



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE



VOLUME XXXV    ISSUE 11    NOVEMBER 2015    [www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com)

## 2015 Fall Festival: Family, Fun and Friendship!



Dawson, a Cane Corso, or Italian Mastiff, took first place honors in the 2015 Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest. Celebrating with Dawson are (from left) Marley (1), Mariah, and Christian Hayden. See full fall fest coverage beginning on page 9.

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PLEASE RECYCLE

Photo: Miriam Leech

## WINNER

2013 & 2014  
Hillsborough County  
Neighborhood  
Recognition Award

Best Communications  
Newsletter Category

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Coexistence: what the farmer does with the turkey - until Thanksgiving. *Mike Connolly*





## YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

### Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: [Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com)

Website: [www.BloomingdaleHOA.com](http://www.BloomingdaleHOA.com)

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road

Valrico, Florida 33596

#### Directors at Large:

*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



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

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Every Tuesday  
**FREE KIDS' MEAL**  
with each adult meal.  
See store for details.

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## Yard of the Month



Photo: Joy Boisselle

**Jason Garrison**

2014 Timberfall Lane Valrico, FL 33596 (Windsor Woods)



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

**ACE**  
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## Wanted: A Forever Home and Family

**Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center has the Right Pet for You: November is National Adopt-a-Senior-Dog-Month**

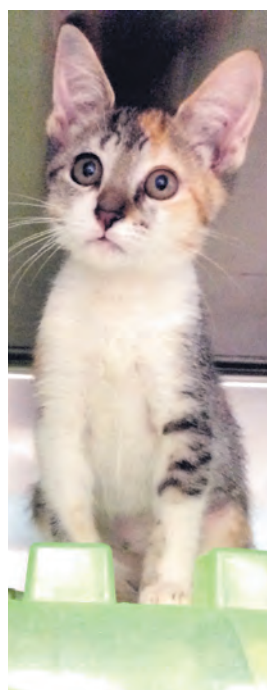
Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center (PRC), the county's animal shelter, has many cats and dogs looking for their "forever" homes. At your county shelter, dogs and cats are surprisingly affordable – at one location – open seven days a week. Each comes fully vetted with a complement of services (adding up to a savings of hundreds of dollars). While some fees may apply, PRC adoption packages can save "prospective parents" anywhere from \$250 - \$400.

For information on adoptions and foster care, lost pets or spay/neuter vouchers, contact the PRC at 813-744-5660 or visit [www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets](http://www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets). Located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd., the center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Lou Lou**



November is national Adopt-a-Senior-Dog-Month, and Lou Lou, a black Lab mix, is only 7 years young. This friendly, playful pal is looking for her second chance to be a loyal family member. Adopt Lou Lou (ID 29871826) fully spayed, vaccinated, licensed, microchipped and more at the Pet Resource Center on Falkenburg Road, Tampa, open daily 10 until 7.



**Maple**

Maple (ID 29813602) is positively sitting on top of the world at the thought of Thanksgiving at your place! Adopt this 8-week old, orange and black Calico kitten today at the Pet Resource Center's "Pets for Vets" celebration featuring adoption specials and donation drive to benefit pets of needy veterans. Maple is fully spayed, vaccinated, licensed, microchipped and more.

Photos: PRC

**Provided By The Pet Resource Center**

**TODAY!**

**First Saturday Celebration Features Pets for Vets: Free pet adoptions for military; donation drive to benefit pets of needy vets**

In observance of Veterans Day, the Pet Resource Center will once again offer its free "Pets for Vets" adoption special to all current and former members of the U.S. military and their families. Hundreds of happy, ready-to-go dogs and cats will be available. Military ID or Form DD214 are requested. All pet adoptions include spaying/neutering, vaccinations, microchip with free registration, tote bag, and Hillsborough County pet license tag (a package valued at \$250 to \$400).

Non-military adopters can enjoy half-price pet adoptions and salute "Pets for Vets" with a donation of harnesses, collars, leashes, or other pet items for veterans. The Pet Resource Center has identified a particular need for medium and large harnesses. Dog and cat food donations are also appreciated.

Come join the fun from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PRC located at 440 N. Falkenburg Road. Admission and Parking are free.

**FIRST SATURDAY**  
Celebration





# BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



**DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**



## 2015 Membership Drive

With only two months to go, we need your support. Please join today! For \$25 a year (less than 50 cents a week), you can help us continue to keep Bloomingdale a great community in which to raise a family, and a great place to call home. A portion of this year's dues funded our recent Fall Festival and will aid in covering the costs of our upcoming Santa visit and food drive. Every member and dollar matter.

Your \$25 contribution funds all services and programs of the BHA. The BHA is the only community organization representing Bloomingdale's nearly 5,000 residences and over 40 neighborhoods in mandatory and voluntary Homeowner Associations. The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who live in your neighborhoods.

Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://www.bloomingdalehoa.com), look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. All membership money collected goes back to our community, and all residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.

**2016 Membership Drive** – Membership notices will be mailed by Jan. 15, 2016. Please consider joining and supporting your community.

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



## BHA BRIEFS

### October Board Meeting Highlights and Other Board News

Final fall fest planning was the focus of last month's monthly meeting. This issue features a full recap of the event.

The board voted to add a community yard sale to the annual programs and services list. The first-ever yard sale will take place Feb. 27. The new event will precede the annual community clean-up which will take place on March 5. Details will follow on Facebook and in upcoming Gazette issues.

The code committee provided a recap of a Sept. 29 meeting with county code officials. Several issues and individual properties were discussed. See Ins and Outs, p.16, for exciting information affecting our residents.

## BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

**Monday, Nov. 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, Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting and Annual Elections**, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

**Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council**, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Save the Date!

**New! Saturday, February 27, 2016 / First-ever Community-Wide Yard Sale**, Stay tuned for details in the Gazette and on Facebook.

**Saturday, March 5, 2016 / Annual Community Clean-up**, Stay tuned for details in the Gazette and on Facebook.



BHA President George May reviewed issues discussed at the BHA-hosted Bloomingdale Roundtable held Oct. 7 at the community office. Bloomingdale Ridge HOA president Terry Hoos gave a detailed overview of the county mini-grant process and the installation of benches in the entryways of his neighborhoods, Fox Run and The Greens. In addition, County officials briefed community leaders on construction projects affecting the area. See p. 18. May told leaders that next quarter's special guest speaker will be Sen. Tom Lee.

On Nov. 3, May and other board members met with Commissioners Les Miller and Ken Hagan to discuss traffic and road considerations on Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia-Pinecrest Road. Details of the meeting will be discussed at the upcoming board meeting on Nov. 10.





**29th Annual**  
**Santa Claus Visit**  
**& Charity Food Drive**

**Saturday, December 5, 2015**  
**10 a.m.- 2 p.m. • Bloomingdale Golfers Club**  
 4113 Great Golfers Place, Valrico

 **BLOOMINGDALE**  
 Golfers Club

## Here Comes Santa Claus!

### New Santa! New Location! New Brunch!

**Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. / Santa Visit, Brunch and Charity Food Drive,** This community tradition returns to the Bloomingdale Golfers Club where attendees will enjoy crafts, photos with Santa (bring your cameras), and brunch. Pre-register for the brunch at the Golf Club. Each child receives a candy cane and special present from the "Jolly One." Call 813-681-2051 for information.

Your Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, in partnership with the Bloomingdale Golfers Club, continues its holiday tradition for children benefitting an area food bank. Please bring a non-perishable food item for our charity food drive and don't forget to bring your camera!

The Bloomingdale Golfers Club (BGC) will provide a brunch for a fee. Pre-register and save. Adults (15 and older) - \$14.99 or \$12.99 pre-paid, Children- \$9.99 or \$8.99 pre-paid. To pre-register, contact the BGC at 813-685-4105. Menu details will be posted on both organizations' Facebook pages.

For more information, call (813) 681-2051 or email [Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com).



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 Foundation Christian,  
 Alafia and Cimino.





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

## SALUTE OUR VETERANS!

**22nd Annual Tampa Bay Veterans Day Parade / Nov. 7 / 10 a.m. / Hanley Road – Between Barry Road and Paula Drive, Tampa /** Come honor those who served and welcome 2015 Honoree 2nd Lt. Jack Horner, World War II veteran and former Prisoner of War.

**Veterans Celebration 2015 / Nov. 7 / Noon-5 p.m. / Liberty Manor for Veterans / 10015 N. 9th Street, Tampa /** Come meet some of the most honorable veterans in the world for a free pre-Veterans Day party. Free food, drink, and entertainment. Honor our veterans by donating a gift certificate or make a personal donation. For information, visit [www.libertymanor.org](http://www.libertymanor.org) or call 813-477-0203.

