



CELEBRATING 42 YEARS

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOL. XLII



ISSUE 10



OCT. 2022



WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE

THIS MONTH

## FALL in FLORIDA!

Bloomingtondale is Vibrant

BLOOMINGDALE

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PLEASE  RECYCLE

WINNER

2013, 2014, 2016,  
2018 & 2019

Hillsborough County  
Neighborhood  
Recognition Award  
Best Communications  
Newsletter Category

Bloomingtondale Fall Colors Courtesy of the Bloomingtondale Special District  
See BSD Update on Page 4

"Mere color can speak to the soul in a thousand different ways." Oscar Wilde





## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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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

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](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:**

Laney Balis

Kalyn Dukes

Bobbi Ferraro

Billy Hightower

# BNA BRIEFS

## BNA CALENDAR

**\*NO PUBLIC OCTOBER BNA MEETING\*** The BNA is holding its annual planning meeting in October. The next BNA meeting open to the public is November 8. For concerns or input, please call 813-252-0252 or email [bl.neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:bl.neighbor1@gmail.com).

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

Sunday, December 4 / Santa Visit

## 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.



Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association

35th Annual  
**Santa Visit**  
Dec. 4  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The BNA is thrilled to announce Santa is visiting Bloomingdale this year! Santa is excited about his Florida vacation and he will make stops in the Bloomingdale East and West neighborhoods and both Bloomingdale parks. Our elves will pass out Santa themed ducks and candy canes. Follow the BNA Facebook page @Bl.Neighbor1 for details.



For more information about the Santa visit, email [Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com).



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Schedule Now: **813-601-1925**

**Shred Event**

Oct. 22th, 9:00 am-12:00 pm @ Focus

Wealth Strategies, LLC

3419 Brook Crossing Dr, Brandon

**Trunk-or-Treat**

Oct. 27th, 5:30-7:30 pm @

Our Office





## **Bloomington Special District Works Hard for our Community**

By Kristine Schroeder, BSD Community Relations

### **OCTOBER BSD UPDATE**

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recently approved an ordinance amending the Bloomington Special Dependent Tax District ordinance 85-38. As amended the ordinance includes:

1. Updated provisions related to special assessments to reflect the current, correct annual assessment, not to exceed \$170 dollars per parcel, as approved by referendum in 2017.
2. The District has the authority to maintain the common areas, including but not limited to landscaping, community entryways, lighting, irrigation, signage, and perimeter walls adjacent to county easements.
3. District may use credit/purchasing cards to make small dollar purchases, not to exceed \$2500 dollars per month.
4. Physically absent board member may participate in meetings virtually if a quorum sufficient to comply with state law is physically present.

The amended ordinance can be read in full on the district website at [bloomington.mydistrictwebsite.com](http://bloomington.mydistrictwebsite.com).

In other news, test sites have been planted along Culbreath Rd. to determine what greenery will thrive the best where limited sunlight prevents grass from growing.



## **Annual Bloomington Garage Sale Yields Sales and Solidarity**

By Amanda Ragan

On September 10th, sidewalks and driveways were scattered with household items from furniture to artwork and everything in between. Bloomington residents were able to clear out cluttered storage rooms and closets, providing shoppers the chance to find well-loved treasures at a discounted rate during the yearly community garage sale. Bloomington resident Maureen McLeod, exclaimed that her favorite thing about the community garage sale "is that it happens, and I don't have to organize and plan it myself!" This sentiment was echoed by many as they enjoyed the chance to both sell unneeded items, while simultaneously getting to visit with neighbors and community members.



Kindergartener Harper is excited to feed her new unicorn that she got at the Bloomington Garage Sale.

Perhaps the biggest winners of the day, however, were the neighborhood children. Walking around the neighborhood, one could not miss the huge grins of children that had just found their new favorite toy or the new bike that they have recently grown into! Some children, like Georgia Rae Grubbs and Tatum Ristea, capitalized on the sidewalk traffic by setting up a snack stand providing busy shoppers the chance to grab some much needed refreshments. If you missed this year's event don't worry, our Bloomington Neighborhood Association is already working to plan next year's event.



Pictured left to right sisters Abigail and Alison discover a set of walkie talkies at this year's garage sale.



Emma Metcalf helps with the family garage sale by running the cash register.



Pictured left to right are Georgia Rae Grubbs and Tatum Ristea at their successful snack stand.



