



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XL 🍁 ISSUE 10 🍁 October 2020 🍁 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

Boo! Or Hoo!

SEE THE STORIES ON PAGE 10

Photo: Jane Owen



This Month



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PLEASE ♻️ RECYCLE

WINNER

2013, 2014, 2016 & 2018

Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
Newsletter Category

"When black cats prowl and pumpkins gleam, May luck be yours on Halloween." *Unknown*



YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association, Inc.

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

Email: B1.Neighbor1@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

BNA 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

Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette

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Staff Writers: Joe Harless, Michelle Colesanti,

Deidre Morgan, & Jane Owen

The official publication of the BNA since 1980

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



ANDREA DALY

Tampa Bay
Times

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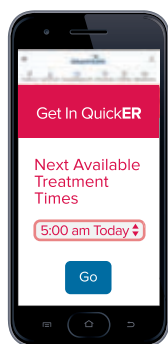
Expert ER Care Now Open in Brandon

To learn how we are keeping you safe from coronavirus, visit 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
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Brandon, FL 33511



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In case of a life-threatening medical emergency, call 911.

AdventHealth
Brandon ER

A hospital department of AdventHealth Tampa

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BNA COMMUNITY CORNER

WWW.BLOOMINGDALEHOA.COM, COMING SOON WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE!

CHANGE IS HERE! REPRINT FROM LAST MONTH

"Progress is impossible without change." George Bernard Shaw

Soon, 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 BNA 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. The old email is still operational for now.

LIKE US ON  FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1>

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.

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 BNA 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.

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 BNA 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

Bloomingdale Special District Monthly Trustee Meeting / Virtual Regular Board Meeting, Monday, October 12, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. / For information on how to join in, call 684-6667 or email bstd@verizon.net

BNA Board Meeting / Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. / Call 813-681-2051 for information

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

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 out 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.



Continued on Next Page

BNA BRIEFS

MANY THANKS, DEIDRE MORGAN!

Thank you is not enough for our senior staff reporter Deidre Morgan. While we will still see her work in the Gazette from time-to-time, she has decided to take some time and concentrate on family. Deidre began writing for the Gazette in 2013, coincidentally, the first year the paper won the Hillsborough County Communications Award.

She has literally covered 100's of stories of all kinds, with a concentration on our community schools. Her favorite stories include Relay for Life, the IncrediBull Games, all things Bloomingdale Football, athlete signings, Sue Burkett Honorary Mayor and The Bernsten Family-Sammy, the lost and found dog.

"For the first time in seven years, I'll now watch these awesome events as a spectator and not as a reporter, while anxiously awaiting the birth of our first grandchild," she explained.

Why be a part of the Gazette? Deidre said, "Residents should consider working for the Gazette because not only do you get to cover worthwhile and fun events but you meet fellow neighbors and members of the community that you may not otherwise get to meet. Seeing all the good people and great things that they do fills your heart and soul and you get to see first-hand what our community is all about."

We wish Deidre the best! The new grandbaby will be one very luck little guy!

GOOD-BYE, WENDY KNIPP!

Saying goodbye is never easy, but even more so when the one who's leaving has been an integral part of our award-winning newspaper, The Bloomingdale Gazette. Wendy Knipp picked up her pad, pencil and camera in 2016. As a reporter, she covered lifestyle events, sports, businesses and BNA events including Fall festival, community clean-up and Santa's visits. She guest-edited when the editor was out for surgery and health issues ensuring a seamless transfer of responsibility and publication.

Wendy said, "The best part of writing for The Bloomingdale Gazette is the opportunity to



Courtesy Photo

The Morgan Family: Back row from left, Will, Deidre, Terry and Natalie. Front from left: Brandy (dog), Crystal, Ben, Daniel and Bailey (dog).



Courtesy Photo

get to know your neighbors and the businesses that make up this amazing community. I've lived in Bloomingdale Estates for 22 years, but I've learned more about it in the last 4 years in writing for the paper than I did that entire time. From the schools to the businesses to just meeting neighbors through Yard of the Month. Also, working with such an inspiring and talented team of writers and of course the editor, Joy made it all worth it. Everyone who works here simply loves the Bloomingdale community."

Thanks, Wendy! There will always be a by-line available for you here!

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! We will post the information at least one day prior to your sale! Currently this service is FREE!

