



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

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THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, BULLS!

See details pp. 11-16

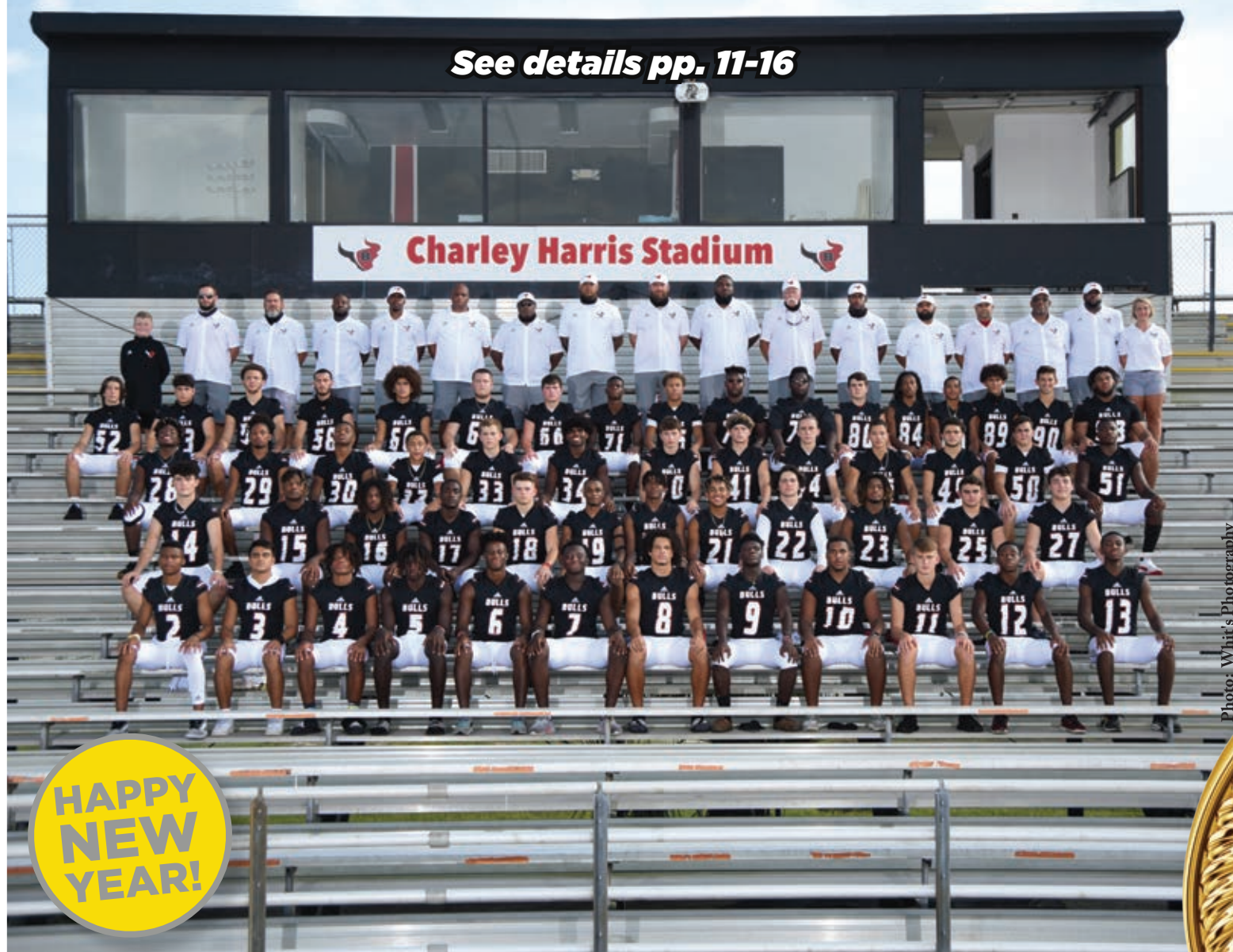


Photo: Whit's Photography

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

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YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com, www.Bloomingdale.life, Coming Soon!

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

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingdaleNews@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

www.bloomingdale.life, Coming Soon!

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The official publication of the BNA since 1980

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



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BNA COMMUNITY CORNER

Good Riddance, 2020! Happy New Year!