# YARD OF THE MONTH

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The Yard of the Month is sponsored by  
Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale and Campo YMCA.

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# Pickleball Gives Purpose to Local Player

By Michelle Colesanti

When a car accident left Brian Grant dealing with back pain leaving him incapacitated for a long stretch of time, Eileen Kaminski, facilitator of the Pickleball program at Campo YMCA, invited him to come try the game. He took her up on her offer and has not looked back.

“It gave me purpose. I had back problems and had to have multiple major back surgeries and couldn’t work,” Grant said.

Grant still deals with both back and nerve pain but manages to work through it. Pickleball gives him a reason to keep moving, and he will share his mantra with anyone willing to listen. “It can fulfill our physical, social and mental needs,” he said.

Grant occasionally stops by Campo Y’s beginner class on Tuesday mornings to help give basic pointers to aspiring new players. He said consistency is key, but the most important thing you can do is to just have fun.

Grant understands that others are always dealing with their own issues. “Pickleball may be the only thing that person does that day that makes them feel good, and people need to feel good. That’s what makes this different than any other sport,” he noted.

Almost everybody can play as Pickleball is not as stressful on your body as other sports. It is your choice as to whether you want to play just for the fun of it, or to pursue a more competitive game with experienced players.

Grant was always athletically inclined and on the go. Before his injury, Grant had a career as a Sales Manager for Apple and Best Buy. He loves Pickleball so much that he is now a certified coach and has acquired a business license, Live2Pickle.

He said, “For someone like me who had a lot of employees, I can now use those skills to help people on the Pickleball court.”

Grant is married for 24 years to wife Tiffany and has two children, 16-year-old Michael and 13-year-old Kate.

Grant loves to play in tournaments and has earned himself quite a few medals. He has two sponsors, Engage Pickleball and AVI Athletic Wear. He plans to offer lessons and will hold group clinics at various locations. If you would like more information, you can email him at [brian@live2pickle](mailto:brian@live2pickle).

Photo by Michelle Colesanti



Ellen Kaminski and Brian Grant at a recent beginner class he instructed.



Photos by Brian Grant



Brian Grant with Ben Johns, Pickleball’s overall number one player in the world.



# The Gazette Welcomes Edward De Freitas as Student Reporter

By Jane Owen

Bloomington Gazette is thrilled to have Edward De Freitas join the team as a student reporter. Edward is a junior at Bloomington Senior High School.

This summer, Edward reached out to the Gazette wanting to pursue writing for the Gazette. It was easy to recognize Edward's commitment. It was in the middle of the summer in early July. Edward asked about an apprenticeship or service opportunity with the Gazette and ways to learn about journalism and being involved in our community. The Gazette was delighted by their letter of reference from Bloomington teacher Teresa Lamar-Mandry describing Edward's personality in her English 2 Honors class as gregarious and confident.

Edward enjoys playing guitar, drawing, singing and writing. During sophomore year, Edward placed first for non-fiction writing and honorable mention for poetry in the HCTE Competition.

The decision to reach out to the Gazette was an easy one.

"I wanted to serve my community, make smaller stories that are great more well known within our community, and overall, I wanted to find a job that I really loved," Edward said.

Inspired by his family's hard work, Edward pursues passions with persistence.

"I am always dedicated to everything I do no matter long it may take or if I wanna do it. I'll still put my all into it. My family truly inspires me each and every day to how hard working they are to how much energy they put into everything. I aspire to follow in their footsteps and make them proud of me." Edward explained.

Edward lives with his mom and dad, Claudia and Antonio De Freitas, in Bloomington East, and has 3 sisters (Grace, Raquel, and Veronica) and one brother (Antonio).

**The Bloomington Gazette is thrilled to support the students interested in communication and journalism. Dedicated student journalists produce content that gives a unique perspective on our community. The Gazette is an ideal space for local students to gain experience in the field. Interested students should reach out at:**  
**[inbloomingtonnews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingtonnews@gmail.com).**



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# FALL IN FLORIDA: FALL ACTIVITIES & HAPPENINGS

## Local Fall Events, Pumpkin Patches & Oktoberfests

### Fall Spooktacular

Fall Spooktacular is back! On October 8th from 10 a.m. -1 p.m., Tampa Bay Moms is partnering with the Hillsborough County Parks and Rec for a safe seasonal celebration with a plethora of crafts and games, candy, a bounce house, food, a costume parade, and prizes from community partners. The Fall Spooktacular is FREE and located at the Brandon Park and Rec Center (502 E Sadie St, Brandon, FL 33510)!

