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42  
YEARS

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOL. XLII



ISSUE 9



SEPT. 2022



WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE

THIS MONTH

## Cheers to a New School Year! Back-to-School Photos Inside



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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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**Student Reporter:** Edward De Freitas

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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](mailto:Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com) Website: [www.Bloomingdale.Life](http://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:**  
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**Treasurer:**  
Grace Lewis

**Directors at Large:**

Laney Balis

Kalyn Dukes

Bobbi Ferraro

Billy Hightower

# BNA BRIEFS

## BNA CALENDAR

**THIS SATURDAY, September 10 / Bloomingdale Community Garage Sale,** email [bl.neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:bl.neighbor1@gmail.com) to be listed as participating.

**Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. / BNA Board Meeting,** 3509 Bell Shoals Road / Community is welcome to attend. Call 813-252-0252 or email [bl.neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:bl.neighbor1@gmail.com) for information.

**Friday, October 28 / Trunk or Treat at the Campo YMCA**

**Sunday, December 4 / Santa Visit**

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## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE OCTOBER 2ND

*Press Release, submitted by Bloomingdale Resident Kalyn Dukes*

A Blessing of the Animals service will take place at Serenity Meadows Memorial Park (6919 Providence Road, Riverview), Sunday, October 2 at 11 a.m. From kittens to chickens, guppies to puppies, Pastor Betty will be blessing all pets great and small.

This free event celebrating the Feast of St. Francis is open to the entire community, so come and enjoy this wonderful annual tradition. A short liturgy will be led by the clergy followed by individual pet blessings. Guests are encouraged to bring a bag of pet food to be donated to the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center.

Contact Kalyn Dukes  
at 813-677-9494 or  
[Kduke@stonemor.com](mailto:Kduke@stonemor.com)  
for more information.





# KEEP THIS PAGE

## For All Your Local Fall Sports Schedules

Tampa Bay Buccaneers 22-23 Schedule
Aug. 13 VS Dolphins
Aug. 20 @ Titans
Aug. 27 @ Colts
Sept. 11 @ Cowboys
Sept. 18 @ Saints
Sept. 25 VS Packers
Oct. 2 VS Chiefs
Oct. 9 VS Falcons
Oct. 16 @ Steelers
Oct. 23 @ Panthers
Oct. 27 VS Ravens
Nov. 6 VS Rams
Nov. 13 @ Seahawks
Nov. 20 BYE
Nov. 27 @ Browns
Dec. 5 VS Saints
Dec. 11 @ 49ers
Dec. 18 VS Bengals
Dec. 25 @ Cardinals
Jan. 1 VS Panthers
Jan. 8 @ Falcons

Tampa Bay Lightning 22-23 Schedule		
Oct. 11 @ NYR	Dec. 3 VS TOR	Feb. 26 @ PIT
Oct. 14 @ CBJ	Dec. 6 VS DET	Feb. 28 VS FLA
Oct. 15 @ PIT	Dec. 8 VS NSH	Mar. 2 VS PIT
Oct. 18 VS PHI	Dec. 10 VS FLA	Mar. 5 @ CAR
Oct. 21 @ FLA	Dec. 13 VS SEA	Mar. 6 VS PHI
Oct. 22 VS NYI	Dec. 15 VS CBJ	Mar. 9 VS VGK
Oct. 25 @ LAK	Dec. 17 @ MTL	Mar. 11 VS CHI
Oct. 26 @ ANA	Dec. 20 @ TOR	Mar. 12 VS WPG
Oct. 29 @ SJS	Dec. 21 @ DET	Mar. 14 @ NJD
Nov. 1 VS OTT	Dec. 23 @ BUF	Mar. 16 @ NJD
Nov. 3 VS CAR	Dec. 28 VS MTL	Mar. 18 VS MTL
Nov. 5 VS BUF	Dec. 29 VS NYR	Mar. 19 VS NJD
Nov. 8 VS EDM	Dec. 31 VS ARI	Mar. 21 @ MTL
Nov. 11 @ WSH	Feb. 6 @ FLA	Mar. 23 @ OTT
Nov. 13 VS WSH	Feb. 7 VS SJS	Mar. 25 @ BOS
Nov. 15 VS DAL	Feb. 9 VS COL	Mar. 28 @ CAR
Nov. 17 VS CGY	Feb. 11 @ DAL	Mar. 30 VS WSH
Nov. 19 @ NSH	Feb. 14 @ COL	Apr. 1 VS NYI
Nov. 21 VS BOS	Feb. 15 @ ARI	Apr. 5 @ NYR
Nov. 25 VS STL	Feb. 18 @ VGK	Apr. 6 @ NYI
Nov. 28 @ BUF	Feb. 21 VS ANA	Apr. 8 @ OTT
Nov. 29 @ BOS	Feb. 23 VS BUF	Apr. 11 VS TOR
Dec. 1 @ PHI	Feb. 25 @ DET	Apr. 13 VS DET

