



# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XXXIX 🌿 ISSUE 2 🌿 FEBRUARY 2019 🌿 [www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com)

## *In February, It's All About Love, Love, Love...*

Bloomingtondale residents Skittles, 8 months, and Boo, 13 months, are Green Cheek Conures. Owners are Andrew Pytlarz and Fallon Jenkins.



Photo: Andrew Pytlarz

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none." *William Shakespeare*

## *This Month*



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Newsletter Category

# 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](mailto:Bloomington.Homeowners@gmail.com)

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

BHA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomington Community Office.

#### Directors at Large:

**President:** *Suzy Watts*

**Vice President:** *Sean Donahue*

**Secretary:** *Daniel Berkowitz*

**Treasurer:** *Grace Lewis*

*Bobbi Ferraro*

*Carl Hallinan*

*Billy Hightower*

*George T. May IV*

*Beth Smedley*

*Charlie Woodcock*



## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



### JOY BOISSELLE

#### Editor - The Bloomington Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

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Deidre Morgan, and Student Reporter: Jon Alfano

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



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#### Program Manager, Advertising

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Email: [adaly@tampabay.com](mailto:adaly@tampabay.com)

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## Yard of the Month



Photos: Wendy Knipp



**Wally & Lynn Fitzgibbons** 119 Bessemer Circle, Brandon, 33511 (Bloomingdale Estates)



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

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



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# BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



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## Retreat Kicks Off Busy Year for the BHA

As in years past, the BHA begins every new year with a retreat. This year the retreat was held at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club last weekend. For four hours, the 10-member board planned and discussed the year's events and future. Also on hand was Wanda Sloan from the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations. Her insights on grant writing and navigating county services were invaluable.



## BHA Seeks New Board Members, Two Seats Available

Do you care about our Bloomingdale Community, and want to take an active role in its future? Then, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) wants you to become part of "Team Bloomingdale." Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office at 6:30 p.m.

Not sure you have the time? The BHA encourages all interested residents to attend a few board meetings to see if joining the Board is a good "fit" or volunteer on a committee. The current board members are residents, like you, who have the betterment of the community as their number one goal.

Call 813-681-2051 or email [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com).

## 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 will help you promote your event on our Facebook page.

**Jan. 1, 2019 Membership drive starts! Look for your membership invitation! We need your support!**

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

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

**Thursday, Feb. 21, NEW TIME: 6 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council** chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Cliff Fletcher, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community.

## 2019 BHA EVENTS

**Community Clean-Up - March 2**

**Scholarship Deadline - April 1**

**2019 Community Scholarship Applications Available!**

Don't let the opportunity for \$2,000 in college scholarship money slip through your fingers. Applications are available online at [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://www.bloomingdalehoa.com), the BHA office, and via email at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com). The deadline is April 1. Mail completed applications to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596. Or, drop off the application at the office. Good luck, seniors!

**Garage Sale - April 6**

**Fall Festival - October or November, TBD**

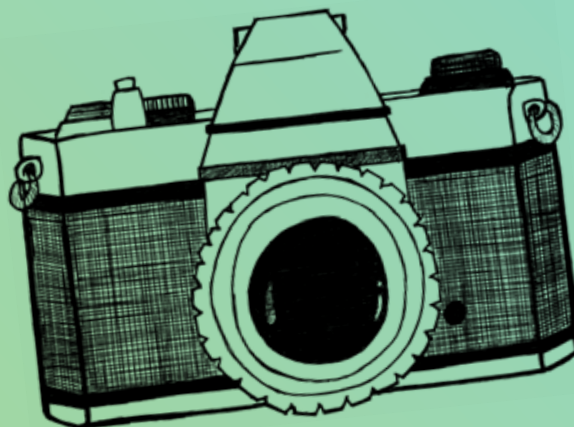
**Santa - December 7**

## RESIDENT PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Bloomingdale residents continue to delight with their photo talents!

Want to show off your photography skills? Photos can be of anything you are proud of and want to share – send people, landscapes, parties, animals, just about anything! Send your photo to [inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com) and share your talent with the community! Photos need to be close to 1 MB or greater resolution.

**Cover Photo: Andrew Pytlarz**



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## February Community Calendar

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

### LOCAL SCOUTING EVENTS!

**Today! 1st Annual "Taste of Scouting" BBQ / Today, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. // Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale and Troop 61 / 710 E. Bloomingdale Ave //** Come see what scouting is all about! Fun activities include Knot Tying, Orienteering, Fire Building, Dutch Oven Cooking, Camping/Backpacking, First Aid and more! Enjoy a BBQ plate with Pulled Pork or Chicken Thighs with Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Roll and Sweet Tea Or Water. Cost is \$12. Proceeds benefit Scouting and PCOB.



### ONGOING

#### Boy Scout Troop 482 Mulch Madness Fundraiser

While it is still "Florida" cold out right now, Boy Scout Troop 482 is starting to take mulch orders for the Spring! Generally, the last week of March is when Hillsborough County becomes safe from frost. This is when homeowners spruce up their landscaping and plant their annuals. Troop 482 will be delivering mulch on March 30 & 31st to coincide with the weather change and to help homeowners do their Spring-cleaning and rejuvenation of their landscaping! 3 cu. ft. large pine bark nugget bag is \$4.50 and a 2 cu. ft. cypress mulch bag is \$4. No delivery fee for 10 or more bags! For an added fee, scouts will spread your mulch! Contact BoyScouts482@gmail.com.



#### Award Winning Program Offered at The Bridges Presented at The Bridges Retirement Community

"A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls" will be offered at The Bridges Retirement Community in partnership with Senior Connection Center, Inc. This free four-week program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. Participants will learn to view falls as controllable. They will set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risks, and exercise to increase strength and balance. Anyone interested in improving their balance, flexibility and strength or that have restricted activities because of falling concerns are encouraged to attend. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from Feb 5-28 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Clubhouse at The Bridges, 11350 Bloomingdale Ave. Space is limited. Call Janet at 813.413.8900 for information.