## AND ON VETERANS DAY

**51st Annual Veterans Day Tribute / Nov. 11 / 11 a.m. / Veterans Memorial Park / 3602 North U.S. Highway 301, Tampa /** This tribute includes a little bit of everything - a colors presentation, a National Anthem performance, drill demonstrations, an empty chair ceremony for POW/MIA soldiers, a rifle salute and more. For information, call 813-744-5502.



**Concert of Patriotic Music / Nov. 12 / 7 p.m. / First Presbyterian Church of Brandon / 121 Carver Avenue, Brandon /** Join us for a concert of patriotic music honoring our veterans performed by the Eastern Hillsborough Community Band. Music, jewelry bazaar and auction items, and light refreshments following the concert. Suggested donation of \$10 at the door. One hundred percent of proceeds from this event benefit Liberty Manor for Veterans. For more information contact [terriemorrison@verizon.net](mailto:terriemorrison@verizon.net) or 813-655-0990.



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For information, contact Desh Bagley at 813-253-7838 or visit [www.suncoastfl.org](http://www.suncoastfl.org).

**23rd Annual Brandon Seafood Festival / Nov. 7 / 11 a.m. / Brandon '86 Rotary Club's Camp Florida / 1915 Camp Florida Road, Brandon / ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT** fried fish, boiled shrimp, hush puppies, and coleslaw – all day long for the price of admission. Enjoy pie-eating contests, sack races, and Monster Canoe races. Admission: Adults-\$20 before the event, \$25 at the door. Children, 12-17, \$10. 12 and under- \$1 or a canned food donation. The Monster Canoe Challenge is \$35 per person and includes festival admission. Monster Canoe Challenge registration begins at 8 a.m., and the buffet line opens at 11a.m. Proceeds benefit charities including Brandon Outreach Clinic, ECHO, Everyday Blessings, All Person's Playground, Gulf Ridge Council Boy Scouts, Faces of Courage and Rotary's Camp Florida. Tickets can be purchased at [www.brandonseafestival.com](http://www.brandonseafestival.com).

**Brandon Ballet's Annual Sugar Plum Fairy Tea / Nov. 8 / 2-4 p.m. / The Regent / 6437 Watson Road, Riverview /** Join Brandon Ballet at this magically enchanting event to celebrate The Nutcracker story complete with delectable desserts, riveting story time, and appearances by ballet characters including the Sugar Plum Fairy! Tickets: \$20 for adults (13 and up), \$15 for children (12 and under), and are available at [www.tututix.com/brandonballet](http://www.tututix.com/brandonballet). For information, contact the Brandon Ballet at [dance@brandonballet.org](mailto:dance@brandonballet.org) or 813-684-4282.

**The Junior League of Tampa Holiday Gift Market / Nov. 13-15 / Florida State Fairgrounds Expo Hall / 4800 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa /** Annual shopping event features over 135 specialty merchants from across the country offering unique gift items including everything from clothing, jewelry, and handbags to food, art, and children's items. Net proceeds support The Junior League of Tampa's programs and community projects in the areas of education and child welfare. Hours are Friday, Nov. 13, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Cookies with the Clauses, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Cookies with the Clauses, 12-2 p.m. General Admission (1 day) \$8; Cookies with the Clauses (child ticket) \$15; Parking \$6. For information, visit [jltampa.org](http://jltampa.org) or call 813-254-1734.

**46th Annual Novemberfest / Nov. 18-22 / Nativity Catholic Church / 705 E. Brandon Blvd., Brandon /** Fun family event that is 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! Open to the community. Schedule is: Nov. 18, 4-10 p.m.; Nov. 19, 4-10 p.m.; Nov. 20, 4 p.m.-Midnight; Nov. 21, 11 a.m.-Midnight; Nov. 22, 12-8 p.m. Purchase tickets online in advance at [www.nativitycatholicchurch.org/novemberfest](http://www.nativitycatholicchurch.org/novemberfest).



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

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service / Nov. 25 / 7 p.m. / St. Stephen Catholic Church / 5049 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico /** This year St. Stephen hosts the Alafia Ministerial Conference of churches in worshiping together at Thanksgiving. For information, call 813-689-4900.

**Goody Goody Turkey Gobble 5K / Nov. 26 / 6 a.m. / Begins and ends at Amelie Arena / 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa /** The Goody Goody Turkey Gobble 5K is a chip-timed race, USATF certified course #FL05053DL in downtown Tampa. The route takes participants across the Platt Street Bridge and along the beautiful and scenic Bayshore Blvd and back. Proceeds support the LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA program for cancer survivors and their families.

Registration is available at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com):

- \$30 per teen/adult (12+) for individual 5k
- \$15 per teen/adult (12+) for run/walk 1 mile
- \$30 per teen/adult (12+) for team 5k.

Participants will enjoy a post race breakfast from Goody Goody Restaurant! Prizes will be awarded to 1st place overall Male/Female and 1st place overall Male/Female youth (ages 12 and under). The next 50 men and 50 women finishers, regardless of age, will receive a commemorative gift. For information, call the Downtown YMCA Wellness Centers at 813-229-1305.

**Christmas Tree Lighting / Dec. 2 / 7 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Center / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon /** Free community event to ring in the holiday season! For information, call 813-685-8888.



## November Community Calendar (continued)

**5th Annual Holiday Tea / Dec. 6 / 2:30 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Center / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon** / Ladies, break out your hats and holiday attire and join us for our annual Holiday Tea. A special holiday lunch will be served, including scones and Devonshire cream. Desserts provided by Jute's Box Bakery. Teavana holiday teas provided by Orange Boutique. Special holiday entertainment by The Southern Company Chorus. A silent auction just in time for holiday gifts, special prizes for the most unique and whimsical hat and table will be awarded.

\$35 per person or \$250 to sponsor a table of 8 (table sponsors will set and decorate their own table or Center Place will set it for you for an additional \$50. Table reservations must be made by Nov. 21. Adults only. For tickets or more information call 813-685-8888.

**Shop Local Holiday Expo Presented by the Valrico/FishHawk Chamber of Commerce / Dec. 12 / 9 a.m.-12 p.m. / Park Square in FishHawk** / Showcasing local business of Valrico and FishHawk, the Holiday Expo will include good old-fashioned fun with games, crafts, shopping, and Florida Santa with his holiday flock of flamingos. Sign up at [www.valricofishhawk.org](http://www.valricofishhawk.org). Chamber member booths \$50; Non-chamber member booths \$100. All proceeds benefit local Meals on Wheels. For more information e-mail [bridget@cardinalroofingandsolar.com](mailto:bridget@cardinalroofingandsolar.com).

**Brandon Ballet Present The Nutcracker / Dec. 12 and 13 / Matinee and Evening Performances / Spoto Auditorium / 8538 Eagle Palm Drive, Riverview** / Experience the thrill and magic of Brandon Ballet's The Nutcracker! With beautiful sets, costumes, and glorious music enter the magical world of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince, waltzing Snowflakes, and the regal Sugar Plum Fairy. Tickets \$25 for adults, \$15 for children under 12, and \$20

for seniors 55+. Tickets available at [www.tututix.com/brandonballet](http://www.tututix.com/brandonballet). For information contact the Brandon Ballet at [dance@brandonballet.org](mailto:dance@brandonballet.org) or 813-684-4282.



**Michael W. Smith Holiday Concert / Dec. 16 / 7:30 p.m. / Bell Shoals Baptist Church / 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon** / Bell Shoals Baptist Church invites the community to join in for a special evening of collaboration featuring The Imperial Symphony Orchestra (ISO) conducted by David Hamilton, the Bell Shoals Worship Choir, and award-winning icon, Michael W. Smith. Tickets purchased in advance of the concert range from \$28 to \$68 and can be purchased at [www.ticketfly.com](http://www.ticketfly.com). Tickets will also be available at the Bell Shoals Baptist Church the night of the concert. For more information visit [www.bellshoals.com](http://www.bellshoals.com).

## Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

By Ryan Brantley



The Chadderton Real Estate Group  
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[www.chaddertongroup.com](http://www.chaddertongroup.com)

A good real estate agent can often feel like your closest friend or even a family member. Spending hours together looking at properties can create a lasting bond as we get to know you and your family. Agents love getting to know their clients and it's part of why we do what we do – but that does not mean we need to know everything – specifically in regards to your finances.

Agents don't need to know any of your personal information. It is the job of your mortgage broker to look into your background, credit score, debts and any other areas of relevance. The only information your agent needs to know is your approved purchase price, type of loan, and amount you have for a down payment. Outside of that, it is none of their business.

If you are listing your home, the agent may ask you how much you owe on the house in order to determine what sales price will get you the amount needed to pay off the loan and any other closing costs. As with any ethical business, if you decide to share, agents are legally bound not to disclose your personal information.

Remember, you don't have to share your life story and a good agent won't pry.

### Market Update

October was right in line with the previous two months with 20 homes sold and 21 new listings. However, there were 30 properties that went under contract which shows buyer are out there and many are now on the hunt to get into their new homes before the new year.

