



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

Vol. XLIV **ISSUE 7** **JULY 2024** **WWW.BLOOMINGDALE.LIFE** **THIS MONTH**

TIME TO JOIN BNA!

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.
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2024 Membership	\$42
Community Scholarship Donation	\$
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**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR
NEW OFFICE MANAGER**
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SUMMER HEAT**
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BOGGS AWARD WINNER**
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PLEASE RECYCLE



"July, with its days of blue skies and time that seemingly stands still, holds a special place in my heart." Daisaku Ikeda



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Elise Cruz Aragon
Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette
P.O. Box 6313, Brandon, FL 33508 - (813) 681-2051

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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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**Tampa Bay
Times**

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 6313, Brandon, FL 33508 (813) 681-2051

Email: Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com Website: www.Bloomingdale.Life

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BNA board meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Regional Library.

President:
Suzy Watts

Vice President:
Sean Donahue

Treasurer:
Grace Lewis

Directors at Large:
Laney Balis

Kalyn Dukes

Bobbi Ferraro

Kiersten Sutton

**Bloomingdale
Office Update:**

Residents may call Suzy Watts, acting as the interim office manager until a replacement Office Manager has been secured.

BNA BRIEFS

BNA CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

July 23 / BNA Monthly Meeting / 7 p.m./ Bloomingdale Regional Library

August 6 / Music Bingo at Bullfrog Creek Brewery to Support Seeds of Hope

August 7 / Open House at Bloomingdale Senior High School

August 8 / Tentative Open House at Alafia Elementary School

September 7 / Community Garage Sale

December 8 / Santa Visit

JOIN THE BNA!

\$42 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.



A Note from the Editor

This past week, my book club decided to take a trip out to Tampa for Pages and Play, an outdoor book fair on Water Street. Since our club formed at the beginning of this year, we've tried to build our bonds from more than just the monthly books we choose.

Needless to say, it was everything we thought it would be – and then some. Spending time with my “book club for real” never disappoints.

It's an interesting dynamic to find other people that you know little about and decide that choosing and reading a monthly book is something you want to invest your time in. It almost feels antiquated, like something a grandmother would do. And yet.

I have found the bonds we form most closely seem to come from the places we least expect. Best friends and loved ones aren't always those we thought, at first meeting, would be the ones who imprint on us most deeply. I find myself increasingly realizing how incredibly fortunate I am to be walking the path I'm on now, meeting such amazing people and being honored to call them my neighbors and friends.

I hope you're able to carve out time for those closest to you, especially as the summer's evenings only become more vibrant and autumn winds begin to shift the air. Make those memories that last, especially if they're over a good book.

Elise Cruz Aragon

Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette



Bloomington Special District Works Hard for Our Community

By Kristine Schroeder, BSD Community Relations

July 2024 BSD Update

This year marks the fifth anniversary of our District's ongoing partnership with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department through our Off-Duty Deputy Program for traffic safety. Master Deputy Mark Buswell has led the cadre for the past three years, providing additional dedicated patrols for our streets and parks to help keep our community safe and secure. This is a District-sponsored program, and Deputy Buswell encourages resident interaction: "If you see me in the neighborhood, please feel free to let me know if anything needs our attention, or if you have any questions." Bloomington appreciates our dedicated team and all law enforcement personnel for their commitment to our community!

A reminder the BSD meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at our offices at 3652 Erindale Drive.



BLOOMINGDALE
SPECIAL DISTRICT

813-684-6667 bstd@verizon.net



Staying Abreast of County Happenings

By Elise Cruz Aragon

As the County continues to make major decisions and changes that will affect all of us in Valrico, the BNA encourages our community members to continue attending events and making voices heard, both in person and online.

A few of the proposed changes within the county have been addressed by the BNA already, and our stance does not change. With respect to the current proposed changes to the Energy Park, the BNA, like most of our Valrico neighbors, do not agree with any changes made by developers to include additional housing. Please continue to voice those opinions and show up to the meetings.

The BNA is looking to become part of the new Valrico Plan. The new plan is more conducive to how our community runs than the Brandon Plan, which we're currently part of. If you find that the Valrico Plan is not in our best interest, please make your voice heard, both at planning meetings and at our monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Bloomington library.

