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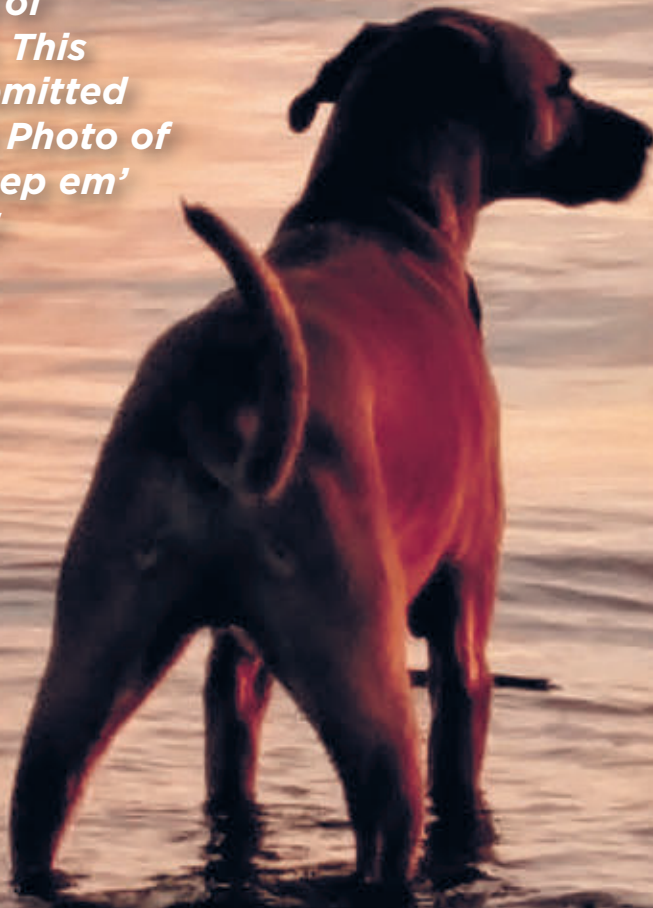
BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XXXIX 🌿 ISSUE 8 🌿 AUGUST 2019 🌿 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

Dog Days of Summer Are Upon Us!

Bloomingtondale resident Zeppelin handles the "Dog Days of Summer" at the beach. This resident photo was submitted as part of our Resident Photo of the Month program. Keep em' coming, Bloomingtondale!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Friends, sun, sand, and sea, that sounds like a summer to me." *Unknown*

This Month



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PLEASE ♻️ RECYCLE

WINNER

2013, 2014 & 2016

**Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award**

**Best Communications
Newsletter Category**



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

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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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Tampa Bay
Times

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com

Website: 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

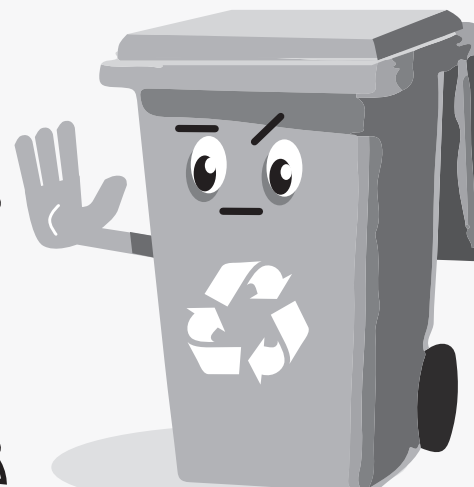
Charlie Woodcock



Plastic Bags Ruin Recycling

Discover what to do with bags
and other recycling tips at
TampaBayRecycles.org

- Automated equipment cannot remove items from plastic bags
- Plastic bags tangle up processing equipment



Hillsborough
County Florida



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

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



Keith & Betty Corman 1229 Carrie Wood Drive, Valrico, 33596 (Bloomingdale Trace)



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CHC432384

Now Servicing Stowers,
Valrico Academy, Bevis, FishHawk Creek, Lithia
Springs, Foundation Christian,
Alafia and Cimino.

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

813-601-5659

ronniemclaughlin@kw.com

www.chaddertongroup.com

No Fuss, No Muss! Sell your home while you are on vacation!

Summer months in Tampa Bay are very busy for buying and selling real estate! According to Greater Tampa Realtors Association, 2,077 Hillsborough County single family homes sold in June 2019, which is a 3.2% increase over June 2018. Buyers are looking and if you're thinking of selling, Realtors need listings!

Recently, I met with a FishHawk seller. We walked through her home and noted improvement areas designed to increase the appeal of her house to potential buyers. We also discussed her needs for moving and a proposed timeline.

As it turned out, she had booked a vacation/work trip over a Thursday through Sunday. Working together, we devised a plan to list the house while she was away.

Once we had the key, the team went to work prepping the home, taking professional photos, placing a sign in the yard and officially listing the house. Within a few days, we had two open houses, 10 showings and an amazing offer. The seller came home rested and relaxed, accepted the offer and soon after, closed on the home.

Showing the house while she was away was ideal because it took the stress of having to prepare the home each day and having to leave on a moment's notice if someone wanted to see it. No cleaning up in between appointments, no having to get kids out of the house. She was able to enjoy a wonderful vacation. We handled the rest.

Neighborhood Snapshot Bristol Green

Bristol Green located across from the entrance of Cimino Elementary was developed between 1995-2003 and is comprised of 188 homes. Twenty-nine homes along Golf Manor Blvd line the Bloomingdale Golfers Club. All but just a few homes include three car garages and many have private pools. The average square footage is 2,625 and the average number of bedrooms is 4.

In December 2016 when I first wrote about Bristol Green, I had reported an average sales price of \$232,000 at an average square footage price of \$121. The current average sales price over the past 365 days is now \$352,000 at an average square footage price of \$135.69.



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:



Ricky

Ricky, a 3-year-old male is friendly with adults, kids, and other dogs too. He is house-trained and is working on walking better on a leash. Ricky likes to go for long walks, knows how to sit, and will shake paws with you. #1891619



Diamond

Diamond is a 6-year-old female, house-trained pup that walks well on a leash. She likes adults, kids, and other dogs too. She enjoys walks, playing in the yard, and knows basic obedience skills. #1997956



Boogie

Boogie is a friendly, 1-year-old cat who likes to explore and get attention. # 2002247



Peaches

Peaches is a sweet 5-month-old kitten. She loves toys and gives great purrs. # 2002248

JOIN US FOR THE BAYCARE HEALTHHUB™ FARMER'S MARKET

Saturday, August 17 | 9am–1pm

BayCare HealthHub
2470 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico

Stop by the brand new BayCare HealthHub on the third Saturday of every month for a farmer's market featuring local vendors, fresh produce, a food truck and more. Fun activities for the kids, including free face painting.

