



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



VOLUME XXXVI ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2016 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

Annual Fall Festival Continues to Delight!

Oct. 22 was a great day for kid costume winners at the BHA Fall Festival held at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club. Tampa Bay Lightning's Thunderbug, Chick-fil-A Cow and Mathnasium's Mr. A+ served as judges. Winners were First Place: brother and sister Corbin and Lilly Diehl as Nemo and Dorie; Second Place: Aden Pekar as Darth Vader and Third Place: Sarah Boland as Little Flower. For complete Fall Festival coverage, see pages 10-16.



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PLEASE RECYCLE

Photo: Susan DeLuca



WINNER
2013 & 2014
Hillsborough County
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Best Communications
Newsletter Category

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"You can tell you ate too much for Thanksgiving when you have to let your bathrobe out." *Jay Leno*

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:

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Billy Hightower
Bobbi Ferraro
Beth Smedley
Joanie Wilson
Charlie Woodcock

President: *George T. May IV*
Vice President: *Daniel Berkowitz*
Secretary: *Suzy Watts*
Treasurer: *Mary Galin*

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

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

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Yard of the Month



Photo: Susan DeDeLuca



Yard of the Month is sponsored by Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale. Send your Yard of the Month nominations to: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com or call (813) 681-2051

Winners will receive a \$25 gift card redeemable at Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale



Ben & Yasmin Torres

1106 Linford Court, Valrico, FL 33596 (Cambridge Cove)

Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

It's that time of the year again - pumpkins litter the yards as everyone scrambles to get their holiday shopping done early. As most would expect, there is a slowdown associated with the real estate market around this time of year for obvious reasons. Most people don't want to move around the holidays!

On the other hand, the buyers and sellers who are out there are very serious and ready to make a decision. If you're thinking about listing, it is a great time to capture buyers who are ready to act quickly - these buyers often prefer to take advantage of the school breaks during the season.

Generally, the market experiences a dip when school begins and starts picking up again around October. The same is true for this year. In September, there were only 12 new listings in Bloomingdale while that number more than doubled in October with 25 new listings. However, September saw residual effects of the summer months with 34 properties sold in September compared to 16 sold in October. With 42 properties currently under contract, the number of sold properties is expected to increase as we move into November and December.

Neighborhood Snapshot - Erindale Oaks

Erindale Oaks is the newest addition to the Bloomingdale community. It is located near the corner of Lithia Pinecrest and Erindale and is comprised of only five homes. These homes were built in the last five years and are all two stories with at least 2,600 square feet. It is a mandated deed restricted community with a mandatory homeowners association. Sale prices for the homes were \$278,000-\$300,000 at the time of original sale. There has been no change in the neighborhood since its completion.

**MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes sold Sept. 1 through Oct. 25, 2016. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.*



By Ryan Brantley

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
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BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



Join today!

Two months remain of the 2016 BHA Membership Drive. The Association just completed their largest annual event and is preparing for the 30th annual Santa visit on Dec. 3. We still need your support. Make checks payable to the BHA for \$35 and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check or cash. Make sure you include your property address! You may also join the Association through our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. **ALL** membership funds go back to our community, and all residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings.

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33596 • bloomingdalehoa.com

Please correct name below if different. BHA Membership Notices are mailed to the owner on file with the Hillsborough County Tax Collector. Recent changes may not be reflected here.

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Note: The BHA no longer has an active post office box address. Please update your automatic bill pay if applicable.

BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Reminder: The next Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) meeting will be Jan. 19, 2017.

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

Monday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., BHA's 30th Annual Santa Visit, Bloomingdale Golfers Club, See Save the Date Flyer!

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS DATES/TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Community Garage Sale- Saturday, Feb. 24

Spring Clean-up- Saturday, March 4

Fall Clean-up day- Saturday Sept. 23

Fall Festival- Saturday, Oct. 21

31st Santa Visit- Saturday Dec. 2

BHA BRIEFS

October Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

General – Fall festival took center stage at the October meeting. The board sends thanks to all sponsors and volunteers who made the event on Oct 22. a success. Special thanks to Not Your Mother's Taxi for providing off-site shuttle support for attendees. During a meeting with Commissioner Stacy White, BHA President George May reported that White has asked county administrator Mike Merrill to make the widening of Lithia Pinecrest Road a priority. The board is currently reviewing association by-laws and articles of incorporation.

Updates

Speeding on Natures Way and Canoga Park Drive - President George May met with Hillsborough County Transportation Division Director Robert Campbell on Oct.27 to discuss the BHA's recent request to implement changes to curb speeding on two of the community's thruways.

The BHA's request was to install 3-way and 4-way stop signs at five intersections along both routes. In Bloomingdale East, intersections are Natures Way and

Glen Haven, Natures Way and Green Hollow, and Natures Way and Springvale. In Bloomingdale West, intersections are Canoga Park and Bloomingfield/Isleton, and Canoga Park and Garnet. According to Campbell, design engineering regulations governing stop sign approval and installation are not met at these intersections. However, he offered other alternatives.

After initial inspection of the requested intersections, county engineers will conduct a traffic study at Natures Way and both Green Hollow and Glen Haven intersections. Design options according to Campbell include stoplight installation, improved speed reduction markings, and/or the addition of roundabouts. He also stated a "the full road" approach would be used meaning engineers will look at ways to provide safer pedestrian flow and dedicated bike lanes, another area of concern. The study will not be completed until early 2017 and resident input will be solicited at a later date.

On Canoga Park, a speed study order has been submitted. Following the study, traffic engineers will look at options to slow traffic along this designated 25 mph route. Again,

details will be shared when known.

Campbell also shared the following:

- A new school zone will be established along Natures Way near Alafia Elementary by December. Reduced speed signs and flashing lights will be installed.
- Crosswalks near the bus stops along Culbreath by the YMCA will be enhanced with prominent markings and LED lighting.
- Directional signs will be installed on Bloomingdale Avenue for the Bloomingdale Library.

Parking in Bloomingdale - The number one resident complaint concerns parking issues. A meeting was held with the Neighborhood Standards Committee, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, County Code Enforcement and HCSO Citizens Patrol on Nov.1 at the BHA office to address the problems and provide options. A meeting report will be in next month's Gazette. However, read the reprinted Tampa Bay Times article on parking, page 5.



↑↓ INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BLOCKING SIDEWALKS...



(Editor's Note: Parking has been the theme of this column for the last few months. The focus of the reprint below is blocking sidewalks, another common resident complaint in the community. The BHA Neighborhood Standards Committee is currently working with HCSO, the Citizens on Patrol coordinator, and Bloomingdale's county code enforcement officer for solutions to this ongoing problem. While clearly, blocking sidewalks is a non-moving traffic violation, other factors make enforcement difficult and haphazard at best. The committee will provide a "best option" overview in next month's Gazette. Email questions/complaints to bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com)

AMONG THE PLACES NOT TO PARK: BLOCKING A SIDEWALK

Lorrie Lykins, Times Correspondent

April 24, 2015, Reprinted with permission from The Tampa Bay Times

"Is it legal to park in such a way as to block a sidewalk, even if it is in your own driveway? I am a frequent walker and I encounter this all the time. There is seldom anyone in the car to complain to. I am able-bodied and can walk around (sometimes into the street is the only path around) but many folks are not." Don Cunningham

The question of legality regarding blocked sidewalks comes up frequently, and as trifling as it may seem to some, it's a significant safety issue. It's also a liability concern for motorists who think nothing of blocking a sidewalk, so it's well worth devoting some time to this week.

