

# BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

## 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

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

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci, NTZ Studios (ntzstudios.com) Staff Writers: 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



## Community Publications Manager

1000 North Ashley Drive, Suite 700

Tampa, Florida 33602 (813) 731-2490

Email: adaly@tampabay.com



Next Available

5:00 am Today \$

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.

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



A hospital department of AdventHealth Tampa

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# E NA COMMUNITY CORNER

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! 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. Check our map and road listings below and on our Facebook page.

## **Santa Visit**



December 6, 2020 10 am to 2 pm



# START

## **WINDSOR WOODS**

Kiowa Ln -> Cold Creek Dr -> Treeline Dr -> Culbreath Rd

# BLOOMINGDALE RIDGE, FOX RUN/THE GREENS

Eagle Bluff Dr -> Timber Grove Dr -> Culbreath Rd

## **OAKCREST**

Needham Dr -> Kenwick Dr -> Gotham Way -> Erindale Dr -> Culbreath Rd

## **THE LINKS**

Delamere Dr -> Swift Circle -> Delamere Dr Culbreath Rd

## **BLOOMINGDALE COVE**

Allwood Dr -> Groveway Dr

#### **SOMERSET**

Groveway Dr -> River Close Blvd -> Natures Way Blvd -> Culbreath Rd

## **BRISTOL GREEN**

Golf Manor Blvd -> Kendal Ct

## **RIVER CROSSING**

River Crossing Dr -> Dumont Dr

## AUGUSTA VILLAGE, STRATFORD TRACE AND BLOOMINGDALE TRACE

Dumont Dr -> Elba Dr -> Natures Way Blvd

## **PRESTON WOODS**

Preston Woods Dr -> Natures Way

## **BLOOMINGDALE EAST PARK**

Greenhollow Ln -> Bell Shoals Rd Rosemead Lane -> Canoga Park

## BLOOMINGDALE WEST, BLOOMINGDALE ESTATES, SANDY CREEK MANOR

Bloomingfield Dr ->
Applegate Cir -> Bayfield Dr ->
Bloomingfield Dr -> Sweetleaf Dr ->
Cedar Grove -> Encina Dr ->
Ephrata Dr -> Sandy Creek Dr ->
Canoga Park



**BLOOMINGDALE WEST PARK** 

DECEMBER 2020 # 3



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# COMMUNITY CORNER CONTINUED

## **MONTHLY EVENTS**

Bloomingdale Special District Monthly Trustee Meeting/ Monday, December 14, 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, December 15, 6:30 p.m. / Blooming-dale 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

## **BNA BRIEFS**

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association is getting ready to kick off 2021 with some of our most requested activities, including the community clean-up and garage sale! Stay Tuned!

Our membership drive starts on Jan.1, 2021. We need your \$35 membership fee to provide these activities to our community.

Our new email is Bl.Neighborl@gmail.com. The old email is still operational for now. Our office hours are by appointment only for the time being. Another way to reach us is via our Google Voice number (813) 252-0252. We hope to have all name changes and updates completed by the end of the year.

## LOCAL HOLIDAY MARKETS



**Chill Cawfee Holiday Night Market and Social** / Dec. 4, 4-9pm / Chill Cawfee, 3407 Lithia Pinecrest Rd

Bullfrog Creek Night Market / Dec. 4, 6-10pm / Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co., 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Rd





**Tampa Bay Heat Holiday Market** / 9am-1pm / Grace Bible Church 1010 E Brandon Blvd, Brandon

Dec. 5 at

Brandon Ballet Nutcracker / Dec. 5, 7:30pm, Dec. 6, 3pm, Dec. 6, 5:30pm / Overflow Church, 4929 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico



# LOCAL HOLIDAY MARKETS CONT.



Chanukah Bazaar / Dec. 6, 10am to Noon Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon 706 Bryan Road Brandon



Winthrop Pop-Up Market / Dec.19, 9am-2pm / 11349 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview



River Hills Sunday Market Dec. 13, 10am 4367 Lynx Paw Trail, Valrico



Merchant Market @ Art Monkey Emporium / Dec. 12, 10am-5pm / 16144 Churchview Dr, Lithia, FL / 813-315-9803



**Brandon Sunday** Market / Dec. 20, 10am 772 W. Lumsden Rd





**Bullfrog Creek Day Market** Dec. 20, Noon-4pm Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co. 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Rd



