

CELEBRATING
41
YEARS

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOL. XLI



Issue 12



DECEMBER 2021



WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE

THIS MONTH

Santa is on his way! Sunday, Dec. 5

YARD OF THE MONTH

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UNDER THE STARS**

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PLEASE  RECYCLE

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2018 & 2019

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Recognition Award

Best Communications
Newsletter Category

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Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

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The official publication of the BNA since 1980, delivered free to Bloomingdale residents on the first Wednesday of each month.



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**Tampa Bay
Times**

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

Email: Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com Website: www.Bloomingdale.Life

Follow on Facebook: 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

Sunday, December 5 / Santa Community Drive-through (see page 8 for more information)

Tuesday, December 14, 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 for more information.

Saturday, February 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. / Community Clean-up

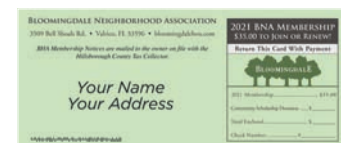
BNA Members Wanted!

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!



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Gazette Reporters Wanted!

Do you love to write? You will love writing for the Bloomingdale Gazette! The best part of writing for the paper is the opportunity to get to know your neighbors and the businesses that make up our great community. For more information, email:

inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com



Welcome Donna Jankowitz!

Donna is our new BNA Office Manager. If you reach out to the BNA through email BNA (bl.neighbor1@gmail.com) or by phone (813-681-2051), Donna will respond to you. She is awesome! You will appreciate her kindness and resolve to find the information you need. Donna loves our community and has lived in Bloomingdale for 15 years. Give Donna a warm welcome when you can!





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A message from the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association President

THE BNA

As we close out 2021 and I think over the year, I think about what a great neighborhood we have.

My husband, Tim, and I chose Bloomingdale for the amazing schools in 1991. Neighbors came over that first day and made us feel welcome. When we had kids, the schools did not disappoint with many caring educators. Sports and scouting introduced us to our great community. Now I am honored to work with our dedicated neighbors on the board. We have fun with the Santa Visit that is this month. We serve with Clean-up Day and more. Bloomingdale is a wonderful place to live. I love our neighborhood. I welcome you to attend a BNA meeting. All are welcome at our meetings. They are the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

I wish you a blessed holiday season.

Suzy Watts

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DISTRICT

A Message from the Bloomingdale Special District

By Kristine Schroeder

The holiday season is once again upon us and the signs of the season are popping up all around us. You will notice holiday banners adorning light poles throughout our community, vibrant red poinsettias blanketing the flower beds and trees sporting bright snowflakes to help get us all into a festive spirit.

The entryway landscaping redesign program continues. Work is nearing completion at Erindale/Lithia Pinecrest and will shift to the other entrances soon. You may also have noticed the work at the Oak Crest entrances along Erindale. During the upgrade work for that neighborhood, the team discovered an old footer meant for a perimeter wall. The wall was subsequently built where it stands today and the old one abandoned and covered over. It is not an archeological dig, but the 30-year-old footer is causing a delay until it can be removed.

On behalf of the District's Board of Trustees have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

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Welcome to the Neighborhood

Bloomingdale Residents Create First Ever Tampa Bay Taco Tour

By Jane Owen

Tampa Bay may not see snow this holiday season, but soon it'll be raining tacos. Taco Tours is filling stockings across the area with a one-of-a-kind experience: the 2022 Tampa Bay Taco Tour Book.

Bloomingdale residents Ryan and Katie Brown decided to start Taco Tours at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic with a goal to support local restaurants and to introduce people to taco restaurants in the area.

With so many taco spots throughout in Tampa Bay, Taco Tours helps residents explore different areas and support local businesses.

"It's the gift that keeps on giving," Ryan Brown explained. "It's great for the holidays because it gives people a unique experience they can enjoy all year, but it's great for the community because it helps restaurants gain new customers and keep their doors open."

The pocket-sized tour book will guide passholders on their own schedule to over 20 locally owned taquerias in the Tampa Bay area where they'll receive free tacos. And because the inspiration for the book was to help local restaurants thrive after the challenges brought on by the pandemic, businesses are not charged to be included in the book.

"When everything was shutting down, a lot of restaurant owners were worried about losing their businesses," said Brown. "I wanted to support them and since my job at the time still had me traveling the local area every day, I decided I would attempt to try all the tacos. I sort of went on my own personal 'taco tour' around Tampa Bay and later had the idea to try and bring the experience to everyone."