**Master Gardener Library Program: Growing Tomatoes / Feb. 6, 6:30-8 p.m. / Master Gardener Plant Clinic: Growing Tomatoes/ Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. //** Turn your brown thumb green! Join master gardeners on the first Wednesday of every month through May 19. This month's topic presented by Master Gardener Harriet Gord-Noghani is "Growing Tomatoes." This presentation covers the history and care of tomatoes, common pests and diseases. Don't forget



to bring a plant or other gardening item for our fun Plant Swap. Many free UF/IFAS publications will be available as well as information on other clinics and workshops offered from your Hillsborough County Extension Office. <http://sfly.ifas.ufl.edu/hillsborough>. Your Bloomingdale Library Master Gardener Team includes Richard Seedroff, Elena Wright and Nancy Dulin.



**Feb. 7-18, Hours Vary / Florida State Fair / 4800 US Hwy. 301 North, Tampa //** The 2019 Florida State Fair takes place from February 7 - 18. 12 Days of Fun featuring rockin' rides, amazing agricultural exhibits with over 5,000 animals, and fantastic Fair food. The Fair also showcases great games, superior shopping, cultural exhibits and FREE entertainment. Go to [www.floridastatefair.com](http://www.floridastatefair.com) for more info. See you at the 2019 Florida State Fair!



**Feb. 10, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Summerfield Crossings Sunday Market February / Summerfield Crossings Golf Club, 13050 Summerfield Blvd, Riverview //** Spend your Sunday at Summerfield Crossings Golf Club! Start your day with the delish breakfast buffet and then come on out and shop our market! Produce, treats, handmade items, jewelry, bounce house for the kiddos, Pet Friendly and More.

**Feb. 17, Noon - 4 p.m. / The Valrico Market / Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co., 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Rd //** At the market, find something for yourself, something for your friend, your mom, your neighbor, your dog, your child, your weird Uncle John all while supporting small, local businesses. We pride ourselves in our vendors and the unique items they create and we want to give them the opportunity to showcase their items while giving you the opportunity to view (and hopefully purchase) them all with a cold beer in your hand and a belly full of food truck goodness. If you are a vendor and want to participate, email [kara@tbevent.co](mailto:kara@tbevent.co).



**Feb. 23, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until sold out/ 2019 Plant and Rummage Sale / Hosted by Riverview Garden Club of Florida / Riverview Civic Center, 11020 Park Dr, Riverview //** Free parking and admission! Cash only for plants, seeds, clothing, toys, jewelry, household items, baked goods and more!

**Feb. 24, Noon - 4 p.m. / Art on Maple Street / Maple Street Biscuit Company, 662 Central Ave, St. Petersburg //** The Mars Collective and Maple Street Biscuit Company are collaborating to form Art on Maple Street, showcasing beautiful art and a mural reveal from a few of the best street artists in St. Petersburg. Join us for a gallery style art walk, Maple Street Biscuit Company food samples, photo walls, live music spun by Hello Darlin' Records, local vendors and artisans in our makers market, Posies Flower Truck, and so much more. Together we can express our creativity and beautify our city of St. Petersburg one mural at a time.



**March 7, 6 p.m. / G.F.W.C. Valrico Service League's Putting on the Ritz Bunco / Center Place Fine Arts Center, 619 Vonderburg Dr. //** Come join us for a night of Bunco fun! Dinner starts at 6 p.m. followed by Bunco at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 and include light dinner, drinks and prizes. Purchase tickets at Center Place or contact Claudia Yake at 685-7998. Proceeds support children and families in need in our community.



# AS OUR COMMUNITY EXPANDS, SO DO WE.

You may have noticed a few new faces in the neighborhood. It seems Riverview and the South Shore area is growing at a record pace. The area has added new developments, shopping centers, restaurants and a new hospital. Well, kind of. To meet the needs of this growing community, BayCare's St. Joseph's Hospital-South is growing too. We're currently investing in a two-phased expansion that will be completed in mid 2020. Once completed, we'll have an expanded emergency department with 55 exam rooms, including 14 dedicated to pediatric patients. We'll also have added a five-story patient tower with an 18-bed observation unit, 36 additional private patient rooms, 12 progressive care rooms, a dedicated 12-bed pediatric unit and space for a future neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). As a community-based hospital, we're doing all this because we believe that a growing community needs a hospital that's doing the same. To learn more: [StJosephsSouth.org](https://www.stjosephssouth.org). **Humanity at Work™**.



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South Florida Baptist Hospital • Winter Haven Hospital • Winter Haven Women's Hospital*

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# BLOOMINGDALE

## Special Taxing District

### THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION

By Miriam Leech, BSTD Staff

*(Editor's Note: The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District's (BSTD) monthly column will inform readers about the BSTD, its mission and ongoing and new initiatives. The BSTD meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Questions? Call 813-684-6667 or email [bstd@verizon.net](mailto:bstd@verizon.net).)*

#### A CAUTIONARY TALE

On Jan. 19 the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District (BSTD) property manager, Rick Pitrowski, conducted an inspection and found a large amount of tree debris in the right-of-way along Bell Shoals Road.

Upon further inspection, Pitrowski found that a resident on Eastridge Drive had cut down three oak trees in their back yard and threw the cuttings over the District wall and into the Hillsborough County right-of-way.

Our property manager promptly reported his finding to the County. On Jan. 25 Pitrowski was notified that by County Code Enforcement that the resident was cited for accumulations on the property due to the substantial amount of debris. Additionally, the tree cutting and debris were reported to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) and the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) of Hillsborough County.



Anyone wanting to remove trees of a certain type and size on residential or nonresidential properties in unincorporated Hillsborough County needs a tree removal permit. Information on trees that require a permit, and steps to acquire a permit, are available at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org).

