



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOL. XLIII



ISSUE 9



SEPT. 2023



WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE

THIS MONTH



RUNNING INTO FALL!

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PLEASE RECYCLE



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2018 & 2019

Hillsborough County
Neighborhood
Recognition Award

Best Communications
Newsletter Category

"The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply." *Stephen R. Covey*

THE AWARD-WINNING

BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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Jane Owen
Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette
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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

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

Directors at Large:
Laney Balis

Vice President:
Sean Donahue

Kalyn Dukes

Treasurer:
Grace Lewis

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BNA BRIEFS

BNA CALENDAR

THIS SATURDAY, September 9 / Bloomingdale Community Garage Sale, email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com to be listed as participating.

Tuesday, September 26, 7-8 p.m. / BNA Meeting / Bloomingdale Regional Public Library - McLean Family Community Room Community is invited to attend. Call 813-252-0252 or email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com for information.

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> At the bottom of the homepage, click Membership.



The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association is happy to promote the

Bloomingdale East & West Community Garage Sale

Saturday
September 9, 2023
8 a.m.

Over 100 sales throughout
Bloomingdale East & West



Visit our Facebook page for updates.

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Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Hillsborough County School District and AdventHealth and hosted Classroom Connections, a new teacher appreciation pop-in event to welcome new teachers to their first year at our Brandon and Seffner Area Schools. The Chamber saw a need and implemented this program for the first time for the 2023-2024 school year. The Brandon Chamber Board of Directors, Ambassadors, AdventHealth Leaders, Hillsborough County School District Leaders, and Sponsors of the event visited 22 schools in 3 days to meet and encourage new teachers/school staff and to provide swag bags filled with supplies, incentives, and merchandise to give our teachers a great start to the new school year.

During our visit to Brandon High School, we presented Sebastian A Rodriguez, a recent Brandon High School Graduate one of the \$1,000 Ernest Fernandez Jr. Scholarships from the Chamber's Education Committee for him to continue his education at HCC- Brandon Campus.



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FOR MORE INFO ON UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT:

www.brandonchamber.com



River Crossing Participates in National Night Out

By Michelle Colesanti



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

It was introduced in August of 1984, and the first annual National Night Out involved 2.5 million neighbors across 400 communities in 23 states.

This year's national event took place on August 1 and the Bloomingdale community of River Crossing participated.

Sean Donahue, River Crossing HOA President said, "We celebrated by inviting the Sheriff's Department and Fire Department, along with our residents and we provided free Kona shaved ice. Our main goal was for our residents to come out of their houses and meet their neighbors for National Night Out."

There was a good turnout despite the hot weather. About 40% of the community participated. Donahue said they are looking into participating during a cooler time of year in hopes of attracting more neighbors to join in.

"We had a very good turnout from the HCSO and Fire department, and we feel it is important to have a good relationship with them and to let them know how much we appreciate their service to the community," he noted.

Donahue feels it is important for our neighbors to know each other in case they need assistance with something, to keep an eye on each other's property, to have a sense of community, and for our community to take care of each other, and be familiar with first responders and for our first responders to know our community appreciates them.

Community Resource Deputy Cliff Fletcher said that HCSO coordinated with residents and Donahue to plan the event.

"Our first event with River Crossing was last year and they hosted it again this year. The focus is to get together, talk with your neighbors, and meet your community. It gives all of us an opportunity to get to know each other and share experiences. We showed children our vehicles, and passed out some bicycle lights for the kids," said Fletcher.

He says to be involved with your community. Getting to know your neighbors is the theme of the night. Fletcher recommends other communities start their own National Night Out next year.

For more information on National Night Out, visit <https://natw.org>.

Bullfrog Creek Brewing Company Continues to Entertain!

By Amanda Depin-Ragan

Having a neighborhood bar, is a luxury in itself, but having an establishment like Bullfrog Creek Brewing Company right around the corner, is an unparalleled neighborhood perk! While Bullfrog Creek Brewing Company lives up to its namesake with its diverse and original brews, the establishment has become so much more to Bloomingdale residents. From family friendly events, to live music and good food, Bullfrog Creek Brewing Company offers entertainment for all!

