



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOL. XLIII



ISSUE 3



MARCH 2023



WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE

THIS MONTH

Hopping into Spring!

Bunny Visit is April 2!



YARD OF THE MONTH
Page 3

**BLOOMINGDALE
COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY**
Page 8

**CIMINO'S COACH IS COACH
OF THE BAY**
Page 11

**BLOOMINGDALE'S BAND
DIRECTOR PROMOTED TO
COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF
SECONDARY MUSIC**
Page 13

**BSHS ATHLETE PLACES IN
FIRST COUNTY WRESTLING
CHAMPIONSHIP MEET**
Page 13

PLEASE RECYCLE

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"Despite the forecast, live like it's Spring." *Lilly Pulitzer*

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Jane Owen
Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette
3509 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci, NTZ Studios (ntzstudios.com)
Staff Writers: Michelle Colesanti & Amanda Ragan
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.



Andrea Daly
Community Publications Manager
1000 North Ashley Drive, Suite 700
Tampa, Florida 33602
(813) 731-2490
Email: adaly@tampabay.com

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BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

3509 Bell Shoals Road - Valrico, Florida 33596 - (813) 681-2051

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BNA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office.

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BNA BRIEFS

BNA CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 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

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Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association

Bloomingdale Bunny Visit

Sunday, April 2
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Please bring food donations for Seeds of Hope. Parade route will be posted on Facebook www.Facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1 and www.Bloomingdale.Life

Look for Signs in the Neighborhoods!

For more information about this event, email BL.Neighbor1@gmail.com



YARD OF THE MONTH

BOB & ELNA GRANT
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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: bl.neighbor1@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051. Winners receive a \$25 Gift Card to Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale and a 1 month family membership, plus join fee to the Campo YMCA.

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Raccoon Finds Attic Space Best Place for Nesting

By Michelle Colesanti

The raccoon traversing back and forth across the lanai screen around the holidays was the first sign something was amiss. A few weeks later, the constant pitter-patter of paws scurrying above the bedroom bathroom both day and night made us wonder if that raccoon had decided to make a home in our attic.

We called A-Team Trappers. Its technicians are individually certified by the Florida Department of Agriculture for residential & commercial wildlife removal. Andrew Vasquez came out quickly to investigate the situation and our fears were confirmed. Not only did he find the culprit, but also her babies.

Most likely because of the cold weather that we had over the holidays, “Roxie” found her way into our attic space and decided it was the perfect place to care for her kits. The attic insulation offers warmth and comfort.

One of the reasons we chose this company was based on its compassion for animals. Vasquez cared as much as I did about protecting the raccoons from harm through this eviction process.

According to A-Team Trapper’s website, “We work in cooperation with professional wildlife rehabilitation facilities to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the animals we capture and remove/relocate.”

The goal was to give the mother a chance to leave with her kits before closing the attic and roof so that no other animals can get in. Vasquez first used male raccoon pheromone scent to draw her out. Females will do anything to protect their young from the males known to return and kill their offspring. The product is nontoxic to animals and humans.

But Roxie had other ideas and decided the threat was not enough to oust her from her comfy setting. She was very quiet for a few days, probably hiding from her perceived predator. But occasionally I could still hear noises.

Raccoons’ main predators are coyotes, so Vasquez returned with coyote urine and used it on top of the roof and in her sanctuary.

It took a while, but she finally left with her babies to find a new home; probably somebody else’s attic.

As we found out, the process may take quite a few days, so patience is the key. Once the animals are safely gone, the trapper will return and treat the attic to rid of the mess left behind.

It is important to do a proper clean-up after their removal or you may have re-occurring raccoons and other wildlife issues. Proper cleanup entails the removal of feces and then sanitizing the affected area.

Check your roof for any areas where it might be easy for animals to get in. Raccoons have the physical strength and dexterity to rip the shingles off your roof or pry up the soffit and fascia to get into your attic.

For more information on A-Team Trappers, call 813-773-5111 or visit www.ateamtrappers.com/tampa/.



