

**Congratulations Paige Vodopich,
2019 Community
Scholarship Winner!**

SEE STORY ON PAGE 12



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." *Mark Twain*

Photo: Cindy Vodopich

This Month



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PLEASE  RECYCLE



WINNER

2013, 2014 & 2016

Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
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

Website: www.BloomingtonHOA.com

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

President: *Suzy Watts*

Vice President: *Sean Donahue*

Secretary: *Daniel Berkowitz*

Treasurer: *Grace Lewis*



Directors at Large:

Bobbi Ferraro

Carl Hallinan

Billy Hightower

Matt Marcinkowski

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

Email: InBloomingtonNews@gmail.com

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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



ANDREA DALY

Tampa Bay
Times

Community Publications Manager

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Guess who just came home! 🙏

[#HeartAttack](#) [#survivor](#) [#Doc1stER](#)

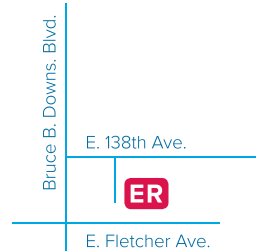


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Winners will receive a \$25 gift card redeemable at Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale



Brenda & Brett Bailey
2112 Isle of Palms Drive, Valrico (Fox Run)



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IN WINDOW TREATMENTS

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BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



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Membership drive ongoing! Join TODAY! We need your support! Make your \$35 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, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.



BHA EVENT CALENDAR

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

Monday, June 10, 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, June 11, 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, June 20, 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming 2019 BHA Events

Fall Festival - October or November, TBD

Santa Visit and Charity Food Drive - December 8

BHA BRIEFS

Meet Your BHA Board: Matt Marcinkowski

By Jane Owen, Photo: Marcinkowski Family



What leads someone to become a Director at Large for the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association? For Matt Marcinkowski it is a simple yet strong desire to keep Bloomingdale a great place to live.

Matt has been on the BHA Board for the last 2 months and brings the skills of project management and event planning to the board, as well as love of the Bloomingdale community.

"It's a great community; with all of the traffic around the area, Bloomingdale provides quiet respite. I don't see that in other areas."

The Marcinkowski family lives in Preston Woods. Matt has been married to his wife Jennifer for 19 years and they have a 17-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter. Matt works as a Construction Project Manager for CBRE. When not working, he enjoys classic gaming, including pinball, arcade games, classic console games and board games, woodworking and golf.

Getting to know the community and participating in community events is Matt's favorite part of serving on the BHA Board. One way he wants to "keep the community a great place to live" is by creating new events to bring people together.

The desire for community connection drew him to the board. "I wanted to join the board because now that I am retired from the Air Force, I can actually be a part of a community long term, and I thought this was the best way to do so. This is where I live, so being a part of that is important to me."



Park Improvements Continue

New playground equipment, refurbished basketball, tennis and racquetball courts are ready for use in Bloomingdale East and West Parks. Bloomingdale West Park will finally have a bathroom facility that includes water fountains by June/July.



Photo: Hillsborough County



Photo: Wendy Knipp



Photo: Wendy Knipp

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

Summer Movie Matinees!



Xscape Riverview 14
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

PLAYDATE	FEATURE	RATING
June 4 thru 6	Dr. Seuss' The Grinch	PG
June 11 thru 13	The LEGO Movie 2	PG
June 18 thru 20	Smallfoot	PG
June 25 thru 27	Teen Titans Go! To the Movies	PG
July 2 thru 4	Penguins of Madagascar	PG
July 9 thru 11	Hotel Transylvania 3	PG
July 16 thru 18	Minions	PG
July 23 thru 25	Goosebumps 2	PG
July 30 thru Aug 1	Paddington 2	PG
Aug 6 thru 8	Surprise Feature!	PG

General seating is limited. Please arrive early for the best seating.
 Film titles are not guaranteed, subject to change.
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 More information can be found on our website:
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Doors Open at 9:00 a.m.
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Program dates: July 8 to Aug. 5, Three 90-minute sessions per week for 5 weeks.
Ages: 12-17 and 18-year-olds still attending high school
Cost: \$299 (BayCare Fitness members receive a 20% discount).
Days/Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



Busch Gardens Summer Nights / Now to Aug. 11, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. / 10165 N McKinley Dr, Tampa // BIG THRILLS, BRIGHT NIGHTS! Experience endless energy and thrilling rides from day into night at Summer Nights. As the sun goes down, the party heats up at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay during Summer Nights. Explore the park after dark with extended park hours every night. Dance the night away at themed party zones throughout the park and take on Florida's top thrill rides in the dark. <https://buschgardens.com/tampa/events/summer-nights/>



Riverview Garden Club Meeting / June 12 at 10 a.m. / Riverview Civic Center, 11020 Park Drive / Speaker: Lela Lilyquist - "Portamento of Hope," Owner of Nature's Health Foods in Brandon // Portamento of Hope is a not-for-profit soup kitchen designed by Lela Lilyquist to give homeless women and men "a hand up, not a hand out."



Paint and Sip / June 14, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. / The Sparkman House Luxury Bed and Breakfast, 707 N. Collins Street, Plant City // Join us for our first paint & sip event at the stunningly beautiful Sparkman House Luxury Bed and Breakfast. Bring your own beverage and enjoy some evening snacks with your date, friends, or group! Our very own talented Plant City artist, Loretta Burns, will guide you in making your own masterpiece. Enjoy some laughs and unwind after the long work week. \$40 + tax per person, includes all art materials & food. Reservations start June 1 and seats are limited! 813-787-6068.



