



# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

**VOL. XLIII**     **ISSUE 4**     **APRIL 2023**     **WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE**   **THIS MONTH**



Winners of Alafia's first Egg Drop Competition. Prizes were awarded to those whose eggs survived as well as in other categories.

## Eggs-citing things happening in Bloomingdale!

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The official publication of the BNA since 1980, delivered free to Bloomingdale residents on the first Wednesday of each month.



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## BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

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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

April 2 / Bunny Visit - was a success!

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!

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# Bloomingdale Beautification Award

## WIN BIG CASH PRIZE!

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# Bell Shoals Construction Update

Information courtesy of our Hillsborough County Neighborhood Liaison and Matt Lewis, Senior Project Manager from OZ-Matic Engineering

The Bell Shoals construction project has an estimated completion date of August 2023! On Monday, March 20, the contractor performed a traffic switch that opened the outside lane on south bound Bell Shoals and the outside lane on north bound Bell Shoals from Rosemead Lane to Boyette Road. This will give crews the inside lanes to complete the medians as well as landscaping. Most of the remaining work is from Rosemead Lane to Bloomingdale Ave and as work is completed, additional lanes will be opened to traffic. With the remaining work, please remain alert and pay attention when driving through work zones.



Photos by Jane Owen



# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY STATION NOTES

By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher  
*"One Team, One Family, One Community"*

### BE IN THE KNOW!!!

Did you know? The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has a bicycle registration program. This program was put into place to help citizens recover their bikes when stolen or lost. By completing the registration form and providing it to us. If you need it later, we can access the information. You can help us by keeping your bicycle in a locked garage, or when you are out use a bike lock. By registering your bike, we have a better chance of identifying that it belongs to you. Visit our site <https://teamhcsso.com/> for the registration form.

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can turn in unwanted medicine at the Sheriff's District Office. Located of Faulkenburg Rd. There is no reason to put them out in the trash or in your water system.

### DID YOU KNOW?

We have a Move Over law that requires drivers to move over when they approach an emergency vehicle or a wrecker actively assisting motorist. It is also a violation to follow behind an emergency vehicle within 500 feet. So, when you see that fire truck or ambulance get out of the way and give them some room. They are trying to go help someone. The choice to follow to close it could cost you \$168.00.

### DID YOU KNOW?

It is illegal to ride any type of motor scooter or golf cart, or four-wheeler on the roadway. The roadway is the area from the rear of the sidewalk to the other side. So, if you don't have DHMV tag on the cart or dirt bike, go cart you cannot run it down the road. This is illegal. This could get you or someone hurt. There are much better places you could be riding these toys. You could be looking at a \$153.00 citation. We get these types of concerns often, so don't be surprised if someone calls and tells us about ridding down the road. For more info visit <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/>

*Over the past month there have been: 23 traffic crashes in the area, 30 traffic stops, one person robbery with arrest, 4 drug related crimes, 3 stolen bicycles, and 3 other reported thefts.*

We encourage you to visit <https://Teamhcsso.com> for many of our other services to include crime mapping and calls for service information.



# Bloomington High School Grad Celebrates the 30th Year Anniversary of *The Sandlot*

By Jane Owen

No one can say what the most popular sport is in the US. But every sports fan loves *The Sandlot* movie. *The Sandlot* came out in 1993. It's based on a group of neighborhood kids connecting through baseball. Not many films have affected sport lovers more than *The Sandlot* (along with *Remember The Titans* - I cannot not mention that movie). *The Sandlot* resonates with fans because of baseball, the comradery of the kids, the nostalgia of the time and the of the plight of the characters. The movie encapsulates passion and community.

What most people in our community don't know is that *The Sandlot's* Tommy (Repeat) Timmons graduated from Bloomington High School in 2001. He lives here and owns a Bloomington business. Tommy (Repeat) is Bloomington's Shane Obedzinsk. Shane co-owns Times Square Pizza in Bloomington Square with Charlie Jonathan.

This year is the 30th' anniversary of *The Sandlot*. The movie premiered April 7th in 1993. Multiple celebrations are being held all over the country this year - namely in Utah in August, where the movie was filmed and where celebrations have been held since the 20th anniversary. Shane will be there with his Sandlot co-stars.

At the age of 3, Shane ran on stage at the mall during a magic show. He credits his mom, Peggy Lawson, for recognizing his potential and giving him the leeway to follow his heart. His first official acting role was during a Kool-aid commercial.