Vasquez goes up on the roof to inspect the raccoon entryway into the attic.



Vasquez climbs up to enter the attic to check on the raccoon situation.



Roxie and one of her kits



There are ways to protect your attic space from nesting raccoons while making sure the animals remain unharmed.

Campo YMCA Unveils Newly Renovated Youth Zone

Brief by Jane Owen

On February 14, the Campo YMCA unveiled a renovated Youth Zone and celebrated with a ribbon cutting. The renovations were made possible by the GTE Financial Foundation. The room is designed for 8-12 year olds. It provides a fun and safe space for the youth to connect with friends while their family members are working out. The Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce and the Valrico FishHawk Chamber of Commerce were all on hand to help celebrate.



"We are thrilled to debut our transformed youth zone that will elevate the experience of our 8-12 year old members. Campo has provided a safe environment that fosters community and creativity for our kids while their parents take some well-deserved time for themselves. By recreating the youth zone, there is something for every kid," said Michelle Leahy, Campo Family YMCA Associate Program Director



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iStroll Offers New Moms a Great Way to Get Fit

By Michelle Colesanti

iStroll Helps You Get Fit While Connecting with Peers

Amanda Aufiero received an MBA from the University of Tampa, but her passion for fitness eventually led her to become the owner of iStroll Brandon. This location opened in April 2017 where she started as a member. Always into fitness, she wanted a good workout while also being active with her son, and this seemed to fit the bill.

“It turned out to be a phenomenal workout,” she said. “It was way harder than I thought it would be, but it still showed me how to modify and even though I was newly postpartum, I was able to do what was good for me at that time in my life and then I got to keep challenging myself as I got stronger. It really changed my life.”

iStroll provides a tough workout for moms while their young children are by their side. It is for all fitness levels, and a great way to meet others with similar interests. Choosing to be a stay-at-home mom has great benefits, but it can be isolating for the new parent.

The one-hour boot camp workout is safe for pregnant and newly postpartum women if your doctor allows it.

According to Aufiero, “We are safe for all phases of motherhood, and even if you have never worked out in years or enjoy extremely tough workouts, I’ll either show you how to modify or I’ll show you how to challenge yourself.”

During the class, the focus is on the moms, who while working out, also enjoy the camaraderie of others. Aufiero emphasizes that the community of parents is what makes this so special.

The biggest myth about these types of classes is that you need the stroller for the workout, but it is not true. So as your child gets older, the kids can play in the park and learn to socialize with others.

“The beauty of what we do and what separates us from other stroller workouts is that we don’t require the kids to sit in the stroller,” Aufiero added.



iStroll Brandon offers new moms a great way to work out with their children and meet other new parents.



But because those babies still in the stroller can get restless, they don’t go more than three to six minutes without moving them. Workouts can be continued even when your kids have started school.

Fun events such as crafts for the kids, mom’s night outs, and other activities are held throughout the month. The monthly calendar is on iStroll Brandon’s Facebook page.

Classes are held at Bloomingdale East Park, 3902 Nature’s Way Blvd. on Monday and Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Ibis Park in Lithia on Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m., and at Starling Park in FishHawk on Fridays from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Aufiero’s goal is to grow and possibly add an additional day or two to the schedule. She is looking for additional instructors. There are opportunities for free unlimited memberships for anyone interested in instructing three days a month.

The cost is \$45 for one month for unlimited classes, \$67 for 10 classes, \$37 for 5 classes, and \$9 for one class. If you want to give iStroll a try, the first class is free.

iStroll was recently featured on Fox 13 Tampa Bay with Charley Belcher’s Charley’s World. To watch, visit www.fox13news.com/video/1060283.

For more information, visit iStroll Brandon on Facebook, email iStrollBloomingdale@gmail.com, or call/text 813-317-7795.



