

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Volume XXX
Number 12

DECEMBER 2010 • THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

Santa is here today!



**23rd Annual Visit to
Bloomingdale today,
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit the Bloomingdale Golfer's Club, 4113 Great Golfer's Club, Valrico, today. Visits with Santa are free with a donation of non-perishable food item(s) for charity. Photos will be taken and provided for free. Personal cameras are allowed.

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Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 3rd Annual Family Fest

By **SUSAN GREEN**
Who says you can't mix business with pleasure? Dozens of families, business owners and non-profit groups did just that last month on a cool, sunny day at the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association 3rd Annual Family Festival.

Kids took turns finding new ways to come down a giant inflated slide and got their faces painted, courtesy of artist Heather L. Walton. Parents visited business exhibits, collected coupons and free gifts and sampled hot wings from Beef O' Brady's or bruschetta appetizers from Stonewood Grill. The event was held at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club.

It's the third year the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association has sponsored the event.

"We just wanted to get out in the community and let people know we're

here," said Jane Lee, Bloomingdale Homeowners Association director.

Among other exhibitors were Amoroso Cabinetry, The Chadderton Real Estate Group, All-State Insurance, Huntington Learning Center, Surface Solve Floor Center, The Tampa Tribune and Hillsborough County Fire Rescue.

Tutor Time, a longtime preschool and after-school care provider in Bloomingdale West, sponsored a crafts table for children. Business owner Susan Miller said the school is going to give up its franchise and change its name to Village Community Learning Center this month, and she wants residents to know it's the same operation that has welcomed Bloomingdale children for 10 years. "We have the highest VPK (voluntary preschool and kindergarten) scores in the Brandon area," Miller said.



SUSAN GREEN

Business owners who turned out included Emily Pryor of That's Groomer to You. She set up a table of

wares in front of her mobile grooming van and greeted guests accompanied by Duffy, a cairn terrier she adopted from a rescue organization. She said his previous owners couldn't deal with Duffy's allergies. "He's so allergic to corn that if you eat popcorn and don't wash your hands before touching him, he will be in agony," Pryor said. She said many pet owners don't realize that dogs often are allergic to corn, and many commercial dog foods contain the grain. She carries a line of corn-free pet food products, along with such canine pleasers as pumpkin butter and banana peanut butter biscotti. Duffy was not the only dog on display.

Kerri Brown talks to exhibitors while tending her children, Carolina, Willa and Rylee (foreground) at the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Family Festival.

Representatives of The Greyhound Gang of Florida, based in Seffner, strolled the festival area with three former race-track dogs hoping to find homes: Pete, 10; Tyson, 8; and Wendy, 5.

Kerri Brown of Bloomingdale checked out the exhibits while keeping an eye on her children, Rylee, 5; Willa, 3; and Carolina, 1. She said she attends every year.

"I like just getting out and seeing the neighborhood businesses," she said.



SUSAN GREEN

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue put one of its trucks on display at the third annual Bloomingdale Homeowners Association Family Festival.

Bloomingtondale in the pink for Project Cure

By **SUSAN GREEN**

About 200 people walked or worked volunteer tables for Project Cure at Bloomingtondale East last month, covering 1,200 miles and raising more than \$8,200 for breast cancer research at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center.

Lisa Huetteman of Valrico and Mary Owens of Brandon, along with several other parents associated with St. Stephen Catholic School, founded the fundraiser in 2006 after the mother of a student at the school died from breast cancer.

The founders wanted an alternative to the well-known Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk after they dis-

covered the Komen program donates grant money to Planned Parenthood, a cause many St. Stephen families find objectionable, Huetteman said.

Participants were invited to walk up to 60 miles over three days, similar to the Komen event. Project Cure also offered smaller efforts, including a 4-mile family fun walk around Nature's Way and Culbreath Road. About 173 people, including at least 80 St. Stephen students, participated in the fun walk Oct. 30.

Sammee Wizda and her 9-year-old daughter, Carsyn, of Valrico were among those who set out on the fun walk. Riding part of the

way in Wizda's arms was Bean, a yorkie-poo puppy.

"My brother's wife passed away from breast cancer two years ago," Wizda said, adding that a family friend has been diagnosed with the disease.

Elizabeth Riotto, 6, went to neighbors' homes in Boyette Springs to raise money and donated some of her own savings. Decked out head to toe in several shades of pink, she participated with her parents, Denise and Chris Riotto, in the fun walk.

Denise Riotto said she lost two aunts in Chicago to breast cancer.

"We're walking for the ones left behind," she said.

CURE, Page 6



SUSAN GREEN

Families get a second wind after they round the corner of Culbreath Road and Nature's Way Boulevard and head toward the finish of a family fun walk at Bloomingtondale East Park.