\* MLS statistics include Bloomingdale East and West valid October 1- 28. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.

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



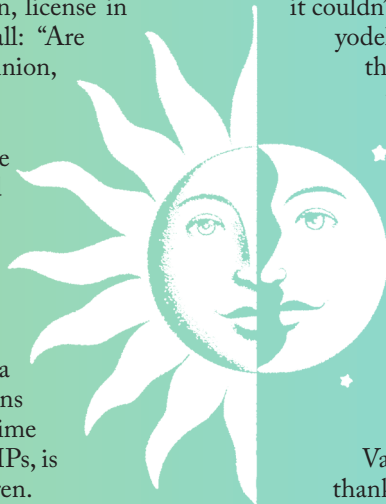
## Just Ask the Right Question

Okay, I think it's about time for the government to get on the stick and start asking the important questions. As things stand, any crackpot with fifty bucks or so in his pocket can stroll into any Marriage Bureau and saunter right out again, license in hand, without ever being asked the most important question of all: "Are you a Morning Person or a Night Person?" In my educated opinion, this cavalier attitude is merely paving the way to disaster.

Added to this is the world-wide misconception that there are ONLY Night People (partiers, insomniacs and vampires) and Morning People (most of whom should be shunned at all cost). There is another more intellectual (and, undoubtedly, better bred) group known as the In-The-Middle Group, or IMPs, as we prefer to call ourselves.

IMPs greet the dawn with the same enthusiasm as we would a firing squad. Sunrise holds little awe for those of us whose brains remain blessedly smooth until oh, say around Noon, at which time we snap to mental attention. By the same token, Midnight, to IMPs, is little more than a vicious rumor designed to frighten small children.

I happen to be a card-carrying IMP wed to a Morning Person of zelotic proportions.



Have you any idea what it is like to awaken each morning to Murray Poppins? He springs from the bed at 5:30 a.m., bounces to the kitchen for coffee and welcomes the sunrise like it couldn't have done it without him. By 6:45, he has read the paper, showered and twice yodeled to his still sleeping spouse that the day is "half over." One can only assume that the finer points of this union will be detailed in some obscure magazine under the headline "Can This Marriage Be Saved?"

★ Since biologists have not yet isolated the chromosome responsible for Night Person versus Morning Person versus IMP preferences, it cannot, unfortunately, be predetermined what course offspring will take. After years of nurturing and bonding, it became clear that the child I selflessly catered to was of the Night Person persuasion. She dragged around all day, semi-catatonic, responding to all inquiries with a monosyllabic grunt. Around 9:30 p.m., teenaged Night People spring into action, saying things like, "Tracey's mom let her dye her hair purple and pierce her nose and I was thinkin'..." IMP mothers of Night People mumble a lot.

Vampirella is on her own now, thank the gods, but Murray Poppins remains (also thank the gods, now that I think of it). And I still have bags under my eyes Louis Vuitton would be proud to claim. I can't help but wonder, though, if they'd only asked that one... little... question...

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## 2015 Fall Festival: Thank You to Our Sponsors!

The BHA thanks the more than 70 businesses and individuals that generously supported the fall festival. Last month, we profiled our Diamond sponsors, this month we begin a series of profiles of our Platinum sponsors. Platinum sponsors are those whose combined donations of cash, goods, and services total more than \$250.

Twelve sponsors reached this level: Galin Homes of Tampa Bay, Inc., Heather Rose Photography, Not Your Mother's Taxi, Get the Facts Home Inspection, The Fitness Studio, DJ Monica Van Liew, Kona Ice of Valrico, USA Trike Adventures, LLC, West Coast Landscape and Lawns Inc., Pilka & Associates, P.A., Birthday's to Banquets and Jeremiah's Italian Ice. See this month's profiles on pages 10 and 11.



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(See profile this issue)

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always Bouncin around, 813 545 6255  
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Thrive, Noel Rhelm, 813-621-2363  
Express Oil, 813-643-7200  
Shrimp Boat, 813-571-5858  
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Chipotle, 813-423-6384  
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La Petite Academy, 813-684-3528



Kona Ice Brings a Taste of Hawaii to Valrico

By Nicole Cluck



When in Hawaii, those in the know make a beeline to Matsumoto's Shave Ice in Haleiwa, Oahu for the best shave ice in the Pacific. Thanks to Larry and Jackie Eaton, owners of the franchise Kona Ice of Valrico, no longer will Floridians have to venture west for the delectable icy treat. Recent transplants from Maryland; the Eaton's are celebrating their third anniversary in business serving "Hawaiian shaved ice" from their colorful mobile truck.

Co-owner Larry said, "We are excited to serve and bring smiles – with our delicious, nutritious, 'smart snack' approved treats – to our chosen communities of Valrico, Dover, and Riverview."

Bringing smiles is exactly what they did at the Bloomingdale Fall Festival. With penguin mascot Kona attracting visitors, Larry offered a variety of sweet frosty treats to fest-goers.

Flavors seem endless and there are literally thousands of flavor combinations, ranging from the exotic Tiger's Blood, Godzilla or Wild Watermelon to the standards like Very Cherry, Groovy Grape and Lemon lime-A-Licious. And, sugar-free offerings are available too!

Larry is proud of the Kona tradition of serving and being involved in the community through fundraising. "As a whole," he explained, "Kona Ice has given back more than \$25 million dollars since its birth." Larry is looking forward to the contribution Kona Ice of Valrico will offer in the near future as they become more established in the area.

The Kona Ice focus according to the franchise website is "reducing calories, total carbohydrates and total sugars with the use of natural and functional ingredients while

maintaining superior taste and presentation." Simply stated, Kona shave ice tastes good and, unbelievably is good for you.

Questions? Want to schedule Kona Ice of Valrico for an event or a fundraiser? Contact Larry or Jackie Eaton by phone at 813-892-3091, by email at [jleaton@kona-ice.com](mailto:jleaton@kona-ice.com), or through their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Kona-Ice-of-Valrico-145558478968164/](http://www.facebook.com/Kona-Ice-of-Valrico-145558478968164/).



Photo: Miriam Leech



Photo: Nicole Cluck

Kona Ice of Valrico Co-owner Larry Eaton gives the Hawaiian "shaka" sign, also known as the "hang loose" sign, at the start of the Bloomingdale Fall Festival. Hawaiian Shave Ice was a popular treat for many on the warm day.

Bloomingdale High School sophomores Bethany McCullum (l.) and Rachel Santarlas (r.) assisted Kona (also known as Sarah Overly), the Kona Ice mascot, while strolling the festival grounds.

Release Your Inner Biker with Trike AdVentures

By Suzanne Jones



Ever glance at that happy couple traveling I-4 on their luxury touring bike and think, "Man, I'd like to try out that ride (plus I'd rock that leather jacket)...?" Well, now you can!

Trike AdVentures is a local small business that gives wannabe bikers the thrill of the open road in and around the Tampa area. The company's three person chauffeur-driven motor bikes allow customers to sit back and enjoy the biker experience without driving,

navigating or buying a motorcycle! (Cool biker duds are optional.)

While Trike AdVentures has been in business less than a year, the owners, John and Chad Spina have lived in the Bloomingdale community since 2004. Recently, this father and son duo made an unforgettable impression on locals enjoying the Bloomingdale Fall Festival when they roared into the Bloomingdale Golfer's Club to Steppenwolf's 'Get Your Motor Runnin.'

The festival enabled Trike AdVentures to show off their beautiful bikes and to promote their offerings, including area tours, special event transportation, parties and even unique large banner advertising for other area businesses. They also generously contributed a raffle prize treating two riders to an adventure around Davis Island!

"The Bloomingdale Fall Festival was a really nice family-oriented event," said co-owner John Spina. "We not only met lots of other local businesses, but rode away feeling like a true member of the community."

Some of the company's popular tours include the Sunshine Skyway Bridge Thrill Tour and Clearwater Beach Tour. "We even do date nights," commented John, "and [we] genuinely just enjoy showing people the town!"

Whether you are looking to hit the open road with your honey, or treat visiting in-laws to some fun time away from the house, Trike AdVentures is the perfect escape! Check out the Trike AdVentures' website at [www.usatrikeadventuresllc.com](http://www.usatrikeadventuresllc.com) for seasonal tours and advertising information.

USA Trike AdVentures LLC, 813-404-0714/813-445-9842  
[ustrikeadventures@gmail.com](mailto:ustrikeadventures@gmail.com)



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Riding in style... Chad and John Spina, co-owners of USA Trike AdVentures LLC, were a popular attraction at the BHA Fall Festival held Oct. 24. The Bloomingdale residents offer a unique and exciting way to see Tampa and other popular locales.





service for festival vendors to and from the Bloomingdale Golfers Club off Natures Way for the event held October 24.

