



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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FEBRUARY 2023



WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE

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Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
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Love Local

Bloomington Annual Clean-Up Day is February 4

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." Oscar Wilde

THE AWARD-WINNING

BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

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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

Kalyn Dukes

Bobbi Ferraro

BNA BRIEFS

BNA CALENDAR



Saturday, February 4 / Community Clean-up Day

Tuesday, February 14, 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 for information.

Sunday, April 2 / Bunny Visit

Thursday, August 3/ Bingo Night at Bullfrog Creek Brewery to benefit Seeds of Hope Food Bank

Saturday, September 9 / Community Garage Sale

Sunday, December 3 / 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> — Scan the bottom of the homepage, click Membership.



Saturday, February 4, 2023

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or until bins are full)

Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility

1629 Natures Way (behind Alafia Elementary School)

10 Commercial dumpsters • Shredding • Electronic recycling

Donations for Lighthouse Ministry



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YARD OF THE MONTH

MANUEL & CARMEN ACEVEDO
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Bloomington Special District Works Hard for Our Community



By Kristine Schroeder, BSD Community Relations

BLOOMINGTON
SPECIAL DISTRICT

FEBRUARY BSD UPDATE

As we head into 2023 here is a preview of projects the District currently has in the works.

New flagpoles are being installed at Rosemead Lane, Springvale Drive and Erindale Drive. Solar lights will also be installed along with the new flagpoles.

Pressure washing has begun on signs and utility boxes throughout the community.

Dead wood will be removed from trees throughout Bloomington.

Expansion of plantings in some medians along Nature's Way.

Speeding continues to be an issue through out our community. Our off-duty police task force is continually patrolling for speeders and making traffic stops. Please remember to slow down in our neighborhoods for your safety and for the safety of our neighbors including bikers, runners and walkers.

Please join us at our monthly meetings, held the second Monday of each month at our community office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd. Our February meeting is February 13.

Bloomington Special District • 813-684-6667 • bstd@verizon.net



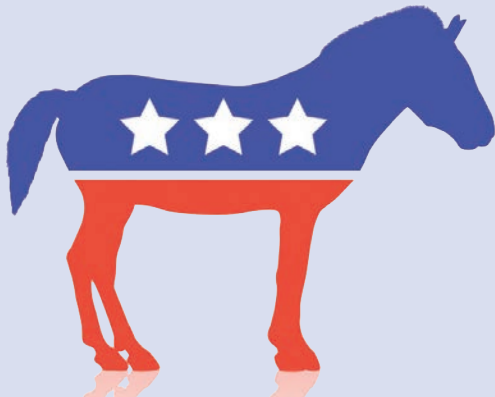
Bloomington Loves to Make a Difference!



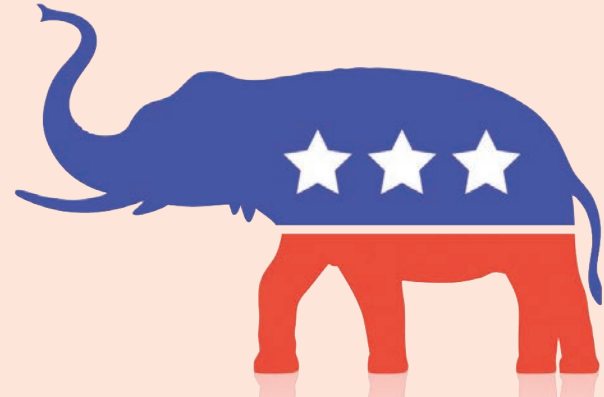
Are you registered to vote? If not, visit: <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home>

Do you need to update your voter information? If so, visit: <https://www.votehillsborough.gov/VOTERS/Updating-Voter-Information>
[Votehillsborough.gov/](https://www.votehillsborough.gov/) has all of the resources you need to make your voice heard!

The **East Hillsborough Democratic Club** will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday February 14 at 6:30pm, at Brandon Crossroads Bowl 609 Crater Ln Tampa, 33619, or you may join on Zoom. Always go to the club calendar to register and check for updates an hour before meetings. All like minded individuals are welcome to attend. For more information go to www.easthillsboroughdems.org or call (813)677-8300 and leave a message.



The **Hillsborough County Republican Party** will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the International Event Center, 6463 W. Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa. Social Hour begins at 6:00 PM, followed by the general meeting at 7:00 PM. For more information please go to: Hillsborough.gop If you would like information about Republican Clubs near you, please go to: Hillsborough.gop/clubs





Registration is Open for Bambino Buddy-Ball



The Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association provides an encouraging environment for athletes. One of the many programs they offer is Bambino Buddy-Ball.