Bloomington Bulls Football Schedule 22-23
Aug. 19 VS Berkeley Prep
Aug. 26 VS Sumner
Sept. 2 VS Armwood
Sept. 9 @ Durant
Sept. 16 @ Tampa Bay Tech
Sept. 23 VS Newsome
Sept. 30 @ Lennard
Oct. 7 VS Gaither
Oct. 14 @ Spoto
Oct. 21 @ Wharton
Oct. 28 VS East Bay



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# Campo YMCA Offers Pickleball

By Michelle Colesanti

Stay out of the kitchen! That's a phrase you will hear over and over as you learn to play one of the newest sport sensations: Pickleball, which began on the West Coast more than 50 years ago. There are a few theories about how it got its name, but rumor has it that it was named after the creator's dog, Pickles.

Seniors account for a large percentage of players and are credited with its rapid growth in popularity. The game, a cross between tennis, ping pong and badminton, uses a court slightly smaller than for tennis. In the last few years, Pickleball has become popular with all ages. Currently, more than 4.8 million picklers play in the United States.

Eileen Kaminski, Campo Y's Pickleball Ambassador, loves the game and says it is for all ages. When not enjoying the game indoors at Campo, you might find her playing in the park with her daughter and granddaughter.

One Tuesday morning (the time designated for beginners), I decided to drop in on the class that is held at Campo Y at 11 a.m. on the basketball courts. Kaminski greeted me with a smile and told me to sign in. Nervous about the whole encounter, I soon realized that those who were there to help the 'newbies' were so nice and extremely patient. I soon felt comfortable enough to keep going and started making new friends along the way (a wonderful byproduct of learning the sport).

Brian Grant, who has since taken Pickleball to the next level, couldn't agree more. "The first week I started, I was talking about Pickleball. By the second week, I found myself talking about the people. It is a social sport."

According to Kaminski, "Beginner classes average four sessions giving attendees plenty of practice and time to learn the rules and how to keep score. Open play begins immediately after class is over, giving beginners a chance to play up for the rest of the session prior to moving into the more advanced play on other days of the week."

The game can be for everyone. You need to be 50 years and over and a member of the Y or a Silver Sneakers member to join in on the fun at the Campo YMCA. Kaminski notes that several players are in their late 70's and early 80's with average age being 70 and the youngest in their early 50's.

Kaminski added, "We have players with serious disabilities that can still enjoy the sport. Several had knee and hip replacements, two have only one kidney and one is battling cancer, as well as several cancer survivors. One is hearing impaired and one only has the use of one arm."

If you are already a player and interested in indoor play, the hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and Tuesday from 12:30 -3 p.m. (after beginner class).

Are you interested in finding out what the craze is all about? Call the Campo YMCA at 684-1371 for more information. Or, drop in at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays!



Brian Grant gives pointers about pickleball basics at one recent beginner's class.



Beginners practice skills at a recent Pickleball class at Campo Y. Silver Sneaker and Y members over age 50 are welcome to attend on Tuesday's at 11 a.m.



Players from last season's Beginner class.



# YARD OF THE MONTH

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Cancelled and postponed seemed to be the only two shows running thanks to the pandemic, but those days are over. According to Straz Center President and CEO Judy Lisi, “Touring Broadway is back in Tampa in a big, big way,” and I agree with her! This season’s lineup is straight off Broadway featuring TONY Award winning musicals and dramas that are sure to enthrall audiences of every age and background.

Kicking off the season is *SIX* the “global sensation that everyone is losing their head over.” This production, which runs November 1st – 6th, allows the *SIX* wives of Henry the VIII to finally get the ending they deserve.

Next on the calendar, is my personal favorite of the season and winner of 8 TONY Awards, *Hadestown*, running November 29th – December 4th. Only a live jazz band on stage could make this hell of a musical feel full of hope and youth despite its tragic roots.

Rounding out 2022, and ringing in 2023 is the cultural phenomenon, *Hamilton*. A perfect gift for the holidays, this show revolutionized theater and makes the story of our founding fathers seem new and exciting. *Hamilton* returns December 28th – January 22nd, and I have to side with King George III on this one, I think many of us that saw it last time, will be back.

