



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XL



ISSUE 2



FEBRUARY 2020



www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

Arrrrrgh!

Bloomingtondale Represents at Gasparilla 2020



Photo: Scott Graverson



Bloomingtondale residents Scott and Gwen Graverson took part in the annual Gasparilla parade on the MacDill Air force Base float Jan. 25. Retired Air Force Master Sergeants, Scott served 24 years active duty, while Gwen served 6 years active duty and 15 years in the reserves.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Always be yourself. Unless you can be a pirate. Then always be a pirate." *Unknown*

This Month



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Pages 6 & 7

BLOOMINGTONDALE'S TOP COP

Page 9

THROUGH YOUR LENS!

Page 10

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Latitude Tours

Page 11

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Pages 12 & 13

ANGEL FOUNDATION

Page 16

SCHOOL NEWS

College Bound

Running with the Bulls

Pages 18 - 23

PLEASE RECYCLE

WINNER

2013, 2014, 2016 & 2018

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

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci, NTZ Studios (ntzstudios.com)
Staff Writers: Joe Harless, Wendy Knipp, Deidre Morgan, & Jane Owen
Student Reporter: Audra Nikolajski

The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



ANDREA DALY

Community Publications Manager

1000 North Ashley Drive, Suite 700
Tampa, Florida 33602
(813) 731-2490
Email: adaly@tampabay.com

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.

President: *Suzy Watts*

Vice President: *Sean Donahue*

Secretary: *Matt Marcinkowski*

Treasurer: *Grace Lewis*

Directors at Large:

Bobbi Ferraro

Billy Hightower

Charlie Woodcock



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

Ready for a junk drawer challenge?

Does your kitchen have an unparalleled junk drawer where everything gets shoved when guests come over? Do you have a drawer where if anyone asks where to find something and it's not in the usual places, you go to the junk drawer, because that's where you have a collection of odds and ends?

Being a local realtor, I have been in many homes in Bloomingdale and I have a love/hate relationship with junk drawers because I know everyone has at least one. I have one!

According to NPR, junk drawers house any number of random items, the usual suspects being scissors, bag clips, magnets and pens, spare change and receipts. If you have one, you are among the majority so embrace your junk and let's get it organized!

I found some great tips on getting that junk drawer organized!

First things first, you will want to declutter. Take everything out of the drawer and place on your counter. Throw away items that defy identification or use. Toss the trash – It's ok to throw away those used AAA batteries into the curbside trash!

Now, separate items based on similarities into piles. If something doesn't belong in the junk drawer, put that item into a different pile to be moved to its appropriate location. After you have decided what is staying in the junk drawer, you will want to make sure you can put your hands on what you need when you need it.



Next, the goal is to get the drawer organized. There are so many fun containers of different sizes and shapes for everything to have its place in the drawer. I saw a great suggestion of using an old muffin tin to put your small items in. For instance, one cup could be for pushpins, another for paper clips, old buttons, frequent shopper cards. Each thing has its own home.

The key is to have a junk drawer that works for your family. And your junk drawer can be very organized and serve you well in which case you can rename said drawer to "utility drawer." Renaming it will help you want to maintain the drawer as one that is useful to the whole family.

Neighborhood Snapshot Bloomingdale Cove

Bloomingdale Cove boasts 253 homes averaging 2,157 square feet. The community features a pond and a private park. The park holds a basketball court, picnic tables and a small playground with swings. In 2017, I reported that twelve homes sold over that past year at an average sales price of \$240,292 and \$110.20 per square foot. Half of the homes were pool homes. From January 21, 2019 – January 21, 2020, seventeen homes sold at an average sales price of \$265,853 and \$124.75 square feet. Nine of the homes were pool homes.



publix. GASPARILLA

DISTANCE
CLASSIC 2020

15K • 5K • HALF MARATHON • 8K

RUN Gasparilla!

TAMPA, FL 1 FEB. 22 & 23, 2020

DON'T DELAY!

ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLOSES AT MIDNIGHT,
FEB. 16TH!

Arrrgh
You Ready
to Run?



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT RUNGASPARILLA.COM OR 2020 ENTRY
BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY BAY AREA LOCATION OF:



BHA COMMUNITY CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Bloomington Homeowners Association Inc.
3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33596 • bloomingdalehoa.com

Please correct name below if different. BHA Membership Notices are mailed to the owner on file with the Hillsborough County Tax Collector. Recent changes may not be reflected here.

Your Name
Your Address

|||||

2020 BHA MEMBERSHIP
\$35.00 TO JOIN OR RENEW!

Return This Card With Payment

BLOOMINGDALE

2020 Membership \$35.00

Community Scholarship Donation \$

Total Enclosed \$

Check Number #

Your \$35 membership allows the BHA to continue the programs and services that make our community special; including The Fall Festival, Annual Clean-Up Days, Advocacy for community improvements to county officials, The Award-Winning Bloomingdale Gazette, The BHA website, Facebook and Twitter Pages, Community-Wide Garage Sale, Santa Visit and Charity Food Drive, Yard of the Month and a Scholarship and Community Service Hour Program.

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.bloomingtondalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by unpaid volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. All residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.

"Team Bloomingdale" needs You!

Do you care about our Bloomingdale Community, and want to take an active role in its future? Do you enjoy meeting people and working for a common goal? Then, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) wants you!

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office at 6:30 p.m.

Not sure you have the time? The BHA encourages all interested residents to attend a few board meetings to see if joining the Board is a good "fit." Current board members are residents, like you, who want Bloomingdale to thrive.

Call 813-681-2051 or email bloomingtondale.homeowners@gmail.com.

BHA BRIEFS

Coming Soon! An exciting announcement regarding the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association! Stay tuned!

Retreat Focuses Board on the Future

Last weekend, the BHA met off-site at President Suzy Watts' home to

discuss 2020 events and the future of the organization. The board has heard you! Coming in October, the BHA will add a second community clean-up to the calendar. Critical to the association now is the recruitment of new board members and members, in general. Come to a board meeting to see what the association does. Next month, the Gazette will publish an interview with the President and Vice-President detailing upcoming changes.

SAVE THE DATE!

Community Clean-Up // March 7

Scholarship Deadline // April 1

2020 Community Scholarship Applications Available!

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

Garage Sale // April 4

NEW! Fall Community Clean-Up // October, TBA

MONTHLY EVENTS

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

Monday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special District Monthly Trustee Meeting // Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL DISTRICT

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting // Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

Thursday, Feb. 20, 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. Call to confirm date and time!

Homegrown Hillsborough: Strawberries

HC Press Release

Hillsborough County farmers grow more than 60 crops. Each month, on the Hillsborough County website, a seasonal crop, grown locally and available fresh in area groceries will be showcased.

Harvest: Strawberries

When are fresh Hillsborough County strawberries available at local groceries and farm stands?

The harvest begins in November and continues through late March or early April.

What type of strawberries are grown commercially here?

Varieties including Radiance, Sensation, Winterstar, and Festival.

Where are strawberries most commonly grown in Hillsborough County?

Plant City

How many acres are planted with strawberries?

About 10,000 acres are planted for the 2019-'20 season.

How many pounds of strawberries are harvested?

Generally, 25,000 to 30,000 pounds per acre. Weather lately has been great for strawberry planting, and the yield is fantastic.

Fun fact: The Florida Strawberry Festival is held each spring in Plant City, the "Winter Strawberry Capital of the World." This celebration of everything associated with the bountiful fruit has taken place annually since 1930, except for a six-year hiatus during and immediately after World War II.