For more information or to inquire about being a vendor:
BayCare.org/FarmersMarket





BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Fall Fest, Save the Date! Sponsors Wanted, Spaces are Filling Fast!

Mark your calendar for the biggest Fall Fest yet! It's all FREE! Headlining the event are a "Trick or Treat Street," a Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest, and Halloween Children's Costume Contests. Parents, make sure your child brings a bag to collect their day's haul!

New this year are the addition of crafter handmade items, a "loaded" food truck rally, demonstration teams and fun activities for kids. Entertainment and activities include a DJ, bouncy houses, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue and HC Sheriff's Office Citizen Patrol static displays and games and contests. Also returning from last year is the BSHS Rajun Bull Drum Line.

Stay tuned for details here, on the website and on the HOA Facebook page! Contact the committee at bhafallfest@gmail.com for information or to snag a sponsor booth. Spaces are filling rapidly, don't delay!

Sponsors, each level carries super marketing benefits! Contact the committee to learn more! Sponsor levels: Platinum at \$1,000, Diamond at \$500, Gold at \$250, Silver at \$100 and Bronze at \$50 – Crafters Only!

**NEW**

HANDMADE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY


The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association
is proud to present our
Annual
Fall Festival
Saturday, October 26, 2019 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bloomingtondale High School Stadium
1700 E. Bloomingtondale Avenue

**Rain or shine**

**More than 2000 guests expected**

**CRAFTERS
HANDMADE**

For the very first time, the annual Bloomingtondale Fall Festival event will be hosting sponsors who create handmade items. The bronze sponsor level of \$50 includes a single table space and business name in the Bloomingtondale Gazette. Photos of the handmade items need to be submitted for consideration.

Call to reserve your space today since the number of spaces is limited.

Look Who's Coming So Far! Over 50 and Counting!

Kerin Realty	Kiddie Academy of Bloomingtondale
Grace Lewis CPA	Mathnasium of Brandon
Appleton Reiss PLLC	Music Showcase
Camp Gladiator	Noah's Ark Animal Hospital
Crissy's Salon/Heather Michael	Primrose School of Bloomingtondale
Jeremiah's Italian Ice	The Worx 24 Hour Fitness


The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association is proud to present our
Annual
**Fall Festival
& Food Truck Rally**
Saturday, October 26, 2019
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bloomingtondale High School Stadium
1700 E. Bloomingtondale Avenue

**SAVE
the
DATE**

**Rain
or
shine**



Our FREE family-friendly event will feature:

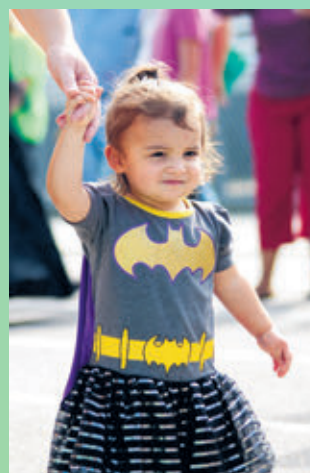
- **NEW** Food Truck Rally
- **NEW** Handmade and crafts booths
- Local business booths
- Children's and pet's costume contests
- Local art exhibit
- "Trick or Treat" Street



For more information on the Fall Festival or the Bloomingtondale HOA call (813) 681-2051 (Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.)
Updates will be posted in the Bloomingtondale Gazette and on our Facebook page.

BloomingtondaleHOA.com  BloomingtondaleHOA

BHA Board of Directors IRC 501(C)(4)





JOIN THE BHA!

Join TODAY! 2019 Membership drive ongoing through December 31! Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your payment. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.



Primrose School at last year's Fall Festival.

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, August 5, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special District Monthly Trustee Meeting // Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

Tuesday, August 13, 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, August 16, 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.

Back to School in Style

Danielle,
actual patient,
lost 40 pounds!†

—Lose up to—
10 POUNDS
the first week!†

\$50 off*

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

TODAY!

Aug 3, 8 a.m. / U Pick Opening Day / Thompson's Nursery and Vineyard, 1104 S Miller Rd // Come out and pick some muscadine grapes! Grapes are \$2/pound. And check out our homemade jellies and various fruit trees for sale!



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/>



Now through Aug. 17 / Fall Ball Registration / Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association, 2215 Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico // Online Registration at bysa.website.siplay.com. Everyone must register online via SI Play. While we will have in-person registrations on August 13 (6-8p) and 17 (10a-1p), those registrations will be for people looking for assistance on the computer to complete the process. We highly recommend everyone to register on their own, from home or your phone. Fees for Fall 2019 are T-ball: \$75 and Baseball/Softball: \$125. Any questions regarding registration can be directed to registerbysa@gmail.com or call 813-684-8422.



Aug 6, Every Tuesday at 2 - 3 p.m., Bloomingdale Library, Room 5 - Computer Lab / EXCEL: Introduction and MORE! // Learn Formatting. Learn functions and formulas. Create charts from date. Explore extra features. Age Group(s): Adults



Aug. 10, Noon - 4 p.m. / Parents & Pints Day / Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co., 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Rd // Back to School on Monday! Let's celebrate with Parents and Pints! Bring the whole family. We will have a Bounce house, Games, DJ, Food Truck and much more! Heroes Only Barber Shop Will be open and fully staffed to cut the kids hair for Back to School. Oh and we will have \$3 pints of The Diddy!



Aug 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Sing-A-Long with The Smurfs / Westfield Brandon, 459 Brandon Town Center Drive // Join Papa Smurf, Smurfette and Clumsy Smurf for live shows at Westfield Brandon on Sunday, August 11th starting at 11am! First 200 kids in line receive a Smurf surprise. Kids can sing and dance along to fun, interactive songs, make arts & crafts, get their face painted, play games and more. Show times for Sing Along with The Smurfs are at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. The event will be located near Dick's Sporting Goods. Tickets by Eventbrite.



Aug 15, 5 - 6 p.m. / Community Pet Shot Clinic / Hosted by Adorable Pets by Dena, 3212 Lithia Pinecrest Rd, Ste 104 // \$19 Rabies shot. In Harbor Freight/ Crunch fitness shopping Plaza. Details: 813-986-2448.



