



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOL. XLII



Issue 2



FEBRUARY 2022



WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE

THIS MONTH

Seas the Day!

Festive things to do in Tampa on pages 8-9



Photo: Tampa Bay Times ©2019

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2018 & 2019

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THE AWARD-WINNING

BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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Jane Owen
Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette
3509 Bell Shoals Rd., 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

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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:
Laney Balis
Bobbi Ferraro
Billy Hightower
Jane Owen

BNA BRIEFS

BNA CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 8, 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 Day

Sunday, March 6 / Spring Picnic

Sunday, April 10 / Bunny Visit

Saturday, September 10 / Community Garage Sale

Sunday, December 4 / Santa Visit

JOIN TODAY!

JOIN THE BNA!

Just \$35 annually helps keep our community programs going. Please send your membership in today and be part of making Bloomingdale a great place to live!

Membership can be paid through PayPal!

Scan this QR Code or visit <https://bloomingdale.life>
At the bottom of the homepage, click Membership.



February 2022 BSD Update

By Kristine Schroeder

**BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL DISTRICT**

The next step in the Nature's Way median project is underway. The District, in partnership with the University of Florida, is undertaking a two-fold landscaping plan for the medians. This plan includes the installation and planting of a St. Augustine hybrid turf and a sub-surface irrigation system.

The new sod, developed in part by the University of Florida, requires less water and is more resistant to major disease. The irrigation system is a sub-surface drip system and will come from three different irrigation manufacturers. University scientists will closely monitor the systems and collect data for future studies. New soil will also be brought in as part of the project.

This is a win-win for both the District and UF scientists. Residents will enjoy new lower maintenance turf at a reduced cost to the District and the university will gather valuable information for future turf grass lines.

In other news, the ground work is complete at the Oakcrest entrances off of Erindale. The walls have been stripped and painted and landscapers are ready to plant palm trees, shrubs and new sod.

To get in touch with the Bloomingdale Special District, email bstd@verizon.net or call 813-684-6667

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Community Clean-up Day is this Saturday!

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association (BNA) is hosting a Community Clean-up Day on Saturday, February 5th from 9 am to 1 pm! Join the BNA at 1626 Natures Way behind Alafia Elementary. The event is free!

9am - 1pm, February 5th at the Parks & Rec Maintenance Facility at 1629 Nature's Way Blvd, Valrico.

eCycle will accept old electronics, including computers, laptops, networking equipment, cell phones and flat screen TVs. They do not take CRT or DLP TV's (the ones with the large backs).

Shred-It will be there to shred documents on-site.

Lighthouse Ministries will be on hand for donations of household goods and clothing.



Ten Commercial Dumpsters will be available for trash.

Accepted items for trash include: refrigerators, ovens, water heaters, steel and other metals, furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses) and construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials), and tires.

Unaccepted items are medications and household chemicals, paint, fluorescent lamps, yard waste, auto products, ammunition, pool products, batteries and propane tanks.

Unwanted medications can be dropped of at these locations:

1. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
2310 N. Falkenburg Road Tampa, FL 33619
2. CVS 1010 Bloomingdale Avenue Valrico, FL 33596

Unwanted household chemicals, paint, fluorescent lamps, yard waste, auto products, ammunition, pool products, batteries and propane tanks can be taken to Hillsborough County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site 13000 US Highway 41 Gibsonton, FL on the second Saturday of the month.



Grace C. Lewis, CPA, PA

Thank you to Grace Lewis, CPA, for Sponsoring





Hillsborough County Florida





Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors

Bloomingtondale seniors should check out the Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association (BNA) Bloomingtondale Community Scholarship opportunity! The BNA is now accepting applications. The \$2,000 scholarship named in honor of former Bloomingtondale Principal B.J. Stelter serves to reward outstanding Bloomingtondale seniors who plan to continue their education in college or vocational school programs. To be eligible, applicants must be residents of the Bloomingtondale community and the applicant's parent or guardian must be a current member of the Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association. In addition, the applicant must have at least a weighted 3.0 grade point average at the time of scholarship disbursement and must be accepted at a two- or four-year accredited college or university. The application selection criteria include community service, extra-curricular activities, an essay, academics, and a letter of reference. Applicants will be judged solely on merit, not financial need. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is April 1. The winning student will be announced at the BNA board meeting on May 10. Applications are available at the high school guidance office, the BNA office, and online at the BNA website at www.bloomingtondale.life. For more information, email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com.

Attention Bloomingtondale Seniors!

