



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOL. XLII



ISSUE 3



MARCH 2022



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THIS MONTH

BULLS MAKE HISTORY!

BSHS Girls Basketball Wins Districts and Regionals!

Story on Page 8



Photo: Tampa Bay Times ©2019

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2018 & 2019

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"Too many people opt out and never discover their own abilities, because they fear failure. They don't understand commitment." Pat Summitt

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.

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Vice President:
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Treasurer:
Grace Lewis
Directors at Large:
Laney Balis
Bobbi Ferraro
Billy Hightower
Jane Owen

BNA BRIEFS

BNA CALENDAR

Sunday, March 6, 12-2 p.m. / Neighborhood Picnic/ Bloomingdale West Park

Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. / BNA Board Meeting Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road / Call 813-252-0252 or email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com for information.

Friday, April 1 / Deadline for Bloomingdale Neighborhood Scholarship applications. Visit <https://bloomingdale.life/> for more information.

Sunday, April 10 / Bunny Visit

Saturday, September 10 / Garage Sale

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.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 7: Interact of Tampa Bay Club Meeting, sponsored by The Brandon '86 Rotary Club. An opportunity for youth to get involved in the community, earn service hours and develop mentors within Rotary. 6 to 8pm. 3007 S. Kings Avenue, Brandon, FL, 33511 For more info, contact: info@brandon86rotary.com

March 14-21: Hillsborough County Spring Break

- Campo YMCA: Spring Break Camp.** STEM, sports, and crafts. Open to non-members, as well as members. For more information, call (813) 684-1371.
- Sidekicks Family Martial Arts Center: Spring Break Camp.** Indoor and Outdoor activities as well as martial arts classes during each day of camp. Drop off is between 7-9 and pickup is between 4:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, call (813) 661-2224
- Heroes Paradise: Spring Break Discount.** 20% off Laser Tag and Archer Tag for everyone who comes to play during Spring Break! For more information, visit <https://www.heroesparadise.com>
- Astroskate: Spring Break Camp.** 7 am-6 pm. For information, call (813) 681-3635 or visit astroskatingcenter.com/brandon-florida/

March 22: St. Stephen Church (off Boyette Ave) Bingo Night. Located in the Family Life Center. Doors open at 5:30. Games begin at 6:30.

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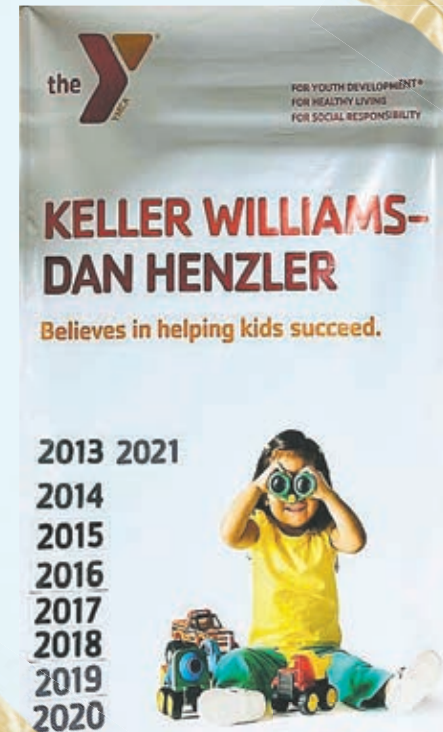
-Bette Ring, Golf Manor Dr.

"We had our house listed with another realtor for 180 days and it did not sell. The Henzler Team came in took care of some repairs and staged the home. It sold the first week on the market for \$40,000 more!"

-Langston Himes, Timbergrove Dr.

"Our house was not the typical beautiful home- Holes in drywall, unfinished flooring, no updates, ext. The henzler team came in to our vacant house and sold it"

-Susan Cox, Cold Creek dr.



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Bloomingdale Community Picnic is March 6!