Tampa, Brandon, Lakeland Florida JobLink Hiring Heroes Career Fair / June 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. / Home 2 Conference Center, 10323 Palm River Road, Tampa // Attend our Tampa Bay career fair - a great opportunity to meet local, regional, and Fortune 500 Companies with immediate job openings in education, sales, tech, customer service and more! Open to executive level experienced professionals as well as entry level and recent college graduates. Make sure to REGISTER so that companies can review your resume prior to attending the career fair. Top positions will be filled ON THE SPOT in healthcare, foodservice, technical, sales, marketing, insurance, production, clerical, customer service, education, legal and more! *Be prepared! Plan to take updated, crisp resumes to a career fair, prepare to interview on the spot. Professional Attire is Required.*



ENTER YOUR YARD IN THE COMMUNITIES WATER WISE AWARD CONTEST

By Paula Staples, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County
 Public Education Program Coordinator

Has your landscape benefited from the rain?

If yes, then submit your yard for the Communities Water Wise Award. Recognizing efficient Florida-Friendly landscapes that incorporate many of the nine steps is the goal of this contest. Answer the water conservation questions about your landscape at <http://tampabaywaterwise.org/Enter-Your-Landscape>.



Besides winning a beautiful, handmade, mosaic garden stepping stone, the University of Florida IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County will provide feedback that can potentially make your yard even more efficient, keeping your plants healthy and saving you money. Go to <http://tampabaywaterwise.org/> and see if your yard qualifies. The deadline for landscape submissions is June 30.

Behind the Headlines: Welcome Our Newest Reporter Jane Owen

By Wendy Knipp



Pictured left to right: Thomas, David, Jane, Seth, Elsie, "The Bull," and Jon Owen at Bloomingdale's Running of the Bulls.

Photo: Andy Meng, Stageshot Photography

Furthering our unofficial Gazette motto of "By residents, for residents," Bloomingdale resident Jane Owen is joining the team! With a degree in Communication/Journalism from the University of Alabama, Jane began her working career as a technical writer and software tester.

After marrying her high school sweetheart, Seth, she began 10 years of service as an Army wife. Jane has lived and worked all over the country landing in Bloomingdale in 2014. Jane and Seth are about to celebrate 24 years of marriage. They live in The Cove with their 4 children Jon (18), David (15), Thomas (14), and Elsie (11).

When she's not writing, she spends her time volunteering at her kids' schools, Cimino Elementary School, Steward Middle Magnet School, and Bloomingdale High School. In fact, Jane is the Race Director for the Running of the Bulls 5K annual event which benefits the school's athletic teams.

"I don't claim the stay-at-home mom role, but I don't have a full-time job. I am just never at home and always working at some cause that I feel is important," she said.

Jane has a passion for running, photography, and gardening. She has completed six marathons (26 miles each), two 50K (31 miles each) races, and is a member of the Brandon Running Association.

Jane has always enjoyed journalism and is excited to share her talents with The Gazette. She likes how the paper promotes local businesses and shares important information that impacts the community. "All of my life, I have loved writing. I believe I can offer my writing skills, passion for writing and love of local community to our paper."



Jane Owen at the "Run Jane Run" Marathon in Ohio.

Photo: Air Force Marathon

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BLOOMINGDALE Special Taxing District

THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION

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

Compiled by Miriam Leech

AN INVITATION TO OUR RESIDENTS

By Tom Leech, President

Public Meeting, June 10

First, I want to issue an open invitation to the public hearing for the FY2020 budget, which is scheduled for Monday, June 10, at 6:15 p.m., at the Bloomingdale Community Offices. In previous columns, I've laid out a new vision and the plans to achieve it. Our budget reflects an emphasis on revitalization and improvement with an eye toward future needs. If you want to see how we've prioritized our funding, the public hearing is where you want to be.



Re-branding and Landscape Design

Last month, I outlined the next steps in the re-branding and landscape design plan. Genesis Halff (no, not a typo) will deliver design options this month for Bloomingdale's eight external entrances. As of this writing, I am not sure if they can have the conceptual drawings ready for the June 10 meeting.

Once a design is chosen, one of our external entrances will be rebuilt using the selected design. This will serve as a model for the other seven entrances. As I mentioned before, the redesign will include new signage, lighting, and landscaping. The remaining seven entrances will be redone in phases, with those at Bell Shoals Road being done last due to the ongoing widening project.

Off-Duty Deputy Program

Our pilot security program continues to provide dividends. Last month, five off-duty deputies responded to over 100 calls. For the period of April 18 through May 17, 13 shifts were filled and the deputies performed the following:

- 53 traffic stops with warnings
- 23 traffic stops with citations
- One warrant arrest
- Engaged one suspicious vehicle
- Responded to three domestic violence calls
- Responded to one vehicle crash with no injuries
- Responded to three 911 emergency calls



Source: HCSO

The numbers remain on an upward trend and indicate the program is beginning to take effect. As a result, the Trustees have incorporated this program into our FY2020 budget to continue addressing community safety and security concerns.

BLOOMINGDALE Special Taxing District

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

www.bloomingdaletaxingdistrict.org

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

Tom Leech, President

Charlie Woodcock, Treasurer

Jay Kittle, Secretary

Russell Jones, Trustee

Randy Kehrmeier, Trustee

Claire Letkiewicz, Trustee

Monthly Meeting

The residents of Bloomingdale are invited to attend the next meeting of the BSTD on June 10 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!

