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Saturday - Sunday  
9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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**Jane Owen**  
**Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette**

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.  
Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

**Design/Layout:** Chris Pascucci, NTZ Studios ([ntzstudios.com](http://ntzstudios.com))  
**Staff Writers:** Michelle Colesanti  
**Student Writers:** Siobhan Davis and Alejandra Gonzalez

The official publication of the BNA since 1980, 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](mailto:adaly@tampabay.com)

**Tampa Bay  
Times**

## BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

Email: [Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com) Website: [www.Bloomingdale.Life](http://www.Bloomingdale.Life)

Follow on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1](http://www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1)

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  
Jane Owen

## BNA BRIEFS

### BNA CALENDAR

**Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. / BNA Board Meeting** Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road / Call 813-252-0252 for information. The community is welcome to attend! Email [bl.neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:bl.neighbor1@gmail.com).

**Saturday, November 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. / Fall Community Clean-up**

**Sunday, December 5 / Santa Drive-through**

### BNA Members Wanted!

No better time than the present to join the BNA! Just \$35 annually helps keeps our community programs going. Please send your membership in today and be part of making Bloomingdale a great place to live, work and call home.

### Membership can be paid through PayPal!

Scan this QR code, or visit <https://bloomingdale.life> - at the bottom of the home page, click on 2021 Membership!



### JOIN TODAY!



## Bloomingdale's Annual Clean-Up Day



**Saturday, November 6, 2021**

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or until bins are full)**

**Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility**  
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For details, visit [www.Bloomingdale.Life](http://www.Bloomingdale.Life) or email [Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com)

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Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

For information on the BSD visit:  
[mydistrictwebsite.com/  
bloomingdale-special-taxing-district](http://mydistrictwebsite.com/bloomingdale-special-taxing-district)

## THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON AREA CONNECTION

TOM LEECH, BSD PRESIDENT

### A Message from President Tom Leech

I want to thank the community for your overwhelmingly positive responses to the 9/11 banners. We anticipate raising them each year around Labor Day in continued remembrance. For now, the 9/11 banners will remain up until just prior to Thanksgiving when the District will switch over to holiday banners. Coinciding with the banner change-out, the District will also rotate the annuals and install poinsettias for the holidays.

You may have noticed a slower pace of landscaping and common area maintenance. Our landscaping contractor, Your Green Team, is experiencing staff shortages due to COVID, including several team members in quarantine. This has impacted the depth and frequency of service. The District is working with YGT to ensure that Bloomingdale retains its beauty and well-kept appearance as their workers recover.

On the subject of flowers and color, we are beginning the redesign of the landscaping beds at each of our entryways. The District developed a new plant palette that includes many new and colorful choices with which to enhance the outward appearance of Bloomingdale. YGT also expects to begin planting new turf and planting new creeping fig plants along sections of perimeter walls that were recently cleaned and painted. All of these new plantings will begin prior to Thanksgiving, which is the ideal time for these installations to take place.

Our next regular meeting is on Monday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to speak at the meeting, members of the public are allotted 3 minutes to make comment or ask questions per Hillsborough County policy. Hope to see you there!

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

### Monthly Meeting

Bloomingdale residents are invited to attend the next regular monthly meeting of the BSD on Monday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Community Offices, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. The meeting agenda can be found at [mydistrictwebsite.com/bloomingdale-special-taxing-district](http://mydistrictwebsite.com/bloomingdale-special-taxing-district). If you would like to speak at the meeting, members of the public are allotted 3 minutes to make comments or ask questions, per Hillsborough County policy. **Hope to see you there!**

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## Stalk & Vine Opens in November

By Michelle Colesanti

Stalk & Vine Market Farm, located in Lithia on Highway 39, opens to the public on Friday, November 5. The 10-acre bio-intensive farm provides seasonal vegetables, herbs, peaches and flowers.

Patrick (Pat) and Carla Strickland started the farm in 2019. The property they secured already had about 80 peach trees and more than enough acreage for their planned small-scale operation, which offers naturally grown, chemical free produce.

Families and children of all ages are welcome to visit and see how food is grown. Carla keeps organic treats on hand for kids to enjoy when they visit. "The crops aren't the only thing we grow, relationships are cultivated here," Pat explained.

Pat is a native Floridian and an Army veteran. After serving in the Army, he started Timberline Landscaping Management and in the mid 90's, he founded Southern Bass Trails and the Southern Redfish Tour, a series of competitive fishing tournaments throughout Florida, which were televised on the Outdoor Channel and Sunshine Network. He retired from Brandon Ford in July 2020. Carla spent the greater portion of her working years managing and developing numerous multifamily communities in the Tampa Bay area.