Bullfrog concluded the summer by hosting a "Back to School Foam Party," featuring foam, food, and snow cones. The neighborhood kids delighted in getting covered in foam that was shot out of a cannon blanketing the ground and creating unforgettable summer memories. However, while Bullfrog makes sure to include the kiddos, they have plenty of adult themed activities as well! From trivia, to live music on their new outdoor stage, to special events, Bullfrog is constantly giving Bloomingdale residents a refreshing mix of entertainment!

This month Bullfrog will be hosting the Exotic Car Show Brunch on September 10th from 11-2 PM. This event will showcase car enthusiasts, live music, and amazing food and drinks. Later that same evening at 7 PM, is Cruising for Murder, a murder mystery themed event where you and your party can work together to solve the clues and figure out who the murderer is! Please note this is a ticketed event, so make sure to visit bullfrogcreekbrewing.com to get your tickets in advance.

Saving the best for last, FROGTOBERFEST will be occurring on September 30th and October 1st from noon to close. This event will feature specialty brews, live music on the new outdoor stage, as well as food and games! This year Bullfrog is selling VIP tickets to the event, which will guarantee a table, as well as a stainless steel FROGTOBERFEST mug filled with your favorite beer. Prices vary based on your party size, so make sure to reserve a table early!

For more information about these events and others please visit bullfrogcreekbrewing.com or call 813-703-8835, or better yet, just stop in and enjoy an evening full of friends, food, and brews!



Rosie Ragan, Addison Hart, Maylee Fabian and Rylee Fabian close out the summer covered in foam at Bullfrog Creek Brewing Company



Maylee Fabian enjoying the Back to School Foam Party at Bullfrog Creek Brewing Company.

YARD OF THE MONTH

ADAM & JENNIFER KELLER
3901 BRAUN WAY, VALRICO



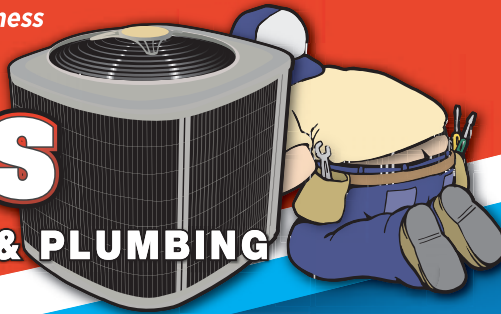
The Yard of the Month is sponsored by Ace Hardware of Bloomingdale and Campo YMCA.

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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Hillsborough Fire Rescue Opened the Station Doors for Residents to Celebrate 50 Years

By Jane Owen

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue turned 50 on August 27th. Fire stations throughout the county were open for residents to tour stations, interact with fire trucks, learn about the history of the department and meet the local Fire Rescue crew.

The crew at Bloomingdale's Station 7 were delighted to show residents around the station.

In honor of the 50 year anniversary, the county is highlighting stories of heroism in a series called 50 Stories for 50 Years.

Be sure to check out this Station 7 story:

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/newsroom/2023/08/17/50-for-50-station-7-super-strength-saves-trapped-boy



Firefighters C. Spurling, G. Floyd, Driver Engineer S. Lanz, Captain S. Hoekstra, and Fire Medics D. Rivera and N. Saez!
Thank you Station 7 Crew for all you do for Bloomingdale!



Ryder and Baron Harris



Dariana, Sol and Daliris



Fire Fighter Garry Floyd and his grandparents, Rueben and Paulette Nance



Kate and Cooper Jergensen

Bloomingdale Community Donates Food and \$1369 to Seeds of Hope

By Jane Owen

On Thursday, August 3rd, the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association (BNA) held a music bingo fundraiser at Bullfrog Creek Brewery to benefit Seeds of Hope. The event raised \$1369! Laney Balis, the BNA event organizer, said the music bingo was a great success. In addition to the money raised, three shopping carts of food and school supplies were collected.