The 2022 Tampa Bay Taco Tour book includes three free tacos from each restaurant. Books can be purchased now at www.getyourtacos.com and passholders can claim free tacos between January 1 and December 31, 2022.

Taco lovers are encouraged to follow Taco Tours on Facebook and Instagram @tacotourstampabay for special promotions and discounts.

For more information, visit www.getyourtacos.com.

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Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com



**The giving season is upon us,
and Hillsborough County has many ways to give back virtually**

Whether you want to make a difference in a child's life or a pet's life, Hillsborough County has many ways for you to give back to the community this holiday season, and you don't even need to get up off your couch. Several Hillsborough County departments are asking for donations to help residents and pets in need to celebrate the holidays. Each department has an online wish list for the families, adults, kids, and pets they serve. Those lists can be found below. Once purchased, the donations will be shipped directly to the department for distribution to those in need.

Not able to give this year? You can still make a difference by sharing the wish lists with your family and friends on social media.

Children

Hillsborough County Children's Services is asking for financial contributions to purchase age-appropriate gifts for kids in their care so that no matter what they are going through around this time of year, they can still experience the joys of the holidays. Those who want to contribute financially can make checks or money orders payable to: Hillsborough County Children's Services BOCC. Checks can be

mailed to: Department of Children's Services, 3191 Clay Mangum Lane, Tampa, FL 33618. Visit: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/newsroom/2020/12/01/make-someones-holiday-happy-and-bright> for the Children's Services Wish List.

Homeless

People experiencing homelessness are often forgotten during the holidays, but Hillsborough County Homeless Services is making sure those experiencing homelessness also get to experience the joy of the holiday season. Visit: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/newsroom/2020/12/01/make-someones-holiday-happy-and-bright> for the Homeless Services Wish List.

Pets

Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center helps the community's neediest animals and is asking for donations that will benefit resident shelter animals, pets in foster care, and the Safety Net Program that keeps pets from being turned into the shelter by families in crisis. Visit: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/newsroom/2020/12/01/make-someones-holiday-happy-and-bright> for the Pet Resource Center Wish List.



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0000190660-01

HO, HO, HO! Santa is coming to Florida to visit Bloomingdale kids December 5!

Santa will be in Bloomingdale on Sunday, Dec 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa will drive through the Bloomingdale East and West neighborhoods and his elves will pass out candy canes and holiday ducks. Santa's visit will have a tropical theme. Residents can take pictures at several stops along the way.

Email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com with questions and follow Santa's route on Dec 5th on our Facebook page:

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

SANTA'S ROUTE AND STOPS:

START - Greenhollow Lane

Left on Greenhollow Lane
Right on Bell Shoals Road
Left on Rosemead Lane
Left on Canoga Park Drive
Right on Bloomingfield Drive
Left on Applegate Circle
Continue to the SECOND intersection with Bayfield Drive

STOP 1: Applegate Circle and Bayfield Drive (2nd Intersection)

Left on Bayfield Drive
Right on Rosedale Drive
Right on Bloomingfield Drive
Right on Sweetleaf Drive
Right on Emberwood Drive
Left on Cedar Grove Drive
Right on Encina Drive
Left on Ephrata Drive
Left on Sandy Creek Drive

STOP 2: Intersection of Sandy Creek Drive and Tyndale Drive

Left on Tyndale Drive
Left on Garnet Drive
Right on Canoga Park Drive
Left into Bloomingdale West Park

STOP 3: Bloomingdale West Park Right on Canoga Park Drive

Left on Garnet Drive
Right on Bell Shoals Road
Left on Glenhaven Drive
Right on Natures Way Boulevard
Right on Lornewood Drive
Left on Monte Lake Drive

STOP 4: Intersection of Monte Lake Drive and Dumont Drive

Left on Dumont Drive

STOP 5: Intersection of Dumont Drive and Alafia Oaks Drive

Left on the SECOND Oak River Circle intersection
Right on Natures Way Boulevard
Right on River Close Boulevard
Left on Groveway Drive

STOP 6: Intersection of Groveway Drive and Culbreath Road

Drive across Culbreath Road on Groveway
Drive Left on Allwood Avenue
Right to Culbreath Road
Left on Golf Manor Boulevard

STOP 7: Intersection of Golf Manor Boulevard and Maren Trace Lane

Left on Maren Trace Lane
Left on Merrick Run Lane
Right on Golf Manor Boulevard
Left on Culbreath Road
Left on to Delamere Drive

