



# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XL 🌿 ISSUE 9 🌿 September 2020 🌿 [www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com](http://www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com)

## Guess What Day It Is?

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Neighborhood  
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Best Communications  
Newsletter Category

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." *Gandhi*

Photo: Jane Owen



# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

## YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

### Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: [Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com)

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

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

**President:** *Suzy Watts*

**Vice President:** *Sean Donahue*

**Treasurer:** *Grace Lewis*

**Directors at Large:**

*Bobbi Ferraro*

*Billy Hightower*

*Charlie Woodcock*



# YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



## JOY BOISSELLE

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The official publication of the BHA since 1980

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



## ANDREA DALY

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### Community Publications Manager

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## CHANGE IS COMING!

*"Progress is impossible without change." George Bernard Shaw*

Sometime this month, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will become the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association. We are changing our name, but not our services and programs.

Truth be told... we have learned through our history which began in 1980 that we have never been a "true" homeowners association. Developers in the 80's and 90's failed to submit paperwork to county to make the BHA a mandatory master HOA.

Our name change is a positive step to make our organization a true representation of what it is and does. Our by-laws and articles of incorporation clearly define our purpose:

*"The voluntary Association's primary purpose is to promote neighborhood cohesion and harmony while protecting property values and the quality of life of residents. This is accomplished through programs and services spearheaded by a volunteer Board of Directors.*

*a) Goals and objectives include but are not limited to:*

- 1. Providing a communication focal point through email, the Bloomingdale Gazette, webpage and social media, as well as periodic mailings to Members.*
- 2. Providing a voice for the community by acting as a liaison with governmental agencies and institutions, businesses and schools in and around our area.*
- 3. Encouraging and facilitating active resident participation in all quality of life issues affecting our community, including land use, transportation, safety and security matters.*
- 4. Organizing neighborhood activities including community clean-up events, garage sales, festivals, and holiday events.*
- 5. Maintaining a strong partnership with schools by providing community service hours for youth, scholarship opportunities, and youth improvement/education programs.*
- 6. Establishing a neighborhood standards program based on county codes to maintain neighborhood aesthetics and to keep the community a great place to live, work and call home."*

It will take some time to convert all our name changes, website, social media, etc. Please know we still need your support! We are still an information resource for residents who need assistance. We don't know all the answers, but we usually know where to go and who to ask for assistance.

**Our new email is** Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com

**New Facebook Page!** <https://www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1>

**Website:** [www. BloomingdaleHoa.com](http://www.BloomingdaleHoa.com)

**Why are we changing our name?** Easy, HOA means many things to many people – some positive, some negative. We want no confusion as to what we are – a voluntary organization that works to promote harmony and cohesion in our community. Rather than an HOA, we are more akin to a civic association. "A civic association is a type of organization whose official goal is to improve neighborhoods through volunteer work by its members." (Wikipedia)

We do hope residents embrace our new name, increase our membership by joining and be more active as we move forward.

### Join in 2020!

As we begin the last half of 2020, we are still below normal membership numbers. Please join. Make your \$35 checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your payment. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to [www.bloomingdalehoa.com](http://www.bloomingdalehoa.com), look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.



### Board Members Wanted

Make a difference in your community. How, you ask? By joining the one organization that seeks to keep Bloomingdale a cohesive and harmonious place to live. Help us grow our services and programs. We need fresh ideas and energetic board members. Make a commitment to help our community thrive.

Not sure you have the time? The BHA encourages all interested residents to attend a few board meetings to see the Association at work, and to determine if joining the board is a good fit. Remember, current board members are residents like you who have the betterment of the community as their number one goal.

## MONTHLY EVENTS

**BHA Board Meeting / Tuesday, September 8, 6:30 p.m.** / Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. / Call 813-681-2051 for information.

**Bloomingdale Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting / Virtual Regular Board Meeting**, Monday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. / Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone at [gotomeet.me/Miriam-Leech/september-14-2020-regular-board-meeting](https://gotomeet.me/Miriam-Leech/september-14-2020-regular-board-meeting). You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (646) 749-3122. Access Code: 228-298-453

**Bloomingdale Area Community Council / HCSO Security and Safety meeting, Cancelled Until Further Notice** / Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040

**Community-Wide Garage Sale** is Postponed until further notice!

BUT, We are offering a **New Service for Residents!**

We will promote your yard sale on our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1>. Send us what, when, where and some pictures of sale items to Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com or [bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com)! We will post the information at least one day prior to your sale! Currently this service is **FREE!**

Continued on Next Page



# BHA COMMUNITY CORNER (CONT.)

LIKE US ON  FACEBOOK!