The short answer is no, it's not legal in Florida to park in such a way that a sidewalk is blocked, however, literalists may want to argue the language in the state statute, which defines a sidewalk as "that portion of a street between the curblineline, or the lateral line, of a roadway and the adjacent property lines, intended for use by pedestrians."

Although blocking a sidewalk or parking across a sidewalk is not explicitly referenced in the law, parking a vehicle "on a sidewalk" is. Specifically, here's what section 316.1945 of the

chapter of the state statutes that deals with motor vehicle law says regarding stopping, standing, or parking prohibitions in specified places: "Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, no person shall: stop, stand, or park a vehicle on the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street; on a sidewalk; within an intersection; on a crosswalk."

Obviously, from a safety perspective, a blocked sidewalk is problematic for all pedestrians, bicyclists and people who rely on motorized vehicles to get around. Too often they find themselves forced from the relative safety of the sidewalk into the street because sidewalk access is blocked due to a vehicle parked overtop the sidewalk. The Doc recently witnessed such an incident in which a visually impaired pedestrian using a cane to navigate was forced to step into a busy street because a parked delivery vehicle was blocking the sidewalk.

By the way, it's also not legal to stop overtop a sidewalk when waiting to pull out into traffic, no matter if a motorist is entering a roadway from private road or private driveway, or emerging from an alley or the parking lot of a business. Motorists must stop short of a sidewalk — this means no creeping onto a sidewalk area that extends across the alley, building entrance, road or driveway. Even if there is no apparent sidewalk, vehicles have to stop at the point nearest the street that allows the driver a view of approaching traffic and pedestrians.

The bottom line is that parking a vehicle on a sidewalk constitutes a noncriminal traffic infraction in Florida, which is punishable as a nonmoving violation.

Florida laws permits each municipality or county to adopt ordinances regarding the specifics of parking rules as long as they aren't in conflict with state laws, and the clerk of the court or the designated traffic violations bureau collects and distribute the fines, forfeitures, and court costs assessed. Citizens may report vehicles that are parked on sidewalks by contacting the local law enforcement agency's non-emergency phone number.

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SALUTE OUR VETERANS TODAY

23rd Annual Tampa Bay Veteran's Day Parade / Nov. 5 / 10 a.m. / Hanley Road – Between Barry Road and Paula Drive, Tampa / Come honor those who served and welcome the 2016 Honoree Tech Sergeant Earl W. Miller, Jr., U.S. Army, who was awarded both a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

AND ON VETERAN'S DAY

52nd Annual Veteran's Day Tribute / Nov. 11 / 11 a.m. / Veterans Memorial Park / 3602 North U.S. Highway 301, Tampa / This tribute includes a presentation of colors, a performance of the National Anthem, drill demonstrations, an empty chair ceremony for POW and MIA soldiers, a rifle salute and more. For information, call 813-744-5502.



24th Annual Brandon Seafood Festival / Nov. 5 / 11 a.m. / Brandon '86 Rotary Club's Camp Florida / 1915 Camp Florida Road, Brandon / ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT southern fried fish, boiled shrimp, hush puppies, and coleslaw--all day long for the price of admission. Admission is \$20/adult before the event and \$25 at the door, \$10/child ages 12-17 years old, and \$1 or a canned food donation for ages 12 and under. Proceeds benefit local and international charities including Brandon Outreach Clinic, and more. Tickets can be purchased at www.brandonseafestival.com.



Brandon Ballet's Annual Sugar Plum Fairy Tea / Nov. 6 / 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 cost \$20 for adults (13 and up), \$15 for children (12 and under), and are available at www.tututix.com/brandonballet. For information contact the Brandon Ballet at dance@brandonballet.org or 813-684-4282.

Valrico Service League's Harvest Dinner & Auction / Nov. 6 / 5:30 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Center / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / The Valrico Service League's main fundraiser helps them support ECHO, Brandon Outreach Clinic, Center Place, Family Promise of Brandon, and summer activities at A Kid's Place, among others. Tickets are \$30. The event starts at 5:30 p.m., with a catered dinner at 6 and live auction at 6:45. For information, call Claudia Yake at 685-7998 or Sue Hadden at 685-6160.

Mind Boost Workshop: A Program on Brain Health and Exercising Your Mind Nov. 10 / 3-5 p.m. / The Bridges Retirement Community / 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / The Mind Boost workshop will focus on normal changes in memory, steps to improve memory and memory exercises. Sponsored by the South Shore Coalition for Mental Health and Aging. Cost is \$5 and includes refreshments and workshop materials. Space is limited. Call 813-413-8900 to reserve your seat.

A Musical Salute / Nov. 10 / 7 p.m. / First Presbyterian Church of Brandon / 121 Carver Avenue, Brandon / Enjoy a concert of patriotic music performed by the Eastern Hillsborough Community Band honoring veterans. Suggested donation: \$10 at the door; free for children under 18. Proceeds benefit Honor Flight of West Central Florida, a non-profit providing war-era veterans with Honor Tours to Washington, D.C. memorials. For information, contact terriemorrison@verizon.net or 813-655-0990.

The Junior League of Tampa Holiday Gift Market / Nov. 10-13 / Florida State Fairgrounds Expo Hall / 4800 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa / An annual shopping event featuring over 135 specialty merchants offering unique gift items. Gift-wrapping for a nominal fee. Proceeds support The Junior League's programs and community projects. Dates/Times: Nov. 10, 7-10 p.m., Preview Party, tickets required (\$35), Nov. 11, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Cookies with the Clauses, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Nov. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Cookies with the Clauses, 1-3 p.m. General Admission (1 day) \$8; Cookies with the Clauses (child ticket) \$20; Parking \$6 cash. For information, visit jltampa.org or call 813-254-1734.



47th Annual Novemberfest / Nov. 16-20 / Nativity Catholic Church / 705 E. Brandon Blvd., Brandon / Come to the third largest social event in Hillsborough County after the Florida State Fair and the Strawberry Festival. Rides, games, food, and entertainment, and much more! Dates/Times: Nov. 16, 4-10 p.m., Nov. 17, 4-10 p.m., Nov. 18, 4 p.m.-Midnight, Nov. 19, 11 a.m.-Midnight, Nov. 20, 12-8 p.m. Purchase tickets online in advance at www.nativitycatholicchurch.org/novemberfest.

2nd Annual Goody Goody Turkey Gobble 5K / Nov. 24 / 6 a.m. / Begins and ends at Amelie Arena / 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa / A USATF certified course #FL05053DL in downtown Tampa. Proceeds support the YMCA LIVESTRONG® program for cancer survivors and families. Register at runsignup.com: \$30/individual 5k, \$15/1 mile run/walk, \$30/per person for team 5k. Enjoy a post-race breakfast and prizes in several categories. Strollers/dogs welcome. For information, call 813-229-1305.

