It’s Time to Spring Clean! Community Clean-up Today!

Neighborhood Improvement Program
ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY
SATURDAY, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
@ Hillsborough Parks & Recreation Facility
1626 Natures Way
Behind Alafia Elementary School

QUOTE OF THE MONTH
“The best way to find out what we really need is to get rid of what we don’t.” Marie Kondo
YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.
3509 Bell Shoals Road - Valrico, Florida 33596 - (813) 681-2051
Email: Bloomingdale.Homeowners@gmail.com
Website: www.BloomingdaleHOA.com

BHA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office.

President: Suzy Watts
Vice President: Sean Donahue
Secretary: Matt Marcinkowski
Treasurer: Grace Lewis

Directors at Large: Bobbi Ferraro
Billy Hightower
Charlie Woodcock

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

Expert ER Care
Now Open in Brandon

Full Service ER Now Open

- 24/7 Adult and pediatric emergency care
- Board-certified emergency physicians
- Imaging: X-ray, CT scan, ultrasound
- Lab services
- Ambulance transport, if necessary
- 16 private patient rooms

AdventHealth Brandon ER
305 East Brandon Boulevard
Brandon, FL 33511

In case of a medical emergency, call 911.

A hospital department of AdventHealth Tampa
**BHA COMMUNITY CORNER**

“Team Bloomingdale” needs You!
Do you care about our Bloomingdale Community, and want to take an active role in its future? Do you enjoy meeting people and working for a common goal? Then, the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) wants you!

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office at 6:30 p.m.

Not sure you have the time? The BHA encourages all interested residents to attend a few board meetings to see if joining the Board is a good “fit.” Current board members are residents, like you, who want Bloomingdale to thrive.

Call 813-681-2051 or email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com.

**Membership Drive enters 3rd Month! Join Now!**
We have many events upcoming including today’s spring clean-up, our community yard sale, scholarship award, fall clean-up and so much more on the way. Every penny of your $35 membership goes toward sustaining and improving our programs and services for you – the resident.

Make checks payable to the BHA and mail to 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596, or stop by the office and drop off your payment. An easier method is to use our PayPal option. Go to www.bloomingdalehoa.com, look for the PayPal link and follow the simple instructions.

The BHA is an IRC 501(c) (4) non-profit organization, run entirely by unpaid volunteers who live in your neighborhoods. All residents are welcome at our monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Shoals office.

**BHA BRIEFS**

**Coming Soon!** An exciting announcement regarding the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association! Stay tuned!

**MONTHLY EVENTS**

If you have events pending in our community, email bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com, or call 813-681-2051. We will help you promote your event on our Facebook page.

**Monday, March 9, 6:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Special District Monthly Trustee Meeting** // Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Call 813-684-6667 for information.

**Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m. / BHA Monthly Board Meeting** // Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. Residents always welcome. Call 813-681-2051 for information.

**Thursday, March 19, 6 p.m. / Bloomingdale Area Community Council** chaired by Hillsborough County Deputy Cliff Fletcher, Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040. Learn about safety and security issues affecting our community. Call to confirm date and time!

**Wanted: A Forever Home and Family!**
Source: Hillsborough County

**Flanders**

Available now at the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center. Flanders (ID # A2041245) male, 8 years old, 96 pounds. Flanders is a big, older, gentle guy who has shown to do better with gentle and tolerant dogs like him. He enjoys playing with toys, has small spurts of playfulness and would love to find a furever home.

A full, daily inventory of pets available for adoption can be found at www.HCFLGov.net/pets.
2020 Community Scholarship Applications Available!
DEADLINE - APRIL 1

Don’t let the opportunity for $2,000 in college scholarship money slip through your fingers.

Applications are available online at www.bloomingdalehoa.com, the BHA office, and via email at bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. The deadline is April 1. Mail completed applications to BHA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596. Or, drop off the application at the office. Good luck, seniors!

Garage Sale - April 4
The first 50 residents who sign up will have their addresses listed in the Gazette on the day of the sale in addition to on Facebook.

Want to participate? Contact the BHA at 813-681-2051 or by email at bloomingdale.homeowners@gmail.com. Provide your community name and address. On the day of the sale, put signage from your neighborhood entrance to your home. The BHA will do the rest.

