



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXVII 🌿 ISSUE 10 🌿 OCTOBER 2017 🌿 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to present
2017 Annual



Fall Festival

Saturday, October 28, 2017
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bloomingtondale High School Stadium
1700 E Bloomingtondale Ave.

FREE



Our FREE family-friendly event features:

- "Trick or Treat" Street
- Food trucks
- Children's and pet's costume contests
- Bouncy house
- Face painting and games
- Balloon artist
- Obstacle course
- Crafts
- Local small business tables

Visit the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association web page, Facebook page or check your Bloomingdale Gazette for updates and additional information. Contact the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at (813) 252-0252 or email BHAFallFest@gmail.com.

BloomingtondaleHOA.com
 [BloomingtondaleHOA](https://www.facebook.com/BloomingtondaleHOA)

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Neighborhood
Recognition Award

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Newsletter Category

This event is made possible, in part, through a grant from the Hillsborough County BOCC.
BHA Board of Directors IRC 501(C)(4)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." *Ronald Reagan*

Flyer Design: Beth Smedley

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 Bloomington Community Office.

President: *George T. May IV*

Vice President: *Suzy Watts*

Secretary: *Joanie Wilson*

Treasurer: *Sean Donahue*

Directors at Large:

Daniel Berkowitz

Bobbi Ferraro

Mary Galin

Carl Hallinan

Billy Hightower

Grace Lewis

Beth Smedley

Charlie Woodcock



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomington Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingtonNews@gmail.com

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Tampa Bay Times

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



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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

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Carol Copeland

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OCTOBER HAYRIDE DATES

6:30 – 9:30PM • \$7 PER RIDER

Friday, 10/13 • Saturday, 10/14 • Sunday, 10/15

Friday, 10/20 • Saturday, 10/21 • Sunday, 10/22

Friday, 10/27 • Saturday, 10/28 • Sunday, 10/29

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BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

The BHA Needs Your Support!

The Fall Festival and Santa Visit will close out the 2017 Association year. Your membership helps make these events happen. Please join the BHA! As a united community, we can make our neighborhoods better.

Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road., Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your check. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

Your \$35 membership fees are returned 100 percent to the community. And, every member and dollar matter. Programs like this newspaper, clean-up, garage sale and fall festival would not be possible without your support. The Association attends monthly county meetings and advocates on behalf of the entire community. In addition, they work weekly with county code enforcement to improve neighborhood standards and keep property values from slipping.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. ALL membership funds go back to our community to help keep the community a great place to live. And, all residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.



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

BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Monday, October 9, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Cliff Fletcher, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Festival is Oct. 28 at our new venue – the BSHS Football Stadium! We still need volunteers. Email bhafallfest@gmail.com or call 813-252-0252 for volunteer opportunities.



Tuesday, October 31, 6 p.m. / Bloomingdale Cove First Annual Halloween Parade starting at 4713 Portobello Cir. BL Cove *Residents Only!*

BHA BRIEFS

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AND OTHER BOARD NEWS

Hurricane Irma pushed the monthly board meeting back one week. The focus of the meeting included hurricane damage in the community and the upcoming Fall Festival. The board asks all residents to come, support the event, and visit the BHA booth to meet board members and learn about the association.



**31st Annual
Charity Food Drive
& Santa Visit**
Sunday, December 3, 2017 • 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.
The Village The Village Early Learning Center
3741 Canoga Park Dr. in Brandon

**Event is free.
Please bring a non-perishable food donation.**

Bring your camera for a photo with Santa
Updates will be posted on Facebook and in the Bloomingdale Gazette.



Your Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, in partnership with The Village Early Learning Center 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

 BloomingdaleHOA

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District:

The Community's Common Area Connection

By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

(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.)

Hurricane Irma

The September 11 Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma. However, that did not prevent the District from surveying damage and initiating cleanup efforts on the part of landscape maintenance company Buccaneer during the week following the storm.

Debris including leaves, limbs, and twigs were strewn throughout the community, and several trees were downed.

Once Buccaneer addressed communities in its care that had emergency conditions, cleanup throughout Bloomingdale commenced, resulting in \$3,500 of cost above contracted maintenance obligations.

One of the most-noticed losses in the community were the young trees that were blown over in front of Alafia Elementary School. Volunteers conducting cleanup activities at the school stood the trees upright in an attempt to save them; however, some trees soon fell over a second time. Buccaneer has now determined that the trees roots were sliced and damaged, making replanting impossible. The BSTD will determine whether to purchase new trees at a future meeting.



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.

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

TODAY!

EVENTS TO HONOR VETS!

10th Annual Cards for Troops / Oct. 7 / 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & and Civic Association and The Community Roundtable / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Make handmade holiday cards for our service members at our FREE community event. The decorated



cards (blank inside) are sent to deployed and hospitalized service members, who will be able to write a sentiment inside each card and send to their loved ones. Ages 16 and up. No childcare provided. Purchase raffle tickets for great prizes! Donations accepted at the door to help offset the cost of supplies and postage. For information, call 813-685-8888.

Afghanistan War Memorial Dedication Ceremony / Oct. 7 / 10:30 a.m. / Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park / 3602 U. S. Highway 301 N., Tampa / Honor 151 fallen Floridians and veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Resolute Support. Motorcycle procession begins at 10:30 a.m. Staging area from Mobile Truck Stop, 6503 U.S. Highway 301 N., with police escort to Veterans Park. Ceremony includes memorial ribbon cutting, Hillsborough County officials, CENTCOM Commander, General Joseph L. Votel, American Gold Star Fathers and Mothers, music, and free refreshments. Additionally, on Oct. 14 at 11 a.m., a Field of Honor ceremony will be held to honor the lives of the fallen during July, August, and September at the Veterans Park.

How to Calibrate Your Irrigation System / UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County / Oct. 14 / 10-11:30 a.m. / 5339 County Road 579, Seffner / Join us for a Hands-on Irrigation Workshop. Learn how to calibrate the irrigation zones that supply water to your plants, set minutes on an irrigation controller and check your rain sensor. Too much water or too little is stressful for plants. Stressful conditions in your yard can attract pests or cause disease on your landscape. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-calibrate-your-irrigation-system-tickets-36935856140?aff=eac2. For information, call Paula Staples, 813-744-5519 Ext. 54142, or email staplesp@hcfhgov.net.