Rollin into the Straz after *Hamilton*, is *TINA – The Tina Turner Musical*. Featuring the fringe shaking classics from the Queen of Rock and Roll, Tina ties together the songs and the stories of one of America’s greatest musical icons. January 31st – February 5th.

Prepare to be razzle dazzled from February 21st – 26th, as the killer musical *Chicago* takes the stage. The combination of Fosse and fishnets has been an unstoppable force for over 25 years, making the longest running American musical, a show you will not want to miss.

For those young in age or at heart, the Straz is bringing back their most “popular” witches in *Wicked*, March 8th – 26th. This family favorite, brings us back down the yellow brick road to look at the Wonderful World of Oz from a different point of view.

Deviating from the musical genre and the original novel, Aaron Sorkin’s award-winning adaptation of Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird* takes a story we all know and love and makes it new again. Richard Thomas, perhaps best known as John-Boy Walton, will now take on the ultimate father role of Atticus Finch in this moving court room drama that has the power to both restore and break our faith in humanity. April 11th – 16th.

Finishing up the 2022 – 2023 season are two musical tribute shows. *Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations* running May 2nd – 7th and *Jagged Little Pill* based on the music of Alanis Morissette playing May 16th – 21st. Both shows are full of Billboard Hits that are sure to delight theater and music lovers alike.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets for any or all of the shows listed above, but don’t want to pay full price, call the Straz Ticket Office at 813-229-STAR (7827). The Straz Center is currently offering discounted tickets to several groups of people including: students, educators, seniors, and active and retired military; however, many of these discounted tickets require that you go down to the box office and purchase the tickets in person. Again, make sure to call in advance as each show offers different discounts and promotions. If you do not qualify as one of the discount groups listed above, make sure to check out the deals that will be offered on Cyber Monday, November 28th 2022. For more information about The Straz Center and their upcoming season visit [strazcenter.org](http://strazcenter.org).



# Bloomingtondale's Patti Rendon Wins District 4 School Board Position

"This campaign and victory is both humbling and exciting. There are so many people that I have met and who have supported me in this journey. I am excited to represent District 4 on the Hillsborough County School Board and be a voice for our students, teachers and parents. I want to say thank you to my two opponents for running a positive campaign. Thank you to my family for their love and support. I want to thank the voters for their commitment to education and their vote. I am excited to work on new career-based pathways, partner with our community leadership, and prioritize our students, teachers and parents." Patti Rendon

*Congratulations Patti!*







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# BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2022



Cousins Anaiah Roberts, 2nd, and Evan Wilson, 1st, Brooker



Aaron Allen  
8th, Burns



Jackson Grafton  
8th, Burns



Kai Correia, 2nd,  
Valrico Academy



Zoey Lauerman,  
12th, Blake  
HS, and Logan  
Lauerman, 9th,  
Bloomington



Isaiah Allen, 6th,  
Burns



Thomas, 12th, and  
Elsie Owen, 9th,  
Bloomington



Cameron Bird  
7th, Mulrennan



Jazmin, 9th,  
Bloomington



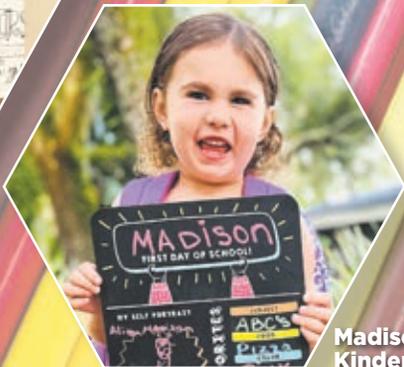
Scarlett, 4th,  
Savannah, 2nd, and  
Tommy Mandeville,  
Kindergarten



Guillermo, 3rd,  
Alafia



Tessa,  
Kindergarten,  
Matthew,  
4th, Genna  
Kindergarten,  
Cimino



Madison Baily  
Kindergarten, Alafia



Madelyn Porter, 6th, Burns, and  
Kelly Porter, 3rd, Alafia



Aubrielle  
Ava Alfons  
Bloomington



Gabriella  
FLV



el, 7th, grade  
S and Jude,  
age 4



Timothy  
9th, Bloomingdale



Kolton, 2nd,  
Cimino



Grant Peters  
VPK



Gabriel  
7th, grade FLVS



Steven  
7th, Burns



JR Singer, 11th,  
Kyra Sumnick 11th,  
Ashlee Singer, 9th,  
Bloomingdale



Scarlett Grafton,  
2nd, Cimino



Christine  
Allen, 12th,  
Bloomingdale



Nash  
Pre-school  
VELC



Cade, 1st, Alafia



, 9th,  
o, 11th,  
gdale



Addison Haynes,  
2nd, Alafia



Vincenzo "Enzo," 4th,  
and Domenic "Nico,"  
2nd, Alafia



Shawn, 2nd, Cimino



Gabriella, Kindergarten,  
and Dean, 3rd, Alafia



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## BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2022 (cont.)