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SUSAN GREEN

Elizabeth Riotto, 6, sets out on the 4-mile family fun walk for Project Cure. Behind her is her mother, Denise, and father, Chris.

CURE

From Page 5

Shane and Jennifer DuGuay of Riverview walked the 4-mile stretch with their four children: Caleb, 15; Liam, 13; Mary Jane, 9; and Elisabeth, 5.

Hanna Skelly, 10, a student at St. Stephen, collected \$380 for the cause in her FishHawk Ranch neighborhood. She and her mother, Lauri Skelly, walked and talked during the 4-mile circuit.

"It's a good cause and a good thing to do as mother and daughter," said Lauri Skelly.

Huetteman, who walked 60 miles over three days, said Project Cure is run by volunteers, allowing 100 percent of the proceeds to go to Moffitt. She thanked St. Stephen School's National Junior Honor Soci-



SUSAN GREEN

Hanna Skelly, 10, hugs her mother, Lauri, as the pair walk the last few steps of a 4-mile family fun walk to raise money for breast cancer research.

ety and volunteer Mary Guardian Information Systems created the website, www.projectcure.ststephencatholic.org, where people can still go to donate money.



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Finally, try to avoid a closing date at the end of the month or the end of the year, as these are the busiest times for lenders and could cause undue delay in meeting your approval deadline for financ-



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ing. Speak with your agent about other factors in crafting your offer and successfully closing on schedule.

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Kalef to take the mound at State College of Florida

By **SUSAN GREEN**

Robby Kalef of Brandon, a senior at Bloomingdale High School, has parlayed his pitching talents on the baseball team into a year-long scholarship at State College of Florida, formerly known as Manatee Community College.

Kalef, 17, also fielded offers from Daytona and Polk state colleges and Lake Sumter Community College. He said he chose State College after visiting the campus and admiring the updated sports facilities. He plans to room off campus with a catcher he met playing in an AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) league.

Kalef said he has played baseball since age 4 and likes "everything about it," especially the teamwork. He joined the Bloomingdale team in his freshman year. The right-hander's record last year was 1-2 with a 3.54 earned run average in 29 2/3 innings.

Bloomingdale baseball coach Kris Wilken said he has enjoyed working with Kalef. Asked what recruiters likely saw in the pitcher, Wilken said, "Work ethic, work ethic, work ethic."



SUSAN GREEN

Robby Kalef on the mound at Bloomingdale Senior High School.

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A Gazette report

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Do you remember Hurricanes Andrew, Charley and Katrina, as well as the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile?

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Hillsborough County will train residents in disaster survival planning. The Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association is seeking volunteers to become trained in CERT - Community Emergency Response Team - to become community leaders if disaster should strike.

CERT training enables

you to respond to emergencies by applying basic response and organizational skills. CERT members may also serve as first responders to an emergency until professional emergency services arrive. There are many ways a CERT member may be utilized as a first responder.

The training takes 24 hours and is held evenings and weekends. Each participant will receive a training manual, CERT kit and certificate upon course completion. The best part is the training is free. That's a pretty good cost in return for your families' lives.

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Halloween in Bloomingdale



KIM WALLACE

Bloomingdale Resident Kristin Carde was in the holiday spirit and enjoyed handing out candy to the neighborhood kids.



KIM WALLACE

Neighborhood kids, Andrew Wallace, Morgan Easterling, Kyra Knapp and Aidan Kirby enjoy trick-or-treating together.

Going pink



KIM WALLACE

Bloomingdale Cheerleaders go pink to send donation to Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Fund

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Bloomington Senior High School award winners



KIM WALLACE

Ms. Amber Littleton, ESO teacher of 4 years at Bloomington High received the Ida S. Baker Award.



KIM WALLACE

TV Production teacher of 7 years Mr. James Anteau received Teacher of the Year Award at Bloomington High.



KIM WALLACE

Ms. Kathy Fallin, IEP Assistant of 13 years received Support Employee of the Year at Bloomington High.

Alafia Elementary award winners



KIM WALLACE

23 years of service at Alafia Elementary, Mrs. Rachell Driggers is awarded Support Employee of the Year.



KIM WALLACE

Ms. Angela Halle 5th grade teacher of 5 years received the Ida S. Baker Award at Alafia Elementary.



KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Joan Kabat 5th grade teacher of 23 years received the Teacher of the Year Award at Alafia Elementary.

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Cimino Elementary award winners



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Cimino Elementary Mrs. Sherill Farrell is awarded Teacher of the Year. She has been with Cimino since it opened.



KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Jennifer Fontana received Support Employee of the Year at Cimino Elementary.



KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Nina Czajia received the Ida S. Baker Award at Cimino Elementary. She has been with Cimino for 5 years.

Burns Middle School award winners



KIM WALLACE

Ms. Athena Wilson Reading Coach of 8 years received Teacher of the Year at Burns Middle School.



