming Santa visit. Minor, yet equally important, events included several roundtable discussions with Bloomingdale mandatory HOA leaders designed to strengthen the community's collective voice, meetings with Can-Do and Big Box developers and meetings with county officials regarding the same as well as road conditions and safety in and around our neighborhoods.

The BHA board is a group of volunteers working to keep the community a place residents are proud to call home. For those thinking about joining, \$25 is a small price to pay. If you have ever called the office, read the Bloomingdale Gazette, looked at our website or Facebook page, submitted a complaint, attended a BHA event, these are all things that would not happen without the funds generated during the Association's annual dues drive.

For those that have already joined, donated to our scholarship fund, and purchased Bloomingdale Pride license plates, we sincerely thank you. For those that have not, please join today. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road., Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and meet our office manager. The easiest way to join is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.



BHA BRIEFS

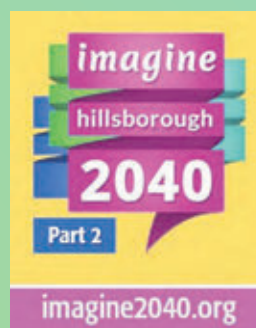
BHA September Board Meeting Highlights

The October Board Meeting included discussions with Valrico Chamber of Commerce President Bridget Jenkins Wilson and Vice-president Melissa Haskins and Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Commission representative Rich Clarendon.

Clarendon provided an overview of the Imagine 2040 program including results of the Part 2 survey completed in August and the two options under adoption consideration. This long-range transportation plan directs federal and state dollars towards projects identified through surveys and other information gathering means. It projects needs forward at least 20 years and requires updating every five years.

The MPO has scheduled a public hearing to consider adopting the plan on Nov. 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board of County Commission Chambers, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. Clarendon urged residents to review the draft plan and provide comment via phone, in person, or email. The plan is available for review at www.planshillsborough.org/2040-lrtp. There is also an email contact link to leave comments.

Remember, monthly BHA board meetings are open to all.



BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2-5 p.m./The Links Block Party, Duncombe Drive, Residents only. The Links HOA sponsored event features a catered BBQ, car show with prizes, chili cook off, a children's coloring contest and entertainment provided by two former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Clowns. The clowns, Bucky and Gigi, will provide a myriad of entertainment to include music, stilt walking, juggling, face painting, balloon animals, and a show. Tickets are \$1 and benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Visit The Links Block Party on Facebook or email thelinksresidentrelations@gmail.com for information.

Monday, Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m./Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m./BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m./Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Master Deputy Curtis Warren, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m./ Santa and Mrs. Claus, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.



FALL FEST

BHA board member Dann Berkowitz plants the fall festival flag signaling the start of the big event at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club.

Photo: Sam Berkowitz

THE BLOOMINGDALE FALL FESTIVAL

HOT! HOT! HOT!

BHA Closes Post Office Box 7221, Brandon, FL 33508; Please update your mailing lists!

Effective Aug. 31, the BHA post office box is no more. Please direct all mail to the Association's physical address at 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL, 33596. Residents using automatic bank payments for dues processing should update the mailing address accordingly.

Editor's Note: "Off the Wall" and "Looking Back" will return next month.

It's Time to Vote, Bloomingdale! Compiled by Miriam Leech

Tuesday, Nov. 4, is Election Day – now is the time to take a last look at the candidates for Board of County Commissioners and School Board. Who's got your vote, Bloomingdale?

District 4 County Commissioner

Stacy White, Republican
www.vote4stacywhite.com
Home: Valrico
Occupation: Pharmacist
Personal Info: Married, three children



District 7 County Commissioner (Countywide Seat)

Al Higginbotham, Republican
www.vote4al.com
Home: Plant City
Occupation: Current District 4 Commissioner
Personal Info: Married, two grown children

Patricia Anne Kemp, Democrat
www.electpatkemp.com
Home: Tampa
Occupation: Attorney/Community Leader
Personal Info: two grown children

District 4 School Board (Runoff)

Terry Kemple
www.vote4terrykemple.com
Home: Brandon
Occupation: President, Community Issues Council, a local Christian Ministry
Personal: Married with five children, 18 grandchildren

Melissa Snively
www.melissaforschoolboard.com
Home: Lithia
Occupation: Owner, State Farm Agency
Personal: Married, four children

District 6 School Board (Countywide Seat) (Runoff)

April Griffin
www.voteapril.com
Home: Temple Terrace
Occupation: Incumbent, District 6 Seat
Personal Info: Married, two children

Dipa Shah
www.votedipa.com
Home: Valrico
Occupation Home: Attorney
Personal Info: Married, two children

Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Jeani Danielson (Mother) & Sherrie Whelan (Daughter)
1222 Carrie Wood Drive
Valrico, FL 33596 (Bloomingdale Trace/Bloomingdale East)

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



RECOMMENDED BY: Bill Bunkley of Faith Talk, Florida Sentinel, Tampa Bay Times, The Tampa Tribune, La Gaceta, Hills. Co. Firefighters



FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE GROUP 8

**✓Vote
Nov. 4th**

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Barbara Twine Thomas, for Circuit Court Judge, Group 8

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

TODAY!

8th Annual Chalk Walk & Art Fest / Nov. 1 / 1-3 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Create your own masterpieces at this free community event! Each artist will receive a box of chalk, a section of sidewalk, coupons, and fun items from local businesses. Hands-on activities for kids and adults provided by the Greater Brandon Arts Council, including pottery, beading, a collage, and more. Ages 3 and up. Rain or Shine! There is no charge to attend, but tickets are required. Call 813-685-8888.



Photos: Brandon Arts Council

Lowry Park's Zoofari / Nov. 8 / 7-11 p.m. / Lowry Park Zoo / 1101 W. Sligh Avenue, Tampa / This is one of Tampa's biggest, tastiest, and "wildest" all-inclusive food festivals. For one ticket price, guests can go on a sampling of the Bay area's best restaurants, enjoy open bars, browse the "Art Safari" art auction, and groove to live music on multiple stages. Advanced General Admission Tickets are \$75 (until Nov. 7) and can be purchased online at www.lowryparkzoo.com or call 813-935-8552. (Tickets may be purchased day of event based on availability.)

Harvest Bible Chapel Tampa Bay / Sundays Beginning Nov. 9 / 10 a.m. / Bloomingdale High School / 1700 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / New church launching services under Senior Pastor Christian McNeilly. The worship ministry of Harvest Bible Chapel exists to help people experience the sufficiency and express the supremacy of Christ in all things. For information, visit www.harvesttampabay.org.

Community Picnic at St. Stephen Catholic Church / Nov. 9 / 12:30-3 p.m. / St. Stephen Catholic School Campus / 10424 St. Stephen Circle, Riverview / Join us for some tasty barbecue, entertainment, bouncy castles for the kids, and fellowship under the tent. We want to get to know our neighbors, both business associates and residential neighbors! Networking and mutual "upbuilding" is what communities are all about. Bring a finger dessert--cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. For information, call 813-689-4900 or visit www.ststephencatholic.org.



Photo: St. Stephen Catholic Church

Jazz Under the Stars / Nov. 9 / 6-8 p.m. / St. Andrews United Methodist Church / 3315 Bryan Road, Brandon / Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy complimentary sweets and treats. Featuring the 17-piece professional group "The Jazz Legacy Big Band," with the vocal style of The Sounds of Frank Sinatra and The Pied Pipers, as well as some Manhattan Transfer faves! Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to ECHO. Visit www.saumc.net or call 813-689-6949, ext. 224.

Community Roundtable of Brandon 2nd Community Service Forum / Nov. 12 / 6:30-8 p.m. / Bloomingdale High School / 1700 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / Over 30 non-profit organizations will be on hand to answer questions about volunteer opportunities. Students seeking service hours to meet Bright Futures or International Baccalaureate Programme requirements and adults looking to give back to their community are encouraged to attend. Non-profits interested in participating can join the Community Roundtable for \$20/year. For information, contact Janine Nickerson at 813-661-4350 or visit www.thecommunityroundtable.org (see flier this page).