2020, what a tough year! The events that shaped our year included the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes it brought to families, travel, schools, and get-togethers. From hand sanitizer, to a toilet paper shortage, to working from home, to face masks and gloves, it was a year like no other. Tragically, many lost friends and family or know those who have.

However, there were times of optimism and compassion that brought happiness, joy, and excitement to our community and elsewhere. Locally, neighbors helped neighbors in need. Globally, we look forward to the arrival and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine accompanied hopefully with some sort of return to normalcy or a new normal.

Once sports resumed, we enjoyed the Tampa Bay Lightning's Stanley Cup win, we applauded the Tom Brady and "Gronk" Duo arrival on the Buc's roster and perhaps the most exciting sport event was our own Bloomingdale Bulls stampede to the District and Regional Football titles, followed by an exciting state semi-final fight and a first-ever 12-1 finish.

The BNA had an interesting COVID-19 year. The board looked for new and creative ways to still uphold their charter, which states, "The voluntary Association's primary purpose is to promote neighborhood cohesion and harmony while protecting property values and the quality of life of residents." While some events had to be cancelled – the community garage sale, fall community clean-up, and fall festival – the board held the annual spring clean-up, gave away a \$2,000 scholarship to Bloomingdale resident Isabella Manera, joined the Campo YMCA's Halloween Trunk or Treat event and held a highly successful Santa neighborhood drive through keeping a 34-year tradition alive!

2021 Membership Drive Starts

2021 Membership	\$35.00
Community Scholarship Donation	\$
Total Enclosed	\$
Check Number	#

As we begin our 2021 Membership Drive, we invite you to be part of making Bloomingdale a great place to live, work and call home!

LIKE US ON  **FACEBOOK!** 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.

"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 Neighborhood Association (BNA) wants you! Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office at 6:30 p.m.

Why consider being part of the BNA board? Vice-president Sean Donahue said, "To help maintain the standard of living in the Bloomingdale community, to make positive changes and improvements to our community or to help when residents and businesses have issues."

Call 813-681-2051, 252-0252 or email: Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com for information.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Bloomingdale Special District Monthly Trustee Meeting/ Monday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. / Call 813-684-6667 for information.

BHA Board Meeting / Tuesday, January 12, 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

2021 SAVE THE DATES

2021 Membership Drive - Jan. 1 Dec. 31, 2021

BSHS Football Celebration, Jan. 24 - 1-3 pm, Check our FB page for details!

2021 Scholarship - Applications available Now, Deadline is April 1, Presented May 11 - Don't let the opportunity for \$2,000 in college scholarship money slip through your fingers. Applications available online at www.bloomingdalehoa.com and via email at bl.neighbor1@gmail.com. Mail completed applications to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596. *Good luck, seniors!*

Spring and Fall Community Clean-ups, TBD

Easter Bunny Drive-Through, TBD

Community Garage Sale- TBD

Campo YMCA Trunk or Treat, TBD

Santa Drive-through, TBD

In with the new, Out with the old

Our new email is Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com. The old email is still operational for now. We hope to have all name changes and updates completed by the end of the month.

Continued on Next Page

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BNA **COMMUNITY CORNER CONTINUED**

Bloomingdale Association: New Year, New Name; Same Great Association

By Michelle Colesanti

Bloomingdale residents are lucky to have a great neighborhood association, which was chartered in 1980. Its purpose has always been to promote neighborhood harmony while protecting property values, and through the years of growth in the community, the Association has maintained that goal as well as providing community events year-round.

In fall 2020, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) officially changed its name to the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association (BNA).

President Suzy Watts and Vice President Sean Donahue are both excited about the BNA's future.

According to Donahue, "The name change will allow us to expand our coverage to a larger area and encompass more communities that we can assist and bring together."

Donahue also noted that COVID-19 has made an impact on just about every aspect of life. "Disappointingly, there has been less interaction with the community, but the Association has continued to work hard to host activities that will be fun yet provide a safe environment for all."

The Association helps link neighbors to county resources such as Code Enforcement. Board members attend county meetings and report back zoning, traffic and police reports that impact Bloomingdale. The Association recently worked with the district and county regarding the road improvements on Natures Way. It also worked with the Bloomingdale Special District to get common sidewalks repaired; a project now completed.

