

THE

BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

VOLUME XXXIV  ISSUE 9  SEPTEMBER 2014  www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

FALL FESTIVAL OFFERS BUSINESS OWNERS FREE ONE-OF-A-KIND OPPORTUNITY

Staff Report

THE BLOOMINGDALE FALL FESTIVAL



The Fall Festival, a BHA tradition, began in 2008. Pictured at the inaugural event are co-organizer Ray Chadderton, his son, the Tampa Bay Lightning Cheerleaders and Lightning Bug. Chadderton is an event sponsor again this year sponsoring one of two bouncy houses and more.
(Bloomingtondale Gazette File Photo)

Free is one word that most understand as a good thing—Free to a good home, Buy one, Get One (free), Free while supplies last. Business owners can now apply the word “Free” to the BHA’s upcoming Fall Festival taking place on Oct. 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Bloomingtondale Golfers Club.

While the Fall Festival provides residents with a day of free fun-filled community-

building activities including children’s and pet’s costume contests, raffles, games, a “trick or treat” street, demonstrations and music. It, also, offers area business owners free booth space to promote and market themselves to Bloomingtondale’s more than 23,000 residents. As one of

the largest communities in Hillsborough County, business owners should need little encouragement to become part of this annual event.

SO, WHAT IS THE CATCH?

No catch or hidden meanings, but booth space is limited and filling fast. Booth participants provide nothing more than candy for between 150 and 300 children as part of the Fall Festival “Trick or Treat” street, and tables, chairs, and canopy as needed for their booth. They are encouraged to provide promotional materials as well.

Already on board are Ray Chadderton of The Chadderton Group of Keller Williams Realty, Spotlight Home Staging, Bulls and Firefighters Pressure Washing, Earthwise Pet Supply and 5/3 Bank. Rounding out the confirmed participants are Galin Homes of Tampa Bay, Heather Rose Photography, Salon Jennifer’s Heather Michael, Title Boxing, Furever Friends Animal Rescue, Tampa Bay Times, Crunch Fitness, Flooring America, and Hillsborough County Fire Rescue and Sheriff’s Office.

Festival Flyer and Story Continuation on Back Cover (Page 24)

BHA PRESIDENT MEETS WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONER AL HIGGINBOTHAM

Staff Report



Photo: Miriam Leech

BHA President George May met privately with District 4 County Commissioner Al Higginbotham on Aug. 22 to discuss the “Big Box” development, its impact on the Bloomingtondale community, and the effects on safety and traffic regarding the failed roads of Bloomingtondale Avenue and Lithia Pinecrest Road.

According to May, much of the meeting concerned the safety and traffic around the development with Higginbotham recommending residents contact their state representatives and senators to express their concerns. Later, May plans to meet with county personnel directly responsible for transportation in the area.

Story Continued on Page 6

BHA President George May speaks with County Commissioner Al Higginbotham at the Aug. 5 Candidate Forum held at the Bell Shoals Baptist Church. May and Higginbotham met again privately on Aug. 22 to discuss the impact of the Big Box development on the Bloomingtondale community.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take. *Wayne Gretzky*

This Month



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PLEASE  RECYCLE



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomington Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

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

3509 Bell Shoals Road

Valrico, Florida 33596

Directors at Large:

President: *George T. May IV*

Treasurer: *Dennis Osborn*

Secretary: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Billy Hightower

Mary Galin

Dina White

Amy Luhmann

Joanie Wilson

Ken Smith

Beth Smedley

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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Tampa Bay Times

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

TODAY!

Pet Resource Center Offers Back-to-School Specials at First Saturday Celebration / Today, Sept. 6 / 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. / 440 N. Falkenburg Road / Tampa / Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center invites the community to another First Saturday Celebration on Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 440 N. Falkenburg Road facility. The family-friendly event offers back-to-school pet adoption specials, food trucks, and expert lessons on pet care and training courtesy of the Hillsborough County Community College Vet Tech Club. Exhibitors include a pet portrait artist, and kids can even win prizes for creating a portrait of a favorite shelter pet.

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center offers a wide variety of adoptable pets for a great value. Adoption fees includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations, County license tag, microchip and free chip registration. Kennels marked "now can go" highlight the many animals fully vetted and ready to leave for their forever homes, same-day, for just \$20. More than 150 of these adorable "adoptables" are available.

For more information on pet adoption or First Saturday Celebrations, contact Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center at 813-744-5660 or visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets.

My name is 23651333. I am a German shepherd mix in need of a name and a good home. Visit me on Sept. 6 at the Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center during the First Saturday Celebration from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 440 N. Falkenburg Road facility.



Photo Courtesy of:
Hillsborough County
Animal Services

Fiddler on the Roof / Tonight, Sept. 6 / 8:00 p.m. / James McCabe Theater / 506 Fifth St. / Valrico / A musical theatre tradition, Tevye the milkman tries to protect his daughters and his way of life from a changing world. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, Fiddler on the Roof's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness. General Admission - \$15.00 Discount - \$13.00. Additional performances are Sept. 12, 13, 14, 19 and 20. For information, call 813-643-8292.

Public Information Meeting on Countywide Hazards and Flood Plan Update / Sept. 8 / 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library / 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. / A public meeting is scheduled to provide residents information about the 2015 update to Hillsborough County's Local

Mitigation Strategy and Floodplain Management Plan (LMS). The LMS is the "all hazards" guide developed to provide the community information as to the risks, such as floods, wildfires, tornados, thunderstorms, and hurricanes, that they could possibly face while living in Hillsborough County and the mitigation techniques that residents and businesses may implement to help lessen the risks. For information, call Steve Valdez, Citizen Engagement Manager, 813-272-5275.

YMCA Fall Swim Lesson Registration / Sept. 10 / Campo Family YMCA / 3414 Culbreath Rd. / YMCA fall swim lesson registration is Sept. 10 for Sept. 29-Nov. 1 session. Contact Noel Russell at 813-684-1371 or email nrussell@tampaymca.org for more information. The YMCA, also, offers a variety of fall sports including soccer and paintball. Call for information.

Dash and Splash 2014 / Sept. 13 / 7:30 a.m. / Brandon Sports & Aquatic Center / 405 Beverly Blvd., Brandon / The Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center announces its third annual Dash and Splash event for athletes, non-athletes, and all ages. This family-oriented, fun event is in support of our Youth Drowning Prevention initiative, and proceeds go toward providing swim lessons to families who cannot afford them.

Dash and Splash is a swimming/running timed event consisting of a 2 mile run/quarter mile swim/1 mile run for adults. For children, ages 7 to 10, the event is a half mile run/100 meter swim, and children, ages 11 to 14, do a 1 mile run/200 meter swim.

Pre-race day registration prices are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children, ages 7 to 10, and \$20 for children, ages 11 to 14. Registration is available at www.mybsac.org. Those unable to attend can still support the youth drowning prevention initiative by purchasing a t-shirt. For information, please contact The Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center at 813-689-0908.

Beach Blanket Bunco for the Arts / Sept. 18 / 6:30 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Bunco is a game of dice, luck, social interaction, and prizes. No experience necessary! In addition to conversation and friendly competition, there will be dinner, refreshments, and a 50/50 raffle. At the end of the evening, five fun prizes will be awarded (individuals can win in one category only). Tickets are \$20 per person and include dinner and refreshments. For information, call 813-685-8888.

Bedtime with Books / Sept. 19 / 7 p.m. / The Village Early Learning Center / 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon / Join us for a family event where children will enjoy a story, snack, and craft and receive a free storybook. Open to the community. Ages 2 and up. For information, call 813-651-0779.

The CBS Players Present "The Waiting Room" / Sept. 20 7 p.m. / Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon, 706 Bryan Road / Reflection for the Jewish Holidays in an

Original Play. The show is free and open to the public; dairy desserts will be served.

Holiday Cards for Troops Kid's Night / Sept. 25 / 6-8 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / We will be making thank you cards for our Troops! Ages 8 to 15 welcome. For information, call 813-685-8888.



Photo Credit: Hillsborough
County Public Library

UPCOMING & ONGOING

Cards for Troops / Oct. 5 / 9 a.m.-3 p.m. / Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association / 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon / Show your support by making hand-made Holiday Cards for our Troops! The decorated cards (blank inside) are sent to our deployed service members. The soldiers will be able to write a sentiment to their loved ones inside each card. This is a free community event! Donations appreciated! Ages 16 and up! NO childcare provided. Raffle tickets: 6 for \$5, arm's length for \$20. For information, call 813-685-8888 or e-mail Dawn Galia at cpfinearts@verizon.net.

Brandon Ballet Presents Dracula / Oct. 19 / 5 p.m. / Centro Asturiano de Tampa / 1913 N. Nebraska Ave., Tampa / The Brandon Ballet will present this classic vampire tale just in time for Halloween. For updated information on performance times and ticket sales, visit www.brandonballet.org or call 813-684-4282. Tickets can be purchased online at www.tututix.com/brandonballet.

Zach Tucker Memorial 5K & Fun Run 2014 / Oct. 25 / Lithia Springs Elementary School / Valrico / The 5th annual Zach Tucker Memorial takes place at Lithia Springs Elementary. Enjoy the fall weather while taking in the beautiful scenery of the River Hills Community as you complete the 5k or 1 Mile course. This chip timed race event also includes a post race party complete with a professional DJ, food, face painting, tattoos, crazy hair spray and much more family fun! Wear a costume and Win a PRIZE! Raise the most funds and Win a Prize! Join us in helping to raise support for families facing one of the most difficult challenges—pediatric cancer. The 5 K starts promptly at 8 a.m. The Fun Run starts at 9 a.m. Parking is at the school, but spaces are limited and carpooling recommended.

Bloomingdale Yoga in the Park / Saturdays / 8:30-9:30 a.m. / Free yoga class for Bloomingdale residents held at the private park at the end of Culbreath Road.

BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



join now

ONGOING 2014 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association wants residents to know that by paying their annual \$25 membership dues, they play a vital part in what makes our community special.