Emma Fravel  
Kindergarten, Alafia



Caylee Stump  
7th, Mulrennan



Logan Bond  
4th, Alafia



Lenny Emory  
1st, Cimino



Peter, 2nd and Matthew  
Church, Kindergarten, Alafia



Emilee  
3rd, Alafia



Cimino



Pedro Domingos  
1st, Alafia

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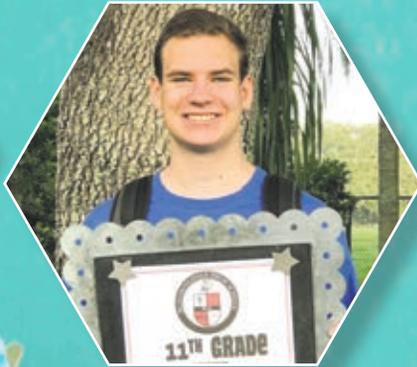
**Aria Bailey**  
Kindergarten, Alafia



**Malachi**  
Kindergarten, Cimino



**Ariana, 3rd, Alafia**



**Ryan Fidler, 11th,**  
Bloomingdale



**Ayden, Erwin Tech**  
Culinary Program



**Christian, 12th,**  
Bloomingdale



**Aria, 3rd, Daniel, 4th,**  
Charlotte, 4th, Cimino



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## New Art Teacher at Bloomingdale Senior High School

By Edward De Freitas, Student Reporter



Recently at Bloomingdale Senior High School, the torch for the role of art teacher was passed down from one to another after Diana Speedy's retirement at the end of the last school year. The position was passed down to Pam Reeves, the former art teacher at Burns Middle School, Bloomingdale's feeder school. At Burns, Pam actively worked with Diana. Let us rewind and see how she got into art in the first place.

Pam was one of the first ever students at Bloomingdale and in the second graduating class in 1989. Yet, even before her art classes at Bloomingdale, she had loved art since she was a kid. Her family always had the arts be an important influence. When she attended Bloomingdale, she met the person who would be her art teacher, mentor, and inspiration for years to come, Karen Marcos. Karen helped and guided her along the way of her high school career and the art

room became her home base at school. This relationship with Karen eventually led her to a scholarship, as Karen submitted one of Pam's pieces to the University of Tampa when she had no other plans for life beyond high school.

After graduating from UT with a major in art and psychology, Pam came back to Bloomingdale to do art demonstrations while making art pieces for the city of Tampa. During this time, Pam also did service work for the community serving places such as jails and retirement homes spreading her love of art to many others. Soon after, Karen retired her position as art teacher at Bloomingdale and in came Diana Speedy. This was around the same time when Pam started working as art teacher in Burns Middle School. Pam and Diana worked together much of the time, helping each other and sharing stories, and they developed a good friendship. Pam's daughters also attended Bloomingdale and her daughter Abi developed a close relationship with Diana similar to the relationship Pam had with Karen. Pam says she has big shoes to fill. She learned lots from Diana, as she was brilliant and organized with her work.

Pam has higher expectations at Bloomingdale than she did at Burns, with different levels of art and maturity with AP and Honors classes to teach. Still, she isn't nervous and feels at home right where she had started her journey.



Left to right, Pam Reeves, Karen Marcos, Diana Speedy

**"I'm following in some very big shoes but both Karen and Diana paved the way for me. Being back at Bloomingdale gives me a chance to give back what was given to me."**

*Pam Reeves*

She is ready to take on the challenge having many things handed to her from the two before her and is excited to try many more mediums of art, expand her horizons, and tackle the future ahead of her.

Pam is happy, excited, and thrilled to be at Bloomingdale. "Life has come full circle 32 years later," Pam stated.

## More Educational Pathways Opening Up for Hillsborough County Students

By Amanda Ragan

The start of the 2022 - 2023 school year was a flurry of first day photos in new clothes and new shoes. Students, with their arms full of new supplies, were off to meet their new teachers and for many high school students in Hillsborough County it also brought the start of newly offered classes and certifications.