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association (BNA) is hosting a Community Picnic on Sunday, March 6 from 12 to 2 pm! Join us at the Bloomingdale West Park. **The event is free!**

Speaking of free, Kona Ice is free for the first 50 people! Pinot's Pallet is providing a group painting activity. A DJ will play family-friendly versions of songs. Corn hole games will be set up. There will be hula hoop contests and races while carrying ducks on spoons. Come out to enjoy the festivities and spend time with your neighbors!

Neighborhood Picnic



Sunday, March 6, 2022 - 12 to 2 p.m.
Bloomingdale West Park

- Free Kona Ice for first 50 neighbors
- DJ
- Hula Hoop contest
- Balloon artist
- Corn hole
- Pinot's Palette Group paint

www.Bloomingdale.Life  [BI.Neighbor1](https://www.facebook.com/BI.Neighbor1)

Bloomingdale's Neighborhood Clean-up Day a Success

Story and Photos by Michelle Colesanti, unless otherwise noted



Saturday, February 5 was cloudy and cool—perfect weather for volunteers, including the Bloomingdale High School football team and Beta Club, to help community residents who were dropping off items at the BNA's annual Clean Up Day, which was located at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility on Nature's Way.



Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!

IMPORTANT DATES
FEB 1 - APRIL 1
 Applications Accepted
APRIL 1
 Application Deadline
MAY 10
 Winner Announced



Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association

Bloomingdale \$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidate

- **Must be a resident** of the Bloomingdale 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 Bloomingdale community.
- Bloomingdale 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 Bloomingdale.Life, at Bloomingdale High School and at the Bloomingdale Community Office.





Photo: Suzy Watts

YARD OF THE MONTH

BRIAN AND BETH SMEDLEY
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The Yard of the Month is sponsored by
Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale and Campo YMCA.

Send Yard of the Month nominations to:
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JF Kicks to be Featured On the Bar Rescue TV Show

By Jane Owen

Local favorite bar makes renovations and changes name

The television show Bar Rescue spent a week in February doing renovations and filming at the formerly named JF Kicks Restaurant and Patio Bar located on Lithia Pinecrest Road.

Owner Johnny Spieldenner said he was originally hesitant to be part of the show after they called. “I told their producers that we were trending in a positive direction even with all of the extraordinary hurdles that have affected many restaurants during the covid era. They saw a feel-good story and I believe that will be reflected.”

During the filming of the show, the JF Kicks sign was taken down and replaced with a Jimmy’s sign. Johnny explained, “The name change was a thoughtful tribute to my younger brother, Jimmy Spieldenner, who died of colon cancer in November of last year. He was my best friend and a wonderful human being so it’s an honor to create a new brand incorporating his name.”

Johnny added that a one more name change is in store, “JF Kicks has been around since 2007 and is loved by many so I will be changing the name of this iconic landmark to Jimmy’s Kicks Restaurant & Patio Bar. A beautiful homage to both entities!”

Jimmy’s will blend the old menu with the new Bar Rescue items. What isn’t changing is the great food, drinks, and entertainment for the local community.

“I want to thank everyone for the support these last three years. I look forward to many more!” Johnny said.

Jimmy’s is located at 3345 Lithia Pinecrest Road. For information, call (813) 643-7777 or email johnny@jfkicksrestaurant.com

To find out more about Bar Rescue and upcoming episodes, visit <https://www.paramountnetwork.com/shows/bar-rescue>



Owner Johnny Spieldenner



Village Early Learning Center Hosts International Festival

By Jane Owen

The Village Early Learning Center is treasured in our community for quality early childhood education. Part of that education is celebrating cultural diversity. The center is hosting its 9th International Festival on March 22 from 11-2. The school welcomes the community to attend this free event.

“We study and celebrate cultural diversity in our classrooms and through our many community outreach events like the International Festival, which is also supported by the Village Family Foundation, our “PTA” organization of parent and community volunteers,” said Malik Buckley, Village ELC Marketing Coordinator.