Farewell and Thank you Trustee Meginnis

Finally, the Board of Trustees bids a fond farewell to Vice President Bob Meginnis. Bob was instrumental in standing up the off-duty deputy program and executing the new landscape design and revitalization program. Although a trustee for less than two years, his hard work will shape the community for years to come. Best wishes to Bob and his wife Darlene as they depart Bloomingdale and embark on their next adventure.



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.

Here are just a few fabulous faces to choose from:

Luna



Luna is an energetic girl who enjoys playing outside with toys, knows basic obedience, is house trained and has shown to be friendly with other dogs. She has never been around children or cats so we are unsure of her demeanor. She is 1 year 8 months old, 34 pounds.

Kaiden



Kaiden is a 57 pounds, 1 year old male. This young guy has shown to be friendly while at the shelter. He seems to know some basic commands, walks well on the leash and it's possible he is house-trained.

Arthur



Two-year-old Arthur loves to find a good place to snuggle down and nap or just watch what's going on. He is friendly if a bit shy at first.

Fiona



Fiona is 9 years old, but still playful. This lady likes to play with toys, loves everyone (kids included), and gets along with other cats and small dogs. She is front declawed.

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Don't Delay Preparations; Hurricane Season Is Here

By Joe Harless

So, just how serious does the 2019 hurricane season look? Hard to tell, but the first named storm appeared in May, which was a little worrisome since hurricane season traditionally does not start until June 1.

As of May 22, Accuweather.com reported that storm forecasters expected between 12 to 14 tropical cyclones to appear between June 1 and November 30, with five to seven becoming hurricanes and two to four turning into major hurricanes that could hit the mainland.

Although impossible to confirm the accuracy of the predictions, County residents can start taking steps to be prepared.

Before the Storm

Get Prepped

Depending on the size of your family (and we're including animals), the list of disaster kit items can be quite thorough, but clean drinkable water will be the top priority. You'll need one gallon of water per person per day, with the minimum time of seven days (or 28 gallons for a family of four). Each gallon will be used for drinking, cooking, and sanitation, so rationing will become very important.

Additional items for the supply kit include food for seven days, fuel, cooking utensils, flashlights and batteries, clothing, sleeping gear, a fully stocked first aid kit, a radio, cash, and any special items like medications. The official list of suggested supply kit items can be found at FloridaDisaster.org.

Also, get several bags of ice and clean out the coolers; you may need them both to store food and supplies if the power goes out.

Know Your Evacuation and Flooding Zones

Check the County website to find out if your home sits in a flood zone, and verify where you can go in the event of a mandatory evacuation. Make sure you know where the shelters are located, which hospitals can be easily reached, and always have a travel plan, especially if the evacuation becomes widespread. The main highways and roads will become congested very quickly, so look into alternate routes but be prepared for slow traffic.

Check www.hillsboroughcounty.org for information on evacuation and flood zones.

Prepare the House

What's the most popular place to be just before a hurricane? Anyplace that sells water. The second place? The hardware store.

In addition to making sure the house has adequate insurance, take any precautions to fortify the home to lessen damages should the hurricane come ashore, such as boarding up windows and using sandbags to create temporary dams against rising flood waters. Even if you don't plan on staying home when the storm arrives, you can still take steps to protect the house.

During the Storm

Get Somewhere Safe and Stay Put

Once you've done everything you can to prepare, get inside and hunker down. If you've ever watched the news during a storm, there's always some reporter in danger of being blown away or drowned by the weather. Don't be like the reporter; they get paid to try and fight a hurricane, and you don't.

If the storm will definitely hit, take advantage of the appliances while you still have power. Do laundry if you need it, cook a lasagna in the oven, charge phones/tablets/devices, binge watch that show, whatever you want while you can. Things may get uncomfortable for a while if the power goes off, so take advantage of it while you've got it.

After the Storm

Assess and Report

Family okay? Good, now check the power. Still got electricity? Wonderful. Inspect the property. Property undamaged? Congratulations, you've survived a Florida hurricane!

However, if you weren't so lucky, get your family to safety and/or the hospital as quickly as possible. Check in with the water/power utility companies to find out when service will be restored. Finally contact your vehicle/home insurance agents and the Florida Chief Financial Officer to report any damage claims at www.myfloridacfo.com.



Courtesy: www.tbrpc.org/tampa-bay-hurricane-and-disaster-planning-guide/, available in English And Spanish



Wildlife... Up Close and Personal

Article/Photos by Chris and Elizabeth Dennard

This Month: The Swallow-Tailed Kite Nature's Most Graceful Predator

The Swallow-tailed Kite has been called "the coolest bird on the planet." With its long, deeply forked tail and bold black-and-white plumage, it is unmistakable in the summer skies above swamps of the Southeast. After rearing its young in a treetop nest, the kite migrates to wintering grounds in South America.

Habitat and Nesting

Swallow-tailed Kites breed in swamps, lowland forests, and marshes of the southeastern United States, primarily in Florida and South Carolina. They require tall trees for nesting and open areas full of small prey to feed their nestlings. Typically, Kites place their nest near the top of one of the tallest trees available, more than 60' above ground.

Courtship may involve aerial chases by both sexes with mating occurring from March to May. The female will lay 2 to 4 eggs with incubation lasting 28 days. The young birds fledge (fly out of the nest) at about 5-6 weeks.

Diet and Feeding Behavior

Flying with barely a wingbeat and maneuvering with twists of its incredible tail, it takes much of its food by swooping low over trees or lower growth. Favorite foods include a variety of bugs, insects, and frogs, lizards, and snakes.

Conservation

Destruction of habitats is chiefly responsible for a decline in population numbers. A key conservation area is the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. As of 2016, populations have seemed to stabilize and even show increasing trends. Successful habitat restoration and management has allowed these birds to reestablish nesting populations in areas of Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.

