



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XL 🍁 ISSUE 11 🍁 November 2020 🍁 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

AMID COVID-19 ANXIETIES BULLS FOOTBALL HELPS LIFT FAN SPIRITS

See pp. 8-9

#21 Isaiah Doby, Free Safety



Photo: Fred Orasio

This Month



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Newsletter Category

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YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

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

Email: Bl.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

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

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Times

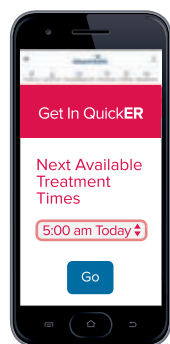
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BNA COMMUNITY CORNER

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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.

HO, HO, HO! Santa is coming! Dec. 6!

This year will feature a tropical Santa in neighborhood drive-by mode. We will have volunteer elves passing out 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. A listing of roads and a map will be published in the December Gazette and on our Facebook page.

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S

34th Annual Santa Visit



December 6, 2020
10 am to 2 pm

Your Association continues it's holiday tradition for children with a “Florida Santa” accompanied by his elves as they parade throughout our neighborhoods. Our elves will pass out Santa ducks and candy canes using appropriate safety measures.

Parade route to be published in the BL Gazette. For info, email BL.Neighbor1@gmail.com.



Change is Coming!

The Bloomington Homeowners Association will soon be the Bloomington Neighborhood Association. We are changing our name, but not our services and programs. 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.

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 year.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Bloomington Taxing District Monthly Trustee Meeting/ Monday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. / Bloomington Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. / Call 813-684-6667 for information.

BHA Board Meeting / Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomington Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. / Call 813-681-2051 for information.

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

THE LINKS NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS HELP BUILD RESIDENT CONNECTIONS

October was a big month for the Links neighborhood. Neighbors joined together to host a “Meet, Greet and Grab Something to Eat” on Oct. 3 followed by the annual kids’ Halloween parade on Oct. 31. The Oct. 3 event was spearheaded by Julia Patillo who quickly rallied fellow neighbors to promote the event. The meet and greet featured contests, painted rock hunting and the awesome Sarge’s BBQ food truck co-owned by Links resident Ken Seaborn.



Courtesy Photos

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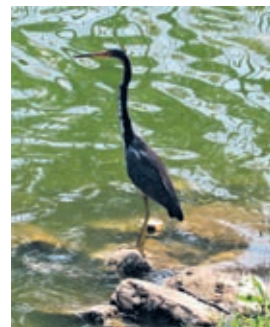
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[†]On average, Medi-Weightloss® patients lose 29 pounds in 13 weeks. Medical supervision required. Reference: Journal of Public Health © 2020 Medi IP, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

"AWOL" Pond Fountain Spurs Citizen Involvement

Submitted By Robert F. Sawallesh, US Army, Retired

"Operation Pond Fountain"



A tri-colored heron once again enjoys the restored pond fountain.

At Bloomingdale Avenue and Lithia Pinecrest Road in Valrico is the Creste Pointe Towne Shoppes. The shopping center boasts two large water ponds, each with a beautiful pond fountain.

For several months one pond fountain was "AWOL." This "AWOL" pond fountain was between the Walmart Supercenter parking lot and Wendy's. My wife and I wondered why this pond fountain was "AWOL" for so long.

We decided something had to be done.

Armed with an Apple iPhone 11 with fantastic camera lenses, a Canon Power Shot SX530 HS Camera with telephoto lenses and at home a Dell desktop computer with the Windows 10 Photo App, I decided to "take action." I gathered intelligence and background on these beautiful ponds and fountains from the Internet.

With my research completed, I then emailed the Hillsborough County Commissioners and filed a complaint on this "AWOL" pond fountain. The Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) staff began corresponding with plaza management. Those efforts resulted in timely action and repair of the fountain.

Although the EPC does not regulate stormwater pond fountains, the EPC staff went above and beyond to assist in restoring the fountain. EPC's mission is "to protect our natural resources, environment and quality of life in Hillsborough County."

Extremely helpful in the overall success and support of Operation Pond Fountain, in alphabetical order, was the Hillsborough County Government, Tampa Audubon Society and the University of South Florida (School of Geosciences, College of Arts & Sciences - USF Water Institute).

(Editor's Note: Thank you to Robert Sawallesh for sending this article. It just goes to show that the pen (and camera) are mightier than the sword, And, citizen involvement in local issues does make a difference Get involved, neighbors!.)



The "AWOL" pond fountain returned to duty the first week of October.