"As I get older I realize I was a part of something incredibly special," Shane said.

In *The Sandlot*, Babe said, "Remember, kid, there's heroes and there's legends. Heroes get remembered, but legends never die. Follow your heart, kid, and you'll never go wrong."

Shane Obedzinski has always followed his heart. He puts his heart into all he does and loves living in Bloomington. Bloomington is made up of hard-working people. Shane just happens to be a hard-working Bloomington business owner that was in a famous movie. He wouldn't change anything.

"There's not a lot of places in the world like Florida. It's crazy. It's busy. The traffic is terrible. But, I've been lucky to travel my whole life and there's nowhere else I would rather be than this area of Florida," Shane said.

Shane and Charlie embody the work ethic and community portrayed in *The Sandlot*. Beyond that, they continually support all things local. The pizzeria has for years highlighted artwork from Burns Middle School and Bloomington High School. They donate pizzas weekly to Brandon Regional Hospital, welcome highlighting local artists and quite simply, love connecting with customers on a personal level.

Great news all Sandlot fans— A show is set for next year with *The Sandlot* players and their kids. The set will be in the late 80's.

Support local! Times Square Pizza

Facebook: @TimesSquarePizzaCompany

Bloomington Square - 927 E Bloomington Ave. 813-651-0122





# YARD OF THE MONTH

**MICHAEL ROMAN**  
702 CALIENTE DRIVE, BRANDON



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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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# Take a Hike at Lithia Springs Conversation Park on Gopher Tortoise Day

By Michelle Colesanti

- Hike with Park Rangers at Lithia Springs on Gopher Tortoise Day
- Learn about Gopher Tortoises on Hike with Park Rangers

The gopher tortoise originated 60 million years ago and is one of the oldest living species on our planet. It's also the only native tortoise east of the Mississippi River.

Monday, April 10 has been designated as Gopher Tortoise Day and to celebrate, two hikes with park rangers (starting at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.) will be offered at Lithia Springs Conservation Park.

Gopher Tortoises are very important to the ecosystem. The purpose of these hikes is to highlight these amazing animals.

As you hike on the trail, enjoy the sights and sounds of Lithia Springs Park and Fishhawk Creek Nature Preserve North, while learning about the tortoise's habitat, behavior, and why it is important to protect them.

The hikes will cover about 3.2 miles of varying difficulty. Trails may have stumps, ruts, or hog damage in some sections but are still passable. With a little luck, you will also get to encounter a live gopher tortoise.

Ashley Martin, Hillsborough County Program Coordinator for Conservation and Environmental Lands Management said, "We offered two different hikes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, so that we can accommodate different schedules the public may have and hopefully hit the trails at times of day when we might see some Gopher Tortoises out of the burrow. It's impossible to guarantee sightings of particular wildlife, but I'd say the odds are in our favor."

You must register at Hillsborough County - Lithia Springs Conservation Park to participate in the hike. The cost is \$5 per person. There is a limit of 20 participants for each of the hikes. The registration deadline is midnight of the day before. Participants will meet at the shelter near the Fishhawk Preserve Trail (across from the ranger book at the entrance of Lithia Springs Park).

Anyone under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult. Please make sure you bring water in a refillable container, wear closed-toe shoes and carry both sunscreen and bug spray.

Lithia Springs Park is located at 3932 Lithia Springs Rd. in Lithia.



April 10 is Gopher Tortoise Day. Join Park Rangers at Lithia Springs Conservation Park for a 3.2-mile hike to learn about the tortoise's importance to our ecosystem.





# APRIL CALENDAR

- April 1 - April Fool's Day
- April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day
- April 2 - Bloomingdale Bunny Visit
- April 5-13 - Passover
- April 7 - Good Friday
- April 9 - Easter
- April 14 - National Gardening Day
- April 17 - Patriot's Day
- April 20 - Last Day of Ramadan
- April 21 - National Day of Silence
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 28 - Arbor Day

# APRIL HISTORY

*A few historical moments in the month of April:*

- Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was killed on April 6, 1968.
- Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865.
- The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912.
- The Revolutionary War in America began on April 19, 1775.
- The United States Library of Congress was established April 24, 1800.
- Our first President George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789.