**SAME-DAY FREE SECOND OPINIONS** 

#### MAINTAIN | REPAIR | REPLACE

A/C & HEATING

MAINTAIN 21-POINT CLEAN & TUNE

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

**PLUMBING** 

A/C & HEATING

REPAIR **SAVE ON NEXT REPAIR** 

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

FREE ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE

IERNA's | 813-324-1304

#### **PLUMBING**

MAINTAIN

**PLUMBING INSPECTION** 

Dye Testing of All Toilets Inspection of All Exposed Piping Inspection of All Sink Drains

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE

IERNA's | 813-324-1304

REPAIR **SAVE ON NEXT REPAIR** 

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

IERNA's | 813-324-1304

EMERGENCY (HOTLINE) 813-324-1304



# THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION

TOM LEECH, BSD PRESIDEN1

## **Office and Meeting Updates**

I hope everyone remains in good health and spirits and had a Happy Thanksgiving. Despite the COVID rollercoaster this year, your Board of Trustees conducted business virtually so that we can continue maintaining our community. Our office has re-opened and the Office Manager will meet with residents by appointment only. Additionally, our regular monthly meetings require an in-person quorum at our meetings but can have others join virtually, which means we are not allowing in-person attendance by the public.

## **County Completes Natures Way Project, What's Next**

The County's last step in the Natures Way median project was completed with the installation of turf. The District worked with county representatives to ensure operable irrigation lines were part of the project. The District is developing a long-term landscaping plan that will include replacing most of the County-provided turf with perennials and annuals. This planting will begin in the Spring. However, we hope to have poinsettias installed in a few areas along Natures Way as an added holiday accent.

## **Bell Shoals Construction Reaches Rosemead Dr**

Work along Bell Shoals has reached the Bloomingdale area. Power lines are being repositioned and pipes for new storm drains are about to be installed. Our property manager and I recently met with County engineers to discuss some of the next steps. On or about December 1, work will commence at the intersection of Rosemead and Bell Shoals. A jack and bore pit will be put in place to drill under Rosemead and install a conduit for utility lines running along the west side of Bell Shoals. The County stated that at most, only the outbound right lane of Rosemead will be affected by boring underneath Rosemead. We have removed and stored the Bloomingdale entrance sign. Landscaping at the intersection will be affected and I do not anticipate replanting until the road widening is completed. Once utility conduits and piping are in place, preparation for the road itself can begin.



Photo: Jane Owen

## **Experimental Plantings Prove Successful**

Our experimental planting along the southern portion of Nature's Way near Culbreath has proven very successful. The intent was to plant areas where turf has died or had difficulty due to minimal sunlight and cars parking on the turf. We expect to continue this project in the Spring along the north side of the same

section of road. We also plan to install several delineators at the corners of south Natures Way and Culbreath to deter parking on the turf and landscaping. 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.

#### Welcome, Kristine Schroeder!

Finally, I want to welcome Kristine Schroeder to the Board of Trustees. Kristine has been very active in the Somerset HOA and is a wonderful addition to our team. Welcome, Kristine!

# BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DISTRICT

3509 Bell Shoals Road Valrico, Florida 33596 (813) 684-6667 Office (813) 684-2358 Fax BSTD@verizon.net https://mydistrictwebsite.com/ Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

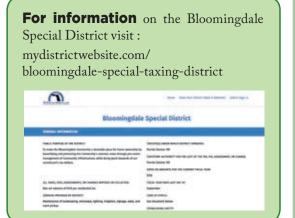
Tom Leech, President
Charlie Woodcock, Treasurer
Russell Jones, Trustee
Randy Kehrmeyer, Trustee
Claire Letkiewicz, Trustee
Kristine Schroeder, Trustee

## **Monthly Meeting**

The next meeting of the Bloomingdale Special District is Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, 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: Phone: (571) 317-3122 Access Code: 207-413-181





- - New CDC Guidelines for Children & Staff
  - Full & P/T Options (Ages Birth-11 Yrs.)
  - Open M-F 6:45am to 6pm (COVID Hours)
  - Free Internet Viewing of Your Child's Day
  - ABCMouse Computer Technology
  - Brainwaves Curriculum
  - STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math)
  - Trained Professional Staff Certified in First Aid & CPR

## Programs We Offer:

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

813-657-6200 www.krkvalrico.com 4321 Lynx Paw Trail

Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary CHC431024

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

(#) www.hdroofers.com (\*\*) Office: (813) 321-4751

NEW Online Learning Academy

A new and exciting way to engage, learn, and play in an interactive, digital learning environment