You can find more information on planhillsborough.org, including information on how to attend meetings virtually. The Planning Commission will also hold meetings regarding plan amendments on Monday, July 8th and 29th from 5:30-8 pm, with an Open House for the Valrico Plan on Saturday, August 3rd from 11-1.



Plan
Hillsborough

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

As part of BNA's new initiative, welcome baskets will be distributed to new neighbors every quarter. Baskets come with coupons to local businesses and a rack card from BNA. If you would like to donate anything for our new and future neighbors, contact Kiersten Sutton with BNA. We're so excited to have you here!

SLOW DOWN AND STAY SAFE

With summer coming into full swing, please be mindful of your speed in the neighborhoods and on Bell Shoals. Neighbors will be out and about in full swing – so do the neighborly thing and take it a little slow as you drive our roads.

SERVICE HOURS FOR STUDENTS

If you're looking for a little help within your organization and want to offer service hours, make sure to reach out to Mindy Edgeman at Bloomingdale High School. She can help navigate you through the process so our students get the hours they need for Florida Bright Futures, and you get the most assistance from our Bloomingdale students.

It's my great honor to introduce the newest member to our BNA team, Shannon Mullins! Mullins has taken the role of Office Manager and will handle the day-to-day issues that our BNA community may need taken care of.

Mullins comes highly recommended to us from our president, Suzy Watts. Watts has spent the last few months covering while we searched for a replacement, and we're extremely fortunate that Mullins is ready to take the reins.

Mullins has been a resident in the Valrico area since 2018 when she moved from the South Bend, Indiana area. She attended college in Indiana before moving to Florida.

Mullins is a proud dog mom to two lucky puppies, that she says are "kind of like her kids." In her free time, she enjoys painting, paddle boarding, and reading.

In her own words, she joined the BNA because of Suzy Watts, "because [she] is the best," and because she was "looking for a greater sense of community and to be involved locally." I speak for all of us here at the BNA when I say that we look forward to having you join our team!




Bingo Night at Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co.

\$20 for 5 games




Bullfrog Creek Brewing, Co.
3632 Lithia Pinecrest Rd



Tuesday, August 6th
Card sales begin at 6:30 pm Games begin at 7 pm

Raffle Baskets **Benefitting Seeds of Hope**
Donations accepted (food, school supplies, cash)



BLOOMINGDALE

Bloomingtonale.life
<https://sohopefl.org>



YARD OF THE MONTH

JOYCE AND RUSTY JONES
1912 RIVER CROSSING DRIVE, 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.

Presented by **Odiorne Insurance & Auto Owners Insurance**



JULY 4TH FESTIVAL & PATRIOTIC DRONE SHOW (9pm)

**FREE
Admission**

Gates Open 1–9 PM / \$10 Parking per car
Live Music, Antique Car Show, Craft Vendors,
Kid Zone, Petting Zone, Fun Contest, Food & Beer Tent

ENTERTAINMENT PAVILION

- 2 pm – Little Miss & Mr. Firecracker Pageant
- 3-5 pm – Ridge Country Band
- 5:30 pm – Red, White, & Blue Costume Contest
- 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Eric Von Band

SPIRIT STAGE

- 1:30 pm – Pet Costume Parade
- 4 – 8 pm – Antique Car Show
- 5:30 pm – Watermelon Eating Contest

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Tampa Bay Times

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Keeping Cool in a Heat Advisory

By Elise Cruz Aragon



As summer swelters on, staying cool isn't just a matter of comfort—it's crucial for your health. Heat advisories are issued when temperatures soar to levels that can pose serious risks, especially to vulnerable individuals. Here's what you need to know to stay safe and beat the heat.

What is a Heat Advisory?