It is also about bringing the residents together. Watts said, "The BNA has always acted as a neighborhood association encompassing a voluntary group of residents trying to promote Bloomingdale through fun activities like Trunk or Treat and Santa Parade."

This is an organization that can collectively speak for all residents and businesses in the Bloomingdale area as a positive force for change.

"We have an amazing office manager Joy (Boisselle), who usually knows the answer or finds it out for our neighbors," noted Watts.

Boisselle is also the editor of the Gazette, providing the community with local news. Students are supported by providing volunteer activities for service hours and there is an annual BNA scholarship.

Continued on Next Page



L. to R. Grace Lewis, Santa, Sean Donahue, and Suzy Watts

Santa's recent tropical visit to Bloomingdale was so popular that Watts said that they hope to have a neighborhood drive-through Easter Bunny Parade. Plans are also underway for a parade/motorcade to honor Bloomingdale's football team, which made it to state semifinals for the first time.

Like every great Association, your help is needed to maintain these programs and services. The 2021 annual Membership Drive has just begun. The cost of membership is \$35 per family, an inexpensive contribution to help with the continuation of events and services for every member of the community.

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association office is located at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Due to COVID-19, office hours are by appointment only. Call 681-2051 or 252-0252. For a faster response, email Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com. Or, Visit <https://bloomingdalehoa.com> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1> for more information.



At the recent Tropical Santa event, Bloomingdale board members, student elves and local law enforcement officers were on hand to support Santa's journey through Bloomingdale.

Photo: Michelle Colesanti





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Live Christmas Trees

Curbside pickup of live Christmas trees is available by following these steps:

- Remove all decorations, lights, and tinsel
- Cut the tree into sections no larger than 4-feet long and 6-inches in diameter
- Place curbside on your regular yard waste collection day

Drop off live trees at one of the following Yard Waste Processing Facilities, after removing all decorations, lights, and tinsel:

- 346 Falkenburg Road in Tampa
- 13000 U.S. Highway 41 in Gibsonton
- 8001 W. Linebaugh Ave. in Tampa

Holiday Lights

- Strings of holiday lights may be safely disposed of in the gray garbage cart or recycled as electronics at any of the County Community Collection Centers for no additional fee.
- Pre-lit trees should be placed in the regular trash.

Holiday Ornaments and Decorations

- Holiday decorations and ornaments, including pre-lit and artificial trees, should be discarded as trash if the items can't be donated

Wrapping Paper and Cards

- Greeting cards and wrapping paper, as long as it is free of ribbons, foil, and other non-paper items, can be recycled by placing loose in the curbside blue recycling cart.
- Gift bags, tissue paper, ribbons and bows are NOT recyclable in the cart.

Plastic Bags & Wrap

- Plastic bags, bubble wrap, and film cannot be recycled in your curbside blue cart
- Clean and dry plastic bags and film can be recycled at participating supermarkets in special bins located near the store entrance
- Loose and soiled bags, plastic film, shrink wrap, and bubble wrap should be placed in the trash cart

For more information, check out the Holiday Waste Guide at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/property-owners-and-renters/trash-and-recycling/solid-waste-holiday-guide.



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IERNA's | 813-324-1304

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Bloomingdale Real Estate Update

(Editor's Note: Real estate columnist Ronnie has lived in Bloomingdale for nine years with her husband and two children, a son and daughter attending University of Florida)



By Ronnie McLaughlin

The Chadderton Group
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813-601-5659

ronniemclaughlin@kw.com

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COVID-19

What Hillsborough County buyers and sellers need to know

2020 was a year of multiple offers, hand sanitizer, a large number of buyers, lack of listings and parking lot closings.

Just look at these Hillsborough County single family home statistics:

	October 2020	October 2019	% Change
Median Sales Price	290,000	250,895	15.60%
Inventory	2383	4510	-47.20%
Median Days on the Market	10	28	-64.30%

Buyers are still out in full force. Most of my buying customers have been from out of state. I also had past customers move into larger homes due to homeschooling, home office needs and outdoor entertainment space. Per Greater Tampa Association of Realtors MLS, the price range most in demand for 2020 was \$200,000-\$300,000.