Please Note: Our event dates may change, be rescheduled or even be cancelled due to COVID-19. We will make decisions based on the safety of our residents.

**Fall Community Clean-Up**  
**Postponed** until further notice!

**Santa - December 6 - Still moving forward!**

Santa is coming! This year will feature a tropical Santa in neighborhood drive-by mode. We will have volunteer elves passing our candy canes and Christmas "duckies." In addition, we will have several stop points where residents can take pictures. This will be a "No Contact" event.



Photo: Jane Owen

These are the fun stories that Bloomingdale Gazette reporters get to cover. Looking for one reporter for lifestyle features. Contact [inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com)!

## The Bloomingdale Gazette Wants You!

If you think you know how to tell a story or "turn a phrase," the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) wants to add your reporting skills to the already talented staff of the community's award-winning monthly newspaper, The Bloomingdale Gazette.

Are you a travel enthusiast, chef, green thumb gardener, or D-I-Y kind of guy or gal? The BHA is also looking for columnists to share their knowledge and experience with the community.

While experience is a plus, energy, enthusiasm, and the ability to meet deadlines is a requirement. The commitment is what you make it – write once every few months or monthly—you choose. Interested? Call 813-681-2051, or email [inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:ronniemclaughlin@kw.com)

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

### What effect has COVID-19 had on real estate in Hillsborough County?

Realtors are wearing masks, carrying hand sanitizer and packing gloves in our vehicles when needed – AND, we are busier than ever! When I took my car in this week to have a nail removed from a tire, the mechanic said that I'm averaging 50 miles a day – that's real estate miles, folks!

Inventory is low so we are driving the buyers to different areas around Tampa Bay looking for the "right" home. Buyers are forced to look at more than one school district, Waterway or commute to work.

According to the Greater Tampa Realtor Association (GTR), Hillsborough County closed home sales were up 8.3% from July 2019 to July 2020. The average sales price jumped from \$321,689 in July 2019 to \$365,721 or 13.7% in July 2020. The median sales price jumped from \$258,065 to \$289,470 or 12.2%. GTR took the total active sales from the last day of July 2020 at 4468 and compared them to the last day of July 2019 at 2530 active listings. Overall, this is a decrease of 43.4%.

Which price range is selling the most? The \$300-\$399K range increased 19.4% and the \$400-\$599k range increased 49.4% year over year for the month of July. Median number of days to contract was at 21 days vs 28 days last July.

If you are thinking of selling, now is a great time while inventory is low. If you are thinking of buying, the interest rates are still at an all-time low.





# Expert **ER** Care

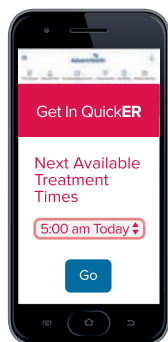
## Now Open in Brandon

To learn how we are keeping you safe from coronavirus, visit [YourCareYourNetwork.com](http://YourCareYourNetwork.com)

### Full Service **ER** Now Open

When an emergency happens, know you've got a team you can trust. Our new 24-hour ER offers the same level of emergency care found at our hospital to help you get back to your life and back to feeling whole.

**AdventHealth Brandon ER**  
305 East Brandon Boulevard  
Brandon, FL 33511



For non life-threatening emergencies, you can schedule online at [GetInQuickER.com](http://GetInQuickER.com) and wait in the comfort of your home.

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**IERNA's | 813-324-1304** Blmngdl0220

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

By Jane Owen

It's hump day at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds! The Camel Kingdom Drive-thru event is sponsored by America's Show Camels, Inc, based out of Ocala. Owners Ryan Henning and Ian Garden are thrilled to offer this event and take great pride in their unusual humped friends.

While their camels are often showcased at events all over the country, all of their events were canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Familiar with our area because the camels are part of the yearly Wonderland of Lights holiday event, the camel viewing is a way to give back to the community and give the camels additional interaction with people.