6th Annual Gifts & Crafts Fair at The Bridges / Oct. 14 / 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. / The Bridges Retirement Community / 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / Visit this one-stop holiday shopping event featuring over 30 vendors. Handcrafted decorations and personalized gifts—you will find just what you are looking for. For information, contact Janet at 813-413-8900 or jnoah@thebridgesbvm.com.

1st Annual Fall Spooktakular / Oct. 14 / 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. / The Barn at Winthrop / 11349 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / Dress up in your best costume and bring your family for indoor (and outdoor) trick-or-treating, games, snacks, and fun! This is a family-friendly event, so save the date! Tickets are \$6/child (babies under 1 and adults are free). Tickets are on sale now at www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-spooktakular-tickets-38149497173. Tickets will not be sold at the door and this is sure to be a popular event, so mark your calendars to get yours quickly! See you there!



Amazing Kids Charity Golf Tournament / Oct. 14 / 1 p.m. / River Hills Country Club / 3943 New River Hills Pkwy, Valrico / Charity golf tournament; all proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. \$100 per player; \$400 per team; sponsorship opportunities available. Lunch and dinner, skills contests, prizes, raffles, and more. Register at www.AKTgolf2017.eventbrite.com.

Grace United Methodist Church Holiday Craft Bazaar / Crafters and Artists Wanted! / Nov 11, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. / 5708 Lithia Pinecrest Rd. / The deadline for reserving a booth is Oct. 15. Sponsored by the Women of Grace, organizers are seeking original, one-of-a-kind arts and crafts. The fee for a 10-foot x 10-foot space is \$25, and fees will support missions in the community. The bazaar will be outdoors, and vendors will need to provide their own tent, table and chairs. For information and a vendor application, visit www.gracecraftbazaar.com, or contact event organizer Susan Ferraro at bosefer11@yahoo.com or 813-361-1724.

Tuesday Night Market at 22 Moons / Oct. 17 / 3 to 6 p.m. / 3110 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico / Come experience the magic and artistry of the Tuesday Night Market at 22 Moons. This experiential market will include live music and vendors who provide fresh, local, organic produce; eggs; food artisans; handcrafted jewelry; vintage wares; small batch specialty; candles; soaps; artwork; essential oils; accessories; and so much more. Let your children unwind after school and enjoy face painting while mama gets some relaxing henna done. Forget about cooking dinner by eating in or taking to go delicious choices from our eclectic food truck offerings. Support local and enjoy the local flair of this local artisan market. Each week we will donate 10 percent of vendor sales to a local charitable cause.

Hillsborough County Fair / Oct. 19-22 and Oct. 26-29 / Hillsborough County Fairgrounds, 215 Sydney Washer Road, Dover, FL www.Hillsboroughcountyfair.com
Photo: Wendy Knipp



10th Annual Plaza Bella Goes

Pink / Oct. 21 / 9 a.m. / Plaza Bella / Bloomingdale Avenue at Bell Shoals Road / Walk to honor our survivors and remember those we have lost to breast cancer. Pre-register at The Green Boutique, or on event day at 8 a.m. Walk begins at 9 a.m. with two distances to choose from: The Diva Strut from Plaza Bella to the Bloomingdale Library and back, and the 5K Challenge from Plaza Bella around Natures Way and back. Registration fee \$25; all proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society, the Brandon Outreach Clinic, and the YMCA's Livestrong Program. Registered walkers will receive a goody bag in addition to a T-shirt (while supplies last). DJ, raffle, and refreshments, too!



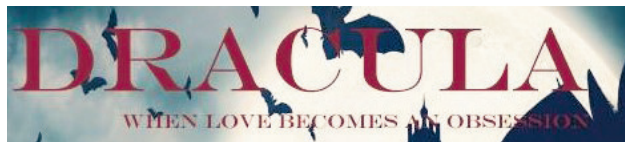
Pasta, Passion, and Pistols Murder Mystery Dinner / Oct. 21 / 6 p.m. / Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon / 706 Bryan Road, Brandon / Join us for an interactive murder mystery where everyone can participate! The Temple will transform into La Speranza Restaurant, in New York City's Little Italy, circa 1995. The "proprietor" has been killed, and the "murderer" is present in the audience! Become a suspect or uncover the clues. Prizes will be awarded. Tickets \$20 for congregation members; \$25 for non-members; \$10 for children 13 and under. Open to the community. Ticket sales end Oct. 13. Call 813-681-6547 or visit www.bethshalom-brandon.org to purchase.

October Community Calendar (cont.)

Dracula Presented by the Brandon Ballet / Oct. 21 / 7:30 p.m. / USF Theatre 1 / 3839 USF Holly Drive, Tampa / Brandon Ballet's 24th season under the direction of Doricha Sales opens with the highly-anticipated return of Dracula! Join us for a night of mystery as they present a powerful dramatization of Dracula. Be mesmerized as this classic tale is depicted through classical ballet performed by the professional, pre-professional, and training dancers of Brandon Ballet highlighting the eerie temperament of Count Dracula, his female obsessions, and the strength of power and love. With a haunting musical score and innovative choreography, this is a perfect Halloween treat for the entire family.

Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com and www.tututix.com/brandonballet.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the door starting at 6:30 p.m.



Haunted House Tales Shadow Puppet Show / Oct. 26 / 4 to 4:45 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue, Valrico / Creeeak! Open the door of this house and discover fun, scary stories told with colorful shadow puppets. Join in with eerie sound effects as puppeteer and storyteller Katie Adams tells folk tales including *The Unwelcome Visitor*, *The Boy Who Drew Cats*, *The Hungry Witch*, and *The Shadow Wolf*. This 45-minute show is sure to shiver your spine and tickle your funny bone. For children and their parents/caregivers. For information, call 813-273-3652.

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall / Oct. 26-29 / 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Daily / Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park / 3602 U. S. Highway 301 N., Tampa /

Free admission to The Wall presented by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa. Opening Ceremony Oct. 26 at 11 a.m.

Complimentary services

to military members provided by Hillsborough County Veterans Services, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Mobile Office, and the Mobile Vet Center with Readjustment Counseling Services for all veterans.