Pat will tell you there is nothing easy about farming. Both him and Carla like the idea of providing healthy chemical free foods to people they love while enjoying the process and the time shared together.

Stalk & Vine has partnered with 15 Olives, an American family-owned business with the highest quality, USA grown (Florida and California) olive oil and flavored vinegars. They are farm to table, providing 100% clean oil made with real ingredients containing no additives, synthetics or food dyes. Other local offerings include organic strawberries in season from 5K Farms in Plant City and watermelons from JDI Farms in Punta Gorda. Peaches from Stalk & Vine will be available in May.



Stalk & Vine is a proud member and supporter of Fresh from Florida and the Farmer Veteran Coalition. Located at 14923 S. County Rd. 39 in Lithia, you can visit [Stalkandvineon39.com](http://Stalkandvineon39.com) for more information. Stalk & Vine is also on Facebook.

Stalk & Vine, located at 149 S. County Road 39 in Lithia, will open its farm stand to the public on Friday, November 5. It will be open each week thereafter on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.



Carla and Pat Strickland, owners of Stalk & Vine, enjoy the sunflowers grown. When available, the sunflowers are offered as a u-pick item.





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0000176881-01





## Community Garage Sale is a Success!



The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association was thrilled with the success of the community garage sale on September 18. Great to see so many friendly faces!



## Garage Sale Find: Dogkerchiefs!

By Jane Owen

During the Bloomingdale Community Garage sale, I made a great garage sale find- Dogkerchiefs!

Eadie Dahl, age 11, was set up in her driveway at a table, with her sewing machine ready. She was selling Dogkerchiefs to raise money for her Girl Scout trip to Europe. I didn't know what a Dogkerchief was. After talking to Eadie, I bought two for my miniature schnauzers.

DogKerchiefs are bandanas that slip over a dog's collar, which allows the bandana to stay on comfortably with no risk of choking the dog.

I asked Eadie how she came up with the idea to raise money for her girl scout trip.

Eadie explained, "One day I was scrolling through TikTok, and saw a bandana on a golden retriever, and thought, that would be an awesome item to sew and sell to pet owners. And so, me and my dad made a pattern and made it possible for me to be doing this."

Her trip is scheduled for the summer of 2023. She is most looking forward to going to Disneyland Paris.

Eadie expects that she will enjoy the Europe trip more after working towards it. "I feel I will appreciate it (the trip) more because I actually earn the money, instead of my parents just giving it to me. And, I know I put in all my effort to go," she said.

The community garage sale was Eadie's first day selling Dogkerchiefs. She sold 8 that day. Afterwards, her parents set up a Facebook page for the Dogkerchiefs. Eadie's mom,

Jessie Dahl, was impressed by the support of the community. "The generosity of the community had been absolutely amazing," Jessie said.

Dogkerchiefs can be ordered through @EadieDBandanas on Facebook or by emailing: EadieDBandanas@gmail.com

**Dogkerchiefs are \$6.00 each and come in these sizes:**

XS = 5-10 pounds or collar size: 8-10 inches  
S = 10-25 pounds or collar size: 10-14 inches  
M = Up to 55 pounds or collar: 14-20 inches  
L = Up to 75 pounds or collar size: 16-26 inches  
XL = 75+ pounds or collar size: 24-30 inches

Eadie during the Bloomingdale Community Garage Sale



Eadie's dog Izzy wearing an XL DogKerchief.



# **Bloomington High Schoolers Study the Fourth Estate**

By Siobhan Davis and Alejandra Gonzalez

Bloomington Senior High School offers a variety of courses for its students. One of those courses is a study of journalism (the Fourth Estate). Bloomington's Journalism 1 class is taught by Art Aiello.

Some in Aiello's class plan to make journalism a career. Bloomington sophomore Damaris Beltran aspires to be a professional journalist. Beltran became interested in journalism when participating in a school project that involved asking her elementary school peers questions about school routines and their personal feelings. "I got to write about the things that were happening," Beltran said.

In order to prepare for the professional journalism field, Beltran said she thinks it's important to take up opportunities, like the journalism class she is currently enrolled in, that will be beneficial in the future. "I can learn by using skill sets to get first-hand experience," she said. Beltran said she plans to take Bloomington's yearbook class next year to obtain additional knowledge about her dream profession.

According to Beltran, journalism offers many benefits. "Money will be the best thing about this," she said, "but another beneficial factor is, it'll keep me stable."