Swallow-tailed kites are not listed as endangered or threatened by the United States federal government. They are listed as endangered by the state of South Carolina and as threatened by the state of Texas and are listed as "rare" by the state of Georgia.



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Poise and Confidence Define BHA Scholarship Winner Paige Vodopich

By Wendy Knipp

Congratulations to Bloomingdale High School senior Paige Alexa Vodopich for winning the 2019 BHA B.J. Stelter \$2,000 Scholarship. This scholarship is gifted annually from the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association to one exceptional senior living in Bloomingdale to assist with college expenses.

Paige has taken on challenging classes at Bloomingdale High with ease while staying active in after-school activities. She graduates with a 6.17 GPA and completed numerous Honors and Advanced Placement classes, including a college level Algebra class.

She is a member the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and is in the top 5% of her class. She earned a perfect score on the FSA Reading/Writing Exam and she is certified in Microsoft, Adobe, and as a Certified Internet Web Professional (CIW.)

Paige is an accomplished flute and piccolo player in the award-winning Rajun' Bull Band. Most recently band director Jon Sever awarded her the prestigious Jon Philip Sousa Band Award. Other instructors are equally impressed with Paige.

Patrick Sheehan, a BSHS Dual Enrollment American History teacher, said, "She has natural talents and abilities that I don't see that often; her drive is like no other student I have ever had."

Paige has taken on leadership/volunteer positions with the Rajun' Bull Marching Band, the Mechanical Bulls Robotics Team, the eSports League, and Elite Club and Beach Volleyball. She has completed more than 217 community service hours. Outside of volleyball and band, she has volunteered for many events including Toys for Tots, the IncrediBULL Games for special needs students, and The Bloomingdale Fall Festival.

Paige lives with parents, Cindy and Denver and will be a first-generation college student. She feels extremely blessed to have grown up in this community and had the same friends throughout school (Alafia, Burns, Bloomingdale).

Of the scholarship, she said, "This scholarship means the world to me because it comes from the community where I was born and raised. Bloomingdale is and always will be 'home' to me, so this is a very special honor."

Paige will study both Cybersecurity and Business at University of Central Florida in the Fall. Congratulations, Paige!





BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher
and CSO Debbie Vijil

"One Team, One Family, One Community"

Area Law and Order

Between April 20 and May 20, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 100 traffic stops in Bloomingdale East and West. Those traffic stops resulted in 73 warnings and 27 citations. We had seven crashes with injuries, 11 without injuries. There were five DUI arrests and three drug law investigations. Six vehicle burglaries were reported. Let's be more diligent in protecting our property. Finally, officers made 22 arrests for various crimes in the area.

School is out, Talk to your kids!

Parents, take time to sit down with your kids and work out a plan for the summer. Set some very specific rules. Some kids will be busy with lots of activities. Some will be latchkey kids, left at home alone. Make sure you know where they are at all times and whom they are with. Ensure that they know the consequences of getting into trouble especially if it is something that will give them a criminal record. You are also helping to keep them safe.

Be sure that your teen drivers know and obey the rules. We want them to enjoy their summer vacations and not end up in trouble or injured in an accident. It will not take long for kids to get bored.

Coffee with a Cop

BHA Directors Bully Hightower and Charlie Woodcock attended "Coffee with a Cop" on May 23 at Winthrop Starbucks. Pictured with them are HCSO's finest, l. to r., Community Resource Deputy Breanna Rodriguez, Capt. Anthony Collins (new District 5 Assistant), Major Greg Pollock (D5 Commander), and Bloomingdale's Community Resource Deputy Cliff Fletcher. This quarterly community outreach event allows for communication with the public in a relaxed atmosphere.



Photo: HCSO

Crimes of Opportunity

At the May Bloomingdale Area Community Council Meeting (BACC) members were briefed on "crimes of opportunity" like "carhopping." Help prevent these crimes. First, secure your property. Second, record property ID numbers and take photos of your valuables. Third, register bikes with the Sheriff's Office. Go to www.hcso.tampa.fl.us/ and search for the bicycle registration program. Finally, report thefts so they can be investigated and critical information obtained and placed on file.

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 **June 20 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.

Local Soccer Team Dominates Florida, Heading to Regionals

By Wendy Knipp and Joanne Quinn

Congratulations to the West Florida Flames Boys U16 Elite Soccer team on winning the US Youth Soccer State Cup Championship! The players and coaches have worked very hard to get this far. Their next competition is for Southern Regionals in Louisiana from June 20-27 and then on to the National Championship in Kansas from July 22-28.

The team needs to raise approximately \$5,000 for costs associated with this once-in-a-lifetime journey. If you would like to help, visit their GoFundMe page at https://www.gofundme.com/1n7r2tdgio?sharetype=teams&member=2275726&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet&rcid=c4fcfb34982e4f7e9a9915976337754b.

For more information about the West Florida Flames, visit <http://fcflames.com/>

Photo: West Florida Flames



(Back row, left to right) Paulo Neto WFF Technical Director, Coach Juan Garcia, Matt Almond, Cyril Michel , Ethan Marshall , Niklas Baumann, Sean Siwek, Justin Tiller , Chase Moore, Kevin Armenteros, Gary Rach WFF Executive Director. **(Front row, left to right)** Adrian Aguirre, Adrian Montanez, Cristo Gonzalez, Andres Quintero, Gavin Santos, Alejandro Rojas, Este Vargas, Spencer Gangwer





Through Your Lens!

Bloomingdale Photographers!