Photos: Robert Sawallesh

Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours!



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Campo Y brings the treats to BOO-loomingdale!

By Michelle Colesanti, Photos: Michele Colesanti, unless otherwise noted

As cars made their way through the Campo Y parking lot, smiles were everywhere.

Volunteers passed out goodies to Pikachu, Spiderman, Moana and other costumed youngsters, who waited in anticipation as they looked forward to filling their bags and buckets with lots of sweets.

The Campo Y Trunk or Treat event, which took place on Oct. 23, had to be reimagined due to COVID-19. Kids and their families visited each trunk decorated for the Halloween season while staying in the safety of their cars. Social distancing guidelines and COVID-19 safety procedures were carefully adhered to.

According to Kaliegh Hincman, Campo Senior Program Director, four time slots were available with 50 spots allocated for each slot. The event sold out quickly. A total of 200 cars come through the line with approximately 500 to 800 people.

This is the first year that the Bloomingdale HOA participated by passing out goodie bags, which included its famous Halloween rubber duckies. BHA President Suzy Watts and Vice President Sean Donahue set up this year's trunk, which sported a tropical Hawaiian theme. In past years, the BHA held its own fall festival, but according to Watts, due to the COVID uncertainty, they were advised not to go ahead with it this year.

"We work closely with Campo with a lot of our activities. Campo is our neighbor and we do things to promote the quality of life in the community and promote our neighbors and what they do," said Watts of this year's BHA participation.

Campo Y is located at 3414 Culbreath Rd. Call 684-1371 or visit <https://www.tampaymca.org/locations/campo-family-ymca> for more information.



BHA president Suzy Watts and Vice-President Sean Donahue welcome trunk and treaters.



BSHS National Honor Society volunteers stuffed goodie bags for the BHA. Volunteers: Front left to right- Valentina Mercado, Kylee Maxwell-Sutherland, Back left to right- Julianna Cardenas, Jordan Mitchell, Joadan Demissew (Photo: Bobbi Ferraro)



Jessica, Demetrius and Monica Suarez



Hayden Friedrichsen



Amiyah Gibbs

Both youngsters and volunteers had a great time safely celebrating the Halloween season at Campo Y's Trunk or Treat event on Oct. 12.



BULLS FOOTBALL STAMPEDES OVER OPPONENTS

During the uncertainty brought by COVID-19, the Bulls JV and Varsity Football Teams have given students, staff and the community something to look forward to during the fall football season. The JV team finished their season undefeated for the first time in their history. The Varsity team is poised to complete another undefeated season should they have defeated Strawberry Crest on Oct. 30. (The Gazette went to press prior to this game.)

Thanks for the excitement, Bulls!

HOMECOMING 2020, VS KATHLEEN HS, W 43-6

Photos: Jane Owen

On Oct. 16, The Bulls Football Team gave students a reason to celebrate their 2020 Homecoming. The team recorded a decisive win over District opponent Kathleen HS, 43-6. The win brought their undefeated season to 5-0.



Homecoming King Wa'myron Howard and Queen Raven Brunson

VS. LAKELAND HS, W-39-14

Brief: Jane Owen

A week later, the Bulls traveled to Lakeland HS to face a perennial foe, the Dreadnaughts. The halftime score was 14-14. Bloomingdale rallied and scored 25 unanswered points in the second half. They handed the Lakeland Dreadnaughts their first two game loss in a regular season since 2017. The huge win at 39-14 was Bloomingdale's first win over Lakeland since 2003. It was all the sweeter because Lakeland shut out Bloomingdale at home in 2019.

At press time, Bloomingdale remained undefeated, 6-0. As of Oct. 26, They are ranked #2 in Florida Division 7A and #10 in the State.

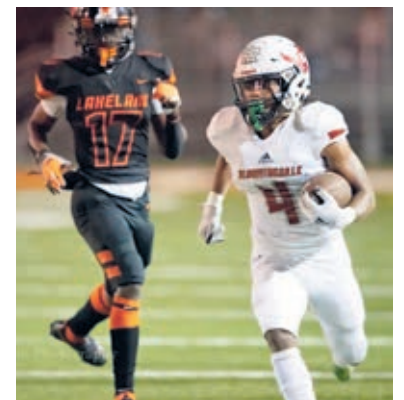


Photo: Jane Owen

Following the Lakeland win, players doused Coach Coulson in a traditional ice water bath.