For some students, journalism is only one of a variety of interests. Junior Kaela Brooker has a passion for journalism as well as singing. She dreams of going to Florida State University to pursue the voice program in the college of music and

the English program. As a little girl, Brooker wrote songs and poems. She became more passionate about both as she grew up, which led her to journalism class. According to Brooker, journalism class is helpful and she feels it will benefit her in the future. "It's helping me by opening my eyes to what I need to interview someone," Brooker said.

Some of Aiello's students see journalism class as providing skills that will be helpful in their future careers.

Senior Hallie Telfare said becoming a social worker is in her future. She finds journalism helpful to learn how to make a good impression upon her audience and grabbing their attention in any situation. "Journalism interests me because it's all about putting pieces together," Telfare said.

The students in Aiello's class plan to publish stories throughout the school year in the Bloomington Gazette.



Siobhan Davis



Alejandra Gonzalez

## **The Gazette Welcomes Bloomington High School's Journalism 1 Class!**

The Gazette is thrilled to begin a new partnership with Bloomington High School. Starting this month, Bloomington's Journalism 1 Students will be reporting for The Gazette.







# Horsing Around in Kentucky

By Michelle Colesanti

This summer we set our sights on visiting Kentucky. It is a state we may not have considered had our overseas travel plans not been canceled. We were glad to discover what makes it unique.

There is plenty to do and see in Kentucky. Mammoth Caves National Park can be visited year-round and it's not too far from the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green where you can time hop from the 1950's to present day. Follow the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, mostly between Louisville and Lexington, sampling Kentucky's finest spirits at more than 35 distilleries. There is plenty for history buffs too. Mary Todd Lincoln's childhood home and Ashland, Henry Clay's Estate, both are located in Lexington.

Our road trip eventually took us to Lexington, which is considered the horse capital of the world. We signed up for a morning tour of local thoroughbred horse farms, where the breeding of these horses, many through the bloodlines of past derby winners, is big business. Our tour enabled us to get close up and personal with some of the beautiful mares and even their foal. The males can be a little rambunctious and we chose to keep our distance, but they are very impressive to see up close. The farms are multi-million dollar businesses and the grounds are impeccably kept.

On the recommendation of our tour guide Shaun Washington, we visited



One of the trainers practicing at the Keeneland racing facility in Lexington, KY, which includes racing and horse auctions.



One of the most famous derby winners is honored outside of Churchill Downs. (L-R: Phil and Michelle Colesanti)

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Michelle Colesanti feeding one of the mare's peppermints.

internationally renowned Keeneland racing facility. It is open 24/7 and the public is welcome to come in for free to see the grounds. Early morning is the best time to go. While there, we got to see trainers working with their horses taking practice runs. One made sure to let us know that his horse had recently won the Breeders Cup, which made it a potential Derby racer.

Kentucky is probably best known for its annual Kentucky Derby Run for the Roses race, which is normally held the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

So it was on to Louisville. It is hard to imagine that one race a year has made this place so famous. You will need to visit the Kentucky Derby Museum in order to visit the grounds if it's not a race day. Admission includes a 30 minute walking tour of the lower grounds, but I highly recommend paying the extra \$20 for the 90 minute Behind the Scenes tour for fascinating stories



A mare and her foal graze at one of the horse farms near Lexington, Kentucky.

from the past. You will see where celebrities such as Tom Brady hang out. Queen Elizabeth and her entourage were welcomed in 2007 where they enjoyed the festivities from Millionaires Row. As I stood up there overlooking the beautiful grounds, I imagined donning my fancy hat with mint julep in hand.

The year of the first derby race was in 1875. May 7, 2022 will see the 148th Run for the Roses. For more information on the tour, visit [www.derbymuseum.org/plan-a-visit/tours/behind-the-scenes-walking-tour](http://www.derbymuseum.org/plan-a-visit/tours/behind-the-scenes-walking-tour).

For more information on the tour we took, visit: <https://uniquehorsefarmtourslexington.com/product/unique-horse-farm-tour/>

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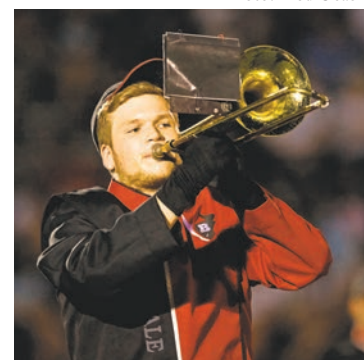


## Bloomingdale High School To Host Countywide Marching Band Performances

By Jane Owen

Photo: Fred Ocasio

If you've ever been delighted to hear the Bloomingdale band from within the community or enjoyed watching them perform at a football game, mark your calendar for Saturday, November 6. On that date, Bloomingdale High School will host all the marching bands in Hillsborough County for the annual Florida Bandmasters Association Marching Music Performance Assessment (MPA). Admittance is \$8 and attendees can come throughout the day to watch the 27 high school marching bands perform.