# VISIT LOCAL FARMS

Lynna Berry Farms offers u-pick blueberries. Lynna Berry Farms is located at 11920 Neal Road, Lithia FL. For details, reach out to lynaberryfarms@gmail.com or visit [www.lynaberryfarms.com](http://www.lynaberryfarms.com) or @lynaberryfarms on Facebook for details.

Bob's Berries is a bio-organic berry farm. Bob's berries is located at 11501 Winn Rd, Riverview, FL. Bob's berries is hosting its 7th annual Friends of the Farm Locally Grown Market and Barbecue event on Saturday, April 22. For details, email [bob@bobsberriesfl.com](mailto:bob@bobsberriesfl.com) or visit [bobsberriesfl.com](http://bobsberriesfl.com)

Hunsader Farms offers u-pick options throughout the season. Hunsader Farms is located at 5500 C.R. 675 Bradenton, FL. Current u-pick flowers - \$2 admission/ \$8 to pick. Tomatoes, Green beans, Okra, Bell peppers, Jalapeños are all \$1.09/lb or \$12/half bushel. Fields are open Mon-Sat 8am-4pm and Sundays 10am-3pm. Visit [www.hunsaderfarms.com](http://www.hunsaderfarms.com) for more info.

The Southern Peach Company offers u-pick peaches, usually starting in late April. The Southern Peach Company is located at 13231 SR-674, Lithia, FL. For details, visit @TheSouthernPeachCompany

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## A/C & HEATING

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## PLUMBING

### REPAIR

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## PLUMBING

### REPLACE

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## **Bloomingtondale Beautification Award Available to Bloomingtondale East and West Residents**

One of the Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association's goals is to promote events and activities that will protect our property values. We want to encourage residents to enhance the beauty of their homes. The BNA is holding a beautification contest and one resident will win the Bloomingtondale Beautification Award (BBA) and \$500!

The purpose of the Bloomingtondale Beautification Award is to recognize residents of the community that spruce up their homes. The BBA committee requires a time dated picture before you start work and a time dated picture after you have completed your work. Pictures need to be submitted to the BNA for judging by the committee. The contest will run from April 1 to July 1 this year. Submit your name, address and pictures by July 1 through email to [bl.neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:bl.neighbor1@gmail.com). The committee will review submissions and view homes. Judging will be done on curb appeal, with guidelines from county code regulations and using deed restrictions (either mandated or non-mandated) for judging guidance.

The winner will be announced at the July 11th BNA Board meeting. The winning home will be featured in the August issue of The Bloomingtondale Gazette. The winner will receive \$500 from our sponsors American Investment Advisors and Magruder Agency for their efforts.

### **Bloomingtondale Beautification Award Contest**



Spruce up your home from April 1- July 1!  
Beautification Time Period: April 1 – July 1  
Contest Submission Date: July 1

Contest Submission Details: Submit before and after photos, name and address to the BNA at: [bl.neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:bl.neighbor1@gmail.com)

Bloomingtondale Beautification Award Winner: Receives \$500 and recognition in The Bloomingtondale Gazette

*Special thank you to American Investment Advisors and Magruder Agency for their sponsorship of the Bloomingtondale Beautification Award!*

### **Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association**

The BNA's primary purpose is to promote neighborhood cohesion and harmony while protecting our neighborhood property values.



A yearly \$35 donation to the BNA provides these community benefits and events:

- Annual Clean-Up Day: Community opportunity to dispose of bulk trash items
- Santa and Bunny Visits: Drive-through Santa and Bunny visits through Bloomingtondale East and West
- Food Drive: Food collection for a local charity, Seeds of Hope
- Community-Wide Garage Sale: BNA advertised event
- The Bloomingtondale Gazette: Community paper delivered free on the first Wednesday of the month
- Student Opportunities: B.J. Stelter Student Scholarship and community volunteer hours
- Part-Time Staff: Assists community with inquiries
- Dedicated Community Presence: Communication with county code officers to report county code violations and with government officials to highlight community concerns and needs
- Yard of the Month Contest: Winners receive Gazette recognition and gift cards to Ace Hardware and the Campo YMCA
- Neighborhood Communication: Communication with residents through the BNA website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

### **Partnership Opportunity**

Join the BNA! Your membership money is returned 100 percent to the community. As a united community, we can make our neighborhood better.