Bambino Buddy-Ball provides individuals with a mental or physical disability the opportunity to play baseball, regardless of their abilities. Buddy-Ball promotes self-esteem and the athletes learn teamwork all while having a great time! Kids with Special Needs will be paired with a BYSA volunteer. Games will at the Bloomingdale fields (2215 Bloomingdale Ave) on Saturdays in February, March and April.

Online Registration is now open! There is no fee for Bambino Buddy-Ball participants. The season begins February 25.

For more information on Bambino Buddy-Ball or the Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association, visit bysafl.com or email bysaflorida@gmail.com.

To register, visit:
<https://bysafl.sportngin.com/register/form/106096966>





**Bambino
Buddy-Ball**
ONLINE REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!
bysafl.com



Season begins February 25, 2023

Bloomingdale Buddy Ball provides individuals with a mental and/or physical disability the opportunity to play baseball, regardless of their abilities. Buddy Ball helps individuals learn teamwork, promote self-esteem and most important, have fun.

Kids with special needs will be paired with a BYSA volunteer. Games will be on Saturdays in February, March, & April at 2215 Bloomingdale Ave, Valrico

No Fee: Jersey and Hat Included!

- Spread the word -



02.01.2023 / WEDNESDAY

No. 00007

REALTOR MONTHLY



YOUR GO TO MAGAZINE FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS - FROM WHATS TRENDING TO TIPS ON REAL ESTATE

SELLING YOUR HOME THIS YEAR?

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4. USE FRESH OR COMFORTING SCENTS

Don't go overboard with fake air fresheners. Use smells that go with the season. Nothing makes me smile more than smelling freshly baked chocolate chip cookies.

5. GET TO KNOW TODAY'S MARKET

Make sure to use a Realtor that understands the current market situation and can prepare you on what to expect during this potentially stressful time.

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Love our Local Business, The Daily Beignet

By Amanda Ragan



Go Green in February! Bloomingdale Loves Nature

By Edward De Freitas, Student Reporter

Driving down Lithia Pinecrest road you may have noticed a small, new food truck sitting outside of Chill Cawfee. However, there is nothing small, about the flavors and culinary delights The Daily Beignet offers its customers!

Owners, and soon to be married partners, April Fowler and Reiv Stains have spent their lives cherishing food and family! Reiv grew up in New Orleans often sharing a plate of freshly made beignets with his grandfather. Whereas, April grew up here in Florida, learning all about Southern cooking from her grandmother. Together they have created a unique blend of Southern and Cajun flavors that are both savory and sweet with a bit of New Orleans flair!

The menu at The Daily Beignet is constantly being updated with new specials and featured Creole creations. From creamy banana pudding, to red beans and rice, to beignets covered in chicken and gravy, there really is something for everyone to enjoy! But don't worry, the classic beignet is always on the menu! Looking at the powdered sugar dusted faces and fingers surrounding me, there is no doubt that April and Reiv picked the perfect staple for their new business.

The Daily Beignet is hoping to be up at Chill Cawfee on Sundays throughout the spring, but due to events and private catering engagements, which they also provide, make sure to check out their Instagram and Facebook page @thedailybeignet for their most up to date schedule.



Owners April Fowler and Reiv Stains "love introducing people to beignets," through their new company The Daily Beignet.



Reiv Stains rolls out freshly made dough before frying up his next batch of beignets.



8 year old Kian Bonifield is pictured enjoying his "really good" beignet.

With the beginning of the Season of Love, while some take up dates, dinners, fancy events, and dancing, most of the glamour is not necessary, and you could take up something simpler with those you love this Valentine's Day. Something we all could use in our busy lives is a little green and sunshine. While there are several amazing places full of nature in the Bloomingdale

community, the Bloomingdale Gazette wanted to formally welcome back an old local business of the community that had shut down with the rise of COVID 19, Garden Glow Plants, located in 3623 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

Garden Glow Plants is really targeted for anyone who loves flowers, green, and nature, from families, to lovers, to children. Garden Glow Plants offers everything from small potted desk plants to large yard plants. Many of these plants are beautiful, colorful, and great add Ons to any home.

Garden Glow also utilizes this beauty driven business to create beautiful plants and flowers to make great landscaping projects if you have a large home or business you would like to add more color and nature to.