STOP 8: Intersection of Delamere Drive and Swift Circle (2nd intersection)

Right on SECOND intersection with Swift Circle
Left on Delamere Drive
Left on Culbreath Road
Right on Needham Drive
Right on Kenwick Drive



STOP 9: Intersection of Kenwick Drive and Quail Briar Drive

Left on Quail Briar
Left on Gotham Way
Left on Erindale Drive
Right on Culbreath Road
Left on Eagle Bluff Drive

STOP 10: Intersection of Eagle Bluff Drive and Northridge Drive

Right on Northridge Drive
Right on Highlander Way
Left on Culbreath Road
Right on Treeline Drive

STOP 11: Intersection of Treeline Drive and Cold Creek Drive

Right on Cold Creek Drive
Right on Kiowa Lane
Left on Culbreath Road
Right on Natures Way Boulevard
Left into Bloomingdale East Park

STOP 12: Bloomingdale East Park

BLOOMINGDALE

Holiday Light Displays Sure to Brighten Spirits

Get into the Holiday Spirit at Local Family-Friendly Light Displays!

By Michelle Colesanti

This has been a challenging year for many. Local displays of holiday lights, which include family-friendly activities, are sure to brighten your mood and get you in that holiday spirit no matter what you celebrate.

Night of Shimmering Lights

The Night of Shimmering Lights Christmas season light show is open at SunKissed Acres in Dover. You can walk the trail as many times as you wish. According to organizer Stephanie Martin, "This is a self-guided over 1/4-mile walking trail through dancing lights to music. As this is an unpaved walking trail, wear appropriate footwear as the ground can be uneven in places." She added, "The event also includes outdoor movies in an expanded movie area, scavenger hunt, maze and games."

The display is open Thursdays through Sundays starting December 12. From December 16 on it is open daily through December 26. Hours are 6:30-9:30 p.m. on weekdays and 6:30-10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased in advance at www.showpass.com/shimmering-lights-winter-3/ or at the gate.

Location: SunKissed Acres, 2302 N. Dover Rd. in Dover.

For more information, visit:

www.NightsOfShimmeringLights.com or www.facebook.com/NOSLTB.

Shimmering LIGHTS



Tampa Bay's Festival of Lights & Santa's Village

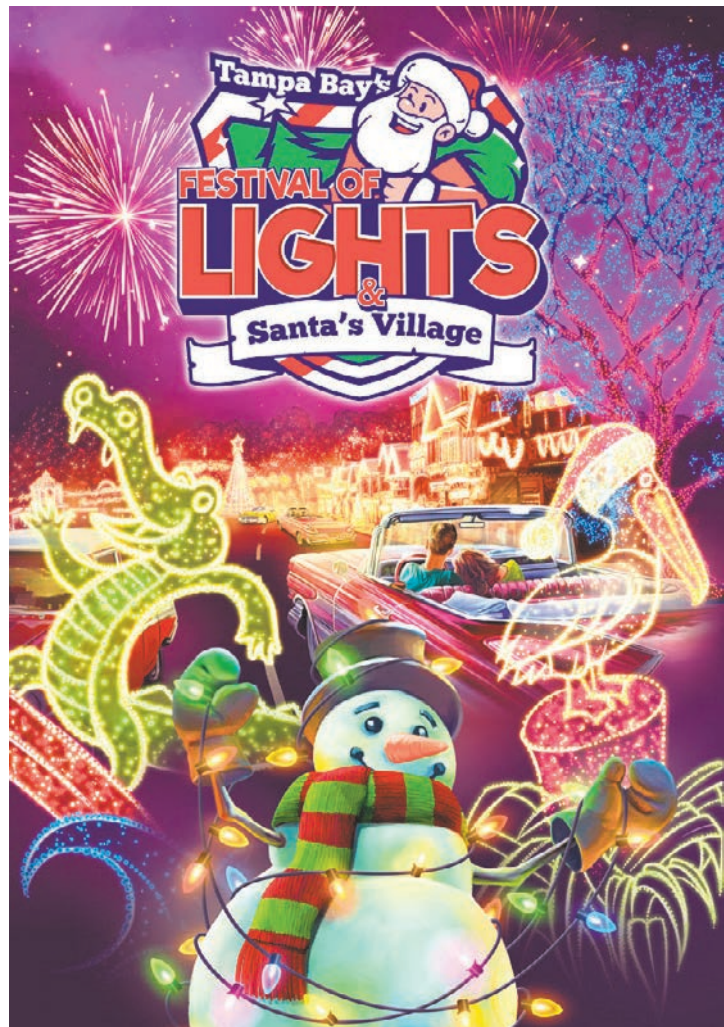
If you are interested in a drive-through light display, you will enjoy nearly two-miles of continuous light features including 80 themed display areas with more than 250 larger-than-life pieces at Tampa Bay's Festival of Lights.