Local businesses can also be BNA members. Advertise in The Bloomingtondale Gazette and be recognized on BNA website and social media platform. Have first rights to sponsorship opportunities at our events and more. Contact the BNA for details.

### **Board Meetings**

BNA Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and are open to all residents.

### **Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association Partnering with Seeds of Hope in 2023**

The BNA is partnering with and supporting Seeds of Hope in 2023! Seeds of Hope provides weekly a food distribution to the community at 710 E. Bloomingtondale Ave. For more information, visit: [Seeds of Hope | sohopefl.org](http://sohopefl.org)

During the Bunny visit on April 2, the BNA collected non-perishable food to donate to Seeds of Hope. On Thursday, August 3, the BNA is hosting a Bingo Night at Bullfrog Creek Brewery to benefit the Seeds of Hope food bank. Mark your calendar to come have fun playing Bingo while supporting this great organization!



## **CANINE CABANA IS CELEBRATING 15 INCREDIBLE YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY!**

Canine Cabana will be celebrating on May 1st, 5pm-7pm with a double ribbon cutting with the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce and The Valrico FishHawk Chamber. They will have Animalluvr's Dream Rescue, Critter Adoption and Rescue Efforts, A Kitten Place, Raining Cats and Dogs Shelter, and Sanctuary for adoption opportunities. They will also have Florida Foam Factory, Fox Fired Pizza, Graze Uniquely, and much more!

*Thanks for always supporting us and letting us care for your fur family!*





# Egg Drop Competition at Alafia Elementary Encourages Students to Focus on STEM

By Michelle Colesanti

Photos by Michelle Colesanti



Prior to spring break, the entire student body at Alafia came together to watch The Egg Drop, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) competition.

In her first year at the school, AGP teacher, Amy Monteiro, brought the contest to Alafia. She had sponsored the event previously at Lopez Elementary School, where she taught for the last 20 years.

According to Monteiro, “The students must create a free-falling container that will protect a raw egg, which will be dropped from increasing heights.”

Students in grades 3-5 were invited to create individual containers and in grades K-2 each class made one together.

This project takes critical thinking, but for the elementary crowd, there is nothing more exciting than watching your eggs drop in the hopes that they will not break. About 115 students participated, and each container was unique and well thought out.

Dimensions could not exceed one cubic foot volume, and students had to follow the rules provided for putting their containers together. Prior to the competition, Monteiro checked each container to be sure they met the requirements.

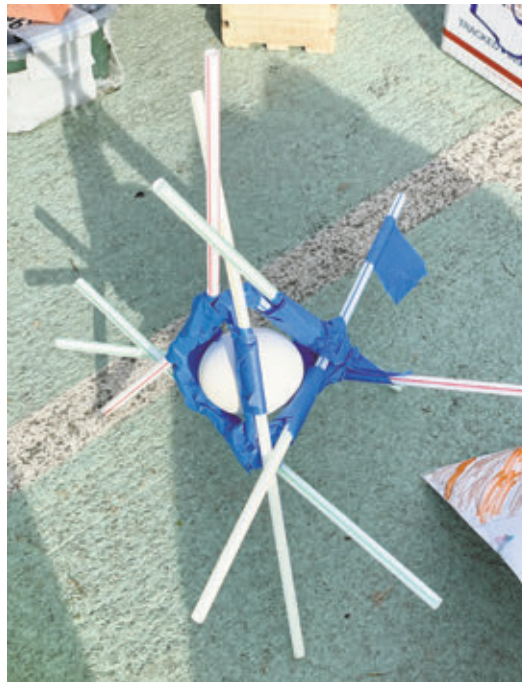
On the day of the competition, the students reported to grade-level tables to receive their eggs, then place their containers in the drop zone and watch as a TECO bucket truck dropped them from heights starting at 15 feet. If the egg survived, the students moved to the second drop zone and onto greater heights.

As the morning progressed, you could feel the excitement of the students watching as the bucket height increased and eggs survived the fall.

In the end, 30 winners received a prize. Awards were given for the surviving eggs as well as for containers using the Best Application of Science, Most Creative, Most Complex, Most Spectacular Splat, Loudest Landing, Smallest and Largest Successful Container, Best Container Name, Most School Spirit and for Slowest Descending Container.

“The idea of the competition is to promote STEM-based conversation and experimentation. Just a fun way to get hooked on STEM,” said Monteiro.