In addition to gorgeous plants and flowers, garden Glow also has Herbs and Vegetables to look through for your garden and your kitchen. Garden Glow Plants is open Tuesday - Saturday 8AM - 6PM and Sunday 9AM - 2PM.

Another unique feature of Garden Glow is their multitude of greenhouses on their property. These green houses are open to grow and buy many great plants and herbs for your garden.

For more information about Garden Glow Plants in Bloomingdale give them a call at (786) 263-2745 or (786) 580-9268 or message them at gardenglow.plants@gmail.com or @gardenglowplants on Instagram.



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Want your business recognized? Email inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.

The Hope Classic at Topgolf to Raise Funds for Brain Trauma Survivors

By Michelle Colesanti



A benefit to raise funds for The Hope Classic, sponsored by the nonprofit, Hope Heals the Brain, will be held on Sunday, February 9 from 4:30-8 p.m. at Topgolf. Hope Heals the Brain was created to raise funds for Queena, a survivor of an attack that took place at the Bloomingdale Regional Library in 2008. Money raised at this event will be donated to three families all with urgent financial needs due to brain injuries.

Queenia thrives when she participates in experimental therapies, many not covered by insurance. Medicare covers only physical therapy, while nearly \$50,000 is required annually for all the treatments that help her make such progress.

Jasmin is a 13-year-old survivor, who recently lost her parents and grandparents in a tragic accident in Mexico. She has been traveling to Jacksonville for her rehabilitation and recovery process. Jasmin will also be coming home from rehab soon and will need renovations in her home to make it wheelchair accessible.

Churchill, a 40-year-old woman, had surgery for a brain tumor in 2021. Only part of the tumor was able to be removed. As a result, she is unable to walk, stand, move, or shower on her own. Her family needs a new vehicle that can fit a wheelchair. They have no other mode of transportation to get her to doctor's appointments.

According to Queenia's sister, Anna Donato, "This is always such a fun event. We love to see our supporters playing for a good cause. There is even some healthy competition. Our silent auction is our biggest money-raiser, and we have some amazing items this year for everyone to bid on."

Plan to enjoy a buffet, private cash bar and 50/50 raffle, and tournament fun. The cost is \$75 for individuals; \$400 for a sixsome. Spectators-only dinner cost \$30. To register online, visit hopeclassic.eventbrite.com. For more information on sponsoring or playing in the tournament, please contact Anna Donato at HopeHealsTheBrain@gmail.com or 813-956-3822.



Hope Heals the Brain, created to help with Queenia's ongoing medical expenses and other brain trauma survivors, will host a fundraising benefit at Topgolf on Sunday, February 9 from 4:30-8 p.m.

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Community Clean-up Day is Saturday, February 4!

Bloomington's Annual Community Clean-Up Day is Saturday, February 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Take advantage of a variety of services designed to declutter and spring clean your homes! The Clean-up event provides residents with an opportunity to skip the drive to the county landfill and discard their unwanted items at a Bloomington location. The event is FREE! Ten commercial roll-off trash containers will be on-site. ShredIt will be offering shredding services. eCycle will be accepting electronic recycling – no CRT or DLT TV's. Lighthouse Ministries will be collecting charitable donations.

What you need to know:

Accepted! Monetary Donations to help the BNA continue Clean-up Days

Not Accepted!

NO Hazardous materials accepted.

This includes paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercial activities.

NO Yard Waste.

NO old-style box televisions.

Accepted!

Refrigerators, ovens, water heaters • Steel and other metals • Furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses) • Construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials) • Tires



2023 Membership Drive is Underway!

Join the Bloomington Neighborhood Association and support our community! The 2023 BNA membership and scholarship donation letter was mailed in January. Your \$35 membership dues help sponsor services and events in our community. For everyone that has already joined the association and donated to the scholarship program, thank you for your support! 100 percent of collected money is returned to the community through the myriad of programs and activities spearheaded by the all-volunteer board. These events include the Bloomington Clean-up Day, Community Garage Sale, Santa and Bunny Visit, Bloomington Gazette and support of local schools and non-profit organizations. You can mail you check, made payable to the Bloomington Neighborhood Association (or BNA), to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596. Even easier, scan this QR code and follow the PayPal instructions.



Scholarship Available for Bloomington Seniors!

Attention Bloomington Seniors!



Bloomington Neighborhood Association

Bloomington \$2,000 Community Education Scholarship

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidate

- **Must be a resident** of the Bloomington 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 Bloomington community.
- Bloomington Neighborhood Association 2022 membership dues **must be paid prior** to the scholarship application deadline. Membership drive begins January 2023. **Deadline is April 3, 2023.**
- Proof of residency is required.