KIM WALLACE

Ms. Layne Boone Math Teacher of 3 years received the Ida S. Baker Award at Burns Middle School



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An early Thanksgiving feast at Alafia Elementary



KIM WALLACE

Mrs. Engle's second grade is in charge mash potatoes, Jacob Plummer, Georgia Krohn, Hannah Leavitt and Christopher Locke cut potatoes for their Thanksgiving feast.



KIM WALLACE

Heather Heinze, Claudia Freeman, Tanner Nicholas, Mrs. Tipaldo and Michael Mangosning are making applesauce for the Alafia second grade Thanksgiving feast.

Kitchens Baths & More

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Senior signs scholarship

On Nov. 10, Bloomingdale High infielder, McKenzie Carter signed a softball scholarship with Elon University of Elon, N.C. McKenzie started playing softball in the Bloomingdale area at a young age. She has played with Bloomingdale High School since her freshman year.

Coach Clamon said one thing that stands out about McKenzie, not only is she a great player, but she is dedicated and loyal to her team. She has always treated everybody the same, whether younger or older. McKenzie says, she is excited about the move to North Carolina. Even though it was very hard to choose from Georgia, Georgia Tech, Penn State and Pennsylvania, she knows her final pick is the right move for her and her career.

Pictured is McKenzie signing to Elon University, with her little sister Payton, brother Zack and parents Trish and Jeff.



BY KIM WALLACE



KIM WALLACE

BSHS hosts District Swim Meet

Bloomingdale student Jared Lawson shows determination during district swim meet.

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KIM WALLACE

Just say no

Cimino second-graders have dance out during Say No To Drugs.



SUBMITTED

Congratulations Bandits

On Halloween weekend, the Bloomingdale Bandits played in the RBI Baseball 2010 Fall Grand Slam Tournament in North Tampa. Fifteen teams competed in this age group and the Bloomingdale Bandits placed second in the 12U Elite Division.

Left to right, bottom row: Daniel Neely, Brett Martin, Nick Lewis, Vladimir Zavala, Jonathan Hermann, Garret Atkins; top row, left to right: Christian Freeman, Coach Buddy Lewis, Alec Six, Coach D.J. Peña, Tom McGuire, Ryan Peña, Coach Rob McGuire, Zach Barfield.

Let's give a big congratulations to the Bloomingdale Bandits!

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St Stephen Car Wash Fund Raiser

St. Stephen's Catholic Church is hosting a car wash fundraiser Sunday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 12, both days from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Car Wash on the Greens. Car Wash on the Greens is located on the corner of Lithia-Pinecrest Road and Erindale Drive.

Please support us as we raise money to help the children of Panama. By providing medical care including the purchase of an ambulance, we can make a difference. All proceeds go to the Blessed Trinity Mission.

For information, e-mail, twinning@ststephencatholic.org.

Poinsettia trivia

By SUSAN GREEN

They seem to be everywhere this time of year, but poinsettias are not native to Florida. They originated in Mexico.

According to the Smithsonian Institution, the plants get their name from Joel Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. He sent the first cuttings home to South Carolina in 1828. Since then, many cultivars have been developed in Southern California.

Today, Walmart, Lowes and Home Depot are major retailers of the popular holiday flower. Prices in late November were as low as \$3 per plant at some locations. Local independent nursery owners in-

terviewed said they no longer routinely stock poinsettias because it's difficult to compete with chain store prices.

Contrary to popular belief, the Smithsonian reports, the plants are not poisonous. The red, white or pink leaves are called bracts. The yellow center, called cyathia, is the flower.

Several Bloomingdale schools benefit from poinsettia fundraisers. A long-standing place to buy the crimson Christmas favorites has been set up again this year at the northeast corner of Lumsden Road and Parsons Avenue in Brandon, where proceeds are donated to local schools.

Here are some tips for increasing the life and beauty of poinsettias:

- ♦ Place plants where they can receive bright but indirect sunlight.
- ♦ Keep poinsettias away from drafts, such as occur when doors and windows are opened.
- ♦ The soil should remain moist but not wet.
- ♦ Fertilizers are not needed when the flowers are in bloom.

For information, visit the Smithsonian Gardens website at www.gardens.si.edu/horticulture/res_ed/fctsht/point.htm

Poinsettias were plentiful a few days before Thanksgiving at the Walmart in Bloomingdale Square.



PHOTO BY SUSAN GREEN

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Bloomingtondale Community Station Notes

'Tis the season for safe driving

Last month I addressed the important topic of teens and safe driving. I am sad to report that just since that time Bloomingdale and one of its families has lost a teen to an auto accident. Nineteen-year-old Nicole Petrakis lost her life in an accident on Natures Way Boulevard. Unfortunately, she was not wearing her seat belt. Family and friends set up a beautiful memorial at the accident scene in her honor. We truly wish this accident had never occurred. To further honor her memory we ask that her family and friends pledge that they will ensure everyone they know wears their seat belt.