A heat advisory is a warning issued by meteorological authorities when high humidity and hot temperatures are expected to combine to create conditions where heat-related illnesses are possible. These advisories are not to be taken lightly, as they signify a potential threat to health, particularly among the elderly, young children, and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

Signs of Heat Illness and Stroke

Recognizing the signs of heat-related illnesses is crucial for prompt intervention:

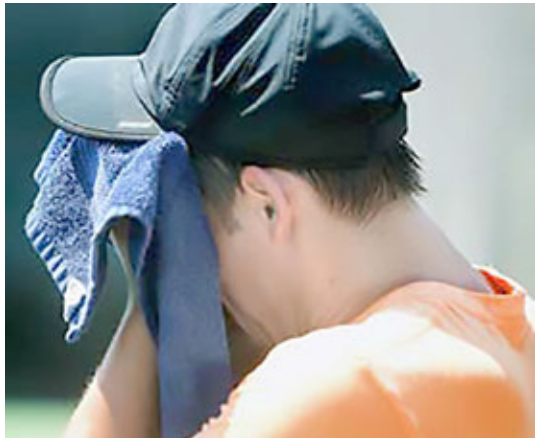
- Heat Exhaustion: Symptoms include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, headache, and fainting.
- Heat Stroke: This is a medical emergency. Symptoms include high body temperature (above 103°F), hot and dry skin (no sweating), rapid pulse, throbbing headache, confusion, and unconsciousness. Immediate medical attention is needed if heat stroke is suspected.

Prevention Tips

To stay safe during a heat advisory, follow these preventive measures:

- Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Stay Indoors: If possible, stay in air-conditioned spaces during the hottest parts of the day (typically from 10 AM to 4 PM).
- Dress Appropriately: Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing and a hat when outdoors.
- Take It Easy: Avoid strenuous activities and exercise outdoors during peak heat hours.

By staying informed and taking proactive steps, you can enjoy the summer months safely. Remember, the goal is to beat the heat, not be beaten by it. Stay cool, stay hydrated, and stay safe!



Summer Reading Challenge is Underway at the Library

By Elise Cruz Aragon

As the summer sun beckons, so does the annual Summer Reading Challenge run by the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative. Registration for this exciting literary adventure opened on May 20th, marking the beginning of an enriching journey for readers of all ages – but you can still register online or at our local Bloomingdale branch.

Kids and Teens

Young readers aged 0 to 18 are invited to track their reading progress starting June 1st. Kids (ages 0 – 12) and teens (ages 13 – 18) can submit each hour they spend reading, aiming to reach a total of 24 hours by the end of summer. Along the way, participants will not only sharpen their reading skills but also earn digital badges for completing milestones and engaging in fun summer activities.

Here's what awaits our young bookworms:

- 3 Hours Read: Earn a special badge to mark your progress.
- 8 Hours Read: Claim a delightful book to add to your collection.
- 15 Hours Read: Showcase your commitment with a cool sticker.
- 24 Hours Read: Reach the pinnacle and choose between a stylish T-shirt (for kids) or a handy booklight (for teens).

Adults

For adults aged 18 and above, the challenge involves delving into the world of books with a goal to read a total of 4 books by the end of summer. Each completed book earns participants a digital badge, and reaching milestones also brings tangible rewards:

- 1 Book Read: Celebrate with a book to enrich your personal library.
- 2 Books Read: Mark your achievement with a commemorative sticker.
- 3 Books Read: Add another sticker to your collection.
- 4 Books Read: Conclude the challenge with a practical booklight, perfect for late-night reading sessions.

If you haven't registered, that's the first step. Then, begin logging your reading hours or books read from June 1st onwards. Whether you prefer the feel of a physical book in your hands or the convenience of an e-reader, this challenge is tailored to accommodate your reading style.

Don't miss out on the chance to make this summer unforgettable with books, badges, and plenty of summer excitement. Whether you're diving into fantastical realms, exploring historical accounts, or immersing yourself in gripping novels, the Summer Reading Challenge promises something for everyone.



JULY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ah, July – that steamy, lovely time of year where Floridians turn into puddles at 6 AM. This month we celebrate our fellow community members with Disability Pride Month, and we take care of our community a little better with Plastic Free July. So much going on, you need a cook-out to celebrate it all!

July 1: American Zoo Day

July 4: Independence Day

July 6: International Kissing Day

July 7: World Chocolate Day



July 14: Bastille Day

July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day

July 28: Buffalo Soldiers Day

July 30: Paperback Book Day



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

HELP!



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Senior Chorus members sing at graduation in their last ever performance.



Incoming freshman Steven is ready to hang up his middle school years and join the Bull Nation!



Madison Dejesus, center, with fellow graduates Jacob Runyon (L) and Zachary Harper (R).



Emily Nichols (L) and Emma Voehl (R) pose after graduation.