Local insight: Strawberries will stay fresh longer and taste best if you keep them in the container, place the container in a refrigerator, and wash the berries just before eating them.



IERNA Your Trust - IERNA Your Business



**Same-Day
EMERGENCY
SERVICE
7-Days a Week**



SAME-DAY FREE SECOND OPINIONS

MAINTAIN | REPAIR | REPLACE

A/C & HEATING

**MAINTAIN
21-POINT CLEAN & TUNE**

\$29⁹⁵
\$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

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Cannot be applied to Clean & Tune Service or Drain Service. See dealer for details.

Blmngdl0419
IERNA's | 813-324-1304

A/C & HEATING

REPLACE

FREE ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT

SAVE \$600

W/ PURCHASE OF NEW A/C
MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer valid when purchasing a complete 15+ SEER Bryant comfort system. Cannot be applied to past purchases or estimates. See dealer for details.

Blmngdl0419
IERNA's | 813-324-1304

PLUMBING

MAINTAIN

PLUMBING INSPECTION

INCLUDES:

- 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

up to \$40 OFF

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE
DISCLAIMER - Cannot be combined with any other offer. Based on 20% discount of total repair bill, up to \$40 maximum. Does not apply to service call fee, past work or estimates. See dealer for details.

Blmngdl0419
IERNA's | 813-324-1304

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.

Blmngdl0419
IERNA's | 813-324-1304

EMERGENCY HOTLINE 813-324-1304

SCHEDULE ONLINE
www.IernaAir.com



February Community Calendar

Florida Strawberry Festival Ongoing Through March 8

Days of strawberries, shortcake, big-name concerts, rides, stage shows, attractions, food galore, exhibits, displays, contests, competitions and a berry sweet time for the whole family! Enjoy exhibits of agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture, and crafts. The fabric of American life is woven into the Festival through social events, contests, youth developmental programs, more than 20 top-tier performances on the Wish Farms Soundstage, and parades with glorious floats and high-stepping marching bands. Central to its focus, the Festival continues to preserve and enhance the agricultural and historical legacy of the Florida strawberry. website: www.flstrawberryfestival.com

Twitter: @flstrawberryfst

Instagram: @flstrawberryfestival

#berryfest20



Master Gardener Library Program: Garden Treasures Rediscovered / Feb. 4, 6:30-8 p.m. / Riverview Branch Library, 10509 Riverview Dr., Riverview // Discover ways to reuse items in the garden that are usually thrown out or considered useless. Learn inventive ways to make your garden unique, full of fun and beauty and also provide for garden wildlife. There will be some surprises as usual. Contact Anne Marie Boehm for more information: Email amblibrary@gmail.com or call 813-205-6621



Master Gardener Library Program: The Beauty of Azaleas / Feb. 5, 6:30-8 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. // We will discuss the history of azaleas, varieties, growing conditions, common diseases and propagation. Presentation by Master Gardener Harriet Gord-Noghani Don't forget to bring a plant or other gardening item for our fun drawing. Your Bloomingdale Library Master Gardener Team, Richard Seedroff, Elena Wright, Barbara Glotzback



Veterans Assistance Seminar / Feb. 4, 11:00 a.m. to Noon / The Bridges, 11202 Dewhurst Drive, Riverview //

The Bridges Retirement Community hosts a Veterans assistance seminar on to educate wartime Veterans and their survivors about a benefit through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "Improved Pension with Aid and Attendance." This benefit can help offset the cost of living in a retirement community for a wartime Veteran or his/her surviving spouse. Veterans of any branch of the armed services who served 90 consecutive days on active duty, including one day during a wartime period, may be eligible to receive up to \$1,912 per month for assisted living expenses if they served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam Era or other more recent conflicts (duration of service required may vary). Surviving spouses may qualify to receive up to \$1,230. Dennis Mont'Ros, Veteran Service Officer with Hillsborough County's Department of Consumer & Veterans Services, will provide information and answer questions about this benefit. Lunch provided. Seating is limited. Reserve a seat by calling 813-413-8900.

Consumer & Veterans Services



Florida State Fair 2020

Feb. 6-17, Monday – Thursday

(Excluding President's Day):

Gates open at 10 a.m.; Midway opens at 1 p.m.,

Friday – Sunday & President's Day:

Gates & Midway open at 9 a.m. / Florida State

Fairgrounds, 4800 N US Highway 301, Tampa //

Unlimited thrills. Endless entertainment. Florida fried

food. Discover the family fun! Info at <https://floridastatefair.com/fair-2020/>.



Riverview Garden Club Monthly Meeting / Feb. 12,

10 a.m. / Riverview Civic Center / 11020 Park Dr.,

Riverview //

 No speaker this month, but come get your tools sharpened at this general membership meeting!


A New Way In (To Writing Poems) / Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m.

/ Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave., Room 5 -

Computer Lab //

 Join published poet Stephen Lindow for this two-hour innovative poetry generating workshop which features writing exercises, prompts, word experiments, music, sharing and discussion. Handouts provided.


Bill Carey Sporting Clay Tournament / Feb. 22, 8 a.m.

- 1 p.m. / FishHawk Sporting Clays, 13505 Hobson

Simmons, Lithia //

 Practice your aim and get ready to

join us for the Annual Bill Carey Sporting Clay Tournam-

ent. Tournament registration begins at 8 a.m. and the day

includes tournament, BBQ lunch, and raffle/door prizes. All

proceeds benefit the Bill Carey Brandon Boys & Girls Club.

Raffle prizes include shotgun, pistol, rifle, golf bag, Yankees

items, Rays tickets, Mall gift card, restaurant gift cards, weekend hotel stay and more.

You need not be present to win. Information or Register via Email, Mail or Phone: 510

E Sadie Street | Brandon, FL 33510 | 813-444-0375, Ryan Odiorne | 813-982-3726 |

ryan@odiornefamily.com, Amy Carey Lee | 813-230-4680 | amy1004@aol.com.



The Roaring Twenties Charity Gala / Feb. 22, 5:30 – 10 p.m. / Congregation Beth Shalom Annual Fundraiser at the Elks Lodge of Brandon, 800 Centennial Lodge Dr. // Put on your best 20's apparel and do the Charleston with us. Funds benefit the synagogue as well as the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which funds college for families of the fallen. Tickets \$45 adults, \$10 under age 13, 20% off for members, active military or veterans. Silent and live auctions will take place. Call for more information or to make reservations. 813-681-6547. <https://bethshalom-brandon.org>



Riverview Garden Club Plant and Rummage Sale / Feb. 29, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until sold out! / Riverview Civic Center / 11020 Park Dr., Riverview // CASH Sales ONLY! Come purchase plants, seeds, toys, jewelry, household items, baked goods and more! Free admission and parking! Remember CASH ONLY!

Mark your calendars!

St. Joseph's Hospital-South Invites Community to Birthday Celebration

St. Joseph's Hospital-South in Riverview is turning 5 years old and invites the community to help celebrate the milestone during a free event on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The celebration has something for the entire family and will be held at the St. Joseph's Hospital-South campus, 6901 Simmons Loop, Riverview. Food trucks, snacks and refreshments will be available. Free tote bags will be given to the first 250 guests (one bag per family).

The BayCare screening bus will be available for health assessments. Adult physicians and pediatric physicians will participate in "Ask-a-Doc" sessions. While the event is free, attendees are asked to register by calling 1-800-BayCare or visiting StJosephsSouthBirthday.org.