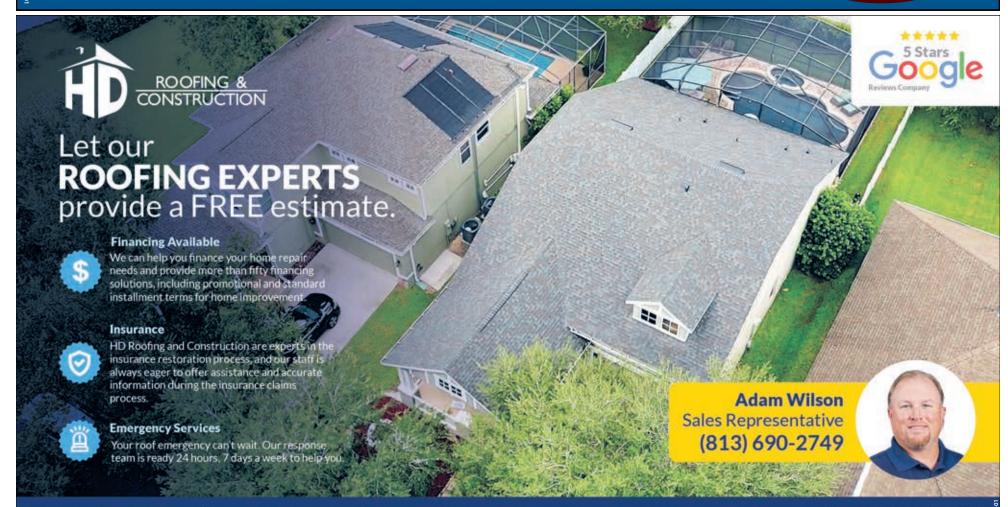
- Circle time with calendar and songs (literacy, language, math, social-emotional connection, character development)
- · Letter and vocabulary practice
- Educational games
- Music & Movement
- STEAM Ahead Lab: we will create fun projects and live science experiments
- Access to home extension activities for offline learning



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## There's no stopping a Rajun Bull

## By Jane Owen

As the school year started, COVID-19 along with safety concerns for large gatherings put high school marching band seasons in question. What was never in doubt, was the Bloomingdale Rajun Bull Band's ability to adapt to whatever was to come.

Jon Sever, Director of Bands, revamped the band's halftime show to adjust for season unknowns. Not knowing how long the season might be, he found a Queen show through a vendor who allowed the band to purchase music a little at time. The first song is a compilation of "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "We Will Rock You." The second song of the set is "Don't Stop Me Now."

Sever explained, "The Queen song, "Don't Stop Me Now," seemed to fit our goals of finding a way to make the season happen under these difficult circumstances."

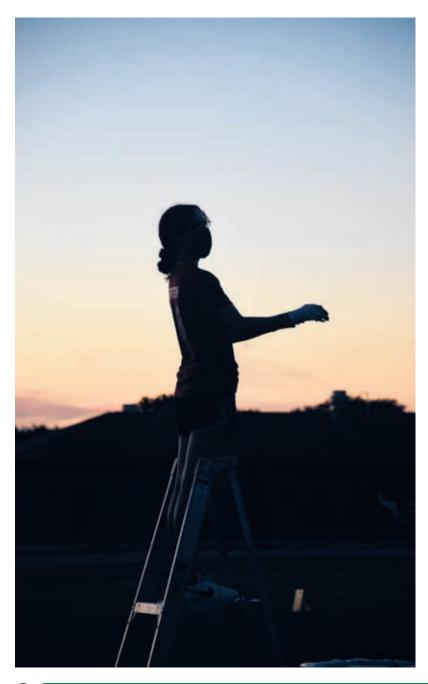
With safety being the highest priority, changes had to be implemented. Indoor rehearsals required social distancing. Specific masks to accommodate for instruments were purchased. Uniforms are cleaned after every wearing. The band plays exclusively at home games. At 218 members, the band is not allowed in the stands.

They sit, spaced apart, deep in the end zone area. Refreshment comes in the form of bottled water and prepackaged snacks.

On top of everything, the annual Florida Bandmasters Association Marching Music Performance Assessment (MPAs), that Bloomingdale was to host, was canceled. Instead of dwelling on what they are missing out on, the students remain focused on playing their best music.

Senior Drum Major Rosie Harrison is proud of the band's camaraderie and effort despite the unique challenges. "I have definitely seen the band grow very quickly under these circumstances, especially the freshman class. Everyone has stepped up to make sure we are putting on the best show we possibly can amidst a lack of preseason rehearsals and with limited performance opportunities. I am very grateful to be able to do all of the things we have done this season."