Fall Craft Fair / Oct. 28 / 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. / St. Andrew's United Methodist Church / 3315 Bryan Road, Brandon / Don't miss St. Andrew's 50th Annual Fall Craft Fair! Come out on for this great shopping event hosted by United Methodist Women. Stroll through tons of vendor booths and do some holiday shopping. Grab a bite to eat or a yummy treat from the bake sale. Visit Granny's Attic for special treasures. Proceeds from the bake sale and Granny's attic support missions at St. Andrew's.

Living with Alzheimer's Educational Series / Oct. 31, Nov. 7, and Nov. 17 / 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. / Clubhouse at The Bridges / 11350 Bloomingdale Avenue, Riverview / This three-part series is geared for people with early-stage Alzheimer's or some form of dementia and their care partner. Kim Schaub, Program Specialist with the Alzheimer's Association, will lead a discussion on what you need to know, what you need to plan, and what you can do to navigate this chapter of your life. Topics include: Understanding Alzheimer's disease and memory loss; partnering with your medical team; effective communication and telling others about the diagnosis; coping with changes and making decisions; daily strategies and safety issues; opportunities for supporting research; and resources for people with early-stage dementia. To register for this program, call 813-413-8900. Seating is limited.



Hook'em -n- Reel'em

Benefiting Sun City Center Area Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017

Fishing Tournament

Little Harbor Resort | 536 Bahia Bay Drive | Ruskin, FL

Captained Boats Provided
3 Anglers per boat
\$250 pp/\$750 per boat

Boats depart from front marina

Launching available at EG Simmons Park or Little Harbor Marina

Check-In & Continental Breakfast 7-8am

Fishing 8:30am-12:00pm

Time In 12:00pm

12:30-2:30pm Awards, Drinks, Lunch

Silent Auction and Door Prizes

Kids' Fishin' Fun Area!

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Redfish, Snook, Trout, Mackerel, Cobia, Grouper, Flounder

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BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher
and C.S.O. Sandy Capitano

AREA LAW AND ORDER

Between Aug. 15 and Sept. 26, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 21 traffic stops in Bloomingdale East and West. Those traffic stops resulted in five verbal warnings, 11 written warnings and five citations.

The traffic crashes at the entrances into Bloomingdale East and West and within the subdivisions continue. We have had 13 crashes without injuries and three with injuries. Remember, slow down, stop at all stop signs and above all be a courteous driver. And, wear your seat belts at all times.

There were three vehicle burglaries and only one was unlocked. Let's be more diligent in protecting our property. The good news is that no firearms were stolen. One of the vehicles had a wallet stolen which resulted in credit card fraud. Finally, there were three residential burglaries, one burglary of a shed and four criminal mischief incidents.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Remember to watch out for what is happening in your neighborhoods. If you see something, make sure to call Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency number at 813-247-8200.

Remember to lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors, secure your guns and lock up your vehicles. This will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim.

WANT TO KNOW WHATS GOING ON IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? STAY IN TUNE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY?

HCSO's Call for Service site will keep you informed. You can visit the site at <http://webapps.hcso.tampa.fl.us/CallsForService>. It provides up-to-date call information that has occurred in your neighborhood. All information will be added after the call is cleared.

HALLOWEEN IS COMING!

Halloween is right around the corner. Let make it safe as possible. If your children will be going out trick or treating, insure they are safe by going with them.

- 1) Make sure they have light colored clothing or lighted apparel.
- 2) Only go to homes with porch lights on.
- 3) Cross the street only at intersections.
- 4) Check all treats before your children eat them.



tip 411

Home security is always a priority. Here are some good Home Security Tips we found at Howstuffworks.com

1. Lock up your home, even if you go out only for a short time. Many burglars just walk in through an unlocked door or window.
2. Change all the locks and tumblers when you move into a new house.
3. For the most effective alarm system, conceal all wiring. A professional burglar looks for places where he or she can disconnect the security system.
4. Your house should appear occupied at all times. Use timers to switch lights and radios on and off when you're not at home.
5. If you have a faulty alarm that frequently goes off, get it fixed immediately and tell your neighbors that it's been repaired. Many people ignore an alarm that goes off periodically.
6. If you lose your keys, change the locks immediately.
7. Before turning your house key over to a professional house cleaner for several hours, make sure the person is honest and reputable as well as hardworking. Check all references thoroughly. If the house cleaner is from a firm, call your local Better Business Bureau to check on the firm's reputation.
8. Trees located near windows or shrubbery that might shield a burglar from view can be major flaws in your home-protection plan. Consider your landscaping plan in light of your protection needs.
9. If the entrances to your home are dark, consider installing lighting with an infrared detector. Most thieves don't want to be observed trying to get in a door.
10. If someone comes to your door asking to use the phone to call a mechanic or the police, keep the door locked and make the call yourself.

To learn more about tip 411, go to www.hcso.tampa.fl.us/Articles/Articles/TIP-411.aspx.

Reflect on Irma to Bolster Your Hurricane Preparedness Plan

HC Press Release



With the storm fresh in mind, it's a good time to get ready in case another one comes. Could've been worse.

That's the impression left with many Hillsborough County residents after Hurricane Irma turned inland as it moved up the Florida peninsula, reducing the chances of devastating winds and storm surge in the Tampa Bay area.

Sure, some parts of the county took hard hits from the storm, particularly areas that flooded near the swollen Alafia and Little Manatee rivers. And, after days without air-conditioning, lights, or refrigerated food, many residents have a renewed appreciation for electricity.

In Irma's aftermath, it's wise to consider what went well and what did not. Did you run out of batteries, wish you had bought more water, or scramble to come up with a plan for your pet? Did you long for a generator, plywood to cover windows and doors, or a radio?

Meanwhile, first things first: Hillsborough County Fire Rescue asks residents to remove storm shutters until the next threat. Though they help protect homes in foul weather, the shutters can deter access for first responders during a fire, and can prevent residents from finding a safe exit.

Plan now before another storm heads our way. After all, hurricane season lasts through Nov. 30.

Some crucial matters to review:

- Have a plan that touches on all likely needs, from acquiring sandbags to finding a suitable pen for your pet.
- Pack an emergency kit.
- Know if you are in an evacuation zone. They are not the same as flood zones, which are mapped by FEMA for use in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Sign up for HCFL Alert, Hillsborough County's mass notification system.
- If appropriate, register for Special Needs Disaster Assistance.

It's likely you'll never be more aware of what's needed to weather a hurricane or tropical storm than you are now. With Irma gone but still fresh in mind, take advantage of the opportunity to prepare for the next storm.



