

# HE AWARD-WINNING BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

## 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.



Andrea Daly Senior Marketing Manager adaly@tampabay.com



### **BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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

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

Follow on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1

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

President:	Directors at Large:	Bloomingdale Office Update:
Suzy Watts	Laney Balis	Residents may call
Vice President: Sean Donahue	Kalyn Dukes	Suzy Watts, acting as the interim office manager until a
Treasurer:	Bobbi Ferraro	replacement Office Manager has been
Grace Lewis	Kiersten Sutton	Manager has been secured.

### BRIEFS

### **BNA CALENDAR**

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

September 7 / 8 a.m. / Community Garage Sale

September 24 / BNA Monthly Meeting / 7 p.m. / Bloomingdale Regional Library

October 27 / Fall Frenzy / 1-4 p.m. / Campo YMCA Parking Lot

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.



PayPal

### A Note from the Editor

Neighbors and friends, this note is a little different from the rest. I hope you can bear with me until the end.

Beginning next month, The Bloomingdale Gazette will no longer be printed by The Tampa Bay Times. During their most recent restructuring, several changes were made, including the decision to cut local newspapers from their publication going forward.

Our paper will instead be distributed electronically, as well as posted on our website in PDF form. The current plan is that our issues will be linked through the Gazette's and the BNA's Facebook.

We will begin with adding the current email addresses on file to a subscriber's list; you'll be able to remove yourself if you decide you don't want the issue emailed to you directly. If you'd like to be added to our mailing list and don't see an email come your way for the next issue, simply send a message to either bl.neighbor1@gmail.com for Shannon, our office manager, or inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com for me, your editor for the Gazette.

I want to reiterate to our community: the Gazette is not going away - instead, we're shifting our focus as our world becomes increasingly digital and therefore more connected than ever before. While it's disappointing that we're losing our printed version, we'll work through it together to keep the spirit of our newspaper alive, even with all the changes our way.

For me, like many of you, losing the print version of the Gazette was a surprise, bringing its new challenges. But I'm looking forward to the future of the Gazette in all its changes; it simply means that I am adapting, like you, to this new normal of news.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Gazette. It means so much to me and to the BNA Board that we can give back to our community in any way that we can and continue to keep each other connected.

### Elise Cruz Aragon Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette





### 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!

### 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.

### PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Now through September 6th, shop tax free on most items needed for this hurricane season. A complete list of items and their respective costs can be found on the Hillsborough County website at hcfl.gov/newsroom. Don't miss out on this chance to stock up and be prepared for potential bad weather!

### It's Garage Sale Time Again!



### SEPT. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**September** – that month full of endings and beginnings – kicks off Disaster Preparedness Month, Suicide Prevention Month, Happy Cat Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month. By the end of it all, we'll be ready for pumpkin spice everything.

September 2: Labor Day

**September 5:** National Be Late for Something Day

September 7: World Beer Day

**September 8:** International Literacy Day

September 11: Patriot Day

**September 15:** Hispanic Heritage Month Begins, Wife Appreciation Day

September 16: Milad un Nabi

**September 19:** International Talk Like a Pirate Day

**September 22:** Fall Equinox/First Day of Fall, Hobbit Day

**September 24:** World Bollywood Day

**September 28:** Ask a Stupid Question Day, National Good Neighbor Day

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









### The South Hillsborough Pipeline Providing High-Quality Drinking Water to South Hillsborough's Growing Population

Tampa Bay Water representatives will speak about project at Sept. 24 Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association meeting

Southern Hillsborough County is experiencing unprecedented population growth that is driving the demand for additional drinking water. By 2045, the number of homes in the Boyette area is expected to grow by one-third, the number in Wimauma is expected to more than double, and the number in the Balm area is expected to nearly triple. To meet the long-term needs of this area, Tampa Bay Water is building the South Hillsborough Pipeline.

Tampa Bay Water is a regional water authority that develops and supplies high-quality drinking water to local cities and counties, including Hillsborough County. The new pipeline will be up to 72 inches in diameter and carry up to an additional 65 million gallons per day (mgd) of water to Hillsborough County's southern service area when complete in 2028. The pipeline route was approved in September 2022. Segment A starts at the Tampa Bay Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant in Brandon and connects to Hillsborough County's Lithia Water Treatment Plant. Segment B, which is being funded by Hillsborough County, connects to Segment A at Fish Hawk Boulevard and heads south to the County's new connection point at Balm Riverview and Balm roads. The project is also receiving funding from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District).