University of Tampa Takes a Bloomingdale Field Trip

By Jane Owen

On February 17, the University of Tampa's Field Ornithology class took a field trip to Bloomingdale. The class is designed to use encounters with wild birds in nature to teach upper-level science majors, many of which are preparing for careers as professional biologists, about the biology of birds. Every week they embark on a 4-hour trip to a park or nature preserve in the Tampa Bay area.

Professor Mark McRae brought the class to Sandy Reed's yard in Bloomindale because she is well known within the local birdwatching and bird conservation community.

"By being able to visit Sandy's yard, I could teach my students about vagrancy in birds, as well as the role that backyard bird feeders can play in modern bird conservation," explained McRae. "I also very much wanted my students to meet Sandy so that they could learn about the Tampa Audubon

Society. But most importantly, I wanted them to meet a passionate individual like Sandy who has had such a positive impact on bird conservation and biology here in Central Florida."

Reed teaches Backyard Birding classes with USF's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She is a long-term member and leader in the Tampa Bay Audubon Society. She is also the administrator of the Hillsborough County Birds Facebook group.

For those interested in backyard birding, Reed highly recommends the booklet, *Planting a Refuge for Wildlife*, which can be found at: myfwc.com/viewing/habitat/refuge/

For more birding information, check out the Tampa Audubon Society: www.tampaaudubon.org/ and the Hillsborough County Birds Facebook group.



It is increasingly clear that much of our wildlife will not be able to survive unless food, shelter, and nest sites can be found in suburban habitats. And because it is we who decide which plants will grow in our gardens, the responsibility for our nation's biodiversity lies largely with us. Which animals will make it and which will not? We help make this decision every time we plant or remove something from our yards.

— Doug Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home*, 2007



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Bloomingdale Annual Cleanup A Success

By Michelle Colesanti



Bloomingdale's annual Cleanup Day was once again a huge success. The cleanup was held on February 4 at the Hillsborough County Parks Maintenance Facility right behind Alafia Elementary School.

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association (BNA) hosted the event. Board Director, Laney Balis, coordinated it. Everything ran smoothly and no injuries were reported.

The BNA would especially like to extend its thanks to the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management for not only supplying support for this year's Bloomingdale Neighborhood cleanup but for also providing the ten dumpsters, which were all full by the end of the day.

Toni Bailey, Project Manager for Hillsborough County's Solid Waste Management said, "Our Solid Waste Management Community Clean-Up Program aims to engage residents in the upkeep of their community, preserve property

values within neighborhoods, and reduce factors that contribute to crime."

Lighthouse Ministries was on site collecting used items such as clothing and furniture, as well as E-cycle which was there collecting old electronic items such as TVs and cell phones. BNA Board Treasurer Grace Lewis was gracious enough to sponsor the Shredding trucks which were available on-site and used by those happy to safely rid of all those unnecessary papers at home.

Once again, the Bloomingdale High School football team changed into volunteer uniforms to help residents remove items from their cars into the dumpsters.

This year's car count was 331. BNA also received \$1158 in voluntary donations from those participating in the event.

For more information on the BNA, visit <http://bloomingdale.life>.



Olin Miller and Kevin Mera oversaw the Bloomingdale High School football team volunteers helping to remove items from residents destined for the dumpsters.

February 4 turned out to be a beautiful day and many residents took advantage of it to participate in this year's Bloomingdale Cleanup Day.



Football players from Bloomingdale High School helped residents remove items from their cars to place in the dumpsters at the recent Bloomingdale Cleanup Day.

Bunny to Visit Bloomingdale on April 2

On Sunday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Easter Bunny is visiting Bloomingdale East and West! Look for the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association's designated STOP points along the route. The STOP points are where families can gather for Bunny visits and photo ops. For safety reasons, the Bunny cannot stop outside of the STOP locations.



The route will be posted on the BNA website: www.bloomingdale.life and on the @Bl.Neighbor1 Facebook page.

NEW THIS YEAR! The Bunny is excited to assist the BNA with supporting our local Seeds of Hope food bank. As you come out for Bunny visit, please bring food donations of canned goods and boxed foods for Seeds of Hope. Donations are not required for the Bunny visit, but they are greatly appreciated.