Wonderland of Lights Drive Thru / Beginning Nov. 24 through Dec. 31 / 6-9 p.m., Sunday-Thursday; 6-10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays / Hillsborough County Fairgrounds / The Greater Brandon Chamber presents fun, family activities, entertainment, Christmas village, wagon rides, North Pole train ride, amusement rides, food and crafts. Vehicles (up to 8 passengers) \$20; Season's Pass \$35 (vehicles only); Coaches, Limos, Mini Vans (9 to 24 seating) \$35; Motor Coaches (25 to 50 seating) \$75. For information, call the Chamber at 813-689-1221.

UPCOMING

6th Annual Holiday Tea / Dec. 4 / 2:30 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Center / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Put on your party hats for the annual Holiday Tea including a lunch, scones, Devonshire cream and desserts. A silent auction and special prizes for the most unique and whimsical hat and table to be awarded. \$35/person or \$250/table of 8. Make table reservations by Nov. 20. Adults only. For information, call 813-685-8888.

Bloomingdale Residents
Save the Date

30th Annual
Santa Claus Visit & Charity Food Drive

Saturday, December 3, 2016
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Bloomingdale Golfers Club
4113 Great Golfers Place, Valrico

Please bring a non-perishable food donation.

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



NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

47th Annual

Novemberfest



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Wed., Nov. 16 • 4pm-10pm

- Carnival Grand Opening

Thu., Nov. 17 • 4pm-10pm

- Law Enforcement and First Responders Appreciation Day

Fri., Nov. 18 • 4pm-Midnight

- Soul Circus Cowboys Band-8pm

Sat., Nov. 19 • 11 am-Midnight

- Craft Beer Tasting-5-7pm
- Southern Train Band-7:30 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 20 • 12pm-8pm

- Nativity Alumni Homecoming Day • Family Fun Day & Military Appreciation Day • Riverview High School Choir-2:15 p.m.



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BSTD Team Adds New Office Manager

By Susan DeLuca

Wife, mother, volunteer, college graduate, community relations expert, reporter, photographer, and now Bloomingdale Special Taxing District office manager – is there anything Miriam Leech can't do? Well, yes, there is. With husband, Tom, now a retired Navy Captain, she is no longer a frequent mover and has made Bloomingdale a permanent home.

Hired in July, the BSTD office manager position came at just the right time for Leech. "I had been a stay-at-home mom for 21 years, and was about to become an empty nester. I thought it would be a perfect job—I know this community, the office is close to home, and the hours are flexible," she said.

Not only does she manage the BSTD office, she is the senior staff reporter for The Bloomingdale Gazette. For over three years, she has used her skills and Bloomingdale connections to report on topics of interest in and around the community.



Photo: Susan DeLuca

Miriam Leech, office manager for the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District.

Leech has served on the Holiday Cards for Troops committee for the past two years, an annual event that takes place at Center Place. "I stamp, watercolor, and create cards for all occasions. And through that have become a part of a community of extremely talented and generous crafters who also find ways to give back to their communities or to those in need through card drives and crafting events," said the tireless volunteer and avid card maker.

As for her goals with the BSTD, she said, "[I want] to improve communications between the BSTD and the Bloomingdale community. I want residents to feel they can bring concerns to the BSTD office, and that they will be heard and addressed when possible." She went on to say, "I would like to see the BSTD, the BHA, and the residents of Bloomingdale work together to ensure that road construction, zoning, retail development, and traffic issues in this area do not have a negative impact on this community."

For Leech, making a difference is a priority. Meet her at the Bloomingdale Community Office located at 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 8am to noon; she can also be reached at 813-684-6667 or bstd@verizon.net.

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

BLOOMINGDALE

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

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

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

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

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

What's Popping Up Around Bloomingdale

By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

Bloomingdale residents love their pets! So residents who walk their dogs may have noticed new Dog Waste Pots have popped up around our community!

Most of the previous Dog-I-Pots, installed in 2012, had broken lids, which was allowing rain water into the waste container. This was making for an unpleasant mess! Property Manager Rick Pitrowski brought a proposal before the Board of Trustees in September for new, aluminum pots that would better keep out the water. With unanimous Board approval, 22 new waste pots were installed over the last few months.

Popping up soon will be new trash receptacles to replace the 15 various-styled cans currently located throughout the District. The new cans will have anchored lids for security, and removable black plastic liners with built-in handles for easy removal. This is just another step the Board of Trustees is taking to keep the community looking nice and neat and pleasant for the residents.

Also as part of the Board's efforts to keep Bloomingdale beautiful, our property manager is working to have signs and utility boxes cleaned or repainted that have become unsightly. Both TECO and Frontier have been contacted and asked to address the appearance of their boxes. Frontier will not clean boxes unless they have graffiti on them; however, TECO is usually responsive.

The BSTD is asking residents also to contact TECO so that they hear from a collective voice that their boxes in Bloomingdale need to be painted. The contact person is Eugene Robbins at 813-630-6215 or aerobbins@teco.com.

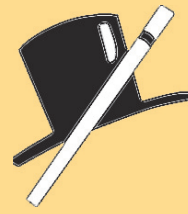


Twenty-two new aluminum dog waste pots were recently installed throughout Bloomingdale to replace the old receptacles that were allowing water to collect in the containers.

Photo: Miriam Leech



President Dave West, Trustee Rusty Jones, Trustee Tom Leech, and Treasurer Mark Horst represented the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) at the Fall Festival for the first time, and distributed information on what the District does for the residents.



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3248 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

BLOOMINGDALE

654-9292

1025 E. Bloomingdale Ave.

BRANDON MALL

684-4499

913 Brandon Blvd.

BRANDON

643-6944

1836 W. Lumsden Rd.

FISHHAWK

654-7991

16707 FishHawk Blvd.

PLANT CITY

752-6631

2621 Thonotosassa Rd.

(Plant City Crossings)

RIVERVIEW

672-1832

11697 Boyette Rd.

RIVERVIEW

671-4156

13196 Hwy. 301 S.

SEFFNER

684-5897

1515 N. Parsons Ave.

VALRICO

654-2324

1999 E. Brandon Blvd

(SR 60)

VALRICO

643-4825

2511 S.R. 60 E.

373668-1

BHA Fall Festival is a Winner

By Susan DeLuca

While the golfers played, kids ate candy, and Darth Vader walked the putting field. An unusual combination for a golf course, but not so, at the annual Fall Festival held by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association on Oct. 22 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club. Over 1,300 guests enjoyed spectacular weather, ate free Italian ice, tasted award-winning BBQ, went Trick or Treating, and watched demonstrations and contests around the clubhouse area.

“This is the BHA’s largest event and one we look forward to hosting and improving every year,” said a tired, but elated event chairperson Mary Galin. “I am ready to do it again!”

FALL FESTIVAL

Adding to the successful event were more than 50 vendors who donated raffles, provided activities and games, and had the opportunity to introduce their services to the community. All participated in the popular Trick or Treat Street.

Resident comments were overwhelmingly positive and included “This is great” and “I can’t believe how much there is for the children to do. They are really loving it!” The Goddard family, who just moved to Bloomingdale a few months ago, said this is their first community event. Laura Goddard said, “We are really loving this, the community is great!”

Pet Costume Contest Winners!

Even four-legged furry friends had a good time at the BHA’s Fall Festival.



And the First Place winners are...
BatDog aka Odin and Robin,
3-year old Mason Faircloth.