Alafia Elementary School is located at 3535 Culbreath Rd. in Valrico. Call 813-744-8190 for more information.



Alafia Elementary School recently held its first Egg Drop competition. Students had to create free-falling containers that would protect raw eggs from breaking.



Amy Monteiro, AGP Teacher at Alafia Elementary School, headed up The Egg Drop, a STEM competition, just prior to spring break.



# Sassy Cat Club Cafe is the Cat's Meow

Photos and Article by Amanda Ragan

The Bloomingdale area has several cute cafes, but thanks to Owner Nicole Duffy, Bloomingdale residents now have a cat cafe! Staples in places like Ft. Myers and Orlando, cat cafes give patrons the chance to interact with cats while finishing an email, playing a board game, or sipping on a latte.

Owner and retired vet tech Nicole Duffy, has raised the bar on the traditional cat cafe, by partnering with A Kitten's Place out of Lithia, thus allowing customers to interact with foster cats that need to be adopted. Sassy Cat Club Cafe opened on March 1st and Nicole has already facilitated 9 adoptions!

Designed for cat lovers who want a little feline loving in return, Sassy Cat Club Cafe costs \$15 for an hour and \$10 for a half hour, and all fees help cover the costs of caring for the fostered cats. You are permitted to bring your own food and drink into the cafe, or you can



purchase food and drink including, coffee, and tea, as well as cupcakes and cookies from Morenos Bakery. Sassy Cat Club Cafe also offers "Yoga with Cats" every 4th Wednesday of the month from 6PM - 7PM, with Yoga instructor Katie Berry, the cost is \$25.00.

Located at 735 W. Lumsden Ave, in Oak Park Plaza, The Sassy Cat Club Cafe is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10AM - 6PM, Friday 10AM - 7PM, Saturday 9AM - 8:00PM, and Sunday 11AM - 6PM. Reservations are encouraged but walk-ins are welcome if space allows. To make a reservation or to discuss hosting a party or event please visit <https://sassycatclubcafe.com/> or email [SassyCatClubCafe@gmail.com](mailto:SassyCatClubCafe@gmail.com).

# Bloomingdale Welcomes Duck Donuts

Photos and Article by Amanda Ragan

Mornings are hectic! Whether you are rushing to get the kids out the door or trying to make it to that early meeting, finding time for a satisfying breakfast can be challenging. However, a new addition to the Bloomingdale Community proves that grabbing food on the go can be a gourmet treat.

Located at 821 E Bloomingdale Ave, in the Bloomingdale Square Plaza, Duck Donuts allows customers to create their own gourmet donuts. Each order starts with freshly fried donuts that are cooked to order. Then customers are given the chance to select the coating, topping, and drizzle they would like to apply. The combinations are endless, but for those that find these types of choices overwhelming, don't worry, there is a large menu of tried and true favorites.

Manager and Owner Jason Patel was born in Brandon and is excited to be bringing an establishment that his family loves to the Bloomingdale community. Jason's niece lives in Raleigh, North Carolina and every time they get together his niece insists they get Duck Donuts! Jason came to love the quality time and the delicious donuts, on these visits. Back again in Florida, Jason realized that other families might love sharing the same experience of "building" and enjoying donuts with their loved ones, so he and his dad Jay Patel teamed up in bringing the innovative franchise to the ever-growing Bloomingdale community.

Duck Donuts is open 7 days a week, 6AM - 7PM and offers breakfast sandwiches, specialty drinks such as coffee and milkshakes, and of course your custom created, made-to-order donuts! Duck Donuts is also available for catering and special events for more information please call 813-315-9661.



Owner and manager Jason Patel at the recently opened Duck Donuts



4 year old Eliana Buckner excitedly awaits to try her made-to-order donut!



# Spring Forward on TRON: Lightcycle / Run

Photos and Article by Amanda Ragan

If you are looking for something new and exciting to do this month, dust off your Mickey Ears and head to Disney's Magic Kingdom for the grand opening of TRON: Lightcycle / Run. Based on the groundbreaking 1982 film and 2010 sequel, Disney's TRON allows guests to climb onto their own Lightcycles and "Enter the Grid."

Located in Tomorrow Land, near Space Mountain, TRON is one of the fastest rides in all of Walt Disney World, reaching speeds of 59 mph. The eye catching canopy that contains this ride is a visual spectacle, which is impressive during the day, but truly magical at night when the canopy lights up and changes colors as riders pass through on their neon Lightcycles.