The project is currently in the design phase with 60% design plans having recently been completed. During this phase, the route was refined to determine the exact location and size of easements needed. The pipeline itself will lie within the right of way and permanent easements being acquired from property owners along the route. Temporary easements are also needed to allow adequate space and access to build the pipeline safely and efficiently.

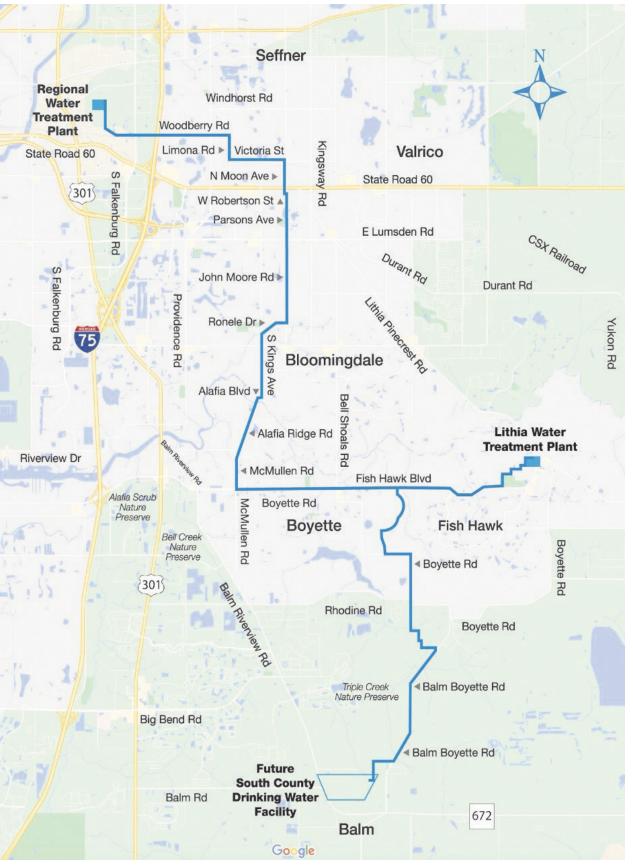
If property is needed within this approved pipeline route, Tampa Bay Water land agents will meet with property owners to discuss purchasing an easement at a fair market value. To date, the majority of property needed for this project has been identified and landowners have been notified by mail.

If you would like a copy of the 60% design plans, contact Records@tampabaywater.org.

Tampa Bay Water is planning several in-person public meetings and one virtual meeting in October and November 2024 to share the 60% design plans with residents and businesses along the route. For more information visit www. tampabaywater.org/shp or call the project hotline at (813) 485-6480 or email shpinfo@tampabaywater.org.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2025 and should be substantially complete by late 2028.

If you would like to learn more about the South Hillsborough Pipeline, representatives from Tampa Bay Water will be speaking at the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association meeting on September 24 at 7 pm at the Bloomingdale Library.



This map shows the proposed route for the South Hillsborough Pipeline.

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## OF THE MONTH

### DANIEL AND WANDA MCELROY 2014 GOLF MANOR BLVD. 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.

### **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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### East Hillsborough Democratic Club Meeting for September 2024

The meeting of the East Hillsborough Democratic club will be on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 PM at Brandon Crossroads Bowl 609 Crater Ln Tampa 33619. All likeminded individuals are welcome to attend. Always go to the club calendar to register and check for updates at least an hour before meetings. For more information go to www.easthillsboroughdems.org or call (813)645-6324.



### Democratic Woman's Club Meeting for September 2024

The Democratic Woman's Club of Southeast Hillsborough County will meet on Thursday, September 5, at 6:30pm at the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave Valrico, FL 33596. Guest speaker will be candidate for Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Sean Shaw. If you are about looking ahead and not clinging to old outdated ideas, come join the meeting. For more information please email sedwcinfo@gmail.com or call (813)503-8639.



### PAA Tampa Bay Celebrates Independence Day with Over 500 In Attendance!

It was a sea of green and white as the local Pakistani community came together for their 77th Independence Day event hosted by the Pakistani American Association (PAA) of Tampa Bay. The celebration was held at The Regent in Riverview on August 17, 2024, with over 500 residents adorned in the country's national outfit and colors. Guests were treated to beautiful performances by children and youth; with traditional food, clothing/jewelry as well as art vendors. A fabulous fashion show, traditional dances, national songs and speeches rounded out the robust program.