Children's events include:

Kids' activities, games and DJ

Free face painting

Teddy Bear clinic with a free teddy bear

A real fire truck to explore

St. Joseph's Children's Hospital's "UnMonsters," friendly characters who take

the fear out of hospitals

Adult events include:

Farmer's Market with more than 60 vendors

Complimentary coffee cart

A raffle to win a free membership to the BayHealthHub™ fitness center in Bloomingdale

Timeless Beauty

IN WINDOW TREATMENTS

When shopping for window coverings that fit your needs there are several things that you need to keep in mind:

Your needed level of privacy, the range of ventilation provided, level of protection from the heat and cold, the look and style, and most importantly the cost. All of these are important factors and a Naffco specialist can help you make the decision that you will be satisfied with.

www.NAFFCOFloorAndInteriors.com

SOUTH TAMPA • 254-4066
1510 S. MacDill Ave.

CARROLLWOOD • 961-1362
14306 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

BRANDON • 413-8313
1920 W. Brandon Blvd.

NAFFCO
FLOORING & INTERIORS

Proudly serving Tampa Bay
since 1937.



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 December 2019 and January 22, 2020, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted 125 traffic stops in Bloomingdale east and west. Those traffic stops resulted in 24 citations.

There were 5 crashes with injury, 13 without and 4 DUI arrests at various Bloomingdale entrances and within subdivisions. Also, 17 arrests were made in the Bloomingdale area – Two arrested for burglary, four DUI, four warrants, one personal robbery and other various crimes.

Remember to watch out for what is happening in your neighborhoods and if you see something make sure to call Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency number: 813-247-8200.

Lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors, secure your guns and lock up your vehicles. This will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim.

NO EXCUSES, DRIVE SAFELY

Texting while driving will get you a citation! FSS 316.306, No texting while your vehicle is moving and no touching your phone while in a school or construction zone. This new law was enacted back in July 2019 and warnings have been issued to create public awareness. Billboard signage was also used around school areas, so there is no excuse.

Here are some of the basics:

- Drivers can be pulled over just for being on their phones while driving. They will face fines of \$30-\$100 plus court costs and three points on your license, which can be eliminated by passing a safe driving class.
- Police must get your permission to check your phone, otherwise they need a warrant. They cannot check your phone records through your mobile provider unless there is a crash where someone is killed or hurt.
- The law does not apply when your vehicle is stopped.
- The law does not apply when using maps or navigation.
- There are exceptions for using your phone for safety alerts, like traffic and weather, or for using your phone to call.
- You are also excepted from the law if you are using your phone to call police or report an emergency.
- When driving in school and work zones, you cannot be on your phone at all, and must use a hands-free device.

Complete information is available at: www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/107/BillText/er/PDF

HCSO WEBSITE- A GREAT RESOURCE! [HTTP://WWW.HCSO.TAMPA.FL.US/](http://WWW.HCSO.TAMPA.FL.US/)

- Access Crime Mapping for your neighborhood using your address and a radius up to 5 miles
- Search for arrests and warrant information

Next Bloomingdale Area Community Council Meeting (BACC)!

Don't Forget Our New Time!

Get involved; attend our monthly meeting as a neighborhood representative. Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month. **this month's meeting is Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. at 3622 Erindale Drive.** The BACC works directly with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to identify community concerns and find solutions to all types of problems. For information, call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station.

- Check current traffic accidents or the top accident sites in the county by month
- Request copies of records and reports
- Read the latest incident reports and general news
- Use the contact form to reach out to HCSO with concerns

TIP411: SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE

Keeping our community safe is our top priority. Tip411 helps us in that endeavor. All you have to do is download it to your smartphone or tablet. tip411 is simple yet effective.



You can find the app through the Apple App store or Google Play. Just type in "HCSOSHERIFF" (no space). Download it and keep it handy.

tip411 is easy to use. To send us a tip, press "New Tip." You can also include a photograph or video. Just touch the camera icon at the bottom.

All tips transmit instantly to our Communications Center, where the information is directed to the appropriate area, i.e. patrol, narcotics, warrants, etc.

We monitor tip411 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. And all tips are anonymous.

Remember: in the event of an emergency, always dial 9-1-1.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Just like weeds in your garden, we have to get rid of drug dealers, criminals and would be predators in our communities before they spread! Alerting law enforcement is something residents can do to help remove criminals from our neighborhoods and put them in prison where they belong. Call HCSO at 247-8200 or 911. REPORT!

- Talk to your neighbors. Work together. They may have noticed things you haven't.
- Watch for suspicious activity. Look for warning signs like excessive foot traffic and lots of cars coming in and out of homes.
- Keep an eye out for drug paraphernalia. Users can be careless.
- Record as much detail as you can. Stay safe and don't approach potential criminals.
- Take note of license numbers, car models and types and colors. Write down descriptions of suspicious people- race, sex, height, build, and any identifying features. Be careful.
- Contact law enforcement. Call from a safe place.
- Start a Neighborhood Watch Program. Work with community councils and local deputies.



Together we can help each other make a difference.

Bloomingdale Traffic Annoys Deputy Cliff Fletcher, Too

By Joe Harless

A 22-year veteran of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Master Deputy Cliff Fletcher has to deal with traffic slowdowns just like everyone else in the Bloomingdale area.

"It can be a problem," Fletcher said. "It makes it difficult to handle calls and presents a bigger challenge to responding to them."

Fletcher said the biggest challenges faced by his office include handling complaints and concerns called into the office in a timely manner, a challenge that gets harder when dealing with rush hour traffic.

"We do get calls from citizens complaining about the traffic, and we have to tell them that we don't have any control over that. That's not our role, but it can be hard to tell people that."

While Fletcher encourages citizens to contact his office with any concerns they have about community safety, he also advised some community traffic concerns can be addressed by contacting County Public Works at 813-635-5400. Fletcher added any call to that number will be addressed by the appropriate department.

"That's the number we call with our concerns," Fletcher said.

Still, Fletcher says he's enjoyed his posting in Bloomingdale, which has been his area of coverage for several years. At one point, his area of responsibility stretched from Lithia Pinecrest Road to John Moore Road, but with the population increase and area growth experienced in Bloomingdale over the last few years, that area of responsibility has since stretched past John Moore Road all the way to Highway 301.

When he's not patrolling the area, Fletcher enjoys participating in community activities and events like the Bloomingdale Fall Festival or Riverview's Trick or Treat Street.



D5 Community Resource Deputy Breanna Rodriguez and Master Deputy Cliff Fletcher at the Bloomingdale Fall festival. (File Photo)

2020 NEW YEAR ... NEW YOU!

Medi-Weightloss® The One That Works!®

Lose up to
20 POUNDS
the first month!†

*Alina,
actual patient*

- Clinically proven & evidence based
- Individualized medical supervision
- State-of-the-art technology
- Weekly support & motivation
- Nutritional counseling
- Lifestyle education
- Customized fitness recommendations
- Signature Supplements & Products

\$50 OFF
YOUR INITIAL
CONSULTATION
EXPIRES 02/29/20

BEFORE



MEDI
WEIGHTLOSS®
The one that works!®

BRANDON • 813.654.1110
203 W. Bloomingdale Ave.
Brandon, FL 33511

LUTZ • 813.909.1700
MediWeightloss.com



† On average, patients compliant with the Medi-Weightloss® Program lose 6.4 pounds the first week and 14 pounds the first month. Rapid weight loss may be associated with certain medical conditions and should only be considered by those who are medically appropriate. For Florida patients only: THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS A RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT THAT IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED FEE, OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT. © 2017 Medi IP, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Expiration date 1/31/2020.