With just under four months of 2014 remaining, the BHA is preparing for two major end-of-year events, the Fall Festival and the 27th Annual Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit. Both events require volunteers, sponsors and many Association hours. More importantly, neither event can take place without funding in the form of your \$25 dues.

Again, the Association asks for your continued support of the only group that oversees the interests of this community of over 5,000 homes and 23,000 residents. For those thinking about joining, \$25 is a small price to pay. If you have ever called the office, read the Bloomingdale Gazette, looked at our website or Facebook page, submitted a complaint, attended a BHA event, these are all things that would not happen without the funds generated during the Association's annual dues drive.

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

BHA BRIEFS

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, SUZANNE JONES

The BHA sends a heartfelt thank you to our departing Gazette editor and Bloomingdale resident, Suzanne Jones. For nearly two years, Jones led a talented writing staff, interacted with the Tampa Bay Times, our current publisher, and always kept the interests of the community front and center.



Through her leadership, the paper grew from 16 pages to its current 24-page format; it received a complete makeover in October 2013 and became the 2014 Hillsborough County Large Community Communications Award winner. The Bloomingdale Gazette is a publication of which Bloomingdale residents can be proud.

Joining the Bloomingdale Gazette staff is new editor, Joy Boisselle. A former military officer, Boisselle has experience as a freelance writer and copy editor.

BHA AUGUST BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board discussions at the Aug. 12 meeting included the "Big Box" development, the creation of an overlay district governing the community and the upcoming Fall Festival. Three residents attended along with Janet Dougherty, Republican candidate for District 4 Board of County Commissioners. Dougherty answered questions and discussed her campaign platform. Residents are encouraged to attend monthly board meetings.

BHA CLOSES POST OFFICE BOX 7221, BRANDON, FL 33508

Effective Aug. 31, the BHA post office box is no more. Please direct all mail to the Association's physical address at 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL,

BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Monday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Bloomingdale Special Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.

BHA Monthly Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road.

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Bloomingdale Cove Quarterly HOA Meeting, Bloomingdale Library, Residents only.

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

The Links Homeowners Association Budget Meeting, Bloomingdale Library, Residents only.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Bloomingdale Golfers Club

Mark your calendars! The 2014 Bloomingdale Fall Festival will be here before you know it. This community event is fun-filled with activities for all ages, and this year, the festival will include a Halloween Pet Costume Contest and Children's Costume Contest, music, and a "Trick or Treat" Street. If you would like to be a sponsor, set-up a booth, or volunteer on the committee, please contact Mary Galin at 813-468-6279, or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. See the Fall Festival flyer and sponsorship information this issue.

33596. Residents using banks for dues processing should update the mailing address accordingly.

BLOOMINGDALE ESTATES DEED RESTRICTION UPDATE

The BHA attorney reviewed the update documents submitted in May. The BHA received the documents on Aug. 12, is currently evaluating the advice received and will meet with the BHA attorney this month.

YARD SALE FACEBOOK POSTINGS

Are you getting ready to clean out your closets and garage? Let the BHA help you make some room. Post your yard sale information on our Facebook page at www.Facebook/BloomingdaleHOA.com. Provide an address, date, and time, and what kinds of items are available, then, let the de-cluttering begin.



STUDENT VOLUNTEERS RACK UP COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

This summer, the BHA offered students an opportunity to earn community service hours for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program. The response was overwhelming—15 students volunteered and earned over 100 hours of volunteer time. Students worked to develop a BHA historical timeline and archives of the Association and the community from 1979 to the present. Thank you, volunteers!

LOOKING BACK...

Staff Report



This month's "Looking Back" features an article written for the February 2000 issue of the Gazette, titled "Bloomingdale Ave, Bell Shoals – Lithia widening to begin." The article is worthy of a look back for many reasons. Nearly 15 years have passed, and it is interesting to note that construction and development plans back then nearly mirror the plans ongoing today.

Today, Bell Shoals widening is again ongoing, and spring will see updates begin at the intersection of Culbreath Road and Bloomingdale Avenue. Further, it appears that in 2000, a protest was successful against a proposed shopping center near Bloomingdale High—sounds familiar. Then, there is the photo, a quaint produce stand, reminding us of by-gone days in our community. This is surely a case of the future repeating itself.

Lastly, the reporter for this article is none other than Bloomingdale resident, Mack Austin, who continues to contribute to the Gazette to this day.



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YARD OF THE MONTH



Photo: Joy Boisselle

David & Michelle Bird

4416 Blantyre Place (Bristol Green - Bloomingdale East)

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

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



CORRECTION:

August's Yard of the Month winner was 106 Bessemer Circle, (Bloomingdale Estates - Bloomingdale West), not 4532 Swift Circle (July's winner). We regret the error.

THE VOTES ARE IN

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) Secretary Daniel Berkowitz meets with Dr. Stacy White at the Candidate Forum held at Bell Shoals Baptist Church on Aug. 5. White won the closely contested Republican Primary Election for the Board of County Commissioner's District 4 seat, and will run against write-in candidate Christopher Lawrence Weaver in the General Election on Nov. 4. District 4 encompasses Bloomingdale and most of eastern and southern Hillsborough County.



Photo: Miriam Leech

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

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Mark Horst, Treasurer
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Mark Vargo, Trustee

COUNTY COMMISSIONER (CONT. FROM COVER)

After the meeting, May said, "I have a better understanding of the overall "Big Box" situation, and how we might proceed as a community." The BHA is seeking a meeting with Redstone/Redcast Developers to discuss development plans now that the Can-Do lawsuit has settled through mediation. How the Association moves forward from there, depends on that meeting's outcome he stated.

May wants residents to know that the BHA is actively engaged in pursuing the right course for the community. "We are not anti-growth or anti-business," he explained, "but, the development must complement the community." Complement in this case refers to an addition that preserves and enhances the community's quality of life and adds to property values.

"I think residents and community leaders have realized that the only way to make changes or improve our community is to get involved." The BHA is involved.

MEET YOUR BHA BOARD

By: Kayla Hayes

Daniel Berkowitz serves our community as the Bloomingdale Homeowner Association Secretary. He has been a member of the BHA board for about two years, first as a Director at Large, and then as Secretary for the past 18 months. As Secretary, Berkowitz records the official notes at the Board meetings, but he also serves as the Chairperson for the Deed Restriction Compliance Committee and the B.J. Stelter Scholarship Committee.

"Hillsborough County, in general, and Bloomingdale in particular, remind me of the community I grew up in outside of Washington D.C.," Berkowitz said. "The neighborhoods are well-established in both residents and greenery."

In his full-time job, Berkowitz is an Academic Program and Facilities Manager for Hillsborough Community College, overseeing activities at The Regent satellite location in Winthrop. Having a degree and professional background in academics, he values the BHA's educational component, which means constantly communicating with and imparting knowledge to the community.

"My vision for Bloomingdale includes both concrete items, such as the creation of a dog park, as well as more esoteric ideas, such as building upon our already solid relationship with the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District and county government," Berkowitz shared. His vision for the BHA is to continue growing in size and strength in order to accomplish more programming and activities.

Berkowitz, his wife Kate, and their two sons live in Sandy Creek Manors in Bloomingdale West.



BHA Secretary Dann Berkowitz is often on foot in our community greeting and meeting residents. You can recognize him by his ever-present smile, see photo. Be sure to say, "Hello!"

Photo: Dann Berkowitz

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Compiled by: Kayla Hayes

September is National Library Card Month! The Bloomingdale Regional Public Library offers lots to do in September for kids and for all ages. We have included just a sampling. For a full calendar, go to www.hcpl.org/hcpl/locations/bdl. Call the library for registration and information at 813-273-3652.

FOR CHILDREN

Crafts for Kids: Paper Bag Puppets on Monday, Sept. 8 from 3-3:45 p.m., Room 7. Join us as we create animal puppets from paper bags.

Block Party on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 2-4 p.m., McLean Community Room. Kids use Lego building blocks for a fun, interactive and creative afternoon. The library provides the Legos; kids provide the imagination! New theme each month. For grades K-5.

FOR TEENS

Teen Game Zone every Monday in September from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 8. Play popular Wii games like Rockband, Mario Smash Bros. and Mario Kart. Showcase your musical talent or challenge your friends to some sports! Get your game on.

FOR ADULTS

Great Books Discussion: The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1030 a.m. to noon, McLean Community Room. Adults are invited to join Patrick DeMarco for a discussion of this classic work. Eliot's portrayal of sibling relationships is terribly poignant and plays a major part in the novel, as does the longstanding rivalry between two local families - the Tullivers and the Wakems.

FOR ALL AGES

Alligator Zone on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 10:15 a.m. This event is for all ages and provides feedback to local entrepreneurs, much like the popular ABC reality TV show Shark Tank. Reserve seats free at AlligatorZone.eventbrite.com.

Bloomingdale Giveback Program on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. in the McLean Community Rm. Join the fun. Learn to knit or crochet. The handmade creations are donated mostly to Newborns in Need, Inc. which supports local shelters and hospitals in the area by putting together gift bags with gently used and homemade items like clothing and blankets.

Of the program, Bloomingdale Library Technician Assistant (LTA) Dottie Bradley said, "We have a wonderful volunteer who teaches at Michaels and volunteers her time to teach anyone who wants to knit, and a teen volunteer who comes in and teaches people to crochet. The Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library provides the materials, like yarn and needles."



Starting this month, *The Bloomingdale Giveback Program* will be meeting twice a month on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Classes are free and for a cause.

Photo: Hillsborough County Public Library

"Newborns in Need supports the Brandon Regional Hospital 100 percent in the NICU [Neonatal Intensive Care Unit]," Bradley added. "We have blankets in stock at the library that we're looking to donate to adults and teens in the area, such as at a nursing home," she continued.

Come be a part of something helpful, productive and fun! All Ages, Teens, Children. Funded by the Friends of the Bloomingdale Regional Library

GOOD READS!