"I was elated by the turn out for the first annual Bloomingdale Bingo Night. I am extremely grateful to all the wonderful people of our community who come together to raise money and support our local food pantry, Seeds of Hope," Balis said.

Seeds of Hope President Leda Eaton is grateful for Bloomingdale's support.

"Thank you, BNA, for choosing Seeds of Hope to receive the proceeds from your Bingo night charity event. We hand out over 325 boxes of food every week so the money you provided will help us fill those boxes for neighbors in need. I love being supported by local organizations and businesses that live in the community we help," Eaton said.



(Left to Right) Laney Balis - BNA community liaison, Kevin Robbins - Food Pantry Director, Sally Wanner, Don Foster, Katie Schneeberger, Fran Southwick, & Dale Southwick.



Laney Balis - BNA community liaison, Leda Eaton - Seeds of Hope President, & Suzy Watts - BNA President



SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER SING-ALONG SUNDAYS AT THE TAMPA THEATRE

Sept 10: The Little Mermaid;

Sept 17: Jesus Christ Superstar;

Sept 24: The Sound of Music

For more information, call (813) 274-8286

SEPTEMBER 8: Hillsborough County Patriot Day: 9/11 Remembrance Event. 10:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, at Veterans Memorial Park & Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr. Museum, 3602 U.S. Hwy. 301 N., Tampa, FL 33619. The 22nd Anniversary Patriot Day: Free and open to the public at Veterans Memorial Park's outdoor amphitheater. Lawn chairs are welcome, and attendees are invited to enjoy the park's many memorials. For more information, call (813) 635-8316 or visit HCFLGov.net/Veterans

SEPTEMBER 9: Bloomingdale Community Garage Sale. The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Community Garage Sale (East and West neighborhoods) is on Saturday, September 9 from 8 a.m. to noon (time may vary by individual household). For more information, email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051.

SEPTEMBER 12: Dancing for a Difference adult ballet! Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 starting Sept 12th. \$40/month or \$12/drop in. For more information, contact: dance4donations@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 12: East Hillsborough Democratic Club meeting. 6:30pm at Brandon Crossroads Bowl 609 Crater Ln Tampa, 33619. For more information go to www.easthillsboroughdems.org or call (813)645-8324.

SEPTEMBER 14: Tampa Bay Water Telephone Town hall Meeting. Tampa Bay Water invites Tampa Bay area residents to join a telephone town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 14, 2023, to discuss its Long-term Master Water Plan, the framework for meeting the region's future drinking water needs. Sign up to participate at futurewater.org. To learn more about Tampa Bay Water, visit tampabaywater.org.



SAVE THE DATE: Make your plans now for St. Vincent de Paul's 20th Anniversary Ladies Tea Party! The Tea Party is **Saturday, October 7, 2023. RSVP by September 28th.** To purchase tickets or make a donation visit: svdpriverviewfl.org. Tea party details: Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm; Location: Family Life Center of St. Stephen Church Catholic Church, 10118 St. Stephen Circle, Riverview, FL. Cost: \$25. For more information, contact, Liz McLaughlin, lmclaughlin510@gmail.com, 813-310-2184.

Want to share a community event in The Gazette or on the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association Facebook page? Email inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com

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Tori Dufficy
 Senior @ Bloomingdale



Scarlett Mandeville, 5th grade,
 Savannah Mandeville, 3rd grade
 Tommy Mandeville, 1st grade
 Cimino Elementary



Jaxon Dufficy
 Freshman @ Bloomingdale



Makenzie Whitesell
 Senior @ Bloomingdale



Genna & Tessa Burnett
 1st grade @ Cimino



Steven Burnett
 8th grade @ Burns



Liam Clark
 6th Grade @ Navigator
 Academy of Leadership



Nathan, Sophomore @ Bloomingdale
 Venus, 8th Grade @ Burns Middle



(L-R) Seniors: Matthew Herr, Spirit
 Man JR Singer (co-president of the Red Sea
 Club), Spirit Man Jake Runyon (co-president
 of the Red Sea Club), Cooper Hinson (Vice
 President of the Red Sea Club)