One of the most critical decisions we make as driv-

ers is whether or not to wear our seat belt and to insist that anyone riding with us wears theirs. It is too serious a decision not to buckle up.

Law enforcement knows that buckling up must become a habit. We respond to accidents and witness what happens when drivers don't. There is no magic answer on how to get each and every driver and passenger to buckle up. Each one of us has to decide on our own.

And for all drivers, do not text while driving. Just one text can cost you your life and the lives of those riding with you. Texting while driving it is more dangerous than drinking while driving and 17 times

more dangerous than talking on a phone while driving. It isn't the fact that your hands and eyes are distracted, but your head. There is no text worth a person's life!

Please make these holidays ones to remember, not ones to regret.

A SAFE AND SECURE HOLIDAY SEASON

December and January are filled with holiday activities including shopping and parties. Those of us in the Sheriff's Office want all residents to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Following these safety and security tips will help each of you stay safe and secure this season. Take

the time to follow them.

♦ **WHILE SHOPPING** - Be extra cautious and stay aware of your surroundings and your actions. Don't get in a big rush and be careless. Whenever possible, shop in groups. Do not leave your car unlocked. Do not leave packages or other valuables in your car - lock them in the trunk. And lock up your vehicles at home, also.

♦ **WHILE TRAVELING** - Secure your home before you head out for holiday traveling or shopping. Burglars watch for homes and vehicles that are "easy targets," especially those with garage doors and vehicles left open. And don't put on



NOTES, Page 19 Community Resource Deputy Curtis Warren

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j.carpenter81@yahoo.com

NOTES

From Page 18

Facebook that you are out shopping or traveling. This information can get into the wrong hands.

♦ **WHILE DRIVING** - Do not drink and drive or ride with those who do. Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking and driving and make sure you set the right example. A few minutes discussing the dangers and setting strict rules can save a life - your teen's life.

CITATIONS FOR MOTORIZED SCOOTERS, MOPEDS AND MINI-CYCLES

Every Christmas many parents buy their kids motorized scooters, mopeds or mini-cycles. To the kids these are cool ways to get around.

However, there are special Florida statutes that cover the use of these motorized vehicles and when the rules are not followed the result can be criminal uniform traffic citations and mandatory court appearances.

Parents, before you purchase one of these motorized vehicles, checkout the Florida Statutes that cover the operation of mopeds, motorized scooters and mini-cycles.

♦ Florida Statute 322.03 states that if a "non-licensed operator" is caught operating one of these vehicles on a public roadway the operator can be issued a criminal uniform traffic citation.

♦ Florida Statute 316.1995 covers the operation of these motorized vehicles on sidewalks.

♦ Florida Statute 320.02 covers the registration re-

quirements for these vehicles.

♦ Florida Statute 322.35 covers the penalties that parents who allow unlicensed minors to operate these motorized vehicles will face.

Scooters and mini-cycles do not meet Federal safety guidelines. These motorized vehicles can only be operated by operators under age 16 on private property and then only with permission of the property owner.

Besides these very strict statutes, these motorized vehicles pose a very serious danger to young riders. No amount of safety gear will keep them from harm when they crash into or are hit by a car or truck. Any accident will more than likely be fatal. Think very seriously before purchasing one, please.

SHERIFF'S BLOOMINGDALE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (BACC) 2001 - 2011

The BACC experienced a very good year with several important topics addressed during 2010. One of these very important topics was covered at the November meeting with a special guest, Jonathan Williams, from the Hillsborough County Housing and Community Code Enforcement Department present at the meeting. Jonathan discussed problems with homes that have been foreclosed on. He noted that, "with more homes under foreclosure there are more problems with misuse of these homes. These homes have been vandalized, used for grow houses for illegal

The BACC is looking forward to 2011 and needs your participation on the BACC Council...As an organized and active group we will continue to make the Bloomingdale area a safer and more secure community.

drugs and even used to set up illegal auto transmission businesses. They also pose a serious danger when kids get into them or around the pools that are left unattended."

He asked that all residents keep a watch out for homes that have been foreclosed in their neighborhoods and report any suspicious activity to the Code Enforcement Department at (813) 274-6639 or to the Bloomingdale Community Station at (813) 635-8040. Your help will assist law enforcement and code enforcement of-

ficers in monitoring these homes and reduce the dangers they present.

The BACC is looking forward to 2011 and needs your participation on the BACC Council. You are invited to come represent your community and bring your issues of concern. As an organized and active group we will continue to make the Bloomingdale area a safer and more secure community. Call (813) 635-8040 for information.

From all of us at the Sheriff's Office have a safe and secure holiday season!

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