Selection Criteria

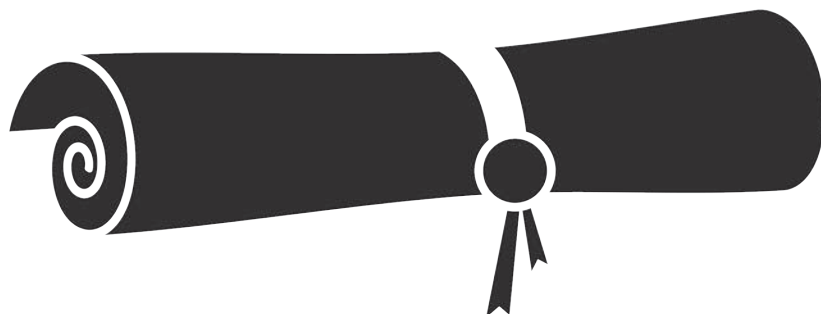
- Community service
- Extra-curricular activities
- Well-written essay
- Academic Standing
- Reference letters

Scholarship information will be available February 1, 2023 online at Bloomington.Life, at Bloomington High School and at the Bloomington Community Office.



BNA Community Office: 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596 • (813) 681-2051 •
bl.neighbor1@gmail.com • www.bloomington.life

Bloomington high school seniors have an opportunity for a college scholarship from the BNA. The deadline is April 3. Applicants must be resident of the Bloomington community, and their parents' guardian must be a BNA member prior to the application deadline. The winner will be announced at the Bloomington Neighborhood Association meeting on May 8. For more information, email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com





February is a sweet month to do things in our community! Check out these events and be sure to contact the local businesses for more information.

Dusty's All-Star Circus, February 5, Hillsborough County Fairgrounds, Dover, FL., www.HillsboroughCountyFair.com

21 + The CHILL Chocolate Bar Experience, February 10, Chill Cawefee 3407 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Build your own chocolate using your choice of ingredients. This fun night you will leave with your own custom prepared Chocolate Bar- You can infuse it with a number of choices. Ticket includes 1 1/2 full hours in our intimate event area, where you will enjoy espresso coffee and an iced coffee of your choice.

White Oak Cottage Vendor Market, February 11 from 11-4

Beer & Cheese Pairing, February 14 at 7 p.m., Bullfrog Creek Brewery
Head to Bullfrog Creek Brewery for a beer and cheese pairing featuring cheeses expertly paired with some of your favorite beers from Bullfrog Creek. Tickets are \$30 per person. This would be a unique way to spend Valentines Day!

Painting at Pinot's Pallet Brandon, Valentine Celebration – Prismatic Tree of Life Date Night, February 14 at 7 p.m. Pinot's Pallet has Valentine's Day themed painting events from February 9 - 14. They include: Nightmare Romance, Romantic Getaway, Valentine Gnome, Carved in Love Date Night, Cosmic Nightfall Date Night, Family Paint Day, Valentine Celebration-Starry Valentine Kiss, Valentine Celebration – Love in the Horizon Date Night, Valentine Celebration- Midnight Moon Date Night, and GALentines-Blossom Moon River. For information about the classes, visit pinotspallet.com/brandon or call 813-618-3064

Children's Theatre: Super Cat and Reptile Robot
February 18, Bloomingdale Regional Library, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Attend a live children's theatre experience at the library. Join Super Cat and Reptile Robot for this interactive tale of boundaries and superheroes. Presented by Creative Arts Theatre Company, the City of Tampa's professional theatre company for young audiences (recommended ages 6 and up)

Paint Pour Party, February 18, 5 – 7 p.m., Creative Junk Therapy 722 W. Lumsden Road
We will be exploring new techniques and styles the experienced and beginners will love. \$30.00 all supplies included. This can get sloppy so dress for a mess. Bring a friend, drinks and snacks if you wish (alcohol is ok) to enjoy your evening to get crafty.

Brandon Sunday Market, February 26, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
788 W Lumsden, Brandon. La Viva Plaza.
Monthly market with up to 90 local vendors and food trucks! We are an open-air outdoor festival. We are pet friendly! FREE admission. Located in the heart of Brandon in La Viva Plaza. For more information, email therusticdoormarket@gmail.com.

It's time to gather up family and friends for the 2023 Florida State Fair, which will be held from Thursday, February 9 through Monday, February 20 at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa.