Aug 26, 6-9 p.m. / Paint Your Pet / The Landing Bar & Grill / 4351 Lynx Paw Trl // Join us at The Landing Bar & Grill in Valrico for a special Paint Your Pet event on National Doggy Day. Gather your friends and join us for a painting party! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Make sure to bring a picture of your pet!! We suggest choosing a photo that is a head and shoulders image of you looking eye-level (not down at) with your pet. It's also easiest if it's printed on a normal 8 1/2 X 11 piece of paper (so you can fold it). Yep, you'll be sketching and painting your original pet masterpiece.



Aug 31, 9:30 p.m. - Sun Sep 1, 1:30 a.m., Traitor Jones Rocks Raccoons / Raccoons Bar and Grill, 3240 Lithia Pinecrest Rd // Come party with us at Valrico's favorite place for cold beers and the best waitstaff!!



Sep 3, 6:30 p.m. / Master Gardener Library Program-Edible Plants / Riverview Branch Library, 10509 Riverview Dr. // Try something different, plant an edible flower garden. Learn what types of flowers are edible. Experience the taste of some flowers plus take home some basic recipes that you can use to start cooking with flowers. Email amblibrary@gmail.com or call 813-205-6621 for information.



Sep 12, 6-10 p.m. / Water Smart Tots' 4th Annual Bingo / The Palmetto Club at Fishhawk Ranch, 17004 Dorman Rd, Lithia // Hosted by Water Smart Tots. Join us for an incredible night of fun to raise money to eliminate pediatric drowning in the Greater Tampa Bay Area. Event includes *10 rounds of Bingo, *Silent Auction, *Door Prizes, *Cash (credit) Bar, *DJ Entertainment and *Food & Desserts. Tickets Available for \$45 for individual or \$320 for a table of 8. Visit www.WaterSmartTots.org to purchase tickets.



Junior Golf Programs Offered This Fall

J.D. Carino, golf pro at Bloomingdale Golfers Club and River Hills has several Fall golf programs for juniors.

August 14 or 15 / After School Program, Ages 7-12

River Hills CC: Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m.
Bloomingdale GC: Thursdays from 4-6 p.m.
8 weeks \$350

August 12 / Kids Night League, Ages 7-12

River Hills CC: Mondays from 4-6 p.m.
8 weeks \$350

August 17 / Little Lads and Lasses, Ages 4-6

Bloomingdale GC: Saturdays 10-11:30 a.m.
8 weeks \$285

For information, go to www.CochraneGolfSchools.com. Click on Junior Programs or call 813- 957-3205 and ask for J.D.



St. Vincent de Paul Tea Time Fundraiser Nears

Submitted by Liz McLaughlin

All Ladies and little ladies are cordially invited to the St. Vincent de Paul Annual Ladies' Tea and Style Show presented by BonWorth, America's Favorite Mother Daughter Store. The annual and only fundraiser benefits the food pantry and financial assistance program. Each month the pantry assists about 140 families with food and about \$3,000 to help pay rent and utilities and to purchase food.



All money from ticket sales and donations go to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Additional monetary donations beyond the \$18 per person would be greatly accepted! Laundry soap donations are appreciated too.

Make checks payable to SVDP. For information or reservations, contact either Pam Liguori 813-545-7856 / PCL1522@aol.com or Arlene Stein (813) 284-5884 / arstein@outlook.com.

Date/Time: Saturday, September 14 / 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Place: Family Life Center of St. Stephen Church Catholic Church
10118 St. Stephen Circle, Riverview
Cost: \$18.00

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20% OFF
DRY CLEANING



BDGZ20



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20% OFF
COMFORTERS + RUGS



BDGZCFTR20



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000000255-01

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

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

MONTHLY REVIEW

By Tom Leech, President

New Well Complete

The new well at the Heritage Park entrance (Clareside Drive) is finally complete and the landscaping has been replanted. The original well had reached the end of its lifespan so we needed to replace the water source.

After months of delays, and the drilling of a second new well, the well at Heritage Park and Clareside Drive is now fully operational and the entrance has been replanted. This will return irrigation along Erindale Drive to its previous watering schedule, and it is hoped alleviate any further loss of turf. Turf that died as a result of the irrigation downtime will be replaced now that irrigation is restored.

Photo: Miriam Leech



District Tree-Trimming Policy

Recently, several residents have asked about tree-trimming in the District, so let me explain the District's policy. Who is responsible for pruning or lifting depends on where the tree is located and also the location of that portion of the tree to be trimmed.

- Tree-trimming on private property is the owner's responsibility. Should branches grow past an external wall or otherwise over common areas, the District may choose to trim that portion of the tree. Situations where this would occur would be when branches or limbs present a safety issue to the public.
- The District is responsible for trees in the common areas. However, in situations where branches grow over a wall and into private property, the owner may trim that portion of the tree that is over the wall or property line. The District and its contractors have no authority to enter private property and will not trim branches or limbs that overhang a resident's yard.



Rebranding

Our District-wide rebranding and updating has fallen a little behind schedule due to the need for survey work at Erindale/Lithia Pinecrest; Culbreath/Bloomingdale; and Bloomingfield/John Moore. Before we can redesign those entrances, we need to know where the property lines fall. Once surveying is complete, our landscape designers will be able to provide scaled renderings and we will move forward.

Finally, let me thank those of you who attended the public hearing to discuss the assessment increase. We appreciate public input and hope you will come by our regular monthly meetings.

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 August 5 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!*

For information on the Bloomingdale Special District visit :

mydistrictwebsite.com/
[bloomingdale-special-taxing-district](https://bloomingdale-special-taxing-district.com/)



BayCare HealthHub Holds First Farmer's Market

By Deidre Morgan

On July 20, the BayCare HealthHub of Bloomingdale held their first annual Farmer's Market. Hosted by Link Events, 54 vendors participated. A host of food trucks, fresh produce stands, and local vendors were present. Activities for the kids included free face painting.

Casey Gorman of Link Events said the Farmer's Market will be on the third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. There is no fee for vendors to participate. For vendor information, contact Casey at casey@thelinkevents.com.

BayCare opened their Bloomingdale Hub on March 17, 2019 at 2470 Bloomingdale Ave. The facility is an integrated health and wellness center taking care of such needs as, Behavioral Heath, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Urgent Care, just to name a few. It also boasts a state-of-the-art Fitness Center. To learn about the BayCare HealthHub, visit <https://baycare.org/healthhub>.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Market Dates

- Saturday, August 17 | 9am-1pm
- Saturday, September 21| 9am-1pm
- Saturday, October 19 | 9am-1pm
- Saturday, November 16 | 9am-1pm
- Saturday, December 21 | 9am-1pm

BayCare HealthHub held its first Farmer's Market at the new Bloomingdale location. The event was a complete success with all of the tents filled. Local vendors offering fresh produce, handmade crafts and food were set up for the market goers.