BNA TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMPO YMCA TRUNK OR TREAT ON OCT. 23.

For those that love our Fall Festival Halloween rubber duckies, we will be passing them out along with details on the upcoming Dec. 6 Santa visit and information regarding our new name. See Campo Y details on page 6.



VANDALISM CONTINUES AT BLOOMINGDALE PARKS

Early last month, residents awoke to two of four brand new tennis nets missing at Bloomingdale East Park This comes on the heels of the massive graffiti tagging in July/August. For those new to the area, the parks in Bloomingdale East and West belong to Hillsborough County. The parks have just had renovations completed totaling over \$600,000. We need residents to be vigilant. If you see something suspicious, report it to the HCSO. Let's stop this nonsense!



BACK TO SCHOOL with new CDC Guidelines



- Full and Part-Time Options
- Open M-F 6:45am to 5:30pm
- Spanish & Music
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)
- 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
- ABC Mouse Computer Technology
- Brainwaves Curriculum

Children's Safety First,
That's the Kids 'R' Kids Way.

Here for the families who need us.



Infant & Toddler Care

- Pre-School
- Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten
- Before- and After-School Care
- Summer and Holiday Camps



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813-654-7000
www.krkcirca.com
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Located between Stowers Elementary & Mosaic
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Now Servicing Stowers,
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Lithia Springs, Foundation Christian,
Alafia and Cimino.

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SAME-DAY FREE SECOND OPINIONS

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

EMERGENCY HOTLINE 813-324-1304

SCHEDULE ONLINE
www.IernaAir.com

OCT COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HALLOWEEN AND FALL EVENTS!

Fridays and Saturdays Now to Oct. 31, 4 to 10 p.m. / Creatures of the Night at ZooTampa at Lowry Park / 1101 W Sligh Ave, Tampa / Tickets at zootampa.org / Creatures of the Night is returning to ZooTampa in 2020 with safety modifications to ensure nothing ghoulish happens. This year's theme, "Campfire Tales!" includes new outdoor experiences like Dinos out of Time and Camp Creepastic, and new spooky characters like the clowns of Clown Carousel. Some crowd favorites are returning to this year's event like the whimsical Pumpkin Palooza and the spooky forgotten coastal town of Rising Waters. Enhanced health and safety precautions are in place including a non-invasive temperature check at the front gate. You must wear a face mask when in indoor areas, so keep your face mask handy. Kids 12 and younger may wear a costume. Toy weapons are prohibited.



GET YOUR SCREAM ON!

Dates and Times through Nov. 1 / Busch Gardens' Howl-O-Scream 2020 "The Fear is in Your Eyes" / 3000 E Busch Blvd, Tampa / Tickets at buschgardens.com / Reservations are required and limited. / <https://buschgardens.com/tampa/events/howl-o-scream/> // Tampa Bay's premier Halloween event is preparing to return in a whole new way with the 21st annual Howl-O-Scream. This year's modified production will be unlike any other, including significantly enhanced safety and health measures at the core of the event. The event will be modified to feature open-air scare zones, limited-capacity admission with reservations required, and physical distancing. It is a separately ticketed event, available during 18 horrifying nights at Busch Gardens. Protective face coverings will be required.



CANCELED!

Master Gardener Library Program: Oct. 7, 6:30-8 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. // Under COVID-19 guidelines from UF, Hillsborough County Extension and Bloomingdale Library, this clinic has been cancelled. The Master Gardener Plant Clinics will resume at an unknown date. Stay safe and happy gardening. We will keep you updated.



Your Bloomingdale Library Master Gardener Team, Richard Seedroff, Elena Wright and Barbara Glotzbach

VIRTUAL EVENT!

Now through Oct. 11 / St. Vincent de Paul's Ladies Tea Online Fundraiser / Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be unable to host our annual Tea. Now more than ever we need your financial support to continue serving those in need within our community. So far this year, the St. Stephen Conference of St. Vincent de Paul served over 1,900 families with food and \$53,000 in financial assistance. We ask that you consider making an online donation in the amount of a single ticket



cost of \$20 or more! To donate online, go to svdpriverviewfl.org. Checks made out to St. Vincent de Paul can be mailed to: St. Stephen Church, 10118 Saint Stephen Circle, Riverview, FL 33569. Thank you for helping us help others!