The FREE Camel Kingdom Drive-thru event showcases rare snow-white camels and blue-eyed black and white spotted camels. You will enjoy seeing and learning about these unique creatures from the comfort of your own car, up close and personal—and did we say, it's FREE.

The beautiful animals are within feet of your car as you drive through. The camels may be playing, sleeping, chewing on tree branches, getting a shower, watching you drive through or socializing with each other.

You're social distancing having a good time and the camels are getting a chance to socialize. It's a win-win!

Henning explained, "We enjoy providing a first class, unique, educational family fun experience for the community. Seeing everyone taking pictures, pointing, waving and hanging out their windows or sunroofs to see the camels speaks volumes as to how well the event is received by the community."

You can stay as long as you like and drive through as many times as you desire. The animal care staff is on hand to answer questions. In addition, there is camel information being shared on speakers and fun facts on signs along the way.

Henning and Garden are dedicated to the excellent care of their camels. Henning explained that his favorite part of his job is building his strong relationship with the camels. "It's a relationship based off of mutual trust, respect and understanding. We hope everyone comes out to see for themselves how loved and well cared for they truly are."

**Details:** Now- Sept 13 Thursdays – Sundays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Location: Hillsborough County Fairground, 215 Sydney Washer Road, Dover FL

Donations for animal care are greatly appreciated! Receive a \$5 savings on your family visit to The Wonderland of Lights holiday drive-thru and village. Follow America's Show Camels, Inc. on Facebook for more info about the camels.



## Fun Camel Facts!!

- Camels store fat in their humps, NOT water.
- A camel's long eye lashes helps keep sand out of it's eyes in the desert.
- A camel is pregnant for 13 months.
- A newborn baby camel weighs about 50 pounds
- Camels can live for over 40 years.
- Camels can close their nostrils to keep the sand out during a sandstorm.
- Camels have two toenails on each foot.
- Camels can carry their own body weight for long distances.

Photos: Jane Owen



One of the snow-white camels is named Olaf. He's a bit of an artist. His prints are available for purchase. (Proceeds support animal care.)





# SEPT COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*All events are subject to change.  
Check with organizers to confirm information.*

**Virtual Event!** Sept. 2, TODAY!, 3 to 3:30 p.m. / Hurricane Preparation in the Midst of a Pandemic/ AARP Florida / Contact: <https://local.aarp.org/tampa-fl/aarp-events/>, Email: [flaarp@aarp.org](mailto:flaarp@aarp.org) // We are well into the 2020 hurricane season and



a worldwide pandemic. If a storm comes, are you prepared? Join AARP for a panel discussion with Tampa Bay Emergency Management moderated by ABC News Chief Meteorologist Denis Philips. The event will be livestreamed on the AARP Florida Facebook page and YouTube channel. Learn more about what your county is doing to ensure your safety and what you can do to prepare and protect yourself and your loved ones. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and share their own best practices by posting live during the event. Register today if you would like to receive a direct link to this virtual event.

**Sep. 12, 9:30-11 a.m. and Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 5 / Free Music Workshop! / Music Showcase, 402 Oakfield Drive, Brandon** // Calling All Mini-Musicians! Children ages 5-10 can attend a Free workshop to learn about music and instruments. This fun and interactive workshop allows children to hear and see band and orchestral instruments like the trumpet, flute, or violin and they get to try them out themselves. Kids will also make an instrument that they get to take home along with a goody bag. It's free, but you must register in advance at [faopa.org](http://faopa.org).



**Sept. 15 / TAMPA VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR AND JOB FAIR / For more information about this event visit our website: <https://www.nationalcareerfairs.com>** // Find a better job at our FREE Tampa Virtual Career Fair. It is a must attend. Meet with top hiring companies in Tampa. Job Seekers MUST create a Free Virtual Profile to attend a Virtual Hiring Event. Benefits for Job Seekers: Conduct live online one-on-one virtual



interviews with nationally known employers at The Tampa Virtual Job Fair. No more sending your resume in to the black hole and waiting for a phone call. Safety – No contact necessary. Chat with a recruiter from the comfort of your home at a convenient time. Build a video profile that is continually viewed by employers. All you need is an internet connection!