According to the Hillsborough County Fair website, designer Brandano Displays Inc. has created a one-of-a kind original display for this year's event with a million lights. The elaborate light displays are themed to Florida and will represent Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and more. It is followed by a festive walking visit to Santa's Village, which has activities and treats for all. The cost is \$25 a carload (up to eight people). You can purchase tickets at the event or online.

Festival of Lights runs from 6-10 p.m. Thursday through Sundays through December 12. It will be open daily from Thursday, December 16 through Sunday, December 26.

Location: Hillsborough County Fairgrounds, 215 Sydney Washer Rd. in Dover.

Visit <https://hillsboroughcountyfair.com/> for more information or to purchase tickets.



December 4: Alafia Lighted Boat Parade

Riverview Park & Civic Center

Parade starts at Williams Park and will conclude at River's Edge for awards and a special VIP party.

When: Saturday, December 4

Time: 5-8 p.m.

More information: www.alafiaboatparade.com

December 18: Holiday Lighted Boat Parade at The Tampa Riverwalk

Tampa's largest lighted boat parade will happen the Saturday before Christmas along the Hillsborough River in Downtown Tampa. The parade begins in the Convention Center basin, travels to the Heights, and ends at Sparkman Wharf.

When: Saturday, December 18

Time: 6-9 p.m.

Rain Date: Sunday, December 19

Location: The Tampa Riverwalk, 600 N Ashley Drive, Tampa, FL 33602

More information: <https://thetampariverwalk.com/events-news/events/holiday-lighted-boat-parade.html>

Find more boat parade locations and dates here: <https://www.floridarambler.com/florida-festivals/holiday-boat-parades/>



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Enjoy the Outdoor Challenge that Hillsborough County's Hiking Spree Offers

By Michelle Colesanti



Despite all the growth Hillsborough County has experienced there is still a wild outside, and you can explore it during the County's 2022 Hiking Spree. A record number of people participated last year, and now in its sixth year, the county is already on pace to exceed the number of past participants. Between now and March 31, 2022, hike at least eight of the trails listed on the website and you will receive a patch recognizing your efforts.

Chris Kiddy, Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Community Engagement Manager said, "A lot of people don't realize how many amazing parks and trails we have in Hillsborough County. The Hiking Spree is a fun way for people to discover new places."

The different types of trails vary and include options for beginner and experienced hikers. Neighborhood Parks and Recreation Center trails are generally short paved trails with water and facilities. These parks are the perfect places for those new to hiking. Conservation Park Trails provide more of a nature experience than your typical Neighborhood Park trail. Though some are paved, most are primitive trails that take you through a variety of natural habitats ranging from upland pine flatwoods, to wetland swamps, to bottomland forests. Most of these parks have amenities such as running water, restrooms, playgrounds and manicured pathways. Nature Preserve Trails take the nature experience up several notches. Development is kept to a minimum to protect natural areas and wildlife. These trailheads have small, unpaved parking lots, a fence with a walk-through entrance and a small kiosk with trail information. These unpaved trails usually have rougher terrain and fewer markers. There are no restrooms or running water.

Does your dog want to be included? Kiddy said, "We recognized how much people love hiking with their pets, so last year we added an option for your pet to win a reward as well if they go on all the hikes with you. More than 2000 pets signed up and hundreds completed enough trails to get their very own Hiking Spree Bandana. We expect even more this year."

It is free to participate in the Hiking Spree, but you need to register at www.eventbrite.com/e/hillsborough-county-2022-hiking-spree-tickets-196067181217.

Visit hcflgov.net/hikingspree for more information and the list of trails to explore.



Photo by Michele Colesanti

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TheERExperts.com

AdventHealth
Brandon ER

Brandon emergency department is part of AdventHealth Tampa. It is not an urgent care center. Its services and care are billed at hospital emergency department rates.