Yard waste of any type MAY NOT be disposed of by throwing into the County right-of-way. If yard waste exceeds the curbside pickup limit, residents may dispose of yard and wood waste at the Falkenburg Road Yard and Wood Waste Facility at 346 North Falkenburg Road, Tampa. Residents may dispose of up to 5 tons of yard and wood waste per year for free. More information is available at the county website above.

This is a cautionary tale about what **NOT** to do when it comes to tree maintenance in Hillsborough County. It also is a reminder that the BSTD inspects the District weekly for maintenance and landscaping issues, and will report situations where residents have thrown trash and/or debris into the right-of-way or common areas to the proper authorities.

#### VACANCY

The BSTD Board is looking for a Bloomingdale resident and registered voter who is interested in serving the community as a new trustee! If interested, please attend the next monthly meeting of the BSTD on February 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, Florida.

Tree Debris: On Jan. 19, the BSTD property manager found this tree debris thrown over a wall the District maintains and into the Hillsborough County right-of-way along Bell Shoals Road.

## BLOOMINGDALE

### Special Taxing District

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

[www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org](http://www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org)  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Tom Leech, President  
Bob Meginnis, Vice President  
Charlie Woodcock, Treasurer  
Jay Kittle, Secretary  
Russell Jones, Trustee  
Randy Kehrmeier, Trustee

#### Monthly Meeting

The residents of Bloomingdale are invited to attend the next meeting of the BSTD on February 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. If you would like to speak at the meeting, members of the public are allotted 3 minutes to make comment or ask questions per Hillsborough County policy. Hope to see you there!

## Recycling Tips for Your Pirate Party Castoffs

Follow these tips to clean up after Gasparilla weekend. Once the crowd moves on and it is time to clean up after your big Gasparilla party, you may be tempted to toss common party leftovers into the recycle bin. Follow these tips to avoid turning the recycling treasures already in your cart into rubbish:

### Walk the Plank (into the trash):

- Bead necklaces - even plastic beads aren't recyclable in curbside carts and tossing them in waterways or storm drains harms wildlife
- Disposable cups - these containers break apart easily and don't successfully make it through the recycling sorting process
- Foam food trays and takeout containers - these items can be taken to special collection bins at your local grocery store
- Pizza boxes, paper plates, and napkins - items generally soaked in food residue
- Plastic bags, packaging, and film - these tangles damage recycling sorting equipment and can be dropped off in special bins at your local grocery store

### Recycling Treasure (toss in cart loose):

- Clean and empty plastic bottles and containers
- Clean and empty aluminum cans
- Clean and empty glass bottles and jars
- Clean and empty metal food containers
- Clean and empty milk and juice cartons
- Dry flattened cardboard
- Dry Paperboard boxes
- Dry paper, newspaper, and junk mail

A good rule of thumb is: when in doubt, throw it out. Residential trash in Hillsborough County is processed into energy at the County's Resource Recovery Facility, so nothing goes to waste.

## Do's and Don'ts How to Live Alongside Urban Coyotes

Did you know coyotes are an important part of the landscape in Florida? According to Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC), they help maintain healthy ecosystems by managing populations of rodents, insects, and other small animals. Did you also know that they are very intelligent and adaptable? Their adaptability is why more are being spotted throughout the United States, including in Hillsborough County, in both rural and urban areas. Due to increased sightings in the Tampa Bay area, Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center teamed up with FWC to provide information on coyotes and curb problems before they become a community issue.

### Do:

- Keep trash cans secure and put them where coyotes can't get into them
- Clean up pet food and fallen fruit around your house
- Protect pets by keeping them in a yard with a fence at least 6 feet high
- Walk dogs on a short leash
- Close off crawl spaces under porches and sheds to remove places for them to rest/raise pups
- Haze coyotes continuously if they are near to scare them off. Learn how to haze here
- Share tips with neighbors

### Don't:

- Feed coyotes - it is illegal, and they will lose their fear of humans
- Run if you see a coyote. Instead, stand your ground and haze them
- Allow pets to roam freely
- Walk pets during early morning or evening hours (dusk and dawn) when coyotes are usually the most active

Be aware of unusual coyote behavior. Unusual behavior could include a coyote that has lost its fear of humans and is approaching people, chasing joggers and bikers, or attacking leashed pets. To report unusual coyote activity, call the FWC at (863) 648-3200.



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## Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

*(Editor's Note: Real estate columnist Ronnie has lived in Bloomingdale for eight years with her husband and two children, a son attending University of Florida and daughter at Bloomingdale High School. A productive Realtor, she is also active in the Girl Scouts.)*



By Ronnie McLaughlin

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### Tidying up Bloomindale

My first Bloomingdale Gazette Column back in December 2016 was inspired by Marie Kondo's book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing*. In that column, I recommended donating Christmas décor that you did not display that year as well as the book's first step - organizing your clothing. The book brought me so much joy, that I gifted a copy to a couple copies to family and friends.

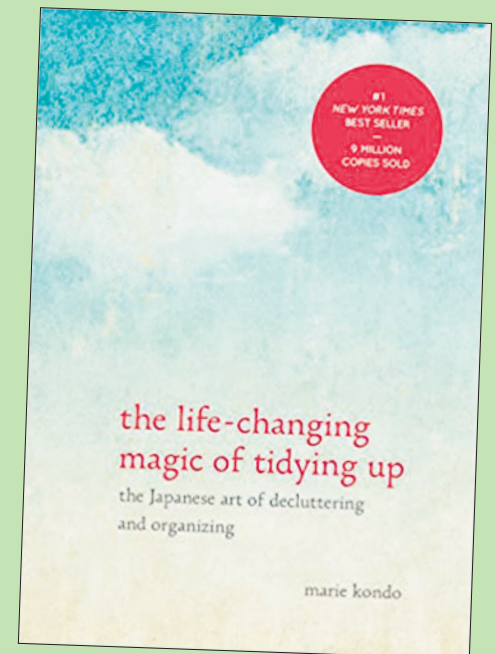
Well, if getting your home organized was your 2019 New Year's resolution, then your timing could not have been better. Kondo's organization system dubbed the KonMari Method is now showcased on a popular Netflix series, *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo: A Netflix Original*.

