



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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BHA Golf Tournament Benefits K9s For Warriors

Staff Report



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Army veteran Matt Metts and Bouncer are a K9 Warrior Team. They trained for three weeks last year at the organization's Florida training facility and have been together for nearly a year. Obviously, they share more than just a working relationship. Tournament coverage on pages 12 and 13.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever. *Author Unknown*

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PLEASE ♻️ RECYCLE

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

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Secretary: *Suzy Watts*

Treasurer: *Mary Galin*

Directors at Large:

Billy Hightower

Beth Smedley

Joanie Wilson

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

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Tampa Bay Times

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5815 Kids Crossing Drive

Located between Stowers Elementary and Mosaic



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Dan & Kathy Burke

3627 Cold Creek Drive, Valrico, FL 33596 (Windsor Woods)



Yard of the Month is sponsored by Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale. Send your Yard of the Month nominations to:
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Winners will receive a \$25 gift card redeemable at Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale



Bloomingdale Real Estate & Housing Update

By Ryan Brantley



The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

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www.chaddertongroup.com

According to the National Association of Realtors, people sell their homes on average every 6 to 7 years. This changed after the housing crash but now that we have swung back into a sellers' market, professionals believe 2015 could be the breakout year for home sellers wishing to upgrade.

This can only happen if sellers are able to make a profit on the sale of their current homes. Sellers can do this by making it appealing to a larger group of potential buyers. This includes things like de-personalizing, painting a neutral color throughout the house, removing clutter, and keeping it clean.

One feature that can make or break the sale of your home is something people are very hesitant to talk about – smell. We all have our own unique cooking habits, furry friends, and messy spouses and children but smell can often have the biggest impact on whether a buyer will make an offer or flee the scene. One study found that smoking in a home could actually reduce the resale value by up to 29 percent!

Don't let this happen to you! If you are thinking about selling, begin proactive steps to help keep your home smelling fresh by deodorizing. Take out the garbage regularly, bathe pets, and cook sparingly in order to avoid unwanted odors. Circulate air as much as possible and then add subtle scents into your home. You could be selling your home for more than you planned!

MLS Statistics

According to the Multiple Listing Service, there were 19 homes sold in April and 14 that went under contract. There are 60 active listings, 20 of which were new April listings. MLS statistics include Bloomingdale East and West valid April 1 - 22. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.



** Other statistics derived from the National Association of Realtors.*



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



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! 

2015 Membership Drive Ongoing

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Annual Membership Drive continues. Since our membership mail-out on Jan. 15, the community has responded generously. Thank you to all who have already joined the association and/or donated to our scholarship fund. Services provided by the association are funded completely by your \$25 contribution.

We need your support to continue to make a difference in our community. Please join today. Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. **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, e-mail bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com, or call 813-681-2051. We want to help you promote your event.

Saturday, May 9, Hillsborough County 12th Annual Neighborhood Conference / Residents and neighborhood leaders welcome. To register go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-hillsborough-county-neighborhood-conference-tickets-16562338400>. For information, call 813-307-3564.

Monday, May 11, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

Monday, May 11, 6 p.m. / Go Hillsborough Transportation Meeting, Workshop 3, "Finding Consensus," Bell Shoals Baptist Church, 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon, 33511. To RSVP, go online to <http://gohillsborough.org/>.

Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

BHA BRIEFS



April Board Meeting Highlights

Treasurer Dennis Osborn stepped down from the board after faithfully serving the community for eight years as its financial steward. The board thanks him for his outstanding contributions. Incoming treasurer Mary Galin will have large shoes to fill.

An after action review of the completed golf fundraiser took place. Committee Chair Suzy Watts thanked event planner Heather Michael for her tireless efforts on behalf of K9s for Warriors. See complete coverage this issue.

Oakcrest residents asked for help with deed restriction compliance in their community. Vice-President Dann Berkowitz explained the complaint procedure, the single deed restriction document initiative, and reminded residents to report, report, and report violations.

President George May provided an update on the Go Hillsborough transportation meetings. In addition, he reported that a letter asking for support regarding Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia-Pinecrest Roads improvements has been sent to the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The next step, he explained, will be to meet with officials individually.

2015 Golf Tournament

Organizers Heather Michael and Suzy Watts share a moment before the start of the BHA fundraiser for K9s for Warriors held April 18 at Summerfield Crossings Golf Club in Riverview.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Dining with Dave



Name: Wat Mongkolratanaram of Florida Sunday Market
Cuisine: Thai
Location: 5306 Palm River Rd., Tampa, FL 33619 - www.wattampainenglish.com
Phone: 813-621-1669

Just east of the Tamiami Trail, along the banks of the Palm River and within sight of the Selmon Expressway is situated one of the most picturesque and palatable dining options in all of Tampa Bay. The Wat Mongkolratanaram Buddhist Temple opened in 2007 and since then has hosted a Sunday Market that features a happy variety of Thai delicacies that will treat the taste buds of anyone who enjoys authentic home-cooked Asian delights.

The Sunday Market is open between 9:30 a.m. and approximately 1 p.m. Be sure to arrive early and know in advance that some of the food stalls sell-out quickly and others have long lines for their goods.

Leave the plastic at home as this is a cash-only operation and all "sales" are considered donations to the Temple. That being said, the prices are small and the portions are huge, so bring an appetite and dress comfortably for outdoor, picnic-style, serve-yourself dining.

I recommend scoring a bag of fresh fried bananas and plantains or an order of dumplings so that you have something to hold your taste buds at bay while standing in line for the best Noodle Soup you will ever devour (did I mention the lines can get a bit long).

The Noodle Soup (Guay Tiew, pronounced gooey-tee-ow) comes in pork, beef, and veggie options with a choice of traditional rice noodles in different sizes. The Pad Thai and Chicken with Pumpkin Curry are as traditional and delicious as any I have ever tried. Looking for a less carnivorous option, try some spring rolls and Som Tum papaya salad seasoned to your taste.

The desserts are just as delicious and include a variety of Thai sweets, including sticky coconut rice with mango, and several choices of custard. Most everything is available for carry-out. The Sunday Market also includes tropical flower and fauna sales alongside pre-packaged spices and condiments.

While you are there, be sure to visit the Temple proper as it is truly one of the most beautiful buildings around the Bay. Services in the Temple are open to all, but please be respectful of the congregation and the religious customs and traditions.



Wat Mongkolratanaram



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Happy Anniversary

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

THIS WEEKEND!

Kentucky Derby Party / May 2 / 4:30-7:30 p.m. / The Regent / 6437 Watson Road, Riverview / The Brandon Outreach Clinic is hosting its Fourth Annual Kentucky Derby Party fundraising event! View a live stream of the race and enjoy a "Taste of the Derby" with local restaurants handing out their favorite fare. Put on your finest hat and win the Most Beautiful Hat Contest, the Most Creative Ladies' Hat Contest, or the Dapper Gentleman Contest. There will be a photo booth, open bar, group painting, and entertainment provided by the Bloomingdale High School Jazz Band as well as a DJ. All proceeds benefit the Outreach Clinic. Tickets are tax deductible and are \$75 per person; tickets are available by calling 813-654-1388 or visiting www.brandonoutreachclinic.com.



Brandon Ballet Presents Hansel and Gretel / May 2 at 7 p.m. and May 3 at 4 p.m. / HCC Mainstage Theatre / At E. Palm Avenue and N. 14th Street, Ybor City / A new ballet with musical score by Russian composer Reinhold Glière, Hansel and Gretel takes creative twists and turns inspired by the famous Grimm Brothers' fairy tale. Tickets: \$15-\$30. Purchase tickets at www.tututix.com/brandonballet. For information, contact the Brandon Ballet Administrative Coordinator at dance@brandonballet.org or call 813-684-4282.