Oct. 23, 6-8 p.m. / Trunk or Treat at Campo YMCA, 3414 Culbreath Rd / Celebrate Halloween with your fellow community members in a safe and fun environment. We don't know what neighborhood trick or treating will look like this year, but we know we can provide a safe alternative! Trick or treaters are invited to visit in costumes from the comfort of your own car. Then, stop at each of our trunks- these cars will be decked out for the occasion, and full of candy to hand out! Participants will remain in their car at all times. Registration is required in advance. Please come during your designated time slot. All participants handing out candy from their trunks will be wearing face coverings and gloves. Participants must remain in their cars during the event.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Voting Deadlines You Should Know

The dates you should add to your calendar now to make sure your vote is counted November 3 is Election Day, but there are other important dates voters should know about.

Early Voting – Oct. 19 through Nov. 1

There are more than two-dozen early voting sites in Hillsborough County.

Mail in Ballots – Nov. 3

Any registered voter can vote by mail. Ballots must be in the Supervisor of Elections office by 7 p.m. on Nov. 3.

Get more information about voting by visiting the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections website.



Social Distancing Seaside Can Be Easily Navigated

By Michelle Colesanti

Our early September trip to the Canadian Rockies was canceled due to COVID-19's unwelcome appearance, so my husband Phil and I decided to seek a safer destination closer to home.

There is no reason why you can't find a way to balance your personal safety with the need for that coveted change of scenery. A trip to the beach has the capacity to calm the frazzled feelings we've all experienced since last March.

Lucky to have such great beaches so close to home, we decided to rent a house overlooking the Gulf for five nights. Two other Bloomingdale area couples joined us. We chose Anna Maria Beach on the north end of Anna Maria Island. With its white sand beaches reminiscent of baby powder, it was the perfect place to dip our toes into the surf.

Anna Maria Beach is mostly residential, but it's easy to find condo and home rentals via VRBO or Airbnb. It has a quiet feel with plenty of space on the beach to social distance. It's a great place for families to spend time together.

Early morning walks on the beach were a reminder that despite COVID-19 and all the other negative news, the sun still rises and nature is king. It was hatching season for the Loggerhead baby turtles. Volunteers were out helping the ones who couldn't seem to find their way towards the surf. Sadly, only about 1 in 1000 babies survive into adulthood so this extra help can be crucial to the species survival. The babies are so small and can fit in your palm, but don't touch them; it's against the law. Watching them make their way, fighting the surf and then finally heading out to sea, was therapeutic in ways I can't begin to explain.

There's plenty to do or just relax on the beach with a great book. One day we chose to go on a boat ride to visit Egmont Key. We rented a private boat with a captain through Salty Dolphin Tours. It also offered tours which were not private. Even on those tours, the company limits the numbers on each trip.

We ate out at three local restaurants. The Sandbar is right on the beach and great for watching sunsets, but if you do plan to stay for it, I would suggest making sure that you have protection against the mosquitos and No See Ums. Currently, the Sandbar only has outdoor seating. About five blocks away on the bay side, near the City Pier, is the Waterfront Restaurant. You can eat inside or outdoors, where you have a view of the bay. The last place that we tried was in Holmes Beach, The Ugly Grouper. This was located right off the main road and only outdoors. The food was great and there was a duo playing music. It had a great tropical feel despite not being on the beach. If you rent a condo or house, you also have the option to cook your own meals.

There is not much that can't be fixed by a few days beachside. Mid-week and non-holiday times work best for a quiet visit. For more information on Anna Maria Island, visit <https://annamariaisland.com>.

Photos: Michelle Colesanti



A baby Loggerhead turtle making its way to the Gulf during hatching season on Anna Maria Island.



Captain Chad stays with the boat while we explore Egmont Key.



Fox Run resident, Terry Vassalotti, enjoys the sunset during a recent stay on Anna Maria Island.



End your day on Anna Maria watching a beautiful sunset.



Back - to - School 2020 is a New Experience for All

From eLearning to virtual school to Brick and Mortar and all the options in between, the 2020 school year has begun. As is our tradition, we offer our Back to School issue for your enjoyment.



Thomas Owen, Sophomore, Bloomingdale / Elsie Owen, 7th Grade, Progress Village Middle Magnet / David Owen, Junior, Bloomingdale.