Photo: Joy Boisselle



Second and Third place winners
Presidential candidate Duke
(owners Angela and Brenden
Foley) and Bun Bun, the Vampire
bunny (owned by Sierra Michael)
share the spotlight with Heather
Michael and her pup, Roscoe.

Courtesy Photo: Heather Michael



The creation of a masterpiece! Thanks to Pinot’s Palette, our residents and guests for their combined efforts in the making of our community “masterpiece.” Gorilla artist is Jason Knipp. Courtesy Photos: Pinot’s Palette of Brandon

What makes this event fall-tastic? Our Sponsors!



Diamond Sponsors, \$500 or more



Bloomington Homeowners Association, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico 813-681-2051
BHA Fall Festival Chairwoman Mary Galin and daughter, Anna, celebrate a great day with mascots: Brandon Crossroads Bowl King Pin, Campo YMCA "Y" Guy, the beloved Lightning Thunderbug, Chick-fil-A Cow, and Mathnasium's A+. **Photo: Joy Boisselle**

Bloomington Golfers Club, 4113 Great Golfers Pl, Valrico, 813-685-4105 and golf pro J.D. Carino of John E.S. Cochrane Golf Schools, CarinoJD@Verizon.net, 813-957-3205
Through a fun activity, Carino taught more than 90 kids at the Fall Festival, including two-year-old Tucker McKendree! **Photo: Miriam Leech**



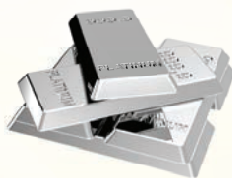
Mathnasium of Brandon, 1048 Bloomington Ave., www.mathnasium.com Brandon, 813-655-MATH (6284)

Mathnasium of Brandon was a popular sponsor this year. Their booth had a steady stream of visitors vying for treats, like Bloomington resident Xander Kaim. Mr. A+, the business mascot, was a crowd pleaser too. **Photos: Miriam Leech**



Ray Chadderton, The Chadderton Real Estate Group, ray@chaddertongroup.com www.chaddertongroup.com, 813-601-0597
Ray Chadderton and his team, from left to right: Kim Stromberg, Natalia Moreno, Ronnie McLaughlin and Paige Smith, is one to thank for the BHA's Fall Festivals. As its originator and a diamond sponsor, he continues to invest in the Bloomington Community. **Photo: Susan DeLuca**

Earthwise Pet Supply, Christopher Klecic and Mark Renfrow, 3454 Lithia Pinecrest Rd, Valrico, Valrico@EarthWisePet.com, fb.com/EarthWisePetValrico
Earthwise Pet is a great supporter of the Fall Festival. Each year, they donate time, money, and prizes for the fest's pet costume contest. At their booth are Christy Klecic and Susan Renfrow. **Photo: Miriam Leech**



Platinum Sponsors, \$250 or more

Not pictured: River Crossing Community Association, Outback Steakhouse off Brandon Blvd., and Galin Homes of Tampa Bay, Inc., Larry Galin, Larry@GalinHomesOfTampaBay.com, www.GalinHomesOfTampaBay, 813-695-1598.



Bush Ross, P.A., Eric Appleton, Esq., 1801 N. Highland Ave., Tampa, Florida 33602 flabrake@bushross.com, www.bushross.com 813-224-9255
BHA attorney Eric Appleton and team are newcomers to the festival. Pictured with Appleton are Michelle Drab, Francesca LaBrake and Tiffany McElheran. **Photo: Joy Boisselle**

Get The Facts Home Inspection, Joe Svehla, Joe@getthefactshomeinspection.com, 813-785-4620 www.getthefactshomeinspection.com

If you want to make sure the house your home is safe and secure, Joe Svehla, Certified Master Inspector, is the one to call. Joe, seen here with his son Jacob, is a Bloomington Resident who can help with a variety of inspection needs whether buying, selling or maintaining. **Photo: Susan DeLuca**



Music Showcase/Florida Academy of the Performing Arts, Debbie Evans debbie@musicshowcaseonline.com

Want to learn how to play the drums? Stop by Music Showcase and sign up for lessons. Jessica Collins shows how easy it is. **Photo: Susan DeLuca**



South Brandon SmilesIncluded 611 East Bloomington Ave. www.SmilesIncluded.com 813-606-5978

Another new sponsor, SmilesIncluded, provided a sought-after raffle prize... a top-of-the-line electric toothbrush. **Photo: Miriam Leech**



Brandon Crossroads Bowl, Andy White 609 Crater Ln, Tampa acwhite84@live.com, 813-621-2363

Will it be a spare? Youngsters anxiously watch as the ball moves down the lane provided by Brandon Crossroads Bowl. **Photo: Susan DeLuca**



And More Sponsors!



Voted best vendor booth at this year's festival was Jeremiah's Italian Ice. Perhaps, the free Italian ice samples helped sway the vote! On duty are Kara Stover and Jordan Pendergrass.
Photo: Joy Boisselle



Paris would like you to adopt him! This friendly, obedience-trained dog is being held by Robin March, Director of 4 Lucky Dogs Pet Rescue.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Sarge's Smokehouse BBQ is set and ready to serve their award-winning barbecue at the start of the day's festivities. Bloomingdale resident and retired Army 1st Sgt. Ken Sebourn is a partner in the business, which serves delicious barbecue staples across the Tampa Bay area. Pulled Pork was a fan favorite.
Photo: Miriam Leech

The Noah's Ark Vet Clinic team received lots of attention thanks to their four-legged buddy. From left to right: Stephanie Flynn, Natalia Cano, Monique Manno, Dr. Sharon Hunter, and Arley Frady. The team donated two wellness packages to the event.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Flo? No! Pat Magruder of Magruder Agency, Inc. and Darcy Jackson (left) wait for Trick or Treat Street to open.
Photo: Susan DeLuca

Greg Miller of Organo Gold shares a cup 'o joe before the event with BHA Vice-President and volunteer coordinator Dann Berkowitz.
Photo: Joy Boisselle



Rose and Scott Laviano, owners of YoYo Juice offered a wide variety of refreshments to fest-goers.
Photo: Miriam Leech

The Activities!

The Tampa Bay Lightning Thunderbug is a perennial Fall Festival favorite. He "danced", interacted with fans young and young at heart, judged contests, raced with fellow mascots, tried out a USA Trike, hugged until he could hug no more, and hung out with event staff and Gazette reporters. What a bug!