Interest rates are still low. As more people file for unemployment, however, mortgage lenders may tighten lending standards, subsequently driving up rates – or delayed demand could push rates down further. Potential buyers can prepare for homeownership by understanding their budget, building a good credit history, and getting prequalified for a mortgage.

Home tours look a little different. In person showings are still offered, potential buyers can expect quicker tours and may be asked to take extra precautions, such as removing shoes, using hand sanitizer and refraining from touching items in the home.

Many sellers have offered virtual tours of their homes through pre-recorded videos or live video streams. In fact, according to a recent NAR survey on the pandemic's impact on real estate, three in five REALTORS® said they are guiding buyers through virtual home tours.

**Source: Greater Tampa Realtor Benchmark Statistics and National Association of Realtors*



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From Bloomingdale East to West, Santa Delights Both Young and Young at Heart!

By Michelle Colesanti

There was a slight chill in the air, but nothing like the frigid temperatures of the North Pole. Santa Claus knew that his busy days and nights would soon get more hectic. He needed a short break, so he decided to take a pre-Christmas Eve trip to sunny Florida to recharge before his big night.

While enjoying his Florida get-away, Santa chose Bloomingdale East and West neighborhoods to spend some time greeting excited youngsters and their families on Dec. 6. Even the family pets got in on the act jumping at the chance to share a picture or two with Santa. Donning his tropical attire and riding atop a red Camaro, Santa traveled through the streets, stopping along the way to visit with everyone who came out to greet him.

Since age 19, Tampa resident Alex Philips has enjoyed playing the role of Santa. He started his career as the jolly man 44 years ago at Sears and Roebucks. “I enjoy seeing young and old with smiles and excitement on their faces seeing Santa.”

Philips was happy to once again be able help the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association, which sponsored this event, put smiles on the little one’s faces.

A Santa event has been held in the community for the last 34 years. In previous years, about 100 kids would visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Bloomingdale residents Joe and Pam Liguori for the past 27 years). The kids would also get to do some crafts and get a candy cane and duckie.

This year brought out at least 300 kids to participate as Santa made the neighborhood rounds. Along the route, local elves gave the kids goodie bags, which included the candy canes and infamous Christmas duckies. It was so popular, that the plan is to continue with the Santa Parade in 2021.

Courtesy Photo



Alex Philips has played Santa for the last 44 years. His parents sit with him during his first job at Sears & Roebucks in the mid-1970’s.



Santa calls Mrs. Claus.



In Spite of a Covid World, We Still Believe!



One of our 4-legged Believers.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Littlest Elf



On Dec. 6 and after 34 years of visits, Santa made a first-ever community drive through! On a Florida vacation, he made a special stop to see our Bloomingdale children and their families! And, what a great day it was! Thank you to the HCSO, Citizens Patrol, BL Neighborhood Association Board members, The BSHS National Honor Society Elves, and SANTA!



Photos by Michelle Colesanti unless otherwise noted.

THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION

TOM LEECH, BSD PRESIDENT



Happy New Year!

As we leave 2020 behind, I want to recap some of the positives from last year.

New Landscape Contractor

We began 2020 by replacing our landscape and maintenance contractor. Your Green Team (YGT) brought more effective practices that achieved immediate results. Much of the improved look is due to an irrigation technician on-property full time. When irrigation issues are identified, YGT can have them repaired same day, sometimes within the hour.

Sidewalk Repairs and Natures Way Improvements

The District worked with the County to complete sidewalk repairs and correct associated damages. The coordination efforts were led by our property manager, Rick Pitrowski, who initially mapped out the hundreds of individual damage locations three years ago. Rick also pushed the County to use our irrigation specialist to mitigate unnecessary destruction of water lines during digging. Sidewalk repairs were completed throughout the District, giving us a more enjoyable walk through the community.



New medians and bike lanes installed along Natures Way provide better options for cyclists and a safer drive. We will begin installing annuals and perennials in the spring. The poinsettias we added for the holidays have been a big hit – look for those again next December.