Mehwish Raja, President, PAA Tampa Bay was delighted with the turnout.

"We were thrilled with the outstanding event, which was marked by wonderful performances from our talented participants, who truly brought the spirit of the day to life. Our Board, and volunteers worked hard to make this day one to remember. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this joyous occasion," she enthused.

The PAA thanks all our sponsors, volunteers, and supporters for making this event a phenomenal success. We couldn't do this without everyone's help.

The Pakistani American Association of Tampa Bay is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that serves the Pakistani American community in the Tampa Bay area. The organization was established in 1991 and is dedicated to promoting Pakistani culture, heritage, and traditions, as well as fostering a sense of community among Pakistani Americans in the area.

*For more information, please contact:* Kiran Malik-Khan Member at Large PAA Tampa Bay Board Kirankhan00@hotmail.com 813-557-5370



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### Bloomingdale Special District Works Hard for Our Community

By Kristine Schroeder, BSD Community Relations

The Hillsborough County Sheriffs Department is asking for the community's help with a rash of vandalism throughout the Bloomingdale area. HCSD Deputy Mark Buswell recently alerted the BSD to several incidents where a group of juveniles are causing heavy damage to residential garage doors. Deputy Buswell noted the vandals are going around the area on foot as well as in vehicles. They arrive in a subdivision and proceed to run up to a residence, then beat and kick the garage door causing extensive damage. The events occur overnight between 1am – 4:30 am. HCSD is asking residents to be vigilant. Please keep your eyes on your cameras or in person to try to get a vehicle tag number or at least call if you see or hear of these events. Sheriff's Deputies are also investigating recent damage to the Bloomingdale sign at the intersection of Erindale Drive and Culbreath Road as well as a couple of street signs along Culbreath that were recently knocked down. If you have any information that would be helpful in these investigations please contact Deputy Mark Buswell or Detective Andy Deluna at 813-318-5400.

In other news, trees throughout the district were recently pruned and flagpoles were installed at the south end of Culbreath and Natures Way, Garnet Drive and Bloomingfield Drive. Please join us for our monthly meetings held the second Monday of each month. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm at the Bloomingdale Special District offices located at 3652 Erindale Drive.





### 813-684-6667 bstd@verizon.net





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**SEPTEMBER 2024** 

### Rhythm Rally: A Successful Friendly Competition to Benefit Bloomingdale Band

By Elise Cruz Aragon

The inaugural Rhythm Rally was a huge success. With over \$6000 raised, the Rajun Bull Band will be able to use these funds to replace older instruments and make much needed repairs to equipment. The Rajun Bull Band offers their thanks to the community, and can't wait to do this all again next year!



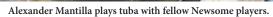
Jordan Massaro looks to Jayden Gaye as he conducts the Bloomingdale and Newsome Bands.













The joint bands run onto the field at half-time

### Drown out the Noise: What You Need to Know About the NAR lawsuit By Laney Balis

I'm sure you've heard this... "Sellers will no longer be required to pay a buyer's agent their commission," or "Huge changes are coming to the real estate industry," or "commissions can now be negotiated." Oh, and my favorite, "there is no longer a standard commission for selling a home." There is a lot of misinformation floating around everywhere—on social media, in the news, and more.

The changes from the settlement between the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) will affect real estate agents who are also a REALTOR<sup>\*</sup> and a member of NAR. Here are the facts about the changes: 1 – it is mandatory that any buyer working with a REALTOR<sup>\*</sup> sign a Buyer's Brokers Agreement. I'll explain more later on about this. 2 – the commission the seller is offering, if any, is no longer allowed to be shown in the MLS for agents to see before showing a home. That's it!

First and foremost, the commission is and always was negotiable from how much total commission is paid to what is shared with the buyer's agent when listing a home for sale. This is not new but is somehow being touted as new by the media causing panic among buyers and buyer's agents. There is no reason for anyone to panic, it should be business as usual.

The real changes will happen between agents and their customers (clients once the Buyer's Broker Agreement is signed). More conversations will be had around the commissions, how they are earned, what services are offered, and most importantly what value the agent brings to the transaction. In my opinion, I believe in recent years these conversations have been lacking in transparency.