Thunderbug Does Zumba
Photo: Miriam Leech

USA Trike AdVentures, owned by Bloomingdale resident John Spina, proved to be too tempting for Thunderbug!
Photo: Joy Boisselle



A Thunderbug Hug
Photo: Joy Boisselle



Thunderbug and County Code Enforcement Officer Christine Zien and Thunderbug
Photo: Joy Boisselle



Thunderbug Wants You!
Photo: Miriam Leech



Mary Galin & Thunderbug
Photo: Miriam Leech



Miriam Leech & Thunderbug
Courtesy Photo: Miriam Leech



Two bouncy houses were a real hit with the youngsters.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Heather Freitag of Heather Rose Photography captures twins Antonio and Juliana Lembo, age 3, at her booth where she offered free photographs for the day. Check out her link for your photos at <http://heatherosephoto.zenfolio.com/bhoa2016>.
Photo: Miriam Leech



Two Hot Dogs!
Courtesy Photo: Heather Rose Photography



And they're off! A competitive group of mascots raced to the finish line as visitors cheered them on. After a near disastrous start, King Pin righted himself and sprinted past Thunderbug for the win.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Team K Tae Kwon Do put on an incredible show for fest-goers. Their demo teams are an annual and highly anticipated part of the fest. Using the sound of a bell to guide him to his mark, a blindfolded student demolished a board held by instructor Gwan Hong.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Citizen Patrol, staffed entirely by volunteers, entertained kids with lights and sirens while providing valuable information to their parents. From left: Art Jorgensen, one of four Team Leaders in Bloomingdale; Jorge Bueno; and Cody Farrington.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Batman, Darth Vader, hot dogs and princesses were just a few of the many creative costumes in parade during the Children's Costume Contest. Keeping the group on task was DJ Gary Randolph who spun the tunes during the well-attended event.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Batman, Julian Odel, shows off his 6-pack abs and dance moves as he joins Crunch Zumba instructor during a fitness demonstration.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Proving girls can too, another demo team student shows impressive technique during her axe kick break.
Photo: Miriam Leech



Heather Michael of Salon Jennifer volunteered her time at the BHA Craft table where younger residents made bracelets, colored, and played games for trinkets. Heather and Salon Jennifer have long been BHA supporters. Plan to attend their 10th anniversary celebration on Monday, Nov. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at the salon. The evening will feature refreshments, door prizes, raffles, and a chance to mingle with home-based businesses in our area. Salon Jennifer & Company is located at 3507 Bell Shoals Rd. Call 681-6364 for information.
Photo: Miriam Leech



Morgan Smedley painted faces for the second year in a row, pleasing youngsters like Juliana Lembo, age 3.
Photo: Miriam Leech



At the Bloomingdale Branch Library of Hillsborough County Public Libraries booth, Wrynn Morgan, age 2, and Lauren Fleming, age 1 1/2, cuddle up with a big bear held by Children's Library aide Lanette Jackson.
Photo: Miriam Leech

FALL FESTIVAL



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Photo: Susan DeLuca



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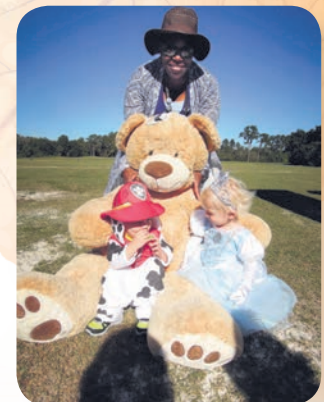
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Photo: Miriam Leech

And Our Volunteers and Residents!



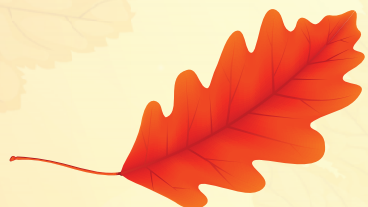
What received lots of attention at the festival? Two very large dogs, owned by Adrian Morris. Morris who devotes his spare time to volunteer work at the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center and wife Mary rescue Great Pyrenees. Resident Veena Sriram steals kisses from Greta and 5 month-old Jasper.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Bloomington toddler Maggie Geary shows off her spooky face painting with a big smile.
Photo: Miriam Leech



Without volunteers, there would be no Fall Festival. Three hard workers take a rare break. From left to right: Julia Bellomo, Abigail Bellomo, and Rachel Santarlas.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



"Look at what I have!" Heather Kennedy's two youngsters and two of their friends showing off some of the goodies they received on Trick or Treat Street.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



BHA President George May and BHA Secretary Suzy Watts greeted residents as they arrived for the Fall Festival.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Putting green took on a completely new meaning as parents relaxed while watching their children enjoy one of two bouncy houses.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



FALL FESTIVAL



Elizabeth Ellis showed off her face painting and her Black Widow super hero costume.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Is she going to win? Resident Brooke Curtiss hopes so as she spins the wheel at Big Frog's booth while owner Gerald Ayers looks on.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Bloomington Resident Dana Geary with daughter Maggie visits the LuLaRoe booth manned by Lee Anne Bodzenski.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Sisters Ryana, age 8, and Cyana, age 4, Baptiste enjoy their photo op with the Y Guy.
Photo: Miriam Leech



After a busy Fire Prevention Week in October, Sparky the Fire Dog®, the official mascot of NFPA, showed up at the BHA's Fall Festival. No, Sparky is actually festgoer Wrynn Morgan enjoying a piece of candy.
Photo: Miriam Leech



Hunter Jones helps himself to a handful of candy during the BHA's Trick or Treat Street. Just one was not an option.
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Raffle ticket sales cover Fall Festival expenses. BHA Director Bobbi Ferraro's winning smile helped to sell a large number of tickets this year.
Photo: Susan DeLuca

Thank You to our Remaining Sponsors and Participants

Gold Sponsors, \$150 or more

Salon Jennifer, Heather Michael, hairgirl75@gmail.com, 813-340-6457

Cambridge Cove HOA

Seniors Helping Seniors, Mike Morrow, 3825 Turkey Oak Dr., 813-610-2262, shs.mikemorrow@gmail.com, www.seniorshelpingseniors.com/easttampa.

Pinot's Palette, Beverly Walker, 2086 Badlands St, Brandon, FL 33511, beverly.art2life@gmail.com, 813-618-3064

Tampa Bay Times, 11268 Winthrop Main St., Ste. 101, 813-226-3351

Noah's Ark Animal Hospital, 4338 Bell Shoals Road, 813-662-7275

Organo Gold, Greg Miller, 510 Wynnwood Drive, fulton1948@hotmail.com, 813-359-7520

Magruder Insurance Agency, Inc., Patricia Macgruder, 655 W Lumsden Rd, patricia@macgruderagency.com, 813-654-3100

USA Trike Adventures, LLC, John and Chad Spina, spinajohn@verizon.net, usatrikeadventures@gmail.com, www.usatrikeadventuresllc.com, 813-404-0714

Crunch Fitness, 3236 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., 813-381-4106

Heather Rose Photography, Heather Fenzau, hfenzauphoto@gmail.com, www.heatherosephoto.com, 813-431-6102

Chick-fil-A Brandon and Chick-fil-A Bloomingdale, Paul and Tammy Holmberg, 11325 Causeway Blvd., 813-655-1237

Jeremiah's Italian Ice, Bloomingdale Ave., www.JeremiahsIce.com

YoYo Juice, Scott and Rose Laviano, scott@yoyojuice.com, 413-847-0399

Sarge's Smokehouse BBQ, www.sargessmokehousebbq.com, sargesbbq@gmail.com www.facebook.com/SargesSmokehouseBbq, 813-285-6097

Not Your Mother's Taxi, Roger Cleworth, www.notyourmotherstaxi.com, 813-406-8294



Silver Sponsors, \$75 or more

HealthSource Chiropractic, Leesa Polley, 166 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Ste. B, leesapolley@yahoo.com, 813-518-8356

Citrus Clean, Jim Hirz, 10911 Elliot St., Riverview, jim@citruscleantampa.com, www.CitrusCleanTampa.com, 813-314-7800