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Bloomingtondale Real Estate Update

(Editor's Note: Realtor Ronnie McLaughlin has lived in Bloomingtondale for six years with her husband and two children. She is also active in the Bloomingtondale High School PTSA and Girl Scouts.)



By Ronnie McLaughlin

The Chadderton Real Estate Group
Keller Williams Realty

813-601-5659

ronniemclaughlin@kw.com

www.chaddertongroup.com

Five Ways to Foster a Sense of Community in your Neighborhood

Experiencing my first major hurricane was a little scary and stressful. But on a positive note, I love how it brought our neighborhood together. We came together like a family on our neighborhood Facebook page and we gathered in each other's yards consoling, offering advice, and preparing each other for the storm. We were even planning cookouts and card games if we lost electricity for a few days.

Irma gave those of us who participated a sense of community that we don't always feel. The benefits of having a sense of community include creating a sense of belonging and even lowering crime rates.

Here are five ways to build a sense of community in your neighborhood.

- Create a neighborhood Facebook page
- Start a Bunco group with your neighbors
- Shop locally
- Hold a neighborhood yard sale
- Attend Bloomingtondale-wide community events

Join the Bloomingtondale community at the upcoming Fall Festival. It is a great way to get to know your Bloomingtondale Neighbors, meet the Bloomingtondale HOA board and visit with local businesses and other community families. The event is Saturday, Oct. 28 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bloomingtondale High School stadium. I will be there at our Chadderton Real Estate Group booth. Stop by and say hello!

Neighborhood Snapshot – Erindale Oaks

Just five homes are in the Erindale Oaks subdivision. It is a mandatory HOA neighborhood located off Erindale, just west of Lithia Pinecrest. The five homes were built between 2013 and 2014, averaging about 3,000 square feet and each offers two stories with a bonus room, four bedrooms and two car garages.

**MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes.*



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Spooktakular! Fall-tastic! The BHA's Fall Festival is Back!

The BHA Fall Festival is right around the corner. This year's event will be bigger and better, in part, because of its new location at the Bloomingdale High School football stadium. Rain or shine on Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the festival features something for everyone.

This year's fest includes more than 70 businesses, vendors, demonstration teams and fun activities for kids. Several food trucks will be available for hungry attendees. Entertainment and activities include a DJ, two bouncy houses, static displays from the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue and HC Sheriff's Office Citizen Patrol, and games and contests.

Freebies from coffee, popcorn, Jeremiah's Ice samples, crafts for kids, face painting, and balloon artists will be everywhere. That's right – it's all FREE! Headlining the event are a "Trick or Treat Street," a Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest, and Halloween Children's Costume Contest. Parents, make sure your child brings a bag to collect their day's haul! Booths will be judged this year as well.

Area leaders will judge the contest including Deputy Cliff Fletcher, Code Enforcement Officer Christine Zien, Wanda Sloan, Earthwise Pets Chris Klecic, and County Commissioner Stacy White. Winners will receive a framed award certificate and prize bag including Brandon Outback Steakhouse gift certificates and more!

Of the fest's move to the high school, Committee chair Suzy Watts said, "Nothing spells success more than needing a larger venue for your event location. And Principal Sue Burkett has been very supportive." Parking is plentiful and the site is larger and easily accessible.

We still need volunteers. Email bhaallfest@gmail.com by Oct. 14 to volunteer. Community service hours are available and volunteers will receive a t-shirt and lunch. What a deal!

Come support your community, meet your neighbors and have a fall-tastic day!



Calling all Goblins and Ghouls, Fifis and Fidos! Mason Faircloth aka Batman and his trusty BatDogOdin were last year's Pet Costume First Place Winners. Will you be this year's winner? File Photo

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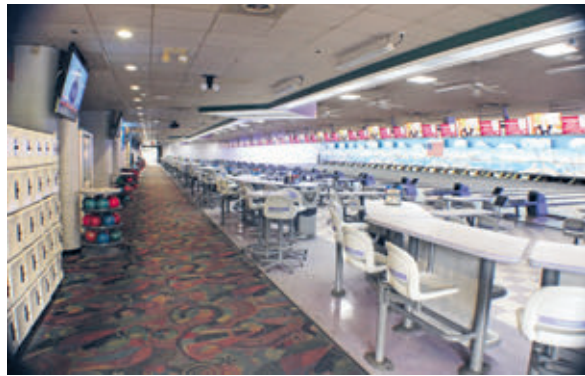
Brandon Crossroads Bowl

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Tampa Florida 33619
813-621-2363
www.facebook.com/funatBCB
www.brandncrossroadsbowl.com



Brandon Crossroads Bowl is a 40-lane family-fun bowling center complete with a full-service restaurant and bar. In addition to league and recreational bowling, there is an arcade where kids can earn tickets for prizes. And, they offer private rental space for events and "no fuss" birthday parties.

For 20 years, they have been a proud sponsor of the Special Olympics. "We are a family-owned business and pride ourselves as being the 'hometown' bowling center for when you want to go where everyone knows your name."



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www.facebook.com/EarthWise

The boutique-style pet store sells all-natural pet supplies, including food, toys, and treats. EarthWise also offers grooming services and self-wash amenities seven days a week. Contributing to its success are a loyalty bag program for pet food savings, and an in-store reward program that offers \$10 off a future purchase when customers spend \$250. These services have earned the store high ratings on Google and Facebook. Additionally, many pets have been adopted out of the store through EarthWise's rescue partners.

"We are a family-owned business that loves caring for your dogs' and cats' needs. We take pride in our work and customer service. We understand your busy schedule and that is why we are open 7 days a week!"

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Collecting supplies for pets in need from Hurricane Irma is just one way Earthwise Pet Supply supports their community. Pictured below are two of the store's owners Susan and Mark Renfro with a grateful Theresa Guidry from Fetch 4 Life based in Cape Coral.

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Heather Michael, Independent Stylist

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www.facebook.com/SalonJenniferValrico

Heather Michael, an Independent Stylist, has worked at Salon Jennifer for over 17 years. She offers a full range of services including haircuts, color, highlights, balayage, up-styles and keratin. "My business is set apart by the friendships I build with my clients," she explained, adding, "I offer that extra TLC."

Since 1978, Heather has lived in the Brandon area. Over the last 10 years, she and her children have volunteered at many BHA events.