Principal Librarian Eloise R. Hurst recommends the following reads:
Adult Books - *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri (e-book format available)
Young Adult Books - *Insurgent* by Veronica Roth (e-book format available)
Children's Books - *Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* by Kate DiCamillo



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is pleased to announce the addition of
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**Jesse A. Alonso, DMD and
Christopher J. Chiaramonte, DDS**

Dr. Alonso grew up in the Valrico area. He graduated from the University of Florida and has a wife and two small children.

Dr. Chiaramonte grew up in the Valrico area. He graduated from New York University and is engaged to be married.

We are very fortunate to have these two fine young men join us in our family practice.

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212555-01

BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Provided by the Valrico Garden Club

...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Welcome to Blooming in Bloomingdale, a new monthly column, for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden experts and amateurs from the Valrico Garden Club (VGC). Each month, the club will highlight garden news and events in our area as well as tips on how to make your garden the neighborhood showpiece.

To learn more about the Valrico Garden Club, contact Mary Kay McMahan at 813-684-6323, email danmcmahan@aol.com or visit Facebook/Valrico Garden Club. Have a question you would like answered in next month's column? Email inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.

This month's article focuses on a parasitic plant species—mistletoe—traditionally welcomed overhead at Christmastime, but a major problem when found adorning our community's beloved oak trees.

LAUREL OAK TREES VS. MISTLETOE, THE SILENT BATTLE RAGES

By: Gwen Graverson, Bloomingdale Resident

Many oak trees grace the Bloomingdale community with their enduring beauty. For many residents, the abundance of mature trees played a role in their decision to make this area their home.

In my yard in Fairway Park, I have a laurel oak tree near my pool enclosure. From time to time, I noticed small branches falling down with small light colored leaves. While I knew these were definitely not oak branches and leaves; I was surprised to learn that the addition to my tree was mistletoe.

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that can infest and damage trees by denying water and nutrients. I like to refer to them as "pesty tenants who don't pay rent." Pruning is the recommended method for mistletoe elimination or control. How much to cut varies, but it is better to do something than nothing at all.

Spraying with a growth regulator like Ethephon is another method. For best results, experts recommend spraying when the host tree is dormant, generally December through February, and when the temperature is above 65 degrees. In some cases, removing the tree may be necessary. Permits are usually required, and fines for removing without a permit can be large. Hillsborough County maintains a Tree Removal Information Line at 813-307-4511.

I hired an arborist to assess my tree. He noted that laurel oaks usually live about 60 years and that there is a tendency for rot and high rates of limb breakage. When planting laurel oaks, he advised planting away from buildings and other structures.

Unfortunately, for my tree, removal was his recommendation. The tree could be 30-plus years old. It did not benefit from early pruning; so instead of normal single trunk development, my tree has two. The arborist also observed a cavity in the tree and felt it would not hold up in a major storm. Sadly, my permit for tree removal is at county, and I am waiting for a decision on how best to proceed.

For information about mistletoe and other plant species, check out the University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension website at <http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu/>, call 813-744-5519 or email hillsborough@ifas.ufl.edu.



Photos: Gwen Graverson

Should you notice mistletoe in one of your trees, remove it. Pruning techniques are available online at the UF/IFAS website at <http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu/>.



The laurel oak tree pictured found itself under attack from the parasitic plant, mistletoe. Based on the tree's condition, an arborist recommended removal.

Along with their own "plant and learn" experiences, club members rely on gardening information provided by The University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) located in Hillsborough County. UF/IFAS is an educational service that provides courses, seminars and print material for the casual to more accomplished gardener.

A valuable tool for gardeners is the Extension Service's monthly "To Do List."

For September:

- Plant your fall vegetable garden.
- Groom your roses by removing dead and dying twigs and long canes. Caution: This is a neatening of the bush not major pruning.
- Prune hedges and ornamental plants that are susceptible to cold damage.

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

DURING END OF SUMMER LULL, FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT

By: Ryan Brantley



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Kids are back in school and by now, you should be settling into the school year routine of carting the kids from school to sports activities, clubs, and birthday parties. You hardly have time to think about much else and who could blame you? Every year around this time, everything seems to stall in the real estate world. Buyers are not out, as they were a month ago and therefore, listings are not getting as many showings—keeping them on the market longer.

According to the Multiple Listing Service, a whopping 26 Bloomingdale listings sold in the month of July, the most since March with a median of 14 active days on the market. In August, 17 listings sold with a median number of 41 days on the market, a drastic slowdown from July. MLS statistics include Bloomingdale East and West valid through Aug. 25. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.

Now is a great time to pay attention to all of those little exterior details that will make your home stand out when it is time to sell. The small details have a huge impact on today's buyers.

Paint is cheap, but pays off handsomely when applied to trim, railings, shutters and especially the front door. A new doorknob and knocker could help too, and how about a new mailbox and street numbers to make the house pop? Finally, light it all up with attractive outdoor lighting.

During these harsh summer months, it is easy to neglect the yard that seemingly needs mowing just about every day. However, a messy yard can set the tone for the entire house. So, make sure your yard is fertilized and neat. Keep in mind that flowering plants are not overly costly and make a great impression. Plant them in groups and place mulch around them in strategic areas around your driveway and walkways.

We all know how important first impressions are; so take this time to maximize your home's appeal. This lull will not last long and you will want to be ready!



TALK AROUND TOWN

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

This month's question:

"What are you most excited about with school back in session?"



Photos: Kayla Hayes

Abby Wingfield
Senior, Bloomingdale High School

"I am really excited for my last Cross Country season, as well as seeing friends at school and applying for colleges!"



Peyton Golden, Eighth Grade
Families Instructing Students at Home
(F.I.S.H.) Homeschool Group

"Sports. We play volleyball against First Baptist [Christian Academy] on September 8. I enjoy getting to stay home and we do a lot of field trips!"



Aiden Ernest
Fifth Grade, Alafia Elementary School

"I can't wait to make new friends and go back to playing with my old friends, and to learn new things in fifth grade. I'm excited to be in Mrs. Chastaine's class, because she teaches me my favorite subject, which is math."



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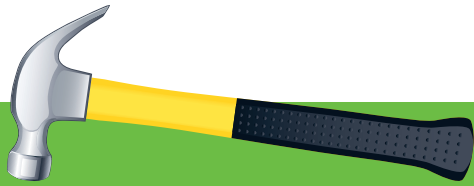
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DO IT YOURSELF. IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK!

By: Theresa Clinton

Do it yourself or DIY...We hear that phrase often through TV, magazines, and at home improvement stores. Most people do not call themselves DIY-ers, but some people do. "It's easy," they brag to others, who only wish they had a third of the courage to tackle those "easy" do-it-yourself projects. Sometimes I feel most defeated when I can't get a pickle jar opened or any of those darn pre-packaged items that I swear is made from the hardest plastic ever known to man. I don't know about you but sometimes DIY-ers can get on my nerves.

I've decided to challenge myself and conduct a series of DIY projects over the next several months. Let's test how "easy" it actually is. Although I am a very creative person...I can help someone re-design a space or visualize how beautiful I can make a vacant house look, I will tell you, my friends, I question, what have I gotten myself into?

First, DIY has a broad definition. It's almost all inclusive. Any creative project that you can conduct to provide improvement, creativity, or

usage is applicable. Now, I'm not saying I can walk into my garage, find a single old garden glove and proclaim a brand new look and use for the thing. That's highly unlikely! However, I believe that all of us have creativity deep down inside (some deeper than others) that we can bring to the surface!

Here is a creative DIY project I found on Pinterest, a website devoted to self-proclaimed DIY-ers. I call this how to create a message board in four simple, and yes, easy steps.

1

Take an old unused corkboard and measure the length and width. Pictured is a hurricane corkboard. Why do I even have this?



2

Purchase enough burlap to cover the corkboard tightly and use a staple gun to attach the fabric to the back. Note: Pattern burlap must be straight before stapling. I found that out the hard way!



3

Push in three-quarter inch decorative nails along the corkboard frame perimeter. A ruler will be your best friend for spacing, and it won't provide any unwanted advice like that from well-meaning bystanders.



4

Voila! Once a corkboard destined for the next yard sale or trash is now reborn as a decorative message board. Now I have a constant reminder of what I need to do.

Yay!



My first DIY project is complete; dare I say it really was "easy." Just maybe I will start calling myself a DIY-er! Next month's DIY revolves around Halloween! Muahaha! Remember to check out Pinterest for great DIY ideas; check out their website at www.pinterest.com.

(Editor's Note: Bloomingdale resident Theresa Clinton is the owner of Spotlight Home Staging Company, LLC. Her monthly column will focus on home improvement projects residents can accomplish in do it yourself fashion. Have a question you would like to see answered, email inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.)



Theresa Clinton

Spotlight Home Staging Company, LLC
813-732-3604
<http://spotlighthomestagingco.weebly.com>



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. Her on-staff and freelance writing experience includes ads, brochures, radio, video and newsletters for Jack Nicklaus country clubs in Atlanta, New Orleans and Chicago, recruitment advertising, and marketing, advertising and public relations assignments in the healthcare, retail, real estate, and service industries, among others, in the U.S. and the Bahamas. She lives with her husband, Frazier, a retired high school Chemistry teacher, 2 cats and 2 dogs (all rescues) in Bloomingdale West.

YOU CAN BANK ON CONFUSION

You know, when I got my first checking account, approximately a lifetime ago, I was fairly bursting with pride and confidence. You see, my father was a banker and I figured that if I followed his “system,” I couldn’t possibly go wrong: I’d make a deposit, write checks and if anything went awry, I’d yell at my mother...well, it worked for him.

Those were the days of simple banking. You had your choice of two accounts: checking and/or savings. That was it.

Now, however, opening a new account consists of a series of heady decisions proposed by the smiling cum laude grads of the Raring-to-Go School of Banking. It went like this: “I’d like to open a checking account, please.” “Certainly! Which type do you have in mind?” “Pardon?” “Well, we have Business Checking, Personal Checking, Household Checking, Interest Bearing Checking, Minimum Balance Checking, and, of course, our Time-Saver Checking which automatically pays your monthly bills.” “Do you have one that will get rid of solicitors and answer my phone?” “Huh?” “Regular. I’d like just a regular checking account.”