Bloomingtondale Through Your Lens!

Bloomingtondale Photographers! The Gazette wants your photos – anything that highlights our people, pets, places and things! Some photos will grace the cover; others will be highlighted in the issue! Send high resolution photos to inbloomingtondalenews@gmail.com.

Here are just a few photos from our super-talented residents!



Photos: Chris and Elizabeth Dennard



For Bloomingtondale resident Dr. Sue Stein, and Tampa residents Willene Haywood, Theresa Quay and Daisy Llorens, Jan 4th was a special day. The group, members of the AARP Tampa Bay volunteer advisory committee, ranged in age from 69 to 74 years young. They gathered at iFLY Tampa to research indoor skydiving as an activity for local AARP members. For info about AARP, email tampabay@aarp.org.



Butterflies in Costa Rica (Photos: Irv Dupre)



Lion Fish at Florida Aquarium (Photos: Irv Dupre)

On and Off the Beaten Path...

(Editor's Note: Periodically, this column will feature things to do around our area. Some will be well-known, while others less so. All, in our opinion, will be places or events that could be an "add" to your personal "bucket list." Should you know of an interesting attraction, let us know. We welcome resident input.)

Let Latitudes Tours Connect You With Florida Wildlife

By Wendy Knipp



He is a Floridian who grew up fishing and boating on the Little Manatee River. She has a degree in Marketing and a passion for local wildlife. Together, Captain Dave Lopez and his wife Nancy began giving tours of the Little Manatee River to friends and family to share their enthusiasm and love of nature. The outings were such a hit that in 2018, Latitudes Tours was born.

Latitudes is a family-owned business located in Ruskin specializing in tours and outings on the Little Manatee River. Their team rounds out with the well-educated tour guide and naturalist Melissa Hildebrant who has a passion for helping animals and sharing her vast knowledge with others. Latitudes offers many fun and educational tours including ecotours, fishing excursions, and sunset cruises. The owners are also flexible and can customize tours. They also help their community by bringing in delicious catering through other local businesses such as Bubba Q's and Texas Roadhouse.

Bloomington resident Libby Baldwin has traveled with Latitudes and says, "Cruising down that river is truly like going back in time with mangroves,

Spanish moss and gorgeous sunsets as far as the eye can see. We almost always see manatees, dolphins, and a huge variety of bird life on every tour. It is a wonderful way to see the true, authentic "Old Florida" that visitors and even many residents never see."

Latitudes Tours is located at 580 Bahia Beach in Ruskin. For information, visit www.LatitudesTours.com.



(Photos by Latitudes Tours)

Latitudes offers a great way to unwind and enjoy Florida nature (left to right: Captain Dave Lopez, Nancy Lopez, and Melissa Hildebrant).

Kids R Kids Learning Academy

6 Weeks thru 12 Years

- Nutritious Meals & Snacks:
 - Low Salt & Sugar
- Spanish & Music
- Brainwaves Curriculum
- ABC Mouse Computer Technology
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)
- Extracurricular Programs
- Outdoor Playgrounds w/Water Park
- Trained Professional Staff Certified in First Aid & CPR
- Security Code Access Entry
- FREE Internet Viewing of Your Child's Day
- Pre-School
- Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten
- Before- and After-School Care
- Summer and Holiday Camps



Happy Valentine's Day!

Infant & Toddler Care

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

813-657-6200
www.krkvallrico.com Lic. CHC431024
4321 Lynx Paw Trail
Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary

813-654-7000
www.krkcirca.com Lic. CHC432384
5815 Kids Crossing Drive
Located between Stowers Elementary & Mosaic

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

Upcoming and Ongoing Events!

2020 Membership Drive: Ongoing through December 2020

Thank you to our many residents who have already joined the Association this year!

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

Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your payment. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions. A \$1 processing fee will be assessed by PayPal.



Up First on March 7, Community Clean-Up: One-Stop Convenience

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

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

Planned at this time are **10 Commercial Roll-offs** for bulk trash, document shredder, serviceable donation drop-off and an electronics recycling company.

We will provide a drop-off point for expired medications through qualified pharmacy representatives. No liquids or sharps will be accepted.

This event is made possible in part by a grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and Office of Neighborhood Relations and is a service the BHA has provided to residents for over 15 years.

If for this reason alone, support the Association and join. Your support helps the Association keep events like this coming.

Donations to help defray event costs are appreciated.

What you need to know:

Not Accepted!

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

NO Yard Waste.

NO old style box televisions.

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

Accepted!

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

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



April 1 deadline for the Community Scholarship: \$2,000 Buys a Lot of Pencils!

Don't let the opportunity for \$2,000 in college scholarship money slip through your fingers.

Applications are available online at www.bloomingdalehoa.com, the BHA office, and via email at bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. The deadline is April 1. Mail completed applications to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596. Or, drop off the application at the office. Good luck, seniors!



Last year's winner was Paige Vodopich who attends the University of Central Florida.

Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!

Important Dates

January 15 - April 1
Applications accepted.

April 1
Application deadline (firm).

May 12
BHA Board meeting
Scholarship winner
announced.



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is proud to sponsor the

Bloomingdale High School

\$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

Requirements:

Candidate

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

Candidate's Parent/Guardian

- **Must be a resident** of the Bloomingdale community.
- Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 2019 membership **dues must be paid prior** to the scholarship application deadline. Membership drive begins January 2020. **Deadline is April 1, 2020.**
- Proof of residency is required.

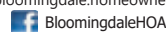
Selection Criteria

- Community service
- Extra-curricular activities
- Well-written essay
- Academic Standing
- Reference letters

Scholarship information will be available January 15, 2020 online at BloomingdaleHOA.com, at Bloomingdale High School and at the Bloomingdale Community Office.



BHA Community Office: 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596 • Monday- Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (813) 681-2051 • Email: bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com • BloomingdaleHOA.com



In April, Community Garage Sale: Let's get selling, Bloomingdale!

Want to participate? Contact the BHA at 813-681-2051 or by email at bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. Provide your community name and address. On the day of the sale, put signage from your neighborhood entrance to your home. The BHA will do the rest.



And finally, the BHA hopes to add a second clean-up in the fall along with the Fall Festival and our annual Santa visit and Charity Food Drive!

Bottom Line: Join! We need you!

BLOOMING IN BLOOMINGDALE

Banner Photo Provided By: Peter and Eileen Kadzielewski

By Gwen Graverson

...HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

UF/IFAS Helps Serious and Casual Gardeners Succeed

Holiday season is over! It's time to get out in your garden and attend to those chores you have been meaning to do.

Thanks to the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Service (UF/IFAS) accomplishing those tasks is made easy through their **FLORIDA GARDENING CALENDAR**. The Gardening Calendar gives Florida gardeners a monthly guide for what to plant and do in their gardens and includes links to useful gardening websites, all based on University of Florida research and expertise.

Know your location and zone and weblink: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/florida-gardening-calendar/>. ...and the rest is simple!

We are part of Central Florida, zone 9b. Our "to do" list for February includes:

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Good performers in South Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia.

Bulbs: Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large, crowded clumps. Provide adequate water for establishment. Some examples include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus.

Groundcovers: Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers.

Vegetables: Winter vegetable gardening is in full swing. Last month to plant cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes for a late spring harvest. Protect crops in the unlikely event of a frost or freeze.

What to Do

Lawns: Fertilize lawn grasses to improve color or coverage. Choose a fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen provides longer-lasting results.