The Gazette wants your photos! We want your “fur or fur-less” babies, wildlife, and just about anything that highlights our people pets, places and things. Some photos will grace the cover; others will be highlighted in the issue! Send high resolution photos to inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.



Ty Davis



Bailey Chadderton



Magendie and Bubbles Diaz



Stella Smedley



Dory Mulder

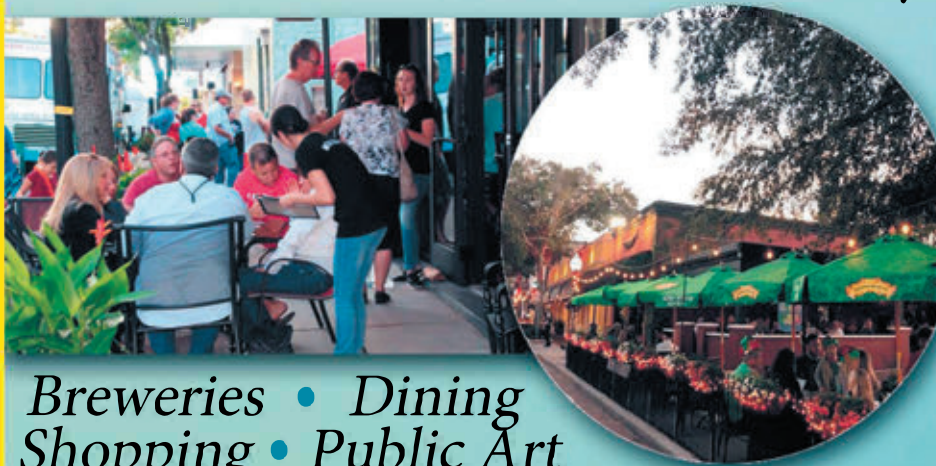


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By Gwen Graverson

...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 inbloomngdalenews@gmail.com.)

Butterfly Garden - Build it and they will Come

Riverview Garden Club member Jenny Roberts' love of gardening began as a child. Her initial inspiration came from her father's love of growing roses. Today, her Valrico home is a Butterfly paradise featuring many of the 180 butterfly species found in Florida.

Over the past 30 plus years, her yard has evolved. The grass is long gone replaced with flowering plants, bushes, shrubs and walkways. Visitors, including her former mailman, enjoyed the peace and tranquility her garden has offered them through the years.



Black Swallowtail Butterfly on a Coleus Plant
In Jenny Roberts' Garden.

Photo: Jenny Roberts

Jenny's advice: do your research before starting a butterfly garden. Learn which butterfly species are native for Central Florida, zone 9b – our zone. You can do this research online, by reading butterfly books/butterfly field guides, talking to local garden nurseries and viewing You Tube videos. Nectar plants along with hosts plants are a must for attracting lots of butterflies to your garden.

Two common predators of butterflies and caterpillars are wasps and lizards. Other predators include ants, parasitic flies, birds, snakes, toads, rats, dragonflies, frogs and spiders. Additional ground cover will help protect the early stages of the butterfly life cycle.

Using native plants saves time, money, energy and contributes to the ecological balance. Jenny likes Sweet Bay Nursery at 10824 Erie Road in Parrish. They also have a website and Facebook page. They emphasize using native plants as they are less likely to be affected by insects and disease. Do not use pesticides in or around your garden.

Additional Resources:

The North American Butterfly Association publishes the American Butterflies magazine quarterly...48 pages filled with photos, articles on butterfly "hot spots" identification, gardening, photography, book reviews along with regular features and columns. Website: https://www.naba.org/butter_counts.html

And, the Florida Native Plant Society, Suncoast Chapter for Hillsborough County, phone: 813.478.1183. Meeting are the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m., Hillsborough County Extension Office, 5339 County Road 579 in Seffner. Website: <http://www.suncoastnps.org>.

Remember, butterflies are important to our ecosystem, since they pollinate plants.

6 Plants to Set Your Garden Aflutter

Courtesy HCPR

With spring's arrival, there's no better time to make your yard, or neighborhood, an oasis for these appealing creatures. Many Florida-Friendly plants attract the insects, and they're easy to grow.

Flowering plants draw butterflies with nectar. Other "host" plants, such as native milkweed, have leaves that provide food for their caterpillars. Plants also provide shelter, resting spots, and protection from intense weather and predators.

Here are a few plants you might consider adding to your landscape to attract butterflies:

1. Firebush: A hearty Florida native with tubular red flowers from late spring until early winter. Monarch and zebra longwing butterflies love it.
2. Blue porterweed: A host plant for some butterflies, this evergreen groundcover also attracts insect pollinators with its bright-blue flowers.
3. Beach sunflower: Another favorite of many butterflies, this showy, drought-resistant groundcover blooms throughout the year.
4. Pentas: An upright perennial with star-shaped flowers that are extremely popular with butterflies.
5. Native milkweed: The many varieties are known for attracting butterflies and bees. It's a larval host to monarch and queen butterflies.
6. Passionflower: Some butterfly gardeners plant two vines. In sunny areas, they lure gulf fritillary butterflies. In shade, they invite zebra longwings.

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Butterfly Gardening with Native Florida plants (on-line fact sheet)
- Using plants native to your region is a great way to provide the needs of local butterflies. Many Florida natives produce showy flowers that are suited for any flower/butterfly garden. Click on the link below to view the list to get you started. Please refer to the EDIS publication cited at the end of this factsheet for a more complete list. All the plants listed are easy to grow in full sun and average garden soil. Supplemental irrigation should only be necessary when new plants are being established. Website: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/pinellas/natural-resources/Butterfly-Gardening-With-Native-Florida-Plants.pdf>

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

The Chadderton Group
Keller Williams Realty

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ronniemclaughlin@kw.com

www.chaddertongroup.com

Improving Your Home With Your Teen's Help

"School's out for summer! School's out forever!" Remember that song from many years ago? Well, summer is here. It's mosquito season, it's hurricane season and thank goodness we are past Love bug season!