Jon Sever, Bloomingdale's Director of Bands, encourages the community to come to the event. "The MPA will move to the other side of the county next year so come out to enjoy our community's youth and the culture music programs give them." Sever said.

Typically, a school hosts the event for two consecutive years, but last year the event was canceled due to Covid-19. Sever explained that makes this year unique: "Because of Covid last year, half of this year's band has not been to a marching evaluation. They are, however, doing fantastic and making some great music memories for members and fans alike."

Bloomingdale's Rajun' Bull Band has 177 members. They will perform a Southern Rock N' Soul show. It is a collection of classic and current songs from over five decades. Included in the medley are Sweet Home Alabama, House of the Rising Sun, and Wagon Wheel.

At MPAs, bands strive to perform at their very best. They perform in front a panel of judges. Two judges will assess musical performance, with a third judge grading the percussion section. Dance teams and flag corps will be graded by a judge for their contribution to the visual performance. Two more judges will assess the visual performance and the overall effect of the show.

### Event Details:

Hillsborough County Marching Band Music Performance Assessments

**Date:** November 6, 2021

**Location:** Bloomingdale High School, 1700 E. Bloomingdale Ave

**Hours:** 12-9 p.m.

Follow @BSHSRajunBullBand on Facebook and [www.bloomingdaleband.com](http://www.bloomingdaleband.com) for a listing of bands and the times they perform. For more information or to volunteer or donate to the event, email: [jon.sever@hcps.net](mailto:jon.sever@hcps.net).





# Burns Girls Basketball Team Heads into the County Championship Competition Undefeated



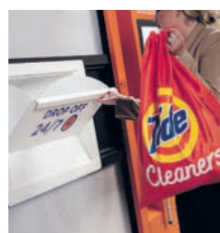
# Burns 8th Grader Completes First 2021 Ceiling Tile



8th Grader Laina Cooper was the first chosen to do a ceiling tile at Burns for 2021. She recreated Acidquiat by famed artist Jean Michel Basquiat.



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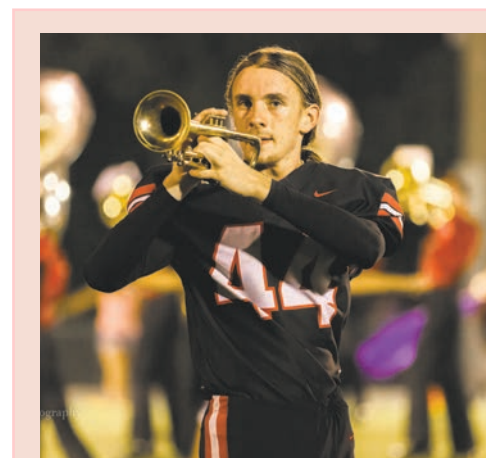
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## Bloomington Football Beats Newsome in OT

Bloomington High School Varsity football beat their long-time rival Newsome in overtime on September 3rd. A field goal by Bloomington tied the game with 57 seconds left. Bloomington scored a touchdown in overtime for the win. To everyone's delight, post-game celebratory fireworks were provided by anonymous neighborhood resident.



Bloomington High School encourages students to participate in both sports and arts. On September 17th, David Owen, Bloomington's starting Kicker on the football team, played the game against Lennard and marched during the Rajun Bull Band halftime show.

## CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

# 2021 Educator Awards

### ALAFIA ELEMENTARY

Teacher of the Year: Corinne Sanders

Ida S. Baker: Laura James

Instructional Support: Ines Savinon  
and Stacy Glidden

### CIMINO ELEMENTARY

Teacher of the Year: Rebecca McDonagh

Ida. S. Baker: David Fuentes

Instructional Support: Priscilla Cabanas

### BURNS MIDDLE

Teacher of the Year: Dawn Simon

Ida S. Baker: Jeanette Stratton

Instructional Support: \*yet to be  
determined

### BLOOMINGDALE HIGH

Teacher of the Year: Whitney Stark

Ida. S. Baker: Irene Canton

Instructional Support: Yusimy  
Hernandez



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**B**

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