The UnMonsters, Tizzy and Fretta, sponsored by St. Joseph's Children Hospital, were on hand to talk to kids and let them know that hospitals and doctors aren't scary and that they are there to help you get well and to feel better.

Photos Deidre Morgan



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2018

Angie's list

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MAINTAIN

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Backed By StayRun GUARANTEE

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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

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A/C & HEATING

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A/C & HEATING

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FREE ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT

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W/ PURCHASE OF NEW A/C

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE
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Blmngdl0419

IERNA's | 813-324-1304

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- Inspection of Safety Features
- Dye Testing of All Toilets
- Inspection of All Exposed Piping
- Inspection of All Sink Drains
- Inspection of Emergency Shut-Off Valves & More

\$69

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE
Not available for same-day or weekend service. Not a repair service. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Not available on past services. See dealer for details.

Blmngdl0419

IERNA's | 813-324-1304

PLUMBING

REPAIR

SAVE ON NEXT REPAIR

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AUGUST 2019

11

Flashback! Bloomingdale High School - 30 Years of Graduates
By Wendy Knipp

August 31, 1987 at 8:30 a.m. – Bloomingdale Senior High School opens its doors for the first time and welcomes nearly 1,300 sophomores and juniors. This new school alleviated overcrowding at Brandon, Plant City and East Bay high schools.

Part of the school was still under construction and students navigated men at work, noise and wet paint. However, everyone quickly found their rhythm and these inaugural Bulls hit the ground running.

Clubs and teams filled, and students were excited to be a part of something new. Principal Charles Harris, namesake of the school’s stadium, led the way and the school immediately began bringing home awards from their music programs, athletic teams, yearbook and academic clubs.

As juniors became seniors, Bloomingdale High was still the new kid on the block, but it had quickly established itself as being “bad to the bone” – it was a school to be taken seriously.

With three classes of students and many awards earned, seniors recognized the importance of being the first graduating class and they took that distinction seriously. Traditions and legacies began.

Seniors worked with administration for exclusive privileges such as being dismissed two minutes before underclassmen, having their own parking lot, and opting out of their final exams if they met the criteria. A time capsule containing memorabilia from each club was buried and an actual torch was lit and passed down to the juniors as a symbol of passing down traditions.

Through the years, Bloomingdale High School has gone through many changes, but one thing has not changed, the Class of 2019 is just as full of Bull pride as the Class of 1989.



Congratulations to Bloomingdale High School for turning out 30 years of amazing graduates!

Here’s to Number 31, the Class of 2020! Enjoy the traditions and the legacies of those before you!

The 1989 award-winning yearbook is a treasure trove. Photos and descriptions are outstanding. The stories reveal not only awards won and athletic standings, but what it was like to be a teenager in 1989.



Two high profile graduates from the Class of 1989 are TV and film actor Mark Consuelos and Indianapolis Colts player Chad Bratzke.



Seniors began traditions such as passing a spirit torch to the juniors and they also left their mark when they buried a time capsule.



The Class of 1989 enjoyed a brand-new school, but they did have to dodge construction workers and wet paint at first.



30 Years of Change: Then and Now

	1989	2019
Yearbook Theme	The Completing Piece	Our Long Running Story
Population	563 graduates School population - 1850 Grade levels – 10th – 12th	612 graduates School population - 2353 Grade levels 9th – 12th
Hot Music	Def Leppard, Van Halen, Whitesnake, George Michael	Taylor Swift, Cardi B, Ariana Grande, Travis Scott
Clothing Favorites	Pleated pants, ripped jeans, scarves, floppy sweaters, scrunchies, The Limited, Nike Air, Reebok	Flannel, distressed jeans, rompers, retro, Gucci, Adidas, Kendra Scott
Spirit Week	Heroes, Hippies, Tootsie Day, College Day, Pep Rally and Class Colors	‘Merica, Rappers and Rockstars, Character Day, Meme Day, Blackout Day
Homecoming	Welcoming Dance “A Night to Remember”	Homecoming Dance “Bienvenidoa Miami”
Senior Play	Grease	Anne Frank
Movies	Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Beetlejuice, Scrooged, Rain Man	Bird Box, Incredibles 2, A Star is Born
Yearbook	416 pages (\$40 to purchase)	273 pages (\$90 to purchase)

Be in the Know! School Website and Social Media Connections!

Compiled By Deidre Morgan, Wendy Knipp and Joy Boisselle

Follow and/or join these social media pages to stay connected to what's happening at your child's school. There is great information and advice on how to tackle the upcoming school year.

Are we missing your school? Let us know at inbloomingtonnews@gmail.com. We will be posting this information on our HOA and Gazette website as well as our FB pages.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Website: <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/>



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3535 Culbreath Rd, Valrico, FL 33596
(813) 744-8190

Website: [aldafia.mysdhc.org/](https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schools/0271)
<https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schools/0271>

Facebook

Alafia Elementary School: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alafia-Elementary-School/963553540325483>
Alafia Elementary Parents: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2221274834827538/>
Alafia Elementary School PTA: <https://www.facebook.com/Alafia-Elementary-School-PTA-155583367844235/>



CIMINO ELEMENTARY

4329 Culbreath Rd, Valrico, FL 33596
(813) 740-4450

Website - [cimino.mysdhc.org/](https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schools/0802)
<https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schools/0802>

Facebook

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Cimino PTA: <https://www.facebook.com/ciminopta/>
Cimino Elementary Parents: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/440301896088395/>
Cimino Elementary Media Center: <https://www.facebook.com/MediaCimino/>



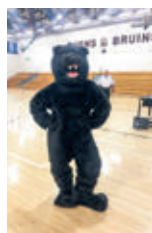
BURNS MIDDLE SCHOOL

615 Brooker Rd, Brandon, FL 33511
(813) 744-8383

Website: [burns.mysdhc.org/](https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schools/0651)
<https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schools/0651>

Facebook

Burns Middle School Parents: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1730577737209103/>
Burns Middle School PTSA: <https://www.facebook.com/BurnsMiddleSchoolPTSA/>
Burns Middle School – 6th Grade: <https://www.facebook.com/BurnsMS6thgrade/>
Burns Middle School Parents: 8th grade: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/477416856386081/>



Burns Bruins Dads:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BurnsBruinsDads/>
Burns Media Center: <https://www.facebook.com/Burns-Media-Center-1633565373593794/>

Twitter

@BurnsPTSA

Instagram

burnsmiddleschoolptsas



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL

1700 E Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico, FL 33596
(813) 744-8018

Website - [bloomingdale.mysdhc.org/](https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schools/4141)
<https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schools/4141>