Sever, too, is proud of how the students have overcome the year's adversity. "I feel they have come together more as a team to help each other. They appreciate what they CAN do in a time where they are being told what they CAN'T do."





Photos: Jane Owen



**8** (\*) THE BLOOMINGDALE GA

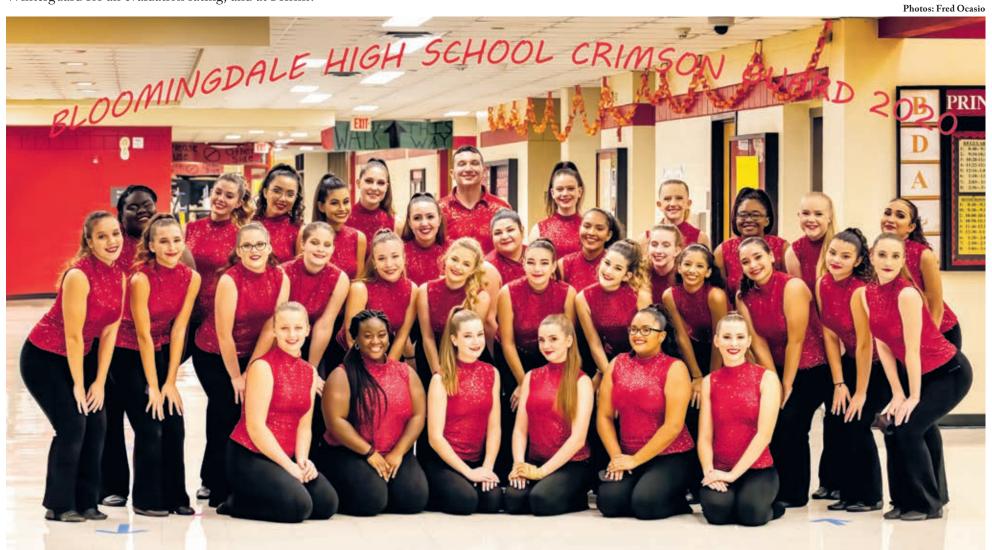
# **Crimson Guard adds the Sparkle and Smiles to Rajun Bull Band Performances**

Starting the winter/spring season, Bloomingdale will floor two "Guard" teams.

Competitive Winterguard will compete locally in person and will end the season in Daytona Beach for championships.

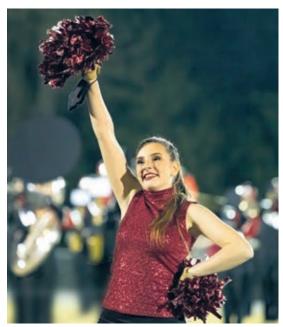
Crimson Guard will not be competing this season. They will perform at the Christmas concert, in January for a home show, in March for a home show, at FBA Winterguard for an evaluation rating, and at Prisms.

Photos: Fred Ocasio









# Local Resident Hits the Trail... The Appalachian Trail

Hiking the Trail is a Passion for Greens Resident

## By Michelle Colesanti



The Beginning - Winding Stair Gap

Bloomingdale (The Greens) resident David Miller always dreamed of hiking the entire 2,190 mile Appalachian Trail (AT). He originally planned to go the entire distance in one trip.

"When I first retired in 2012, my idea was that I'm going to hike the AT. I had a granddaughter at the house, so it was put off for seven years."

The grandchildren are now living out of state so Miller has more time to spend actually living his dream. "If your whole life has been about adventure, you still need it when you retire," he added.

Miller, who spent many years serving in the Army, including the Airborne Special Forces and Special Ops, knows a lot about preparing for wilderness

encounters. Through his military and commercial pilot experiences, where he also had the opportunity to visit about 90 countries, he doesn't plan to stop anytime soon.

Miller, who will turn 72 in January, has decided not to pursue the entire AT all at once, but he plans to hike it in stages. "If I hike 100 miles in the spring and 100 miles in the fall, I can hike the whole AT in 10 years."

In September, he spent eight and half days hiking 83 miles by himself traveling north to south from Winding Stair Gap near Franklin, North Carolina to Neil's Gap near Hiawassee, Georgia.

It takes a lot of planning to figure out what to bring based on the weight you must carry. Your clothes, food, tent and water must travel with you.





Miller said, "You have to be well prepared. Everything you take should have multiple uses. You have to think about what it will take to survive."