Enjoy lots of great entertainment including the Dennis Lee Band, Circus Hollywood, the Rock N Rolling Piano, Extreme Illusions & Escapes, and much more. Plenty of exhibits will educate you while keeping your interest. Livestock exhibitors in head-to-head youth and open shows will entertain everyone. Step back in time to 19th century Florida at Cracker County.

Rides on the Midway will attract young and old. Armbands are available for unlimited riding.

It's hard to walk around the Fair without wanting to try all the fun fair fare.

Some of the new items on this year's menu include the Walking Nacho Dog offering jalapeno peppers, chips, and cheese sauce. Try the Mexican Street Corn Sundae, Mexican Street Corn Pizza, or maybe Florida's favorite, Key Lime Pie with a slight twist; fried and served in a cup, along with bits of mini-doughnuts and a graham cracker crumble and coated with buttercream frosting, white chocolate topping, and whipped cream. The Cuban will finally make its appearance Fair style, as a Tampa Cuban Funnel Cake Sandwich, which comes with Spanish pork, smoked ham, Genoa salami, Swiss cheese, dill pickles, and mustard, all assembled with funnel cakes pressed and topped with doughnut glaze. Try a Chicken Parm on a Stick with hot homemade marinara sauce topped with melted mozzarella cheese and served with a side of marinara. You can wash it all down with Dill Pickle Lemonade.

Tickets and Armbands are available online. Advance Gate Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-11, and \$8 for seniors (valid only Monday-Friday, February 9-10 and 13-17). You must have a Gate Admission ticket to use the armbands.

The Florida State Fairgrounds is located at 301 U.S. Highway 301 N. in Tampa with three entrances you can use: Orient Rd., Martin Luther King, and U.S. Hwy. 301. Visit <https://floridastatefair.com/fair> for more information or to purchase tickets online.



Bring the family to this year's 2023 Florida State Fair from Thursday, February 9-Monday, February 20. It will be held at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa.



If you are looking for a way to celebrate Valentine's day, what is more romantic than a delicious Italian dinner for two? While there are several amazing Italian restaurants in the area, none feel quite as authentic as Tasty Venues Italian Bistro located at 951 E. Brandon Blvd., Brandon, FL 33511.

Tasty Venues has a little something for everyone! From the soft glow of the bistro lights hanging over the intimate dining space, to the little shopping area specializing in Italian imports and goods, it is easy to see the charm this little bistro has to offer. However, it is the food that is guaranteed to make you fall in love!

Chef Cinzia Cripe, who received her formal training at the Culinary Institute of Italy in Florence, realized when she came to Florida that there was not a restaurant in the area that featured true, authentic, Italian cooking. So her husband, Mark Cripe, suggested Cinzia open one, and with his help and support, along with partner Debora Felton, Chef Cinzia's dream became reality. Together these partners in food, family, and adventure have developed a passion for sharing the flavors of a culture that believes happiness and love should be experienced by all the senses.

In addition to the carefully crafted recipes that Chef Cinzia prepares for her menu, Tasty Venues also provides Sunday cooking classes, featuring a new menu each week. For those that are truly inspired, Tasty Venues also offers culinary tours in Italy guided by Chef Cinzia herself!

Tasty Venues is open Wednesday - Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m., as well as for special events. In addition to their normally scheduled dinners, this month Tasty Venues is offering:

A Valentine's Day Tea at 12:30 PM on Saturday February 11th
A Valentine's Day Cooking Class on Sunday February 12th
A "Gal"entine's Day Dinner on February 13th
A Valentine's Day Dinner on February 14th

To view Tasty Venues calendar of events please visit <https://www.mytastyvenues.com/> or to make a reservation call 813-381-4999 or visit OpenTable.

Continued on next page



Chef Cinzia Cripe and partner Debora Felton, "love to share their hearts, culture, and recipes with the wonderful community that supported them through the pandemic."



Pictured are one of the Chef specialties, almond cookies, inspired by the Nuns of Italy. Chef Cinzia spent 10 years perfecting the recipe.

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Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com



Pictured is the olive oil, Bramasole, created by Frances Mayers, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun*. This is one of the many imported Italian goods, that Tasty Venues carries.



Tasty Venues is the perfect spot to pick out authentic Italian wines, beers, gifts, and more.

Women's Self Defense Seminar Offered Monthly

Outcast Krav Maga, located at 3636 Erindale Drive, is offering a two hour women's self-defense seminar every 2nd Friday of the month at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$25.