ParTee Golf Scramble 2015 / 12-5 p.m. / May 3 / Bloomingdale Golfers Club / 4113 Great Golfers Place / The Rotary Club of Brandon '86 presents its spring fundraiser charity golf tournament at Bloomingdale Golfers Club. Enjoy food, fellowship, golf, and a good time as we raise money for both local and international charities. Contact Brad Metcalf, 813-335-8281, wmetcalfiv@yahoo.com.

The Great Mother's Day Race Tampa 5K Run/Walk / May 10 / Registration/Package pickup 7 a.m.; Race starts 8 a.m. / Al Lopez Park / N. Himes Avenue, Tampa / Celebrate Mother's

Day at this family 5K! Registered participants receive a free Dri-Fit T-shirt, goodie bag, prizes, and awards for top finishers in age categories. Everyone receives a medal. Rain or shine. After race: awards, prizes, music, snacks, drinks, and other goodies for the whole family! Registration fee \$35 until May 9; \$40 race day. Visit greatmothersdayrace.com for more information.



Eat for Change Fundraiser at Chipotle / May 12 / 4-9 p.m. / Chipotle Mexican Grill / 829 East Bloomingdale Avenue / Join the Campo Family YMCA at this fundraiser to support the Y's Community Campaign. Tell the cashier you're supporting the cause so 50 percent of the evening's proceeds will be donated to the Campo Family YMCA. Funds raised go back to the community allowing the Y to open its doors to all children and adults, regardless of income. Contact the Campo Family YMCA at 813-684-1371 for information or stop by for a flyer.

Family Fun Friday at the Campo Family YMCA / May 29 / 6-9 p.m. / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / Family Yoga Style will offer six 30-minute sessions that families can drop in for anytime. Stay for one session or for the entire evening! This activity features yoga breathing and postures, interactive games, and relaxation. Come meet other Y families, make new friends and experience the benefits and effects of yoga. While free, you must register. Signup sheet are at the Welcome Center, and members must register no later than Wednesday, May 27. This is a member only event.



Taste of Brandon / May 30 / 3-10 p.m. / The Barn at Winthrop / 11349 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce presents the Taste of Brandon Music, Food, and Drink Festival. Join in a day of family fun with live music and samplings from local restaurants. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$5 for children 3-11; free for children under 3. VIP tickets available for \$25,

includes beer and wine samples. Purchase tickets online at www.brandonchamber.com.

UPCOMING & ONGOING

Tai Chi for Teens and Adults / First and Third Fridays Every Month / 10-11 a.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. / Tai Chi reduces stress and increases stamina, flexibility, and alertness. Bring a mat or towel and wear comfortable clothing. Limited to 25 participants. Call 813-273-3652 for more information.

Summer Camp Registration Open / Camps begin June 8 and run through August 21 / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Road / The Campo Y's summer camp offers a mix of fun and learning activities aimed at improving kids' well-being, such as traditional day camp, dance camp and sports camp. The Y focuses on three areas proven to impact kids' development: friendship, accomplishment, and belonging. Day camps for ages 5-12: Everywhere Member- \$135.00, Everywhere Youth Member- \$155.00, Here/Here & There Member- \$155.00, Non-Member- \$190.00 and Program Member- \$190.00. Extended and specialty camps are available. For information, contact 813-684-1371, or visit www.tampaymca.org.

TechPlayzone Half-Day STEM Camps / June, July, August / 9 a.m.-12 p.m. / TechPlayzone is pleased to partner with the Barn at Winthrop and FISH at Bell Shoals Baptist Church for Summer Camp 2015. All camps are open to the public. Workshops will continue at BSAC on Saturdays only during the summer. Science, technology, engineering, and math for students, ages 7-13, has never been so cool! To register, visit www.techplayzone.com/stem-camps.



STEM Camps at the Barn at Winthrop (All camps \$100), 11349 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview, June 22-26 – Deep Space Astronomy, July 6-10 – Engineering for Kids, July 20-24 – Circuit Breakers/ Electricity

STEM Camps at Bell Shoals Baptist (All camps \$125), 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon, July 27-31 – Chem-Is-Try: Amazing Science Experiments, Aug 3-7 – Rocket Science: Blast Off, Aug 10-14 – Optical Illusions and Dissections

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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. Put your seat belts on and enjoy the ride as Ryan shares her adventures with our community!

Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers and grandmothers in the Bloomingdale community. Everyone is gearing up for brunch or a classic cookout with the family. This year, why not show the mothers in your life how much you truly appreciate them with a trip offering lots of quality time.

Take a long weekend to the Carolina Mountains. Allegiant Air offers non-stop flights from St. Pete to Asheville on select days. Take a quick flight and lay your head in a log cabin amongst the treetops. Enjoy strolling through the town's unique shops and stopping at local eateries. Take the day and tour the 8,000 acre famous Biltmore Estate. The charm and local beauty of this Southern city are sure to entice great conversation.

Looking for a little less conversation and more relaxation? Take a short three-hour drive to Florida's southwest coast and check into The Atlantic Hotel and Spa. Voted Ft. Lauderdale's best spa of 2014, the Atlantic offers sweeping ocean views and a "soul stirring" spa experience. Spend the morning in one of the spa's eight treatment rooms, then head to the pool for a relaxing read by the water. Finish the day in the luxurious steam room or sauna and "wine down" at the hotel bar.

Can't get away? Take a few hours and visit the winery in our back yard. Keel and Curley Winery in Plant City offers everything from tours to tastings, and private events. This Florida gem offers varietals derived from local flavors such as strawberries and blueberries, offering a crisp refreshing drink as we head into the heat of summer.

The winery is also home to Two Henry's brewing if you're more of craft beer kind of guy or gal. The tasting room is open various hours throughout the week, from 10 a.m.-11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and Sundays from 11a.m.-7 p.m.



Photo: Ryan Brantley



For Mother's Day, treat Mom to a picture perfect view of the Asheville Mountains.

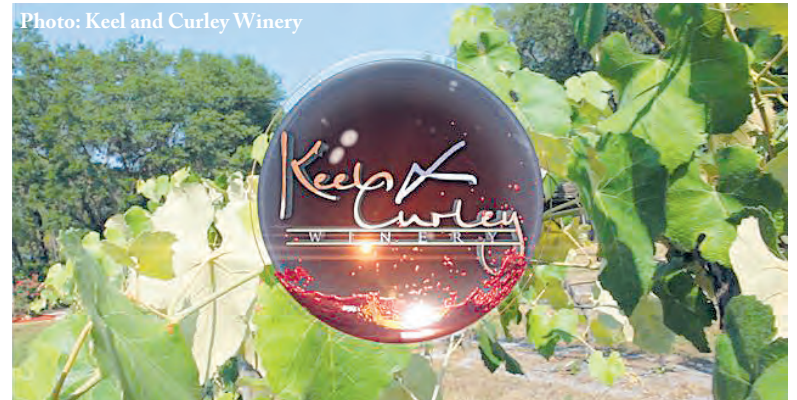


Photo: Keel and Curley Winery

For a trip close to home, try Keel and Curley Winery in Plant City

114931-1

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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



MONTHLY BACC HIGHLIGHTS

At the April meeting of the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) members received a briefing on recent crime activity in our area. The good news – criminal activity has decreased.

As residents learn ways to protect their valuables and possessions, crime goes down. Take away the opportunity to commit a crime and you are doing your part to help fight crime. Please continue to lock your vehicles, lock your homes, close your garage doors and secure your valuables in your home.

Also, immediately report any burglaries or thefts so our detectives can work to capture those responsible.

NEW CRIME PREVENTION TOOL: PUBLIC AWARENESS CARD

HCSO Deputies and Citizens Volunteer Patrol team members have a new crime prevention tool. Developed by HCSO Community Outreach Division Prevention, the new tool is the "Public Awareness Card."