Averi Wong
 5th Grade @ Alafia



Timothy Burnett
 Sophomore @ Bloomingdale

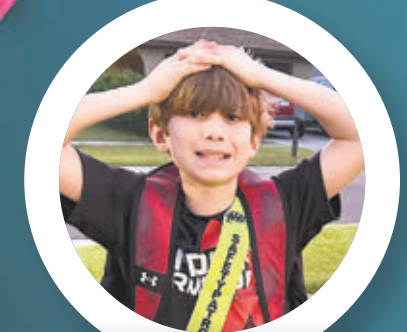


Cameron Bird
 8th grade @ Mulrennan



Stephen Shaw
 Junior @ Bloomingdale

**BACK
 TO
 SCHOOL**



Matthew Burnett
 5th Grade @ Cimino



Elsie Owen
 Sophomore @ Bloomingdale



Lenny Emory, 2nd grade,
 and Oliver Emory, Kindergarten



Amy Kinnard
 Senior @ Bloomingdale



Taylor Gillespie
 Junior @ Bloomingdale



Bloomingdale
 High School Seniors



Welcome Back to School Bloomingdale!



Logan Bond
5th grade @ Alafia



Ryan Fidler
Senior @ Bloomingdale



Jaden Millet
Junior @ Bloomingdale
Ethan Millet
8th grade @ Burns



(L to R)
Maya (9th grade Durant High School),
Carl Pre-K, Lia Jae (8th grade
Navigator Academy of Leadership),
Kai (VPK Kiddie Academy)



Jayden Weidner
8th grade @ Waterset Charter



Emma Fravel & Eric Barna
1st grade @ Alafia Elementary



Kai Correia
3rd grade @ Valrico Academy



Cory
1st grade



Lauren Freeman
3rd grade @ Cimino



Anaiyah Roberts: 3rd Grade
Evan Wilson: 2nd Grade
Brooker Elementary



Cooper Hinson
Senior @ Bloomingdale



Joey Gillespie Jr.
Sophomore @ University of
West Florida - BSHS Alumni

BACK TO SCHOOL



Welcome to the Neighborhood: Andy's Frozen Custard

By Edward DeFreitas, Student Reporter

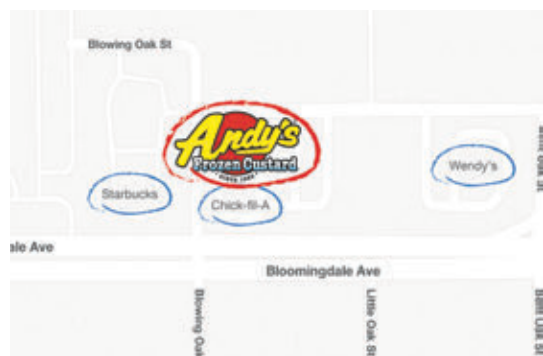
As we all know, Florida can be one hot place year-round from fall to spring. Now, there is a brand-new ice cream shop around the corner to help us beat the heat in the Florida summer. Andy's Frozen Custard opened its doors in Bloomingdale on August 2. They have opened with not just a classic look and great ice cream and shakes but also, affordable prices and great speedy service. Andy's will also be offering a variety of flavors, toppings, and many new creations. Andy's has a warm, cozy, and vintage looking environment, with comfortable outdoor seating and outgoing and friendly staff. It is a great environment and place to spend time with many friends, family, and coworkers. Andy's is also a great place for many students being a short walking distance from Bloomingdale high school right by Chick-fil-A and Wendys.

Located at 2124 Bloomingdale Avenue, Andy's™ is open from 11 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. – 12a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Summer just got a whole lot sweeter in Valrico! Andy's Frozen Custard®, the award-winning frozen custard and treat shop known for its Made Fresh Hourly™ frozen custard and Baked Fresh Daily toppings, will open the doors to the new Valrico location on Wednesday, August 2.