The International Festival is a family friendly event. Everyone will have fun learning about countries, cultures, and traditions from around the world. The festival is held both inside and outside of the facility at 3741 Canoga Park Drive in Brandon. During the week before the event, each classroom is decorated to represent a particular country, which ranges from Poland to Russia to Spain to El Salvador. Other countries are represented outside on the day of the festival with table displays of history, customs, fun facts, and crafts.

International Festival

When: March 22, 11-2

Where: Village Early Learning Center, 3741 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon 33511

Cost: Free



Bloomingdale Student Competes Competitively and Swims with Olympians

Michaela Walker, a Bloomingdale resident and sophomore at Strawberry Crest High School, qualified and competed in the Southern Zone Speedo Sectionals in Orlando February 10-13th. Michaela dropped 2 seconds off her 50m breaststroke, had a great swim in the 100m breaststroke and swam in the same pool with Olympic Gold Medal Swimmers, Caleb Dressel, Katie Ladecky, Natalie Hinds, and Matthew Andrews!

Michaela has swum competitively from the age of 8 for Blue Wave Swim team at High 5, Inc. and also swims for the Strawberry Crest Swim Team. She attends the IB program at Strawberry Crest and has a 5.0 GPA.

Congratulations Michaela on your incredible swims and for excelling as a student athlete!



Photos: Agnese Walker



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BSHS Girls Basketball Team Has Historic Season

The Bloomingdale Girls Basketball team advanced to their first FHSAA Final Four in school history! They beat Land O'Lakes (45-37) in the Regional Final game on February 18 to advance to the state semifinals.

Head Coach Joel Bower had this to say after their Regional Championship win: "I am so happy for our players. They have worked harder than any group I have ever coached. I am proud of them for having set goals to win a district championship and have the chance to make it to the final four. They have accomplished those goals and have made memories along the way that they will never forget! "

The Bulls play Wekiva High School on Thursday, February 24* in the Class 6A state semifinals. (*Game takes place after this paper was sent to publication.)

The team beat Braden River on February 4th (57-34) to clinch the District Championship. The last time the Bloomingdale Girls Basketball team won Districts was in 1995.

Girls Basketball Team Members Earn Awards



Senior Guard Joline "JoJo" Raposo was named Western Conference Federal Division Player of the year.

"She is one of the most positive young ladies I have ever coached. She is an outstanding athlete who can do things on the court that most cannot. There are usually moments in our games that she just takes over and carries us for a few minutes... We have come to expect those moments and they are fun to watch," Head Coach Joel Bower.

Junior Guard Melody Womack was selected to the Federal Division First Team.

"She has been a player who does everything for us. She is one of the toughest players I have ever coached and she does not like to lose!" Head Coach Joel Bower.



Junior Guard Aissa Diallo was selected to the Federal Division Second Team.

"She is an amazing young lady who loves the game, is very coachable and has come up big for us in big games," Head Coach Joel Bower.





BSHS Boys Basketball Wins District Championship

On February 11, the Bloomington Boys Basketball team won the 6A District 11 Championship after beating Manatee by a score of 64-52.



Boys Basketball
6A District 11
Champions!



BSHS Girls Soccer Wins District Championship

On February 1st, the Bloomington Soccer Team won the 6A District 11 Championship after beating Sumner High School by a score of 3-1. The last time they won Districts was in 2019.