In her "free time," she lends her talents as an event coordinator to the Riverview Women's Club and the Riverview Food Truck Rally, to name just a few. Heather never slows down and the BHA board is grateful for her energy and assistance.

"I love what I do. This community has supported my family and me. [And] I want to give back, continue to meet new residents and welcome back long-time residents at our events."

Heather Michael
@
Salon Jennifer
& Company



Change to Heather with former Cimino Principal Debbie Talley, a client for more than 10 years.

The Chadderton Real Estate Group

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2211 Lithia Center Lane, Valrico FL 33596
Ray Chadderton, Realtor/Partner
813-601-0597
Ray@ChaddertonGroup.com
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THE CHADDERTON
REAL ESTATE GROUP



Make sure you visit the Chadderton Group booth at the Bloomingdale Fall Festival on Oct 28. Pictured: Abe Smith, Ronnie McLaughlin, Paige Smith, Karen Chastain, Lauren Chadderton, Sydney McLaughlin and Ray Chadderton.

In business for 17 years, The Chadderton Group was named one of the Best Real Estate Teams for 2016 and 2017 by RealTrends. Ray Chadderton was named the Keller Williams Cultural Icon for Florida, which is a lifetime achievement based on integrity, commitment, teamwork and trust. As the founder of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Fall Festival, Chadderton has been a top supporter every year since it began.

"We pride ourselves on our reputation of being ethical, professional, working hard, and getting results. Our team lives and works within the community, and our clients are referrals from past clients who have entrusted us to help a friend, neighbor, or family member. This is what makes our business thrive each year and is a testament to how we conduct ourselves as professionals."

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Aaron Niec and William Hahn, owners of HN Wealth Management, have over 17 years of experience in wealth management and offer specialized services based on each client's needs. HN Wealth Management offers comprehensive wealth management services, including tax planning and preparation, investment management, and financial planning.

"By sticking to our core values of honesty, integrity, and always putting our client's interest first, we believe our practice will grow along with the local community."

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TGH Brandon Healthplex is an extension of Tampa General Hospital, which is recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the #1 hospital in Tampa Bay 2017-18. The healthplex, which opened in March 2017, is also Tampa General Hospital's first state-of-the-art, off-site, outpatient medical center.

The comprehensive ambulatory center is designed to be a convenient destination for patients to access a broad spectrum of quality health care services – all under one roof. Serving adults and children, comprehensive medical services include a 24/7 emergency center, advanced imaging services – opening early 2018, an outpatient surgery center, pharmacy, and primary and specialty care offices.



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Thank You, Fall Festival Sponsors and Partners!

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association would like to thank our more than 70 sponsors and partners for being part of our upcoming Fall Festival. We couldn't host an event of this size without their support. Any business not listed in this issue will be acknowledged in the November Gazette. This list is current as of publication deadline.

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HCSO Deputy Clifford Fletcher

Heather's Cheer-up Boutique

Not Your Mother's Taxi

Summerfield Crossings Golf Club

The Outreach Clinic

Tampa Bay Bucs

Times Square Pizza

2017 Fall Festival Schedule of Events

All times are subject to change.

10 a.m.

Welcome and General Announcements, Trick or Treat Street opens

11:15 a.m.

Children's Costume Contest participants report to DJ

11:30 a.m.

Children's Costume Contest

11:45 a.m.

Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest participants report to DJ

Noon

Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest

12:30

Captain Martial Arts Demonstration

1 p.m.

BSHS Drum Line performance

1:30 p.m.

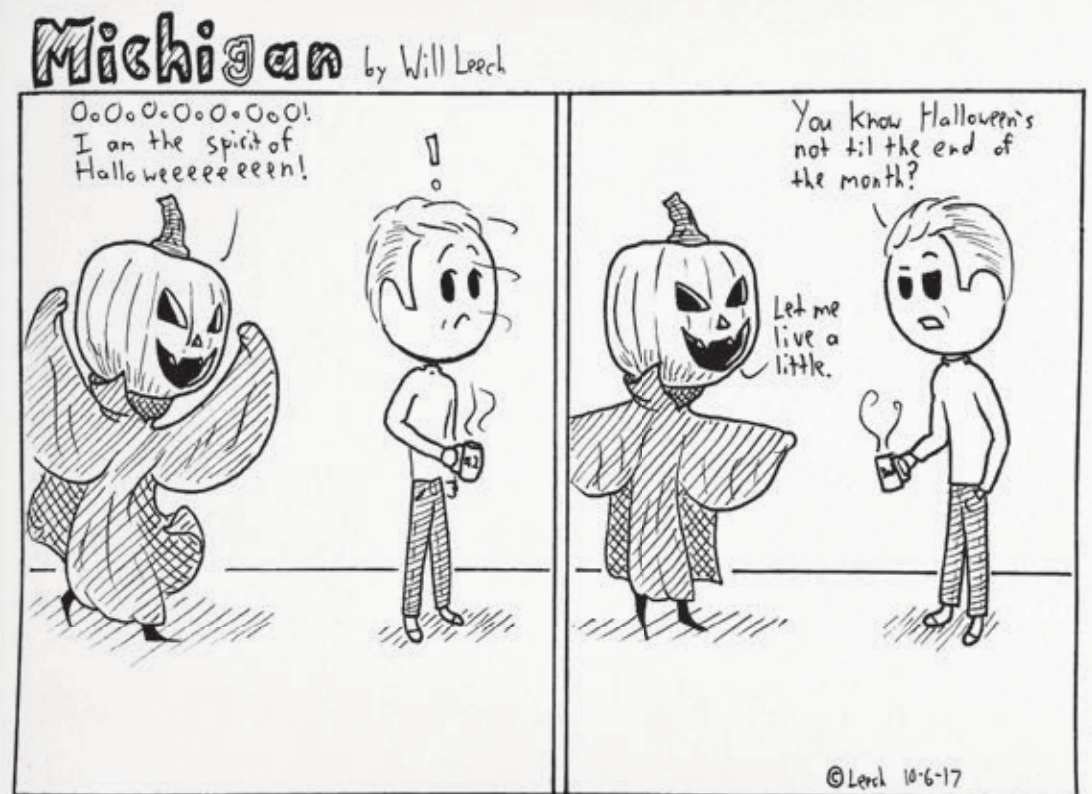
Best Booth Winner Announcement

2 p.m.