**Oct. 2 and 3 / The Greater Brandon Charity Golf Classic, River Hills Country Club / Benefitting The Angel Foundation / [AngelFoundationFL.com](http://AngelFoundationFL.com)** // The 18th annual Greater Brandon Charity Golf Classic presented by Star Distribution will kick off the weekend with the Forcon International Casino Night & Pairings Party at the beautiful venue, The Regent. Your tickets include food, drinks, casino-style gaming and lots of fun as players bid on a "celebrity" to play golf with on Saturday. The Celebrity Pro Am Golf Tournament kicks off at 11:30 am at River Hills Country Club with our Welcome Reception, competitive challenges on the course, raffles, our exclusive Bahama Breeze Party Tent and the day wraps up with the Award Celebration.



**Boy Scout Troops 482 and 483 delivering mulch! Buy Now for October delivery!**

On Oct. 17 & 18, The Scouts will be delivering and spreading mulch to replenish any that has been washed or blown away during hurricane season! Now is the time to place orders as the two semi-trucks the Scouts order will be sold out fairly quickly. Due to COVID-19, the troop is limiting door to door sales to respect both the Scout and the customer health and safety. A website was created for orders this year. Please feel free to go to the website and place your order today.

Go to [www.ScoutMulch.org](http://www.ScoutMulch.org). Thank you for Supporting Scouts!"



**TROOP 482 & 483**

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**MULCH DELIVERY PLANNED**

**FOR OCTOBER 17th & 18th**



**SCOUTMULCH.ORG**

All profits from this fundraiser will go to Scout advancement, training, awards, and purchasing essential equipment.





## Bloomingdale Around the World!

### Staff Report

It is a small world after all – Bloomingdale graduates can meet in the most unexpected places as is the case with these two former Bulls. 2018 BSHS graduate Spc. Bri Patton and 2015 graduate Pfc.

Faith Waller found one another while stationed at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. Bri is a Health Care specialist aka combat medic who works at the COVID swabbing center Waller is a Licensed practical nurse (LPN) working at the Brian D Allgood Community Hospital OBGYN clinic.

Bri is the daughter of Pamela Reeves, a Burns Middle School art teacher extraordinaire.



## Living In COVID: Allergies Disguised My COVID Symptoms And Ignored Warning Signs

By Libby Hopkins



Kevin Hayes of Valrico started having COVID-19 symptoms on June 15.

Most COVID-19 survivors living in Florida first assume the congestion or runny nose they are experiencing is due to allergies. That's what Kevin Hayes of Valrico thought when he started having symptoms on June 15 of this year.

"I figured it was my allergies until, on June 18, I developed a fever," Hayes said. "The next day, my fever shot up to 102 and I ended up at Baycare Urgent Care on Bloomingdale Ave., where I was diagnosed with bacterial infection in my respiratory system. I was given antibiotics and told to go home and rest. I asked for a COVID test but they wouldn't give me one. The doctor who saw me said, 'I was too healthy to have COVID.'"

The next day, Hayes' temperature spiked and he was starting to have other COVID-19-like symptoms. Since Hayes is a retired Navy SCPO/EB with 21 years of service, he decided to go to MacDill to see if he could get a COVID-19 test done at the hospital on base. Sadly, Hayes was turned away and not given a test.

"They refused to give me a test," Hayes said.

On June 24, Hayes was still not feeling any better, so he went to the Tampa General Emergency Room in Brandon. "They were absolutely wonderful and gave me a COVID test," Hayes said. "Forty-five minutes later, my results were in and they confirmed that I had COVID and pneumonia."

Hayes' girlfriend had purchased a pulse oximetry to check Hayes' oxygen levels while he was home resting. When she checked his oxygen level on June 27, his level was at 87. "She insisted I go to the hospital and I agreed to go," Hayes said. "I was admitted within 15 minutes and about three hours later I was in ICU."

Hayes received excellent care while he was at the main campus of Tampa General Hospital.

"The doctors and staff were very attentive to my care, and me," Hayes said. "While I was there, I was given hot oxygen treatments to help break up the sticky stuff in my lungs. I was three steps away from being put on a ventilator if I didn't have this treatment."

