



THE

# BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XXXIX



ISSUE 7



JULY 2019



[www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com)

## Congratulations, Graduates!

SEE PHOTOS ON PP. 12-19



Photo: Dann Berkowitz

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PLEASE  RECYCLE

### WINNER

2013, 2014 & 2016

Hillsborough County  
Neighborhood  
Recognition Award

Best Communications  
Newsletter Category

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly." Robert F. Kennedy



# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

## YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

**Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.**  
3509 Bell Shoals Road - Valrico, Florida 33596 - (813) 681-2051  
Email: [Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.BloomingdaleHOA.com](http://www.BloomingdaleHOA.com)

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

**Directors at Large:**

*President: Suzy Watts*

*Vice President: Sean Donahue*

*Secretary: Daniel Berkowitz*

*Treasurer: Grace Lewis*

*Bobbi Ferraro*

*Carl Hallinan*

*Billy Hightower*

*Matt Marcinkowski*

*George T. May IV*

*Beth Smedley*

*Charlie Woodcock*

# YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

**JOY BOISSELLE**  
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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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

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**2018**

**Angie's list**

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**A/C & HEATING**

**MAINTAIN**

**21-POINT CLEAN & TUNE**

**\$29<sup>95</sup>** \$80 Value

**Backed By StayRun GUARANTEE**

**MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE**  
Not available for same-day or weekend service. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Price is per unit. System must be in working condition. See dealer for details.

Blmngdl0419  
**IERNA's | 813-324-1304**

**A/C & HEATING**

**REPAIR**

**SAVE ON NEXT REPAIR**

**\$25 OFF**

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**IERNA's | 813-324-1304**

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**REPLACE**

**FREE ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT**

**SAVE \$600** W/ PURCHASE OF NEW A/C

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**PLUMBING**

**REPLACE**

**NEW H.E. WATER HEATER**

**SAVE up to \$250**

**MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE**  
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Total savings varies on equipment; \$150 savings on standard electric/gas water-heater; \$250 savings on GE Hybrid Heat-Pump water-heater. Cannot be applied to past purchases or estimates. See dealer for details.

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THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE





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



Bob & Linda Hagan     4414 Swift Circle, Valrico 33596 (The Links)

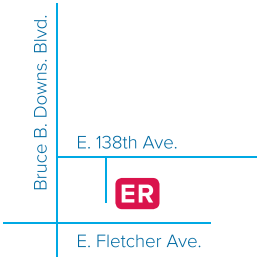


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3100 East Fletcher Ave. | Tampa, FL 33613



In case of a medical emergency, call 911.



Formerly Florida Hospital Tampa



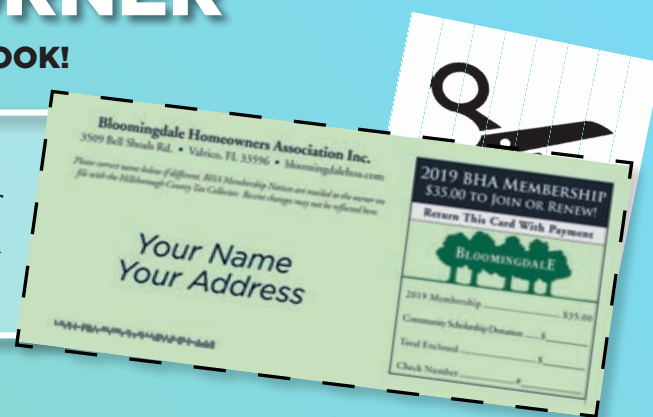


# BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



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

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](http://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](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com), or call 813-681-2051. We will help you promote your event on our Facebook page.

**Tuesday, July 9, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting** // Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Upcoming 2019 BHA Events

### Fall Fest is Returning Sponsors Wanted!

Sponsor Levels Added! Platinum @ \$1000, Diamond @ \$500, Gold @ \$250, Silver @ \$100 and Bronze @ \$50 for Crafters with Homemade Items



### Santa Visit and Charity Food Drive December 8



### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

More than  
2000 guests  
expected



Rain  
or shine

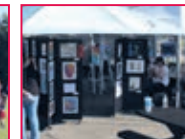
The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association  
is proud to present our

## Annual Fall Festival

**Saturday, October 26, 2019 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Bloomingdale High School Stadium**

1700 E. Bloomingdale Avenue



### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

#### Gold \$250

- Premium booth space
- Business name and contact information in the Bloomingdale Gazette
- Business info on the BHA website through June 2020
- Opportunity to place item in guest goody bags
- Business name on banner at event entrance

#### Silver \$100

- Booth space
- Business name in the Bloomingdale Gazette

Sponsors will need to provide:  
Table, chairs and canopy; candy, treat or activity for kid's "Trick or Treat Street".

**This FREE family-friendly event is a great opportunity to market your business and build local awareness because:**

#### Bloomingdale:

- Is the largest neighborhood in Hillsborough County
- Boasts over 5,200 homes and 23,000 residents

#### The Event:

- Booth decorating contest where the winner is featured in the Bloomingdale Gazette
- Prominently advertised in the monthly Bloomingdale Gazette
- Is a free annual event residents look forward to


#### The Venue:

- Is at the Bloomingdale High School track
- Has plenty of space, restrooms
- Is conveniently located on Bloomingdale Ave.