However, at the top of the list for most teens it's summer job season. This is a time when teens learn new skills, meet new friends and have a "boss" perhaps for the first time. What if your teen doesn't have a driver's license? Thinking outside the box can help you employ your younger teens or perhaps your neighbor's teens.

Do you have home improvement goals this summer? Can your kids or maybe local kids help you reach those goals – goals that can increase or maintain the value of your home?

Here are a few job ideas for teens this summer:

1. Babysitter – easy and fun for kids, teens AND parents. Keep the young ones out of harm's way during DIY projects. And it's a great way for neighbors to get to know one another.
2. House cleaner – great deal for the kids and parents. It might take a little extra input on the front end to ensure the home cleanliness is up to your standards. This keeps your home value high, makes it easier to have guests over at a moment's notice, and serves as a teaching point when kids will be on their own.
3. Lawn maintenance – how great for kids to learn how to keep curb appeal up for your home and the value of some sweat equity!

4. Meal prep – the family has to eat. Why not pay teens to do the grocery buying, prepping and serving dinner? This is a good way for teens to train for real life and for parents to maintain sanity during the long days of summer.

While the kids are helping out with the chores, you can concentrate on that home "to-do" list like painting, power washing or maybe just getting in a little "you" time.

Neighborhood Snapshot Savannah Landings

Savannah Landings is a deed-restricted and mandatory HOA community located off Springvale Avenue. This gated community consists of 118 two-story townhomes and one-story villas built between 2001 and 2005. Savannah Landings offers two-bedroom, two bath homes as well as three bedroom, two and a half bath homes and a community pool. Street names are Savannah Landings Avenue, Cotton Mill Place, Georgia Trace Avenue, Grand Magnolia Place and Savannah Lake Place. Six homes sold over the past year at an average sales price of \$219,000 and an average of \$119 per square foot. All six buyers paid cash.



Bethany Ezell

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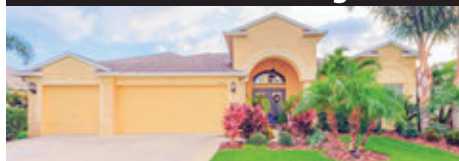
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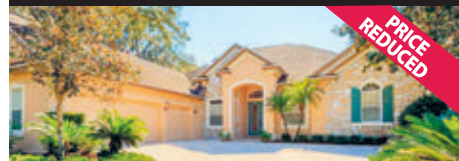


Contract Pending



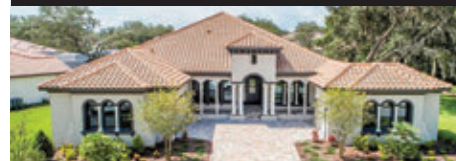
Gorgeous Spyglass in River Bend home sold in 26 days for TOP DOLLAR. Our Marketing Action Plan works. Let us get your home sold ... fast and for TOP DOLLAR!

FishHawk



Stunning 4 bed/4.5 bath pool/spa home on cul-de-sac with wood views in gated Dunlin Woods. Open floorplan, upstairs bonus room, MOVE-IN READY!

FishHawk Preserve



New-construction Cardel pool home in the Gated Preserve loaded with upgrades and sitting on a huge (almost 1/2 acre) lot. Price just reduced so don't wait to see this one. It's GORGEOUS.

FishHawk



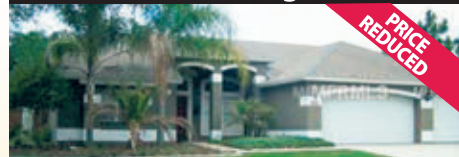
New roof and new kitchen tile being installed now. New carpet/new paint/new granite countertops in kitchen. 4/2/2 on cul de sac backing to conservation.

FishHawk



Gorgeous Suarez-built home with 2,904 square feet that includes 4/3/3 plus bonus room all on one floor. Upgraded countertops, large screened lanai, fenced backyard. Walk to Park Square & Aquatic Center. Call today for more details or for a private tour.

Lithia Ridge



All-new kitchen and baths! This home has a pool & spa with over 2,700 square feet with 4/3/3 sitting on 1/4 acre (mol). Huge private fenced backyard. **Call today!**

Buckhorn



Charming and updated 4 bed, 2.5 bath w/ private screened pool. Close to the park, immaculate and move-in ready.

Boyette Springs



Gorgeous 3/2/2 Completely updated pool home on cul de sac with huge fenced-in backyard. Roof replaced 2016. Move-in ready!

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June 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



School's Out for Summer! School starts August 12! Enjoy, while it lasts!

Important Announcement!

As of May 2019, all applications for athletic participation can only be submitted electronically. Find the form on the Hillsborough County Public Schools Athletics Department website at: www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/list/athletics/student-forms/39-285/ or on the Athletic Clearance website at: <https://athleticclearance.fhsaahome.org/index.php>.



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

School Supplies Without the Hassle

First Day of School Supplies can be ordered online! Follow this link to get your supplies without the hassle of crowded back to school shoppers. <https://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/kits.php?sid=1178255>

New Database Keeps Parents in the Know

We are working to put together a new database for our families at Alafia, to help provide you with resources, volunteer opportunities and other information. Go to <https://alafiapta.membershiptoolkit.com/> to sign-up.