Handy Randy from the South, Randy Oxendine, columnmaster1@yahoo.com, 813-245-0629

Mary Kay, Christine Rabel, crabel@marykay.com, 813-758-3533

Big Frog Custom T-Shirts and More, Valrico, 813-684-2873

"Thirty-One" by SeAnn Degenhardt, seanndegenhardt@gmail.com, 813.205.0369

Susan Dobbs, Licensed Massage Therapist, 710 Oakfield Drive, Ste. 104, susan.ellee@verizon.net, 813-523-1199

Pampered Chef, Kim Reed, creed05@hotmail.com

Edward Jones Financial Planners, Melissa Haskins, keyes.melissa@gmail.com

LuLaRoe, Lee Anne Bodzenski, Lularoeleeannebodzenski@gmail.com, 813-514-3084

FITniche, 3428 Lithia Pinecrest Road, rich@fitniche.com or liz@fitniche.com, 813-502-5919

Team K Martial Arts, GiYong Jung, 1015 Bloomingdale Ave., teamktdk@outlook.com, 813-643-4262

Erin NeSmith, Professional Coach & Mentor, erin@growintoyoufoundation.org, www.grownintoyoufoundation.org, 813-966-4582

Sky Zone, 10137 E Adamo Dr, 813-833-1740

Alafia Driving Academy - Learn to Drive!, Cole Dolmseth, www.alafiadrivingacademy.com/

King Green's Auto Detailing, Valrico, FL, 813-447-6893

Premier Designs Jewelry, Zoey White, zoeywhite.mypremierdesigns.com, 813-476-0336

Termite Pest Control, Bonnie Tekampe, bonnie@tnttermiteandpestcontrol.com, www.tnttermiteandpestcontrol, 813-716-9196

Adorable Pets By Dena, Dena Craig, adorablepetsbydena@gmail.com, 813-684-5693

Campo YMCA, 3414 Culbreath Rd., 813-684-1371

Pure Power Productions, Gary R. Randolph, www.purepowerav.com, events@purepowerav.com 813-699-4963

Jetstream Pressure Washing, Frank Hall, 401 Limona Rd, Brandon, 813-438-9211

LeAnn's Cheesecakes N More, www.leannscheesecakesnmore@gmail.com.

Fall Fest Partners Non-Profit and/or Donating Coupons/Raffles

Romano's Macaroni Grill

Chipotle

Shrimp Boat

Burger Monger

New York Pizza

Nail Country and Tan

Chili's Grill and Bar

McDonalds

Panera Bread

Bloomingdale Library

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

Hillsborough County Citizen's Patrol

The Outreach Clinic

Guardian ad Litem Program

Valrico Chamber of Commerce

Hillsborough County Code Enforcement

CORE Cooking Oil Disposal

Domestic Wastewater Permitting Program

4 Lucky Pets Dog Rescue

Sweetie's Delight Bakery

Fresh Market



Source: HCSO

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

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

No Bloomingdale Area Community Council Meeting (BACC) in November and December. The next BACC meeting will be Jan. 19, 2017.

BLOCKING SIDEWALKS AND MAIL BOXES

Residents are reminded that it is illegal to block sidewalks next to their property. The regulations that cover these rules come under both Federal and State Government (The Americans with Disabilities Act- ADA), Florida Statute Section 316.1945 and County Code Enforcement ordinances. Also, U.S. Postal Service rules state that any time a personal mailbox is blocked by a vehicle the postal carrier is not required by USPS to deliver mail to that address.

AREA LAW AND ORDER

Between Sept. 18 and Oct. 18, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) conducted 131 traffic stops in the Bloomingdale and surrounding area known as J04 Zone. J04 zone encompasses not only Bloomingdale, but also down to the Lithia area. Please be patient when you are requesting a deputy for a non-emergency incident.

In Bloomingdale, there were five auto burglaries and two residential burglaries. The fact that only two homes were burglarized is great news, but still, that is two too many. Remember to secure your home and garage doors and lock your vehicles. Reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim!

VANDALISM UPDATE

There were seven cases of vandalism investigated in Bloomingdale. Vehicle windshields and back windows, along with mailboxes were damaged. No property was taken. Anyone with information is asked to call HCSO at 247-8200. Homeowners with security cameras in the areas where vandalism occurs are asked to check their cameras for possible evidence and report it to HCSO.

REMEMBER: If you see suspicious activity, call and report it to the HCSO Non-Emergency Dispatch Line at 247-8200. In an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Holiday Safety Tips! Check out the National Safety Council's website for excellent info on how to keep your family and home safe during the holidays at www.nsc.org/holidaysafety.

Shoppers: Be cautious and aware of your surroundings. Lock packages or other valuables in your trunk and always lock your vehicles.

Homeowners: Prepare and secure your home before you head out for holiday traveling, festivities and shopping. Let trusted neighbors know when you will be out of town and when you will return. Leave contact numbers in the case of an emergency. If you are going out of town, complete "Security Watch" requests at the HCSO Bloomingdale Community Station at 3622 Erindale Drive.

HAVE A SAFE AND SECURE THANKSGIVING AND HOLIDAY SEASON!

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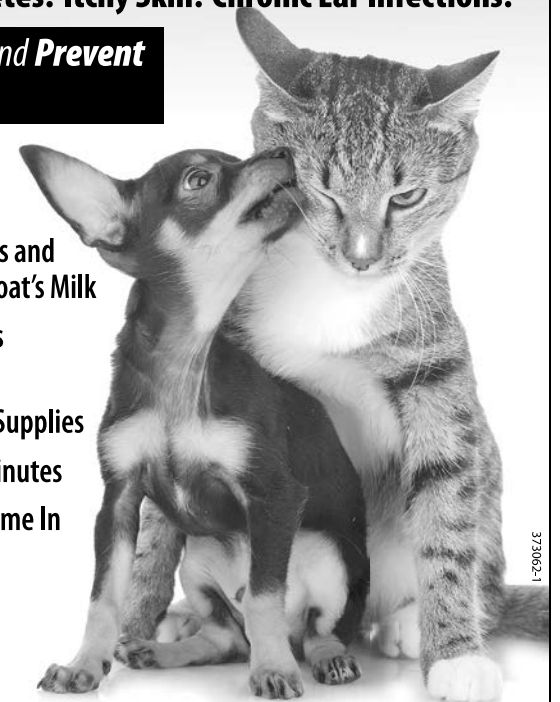
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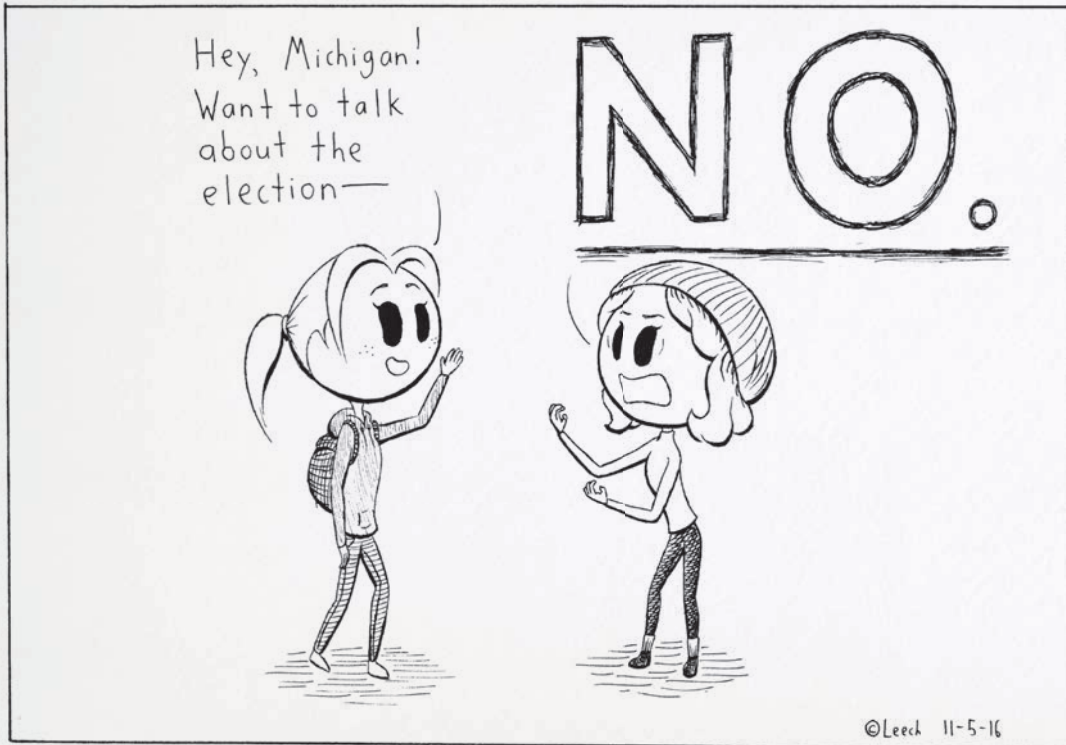
Located in the FishHawk Ranch Publix Shopping Center