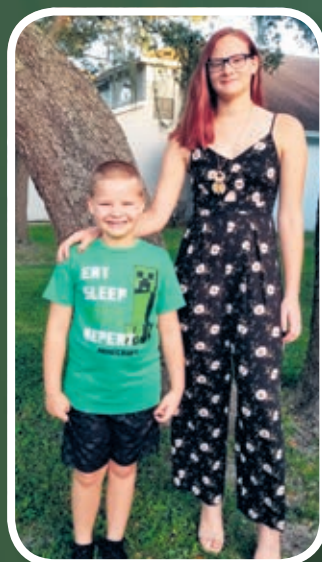
Cameron Bird 5th Grade eLearning



Miranda Dilling
Freshman, BSHS



Malik- 11th Grade @ Bloomingdale
Jaden 8th Grade @ Burns
Ethan 5th Grade @ Alafia



Logan Bond, 2nd Grade
Alafia Elementary / Savannah Bond
11th grade, Bloomingdale High



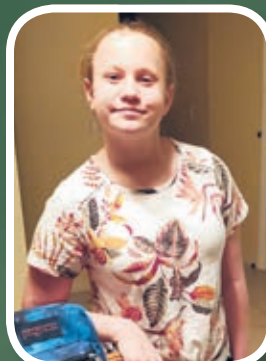
Casey Tate
Senior / Bloomingdale High School



Nathan Anton
2nd Grade



Enzo and Nico /



Taylor Gillespie
8th Grade
Orangegrove Middle Magnet
School of The Arts



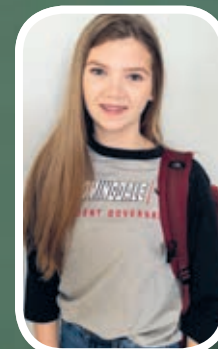
Max Shields / Kindergarten
Hillsborough Virtual K-12



Burns Middle School students top row: M...
and Kendall Thornton. Bottom Row S...
Kenzie Ruiz (VPK), Ella C...



Olivia Rose Anton / Pre-School



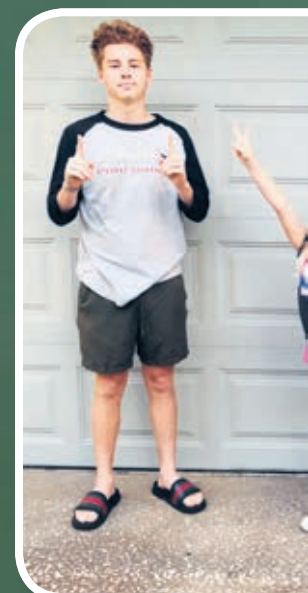
Emily Shrieves
Junior year, Class President
Bloomingdale High School



Trey Hydock, Senior & Zane Hydock,
Freshman / Bloomingdale High



Lauren Freeman
Kindergarten / Cimino Elementary



Austin Burcham - Junior at BSHS
Ariel Burcham



Alafia eLearning



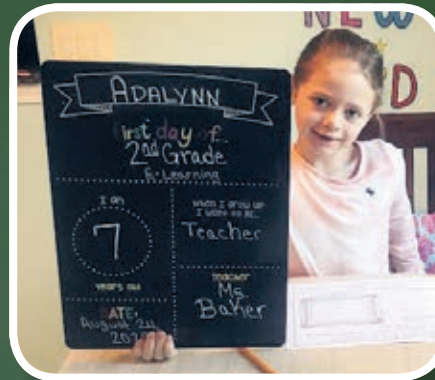
Nadia Nijjer
Bloomingdale High School



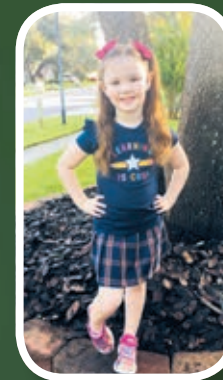
Nina Nijjer
Burns Middle School



Joey Gillespie
Junior, BSHS



Adalynn DeRyke / 2nd Grade eLearning



Emily Beach
Bloomingdale Children's House

Welcome Back Students!