Andy's focus on family and community stems from its long history as a family-owned business with a desire to bring a slice of hometown America to each and every location. With a primary focus on product quality, Andy's only uses the finest ingredients and ensures that the frozen custard is always Made Fresh Hourly™.

Rich, thick and decadent treats at Andy's feature smooth and creamy vanilla and chocolate frozen custard transformed into luscious Concretes, Jackhammers™, shakes, malts, floats and sundaes, including the seasonal Key Lime Pie Concrete, Peach Dream Concrete, and Peach Sundae.



Welcome to the Neighborhood: iSmash

By Edward DeFreitas, Student Reporter

Angry at something or someone? Had a bad day? Had a bad week? Need to let some stuff out? Looking for a new fun event to do with friends, family, or coworkers? You can do it all at iSmash Tampa. A brand-new location of iSmash, iSmash Tampa, has opened right here in Bloomingdale. iSmash Tampa has rage rooms, neon paint splatter rooms, and axe throwing rooms with many games to play.



Co-owners David Segui and Bob Knapp decided to open iSmash Tampa in Bloomingdale. In addition to bringing iSmash fun to the area, they are also devoted to being involved in the community.

“We are all about being here and involved in the area,” Segui said.

Prior to opening iSmash Tampa, Segui and Knapp worked in the insurance business.

“Me and my business partner were in insurance for the longest time. We retired for two years and we decided we wanted to do something the farthest from insurance as possible,” Segui said.

They decided to open their own business together and have a brand-new facility of their own with services of rage rooms, paint splatter rooms, and axe throwing and axe throwing games-including Dunk Hunt, Tic Tac Toe, Connect Four, and more being added to the list.

“You could come here three or four different times and have new experiences every time,” Segui said. “It’s not just about breaking stuff but unique experiences.”

From team building to corporate events, from birthdays to family parties, and to even gender reveals and divorce parties, everyone and anyone can have a unique fun time at iSmash. You can even order custom unique experiences ahead of time for each event.

There is no other place like iSmash. Even while waiting for your turn at iSmash, you will still have fun as there is a TV in the lounge that plays live footage of other rage rooms.

iSmash is not just about destruction but also creation through neon glow in the dark splatter paint. Through painting you can have a brand-new experience letting your joy, grief, sadness, anger through art and joy with friends and family.

Owner David Segui calls it “a unique entertainment experience.” He says, “The joy on everyone’s faces makes it all worth it.”

iSmash is located at 863 East Bloomingdale Ave (in Bloomingdale Square). For more information, visit: <https://ismashusa.com/locations/fl-tampa/>



Left to Right, Owner Bob Knapp, Owner David Segui and iSmash founder Steve Shortino

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New Band Director Brings Longtime Passion for Music to Bloomingdale High School

By Jane Owen



Bloomingdale High School's Rajun Bull Band is marching forward under new leadership. Jordan Frazee is Bloomingdale's third band director since the school opened in 1987. In addition to being dedicated to continuing the success and traditions of the storied program, Frazee brings an unsurpassable passion for music that began very early in his life.

Frazee started in band in 6th grade and by 7th grade, he decided wanted to be a band director. He was inspired by his middle school band director, Sherod King.

"The biggest part that inspired me about him was his charisma and how much he cared about his students being successful. He is my true inspiration," Frazee said.

Frazee received his bachelor's degree in instrumental music education from Florida State University, where he was drum major for three years and on scholarship for French horn. Prior to coming to Bloomingdale, Frazee was the band director at Brandon High School. He continues to play French horn with the Fanfare Concert Winds community band.

Former Bloomingdale Band Director Jon Sever said Frazee's longtime passion for music will empower him to serve the students and take the band to new levels of greatness.

"It was obvious that Mr. Frazee was by far the best candidate to carry on the traditions of the Bloomingdale band program. He has a 'fresh set of legs' to run with the Rajun' Bull Band," Sever said.

Frazee is dedicated to making sure the kids are successful. He is setting the tone by establishing a focus on loving music. According to him, having a love and passion for music will yield the top-level performances.