#### Features:

- Over 50 local businesses
- Food trucks
- Kids & pet costume contests
- Art exhibits
- Face painting
- "Trick or Treat" Street

For more information, contact the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at (813) 681-2051, Mon. - Thurs., 11-3 p.m. or email [BHAFallFest@gmail.com](mailto:BHAFallFest@gmail.com).

[BloomingdaleHOA.com](http://BloomingdaleHOA.com)  
 [BloomingdaleHOA](https://www.facebook.com/BloomingdaleHOA)

BHA Board of Directors  
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Friday | 5am–8pm

Saturday and Sunday | 7am–7pm

(813) 586-8600

[BayCareFitnessBloomington.org](http://BayCareFitnessBloomington.org)



2470 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico | [BayCareHealthHub.org](http://BayCareHealthHub.org)



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

# TONIGHT!

## Free Fireworks & Food

**Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 6 PM – 10:30 PM**

**10109 Bryant Rd Lithia, FL**

More than 2,000 people are expected in Lithia on Saturday night for a Free 40-minute fireworks show! Grab the kids and a couple of lawn chairs and enjoy! Free food (as long as it lasts) and a food truck this year provided by HORHAY's Mac & Cheez. All items on the menu will be \$10 and less.



## Happy Summer!

### The Running of the Bulls 5k Offers Summer Savings

From now through August the Running of the Bulls 5k is only \$20! That's a \$10 savings and our lowest race price. Race Day is January 18, 2020!

Be a part of this fantastic event and support a local high school! Runners and walkers of all paces are welcome! The Running of the Bulls 5k, an event put on by the Bloomingdale Band Boosters, will take place on the Bloomingdale High School campus, in Valrico, Florida. All proceeds go to Bloomingdale High School.

Celebrate Summer and sign up today:  
<https://fitniche.com/event/running-of-the-bulls-5k/>



**Now-Aug. 11, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. / Busch Gardens Summer Nights / 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/>



**July 9, Every Tuesday at 2 - 3 p.m., Bloomingdale Library, Room 5 - Computer Lab / MS Word: Introduction and MORE! //** Learn to create, save, print and edit documents. Learn Formatting. Create Lists. Create a document. Explore extra features to add to your document.  
Age Group(s): Adults



## July 13 from 10 AM - 3 PM / The Full Inclusion Back to School Bash //

Enjoy hands-on activities, school resources for all children, an interactive scavenger hunt (created to have fun and collect free swag), meet and greets with the best local Tampa Bay mascots and characters, etc. The first 250 kids at each event will receive a FREE backpack, and many of the vendors will be offering free school supplies as well, so you won't be going home empty-handed. These events cater to the neuro-diverse as well as the neuro-typical students, and they also offer a special Sensory Room designed for children on the spectrum. Key Features: Mascot & Character Meet n' Greet, Photo Booth, Face Painting, Sensory Room, Rock Painting, Mall Retailer Fashion Show, GoGo SqueeZ samples.



**July 27 / Poker / Mahjong Night / Congregation Beth Shalom, 706 Bryan Road, Brandon FL 33511 //** All are welcome to try their luck; \$5 to play, loads of fun to follow. Call in advance to reserve a spot. Snacks and beverage will be served. 813-681-6547.



## Conservation Benefits All

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

Our Resident Water School is a conservation workshop for those living in Hillsborough County. The workshop will be held at the UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County office, 5339 CR 579, Seffner, 33584) on Saturday, July 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Conservation education benefits everyone in the community. Learn how to save time and money when managing landscape and irrigation systems. Cost: \$15. Sign up at: <https://2019tricitywaterschool.eventbrite.com>. Or, call 813-744-5519.

- 8:30-9:00** Registration, Coffee and Networking
- 9:00-9:10** Announcements
- 9:10-9:20** State of Water in Florida
- 9:25-10:15** Irrigation Basics and Troubleshooting Irrigation Systems
- 10:20-11:10** Fertilizer Calibration Demonstration and New FFL Apps
- 11:15-12:05** Septic Systems and their Impact on the Environment
- 12:10-1:00** Lunch
- 1:10-2:00** General Retention Pond Management and Aquatic Plant Selection



## 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.)*

### Preparing Your Home For Vacation

Based on my Facebook feed, many of my friends are traveling this summer! I love pouring my early morning coffee and scrolling through my Facebook friends' adventure pictures. Today, vacation posts were from Disney, Annapolis and Alaska! Where are you headed this summer? We are super excited to head north for a high school graduation and a break from the heat.

I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to share some great tips I found to prepare your Florida home for your vacation. These tips will help maintain your home's value and give you peace of mind while you're away.

1. Clean house. It's always great to come home from vacation to a clean house.
  - a. Run garbage disposal with ½ cup vinegar and some water
  - b. Dispose of food that could go bad
  - c. Take out all trash
  - d. Make sure smoke detectors are working
2. Leave emergency contact information with a neighbor
3. Have the post office hold your mail, stop your newspaper or have a neighbor pick them up for you
4. Unplug appliances and turn off water valves
5. Leave a light on a timer
6. Turn up your AC so it's not cooling an empty house while you're away
7. Keep interior doors open so air can circulate throughout the house

Finally, have a great trip! Visit [facebook.com/ronniekw](https://facebook.com/ronniekw) to share this list with your traveling friends!