Her unique approach to helping people get, and stay, organized was tested by a few of our team members. Bottom Line: we can say it definitely works. It's easy, it's repeatable and it just makes sense.

Whether you're wanting to get organized to refresh your home or looking to de-clutter prior to putting your home on the market, there is no time better than the present. The first two readers who post **#Tidying up Bloomingdale** on my Facebook.com/ronniekw page will receive a copy of Marie Kondo's book to guide you through the process. Let's get organized together!

### Neighborhood Snapshot - Sandy Creek Manors

Sandy Creek Manors is a voluntary HOA neighborhood located south of the Bloomingdale West Park and is comprised of Brinton Court, Canoga Park Drive, Crystal Drive, Curran Court, Encina Drive, 4111-4115 Ephrata Drive, Royan Way, Sandy Creek Drive, Tyndale Drive and Wynnwood Drive. The average square foot is 1,783 with 3 and 4 bedroom options. Most of the homes were built in 1983 and 1984. Over the past year, 5 homes sold averaging 1,803 square feet, 4 bedrooms and 27 days on the market. Two of the five homes had renovated kitchens.



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## live radar

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## **Wanted: A Forever Home and Family!** Source: Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County's Pet Resource Center (PRC) has many cats and dogs looking for their "forever" homes. The PRC is the only open-admission facility in the county, meaning it accepts dogs and cats regardless of breed, size or medical condition. Residents can visit the center or search online to view hundreds of adoptable animals. All pets are microchipped, vaccinated, registered, and spayed or neutered before adoption.

The PRC, located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd., is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For information, call 813-744-5660 or visit [www.hcflgov.net/pets](http://www.hcflgov.net/pets).

Here are just a few fabulous faces to choose from:



Parker, A1957327, is a 4-year-old friendly boy who greets you with a tail wag, knows some basic commands and walks well on a leash. He loves toys and is super gentle with them. He is 52 pounds, heartworm negative and ready to play with you!



Cosette, A1959832, is a bit on the shy side but this 7-year-old lady is very friendly, pretty low key, loves treats and walks well on the leash. She is 42 pounds, heartworm-negative and ready for some love!





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Viewing of Your Child's Day





*Happy Valentine's Day!*



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Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary

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Alafia and Cimino.

**Now Enrolling:**  
**VPK 2019**  
**SUMMER AND FALL**  
**Must be 4 years old**  
**by 9/1/2019**

# Upcoming Events! Spring is a Great Time to Clean

## Community Clean-Up: One-Stop Convenience Provided By The BHA

Take advantage of a variety of services designed to declutter and spring clean your homes. The BHA community clean-up event provides residents with an opportunity to skip the drive to the county landfill, and discard their unwanted items at an “in-community” location.

Volunteers will be available to help with vehicle off-loading.

Planned at this time are **10 Commercial Roll-offs** for bulk trash, **Lighthouse Ministries** for any serviceable donations and an electronics recycling company.

HCSO's Operation Medicine Cabinet **WILL NOT** be available this year. Other options are being explored.

**Donations to help defray event costs are appreciated.**

*What you need to know:*

### Not Accepted!

**NO Hazardous materials accepted. This includes paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercial activities**  
**NO Yard Waste.**

**NO old style box televisions.**

Hillsborough County residents can dispose of hazardous materials for free on the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South County Collection Site, 13000 US 41, north of Big Bend Road, phone: 813-671-7611.

### Accepted!

**In 10 Commercial Roll-offs** provided by Republic Services and a grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, residents may discard:

- Refrigerators, ovens, water heaters
- Steel and other metals
- Furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses)
- Construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials)
- Tires

This event is made possible in part by a grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and Office of Neighborhood Relations and is a service the BHA has provided to residents for over 14 years. If for this reason alone, support the Association and join. Your support helps the Association keep events like this coming.



The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc.  
Serving the Community since 1979

The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association is happy to sponsor the

**2019 Annual**

## Clean-Up Day

**March 2, 2019**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **OR** until bins are full



Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility  
1626 Natures Way (behind Alafia Elementary School)

**Visit our Facebook page & read your Bloomingtondale Gazette for updates.**



# Clean-up, Donate, Throw Out And Sell Treasures!

## Community Scholarship: \$2,000 Buys a Lot of Pencils!

**Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!**

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
January 13-April 1  
Applications accepted  
April 1  
Application deadline date  
May 14  
BHA board meeting and announcement of scholarship winner

**BLOOMINGDALE**  
The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to sponsor the

**Bloomingdale High School**  
**\$2,000 Community Education Scholarship**

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
**Candidate**  
• Must be a resident of the Bloomingdale community.  
• Must be a graduating senior accepted at a 2 or 4-year college or university.  
• Proof of acceptance is required.  
• Weighted 3.2 GPA

Don't let the opportunity for \$2,000 in college scholarship money slip through your fingers. Applications are available online at [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://www.bloomingdalehoa.com), the BHA office, and via email at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com). The deadline is April 1. Mail completed applications to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596. Or, drop off the application at the office. Good luck, seniors!

Last year's winner was Bethany Gallagher who attends Florida Atlantic University.