Since 2011, Not Your Mother's Taxi has provided party bus services for concerts, pub-crawls, baseball and football games, as well as homecomings and proms. With 14- and 23-passenger buses, Cleworth's pricing features a drop-off service—the party bus will return to pick up passengers rather than charging for the bus to wait. Up to 14 people can travel to Ybor City for the night for just \$210.

Cleworth has lived in the Brandon area for 20 years and in FishHawk for 12. "I love that I can wake up to cows mooing but be in downtown Tampa in 30 minutes," says the festival sponsor. All eight of Not Your Mother's Taxi's employees are local residents as well.

This was the first year at the BHA Fall Festival for Cleworth, and he was ready to get the party started at the event. "The idea of a large community event sounded like fun and a good way to show our services to new people."

Not Your Mother's Taxi is open 7 days a week and provides door-to-door shuttle services in Lithia, Valrico, Brandon, and Riverview. Online reservations can be made up to 1 hour in advance at [notyourmotherstaxi.com](http://notyourmotherstaxi.com), or you can join the party by calling 813-766-3936.

As good neighbors go, Not Your Mother's Taxi owner Roger Cleworth is one of the best. With his party bus business located in FishHawk, Cleworth wanted to show Bloomingdale he is ready to start the party here by supporting the annual Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association (BHA) Fall Festival as a Platinum Sponsor. Cleworth provided shuttle



Photo provided by: Roger Cleworth



Not Your Mother's Taxi owner Roger Cleworth was a Platinum Sponsor of the BHA Fall Festival this year, his first time participating.

Photo: Miriam Leech

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Fall Festival a Crowd Pleaser

With beautiful blue skies and comfortable fall temperatures, the community came out in force for the 2015 Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's (BHA) Fall Festival held Oct. 24 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club. Nearly 1,000 attended the successful event.

Adults, children, and even pets—many decked out in their best Halloween attire—enjoyed food trucks like Sarge's BBQ, South Pacific Grill, and Kona Ice; a demonstration by Team K Martial Arts; services and products presented by over 50 onsite vendors; costume contests; raffle prizes; and much, much more.

On hand for fun and photo ops were mascot visitors Thunderbug of the Tampa Bay Lightning, Mr. King Pin from Brandon Crossroads Bowl, Ace the A+ from Mathnasium of Brandon, and Kona the Penguin from Kona Ice. Little ones enjoyed face painting, pumpkin carving, bounce houses, and golf lessons. Adults strolled the grounds learning about local businesses, sampling Jeremiah's Italian Ice, and enjoying DJ entertainment provided by Monica Van Liew.

A highlight of the day was a visit from QUINT 7, the new state-of-the-art fire engine from the new South Brandon Fire Station No. 7. With the engine's 78-foot ladder extended into the sky, firefighter Ani Olafemi wowed the crowd by climbing to the top and giving two thumbs up.

Of the event, BHA President George May said, "In this day and age few communities really know each other. The BHA Fall Festival gives our residents a chance to meet, and for the Board members to let them know we are here and we are reachable."

The family-friendly event got rave reviews from fest-goers. Kane Campbell, in attendance with her husband Craig and 3-year-old daughter Katie, said, "This is a wonderful event. We just moved here in June and wanted to come out and support our new community."

Thanks to our many sponsors and participants, as well as to student volunteers from Bloomingdale and Strawberry Crest High Schools and Hillsborough Community College; and especially to our COMMUNITY for making this year's festival a triumph! To see more photos, check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/BloomingdaleHOA/](http://www.facebook.com/BloomingdaleHOA/).

Heather Fenzau of Heather Rose Photography chills with the ever-popular Tampa Bay Lightning Thunderbug and a young fan. Thunderbug is always a fest fan favorite.

Photo: Nicole Cluck



Photo: Joy Boisselle



Jamie (8) and Olivia (3) Davis make their own photo op at the Mathnasium booth. All business participants provided candy for the fest's "Trick or Treat" Street and activities for kids.

Bloomingdale High School senior Morgan Smedley lets 3-year-old Maddox Rezac reflect on his new Spiderman look, just one of the many faces she painted during the festival.



Photo: Joy Boisselle



Businesses who could not attend the festival were acknowledged via a large banner on display throughout the event.



Storm All Stars Cheerleaders catch some air at the festival. Storm All Stars in Brandon provides training in the art of cheerleading including tumbling, stunting, and dance.

Photo: Nicole Cluck



Princess Leia and Darth Vader greet the crowd at the Tampa Bay Lightning's Thunderbug and the Howl-O-Ween Costume Contest.

Five-year-old Hayley, dressed pretty in pink as Superwoman, was accompanied by her grandmother, Renate, a 30-year resident of Bloomingdale, who brought her grandchild to enjoy the day.



Storm All-Star Cheerleaders (from left) Kylie Coleman, and Nevaeh Frost were the first to climb the 78-foot ladder of the new, state-of-the-art fire truck now serving the Bloomingdale area.



All photos unless otherwise credited taken by Miriam Leech

Photo: Joy Boisselle



Sebastian Farias, 4, enjoyed his popcorn and a visit with Ace from Mathnasium Brandon. Farias is a student at the Village Early Learning Center.

Photo: Nicole Cluck



With smiles for miles, Ella, 7, and Reagan, 5, Lurz demonstrate their sisterly bond at the family-focused fall festival. Face painting was just one of the activities the duo experienced at the event.



The Campbells, (from left) Craig, 3-year-old Katie, and Kane, moved to Bloomingdale in June and came out to the festival to support their new community. They took advantage of the free photo opportunity provided by Heather Fenzau of Heather Rose Photography.



Kyle Kleic proved to be a not-so-scary but adorable trick-or-treater. The 2-year-old is the son of Fall Festival Diamond Sponsor Chris Kleic, co-owner of EarthWise Pet Supply.



Captain America was on hand to save the day AND win first place in the 2015 Howl-O-Ween Costume Contest for his alter ego, 3-year-old Nolan Wood. Proud mom Kristin joined in the celebration.



Members of the Team K Martial Arts demonstration team wowed the crowd and caught some air with their Taekwondo moves.



Tired from a full day of face painting, balloon animals, and dress up, the Greene family, (from left) Emily, 3, Frank, and Evan, 1, head home from the festival in their Radio Flyer.



Golden was a girl. Hayley's Golden, is a Bloomingdale daughter out



Brothers Uzziah, 5, and Michael, 6, Richardson kept with the super hero costume theme of the day by dressing as Batman and Optimus Prime, respectively.



Fall Festival Chairperson Mary Galin (center) takes a time out at the Heather Rose Photography booth with daughter Anna, 8 months, and Thunderbug, the Tampa Bay Lightning mascot.



Addison Finch, first to pose with the-art QUINT ea.



Go, Fight, Win! Maybe she's not ready for "Friday night lights," but this unidentified Fall Fest visitor stole the show during the children's costume contest.

Photo: Nicole Cluck



A perfect putt put a smile on the face of 4-year-old Brady Simmons, who took part in lessons given by J.D. Carino of Cochrane Golf Schools located at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

The Harris family takes a knee and a few samples of Jeremiah's Italian Ice. Pictured left to right, Catherine, Dylan (4), Keegan (6) and Brent.



# BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

## ...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

*Editor's Note: A column for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden experts and amateurs from the Valrico Garden Club (VGC). To learn about the VGC, contact Mary Kay McMahan at 813-684-6323, email danmcmahan@aol.com or visit Facebook/Valrico Garden Club.*

Photo: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org)

### Welcome Autumn with a Visit to a Florida Park

By Gwen Graverson and Patti Philipsen

Fall has arrived and it's a wonderful time to take advantage of the milder climate and venture out to one of the many beautiful parks in Florida.

#### *Eureka Springs Regional Park*

Located a mere 29 minutes from the heart of Bloomingdale is Eureka Springs Regional Park. The 31-acre park is the only botanical garden in the Hillsborough County park system, and features a greenhouse, interpretive trails, boardwalks, a picnic area, and a pavilion (that can be reserved, plus rental fees).

If you are into photography, the opportunities are endless... there is a vast array of flora and fauna year-round and you may even see wild peacocks. The green house has orchids, bromeliads, lily pads and possibly a dark wide-eye creature looking back at you (as in a frog or two).

As an added bonus, it's pet friendly, so don't forget to bring a bowl, some water and Fido's leash...and yes, there are rules to follow and not just for pets.

Eureka Springs Regional Park is located at 6400 Eureka Springs Rd. For information, call 813-744-5536 or visit [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org).

#### *Hillsborough River State Park*

Hillsborough River State Park is located about 30 miles northeast of Bloomingdale. Established in 1938, it is one of the oldest parks in Florida. Exploring over seven miles of nature trails, biking, boating, animal watching and swimming are just a few of the opportunities available to the outdoors enthusiast. For those wanting to spend more than a day, campsite and equipment rentals are available as well as concessions.