By Ronnie McLaughlin

The Chadderton Group  
Keller Williams Realty

813-601-5659

[ronniemclaughlin@kw.com](mailto:ronniemclaughlin@kw.com)  
[www.chaddertongroup.com](http://www.chaddertongroup.com)

### Neighborhood Snapshot River Crossing Estates

River Crossing Estates is a mandatory HOA neighborhood tucked back along the Alafia River just south of the Golf Course. This neighborhood boasts 181 one- and two-story homes on River Field Ct, River Overlook Dr, Winding River Dr, W River Ct, Vista River Dr. The average square footage is 2326, mostly one-story with approximately 30 two-story homes. Most of the homes accommodate 4 bedrooms. The homes were built between 1996 and 2002. Over the past year, six homes have sold at an average sales price of \$318,000 or \$134 per square foot. Five of the six were pool homes and five of the six homes had 3-car garages. The average days on the market over the past year was 19 days!



\*\*MLS statistics were based on rough property lines for individual neighborhoods and included homes between June 2018 – June 2019. Sales not entered into the MLS did not count in these statistics.\*\*

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# BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DISTRICT

## THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION

*(Editor's Note: The Bloomingdale Special District's (BSD) monthly column will inform readers about the BSD, its mission and ongoing and new initiatives. The BSD 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

### REQUIRED LEGAL NOTICE EXPLAINED

By Tom Leech, President

In June, the District mailed a county-required legal notice of a public hearing to be held on Monday, July 8, at 6:15p.m. at the District office. Based on some responses received, some confusion still remains in the community. To clarify:

1. The letter is a **legal requirement** to notify residents of the upcoming public hearing on July 8.
2. The non-ad valorem tax assessment is paid as a part of your **Hillsborough County property tax** bill and has been for over 30 years.
3. The last tax assessment increase was 12 years ago, which is why some residents have never seen a letter like this before.
4. The current tax assessment increase was voted on in a Referendum last August and passed with a majority of votes. **This increase is \$40~from \$130 to \$170 per year.**
5. The increase will be reflected as a line item on your next property tax bill and is **not a new tax** nor does it require any separate payment or action.
6. The tax assessment dollars **maintain all common areas in the District:** mowing, landscaping, irrigation, electric and lighting at entrance ways, tree trimming, and signs. It is also used for Holiday decorations and the new Off-Duty HCSO patrols in Bloomingdale.
7. The tax assessment dollars are **NOT used for** the Bell Shoals widening or Natures Way improvements, nor for any road or sidewalk repairs.
8. Tax assessment dollars are not "sat" on. The District follows the policies and guidelines required by the State of Florida and Hillsborough County, including strict budgeting requirements that only allow for a limited amount of funds to be carried over each fiscal year.
9. The language of the letter is the County's required legal language and not intended as any type of threat by the District.
10. **These dollars stay in Bloomingdale and benefit ONLY Bloomingdale.**

Some of the confusion stems from a process that would appear to be conducted backwards. The assessment increase was a Referendum on the August 2018 ballot voted upon by Bloomingdale residents and passed by a majority vote. From referendum vote to hearing notice mailing to the public hearing on Monday, the District has followed all legal requirements mandated by Hillsborough County and the State of Florida. Each of these steps was advertised at least 2 weeks in advance in the Tampa Bay Times, the Bloomingdale Gazette, and on the District's website.

#### Well Drilling

Many of you have noticed the well-drilling activity near Heritage Park and the dying turf along Erindale. The well at the Heritage Park entrance had reached its lifespan and had to be backfilled and a new well dug to provide water for irrigation to that area of the community. There have been some difficulties while bringing the new well online and these are being addressed with our landscape and maintenance contractor. The board appreciates your patience – especially our neighbors in Heritage Park.

## BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DISTRICT

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

**<https://mydistrictwebsite.com/>  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Tom Leech, President  
Charlie Woodcock, Treasurer  
Jay Kittle, Secretary  
Joe Harless, Sr., Trustee  
Russell Jones, Trustee  
Randy Kehrmeier, Trustee  
Claire Letkiewicz, Trustee**

#### Monthly Meeting

**The residents of Bloomingdale are invited to attend the next meeting of the BSD on July 8 at 6:15 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!*

#### New Trustee

Finally, the Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome Joe Harless, Sr. as our newest member. Joe has lived in Bloomingdale for 33 years and previously served as a trustee for 2 years. He was also the District's property manager for 8 years. Welcome aboard, Joe.

**For information** on the Bloomingdale Special District visit <https://mydistrictwebsite.com/> and search Bloomingdale Special.





# 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 May 18 and June 18, 100 vehicle stops were conducted. There were 15 vehicle crashes, four with injuries. On a positive note, there was only one reported DUI. We had two Criminal Mischief reports within Bloomingtondale and six Vehicle Burglaries. Unlocked vehicles continue to be an issue throughout the area. Two Business Burglaries occurred along Bloomingtondale Ave.

## *Have a Safe Summer*

Summer is officially here and now is the time to give special attention to how to keep your family safe. There are many activities that can present dangers throughout the year, most of which will be done outdoors.

Below are several tips to help your family enjoy summer activities.