Hayes strongly feels that if it weren't for his girlfriend buying the pulse oximetry and checking his oxygen levels, he wouldn't be here today.

"If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you need to buy this \$25 gadget because it's what saved my life," Hayes said. "Without seeing how low my oxygen level was, I might have not gone to the hospital."

Hayes came home from the hospital on July 7 and even though he is on oxygen in him home, he is improving daily.

Reprinted Courtesy of:  
**OBSERVER**  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



# Hurricanes and COVID-19: Thanks for passing us by, Laura!

Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Planning for hurricane season and other potential disasters can be stressful, and because the 2020 hurricane season comes during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, it may be especially so.

Public health and emergency response professionals have advice to help you safely prepare, evacuate, and shelter for severe storms while protecting yourself and others from COVID-19. Here are some tips to help you and your family stay safe during hurricane season this year.

## PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

- Understand that your planning may be different this year because of the need to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
- Give yourself more time than usual to prepare your emergency food, water, and medicine supplies. Home delivery is the safest choice for buying disaster supplies; however, that may not be an option for everyone. If in-person shopping is your only choice, take steps to protect your and others' health when running essential errands.
- Protect yourself and others when filling prescriptions by limiting in-person visits to the pharmacy. Sign up for mail order delivery or call in your prescription ahead of time and use drive-through windows or curbside pickup, if available.
- Pay attention to local guidance about updated plans for evacuations and shelters, including shelters for your pets.
- When you check on neighbors and friends, be sure to follow social distancing recommendations (staying at least 6 feet from others) and other CDC recommendations to protect yourself and others.
- Prepare to evacuate
- If you may need to evacuate, prepare a "go kit" with personal items you cannot do without during an emergency. Include items that can help protect you and others from COVID-19, such as hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, bar or liquid soap, disinfectant wipes (if available) and two masks for each person. Masks should not be used by children under the age of 2. They also should not be used by people having trouble breathing, or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the mask without assistance.



- Know a safe place to shelter and have several ways to receive weather alerts, such as National Weather Service cell phone alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, or (@NWS) Twitter alerts.



- Find out if your local public shelter is open, in case you need to evacuate your home and go there. Your shelter location may be different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- If you need to go to a disaster shelter, follow CDC recommendations for staying safe and healthy in a public disaster shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Follow guidance from your local public health or emergency management officials on when and where to shelter.
- Make a plan and prepare a disaster kit for your pets. Find out if your disaster shelter will accept pets. Typically, when shelters accommodate pets, the pets are housed in a separate area from people.
- Follow safety precautions when using transportation to evacuate. If you have to travel away from your community to evacuate, follow safety precautions for travelers to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
- Staying with friends or family
- If you will be staying with friends or family outside your household to evacuate from the storm:
- Talk to the people you plan to stay with about how you can all best protect yourselves from COVID-19.
- Consider if either of your households has someone who is at higher risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults or people of any age who have underlying medical conditions. Make sure everyone knows what they can do to keep them safe from COVID-19.
- Follow everyday preventive actions, including covering coughs and sneezes, washing your hands often, and avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Consider taking extra precautions for people living in close quarters.
- Know what to do if someone in your family or in the household you are staying with becomes sick with COVID-19. Take steps to keep your pets safe.

## GET CONNECTED. STAY ALERT.

For more information on COVID-19, and any other potential emergency in the region, visit [HCFLGov.net/StaySafe](https://www.hcflgov.net/StaySafe) and sign up for the HCFL Alert system. Additionally, you can follow Hillsborough County on social media at Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor for updates. For general County information, call (813) 272-5900, the County's main information line.



# Wear Your Masks, Bloomingtondale!

Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

## WEAR A MASK!

Masks are an additional step to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with every day preventive actions and social distancing in public settings.

- **CDC recommends that people wear masks in public** and when around people who don't live in your household.
- **Masks should NOT be worn by children under age 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing**, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- **Do NOT use a mask meant for a healthcare worker.** Currently, surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.

## WEAR YOUR MASK CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent

## WEAR A MASK TO PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect others in case you're infected with COVID-19 but don't have symptoms
- Wear a mask in public settings when around people who don't live in your household, especially when it may be difficult for you to stay six feet apart
- Wear a mask correctly for maximum protection
- **Don't** put the mask around your neck or up on your forehead
- **Don't** touch the mask, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect





## Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co. and Rockstar Lobster Partner to Mesh Beer and Lobstah!