Roses: Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8–9 weeks after pruning.

Shrubs and palms: Fertilize shrubs and palms by spreading fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and watering it in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Delay pruning any cold-damaged branches until new growth starts.

Lawns: Apply a preemergence weed killer (not a "weed and feed") to lawns late this month to prevent germination of warm season weed seeds. Apply when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4–5 days. Timing is important for good control.

(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.)

Avocados and mangos: Disease-susceptible varieties of avocado and mango may require applications of copper fungicide.

Citrus: Fertilize now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree.

Watering your Lawn and Garden

Check the Hillsborough County website for watering days and times. You also have the option to sign up to receive water restriction notifications and water news. The county website: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en>. Phone: 813-663-3251.

The UF/IFAS Extension Service has links to other online resources which includes in part: publications, state/federal agencies, organizations and associations, mobile web apps and plant hardiness zones. There's also a monthly e-newsletter that you can sign up for, called The Neighborhood Gardeners...for homeowners and Master Gardeners. It's filled with Florida-Friendly gardening tips and success stories and is distributed on the second Friday of every month.

For additional information contact the UF/IFAS Extension Service for Hillsborough County, located at 5339 South CR-579, in Seffner, phone: 813-744-5519. Hours, Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm.

DON'T MISS ONE OF THE OLDEST FESTIVALS IN FLORIDA!

The 74th Florida Azalea Festival in Palatka is one of the longest-running festivals celebrated in Florida. Held March 7-8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The kid-friendly event averages over 35,000 visitors and offers a glimpse into true Southern Hospitality with food, music, craft vendors, entertainment, Shriners, Parade and much more. Visit the event page at https://www.facebook.com/pg/flazaleafest/about/?ref=page_internal.





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

HC Press Release

Did you know coyotes are an important part of the landscape in Florida? According to Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC), they help maintain healthy ecosystems by managing populations of rodents, insects, and other small animals.

Did you also know that they are very intelligent and adaptable? Their adaptability is why more are being spotted throughout the United States, including in Hillsborough County, in both rural and urban areas. Due to increased sightings in the Tampa Bay area, Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center teamed up with FWC to provide information on coyotes and curb problems before they become a community issue.

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



Coyote near Holleman Dr
and Natures Way.
(Photo by Resident Tina Ellis)

Do:

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

Don't:

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

Bethany Ezell
call/text

813.404.0567
bezell1@verizon.net

The Ezell/Thompson Team
Signature Realty Associates

Kesia Thompson
call/text

813.240.3855
basstropic@aol.com

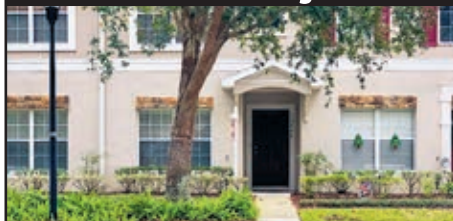


FishHawk – Rental



Gorgeous 5/3/2 home in the Starling area. Upstairs bonus room plus full bedroom and bath. Master and 3 more bedrooms downstairs. Available now for \$2,200/month.

FishHawk Ridge



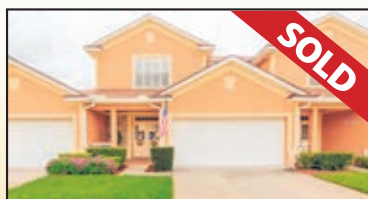
Gorgeous townhome! Wood flooring. Extended screened lanai with wooded views. New appliances. 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths.

5 Acres MOL



Plant City farm. Eight-stall barn. Fully fenced with front and back pastures.

*Put our proven track record to work for you. We help families get their homes sold for top dollar and get the most out of their money when buying. Get Smart...Choose the Best Team for your Family...
The Ezell/Thompson Team.*



Incentives for Military–New Construction Discounts–Listing Incentives—TALK TO US BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME.

The strength of teamwork ... The reputation of results. **www.yourtampateam.com**

Angel Foundation Angel Hearts Lifting Up Families in Crisis

By Deidre Morgan

The Angel Foundation was founded in 2003 by a group of individuals who saw the need to aid people in the Greater Brandon area. The Angel Foundation's mission is to partner with businesses and individuals, to be a caring resource for families and to help ease some of the burdens placed on them by temporary crisis due to a life-threatening illness or a catastrophic event.

Realizing that money is not the only thing needed during a time of crisis, the Foundation steps up to do so much more. They match local business owners and individuals with available resources to help meet needs at a reduced cost or as a donation to the Foundation. During crises, ordinary things that are usually done and taken for granted often go undone, such as lawn care, household maintenance, meals and taking a family to and from treatments.

Liz Brewer started as a volunteer with the Angel Foundation in 2004 because she wanted to give back to the community. Her first volunteer assignment was the annual Golf Classic, which was in its second year. Liz stated that "watching the community come together and support such a worthy cause changed her life". At the time Liz didn't realize that she would come to need the help of the foundation. In 2005, her father was diagnosed with lung cancer and she could not have done everything that needed to be done without the Angel Foundation.

Liz was so moved by what the Foundation did that she wanted to have a bigger role, so she became the Executive Director. Liz said she is blessed to have great community partners such as E.C.H.O, Mission Smiles, Mary and Martha House, YMCA and The Out Reach Clinic of Brandon. Families that need assistance can apply online and an Angel volunteer will meet with the family to assess their needs and provide them with hope and encouragement.

The Angel Foundation host two big fundraisers every year – The Greater Brandon Charity Golf Classic and An Evening of Hope.

The Golf Classic is a two-day event that kicks off on March 27 with a Casino Night and Pairings Party. The Pairing Party is an Auction where you can bid on a celebrity to be paired with for the Celebrity Pro Am Golf Classic on March 28.



Angel Foundation Executive Director, Liz Brewer (third from left) is pictured with Alisha Barone, Assistant Director (far left), Heather Culhane, Operations Manager and Angel volunteer Luisa Kaputo (far right) at the Angel Foundation Headquarters on Millennium Parkway in Brandon.

Photo: Deidre Morgan



2020 Greater Brandon Charity Golf Classic

March 27-28, 2020

HOSTED BY
**Angel
FOUNDATION**
Angel Hearts Lifting Up Families in Crisis

**Forcon International
Casino Night & Pairings Party**
Friday 3/27 ~ 7-10 pm

THE
REGENT

Celebrity Pro Am
Saturday ~ 3/28 11 am
6 pm Awards Dinner

**River Hills
COUNTRY CLUB**

An Evening of Hope takes place on Nov. 6 and is an evening of fun and hearing uplifting stories of those who the Angel Foundation has helped.

The Angel Foundation also has a Junior Angel Program. This program is open to students in the 6th grade and above and they can earn community services hours all year. The program provides training for future leaders of the community with projects at Brandon Regional Hospital, HCSO's Homeless Outreach and the Angel Foundation's Thanksgiving Food Drive for Angel families.

With the support of the community and volunteers who provide countless hours of their time helping those in need, The Angel Foundation is striving to make their vision a reality; to provide an Angel Foundation model that can be duplicated in any community around the world.

To learn more about volunteering, donations or to sign up students for community service hours visit <https://angelfoundationfl.com/>. For more information on the Angel Foundation Greater Brandon Charity Golf Classic visit <https://angelfoundationfl.com/pec-events/charity-golf-classic/>

Looking to explore our many conservation parks? Do you want access to critical emergency alerts and hurricane preparedness tips? Or are you looking for quick and easy information about pet adoption and mosquito prevention without having to surf the web?