IMPORTANT DATES

FEB 1 – APRIL 1
Applications Accepted

APRIL 1
Application Deadline

MAY 10
Winner Announced

Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association

Bloomingtondale \$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidate

- **Must be a resident** of the Bloomingtondale community.
- Must be a graduating senior accepted at a 2 or 4-year college or university. Proof of acceptance is required.
- Weighted 3.2 GPA

Candidate's Parent/Guardian

- **Must be a resident** of the Bloomingtondale community.
- Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association 2022 membership **dues must be paid prior** to the scholarship application deadline. Membership drive begins January 2022. **Deadline is April 1, 2022.**
- Proof of residency is required.

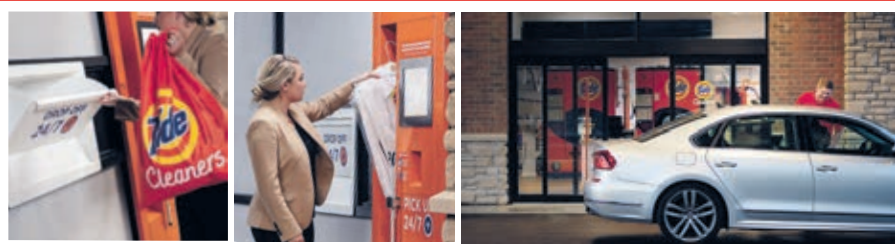
Selection Criteria

- Community service
- Extra-curricular activities
- Well-written essay
- Academic Standing
- Reference letters

Scholarship information will be available February 1, 2022 online at Bloomingtondale.Life, at Bloomingtondale High School and at the Bloomingtondale Community Office.



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Support and Protect Seniors in our Community

By Jane Owen

The Seniors vs Crime program is looking for volunteers.

The Seniors vs Crime project, sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General, allows community members to be actively involved in protecting their communities and their fellow seniors from becoming victims of consumer fraud.

Jay Todras, a Bloomingdale resident, is the Deputy Regional Director of Seniors vs Crime, a special project of the Florida Attorney General. His office, Region 2, handles offices from Hernando county to Collier county on the west coast of Florida.

The Covid pandemic has caused Seniors vs Crime to lose many volunteers, but the workload has remained steady. "Seniors are scammed every day. The work is there for us to try to make it right," Jay said.

Seniors vs Crime works first to educate seniors in how to not fall prey to

the myriad of scams currently prevalent. Should seniors become victims, dedicated volunteers are there to help mitigate the loss.

Working with Seniors vs Crime has been very rewarding, Jay said. He explained the volunteer need, "It is ideally suited to someone who wants to give back. It will be worth it."

Volunteers are especially needed for the West Tampa Office. For program information, consumer inquiries, consumer complaints, or to schedule a Consumer Seminar, call 1-800-203-3099 or visit the web site at www.seniorsvscrime.com.



Ashley Moody Attorney General

Seniors vs Crime

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THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YARD OF THE MONTH

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DESTINATION TAMPA

Tampa Fresh Foods Open Until February 20th

By Jane Owen

At first glance, Tampa Fresh Foods looks like your average grocery store. However, every item in the store is a work of art and nothing is edible. When you take a close look, you will be amazed at the product details.

Tampa Fresh Foods is an art exhibition by British artist Lucy Sparrow. The fully functioning supermarket contains over 50,000 items made of felt and took over two years to create. The store is interactive. Visitors can browse the aisles and shop. All of the items in the store are for sale and can be picked up and felt.

“My inspiration is real life—really, just absolutely real life. If I can encapsulate real life in anything I do with felt, I’m happy,” Lucy said.

Lucy said she especially enjoyed making items that are specific to the Tampa area. Florida specialty items include citrus fruits, Cuban sandwiches, Cigar City and Tampa Brewing Company beer, Tampa

Bay Rays peanuts, a seafood counter, and cigars displayed in a humid room to give the customers an authentic experience.

When asked about her favorite part of the Tampa show, Lucy said, “The sea food really made me super happy. I found it very challenging and that was a lot of fun.”

Lucy replicated the iconic Tampa Postcard Mural out of felt. The mural took two weeks to complete.

Tampa Fresh Foods is presented by the The Vinik Family Foundation and is open through February 20.

Things to know if you go:

Location: 1050 Water Street
Downtown Tampa

Hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission: Free. Felt items are for sale but cash is not accepted.



Arrgh You Ready for Gasparilla?

Tampa's Pirate Invasion and parade have happened but there are plenty more Gasparilla events to enjoy!