### The Rustic Door Fall Vintage Market

*October 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.*  
*788 West Lumsden Road, Brandon*  
Over 90 local vendors, food trucks and incredible treasures from Tampa artisans. Pet friendly.

### Trick or Treat Pop Up Market at Winthrop

*Saturday October 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.*  
Shop over 100 local vendors while your kids trick or treat with participating vendors. Dress up and come ready for fun! For more info, visit [www.winthroppopupmarket.com](http://www.winthroppopupmarket.com)

### Annual Fall Craft Fair

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church is hosting their Annual Fall Craft Fair on Saturday, October 29th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check out over 70 outside vendors selling unique hand-crafted items. To register to be a vendor, call Mary Jane at 813-689-2572 or go online at [saumc.life/events](http://saumc.life/events). St. Andrew's UMC is located at 3315 S. Bryan Rd. Brandon, FL 33511. For more info, contact: Joyce Disler, St. Andrew's UWF Communications at 813-447-0632.

### Campo YMCA Trunk or Treat

*Oct 28th 6-8 p.m. FREE to the community!*  
Celebrate Halloween with your fellow community members in a safe and fun environment. Trick or treaters are invited to dress up and join us in our YMCA parking lot to visit our decorated trunks. We will be handing out candy and other goodies. Email [Michelle.Leahy@tampaymca.org](mailto:Michelle.Leahy@tampaymca.org) if you are interested in decorating a trunk or volunteering.

### St. Andrew's Pumpkin Patch

*3315 South Bryan Road, Brandon, FL*  
*Monday – Friday: 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Sunday: 9:30 – 7:30 p.m.*  
The pumpkin patch supports the Youth ministry of St. Andrews. For more information, visit: [www.saumc.net/pumpkinpatch](http://www.saumc.net/pumpkinpatch)

### Dave's Christmas Tree Lot Pumpkin Patch

*106 E. Lumsden Avenue*  
*Monday – Friday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.*  
The pumpkin patch supports the local schools PTAs. For more information, visit [www.daveschristmastreelot.com](http://www.daveschristmastreelot.com) or call 813-843-8182.

### Wolfe's Produce Market Pumpkin Patch

*6005 US Highway 301 S, Riverview, FL*  
*(End of Bloomingdale where it meets 301)*  
*October 1st – 31st from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.*  
For information, call (813) 927-2204

### The Talking Pint Oktoberfest

*September 30 and Oct 1, 13418 Boyette Road*  
Bring the Kids for Youth October Fest Games from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Adult Oktober Fest Games from 5 to 9 p.m.! Live Music with Gianfranco Ferri from 8 to midnight on Friday. Music with Robby Stewart from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday Oct 1st.

### Bullfrog Creek Brewing Frogtoberfest

*October 8, 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Road*  
Biggest Party of the Year~~DJ Costco, Old Man Garage Band, & Chasing Greyhounds! Games, German Food & More!

### OktoberFest Tampa Arts and Crafts Fair

*October 8, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Waterworks Park, Tampa, 1710 N Highland Ave (Tampa)*  
Take in the beauty of Tampa's Riverwalk & visit local community artisans, visual arts, local food booths, food trucks & musicians. For more information, visit [www.yourtampamarkets.com](http://www.yourtampamarkets.com).

### Oktoberfest Tampa

*October 7 (4 p.m. to 11 p.m.) 8 (11 a.m. to 11 p.m.), and 9 (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.), Curtis Hixon Park*  
Celebrate at the 11th annual Oktoberfest Tampa with German cheer, dancing and singing to cooler weather and colder beer along the Hillsborough River downtown at the Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park this Oktober 7th, 8th, and 9th.

## Enjoy Family Fun at Plant City's Balloon Festival

By Michelle Colesanti

Get ready for Plant City's first annual Balloon Festival on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22 at the Strawberry Festival fairgrounds. This event will benefit the Special Olympics and promises to be fun for the entire family.