Photo: Miriam Leech

Brandon Ballet's Annual Sugar Plum Fairy Tea / Nov. 16 / 2-4 p.m. / The Regent / 6437 Watson Road, Riverview / Join Brandon Ballet at this magically enchanting event to celebrate the story of The Nutcracker with delectable desserts, riveting story time, and appearances by ballet characters including the Sugar Plum Fairy! Tickets costs are Adults (13 & up) \$20, Children (12 & younger) \$15 and are available at www.tututix.com/brandonballet. For information, contact the Brandon Ballet at dance@brandonballet.org or 813-684-4282.

Gifts & Crafts Fair / Nov. 22 / 10 a.m.-3 p.m. / The Bridges Retirement Community / 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / Get ready to shop because it is that time of year again! This one-stop holiday shopping event features over 35 vendors with an extensive selection of unique handcrafted and manufactured products to select from including holiday decorations, handmade crafts, stylish jewelry and handbags, bath products, sweet treats and more. Open to the public; admission and parking are free. Call 813-413-8900.

Santa's Workshop / Nov. 22 / 11 a.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Come and join Center Place for a fun-filled day of cookie decorating, crafts, and a visit with Santa! Don't forget your camera! Moms, Dads, Grandparents, and children ages 5 and up are welcome! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$10. No tickets at the door. For information, visit www.centerplacebrandon.org.

Thanksgiving Holiday Camp / Nov. 24-26, 28 / 9 a.m.-4 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / While school is out, campers will enjoy indoor/outdoor games and activities, arts and crafts, our youth and teen center, our pools and more! Ages 5-12. Cost per day: \$30 Facility/\$45 Program. For information, please contact Kaliegh Hincman at kaliegh.hincman@tampaymca.org.

Need Want Service Hours? Find Local Volunteer Opportunities **FREE** Community Service Forum

**Wednesday, November 12
6:30 PM to 8 PM**

Bloomingdale High School Cafeteria

FREE 1700 Bloomingdale Avenue • Valrico
A Meet & Greet for Volunteers with over 20 Brandon charities **DOOR PRIZES**



Corks and Forks 2014 / Nov. 14 / 7 - 10 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road, Valrico / An Entertaining Night Out for a Good Cause -- The community is invited to the Campo Family YMCA's signature fundraising event in Valrico. Under "A Night in Venice" theme, the poolside event will feature delicious cuisine generously provided by local restaurants and vendors, great entertainment, a live auction, and raffle.

100 percent of funds raised at the Corks and Forks event go toward scholarships for children and families who may not otherwise have the opportunity to benefit from the YMCA due to financial hardship. Each year the Campo Y raises funds to help nurture the potential of our kids from preschool to college. "The dollars we raise at events like Corks & Forks ensure we keep our doors open to everyone in the community--regardless of age, income, or background," says Cindy Sofarelli, senior group vice-president for the Tampa YMCA.

Ticket Prices: Adults Only (per person; includes beer, wine, food & entertainment) \$50 in advance, \$75 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Campo YMCA. For information, call 813-684-1371.

Photo: Miriam Leech



Often, residents ask why they should pay their Bloomingdale Homeowners Association dues. As of Oct.6, there are eight new reasons. The BHA successfully petitioned for “no thru truck” signs installed by the Hillsborough County Public Works Department now located at the intersections of all Bloomingdale entryways connecting with Bloomingdale Avenue, John Moore, Bell Shoals, and Lithia Pinecrest Roads.

Bloomingdale residents Joe and Pam Liguori contacted the BHA on Sept.4 after following a cement truck from near Glenhaven Road around Natures Way Boulevard to Erindale Road before it made its final turn south on Lithia Pinecrest Road. Alarmed that a construction vehicle had used a residential neighborhood street system to bypass Bloomingdale Avenue, they quickly asked for the BHA’s assistance.

With the widening of Bell Shoals, new construction beginning in Fishhawk, the planned road improvements at Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue, as well as the upcoming construction of the Redstone development, the BHA recognized this as a real issue now and in the near future. Three business days later at the board’s monthly meeting, the BHA raised the community’s concerns to several county officials in attendance including Director Mike Williams and Publics Works official Jim Lyons.

The BHA’s chief concerns included the safety of motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians primarily, children walking to and from the community’s two elementary schools and nearby high school, coupled with the likelihood that incidents like this would only increase with the upcoming construction around the Bloomingdale community. From resident report to the BHA to county action, the entire sign request, processing and installation was complete in 23 business days.

While there are many reasons residents should support the BHA by paying their dues each year, the main reason is the association acts quickly to address resident concerns like this one. Without the volunteer board investing their energy and time to the betterment of the Bloomingdale community, an outcome like the new traffic signs simply would not have been possible.

At the request of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, the Hillsborough County Public Works Department installed eight “no thru truck” signs at all entryways of the Bloomingdale community on Oct. 6. These signs are to help deter construction traffic attempting to use the residential streets to bypass major connectors from Bloomingdale Avenue, Bell Shoals, John Moore and Lithia-Pinecrest Roads.

Photo: Joy Boisselle



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BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Provided by the Valrico Garden Club

...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Editor's Note: Blooming in Bloomingdale is a monthly column for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden experts and amateurs from the Valrico Garden Club (VGC). Each month, the club will highlight garden news and events in our area as well as tips on how to make your garden the neighborhood showpiece. To learn more about the Valrico Garden Club, contact Mary Kay McMahan at 813-684-6323, email danmcmahan@aol.com or visit Facebook/Valrico Garden Club. This month's articles:

The Queen of the Fall Flowers...Mums the word

By Gwen Graverson

Fall colors are appearing everywhere with mums taking center stage. Also called Chrysanthemums, they are the divas of the autumn garden and bear the title "Queen of the Fall Flowers."

The compact and many hued flowers were first cultivated in China centuries ago. They belong to the daisy family and classification is based on the type of florets and their growth pattern. A good starting point for information is the National Chrysanthemum Society, USA website at <http://www.mums.org>.

Mums grow in zones 5 to 9 and the Tampa Bay area is zone 9b. Gardeners plant mum cuttings usually from local garden centers where prices range from \$1 to \$16 for small to larger sizes. Tip: Purchase flowers with tight buds.

Key rules to follow when planting mums are plant in fertile well-drained soil in a site where they receive full sunlight, five to eight hours a day. Keep mums away from streetlights or artificial light. Mums are short-day plants, which mean they need a long period of darkness to flower.



Mums, autumn's premier flowers, signal the season's arrival. They come in a rainbow of colors and are readily available at all garden centers. Photo: Susan Mayo

In addition, planting mums too close to other mums can hinder their growth. Tip: Allow 18 to 30 inches between plants to provide room for growth. Do not allow mums to wilt between watering, and avoid splashing water onto foliage to inhibit bacterial growth and disease.

Fertilize frequently by using a balanced all-purpose 10-20-20 fertilizer. Tip: Pick off dead or fading flowers to encourage more blooms.

Do not forget that mums are perennials. You can harvest and store the seeds after the flowers are drying out and wilting. Store them in a cool, dark place through the winter and they will be ready for spring planting.

Pumpkins Revisited

Now that Halloween is over, what can you do with your left over pumpkins? Check with local farmers to see if they can use your old pumpkins to feed their livestock. Or, make pumpkin puree, which freezes well, or try a pumpkin soup. You can get a recipe for pumpkin soup from the Valrico Garden Club Facebook page.

For a special treat, bake pumpkin seeds for a healthy and delicious snack. Preparing the seeds is easy.



Boil the seeds in salted water for 20 minutes; then spread them on a cookie sheet to dry overnight. The next day, mix them in a bowl with one tablespoon salt or garlic salt, one tablespoon melted butter and one tablespoon olive oil. Spread the coated seeds on the cookie sheet and bake them for 30 minutes at 300 degrees. This is a kid-friendly activity the whole family can enjoy, and they make great gifts for friends and neighbors.