Facebook

Bloomingdale Senior High School: <https://www.facebook.com/BloomingdaleSHS/>
Bloomingdale High School Parents Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/249610419229074/>



Twitter

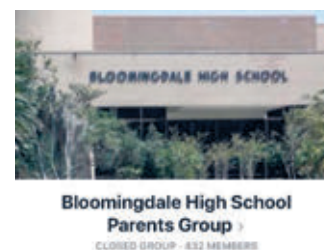
@BloomingdaleSHS

Instagram

Bloomingdaleshs

YouTube

WBULTV



NAVIGATOR ACADEMY

1101 E Bloomingdale Ave
Valrico, Florida 33596

Facebook

Navigator Academy of Leadership at Valrico: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2316200628650806/>



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Orlando, Florida 32835
(407) 513-3587

Facebook

Florida Virtual School – FLVS: <https://www.facebook.com/floridavirtualschool/>



BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher and CSO Debbie Vijil

"One Team, One Family, One Community"



Heads Up, Bloomingdale! ***School Starts Aug. 12***

Our first concern each school year is the safety and protection of the thousands of kids headed back to school in our community. Many of these kids will be walking or riding their bikes to school for the first time.

Help us prevent accidents and injuries by being a careful, patient driver.

Parents, speak to your children about how to be safe and alert while getting to school. This goes double for parents with teenage drivers.

For Bike Riders and Walkers: Emphasize safe bike riding – wearing bike helmets, crossing only at crosswalks, obeying all bike-riding rules, and watching for cars. Have your kids either walk or ride their bikes in groups with friends or classmates. Discuss the importance of being very careful if strangers approach. Review the route they should take to school and walk or ride it with them.

For Bus Riders: Note the seriousness of them staying at their bus stop, watching out for cars and behaving while they wait. Again, discuss strangers at their stops.

For Drivers: Give yourself extra travel time in your commute. Check to see if any new schools have opened up along the way you take to work. (And yes, there are a few!) This will mean more traffic, more delays, more kids and more buses for you to prepare for.

Make sure everyone in your car buckles up! Watch out for school buses performing pick-ups and drop-offs.

Remember, your kids are watching you! No distractions! Don't talk on the phone or text and drive. The safety of your kids and the safety of other kids are much more important than any phone call. Accidents only take seconds to happen.

As always, we will have extra patrols in school areas to help remind people to slow down. Don't be that guy or gal who gets the double citation fine for speeding. Call 813-247-8200 if you see aggressive road rage type driving. If we have someone in the area, we will take corrective action.

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 Aug. 15 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.

Stop for School Buses...It's the Law!

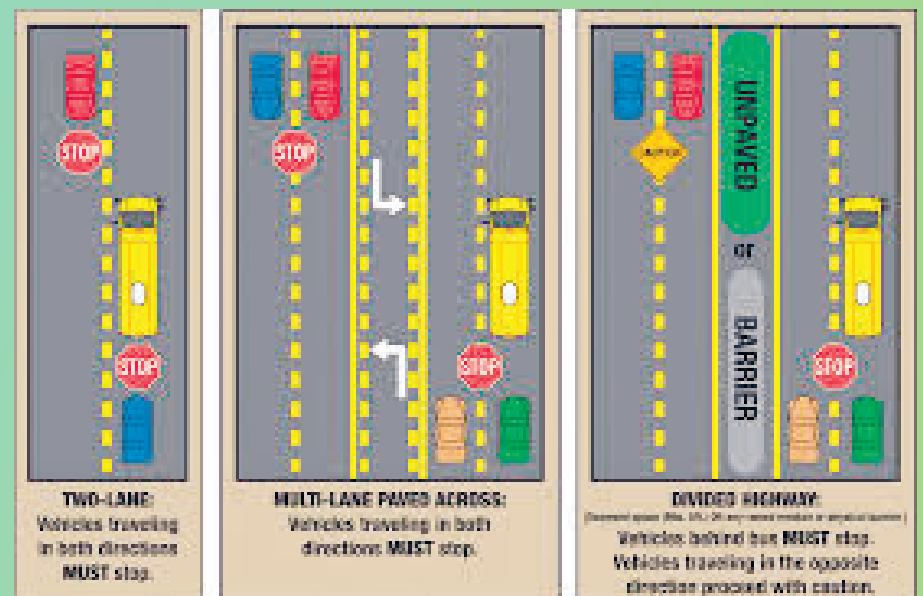
If you drive you should know this Florida Law.

316.172 Traffic to stop for school bus.

(1)(a) Any person using, operating, or driving a vehicle on or over the roads or highways of this state shall, upon approaching any school bus which displays a stop signal, bring such vehicle to a full stop while the bus is stopped, and the vehicle shall not pass the school bus until the signal has been withdrawn.

(b) Any person using, operating, or driving a vehicle that passes a school bus on the side that children enter and exit when the school bus displays a stop signal commits a moving violation

(2) The driver of a vehicle upon a divided highway with an unpaved space of at least 5 feet, a raised median, or a physical barrier is not required to stop when traveling in the opposite direction of a school bus which is stopped in accordance with the provisions of this section.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT DOES REDUCE CRIME – REMEMBER:

If you notice any suspicious activity or a crime being committed, get all the information you can – descriptions of individuals, descriptions of vehicles and license numbers, and immediately call the Sheriff's Dispatch at 247-8200! Time is critical!

The Sheriff's Citizen's Patrol has increased the patrol coverage of our community while also allowing deputies to handle more emergencies. And, a big thanks to our local citizens who regularly report suspicious activity in our neighborhood.

🌿 The Last of our 2019 Graduates!



A Final look at 2019 Graduations as William Simmons and Trey Baker leave Alafia Elementary for Middle School.

🌿 Back-to-School Photos Wanted!

The Bloomingdale Gazette wants your back to school photos. Please send us hi-res photos (as close to or larger than 1 MB) with names and school attending no later than Aug. 28. This will be for our Sept. 7 issue! Send to inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.



Kristian and Michaela Walker at the beginning of the 2019 school year!

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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 inbloominglenews@gmail.com.)

Ready or Not...It's Hurricane Season



One area not to be overlooked in preparation for a major storm is your yard. High winds are the main safety factor. Overgrown Trees and landscape as well as items left outside can become missiles. Advance planning and guidelines to follow will give you peace of mind.

One area that impact us all is trash, recycling and yard/wood waste. For information on where facilities are located and what kind of

trash is received, visit the county website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/ or call 813.272.5680.