Food Drive for Seeds of Hope



The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association is collecting food for the Seeds of Hope food bank during the month of March. The BNA is collecting nonperishable food items from March 13 through April 2.

Donations can be brought to the Bloomingdale Community office, located at 3509 Bell Shoals, Monday through Thursday 12-4. Food donations can also be brought to BNA volunteers during the Bunny visit on April 2.

Seeds of Hope provides weekly a food distribution to the community at 710 E. Bloomingdale Ave. For more information, visit:

Seeds of Hope
Serving Southeast Hillsborough County (sohopefl.org)

Questions?
Email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com
Let's Feed the Hungry in our community!

MARCH CALENDAR

- March is Women's History Month
- International Women's Day, March 8
- National Plant a Flower Day, March 12
- Daylight Savings begins March 12! → Set your clock forward one hour (losing an hour) to "spring forward"!
- Hillsborough County Spring Break, 13 -17
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17
- Spring Equinox (Start of Spring), March 20
- World Down Syndrome Day, March 21
- First Day of Ramadan, March 22





We Have a Winner with This Year's Florida Strawberry Festival

By Michelle Colesanti

The 2023 Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11-day community event celebrating the strawberry harvest in Eastern Hillsborough County. Many visitors enjoy the annual Festival's headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits of commerce, and strawberry shortcake. This year's Festival takes place from Thursday, March 2 to Sunday, March 12 in Plant City.

This year's Florida Strawberry Festival theme is 'We Have a Winner.' "Yes, it points to the recent win we achieved in naming strawberry shortcake as Florida's official dessert as we're a little partial to the berry," said President Paul Davis. "We're excited about this year's event and look forward to sharing in the celebration of the shortcake dessert that has come to make us so successful!"

There will be plenty of Headline Entertainment to satisfy all music fan genres including The Oak Bridge Boys, Gatlin Brothers, Neal McCoy, CeCe Winans, Tanya Tucker, Bill Haley Jr & The Comets, Tommy James & The Shondells, Wayne Newton, Train, Leonard Skynyrd, and much more.

Time spent on the Midway is often a highlight. With over 80 rides, games, and attractions, for many, it's an enjoyable adrenaline-pumping action of all kinds. For the smallest visitors, the Kiddie Korral is in a separate area from the big kid rides. Parents will enjoy wider aisles for stroller access and more seating.



The Florida Strawberry Festival will take place from Thursday, March 2 through Sunday, March 12 in Plant City.

Learn about youth exhibiting the animals and plants they've been raising for months and even years. You'll see some of the finest livestock in the area and learn how the winners are chosen.

In the Neighborhood Village, it's your chance to see some of the finest award-winning creations. Check out the many different types of entries displayed in a climate-controlled building.

Many people come for the delicious Strawberry Shortcake, but there will be plenty of other delicacies to be enjoyed throughout the festival grounds.

"The strawberry industry has an economic impact of more than a billion dollars in Florida," said Davis. "Plant City is home to roughly 12,000 acres of strawberries and the festival serves just about 200,000 shortcakes each year."

The Strawberry Festival Fairgrounds is in Plant City and is open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children (ages 6-12). Children 5 and under are free. Discount tickets are available at participating Publix Super Markets: adults for \$8 and children for \$4.

Visit www.flstrawberryfestival.com, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (#berryfest23) for more information.



Singing Valentines at BSHS

By Edward De Freitas, Student Reporter

Bloomington High School's Chorus Department has a Chamber and Elite Show choir named the Bloomington Ambassadors. For Valentine's Day they perform all around the school spreading love and joy to classes, teachers, and students as part of an event called Singing Valentines.

Students can buy these beautiful, funny, and entertaining Valentine performances for their friends for 5 dollars. Crowds at the Bloomington High School line up at a stand during their lunch period to buy these in large amounts due to their large popularity in this time of year.

"I could explain Singing Valentines as an opportunity to spread love around the school and hopefully, help someone through a tough time" said Ambassador Member Tyler Smith.