"This is an opportunity for women to learn basic techniques and build confidence in a relaxed atmosphere," said Instructor Christina Conti.

Outcast also offers fitness classes and Krav Maga classes for youth and teens/adults. Classes are held at 3636 Erindale Dr. #103, Valrico, FL 33596. Please call 813-365-5726 for more information.



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- ◆ Extracurricular Programs



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- ◆ Preparation for National Kindergarten Standards
- ◆ Must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2022
- ◆ Must be Florida resident
- ◆ Class times: Tuesday - Friday, 8:30am - 12:15pm

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Hillsborough County School District Conducts Boundary Analysis

By Edward De Freitas, Student Reporter

School enrollment issues in Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) have occurred due to mass migration from different areas. Many students move or shift schools due to new housing developments, immigration patterns from different areas especially, due to natural disasters such as the recent Hurricane Fiona, charter school popularity growth, and school choice policies. HCPS has tried to keep up with the pace with the changing environments, enrollments, and numbers by building many new schools and making new additions to old ones. This has led to many disparities and difficulties in school use and populations. Schools are overpopulated or underpopulated. According to my research, only 70 schools in our county are being effectively used. This leaves the other 146 under or overpopulated.

Hillsborough County School District started a Boundary Analysis during the Spring of 2022. The analysis considers the current school boundaries, migration patterns and program locations provided by the county. It is being led by a consultant team from WXY Studio, a globally recognized architecture, urban design, and planning company, along with our very own HCPS Staff and School Board.



Countywide online seminars were held from September 12th through the 16th, attended by 700 community members and viewed by another 400 online through the livestream broadcast online. In person community meetings were held at local schools, including Bloomingtondale Senior High School on January 13th.

At Bloomingtondale Senior High School, we currently have 113% expected use. This number will likely rise with current temporary classrooms being used and temporary ones being constructed. Bloomingtondale has a boundary of 2,088 students, currently has 2,653 students and is predicted to have 2,355 students in the coming years.

Bloomingtondale's overpopulation could be addressed with one of three scenarios.

Scenario one would be to stay exactly the way it is now. Yet, it does not seem to work perfectly as many students feel overcrowded in their classrooms and some students' schedules are completely messed up due to rebalancing.

Scenario two would be the smallest of all three scenarios. This would bring predicted use down to 92% as 22% of students are rezoned to different schools. With temporary classrooms this brings anticipated use of classrooms to a 87% This also brings predicted enrollment and predicted current population down to 1,931 and 2,162 students, respectively.

Scenario three would be an even middle ground between scenario one and scenario two. This scenario brings anticipated use down to 105% with a 17% of students being relocated to different schools. With temporary classrooms anticipated utilization comes down to a 98% This would bring anticipated enrollment down to 2,187 students and predicted current population at 2,458 students.

In reality, no plan is truly a perfect scenario. Yet, we must still look towards the future and change. This starts at our schools and our students who are the future generations of the world to keep them safe.

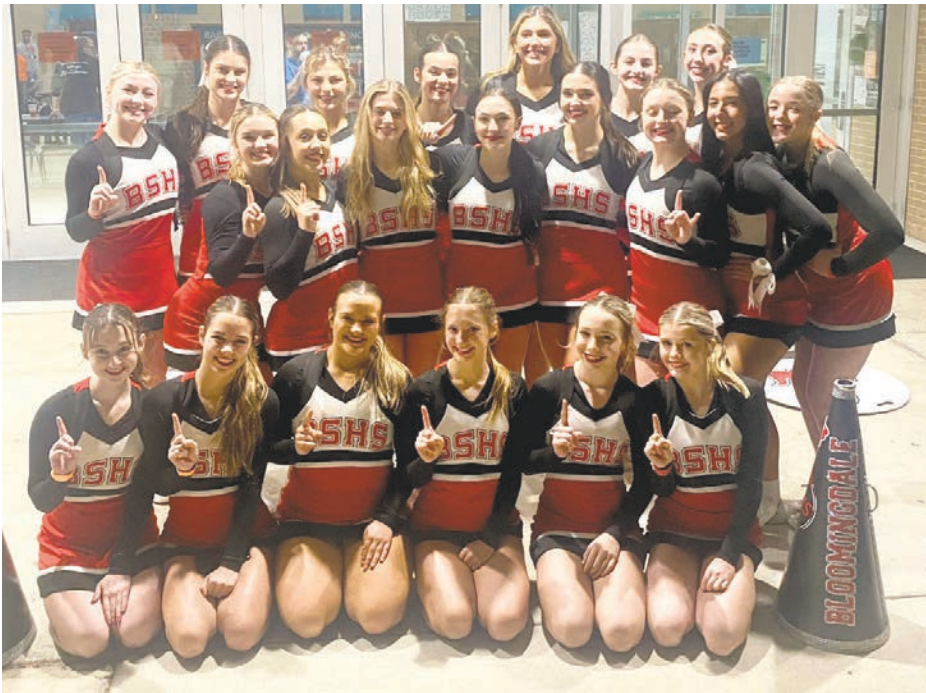
Did you know that K-12 students enrolled in a Hillsborough County Public School, Hillsborough County Charter School, or Hillsborough Virtual School, can use their 7-digit student ID number to instantly access public library resources with a Hillsborough All Access Library Pass (HAAL Pass)?