The park is located at 15402 US 301 N. in Thonotosassa. Call 813-987-6771 or visit <https://floridastateparks.org> for information about this park or the other 173 award-winning parks across the state.

*Happy adventures and don't forget the bug repellent!*



A 1,600-foot boardwalk for hikers is a great way to discover Eureka Springs Regional Park.

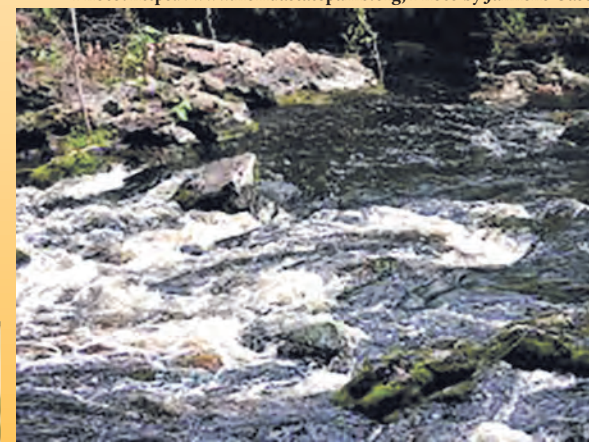
Photo: <https://www.floridastateparks.org>, Photo by Janneke Case

Class II rapids offers canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts some outdoor challenges at the Hillsborough River Park.

The Hillsborough River Park attracts a variety of wildlife including birds and alligators. Pictured is a red-shouldered hawk.



Photo: <https://www.floridastateparks.org>

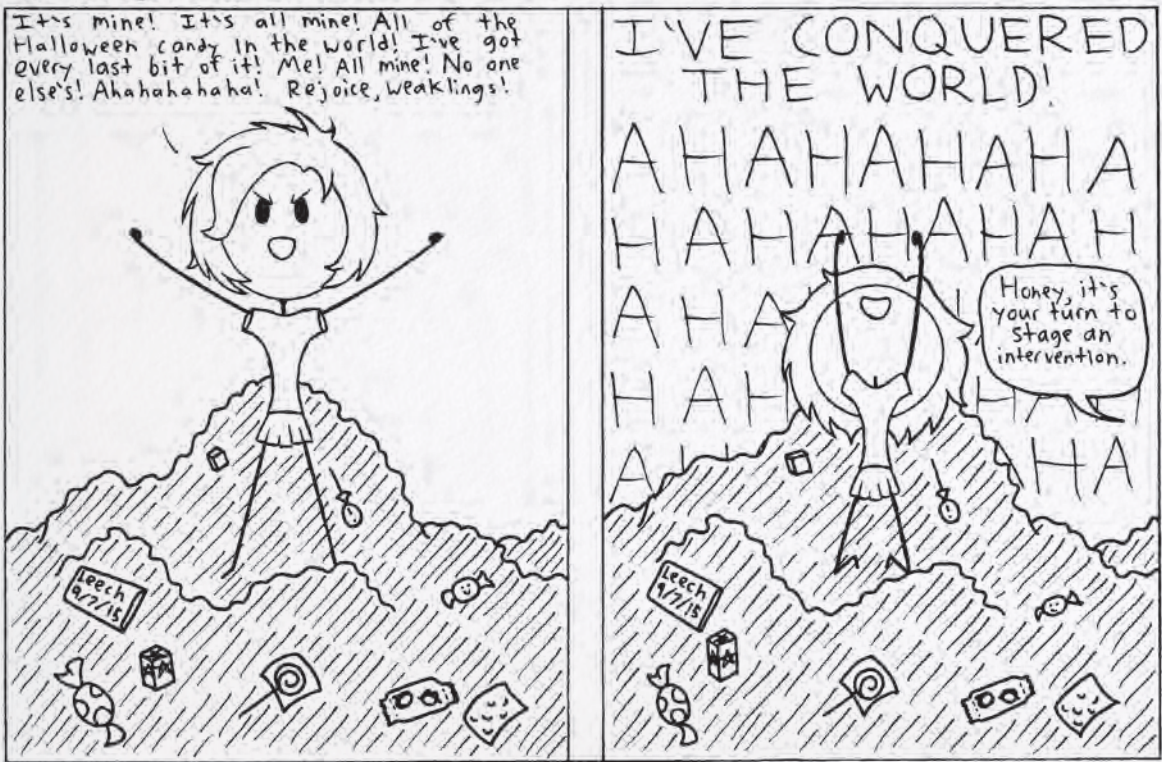




Michigan

Introducing comic strip artist Will Leech and his creation, Michigan. Leech is a Strawberry Crest High School senior.

Michigan by Will Leech



Into The Woods We Go...  
Rule 28 “Ball Unplayable”

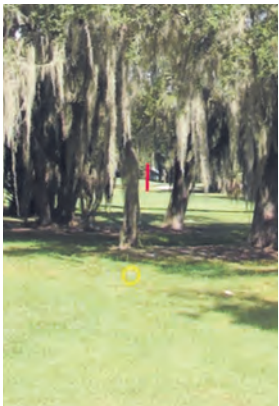
By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

You hit your drive 240 yards with a five-yard right hand turn into the woods. Fortunately, knowing the rules provides an option not known to most.

A player who declares their ball unplayable has three options. The first option is to go back to where the original ball was last played but lose 240 yards.

The second option is to take a drop two club lengths from where the ball is currently located. In this case, still four yards in the forest. The ball (yellow) is behind the middle tree, the flag (red) on the other side of the trees.

The last option is to drop a ball behind where the unplayable ball was, on a straight line pointed directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind. Look at the view from twenty yards back. The flag is on the other side of those trees. You make the call.



Next lesson: Making more putts with better aiming. Any questions or for lessons please visit [CochraneGolfSchools.com](http://CochraneGolfSchools.com) or call J.D. (813) 957-3205.



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15



# INs & OUTs

## WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT 1) COUNTY'S NEWEST CODE VIOLATION - TRASH RECEPTACLES AND 2) THE BSTD'S COMMON AREA MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

1) Trash containers have become an eyesore in our community. The majority of Bloomingdale residents know they live in a community with mandatory deed restrictions – and follow them regardless of whether they are in mandatory or voluntary homeowner sub-associations.

On the subject of trash containers, all our deed restrictions contain something similar – on non-trash pick-up days, trash containers are to be hidden from view, i.e. stored behind fencing, landscaping, or in the garage. Frankly, this basic standard ensures our neighborhoods maintain a clean and well-kept appearance.

Over the years, the BHA has sent numerous notices to violators of this deed restriction informing them of the violation and requesting compliance. Now, an amended county code ordinance makes trashcans left in the open a **county code violation**.

Ordinance #13-18 amends Chapter 130 of the Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, Part B, Public Utilities, Regarding Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services. Specifically, Section 130-21, Residential Collection Service, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, sub- paragraphs (a) (3) and (6) are amended as follows:

*(a) (3) Containers shall be set out prior to 6:00 a.m. on the day of collection, but in no case shall such containers be placed on the public-maintained roadway prior to 6:00 p.m. the day proceeding the day of collection. The normal hours of collection are after the hour of 6:00 a.m. and prior to 6:00 p.m. on days designated by the franchise collector.*

And

*(a) (6) On non-collection days, containers shall be placed out-of-sight on the property of the residential customer.*

This is exciting news for residents who want our community standards to be enforced and a warning to those who habitually ignore the neighborhood deed restrictions. Over the next two months, the BHA will be working closely with residents and the county code department to identify habitual violators of this ordinance.

On Jan 1, 2016, the BHA will submit trash violations to county code. County will determine whether to issue a warning or citation. The BHA will push code officials to administer citations for residents who continually ignore the ordinance.

For now, residents are encouraged to help spread the word about the new county code violation. Enough is enough! Let's keep our community from looking "trashy"... pun intended.



2) Many have noticed that our community landscape maintenance has been absent for several weeks.

### Who is responsible?

This is the responsibility of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) and not the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, two very different and separate organizations.

All residents pay an annual special tax of \$130 a portion of which covers our community common area maintenance...grass mowing, fig trimming, irrigation, lighting, etc. This tax money is controlled by the BSTD.

### What happened?

The landscape company, under contract with the BSTD, departed suddenly at the end of September without 30-day notice. The BSTD as a government entity must follow certain procedures to negotiate and let a new contract. While a temporary company has been selected, contract negotiations are ongoing.

According to BSTD president Dave West, the community should see an improvement within the next few weeks. Your patience during the transition is appreciated.



## UPDATE!

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District selected ABM Landscaping as the interim maintenance company for our community. This contract will be in place through December, with a permanent company in place in January 2016.

If you drove down Bell Shoals on Nov. 2, mowers, edgers, and blowers were in full force and working hard to restore our community's appearance. The company moved from Bell Shoals to Bloomingdale West neighborhoods followed by Bloomingdale East neighborhoods.