Setting up camp for the night in Beech Gap, NC

Since you burn from 3,000 to 5,000 calories a day, knowing the type of food needed must be a priority. Your meals and snacks need to be high in protein and carbohydrates. "You have to know how far you can go on the food you can carry," Miller noted.

Before he started his trek, he hid additional food and a change of clothes inside a tree at the midway point of his hike.

He has seen some unusual things on his journeys. On this last trip, he helped a lady who had been stuck in a shelter for one and half days after blowing out her artificial knee. She had crawled, with her dog, up a hill to get into the shelter. She had no cell reception to get help, but Miller was lucky enough to have half a bar on his cell phone; just enough juice to text for help.

After each hike, Miller always goes over everything to see what he can improve for the next trip. He's learned a lot of tricks through the years.

With blessings from his wife Martina, he will hike with a friend this spring, traveling the next section of the AT from Winding Stair Gap north to Davenport Gap in Tennessee. During the winter, they will train together for a few days on a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

According to Miller, "Half the fun is in the planning and preparation and learning from the previous trip."

Thirty percent of those hiking the entire trail quit after the first 31 miles, but Miller has what it takes and will no doubt reach his lofty goal.



North Carolina / Georgia Border

Big Butt Mountain, NC

## BC Th

# Book Review: "The Life She Once Knew The Incredible True Story of Queena, The Bloomingdale Library Attack Survivor"

By Jane Owen

"The Life She Once Knew," written by Vanna Nguyen, was released on Nov. 9, 2020. Nguyen pours her heart into the story of her daughter Queena's attack in front of the Bloomingdale library in 2008. Through her journey she relives feelings from her own Vietnam War survival story.

The book will grip your heart. It is a tragedy in the rawest sense. However, the book will remind you that our Bloomingdale community and world is good. Goodness is everywhere and we can and should have faith about that. That is the message.

As a reader and community lover, I learned about the Bloomingdale Library victim not long after I moved to Bloomingdale. I readily followed the @JoinQUEENA Facebook page. To say the setting of the book hits close to home is an understatement – as these days, my 15-year-old son often goes to the library after school to hang out with friends or finish homework.

Read this book. You will struggle to imagine the depths of grief, but also marvel at the power of faith and love.

What do you hope readers come away with after reading the book? "Three words: NEVER GIVE UP."

## What was the hardest part of writing the book?

"The overwhelming grief, what we all went through that night at Bloomingdale library – It was hard not to think about the life Queena would have had."

What does the support of the Bloomingdale community mean to you? "I just want to thank the Bloomingdale community for the support they've shown my family over these many years. Sometimes I wonder what our family did to earn such compassion, steadfastness, and sacrifice. Our promise back to you all is to continue to fight the fight, be a light, and pour back into your life however we can."



Courtesy Photo

#### The Life She Once Knew is available at:

 $Books-A-Million: \ https://m.booksamillion.com/product/9781620207277$ 

Barnes & Noble: https://buff.ly/3n250Eb Christianbook: https://buff.ly/3oZhT2L Amazon: https://buff.ly/3icWAWS

December School News:
A Look at What's Happening

Compiled by Jane Owen

December 21-January 1 - Winter Break/Non-Student Days - No School January 4 - Students Return to School



#### **ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY**

School Website: alafia.mysdhc.org Facebook Page: Alafia Elementary PTA

Dec 11– Holiday spirit shoppe ends Friday Dec 15 – Rosati's spirit night Wednesday



## CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

School Website: cimino.mysdhc.org Facebook Page: Cimino Elementary Media Center and Cimino PTA

Through - Dec 3 – Spirit week Mon-Thurs at Bloomingdale Pizza Dec 15 – Spirit night at Your Pie



#### **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

Dec. 14 – Spirit Night at Beef O'Brady's, 6-8 p.m. June 3 – Graduation, 4 p.m. at the state fairgrounds



#### **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.

#### Math Homework Hotline for all Students

Dec.3 and 10, 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.

DECEMBER 2020

## The Road to the District **Championship and Beyond**

By Jane Owen



Photos: Fred Ocasio

Bloomingdale secured the first-ever District Championship in this blow-out win against Strawberry Crest. During the second half, future starters accumulated valuable playing time.