“Now, we do have our Special Regular Checking that accumulates interest at 5% annually if your average daily balance doesn’t drop below \$200 and

you were born in a month with an “R” in it.” “Do you, by chance, have an account that I can just make deposits in and write checks on?” “Well, we do have our ‘No Guts, No Glory’ option, but...” “Sign me up.”



“Fine. Now, let’s see...joint?” “Last time I looked, that was still illegal, but thanks anyway.” “No, no, no. I mean do you want a joint account?” “Oh. Yes.”

“All righty then. What kind of checks?” “Paper.” “Gosh, that’s funny! We have Monogrammed, Pastels, Early American, Earth Tones, The Outdoorsman Assortment and The Famous Artworks Collection. Which would you like?” “Paper.” “Uh-huh. And I suppose you’d like to place the minimum order?” “Life is soooooo icky.” “Okay. That’s 250 of the ‘Blue Light Special’ checks.”

“Would you like Overdraft Protection?” “If I bounce a check, nothing can protect me from my husband.” “So that’s a ‘no,’ I’m guessing. Would you like to open a Savings Account or am I pressing my luck?” “To the max.”

Criminy. I hadn’t answered that many questions since my last job interview, but I was more than prepared to answer the one put to me by my hubby when I arrived home: “Margarita, Daiquiri, or white wine?” My kinda guy.

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INs & OUTs

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIME PREVENTION

After the Sandy Creek vehicle burglaries this summer, many residents are asking, “What can we do to protect ourselves from being victims of crime?” The answer is straightforward—Get involved, report suspicious activity, and look out for one another.

Getting involved can mean anything from installing a home security system to getting to know your neighbors, their schedules, and what kinds of vehicles they own to establishing a Neighborhood Watch or joining the Citizens Patrol program. This month’s Ins and Outs provides information about the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office Neighborhood Watch Program.

Neighborhood Watch is a grass roots program where neighborhood volunteers come together to deter crime. Getting to know your neighbors—who is supposed to be in your neighborhood and who looks out of place—is a critical component of the program’s success, according to Master Deputy Curtis Warren who oversees the Sheriff’s Substation off Erindale Road.

There are few requirements, but at a minimum, residents must be willing to do the following:

- **Be alert**
- **Report suspicious activity to law enforcement**
- **Learn how to make their homes secure**
- **Meet at least once a year**

Starting a program involves residents deciding what area they want to define as their Neighborhood Watch. This could be a clearly defined neighborhood such as The Links or simply several streets within the same neighborhood.

From there, the simplest method to gather support and recruit members is a door-to-door campaign. Organization is important at this time and includes naming a coordinator and possibly, block captains.

Once you have support, schedule a start-up meeting with the Community Outreach Division. A deputy assists residents during this time and will attend the meeting if available. The meeting includes a program overview as well as an explanation of resident responsibilities. Law enforcement provides training on how to be observant, reporting (car make and model, suspect description), and giving good reports to a dispatcher.

Deputies rely on concerned citizens to be the extra “eyes and ears” they need to investigate and quickly apprehend criminals in our community. The bottom line is simple: observe suspicious activity, report suspicious activity and crimes in progress, and when law enforcement responds, try to be available to provide details of the crime.

For information on how to start a program in your neighborhood, contact the HCSO Community Outreach Division at 813-247-8115 or download their Neighborhood Watch Introduction Booklet available at www.hcso.tampa.fl.us. Next month’s Ins and Outs features Citizens Patrol, where crime prevention meets the streets.

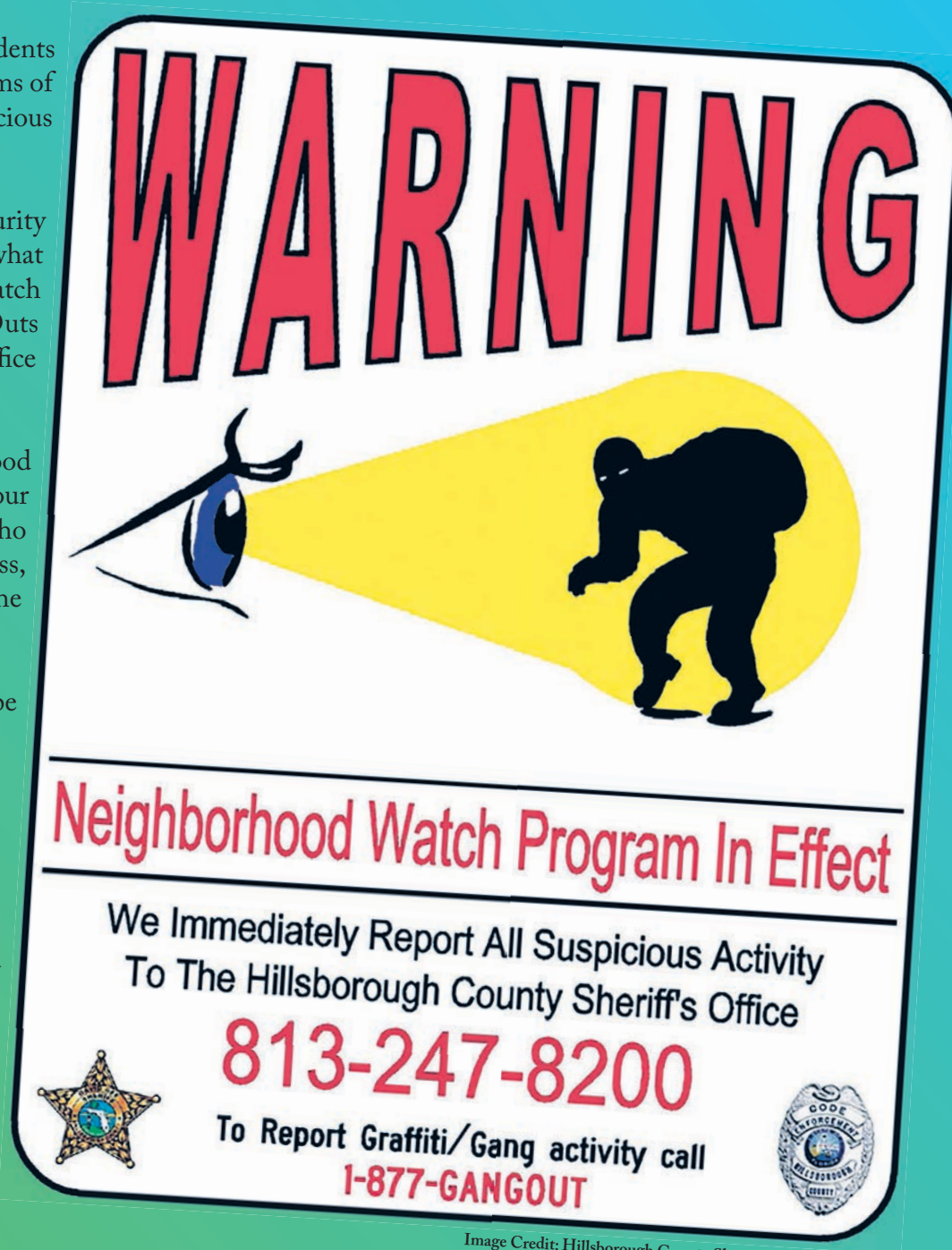


Image Credit: Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

ON THE ROAD WITH RYAN



Ryan Brantley, a local Realtor and travel writer, shares her adventures with Bloomingdale residents in the new column "On the Road with Ryan." As a former travel public relations guru, she has traveled extensively throughout Florida and the Caribbean.

Her more exotic travels include swimming with whale sharks off the coast of Mexico, winning \$5 on a slot machine in Monte Carlo, sipping wine in Sicily, scuba diving wrecks in the Caribbean, and she is apparently worth six camels in Turkey.

Ryan's future bucket list travels include experiencing the world's highest swing in New Zealand, spending the night in an overwater bungalow in Tahiti, and exploring the beaches of Thailand. Put your seat belts on and enjoy the ride!

ARUBA: A CARIBBEAN PARADISE AWAITS

The lazy days of summer are over and vacation memories are quickly fading...but it's never too early to start planning your next adventure! Being Florida residents, we often don't take advantage of how lucky we are to be able to hop on a boat for a quick cruise or take advantage of the inexpensive plane tickets to the Caribbean paradise in our backyard.

Aruba, with non-stop flights from Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and now Orlando, is one of those places offering an array of activities for a romantic getaway or mid-year family trip. Plus, Aruba is American friendly making it a great place for your passport's maiden voyage.

After landing in Aruba, there are plenty of options for traveling to your chosen accommodations. Many resorts offer shuttle services, or just hop in a fare-regulated taxi, a rare find in the Caribbean.

If you've decided to take the entire family but still want to stay on budget, The Boardwalk Hotel offers studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom private casitas with more than enough space to keep the kids from killing each other. The casitas sit in a beautiful Caribbean jungle-like oasis just across from the beach in walking distance to shops, restaurants, and water activities of the high-rise district.

Rates start at \$175 a night and include a kitchen, living area, private balcony, hammock, and barbecue area. Visit www.boardwalkhotel.com for additional information.

For a more romantic getaway, Bucuti & Tara is an upscale eco-friendly resort on the beautiful white sand beaches of the low-rise district. The adults only resort offers attention to all the details from the cold champagne as you enter reception to the fresh fruit served while lounging ocean side. The resort always has more lounge chairs, placed strategically out of earshot of your nearest neighbor, than they have guests. You can also reserve a private dinner on the beach or set sail on a sunset cruise exclusively for Bucuti guests.

Rates start at \$311 a night and the resort often fills up more than six months in advance. For more information, visit www.bucuti.com.

All resorts and hotels offer information on excursion packages to Aruba hotspots. If you're adventurous, consider renting a Jeep for the day and explore the entire island, which is only about 20 miles wide. The California Lighthouse overlooking the entire island is a "must see," or go off-roading to the natural bridge or natural

pool. The natural pool is breathtaking, but requires more skill to access and joining a tour rather than going it alone is highly recommended.