Along with their own "plant and learn" experiences, club members rely on gardening information provided by The University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) located in Hillsborough County. UF/IFAS is an educational service for the casual to more accomplished gardener. A valuable tool for gardeners is the Extension Service's monthly "To Do List."

For November:

- Plant and fertilize annuals.
- Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now so they establish before cold weather arrives.
- Fertilize citrus trees if not done in October.
- Set strawberry plants. November is the last month to plant strawberries.
- Plant winter ryegrass seed.
- Irrigation: Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather. Turn off systems and water only if needed.

For information, call UF/IFAS Extension at 813-744-5519, email Hillsborough@ifas.ufl.edu, check out the website at <http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu/> or stay connected through the UF/IFAS Solutions Facebook page.



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WED., NOV. 19

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Hosted by Formaggio's Italian Restaurant

THUR., NOV. 20 • 4-10 p.m.

Carnival Grand Opening

FRI., NOV. 21 • 4 p.m. - Midnight



Idol Contest
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Soul Circus Cowboys Band 8:30 p.m.

SAT., NOV. 22 • 11 a.m. - Midnight



Turkey Trot Color Run
Check-in: 7 a.m. • Start: 8 a.m.

Idol Contest 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Craft Beer Tasting 6-8 p.m.

The Landsharks
(Jimmy Buffet style band)
8:30 p.m.



SUN., NOV. 23 • Noon - 10 p.m.

Nativity Alumni Homecoming Day

Idol Finals 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Hosted by Bill Logan, ABC Action News

The John Rhey Band (Country) 8 p.m.

MON., NOV. 24 • 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Family Fun Day & Military Appreciation Day

Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com



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DO IT YOURSELF. IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK!

By Theresa Clinton

Once again, the holiday season is upon us! It's time for family, dear friends, and making precious new memories. Some people might grumble at the idea of long lines, tons of preparation, increased credit card balances and the incredible holiday grocery bill. You just can't avoid the stresses that this time of year may bring; but you can try a little creativity to help "de-stress." Here's one idea to channel that stress in to something creative and positive!

This month's DIY idea came from my very own creative mind; I mean, internet site. My sister commented that it

was her turn to host the Thanksgiving Day meal at her house. Upon discussing home decorations, she revealed that she didn't have a fall wreath.

"I'll get you one!" I heard myself blurt out. Off I went to do some wreath shopping. After walking into about two stores, I quickly realized how expensive these items are. I mean, \$50, \$60, even \$80! What?!

Bing! My creative light bulb went on!
"I'll make one. I can do that," I thought to myself. And, here is how it went:

1



Visit any craft store of your choosing. Purchase all of the decorative items that you wish to use for whichever occasion.

2



Michael's craft store has several different size stick wreaths. Wrap a package of raffia around the stick wreath and tie it with raffia strands so that it blends into the background. Once attached, cut off any extra to have an even and circular template to work with.



Photos: Theresa Clinton

3



This is when things get exciting! Gather all of your items to design your fall wreath. I had fall floral pieces, pinecones, plumage, fake fall leaves, acorns, ribbon, decorative accents, burlap...you name it; I had it! Cut off the floral bits and leaves you want to use. You may want to lay out where you want to place your decorative items; but once you have the vision, break out the hot glue gun and go to town!



decorative items; but once you have the vision, break out the hot glue gun and go to town!

5

Now, here's a twist! This very same wreath can do double duty. We all know that Thanksgiving is all about the table. This gorgeous wreath can also become the centerpiece for all to admire.



4



Once all of the raffia is covered, it is time to stand back and admire your beautiful fall wreath. I did and it cost me around \$25 – a HUGE savings! Remember, as we get closer to a holiday, there are even bigger discounts on craft items. I'm talking 50-60 percent off!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! See how an old shutter transforms into a Christmas card holder for decking your walls in next month's DIY project.

(Editor's Note: Bloomingdale resident Theresa Clinton is the owner of Spotlight Home Staging Company, LLC. Her monthly column will focus on home improvement projects residents can accomplish in do it yourself fashion.)

Theresa Clinton

Spotlight Home Staging Company, LLC

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SANTA'S COMING



Photo: Joy Boisselle



Santa, Mrs. Claus and their merry band of elf volunteers celebrate with a close up after last year's annual Bloomingdale visit. This year, Santa asked the BHA to provide Santa with a complete listing of those naughty and nice in the community.



27th Annual
**Santa and Mrs. Claus
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Saturday, December 6, 2014
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bloomingdale Community Office
3509 Bell Shoals Road

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Visit with Santa • Share a holiday wish list • Get a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus



Your Bloomingdale Homeowners Association continues its holiday tradition for children benefitting an area food bank. For more information, call (813) 681-2051 or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com

BHA Community Office: 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596 • Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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BloomingdaleHOA

Scouting's Highest Rank Achieved by Bloomingdale Sophomore

By Miriam Leech



Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in scouting. David Mitchell received his badge at an Eagle Scout Honor Court held Oct. 25 to celebrate his achievement.

Bloomingdale High School sophomore David Mitchell is many things—a competitive swimmer, a member of the Ragin' Bulls Marching and jazz bands, an honors student, a swim instructor and an active member of his church.

Now, Mitchell has added Eagle Scout to his list of achievements. He was celebrated at an Eagle Scout Honor Court held on Oct. 25 at Apostle's Lutheran Church in Brandon.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in scouting. To achieve the rank, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) requires a scout to earn 21 merit badges; serve six months in a troop leadership position; plan, develop, and give leadership to a service project; take part in a Scoutmaster conference and successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review.

A scout since 1st grade and a member of BSA Troop 101 of Brandon, the 15-year-old has earned 72 merit badges. At last year's National Scout Jamboree, Mitchell was one of just 20 scouts who earned the Summit Seal Challenge Award. This required passing the U.S. Navy Seal Physical Screening Test, which included a 500-yard breaststroke or sidestroke, 50 push-ups, 50 sit-ups, 10 dead-hang pull-ups and a 1.5-mile run—all with time limits.

For his Eagle Project, Mitchell designed and built six synthetic lumber trash and recycling receptacles for his church. From inception to completion the project took 750 hours. The sophomore raised \$2,500 through

donations from family, friends, fellow scouts, and church members to fund his project. Building took a full day with lots of volunteers. Said the new Eagle Scout, "It was a moment when I stopped and thought, 'I've really done it!'"

Apostle's Lutheran Interim Pastor Edward Benoway said, "The project has been a phenomenal help in accomplishing the important ministry of recycling as well as beautifying our church campus."

Mitchell will stay active with his troop by starting a High Adventure Patrol for older scouts to participate in long-term hiking and canoeing. His future plans also include becoming a life guard next summer for Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center, taking dual enrollment and Advanced Placement classes during his junior and senior years and then applying to Columbia University or MIT to study nanotechnology and materials engineering.

Bloomingdale resident David Mitchell, BSA Troop 101 of Brandon, receives his well-deserved Eagle Scout badge at an Eagle Scout Honor Court held Oct. 25 at Apostle's Lutheran Church in Brandon.



Photo: Mitchell Family



Photo: Miriam Leech

For his Eagle Scout project, Bloomingdale sophomore David Mitchell built trash and recycling receptacles for his church campus, effectively starting the recycling ministry at Apostle's Lutheran Church in Brandon.

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Festival (Continued from Cover)

Demonstrations were a highlight as the crowd delighted in a high-performance competition cheerleading demo provided by Storm Allstar Cheerleading, a high-energy Zumba demonstration performed by Crunch Fitness instructors and an excellent Tae Kwon Do routine courtesy of World Champion Center Tae Kwon Do. WCC owner Master Dongnyeok Kang further enthralled the crowd with an exciting motorized paragliding demonstration. Master Kang is a former South Korean National Paragliding Champion.

“This [Fall Festival] is what’s wonderful about Bloomingdale,” said resident Heather Hanks who attended the festivities with her family. “We are having a great time.”

“Incredible” is how BHA event organizer Mary Galin summed up the day. “The Fall Fest has been busy, fun, and the kids, businesses and families loved it.” Mission accomplished.