Hillsborough County is making it audibly easy to get informed about exciting events, activities and services available throughout the county

With just the click of a button, "What's up Hillsborough?" will bring you the latest newsroom headlines highlighting the wonderful events, programs, and services we have to offer.

Just look for the "What's Up Hillsborough?" icon on the Hillsborough County Newsroom homepage. There, you'll also find a way to listen via your Amazon Alexa device. If you don't have an Alexa device, you can download the free app from the Amazon Appstore, Google Play, or the Apple App Store.

The 2- to 3-minute daily updates can be heard on Alexa-enabled electronic devices. To listen, open your Alexa app and download the Hillsborough County News skill. Then just say: "Alexa, play Hillsborough County News." If you want to start your mornings with our news first, you can edit the order of your flash briefings under settings.

These are even more ways to find quick, convenient news on your schedule. Want to discover more? Stream Hillsborough County Television. Subscribe to Friday 5, a weekly digest of our best headlines sent to your inbox, visit HCFLGov.net, or follow Hillsborough County on social media.

You can also get the Hillsborough Television application for your AppleTV. After downloading, you can find a channel full of original content. Stay updated on local hang outs and events and get an insider's look at local government operations.



DON'T BE LEFT IN THE COLD!
Free WiFi Thermostat with all replacement units!
Time for your Tune-Up or Replacement

Up to \$1500 Trade-In Allowance
with Existing Unit
Up to \$900 in Utility Rebates
Up to 12 Years' Parts & Labor

\$0 DOWN
Convenient Payments Available

\$59
Tune-up Special
Reg. \$99.00

\$150 OFF
New Air Purification System

Good Credit or Bad Credit, 99% Approval Rate!

Call TODAY!
813-964-7155
Offer Expires 2/29/20

Air Masters
of Tampa Bay, Inc. Since 1983
 Air Conditioning & Heating
Family owned & operated since 1983

TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

Home Advisors | Google Guaranteed Contractor
 Angie's List Contractor

Hablamos Español.
*Subject to credit approval and credit limit. See store for details.

CMC1249497

- Initial Set -
TrueXpress Lash Extensions
\$79⁹⁹

TRUEXPRESS™
by dekalash

Lashes You Love in Half The Time!
 Call (813) 344-0725 or book your appointment online at dekalash.com

Deka Lash Brandon
 1935 West Lumsden Road, Brandon, FL 33511

0000053092-01



February School News: A Look at What's Happening

Compiled by Deidre Morgan

February 7 – Florida State Fair Day – Non-Student Day
February 17 – Presidents Day – Non-Student Day
March 2 – Strawberry Festival – Non-student Day



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

School Website: alafia.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Alafia Elementary PTA

Feb. 4 – Kona Ice @ the Hart Parking Lot, 1:50 p.m.

Feb. 6-14 – Book Fair

Feb. 6 – Astro Skate Family Night, 6- 8 p.m.

Feb. 13 – Alafia reading night, 6-7 p.m.

March 3 – Kona Ice @ Hart Parking Lot, 1:50 p.m.

March 5 – Spring Pictures

5th Grade Classes Sponsor Candy Grams

Parents and kids! This is your chance to send a treat bag to your favorite friends and teachers! Treat bags go on sale this month for \$1.



We need donations of Valentine's candy, NO NUTS or CHOCOLATE, Valentine's Day themed pencils, erasers, etc. Drop off your donations to the front desk or to your child's teacher through Feb. 7. More details are coming!

3rd 9 weeks Media Center Reading Challenge

Read Your Way to the Big Game Party!! We'll have BIG Checkers, Tic-Tac-Toe, Jenga, Kerplunk, cup stacking, bowling & Twister!

Meet the Media Center goal by March 13th

KG — Complete Teacher's Reading Logs

1st—5th: 300 myOn Minutes OR Reading Counts Points

1st Grade - 10 pts

2nd Grade - 20 pts

3rd Grade - 30 pts

4th Grade - 40 pts

5th Grade - 50 pts



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

School Website: cimino.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Cimino Elementary Media Center and Cimino PTA

Feb. 12 – Spring Picture Day

Feb. 25 – Cool Cats Awards, PERSEVERANCE, 8 a.m.

Feb. 25 – Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night, 4 p.m.

Feb. 28 – All Pro Dads & Wear PURPLE for Perseverance, 6:30 a.m.

March 3- 9 – Spring Book Fair

March 6 – PTA General Assembly and Family Night, 6 p.m.

Spirit Wear

Wear your Spirit Shirt every Friday!



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

School Website: burns.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Burns Middle School PTSA

Follow us @BurnsPTSA

Feb. 4 – Orchestra Concert, 6 p.m. @ Bloomingdale HS

Feb. 6 – Spring Picture Day

Feb. 10 – Conference Night, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 18- 20 – Math League

Feb. 20 – Burns Soccer vs. Rogers, 6 p.m. @ Bloomingdale HS

Feb. 20 – Chorus Concert, 7 p.m. @ Bloomingdale HS

March 5 – Burns Soccer vs. Randall, 6 p.m. @ Bloomingdale HS

March 6 – Natures Classroom for 6th Grade, 9:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

March 6 – PTSA Spring Dance, 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

School Website: bloomingdale.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Bloomingdale Senior High School

Follow us @BloomingdaleSHS

Feb. 3 – Girls Soccer District Finals, 6:30 p.m., Place TBD

Feb. 3 – Boys Basketball @ Gaither, 7 p.m.

Feb. 3, 4 & 6 – Girls Basketball District Tourney, 7 p.m. @ Bloomingdale

Feb. 4 – Boys Soccer District Final, 6:30 p.m. @ Bloomingdale

Feb. 6 – Conference Night, 4:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.

Feb. 6 – Sophomore/Junior Night, 6 p.m., Auditorium

Feb. 10- 12 – Flag Football Tryouts, 4 p.m.

Feb. 10 – General Athletic Booster Meeting, 6 p.m., Media Center

Feb. 12 – Bloomingdale's Got Talent, 4 p.m., Auditorium

Feb. 15 – Varsity Wrestling @ Wharton, 10 a.m.

Feb. 18 – Boys Lacrosse vs. Newsome, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 20 – Baseball/Softball vs. Plant, 7 p.m.

Feb. 21 – Wrestling District IBT Tour @ East Bay, 3 p.m.

Feb. 22 – Wrestling District IBT Tour @ East Bay, 10 a.m.

Feb. 25 – Baseball/Softball vs. Robinson, 7 p.m.

Feb. 26-28 – FSA ELA & FSA Algebra Retakes, 7:30 a.m.

Feb. 26 – Boys/Girls Lacrosse @ Robinson, 6 p.m.

Feb. 27 – Baseball/Softball vs. East Bay, 7 p.m.

Feb. 28 – Wrestling District IBT Tour, Kissimmee HS, 12 p.m.

Feb. 28 – Boys/Girls Lacrosse @ Durant, 6 p.m.

Feb. 29 – Wrestling District IBT Tour, Kissimmee HS, 10 a.m.

March 2 – Boys Lacrosse @ Tampa Prep, 6 p.m.

March 3 – Flag Football vs. Lennard, 6:15pm

March 4 – Girls Lacrosse @ Sarasota, 7 p.m.

March 5 – Flag Football @ Riverview, 6:15pm

March 5 – Baseball/Softball @ Durant, 7 p.m.

March 6 – Wrestling State Finals, Silver Springs Arena, 10 a.m.