We conducted a successful experiment using ground cover to replace struggling turf along Natures Way. Doing so has created a beautiful contrast and also curbed the destructive parking in the turf. A second phase of ground cover planting will be completed in the spring across the street. Also to discourage parking on the turf, delineators were installed at the corner of Natures Way and Culbreath. We are hoping the delineators will be temporary. I encourage those of you who currently park on the turf to instead park on the side of Culbreath, south of Natures Way. This will cut down on turf damage and destruction that could result in individual residents being charged.



Photo: Joy Boisselle

Rebranding Project

Our entryway and rebranding project was slowed down due to permit requirements and COVID-19. The District is scheduling an application review with the County to review our plan for the Erindale/Lithia Pinecrest entrance. Although much delayed, we hope to finally break ground later this year.

Welcome, Lee Raschke

Finally, we added another new member to the Board of Trustees. Lee Raschke has been a Bloomingdale resident for nearly 17 years and is a Captain with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department. Welcome aboard, Lee!

Meeting Update

The next meeting of the Bloomingdale Special District is Monday, Jan. 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. (EDT). You can access the meeting via GoToMeeting at this address: <https://www.gotomeet.me/MiriamLeech/january112021>

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (224) 501-3412
Access Code: 537-988-357

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

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DISTRICT

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(813) 684-6667 Office
(813) 684-2358 Fax
BSTD@verizon.net

<https://mydistrictwebsite.com/>
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Claire Letkiewicz, Trustee
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Lee Raschke, Trustee

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting of the Bloomingdale Special District is Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. (EDT). You can access the meeting via GoToMeeting at this address:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/207413181>

You can also dial in using your phone:
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For information on the Bloomingdale Special District visit :

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2020 Bloomingdale Football, OVERALL, 12-1 The Road to the Regional Championship And Beyond!

By Jane Owen

First, the team went undefeated in regular season play, then secured the District Championship after annihilating Strawberry Crest, 62-0. Five games later, the Bulls stampeded to a Regional Title defeating powerhouse Tampa Bay Tech in an exciting 36-33 nail-biter. Finally, the Bulls faced St. Thomas Aquinas in their first ever state semi-final game. The Bulls played with plenty of grit and heart, but St. Thomas took the win 37-14 and went on to win their 12th state championship.

Of the season's accomplishments, Coach Jake Coulson reminisced stating, "A 12-1 season, beating Armwood, Plant City and TBT twice in the same season, being the 2020 District and Regional champions is something to be proud of and is now the Standard for the Bloomingdale HS Football Program." #TPW aka "TOUGH PEOPLE WIN" and as always, GO BULLS!

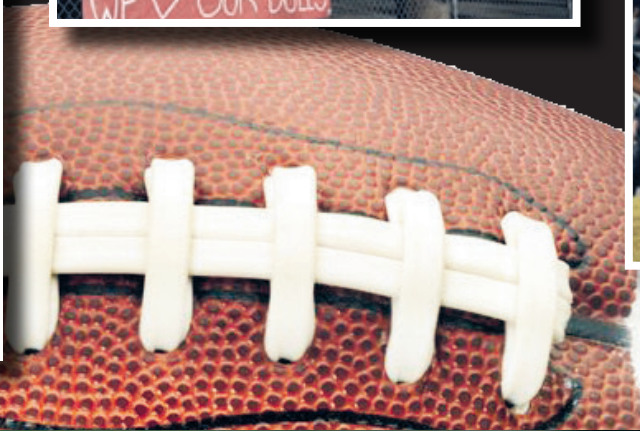
2020 Schedule

Fri, 9/11 7:30 PM		Armwood Seffner Home • Non-District	W15-14
Fri, 9/25 7:30 PM		Tampa Bay Tech Tampa Away • Non-District	W25-22
Fri, 10/2 7:30 PM		Plant City Away • Non-District	W37-20
Fri, 10/9 7:30 PM		Durant Plant City Home • District	W30-0
Fri, 10/16 7:30 PM		Kathleen Lakeland Home • Non-District	W43-6
Fri, 10/23 7:30 PM		Lakeland Away • Non-District	W39-14
Fri, 10/30 7:30 PM		Strawberry Crest Dover Away • Non-District	W62-0
Fri, 11/6 7:30 PM		Newsome Lithia Home • Non-District	W38-10
Fri, 11/13 Playoff 7:30 PM		Plant City	W35-21
Fri, 11/20 Playoff		Pinellas Park Largo, Away	W25-10
Fri, 11/27 Playoff 7:30 PM		Armwood Seffner, Home	Regional Semi-Final W24-14
Fri, 12/4 Playoff 7:30 PM		Tampa Bay Tech Tampa, Away	Regional Final W36-33
Fri, 12/11 Playoff 7:00 PM		St. Thomas Aquinas Fort Lauderdale, Home	State Semi-Final, Class 7A L37-14