- Survive the heat this summer; stay hydrated. Teach your children the best types of drinks to keep them hydrated.
- Never leave children or pets alone in hot car. They can die! It is also illegal to leave your car running while unattended.
- Watch for severe weather warnings and take action to keep your family and home safe. Florida is the lightning capital of the United States. Many folks do not realize that lightning can strike from as far away as 25 miles! It is especially dangerous in open areas such as at the beach.
- Get your children swimming lessons. One of the most important things they will learn is how to "stay calm and not panic." If you have a home pool make sure it is secured. Don't let kids swim alone! Supervision is key!
- Going on summer vacations to visit relatives and enjoy the many tourist attractions we have in our state? Ensure everyone buckles up. Teach your teens about driving safety – no phone calls, no texting, and no drinking.

*Stay safe and have a great summer.*

## **Next Bloomingtondale 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 July 18 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 Bloomingtondale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station.

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**18 MONTHS SAME AS CASH  
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## In the Know: What to do about Red Light Citations

By Joe Harless

Though intended to reduce the number of drivers disobeying traffic signals, the red light traffic citations in Hillsborough County also present stress and confusion for people who receive a citation.

Two of the biggest traffic citation sites in the County include the Bloomingdale Avenue/Bell Shoals Road intersection and the mall entrance on Highway 60 and Brandon Town Center Drive.

If you do receive a citation, take these simple steps:

### 1. Read the Whole Citation

The citation should include an image of the car, the license plate, and a website link that will show a video image of the violation. If none of the images/videos match the car, contact the government body that sent the citation (either Hillsborough County or the city of Tampa) and request a hearing.

### 2. Confirm Who Was Driving

Florida law dictates that the owner of the vehicle accepts responsibility for the citation even if they weren't driving the vehicle at the time of the citation. In other words, if your brother borrowed the car and ran a red light, you're still responsible. However, you do have the option of transferring liability to the actual driver, but it has to be done within a time frame listed on the citation and you'll have to inform the County or the city of the transfer of liability.

### 3. Be Sure It's Not You

If you request a hearing, you may be required to pay an additional fee to cover the costs of holding the hearing. So if the image, license plate, and video clearly shows your vehicle running a red light, it might be simpler to just pay the fine. But remember, the option to appear before an official might allow you the chance to present an argument that could end with the citation being dismissed. And even if you end up having to pay the citation to the County, no points will be deducted from your driving record and your insurance should not be affected.



## BEAT THE HEAT with these Summer specials!

Time for your Tune-Up or Replacement

**\$150 OFF**

**New Air Purification System**

- Kills Bacteria, Odors, Mold, VOCs in the air
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## severe weather alerts

Get notified when a hurricane,  
or other severe weather, is brewing.



Download the  
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Need to know?  
Go to **tbo**



## **NOTICE! St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Moves!**

Submitted by Liz McLaughlin

On July 12, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Friday Food Pantry will open in its new location at St. Stephen Church off Boyette Road at 10118 Saint Stephen Circle, Riverview.

The Society in 2018 provided over 70,000 pounds of food, various household products and Christmas presents to over 2,000 families in local neighborhoods. They also provide a help line and can schedule home visits to assist needs for financial assistance with rent and utilities. See more at <http://www.ststephencatholic.org/society-of-st--vincent-de-paul>.

In order to provide these services, the Society raises funds through the Ladies Tea in September. Support also comes from church contributions, Thanksgiving food and gift card donations, an Angel Tree for Christmas presents and generous neighbors living in our area.

For information contact Liz McLaughlin at 813-310-2184 or email [lmclaughlin510@gmail.com](mailto:lmclaughlin510@gmail.com).



### **Support the upcoming fundraiser!**

Ladies & Little Ladies, Tea & Style Show

Saturday September 14, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Family Life Center of St. Stephen Catholic Church

10118 St. Stephen Circle, Riverview

Cost \$18 per person, Additional donations beyond ticket price and laundry soap would be gratefully accepted. For reservation or information, contact:

*Pam Liguori 813-545-7856 or [PLC1522@yahoo.com](mailto:PLC1522@yahoo.com)*

*Arlene 813-284-5884 or [arstein@outlook.com](mailto:arstein@outlook.com)*



## **GET READY FOR THE MOST ACTIVE SUMMER ADVENTURE EVER!** **A UNIQUE CAMP EACH WEEK**



Kids 'R' Kids is excited to launch a new twist on camp where kids are redefining summer and turning ordinary days into the extraordinary. Just as fragments inside a kaleidoscope fuse together to captivate us with a new perspective, **Kaleidoscope 360°** will spin this summer into a unique dimension of discovery, fun, and friendships.

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**Now Enrolling:**  
**VPK 2019-2020**  
**SUMMER AND FALL**  
**Must be 4 years old**  
**by 9/1/2019**



# One Step Closer to Their Future! Congratulations, Grads!

From Pre-School to Kindergarten to Elementary to Middle School to High School to College and Post-College, our graduates are an accomplished group of young people. The community sends you a heartfelt congratulations to the graduates and their loved ones. Thank you to all who submitted photos for this issue.



5th Grade Cimino Team



Vikramaditya Xavier and Anjali Pathania- On the left is the first day of preschool and on the right is their fifth grade clapout at Brooker Elementary.