This year's Singing Valentines is the fourth that Bloomington's Chorus Director Andrea Lange has hosted with the Bloomington Ambassadors. She has made keeping traditions a priority for the choir department, having many performances and bonding events throughout the year so every student has an opportunity to experience performance with peers they enjoy being around and practicing with.



"I always love doing Singing Valentines because it's a great bonding experience for our group, it's really fun getting a break from our normal concert program to learn little songs and perform them for random people around the school! It just adds to the numerous things there are to look forward to as a chorus member," Christian Abrigg, Bloomington Ambassador member and Vice President, said.

Cimino Elementary's Coach Daniel Macko Awarded TECO Coach of the Bay

By Jane Owen

During the Tampa Bay Lightning home game vs. the Boston Bruins on January 26, Cimino Elementary School's Coach Daniel Macko was recognized as the TECO Coach of the Bay.

Coach Macko has been teaching physical education at Cimino Elementary for 14 years. He is passionate about creating enjoyable activities that instill confidence.

"What makes coaching special to me is the relationship I get to create with students for 6 years. Most teachers only have a child for one year. So, it's awesome I get to see these kids grow up and develop the physical skills to become better and confident in sports and in themselves," Coach Macko said.

Coach Macko introduces sports and skills that will help students live a positive healthy lifestyle. Cimino Principal Joann Griffiths said Coach Macko inspires everyone he is around.

"Coach Macko is our hero! He represents all that is possible and positive. He exudes a 'can do' attitude that is uplifting and contagious. Danny demonstrates the character traits we all strive to achieve. He is our Coach of the Bay each and every day!" Ms. Griffiths said.

With a focus on making sports fun for students, Coach Macko hopes his students will be inspired to stay active throughout their lives. He loves making a difference in his students' lives.

"My favorite part of coaching is creating activities that they remember for a lifetime. I still have students that come back that are adults now and tell me how much they loved this activity or that activity. It always brings a smile to my face," Coach Macko said.

Macko was named Cimino Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2012 and graduated from USF in 2009. The TECO Coach of the Bay has been awarded since 2019.

Coach Macko received recognition during the game, a personalized Lightning jersey, and \$1000 to give to the charity of his choice. Macko chose the Down Syndrome Association of Tampa Bay (on Facebook @21StrongForever).

"I chose the Down Syndrome Association of Tampa Bay because we have a student at our school who has touched the hearts of our family. We wanted the funds to go to that charity because they do great things for people with Down Syndrome in our community," Coach Macko said.



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Congratulations 2022 BSBS Football Award Winners!

The Bloomingdale Bulls Football team celebrated their 2022 season at their annual Football Banquet on January 24. Seniors were honored and players received special recognition and awards. Congratulations to the award winners!

- Principal's Award: Charlie O'Brien
- Rookies of the Year: Darion Thomas and Dillon Rose-Bailey
- Most Improved Player: Ben Carhart
- Weight Room Award: Christian Dorsett
- Spirit Award: Dominic Maye
- Hutch Scholarship Award: Charlie O'Brien
- Offensive Trenches Award: Isaiah Lowery
- Defensive Trenches Award: Aiden Willis
- Coaches Award: Kendall Jones
- Big Stick Award: Nate Ledford
- Special Teams Player of the Year: Stefan Vera
- Offensive Player of the Year: Mi'keviyon Mack
- Defensive Player of the Year: Mekhi Thomas
- MVP: Christian Bodnar

Clay Shoot benefiting Bloomingdale Bulls Football!
Saturday, April 15, 2023, 9am – 1pm @FishHawk Sporting Clays. For information, contact Coach Wesley Wyatt:
Gobullsfootball@gmail.com



Hutch Scholarship Award: Couch Hutch, Charlie O'Brien, and Coach Ratcliffe



Most Valuable Player Award: Christian Bodnar and Coach Coulson



BSHS Bulls Football 2023 Seniors

BSHS Cheer Placed 7th at Nationals!