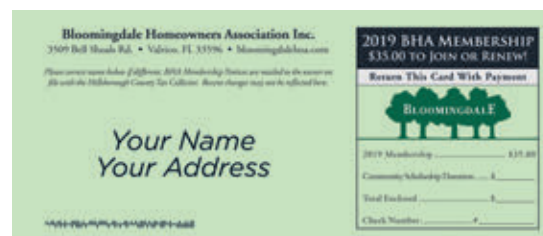
## 2019 Membership Drive: Ongoing through December 2019

*The BHA Can't Do It Without You! Join Today, don't delay!*

Thank you to our many residents who have already joined the Association this year! **(The BHA knows the year on the membership card was incorrectly printed as 2018. Dues will be credited for the 2019 year.)**

**Your \$35 annual membership fee supports** The Fall Festival, Annual Clean-Up Days, Advocacy for community improvements to county officials, The Award-Winning Bloomingdale Gazette, The HOA website, Facebook and Twitter Pages, Community-Wide Garage Sale, Santa Visit and Charity Food Drive, Yard of the Month and a Scholarship and Community Service Hour Program. Board members also attend county meetings regarding issues affecting our community.

Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your payment. 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. A \$1 processing fee will be assessed by PayPal.



## Community Garage Sale: Time to Sell the Treasure!

Want to participate? Contact the BHA at 813-681-2051 or by email at [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com). Provide your community name and address. On the day of the sale, put signage from your neighborhood entrance to your home. The BHA will do the rest. Let's get selling, Bloomingdale!



## Local Couple Makes Retirement an Adventure

By Wendy Knipp

His passion is photographing wildlife. Her motto is, “Let’s go hiking.” Together, this Valrico couple travels the world capturing breathtaking photos of everything from tiny colorful hummingbirds to majestic lions.

Chris and Elizabeth Dennard, married over 37 years, are retired and live in The Greens in Bloomingdale. Chris served more than 35 years as a Warden with the Florida Department of Corrections and Elizabeth was a well-respected paralegal for more than 40 years. With full careers under their belts, 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren, they decided retirement should be about doing what makes them happy — sharing the beauty of the wildlife all around us. And, although their photos could easily be award-winners and sold for profit, that’s not what it’s about.

They travel the world and share their brilliant wildlife photos on social media and within groups such as the Tampa Audubon Society ([www.tampaaudubon.org](http://www.tampaaudubon.org)). Within Florida, they’ve captured everything from the bald eagle to osprey to scrub jays. They traveled out west and witnessed a California Condor then to Canada to see a Snowy Owl. In 2016, they embarked on a 3-week African safari that brought them up close with fierce lions and graceful giraffes. On their travels, they make new friends and learn about different species and cultures. Elizabeth says, “We just love being outdoors and meeting new people.”

At home, they enjoy relaxing in their backyard, which is filled with beautiful landscaping and bird feeders playing host to more than 80 different birds. Neighboring kids ask them for help in finding “the golf course owl” or occasionally, bats.

According to Chris, “We just want to share and teach the love of nature.”

They have also begun writing educational articles about the animals in their photos and their next adventure will likely take them to Australia and New Zealand. Look for more of their work in future issues!

To contact the Dennards or to see their photos, visit [www.facebook.com/chris.dennard.39](https://www.facebook.com/chris.dennard.39).

Burrowing Owls in Cape Coral



Chris and Elizabeth Dennard enjoy the wildlife around the world and in their own backyard. Says Elizabeth, “The world is a beautiful place and we just want to share it.”  
Photo: Wendy Knipp



Their collection is filled with stunning photos such as this one from their African safari in 2016.

## Using the railroad track analogy to aim correctly...

By J.D. Carino (Bloomington CC campus)

When your golf buddy says "aim for the target," most of us aim our body to the target. Great for bowling, pool and shooting guns. Not so great for golf.

In bowling, pool and shooting guns, our body is aligned behind the target. In golf, our body is aligned alongside the target, i.e. the golf ball is a few feet in front of you. See photo.

As a result, if you align your body to the target (incorrect), with a good swing the ball will go right of where you aimed.

The outside track (red arrow) in which the ball travels is the target line. The inside track (yellow arrow) is the body/stance line; which consists of feet, knees, hips and shoulders all square and parallel (railroad tracks) to the target line.

When aimed correctly, your left shoulder (and body) will be aligned left of target. The next time you buddy says you are aiming wrong; tell him about the railroad tracks and how this train is staying on for 18 holes!

Next month: Not holding the putter like all the other clubs in your bag. Any questions or for lessons, please visit [CochraneGolfSchools.com](http://CochraneGolfSchools.com) or call J.D. 813-957-3205.



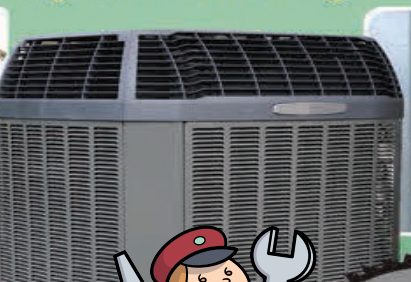
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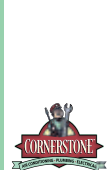
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# BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

By Gwen Graverson

## ...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

(Editor's Note: A column for our green and brown thumb gardeners penned by local garden enthusiast Gwen Graverson. Have a gardening question? Contact Gwen at [inbloominglenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloominglenews@gmail.com).)

### Azaleas Can Be Showstoppers under the Right Conditions



This time of year, Azaleas are the Prima Donna of the South. A member of the Rhododendron family, this landscape star comes in shades of lavender, red, pink, white, yellow and orange. Adding to the interest, azalea flowers can be solid, bi-colored, freckled, streaked and/or edged.

Blooming often begins in late February or early March and can continue through the fall. In our area, growing zone 9b, conditions

are right for this hardy gem. The only problem – shrubs in our area can be sporadic flowerers.

#### Could it be due to the soil...?

If you are considering planting azaleas this year, have the soil tested at the local county Extension office or by prepping the soil first during the fall (then plant the following spring) by adding organic matter, such as peat moss, compost, or pine bark.