If getting a little dirty on an off-road adventure sounds appealing, or if you prefer the more sedate beach bum life, this "One Happy Island" is a fantastic option for your next tropical getaway.



For romance, look no farther than the Bucuti & Tara Resort's private dinner on the beach. Sunset included.



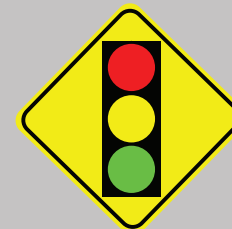
Photos: Ryan Brantley



The Bucuti & Tara Resort has a stunning white sand beach with plenty of room for all guests. Umbrella and lounge chair spacing provides maximum guest privacy.



Beautiful accommodations await at the budget friendly Boardwalk Hotel. Hammock lounging is a great way to spend a vacation day.



Main Street in Aruba has something for everyone... shopping, restaurants, nightlife, you name it.

Bloomington residents had an opportunity to meet new Hillsborough County Development Services Department Director Adam Gormly at the Bloomington Library during an informal “meet and greet” session held Aug. 5. Gormly began the new position in May and has 17 years of experience in all areas of planning and development including a broad range of land use issues.

“I am very excited about embarking on a new role in the county,” said Gormly, who previously served as an assistant county attorney.

The purpose of the meet and greet was for the community to become acquainted with the new director and key staff and learn about the department’s priorities and future goals. Gormly and his staff presented information about the County’s development process and resources available to obtain necessary reviews, licenses, permits, and inspections.

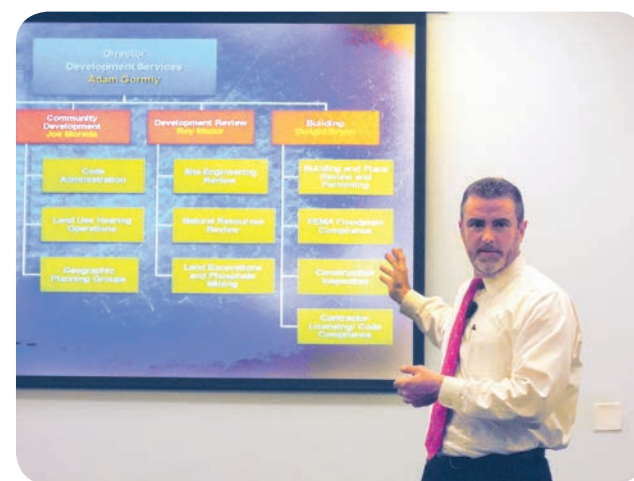
Following the presentations, the director opened the floor to questions. Attendees were eager to get some answers pertaining to area traffic issues and, not surprisingly, the Bloomington Big Box

and residential complex development project. Regarding the Bloomington Big Box, Gormly simply stated, “The site plan and construction plan approvals have not changed and are still valid. The lawsuit filed against Hillsborough County and Red Cast Bloomington LLC has been dismissed.”

When questioned how the Big Box Development approval happened, Gormly stated that county officials made the decision (to approve the development) a long time ago. Moving forward, he said his department focus is “ensuring safety with regard to sidewalks, site access, and schools.”

County Transportation Planning and Development Director Mike Williams fielded questions from citizens concerned about traffic issues. He indicated there are no plans to widen Bloomington Avenue or Lithia-Pinecrest Road. Bloomington Homeowners Association President George May asked specifically about the widening work on Bell Shoals Road, getting Williams to confirm that no sound barriers are planned but landscaping would be put in place.

For information on the Development Services Department, visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org.



New Hillsborough County Development Services Department Director Adam Gormly addresses members of the Bloomington community at an informal meet and greet held at the Bloomington Library on Aug. 5.



Members of the Bloomington Homeowner's Association Board, from left, Beth Smedley, George May, and Billy Hightower, discuss the information presented at the meet and greet with Adam Gormly, Director of the Hillsborough County Development Services Department, held on Aug. 5 at Bloomington Library.

Photos: Miriam Leech

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY STATION NO. 7 RELOCATION

PROVIDED BY MICHELLE VAN DYKE, COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL MEDIA SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Construction for the relocation of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue South Brandon Station No. 7 has begun at 1292 Bloomington Ave. The new fire station provides a strategic location for responding to the increase in calls throughout Station No. 7's assigned response area.

The station replaces the existing facility (east of the new location) built in 1974 to house a volunteer fire department. In the mid-1980s, volunteers turned the station over to career firefighters.

The 9,300-square-foot, three-bay station will more than double the size of the existing station and be equipped and staffed with one fire engine, an ambulance, a five-person crew and a battalion chief. Response capabilities include Advanced Life Support, vehicle extrication and fire suppression.

“The new construction at station 7 shows how much Hillsborough County’s firefighting capabilities have grown, since the 1950s when our force was comprised entirely of volunteers, to today’s number of 1,000 personnel supported by 200 volunteers who in 2013 responded to nearly 90,000 calls,” said Hillsborough County Commissioner Al Higginbotham, whose district includes the new facility. “Someone once said all men are created equal and then there were firefighters. Firefighters and first responders go above and beyond putting their lives on the line each time they go out on a call.”

Funds for the \$2.3 million project came from impact fees, unincorporated area construction funds and public safety improvement funds. Construction should be complete in spring 2015.



Photos: Kayla Hayes

Clearing ground is the first step in construction and relocation of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue South Brandon Station No. 7. The new station's home will be 1292 Bloomington Ave.

Bloomington Fire Station No.7 at 122 W. Bloomington Ave. will move to its new home this spring.



Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo located, literally, in Bloomingdale's backyard is home to America's number one Zoo as rated by Parents and Child magazines. A short 30-minute drive into the heart of Tampa from the center of Bloomingdale brings visitors to 56 acres of natural habitats including seven main exhibits, which provide an exciting environment for daily activities – like feeding the giraffes in Safari African or walking with the Wallabies in Wallaroo Station – and yearly events.

"Fall means fun at the Zoo where you can visit more than 1,000 animals by day, or see things in a whole new light at night," said Rachel Nelson, director of public relations. "If special events are your ticket, you won't want to miss ZooBoo -- our 16th year of fun and fear – spooking soon at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo."

September is a great month to visit the Zoo, with upcoming events SWAPtember, Carnaval de Animales (Carnival of the Animals), World Rhino Weekend and ZooBoo. If you are a Zoo, MOSI or Florida Aquarium member, take advantage of SWAPtember this month, a program that provides free reciprocal admission.

Carnaval de Animales is a new multi-cultural event on Sunday, Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities, such as character appearances by "Dora the Explorer" and "Diego" from Nick Jr. TM, live music and fun with Radio Disney Tampa Bay, bilingual interpreters and multi-cultural food are included with your Zoo admission. The event will highlight the Zoo's Caribbean, Central and South American animals.

World Rhino Weekend is Sept. 20 and 21. Stop by the Indian rhino and African white rhino exhibits to learn more about these endangered animals from the zookeepers who care for them. Your Zoo admission includes a variety of rhino-themed activities and educational displays.

You don't want to miss ZooBoo this year, Tampa's largest family Halloween event. Sept. 26 and 27 is "Shriek Peek" Preview weekend, a discounted soft opening

for \$12 starting at 7 p.m. Besides braving up for the haunted houses and trails, seasonal displays and lights, night rides and more, ZooBoo is featuring "London Frightmare," the latest turn-of-the-century England haunt inspired by the city's most notorious sites and supernatural legends. Find the October dates and other updates at LowryParkZoo.org and follow "ZooBoo" on Facebook.

If you have never visited Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo in your very own "backyard," September should be the month!



Photos Courtesy of Lowry Park Zoo

"London Frightmare" is the theme of this year's Halloween event at the Zoo, "ZooBoo." Don't miss the thrills, chills and family frights with attractions ranging in "scare factor."



Meet Dora and Diego from "Dora the Explorer" on Nick Jr. at the Zoo's new event, Carnaval de Animales, or Carnival of the Animals.



Learn more about Khari, this African white rhino, during World Rhino Weekend on Sept. 20 and 21. Khari's zookeeper will tell you more about her endangered species.

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What Family Members Say about Alzheimer's Care at Superior Residences

Sisters Terrie and Dawn knew their mother needed the assistance with daily living that they could not provide her. After researching various Alzheimer's communities, they visited Superior Residences of Brandon and found it to be the perfect home for mom.

Dawn stated, "The fact that all the staff at Superior understands Alzheimer's makes us comfortable. And Mom has felt safe and comfortable since the day she got there." Terrie agreed by emphasizing, "They're wonderful caregivers. It's a special gift they have and we're fortunate they're here. They know our mother and they love her."

Find out first hand why our community is aptly named Superior Residences and may be the better choice for your loved one. Call today for your personal tour.

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DINING WITH DAVE



Name: New York Times Square Pizza
Cuisine: Pizza and Subs
Location: 927 East Bloomingdale Avenue/ Bloomingdale Square
Phone: 813-651-0122

With school back in session and the holiday season approaching, many Bloomingdale residents have new schedules, lengthier commutes and less time and energy for cooking. Most families have their favorite pizza place on speed dial for those evenings when they just don't feel like or lack the time for cooking. For my family, that joint is New York Times Square Pizza in Bloomingdale Square, independently owned and operated since 2010 by Shane Obedzinski and Charlie Jonathan.

I happen to be a fan of thin crust pies with abundant toppings done a bit long in the oven so the bottom has that slightly burnt crispiness—but not too well done as it is important to be able to fold the slice and eat it with one hand. They nail the crust, and I am getting hungry just writing this!

New York Times Square Pizza has a straightforward basic menu that focuses on the good stuff. The Time Square Special with pepperoni, sausage, onion, green peppers and mushrooms is as delicious as they come. I like the Mediterranean (with Kalamata olives, pepperoncini and feta) or their version of a simple Margherita. My son prefers the Philly Cheese Steak (with cheddar from the can) or the Hawaiian, need I say ham and pineapple, anyone? Yum.