Let me go back a bit to the settlement, what was agreed to, and some of the rumors being spread. We touched on the commission above, it is negotiable. As a seller the one thing to keep in mind, however, if a commission is not being offered to a buyer's agent the buyer may not want to see the house, this is solely their decision. Let me explain.

The Buyer's Broker Agreement outlines the terms of the buyer-agent relationship, covering everything from the type of home the buyer wants and the desired location, to the agent's commission and the timeframe for finding and purchasing the new home.

The buyer consultation is when the agent and buyer discuss the terms of the Buyer's Broker Agreement and how they will collaborate. In explaining the buyer's agent commission, it is explained that if a seller is not offering the commission the buyer is then responsible for it. However, if the seller is offering a portion of what the buyer's agent commission is then the buyer is only responsible for the balance.

For example, if an agent tells their buyer they work for 3%, this is agreed to and signed off on the Buyer's Broker Agreement. If a seller is offering 2.5% to the buyer's agent, then the seller is responsible for the remaining .5%. However, if the buyer says during that conversation, "I don't want to see homes where the seller is not offering commission." The agent is well within their duties to exclude homes with no buyer's agent commission being offered.

There is value in offering a buyer's agent commission as a seller. Think back to when you bought your first home, and how difficult it might have been to save that downpayment and the closing costs. Now add to that the buyer's commission as a first-time home buyer you are now priced out of the market. Offering that buyer's agent commission alleviates a bit of that burden for those buyers.

Something to think about: once you sell your home and need to buy another, you'll find yourself in the same situation. Do you pay your own buyer's agent, or do you hope the seller of the home you want is offering a commission to the buyer's agent? These are the questions to consider when buying and selling your home.

If you take anything away from this, take this very important point...talk to your agent. Commissions are negotiable. If you don't have an agent you trust, interview several to find one that you can trust and will work not only with you but for you in finding your next home. Give me a call. I'd be happy to answer any questions and work with you to find your new home.

Align Right Realty Riverview E: laney.balis.re@gmail.com C: 267-474-9436 LinkTree: https://linktr.ee/LaneyBalisRe

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### Alternative Gift Giving Opportunity To Help End Hunger

Would you like to be a part of helping people in need be free from hunger and have the chance to become self-reliant? If making a life changing difference for someone in need is on your bucket list, come join us at the Heifer Living Gift Market on Sunday, October 13. This alternative gift giving opportunity will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Brandon's Fellowship Hall at 121 Carver Avenue, Brandon, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

This "Market" will provide an opportunity to "purchase" Heifer animals or shares of animals like pigs, sheep, goats, cows, chicks or even water buffalo. These animals will be distributed, along with education and training, to needy families around the world. This is not a hand out but an actual opportunity for the recipients of these animals to become self-reliant. Heifer International (www.heifer.org) has a special approach to sustainable development wherein the animal recipients "pass on the gift" by giving an offspring of their animal along with education about its care to another family in need, who then does likewise. This expands the network of hope around the globe.

Our Heifer Living Gift Market is free to attend and open to the public. Visitors of all ages will enjoy interesting exhibits presented in fun and informative ways, special activities for the kids, a chance to bid on gift baskets, a silent auction and a simple meal. All donations will go to Heifer International.

For each animal or share of an animal "purchased", donors will receive a specially designed honor card that can be sent to a loved one as an alternative gift. (Chances are good that some of the folks on your Christmas list, that already have everything they need, would love to know that a gift given in their honor went to make a life changing difference to someone in need.)

Come join in the fun, help people in need and make a lasting difference! Give the gift that truly keeps on giving!

For more information, contact the church office at 813-689-4597 or visit their website at https://fpcbrandon.org/event/heifer-living-gift-market/





### **Community of Women Changing Lives**

The Community for Women of St Stephen Catholic Church is a diverse group of women who gather for fun, fellowship, service, and to lend a helping hand. Our mission is to assist our Priests and the parishioners of St. Stephen to serve others through social and spiritual events. It is truly a ministry supporting the fellowship of women.