Adrian Zalduondo of Riverview High School heads to Warner University on a football scholarship in the fall.



Laila Saleh (left) smiles and shows off her diploma after graduation.



Isaiah Back shares a hug to celebrate his big day.



Donald Bethel celebrates receiving his diploma after graduation.



Cimino fifth graders are ready for Burns in the fall!



Makenzie Whitesell poses with her diploma.



Jonathan Schilling is off to North Greenville University in the fall with aspirations to become a police officer in Hillsborough County when he graduates.

Looking for something new this Fourth of July?
Try any of these local celebrations for a new tradition!

Brazilian Celebrate the Fourth with Churrasco and Brazilian favorites. No cost to attend. Event begins at 10 and runs until 5:30 at Fort De Soto Beach, Tierra Verde, FL 33715.

Freedomfest This year, watch the fireworks from the American Victory Ship for a breathtaking view. This event features a DJ, silent auction, Kids Zone, and refreshments and food from local food trucks. Prices vary and discounts are available; children under 3 are free. Event begins at 6 pm until 9:15 at American Victory Ship & Museum 705 Channelside Drive Tampa, FL 33602. Coordinators recommend ride sharing for this event due to heavy traffic.



Stars & Cars
Hernando County Fairgrounds
DEMOLITION DERBY and Fireworks
Thursday July 4th 2024

Hours
Gates open at 4pm
Demo Derby at 7pm
Fireworks after demo derby
Parking is \$10 per car.
No admission charge to enjoy the activities and watch fireworks. Ticket is required to watch Demolition Derby.

Ticket prices for Derby
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Adults -- \$15
Child (4 to 12yrs) -- \$10
At the gate
Adults -- \$20
Child (4 to 12yrs) -- \$12

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Gel Paintball
Reptile show
Food Trucks
Monster Truck Rides
Performing Groups
Music

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www.HernandoFairgrounds.com

Derby Head up to Hernando County for Monster Trucks, Demolition Derby, Camel rides, Bounce Houses, and of course, fireworks! Tickets are available on their website and vary based on date of purchase; children under 3 are free. Event begins at 4 pm until 7 at Hernando County Fairgrounds 6436 Broad St Brooksville, FL 34601.

Lakeland Is lowkey your speed? Head to Lakeland for a family style BBQ with fireworks and other entertainment. There is no cost to attend. Event runs from 1 p to midnight at 1628 Saint James Avenue Lakeland, FL 33805.

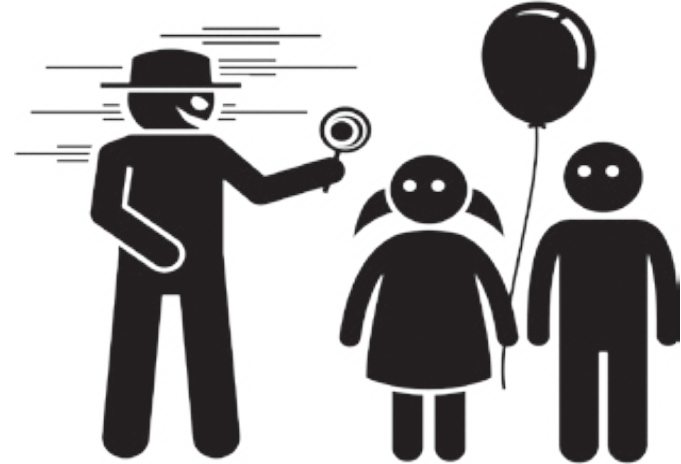


Offender Alerts

By Elise Cruz Aragon

If you haven't already, signing up for predator alerts is quick and easy to do. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement offers this service to all Floridians – simply head to <https://floridaoffenderalert.com/> to start the process.

Once on the site, you can choose to have emails sent to you when a registered offender moves within a certain distance of the address you input. Emails will be sent periodically as the list updates. As always, you may check the database at any time.



Vigilance in the Community

By Elise Cruz Aragon

While there is never just one season for crime, keeping an eye out for us and each other keeps the community safe. Recently, a member of our community was approached while shopping, and felt unsafe in the interaction that followed. For their privacy, the Gazette is not naming them in this report.