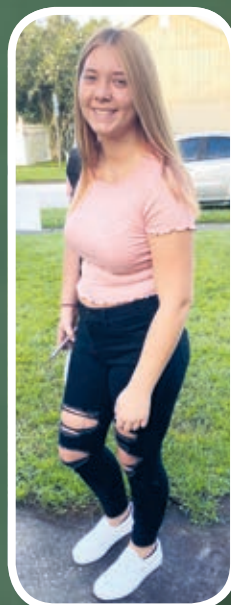
ayah Ruiz, Zoe Beveridge, Abby Gleason,
tella Beveridge (Brooker Elementary),
Gleason and KK Beveridge.



Breahna and Kiera Nelis
Sophomores, BSHS



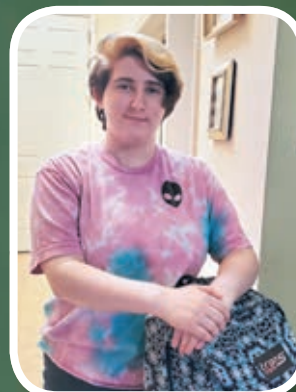
Averi Wong
2nd grade / Alafia Elementary



Haylee Strickland
Junior, BSHS



Kristian Walker
7th grade Bell Creek Academy



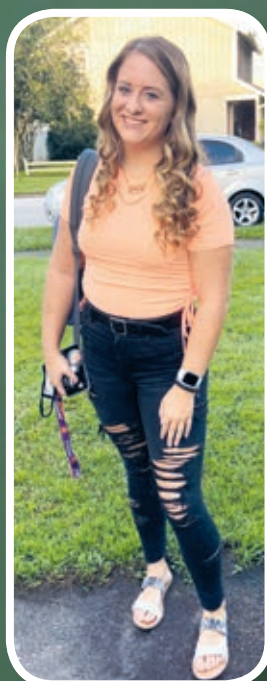
Stephanie Goodman
Junior, Bloomingdale High School



Isabelle Lynch, 3rd Grade
Marie Lynch, VPK



HS / IyLa Burcham - 2nd Grade at Alafia
n - Sophomore at BSHS



Destiny Olivero
Senior, BSHS



Gabriella Beach
4th grade / Cimino Elementary



Michaela Walker
9th grade Strawberry Crest IB



Kai Correia
Kindergarten / Valrico Academy

Halloween 2020 Staying Safe in a COVID-19 World

Compiled from www.CDC.gov

Halloween – Chills and scares, all light-hearted, mark this annual tradition. This year though, a real scare is out there in the form of COVID-19. Experts say the holiday can be observed, but adhering to safety precautions is a must to minimize the risk of contracting the virus.

- If you have or have been exposed to the virus...Do not participate in the festivities!
- Generally, activities with household members or neighbors, at a safe distance, are considered lower risk. These include house decorating, scavenger hunts, movie night and, of course, pumpkin carving.
- Moderate risk activities include trick or treating with grab and go goodie bags, open air haunted forest, and small outdoor parades and costume parties with social distancing and mask rules in place.
- If people are screaming, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- At pumpkin patches, use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins and produce.
- Higher risk activities include door-to-door trick or treating, large activities held indoor including parties and haunted house, and trunk-or-treating. Using safety precautions and social distancing should help mitigate some of the trick or treating risks. Some recommend using latex gloves to pass out candy to the neighborhood kids.

And finally, a last word on masks and costumes:

- Do not use costume masks in place of cloth masks
- Do not use a costume mask (such as for Halloween) as a substitute for a cloth mask unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers your mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around your face.
- Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.



The bottom line: **MAKE SAFETY THE PRIORITY!** Stress the importance of masks, social distancing, frequent hand-washing and other safety measures with your children and set the example!

And, Have a "Boo!"-tiful Halloween, Bloomingdale!



Raptor Center of Tampa Bay Helps Bloomingdale Wildlife

By Jane Owen



This time of year, it is not uncommon to find injured birds or wildlife in our neighborhoods. If you find an animal in distress, the Raptor Center of Tampa Bay is happy to help. They are a local solution for injured wildlife. While they focus on birds of prey, they rescue all native Florida wildlife.

Nancy Murrah, Raptor Center President and Wildlife Rehabilitator, welcomes Bloomingdale residents to call the Raptor Center when an injured animal is found. Call 813-205-1851.

"Right now we have 10 baby squirrels. We really work to put animals with people that can help that species. We take anything in. Then we get them to who can rehabilitate with them."