According to the BSTD property manager, all areas should be completed no later than the end of next week, but hopefully sooner.

Should you have questions, please contact the BSTD at [bstd@verizon.net](mailto:bstd@verizon.net) or call 684-6667.

## BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

### BLOOMINGDALE

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

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



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## Make Your Financial Future a Priority.

Unlike other chores that pile up in the driveway, clutter the garage or run wild in the front yard, your financial situation is a little less obvious. That's why it's so important to take advantage of our complimentary financial review at least once a year.

We will discuss the different strategies available to help put your finances in line with both your short- and long-term goals.

**To schedule your complimentary financial review, call or visit today.**

**Dan Sammons, CLU®, ChFC®**  
Financial Advisor  
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Office 813-681-1462  
[dan.sammons@edwardjones.com](mailto:dan.sammons@edwardjones.com)

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## Holiday Cards for Troops Sends Handmade Joy to Service Members

By Miriam Leech

In its eighth year, the Holiday Cards for Troops event held Oct. 3 at Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association drew over 140 members of the community to make holiday cards for troops deployed overseas or recovering at a military or veterans hospitals.

“We made 2,625 cards that will be sent overseas,” said event chairperson Susan Saunders. “Some of the cards will go to the Haley House in Tampa, to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where U.S. servicemen are treated.”

A committee of 12 volunteers worked every Friday beginning last May to design 15 different cards, as well as order and prepare the necessary supplies. Bloomingdale resident Robin Satterwhite has participated in five of the annual events. “I always walk away with a satisfied feeling that I have done just a little bit to help others in our community as well as far away,” said the committee member.

Each table of community volunteers made 175 of a particular card design. Volunteers stamped and assembled cards that are left blank inside so that service members can write their own sentiment to send back home to family and friends.

At one table, eight members of The Military Women of Tampa Bay worked all day to complete their card. Most of those present, including Bloomingdale residents Jouay Koppari and Connie White, were veterans of the Vietnam War. Said Unit President Koppari, “We are a women veterans service organization comprised of women from all branches of service and having served during all military eras. We are always looking for new members, and this is a special opportunity for us.”

The business community also helps make the event successful. Raffle items were donated by more than 30 local businesses that brought in \$500 in ticket sales. More than 25 local restaurants donated breakfast and lunch items to feed the volunteers throughout the day.

The committee is now focused on getting the cards shipped. If you know someone stationed overseas, email his or her name and address to Center Place Executive Director Dawn Galia at [cpfinearts@verizon.net](mailto:cpfinearts@verizon.net). Request a package of cards be sent to your service member to distribute to their unit.



Photos: Miriam Leech

Fifteen different card designs were made, including this Happy Christmas card, at the 8th Annual Holiday Cards for Troops event. Blank cards are sent to deployed and hospitalized service members to be personalized and sent back home to loved ones.



Members of The Military Women of Tampa, from left Rhonda Crawford, Bloomingdale resident Connie White, Kathleen Cooper, Mary Alzert, Bloomingdale resident and Unit President Jouay Koppari, Bernadette Dunn, Cathy Gerolimos, and Kathleen Cooper, spent a fun day making cards for troops on Oct. 3. For information on joining their women veterans service group, call 813-684-1668.

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Photo: Mack Austin



### Bloomingdale Roundtable Brings Community Leaders Together, Construction Projects Discussed

Hillsborough County project managers Ben Kniesly and Leland Dicus briefed community leaders, including the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association officers and mandatory homeowner association presidents, on the status of several

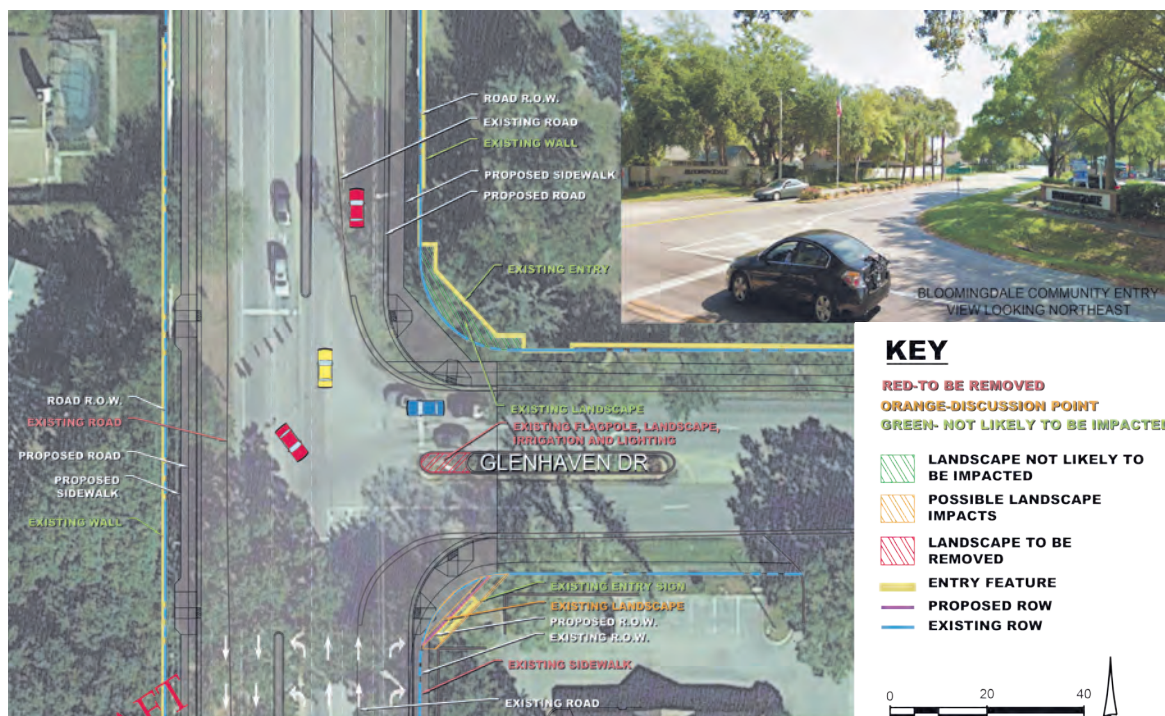
construction projects around the area at the October Bloomingdale Roundtable held Oct. 7 at the community office.

**Bloomingdale Avenue and Culbreath Road Intersection Improvement Updates:** The 1.4 M project starts this month and some construction signage is already in place. Construction completion is March 2016 and features the addition of eastbound right-turn lane and additional westbound and northbound left-turn lanes at the intersection. Additional improvements will include ADA compliant sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of Bloomingdale Avenue. On Culbreath, bus bays will be added to allow bus traffic to pull out of traffic and improve traffic flow. Finally, traffic light upgrades and synchronization will complete the project.

### Bell Shoals Road Widening Project:

Originally scheduled to begin this year, parcel acquisition and utility considerations have pushed the project start date to early 2016. According to Kniesly, this project includes widening Bell Shoals Road from a two-lane, undivided rural road to a four-lane, divided urban facility.

The project extends approximately 3.1 miles from just south of the Alafia River to north of Bloomingdale Avenue. The corridor will have two 12-foot lanes for vehicles, a 4-foot bike lane, and sidewalks in both directions. The proposed design includes widening the existing bridge over the Alafia River, which commence with the first segment of a 4-segment construction plan. All Bloomingdale entryways along Bell Shoals Road will be impacted in some way. To view details, go to [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?nid=3224](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?nid=3224) plan. Public meetings will be announced for resident information purposes.



### KEY

RED-TO BE REMOVED  
ORANGE-DISCUSSION POINT  
GREEN- NOT LIKELY TO BE IMPACTED

LANDSCAPE NOT LIKELY TO BE IMPACTED  
POSSIBLE LANDSCAPE IMPACTS  
LANDSCAPE TO BE REMOVED  
ENTRY FEATURE  
PROPOSED ROW  
EXISTING ROW

0 20 40  
GRAPHIC SCALE: 1" = 20'

## BLOOMINGDALE

Provided by: Hillsborough County Public Works

Bell Shoals widening will affect Glenhaven Drive as well as other community entrances.



### Bloomingdale & Culbreath Intersection Public Meeting Announced

Day/Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location/Address:  
Bloomingdale Regional Public Library  
1906 Bloomingdale Ave.

### Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes Take Shape, Walmart Opening Expected in Spring/Summer 2016

Construction is ongoing at the newly named Crest Pointe Towne Shoppes. Included in the 43 + acre development is retail giant Walmart Supercenter, the anchor store, and several smaller franchises: Starbucks with a drive-thru, Chick-fil-a, Tijuana Flats, Wendy's, Mattress Firm, a bank and other retail businesses as yet undetermined. Just east of the Bloomingdale Library, the site also features 14 + acres zoned for traditional neighborhood development (TND).