Gasparilla Festival Events:

- February 12: Sant' Yago Knight Parade, Ybor City. 4 – 11 p.m.
- February 22- 23: Gasparilla Distance Classic, rungasparilla.com
- February 26: Gasparilla Outbound Voyage
- February 26-27: Gasparilla Music Festival, gasparillamusic.com
- March 5-6: Gasparilla Art Festival, gasparillaarts.com/festival
- March 10-13: Gasparilla International Film Festival

For information, go to: www.visittampabay.com/tampa-events/gasparilla-season/





By Michelle Colesanti



Photo: Tampa Bay Times ©2019

Downtown Tampa's Henry B. Plant Hotel hosted the first of what would eventually become known as the Florida State Fair. Since its beginnings in 1904, the state fair has grown, annually bringing together the community to share in great entertainment, along with midway rides and exhibits promising something of interest for everyone.

The Florida State Fair now attracts more than 500,000 people during its 12 day run. This year, it will be held from Thursday, February 10 through Monday, February 21 at the Florida State Fairgrounds, where it's been held since 1975.

As the first fair of the year, it is first to debut all the new unique fair foods visitors have come to know and love. This year's sampling of creative fair food includes a Poutine Sundae at DeAnna's State Sundaes. If you want to fulfill both your sweet and salty craving at the same time, head to DeAnna's Diner, which offers its Donut Dog; a home-made long John Donut, all beef hot dog and Applewood bacon drizzled with icing. Rising Smoke BBQ offers its Hog Trof, a baked potato, pulled pork, baked beans and cheese, and then topped with creamy coleslaw. If you still have room for dessert, visit Grandma Brown's Cinnamon Roll, which will offer a Caramel Apple Cinnamon Roll. Check out the website for the many other food choices.

Plenty of entertainment will take place during the fair each day. On the Florida Stage, you can catch the Dennis Lee Band offering a blend of comedy, country music, rock and roll and patriotic songs. Adults and kids alike will enjoy the Hollywood Circus under the Big Top. The Community Showcase will present local performers from across the state. Head over to the Five Points Stage where Jay Mattiolo will entertain you with the wonders of magic. This is just a sampling of the many types of entertainment you can catch throughout each day. Thrill seekers can look forward to spending time on the midway, which is the largest in the United States.

You could spend a whole day just visiting all of the exhibits. From everyone's favorite, Cracker Country, where you can immerse yourself in the life of a Florida pioneer to coming face to face with Twigs the Giraffe and his friends at the Giraffic Menagerie Petting Zoo, there's something for everyone.

The Florida State Fairgrounds is located at 4800 US Hwy. 301N in Tampa. General admission for adults is \$10. Senior admission is \$8 on weekdays; February 10, 11, 14-18 and children 6-11 are \$6. Ages 5 and under are free. Parking is free. The gates open at 11 a.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. on weekends. Closing times are subject to change pending weather and other conditions. The midway opens at 10:30 a.m. on weekends and 1 p.m. on weekdays. For more information visit www.floridastatefair.com.

The 2022 Florida State Fair runs from Thursday, February 10 through Monday, February 21 at the Florida State Fairgrounds, located at 4800 US Hwy. 301N in Tampa.



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Alderman's Ford Conservation Park Offers Easy Hiking & More

Story and Photos by Michelle Colesanti



This Florida winter day was somewhat gray, but very warm for the season; the perfect time for a walk in the park. My husband was not interested in joining me so I made the trip solo. Because I was alone, I wanted to go to a place where there were other people nearby, but where I could still enjoy some solitude. I chose Alderman's Ford Park, which is also part of this year's Hillsborough County Hiking Spree and is less than a twenty minute drive from the Bloomingdale area.

There is a loop trail not quite two miles long that almost anyone can do. The mostly-shaded trail is paved so it works well for both strollers and wheelchairs. It is also dog and bike-friendly. I had done this loop many times before, so this time I also wanted to focus on some of the offshoot dirt trails, which are also good for beginners to navigate.

I took the Red Trail, which can be reached a few hundred yards from the parking lot just past where the loop trail begins. It's not a hard trail, but there are some tricky parts about halfway in near the river where you have to



really pay attention to follow the trail and climb over a few tree limbs. The nice views of the river make it worth the hike, and it ends up back on to the main trail further down.

I strayed off the loop trail again to follow some of the Blue Trail toward the primitive camping sites that are available at the park. I only did a small portion of this 1 ½ mile trail, which was flat and sandy. The White Trail is located to the left of the parking area over the bridge that is located right past restrooms. This trail is flat and easy to navigate too.

Back in 1848, settler James Alderman built his homestead south of the Alafia River in Lithia. He fashioned a crossing by cutting down

the steep banks of the river, creating Alderman's Ford, now home to the park.