PLAYOFFS

11/27 ARMWOOD 24-14

Bloomingdale played in their second ever third round playoff game against Armwood. It was the second time the Bulls played the Hawks. The Bulls held off the Hawks for three quarters, then put in the second-string for valuable playing time.



Photos: Jane Owen



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12/4 TAMPA BAY TECH 36-33

In the Knick of time...Regional Champs!
Bloomingdale played Tampa Bay twice this season. Both games came down to the last play of the game. With 32 seconds left in the game, Tampa Bay Tech scored a go-ahead touchdown, missing their extra point. After the ensuing kick-off, with the score 30-33, Bloomingdale drove down the field and scored on the last play of the game. The play started with 1.5 seconds left and the Bulls scored as time expired.



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12/11

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS 37-14

Unbeaten Bloomingdale took on St. Thomas Aquinas at home in their first ever state semifinal game. They lost by a score of 37-14. St. Thomas Aquinas went on to win the 7A State Championship.

"So proud of our Kids and Coaches the Grit that they showed throughout the 2020 football season. It was not easy with all the distractions of COVID and our guys handled it extremely well."

Coach Jake Coulson



Photos: Fred Ocasio



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Champions, One and All!

Compiled from MaxPreps

Head Coach Jake Coulson

Players

Tre Simmons QB • Sr.
Jayden Segarra WR, FS • Sr.
Dinero McClendon WR • Sr.
**Agiye Hall WR • Sr.
Jayden Williams CB • Sr.
Britton Pascoe FS • Sr.
Philip Riley CB, WR • Sr.
Wa'myron Howard RB, OLB • Sr.
Jonathon Dixon TE, MLB, OLB • Sr.
Jackson Jensen QB • Fr.
Dj Mcqueen WR • Sr.
Jac'son Boone WR, CB • Sr.
Iarod Mounce MLB, TE • Sr.

Avant Bethea DE, TE • Sr.
Stazion Gage WR • Jr.
Unique Lewis RB • Sr.
Meki Anderson DB, WR • Fr.
Curtis Thomas WR • Sr.
Twon Spurlock CB • Sr.
Isaiah Doby FS • Sr.
Brycnn Bennett RB • Jr.
Jaylen Smith WR, DB • Fr.
Jaedyn Tamulonis WR • Jr.
Joe Skinner DL, HB • Sr.
Jamarion Neal MLB, K • Sr.
Artavius Johnson FS • Sr.
Desmond Daniels FB, RB • Jr.
Christian Bodnar CB • So.
Garrett Folken OLB • Jr.

Malik Simmons DE, TE • Sr.
JJ Boyd WR, DB • Fr.
Zakk Biss WR • Jr.
Carson Elsner MLB • Jr.
David Owen K • Jr.
Kendall Jones WR • So.
Elijah Calhoun LB, RB • Jr.
Mathew Sawicky LB • Sr.
Derrick Mahoney T, DL • Sr.
Daniel Perez MLB • Jr.
Carson Wynperle DT, OL
Ben Carhart OL • So.
Javon Hall T, DL • Sr.
Josh Svendsen DE • Jr.
Jackson Sykes DE • Jr.
Tristan Perot G, DE, DT • So.