Things to consider prior to the storm season:

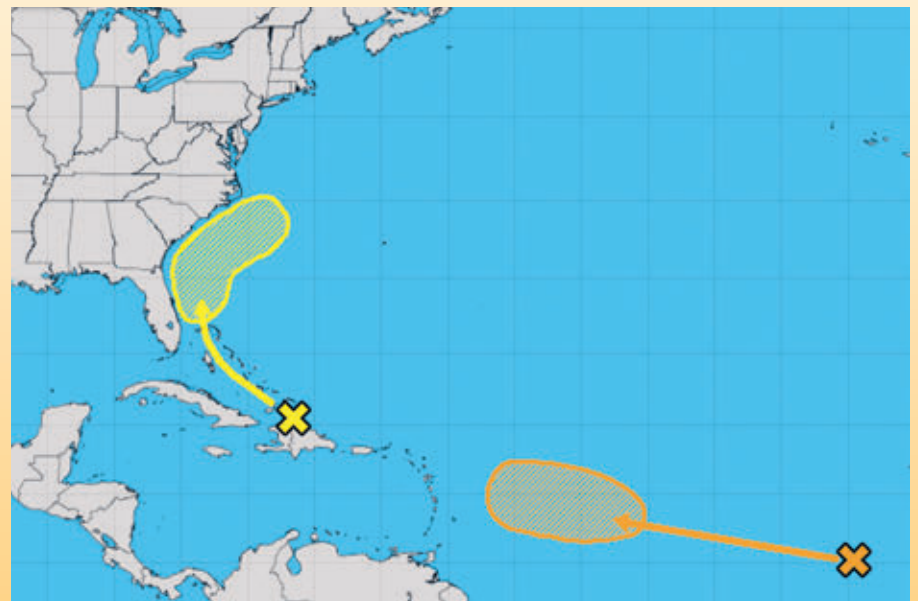
- Check, clean and repair rain gutters.
- Use wood mulch vs. rock mulch in garden beds. High winds can make the decorative gravel a dangerous projectile.
- Inspect your fence. Check for loose posts, boards or panels, make repairs as necessary. Check to see if you need to reinforce your fence posts. Consider having deeply dug fence posts secured with concrete. Make sure gates can be securely locked and won't slam into anything during a storm.
- Learn how to prepare your pool at What NOT to do to prepare your Swimming Pool for a Hurricane: <https://blog.poolcenter.com/article.aspx?articleid=6290>
- Trees are probably the number one safety factor during major storms. Prune only when necessary and hire a certified arborist. Cut out dead, diseased, and damaged wood and water sprouts. Remove mainly the interior branches. This will thin the canopy of the tree and allow the high winds to pass through it. NEVER "top" or "hayrack" any tree. Do not remove more than 25% of the tree canopy or you will "starve" the tree as it gets its food via the leaves. Source: <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/library/reports/trees-hurricanes.pdf>

The storm is on the way...things to do:

- Turn off your irrigation systems at the main line. This will help avoid additional leaks/flooding if there are breaks as a result of storm damage.
- Take down flags and flag poles.

- Potted plants, plant stands, yard décor, grills and patio furniture, need to be stored in a shed/garage. Don't throw patio furniture into the pool (if you have one), as you will probably cause damage to both your pool and the furniture. Bring in anything/everything that is not bolted down. Large/heavy potted plants may need to be laid on their sides or moved out of direct wind. Potted plants may also be group together and placed behind hedges.

Finally, be a good neighbor...take time to talk with your neighbors. This way you will be able to stay informed and aware of ways to help.



UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

PREPARING TREE FOR HURRICANES

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/preparing-trees-for-hurricanes.html>

Note: At the bottom of the article are links for cleaning up after a hurricane, hurricane landscaping, restoring trees after a storm and trees that can withstand hurricanes. And, UF/IFAS Tree Publication – Is my tree Safe? Recognizing conditions that increase the likelihood of tree failure: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep507>

Surviving the Dog Days of Summer By Joe Harless



"The ancient Romans called the hottest, most humid days of summer "diēs caniculārēs" or "dog days." The name came about because they associated the hottest days of summer with the star Sirius. Sirius was known as the "Dog Star" because it was the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog)." (www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/when-are-the-dog-days-of-summer/)

Some would debate that "Dog Days" in Florida are year-round. For Floridians, the trick is how to enjoy the summer and be safe! Here are a few basics for enjoying the dog days of summer.

1. Hydrate Early, Hydrate Often

When in doubt, reach for a water bottle. Getting up in the morning? Have some water. Feeling a little thirsty. More water. Not sure how long it's been since you last had a drink of water? Easy solution; have some water. Planning on being outside longer than 30 seconds? Hydrate.

This one seems obvious, but some clarification might be needed.

Hydrating does not mean "drink something cold." It means drink water, and plenty of it. Gatorade helps, too. Iced tea, on the other hand, can be very refreshing but it won't do the trick as effectively as water. And don't even bother with a soda unless you're also going to have a glass of water with it.

Carrying a bottle or refillable container will also help cut down on the number of bottles that have to be tossed into the recyclable bin. Not sure about the quality of the tap water? Hillsborough County provides online reports on the quality of the drinking water.

2. Take Cover

While Florida sunshine can be problematic in terms of skin care and comfort, that doesn't mean residents with sensitive skin need to stay indoors at all times. While sunscreen and a hat should be common gear, consider other options such as carrying an umbrella to shield you from the sun (and be very handy when the rain starts, which always happens). If you plan on being outdoors for long periods, take some advice from road and maintenance crews and invest in a long-sleeve shirt made from breathable materials.

3. Wear Sunscreen (Really)

Doesn't matter if you tan or burn, just put the stuff on. And don't be fooled by overcast days or big rainclouds off in the distance. Apply it half an hour before you leave the house and reapply as needed.

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Elevate Your Summer Grilling Skills

HC Press Release

Grills are a fun way to cook and a great way to enjoy the outdoors - especially during the summer. However, dangerous grilling habits can cause fire hazards and serious injuries like burns. According to the National Fire Protection Association, gas grills are the cause of 7,900 house fires per year while charcoal grills account for 1,300.

Follow these safety tips for better grilling and a safer summer:

- All grills should only be used outdoors.
- Place grills away from homes, deck railings, eaves, and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from grills.
- Keep your grill clean and free of grease or fat that might catch fire.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

For Propane Grills:

- Check your gas tank hose for leaks before the first time you use it each year.
- If you suspect a leak, have it serviced by a professional before use.
- Always keep your grill lid open before lighting it.
- If your flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off for at least 5 minutes before re-lighting.