The acidic level in the soil should range between pH 4.5 – 6.0. A good location for planting is where the azalea receives morning sun and light shade in the afternoon, in well-drained soil.

For those who already have established azaleas, the best time to fertilize is right after the spring bloom by using a well-balanced, slow release, granular azalea/camellia fertilizer. Apply the 2nd application, mid to late July. All sources indicate not to fertilize after Aug. 1.

#### Or could weather be a factor?

Based on my research, weather is the culprit. For maximum blooming, azaleas need 4 to 8 weeks of temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. This year, we may have come close to that bloom yardstick.

**Sporadic flowering** is more common in Central than in North Florida because of milder winter temperature fluctuation. An alternative would be to grow dwarf azaleas as a houseplant, which are perfect for containers. They need moist soil and indirect light. Note: these plants are considered poisonous and should be kept away from pets and children.

A good source for more information is the Azalea Society of America website: [www.azaleas.org/about-azaleas](http://www.azaleas.org/about-azaleas).

The 73rd Florida Azalea Festival in Palatka is one of the longest-running festivals celebrated in Florida. Held March 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The kid-friendly event averages over 35,000 visitors and offers

offer a glimpse into true Southern Hospitality with food, music, craft vendors, entertainment, Shriners, Parade and much more. Visit the event page at:

[www.facebook.com/pg/flazaleafest](http://www.facebook.com/pg/flazaleafest)



## UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

### Pruning Trees Reduces Storm Damage Robert Northrop, Extension Forester

The Tampa Bay area is well known for its strong storms during the long summer months. These storms produce heavy rains and strong winds that can spell trouble for open grown trees in parks, roadsides and around homes.

A survey conducted by Hillsborough County Extension documented that area homeowners perceive a high risk from trees during strong storms. Yet, few property owners recognize that trees can be managed to significantly reduce risk.

Research at the University of Florida has shown that thinning and reduction pruning improve a tree's ability to withstand strong winds.

Experiments were conducted on live oak trees using sustained wind speeds up to 120 m.p.h. These experiments demonstrated that removal of 33% of a tree's foliage, through structural or thinning pruning, significantly reduced the likelihood of tree failure by hurricane force wind.

Thinning pruning removes small branches (1-3" diameter) from the middle and outside portion of main branches, not from the interior. It allows more air to pass through the canopy and receive less damage in storms. The effects of thinning are short lived because the tree quickly grows back to fill the canopy with new foliage.

A more economical and efficient practice is structural pruning. Structural pruning for mature trees reduces the length and weight of overextended limbs. This form of pruning retains small-diameter interior branches for health and vigor (fig 1).

When improperly performed, pruning can harm a tree's health, stability, and appearance. Professional pruning that follows industry standards can prevent damage to property and injury to people.

People need trees. Managed properly trees are long-lived; provide numerous benefits including cleaner air and water, beauty and shade. They should to be managed professionally by ISA Certified Arborists. Don't trust your safety to someone untrained and inexperienced in tree management. 'Chuck With a Truck' who knocks on your door wanting to trim you trees is not an inexpensive alternative to a professional arborist, but an invitation to a serious problem.

For more information, call the Extension Office at 813-744-5519.



[illegible]



# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher  
and CSO Debbie Vijil

## Happy Anniversary! 21 years and Going Strong



As of this month, it has now been 21 years since the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station opened in Bloomingdale back in 1998. HCSO success in this area is due largely to the overwhelming cooperation and support provided by residents in Bloomingdale and surrounding communities.

Groups like the Sheriff's Bloomingdale Area Community Council (BACC) have continued to work directly with us in identifying critical concerns and working with us to find solutions. There is more room on the council for those interested in representing their homeowners' associations. Residents interested in information on the council can call the Community Station at 635-8040 or come by the station at 3622 Erindale Drive (Intersection of Erindale and Lithia-Pinecrest Road).

Programs such as the Sheriff's Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program have provided outstanding assistance to those of us in law enforcement and improved our ability to provide Bloomingdale's residents with secure home and work environments you want and deserve.

## Area Law and Order

Between Jan. 1 to Jan. 22, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office worked three non-injury traffic crashes and four injury crashes in our area. Additionally, there were five DUI arrests. During this time, there were four vehicle burglaries, one residential burglary and two business burglaries. There were nine reported thefts, ten shoplifting cases and nine drug cases.

## Tax time is here.

File early to prevent your tax return from being compromised. In lieu of using your social security number, you may request an IP PIN number from the IRS. Go to the IRS website for further information on the IP PIN. This is also a good time to run your credit history. Simply go to [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com).

You are entitled to one free credit report a year from each of the credit reporting agencies. You can pull all three reports at one time or spread it out during the year.



## Be a Part of the Solution

The first line of defense against crime in our community is the homeowner. There are not enough deputies to patrol the community and ensure that your homes and your vehicles are secure. We rely on Citizen Patrol and neighbors like you watching out for one another and reporting suspicious activity. Keep records of your property for future identification if you want to increase the chances of getting your property back.

Criminals have techniques they use to look for open homes and vehicles. It only takes them a few minutes to walk away with televisions, money, jewelry, GPS systems, credit cards and even dangerous guns. Make sure your vehicles are not only locked but that all valuable items are removed and secured inside your home!

## Next Bloomingdale Area Community Council Meeting (BACC)! Don't Forget Our New time!

Get involved; attend our monthly meeting as a neighborhood representative. Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month – this month's meeting is **Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.** at 3622 Erindale Drive. The BACC works directly with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to identify community concerns and find solutions to all types of problems. For information, call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station.