Jeremy Kwaterski, Festival Director said, "Our Balloon Festival company travels to area's that have not had Hot Air Balloon Festivals and bring the joy, magic and wonder of Hot Air Balloons to people that have not seen them or had the opportunity to ride them before." Bring your blankets, chairs and umbrellas and enjoy the spectacular Night Glow and Laser Show, which will take place twice each evening at 8 and 10 p.m. It will feature towering hot air balloon burner flames, along with high-power Lasers and pyrotechnics all synchronized to music.

"Attendees can look forward to seeing beautiful hot air balloons in different shapes and even check a bucket list item and get a safe tethered ride on one." Kwaterski added.

A DJ, as well as live music featuring a variety of artists, will set the tone for the evening as entertainers roam through the grounds delighting the audience. Vendors will be on-site offering plenty of food choices. You will also be able to purchase beer and wine. Additional vendors will be on premises offering lots of other interesting goodies for sale. To keep the kids entertained, there will be a Kids Zone offering rides, games, magicians, and jugglers.

The tethered hot air balloon rides will cost \$25 and will be dependent on weather conditions.

Gates will open daily at 5 p.m. Parking is free. No coolers, outside food, beverage or alcohol is permitted on the premises. Rain will not stop the festival but may hinder balloon inflation.

Please do not bring your pet as the noise from the balloon burners can get loud. Service dogs are allowed.

Purchase tickets in advance at [www.freshtix.com/events/plantcityballoonfest](http://www.freshtix.com/events/plantcityballoonfest). The cost is \$22 adults, \$10 Kids 6-17. Ages 5 and under are free. The cost at the gate will be higher; \$30 for adults \$15 for kids 6-17. The Strawberry Festival grounds is located at 303 N. Lemon St. in Plant City.



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# FALL IN FLORIDA

## FALL ACTIVITIES & HAPPENINGS

### Fall into Fun! UbanAir Adventure Park Opens in Bloomingdale Plaza

By Amanda Ragan

The excitement was palpable on September 24th as the staff and DJ counted down from ten and opened the doors to a line that stretched the entire length of Bloomingdale Plaza. People started arriving a little before 7:00 a.m. for the 10:00 a.m. grand opening, which promised the first 200 guests through the door a free, year long, basic membership. The Yurcus family brought chairs and arrived around 8:00 a.m., and their wait was not in vain as Brad Yurcus won Best Dad Dancer in a dance competition, which earned the family a free birthday party at the venue.

As the doors opened, the crowd eagerly entered the completely renovated space that previously housed Winn Dixie and now holds a ninja warrior course, laser tag, rock climbing walls, trampolines, a wipe out zone, bumper cars, climbing hill, ropes course, and a zip line. There is also the tubes playground for little ones, and a cafe and tables, providing a much needed rest area for those that need a break or a quick refreshment. Scanning the 47,000 sq. ft. area, it is clear there is something here for everyone to enjoy, even massage chairs.

Breathless after coming off her first zip lining experience, Arianny exclaimed, "that was so cool," before running to get in line again. This sentiment was echoed throughout the park as parents dodged the Wipeout bar and children conquered their fear on the Leap of Faith. Owners and parents, Michael and Tracey Tucci explained that they are excited, "to give Bloomingdale families the chance to make life long memories, while getting in a work out, and spending less than they would for a day at Disney." Looking at the faces of the adults and children around the venue, it is evident that this goal has been achieved!

UrbanAir is open 4 - 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4 - 10 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.- 10 p.m. on Saturdays, and 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Sundays. Single day tickets, monthly memberships, as well as event and party rentals are all available to purchase both at the location and online. For more information about UrbanAir Adventure Park, located at 179 E. Bloomingdale Ave., call (813) 436-3207 or visit their website at <https://www.urbanair.com/florida-brandon/>



Conquering her fear, Alexis bravely jumps off of the Leap of Faith attraction.

<sup>†</sup>On average, Medi-Weightloss® patients lose 29 pounds in 13 weeks. Medical supervision required. Reference: Journal of Public Health © 2022 Medi IP, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

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UrbanAir has something for everyone-- ninja warrior course, laser tag, rock climbing walls, trampolines, a wipe out zone, bumper cars, climbing hill, ropes course, and a zip line!



Nicole and Omar create family memories as they jump and dodge the Wipeout bar.



The staff of UrbanAir gathers for a quick group picture before the doors open to the excited crowd.



Rosie Ragan enjoys her time in the ball pit after attempting the Ninja Warrior course.



Mohamad flies through the air on the Zip Line attraction.