* For Charcoal Grills:

- If you use a starter fluid, use a charcoal start fluid - never any other flammable liquids.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- After grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them.



Grilling, especially on holidays, is a delicious way to bring family and friends together. By following these simple tips, you can prevent a fire and keep your summer cool.

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Fresh Pickled Cucumber Salad...stays in the fridge up to 2 months!

Source: <http://www.lesleycooks.com>

Here is a quick and easy recipe that will complete your grilling experience!

- 7-cups unpeeled pickling cucumbers sliced thin (about 7 large dills)
- 1-cup sliced onions
- 1-cup sliced green or red peppers (optional)
- 1-tbsp salt
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 2-cups sugar or substitute a sweetener to taste
- 1-tsp celery seed
- 1-tsp mustard seed

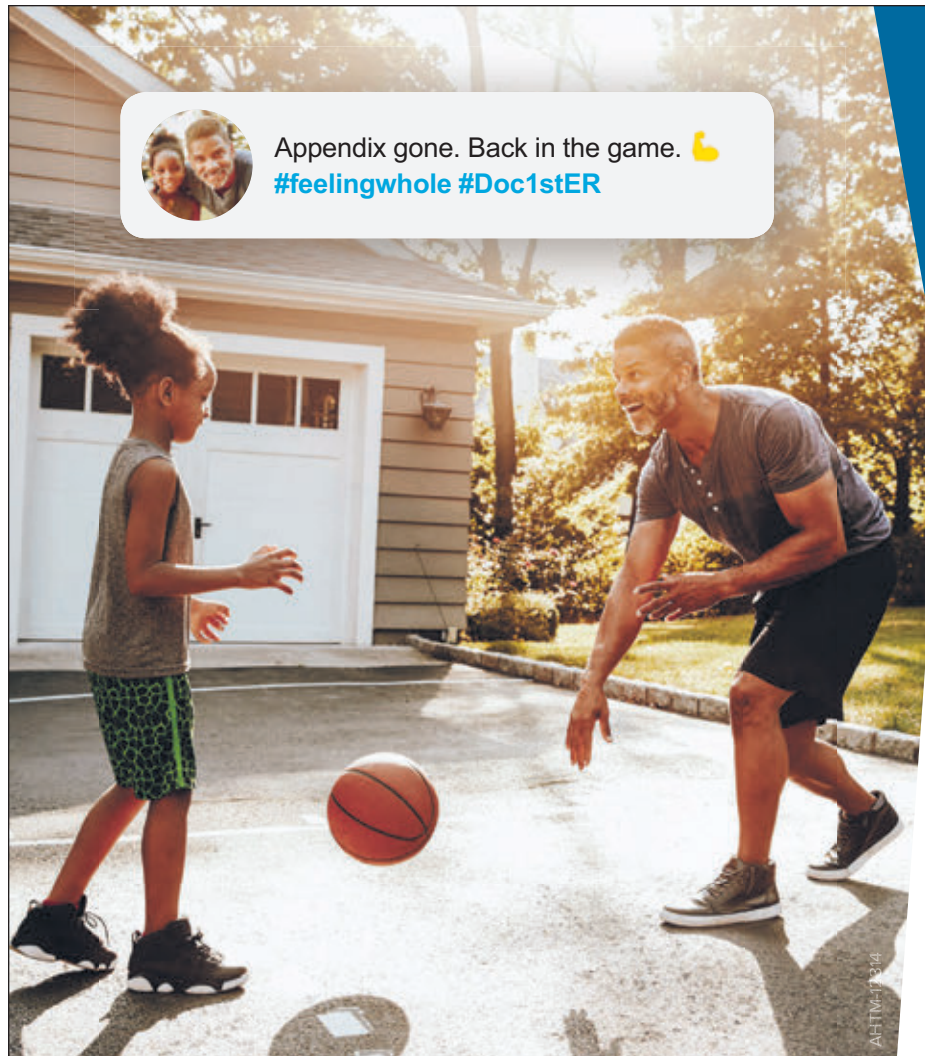
Mix cucumbers, onions, peppers and salt; set aside. Put vinegar, sugar, celery seed and mustard seed in a pot and bring to a boil.

Remove from heat and let cool for one hour.

Pour mixture over cucumbers.

Put in jars and store in refrigerator. Will keep up to 2 months

Makes 2 quart jars.

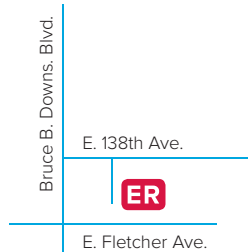


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August School News: A Look at What's Happening

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!

First Day of School – August 12

September 2 – Labor Day/No School



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

August 8 – Kindergarten Boo-Hoo Breakfast, 8 – 9 a.m.

August 8 – Sneak Peek for 1–5 grade, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

August 22 – Volunteer Information Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

August 29 – General PTA Meeting & Cyber-Bullying Presentation, 6 p.m.

School Website

For all the information you will need for the school year please visit the website at <http://alafia.mysdhc.org>.

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 at <http://alafia.mysdhc.org>. The front office will be open this summer on the following days/times:

Now – August 10: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Support Alafia PTA through Amazon Smile

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amazon.com and experienced

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while fulfilling your Amazon

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Alafia Elementary PTA on Amazon Smile! We appreciate you selecting

us as your charity of choice and using smile.amazon.com to complete your

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2019 – 2020 School Supplies and More

School Supply list can be viewed at the PTA's website at <https://alafiapta.membershiptoolkit.com/home> as well as the school website at <http://alafia.mysdhc.org>. Be in the know and get to know the information available on these sites!



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

August 8 – Meet the Teacher, Last names ending in A-L: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. AND Last names ending in M-Z: 1-2 p.m.

August 12 – Boo - Hoo/ Yahoo Breakfast for Kindergarten Parents, 7-7:30 a.m.

August 20 – SAC meeting, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

August 21 – Volunteer Breakfast, 8-9a.m.

August 30 – All-Pro Dad (Kickoff), 6:30-7:30a.m.

August 30 – Back to School Bash, Student Bash/Pep Rally, 8-9a.m.

September 6 – Cougar Spirit Shirt Day

MEET THE TEACHER
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH



Meet the Teacher!

Last names ending in A-L: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. AND Last names ending in M-Z: 1- 2 p.m.

**Please note Teachers will not be available from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. as they will break for lunch.



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

August 7 – 6th Grade Open House, 1:30-3:30p.m.

7th-8th Grade Open House, 4 p.m.

Open House will begin at 1:30 and will follow a bell schedule, just like a typical school day. In the courtyard, locate your student's 1st period class. Report to 1st period class to get your student's schedule. Each class period will be an opportunity to get information from the teacher about their class and procedures.