As deputies and Volunteer Citizens Patrol team members drive through our neighborhoods, they will be on the lookout for situations that could potentially lead to a crime. When they observe a possible problem, they will make the home- or business owner aware by using the new "Public Awareness Card."

They will complete the card giving details and their observations and leave it for the home- or business owner. Think of it as a proactive friendly reminder to help keep the recipient from becoming a crime victim.

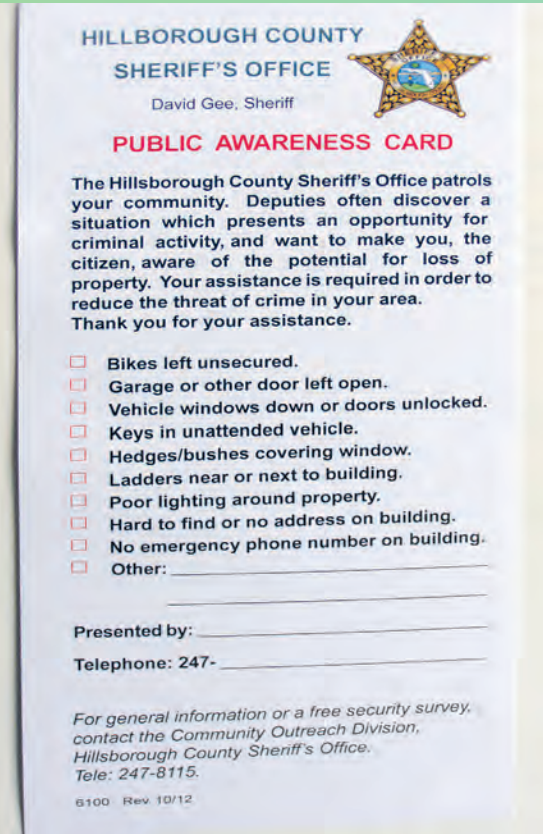


Photo: Mack Austin

Also on the card is information on how to contact the Community Outreach Division at 247-8115 to schedule a free security survey.

The Sheriff's Office is also improving communications with homeowner associations. Whenever special crime prevention projects, investigations or criminal activity information is available, HOA leadership will be contacted so they can notify residents through email and social media.

NEWSCASTS KEEP RESIDENTS INFORMED

"Inside HCSO" is a web-based newscast offering HCSO information, announcements and special features. It provides a unique perspective on the operations and the personnel of the Sheriff's Office. Be sure to check out "future" episodes to learn how your law enforcement team keeps Hillsborough County safe and secure. To access the site go to www.youtube.com and then Insert "INSIDE HCSO."

NEW FLORIDA LEGISLATION AFFECTS DRIVERS

Several Florida House and Senate Bills moving through the legislative process could have very important effects on our lives. Residents can follow the status on these bills by going to www.myfloridahouse.gov.

Some of the current bills include House Bill (HB) 1, which calls for tougher penalties on texting while driving. HB 17 aims to improve driving safety by prohibiting cell phone use while driving in school zones and finally, Senate Bill 548 proposes banning smoking by anyone in cars with kids in the vehicle. Check these bills out and let your legislators know your opinions on them.

IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTED?

The Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) is made up of law enforcement officials and concerned residents from homeowners associations and neighborhoods in our community. Our Community Service Officer Sandy Capitano and I work directly with council members and government representatives to coordinate plans and actions on community issues and concerns that will help improve the quality of life in our community.

The BACC meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Community Station on Erindale Drive. Check with your HOA or subdivision group to be sure your neighborhood is represented. If your area is not represented, make plans to attend the next meeting to discuss your concerns. If not you, then who?

STAY SAFE AND SECURE!

Photo: Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office



Hillsborough County Expands Customer Service with At Your Service

Hillsborough County Press Release - Hillsborough County is expanding its customer service capabilities with At Your Service, its online customer service center. The mobile-friendly website adjusts to all devices and allows residents to submit a service request and track the progress online 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

The website is arranged by service for easy use; for example if a resident wants to report a pothole or missed trash pickup, they simply click on the corresponding service in the online form and have the option to upload a photo of the request.

Requests are directly routed to the right team to provide prompt service, and replies are usually provided within one business day. Additionally, the website uses location tools to pinpoint service requests.

By creating an account, residents can view their service request history, and add comments to their previous requests. Visit <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/AtYourService> to learn more.



Photo: Hillsborough County

A Look Inside Fire Station #7



The kitchen in the new fire station will soon be ready for station workers to prepare meals as they standby to respond.



Firefighters will rest, sleep and prepare to respond to emergencies in the Bloomingdale area. The hallway pictured leads to personnel living quarters. Coordination continues for the delivery and set up of the facility's furniture and other equipment.



Empty now, the fire engine bays at the Hillsborough County Fire Station #7 stand ready for fire engines and professional personnel. The building will soon receive state-of-the-art emergency response communications equipment and other resources.

Photos: Mack Austin



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Gary H. Dworkin, M.D. RPVI

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



I don't need a hobby. I need lazier friends.

Ever since I semi-retired from the glamorous world of advertising (more Ho-Hum than “Mad Men,” trust me. Except maybe for the boozing part), I’m apparently considered less than complete because I don’t have a particular “hobby” to fill in those empty hours of existence I didn’t know I had.

Even my closest friends and relatives have leapt upon the fun-filled bandwagon and I am continuously regaled with the breathless descriptions of the benefits of golf (you want me to play a sport that, backwards, spells “flog”?). The overwhelming fulfillment of a solidly-built, to-scale B-29 (Big deal. That’s what they called me in high school). The artistic inspiration that results in a 16-layer German torte (I refuse to eat anything I can’t see over).

And each bubbling description always ends the same way: “So, Ellen, what are you going to do with all your spare time, hmmm?” I put “spare time” right up there with “spare change.” I don’t have much of either one and what little I do have, I hoard.

And can anyone explain to me why people with active sports hobbies are so disgustingly hearty? “Oh, yeah. Jane and I met on the tennis courts (ha ha). Neither of us had a partner that day, so we challenged each other (snicker). Boy, we had one heckuva a match, too (chortle)! I put everything I had into my backhand and as soon as she regained consciousness, I asked

her for a date (giggle). I guess you could say it was ‘love’ at first sight (Har! Har!)”

Take me now, Lord.

Those with quieter hobbies, like wood burning and needlepoint, are even worse. They’re perky. “Ooooo. You really like it? Gosh, it was soooo e-e-e-easy. Just a teensy stitch here and a bitty snip there and the next thing I knew, I’d slip covered the entire house with a needlepoint rendition of Versailles! Next week, I’m doing the sweetest pool cover with mermaids and seahorses and a life-size portrait of Michael Phelps, all in petit pointe! Won’t that be darling?” Oh, you bet.

It’s not just individuals, either. Look at job applications, for instance. There’s always that trick, one-word question at the very bottom. Just one little word that, to the corporate psychiatrist, can mean the difference between a vice presidency and the Mail Room: “Hobbies?”

If you put down “None,” they think you’re a part-time Carmelite who can’t spell because, God knows, simply everybody has a hobby, right? If you try to get off the hook with something innocuous like “reading and long walks in the country,” they interpret it as “no ambition” and stick you in the

Mail Room anyway where you will read and take long walks down the corridor.

Personally, I always put down “skydiving into shark tanks and manufacturing fireworks.” That way, if I did happen to get the job, nobody ever asked to join me. And that definitely had merit.



BSHS Art Program Creates Winners

By Kayla Hayes

Bloomingdale High School’s art teacher, Diana Speedy, submits student work to numerous shows each year. This year her students have had work accepted into the Scholastic Art Competition, the Dali Museum of Art, Center Place, Polk Museum of Art, Calyx Schenecker Art Infinitum at HCC Dale Mabry and the Tampa Museum of Art.