Amanda Beebe, Bloomingdale resident, carved pumpkins throughout the event. Her new business, Punky Pumpkins, received plenty of attention at the fest.



Brian Dao, Title Boxing Club of Brandon, urges Thunderbug to “hit it hard.” Title provided several raffles for the event.

Members of Storm Allstar Cheerleading reach for the sky during a demonstration of tumbling and competition cheer skills. More than 50 young all-stars took part in the demo. Deborah Stasiak, a cheer Mom and owner of Jersey Girl Bows, provided raffle prizes and a selection of spirit bows, key chains, and more for residents to purchase.



Photos by Joy Boisselle unless credited otherwise



Maximus, a French bulldog, was the top dog of the day dressing as a green Crayola crayon. Maximus is always top dog with his owners, Michael and Agnese Walker, not pictured. EarthWise Pet Supply sponsored the contest providing a top prize, dog treats for participants and much more.

Photo: Agnese Walker



Costumed and ready to Zumba, a Crunch Fitness instructor gets the crowd’s heart rate up. Crunch Fitness provided a demo team and several raffles for the event.



Storm Allstar Cheerleaders Rylie Lewis (10) and Avery Solis (10) cuddle up with an adoptable kitten provided by Furever Friends Animal Rescue. One of two animal rescue groups that participated, the other was DARE: Dachshund Adoption Rescue and Education.



Jack Thomas (10) took top honors in the Fall Festival Costume Contest posing as a “Rock ‘em Sock ‘em robot.” The homemade costume consisted of cardboard and red duct tape.



BHA president George May and Master Dongnyeok Kang, owner of World Champion Center Tae Kwon Do, stand by Kang’s paragliding equipment. Kang is a former South Korean National Paragliding Champion and provided thrilling displays throughout the day. He also, provided a martial arts demonstration team (pictured below) that wowed the crowd. His school boasts several state, national and world champions as well as two junior Olympians. Thunderbug joined the team for protection.



Beautiful weather defined the day. Fest-goers visited the many businesses along Trick or Treat Street gathering candy, enjoying activities, and learning what their community has to offer.



No festival is complete without a craft and face painting station. Staffing the craft station are Sierra, Bobby, and Heather Michael, platinum sponsor from Salon Jennifer, and Ashlynn Brooks.

Photo: Heather Fenzau, Heather Rose Photography



It takes a platoon of BSHS volunteers and others to put on an event like the Fall Festival. Tom McGuire and Hunter Carlisle operate the free popcorn station sponsored by Ray Chadderton of Chadderton Group Realty. Chadderton, also, sponsored one of two on site bouncy houses—a kid favorite.

Photo: Beth Smedley

Tegan (4) and James Hayes tee up at the putting activity sponsored by J.D. Carino of Cochrane Golf Schools.



Thank you to our sponsors and participants!

Thank you to our Fall Festival sponsors and participants!

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association would like to thank our sponsors and participants for being part of our 2014 Fall Festival. Over 47 businesses participated with 35 on-site booths, a new record.

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5/3 Bank, 3402 Lithia-Pinecrest Road, Valrico, 33596

Crunch Fitness, 3236 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico, 813-381-4106

Ricky Mondelli, Rhythm Makers DJs, rickmondelli@yahoo.com

Daniel Pilka, Pilka & Associates, P.A., 213 Providence Rd, Brandon, 33511, 813-653-3800

Salon Jennifer, Heather Michael, haingirl75@gmail.com, 813-340-6457

Storm All Star Cheerleading, Margaret DeVore and Evelyn Hogue, 514 Corner Drive, Brandon, 33511, www.stormallstarcheerleading.com, 813-657-8676

Jersey Girl Bows, Deborah Stasiak, deborahlstasiak@yahoo.com, 813-810-9104

World Champion Center Tae Kwon Do, 1015 Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico, 813-643-4262

Brandon Crossroads Bowl, 813-621-2363

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THE BLOOMINGDALE FALL FESTIVAL

Veterans Day: Celebrating with Honor and Respect

A Veteran's Perspective: By Mack Austin, Major, USAF (Retired); USCG Auxiliary



Each year, the Department of Veterans Affairs publishes a commemorative poster in honor of Veterans Day. To see posters from years past, visit www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.asp.

When you look at this year's Veterans Day poster produced annually by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the words - Honor, Courage and Loyalty - nearly jump off the page. These special words define a veteran's beliefs and are the personal standards of character that they hold near and dear. Many have sacrificed their lives to uphold them. Most continue to carry them with them even after they leave the service.

A veteran is defined as anyone who has served in the military. Whether they served one short tour or 30 years they are veterans. Whether they served in direct combat or in one of the many critical support positions, they are veterans.

Talk to veterans and their reasons for serving are as unique and individual as they are and start with personal goals, dreams and beliefs. Some served out of a deep love for our country. Some served as their choice of career, although many would call their service a calling rather than a career. Some served to take advantage of the training opportunities offered or the travel opportunities.

There is one thing certain about our veterans; we owe them a debt of gratitude and a sincere thank you for their service and sacrifices. While we should honor our veterans every day, in 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 of each year as Veterans Day - a day to commemorate and honor those responsible for protecting our freedoms. It is a day to remember and thank those who served and those who are still serving. Finally, this day allows us to underscore the importance of honoring our veterans and teach our children and others about its significance.

Veterans Day can be celebrated in many ways. When you see a vet, look them in the eye, shake their hand, and say, with sincerity and respect, "Thank you for your service!" Remember that families of veterans serve too. Sacrifices made on the home front often are overlooked. Families endure lengthy separations from their loved

ones, handle the everyday home tasks normally shared by two, move frequently, and act as "single parents." Thank them, too.

Many of our veterans come home with wounds that have totally changed their lives. Many come home with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Far too many have taken their lives unable to cope with the horrific experiences they endured in war zones. Tomorrow's veterans are still fighting some of the most evil terrorists the world has ever seen! For veterans or families needing assistance, call the 24/7 Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, Press 1 or visit their website at <http://veteranscrisisline.net/>.

Veterans need to know we truly appreciate their service and sacrifice. One way we can show them is by supporting the many organizations who support vets including the Wounded Warrior Project, the USO, the Red Cross and the many other local organizations offering support and help to our veterans. Make a personal commitment, visit a local nursing home and spend some time with a veteran.

Another way to honor our veterans and our country is to properly fly the American flag. Let others know that you believe in America and all it stands for. Each time you look at a flag, let it remind you of our veterans and their service.

For those interested in more information on Veterans Day, go to the Department of Veterans Affairs website, www.va.gov/opa/vetsday. This site includes a Teacher's Guide, Veterans Day history and how to display the U.S. flag properly.

Also, check local newspapers and local media for Veterans Day activities in our area.

To all the veterans who read this article, please accept our special "Thank you!" for your service, your dedication to country and duty, and for the many personal sacrifices you have made or are making to protect our country and to help keep us free!

Here's To Our Heroes: Local Veterans Day Events, Promotions and Deals

Many retailers, restaurants, and others offer special discounts and programs to military personnel. Some activities and deals are listed below. Confirm details before attending, and remember most require valid proof of service. Policies may vary from store to store.

Pets-For-Vets/ Nov.1 First Saturday Celebration, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and throughout November, Pet Resource Center, 440 N. Falkenburg Road, Tampa / In a month-long salute to America's Armed Forces, the Pet Resource Center will waive adoption fees on all adult cats and dogs (one year of age and older and canines weighing 25 pounds or more) for all active and retired military members. Adoption fees for kittens, puppies, and small breed dogs will also be greatly reduced. Adopters are asked to come in uniform or bring military ID. On Nov.1, non-military adopters will also receive reduced rates. Adoptions include spaying/neutering, vaccinations, County license tag, micro-chip and free chip registration. For information, contact Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center at 813-744-5660 or visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets.

Clearwater Veterans Appreciation Day/ Nov. 4, 2 - 6 p.m., Bright House Networks Field, Old Coachman and Drew Streets, Clearwater / In honor of wounded warriors, a free event for the entire family, flyovers, parachute jumps, static displays, Coast Guard Silent Drill Team, Navy Marching Band.