Additional street lighting will be installed on Bloomingdale Avenue and on Lithia-Pinecrest and Miller Roads and all lights will be synchronized. Additional sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks will be constructed.

At this and other construction zones, residents are advised to slow down and use caution. To view more information online, go to [www.redstoneinvestments.com/redstone/propertydetails/102-crest-pointe-towne-shoppes/](http://www.redstoneinvestments.com/redstone/propertydetails/102-crest-pointe-towne-shoppes/).



Graphics provided by Redstone Investments



## New Fire Station Opening Ceremony Held Oct. 27

Hillsborough County Press Release/Staff

### Report

Hillsborough County leaders joined Fire Rescue personnel and community representatives for a fire service tradition of uncoupling fire hoses, to formally mark the opening of the new \$2.3 million dollar South Brandon Fire Station No. 7 on Tuesday, Oct. 27. The station's new location is 1292 E. Bloomingdale Ave. in Valrico.



Replacing a 40-year-old building located about a mile west on Bloomingdale Avenue, the 9,300 square foot facility is more than twice the size of the old station and includes modern living quarters and workspace designed to meet current fire station standards. The station's three bays house a combination fire engine/ladder truck known as a "quint," as well as a brush truck. A crew of three staffs each 24-hour shift.

BHA president George May spoke at the event. "Even though the station is technically called South Brandon, to us, they are Bloomingdale and a part of our community. We want to embrace them and meet any needs they may have. They are our response team and our neighbors."

Construction costs were funded through impact fees, unincorporated area construction funds, and Public Safety Improvement Bond Project funds. Construction took about a year to complete. Work also is underway in the Brandon area on the Public Safety Operations Complex that includes Hillsborough County Fire Rescue headquarters and a new Emergency Operations Center.



Courtesy Photo: Hillsborough County

The ceremony featured a fire hose "uncoupling" to mark the station's commitment to serving the community. From left are: Fire Marshal Tammy Zurla, Deputy Chief of Operations Frank Fernandez, retired Capt. William "Billy" Riley, Fire Chief Dennis Jones, District 4 County Commissioner Stacy White, Assistant County Administrator Tom Fass, Bloomingdale Homeowners Association President George May and Bell Shoals Baptist Church Administrative Pastor Ed Hancock.



Courtesy Photo: Hillsborough County

A special song by students from the Primrose School of Bloomingdale helped welcome the new firefighters to the community. Primrose School is located next to the new fire station.



Photo: Mack Austin

"Q7" the hi-tech main fire engine stands on display at the Hillsborough County South Brandon Fire Station 7 opening ceremony. Photo: Mack Austin



Photo: Joy Boisselle

The firefighters at the new station already feel like members of the community. Before the opening ceremony on Oct. 27, Fire Captain Steven King (l.), Fire Engine Driver and Bloomingdale resident Steve Lanz (r.), and Firefighter Ani Olafemi (ladder top) participated in the BHA Fall Festival held on Oct. 24 at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club.

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 46th Annual

# Novemberfest

**NOVEMBER 18-22**

705 E. Brandon Blvd. Brandon, Florida

Located on the corner of SR60 and Bryan Road in East Brandon

**Rides & Games**

**Festival of Food**

**FREE PARKING**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**WIN CASH**

**GRAND PRIZE \$5,000 CASH!**

**WIN PRIZES**

**Purchase Armbands Each Day for UNLIMITED RIDES!**

**Wed., Nov. 18 • 4pm - 10pm**

- Carnival Grand Opening

**Thu., Nov. 19 • 4pm - 10pm**

- Southern Train Band - 7:15pm

**Fri., Nov. 20 • 4pm - Midnight**

- Matt Bilor - 4:30pm
- Soul Circus Cowboys Band - 8pm

**Sat., Nov. 21 • 11am - Midnight**

- Craft Beer Tasting - 5-7pm
- Lip-Sync Contest - 5-7pm

Hosted by Ernest Hooper  
Tampa Bay Times Columnist

- Daniel Sprouse Band - 7:30 p.m.
- The John Rhey Band - 9 p.m.

**Sun., Nov. 22 • 12pm - 8pm**

- Nativity Alumni Homecoming Day
- Family Fun Day & Military Appreciation Day

For info and to purchase tickets in advance at

[www.NativityCatholicChurch.org/Novemberfest](http://www.NativityCatholicChurch.org/Novemberfest)

[Facebook.com/Nativity Novemberfest](https://Facebook.com/NativityNovemberfest)

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# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren



## ***Update: Important crime information for residents!***

Detective James Howell and I briefed members of the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Council (BACC) at the October meeting. The case updates below include one closed case and one case with additional information. Resident involvement was invaluable in the case investigations.

**Case 09-3:** From September, Location - Sandy Creek Drive. Type of Crime - Vehicle burglary. Details - Two white males were seen using their cell phone lights to check vehicles. They found one unlocked and searched it for personal info and valuables.

**Update: Case closed. Juvenile arrested.**

**New! Case 10-1:** Location - St. Stephens Church construction site off Boyette Road. Details - Equipment stolen. Law enforcement is working with the contractor to prevent future thefts. Note: Anyone who sees suspicious activity in this area or who has information should call the Sheriff's Office at 247-8200.

**Reminder:** Use caution if you witness a crime. Do not confront the criminals. They may be armed. Observe and write down critical information - detailed subject and vehicle descriptions, license plate, and date/time/location. Cellphone photos are great too as long as you do not put yourself in harm's way.

On the home front, remember, home security is a full time job. The one time you get in a hurry or forget to lock your vehicle, take your valuables inside or close your garage door is all it takes. So, lock your vehicles, take valuables inside, and close your garage doors!

**Call HCSO at 247-8200 to report suspicious activity or in an emergency, call 911!**

## ***Speeding causes accidents and is expensive!***

With schools back in session and construction projects ongoing or beginning soon, residents must pay attention to speed limits as the safety of our children and others is at stake.

Speeding can result in accidents. The HCSO website tracks numbers of accidents throughout the county. Numbers posted for Bloomingdale Avenue in July, August and September total 87 accidents! This number only reflects data from the top 25 accident locations within the county.

A secondary consideration - speeding tickets hit the wallet hard. For example, law enforcement stopped and wrote a citation on a speeder during a morning speeding blitz. Bottom line: a \$480 citation and points "awarded" on the driving record resulting in an increased insurance premium. Can you afford that kind of expense?

Just slow down! Nothing is more important than the lives of our fellow citizens!

## ***Make yours a safe and secure holiday season!***

November marks the beginning of the official "Holiday Season." This holiday season folks will be busy shopping, traveling and celebrating. The following safety and security tips will help you stay safe and secure this season.

**Shoppers:** Be cautious and aware of your surroundings and your actions. Do not leave your car unlocked, especially with the engine running. Do not leave packages or other valuables in your car. Lock them in the trunk.

**Homeowners:** Prepare and secure your home before you head out for holiday traveling and before you go shopping. Burglars drive through neighborhoods looking for "easy targets." Don't let your home be one! Complete a "Security Watch" request at the Bloomingdale Community Station on Erindale Drive if you are going out of town.

**HAVE A SAFE AND SECURE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SEASON!**

## **SHERIFF'S OCTOBER "OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET" A SUCCESS!**

By Mack Austin

To help residents properly dispose of outdated and unused medications, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office completed another successful "Operation Medicine Cabinet" Oct. 8 at Hawthorne Village in Brandon. Working with Kristi Campbell, a HOMEINSTEAD Senior Care staff member, Sheriff's deputies and volunteers collected over 368.7 pounds of medications. That's 368.7 lbs. of drugs that were destroyed that cannot be abused in the wrong hands or end up in our water system!

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank Hawthorne Village Retirement Community and their staff for their outstanding assistance and support during this project. The HCSO sends a special thank you to the Bloomingdale Medical Associates staff, pharmacies at the Lithia Publix, Bloomingdale Wal-Mart, and Walgreens; and the Fish Hawk "Osprey" for helping publicize the event.

Still have old meds to dispose of? The HCSO has special receptacles at district offices for pill disposal only, no liquids or sharp items, please. In our area, District II at 2310 North Falkenburg Rd. and District IV at 508 33rd St SE, Ruskin are the closest and are open 24 hours.



Photo: Mack Austin

Bloomingdale Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren loads another box of drugs collected at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office "Operation Medicine Cabinet" in October. A whopping 368.7 lbs. of expired and unused medications were collected during the event.





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



### NOVEMBER 11 VETERANS DAY - NON-STUDENT DAY NOVEMBER 23 - 27 FALL BREAK - NO SCHOOL

#### ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Nov. 9 – Reports Cards Go Home  
Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Program, 8:15 a.m., cafeteria  
Nov. 19 – Chili's Dinner Night

#### Alafia Mint

Every Wednesday the Mint book swap and spirit store is open in Rm. 208 from 7:30- 7:55 a.m.

#### School Spirit Day

Every Friday wear your Alafia shirt to school.