The Raptor Center of Tampa Bay often releases animals in Bloomingdale. On several recent occasions, the center released Eastern Screech Owls in a field close to Culbreath Road.

"If you look at what we do, in a nutshell, it would be that we rescue, rehabilitate, raise and release. The goal is to release."

The Raptor Center of Tampa Bay is located at 11018 Scott Loop, Riverview, FL 33569. Hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Volunteers are appreciated and welcome. Call for more information and check out their Facebook page: @RaptorCenterofTampaBay.

Photos: Jane Owen



Last month the Raptor Center of Tampa Bay release several owls into the Bloomingdale community.

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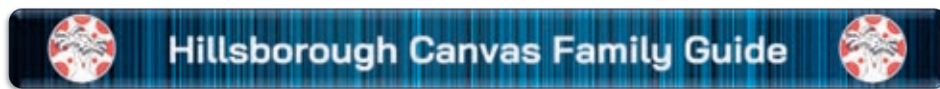
October School News: A Look at What's Happening

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://hpcscanvasproject.azurewebsites.net/> and <https://sdhc.instructure.com/courses/3146>



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

School Website: alafia.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Alafia Elementary PTA

Congratulations to Alafia Elementary's Excellence In Education Nominees!

Cristina Hozven is Alafia's Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year winner; Patty Miller is our Instructional Support Employee of the Year winner and Courtney Hatcher is our Alafia Teacher of the Year!

Oct. 14: Brick and Mortar Fall Picture Day

Oct. 19: eLearning Fall Picture Day

Oct. 19-23: Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 26: Spirit Night at Beef O'Brady's 6-8 p.m. Dine in or Take Out

Oct. 26-Nov. 8: Virtual Book Fair



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

School Website: cimino.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Cimino Elementary Media Center and Cimino PTA

Congratulations to Cimino's Elementary's Excellence In Education Nominees!

Teacher of the Year: Laura Woodfin, 5th Grade

Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator Award: Katelyn Bristol, Media Specialist

Instructional Support: Priscilla Cabanas, Secretary I

Cimino Support Recipient: Orlando Ortiz, School Resource Officer

Attention Cimino Cougars! You have a challenge! Challenge: Read 3,000 books as a school during one week. Books will be tracked using a link provided. When the goal is met, our media specialist, Mrs. Bristol, will dress up as Pippi Longstockings! Mrs. Bristol will visit classrooms and send a link to e-learners. **Are you up for the challenge?**

Oct. 24-29: Read A Thon

Oct. 26-30: Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 28: Dress as your favorite Storybook character (no weapons or costume masks allowed; PPE masks are still required)

Oct. 30: *If the reading goal is met* Mrs. Bristol will dress up as Pippi Longstockings!

Oct. 30: Silent Auction



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

School Website: burns.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Burns Middle School PTSA

Oct. 23 - End of 1st Grading Period

Middle School Fall Sports schedules are being set. Check out the schedules at <https://www.topteamscore.com/> Under "Clusters" select South East.

Burns PTSA is looking for volunteers and board members!

To get involved, please email BurnsMSvolunteers@gmail.com or private message the Burns PTSA Facebook page.

Flag Football:

Girls First Game, Shields vs. Burns Nov. 4, 6 p.m. Location: Sumner

Boys First Game, Shields vs. Burns Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Location: Sumner

Volleyball:

Girls First Game, Shields vs. Burns Nov. 3, 6 p.m. Location: Shields

Boys First Game, Shields vs. Burns Nov. 3, 7 p.m. Location: Shields



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

School Website: bloomingdale.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Bloomingdale Senior High School

Follow us @BloomingdaleSHS

BULLS SPIRIT WEEK:

10/12 Country vs. Country Club

10/13 Time-hop Tuesday

10/14 Character Day

10/15 Tie-Dye

10/16 Black Out!

Bulls Varsity Football Schedule (updated)*

10/2 @ Plant City

10/9 vs Durant (rescheduled from 9/17)

10/16 vs Kathleen

10/23 @ Lakeland

10/30 @ Strawberry Crest

11/6 vs Steinbrenner

**Spectators must have pre-purchased ticket and be on the participant list. This is true for all high school athletic events. Spectators will not be allowed at an event if you are not on a participant list.*

For more information, please contact the school office.

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Spirit Team!