On Saturday, April 11, the Creative Youth 15th Congressional District Art Competition was held at the Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland. This prestigious show was juried with more than 350 works submitted, but only 84 were accepted. Various awards included: one Congressional Award, first, second and third place, two purchase awards and 8 merit awards.

Jamie Williams, a senior at Bloomingdale High School, won the Congressional Award earning a ribbon, a \$125 award and two airline tickets to Washington D.C. for the ceremony to honor all Congressional award-winning students. Congressman Dennis Ross attended the ceremony, gave an inspiring speech and presented Jamie her award. Her work will be part of a yearlong National exhibition displayed in the Cannon Tunnel at the Capitol in Washington D.C.

“Jamie is a quite humble AP Drawing student whose work has really blossomed this year,” said Speedy, who teaches programs in 2D (drawing and painting) and 3D (sculpture).

“Jamie and her older sisters have been doing art since they were

toddlers,” said Jamie’s mother, Cindy Williams. “We have always had art supplies at home and each of them would bring an art kit with them whenever we traveled or went to restaurants. They are all still artistic with art and music, but Jamie is the only one who wants to make art a career,” she continued.

Bloomingdale student, Morgan Smedley, created an art piece that was also accepted into the competition. “I am so proud of her,” said Morgan’s mother, Beth Smedley. “This is the second year her work has been accepted into this show,” she continued.

Speedy’s dear friend and now retired colleague, Karen Marcos, started Bloomingdale’s art program.

“She built a tradition of excellence which I am dedicated to maintain,” said Speedy, who stays afterschool to assist art students, and tutors AP students twice a week.

Bloomingdale has semester-long, entry-level classes with no prerequisites that any student can take to learn art basics and receive a performing art credit required for graduation. There are also year-long advanced level, honors and AP classes for students who love creating and have a serious dedication to improving their skills and techniques.

“Afterschool is a little different,” added Speedy. “It’s a wonderful creative environment with just a few students who enjoy music, snacks, “Q&A,” drawing, painting, laughing and really focus on creating.”

“My current AP students are a close dedicated group of four girls who work very hard individually and cooperatively – I love them!” she said with pride.



Jamie Williams, senior, wins the Congressional Award at the 15th Congressional District Art Competition. “Whenever I make something, I never really expect attention, but being recognized like this is amazing,” said Williams.



Morgan Smedley, Bloomingdale senior, stands by her award-winning work. Her artwork was one of 84 selected from 350 submitted pieces to compete for the Congressional District Art Competition. Her work is available for viewing at the Polk Museum of Art.

Photos: Bloomingdale High School

With graduation just around the corner, spring is an exciting but stressful time of year for high school seniors. There are college decisions to be made, proms to attend, "lasts" to be recorded, and opportunities to behold. For Bloomingdale High School senior Mallory Hillary, it is also a time to be recognized for her contributions to her community.

Hillary, who for the last 4 months has been a student writer and photographer for the Bloomingdale Gazette, recently was awarded the Maureen Krzanowski Scholarship by The Community Roundtable of Brandon for her outstanding volunteerism and accomplishments. The award is a posthumous tribute to one of its most dedicated past presidents.

The \$1,000 scholarship recipient was recognized for being an honor student, holding a 6.56 grade point average and ranking 10th in her graduation class. She is co-captain of Bloomingdale High's Crimson Guard, and is a member of many organizations, including the National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), National Art Honor Society, National English Society (President), and Rho Kappa (Social Studies Honor Society). Hillary has been taking dance lessons at Katrina's School of Dance since age 2, including tap, jazz, and ballet.

In addition, Hillary has logged over 160 service hours volunteering at A Kid's Place, Meals on Wheels, and with the homeless at Family Promise. "I volunteer because I think it is fascinating to learn everyone's stories . . . some of the most fascinating people I have ever met have been through volunteering," said the Bloomingdale senior.

The opportunity to travel to Havana, Cuba, last summer piqued her interest in international relations. The senior plans to double major in political science and economics, and is currently waiting to hear from Vanderbilt University on final acceptance. Hillary has been accepted at the University of Florida, and will be a Gator in the fall if plans for Vanderbilt do not work out.

"I have lived in Brandon my entire life, so I am a little bit nervous and a little bit excited," Hillary said.

This summer, as her graduation present, her grandmother will be taking Hillary to England and Ireland. "Grandmum," Mary Odum, is a native of England and is a resident of Bloomingdale Estates.

The honor student also plans to continue her writing for the Bloomingdale Gazette until she leaves for college in the fall ~ be on the lookout for her stories and photographs.



Bloomingdale High School Senior Mallory Hillary has a 6.56 GPA and is ranked 10th in the graduating class. Proud parents, Karyn and Brian, and sister, Aryn, will bid farewell to this future leader as she heads to either the University of Florida or Vanderbilt University this fall.

As co-captain of the Crimson Guard at Bloomingdale High School, senior Mallory Hillary uses her 16 years of dancing experience to perform with the marching Ragin' Bull Band.



Photos: Hillary Family

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BHA Golf Tournament Benefits K9s For Warriors (Continued from Cover)

Courtesy: K9s For Warriors



Generosity is measured in many ways, typically time or money. At the recent Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Charity Golf Tournament, players, sponsors and community volunteers gave both.

This year's tournament held at Summerfield Crossings raised \$4,000 benefitting K9s for Warriors, an organization dedicated to helping military service members suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injury, and mobility issues. 95 percent of dogs trained at the center are rescue dogs. Dogs are matched with a military candidate, and then both spend three weeks training at the facility to become fully qualified K9 Warrior teams.

K9 Warrior team Matt Metts and Bouncer were on-hand to greet players. Lending a face and paw to the worthy cause, they were true ambassadors of the program. Their presence helped participants, many with military connections, be extra giving.

"This year's success was due to the golfers," explained Committee Chair Suzy Watts. "They all were here to support our wounded warriors and rescue animals. Not only did they support through their golfing fees, but they went way above that by supporting the raffles donated by our incredible sponsors."

For more information on the K9s for Warriors organization, please visit their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/K9sforWarriors.

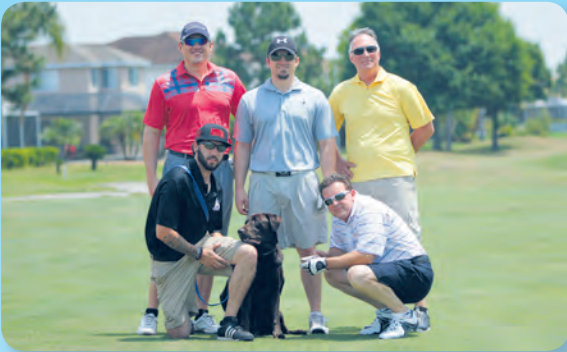


Photo: Joy Boisselle



And the winners are! First place winners at the BHA Charity Golf Tournament were teammates, Bob Jones and his sons Kyle and Cory, and Randy Norris. They posted a 62 in the event's "Best Ball" format. Bloomingdale resident Bob Jones earned a trifecta winning the "Closest to the Pin" and "Putting" Contests as well.

Second place by a stroke! Placing 2nd were teammates Tom Ruh, Brian Schmitt, Dwight Jenkins and Joe Porciello. All tournament players received a 4 x 6 team photo with our K9 Warrior team as a memory keepsake of the day. Heather Fenzau of Heather Rose Photography provided player photo keepsakes.

With surgical precision, Courtney Zak sends the ball straight to the flag. Teammates Jim Regula and Ben Creelman look on. Not pictured, Sam Brachna.

Brandon Long displays the form that earned him the win in the "Longest Drive" competition.

Ready, Set, Go! The start of the tournament resembled controlled chaos as 25 carts and 47 players began the tournament for a worthy cause – K9s for Warriors.