The coaster is unique in that it has riders straddle their Lightcycles in a forward leaning position, for the duration of the ride. However, for any individuals that need accommodations due to size or mobility, there is an upright seated cart option to ensure all guests over 48 inches in height are able to access the ride.

TRON: Lightcycle / Run is set to open on April 4th 2023. If you have not been to one of the Disney theme parks in a while, it is important to note that many new rides no longer offer stand by queues, meaning you cannot just show up and wait in line. To ride TRON, park guests will have to reserve a spot in the virtual queue, or buy a Lightning Lane Pass through the My Disney Experience App. For more information about this ride or how to purchase Lightning Lane Passes, please call (407) 939-4357.






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# Bloomingtondale and Newsome Co-Host 7th Annual IncrediBULL Games

By Jane Owen

Newsome High School and Bloomingtondale Senior High School co-hosted the 7th annual IncrediBULL Games on February 24. The IncrediBULL Games are a special olympic field day event for middle school and high school students in East Hillsborough County. Incredible hardly begins to describe the moments of joy and connection at the IncrediBULL Games.

“Our athletes and their buddies have said this is their favorite day of the year! The IncrediBULL Games promotes inclusion and has built many lasting friendships over the years!” IncrediBULL Games Event Coordinator Donna Hart said.

From the moment athletes arrive at the games, excitement grows. Cheerleaders and drumlines from both high schools welcome the athletes as they get off their buses. The athletes spend the day competing in track and soccer and enjoying games and activities at the ‘Olympic Village.’ Student volunteers, called buddies, are paired to spend time with athletes while they compete and have fun.

This year’s event at Newsome was the biggest yet with 475 athletes participating from 16 schools and 850 student volunteers. Hart said the partnership between Bloomingtondale and Newsome broadened the community supporters and gave even more students the opportunity to serve. Bloomingtondale Principal

Marcos Rodriquez said the partnership has allowed the event to double the number of student volunteers and club participation.

Newsome Principal Katie Rocha said she is proud the event has a positive impact on young lives. “Our athletes were able to experience amazing moments of joy and connection, as they competed, played games, and proudly represented their schools. Our student volunteers were given the opportunity to experience the pure joy of helping another, which is an experience that will shape their character as they move into adulthood.” Rocha said.

Both Rocha and Rodriquez appreciate the unity brought by the schools co-hosting the event.

“Seeing all of our sports, clubs, and athletes collaborate to make this a memorable event for students on our side of the county always puts a smile on my face. Working with Newsome to co-sponsor the games has created an opportunity for our communities to work together to support our students,” Rodriquez said.

Newsome and Bloomingtondale will continue to host the games alternating locations on a yearly basis. For more information about the IncrediBULL Games, contact event coordinator Donna Hart at [donna.hart@hcps.net](mailto:donna.hart@hcps.net).



# Bloomingtondale’s Running of the Bulls 5K returns in May

## It’s time to lace up to support Bloomingtondale High School!

By Jane Owen

The Running of the Bulls 5k is Saturday, May 20 at Bloomingtondale High School. The 5K is a favorite community event bringing in runners and walkers from all over the area, current students and BSHS alumni. Participants enjoy the race knowing they are making a difference to students.

The 5k supports the Bloomingtondale band and is made possible by local business sponsorships such as Premium Sponsors Acropolis Greek Taverna and The Jeep Depot.

2022 race winner Nick Baxter is enthusiastic about running the race again. He said there are many reasons why he enjoys the Running of the Bulls 5k.

“Running of the Bulls is a great race and I’m excited to get back to the on-campus course this year! It’s always very well organized and has a fun, community atmosphere with the drumline, local vendors, and student volunteers. Plus, it always has some very speedy high school kids to test yourself against! On top of all that, the race supports the high school band and it’s always good to race locally where it helps the community. I look forward to racing it again!” Baxter said.

Jon Sever, supervisor of secondary music for Hillsborough County schools and former Bloomingtondale band director, said the 5k provides invaluable support for Bloomingtondale’s band. Sever enjoys how the event brings the community and band together. He explained

that the band students and families volunteer for the race and the race participants are supporting the band program.

“The 5k reaches part of our community that in turn supports the Bloomingtondale band. It’s reciprocal because the event brings together two interest groups helping each other,” Sever said.