"The superior legacy is going to continue on. Ultimately, my goal is to teach students about music, how to love music, how to play their instrument and leave band wanting to continue playing after high school. The most important thing for me is for students to have an inkling of the passion I have for music," Frazee said.

Frazee is intent on continuing Bloomingdale band traditions and cannot speak highly enough about how welcomed he feels within the Bloomingdale community.

Bloomingdale High School Principal Dr. Marcos Rodriguez is enthusiastic about Frazee directing at Bloomingdale.

"We are extremely excited to welcome Mr. Frazee as our new director of bands at Bloomingdale HS. He has hit the ground running making music with his students and building relationships in our community. I have no doubt that he will continue to carry on the tradition of excellence our bands have had since 1987," Rodriguez said.

The Bloomingdale Rajun Bull Band will be performing at Marching Band MPA on October 28 at Gaither High School, at their Veteran's Concert on November 9 and at their Holiday Under the Stars concert on December 14, both at Bloomingdale High School.

For more information about the Bloomingdale Band, visit: www.bloomingdaleband.com

BSHS Drumline Performed at the Hillsborough County School Board Meeting on Aug 22



On August 22, Bloomingdale's Drumline performed before the Hillsborough County School Board meeting. Their performance on the Plaza was incrediBULL and the students were introduced individually at the meeting.

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce

Community Health & Wellness Day in the Park

AdventHealth

Sept. 30
9 AM-1 PM

Brandon Rec Center
502 E. Sadie St., Brandon

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

brandonchamber.com

Hillsborough County Florida
Parks & Recreation

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce has partnered with AdventHealth and the Brandon Recreation Center to host the Community Health & Wellness Day in the Park to bring businesses that have the latest information on health and medical trends to our community along with activities, health screenings, food trucks, sports demonstrations from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers street team, the Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey Development "Open Rink", and entertainment for the whole family.

Sat., Sept. 30, 2023
9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

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BSHS Alum Jake Kermeyer Set to Serve After Graduating from Navy Basic Training

Jake Kehrmeyer recently graduated from Navy Basic Training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes Naval Station, and is currently attending Navy Medicine Training Support Center at Fort Sam Houston (San Antonio, TX). Following Corpsman (Medic) school, Jake will be completing Marine Corps field training to prepare him for assignment to a Marine Reserve unit in the Tampa area, so that he can complete his degree in biomedical sciences at USF. Jake is a lifelong resident of the Bloomingdale community and 2021 graduate of Bloomingdale High.



BSHS Secretary Meets Bulls Alum Mark Consuelos

Mark Consuelos from LIVE with Kelly and Mark is a Bloomingdale High School Alum. He graduated from Bloomingdale in 1989. On July 24th, Yolanda Figueroa, Bloomingdale High School's Assistant Secretary to the Principal of Curriculum, had an opportunity to attend the Back-to-School show of LIVE with Kelly and Mark. She brought a Bulls backpack with her to gift Mark. He was reportedly thrilled to meet someone from his high school.



Once a Bull,
Always a Bull!



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- **JROTC Awards & Certificates Program** – Champion Hillsborough County JROTC students & Florida public schools in citizenship
- **Service Dogs** – Partnership to help subsidize guide dogs and service dogs for veterans
- **Honor Flight Guardianship** – Fund 4 guardians annually for flights to Washington, D.C.

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Sun City Center, Florida 33573



0000302380-02

**FALL Means Friday Night Lights!
Go Bulls!**



BLOOMINGDALE FOOTBALL

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
|  8/18 BERKELEY PREP |  8/25 SUMNER |  9/1 ARMWOOD |  9/8 DURANT |  9/15 TBT |
|  9/22 NEWSOME "RIVALRY" |  9/29 LENNARD "3M-6 GAME" |  10/6 GAITHER |  10/13 SPOTO "3M-6 GAME" |  10/20 WHARTON |
|  10/27 EAST BAY "3M-6 GAME" | HOME AWAY | | | |

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