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

No Information available at this time.



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

June 13: Report cards will be available



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

June 3-5: Cheer Try Outs, June 3 and 4 / 9 a.m. to noon, and June 5 - 9 a.m. - TBA, for information, contact Coach Diprima at tracy.diprima@sdhc.k12.fl.us

June 3-6: Basketball Day Camp, See brief below

June 4: JV/Freshman Football Parent Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Media Center

June 10-11: Senior Portraits, 8 a.m., Auditorium

June 10-13: Basketball Day Camp, See brief below

June 13: Report cards available

June 17-20: Basketball Day Camp, See brief below



BULL BRIEFS

JV/Freshman Football Parent Meeting

Meet with coaches June 4, 7:30 p.m. at the BSHS Media Center and receive information on the upcoming season. This will include the off-season schedule, paperwork requirements including physicals heat prevention, etc., rules and expectations and the 2019 game schedule. *Go Bulls!*



BLOOMINGDALE BULLS BASKETBALL DAY CAMPS

For Boys and Girls of All Skill Levels

June 3-6, June 10-13 & June 17-20

\$85.00 per session

Campers entering grades 4-9 are invited to attend.

9 a.m. - Noon Grades 4-6 (entering)

1 - 4 p.m. Grades 7-9 (entering)

*Exceptions can be made with prior approval.

Come run with the Bulls this summer!

Instruction by boy and girl coaches and

the Bulls Basketball players. Emphasis

is fundamental skills improvement and

sportsmanship. Make Checks Payable to:

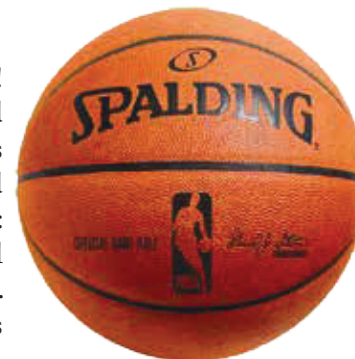
Bloomington High School. Mail to: Joel

Bower, Bloomington High School, 1700 E.

Bloomington Ave., Valrico, FL 33596. Boys

and girls, beginner to advanced are welcome.

Please RSVP to hold space. For Information, Contact Head Coach Joel Bower at joel.bower@sdhc.k12.fl.us or call 813-299-5072.



Class of 2023 Incoming Freshmen Camp, July 31 and August 1!

Complete the following online application at <https://forms.gle/LvPdvnIDLsBU939K6> to enroll in Bloomington High School's Incoming 9th Grade Camp. It is a FREE two-day summer program scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon at the school. Future freshmen will make new friends, meet upperclassmen, teachers, counselors, and get to know our school! They will also learn about our extracurricular activities, clubs, traditions, AP programs, college/university awareness and much more. For information, visit the Bloomington High School website at <http://bloomington.mysdhc.org/> or email sgbloomington@gmail.com.

ATTENTION:

2019 Graduates, Parents and Friends! We want your graduation photos for our July issue!



The Gazette wants to help you celebrate your graduation moments. These can include kindergarten graduations, Alafia and Cimino clap outs, high school and college graduations, parties, and more! Send your photos or selfies to inbloomingtonnews@gmail.com by June 26. At a minimum, identify those in the photo from left to right, the school graduating from, and the future plans of the graduate. We will do the rest! Don't forget to provide contact information just in case there are questions.

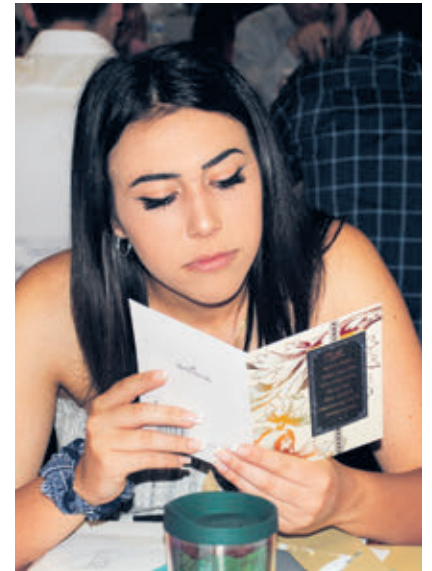
Red Envelopes Hold Treasure for BSHS Seniors

Brief/Photos by Deidre Morgan

On April 30, Red Envelope Day, a beloved senior tradition, continued at Bloomingdale High School. In preparation for this day, cards and letters are sent to the school from seniors' family, friends, faculty, teachers, coaches and community members letting them know how proud they are of their accomplishments and wishing them luck in their new endeavors. Those cards and letters are then organized by the PTSA and placed in a red envelope for each student.

The day began with seniors enjoying the senior class slide show in the auditorium. After the slide show, each senior received their red envelope and enjoyed breakfast prepared by Bloomingdale High School Chef Rene Marquis and the culinary arts students.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019 and thanks to everyone who made this event so special!



After receiving their envelopes, seniors read all of the well wishes from family and friends.

Seniors gathered to sign yearbooks, read their letters and enjoy one last breakfast together as a class.



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BSHS Hosts Spring Football Jamboree; Bulls Shut Out Brandon Eagles, 26-0

Brief/Photos by Deidre Morgan

This year, Bloomingdale High School hosted the Annual Spring Jamboree, a showcase of football talent taken from four local high schools. The Jamboree features two games played for 24 minutes each. First up, the Newsome Wolves won 7-6 against the Durant Cougars.