While shopping recently, the community member was approached by someone asking to pray with them, which they refused. When the person who approached them did not stop, the community member realized that there was another person in the same aisle who had moved away from their cart with their belongings, seemingly being targeted by someone else on the other side of the aisle.

Distraction thieves operate in pairs, often targeting those who are alone and older. For distraction thieves to gain access to what they are targeting, one person of the pair – usually a woman – will distract the victim, while the other completes the theft. From their recounting of events, this felt like a potential attack.

Following what they believed to be good protocol, they contacted the corporate anti-loss line and local police.

The officer told our community member that while distraction thieves have yet to be reported in the Brandon area, it was in the best interest to keep an eye out in case more events like this happen.

Keep this in mind while shopping both by yourself and when out in stores in our community. We can all do our part to help keep one another safe and protect those who may become unknowing victims simply by being observant in our daily outings.



Do You Own a Rental Home or Investment Property? Are You Tired of Self-Managing and Ready to Enjoy Your LIFE?

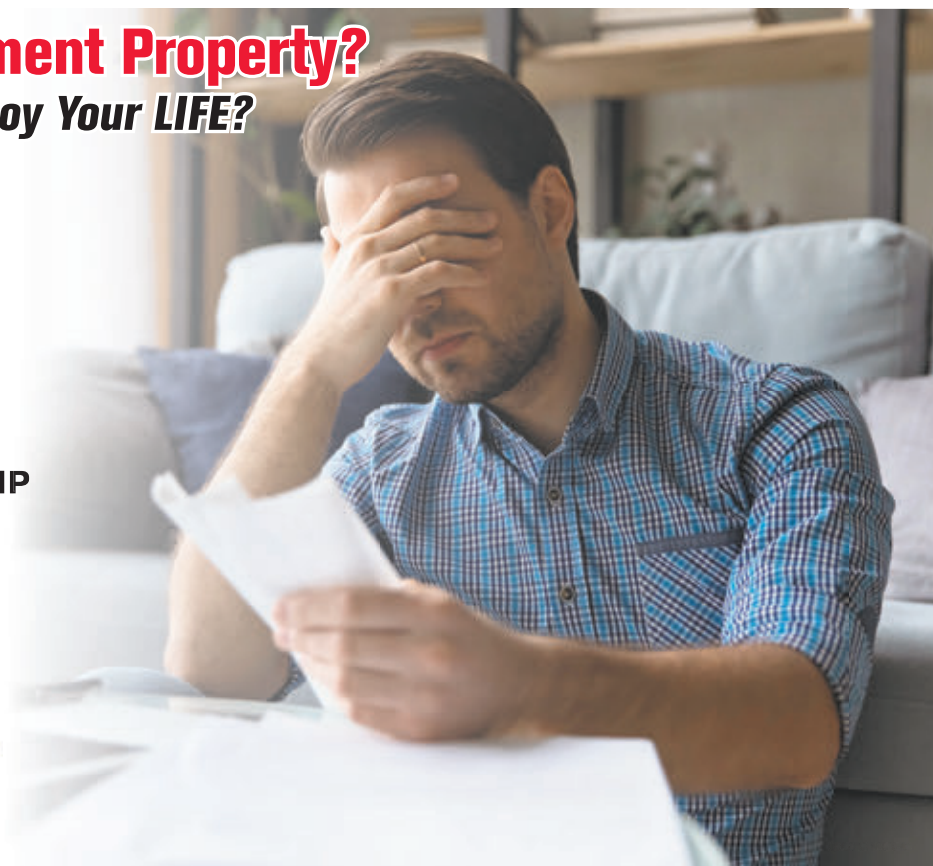
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July Fun in and Around Tampa Bay

By Elise Cruz Aragon

Landscape Rehab Retail
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6 | JULY | 2024

PLANTER PALOOZA

Planterpalooza July 6th at Landscape Rehab Retail on 5661 Cypress Gardens Boulevard Winter Haven, FL 33884, 12 pm to 1. Decorate your own miniature planters and learn how to build the best miniature garden with care and tips from the experts. Price covers your planter, but plants are not included.

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2. SONG ACCURACY
3. SHOWMANSHIP

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PERFORM.