Closing

Michigan

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



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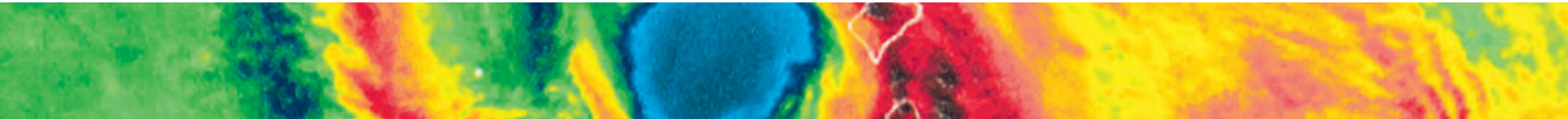
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BLOOMINGDALE SPARED THE WORST OF HURRICANE IRMA'S RAGE



A pictorial look at Hurricane Irma as we prepared, endured, recovered and prevailed

Hurricane Irma will not soon be forgotten. Lessons were learned – lessons we should act on now while they are still fresh in our minds. From wind damage to power outages to flooding, residents reached out to help one another. The Bloomingdale Gazette thanks all who sent pictures and shared stories of their experiences.



Photos: Armida Cordova



Katelyn, a 6th grader at Burns, her sister, and friends all pitched in with the neighbors to help clean up debris. The kids were not asked and they all just joined in and started helping.
Photo: Erin Lugo



Photo: Mida Holland

Without being asked, Donovan Townley (pictured below), a 7th grader at Burns Middle School, recruited his sisters Taylor and Carissa (students at Bloomingdale High School) to join in and help clean up debris in his neighbor's yard. The family then tackled 6 more yards for their neighbors.
Photo: Lisa McKenzie



Flooding on Springvale and Orangepointe Drives
Photo: Susan DeLuca



Flooding on Orangepointe Drive, note the boarded up house
Orangepointe Drive, waters receded and clean-up begins
Photos: Susan DeLuca



Several large trees on John Moore Rd toppled under Irma's winds. Bloomingfield Estates lost power for several days due to downed trees and power lines.
Photo: Becky Schilling



In Fairway Manors, several large trees blocked roadways.



Line crews from across the country came to our area, here on John Moore Rd, to help restore the power grid.
Photo: Laura Frazier



The Knipp Family went to their grandparents' house at The Villages, FL after the storm. While there, they found a beach ball in a flooded golf cart tunnel. It asked the next person to find it to sign it and send it on as a memento from the storm. Michael Knipp (8th grader at Burns Middle School) and Jason Knipp (5th grader at Cimino Elementary School) get ready to release the signed ball for the next person to find.

Photo: Wendy Knipp



The Alafia River flooded the private park behind Somerset and Bloomingdale Cove as well as several neighborhoods along Lithia-Pinecrest Rd.



The Mitchell Family and a friend came together to help neighbors clean up their yards. According to Mom Rhonda, "We got better organized and more efficient the more yards we did." Photo: Sherry Reinhardt



Ava Spruill (right) enjoys spending time with longtime family friend Gloria Hanhan in a classroom at the BSHS shelter.



Before Irma, many store shelves were bare as residents hurried to prepare for the storm. For days after, some store shelves remained unstocked as suppliers struggled to deliver to the many areas affected in Florida.



This rainbow appeared over Bloomingdale on Sept. 11, the day after the storm. Our community, while hit by Irma, has much to be thankful for. Neighbors went the extra mile to help their neighbors and support each other. Photo: Miriam Leech

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Alafia Cleans Up

On Sept. 18, nearly 60 volunteers converged on Alafia Elementary to clean up debris left in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Organized by the Alafia PTA, volunteers brought wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, rakes, water, other supplies; and a whole lot of energy and spirit. Photos: Alafia Elementary PTA



Taylor Sampson (Alafia PTA Secretary) with her daughter Evelyn



Kristin Hench and her son Isaiah

Master Deputy Roger Bradley is a Community Hero

By Wendy Knipp

He quietly works each day to make our community better and Hurricane Irma was no exception. His name is Master Deputy Roger Bradley; he lives among us and he is a true hero.

Bradley is a life-long Bloomingdale resident, veteran of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office (HCSO), and loves helping children. He works at Burns Middle School as a respected School Resource Deputy helping both faculty and students whenever he can.

Principal Matthew DiPrima says, “We are so fortunate to have Deputy Bradley as our SRD. He has consistently put others first throughout his career and it is evident in his daily work. He is one of our heroes.”

After Irma pounded Florida, Bradley’s HCSO supervisor, Corporal Jeremy Davis, asked for volunteers to assist FEMA and the Collier County Sheriff’s Office. With his family safe in north Florida and his work at the county shelter done, Bradley jumped at the chance to help.

As he along with 13 other officers drove south, “the worse the [hurricane] damage got.”

The group spent almost a week working 14-hour shifts in Collier County and sleeping on cots at a local elementary school. The officers they assisted had been working 7-8 days straight with little rest.

When the HCSO officers arrived in Everglades City and Goodland, they split into teams to search for residents in peril and give out necessities like food, water, and ice. Bradley said, “I’ve never seen so many grown men and women come to us crying because they’re so glad to see us. Many of them were without food, water, and power, for at least 3-4 days before anyone could get to them.”

“If you had a bag of ice, it was like gold.”

Of his time in Collier County, Bradley says, “It was very gratifying and I felt really good about the help we gave those people.”

Thank you, Master Deputy Bradley, for all you do for our community. You are a true hero!



HCSO volunteers took time away from their families to help victims of Hurricane Irma in south Florida. Pictured from left are Deputy Tobias Smith SRD, Deputy Grant Smith SRD, Deputy Justin Pass - Marine Unit, Master Deputy Roger Bradley, and Deputy Scott Pracht -Marine Unit.



Master Deputy Bradley enjoys working at Burns Middle School.
Photo: Wendy Knipp

BSHS Volleyball Team Serves Up a Helping Hand

Brief by Deidre Morgan

Photos: Melanie Crouse

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, the Alafia River reached never before seen flood levels that left many homes under water. The Bloomingdale High School Volleyball team felt the need to help so they attacked the situation the only way they knew how – with their hands. The coaches, JV & Varsity players along with some parents dug in and removed debris from yards and cleared out homes that had water damage. What a way to ACE it, ladies!