Annemarie Tracey  
Florida Southern College, May, 2020  
summa cum laude  
Elementary Education Major



2019 Alafia Clapout



Breanna Johnson  
Columbia University School of Engineering, NYC



Alafia Pre-K graduation, August 2019



2019 Cimino Clapout, Photo Jen Kriegbaum

# GRADUATION 2020





From right to left:  
Calhoun Wolverton- Newsome HS, Tommy Marasco-Sickles HS,  
Evan Hydock- Bloomingdale, Caay Reeder- Strawberry Crest,  
Jovanni Rodriguez- homeschool/HCC



Bryce Doyle, Hunter Tillett and Nick  
DeJesus, Cimino



Celia Zane and Nick Berkowitz,  
Class of 2019



BSHS Grads! Erick Chaviano, John Cagnina, Nicolle Valencia, Lindsay Gaertner,  
Teagan Carpenter, and Jake Robinson



Nicole Marcellin's graduation 11 years ago, to the day.  
L-R, Danielle Marcellin James, Nicole Marcellin,  
Jacqueline Marcellin Kelley and Cierra James in front.  
Danielle, Jacqueline, Nicole, Jeff Kelley (husband  
to Jacqueline) and Austin James are all grads of  
Bloomingdale High School. Cierra James is the sixth  
Bloomingdale graduate within our family. Go Bulls.



Autumn Latocki and Family



Ms Morgan, Autumn Latocki, Mrs  
Whitcomb and Mrs Richardson



BSHS Grads David Briones, Madison Witt, Evan Hydock, Jordan  
Stack, Julianne Hester. Scott Schludt



BSHS Grad Cierra James, with her Aunt  
Nicole Marcellin

19!

Congratulations to Bloomingdale Senior High School's largest graduating class since 1996! This year, 612 students graduated and 85 percent of the class is heading off to college. Several more are entering the military! This impressive class earned \$14 million in scholarships. Congratulations, Bulls!





Cimino Clapout



Cole Newcity Primrose Pre-K



Cimino Class Gift



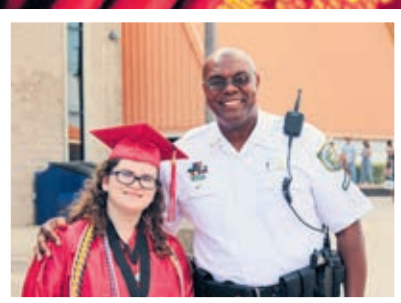
Cimino Graduating Class Stamp



Emilee Keller, The Village VPK Graduation



Cimino Clap Out



Erin English and Deputy Alexander at the BSHS Graduation Ceremony



BSHS Graduation, May 30 at FL State Fairgrounds



Owen Family Graduation Bonanza! From left to right, David (finished freshmen year), Jon (BSHS grad), Elsie (5th grade Cimino grad), and Thomas (Stewart Middle Magnet 8th grade grad).



# GRADUATION 2019!



Jackson Pepe (L)-senior class president going to West Point and Jake Robinson (R) going to UCF. Friends since attending Cimino Elementary together.



Jake Robinson (L), Justin Santana (C), Connor O'Neil (R). Friends since freshman year.



Cimino Grad Elsie Owen



Current and Former Cimino Teachers with their kids from the Cimino Clap Out. Teachers are Amber Roush, Gloria Bingom, Kerri Pepe, Cathy Pate, Danielle Moody, and Suzanne Shepherd.



BShS Boys to Men



Destiny Gonzalez and Elsie Owen at the Cimino clapout



Gaby



Mason DePolo, Ryan Gillespie and Max Kriegbaum



Bloomington Graduate Jake Elliott with twin brother Tyler and sister Grace Elliott



# GRADUATION 2019!



Evan Hydock and Bogdan Langone, BSHS



Katie Campbell



Nick DeJesus, Mrs. Christy Zorn and Josh DeJesus



Timmy Burnett, Jonah Astuto, Blake Wilson, Josh DeJesus and Wade Ward



Nicole Granger (Class of 2019) and Shaun Fidler (Class of 2018) Bloomingdale High School



Class of 2026 at Cimino



Chris Hackbardt, Shaun Fidler, and Josh Harbord Bloomingdale High School



Jacob Spala and Nathan Luciano, Brooker Elementary School Clapout



Dylan Bunker and Josh DeJesus



Jacob MacDonald, Alafia clap out



Joshua Sommer & Joseph Moran





Jackie Padron, Barbara English, Graduate Erin English, Alumni Robin English (2017), Avery Miranda, Alumni Katherine MacGregor (2017)



Trista Kulesa and Jake Elliot



Lukas Sheppard graduating kindergarten at Brooker Elementary



Jonathan Owen, BSHS



From left to right, Kristen Gaertner (Strawberry Crest HS '17), Lindsay Gaertner (Bloomingtondale HS '19), and Blake Gaertner (Bloomingtondale HS '15).



Joshua Sommer & Khamaree Bradford



Maurello, Lawonn, Kirkham, McDonald  
Korey Maurello, Kayla Lawonn, Sarah Kirkham, Jacob McDonald.  
Friends since Kindergarten at Alafia!

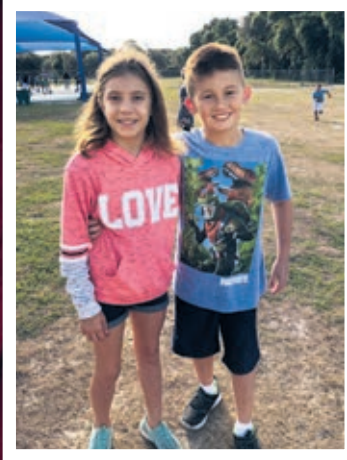


Max Kriegbaum, Cimino Clapout





Jacob McDonald, Maddie Pena and Jon Catala. Jacob will be attending Catholic University of America and Maddie and Jon will be attending UCF.