Learn more at HCPLC.org/HAALPass.

Congratulations to Bloomingdale Wrestling for being District Dual Champions! They were also Regional Runner-ups and won the Jerry Mita Invitational for the first time.



Huge Congratulations to Bloomingdale Cheer for being (repeat) Regional Champions!!



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Bloomington's High School Music Department Loved Every London Moment

By Jane Owen



Bloomington High School's Music Department traveled to London for a week after Christmas to perform in the London New Year's Day Parade and London's Holy Trinity Church on December 30th.

The Bloomington chorus and orchestra performed as part of the London New Year's Day Parade Concert Series. They gave a powerful performance in the beautiful Holy Trinity Church. The combination of their talent and the venue was awe inspiring to the audience.

The Rajun' Bull Band delighted the crowds at the new year's parade with their performance of September from their Earth, Wind & Fire 2022 marching show. Undoubtably, parade attendees were familiar with the music from Earth, Wind & Fire, one of America's iconic bands. They did not expect The Bull, the band's signature song played to welcome the Bulls Football team as they run onto the field at Charley Harris Stadium. They had an unbelieva-BULL start the year!

Bloomington High School took 226 students and family members on the trip. Included in the group was Bloomington Principal Dr. Marcos Rodriguez and his wife, Kati. Dr. Rodriguez loved every moment of the trip.

"Not many musicians can say that they represented their school, state, and country overseas while playing in historic areas and historic landmarks. Seeing our students perform and soaking in every second of the experience was amazing!" Dr. Rodriguez said.

The trip is the second London trip that Jon Sever, Bloomington's Music Department Head and Director of Bands, has taken the music department on. He has made overseas trips a priority for the department, typically taking a trip every 4 years so every student has an opportunity to experience performance in another culture.

"The trip was a huge success, and the band was well-received by the people of London. They were able to experience the history and culture for a week that offered a lifetime of memories." Jon said.

Dr. Rodriguez expressed the same sentiment.

"Besides the student performances, I enjoyed seeing our students learn about the culture and history of London. We visited many historic sites and gained lots of knowledge on our educational tours. This trip gave our students a unique once in a lifetime opportunity and lots of memories that will last forever," he said.

The music education Bloomington High School's music department provides is second to none in Hillsborough County. The overseas trips the department takes provides a once in a lifetime opportunity for students.



Fredrick Gonzales, freshman chorus student:
"My favorite thing about our performance was the huge church we performed at."

Abbey Loi, junior orchestra student:
"The most surprising part was how efficient the underground was. It made transportation ten times easier, and I want that here."

Photo by Rich Solomon



Photo by Dr. Marcos Rodriguez

Caroline Greeno, junior orchestra student:

"My favorite part was seeing Hampton court palace and they had this quartet that was going around, and the had a cornet, which was historical instrument from the UK."

Elsie Owen, freshman band student:
"I was most surprised by the unique architecture while we visited London."

Emma Yarbrough, freshman orchestra student:
"What I loved most about London was the architecture and history. We had the opportunity to walk through the grand hall at Hampton Court Palace, where Beethoven had supper! I found the brick and the building style, so fascinating and very pretty."

Thomas Owen, senior band student:
"I enjoyed being able to march past historic landmarks such as Big Ben and parliament. The experience was like no other."