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# FALL IN FLORIDA

## FALL ACTIVITIES & HAPPENINGS

### Brandon Sea Food Festival November 5th

Press Release

The Rotary Club of Brandon '86 announces its 29th Annual Brandon Sea Food Festival will be held on Saturday November 5th at Rotary's Camp Florida located at 1915 Camp Florida Road in Brandon from 11:00AM to 4:00PM.

Enjoy all-you-can-eat fish, shrimp, hush puppies, sausage, beer, Gatorade and water. There will be entertainment including contests and games for kids and a bouncy house. Proceeds go to local non-profit organizations.

Adult tickets are \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. (Advanced tickets can be purchased online at EventBright) <https://brandonseafestival2022.eventbrite.co.uk> Children under 12 are admitted free with a paid adult and a single food can donation to ECHO.

For more information, Contact: Connie Tritt, 510-725-1995, [Connie@connietrittcpa.com](mailto:Connie@connietrittcpa.com).



# Bloomingtondale Swimmer Makes a Splash at the AAU Junior Olympics

By Amanda Ragan

Ten year old Bloomingtondale resident, Katie Campbell, recently returned from the AAU Junior Olympics in Greensboro North Carolina with two medals and a fistful of ribbons in hand. The triumphant journey started during Covid, when Katie's parents Kane and Craig Campbell wanted to ensure that Katie stayed active and engaged, as much of the world shut down. Katie was given the choice to join a sport or play an instrument; she chose swimming because she "thought it would be a fun new experience."

While Covid may have led to Katie joining the team, it is also Covid that made Katie's success even more remarkable. There were only three swim meets held this year for individuals to qualify for the Junior Olympics, and it was during this short window that Katie was out for three weeks due to Covid. During her three weeks in recovery and isolation, she was unable to practice in the pool and instead had to rely on dry-land exercises consisting of resistance band training, jumping rope, and core exercises. Upon her first day out of quarantine Katie competed in the Last Chance Meet where she made the cut. "I cried when I realized I made it," explained Katie when reflecting on how she felt when she realized she had made the time cuts required to qualify for the Junior Olympics.

However, it was after qualifying for the Junior Olympics that the real work began. Dedicated and determined Katie spent three weeks training six days a week. Each day consisted of an hour and a half morning practice at the pool, followed by dry-land exercises, then another 2 hour pool practice in the afternoon. She explained that her coach, Jamie Peterkin's motto is to "work hard," and it is clear that Katie took his words to heart.

After weeks of training Katie and her family traveled to Greensboro, North Carolina where she had the chance to interact with both her teammates and with other junior athletes from across the nation. "I just couldn't believe I was really there," was the overwhelming feeling Katie remembers. However, those closest to her are left with an overwhelming feeling of pride after Katie won the 7th Place Medal in the 200 Meter Freestyle and the 2nd Place Silver Medal in the 100 Meter Butterfly. This huge accomplishment has just fueled Katie's desire to work harder as she eyes next year's Junior Olympics that will be held in Iowa. Due to the fact that she will now move into a new age bracket, she will have to cut her time in each category to once again qualify; but Katie thinks she can do it, and her neighbors here in the Bloomingtondale community think she can as well!



## Creative Junk Therapy hosts Scarecrows on Display at LaViva Plaza

NW Corner of Lumsden Rd. and Kings Ave.  
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LaViva businesses are participating in a scarecrow competition. The Scarecrows will be on display **Friday, September 23.**

Photos of entries will be posted on CJT's Instagram and Facebook Pages to **vote on your favorite.** Voting ends Oct. 30. The scarecrow with the most "likes" wins. Winner will be announced Oct. 31.

**Participating Businesses**

 <b>La Septima Cafe</b> 702 W Lumsden Rd.	 <b>Style Encore</b> 732 West Lumsden Rd.	 <b>Flora's Bridal</b> 768 W Lumsden Rd.	 <b>The Comics Club</b> 714 West Lumsden Rd.	 <b>Play It Again Sports</b> 744 W Lumsden Rd.
 <b>2nd Amendment Armory</b> 764 W. Lumsden Rd.	 <b>Lorraine's Place Pub</b> 756 West Lumsden Rd.	 <b>Somewhere in Time Antiques</b> 720 W Lumsden Rd.	 <b>We Triumph Adult Day Academy</b> 780 West Lumsden Rd.	 <b>Gigi's Fabric Shop</b> 800 W Lumsden Rd.
 <b>Elite Occasions Hair</b> 784 W Lumsden Rd.				