Need to feed an army or want leftovers? Try a Calzone or Stromboli. They also make a good Philly (style) Cheese Steak Sub and their wings are crispy and flavorful. For side dishes, try the Garlic Knots; they are buttery, come with dipping sauce and are delicious. The drink menu is limited to the soda fountain or bottles.

They offer dine-in or outside service as well as delivery. Weekly specials include Ten Buck Tuesday (large Gourmet pie for a ten-spot) and the Friday Twofer (two one-topping pizzas for \$19.99).

To top it off, Shane and Charley host family game nights and movie nights. Speaking of movies, Shane, is not only a Bloomingdale High School alum, but also starred in the movies "The Sandlot" and "My Girl." New York Times Square Pizza is the place your speed-dial wants you to call.

LEAN LEFT, HEAD LEFT... GREAT FOR CHIPPING

By: J.D. Carino (Bloomingdale CC campus)

Has your golfing buddy told you to hit down on the ball so it'll go up. Or has he told you to quit trying to help the ball get up in the air. Lots of advice, but no course of action.

A few simple adjustments to your chipping setup and both of the previous issues will be resolved. Lean left, head left. The great thing about this setup is it's so close to how you look like when you strike the ball in a full swing.

The goal is for your total weight to be more on your left side (80%). Having your left leg straight and right knee bent forward at address puts the center of your chest and head to the front side of the ball.

Move your hands, arms and shoulders back and through together. The club head will strike the ball first while the club head still going down.

Next month's lesson covers a golf rule that will help you more than hurt you. Visit CochraneGolfSchools.com for information and for lessons, or call J.D. (813) 957-3205.



John E.S. Cochrane
GOLF SCHOOLS

John Cochrane of
 Cochran Golf Schools
 demonstrates the
 "lean left, head left"
 chipping technique.

Whether or not you have a green thumb, the Valrico Garden Club is always looking for new members. Established in 1949, the club, entering its 65th year, provides education in horticulture, flower arranging, and all phases of gardening in homes and the community.

Audrey Hill, club president and member since 1972, said, "Our mission is to educate and promote a love of gardening." In sharing the history of the club, Hill was quick to point out that having Valrico as part of the club's name makes it unique—translated from the Spanish for Valley of Gold, it has the distinction of being the only town in the United States to have the name.

Recently, the club held a planning meeting for the upcoming year at the home of Bloomingdale resident Gwen Graverson. Graverson, a member since 2008, serves as treasurer. Her neighbor, Mary Kay McMahan, a member for over 15 years, serves as 2nd Vice President. In all, 18 members of the club live throughout the Valrico area.

Club projects and programs include beautification of the Brandon Community Center, Arbor Day planting at community schools, and support of the Penny Pines reforestation program. During National Garden Week in June, the club delivers floral arrangements to local libraries, and arranges a garden display at the Brandon Library.

Each month, the club invites a guest speaker to discuss a particular aspect of horticulture as part of its floral design program. No speaker for this month, but in October, the subject is bonsai gardening—the art of cultivating a small plant to be a miniature version of a full-size tree grown in containers.

Starting with this issue, the club will provide a monthly column on gardening for the Bloomingdale Gazette. The Valrico Garden Club is a member of the Deep South Region Florida District VIII, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, and the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Club meetings are at 10 a.m. every third Wednesday of the month, September through May, at Apostles Lutheran Church, 200 Kingsway Road, Brandon. The first club meeting this year is Sept. 17.

Contact Gwen Graverson at 813-662-7659, gwen@graverson.com, or Mary Kay McMahan at 813-684-6323 for information on gardening or membership.

The Valrico Garden Club, established in 1949, chose the yellow hibiscus as its club flower. After all, what's a south Florida yard without a hibiscus?

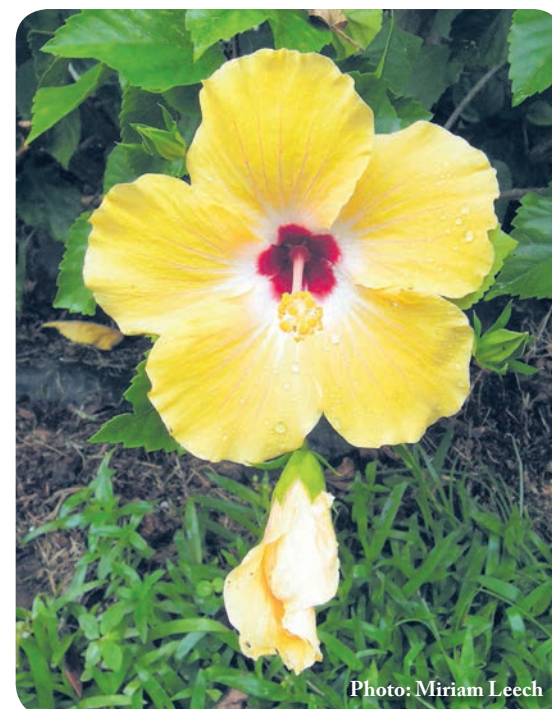


Photo: Miriam Leech



Photo: Valrico Garden Club

Valrico Garden Club Officers are (standing from l.) Bob Smith who conducted the installation of officers; Sharon Marie Rentz, 1st Vice President; Maggie Apgar, Corresponding Secretary; Erin Phillips, Recording Secretary; Pat Phillipsen, Historian; Mary Kay McMahan, 2nd Vice President; and (seated) Audrey Hill, President. Not pictured are Gwen Graverson, Treasurer, and Linda Bowers, 2nd Vice President.

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SEPTEMBER 2014

17



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By: Community Resource Master Deputy Curtis Warren

SCHOOL IS IN—PROTECT OUR KIDS!

Area schools are open and the school buses are full. Traffic is back to the normal congestion. This means your drive to work will take longer; so plan ahead and be patient!

Drivers must follow traffic laws—these laws protect our kids and can be costly if violated. The rule is simple; obey or pay! For those that cannot follow the law, be warned; your actions will cost you.

Here are a few examples of traffic fines:

- **Running a red light, \$216**
- **Failure to stop for a school bus, \$191**
- **Speeding in a school zone, \$141 and up plus court time**
- **Child restraint violations, \$151**
- **Failure to wear your seat belt, \$101**

Note: Traffic violations in school zones result in double the fine!

You work hard for your money. Save it for better things than expensive citations. These fines do not include possible increases in your insurance rates, which can stay on your policy for at least three years.

This is serious business and saves lives. Parents, take time to sit down with your teen drivers, especially new drivers, and emphasize the importance of obeying traffic laws and using seat belts. We have lost too many teens to auto accidents where seat belts were not in use.

Obey traffic laws and respect the rights and safety of others.

DON'T HELP CRIMINALS

LOCK UP YOUR CARS AND CLOSE YOUR GARAGE DOORS

No matter how many times we mention this important information, our detectives continue to investigate vehicle and home burglaries and find that residents have left their vehicles unlocked and their garage doors open. Folks, only you can prevent these crimes. It's your responsibility. Protect your own property.

Also, help your neighbors. Let them know if their garage door is open. Be observant. If you notice suspicious activities, contact the Sheriff's Office 247-8200. By working together, we can stop more crimes and arrest more criminals.

CONTINUE TO PREPARE PEAK HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

Residents, especially those new to the area, must continue to prepare for disasters, especially hurricanes! We are in the peak of hurricane season and it only takes one big storm to change lives. Go to the Hillsborough County website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org. The Emergency link provides many topics covering disaster preparedness. You can also sign up to receive "Emergency Alerts."

Remember "The Rule of 72!" If a major hurricane hits our area, you could be on your own for a minimum of 72 hours. With storm damage and flooding blocking roads, it could be impossible for law enforcement and first responders to get to your area. Now is the time to prepare your family and your home and your community.

WHO IS REPRESENTING YOU AT THE BACC?

The Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station on Erindale Drive. Participants include law enforcement officers, community homeowner associations and residents wanting information and involvement in making our community safer and more secure.

Residents, make sure your neighborhood has a representative attend. The BACC is a very valuable source of information for what is happening in your community.

Residents can also go to the Hillsborough County website, www.hillsboroughcounty.org, to access the Neighborhood Relations Office (NRO) link. The NRO provides a variety of information on homeowner associations (HOA) including access to grant funds, training and HOA registration.

SPECIAL THANKS!

The BACC and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office extend a special thank you to Suzanne Jones for her outstanding support while editor of the Bloomingdale Gazette. She helped make our community a safer place to live. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.



Tsalyanut -- in Hebrew the word means pilgrimage. For Bloomingdale Class of 2014 graduate Cassie Newman, the word took on special meaning as she spent four weeks traveling in Israel this summer.

The trip, Newman explained, was one her grandparents had always wanted to make, and was their graduation gift to her. The 18-year-old traveled with the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), a Reform Jewish community for high school students whose programs provide deep personal connections to the ancient and modern story of the Jewish People.

For Newman, the trip was life changing. Not only did she experience the sites of Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, the Negev Desert, and the Dead Sea, but also during her visit, the Israel-Gaza conflict escalated after the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens. This provided a very real glimpse of life in Israel and the danger that is ever present.

NFTY reviewed daily itineraries for safety and sent regular communications back home to families providing relief to parents, Suzanne Jones and Jeff Newman. "The updates were incredibly comforting. They (NFTY) assured us that Cassie's group itinerary was being adjusted as needed to keep the kids safe," said Jones.

Before leaving for Israel, the Bloomingdale teen chose a Chavaya, a special four day interest module. Newman chose Gadna— basic training with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). The highlight was field day, where Newman learned to camouflage herself using mud and took part in an in-field inert bomb practice. So far removed from her usual pursuits of dance and academics at home, she described the experience as a "reality check."

In Jerusalem, Newman took special note of the Israeli flag flying from almost every building. At the Wailing Wall, she described getting goose bumps as visitors walked backwards away from the wall as a sign of respect, and "an energy, a sense that the wall has a real purpose."