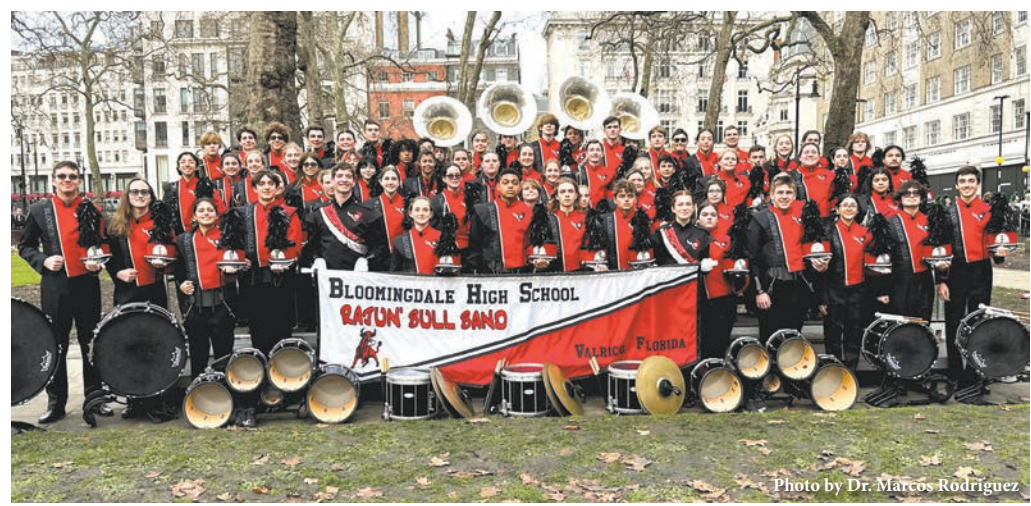


Photo by Dr. Marcos Rodriguez



Photo by Rich Solomon

Thomas Kelly, freshman chorus student:

"The parade was awesome and being able to see the different cultures and bands. The Bloomington band sounded great."

BSHS Collegeboard National Hispanic Recognition Recipients

Congratulations to Bloomingdale Seniors Ryan Schrager, Brigette Guerra, & Logan Young for being Collegeboard National Hispanic Recognition Recipients!



Burns Band All County Members

Huge congratulations to Burns Middle School Band members Juliana Marieny, Kevin Chavez, Bryce Ebersole, Sophie Kramer, and Ella Madison for making all county band!



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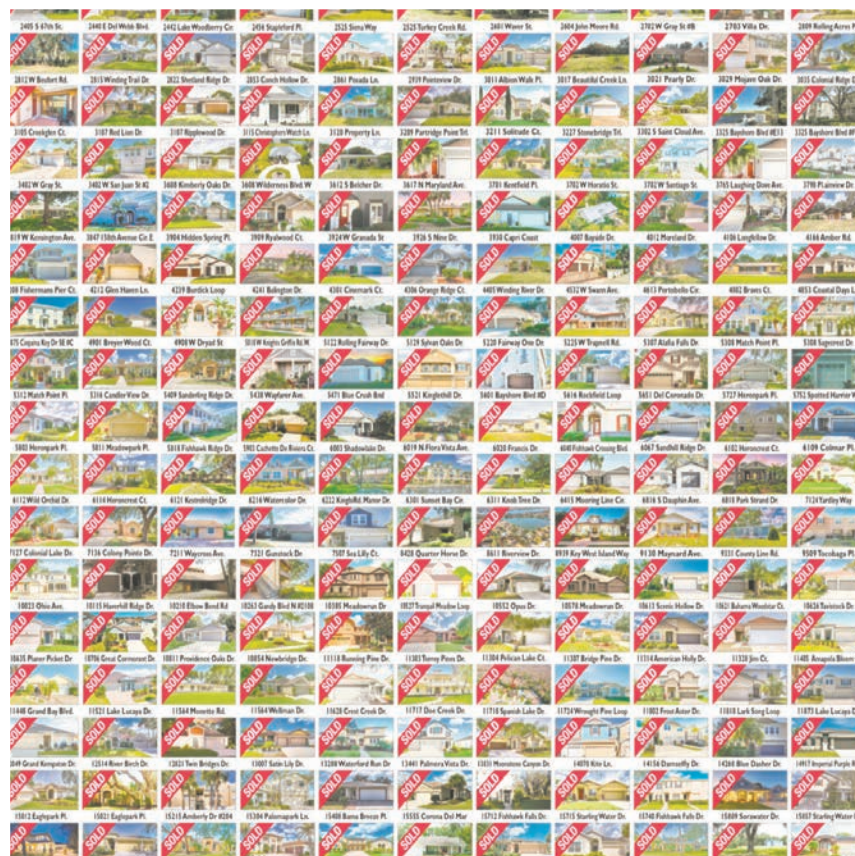


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