At the conclusion of the class period a bell will ring indicating the class change. You will then follow the student's schedule to the next class until you have completed the scheduled day.

There will also be an opportunity to purchase PE uniforms, student agendas, yearbooks and spirit gear. Spirit Wear Shirts will be available for \$10 at the Open House (Cash or Check only)

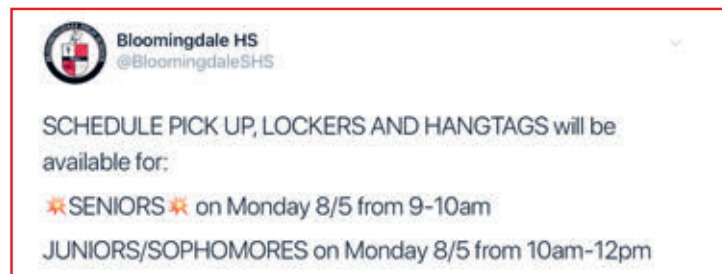
August 16 – 6th Grade Assembly, 3 p.m.

School Website

<http://burns.mysdhc.org>



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS



August 8 – Open House / Freshman and New Students, 5-7p.m.

Returning students can pick up their schedules earlier at the school. See above!

August 9 – Meet the Bulls / Fall Activities Kick Off, 6:30 p.m. at the Stadium
September 5 – Picture Day and Senior Portrait Makeups

School Website

<http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org>



Hillsborough County 2019 - 2020 School Calendar

<https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/calendar/print/>

First day of school	Aug 12, 2019
Labor Day Holiday	Sep 2, 2019
End of 1st grading period	Oct 11, 2019
*Veterans Day	Nov 11, 2019
*Fall Break	Nov 25, 2019 – Nov 29, 2019
Students return to school	Dec 2, 2019
End of 2nd grading period	Dec 20, 2019
Winter Break	Dec 23, 2019 – Jan 3, 2020
Non-Student Day	Jan 6, 2020
Students return to school	Jan 7, 2020
Florida State Fair Day	Feb 7, 2020
President's Day	Feb 17, 2020
Strawberry Festival Day	Mar 2, 2020
End of 3rd grading period	Mar 13, 2020
Spring Break	Mar 16, 2020 – Mar 20, 2020
Students return to school	Mar 23, 2020
Non-Student Day	Apr 10, 2020
Non-Student Day	Apr 20, 2020
Memorial Day	May 25, 2020
Last Day of School	May 29, 2020

***Note: Hurricane Days if needed are**
November 11, 25, 26, & 27

Bell Times

- Elementary School
 - Start Time: 7:40 a.m.
 - End Time: 1:55 p.m.
 - Early Release Monday: 12:55 p.m.
- Elementary Magnet School
 - Start Time: 8:45 a.m.
 - End Time: 3:00 p.m.
 - Early Release Monday: 2:00 p.m.
- High School
 - Start Time: 8:30 a.m.
 - End Time: 3:25 p.m.
 - Early Release Monday: 2:25 p.m.
- Middle and High Magnet Schools
 - Start Time: 8:30 a.m.
 - End Time: 3:25 p.m.
 - Early Release Monday: 2:25 p.m.
- Middle School
 - Start Time: 9:25 a.m.
 - End Time: 4:20 p.m.
 - Early Release Monday: 3:20 p.m.



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/>



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Cimino Teachers Collect Backpacks for Area Students

By Jane Owen

Most teachers teach because they have a passion for helping kids. Two Cimino teachers are giving beyond their classrooms by collecting backpacks for area students in need.

Vanessa Hill and Tara Stoddard, two Cimino 3rd grade teachers, collected 224 backpacks this year for Hillsborough County Students. Hill and Stoddard partnered with the Foundation for Sustainable Families and provided backpacks that were part of a Haircuts from the Heart event that was held on July 28 at the High Point Neighborhood Center in Clearwater.

Their desire to help started after a book signing for Ashley Rhodes-Courter for her “The Three Little Words” book four years ago. Inspired by her desire to make a difference in local community, Hill and Stoddard became a part of Haircuts from the Heart, a free event that provides haircuts and supplies to students.

“This event is important to me because it sets children up for success,” said Vanessa Hill. “I know that we are helping kids have a love for learning. As a teacher, I love helping kids learn and be successful. It warms my heart knowing that a child in need is going to show up to school with a great attitude because he or she comes equipped with the right materials.”

This year, local brewery, Bullfrog Creek Brewing Company, hosted “Backpacks at the Bullfrog” to help Hill and Stoddard collect backpacks.

“Being a schoolteacher, I know how important a new backpack and supplies are to each child. I love collecting the backpacks. I feel like all the members of the community that donate to our event take special pride in picking out each backpack,” said Tara Stoddard.

Both teachers believe in the mission of Foundation for Sustainable Families.

Stoddard explained, “The Foundation for Sustainable Families is a great place because they fill in the gaps where traditional organizations sometimes lack. They provide counseling, teach families life skills, teach them how to grow and make food, give the kids clothes, supplies and haircuts. They are amazing!”

Every year the number of supplies and backpacks provided at the event increases. Last year, Hill and Stoddard’s efforts provided 171 backpacks. This year, they increased the number to 224.



Photos: Vanessa Hill



Cheerleaders Win

Bloomington High School Cheerleaders participated in the UCA (Universal Cheerleaders Association) 2019 Summer Camp at the University of South Florida in early July and placed 1st. UCA's goal is to provide the highest quality educational training for cheerleaders with the goal of incorporating high level skills with traditional crowd leading. Universal Cheerleaders Association trains over 180,000 cheerleaders every summer at over 3,000 sessions across the country. Congratulations to the Bloomington Bulls Cheer Squad on an awesome job!! Photo: Lois Hayes via Facebook



It's time for Tax-FREE Back-to-School shopping!

This year's sales tax holiday begins 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 2 and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6.

During this sales tax holiday period, Florida law directs that no sales tax or local option tax (also known as discretionary sales surtax) will be collected on purchases of:

- Clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less
- Certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item
- Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories selling for \$1,000 or less per item, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use.

This sales tax holiday does not apply to:

- Any item of clothing selling for more than \$60;
- Any school supply item selling for more than \$15;
- Books that are not otherwise exempt;
- Computers and computer-related accessories purchased for commercial purposes;
- Rentals or leases of any eligible items;
- Repairs or alterations of any eligible items; or
- Sales of any eligible items in a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment, or airport.

For more information and a list of qualifying items, visit: floridarevenue.com/backtoschool.



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