Photo: Hightower Family

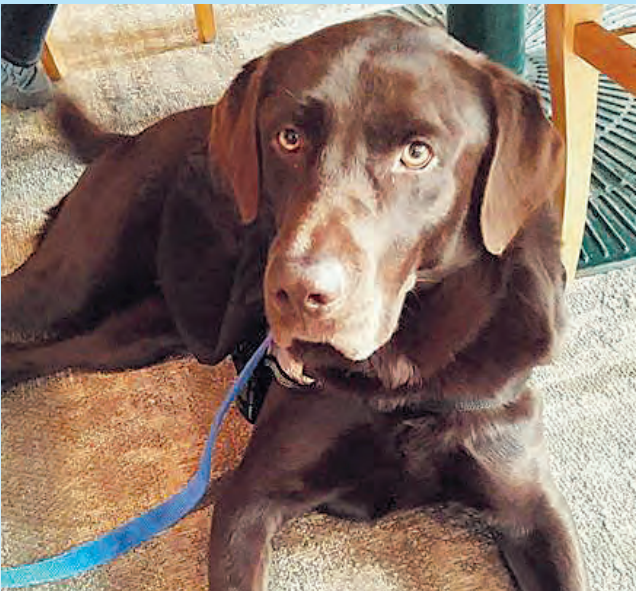


Photo: Joy Boisselle



Photos courtesy of Heather Rose Photography unless credited otherwise.



Sometimes it was hard to tell who was having more fun...the players or the volunteers. Pictured left to right are Megan Bray, Heather Williamson, and Carlette Hightower.

Photo: Joy Boisselle



41 sponsors donated cash and prizes worth thousands. All funds raised went directly to K9s for Warriors.

Bouncer takes a well-deserved rest. Bouncer is the K9 half of the K9 Warrior Team led by Army veteran Matt Metts. On hand for the BHA's fundraiser, both were ambassadors for the K9s organization, which trains dogs for military suffering from PTSD.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Players and volunteers enjoyed a hearty Italian dinner after the tournament.

Hats off to Jason Blanchard and the Summerfield Crossings Team. Their hard work and welcoming manner helped to establish the tone for the day. Blanchard gives last minute instructions prior to the tournament start. BHA president George May and player summed up many players' comments. "From a golfer's point of view, this was one of the smoothest running tournaments I have been to in a long time."



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...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.

Flowers for Moms - Mother's Day is May 10th
By Gwen Graverson

Dedicated to all Moms

Most Moms take great pride and joy in the gifts their children surprise them with on Mother's Day. From simple to elaborate, a gift from the heart is the quickest way to make a Mom happy. Giving flower bouquets and corsages is a long-standing Mother's Day tradition.

This Mother's Day, try something new. Honor your Mom by creating an outdoor flower garden oasis. Select a garden location or incorporate the theme into an existing garden. Then, use your Mom's birth month flower as the starting point (see boxed insert). Simply add her favorite flowers or other seasonal foliage and a few finishing touches like decorative garden accents from any garden store and voila - you have just given your Mom a unique and memorable garden with its own personality and charm.

Another Mother's Day tradition you may want to start is to present a flower corsage to your Mom.

Herb Pettway, who has provided some of the beautiful photos in recent Gazette garden articles, recalled that when he was a child, his Mother wore a white flower corsage on Mother's Day in memory of her deceased Mother. Pink flower corsages are an indication that your Mom's Mother is still alive. Corsage giving is not limited to Moms. Any woman can wear a corsage in honor of her own Mom.

A unique Mother's Day gift is a family flower wreath. My Mother-In-Law Dee gave me one of these irreplaceable wreaths. While she is no longer with us, it is truly a special keepsake as the flowers represent all members of my family. Flower size can differentiate the parents vs. grandparents, children vs. grandchildren and the colors can differentiate the boys from the girls.

These wreaths can be made with fresh, silk, or for the crafty person, even crocheted flowers. This wonderful, one-of-a-kind gift is sure to please any Mom.

Whatever you decide to do for your Mom on her day - remember to add a healthy helping of love. Happy Mother's Day!



Photos: Herb Pettway



BIRTH MONTH FLOWERS

Stargazer Lily

MONTH

- Jan - Carnation or Snowdrop
- Feb - Violet or Primrose
- Mar- Daffodil or Jonquil
- Apr - Daisy or Sweet Pea
- May - Lily of the Valley or Hawthorn
- Jun - Rose or Honeysuckle
- Jul - Larkspur or Water Lily
- Aug - Gladiolas or Poppy
- Sep - Aster or Morning Glory
- Oct - Calendula or Cosmos
- Nov - Chrysanthemum
- Dec - Narcissus or Holly

MEANING

- Fascination; Devoted Love/Consolation
- Modesty; Faithfulness; Virtue/Young Love
- Regard; Devotion/Affection Returned; Sympathy
- Innocence; Youth; Purity/Goodbye
- Sweetness; Humility; Return of Happiness/Fertility
- Love/Devoted Affection
- Laughter/Purity of Heart
- Strength of Character; Sincerity; Generosity
- Symbol of Love; Daintiness/Magic
- Joy/Modesty
- Cheerfulness; friendship, abundance
- Good Wishes/Formality; self-esteem

The University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) located in Hillsborough County provides a valuable monthly tool for the budding nature lover.

May "To Do List":

- Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and prune if needed. Hire an ISA certified arborist. See: International Society of Arboriculture at: <http://www.isa-arbor.com>.
- Prevent or minimize lawn disease by following proper cultural practices when caring for lawns. See: Turf grass Disease Management at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh040>.
- If Bahia lawns are yellowing, iron may correct the problem. See: Bahia grass for Florida Lawn at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh006>.
- Watch for pests, disease and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. See: Tomatoes in the Florida Garden at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh028>.



their personal best in wellness. Teri has lived in the Central Florida area for over 25 years and now resides in the Somerset development of Bloomingdale. She has three lovely daughters, two great sons-in-law and twelve amazing grandchildren.



To learn more about Flourish Weight Loss Center, contact Teri at (813)309-3349, email teri@flourishdesigningwellness.com or on the web at www.flourishdesigningwellness.com.



Photo: aucklandpodiatrist.co.nz

Keeping Your Feet Healthy: Step By Step

Almost 80 percent of Americans experience foot pain at some point in their lives. Many actually believe that their feet are supposed to hurt! Honestly – you should never have foot pain.

If you are a runner or walker and your feet hurt, it's a problem. It is hard to run or walk when your feet hurt, so we want to get you out of that unhealthy percentage and back to good health.

There are 52 bones in your feet pounding into the pavement when you walk and run. Women have about four times more foot problems as men. When you run, the pressure on our feet can be three to four times our body weight.

So the question is, "How do we take some of the pressure off of our feet so that we can pursue what we love – running and walking?"

Here are a few tips for keeping your foot health fabulous:

Posture:

Feet muscles have to work well to support good posture. If they aren't doing what they are supposed to then nothing above your feet is going to work well either. Poor alignment can lead to foot and ankle pain, knee pain, hip pain, lower back problems, and even shoulder and neck pain. If left unaddressed, this poor alignment can lead to injury. If not corrected, chronic pain can ensue. Improve functional, efficient movement by participating in a good Pilates class or DVD instruction. Pilates is a good way to learn and feel the muscles you should be using to move well.

The Right Shoe:

Shoe choice and fit are critical for good foot

Teri Bartus is the founder and practice director of Flourish Weight Loss Center, in the River Hills Professional Center of Valrico. She considers it her joy and privilege to help women design and achieve

health. Guys and gals- when you are NOT RUNNING OR WALKING for wellness, your shoes still matter!

When you wear flip-flops, sandals without a back strap, high heels or even poor fitting shoes- you are training your feet into problems and pain. Anything that causes your toes to be crunched in or curl to hold your shoe in place as you step, cause a shorter stride and shuffling, which results in poor heel striking. This "trains" the foot to do nothing right as we walk.