Bloomingdale High School's Cheer team placed 7th at Game Day Nationals at ESPN Wide World of Sports! The competition was tough with almost 200 teams from all over the country competing during the weekend of Feb 11th.



BSHS Girls Soccer is District Champions!

On January 31, Bloomingdale's Girls Soccer defeated Armwood 5 - 2 to win the 6A District 11 Championship. Congratulations Lady Bulls!



Superior Legacy at Bloomingdale High School

By Jane Owen

Bloomingdale's Band Director promoted to Supervisor of Secondary Music for Hillsborough County Schools



Jon Sever, Bloomingdale High School's Music Department Head and Band Director for the last 19 years, is leaving Bloomingdale for a position with the Hillsborough County School District. Sever will be supervising all of the music in Hillsborough County for grades 6 through 12 as the Supervisor of Secondary Music for Hillsborough County Schools.

Sever announced his departure at school on Thursday, February 9th, calling all current band and guard members to the auditorium to share his promotion. Understandably, his announcement was met with mixed emotions- lots of tears and gratefulness. Both students, administrators and families expressed their happiness for Sever's promotion and sadness to see him leave Bloomingdale.

Susan Mahley has been an integral part of Bloomingdale's band program for 13 years. When she began volunteering with the band, she did not expect to stay with the program after her oldest child graduated. Mahley explains that she saw firsthand how much Sever loved his band program and yet, he loved the kids more.

"My respect for Jon Sever and the program he maintained was one I was happy to be a part of through all these years. We have built a great friendship. I wish him nothing but the best and will miss him dearly," Mahley said.

Bloomingdale Principal Dr. Marcos Rodriguez said Sever is an incredible band director for many reasons.

"He takes the time to get to know his students and families, which allows him to create long-lasting relationships with anyone in the program. His passion and love for music are infectious," Dr. Rodriguez said.

Passion is what led Sever to become a high school music director.

"I always ask the kids what their relationship is with music. It is very much like a relationship with a human being. Are you friends? Are you more than friends? Do you use music? Are you deeply committed? My relationship with music is a deep commitment," Sever said.

His commitment developed early in his life. He says he struggled in high school and music saved him. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Masters in Music Education from Florida State University.

"I knew what I wanted to do in college and to be honest, if I couldn't find a high school job, I wasn't just going to take a job because my heart wasn't going to be in it," Sever said.

Bloomingdale's Color Guard Director, Coleen Petree, said Sever's heart for music and kids is seen in how he teaches with passion.

"I'm not sure if anyone truly knows the passion Mr. Sever has for teaching students about music and the talent he has to motivate them to be the best they can be. He has a way of mentoring students about life that comes very naturally," Petree said.

Passion and dedication are cornerstones for Bloomingdale High School's band. The Bloomingdale High School Rajun' Bull Band has had straight Superior ratings at Marching Band Music Performance Assessments (MPAs) since the school opened in 1987.

Ted Hope was the first band director at the school. He left Bloomingdale after 17 years to take the position of Supervisor of Secondary Music for Hillsborough County Schools— the very position that Jon Sever is taking after being the Bloomingdale's band director for 19 years.

"Jon was hired at Bloomingdale High School because we shared similar philosophies. Kids always came first and eventually everything else lines up accordingly," Ted Hope said.

If asked what he will miss most after taking his new position, there is no hesitation from Sever. "The kids. 100 percent."

Sue Burkett, Hillsborough County Chief of Schools and Bloomingdale Principal from 2013- 2020, said Sever "gets it." He gets kids and the structure needed to lead within music education.

"There is no way that Bloomingdale can absorb the impact of Jon Sever in that building and with the band. The good thing is – he will still be working with music education for the district, and I highly doubt he will allow his successor to be anything but superior!" Burkett said.



First Girls County Wrestling Championships Held

On Friday, February 3rd, the first ever girls county wrestling championships for Hillsborough County was held at King High School. The winner of the 1st Annual Western Conference County Championship in Girls Wrestling was Tampa Bay Tech High School. Steinbrenner High School was runner up and King High School was 3rd.