21st Annual Tampa Bay Veterans Day Parade/ Nov.8, 10 a.m., Hanley Road running south from Barry Road to Paula Drive, Tampa / Call 813-995-7611 or email at info@veteransparade.org or tweet #TampaBayVeteransDayParade for information.

Veterans Party/ Nov.9, noon-6 p.m., Liberty Manor for Veterans, Inc., 10015 N. 9th Street, Tampa / Come to our event and enjoy BBQ and Drinks - all free!!! Activities include

Entertainment, Games, Food and Music. Bring a gift card to help a veteran -gas, restaurant or store gift certificates appreciated. Call 813-477-0203 or 813-900-9422 for information.

Veterans Boat Show/ Nov. 9, 2 p.m., 110 Veterans Memorial Lane, Safety Harbor / www.veteransboatshow.org

Veterans Day Memorial Service/ Nov.11, 11 a.m., Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park and Museum, 3602 U.S. Hwy 301 / Call 813-220-7246 or visit www.veteransparkhc.com.

Veterans Day Military Appreciation/ Nov.11, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Lowry Park Zoo / Military personnel (active-duty, retirees and veterans) receive free Zoo admission. Three direct dependents may take advantage of the offer.

Sea World/ Nov.11/ One-day complimentary admission for members of the military and three direct dependents.

Free Meals, Entrees, or Appetizers: Applebee Restaurants, California Pizza Kitchen, Chili's, Hooters, Lone Star Steakhouse, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster, Red Robin, and Subway.

Retail Specials: Sports Authority - 15% off all purchases, Home Depot, Lowe's, Coach- 20% discount, Leslie Pool Supplies- 10% off.



Our Veterans By The Numbers

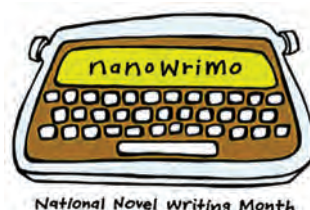
There are approximately 23.2 million military veterans in the United States.

- 9.2 million veterans are over the age of 65.
- 1.9 million veterans are under the age of 35.
- 1.8 million veterans are women.
- 7.8 million veterans served during the Vietnam War era (1964-1975), which represents 33% of all living veterans.
- 5.2 million veterans served during the Gulf War (representing service from Aug. 2, 1990, to present).
- 2.6 million veterans served during World War II (1941-1945).
- 2.8 million veterans served during the Korean War (1950-1953).
- 6 million veterans served in peacetime.
- As of 2008, 2.9 million veterans received compensation for service-connected disabilities.
- Five states are home to more than 1 million veterans: California (2.1 million), Florida (1.7 million), Texas (1.7 million), New York (1 million), and Pennsylvania (1 million).
- The VA health care system had 54 hospitals in 1930, since then it has expanded to include 171 medical centers; more than 350 outpatient, community, and outreach clinics; 126 nursing home care units; and 35 live-in care facilities for injured or disabled vets.

Source: www.history.com/topics/holidays/veterans-day-facts

Library Happenings in November

Compiled By Kayla Hayes



November is National Novel Writing Month! Join the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4 for "NaNoWriMo," a program bringing together novel-writers of all ages and inspiring them to start and finish a 50,000-word novel in November. Learn about NaNoWriMo and ideas for what to do with your finished novel. Details on this and other events are at www.hplc.org/hplc/locations/bdl.

For children –

Crafts for Kids: Turkeys on Monday, Nov. 10 from 3-3:45 p.m. in the McLean Community Room. Children will create a paper turkey themed craft. Supplies provided, just bring your creativity.

For Teens –

Movies 4 Teens on Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 3-5 p.m. in Room 8. Come watch an awesome movie just for teens. Refreshments provided by Friends of the Bloomingdale Library.

For Adults –

Stressless Holiday Entertaining on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 2-3 p.m. in Room 8. Join Chef Warren as he offers tips on providing a variety of hors d'oeuvres and small plates that are fast, simple and inexpensive to make. This presentation includes a cooking demonstration and tasting.

For all ages –

The Bloomingdale Giveback Program every first and third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the McLean Community Room. Learn how to knit or crochet. The hand-made items are donated to local organizations, such as the Neonatal Center, shelters and nursing centers. Come be a part of something helpful, productive and fun.

Good Reads!

Adult Program Librarian, Ed Santilly, recommends these reads whether you are participating in the book discussions this month or not:

- *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy
- *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin

Young Adult – *Pushing the Limits* by Katie McGarry
Children – *Nighttime Ninja* by Barbara Dacosta

The Bloomingdale Regional Public Library is closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11 to observe Veterans Day. The library will also close early on Nov. 24-26 for Thanksgiving week and all day on Nov. 27-28 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Photo: Kayla Hayes



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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren

TEENS AND THE HOLIDAYS

Most teenagers love this time of year! Schools are out for Thanksgiving holidays. Holiday sales are going on at the malls and other stores. There are holiday parties to attend. And, they get more driving time.

One of the most critical decisions teens will make as drivers during the holidays is whether to wear their seat belts and making sure all passengers wear their seat belts. It is a very serious decision, especially for teens still learning to drive.

Unfortunately, many teens will make excuses as to why they don't need to buckle up. Those of us in law enforcement want it to become a habit for everyone to buckle up, but especially teens learning to drive. We know there is no magic answer on how to get every driver and passenger to buckle up. It's a personal decision each one of us has to make.

Parents, take the time to set the example by buckling up yourselves and emphasize the importance to your teens. Auto accidents are one of the leading causes of teen deaths. Buckling up could save your lives and theirs!

Teens, a special safety message – DO NOT TEXT OR BE DISTRACTED WHILE YOU ARE LEARNING TO DRIVE! Just one text or other distraction could cost you your life and the lives of those riding with you.

Texting while driving is more dangerous than drinking while driving and 17 times more dangerous than talking on a phone while driving. It's not just that your hands and eyes are distracted, it's your loss of focus. Your mind is not on driving; it's on the texting and therein lies the danger. There is no text worth a person's life!

Drive focused, don't text, and stay alive so you can text later! Please make these holidays ones to remember, not ones to regret.

HAVE A SAFE AND SECURE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SEASON!

November is the official beginning of this year's "Holiday Season." Many folks will be busy shopping, traveling and celebrating. We, in the Sheriff's Office, want our residents to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

The following are safety and security tips to help you stay safe and secure this season. Please take the time to read and follow them:

SHOPPERS - Be extra cautious and aware of your surroundings and your actions. Don't get in a big rush and be careless. Stay alert at all times. During the holidays, there is also an increase in auto burglaries; be extra careful! Do not leave your car unlocked, especially with the engine running. Do not leave packages or other valuables in your car; lock them in the trunk. These are invitations for thieves to take advantage of and they will. Lock up your vehicles at home too. With the weakened economy, crimes involving thefts are up.

HOMEOWNERS - Prepare and secure your home before you head out for holiday traveling, parties, events and shopping. Burglars drive through neighborhoods looking for "easy targets." Don't let your home be the one! Stop by the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station on Erindale Drive and fill out a special "Security Watch" request if you are going out of town.



A few simple steps can help prevent most burglaries. Check your door and window locks for proper operation, add simple security items and pay special attention to doors. Two of the most vulnerable areas are your garage doors and garage side doors. They both give open access to your home. Close and lock your garage doors, including side doors. Thieves look for these "open targets."

DRIVERS - No one wants to be involved in an accident, especially one involving a drunk driver. Don't be a drunk driver! Do not drink and drive or ride with those who do! Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking and driving. Set the right example! A few minutes discussing the dangers and setting strict rules can save a life – your life or your teen's.

A HOLIDAY NOTE

With our Country still at war during this holiday season and especially with many parents from our community separated from their spouses and children, please support the U.S. Marines "Toys for Tots Program". They need our help. Semper Fi.