www.doggoneholistic.biz

Michigan

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

Michigan by Will Leech



Bella Y. Patel Courtyard Unveiled at Campo Family YMCA

By Miriam Leech

On Oct. 24, the Bella Y. Patel Courtyard was unveiled at the Campo Family YMCA. Thanks to a generous \$45,000 gift from the Patel family, the Y is improving its outdoor courtyard to better serve children, teens, and families. Expansions include a boot camp exercise area, outdoor basketball court, concrete/AstroTurf pad for group classes, and outdoor grill cooking stations for free weekly family events and activities included in a YMCA family membership. In addition, YMCA Summer Camp's educational curriculum will take place at the new courtyard. A portion of the Patel family donation will also go toward the Campo Y's annual campaign, giving those in need the opportunity to participate in YMCA programs. Pictured from left to right are Tampa YMCA President and CEO Tom Looby, Nimit Patel, Dr. Sephalie Patel, Bella Y. Patel, Yogesh Patel, and Campo YMCA Board Chair Cindy Moran.



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813-654-7000
www.krkcirca.com
5815 Kids Crossing Drive
Located between Stowers Elementary & Mosaic

379576-1



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.



Happy Birthday to Me. Bleah.

You know, when I was a kid, birthdays were anticipated much like Christmas. In August, I would begin the “count down,” informing my mother daily of the limited number of shopping days remaining until the Great November Event. I would awaken on The Day with a great sense of expectancy, knowing that *this*, above all other days of the year, was my day in the sun.

Schoolmates would gather ‘round and sing that tune so dear to childish hearts (“Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday, dear Ellen, you belong in a zoo.” Remember?) My nun-of-the-year would, with great flourish, present me with a “little remembrance,” usually a holy card of St. Helen (it was as close as she could get. There is no St. Ellen. Until now, anyway).

That evening Mom would fuss over the candles on my cake, Dad would brag about my resemblance to him and my brother would sulk and try to horn in on my limelight. But the best part of a childhood birthday was the next day when all children miraculously skipped the intervening six months and became 10 and A HALF or 12 and A HALF, etc., etc.. This calendar jump invariably made our mothers go gray and shriek, “Will you kindly remember that the older *you* get, the older *I* get? Knock it off!”

I sailed through my 20’s, scoffed at my 30’s, snickered at my 40’s and shrugged at my 50’s. This year, I plan to celebrate by naming all of my crow’s feet.



This grumpiness is really not my fault. We are – all of us – victims of a youth-oriented society constantly reinforced by the media. Audi is currently running a commercial which shows a young man behind the wheel who has obviously just mastered the rudiments of potty training. Breakfast cereals tell me I can eat Wheaties and swim races with Michael Phelps or join the rest of the old codgers snarfing fiber and fretting about irregularity. I can joyfully gulp soft drinks with models glowing with dewy health or take a furtive nip of Geritol. About the only commercials you’ll see featuring “mature” folks involve incontinence, funeral choices, or life insurance. Well, yay.

I don’t know. Maybe I just need an attitude adjustment. So I’m having another birthday. So what? The alternative’s even more depressing. Bring on the candles. And the fire department.

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NOV. 11 - VETERANS DAY, NO SCHOOL
NOV. 17 - GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN
NOV. 21 - 25 - FALL BREAK

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



Great American Teach-In / Nov. 17 / Hillsborough County Public Schools / Share your career; share your life—with children. The Great American Teach-In was initiated in 1990 as a joint effort of SERVE, the Hillsborough Education Foundation, local businesses, and leading educators. The purpose of this day is to encourage employees, businesses, community leaders, sports figures, local personalities, retirees, community volunteers, and parents to become involved in education by sharing what they know with a new generation. If you do not have a specific school, please call 813-872-5254 or email Crystal.Russell@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

- Nov. 7 – Conference Night, 4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Assembly, 9-10 a.m.
- Nov. 10 – Track meet at Newsome, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – Track meet at Bloomingdale, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 29 – Winter Chorus Concert, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1 – Winter Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 3 – Poinsettia Delivery, 9-10 a.m.

BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

- Nov. 7 – General Athletic Booster Club Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 9 – Mr. and Mrs. Bloomingdale Contest, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 10 – Boys/Girls Soccer @ Durant, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Concert, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 12 – Garage Sale Fundraiser, 8 a.m., school parking lot
- Nov. 15 – Girls Basketball vs Spoto, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 16 – Cheer Competition, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – Boys/Girl Soccer @ Brandon, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – Improv Show, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – Girls Basketball vs Armwood, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 28 – Boys/Girls Soccer vs Armwood, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 29 – Boys/Girls Soccer @ King, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 29 – Boys/Girls Basketball vs Plant City, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 30 – Girls Lacrosse Informational Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 1 – Cheer @ Newsome, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 – Boys/Girls Basketball @ TBT, 6 p.m.



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Nov. 9 – Times Square Pizza Spirit Night

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Nov. 7 – Pastries with the Principal, 7:15 a.m. 4th grade & 8:15 a.m. 5th grade
 Nov. 9 – Progress Alerts Go Home
 Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Program, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
 Nov. 14 – Fall Picture Retakes
 Nov. 28-Dec. 2 – Book Fair, Media Center



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 Nov. 7-15 – Book Fair, 9 a.m.