Bloomingdale High School's Hannah Ferret was the 105 weight class Hillsborough County Girls Championship runner up! Congratulations, Hannah!

"I'm proud of Hannah for following through with it. She's come a long way from day one. What she's accomplished in such a short time is amazing! The next 3 years are very bright for her as long as she sticks with it," said Bloomingdale High School Wrestling Coach Mark Church.



BSHS Athletes Sign National Letters of Intent to Compete in College

Five Bloomingdale athletes signed their National Letters of Intent (NLI) to play sports at the collegiate level on National Signing Day, Wednesday, February 1. Family, friends, and coaches gathered to watch the signing. Track and field athletes Michael McGee and Ze'kira Snow will compete at Indian Hills Community College; Lacrosse player Tessa Labrasciano will compete at Marietta College; Baseball player Andrew Pierce will compete at Webber International University; and Softball player Livia Velasco will compete at Johnson University.

Congratulations Michael, Ze'kira, Tessa, Andrew and Livia on this great achievement! Good luck with your next season!



Left to right: Michael McGee, Ze'kira Snow, Tessa Labrasciano, Andrew Pierce, and Livia Velasco

BSHS Seniors Accept Appointment to the US Naval Academy

Bloomingdale seniors Lelyn Kirby and Ryan Mothershed Cases accepted appointments at the US Naval Academy! Congratulations Lelyn and Ryan and thank you for serving our country!



BSHS Girls Basketball is Back-to-Back District Champions!

On February 3rd, Bloomingdale's Girls Basketball defeated Tampa Bay Tech 60-42 to become REPEAT District Champions.



Scholarship Opportunities for Seniors!

Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association Scholarship (see below)

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association awards one \$2000 Community Scholarship. The candidate must be a resident of Bloomingdale and be accepted into a 2 or 4 year university, the candidate's parent or guardian must be a Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association member. Deadline is April 3. Application and information is available at Bloomingdale.Life.

Bloomingdale High School Athletic Booster Club \$500 Scholarship

The Bloomingdale High School Athletic Booster Club offers two \$500 scholarships, one to a graduating senior female and one to a graduating senior male, who has participated in a varsity sport at Bloomingdale High School. Applicant or their parent or a legal guardian must be a member of the athletic booster club for the 2022-2023 school year by March 1, 2023. The deadline for the application is April 3. Applications can be picked up and submitted at the school office.



Burns Middle School Hosts Burns Blizzard Bash

Brief Courtesy of the Burns PTSA Facebook Page

Snow was falling in the Burns courtyard as middle school kids danced to music, ate, and had fun with friends on Friday, February 10! The Burns PTSA is grateful to the PTSA board members and parent volunteers who made the event possible. Special thank you to Sign Gypsies of Riverview for the yard sign.



Alafia Elementary Holds Family Night at Astro Skate Center

Brief courtesy of the Alafia Elementary PTA Facebook Page

On Thursday, February 16, Alafia Elementary School students and families gathered at Astro Skate and Fun Center in Brandon for Alafia Family Night. A great time was had by all and the skate center donated \$424 to the school!