As our new year starts one of our most rewarding Corporal Works of Mercy is tending to the most vulnerable, the children. Did you know to some children, socks and underwear are a luxury? All children deserve to have this "luxury". For the past 22 years and into the future we have sponsored Underwear Sunday. The Community for Women collect socks and underwear and give them to our local schools most in need. With the help of administrators in several impoverished elementary schools in Hillsborough County we provide them with these items for those in most need. If you would like to help; please feel free to bring your donation of socks, underwear, gift cards to Walmart/Target or a monetary donation to the church office of St Stephen Catholic Church care of Community for Women by September 30th.

One of the biggest gatherings at St. Stephen's is our Fish Fry during Lent, along with other ministries, we raise money for the parish to help with the purchase of equipment or support other ministries that need assistance. Our Fish Fry's are noted for their delicious fish dinners and awesome desserts, join us on Fridays during Lent, meet new people and enjoy the evening with family and friends.

Another example of how the Community for Women sponsors a fundraising event is through the annual tea hosted by the St. Vincent de Paul committee, this year's tea will be held on September 14th. Through fundraising, St. Vincent de Paul can provide monetary support to people in the community.



DO YOU LOVE TO PLAY BINGO? Join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Family Life Center 10136 St. Stephen Circle, Riverview. Doors Open at 5:30. Games begin at 6:30. Gather with your family and friends for a fun night! Win cash prizes! All the proceeds of Bingo provide support to the many ministries that are close to our hearts and impact our members, the parish, and the surrounding communities in many ways.

If you would like more information about our ministry, you can contact us at: cfw@ststephencatholic.org



### Around the Corner: **Bloomingdale's Trunk or Treat**

**By Elise Cruz Aragon** 

The first annual Trunk or Treat is just around the corner, and you can do your part to help our students pull off the best yet!

Becky Johnson, the SGA sponsor at Bloomingdale Senior High School, knows that the students have already started planning for the upcoming Trunk or Treat. "Our clubs and sports teams are excited to welcome back our community for an evening of spooky fall fun," Johnson says,

SGA, along with other Bloomingdale clubs, are looking for donations of candy and other treats to hand out to our local families. Last year, our clubs were able to service over 250 trick-or-treaters, a feat that Johnson is incredibly proud of.

"This has been a labor of love for the last few years," Johnson said, "and something we had planned to do for a while." While the idea came a few years ago, it was stalled by hurricanes and COVID-related closings. It wasn't until last year that Johnson was able to turn the vision into a reality.

"We're looking to increase how many people take part in the Trunk or Treat, including the new clubs that we have at Bloomingdale this year. Basically," she says, "we want it bigger and better than last year."

One of the easiest ways you can help make this a success is to donate to clubs. A complete list of clubs is available on the BSHS website, but you can also reach out to front office staff if you're looking to donate to a specific club.

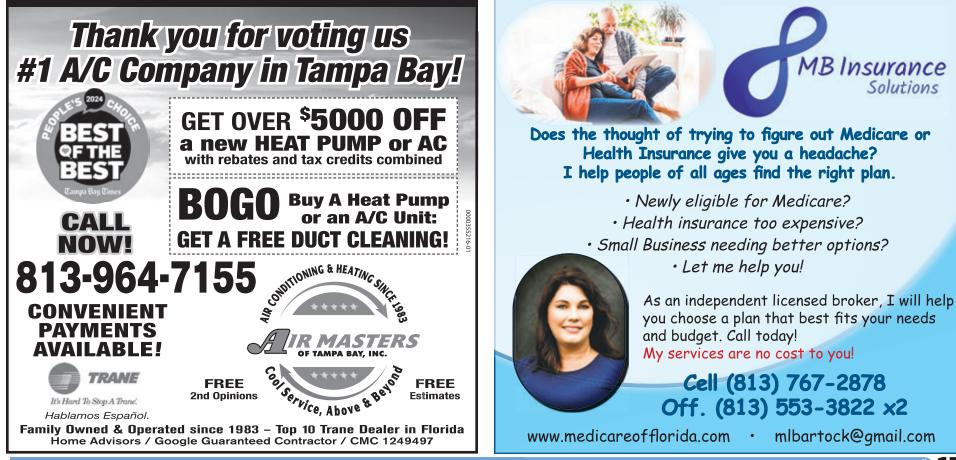
Students who volunteer for the event will earn service hours, and the plan is to expand from just offering candy to more interactive experiences for eventgoers.

The Trunk or Treat is tentatively scheduled for October 19, 2024, and will be announced with the official date in the October Gazette. Be sure to follow the Gazette on Facebook, as any changes will also be posted there.