Tie With Kindness:

If wearing shoes that tie, be careful not to tie them too tight. Tight laces create pressure across the top of your foot, cueing your arch muscles to relax. It is important for your arch muscles to work well while you are walking. Even loafers that fit too tightly across the top of your foot will cause fatigue, improper function and possible injury.

Good Gate Mechanics:

Learning to walk with proper whole body mechanics is one of the best functional wellness activities we can do. Your leg muscles stay loose, hips are more flexible and the lower back is strengthened. The legs need to be behind your body, rolling through your foot from the heel, engaging the ankle and pushing off with your toes. A long stride is what causes ankles, hamstrings and "glutes" to engage during your gate.

Give attention to your posture, shoe choice and movement and you are on your way to happy feet. If you are still experiencing foot pain, see your health practitioner for the best next step for you.

Photo: flourishweightloss.com



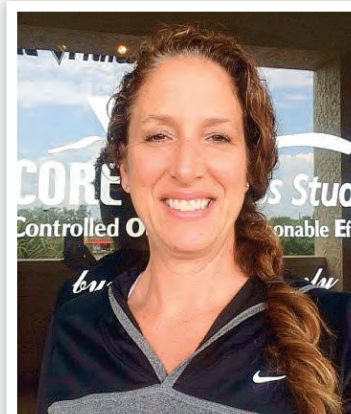
Women experience four times as many foot problems as men.



FITNESS STUDIO

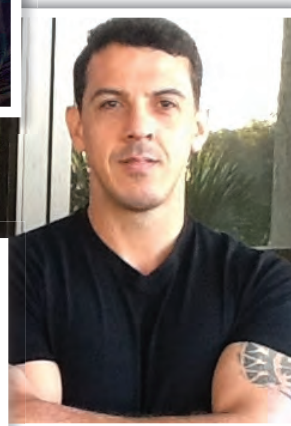
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If you have a hankering' for authentic smoked barbeque (BBQ), Sarge's Smokehouse BBQ is the best in the Tampa area with the awards to back it up. Even better, the man behind the BBQ, Ken Sebourn, is one of Bloomingdale's own.

His love for making BBQ for family and friends led Sebourn to open his food truck business. After retiring from the Army in 2008, he worked as a contractor and spent time in Afghanistan. In 2013 he decided it was time follow his passion.

Sebourn invited his retired Air Force friend, Brian Burt, with whom he had worked at U.S. Special Operations Command-Central (SOCCENT) at MacDill Air Force Base, to join him in the business. Said Sebourn, "I told him, 'Let's go buy a food truck.'"

Since opening day June 1, 2013, business has snowballed. "We had more business than the two of us could handle," said the Bloomingdale resident. In July 2014, Sebourn and Burt invited another retired Air Force friend, Chris Capazola, to buy into the business.

Last year at the Rockin' Ribs on the River event in Gibsonton and the team's first competition, their brisket received a 1st Place award. Their next award was even more prestigious as their BBQ was named the "Best in Tampa Bay" on cityvoter.com's 2014 Tampa A-List. The trio's latest achievement was earned at the third annual World's Largest Food Truck Rally held at the Florida State Fairgrounds in March where they were awarded The People's Choice Award for "Best Tasting Food."

Now the three veterans are about to launch a second Sarge's Smokehouse food truck. This will allow them to keep one truck at their permanent location on Adamo Drive while the second truck

will make stops at the businesses of regular customers as well as food truck rallies and events.

Sarge's currently provides BBQ at corporate luncheons, car shows, weddings, and apartment complexes in the Tampa area. The business also supports local fundraisers, including a monthly stop at the SOCCENT Family Readiness Group.

Sebourn describes his BBQ flavor as "right between St. Louis and Memphis barbecues." Pulled pork, chicken, and brisket are available, as well as ribs. Sides of potato salad, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, and coleslaw round out the menu.

Sarge's Smokehouse BBQ is located at 8505 East Adamo Drive in Tampa, about 1/4 mile west of Highway 301. Operating hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, visit www.sargessmokehousebbq.com or call 813-285-6097.



Sarge's Smokehouse BBQ has won numerous awards for its authentic barbeque and brisket.



Chris Capazola, Brian Burt, and Ken Sebourn (from left) are the owners of the award-winning Sarge's Smokehouse BBQ located on East Adamo Drive in Tampa.

Photos: Miriam Leech

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How can I have great distance control?

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC Campus)

Anything less than a full swing is considered a distance control shot, and this is where the amateur golfer starts to panic. Use the clock method to determine the length of your back swing which will produce a certain yardage.

In these pictures, I am using the clock method positions of 7:30 and 9:00, note the position of my left hand.

My 60-degree lob wedge with a 7:30 clock back swing produces 35 yards. My pitching wedge with a 7:30 clock back swing produces 65 yards (top photo).

My 60-degree lob wedge with a 9 o'clock back swing produces 65 yards. My pitching wedge with a 9 o'clock back swing produces 95 yards (bottom photo).

Let the length of your back swing determine your yardages instead of taking a full back swing and slowing down through your shot.

Next lesson: Where can the golf ball be placed in the tee box? Any questions or for lessons, please visit CochraneGolfSchools.com or call J.D. (813) 957-3205.



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS



ATTENTION! Seniors, Parents and Friends!

We want your graduation photos!

The Gazette wants to help you celebrate your upcoming graduation. Send your graduation photos to inbloomingtonnews@gmail.com by June 15. Identify from left to right those pictured and a brief explanation of what is happening in the photo. For example John Smith, graduate and parents Bob and Mary Smith; taken after graduation at a family celebration. Or, Mary Smith receives her diploma. Send only high resolution photos. Don't forget to provide contact information just in case there are questions.



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INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WHAT'S YOUR DISASTER PLAN?

Hurricane season is less than a month away. Thanks to news and social media, we have already seen the damage severe storms, hurricanes and tornadoes can bring.

In our area, hurricanes are the main concern. The time to prepare for a hurricane is not when landfall is imminent...the time to prepare is now.

First, prepare a "Family Disaster Plan." If you already have a plan, review and update it. If you don't have a plan, prepare one. It is critical that you and your family know exactly what to do if a disaster hits. This includes all disasters, not just hurricanes.

Then, prepare a "Family Disaster Kit." This emergency ready kit is the first step to hurricane survival. Your kit should contain everything you and your family will need to survive a disaster. Some key items include important papers, medicines, first aid kits, lists of phone

numbers, special keepsakes, food and water to name just a few.

Remember "The Rule of 72." After a disaster, residents can expect to be on their own for at least 72 hours before emergency teams can get to them. Visit www.redcross.org or www.hillsboroughcounty.org for great information on developing a family disaster plan and kit.

Finally, family members should know their role and the steps to take in the event a hurricane hits. Knowing your shelter location, who will gather the ready kit, who will feed and water your pets before leaving the home, who will lock the door and ensure everyone is accounted for, could mean the difference between life and death. Don't be caught unprepared.

It only takes one disaster to change your life for years to come! Don't wait; Get ready now.