#### Guidance News

The Alafia guidance program supports the mission of the school by promoting and enhancing the learning process of every student through integration of academic, career and personal/social development. Some programs that may be available: Grades K-5 – Bullying Prevention Program, Red Ribbon Week – Why I stay drug free, Veteran's Day Program, Great American Teach-In. Third Grade and Fourth Grade – Champions for Children's Kids-on-the-Block. For information, contact the Guidance Counselor at 813-744-8190.

#### CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Program, 8:30-9:30 a.m., multipurpose room

Nov. 12 – Chipotle Spirit Night, 5:30 p.m., Bloomingdale Avenue, Be sure to mention Cimino when you order.

Nov. 12 – 18, ECHO Food Drive - The care team will be collecting nonperishable goods to support those in need around the greater Brandon/Valrico area.

Nov. 20 – All Pro Dads, Multi-Purpose Room, at 7 a.m.

Nov. 30 – Dec. 7 - Book Fair, library

Dec. 3 – Family Night, 4 p.m., Join the faculty as they read books to the students. Students are encouraged to wear their PJ's. Santa will make an appearance from 6-7 p.m. followed by a school chorus performance.

#### Input wanted for HCPS NEWSDESK

Parents, we need your help! The district has a new online platform for all the great things happening in HCPS called "newsdesk." It features stories relevant to students, families, employees, and our community focusing on what makes HCPS so special and unique. As the school year goes along and exciting news and events begin to happen, we want you to let us know so we can get them on the site. Visit [www.sdhc.k12.fl.us](http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us) and click on the newsdesk link. You can explore all of the wonderful stories we are already promoting on the site and suggest your own story. We can't wait to hear from you!



## newsdesk

Informing, engaging, and celebrating  
our *students and community.*

#### BURNS BRUINS BANTER

Nov. 12 – Track meet, @ Newsome, 6 p.m.

Nov. 13 – Report cards go home

Nov. 13 – Burns Dads Family Movie, 7-9 p.m., courtyard

Nov. 18 – Hat Day

Nov. 19 – Track meet, @ East Bay, 6 p.m.

Nov. 20 – PE Turkey Trot Run, 9 a.m.

Dec. 3 – Track meet, @ Newsome, 6 p.m.

Dec. 5 – Poinsettia Delivery in the bus loop, 8-9 a.m.

#### Help Burns earn Microsoft Surface Tablets

Would you please help us win tablets for our school? All you need to do is use Bing as your search engine. Sign up for an account. (You will need to install the Bing Toolbar on your computer.) Next - donate the points that you earn to Burns Middle School (just look for the link that says, "Donate.") Thanks for helping Burns be the Best Leading the Rest!



The Best Leading The Rest!



**Great American Teach-In / Nov. 19 / 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. Call 813-872-5254 or email [Crystal.Russell@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:Crystal.Russell@sdhc.k12.fl.us) to participate.







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



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

- Nov. 10 – Bloomington’s Music Departments Veterans Day Concert, 7 p.m., Auditorium
Nov. 10 – Girls Basketball vs Blake, 7 p.m.
Nov. 12 – Boys and Girls Soccer vs Brandon, 6 p.m.
Nov. 12 – Mr. and Miss Bloomington Contest, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
Nov. 17 – Boys and Girls Soccer vs King, 6 p.m.
Nov. 17 – Boys and Girls Basketball vs Plant, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 19 – Melissa Snively Meeting, 6 p.m., Media Center
Nov. 19 – Boys and Girls Basketball vs Robinson, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 20 – Boys Soccer vs East Bay, 7 p.m.
Dec. 1 – Boys and Girls Basketball vs East Bay, 6:30 p.m.



Financial Aid Workshop

Wells Fargo will conduct a financial aid workshop on Nov. 18 from 6-7 p.m. in the Media Center. Parents of students in all grades are welcome!

College Visits

Bloomington will be visiting the campuses of USF-Sarasota and FGCU on Nov. 17. We will also be visiting UCF and Valencia College on Dec. 1. Pick up an application in the guidance office. There are a limited number of spots available. Return applications ASAP!

Dual Enrollment Deadline

The dual enrollment deadline is Nov. 16. Students interested in enrolling in HCC courses should see their counselor as soon as possible.

Tutoring Available

Bloomington offers after school tutoring in English, math, Spanish, science and world history. Please visit bloomington.mysdhc.org for course information and schedules. School - School News November 2015, tutor graphic

Redesigned SAT

The SAT has been redesigned. Check out great study resources at the Khan Academy at www.khanacademy.org or at www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org.



On Oct. 9, the BSHS football team took the "Homecoming" field advantage but came up short against Plant City losing 14-0. As the sky opened up spilling rain on an enthusiastic crowd, nothing could dampen the spirits of the BSHS 2015 Homecoming Court as festivities were moved inside to the school cafeteria. Homecoming Queen Arianna Martinez and King Chris Desmond appear ready to take on the world...rain or shine.



Photo: David Martinez



Photo: Deidre Morgan





## BSHS Boys' Cross Country Outruns the Competition

Staff Report

The BSHS Bulls Cross Country Team finished a strong 2015 season posting a first place win at the Disney Cross Country Classic in Kissimmee on Oct. 10 and a second place district finish on Oct. 22 in a tight race against meet host and eventual District Champions Newsome High School.

At the Disney Classic televised by ESPN, over 155 runners from nineteen teams nationwide competed for top honors. The Bulls ran a dominating race placing three of their seven runners in the top 10 and winning their 4A division with an average team time of 17:54. All BSHS runners placed within the top 50 finishers.

Senior Bo Benick was the first Bull to cross the finish line in 3rd place with a time of 17:12. On his heels was junior Colin Boutin who finished 6th with a time of 17:32. Finishing 9th and helping the Bulls to a team victory was junior Kyle Perry with a time of 17:52.

The following week, the team ran a hotly contested Class 4A District 7 race against rivals Newsome High School. The Newsome harriers edged out the Bulls by a narrow margin of under 25 seconds. All seven runners from both teams finished in the top 20. Finishing in the top 10 for Bloomingdale were Colin Boutin (4th), Bo Benik (6th) and Will Urbance (9th).

Next year promises another strong cross-country season, as many runners will be returning. Way to run, Bulls!



Photos: Jill Benik



Kyle Perry, Bo Benik and Colin Boutin lead the way at the Disney Classic. When not competing, the team trains along Natures Way. Send congratulations their way!

Coach Jenn Beach, Colin Boutin, Noah McCausland, Bo Benik, Kyle Perry, Nate Townsend, Will Urbance, and Derrick White proudly accept first place honors at the Disney Cross Country Classic in Kissimmee on Oct. 10. Except for McCausland and Benik, all runners are Bloomingdale community residents.



## Attention Students! The Gazette Wants YOU!



Want to see your name in print and be a published writer? The award-winning Bloomingdale Gazette is pleased to offer you "your name in lights" and an opportunity for community service hours. While helping to keep your community in-the-know, you will also hone your writing and photography skills. For those college-bound students, the writing piece is a must-have skill!

We are looking for responsible individuals who can meet deadlines and are willing to write about school events, sports and special interest stories. Clear direction and guidance will be given, so don't let nerves stop you from considering this opportunity. One student writer is now working part-time with the paper while attending college locally.

Community service hours will be determined based on the assignments given, but will not normally exceed five hours per assignment. Call 813-681-2051 or email [inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com). Deadline is coming, call soon!





The 27<sup>th</sup>  
Annual  
RUSKIN  
**SEAFOOD**  
2015 Festival

*Welcomes you for*  
**Sun, Fun & Seafood!**

[www.ruskinseafoodfestival.org](http://www.ruskinseafoodfestival.org) • For more info, call: 813.645.1366

*When:*  
**Saturday, November 7th • 10am -5pm**  
*Continue the fun on Saturday night at our...*  
**FOOD COURT, SANDBAR & CLAM JAM STAGE**  
**5PM - 9PM**

**Sunday, November 8th • 10am -4pm**

*Where:*  
**E.G. Simmons Park**  
**2401 19th Avenue, N.W., Ruskin, FL 33570**  
**813.671.7655**

\*There is a \$2.00 entry fee per CARLOAD to E.G. Simmons Park. This fee goes directly to Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation.



*Admission:*  
Adults: **\$5.00** • Children (Under 12): **FREE**  
Active Military: **FREE with Military ID**

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**  
after 4 PM on a \$5.00 ticket admission



- A variety of food vendors serving seafood & other specialty food items
- Arts & Crafts show
- Outdoor fishing & boating expo
- Live entertainment with Kozmic Pearl, Randy McNeeley Band, Fleetwood Max, Joe Zuniga, Spy vs Spy
- This is a pet-friendly event (Pets must be on a leash.)
- Kids Area – Guppies R Guppies, Sat. 10am-5pm and Sun. 10am-4pm.