## BSHS Drumline Delights Students at Alafia Elementary

Bloomington's Drumline performed at Alafia Elementary on September 16 as part of Alafia's week celebration for the Start with Hello Week from the Sandy Hook Promise project.



Each year Sandy Hook Promise encourages schools to have a Start With Hello Call to Action Week. This year it was September 12th-16th. Start with Hello is a free program offered by Sandy Hook Promise that trains elementary, middle, and high school students how to combat social isolation by showing students how to be more socially inclusive and connected to each other.



Alafia elementary implements the Sandy Hook Promise initiative in action with their buddy benches, buddy classes and school-wide programs and events. They continue to extend the opportunity for greater connectedness across all grade levels at one time with school wide events and celebrations, like hosting the high school drumline.

## Cimino Elementary Kicks off School Walk-a-thon

Cimino Elementary is holding their annual Cougar Challenge school walk-a-thon October 14th. Cimino is attempting to raise \$60,000 to build an outdoor classroom in honor of their 20 year anniversary as well as provide a total of 18k in grants for teachers. For information on how to support the school fundraiser, email [ciminoptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:ciminoptapresident@gmail.com).



Coach Macko and Coach Barrosa at the Cougar Challenge Kick-off on September 16.

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## Local Schools Announce Awards



### Bloomingdale Senior High School's 2022-2023 Winners

Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Steiner  
Ida S. Baker Educator of the Year: Ms. Cruz Aragon  
Instructional Support Employee of the Year: Mrs. Maderal Gaskins



### Burns Middle School's 2022-2023 Winners

Teacher of the Year: Kate Schmidt  
Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year: Abel Gutierrez  
Instructional Support Employee of the Year: Lourdes Cruz



### Alafia Elementary School's 2022-2023 Winners

Teacher of the Year: Lauren Pannell  
Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year: Cristina Hozven  
Instructional Support Employee of the Year: Martina Kirk



### Cimino Elementary School's 2022-2023 Winners

Teacher of the Year: Kara Marra  
Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year: Mindy Davis  
Instructional Support Top 3 Nominees\*: Gladys Monzon, Lita Nijjer, Lina Salmeron \*Winner not selected at time of publication

*Congratulations to the winners! Thank you for all you do!*



## BSHS National Merit Semifinalists

Bloomingdale Senior High School has three National Merit Semifinalists for the 2023 graduating class.

**Congratulations Jacob Delikat, Alexa Brown, and Isabella Larson!**





## BSHS JV Girls Volleyball 1st at the Florida Gem High School Invitational

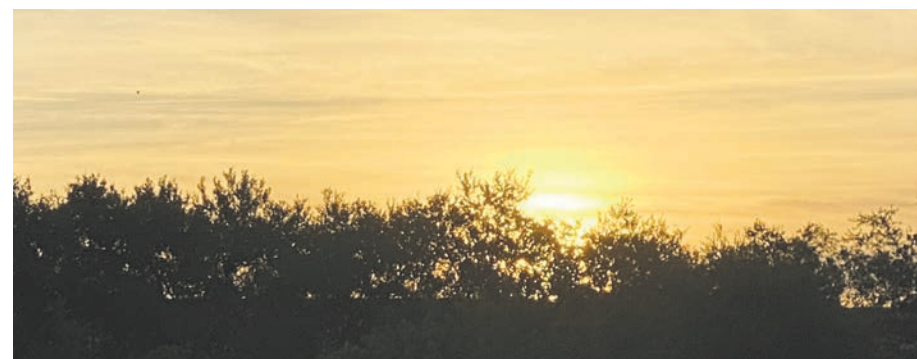
On Sept 10th the Bloomingdale JV girls' volleyball team won 1st place in the Florida Gem High School Invitational. They beat out Steinbrenner and Academy of Holy Names for their first place finish.

Photo by Shana Slein



## BSHS Senior Sunrise Took Place September 9th

BSHS Seniors gathered at school on September 9th to enjoy "Senior Sunrise." The students enjoyed breakfast while watching the beautiful sunrise.



Left to right: Senior Class Officers Isabella Larson, Jenna O'Neil, Kate Daigle, Allie Demarco, Ava Hilton.



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