Another highlight was Mount Herzl Cemetery, the national cemetery of Israel and the burial site for the country's leaders and fallen soldiers. On the day that Newman was there, an IDF soldier, killed during the recent conflict, received military burial honors. The experience was particularly haunting.

On the last day, a rocket explosion near the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv delayed the group's departure, grounded U.S. airlines and resulted in a middle-of-the-night flight out on El Al Airlines. Despite the unrest, the teen's experience was life changing in all positive ways, and she felt secure at all times. Newman loved the food, and that the Israelis seem to live in the moment.

She said, "I definitely want to travel more and live outside of the U.S. for an extended period of time." For now the new college freshman is adjusting to life at the University of Florida, studying plant science and marketing, and looking forward to the opportunity to study abroad.



Photos: Cassie Newman

The Wailing Wall was a favorite stop for Cassie Newman (fourth from left) and her North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) group, who spent a month traveling in Israel this summer.



A camouflaged Cassie Newman (far left) spent 4 days with the Israeli Defense Forces, receiving all orders in Hebrew, undertaking an obstacle course, and learning to fire an M16 rifle.



Recent Bloomingdale High School graduate Cassie Newman (far right) and friends float effortlessly on the Dead Sea, the saltiest inland lake in the world bordered by Israel, Jordan, and the West Bank. According to Newman, the sand looked like brown sugar.



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

ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Sept. 1 - Volunteer Orientation Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Anyone interested in volunteering may attend. For information, contact Stephanie or Laura at alafiaptavpvvolunteers@gmail.com.

Sept. 25 - Fall Picture Day

Oct. 3 - All Pro Dads meet in the cafeteria at 7 a.m. This event is on the first Friday of the month. For information, contact Jessica at alafiaptavpmembership@gmail.com.

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

Sept. 18 - Curriculum Night (Open House) - Come visit your child's classroom and listen to a presentation by their teacher(s). Presentation times for each classroom are 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 23 - Cougar Cool Cats Ceremony Information- Every month teachers select one student from their class who best represents the trait of the month. If selected, the student receives a take-home packet detailing the trait selected for, and the date and time of the ceremony. The ceremony location is the multipurpose room. After the ceremony the children may enjoy a small breakfast treat and beverage. The trait for this month is "Respect."

Oct. 2 - Fall Pictures

BURNS BRUINS BLAST

Sept. 10 - Grandparents Breakfast, 8 a.m.

Sept. 18 - Basketball Game vs Barrington at Burns, 6 p.m.

Sept. 22 - Basketball Game at Rodgers, 5 p.m.

Sept. 26 - Fitness Challenge, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sept. 27 - All State Band Auditions at Burns, 9 a.m.

Oct. 1 - Basketball Game at Mann, 6 p.m.

NEEDED: FLAT PANEL MONITORS

We are trying to get rid of our old, huge and heavy CRT monitors. If you are getting a new computer for the holidays and would like to donate your used flat panel monitor (15 inch or larger), we would be most happy to take it off your hands. You will receive a letter to inform the IRS of your charitable donation to Burns. For more information, contact the front office at 813-744-8383.

BLOOMINGDALE BULL BUSINESS

Sept. 9 - University of Alabama College Visit, Career Resource Room, 11:30 a.m.

Sept. 11 - 12th Grade Parent Night, Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 24 - Junior Ring Parent Night, Auditorium, 5 p.m.

Sept. 25 - FL Poly Technic University College Visit, Career Resource Room, noon.

Sept. 29 - Univ. of Alabama Birmingham College Visit, Career Resource Room, 10:30 a.m.

BULLS BRIEFS

Bloomington High School Military Appreciation Night / Sept. 19 / 7:30 p.m. / Bloomington High School / 1700 E. Bloomington Ave., Valrico / Bloomington High School is hosting a Military Appreciation Night at their home football game versus Plant High School. All military personnel will be recognized before the game. Come on out and support the Bulls and our military as well.

Game of the Week / Oct. 2 / Bright House Network Sports Network / 7 p.m. / BHSN Channel 47 will highlight the Bloomington versus Alonzo football game as their Game of the Week. Tune in and watch the Bulls play this away game as part of the BHSN showcase of local high school sports.

Booster Shirt Pre-orders / Booster Club shirt pre-orders purchased at the August

open house are available for pick up during school lunch. The Booster Club is also selling student activity cards and parent passes for the games. Go to www.bloomingtonathleticboosters.net to print out the required form.

Update Student Passwords / Student Edsby passwords reset over the summer need updating. Try using your student ID number and your 8-digit birthday as the password. If you have any questions, stop by the media center for help.

SAT Prep / Improve your test taking skills and scores. This course is taught by a Hillsborough County certified teacher, and free for 11th and 12th grade students. Register in the guidance office. Prep dates are Sept. 13-Oct. 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Bloomington High School. The next SAT date is Oct. 11.

SEPT. 20 - BSHS 2nd Annual Chorus Rock & Roll Golf Tournament at Riverhills Golf and Country Club. Fundraising event includes contests, silent auction, raffles, trophies, swag bags and much more. For information, contact Taya Fagan, 813-393-9832. Sponsors and players sign up at www.tournevents.com/bloomingtonhighschool.



Go online to register your teams and sponsorships.
www.TournEvents.com/BloomingtonHighSchool

🌸 **PRIZES**

🌸 **Awards**

🌸 **FOOD**

🌸 **50/50 Raffle**

🌸 **Auctions**

🌸 **Swag Bags**

🌸 **Contests**

Your participation and sponsorships are greatly appreciated.

Here, you will find everything you need to sign up, sponsor, make payment and track our teams. Individual player fees are \$80. Foursomes are \$500. We offer 5 different sponsorship levels ranging from \$100-\$1500.

There will be Contests, Silent Auction, Raffles, Trophies for 1, 2 & 3 place winners as well as exclusive Swag Bags, 8x10" Team Photo, 2 Drink tickets (non-alcoholic) per person, Complimentary dinner, Pre-set carts, Professional computation of results and event scoring. Players are required to wear proper golfing attire and shoes. Metal spikes are not allowed. Thanks so much for your participation and sponsorship!

GO BULLS!

Inquiries, please contact Taya Fagan 813-393-9832



YMCA BACKPACK EVENT HELPS KIDS SUCCEED

By: Miriam Leech

Volunteers distributed over 1,300 backpacks stuffed with pencils, crayons, paper, pens, and folders at the Tampa YMCA's 16th annual Backpack Outreach Event on Saturday, Aug. 9, at Camp Cristina in Riverview. This year the "Y" teamed with the Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) to provide educational resources and community support to those who need it the most.

Chairing the outreach event again for the second year was Bloomingdale resident Carol Scheafnocker, a long-time and dedicated YMCA volunteer. She coordinated approximately 200 volunteers to ensure the event went smoothly. "It is a lot of hard work but so worthwhile," said Scheafnocker.

Pre-registered Dover, Plant City, and Valrico-area families in need of assistance with back-to-school preparations received backpacks filled with school supplies donated from throughout the community. Additionally, families had free access to blood pressure screenings, dental and vision check-ups, seat belt safety information, scoliosis screenings, and pedestrian safety tips. Home Depot hosted a wood workshop for the kids, and FishHawk Seeds of Hope provided approximately 450 bags of food to families.

The backpacks came in all shapes and colors, some with flowers and some with favorite characters, but none disappointed the children. Their smiles were a testament to the YMCA's continued commitment to providing area students the tools they need to succeed in school.



Photos: Miriam Leech

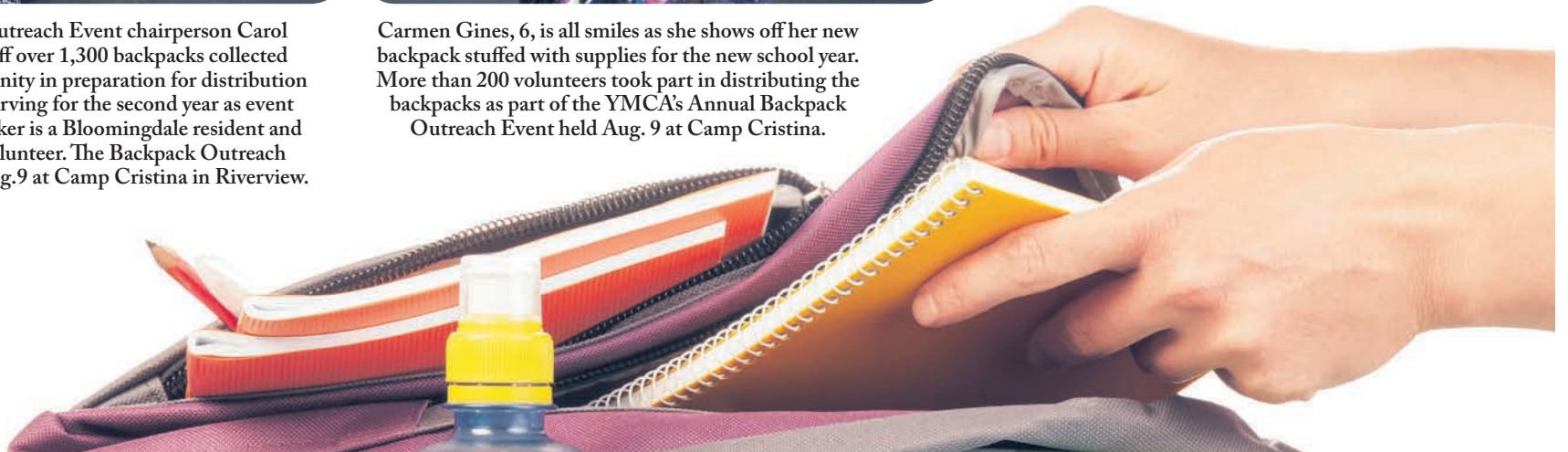
YMCA Backpack Outreach Event chairperson Carol Scheafnocker shows off over 1,300 backpacks collected throughout the community in preparation for distribution to families in need. Serving for the second year as event chairperson, Scheafnocker is a Bloomingdale resident and dedicated YMCA volunteer. The Backpack Outreach Event took place on Aug. 9 at Camp Cristina in Riverview.