0000191842-01

Bloomingtondale Rajun' Bull Band Receives Straight Superiors for the 34th Year

by Jane Owen

On Saturday, November 6, the Bloomingtondale Rajun' Bull Band and Crimson Guard earned straight Superior ratings at the Florida Band Master Marching Performance Assessment (MPA) hosted at Bloomingtondale High School. For the 34th year, Bloomingtondale earned the highest possible rating in every category. All of the high school bands in the county performed for ratings in several categories: Music 1, Music 2, Visual Performance, General Effect, Percussion and Auxiliary.

The Bloomingtondale Band Boosters would like to thank these local businesses for sponsoring the Bloomingtondale Band hosting MPAs:

Platinum Sponsors: Acropolis Greek Taverna-Riverview, B&B Ice and Water, Grace Baptist Church, Pepsico, Next Level Signs-Printing-Apparel

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Pictures by Dariya Bagley



BLOOMINGTONDALE MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Holiday Under the Stars

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Thursday, December 9, 2021

LOCATED AT BLOOMINGTONDALE HS - CHARLEY HARRIS FOOTBALL STADIUM

5:30 pm.....Food Trucks Arrive

7:00 pm.....Beginning of Show

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A percentage of sales will be donated back to the Bloomingtondale Music Department!

Run into the New Year with the Running of the Bulls 5k!

The 5th annual Running of the Bulls 5k is being held on Saturday, January 15 at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds in Dover. The Bloomingdale 5k was created to raise money for the Bloomingdale Rajun' Bull Band. It has become a favorite school event that draws community members from local running groups as well as from sports groups and clubs at the school. Participants enjoy the race knowing they are making a difference as 100 percent of the profit goes to the school.

The race is sponsored by the Bloomingdale Band Boosters and made possible by many local business sponsorships, including the title sponsors Acropolis Greek Taverna-Riverview and Gentle Footcare Clinic.

Finishers will receive medals and top age group finishers will receive awards. Registrants receive a dri-fit shirt. Register at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/Dover/RunningoftheBulls5kFL>

Questions? Email: Bloomingdalebulls5k@gmail.com



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Bloomington High School Baseball Players Sign Letters of Intent

Brief: Jane Owen

Only a little over 7% of high school athletes (about 1 in 13) go on to play a varsity sport in college. On November 10th, on National Signing Day, five Bloomington High School baseball players signed National Letters of Intent to play at the collegiate level. Congratulations to Chase Chappell (Santa Fe College), Drake Harman (Santa Fe College), Tephon Montgomery (Iowa Western), Jack Owens (Stetson University) and Colby Shelton (University of Alabama).

Congratulations and good luck on your next season! Go Bulls!



Congratulations to Bloomington Bulls Football Players

Christian Bodnar, Kendall Jones, David Owen, Jackson Sykes, Corbin Barnett, Isaiah Lowery, and Charlie O'Brien were designated as 2021 Western Conference players.



BSHS Swimmer Competes at State Championship

Matthew McLean placed 14th in the 500 at the State Swim meet.



Congratulations, Matt!

BSHS Boys Cross Country Team Competes at the State Championship

The Bloomingdale Boys Cross Country team completed an extremely successful season by competing in the State Cross Country Championships in Tallahassee, Florida on Friday, November 12. Prior to States, the team was 5th in Regionals, 2nd in Districts and 3rd in the County. The team finished 18th in the State meet with the top five finishing within a minute of each other. The seven varsity runners were in finishing order: freshman Brandon Witherow, junior Thomas Schilling, senior Jordan Hierholzer, junior Jeremy Hagenbarth, senior Malik Milet, junior Brandon Turner and sophomore Keagan Leisire.

"I am very proud of how this team worked to accomplish this memorable season. I also want to thank the assistant coaches, Lightner and Beach, along with the parents and guardians that gave up their tie and efforts to support the team." Coach Dale Bateman



Congratulations to Olivia Penty, BSHS's Anne Frank Humanitarian Award Recipient!

The Florida Holocaust Museum awarded Bloomingdale senior Olivia Penty the 2021 Anne Frank Humanitarian award. One student from each Tampa Bay high school is chosen for their outstanding community service. Olivia volunteered as an assistant volleyball coach for several seasons at the Campo YMCA teaching beginning players. She has been a member of the Bloomingdale High School volleyball team all four years. Olivia received a beautiful award along with a copy of "Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl" as well as a family membership to the museum.



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MERRY CHRISTMAS! ★



- Brenda

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