By Jane Owen



Beer and lobster – a meal for a king or queen some might say. On Sept. 3, Rockstar Lobster Food Truck will park permanently at Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co. bringing foodies a place to enjoy locally-brewed great beer and sweet lobster flown in from Maine, weekly.

Rockstar Lobster owner Alex Paulin is from Maine and is thrilled to be part our communitycommunity. “We are extremely excited to partner up with Bullfrog Creek, they gave us our first break about 2 years ago and the community has supported us every step of the way.”



For Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co., it was not only a natural pairing but a way to continue to support another local business. The brewery has hosted food trucks continually before and during the COVID pandemic.

Brewery owner Jamie Ratcliff loves supporting local community and businesses. With the pandemic, the brewery needed to change to have a stable, regular food offering. “We are going to go with one of the most popular food trucks we have ever had here-- Rockstar Lobster.”

Rockstar Lobster offers authentic lobster rolls. They also serve hotdogs, chicken nuggets and fried macaroni bites. In addition, plans are in place for them to serve Haddock and support Bullfrog’s Taco Tuesday night.

Paulin is enthusiastic about starring the new venture and catering to the Valrico location: “It will be an exclusive menu to only this location to increase variety and target all the different eaters along with adding some more New England Delicacies. We will be adding daily and monthly specials along with limited time offer items.”

Location: 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Road

Hours: Starting Sept. 3, Mon-Sat, Noon-9 p.m.; Sunday, Noon-8 p.m.

On Facebook: Search @rockstarlobster and @bullfrogcreekbrewing



Photo: Jane Owen

Ashley Sircy and Alexis Teague get ready to serve Bull Frog Creek patrons from the Rockstar Lobster Food Truck.

## The Rustic Door Opens 2nd Location in Valrico

By Jane Owen



The Rustic Door, formerly located on Parsons in Brandon, is opening two bigger locations: one in Brandon on Lumsden and one in Valrico in the River Hills Plaza (the same center as The Landing).

The Rustic Door carries custom built and refinished furniture, home decor, local soy candles, handcrafted wood signs, handmade wreaths, MudPie, Erimish, Toffee Tradition, Anna Clayton Jewelry, Wise Owl synthetic chalk paint and more.

The Valrico store, to be located at 4367 Lynx Paw Trail, opens on Sept. 12 and will hold a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting with the Valrico Fish Hawk Chamber on Sept. 19.

On Sept. 27, the Valrico Rustic Door will kickoff their market season by hosting vendors outside. Interested vendors should email therusticdoor-market@gmail.com

New Location: 4367 Lynx Paw Trail, Valrico, FL  
Facebook: @TheRusticDoorTampa







## Thank You, Mrs. Keith for 31 Years of Great Teaching

By Jessica Hinson

After eight years in Miami then 23 years at Burns Middle School, beloved math teacher Virginia Keith has retired. Many students and co-workers surprised her with a drive-by parade on Aug. 14 to wish her good luck in her retirement.

Fellow teacher Shelly Teal stated, "Mrs. Keith is truly the teacher every child deserves. She is passionate about challenging her students to reach their full potential, as mathematicians and young adults. I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for Burns, her students, and for me as a teacher."



Virginia Keith in black mask is surrounded by a few of her students at a surprise retirement parade in her honor. Virginia Keith was one-in-a-million and she will be deeply missed in the years to come. Photo: Jessica Hinson

School News!



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

Compiled by Deidre Morgan

**\*\*\*School Calendar information is tentative. Please follow school websites social media pages as well as the Hillsborough County Public School website for up to date information. \*\*\***

**September 7, 2020 - Labor Day - No School**

**REMINDER: Face coverings are required on our campuses. Medical exemptions must be certified by a licensed medical provider. Parents must complete this form and submit to the school: <http://bit.ly/HCPSExemption>**



CANVAS: The New Hub of Learning

The Hillsborough Canvas FAMILY Guide provides parents and guardians with helpful information for using Canvas to support and monitor student academic progress. Access the guide at <https://hcpscanvasproject.azurewebsites.net/> and <https://sdhc.instructure.com/courses/3146>



## ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

School Website: [alafia.mysdhc.org](http://alafia.mysdhc.org)

Facebook Page: Alafia Elementary PTA

## LUNCH SERVICE

Starting Aug. 24, Alafia will be serving Grab & Go Meals on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 10 am to 11 am. Parents will use the Carline loop for picking up meals.