Cullen Hicks C, G • Sr.
Ashton Brockett NG, OL • Jr.
La'montrae Banks DE • Jr.
Yadriel Hodge OL, DL • Jr.
Lance Walker G, DL • Jr.
Isaiah Lowery G • So.
Charlie O'brien TE, DE • So.
Jaylen Bryant CB, WR • Sr.
Anthony Mateo RB • Sr.
Elijah Medero WR • Jr.
Ryan Schlorf OLB • Sr.
Jordan Guerad NG • Sr.
Ollie Manhertz RB, MLB • Jr.
Sean Dungan QB • Jr.
Austin Russell FS, WR • Jr.
Kendall Jones



Photo: Whit's Photography



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Coach Wins!

By Jane Owen

Huge Congratulations to Bloomingdale's Head Football Coach Jake Coulson for winning the 2020 Billy Turner Coach of the Year award. The award is given to Hillsborough County's top coach.

Coulson led Bloomingdale to a historic season, going through the regular season undefeated and advancing to the state semifinals for the first time in school history.

For Coulson, the year was about making an impact on the athletes promoting a hard work ethic. Coulson has said that grit is the word he would use for the year. The team's motto "TPW" or "Tough People Win" exemplifies that.

Congratulations Coach!



"Thank you to the Bloomingdale Community for all the support they showed throughout the season and hope to see them all back next year."

Coach Coulson

Help our Community celebrate Bulls Football!

Many sum up 2020 in two miserable words...COVID-19 pandemic. For others, those two words are...Bulls Football! The 2020 Bulls Football Team gave students, families and a community something to embrace, cheer for, and look forward to each week. In the midst of tough times, the team's victories were a bright spot that brought joy to many.

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association wants to give back to this group of athletes and celebrate their history-making season with a community parade. The event is in the initial planning stages, but so far, the date has been set for Jan.24 from 1-3 p.m.

The tentative plan is to drive the team and coaching staff through Bloomingdale West and East finishing at Bl East Park. There, they will be met by the Rajun Bull Drumline and the Lady Bull Cheerleaders.

The BNA is looking for sponsors. So far, we have secured support from Brenda Wade, Grace Lewis, Gasparilla Pizza, and Appleton Reiss, PLLC. We will provide sponsors with a business profile in the Gazette. Call 813-766-2188 to ask how you can be a part of this fantastic event!

If anyone knows of a source for trailers or trucks, please email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com.

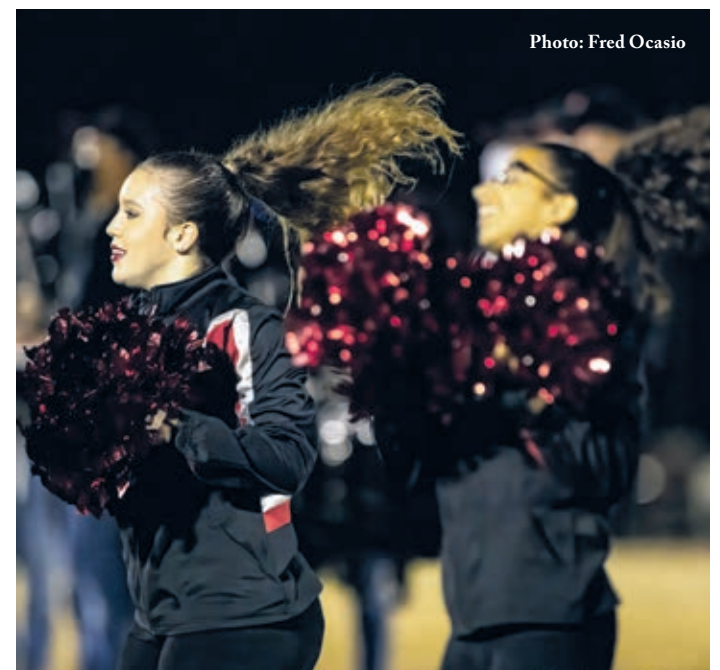


Photo: Fred Ocasio



Athlete Signings Cap Spectacular Football Season

Congratulations to Agiye Hall (Alabama) and Philip Riley (Notre Dame) on signing their letters of intent on Dec.16.

WR Agiye Hall was also selected for the Florida All-State First Team Offense. He had over 1,000 yards receiving and 13 touchdowns averaging over 20 yards per reception while leading the Bulls to the 7A semifinals. One of the best run blocking receivers in the country, Hall also made an impact on defense.