The Running of the Bulls 5k starts at 8 a.m. It starts and finishes on the track and uses the sidewalks, roads, and parking lots on campus. Registered participants receive a Dri-FIT shirt and finishers receive medals. The race is timed by Bay City Timing and age group winners receive medals. Registration is \$35.

To register for the 5k visit, <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/72397/running-of-the-bulls-5k>.

For more information, email, [bloomingtondalebulls5k@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingtondalebulls5k@gmail.com)





# Drone Grocery Delivery Available from Bloomingdale's Walmart

By Jane Owen

Bloomingdale residents can save time and energy by having grocery items delivered from Walmart by a drone. The drone delivery service is available through Walmart's partnership with the company DroneUp.

DroneUp is set up on-site at our Bloomingdale Walmart with a team of certified drone pilots, operating within FAA guidelines, to manage safe grocery deliveries.

To use the drone delivery service, log on to [droneupdelivery.com](http://droneupdelivery.com) and choose your items. The store fulfills the order and packages it. The order is then loaded onto the drone and delivered to the customer's yard, using a cable system that gently lowers the package. Typically, the process and delivery will be under 30 minutes.

While the current max weight is limited to 10 pounds, the DroneUp employees at our Bloomingdale Walmart said that customers can get two drone flights with no additional charge. They also said that the radius for delivery will be expanded by this August. To learn more about the drone service, visit [www.droneup.com](http://www.droneup.com).



# Bloomingdale Senior High School Red Letter Envelope Project

Submitted by the Academic Foundation

For over a decade, our Red Letter Envelope Project has continued to inspire and encourage our graduating seniors as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives. We ask for your participation in this meaningful project by writing a letter of encouragement and support for our seniors. Your wisdom, advice, and well wishes will give our students the guidance and inspiration they need as they embark on this exciting journey. Your letter can be addressed to a specific senior or written as a general message to the entire class. This year's class has around 580 graduates, and we aim to have each envelope filled. We encourage you to share your experiences, lessons learned, and insights gained over the years. Your letter can be as short or as long as you wish, but we ask that you remember how your words impact our students. The letters will be collected in red envelopes and presented to each senior at the Senior Breakfast. Your participation in this project will not only make a difference in the lives of our students, but it will also strengthen our community as a whole.

The Red Letter Envelope Project will continue to serve as a meaningful reminder of the support and love surrounding our students as they transition into adulthood. We thank you in advance for your participation and look forward to seeing the impact of your words on our graduating seniors.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our 2023 Red Letter Coordinator, Lea Hacker at [hackerlea@yahoo.com](mailto:hackerlea@yahoo.com) or by calling 813-625-2708

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## BSHS Wrestlers Compete and Place at States

### Four Bloomingdale Wrestlers are 2023 State Wrestling Placers!

Huge Congratulations to Nate Overman, 2nd Place 106lbs; Anthony Cubero, 6th Place 113lbs; J.R. Singer, 7th Place 138lbs & Jose Milford, 3rd Place 145lbs



State Placers and Coach Church after the State Wrestling Championships

### Six Bloomingdale Wrestlers qualified for the 2023 FHSA State Wrestling Championships

Qualifying for States, which took place in Kissimmee on March 2-4, takes tremendous dedication, determination, and focus. Congratulations to: Nate Overman, Anthony Cubero, Jeremiah Sawicky, J.R. Singer, Jose Milford, and Braden Wilken!



State Qualifiers at Bloomingdale High School before the State Championships



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### BSHS Crimson Guard Places 2nd at Championships



The Bloomingdale Crimson Guard earned second place at the 2023 FFCC Championships By the Sea in Daytona on March 24. Congratulations Crimson Guard on your Silver Medal Finish!





"The art program at Bloomingdale has produced exemplary works for years! As the new art teacher it is my privilege to work with students like these that are so dedicated to their work."

*Pam Reeves, Bloomingdale Art Teacher*



Watercolor and colored pencil by Elsie Owen



Pen and Ink by Michael Levitt



Watercolor and colored pencil by Christian Abrigg



## BSHS Prom King & Queen

Bloomingdale High School's prom was held at the Floridan Palace Hotel in Tampa on Saturday, March 25. The theme was A Century Back in Time. Congratulations to BSHS's 2023 Prom King and Queen: **Simeon Rate and Dakota Rhodes**





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