Hillsborough County Public Schools is expanding their accelerated course options by increasing the number of schools offering Cambridge and Advanced International Certificate Education (AICE). Much like Advance Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment, and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes, AICE allows students to earn college credit by earning an international diploma administered by the University of Cambridge in England. The Bright Futures Student Handbook states that, "students earning the AICE Diploma qualify for the full Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholarship with completion of 100 community service hours and are not required to meet the minimum GPA and SAT/ACT scores." Many students and families see this as a more equitable option for students that struggle to meet the SAT or ACT test score guidelines. Stephanie Zimmerman, the Lead AICE Teacher at Leto High School, explained that "students and teachers alike find the new AICE curriculum refreshing because it allows students to show mastery through portfolios, performances, and projects as compared to the standard multiple choice tests and exams." Hillsborough County Public Schools introduced the AICE curriculum to thirteen new schools this year and plans to expand to even more schools by 2023 - 2024.

In addition to new course offerings, Hillsborough County Public Schools are also offering students the opportunity to earn new Industry Certifications in Career and Technical Education Classes. This year many schools across the district will be offering new certifications in ITS Operating System, ITS HTML / CSS, Entrepreneurship and Small Business, and Toon Boom Storyboard Pro. These new certifications will add to a full list of industry certifications ranging from computer software programs like Adobe Creative Cloud, CompTIA, and AutoCad, to Occupation Certifications like Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA) and Certified EKG Technician (CET). Each certification provides students with the opportunity to gain highly desired workforce knowledge and skills.

With the opportunity to earn both college credit and industry certifications, more and more students are exiting Hillsborough County Public Schools ready for what comes next! More information regarding industry certifications, and college level coursework can be found by contacting your local school.



Teachers Kerry Mullis and Clayton Varnum participate in a CTE training in hopes of offering new certifications to their students.

# Rajun' Bull Band 2023 Seniors

This year the Bloomingdale Senior High School Rajun' Bull Band halftime show is the music of Earth, Wind and Fire!



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- Rosimar Reyes

**Tampa Bay Times**

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## **BSHS's Thomas Schilling Wins Eastern Hillsborough XC Invite**

Bloomington Senior Thomas Schilling won first place at the Eastern Hillsborough XC Invite on August 22nd at Newsome with a time of 16:59.50. It was not a close race! The second place runner came in at 17:25.80.



**Congrats Thomas!**

## **PEOPLE OF BLOOMINGDALE** **Hometown Heroes**

*"It's all about safety- watching out for the kids and obeying the crossing guards. Sometimes people try to go when they are not supposed to. They have to remember it's all about safety. They need to watch."*

Sherwin Scott, Alafia Crossing Guard



## Bloomingdale Bulls Football Schedule 2022-23

8/26 Sumner @ Bloomingdale  
 9/2 Armwood @Bloomingdale  
 9/9 Durant @Durant  
 9/16 Tampa Bay Tech @TBT  
 9/23 Newsome @Bloomingdale

9/30 Lennard @Lennard  
 10/7 Gather @Bloomingdale  
 10/14 Spoto @Spoto  
 10/21 Wharton @Wharton  
 10/28 East Bay @Bloomingdale

## BSHS Football Players Volunteer at Elementary Schools

Bloomingdale Senior High School Football players have begun volunteering at Alafia and Cimino elementary schools. The players greeted students and read to kindergarten classes. The plan is for players to continue volunteering throughout the Fall.

*"The BSHS football players were great! They assisted with our car line, opening car doors with our patrols, and greeted students as they arrived at school. They then went to the kindergarten classes and read to the children. I loved how the students looked at these guys like superheroes who landed at our school, and the football players shared how much it made them feel good. They really liked reading to the kindergartners. This is a wonderful thing Coach Coulson is doing for our school and students."*

Alafia Elementary Principal, Lisa Jackson



Nate Ledford with Alafia safety patrol  
 Ethan Sonderman



Cole Tucker reading to a class at Alafia Elementary



Players Kendall Jones, Charlie O'Brien, Isaiah Lowery, and Christian Bodnar at Cimino Elementary

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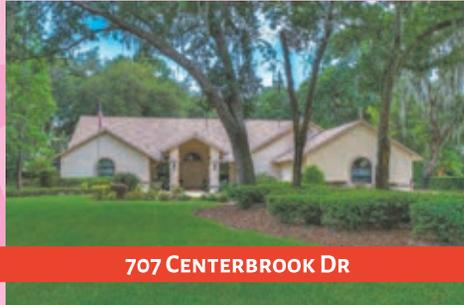
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