SPECIAL BACC NOTE

We are greatly saddened to report that Gary Johanboeke, a loyal member of the Bloomingdale Area Community Council, died Sept. 16. Gary was very involved in helping with numerous community projects that helped improve the quality of life for the residents in our area. He will truly be missed.

FROM ALL OF US AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE
HAVE A SAFE AND SECURE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SEASON!

October's "Operation Medicine Cabinet" Packs in the Pills

By Mack Austin

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office completed another successful special "Operation Medicine Cabinet" (OMC) on Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Village Retirement Community. OMC helps residents properly dispose of outdated and unused medicines and drugs at a convenient drop-off location.

Working with Pam Macy and Kristi Campbell from HOMEINSTEAD Senior Care, Sheriff's deputies collected 298.25 pounds...let's repeat...two hundred and ninety eight pounds of unused and outdated prescription medicines and drugs. Collected drugs are destroyed thereby preventing abuse by others or ending up in our water system. One unusual note is that some of the old meds dropped off were prescribed in 1955. This proves that it is never too late to properly dispose of old meds!

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank Hawthorne Village Retirement Community for their hospitality and the use of their facilities during this project. A special thank you to Bloomingdale Medical Associates staff, local Publix pharmacies, CVS pharmacies, Walgreens pharmacies and Bill's Pharmacy for helping publicize the Sheriff's project. Also, 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 needing disposal, the Sheriff's Office has special drop off receptacles at all district offices. Only pills can be accepted. No liquids or sharps can be dropped off for disposal. The nearest offices in our area are District II at 2310 N. Falkenburg Road, Tampa and District IV at 508 33rd St SE, Ruskin. These offices are open 24 hours.

Bloomingdale Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren and Pam Macy from HOMEINSTEAD Senior Care load the 298.25 lbs. of old drugs collected during the Sheriff's 2014 "Operation Medicine Cabinet" held at Hawthorne Village Retirement Community in Brandon on Oct. 9.

Photo: Mack Austin



EarthWise Pet Supply Opens Nov. 15

Press Release

The nationwide leaders in all-natural and holistic pet supplies are opening a brand new store in Valrico. EarthWise Pet Supply Valrico will celebrate its grand opening Nov. 15, bringing a unique and different pet care approach to the Tampa Bay area.

"We couldn't be any more excited for this opportunity," said owner Mark Renfrow, who lives with his wife and three dogs in Valrico. "We feel that this is something that's so unique to not only Valrico, but the entire Tampa Bay area."

EarthWise Pet Supply is the nation's leading company in all-natural pet supplies, with locations around the country, including several in Florida. However, this is the first here in Tampa Bay.

"What I think people are really going to get from our store is the assurance of experience and expertise about what holistic and all-natural pet food is – along with the value of having it run by people who know and love this area," said store manager Chris Klecic.

EarthWise not only provides holistic food for your pets, but also grooming, self-washing services, and home delivery. It's no wonder it's called the "Whole Foods" of the pet industry.

Read more about EarthWise Pet Supply's products and services here: <http://earthwisepet.com/> or visit Facebook at www.facebook.com/EarthWisePetValrico. EarthWise will make its home at 3454 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

Photo: EarthWise Pet Supply



EarthWise Pet Supply opens its doors Nov. 15. Animals are obviously an important part of their lives. Help them celebrate their new venture. Pictured are owners Chris Klecic holding son, Kyle; Christy his wife, holding beagle, Grady; Susan Renfrow petting Sandy, and Mark, her husband with Flash.

Which Side Of The Tee Box Is The Right Side?

By J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC campus)

If you are using these tee markers as an alignment tool, you may find your ball swimming with the fishes. Make some adjustments and find some dry land instead.



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS

Most of us will tee the ball in the center of the markers and aim for the middle of the fairway.

Look at the photo. The hole is located right of the fairway which is lined with trees on the left. Many errant shots will tend to grab to the left side making the second shot a challenge. Teeing up on the side of trouble and aiming away from trouble increases the width of the fairway.

Next lesson: Tee it up to launch it up.

Any questions or for lessons, visit CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. 813-957-3205.



Photo: J.D. Carino

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INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RULES OF THE ROAD MOTORISTS AND BICYCLISTS

With over 5,000 residences in Bloomingdale, many motorists, bicyclists, runners, and pedestrians alike share our roadways. These roads are heavily trafficked at many times throughout the day and night, and it is up to everyone to treat fellow travelers with care and respect. Knowledge of and adherence to the law is the foundation for this respect.

With this in mind, here is a look at the rules of the road for motorists and bicyclists.

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle and the bicyclist is a driver. Bicyclists have the same rights to the roadways, and must obey the same traffic laws as the drivers of other vehicles. These laws include stopping for stop signs and red lights, riding with the flow of traffic, using lights at night, yielding the right-of-way when entering a roadway, and yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.

In Bloomingdale, the neighborhood roads and thoroughfares are perfect for bicycling. Natures Way, in particular, is a mecca for training cyclists because of its 4-mile distance and curves and hills.

Bloomingdale resident John Hydock, who along with his 14-year-old son, Evan, is an avid cyclist, has had some negative experiences with vehicle drivers during his rides. Says Hydock, "We (cyclists) are not on the road to get in the way. We are your neighbors—the people you go to church with, shop with, attend school with."

According to the Florida Bicycle Association, when a lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a car to share safely, the cyclist is entitled to the use of the entire lane. Within this lane, the cyclist usually rides on the right half to facilitate visibility for overtaking motorists, but should ride far enough left to discourage motorists from trying to squeeze past within the lane.

Motorists should remember bicyclists belong on the road and are safer on the road:

- Adult bicyclists do not belong on the sidewalk.
- Cyclists are not required to ride on the shoulder.

A cyclist or group of cyclists in the road represents the most minor and momentary delay for motorists. Waiting a few seconds to pass a cyclist safely will not affect total trip time and makes the roadway safer for all. Injuring another road user because you are impatient and frustrated will cost you a lot more than a few seconds.

Cyclists should remember to:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Help drivers by wearing brightly colored clothing.
- Use proper hand signals when turning.
- Stop and check for traffic before entering the street from a driveway, parking lot, or sidewalk.

Our Bloomingdale roads are a common space where we all interact daily. Our conduct on the roads influences the quality and livability of our community. Next month look for a discussion of rules of the road for motorists and runners.

In the state of Florida, drivers and bicyclists ride the same roads and obey the same traffic laws. Watch out for your fellow residents. Source: Florida Bicycle Association



Bloomingdale resident and avid cyclist John Hydock trains on Natures Way regularly and says, "I want drivers to like us (cyclists)." Using road courtesy is a two-way street; pun intended.

Photo: Miriam Leech



Dining With Dave



Name: Recipe Box
Cuisine: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch
Location: 147 East Bloomingdale Ave. (Bloomingdale / Winn Dixie Plaza)
Phone: 813-655-2686

I am a fan of a good breakfast place and if it happens to be a local and independently owned diner style establishment, so much the better. As close to a local institution as you are going to find in and around Bloomingdale is the Recipe Box where the resident "elite" go to meet and greet for breakfast and conversation.

In business for five years, the Recipe Box has an attitude and style that reminds me of classic diners of the past. The coffee is fresh and hot, the omelets are large and filling, and the bacon and toast are crispy and delicious. I highly recommend their French toast in one of many stuffed varieties.

This is a perfect place to order and enjoy a classic American breakfast. With a bevy of breakfast options including chains, fast food and convenience stores, it is simply wonderful to have a local place that offers fresh from the griddle home-style recipes that are not prepackaged or designed by committee.

The lunch menu contains choices that are just as tasty and plentiful as the breakfast menu. The soup of the day is always a treat and sandwiches can be tweaked to your liking. I am a fan of their patty melts and "The Box" club wrap made with roasted turkey breast, Applewood bacon, and their own special sauce. The half-pound Angus beef burgers are made to order and the homemade spinach pie is definitely worth a try.

They also offer a nice selection of salads and the traditional soup and salad combo. However, if you feel like combining breakfast and lunch, try the Monte Cristo omelet that combines the best of both worlds.