March 6 – Girls Lacrosse vs. Lakewood Ranch, 6 p.m.

March 6 – Boys Lacrosse vs. Bartow, 7:30 p.m.

March 7 – Wrestling State Finals, Silver Springs Arena, 9:30 a.m.



BULL BRIEFS

2020 Bulls Baseball Golf Tournament

Friday, Feb. 7

For more information and to register go to www.bshsboosters.com/baseball-golf-tournament

BSHS Online Booster Club Shop

To get the latest and greatness Bulls Gear visit the Booster Online website at www.bshsboosters.com/shop



Grad Bash 2020 Tickets On Sale Now

Tickets are available in Mr. Cummings' room (307) in the morning BEFORE SCHOOL for \$125 and through MyPaymentsPlus.com. The event is from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m., April 24-25.





Go, Fight, Win!



Photo: Lois Hayes

Congratulations to the Bloomingdale High School Cheer Squad on their 3rd place finish at the Western Conference Cheer Competition. Next, the squad will compete at Disney's Wide World of Sports in Orlando on Feb. 8 for the National Championship. Congratulations to Coaches Tracy DiPrima and Bethany Wallace and the entire Bloomingdale High School Cheer Squad!! Good Luck and Go Bulls!!




Your love, Our expertise




Caring for a loved one with *dementia* can become *overwhelming* and the decision to seek help can feel like giving up. But it's never the wrong choice to get the best care.

Superior Residences offers specialized services for those with Alzheimer's and dementia-related illnesses, from temporary respite care to full-time residency. We give families *peace of mind* knowing their loved one is receiving expert care in a secure, compassionate community.

SUPERIOR RESIDENCES of Brandon
MEMORY CARE

Call to make an appointment today. Visit our community and see how we can work together to give your loved one the best possible care.

(813) 657-8587 • www.SuperiorALF.com
1819 Providence Ridge Blvd • Brandon, FL 33511

Live the Moment...Love the Moment™

Assisted Living Facility #9739




Assisted Living

"Tessera Brandon... Living your lifestyle."

- Active, contemporary-style living
- All-day dining from 7am to 7pm with a bountiful variety of choices
- Pet friendly
- Educational and social opportunities
- Cable and wi-fi included
- Live entertainment from Bach to Big Band

Assisted Living Facility #AL13150



Bill Andrew entertains residents with his music.

Memory Care

"Living the present... cherishing the past."

Call Jill Andrew, Director of Marketing, for a tour.



TESSERA BRANDON

1320 Oakfield Dr., Brandon, FL 33511
(813) 607-6880
tesserabrandon.com

Located in the heart of Brandon close to I75, Hwy 60 and Hwy 301

0000052188-01

Advice from a College Bound Senior

By Audra Nikolajski

Being a high school senior is difficult. This is not to say that life in general is not difficult, but being a high school senior is a very specific kind of difficult. This “difficult” is the result of the sudden pressure to become an adult, and to make adult decisions. I am, of course, referring to the college application process which is currently plaguing me and my fellow seniors.

For those of you who are high schoolers, or have high school aged children, I can offer a fair bit of advice on this topic. The first thing the high schooler should do is download the RaiseMe app. This is a micro scholarship service which works with colleges to grant students money at universities they are interested in by putting in classes, grades, and standardized testing scores. It is real, and it helps. I personally have greatly benefitted from this app, and USF, where I will be attending, has confirmed the funds I earned with it.

The next step is working on SAT and ACT scores and logging community service hours. If a high schooler even briefly considers attending an in-state University, Bright Futures is an amazing opportunity. Next year’s seniors will have a requirement of a 1320 SAT score and 100 community service hours to get the 100% paid tier of Bright Futures. For more information, FloridaShines.org or school guidance counselors are the best resource.

Once senior year rolls around, it is time to start applying. I highly recommend the early admission process if the high schooler knows exactly where they want to go. I did this for USF, and was accepted without even having to write the dreaded college essay.

If writing is not a strong suit, I suggest writing three essays before you begin applying, one about community service, one about your future, and one about an obstacle you have overcome. These will be applicable to college and scholarship applications.

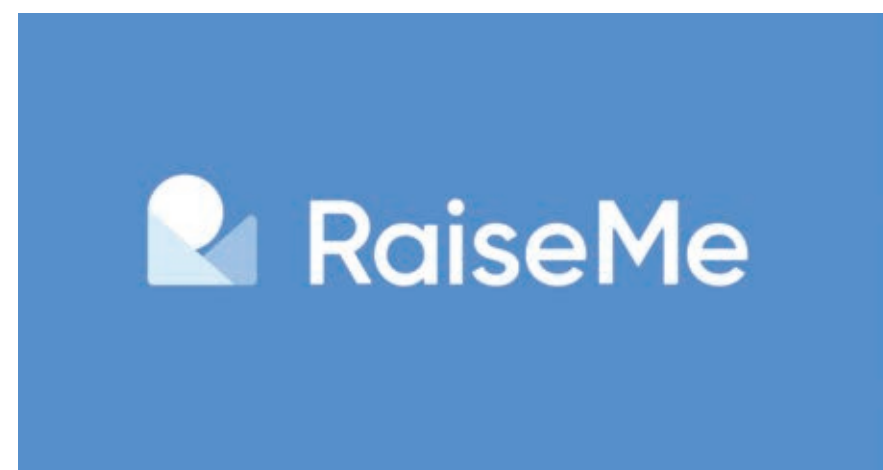
A lot of my friends found the most efficient option was completing the Common App, which included the applications of several in-state universities. Make sure to check in often on college websites for due dates, deadlines, and the status of applications already submitted, if something is awry it will often show up on the student’s application account.

Finally, after the colleges have been applied to, it is time to search for scholarships. I have applied to just under 30 scholarships this year. The task is daunting and I do recommend lots of research and advice from a high school counselor before beginning. Make sure to focus on local scholarship or genuine national scholarships.

Any scholarship that you have to pay to enter, or does not require you to submit a transcript, SAT score, resume, or letter of recommendation, is probably not a genuine scholarship. Do not waste time completing the “5 Minute Scholarships” as they are not likely to be genuine.

Do lots of research! There are scholarships everywhere, local ones, scholarships from fast food chains, clubs you are a part of, even scholarships as specific as those for people who are left-handed.

The college process is daunting, but remember to take a breath and remember that you will end up where you are meant to be, with the people you are meant to be with. Happy applying!





Red Letter Envelope Project It's that time again!

Attention Senior Parent, Guardians, Family and Friends:

Continuing with tradition, we are giving relatives and friends of our 2020 graduates an additional opportunity to honor and recognize our students through the **Red Letter Envelope Project**.

Parents or guardians, please contact grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, teachers, clergy and friends to send a special note of congratulations on his or her upcoming graduation. Send your requests as soon as possible to family and friends through email, phone, or text. This will give them plenty of time to think of what they would like to say to the graduate. We will collect all letters and cards sent to the school and keep them safe and confidential. Every senior will then receive a large RED ENVELOPE filled with these well wishes at the annual Senior Breakfast.



You can bring the cards and letters to the school office and place them in the box labeled "RED ENVELOPE" or you can mail them to the school:

- Send in cards or letters no larger than 8"x10" **NO PACKAGES**
- Keep cards and letters flat
(NO GIFTS OR CONFETTI PLEASE)
- Do not send anything of value; we cannot be responsible for it
(cash, checks, gift cards, etc.)
- If sending several envelopes inside a large envelope, please put student's full name on all envelopes.