<b>Fri, 9/11</b> 7:30 PM	ARMWOOD HAWKS	<b>Armwood</b> Seffner  Home • Non-District	<b>W</b> 15-14
<b>Fri, 9/25</b> 7:30 PM		<b>Tampa Bay Tech</b> <i>Tampa</i> Away • Non-District	W25-22
<b>Fri, 10/2</b> 7:30 PM	Pt.	<b>Plant City</b> Away • Non-District	<b>W</b> 37-20



Fri, 10/9

7:30 PM



**Durant** 

Plant City

Home • District

Kathleen

**Strawberry Crest** 





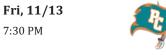
W30-0



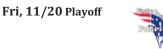
W62-0 Away • Non-District



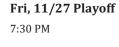
Newsome W38-10 Lithia Home • Non-District



**Plant City** W35-21 Playoff



Pinellas Park **W25-10** 6-3





Armwood Regional SeffnerSemi-Final TBA • Playoff

## 11/6 **NEWSOME** 38-10

Photos: Fred Ocasio

History was made when Bloomingdale wrapped up the regular season by beating hometown rival Newsome 38-10. It was the third win over Newsome in 3 years. More significantly, the win completed the first undefeated regular season in Bloomingdale history.





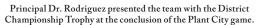


## **PLAYOFFS - 11/13 PLANT CITY** 35-21

Photos: Jane Owen

Tied 7-7 at halftime, the unbeaten Bulls found their stride in the second half winning their first-round playoff game. In the 3rd Quarter, Bloomingdale took the lead with a touchdown and 2-point conversion followed by two more TDs and never looked back While Plant City scored two touchdowns in the 4th Quarter, Bloomingdale's defense stayed strong and the team scored again to complete the game.









## 11/20 PINELLAS PARK **25-10**

Photos: Jane Ower

Bloomingdale won their second-round playoff game at Pinellas Park by a score of 25-10. The hard-fought game started rough for the Bulls. Down 7-10 at halftime, the Bulls rallied and shut Pinellas Park out for the remainder of the game while scoring an additional 18 points.







ood

TBD NOV 27

@ HOME VS ARMWOOD

Bloomingdale plays in their second ever third round playoff game on Nov 27. While the game takes place before the Gazette is published it occurs after it goes to press. Here's to the story continuing!

"If you are practicing on Thanksgiving, it's a good year. Nothing better than turkey and football!"

Bloomingdale Head Coach Jacob Coulson

## **Champions On and Off the Field**

Brief: Jane Owen

On Saturday, Nov. 21, about 20 Bloomingdale Football players volunteered at a Thanksgiving Meal Distribution at Sligh Middle School. They assisted in no-contact loading of meal boxes and turkeys for families driving through. The event was sponsored by the Bullard Family Foundation, Metropolitan Ministries and Feed the Bay.



Giving back to their community speaks to the character of our Bloomingdale Bulls!  ${\bf Courtesy\, Photos; Battle\, Tested\, Photography, LLC}$ 



#15 Senior Avant Bethea (DE/TE) puts the finishing touches on a box ready to go.



#17 Senior Unique Lewis (LB/RB) and #80 Sophomore Charlie O'Brien (TE/DE) load Thanksgiving meals for families in need.

DECEMBER 2020 **▶ 13** 





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& we'll include a UV Light System,

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## The Beat Goes On For The Burns Band

#### By Alvinth Bowen

Many people wondered how the COVID-19 outbreak would affect the 2020-2021 school year. At Burns Middle School, Band Director Kelly Chisholm never considered the pandemic a deal breaker, but more of a puzzle that needed to be solved.

To that end, she used the 2020 summer to research and execute critically protective measures for the band to ensure the program could continue and thrive. Based on university-level testing and scientific evidence, Chisholm identified methods that would not only protect the young Burns Bruins from contracting the airborne virus but keep music as a viable and safe part of the middle school academic experience.

To safely play their instruments, students sit at least 6 feet apart and use bell covers. The bell covers stop aerosols from spraying out of the instruments which could spread the virus. These methods keep the risk of spreading the virus relatively low.

Like all other subjects being offered in middle school, band has been made available this year through e-learning. This means that students who have opted-in to learning from home still have been able to participate in band. Chisholm teaches both eLearning and brick and mortar students.

A t-shirt becomes a bell cover adding a protective barrier between the person playing the instrument and others. This is just one example of the creative and resourceful measures Band Director Kelly Chisholm used to keep the musical heartbeat alive at Burns Middle School.

Music is known to reduce stress and positively affect well-being. During this historic time of uncertainty, having music available to our children at all ages is a great outlet. Chisholm's efforts to keep children safe has kept the music playing on at Burns -COVID-19 cannot silence the music at Burns!



A student sharpening her instrument skills while learning from home.

Courtesy Photos

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