On Monday and Wednesday, students will receive: •two breakfasts• one hot lunch entree• one heat and serve lunch entrees. On Friday, they will receive: •one breakfast• one hot lunch

From 8/24-8/31: ALL eLearners & Brick/Mortar students welcomed.

From 8/31 & after: eLearners only (as B/M will be back on campus for these meals)

## RULES:

Student must be registered at a HCPS school site to be eligible for meals. Breakfast remains free for all students. Lunch price is \$2.25 for full pay students. Lunch for free and reduced students is at no cost. Full pay e-learners may decline the lunch if they choose and only pick up the grab and go breakfast. **No cash payments will be accepted in the car line.**

If parents wish to fill out a meal application they can do so at: <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/.../school-meal-benefits/53-648/>. Parents are encouraged to use the meal pay app to add funds to student accounts or drop off funds at the front office. <https://www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome>. Parents are encouraged to pick up the meals at their students' registered school sites.

If there are any questions or concerns parents can reach out to Jessica Duvall, Alafia SNS manager at 813-744-8190 ext. 253.



## CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

School Website: [cimino.mysdhc.org](http://cimino.mysdhc.org)

Facebook Page: Cimino Elementary Media Center and Cimino PTA

**\*\*No Information Available at this Time\*\***

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



## BURNS BRUINS BANTER

School Website: [burns.mysdhc.org](http://burns.mysdhc.org)

Facebook Page: Burns Middle School PTSA  
Burns PTSA

**\*\*No Information Available at this Time\*\***



## BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

School Website: [bloomingdale.mysdhc.org](http://bloomingdale.mysdhc.org)

Facebook Page: Bloomingdale Senior High School  
Follow us @BloomingdaleSHS



Bdale Football  
@Bdale\_Football

Bulls Football Schedule

2020 Football Schedule. #TPW

9/11/2020 vs Armwood

9/17/2020 vs Durant

9/25/2020 @ TBT

10/2/2020 @ Plant City

10/9/2020 BYE

10/16/2020 vs Kathleen

10/23/2020 @ Lakeland

10/30/2020 @ Strawberry Crest

11/6/2020 vs Steinbrenner

## Back-to-School Photos Wanted

The Bloomingdale Gazette wants your back-to-school photos. Let us know if your child is at "brick and mortar" school, virtual school or home school.

Please send us hi-res photos (as close to or larger than 1 MB) with names and school attending no later than Sept. 19 for our Oct. 7 issue!

Send to:  
[inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com)





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**20% OFF**  
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\*BDGZCFTRR20\*



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





## Cimino preps for 2020-2021 School Year!

The 2020-2021 School Theme asks the question; Got Grit? At Cimino, they value the importance of developing strength of character by focusing on these traits: G -Growth Mindset, R -Respect, I -Integrity, T -Tenacity. Teachers work on their GRIT projects to kick start the new year and collect supplies for Cimino students.



Debi Dowd and Mindy Davis taking a break from the rain while handing out e learning materials and collecting supplies that are being dropped off by brick and mortar students at Cimino.



## BSHS Staff and Teachers Celebrate Spirit Week





## The Gazette Wants Student Newshounds!

Want to see your name in print and be a published writer? The award-winning Bloomingdale Gazette is pleased to offer you “your name in lights” and an opportunity for community service hours. While helping to keep your community in-the-know, you will also hone your writing and photography skills. For those college-bound students, the writing piece is a must-have skill!

We are looking for responsible individuals who can meet deadlines and are willing to write about school events, sports and special interest stories. Clear direction and guidance will be given, so don't let nerves stop you from considering this opportunity. One student writer is now working part-time with the paper while attending college locally.

Community service hours will be determined based on the assignments given, but will not normally exceed five hours per assignment. Call 813-681-2051 or email [inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com). Deadline is coming, call soon!



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