ALL CARDS/ LETTERS MUST ARRIVE AT THE SCHOOL BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15. We cannot take anything after this date. Please send your letters as early as possible!

Let's fill our graduates' envelopes and show the class of 2020 that they are special and we acknowledge their achievements over the last 13 years! POC is Project Coordinator Wendy Johnson, wendy@findnewhope.com, 813-505-5184.

STUDENTS FULL NAME
Bloomingdale High School PTSA Red Letter Envelope
1700 East Bloomingdale Avenue
Valrico, FL 33596



Dry cleaning. But cleaner.



Tide Cleaners uses GreenEarth® technology, which is environmentally nontoxic.

CLEAN CLOTHES. CLEAN EXPERIENCE

Cleaners

Carside service. 24/7 drop-off and pickup. Express checkout. We're not just here to clean your clothes. We're here to clean up your entire dry cleaning experience.

1928 E. Bloomingdale Ave 813-662-4243
Store Hours: Mon-Fri 7-7, Sat 8-5, Sun 10-3

50% OFF FIRST-TIME ORDER



BDGZNEW50



Offer valid only when coupon is presented at drop-off. Coupons can only be redeemed by first-time customers for dry cleaning services sold at participating Tide Dry Cleaners locations. They cannot be redeemed for any product sold at any other retail store. Not valid on leather, alterations, household items or wedding dresses. Cannot be used with any other discount or promotion. One discount per household. Offer valid for one-time use through 2/29/2020.

20% OFF DRY CLEANING



BDGZDC20



Offer valid only when coupon is presented at drop-off. Coupons can only be redeemed for dry cleaning services sold at participating Tide Dry Cleaners locations. They cannot be redeemed for any product sold at any other retail store. Not valid on leather, alterations, household items or wedding dresses. Cannot be used with any other discount or promotion. One discount per household. Offer valid for one-time use through 2/29/2020.

20% OFF COMFORTERS + RUGS



BDGZCFTRR20



Offer valid only when coupon is presented at drop-off. Coupons can only be redeemed for dry cleaning services sold at participating Tide Dry Cleaners locations. They cannot be redeemed for any product sold at any other retail store. Not valid on leather, alterations, household items or wedding dresses. Cannot be used with any other discount or promotion. One discount per household. Offer valid for one-time use through 2/29/2020.

0000046843-01

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



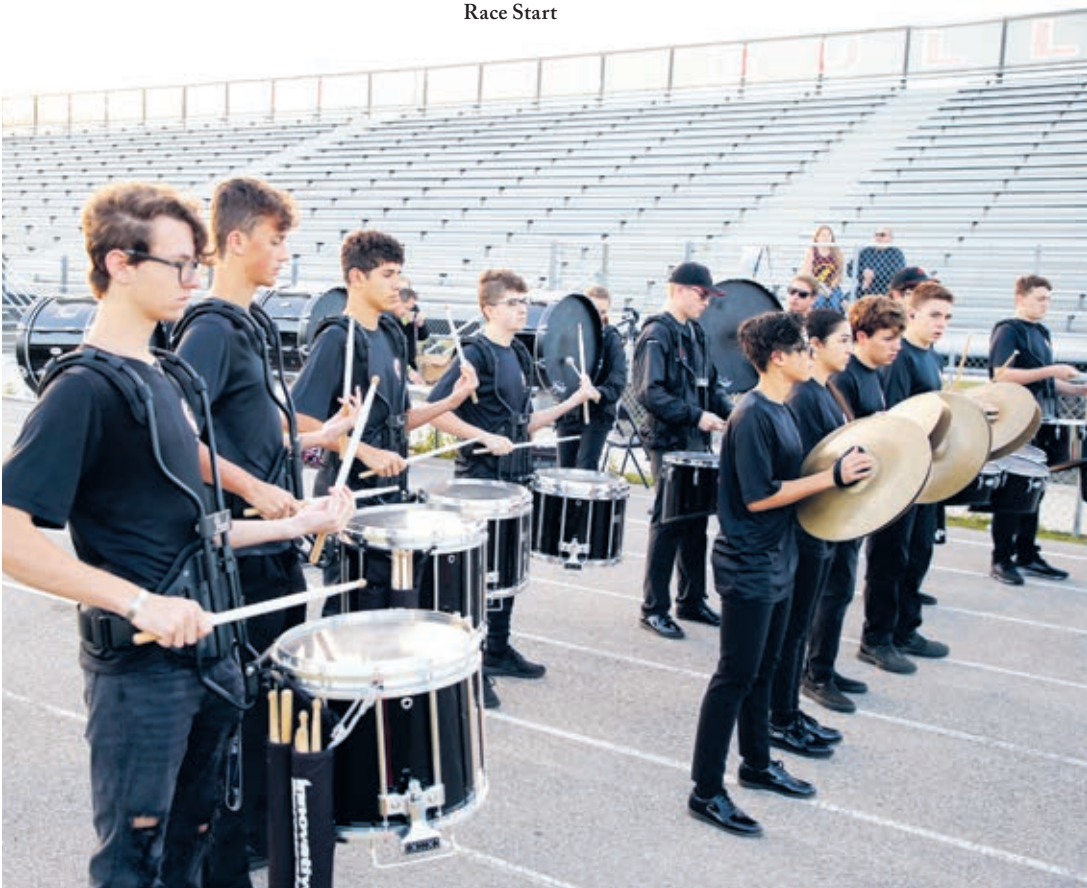
Running of the Bulls 2020

Brief by Jane Owen

The Running of the Bulls 5k took place on Saturday Jan. 18 at Bloomingdale High School. The event, sponsored by the Bloomingdale Band Boosters, supports the Bloomingdale Band and athletic teams. Over 400 people attended the event with 260 registrants, the Bloomingdale Drumline, volunteers and spectators in attendance.



Race Start



Rajun Bull Drumline



Bloomingdale Football Players, David Walden (left) and Jordan Leath



Seth and Jane Owen, Race Coordinators



On the Course (Photo: John Evans)



HTTR Tornadoes Running Group
(Photo by Andy Meng of Stageshot Photography unless otherwise noted)





Pre-race Crowd



Hagenbarth Family (all award winners in their respective age groups)



National Honor Society Volunteers

GET 3 FOR FREE!



If you'd like to sell your bike or your TV, just place an ad in the *Times* for free. From kayaks to couches and machinery, the *Times'* Classifieds sells your stuff **without fee**.

Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com/freeads

Get three lines in the *Times* for free, visit tampabay.com/freeads and see!

VOTED BRANDON'S #1 ROOFING COMPANY 8 CONSECUTIVE YEARS!

SAVE MONEY ON HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE



Tampa Bay's leading family-owned and operated roofing company, **Shingle Masters** provides every re-roof customer with a wind mitigation inspection to measure hurricane protection, saving most homeowners hundreds of dollars each year on insurance.

Shingle Masters also maximizes roof ventilation to lower cooling costs and extend the life of the shingles.

Financing Available. Lifetime Workmanship Warranty Available.



(813) 661-4600

www.Shingle-Masters.com

Licensed Certified General Contractor // CGC 1513621
 Licensed Certified General Contractor // CCC 1328724

We Need Listings!

There are currently only 18
homes in ALL of
Bloomingtondale on the market!
It's a **GREAT** time to sell!

Call Brenda Wade, the agent
who gets your home **SOLD**
for the highest value.



813-655-5333 | 813-924-8677

Brenda@BrendaWade.com | www.BrendaWade.com



0000046289-101