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SIGN UP 8PM
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FIRST PLACE \$200 CASH!
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THE ORPHEUM ADVANCE \$10
DAY OF SHOW \$15

THE ORPHEUM

Karaoke July 11th at The Orpheum 14802 N. Nebraska Avenue Tampa, FL 33613 from 7 to midnight. Show off your singing skills and win some cash! First place is \$200 – but you'll need to be able to handle the heat of the hot sauce before you sing! Costumes are highly encouraged, and the competition commences at 9PM sharp – so get there early to secure your spot!



Cookie July 12th at Northwood Clubhouse 27248 Big Sur Drive Wesley Chapel, FL 33544, 6 to 7:30pm. Learn about decorating cookie and try your hand at Christmas summer-themed cookies. You'll leave with the know-how and tools to recreate at home. Good for all ages 10+, prices vary.

YEA Multiple Dates at the end of July, Creative Junk Therapy 772 W. Lumsden Rd. Brandon, FL 33511. Let the kids explore camp right before heading back to school in this awesome collaboration between Youth Environmental Alliance and delve into the world of art and environmental awareness. Each week is themed, and there are morning and afternoon sessions offered to fit your scheduled. Ages 7-15, prices range from \$125-200 based on package selected.

Looking for fun outside the house? Check out these cool offerings around Tampa Bay and build new summer memories with these local deals.



Rumseafood July 13th at Tampa Premium Outlets on 2300 Grand Cypress Drive Lutz, FL 33559, 4pm to 9. Enjoy fresh seafood and rum cocktails while sampling rum from local distilleries around the Bay Area and listening to live music. Prices range from \$15-75 depending on the package purchased.

A W W

BARRE

WITH THE BAR METHOD

Every Third Thursday of the Month
6:30 – 7:30pm | West Lawn

bar

Barre July 18th at Armature Works, 6:30-7:30 pm. This free event is held on the West Lawn and open to all ages and skill sets. Learn how to incorporate high intensity, low impact training to maximize your health journey results. Then, head inside to cool off with something delicious from any one of the vendors. Yoga mat and water bottle are needed for this event; no cost.

yea! Youth Environmental Alliance
partnered with Creative Junk Therapy

\$125 per week
Add CJT camp
for full day
both for \$200 per week!
Multi-child discount \$25

KIDS STEAM IN NATURE SUMMER CAMP

FOR BOYS & GIRLS 7 AND UP



Back to School Supporting Education through Teachers in our Community

By Elise Cruz Aragon

With summer halfway over, educators across the country are gearing up for another school year amid unique challenges. With changing classroom dynamics, teachers are facing increased demands and uncertainties. However, there are numerous ways communities can lend a hand to ensure a successful return to school for both educators and students.

Preparing for the new school year involves more than just lesson planning. Teachers must navigate health protocols, technology integration, and address learning gaps exacerbated by remote learning. Additionally, many educators dip into their own pockets to provide essential classroom supplies, further straining their resources.

How Can You Help?

Here are several impactful ways community members can support teachers as they prepare to return to school:

- **Donate Supplies:** Consider organizing supply drives for basic classroom materials such as pencils, notebooks, art supplies, and cleaning supplies. These items alleviate financial burdens on teachers and ensure students have what they need to succeed.
- **Offer Professional Development Activities:** Local businesses and organizations can sponsor workshops or provide access to online courses that help teachers enhance their skills in areas like technology integration, mental health support, or diversity education.
- **Volunteer Time:** Community members can volunteer to assist teachers with tasks such as classroom setup, organizing libraries, or preparing instructional materials. This support allows teachers to focus more on planning and interacting with students.
- **Financial Contributions:** Establishing donation funds or crowdfunding campaigns can provide teachers with financial support for classroom resources, field trips, or special projects that enrich student learning experiences.

The Next Steps

For those looking to contribute, consider reaching out to local schools, educational foundations, or community organizations that support educators. Online platforms like DonorsChoose.org allow donors to directly fund classroom projects proposed by teachers in need. Some schools will have specific initiatives that help get much needed funds to teachers and for specific projects. Contacting school districts or educational nonprofits can provide guidance on specific needs and how best to contribute.

As schools prepare to reopen, the support of the community plays a pivotal role in easing the transition for teachers and students alike. By coming together to donate supplies, offer professional development opportunities, volunteer time, or make financial contributions, communities can ensure that educators have the resources and support they need to create a positive learning environment. Let's rally around our teachers and demonstrate our appreciation for their dedication to educating the next generation. Together, we can make a difference in shaping a successful school year ahead.