Nick DeJesus and Adison Siedlack



Paige Vodopich, BHA Scholarship Winner, UCF Bound



Twins Sabrina and Blake Missen, Class of 2019



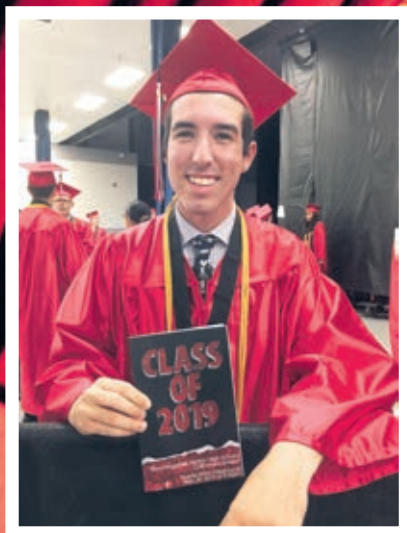
Michael Lankford, teacher/coach @ Bloomingdale, and Jayden Wilson, graduate



Ryan Gillespie and Max Kriegbaum BSHS grads Ryan Gillespie and Max Kriegbaum at the Cimino Clapout. Ryan is going to USF and Max is attending UCF



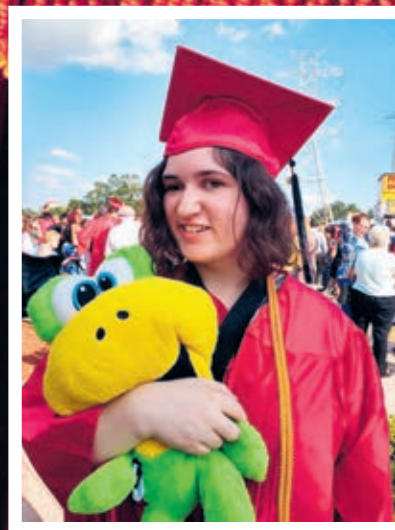
Ryan Lemon, Kaitlyn Carroll, Natalie Donovan, Sophia Brosch. Graduating 5th grade at Alafia.



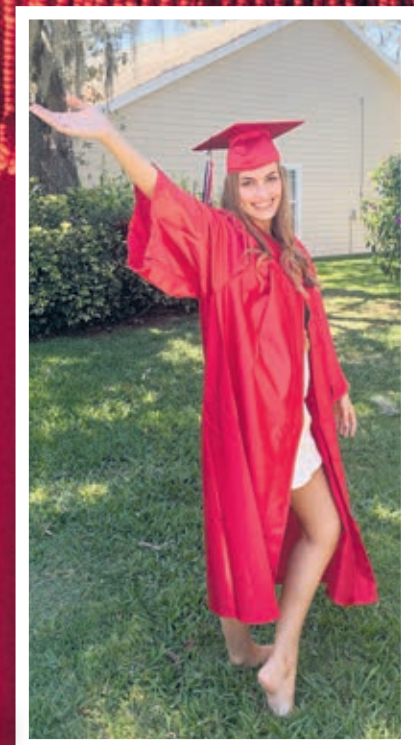
Nick Berkowitz BSHS 2019



Peter F Church III, Post Sunshine Ranch VPK Graduate 2019



Sarah Goodman



Trista Kulesa







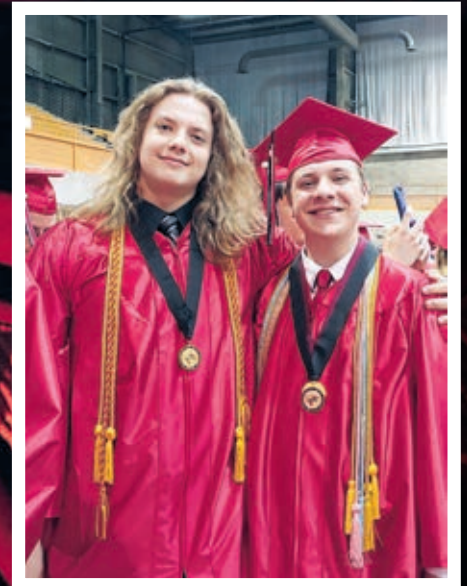
Trista Kulesa and Joey Soto



Shayla Epps



Tessa Pignataro Cimino Clapout



Will Hutton and Jacob Kwasniewski, BSHS



Joey Soto, Trista Kulesa, Alex DeAngelis, Taylor Walley



Sebastian Wilches, graduating from Bloomingdale High School, attending the University of South Florida Tessa Pignataro, graduating from Bloomingdale High School, attending the University of Florida



Zoocy Elliott Pre-k



Theresa Trombetta, Josh and Nick DeJesus



Tessa Pignataro



Madison Witt, Erick Chaviano, Mason Cervi, Bogdan Langone, Evan Hydock

# GRADUATION 2019!



# Lost... And Found! Fur-Ever Friends Reunited

By Deidre Morgan

We have all seen posts on the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Community Page, the Nextdoor app and Lost and Found Pets of Hillsborough County about missing pets. While they all tug at our heart-strings, none of those posts got the outpouring of community involvement like the one for Sammy Berntsen.