Cade McMillen

Nathan Pepe

Annalia Santiago

Girls Basketball

Tryouts begin Oct. 26.

Anyone interested in girls basketball should see Coach Bower or

For more information, email joel.bower@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

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





BSHS Cross-Country Team Speeds Through First Meets!

Compiled by Jane Owen

North Port XC Invitational Meet on Sept. 12:

Junior Jordan Heirholzer, 1st Place with a time of 17:17.

Junior Malik Millet, 7th place with a time of 18:21



Pictured l. to r.: Malik Millet and Jordan Heirholzer

East Hillsborough Invitational on Sept. 26:

Varsity Boys Team: 1st place, Varsity Girls Team: 3rd place

Courtesy Photos: Heather Berry



Pictured l. to r.: Thomas Schilling (V 4th place), Eric Witt (V 10th place), Andre Williams (JV 2nd place), Jordan Hierholzer (V 2nd place), Keagan Leisure (JV 3rd place), Caitlin Beery (V 6th place), Allie DeMarco (V 8th place), Caitlin Witherow (JV 2nd place), Zoe Sellers (JV 4th place)

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Bulls Win September Games

By Jane Owen

Bloomington Bulls Football surprised the region by beating two perennial Tampa Bay powerhouse teams in their first two games. Living up to their team motto, Tough People Win (#TPW), the team played tough, never quitting, despite being underdogs and having to come from behind to win.

Before the first game on Sept. 11, Bloomington was a 30-point underdog to Armwood. They stunned the Armwood Hawks beating them at Bloomington 15-14. Senior and University of Southern California (USC) cornerback commit, Philip Riley ran 53 yards for a game winning touchdown on a kickoff return to deliver the winning touchdown for Bloomington.

Armwood had not lost to a Tampa Bay opponent since Aug. 24, 2018.

Bloomington's second game of the season on Sept. 25 was an away game at Tampa Bay Tech. Despite winning the last two meetings in the series, Bloomington was ranked behind Tampa Bay Tech. Prior to the game, Tampa Bay Tech was ranked 17th in the state and Bloomington was 20th in the state.

Even with a third quarter 22-0 deficit, the Bulls never gave up. They scored 19 points in the final 11 minutes. That alone is outstanding. But the final play of the game occurred as time expired. Quarterback Tre Simmons threw a 28-yard pass to WR Agiye Hall on the last play. Hall, an Alabama commit, made his catch in the left corner of the endzone in between three Tampa Bay Tech defenders to secure the Bulls win: 25-22.

As of Sept. 27, the Bulls are ranked 12th in the state and 3rd in Class 7A.



Photos: Jane Owen

On Sept. 11, the football season opener, Armwood fell to a tough and determined Bulls football team.



On Sept. 25, the Bulls repeated their win against another powerhouse Tampa Bay Tech.





Former Bloomingdale Teacher Launches English E-Tutoring Biz



While many Bloomingdale students and families are adjusting to e-Learning, those in brick and mortar schools are also experiencing an educational shift with new learning platforms and programs. This is where Teresa Lamar-Mandry hopes to provide support with her new tutoring business

English e-Tutoring. As a Florida certified 6-12 English teacher, she is prepared to help students practice for upcoming standardized tests such as the FSA and SAT as well as to help seniors craft the perfect college admission essay.

Lamar-Mandry's passion for education has been recognized by her peers as she was recognized as the Bloomingdale High School Teacher of the Year in 2016 and 2019, and she is delighted to explore this new venture where she will be able to work one-on-one with students via Zoom. "One of my greatest joys is watching students' writing progress throughout the year! There is truly something magical about them finding their voices, and I can't wait to be able to share that journey in an in-depth format with my tutoring students."

A former graduate of Bloomingdale High School and a resident in the community since 1991, Teresa Lamar-Mandry feels a strong connection with the Valrico area stating, "The longer I teach here, the more frequently I run into siblings of former students. It feels like I have been able to be a small part of their families' lives, and I am so grateful they are part of mine! I hope that English e-Tutoring will be another way to build those connections."

For those interested in contacting English e-Tutoring, the business is on Facebook and Instagram and recently launched its own website at <https://englishetutoring.square.site/>. The hourly rate is \$50 although active duty military, emergency services and Hillsborough County Schools personnel receive a 10% discount. Tutoring is available from 4 -8 p.m. every weekday.



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