The second game saw the Bulls shut out the Brandon Eagles 26-0. It was the first time that new Head Coach Jake Coulson was calling the plays for Bloomingdale. The team looked strong and with summer practices and new players being added, the Bulls are looking forward to another successful season!



Moms Celebrate Mother's Day With Their Favorite Bulls

Brief/Photos: Jane Owen

On May 10, the Bulls Football team had a special Mother's Day Practice. After practice, which moms were invited to watch, Bulls players presented their moms with roses donated by The Bride Tampa.



Jenna Folken and her son Garrett.



Coach Coulson talking to the players.



Bloomington High School Sponsors Relay for Life Cancer Fight

Article/Photos by Deidre Morgan

Bloomington High School was proud to once again host Relay for Life on April 26-27 benefiting the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life has over 5,000 events that take place around the world and serves as a fundraiser for cancer research, education, service and advocacy.

Once the ceremony kicks off, survivors and caregivers take a lap around the track. Teams then join the survivors in walking the track throughout the night to symbolize the ongoing fight against cancer. When the sun sets, the lighting of luminaria takes place to celebrate survivors and remember those who have lost their fight against cancer.

Rosie Gonzalez, a nurse at Alafia Elementary School, walked as a four-year breast cancer survivor. She said, "There is no other place I'd rather be and I am so thankful for the support and love of family and my Alafia work family."

School organizations such as the Student Government Association and volunteers from local schools like Cimino, Alafia, Lamb and Brooker, just to name a few, helped make the event a success. It was a wonderful night dedicated to a worthy cause.



Jason Locker, Bloomington Chorus Director, gets help from some of his Ambassadors to hand out the luminaries.



Lamb Elementary teachers are "tutu" eager to volunteer their time to a worthy cause.



Rosie Gonzalez (left) gets support from her work family at Alafia Elementary, Patty Miller (center) and Ines Savinon (right). Rosie is a four-year breast cancer survivor.



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Bloomington High's Crimson Guard Closes Another Successful Season

By Kelly Ford, Photos by Will Bratz

Many have seen the Crimson Guard perform during halftime at Bloomington's football games. They are an important part of the school's award winning Rajun' Bull Marching Band program. The talented group uses choreographed dance moves incorporating colored flags, rifles, and sabers to enhance the visual interpretation and presentation of the shows.

The Crimson Guard does not rest in the spring semester, however. The members instead learn new routines and perform in local and statewide indoor competitions through Winter Guard International (WGI) and Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit (FFCC).

This spring the Crimson Guard varsity and junior varsity teams successfully competed in seven competitions across Florida. The varsity team were finalists at the WGI Tampa Regional for the 8th year in a row, and achieved their highest local show score ever. They finished their season placing second in the Scholastic A division at FFCC Championships. The junior varsity team placed in the top three in most of their competitions and placed third in the Scholastic AA division at FFCC Championships.

The teams' accomplishments are due to 10 years of hard work and excellent leadership under Director William Sullivan, a performing veteran of high school, college, drum corps, and independent winter guard teams. "The guard is successful

due in large part to their director; he is a master teacher, dancer and artist," said Jon Sever, Bloomington's Band Director. "Furthermore, he pushes the team with a "no excuses" policy that prepares students for life."

Sullivan credits the teams' successes to the many hours of practice and the dedication of students and their families. The teams hold three-hour practices twice a week, and attend three camps to learn show design and choreography, all while working, attending demanding classes and trying to navigate the world as teenagers.

He said, "I hope that they enjoyed their time on the performance floor, but more so I hope they walk away with more life skills than anything else. I hope they've learned how to be pushed past what they thought their limits were. I hope they learned that they can do more than they originally thought, and I hope they walk away with memories and friendships to last a lifetime."

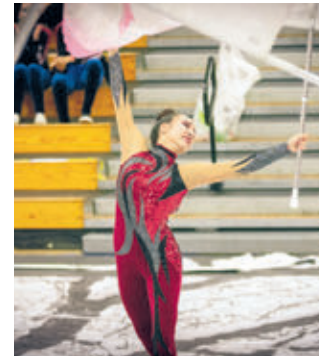
Sullivan will be taking on a different role for the Crimson Guard in the coming year. He will be filling the role of Artistic Director, designing the shows and choreographing. His instructional and administrative duties will be now be fulfilled by Erin Parke, who has been an important part of the Crimson Guard staff. Focusing on the design aspects of the show will allow Sullivan to pursue his Master's degree and concentrate on his career as an elementary school teacher.



Crimson Guard JV performs "The Skyscraper."



Bloomington Senior High School 2019 Varsity (Red) and Junior Varsity (Blue) Crimson Guard teams.



A Varsity Crimson Guard performer during the 2019 show "The Visit."



Crimson Guard Director William Sullivan watches his teams warm up for their championship performances in Daytona Beach this spring.

Burns Bruins Celebrate

Photos: Wendy Knipp



Burns PTSA put on an 8th grade dance complete with pizza and lots of desserts. This was the amazing dessert table!



Burns Dad's Club served moms breakfast for Mother's Day.

Drama Troupe Performs 1970's classic "Godspell"

Brief/Photo: Deidre Morgan

The 1971 theater and movie classic "Godspell" continues to move audiences "Day By Day." Bloomingdale High School's Thespians Troupe #4235 put their spin on the hit in an amazing production of Godspell performed May 16-18. Godspell, based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, deals with the Jesus's last day as conceived by circus performers. Not just a religious experience but also a demonstration of joy and a celebration of the family of man, Christen Peacock, BSHS drama teacher, said the production has been unlike any she has ever attempted. Congratulations to the cast, crew and Peacock for a wonderful display of talent and entertainment!



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