Burns Flag Football Team Runs to Championship Final

Courtesy Burns Middle

The Bulls football team garnered a lot of press for their season, but another football team quietly posted their own impressive victories! They zigged and zagged their way to the Championship game played against Wilson Middle School on Dec.17. Wilson took the title with a 12-0 score, but the Lady Bruins Flag football team placed second out of 52 teams in a dominant season. Congratulations, Bruins!





Bloomingtondale Wrestlers Pin Season Hopes On Early Wins

By Jane Owen

Bloomingtondale Wrestling Coach Dennis Kitko has good cause to foresee an excellent wrestling season.

Coach Kitko said, “This has been the most promising start in Bloomingtondale history. This team has gelled like no other before.”

Bloomingtondale traveled to the Ben Richards Memorial tournament at River Ridge High School on Dec. 5 and placed Second (behind only Somerset HS — ranked 3rd in the state for Div 1A). Eleven Bloomingtondale wrestlers placed, three were in the finals and Senior Jake Kehrmeier went 4-0 with 3 pins to win the 182lb weight class.

On Dec. 10, Bloomingtondale hosted local rival Durant in a Dual meet and won 51/25 (Varsity).

At the Coach Kelly Memorial Hurricane Challenge Duals held at Manatee High School on Dec. 12, Bloomingtondale won 1st Place beating out host Manatee, by 2 points.

“We just beat the #6, #7, #10 teams in the state in the last two weeks. We are shooting to win a team regional title in hopes of making it to the finals of the team dual state championships in late January.”

The team is like no other. “Our coaching staff is super proud of the last two weeks’ performances. This team has no quit in it and wrestles each match like it might be their last.”

Senior Jake Kehrmeier secured 1st place at the Ben Richards Memorial Tournament and helped lead the team to a second place overall finish on Dec. 5.

At the Hurricane Duals on Dec. 12, the team wrestled their way to a first-place finish.



Photo: Randy Kehrmeier



Photo: Ray Chaviano.



WRESTLING



Gamers Named Esports State Champions

Congratulations to Bloomingdale High School students Nicholas Stephens, Merrick Bass, and Brandon Belcher (Team Captain) for being ESports State Champions! Esports (also known as electronic sports, e-sports, or eSports) is a form of sport competition using video games. The team will be headed to Nationals in the spring.



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Bloomingtondale Music Department Shines Under the Stars

By Jane Owen

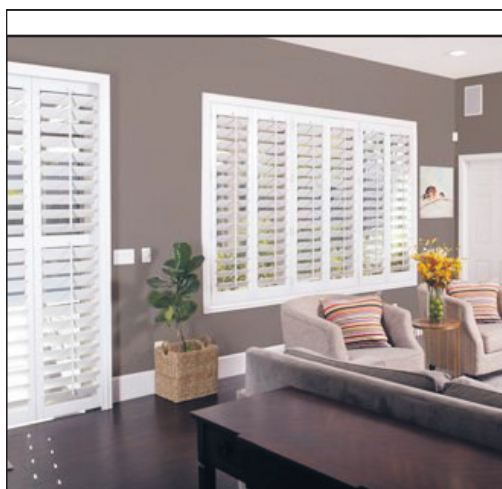
Bloomingtondale High School's Music Department shined on Dec. 10 at their "Holiday Under the Stars" Event. Music selections delighted family and friends who also had the opportunity to do some holiday shopping at a holiday market from local vendors.

Performances included the Crimson Guard, Concert Choir, Ambassadors and Silhouettes, the full Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Advanced Orchestra, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Band. Bloomingtondale's Principal, Dr. Marcos Rodriguez, surprised the crowd by playing Baritone Saxophone with the Jazz Band, an evening highlight. Another crowd pleaser was the Concert Choir, Senior Ambassadors, and Silhouettes performance of the 12 Days of Christmas.

"Holiday Under the Stars" was a first-ever event held on the football field to allow extra safety precautions due to COVID-19. Though the event was free, tickets were sold to reduce numbers, all transactions were electronic, and sanitization of the stage area took place in between performances. What was created in lieu of the traditional auditorium performances is likely to become an annual tradition.



Photos: Jane Owen



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Photos: Jane Owen



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Photos: Fred Ocasio

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