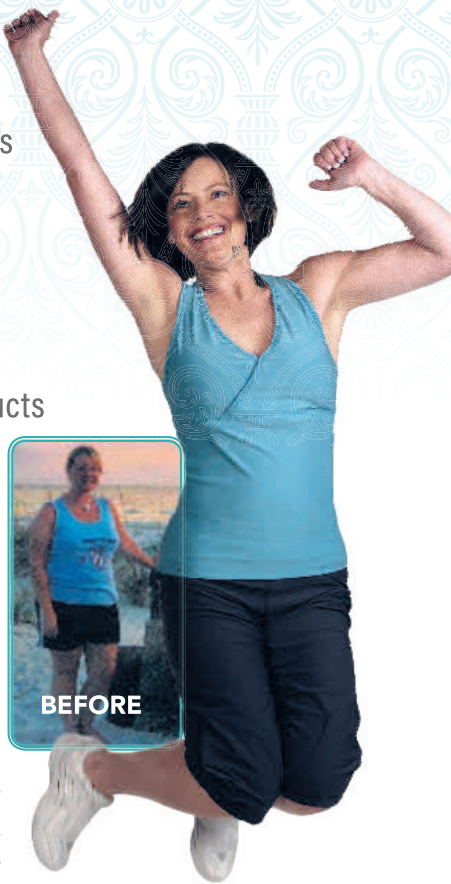


Girls Soccer 6A District 11 Champions!

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Take a Break at Amani MedSpa!

By Michelle Colesanti

A sense of calm takes over as soon as you enter Amani MedSpa, which relocated to Bloomingdale Avenue in October 2021. The new 5,000 sq. ft. office gives owner Dr. Gurinder Brar and her staff plenty of room for the future expansion of services.

Amani MedSpa provides both cosmetic and skin care services. Whether you are looking for Botox, Filler, IV Infusion Therapy or just a basic massage, facial or nail services, Amani MedSpa has it all and much more.

Personal attention is provided so you feel comfortable that the treatment you receive will produce lasting results. Consults are done for all those looking for medical procedures such as Botox and Fillers, which Dr. Brar handles herself. She helps new clients assess their needs.

As a board-certified member of the American Board of Family Practice, Dr. Brar also offers a 'monthly fee-based' Direct Primary Care Service. Small businesses interested in offering this alternative to employees can contact her for more information.

Travel Blogger Jenn Bethune and her husband Kyle travel around the country as professional bloggers. Jenn grew up here, and on a recent stop back to the area, they were both spotted enjoying pedicures given by Sophia Espinal, an Aesthetician who also does nails as well as body contouring treatments.

Jenn loves stopping by whenever they are in town. "I've been coming to Dr. Brar for four or five years," she said.

Currently, there are two Aestheticians on staff and a Massage Therapist. Shellie Mast, who is the Spa Director and a nurse, handles the IV Infusion treatments as well as patient coordination and assessments. The staff can help you with issues such as acne, wrinkles, Rosacea, hair loss, sun damage and more. IV Infusion Therapy is used for dehydration, low immune systems, fatigue and returning electrolytes and amino acid to your body after heavy workouts. Immune IV therapy can also help combat post-Covid fatigue using Vitamin C, Zinc and Glutathione, a powerful antioxidant.

Other services include Laser treatments, body wraps and scrubs. A unique offering at the new location is its Float Tank, filled with 1000 lbs. of magnesium salt, making in nearly 10 times more buoyant than sea water. Experience floating in water heated to your skin temperature to enjoy the benefits of improving stress, relieving anxiety, enhancing better sleep and to also help with fibromyalgia, digestion, arthritis, lower blood pressure, relaxation, speed up muscle recovery and overall improvement.

Amani MedSpa will soon be offering Spa parties, which will include its spa services plus food and wine. You will be able to host bridal and birthday parties, showers or group outings with friends in a spa setting while everyone enjoys services of choice as well as quality time together.

Amani MedSpa is now located at 1102 E. Bloomingdale Ave. in Valrico. Visit www.amanimedspa.com or call 813-685-6111 for more information.





Florida Strawberry Festival is #1 For Fun

By Michelle Colesanti

There's been a chill in the air making this year's crop of strawberries extra sweet, and there's no better place to enjoy them than at the Florida Strawberry Festival, which will run from March 3 through March 13.