The Art Club at BSHS and their trunk from last year's Trunk or Treat.



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**MB** Insurance

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### Preparing for Hurricanes: What Your Community Needs to Know

#### **By Elise Cruz Aragon**

As hurricane season approaches, being prepared is more important than ever. With storms becoming more intense due to climate change, it's essential for everyone to understand how to protect themselves and their property. Here's a guide to help you and your family stay safe and secure.

Start by creating a detailed emergency plan. Make sure your family knows what to do and where to go if an evacuation is needed. Practice your plan regularly to ensure everyone is familiar with it and can execute it smoothly under pressure.

Next, focus on safeguarding your home. Reinforce windows and doors, clean out gutters, and secure any loose outdoor items. Checking your home's structure, especially the roof, can help prevent damage from strong winds and flying debris.

Stocking up on essential supplies is another crucial step. Your emergency kit should include non-perishable food, plenty of water, medications, and batteries. Don't forget a battery-powered radio to stay updated on weather conditions.

It's also important to know your local evacuation routes and where nearby shelters are located. Familiarize yourself with these routes before a storm hits and be aware of potential road closures and areas prone to flooding. This knowledge will help you evacuate quickly and safely if necessary.

Stay informed about the hurricane's progress through reliable sources like the National Hurricane Center. For most, this can mean downloading an app that alerts you before disaster strikes. Accurate information will help you make timely decisions about whether to evacuate or stay put. Keeping up with these updates is crucial for making informed choices during a storm.

Community preparation is key to handling hurricanes effectively. Local authorities often have plans in place for evacuations and emergency response, so stay connected with community updates. Participating in local preparedness events can also strengthen your readiness and that of your neighbors.

Financial readiness is an often-overlooked part of hurricane preparation. Make sure your insurance policies are current and cover hurricane damage. Keeping important documents in a secure, accessible place will also help streamline any insurance claims or recovery efforts. Having some cash on hand can help in the event there are widespread power outages and traditional debit and credit cards aren't accepted.

Don't forget to take care of your mental and emotional well-being. Hurricanes can be stressful, so having a support system, whether through friends, family, or community groups, can help you manage anxiety. Knowing you have people to turn to can make a big difference during and after a storm.

If you have special needs or disabilities, plan ahead for additional assistance. Make sure you have any necessary medical equipment ready and arrange transportation if needed. Communicating your needs to local emergency services can ensure you get the help you require.

Once the storm has passed, safety remains a priority. Avoid any downed power lines and stay clear of flooded areas. Wait for official instructions before returning to your home and be thorough in checking for any damage that needs immediate attention.

Being prepared for hurricanes involves more than just gathering supplies and securing your home. It means having a solid plan, staying informed, and working together with your community. By taking these steps, you'll be better equipped to handle the challenges of hurricane season and ensure a quicker recovery.





### Who is Ready to Run for A Cause?

Join us for the seventh annual 5K event on October 5, 2024 at Alderman's Ford Park in Plant City to help bring awareness and raise funds for research for ocular melanoma! Ocular melanoma is a rare disease which affects six out of one million people each year. Currently, with no known cure, OM is referred to as an orphan disease. Of the people diagnosed, 50% of them will develop metastasis that usually travels to the liver and the lungs.



Bernadette Boyle and Linda O'Brien, the race directors for this event, have a vested interest in this disease. Bernadette lost her husband, Joe

Boyle to this dreaded cancer in January 2016 and Linda is still fighting with yearly scans and eye exams; Linda remains NED – No Evidence of Disease. Their decision to organize a 5K started back in 2017 when they learned that the Melanoma Research Foundation's "Miles for Melanoma" was not going to be held in the Tampa area. Up to this point, Bernadette and Linda created a "Florida CURE OM" team for the "Miles for Melanoma" event. Bernadette and Linda saw a need to continue with this mission; they wanted to raise funds for research and bring awareness to ocular melanoma. In November 2017, they held their first 5K at E.G. Simmons Park in Ruskin, FL. They continued holding events, adding on more registrants and increasing the dollars raised each year.

Bernadette and Linda are extremely excited about returning to Alderman's Ford Park; they will continue to promote the local family run businesses and the surrounding businesses in the Fishhawk area. Again, Bernadette and Linda will be reaching out to the area schools to see if students are interested in volunteer hours to assist on the day of the event.