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Hillsborough County Commissioners Present Wade Boggs Athletic Achievement Award Winner from Bloomingdale High School; Honorable Mentions from Leto and Durant

Hillsborough County, Fla. (June 5, 2024) – The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners recognized three outstanding student-athletes with the 18th annual Wade Boggs Athletic Achievement Award and two Honorable Mentions during today's meeting.

The Wade Boggs Athletic Achievement Award honors a high school baseball player or team in Hillsborough County who displays outstanding athletic, scholastic, and community achievements.

The 2024 Wade Boggs Athletic Achievement Award winner is Cooper Hinson of Bloomingdale High. A two-time Perfect Game High School All-American and two-time All-Western Conference First Team, Hinson led Bloomingdale to the State Final Four this season. He hit a whopping .448 this season, with 39 hits, 34 runs scored, 19 runs batted in, 10 doubles, and two home runs. Academically and community wise, his achievements are equally impressive: a 5.84 GPA, four-year member of the National Honor Society, and Bloomingdale Booster Scholar-Athlete Award recipient. He has volunteered with Best Buddies and Meals on Wheels, and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, among other organizations. In addition, Hinson co-founded the Bloomingdale Basketball and Whiffle Ball leagues for students. He will attend Marshall University, where he will play baseball and pursue a law degree.

Honorable Mentions went to Demetrios Passalaris of Leto High and Blaine Rowland from Durant.

Passalaris was Leto's top pitcher his junior and senior years. This season, he had a 3-2 record, with 55 strikeouts in 46 innings pitched, and a 3.5 ERA. The last two seasons combined, he recorded over 70 strikeouts. The team's captain and leader, Passalaris had a cumulative grade point average of 7.5 and earned an associate in arts degree his senior year. He will attend Florida State University.

Rowland lettered in baseball all four years at Durant, and was All-County in both pitching and outfield last year. He set the regular season hit record for the school, was 6-0 in 43 innings pitched, with 73 strikeouts and a 1.46 ERA, while hitting .541. He drove in 26 runs and had two homeruns. Rowland, a National Honor Society member and part of Durant's Honor Court, will attend the University of Florida, where he will play baseball.

About the Wade Boggs Athletic Achievement Award

The Board of County Commissioners established the award in 2005 in honor of first-ballot National Baseball Hall of Fame member Wade Boggs. A resident of the Tampa Bay area since he was a child, Boggs is a 12-time All Star who ended his 18-year Major League Baseball career as a member of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, who retired his number 12 in 2000. The Boston Red Sox also honored Boggs when they retired his number 26 in 2016. His career statistics include 3,010 hits, 1,513 runs, 578 doubles, 61 triples, 118 home runs, 1,014 runs batted in, and a batting average of .328. He reached base safely in 80% of his 2,432 career games. For more information, visit the Wade Boggs Athletic Achievement Award page.



Honorable Mentions Demetrios Passalaris (far left, Leto High School) and Blaine Rowland (center, Durant High School) pose with Hinson (second from right) after the award ceremony.





Staying Safe in the Ocean

By Elise Cruz Aragon,

It's the time of year for fun in the sun – whether it be at the water park, the pool, or the beach, there's no shortage of activities that can keep you cool in the heat.

But in the past few weeks, there've been multiple people caught in rip currents while enjoying the Florida shores – and not all such stories have happy endings. A total of sixteen people has been caught by rip currents this year alone, with several within the last week.

So how do you keep your loved ones safe on an outing to the beach? Just like with drowning incidences at a pool, monitoring is key. Rip currents move quicker than a swimmer can, and most people who try to out swim it end up drowning from fatigue. For that reason, it's important to follow posted signs and listen to life guards.



If you're caught in a rip current, the first instinct is to swim towards shore – but that's counterintuitive to what will end up keeping you safe. According to NOAA, if you're caught in a rip current, wait it out until you're out of the current – then, swim parallel to the shore and back to land at an angle.

If you can't swim, tread water and call for help. Swim only where posted lifeguards are available in case of emergency and, as always, relax and keep calm in dangerous situations. If you're on the shore and see someone caught in a rip current, get help as quickly as you can.



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