Photos, unless otherwise noted: Fred Ocasio



#20 Twon Spurlock (Corner Back), #58 Josh Svendsen (Defensive End)



#44 David Owen, Kicker

Editor's Note: The Gazette thanks Fred Ocasio for sharing his photography skills with Bloomingdale High School and our community. Ocasio, a Valrico native since 2002, started bird and wildlife photography 3-4 years ago. The fast equipment needed for these photos was a great fit for events like Bloomingdale's football games, color guard and marching band. Daughter Bella is a BSHS senior and member of the Crimson and Winter Guards. As for sharing his work, Ocasio said, "These students are going through a period of uncertainty that is not like anything we have ever experienced at their age. If I can capture and share photos of what are supposed to be the most memorable years of their lives, then I'm glad I can contribute."

JV TEAM UNDEFEATED

Bulls Vs. Newsome (W) 20-14
Bulls @ Plant City (W) 60-25
Bulls Vs. Spoto (W) 60-6
Bulls @ Durant (W) 38-36
Bulls @ Armwood (W) 24-16

The Bulls JV team added even more excitement to the year ending their season undefeated at 5-0. In most games, the bulls dominated their opponents – the most lop-sided score coming at 60-6 against the Spoto Spartans.

JV Head Coach Shawn Council said, "Words can't describe how proud I am of this group of kids and for what they accomplished in being the first and only Undefeated JV football team in school history. They worked extremely hard this year, especially not knowing if the football season was going to take place or not. They've been working extremely hard, putting in the time and effort since we got the green light to start practice June 15."



Photo: Nicole Nedley

Way to stomp 'em. Bulls! The Future is bright for Bulls Football!

Hidden Treasure Revealed: Heroes Paradise

By Jane Owen



Heroes Paradise recreation center has everything for an ultimate outside fun experience for all ages! The center features non-stop, action-packed fun and it is right here in our community.

Heroes Paradise, located near Bell Shoals at 733 Knowles Road, offers Tactical Laser Tag, Archery Tag, Remote Control Car Tracks, free climb Rock Wall, Virtual Reality Games, and one-of-a-kind yard games. Additionally, it hosts a club house with a cafe and a deck overlooking

the play fields so parents, friends and family can watch all of the action from a safe, comfortable distance.

Owners Julie and Tim Pennenga conceived the idea of creating a local entertainment venue that creates a bond between community and first responders and family. Tim is an Army veteran and a Hillsborough County Police Department retiree. The Pennenga's dedication to community and service is what motivates the business.

The center also provides an atmosphere where people can get to know a different side of law enforcement officers. It is the mission and the reason for the name: Heroes Paradise. They have hosted events where officers have interacted with youth by playing laser tag and answering questions.

First responders, law enforcement and military receive 30% off. Active law enforcement play for free if they are playing with kids outside of their own family.

Every aspect of Heroes Paradise is crafted around family and community. Games are accessible to all ages (including extra equipment for younger players). The center, which opened in June during the pandemic, spans over 8 acres of recreation opportunities. It is easy to have the time of your life and social distance at the same time.

For more information, visit www.heroesparadise.com or check the out the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HeroesParadise>



Jarrett Rhodes (kneeling) gets ready to play laser tag during his 12th Birthday party.



The possibilities for fun are endless!



November 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.*****

November 11 – Veteran's Day – No School
November 23-27 – Fall Break – 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>



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

School Website: alafia.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Alafia Elementary PTA

Alafia PTA Information

Please sign up for updates and information at:

alafiapta.membershiptoolkit.com

Also download the mobile app: membership toolkit

Media Center

Our Media Center is ALWAYS looking for Volunteers to come in and help, sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ca5ae2fa5fb6-oct>



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

School Website: cimino.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Cimino Elementary Media Center and Cimino PTA

November 10 – Virtual Veteran's Day Celebration

November 19 – Virtual Great American Teach-In



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

School Website: burns.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Burns Middle School PTSA

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



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

School Website: bloomingdale.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Bloomingdale Senior High School

Follow us @BloomingdaleSHS

November 6 – Football vs Steinbrenner, 7:30 p.m.

November 13 – Football Play Offs @ Plant City, 7:30 p.m.



BULLS BRIEFS

*****ATTENTION BSHS SENIOR PARENTS*****

The Bloomingdale Lacrosse team has started its annual Graduation Yard Sign fundraiser. Help us spread the word even if you do not have a 2021 graduate! Contact CoachBorowski@gmail.com for any questions, comments, or concerns.

Go Bulls!

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



2021 BULLS GRADUATION YARD SIGNS

Congratulate a senior you know by purchasing a yard sign to be displayed in their front yard.