The Festival continues to preserve and enhance the agricultural and historical legacy of the Florida strawberry and celebrates American life through social events, contests, youth developmental programs, top-name entertainment and parades. This year's great line-up of headliner entertainment, which will take place on the Wish Farms Soundstage, include Lauren Daigle, Boyz II Men, Nelly, Lady A, The Beach Boys, Sam Hunt, local Voice runner-up Kenzie Wheeler.

"The release of our headline entertainment lineup is always a real crowd pleaser," said Florida Strawberry Festival President Paul Davis. "We think this year's lineup is one of our best. From rock to worship, rap to country, polka to a cappella; we've got a little something for everyone to enjoy."

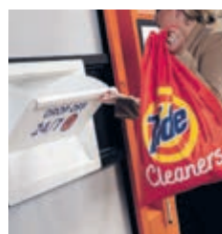
Free entertainment is also included. The Doug Gabriel Family Show and Dennis Lee will perform daily. You will find plenty of other fun events to delight the family such as eating contests, Robinson's Racing Pigs, Dakin Dairy Farmers Milking Parlor, Circus Incredible, a Kids Coloring Corner and more. The highlight for many is the Midway with over 80 rides, games, and attractions.

No visit is complete without enjoying the sweet local berries. One should also stop by the Florida Strawberry Growers Association Strawberry Production Display and "Ask A Farmer" Booth (located outside the Publix Showcase Tent) to see how strawberries were grown years ago and how they are cultivated today. The Strawberry Festival is not complete without its Queen, and you will find Kenley Connell, a junior at Plant City High School, and her court members, throughout the Festival grounds greeting visitors.

The Festival is located at 303 BerryFest Place in Plant City. Admission tickets purchased at the gates cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12 years old. Tickets can be purchased online at a discounted rate. For more Festival information, call 813-754-1996 or visit <https://flstrawberryfestival.com>.



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Burns Art Students Win Awards

Photos submitted by Burns Art Teacher, Pam Reeves

Burns had four winners in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Contest: 4 honorable mentions and one Gold Key. This is a huge accomplishment. There were close to 1000 entries in the contest. *Congratulations to the winners!*



Laina Cooper *Honorable Mention for two works: Vines and Inspiration*



McKenzie Davis
Honorable Mention for Floral Words



Josianne Hanson
Honorable Mention for Vacant Eyes



Kendall Herr
Gold Key for Sunset
This piece moves on to national level competition!

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BSHS Swimmers Earn Awards

The BSHS Girls Swim Team won the GPA award for highest GPA of all girls swim teams in the district. Captain Matthew McLane won the Henry Hicks Memorial Award. The awards were presented at an awards ceremony on Thursday, Feb 3.

Congratulations Matthew McLane and the Girl's Swim Team: Captains Sarah Allison and Alexa Brown. Alexandra Bularca, Baylinn Pisowicz, Caroline Bartel, Emily Nichols, Jaxson Tumicki, Jenna Fradosio, Luciana Granados, Madison Mckendree, Maggie Ronne, Malia Blythe, and Soleil Gates!

Pictured from left to right: Autumn Shoun, Girls Swim Coach, Alexa Brown, Junior Captain, Sarah Allison, Senior Captain, Matthew McLean, Senior Captain, and Flossie Parsley, Boys Coach.

Photo Courtesy BSHS Athletic Boosters



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(Located across from Lithia Springs Elementary)

0000211532-01



BSHS Runners Sign Letters of Intent

About 1 out of 13 high school athletes go on to play a varsity sport in college. In other words, only little over 7% of high school athletes compete in college. Without a doubt, it is a huge accomplishment. On February 2, two Bloomingdale High School runners signed National Letters of Intent to run cross country and track at the collegiate level. Jordan Hierholzer will run at Southeastern and Caitlin Berry will run at Florida Southern.

Congratulations Caitlin and Jordan and good luck on your next season!



Tampa Bay Times

tampabay.com

Why I deliver the *Times*

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