Trish Carter, Peyton Carter, Kamelia DeJesus and Kenzie Crouse (left to right) help with the clean-up in Lithia along the Alafia River.



Coaches, players and parents remove debris from water-damaged homes.

Volunteers of all Ages Helped One Another

Over 60,000 line workers from more than 250 electric companies from across the nation rushed to Florida's aid after Irma. Our community responded by providing food, water and supplies to those helping us.

Even though they had been without power themselves for 4 days, Jessica Hinson and her son, Cooper, wanted to help. They passed out snacks and cold water to the workers and also delivered supplies to others in the community who were still without power.

While linemen worked to connect power, a connection of another kind was made when Cooper met Xcel Energy Texas Lineman Cody. Xcel Energy posted the following picture on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pg/xcelenergy/) with this description:

"Meet Cooper, baseball fanatic and true standup kid. Earlier this week Cooper and his mom Jessica thanked our crews with cold water and snacks, and met Xcel Energy Texas Lineman Cody – another baseball fanatic. Cody asked for a picture of Coop's hat, to send to his son, who plays for the West Texas Rebels – and Coop upped the ante by offering his hat as a thank you to all the crews helping to restore power in his neighborhood. This is what restoration work is all about – helping fellow communities get back in the game! Stay safe out there!"



Photo: Jessica Hinson

Cooper is a 6th grader at Burns Middle School and plays baseball with the Bloomingdale Bandits 12U travel ball team. Your community is proud of you, Cooper!

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October 16 - Non-Student Day

****Early Release Days - Please note that due to Hurricane Irma the following Mondays WILL NOT be early release days: October 23 & 30 and November 6 & 13****



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Oct. 13 - Reading Goal Deadline
Oct. 30 - Report Cards Go Home

Alafia Mint - Every Wednesday in Room 208 from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m. Come in and do a book swap and visit the Spirit Store.

Spirit Day - Remember to wear your Alafia shirts every Friday to show your school spirit!

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Oct. 9-13 - Operation Patriot Donations, see Flyer below.
Oct. 20 - All Pro Dads, 7 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room
Oct. 23-27 - Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 26 - Wear Red for Responsibility
Oct. 27 - Dance out Drugs and Fall Festival, 4-7 p.m.
Oct. 30 - Report Cards Go Home
Oct. 31 - Storybook Character Parade, 8:30 a.m.
Nov. 1 - Cougar Cool Cats, Responsibility, 8 a.m. in Multipurpose Room
Nov. 3 - Wear Green for Gratitude



Cougar Cool Cat - November Character Trait - GRATITUDE

Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

The Media Center is sponsoring a Pumpkin Decorating Contest! The theme is "My Favorite Storybook Character." Bring entries to the Media Center between Monday, Oct. 2 and Friday, Oct. 27.

The contest is open to ALL students. Parents may work together with their child on this project. Rules:

- Decorate and/or dress the pumpkin as a storybook character. Any size artificial pumpkin is acceptable. **No real pumpkins will be accepted.** You may use paint, markers, glitter, fabric, lace, etc. Let your imagination run wild!
- On a 3x5-index card, write the student's name, grade, teacher and the storybook character represented.
- Pumpkins must be taken home on Tuesday, Oct. 31 or they will be disposed of after dismissal.

Pumpkins will be displayed in the Media Center the entire month and during the Fall Festival on Friday, Oct. 27. Winners will be announced Tuesday, Oct. 31 on the WTCN Morning Show. Prizes are Book Fair Gift Certificates: 1st Place-\$20, 2nd Place-\$15, 3rd Place-\$10 and Honorable Mention (one per grade level)-\$5.

For information, call 740-4450 x228.



October Operation Patriot



BE A PART OF GIVING BACK TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO KEEP US FREE!

The residents of Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home need your help! 120 Veterans from World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Gulf War reside at the home. They receive \$35 a month to purchase every day, personal needs. For most residents, this is all the money they have. Cash donations or gift cards will also be accepted and items will be purchased. Make checks payable to Operation Patriot. Need more information? Contact: Dr. Honnett - (813) 740-4450

Collecting at locations around the school October 9 - 13, 2017

Some of their needs are:		
Depends Briefs	Hand Cream	Large Crayons and Markers
Denture Cream	Body Lotion	Coloring Books (Including Large Print Adult)
Denture Cleanser	Foot Powder	Play Dough / Modeling Clay
Kleenex	Body Powder	Audio Books on CD
Toothpaste	Shower Gel	Gift cards - Walmart, Target, Dollar Tree

PLEASE NO BAR SOAP, TOILET PAPER, USED/OPENED ITEMS, MEDICINE ITEMS

HONOR THE HEROES!

Operation Patriot, Inc. was incorporated July 2, 2007 in the state of Florida as a non-profit organization and is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) corporation.

Cimino Elementary

Presents their annual

FALL FESTIVAL

To be held on
October 27TH, 4-7PM
On the school grounds
All welcome!

Please come join us for an evening of Fun,
Games, Food & Live Entertainment!
Tickets will be sold at the door.
(Cash only)

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times

Cimino Fall Festival

Silent Auction Items Needed for Cimino Fall Festival

Help make this year's festival an even bigger success than previous years. We need parents and business owners to donate items for our silent auction. These items can include gift certificates, sports tickets, jewelry, themed baskets, etc. Businesses receive publicity and the knowledge that all profits benefit Cimino Elementary. Donations are needed by Oct. 25.



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

Oct. 11 - Orchestra Concert, Bloomingdale High School, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 13 - General PTSA Meeting, 8 a.m. in the Media Center
Oct. 17 - Chorus Concert, Bloomingdale High School, 7 p.m.
Oct. 20 - Burns Band Night, Bloomingdale High School, 6 p.m.
Nov. 1 - Report Cards Go Home
Nov. 1 - Band Poinsettia Sale Begins
Nov. 3 - Fall Pictures

Yearbooks - Order yearbooks online at www.yearbookordercenter.com. You will be asked for Burns' order number which is 443. The final opportunity to purchase a yearbook will be no later than mid-January. Purchases may be made online, by cash or check made payable to Burns Middle School.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

Oct. 10 - Volleyball vs Riverview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 11 - PSAT Testing Day
Oct. 12 - Underclass and Staff Pictures
Oct. 12 - JV Football vs Brandon, 7 p.m.