CLASS OF 2018
ANNA
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\$20 if ordered by Friday, 12/18 at 11:59pm

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If you have any questions, please email CoachBorowski@gmail.com

Math Homework Hotline for all Students

Nov. 5, 5:30-7:00 p.m. / recurrent event

Math Homework Hotline (MHH) offers a free service to students for math help. On select Thursdays, the live show is broadcast from 6 to 7 p.m. featuring a specific math topic while students call in with any of their math questions. The tutors will begin taking calls at 5:30 p.m. A list of available dates is available at www.mysdhc.org. Phone lines are only available during the live shows.

Watch MHH Live

View live on the web from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday evenings or on Spectrum channel 635 or Frontier channel 32. Our teachers are ready to take your questions beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday nights, call (813) 840-7260.



Class of 2021 Represents With Not One, Not Two, But Three National Merit Semifinalists

Brief: Jane Owen

Joseph (Joey) Neidig, Jude Delikat, and Trey Hydock earned the honor of being national merit scholar nominees.

As semifinalists, they represent an elite group – less than 1 percent of high school seniors in U.S. are part of this group. Even more incredible, these three students are close friends. They completed on the same math team at Burns Middle School. Now all three are seniors at Bloomingdale High School.

National Merit Semifinalists selections are based on PSAT scores from junior year. To become a finalist and winner, selection is based on the scores plus grades, participation in school and community activities, leadership responsibilities, and honors and awards.



*Congratulations, Joey, Jude, and Trey!
Your community is proud of you.*



Bloomingdale Student Represents Hillsborough County as a US Presidential Scholar Nominee and National Merit Semi-Finalist

Brief: Jane Owen

Trey Hydock won the presidential scholar nomination for all of Hillsborough County. This huge honor is due to his achievements and recommendations from Bloomingdale High School. Students are picked from their respective schools for their PSAT and SAT scores, volunteerism, grades, adversities they overcome, and recommendations by high school administration and guidance. Bloomingdale administration and guidance nominated Trey. He was then selected as the nomination for ALL of Hillsborough County. He will compete against nominees from all Florida counties.

Hydock said, "I am honored to have been selected for these two distinctions. My Presidential Nomination was a surprise because it came so quickly on the heels of my National Merit Scholar award, but it was certainly a welcome one. I am thankful for the support of Bloomingdale High School and the Bloomingdale community, and I hope to represent them both well."

Congratulations, Trey! Bloomingdale is proud of you!



Courtesy Photo



Senior Swimmers Honored; Team places at District and Heads to Regionals

Brief: Jane Owen



Courtesy Photos

Bloomington's Swim Team honored Seniors on Oct. 13 at the Bloomington vs. Durant meet. Seniors include (pictured left to right): Casey Pulley, Sophia Hernandez, Allan Purvis, Dominic Valdes, Eric Duncan, Mia Rivera, Luisa Navarrete



Also competing on Oct. 23 at District-level was diver Brynn Risgaard (pictured far left) with fellow teammates.



On Oct. 23, the Bloomington's Swim Team competed in District competition. The Boys team placed 2nd. The Girls Team placed 3rd.



On Oct. 31, the following team members competed at Regionals. Results were unavailable at press time.

Swimming Individual Events and Relays:

Caroline Bartel, Alexa Brown, Arthur Lekov & Matthew McLean

Swimming Relays:

Sarah Allison, Mia Rivera, Malia Blythe, Dylann Laufenberg, Luciana Granados, Alexandra Bularca, Sean Barry, Deon Armes, Allan Purvis, Isaac Whitaker, Zachary Carter, Eric Duncan, Tyler O'Connell & Cole Wloczewski

GO BULLS!!



Fore! Lady Bull Golfers Make the Shots

Staff Report

During Oct. 12 District Golf play, Junior Averie Fiedler (right) and Sophomore Anna Barille (left) qualified for regionals as individual participants. This is a noteworthy accomplishment in a very competitive district spanning Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. Coach Heather Iverson said, "This accomplishment is directly attributed to the work they put in during the season and pre-season. With both returning next year the lady bulls golf team has a bright future next year."

GO Bulls!



Sophomore Anna Barille (left) and Junior Averie Fiedler (right).




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

Happy Thanksgiving from The Brenda Wade Team!

Home has never been more important than in 2020! We are grateful, in spite of tough times, to have been able to help our Bloomingdale neighbors buy and sell wisely for another year. This year has been scary, but we are always here to help and offer guidance in good times and in bad. We are thankful to live and work in a great community.



BREND A WADE
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