BHA COMMUNITY CORNER

NEW! Fall Community Clean-Up
October 3

Fall Festival - October or November, TBD
Santa - December 6
**Next Bloomingdale Area Community Council Meeting (BACC)!**

*Don't Forget Our New Time!*

Get involved; attend our monthly meeting as a neighborhood representative. Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month. **this month’s meeting is March 19 at 6 p.m. at 3622 Erindale Drive.** The BACC works directly with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office to identify community concerns and find solutions to all types of problems. For information, call the Bloomingdale Community Station at 635-8040, or come by the station.

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**Contemporary Elegance**

**STATION NOTES**

*By Community Resource Deputy Clifford Fletcher and CSO Debbie Vijil*

"One Team, One Family, One Community"

**Area Law and Order Round-Up**

During the past month, there were 126 traffic stops in and around the Bloomingdale area. There were 42 crashes, 12 of those with injuries and one DUI arrest. There were two drug cases and six thefts from vehicles. Bloomingdale notched two burglaries from residences, two grand theft cases and 13 arrests. Six of those were warrants. Other arrests include domestic calls, burglary and thefts.

Remember to watch out for what is happening in your neighborhoods and if you see something make sure to call Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office Non-Emergency number: 813-247-8200.

Please remember to lock the doors to your home, secure your garage doors, secure your guns and lock up your vehicles. This will significantly reduce the opportunity for you to become a victim. Do your part to not become a victim!

**How to Protect Yourself from Cybercrime / March 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. / The Bridges, 11350 Bloomingdale Ave, Riverview**

Cybercrime is the fastest growing area of crime. Learn how to avoid being a victim when you attend “Cybercrime – The Crime of the 21st Century.” Hillsborough County Consumer and Veterans Services Consumer Protection Investigators Debbie Brown and Calvin Mills will bring the latest information on consumer fraud trends perpetrated over the Internet. The workshop is free to attend and includes lunch. Space is limited. Call 813-413-8900 to reserve your seat.

Together we can help each other make a difference.

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**NAFFCO FLOORING & INTERIORS**

Proudly serving Tampa Bay since 1937.

At NAFFCO, we carry a full line of cabinet styles from Wellborn cabinets.

Since starting as a small cabinet shop in 1961 for the local residents of Ashland, Alabama, Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. has grown their business into a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. With over 56 years of experience in high-quality cabinetry behind them, their attention to detail and customer service are impeccable.

**SOUTH TAMPA • 254-4066**

1510 S. MacDill Ave.

**CARROLLWOOD • 961-1362**

14306 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

**BRANDON • 413-8313**

1920 W. Brandon Blvd.

www.NAFFCOFloorAndInteriors.com

18 MONTHS SAME AS CASH
NO INTEREST
Senior Community Choir Seeks Singers / Mondays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. / The Bridges, 11202 Dewhurst Drive, Riverview // A new senior community choir seeks singers with all levels of singing experience. “Joyful Voices” rehearsals are Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. No training or experience is needed. A spring performance is scheduled for Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m. at The Bridges. For information and to reserve your spot, call 813-413-8900.

Mayor's River O'Green Fest / March 14, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. / Tampa Riverwalk, 600 N Ashley Dr, Tampa // Join us for the 2020 Mayor's River O'Green Fest when the Hillsborough River will go green. The Irish-themed party live entertainment, games, kids activities, food trucks, and of course, beer! Four-legged family members invited!

March 16-19, Spring Break Kicks-Off Free Safety Around Water Lessons at Campo YMCA Submitted by Tampa Bay YMCA

Children can receive free water safety/swim lessons at their local Y. Free Safety Around Water lessons start during school spring break. At Campo YMCA, classes are March 16-19. Free and open to all 3-12-year-old beginners and nonswimmers. Certified instructors teach sequenced skills that reduce the risk of drowning and build confidence in and around water. Participants must be present on the first day of class and bring their own swimsuit and towel.

A YMCA membership is NOT required; however, due to limited space, pre-registration is required.

Bloomingdale Designated NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE WEEK by Papa John's Pizza, Valrico, 3517 Bell Shoals Rd / March 16-19 // Visit Papajohns.com and Enter Promo Code: “BLOOMINGDALE30” Offer Valid at Participating JNE Papa John’s Locations only. Online orders placed at www.papajohns.com or on the Papa John’s App only. Must enter promo code at time of purchase. May not combine with any other offers, discounts, or promotions. Customer responsible for all applicable taxes and fees. Delivery fee may apply. Offer valid for a limited time only.

“Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans & War Dogs” / March 21, 10 a.m. ceremony and pinning / Veterans Memorial Park & Museum, 3602 U.S. Highway 301 N. in Tampa // Join Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787 and the Veterans Council of Hillsborough County, Florida in honoring all Vietnam Veterans, their families, and the devoted dogs of war who served our nation and the Armed Forces during that conflict. Enjoy camaraderie, refreshments, and authentic aircraft displays. Email: NamVet7273@gmail.com or visit VVA787.com.

The Angel Foundation’s 2020 Casino Night and Pairings and Greater Brandon Charity Golf Classic / March 27 and 28

The Angel Foundation Golf Classic is a two-day event that kicks off on March 27 with a Casino Night and Pairing Party at the Regent. During the auction, you can bid on a celebrity to be paired with for the Celebrity Pro Am Golf Classic on March 28 held at River Hills Country Club.

With the support of the community and volunteers who provide countless hours of their time helping those in need, The Angel Foundation is striving to make their vision a reality; to provide an Angel Foundation model that can be duplicated in any community around the world.

To learn more about volunteering, donations or to sign up students for community service hours visit https://angelfoundationfl.com/. For more information on the Angel Foundation Greater Brandon Charity Golf Classic visit https://angelfoundationfl.com/pec-events/charity-golf-classic/

Master Gardener Library Program: Growing Edible Mushrooms / April 7, 6:30-8 p.m. / Riverview Branch Library, 10509 Riverview Dr., Riverview // Everything you need to know about growing edible mushrooms both indoors and outdoors. Come learn about the fascinating world of fungi! You will learn what fungi are, how they can help in the garden, and nutritional benefits of edible mushrooms. Contact Anne Marie Boehm for information: Email amblibrary@gmail.com or call 813-205-6621

Master Gardener Library Program: Pest Control Solutions / April 1, 6:30-8 p.m. / Bloomingdale Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave. // Learn the basics of integrated pest management (IPM) and less toxic solutions for pest control in your landscape. Don’t forget to bring a plant or other gardening item for our fun drawing. Your Bloomingdale Library Master Gardener Team, Richard Seedroff, Elena Wright, Barbara Glotzback
Remember that when you want to list your home, neutral colors work best for the would-be buyer but that doesn’t mean you have to be boring or dull. It simply means that if you choose that bold color wall or architectural features, be prepared to repaint before you list it. The key is to enjoy your Bloomingdale home, get creative, have fun and love where you live!


*Neighborhood Snapshot – Heritage Park*

Heritage Park located along Culbreath Road between both Bloomingdale elementary schools, is a mandatory HOA neighborhood comprised of 109 homes on Clareside Drive and Sienna Way. These homes were built between 1996-2000 with an average square footage of 1,659. A majority of the homes have three bedrooms, two bathrooms. 30 homes have four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Most of the homes are one story. Over the past year, two non-pool homes sold at an average price of $224,350 or $159 per square foot. Two pool homes sold at an average price of $254,200 or $154 per square foot. I reported in 2017 that three homes had sold between February 2016-February 2017 at an average square footage of $97.59. All three were non pool homes.

*What word describes your home?*

Sherwin Williams named this the year of “color in balance” for home paint colors. Their color of the year is a navy. They suggest when you think about your home, consider what word or words come to mind? Is it calm, authentic, unique, energy, simplicity, etc.? You might consider what color represents that word or words and figure out how you could incorporate that color onto the walls of your home. Painting walls is an inexpensive way to change the look and feel of a room. A fresh coat of paint can brighten up a small room, bring warmth to large spaces and allow your creativity to shine. It is suggested that you paint your living and dining rooms every 5 to 7 years, kitchen and bath every 3 to 4 years and bedrooms and hallways every 2 to 3 years.

As I travel across Tampa Bay, I still see greys and beige-greys on the walls. But guess what, now the trend is to bring nature indoors! Think about natural colors that you find in the environment. I love new colors like Cider Spice, Battleship Gray and especially Secret Meadow. The names are creative and can help you be creative with the interior of your house. If your nervous, just add a splash of color on a focal point – a wall or architectural feature. Grey is still on trend, but now is used with a little more vision.
COMMON AREA PARKING CONCERNS
Let me begin by calling out an area of concern. A growing number of cars are parking in the common areas along Nature’s Way (south) near Culbreath. Cars appear to be waiting to pick up children walking home from Cimino Elementary.