Carmen Gines, 6, is all smiles as she shows off her new backpack stuffed with supplies for the new school year. More than 200 volunteers took part in distributing the backpacks as part of the YMCA's Annual Backpack Outreach Event held Aug. 9 at Camp Cristina.



Volunteers work at the pre-registration desk where families check in to receive backpacks stuffed with school supplies at the YMCA's Annual Backpack Outreach Event.





Since he was 8 years old and playing baseball on the Bloomingdale Little League fields, Tyler Mills dreamed about playing college ball. A pitcher, he honed his skill on many all-star and travel teams and helped lead the Bloomingdale Bull's baseball team to the Class 8A State Championship Game this past spring.

On July 29, Tyler's dream became a reality as he signed a letter of intent to play baseball for the Lions of Saint Leo University located in St. Leo, Fla. He was one of several area athletes who attended a signing party at Sluggers in Brandon. Jim Delaney of Recruit Look Florida hosted the event.

Amy and Tiller Mills, Tyler's parents, attended the signing and credited Delaney with his help during the recruiting process. Amy said that without Delaney, his support and knowledge, they would have been lost in the recruiting process.

In addition, the entire Mills family worked closely with St. Leo's Assistant Baseball Coach, Lee Parks to ensure that Tyler was a great fit for their program. Excited to begin his college career playing baseball, he will major in Health Science and Physical Therapy.

"St. Leo was my number one school and I've always wanted to play for them. Now I can," Tyler said with a grin.

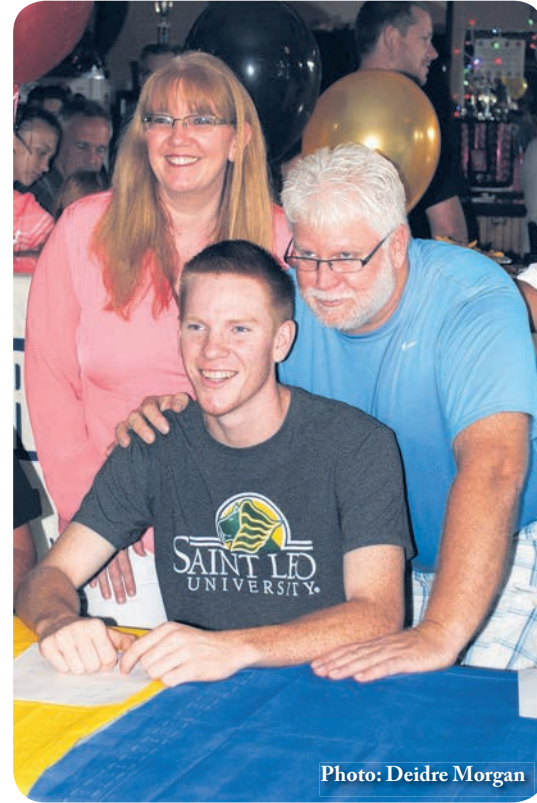


Photo: Deidre Morgan



It's official! A career already defined by excellence on all-star, travel, Bloomingdale Little League and Bloomingdale High school baseball teams, Tyler Mills is most excited about the team he will now be playing for now—the Saint Leo Lions. Mills signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Saint Leo University on July 29 with his proud parents, Amy and Tiller Mills, at his side. The community is proud too.

FUN FACTS!

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

- There are over 15,500 certified classroom teachers teaching over 200,000 Hillsborough County Public School students from grades Pre K-12 at over 270 school site locations.
- Hillsborough County routinely leads the state in the number of National Merit Scholars, National Hispanic Scholars, and National Achievement Scholars.
- The number of students at our area schools: 2208 at BSHS, 1260 at Burns Middle School, 579 and 950 at Alafia and Cimino elementary schools. All are "A" rated schools.
- Bloomingdale Senior High School made the list of America's Most Challenging High Schools published by The Washington Post.
- Alafia Elementary School is proudly celebrating twenty-six years of educating children in Hillsborough County.
- Cimino Elementary opened in 2002. The school received "The State School of Character" in 2009.
- Founded in 1635, Boston's Latin School is the oldest public school in the US. Five of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence graduated from this school, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Robert Treat Paine, Samuel Adams and William Hopper.
- The average college student pays over \$14,000 a year in tuition and books.
- At more than 2 billion used each year in the United States, a pencil is the #1 used school supply for students and teachers.
- A pencil can write 45,000 words or draw a line 35 miles long and will write in zero gravity, upside down, or under water!
- Crayola produces nearly 3 billion crayons each year – an average of twelve million daily. Blue is the most popular Crayola color.

Sources: <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/students/>, <http://thepioneerwoman.com/>, <http://www.triangletutors.net/>, <http://www.greatschools.org/>, <http://www.surfnetkids.com/>



The first day of school across Hillsborough County was Aug. 19. The signs were everywhere—The familiar yellow school busses sharing our roadways along Bloomingdale Avenue, Bell Shoals and Culbreath roads, dozens of parents and children making their way on foot and bicycle to our elementary schools, Alafia and Cimino, and the increased vehicle traffic which included our youngest and most inexperienced of drivers heading to Bloomingdale Senior High School.

Keeping everyone safe is a community responsibility. With school back in session, these simple tips could save lives. Slow down; speeding in school zones carries heavy fines and contributes to the majority of accidents around our schools. Start your commute ten minutes earlier to account for added traffic, both vehicle and pedestrian. Watch out for busses stopping to pick up and discharge students and finally, pay attention and obey crossing guard signals particularly around our elementary and high schools.

THE FOLLOWING IS A FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WEBSITE EXCERPT ABOUT CROSSWALK SAFETY:

Crosswalk Safety Tips - What You and Your Child Should Know

Florida traffic laws lay out the rules of the road that enable pedestrians and drivers to share the road. Pedestrians - just like drivers; must obey traffic laws.

When a crossing guard is present:

The primary responsibility of adult school crossing guards is to help children cross the street in a safe and efficient manner as children walk to and from school. All road users - the crossing guard, pedestrians, and drivers - should be aware of the following:

- Be attentive to pedestrians, especially Florida's youngest.
- Anticipate pedestrians and be prepared to stop at crossings.
- Abide by the speed limit, especially in a school speed zone.
- Crossing guards are the first to enter and last to leave the street.
- Crossing guards wear mandatory safety apparel and stop traffic using a STOP paddle and, if necessary, whistles.
- Crossing guards reinforce safe crossing skills. They instruct children to look for traffic before and as they cross the street.

Children look out for their own safety, too, by following these crossing safety tips:

- Listen to the crossing guard's instructions.
- Do not follow the guard into the street.
- When instructed to cross, always look before stepping into the roadway to make sure it is still clear to cross.
- Walk at a steady pace within the crosswalk.
- Avoid distracting activities and instead watch out for traffic while in the roadway.
- If arriving after another group of students has already started to cross or the pedestrian signal flashes the "Don't Walk" signal, be prepared to wait until the next crossing.

For more information go to <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/>.



Photo: Deidre Morgan

Parents and students jam the sidewalks, streets, and rights of way as they make their way to and from Cimino Elementary off Culbreath Road. School is back in session!



Photo: Deidre Morgan

Pay attention! Crossing guards control vehicle and pedestrian traffic when they enter our roadways. This crosswalk is near Cimino Elementary.



Keep your eyes and ears open when approaching a Pedestrian Crosswalk sign. Lives are at stake.

Photo Above and Image Below are Courtesy of the Florida Dept. Of Transportation



REMINDER

More than 1,000 school busses carrying approximately 91,000 students hit the streets on Aug. 19, the first day of school. "Stop on Red, Kids Ahead" and "Got Brakes?" are the programs adopted by Florida's Departments of Education, Transportation, and Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, respectively, to increase public awareness/enforcement aimed at educating motorists about when they do and don't have to stop for a school bus.

Fines in Hillsborough County range from \$165 to \$265. Deputies will be out in force, in patrol cruisers, motorcycles and unmarked vehicles keeping watch for motorists who do not know and do not heed state law regarding stopping for a school bus.

For more information on Florida's school bus laws, visit <http://floridaschoolbussafety.gov>.



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association
is proud to present

FALL FESTIVAL

at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club

Saturday, October 25, 2014
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



THE BLOOMINGDALE FALL FESTIVAL IS BACK & BETTER THAN EVER!

Our FREE, family-oriented event will feature:

- Children's and pet's costume contests
- Bouncy houses
- Business information booths
- Raffles
- Face painting
- Games
- "Trick or Treat Street"
- Food, DJ

There will also be appearances from Furever Friends Animal Rescue, the Tampa Bay Lightning Bug, the Hillsborough County Fire and Sheriff's Departments, and other demonstrations.

Visit us at the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association web page or on Facebook for updates and additional information about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.

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

www.BloomingdaleHOA.com



BloomingdaleHOA



SO, WHAT IF YOU WANT TO DO MORE THAN JUST PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS?

Continued from Cover

In a word...sponsorship. By becoming a sponsor, business owners receive even more free promotion, but more importantly, the sponsorship helps the Association keep the event free to the community.

Many of the businesses and agencies listed previously are also sponsors. Sponsors receive recognition in The Bloomingdale Gazette and on the Bloomingdale HOA website and Facebook page. In addition, each sponsored event will have signage provided by the BHA bearing the sponsor's logo, sponsor level, and contact information.

Booth space and sponsorship opportunities are available but filling fast. Do not miss this opportunity to give back to the community while improving awareness of your business! Remember, it is FREE.

Contact the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at 813- 681-2051 or email Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com for information.

There are several sponsorship levels and many options available.

- Level 1-Patron: \$50 (used for gift cards and prizes)
- Level 2 -Bronze: \$75 (used popcorn machine or Sno-Cone)
- Level 3-Silver: \$100 (used for face painters/balloon makers/contests)
- Level 4-Gold: \$150 (used for large activities, Bouncy Houses and obstacle course)
- Level 5-Platinum: \$250 or more (used for free hotdogs for kids, DJ, pet costume contest, children's costume contest)