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The one goal the Lady Bulls volleyball team starts each season with is to bring home a state championship. The 2016 season was no exception. The freshly crowned District Champ Lady Bulls had a real chance until their meeting with the East Lake Eagles on Oct. 25 at the Regional Quarterfinals. After taking a two set lead, East Lake battled back and in a 5th set nail biter bested the Lady Bulls 3-2.

Leading the team is Coach Claudia Cabrera, an avid volleyball player herself. "I played in college at HCC for two years, transferred to USF and then played there." She has been the volleyball coach at BSHS for three years and said, "They are a really good group of girls."

Next year, the always loaded with talent and depth Lady Bulls will begin their quest again.

The Lady Bulls secured the District Championship on Oct. 20 against East Bay High School. Spiking for the win was junior Gabrielle Culhane under the watchful eye of teammate and junior Emilee Runnells. **Courtesy Photo: Chris Sharp of Razor Sharp Photos. Sharp specializes in sports photography and portrait sessions with athletes. For information, contact Chris Sharp at 813-545-8332 or by email at onefastpony@verizon.net.**

Alexandra Neyra, a Bloomingdale Resident, has played volleyball for over six years. This season was a tough one for the talented sophomore who was sidelined with an injury early in the season. Good news for the future Lady Bulls – The sophomore has two more years of eligibility. Asked what makes this team special, Neyra said, "We are all best friends; we all get along pretty well – we work together well."



Photo: Susan DeLuca

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BSHS Homecoming Dance Brings Old Hollywood to Life

By Susan DeLuca



Humphrey Bogart and Judy Garland were just two guests representing “Old Hollywood” at the 2016 Bloomingdale High School Homecoming Dance on Sept. 15 at the school. Stylishly dressed students walked a red carpet that led them through a Hollywood Hall of Fame surrounded by golden lights, movie marquees, and the glitter of chandeliers on the ceiling. Student Council organizers paid attention to the details by including a Hollywood sign replica and providing unique Hollywood-themed photo ops.

At the well-attended event, the enthusiastic crowd danced, talked, and took selfies throughout the evening. USF graduate DJ Ron Mic provided the tunes, while Chef Peggy’s culinary class provided refreshments and desserts. As a remembrance of the evening, organizers provided free photos to guests.

Lastly, the Homecoming Court, with king and queen Vlad Zavala and Natasha Neyra were presented to the students who greeted them with a resounding applause.



Student Council event organizers provided unique photo ops for guests throughout the evening. In a filmstrip mock-up, students shared space with Hollywood legends Peek, Garland and Bogart.



Crowned the 2016 BSHS Homecoming King and Queen are Vlad Zavala and Natasha Neyra.

Photos: Susan DeLuca



Homecoming is a Win for Bulls Football Team and Fans

By Susan DeLuca



Bulls huddle to determine the next play.



After the 80-yard run, Williams looks to the referee for confirmation...Touchdown! He is the team's leading scorer with 11 touchdowns this season.



With determination etched on his face, running back DJ Williams executes a perfect 80-yard run.

Photos: Susan DeLuca

With rousing cheers and screams of delight from a packed stadium, the Bloomingdale Bulls football team brought home a win at the Oct. 14 homecoming game with a 40-34 victory over crosstown rivals East Bay High School. Plenty of action was seen as the Bulls continuously worked the ball down the field and scored repeatedly, including two successful field goals. There was no shortage of school spirit as BSHS cheerleaders, the school’s spirit leaders, encouraged fans, including a large group of alumni and Bloomingdale Boosters to cheer loudly and proudly for their team.

It was a special night in many ways. The Bulls added a win to their season, a Homecoming King and Queen were crowned, and Athletic Director Donny Peek announced this year’s Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees.



Quarterback Tyler Hunter, a junior, fires a pass while under intense pressure from East Bay defenders. Hunter’s stats include 63 completions, nearly 1,000 total yards and 7 touchdown passes, all well above the national average. Courtesy Photo: Chris Sharp of **Razor Sharp Photos**. Sharp specializes in sports photography and portrait sessions with athletes. For information, contact Chris Sharp at 813-545-8332 or by email at onefastpony@verizon.net.





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Cimino's Fall Festival Filled with Family Fun

By Wendy Knipp

Cimino Elementary School delighted its students and the public with its annual Fall Festival, which took place on Oct. 28. Each year, the school opens its grounds to the community for a night of fun and fundraising.

Highlights of the evening included carnival games, bounce houses, a mock jail, and performances by many talented musicians, actors, and dancers. "DJ Coach Macko" spun tunes in the courtyard.

All fest-goers had favorite activities. Cimino fourth-grader Aislin Lago stated putting her older brother Nicholas in jail was her favorite. When asked which carnival game was his favorite, fourth-grader Matthew Nava replied, "I liked them all!"

So, with all this fun, how was money raised and what was it used for? Fundraising included selling wristbands, food tickets, business tables, and holding a highly anticipated silent auction. Proceeds will go toward classroom enhancements.

The community also benefited from Cimino's Fall Festival. Students needing community service hours volunteered. Local businesses rented tables to advertise, network, and sell their products. They also donated items toward the silent auction baskets, which were viewed by hundreds of potential customers.

Students at Cimino love this annual festival because they get to enjoy being at school with their families. Gwen Porter, a first-grade teacher, has organized the festival for the past seven years. Of the students, she said, "That's their favorite part – to let loose and have fun on campus with their families. This is probably the most memorable event for them."



Aislin and Nicholas Lago enjoyed the hair painting booth.



A big draw at the Fall Festival were the bounce houses.

Photos: Wendy Knipp



Cimino's Cougar Challenge is a Success

By Wendy Knipp

Cimino Elementary School's PTA has done it again. They held a fundraiser that lasted less than two hours and yet raised enough money to fund their PTA events and supplement the school for the entire year. This year the Challenge took place on Sept. 30 and before expenses, raised over \$48,000. As a PTA-hosted event, it, the organization retained 100 percent of the proceeds.

The Cougar Challenge is an annual walkathon that started in 2011. Students collect donations and on Challenge day, they are given twenty minutes to walk a parking lot as many times as they can. Parents can either walk with their child or volunteer.

Countless hours go into planning the event. Angela Harvey, a parent volunteer, said, "I love how everyone comes together to support our great school." Students also have their favorite parts of the Challenge. Bryce Harvey, a first grader, likes "to run fast and get the popsicles at the end."

Fundraising Chair for Cimino's PTA Leslie Fidler explained, "It's our fifth year and every year, I'm amazed that Cimino families have raised more money than the year prior."

Proceeds benefit PTA events, classroom support, school improvement, technology upgrades, and student clubs including the Green Club and the Butterfly Garden. Recess is also a big winner as it receives approximately \$5,000. Fidler remarked, "I'm so glad that the PTA is able to donate toward the cost of recess aides."

Business sponsors are essential to the Cougar Challenge as they donate money, shirts, and other necessities. This year, Abdoney Pediatric Dentistry was the Event Sponsor with many other generous businesses also contributing.

For information or to donate, contact Leslie Fidler or David Turcios at CiminoWaysAndMeans@yahoo.com.



Cimino students ran laps to raise money.

Photo: Wendy Knipp

Fundraising Chair Leslie Fidler (left) and Cimino PTA President Tiffany Gleason (right) in kicking off the Cougar Challenge.



Photo: Leslie Fidler

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