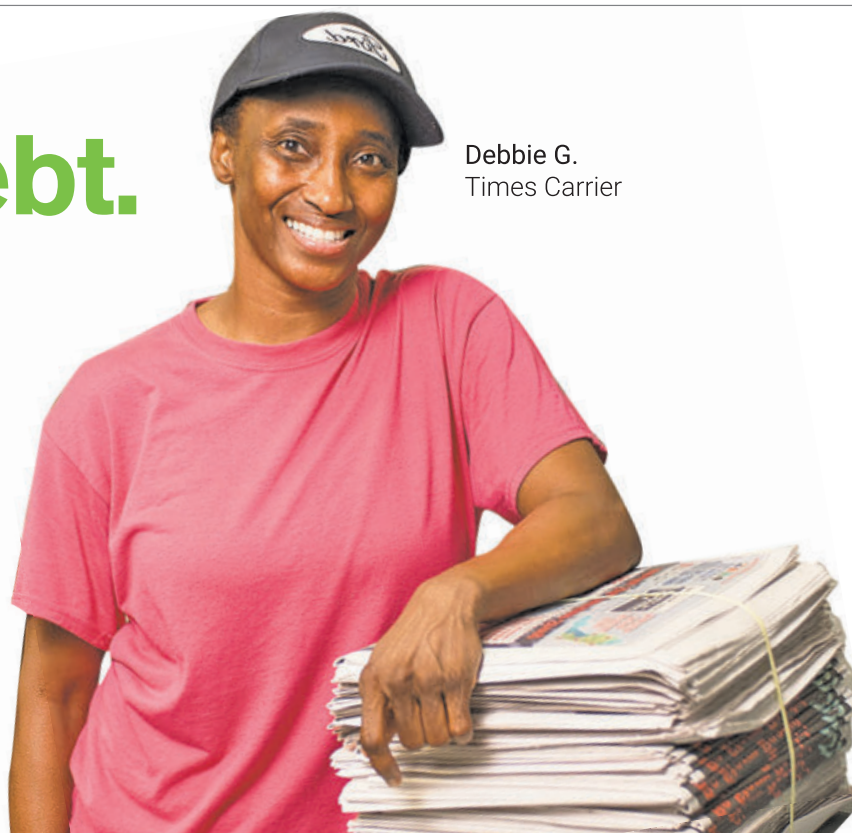
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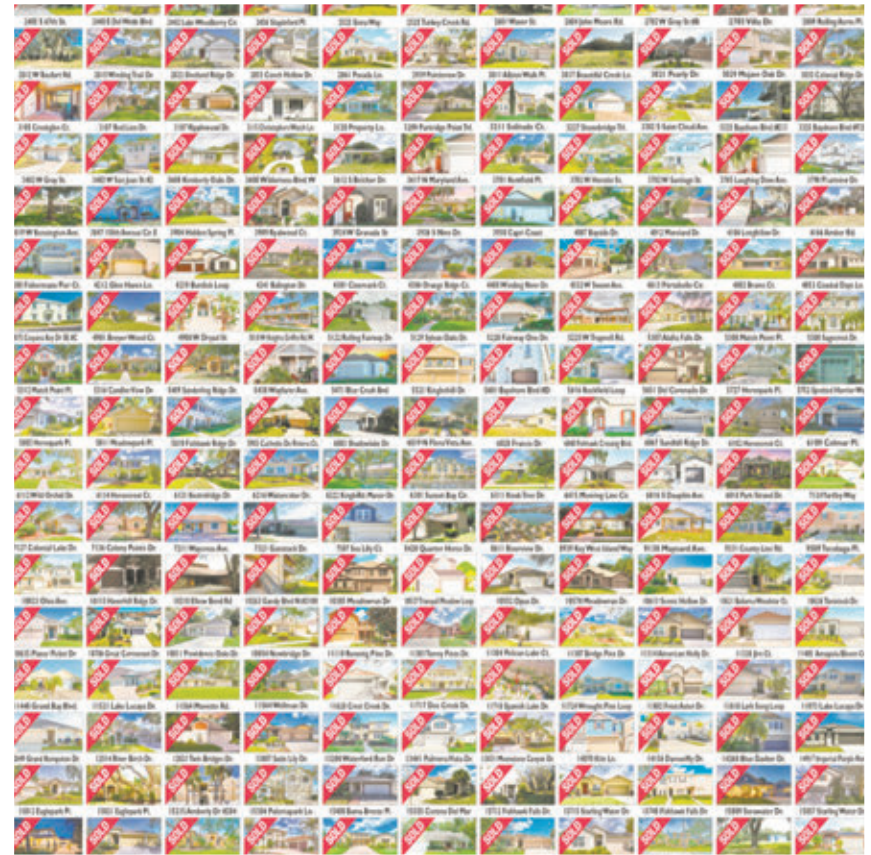


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