October School News - A Look at What's Happening

Compiled by Deidre Morgan



Oct. 12 – Volleyball vs Leto, 7 p.m.
Oct. 13 – Football @ TBT, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 14 – Junior Bulls Cheer Camp, Bloomingdale High School Cafeteria, 1-4 p.m.
Oct. 18 – Mr. and Mrs. Bloomingdale, Auditorium, 6 p.m.
Oct. 19 – JV Football vs Armwood, 7 p.m.
Oct. 20 – Football vs Plant City, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 – Chorus Fall Concert, 7 p.m.
Oct. 26 – JV Football @ Strawberry Crest, 7 p.m.
Oct. 27 – Football @ Durant, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 – Fall Festival, Bloomingdale Home Owners Association, Stadium, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Oct. 31 – Soccer Pre Season, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 1 – Parent & Senior Cap and Gown Ordering, Cafeteria, 4 p.m.
Nov. 2 – Soccer Pre Season, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 3 – Football vs Robinson, 7:30 p.m.



BULL BRIEFS

TeachaBULL Moments

Introducing a new program through the PTSA! TeachaBULL Moments will give parents and students an opportunity to acknowledge a teacher that goes above and beyond. You can email to TeachaBULLmoments@gmail.com or drop a note in the front office of how a teacher has gone the extra mile for a Bloomingdale student or students. We want to take time to acknowledge our teachers for the great work they do. Each month one teacher will be chosen from letters that have been turned in and will receive a gift card. PTSA wants to give Bloomingdale families an opportunity to let our teachers know what great work they do!



Burns is Playing All The Right Notes

Brief by Wendy Knipp

Congratulations to the Burns Middle School Symphonic Strings ensemble. They recently became a State Level Winner from the 2017 Mark of Excellence National Honors Recorded Music Competition. The competition included 278 musical ensembles across the nation from 38 states. Sandy Neel, NBCT, is the Director of Orchestras at Burns and said, "This was our first time entering this competition and we are very happy to represent our school, community, and state in such a successful manner." Congratulations to Ms. Neel and her students!



Symphonic Strings Period 3



Photos: Burns Middle School

Symphonic Strings Period 7

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Bloomington High School held its Homecoming football game on Sept. 22 taking on Lennard High School. The Homecoming festivities included the induction of the 2017 Hall of Fame Athletes, introduction of the Homecoming Court, and the crowning of this year's King and Queen. Capping a perfect night, the Bulls beat the Longhorns 45 to 17.

The Red Sea was "Blacked Out" for Homecoming.



The Homecoming Court strike a pose before taking the field at halftime.



Athletic Director Donny Peek (left) and Principal Sue Burkett Baricko (far right) stand with 2017 Athletic of Fame inductees Mark Valdes, Dale Bateman, Michele Kelmer and John Reich, Jr. (Not pictured is Steve Littleton).



Congratulations seniors Katherine Torres and Jalen Fretts! They are this year's Homecoming Queen and King.



Senior Cheer Captains (l) Lauren Lazzara and Tessa Monroe lead the cheerleaders to get the crowd pumped up!



Coach Warner reads the Bulls to take the field.



Rajun' Bull Band Takes the Field

Don't Miss Your Chance to See a Performance!

By Amy Fluty, Rajun Bull Band Publicity

The Bloomingdale Rajun' Bull Marching Band is back on the field after a bumpy start which included heavy summer rains and Hurricane Irma! This year's football half-time show theme is "Tales of Kings and Castles." Selections from "Robin Hood Prince of Thieves," "Gladiator" and "Game of Thrones" are featured.

Want to see the show?

Here is a list of remaining games and events where the Rajun' Bull Marching Band will perform.

Oct. 4 - @ Strawberry Crest

Oct. 13 - @ Tampa Bay

Oct. 20 - *BBQ dinner fundraiser

Oct. 20 - Home vs. Plant City

Oct. 27 - @ Durant

Oct. 28 - FALL FESTIVAL! See the drumline perform at 1 p.m. at the Bloomingdale community's Fall Festival hosted by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association.

Nov. 3 - Home vs. Robinson (senior night)

**Oct. 20 BBQ Fundraiser is \$10 per person before the big game! Price includes BBQ pork, chips, and a beverage. And, there will be baked goods for sale. The BBQ event is 430 to 7 p.m.*



Art Contest Helps Students Deal with Hurricane Irma

Brief/Photos by Wendy Knipp

"There is something intimate about painting I cannot explain to you – but it is so delightful just for expressing one's feelings."

– Vincent van Gogh

Pamela Reeves is the Burns Middle School Visual Art Teacher and like most teachers, she was not only concerned with preparing her home for the storm, but also her classroom. At home, she made sure she had all the necessities such as food, water, and batteries. At work, she made sure her classroom was prepared for any potential wind or water damage.

As Irma approached, Reeves noticed something that she had not prepared for – an increase in her students' anxiety. At the time, many forecast models brought Irma barreling straight through Florida with winds up to 129 mph. Governor Scott was calling for people to evacuate or head to shelters. Scenes of cars stopped on I-75N and lines at the pump topped the news. Some students began to panic feeling they may die in the storm. Reeves said, "Many students just didn't feel safe."

Reeves decided she needed to do something. She knew that art helps her daughter relax so on the last day of school before the storm, she announced an art contest with the theme "What Makes Me Feel Safe." Students were asked to work on their projects over the break and she says, "I figured this was a way for them to be distracted from the storm and remind them of things that make them feel safe."

The contest was a success. Reeves received 25 entries and she selected 3 winners. She is proud of all the students who participated and a select number of pieces are going to be displayed in the Raymond O. Shelton School Administrative Center in downtown Tampa through January.

Reeves is a Bloomingdale resident and credits her passion for art to her former Bloomingdale High School art teacher, Karen Marcos. So why does she teach art? She says, "I just want to give back to the students in the same way my art teacher gave to me."



Seventh grader, Sofia Alvarado won 1st place with her piece entitled, "Feeling Safe."



Pamela Reeves has always had a passion for art and loves teaching visual arts at Burns Middle School. Just prior to Hurricane Irma's Florida landfall, she challenged her students to create art for a contest, which ultimately helped them deal with the uncertainty of Hurricane Irma, and the stresses many were feeling.



8th grader, Anna McIlce won 3rd place with her work entitled, "What Makes Me Calm."



Sixth grader, Katie Dorries won second place for her piece entitled, "Shelter."

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