The Berntsen Family reported Sammy, a 5lb Maltese dog, missing on May 25. Jon, Heather and their son Nikolai had their worst nightmare come true when Sammy was discovered missing from the family's backyard.

Sammy is more than just the family pet. He is also a medical therapy dog for six-year-old Nikolai.

Once the loss was discovered, the family immediately started the search. First, they went door to door asking neighbors if they had seen the wayward pup. Then came the social media posts. Thousands literally shared and reshared the posts providing substantial clues and information regarding the dog's whereabouts.

The family made signs and offered a reward for Sammy's safe return. Heather even went so far as standing on the corner of Natures Way and Culbreath with signs and stopping cars asking if they had seen their dog. Much of this effort happened within the first 24 hours.

Many residents became involved most notably Bloomingdale High School student and Somerset resident, Nicholas Klaeren, who started a Go Fund Me. Nick wanted to help the family with either the reward money or to ease the financial burden if the family had to get a new therapy dog for Nikolai. Thank goodness the latter wasn't needed.

The family had given up all hope of ever seeing Sammy again when on May 30 a Hillsborough County Deputy pulled up with Sammy in the front seat of his patrol car. Jon who was working in the yard couldn't believe his eyes and yelled for Heather and Nikolai to hurry outside. After following several leads the Deputy found Sammy, a bit traumatized but in otherwise good health.

The family overcome with joy, cried happy tears and couldn't believe that Sammy was home. According to Nikolai, he and Sammy once again were like two peas in a pod.

On June 2, Nicholas presented the family with the \$200 he received from the Go Fund Me campaign. The family in turn donated the money to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. The Humane Society is building a new facility to expand their no kill shelter, provide pet outreach and re-homing capabilities.

The Berntsen family would like to thank each and everyone of you who helped, in any way that you could, to bring their furry family member back home!

*(Reporter's Note: Despite all the posts on various social media outlets about traffic woes and construction, we have an awesome community of strangers, neighbors and friends who came together to help a fellow Bloomingdale family in need. I, for one, am proud to be a Bloomingdale resident!)*



Perhaps Heather Bernsten said it best in her FB post, excerpted:

*"An enormous heartfelt thank you goes out to this amazing community including the officers of the HCSO! The positive reinforcement and help with searching was enormous! We live in an amazing place where the vast majority are fantastic people. We must always be vigilant and even more importantly, look out for one another. There are no strangers just friends we haven't met yet. I am just so humbled by the outpouring of help and compassion. Love to you all."*



Photo: Deidre Morgan

The Berntsen family, Jon, Heather, Nikolai and Sammy accept a check for \$200 from Nicholas Klaeren, the son of Dan and Michelle Klaeren. Nick raised the money with a Go Fund Me to help the family for the safe return of Sammy.



Photo: Heather Berntsen

Nikolai and Sammy present a donation to Lon Savina, Shelter Operations Manager, the Humane Society of Tampa Bay.



## Agnes Miklus Celebrates 100 Years

By Jane Owen

On June 12, Agnes Miklus turned 100 and celebrated with friends and family at the Bloomingdale Adult Day Center.

"I can't believe it myself," Agnes exclaimed when she was asked what she thought about being 100. She was delighted with the 100th birthday celebration, "Thank you all very, very much. This is wonderful!"

The party was a celebration of past and present. Oldies songs were played, 1919 trivia was shared, and toward the end of the party, Agnes enjoyed swinging a stick at a Pinata full of candy. The sentimental festivities were matched by the endearing stories Agnes shared.



One story was offered after she heard how much it costs to go to the movies today. She lamented that everyone is going to go bankrupt. When Agnes was young, she would collect milk cartons and turn them in to earn the 15-cent fee it cost to pay for a movie.

Asked if she had any advice to give younger people, Agnes responded, "Have a little more patience and faith."

Surprisingly, Agnes was far from the oldest person at her Centennial birthday party. Also, in attendance was John Miller, who will turn 103 in August and Iva Bell, who will celebrate her 108th birthday in September.

The party by the Bloomingdale Adult Day Center was a natural expression of love from the center. Participants and staff are friends that are like family.

"You make friends very easily here 'cuz everybody's right here to help each other" said Agnes.

Agnes's only son, John and his wife, Rose, celebrated at the center party. They, along with extended family from Connecticut, celebrated Agnes's birthday again at the Riverhills Country Club on June 30.

The Bloomingdale Adult Day Center, located on Canoga Park Drive, is one of four adult day care centers operated by Hillsborough County Aging Services. The centers coordinate health and wellness services for older adults to encourage maximum independence and prosperity. The Bloomingdale center can accommodate up to 36 clients and currently serves 32. The location also offers a monthly caregiver support group. For more information, contact Ester Calimag, Senior Supervisor, at 813-330-7964.

Patrice,  
actual patient,  
lost 30 pounds!†

## Summer SLIMDOWN 2019



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## July 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 STARTS AUGUST 12!



#### ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

##### 2019 - 2020 Registration

Requirements for new student registration for the 2019-20 school year, as well as our recommended Supply List can be found under the "Resources" tab of our website. The front office will be open this summer on the following days/times:

**July 15 - 25:** Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

**July 29 - August 10:** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

##### 2019 -2020 School Supplies/ School Supplies Without the Hassle

<https://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/kits.php?sid=1178255>

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. Our PTA is excited to partner with 1st Day School Supplies! Parents can purchase supply kits that contain all the recommended materials for your child's grade level. Kits will be delivered to your child's teacher on Sneak Peak in August, complete with stickers with your child's name to label all materials. At some point this summer, ordering will be suspended to provide the company enough time to complete orders. A cutoff date will be posted on the 1st Day Supplies website. If you prefer to purchase your own supplies, the list can be found under the Resources tab of our website.



#### CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

##### 2019 - 2020 Registration

Registration will resume on July 17 by appointment.

##### Spirit Wear

Order your new 2019- 2020 school year Spirit Wear at [www.ciminopta.itemorder.com/sale](http://www.ciminopta.itemorder.com/sale) Order deadline is September 30 and quantities are limited.

##### Media Center Facebook Page

Stay up to date with the Media Center's Facebook page. Search for Cimino Elementary Media Center on Facebook.

##### Summer Reading Initiative

Follow @HCPSCimino on Twitter to see all the adventures of 'Summer According to Humphrey'



#### BURNS BRUINS BANTER

**July 29 - Tentative** - 6th Grade Ice Cream Social - 5:30- 6:30 p.m.

##### SLAM Dunk Our Reading

To help Ms. Stratton build her collection of books for the Media Center go to [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org) and donate any amount you can to help with this worthy cause.



#### BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

**July 8** - Senior Portraits, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Auditorium

**July 15-26** - Summer EOC's

**Aug 1 & 2** - Freshman Bull Camp (See Below)

##### Digital Literacy Camp

**July 31 and August 1** (Please confirm dates at time of registration)

12:00pm - 3:00pm

Students will learn: How to access Office 365, Basic formatting techniques using Microsoft Word, creating a professional PowerPoint, using your Smart Phone to get Smart.

For more information, or to reserve your spot, please email

[jacquelyn.marshall@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:jacquelyn.marshall@sdhc.k12.fl.us)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/bsRPEed4rNtMS5bBA>

##### 2019 Incoming Freshman Bull 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 [sgabloomington@gmail.com](mailto:sgabloomington@gmail.com). **For important updates and information, text @bullcamp19 to the number 81010.**



## Burns Middle 8th Graders Celebrate Year's End

Photos: Dea Knapp



Leela Walbolt, Lala Freeman, Dakota Rhodes, Kyra Knapp, Emily Gundin, Genesis Vanderhorst enter Universal for Burns Middle School Gradventure



All dressed up and celebrating at the Burns 8th grade dance



Kyra Knapp, Genesis Vanderhorst were just two of the students recognized at the Burns 8th grade award ceremony





## ATTENTION! BSHS Rajun' Bull Band and Crimson Guard Members

July 31, 9:30 a.m.- Noon and 1:30 - 4 p.m. /Uniform Fitting: Freshmen and New Member Upperclassmen

### August 3, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. / Preseason Training

Freshmen/New Member/Full Drum Line/Full Crimson Guard/Leadership -All freshmen, new members, drum line, guard, and 2019 Leadership are required to attend the freshmen/new member training session Saturday, August 3rd.

Bring your own lunch or the leadership will take \$5 pizza/soda preorders at the beginning of the camp sold by the Band Boosters so please have \$5 if interested.

**August 5, 6, 8, and 9 / Band camp** - Bloomingdale's preseason training is required for all members. Full Band/Crimson Guard Preseason Training August 5, 6, 8, 3-9 p.m. and August 9, 3- 7 p.m. (EVERYONE)

Any questions about joining the Rajun' BullBand and Crimson Guard can be sent to Director Jon Sever at [jon.sever@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:jon.sever@sdhc.k12.fl.us)



A new crop of musicians are hard at work practicing during the summer for the Bloomingdale High School Rajun' Bull Marching Band Drumline. The best never rest!

Photo: Deidre Morgan



## Basketball Camp Aims to Improve Player Performance

Photo: Deidre Morgan



Coach Joel Bower, Head Basketball Coach at Bloomingdale High School, talks to a group of boys and girls about the day's events before the start of the morning basketball camp session. This is the 8th year that Bloomingdale has hosted the sold-out basketball camp for 4th to 9th graders, which focuses on fundamental skills, improvement and sportsmanship.



## DRY CLEANERS



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**20% OFF**  
DRY CLEANING



\*BDGZ20\*



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**20% OFF**  
COMFORTERS + RUGS



\*BDGZCFR20\*



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\*When cleaned using the GreenEarth® Cleaning process compared to the solvent most traditionally used by dry cleaners.





# Brenda Sells Bloomingtondale

Brenda's Featured Listing



2202 GOLF MANOR BLVD

GOLF COURSE FRONTAGE! This stunning family home is move-in ready and waiting for you! Located on a gorgeous, oversized lot in the golf community of Bloomingtondale! Rest assured knowing a NEW ROOF was put on in May 2019 and new AIR HANDLER and fan in 2017! All the BIG TICKET items have been taken care of for you!

Welcome Home!

**Call Brenda,  
your #1 Bloomingtondale agent,  
to get your home SOLD!**



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Brenda@BrendaWade.com | www.BrendaWade.com