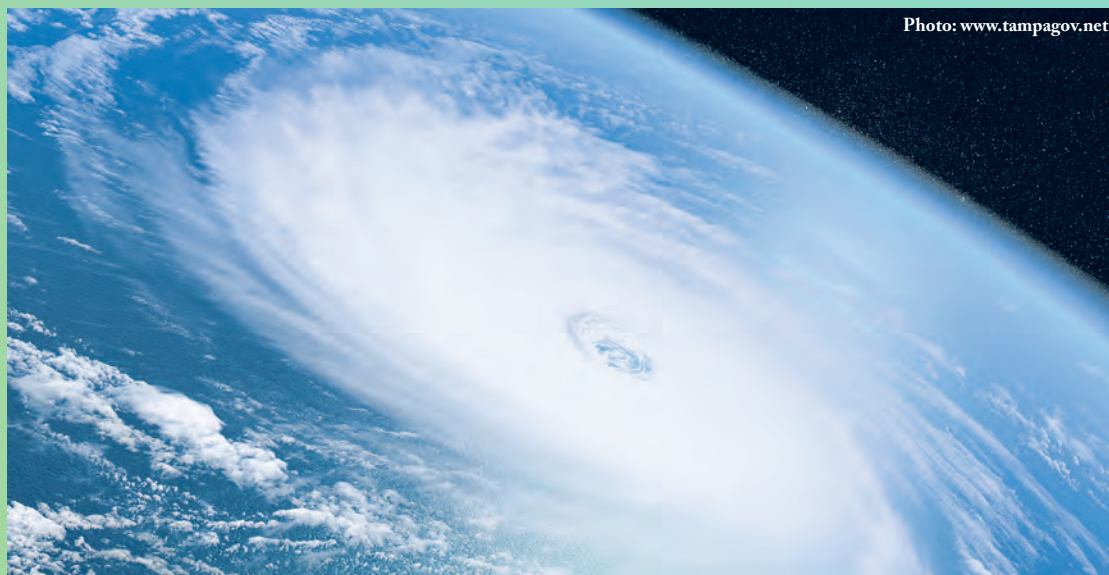


Photo: www.tampagov.net



www.TampaBayHurricaneExpo.com

BE READY TAMPA BAY!

Courtesy: Hillsborough County & City of Tampa

Join us on Saturday May 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Science and Industry for a day you won't want to miss! Enjoy activities for adults and children, educational displays, tips from the experts, safety demonstrations, emergency vehicle displays, and vendors of safety products, personal disaster preparedness and home retrofit products, and more – it's all FREE!

This year's theme, Be Ready Tampa Bay, will focus on the importance of taking actions before a major disaster to ensure you can recover successfully and thrive after a storm. While our local emergency responders are ready for any disaster we face, they still look to you, our residents, to help.

In addition to guest speakers, the event will feature safety demonstrations, emergency vehicle displays, educational exhibits, and vendors of safety products, personal disaster preparedness and home retrofit products.

For information, visit www.tampabayhurricaneexpo.com.

2015 Hurricane Expo
Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI)
4801 East Fowler Ave, Tampa
Saturday May 30, 2015
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Free Expo Admission
Free Parking
Free Admission to MOSI





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

Staff Report

The Best of the Best Student of the Month Program (BOB) recognizes 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 Jarod Barrett, May's Best of the Best Student of the Month!

As of March 21, Bloomington High School sophomore Jarod Barrett is an Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. While this alone is worthy of "Best of the Best" recognition, Barrett is also a multi-talented athlete and selfless volunteer.

A member of Boy Scout Troop 101, he has worked hard obtaining 30 merit badges where only 21 were required. Not content to focus solely on his own needs, this young leader has served his troop as historian, quartermaster, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and instructor. To attain his Eagle Scout status, Barrett completed a required service project by creating fish habitats for the Masonic Youth Camp for their catch and release program.

Scouting requires members to volunteer. To date, role model Barrett has given more than 250 hours to programs serving the community. "I volunteer because no one person can help the community alone and people need all the help they can get," he explained. Wise words from one so young.

His accomplishments are not limited to scouting. Barrett is a solid student with a 3.4 GPA and a wrestler for the Bloomington Bulls. He enjoys bowling for which he has earned many awards including state recognition. Other interests include watching movies, spending time with friends, camping and video games.

With two years remaining before graduation, Barrett is exploring his options. Short-term,

he expects to attend college or a trade school and eventually, would like to work in carpentry or a technical trade.

Parents, Anita and Tim are understandably proud of their accomplished son. "Jarod is the strong and silent type. He is always conscientious and thoughtful," Anita said, adding, "We are so proud of who he has become and we thank God for him daily."

Barrett lives with his parents and sister, Jordan and grandmother Doris Blake, in Bloomington Oaks.

Keep up the great work, Jarod!

This month's Best of the Best winner is Jarod Barrett who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout this spring. Eagle Scout is the highest achievable rank in scouting and requires years of work and dedication. Pictured at the Eagle Ceremony are Barrett, center and his parents Tim and Anita.

Photo: The Barrett Family



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MAY 25..... MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL

JUNE 5..... LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

May 4-8 – Teacher Appreciation Week
May 7 – Spirit Night at McDonald's on Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals 4-8 p.m.
May 15 – Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
May 20 – Spirit Night at Papa John's, 5-9 p.m.
May 22 – 5th grade Mythology Bowl and Festival
May 26-29 – BOGO Book Fair in Media Center
May 28 – K-2nd grade present Jungle Book at 7 p.m. in the Cafeteria
May 29 – 3rd-5th grade present Jungle Book at 7 p.m. in the Cafeteria
June 5 – 5th grade Farewell Ceremony and Clap Out

May 4-8, Teacher Appreciation Week

Tuesday, May 5: "Sweet on you!" Shower your teacher with a favorite candy, homemade cookies, herbal tea bags, sweet treat, etc.

Wednesday, May 6: "Restocking the Shelves!" Let's help our teachers restock their shelves by donating needed school supplies. Please check with your homeroom parent to see which supplies are most needed.

Thursday, May 7: "We Thank You!" Take a minute and have your children write a note or make a handmade card for their teachers, thanking them for this past school year. Please feel free to write a thank you note from yourself as well!

Friday, May 8: "Treat Yourself!" Pick up a gift card to your teacher's favorite store, coffee shop, or spa as a small token of appreciation from you and your child as a thank you for all they have done this year! Or any other special treat you think your child's teacher would love.

Mint and Book Swap: Every Wednesday from 7:30-7:55 a.m., come to Room 208 to swap out your books.

Spirit Friday: Be sure to wear your Alafia T-shirt every Friday to show your school spirit!

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

May 4-8 – Teacher Appreciation Week
May 15 – All Pro Dads, 7 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room
June 5 – 5th grade Clap Out



May 4-8, Teacher Appreciation Week

Monday – Students please bring in a funny joke to share with your teacher. Administration will be doing a potato bar for lunch.

Tuesday – Cinco de Mayo lunch from Tijuana Flats sponsored by Cimino PTA.

Wednesday – Students bring in their teacher's favorite snack and the PTA will do a coffee cart in the morning before school.

Thursday – PTA is sponsoring an ice tea and lemonade treat after school.

Friday – Students bring in a card/letter for their teacher.

PTA will also give away two gift cards per day after school in a raffle drawing. A sweet treat will be in the teacher's lounge daily!

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

BURNS BRUINS BANTER

May 5 – FSA, 8th grade Reading part 1
May 6 – FSA, 8th grade Reading part 2
May 11 – Algebra & Geometry EOC, part 1
May 12 – Algebra & Geometry EOC, part 2
May 14 – Awards Ceremony, 7 p.m.
May 18-19 – Civics EOC
May 18 – Chorus Concert, 7 p.m., Bloomingdale HS
May 19 – Orchestra End of Year Concert, 6:30 p.m., Bloomingdale HS
May 20 – 8th grade to Busch Gardens, 9 a.m.
May 22 – Battle of the Books, 9 a.m.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

Check out the BSHS calendar at <http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/> for more April events.

May 4-15 – AP Exams
May 12 – Orchestra Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
May 14 – Chorus Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
May 15 – Relay for Life, 5 p.m., BSHS stadium
May 16 – Band Prisms Concert, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
May 18 – Seniors' Last full day of classes
May 19-20 – Senior Exams
May 21 – Football Spring Jamboree, 6:30 p.m.
May 22 – Senior Sendoff, 7:45 a.m.
May 27 – Senior Awards Night, 6:30 p.m.
May 31 – Senior Graduation Rehearsal, 11 a.m., State Fairground
June 4 – Graduation, 4:30 p.m., State Fairgrounds



BULLS BRIEFS

Virtual Job Fair: Local jobs for youth available. Find jobs for youth ages 14-24 at Tampa Bay's Virtual Job Fair, May 10-16. Register today at <http://vjf.careersourcepinellas.com>.