Both breakfast and lunch kid menus provide enough choices to make any critter, ages 10 and under, happy. The drink menu consists of the standard fare of fountain sodas, IBC Root Beer from the bottle, milk (whole or chocolate), more than just your standard juices and, of course, some of the best coffee in Tampa.

The Recipe Box is located in Bloomingdale Plaza at the intersection of John Moore Road and Bloomingdale Avenue. Parking is plentiful and they take all major credit cards for payment.



Photo: Dann Berkowitz

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Bloomington Real Estate & Housing Update

By Ryan Brantley



The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

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As anticipated, October saw a rise in the real estate market after the initial September downslide that comes with the start of school. There were 24 new Bloomingdale listings and 18 homes sold in October compared to 13 listings and 8 homes sold in September. As a whole, listings are staying on the market longer; but, buyers are out there and properties that are priced well are still selling relatively quickly. MLS statistics include Bloomingdale East and West valid Sept. 24 through Oct. 21. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.

It is important to keep in mind that the real estate market changes with the time of the year as do many other industries. It is normal to see a slight slump around the holidays.

We have all witnessed the real estate roller coaster of the last few years; however, homeownership remains the bedrock of financial and familial security. Having a long-term investment that provides satisfaction and pride of ownership beats just about anything else you can do with your savings.

When the market exploded several years ago, the expectations of many consumers grew too high, too fast. Homes became more commodities than investments, and now market and attitudes have been forced to realign.

Conditions today make it an opportune time to secure your future. Home prices and interest rates are still low and tax advantages are abundant. Buyers and homeowners have to get past all the negativity in the media. Real estate transactions are unlike any other financial transaction. The demand and desire for homeownership doesn't expire like other investment instruments.

However, a home's value is ultimately determined by what a buyer is willing to pay for it, and the security and well-being that owning your own home provides. Honestly, there has hardly been a better time to make a move.



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On the Road with Ryan

Ryan Brantley, a local Realtor and travel writer, has traveled extensively throughout Florida and the Caribbean. Her more exotic travels include swimming with whale sharks off the coast of Mexico, winning \$5 on a slot machine in Monte Carlo, sipping wine in Sicily, scuba diving wrecks in the Caribbean, and she is apparently worth six camels in Turkey. Put your seat belts on and enjoy the ride as Ryan shares her adventures with our community!



Thanksgiving Travelers Can Revisit History in Boston and More

Mac and cheese, fried turkey, and football are what's in store for many American families this Thanksgiving. Some will celebrate at one home, while others will journey to multiple homes to celebrate the day. Today, more and more families are opting to go the non-traditional route for the holidays and avoid all the hustle and bustle that comes with various stops to see each member of the family.



The Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony built the Plimoth Grist Mill in 1636. Located outside Boston, the current working mill is a reproduction and part of the Plimoth Plantation.

Instead, try starting your own Thanksgiving tradition and hit the road! For a learning experience that will benefit the whole family, take a trip where it all started – Plymouth, Massachusetts. Located just 45 minutes south of Boston, Plymouth is a non-stop JetBlue flight away.

Spend a couple nights exploring the city of Boston, and then head to Plimoth Plantation for a real Thanksgiving dinner. This is a true to history event attended by Pilgrims and served with dishes such as sweet native corn pudding and stewed pompion, known today as pumpkin. For information, visit www.plimoth.org.

If you're looking for a more tropical getaway, many cruise lines offer great specials during the holidays and some even serve an American Thanksgiving meal while on board! The best part is you don't have to cook or do the dishes! Norwegian Cruise Lines is offering a seven-day cruise departing the Port of Tampa with rates starting at \$534 per person with proof of Florida residency. Visit www.nlc.com for details.

If long-distance travel is out of reach this season, take the kids to the Nativity Catholic Church annual Novemberfest in Brandon. This year's event takes place Nov. 20-24 and includes all of your favorite rides, games, and food. For information, visit the event's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/NativityNovemberfest](https://www.facebook.com/NativityNovemberfest).

Wherever your travel plans may or may not take you, be safe and enjoy the ride!

Visit Nativity Catholic Church's annual Novemberfest this month Nov. 20-24. This family oriented event features games, rides and great carnival food. Start your Thanksgiving experience close to home.



Photo: Nativity Catholic Church



Bloomington's Best of the Best... Recognizing Excellence in our Community

Staff Report

The BHA established the Best of the Best Student of the Month Program to recognize outstanding students in our community. If selected, the student receives a \$25 gift card provided by our sponsor, Ray Chadderton of The Chadderton Group of Keller Williams Realty.

Send your nominations to bloomington.homeowners@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051. Nominees must be in home, public, or private school and residents of Bloomington. Include the nominee's name, address, phone number, email and school attending. In addition, provide a short paragraph detailing why he/she should receive the award.

Congratulations to Tanner Chastain, our Best of the Best November Student of the Month!

Chastain is a senior attending Bloomington Senior High School. He has amassed an impressive portfolio, and most recently, earned recognition as a National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist. A mere one percent of high school juniors in the state achieve this honor, and SAT scores and high academic performance determine selection. Only three other BSHS students merited this designation.

Outstanding academically, yes. However, this community winner is multi-dimensional. He is member of four honor societies including the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Science and French Honor societies. In his spare time, Chastain passes on his knowledge by tutoring other high school students in math and science.

He has amassed over 200 community service hours. Serving others seems to be second nature as he has been a member of his church student ministries group for 7 years. He, also, earned the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout in 2012, mentors younger scouts in his troop and holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, which he received in 2013.

His plans for the future are to study space physics and/or aerospace engineering. Keeping his sights high, he is applying to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and University of Maryland at College Park.

His proud parents are Paul and Karen Chastain who reside in Bristol Green.

Keep up the great work, Tanner!



In martial arts, breaking a board is no small achievement. Breaking one while blindfolded as part of Black Belt testing is how Tanner Chastain, our Best of the Best Student of the Month, chose to challenge himself.

Paul and Tanner Chastain enjoy a hiking accomplishment – 86 miles in 11 days – at the Philmont Scout Ranch near the town of Cimarron, New Mexico. Among his many successes, Tanner is an Eagle Scout, scouting's highest designation.

Photos: The Chastain Family



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

NO SCHOOL

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day (No School)
Nov. 24 - 28 - Fall Break



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Nov. 6 - Spirit Night at McDonald's on Bloomingdale Avenue
Nov. 7 - All Pro Dads at 7 a.m. in the cafeteria
Nov. 19 - Spirit Night at Chipotle on Bloomingdale Avenue, 6-10 p.m.



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Nov. 3 - Reports cards
Nov. 7 - Wear Green for Gratitude
Nov. 10 - Wear Red, White and Blue for Patriotism
Nov. 14 - All Pro Dad's: A monthly get together for kids and their dads. Meet in the Multi-Purpose Room at 7 a.m. Enjoy a great free breakfast and bonding with our kids, raffles and more.

Nov. 20 - Great American Teach In: Come share your career with the kids. Community and parent volunteers are welcome to attend. Sign-up to share your talent, career, favorite trip, favorite activity, or even read to the students in your student's class.

Nov. 20 - Burger Monger Spirit Night: This is an all-day event. Mention Cimino when you pay for your order so the school will get credit for your visit. Burger Monger is located at 903 E. Bloomingdale Avenue in the Walmart Plaza.



BURNS BRUINS BLAST

Nov. 6 - Conference Night 5-9 p.m.
Nov. 14 - Burns Bruins Dad Movie Night with AVID 7-8 p.m.
Nov. 20 - All County Chorus Auditions 5-6 p.m.

PUT YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS: Burns PTSA is excited to offer our families an opportunity to celebrate their students' special occasions and/or achievements with a personal "Name in Lights" message on the Burns electronic marquee! For just \$15, your student can be celebrated for the world to see. For information, contact Patti Rendon at jrendon@tampabay.rr.com or 727-580-7147.

BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

TODAY! Nov. 1 - FBA Music Performance Assessment, see flier this page.
Nov. 6 - 9th and 10th grade Parent Night 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
Nov. 7 - Varsity Football vs Middleton: Senior Night at Bloomingdale, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 7 - Join the Athletic Boosters at the Corral from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., sponsored by Firehouse Subs
Nov. 13 - Athletic Fall Signing Day in the Media Center at 4:15 p.m.
Nov. 13 - Music Department's Veterans Day Concert in the Auditorium at 8 p.m.
Nov. 20 - Great American Teach In

BULLS BRIEFS

Great American Teach-In/ Parents, community members, and friends of Bloomingdale High School, make plans now to be a part of the annual Great American Teach-In, on Thursday, Nov. 20. We are looking for volunteers to teach one class or teach all day in this community-wide effort to give you a taste of teaching. You don't need teaching experience, just enthusiasm and a desire to share with students something about your career, your experiences, your hobby, or yourself. We want you to carry some key messages into our classrooms, including the importance of staying in school and the value of each individual student.



The Great American Teach-In is a perfect opportunity for parents, business leaders, and community members to let our students know we care about them. The idea is simple - join us, teach a class or two, whatever your schedule permits. We'll do our part in giving you some suggestions and preparing you for this teaching experience. Call the school at 744-8018 x 293 to register.

Birthday Marquee/ Put your student's name on Bloomingdale Avenue. For \$20, the PTSA will run your child's name on the marquee for their birthday. For information, email bloomingdaleptsa@gmail.com.

Movie Night/ Join us at Bloomingdale High School movie night sponsored by the Student Government/PTSA. Buy your ticket during lunch from Nov. 10-21 to see Mockingjay at the AMC Regency Brandon on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and include pizza, popcorn and a drink. See a Student Government member or contact bloomingdaleptsa@gmail.com with any questions.

Florida Bandmasters Association * Marching Band MPA

Bloomingdale Senior High School

Saturday, November 1

Like marching bands? **Love the Bloomingdale Rajun' Bull Band?** Come out to BSHS on Saturday, Nov. 1! Twenty six high school bands from all over Hillsborough County will be performing throughout the day (1:30-9:15 p.m.) at the FBA annual Music Performance Assessment. Lots of food and great music!

Most of the proceeds go to the band program. Admission is just \$8 adults/ \$5 children and kids under age 5 are free. Visit our FBA 2014 webpage for more information. Hope to see you there!

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International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidates Celebrate at Pinning Ceremony

Staff Report

Eleven Bloomingdale students became official International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma candidates at a pinning ceremony held Oct. 9 at Strawberry Crest High School (SCHS) in Dover.

Kristin Cash, Michael Gleason, Samantha Gray, Will Leech, Andrew Lopez, Jonathan Ng, Maria Okoye, Lauren Roberts, Liz Trader, Kayla Troupe, and Delaney Wise are part of the SCHS IB Class of 2016. Every day they travel from Bloomingdale to Dover to be a part of the magnet program.

The IB Programme is a rigorous college preparation curriculum where students apply during the second semester of 8th grade. Freshman and sophomore years are spent preparing for the rigor of the diploma program.

As diploma candidates, the students will be required to complete the IB curriculum, as well as write a 4,000-word extended essay and sit for IB exams before graduating from the program. Additionally, they must complete 150 creative, action, and service hours between now and spring of their senior year.

In total, 111 students were pinned at the October ceremony. The pinning is a tradition not only at the four Hillsborough County IB high schools, but at most of the 3,911 IB World Schools in 146 countries.

On hand for the ceremony were Dave Brown, Principal of SCHS; Tiffany Ewell, Assistant Principal for Magnet Curriculum; Kelly Smith, IB Guidance Counselor; and Mary Frances Luysterburg, Hillsborough County Public Schools Magnet Curriculum Specialist. Guest speaker was Bloomingdale resident Jake Leech, a member of the very first SCHS IB graduating class of 2013 and brother of Will Leech. IB teachers, families, and friends of the students rounded out the audience.

According to the International Baccalaureate Organization, IB learners strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. The top seniors in the program presented these pillars and lit a candle for each one. Luysterburg then administered the IB Pledge, and students received their pins from their homeroom teachers.

Said 16-year-old Lauren Roberts, "Being part of this program isn't just about making perfect grades or getting an IB diploma, it's about reaching out to others . . . and becoming an individual who is knowledgeable and compassionate."



Bloomingdale resident and member of the inaugural SCHS IB Class of 2013, Jake Leech (pictured far right), served as guest speaker for the pinning ceremony. Leech is a sophomore at The Florida State University. Others pictured (from left) are Dave Brown, Principal of SCHS; Tiffany Ewell, Assistant Principal for Magnet Curriculum; Mary Frances Luysterburg, Hillsborough County Public Schools Magnet Curriculum Specialist; and Kelly Smith, IB Guidance Counselor.



Bloomingdale students (from left) Delaney Wise, Jonathan Ng, Samantha Gray, Michael Gleason, Liz Trader, Andrew Lopez, Kristin Cash, and Will Leech became official International Baccalaureate diploma candidates on Oct. 9 at Strawberry Crest High School. Not pictured are Lauren Roberts, Kayla Troupe, and Maria Okoye.

Photos: Bloomingdale Gazette



Bloomingdale's Lady Bulls Win District Volleyball Title

Staff Report



That's right, the Lady Bulls Volleyball Team is number one! On Oct. 23, they squared off against a tough Wharton High School team in the District volleyball finals held at Alonso High School in Town and Country.

Down two sets, the Lady Bulls charged back in a nail-biting three-set sweep over the Lady Wildcats earning the District Champion title. This win brings their season to an astounding 24-1 record. Player of the Game was outside hitter and senior, Chelsea Chavers.

Be sure to see December's Gazette for full coverage of the Lady Bulls play-off results and winning season. Congratulations from the Bloomingdale Community.



Photo: Kaylee Grice



Bright House Sports Network Game of the Week Features BSHS vs Alonso

By Deidre Morgan



Winning is sweet, but winning and being featured as the Bright House Sports Network (BHSN) Game of the Week (GOW) is even sweeter. Just ask the Bloomingdale Bulls Football team who on Oct. 2 traveled to Alonso High School to take on the Ravens as the BHSN Game of the Week and came away victorious. This is the first time BSHS has been a GOW featured school.

The Bulls pulled off a 43-21 victory over the Ravens in a game filled with excitement. Quarterback Isaiah (Bobby) McIntyre, a junior, received Player of the Game honors as he led the team to a convincing win. The Bulls are having one of their best seasons in Bloomingdale history with a current record of 6-1.

Bloomingdale enjoyed great fan support from family and friends who traveled to Alonso.

Bloomingdale QB Isaiah (Bobby) McIntyre rushes for a first down during the Oct. 2 Bright House Sports Network Game of the Week between the Bulls and Alonso Ravens. Named the Player of the Game, he amassed 137 passing yards, 143 rushing yards and 3 touchdowns while leading his team to a 43-21 win. Go Bulls!



Photos: BHSN



BSHS Homecoming in Pictures

Compiled By Deidre Morgan

Homecoming is a rite of passage for many. At the Bloomingdale Senior High School Homecoming Game held Oct.10 at Charley Harris Stadium, students, alumni and parents made lasting memories. A football victory, a rousing half-time show culminating in the crowing of the Homecoming Court, and a homecoming dance completed the special occasion.



At half-time, Bloomingdale alum and cheer coach Jaycee Zoet, far left, had something else to cheer about when fellow Bloomingdale alum, Joe Campoamor, proposed marriage. Her squad reacted with excitement upon hearing she said, "Yes!"



The Bulls celebrated their homecoming night victory with a 42-21 win over the East Bay High School Indians on Oct 10. Bloomingdale Bulls senior Matt Chiarenza makes a solid tackle on an East Bay player. Flanking the play is number 56, Bulls sophomore Sam Skinner.

Crowned 2014 Homecoming Court Queen and King were seniors Erica Gonzalez and Luke Brekhuis.



Photos: Clark Sports Media



Brandon Regional Hospital



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