Their hopes for this year's event are simple, to surpass their 2023 achievements! In 2023, there were over 200 registered, 40+ raffle items, 20+ sponsors and \$15,000 raised and donated to the Melanoma Research Foundation! In 2024, they hope to see an increase in all aspects of the event. Of course, like every year, Bernadette and Linda hope to bring awareness to this rare and orphan disease and remind everyone of the importance of an annual eye dilated exam.

Joining us, will be representatives from the Melanoma Research Foundation speaking about ocular melanoma and current research that is happening because of events like Bernadette and Linda's "Your Next Step is the Cure 5K". They have also invited a prominent doctor from Moffitt who will be speaking about the research being done in ocular melanoma as well as a doctor from the Retina Associates of Florida. Their passion is exemplified through every detail of this race because they know that every dollar raised goes directly to the Melanoma Research Foundation – Cure Ocular Melanoma.

The QR code below will take you to the registration page, please join us!!

### **RACE DETAILS:**

- Finisher medals for everyone
- · Awards being given out to all 1st, 2nd and 3rd in both the men and women's groups
- Thirteen age groups starting with age 10 through 70+
- A Fun Run for the younger children
- A chipped-timed race by FitNiche Events
- The awesome Coolibar shirt when you register
- A cool MRF Swag bag with lots of goodies
- Vendors
- Raffle items
- Guest speakers

Please visit their Facebook page and Instagram page to follow their posts and updates. https://www.facebook.com/cureocularmelanoma

If you are interested in learning more about their event and/or sponsoring or donating, you can email Bernadette and Linda at yournextstepisthecure@aol.com.

For registration for the race/walk and to donate, please visit: https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/Lithia/ YourNextStepistheCure or Scan the QR code:

### Things to Do in September

#### September 8, 2024

Oxford Exchange Presents: Author Rachel Marie Martin 2305 North Willow Ave, Tampa

Come join us for an exciting afternoon with author Rachel Marie Martin at 420 W Kennedy Blvd! Rachel will be sharing insights into her latest book and engaging with the audience in a lively discussion. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the author in person and get your book signed. Don't miss out on this special event!



#### September 4 and 18, 2024 6:30-8pm Armature Works Run Club with Fit2Run 1910 North Ola Avenue, Tampa

Armature Works' Run Club is the perfect midweek pick-me-up! Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, enjoy a scenic 5k run on the Riverwalk. Take in the beautiful views, meet new people, and recalibrate your

week. After your run, grab food and drinks from Heights Public Market. Then, head to Bar AW for 10% off your first drink!

#### Class Details:

AW Run Club meets on the South Lawn Short warm-up will begin at 6:30pm All ages and experience levels are welcome 21+ enjoy 10% off their first drink at Bar AW

#### September 28, 2024, 4-11pm Tampa Oktoberfest Bar Crawl Bad Monkey Ybor, 1717 East 7th Avenue, Tampa

### Get Ready for the Ultimate Oktoberfest Bar Crawl on September 28!

Prepare to immerse yourself in the spirit of Oktoberfest at the Official Oktoberfest Bar Crawl on September 28! Join us for a festive celebration of Bavarian culture, beer, and camaraderie as we journey through the heart of the city. Clad in traditional lederhosen and dirndls, our spirited bar crawlers will experience the best of Oktoberfest's joyous energy. This isn't your ordinary bar crawl – it's a jubilant expression of German tradition and fellowship. From one iconic beer hall to the next, you'll revel in a sea of Bavarian flags, live oompah bands, and contagious excitement. Every stop on our crawl is handpicked to deliver an authentic Oktoberfest experience, featuring specialty German beers and traditional fare like pretzels and sausages that will keep the festivities going all night long. But the Oktoberfest revelry doesn't stop there. It's a celebration of friendship and fun where all are welcome to join in. Whether you're a beer connoisseur or simply seeking good company, raise your stein and toast to new connections and old friends. Don't miss this

chance to celebrate Oktoberfest in grand style and connect with fellow revelers who share your passion for good beer and great times. Secure your tickets now and let's make this Oktoberfest Bar Crawl a memorable tribute to German culture, friendship, and unforgettable memories!

#OktoberfestBarCrawl #Prost



SEPTEMBER 2024

6:30 - 8pm | Pie



















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