**Remember if you see something say something.**

**The Hillsborough  
County Sheriff's Office  
non-emergency  
number is:**

**(813) 247-8200**

## What's the Priority on Valentine's Day? Love or Spending? You Judge.

Courtesy: national retail federation, <https://www.nrf.com/insights/holiday-and-seasonal-trends/valentines-day>, <https://muchneeded.com/valentines-day-statistics/>

The National Retail Federation has been conducting its annual Valentine's Day consumer spending survey since 2004 to gauge how Americans plan to celebrate this special day with their loved ones. In 2018, consumers spent \$19.6 billion on their loved ones. Gifts included jewelry, an evening out, flowers, clothing, greeting cards and a perennial favorite, candy.

### By The Numbers

- ♥ An estimated 54% of Americans will participate in the rituals of Valentine's Day
- ♥ 24% of estimated spending will be on jewelry.
- ♥ 19% of dollars spent on Valentine's Day will be on an evening out.
- ♥ 10% of spending will go to a traditional flower purchase.
- ♥ 9% of spending will be made toward candy purchases.
- ♥ 20% of spending dollars will go toward clothing.
- ♥ As with everyday holiday cards are one of the most popular purchases with 65% of people exchanging cards for the Valentine's holiday.
- ♥ Almost \$4 billion will be spent on dining out and going to the movies in celebration of Valentine's Day.
- ♥ 20% of people will buy something or treat their pet on Valentine's Day.
- ♥ Buyers spend an average of over \$6 on teachers and classmates for the holiday.
- ♥ \$1.5 billion will be spent on Valentine's cards making it one of the top card giving holidays.

### Interesting Things to Know

- ♥ While the first exchanged Valentine's occurred during the 15th century, they weren't mass-produced until the 1800's.
- ♥ Companies manufacture more than 8 million conversation hearts each year to meet the demand for Valentine's Day.
- ♥ The term "wearing your heart on your sleeve" came from the Middle Ages when couples would wear the name of their Valentine on a heart that would be attached to their sleeve.
- ♥ Husbands and boyfriends are most likely to give bouquets.
- ♥ The most popular flower for Valentine's Day is roses as they were the goddess Venus's favorite flower.

XOXOXO



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# February School News: A Look at What's Happening

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

Compiled by Deidre Morgan



**Feb. 8 - Florida State Fair Day, Non - Student Day**

**Feb. 18 - President's Day, Non - Student Day**

**March 4 - Strawberry Festival, Non - Student Day**



## ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

### Congratulations!

The Alafia Elementary PTA would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the following Gators who make our school such a terrific place to be!

- Olivia Ramirez, Alafia Instructional Support Employee of the Year (left)
- Kathy Rhoades, Alafia Teacher of the Year (center)
- Stephanie Thompson, Alafia Ida S Baker Diversity Educator of the Year (right)

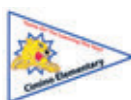


### Spirit Fridays

Remember to wear your Alafia shirts on Spirit Fridays! Shirts are sold in "The Mint" Wednesday mornings from 7:30 - 8 a.m.

### Tuesday Folders

Each year students receive an Alafia folder on the first day of school. These folders then serve as "Tuesday Folders" for the remainder of the year. Every Tuesday these folders will be sent home with pertinent information, forms, newsletters, etc. from the school, the PTA, and sometimes from the county. By sending home all informational fliers only on Tuesdays, we hope to eliminate confusion about when information is coming home. Your child will STILL get papers from teachers on any day of the week, but those will be academic. Please send BACK the folders every Wednesday.



## CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

- Feb. 10 - Top Golf Spirit Day
- Feb. 11 - Spring Picture Day
- Feb. 19 - PTA Board Meeting, Bloomingdale Golf Club, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 22 - All Pro Dad's, Multi-Purpose Room, 6:30 a.m. -7:30 a.m.
- Feb. 26 - Chick Fil-A Spirit Night, Bloomingdale Ave Location, 4:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.



## BURNS BRUINS BANTER

- Feb. 4 - Soccer vs Randall @ Bloomingdale HS, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 7 - Spring Picture Day
- Feb. 7 - PTSA Valentine's Day Dance, 4:25 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 - Principal Honor Roll Celebration, 2:45 p.m.
- Feb. 11 - Conference Night, 4:35 p.m. -7:35 p.m.
- Feb. 12 - Soccer vs Barrington @ Bloomingdale HS, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 14 - Soccer vs Eisenhower @ East Bay HS, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 20 - Soccer vs Rodgers @ Riverview HS, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 26 - Soccer vs Shields @ Bloomingdale HS, 6:00 p.m.



## BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

- Feb. 5 - JV Wrestling @ Brandon, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 5 - Boys Basketball vs Gaither, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 6 - Wrestling @ Plant City, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 7 - Conference Night, 4:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.**
- Feb. 7 - Track Pre-Season Conference @ Wharton, 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 7 - Sophomore/Junior Parent Night, Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.**
- Feb. 8 - Boys Basketball @ Freedom, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 9 - JROTC Military Ball @ The Event Factory, 6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.
- Feb. 12 - Melissa Snively Meeting, Media Center, 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
- Feb. 13 - Track @ Strawberry Crest, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 15 - IncrediBULL Games**
- Feb. 15 - Wrestling @ Wharton, 2:00 p.m.
- Feb. 16 - Boys Lacrosse @ Tampa Catholic, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 19 - Boys & Girls Lacrosse @ home, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 20 - ASVAB, Auditorium, 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20 - Boys & Girls Lacrosse @ Steinbrenner, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 20 - Track @ Spoto, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 20 - Softball vs Steinbrenner, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 22 - Softball @ Jefferson, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 25 - March 15, Spring FSA Writing/Reading/Algebra 1 Retakes
- Feb. 25 - Track @ Chamberlain, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 27 - Baseball/Softball vs Armwood, 9:00 a.m.
- Feb. 27 - Boys & Girls Lacrosse @ Newsome -5:00 p.m.
- March 1 - Baseball/Softball @ TBT, 7:00 p.m.
- March 2 - Boys Lacrosse @ Bartow, 12:00 p.m.
- March 2 - 3rd Annual Bulls Football Golf Classic @ Bloomingdale Golf Course, 11:30 a.m. -6:00 p.m.**



## BULL BRIEFS

### Band Silent Auction Fundraiser

The Bloomingdale Senior High School Rajun' Bull Band is holding its annual silent auction to raise money for much needed musical instruments and equipment upgrades, as well as assisting to off-set student band fees. There will be a Trivia Night and Silent Auction on Saturday, Feb. 23 at O'Brien's Irish Pub & Grill, at 4 p.m.