There are two entrances to the park. The main entrance is located at 100 Alderman Fords Dr. (off Rt. 39) and the canoe launch, which is located at 9625 Canoe Launch Dr. in Lithia. The cost to enter the park is \$2 per vehicle.

Information: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/locations/aldermans-ford-conservation-park>



Above: Alderman's Ford Park offers many hiking options for beginners. The loop trail, just under two miles long, can be navigated by those with strollers and in wheelchairs.

Below: Writer Michelle Colesanti enjoying the red trail at Alderman's Ford Park.



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Tampa Bay Times

2021

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Congratulations 2021 BSHS Football Award Winners!

The Bloomingdale Bulls Football team celebrated their season at their annual Football Banquet on January 20. Seniors were honored and players received special recognition and awards. Congratulations to the award winners!

Principal's Award: David Owen

Most Improved Player: Kendall Jones

Spirit Award: DJ Griffin

Rookie of the Year: Nate Ledford

Weight Room Award: Jaedyn Tamulonis

Leatherman Award: Tristan Perot

Big Stick Award: Corbin Barnett

Hutch Scholarship Award: Garrett Folken

Coaches Award: Charles Coney

Offensive Trenches Award: Isaiah Lowery

Defensive Trenches Award: Ashton Brockett

Special Teams Player of the Year: David Owen

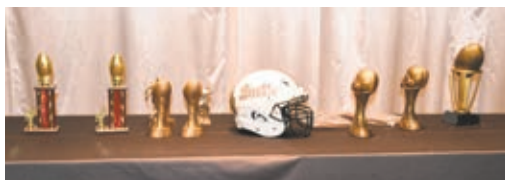
Offensive Player of the Year: Charlie O'Brien

Defensive Player of the Year: Christian Bodnar

MVP: Brycnn Bennett



Principal Rodriguez and David Owen, Principal's Award



Coach Coulson and Brycnn Bennet, MVP Award



Coach Coulson and Garrett Folken, Hutch Scholarship Award



Congratulations to the BSHS Varsity Cheer Team!

BSHS Varsity Cheer won 1st place at the Regional 3 State Qualifier Meet on January 15! They will compete at the State Championship Finals on February 2nd at the O'Connell Center at University of Florida.



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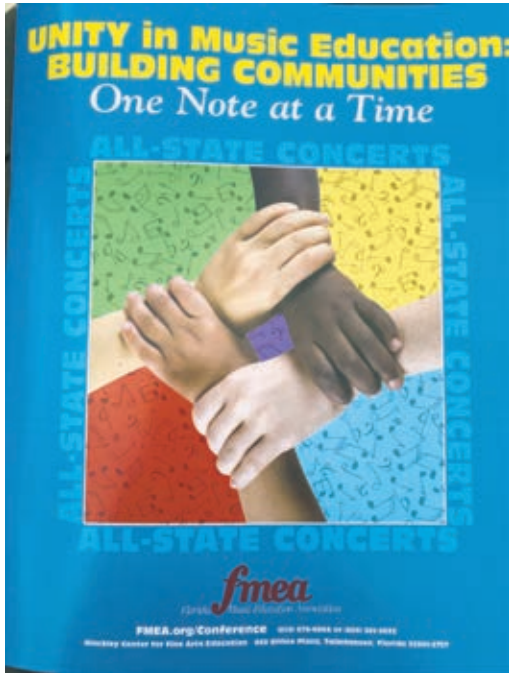
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4321 Lynx Paw Trail • www.KRKValrico.com
(Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary)

Congratulations to BSHS Orchestra All State Students!

Bloomingtondale Orchestra students Jordan Hierholzer (12th grade) and Arthur Lekov (11th grade) performed with the Florida All State Symphonic Orchestra on January 15. The orchestra played the world premiere of Azure by Kurt Mosier and Movements 3&4 of Symphony No. 5 by Shostakovich and was conducted by Douglas Droste.



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Congratulations to Burns Middle All County Students!



Burns Band All County Students:
From Left to Right: Kelly Chisholm, Eli Cantrell, Robert Hermida, Logan Davies, Hope Wittmeyer, Hannah Lantz and Sara Feingold, Florida State University student intern.

Burns Band All County Students:
Hannah Lantz, Robert Hermida, Hope Wittmeyer, Logan Davis, and Eli Cantrell

Burns Orchestra All County Students: John Campana, Vincent Clopeck, Chase Copeland, Adriana DeLaPaz, Hannah Ferret, Brianna Hall, Gavin Kingery, Christal Kuruvilla, Kate Lantz, Calvin Mills, Ethan Schilling, Caitlin Serpa, Jacob Soferelli, Emerson Spencer, and Anna Ulrich





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