EOC Boot Camps: Prep for your EOC tests online or in school. Hillsborough Virtual School is offering free webinars to prepare students for EOCs. Sessions are available as follows: Algebra 1, May 5 and 7, 6:45 p.m., Civics, May 13 and 14, 5:45 p.m., and U.S. History, May 13 and 14, 7 p.m.

The Math Department is also offering EOC Boot Camps on campus. Sign up with your math teacher: Algebra 1, May 9, 9-11 a.m., room 277.

Golf Tournament: Support the Athletic Boosters: Register now for the Bloomingdale Athletic Booster Club Golf Tournament! The event will be held at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club on May 30, with tee off at 8:30 a.m. Registration ends May 15, limited to the first 36 paid teams.

Are you ready to run with the bulls?

Runners and walkers, adults and children of all ages are invited to participate in this fun local event! All proceeds benefit the Bloomingdale High School Band. Race t-shirt included in advance registration fee.

Location: On the grounds of Bloomingdale High School
 1700 Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico, FL 33596

Registration: Registration will be online at Active.com beginning in late April.

Cost: Adults \$25, Students (k-12) \$20, Children under age 5 free

Race Day: 8AM start (staggered race time for runners and other participants).
 T-shirt/packet pickup 7-7:45AM (Advance pickup to be announced.)

Questions: rajunbullfundraising@gmail.com





Bulls Baseball

Bloomington Baseball Head Coach Kris Wilken gives the team a pep talk before the 8A District 7 tournament on April 20 at the school. The Bulls suffered a tough loss to Newsome High School, 4-2, and finished their season overall with 13 wins and 10 losses.



Photo: Deidre Morgan

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\$20 per bag/\$10 for hand wraps

58 bags will be available

100% of funds raised will be going to the Football Team

For more information please contact Amy Ray at 813-324-8867



Friday May 15 at 7pm
Title Boxing Club
889 E Bloomington Ave
Bloomington Square Plaza



Alafia Holds myON Bowl

By Deidre Morgan

On April 2, the Alafia Elementary 2nd grade classes held their first myON Bowl. The myON Bowl encourages recreational reading, offers a variety of literature, increases familiarity with different authors, and shares books through written and oral expression.

Students received a list of 12 titles of varying reading levels and genres. Each student took a qualifying test on the books and the top scores made up the six class teams. Overall, the students read 2,565 books totaling 36,126 minutes of reading. First place honors went to Jennifer Hageman's class.



1st place winners received medals for their efforts. Pictured are teacher Jennifer Hageman with students Tyler Hacker, Matthew Grizio, Alina Din and Kayla Hanson.



Photos: Deidre Morgan

Alafia Elementary 2nd graders battle for top honors in the myON Bowl held April 2 at the school.



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2015 BSHS Prom: A Rite of Passage

By Mallory Hillary

On April 11 at the Pepin Hospitality Center in Tampa, the BSHS Class of 2015 began their countdown to graduation with one of many time-honored school traditions – prom. The Senior Steering Committee and senior class sponsor, Tim Cummings, worked tirelessly for months to bring the theme, “An Evening at the Circus” inspired by vintage circuses and carnivals, to life.

One of the most popular features was the billiard room, which featured three billiard tables, as well as hunting trophies, including a full-sized grizzly bear and moose head. Both the billiard room and the shuffleboard hallway gave students a chance to take a break

from dancing without stopping their celebration.

Senior Katie Gleason was initially skeptical “I had low expectations, I wasn’t sure about the theme,” she stated. “It definitely exceeded my expectations entirely, and was very fun.”

Attendees also enjoyed refreshments in the form of a dessert bar, which offered a mix of cupcakes, brownies and cake pops. There was a brief break in the dancing to announce the prom king and queen, Doug Sandberg and Hannah Cole, who shared a dance together before the festivities continued.

Photo: Nicole Cluck, unless otherwise credited.



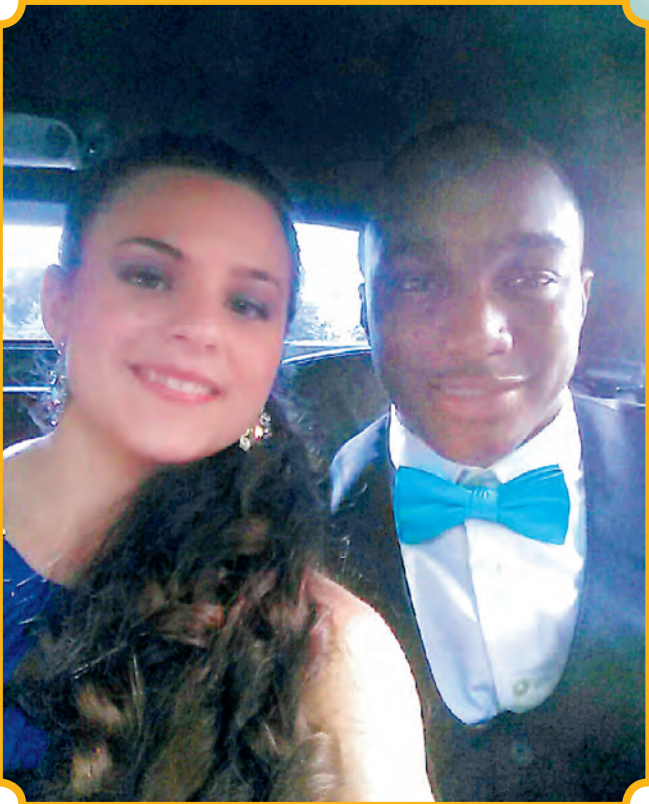
The venue is an important part of the prom experience. This year’s prom was held at Pepin’s Hospitality Center in downtown Tampa.



Many students had professional photos taken to commemorate the special event. Bobby Michael and Requinn Morgan pose for a pre-prom photo shoot.



Photo: Heather Fenzau



Billiard tables were an added treat for prom-goers. Bobby Michael relaxes in between dances.

Photo: Bobby Michael

On their way to prom, Nicole Cluck (left) and Darius Canty (right), climb into a black limo for a glamorous, classy arrival.



Prom night begins with a corsage for her and a boutonniere (pictured) for him.



BSHS Art Show Highlights Student Talent

By Mallory Hillary

Bloomington High art students put their creativity on display at the school's annual art show held April 7-8. This year, the addition of social media added a new dimension to the popular event. Using the hashtag (#) bdaleart, students enthusiastically posted about their favorite pieces, which further helped to promote the show.

Art teachers, Diana Speedy and Heather Hanks, helped students find direction during the production process, but all participating students designed their own displays themselves. Every art class including 2D Design, 3D Art, Photography, and AP Art classes built displays to share.

The live displays by AP Art students proved to be the most enjoyable for attendees. During these displays, people could watch the artists as they worked on their portfolios and actually see the work that goes into developing each piece.

"I like watching other people look at the art, and seeing the effort behind it," said senior Alex Hartley.

Senior Allie Manley added, "It provides us an opportunity to show the process of creation, kids appreciate our art a lot more when they realize it isn't instantaneous."

Without a doubt, visitors were in awe of the art students' abilities, and many seniors purchased artwork to decorate their dorm rooms for the upcoming school year.

Photos: Mallory Hillary



Gaby Escalera, 12th grade, explains part of her breadth portfolio to visitors. AP Photography students had individual banners to show off their photography and editing skills.



Senior Allie Manley working on her concentration portfolio, which explores the vibrancy and textures of fruits and vegetables. Art students worked through the day so that visitors could see the process behind each work of art.



Students display their artwork throughout the year. Every student created and arranged their own unique display.



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