All proceeds from the Trivia Night and Silent Auction will support the Rajun' Bull Band and Color Guard. We are reaching out to members of our community to ask for donations to our auction. If you own a business and would like to donate items or services, we'd love to promote your organization. If you have an item or service to donate, please contact Brandye Fee at rajunbullband@mail.com. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

# School News!



## BLOOMINGDALE BULLS FOOTBALL BOOSTERS 3RD ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

**MARCH  
2ND**

2019  
11:30 AM TO 6 PM

REGISTRATION  
PRACTICE / PUTT  
11:30AM

SHOTGUN START  
1:00 PM

DINNER  
AWARD CELEBRATION  
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Last season, we raised over \$40,000 for our team. This helped us improve our facilities, pay for uniforms and fund our season into the State playoffs! Your contributions directly affect each football player at Bloomingdale Senior High School, and we will continue to wisely use the funds raised for the greatest impact. For more information about sponsor opportunities and donations, or to register for the tournament, please contact Cheri Pignataro at cippigq65@gmail.com or 813-506-1526. Thank you in advance for your support! Foursome: \$400: Entry for 4 players. Single: \$125: Entry for 1 players.

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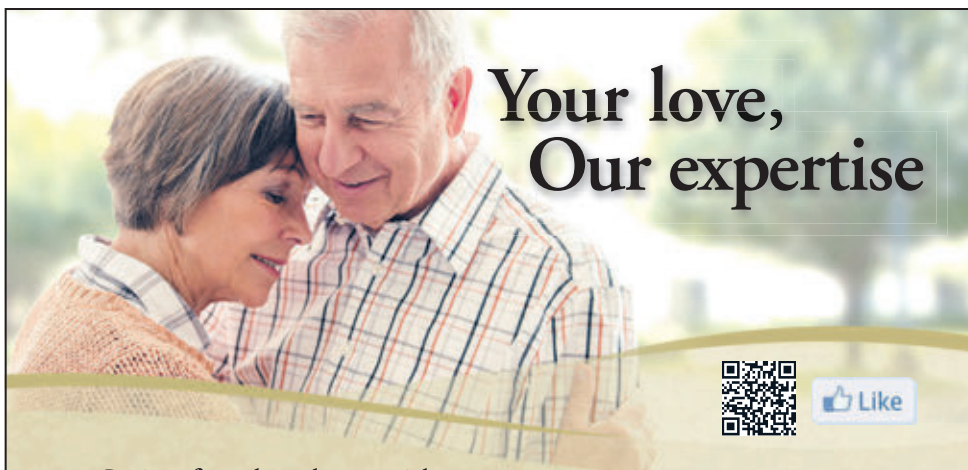
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## New Football Coach and New Weight Room Keep Program Moving Forward

By Deidre Morgan

Photos: Deidre Morgan

Upon meeting new Bloomingdale Head Football Coach Jake Coulson, two things are obvious he loves family and football. From an early age he remembers every Sunday the whole family gathering at his grandmother's Texas home to have a "big" meal (because everything's bigger in Texas) and watch the Dallas Cowboys.

That is where his great love of football started and now he's continuing that love for the sport at Bloomingdale High School. Starting in 2009, Coulson held multiple coaching positions at four different Texas high schools. He's been a Passing Game Coordinator, Defensive Coordinator and the Assistant Head Coach for Special Teams.

At Bloomingdale, he was named Defensive Coordinator, a position that earned him Defensive Coordinator of the Year honors this past season. Thankful to former Head Coach Max Warner and the Bloomingdale Administration for the opportunity to lead the Bulls, Coulson said, "I have worked my entire life for this moment, and it means the world that the staff has confidence in his abilities to lead this team."

Noting the great season and the performance of Coach Warner, Coulson stated, "We plan on making some small changes but for the most part [we will] keep the train moving." Coach Coulson explained there are three must haves from his players: discipline, playing with character, and communication between the players, coaches and parents. He believes winning football games starts in the off season and with practice.

With the newly completed weight room, the Bulls are off to a great start. With help from the county and fellow Bloomingdale graduate, Josh Dobbie, who played football for Bloomingdale (Class of 2004), West Point and FSU, the weight room is ready to be put to the test. Dobbie, who works with Sorinex, a strength training and weightlifting equipment company, helped get the right equipment and flooring that will help the team on their quest to be the best.

Coulson is looking forward to the 2019 season. "We want to keep the community involved with the football program and look forward to seeing the stands full again this year." Here's to another great year of Bloomingdale Bulls Football!



New weight room equipment is ready to be put to the test.



The new weight room is state-of-the-art thanks to flooring and equipment provided by Bloomingdale alumnus Josh Dobbie of Sorinex.



Coach Jake Coulson is excited for his team to begin using the new weight equipment.

 **Bloomingtondale High School Football Players Sign Letters of Intent**  
Brief: Deidre Morgan

Two Bloomingtondale High School Football players signed their National Letters of Intent to play Division 1 football on Dec. 19 in front of family, friends and their coaches. Jalen Jackson will be attending Middle Tennessee State University and Levi Williams will be taking his talent to Tulane University. This is an awesome accomplishment for these young men and the Bloomingtondale community wishes them well. Go Bulls!



Levi Williams, Tulane University



Jalen Jackson, Middle Tennessee State University

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