The problem with parking in the common area is the damage to the turf and the irrigation system. There is a concrete pad near the intersection of Nature’s Way and Culbreath where the crossing guard may park. The turf and sidewalk are not meant for parking.

Let me encourage those of you who are picking up children from Cimino to not park on the turf; instead, you can line up along the east side of Culbreath down toward Bloomingdale Cove. The District is surveying the turf and sprinkler destruction which could amount to thousands of dollars.

Those parking in the common areas may be asked to reimburse the community for cost of repairs. Please respect your community.

OFF-DUTY DEPUTY PROGRAM
Our off-duty deputy security program is now at the one-year mark and community benefits continue. During the period from November 2019 to January 2020, our deputies made 243 stops and issued 36 citations. These are in addition to the stops made by sheriff’s deputies during the normal course of their shift. For you statisticians, our off-duty security program accounts for about 35% of the citations issued in a one month period.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS
The county has advised that community-wide sidewalk repairs are expected to last through the end of March. Several residents have reported damage or trash associated with the sidewalk work areas.

The District continues to follow-up with the county to conduct on-going assessments of problem areas. The county acknowledges the issues and has reimbursed the District for repairs we have been forced to make. Thank you all for your diligence and your commitment to the community.

SIGNAGE UPDATE
The District is in the middle of cleaning and repainting signs throughout the community. Our efforts are divided into three phases, with phases one and two already complete. Some signs may not hold up to pressure washing and if necessary, those will be replaced.

We continue to make progress in our plan to upgrade the community entrances. The District has filed a formal application with the county zoning administrator to ensure we have all the easements needed to proceed with our project. We anticipate a response by mid-March.

TRUSTEE POSITIONS OPEN
The Board of Trustees currently has two open positions. If you are interested in working to improve the quality of living in Bloomingdale, I encourage you to come onboard and join us. We meet once per month and meetings last an average of 90 minutes.

Fill Out and Return application on page 9 to the BSD Office or via email to bstd@verizon.net.
NOTICE OF INTENT TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR A CURRENT OPEN SEAT ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DISTRICT

I, ________________________________________________, hereby place my name in nomination as a candidate for an open board seat on the Board of Trustees, Bloomingdale Special District.

I understand that I am responsible for the accuracy of the information contained in my Candidate Information Sheet.

DATE: _____________________________________________

Signature

Print Name

Street Address

Email Address

Mailing address, if different from street address.

__________________________________________________

Are you a resident of Bloomingdale? YES ____ NO____
Are you a registered voter? YES ____ NO____
Do you have a criminal record? YES ____ NO____

BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DISTRICT CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

(Use a Separate Sheet)

NAME: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: _________________________________________

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS (Also, please include: why you want to be on the Board, what you can contribute to the Board, and your level of ability to commit to the work of the Board as needed): ____________________________________________
2015 Scholarship Winner Chris Santarlas Continues to Make Bloomingdale Proud

By Wendy Knipp

Back in 2015, Chris Santarlas was already on a path to excellence. Graduating from Bloomingdale High School, he was ranked 16th in his class, had volunteered more than 200 hours in our community, and he had won the BHA $2,000 Bloomingdale Community Scholarship in honor of former Bloomingdale Principal, B.J. Stelter. His future was bright as he headed off to USF Honors College with intentions of a career in medicine.

Since then, Santarlas has excelled. He graduated from USF in just 3 years with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. During those 3 years, he continued giving back to his community by volunteering through organizations such as Metropolitan Ministries, Veterans Affairs Hospital, and Shriners Hospital. Santarlas also fell in love with a fellow premed student, Valentine. They were married in March 2019.

Since graduating USF in May 2018, he has worked as a Research Technician for a pediatric immunologist at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg.

Santarlas isn’t done yet. In the Fall, he plans on entering the USF Morsani College of Medicine and applying for the Health Professional Scholarship Program which will allow him to eventually become an Air Force physician. He also hopes to work in pediatrics someday.

Santarlas’ advice for Bloomingdale High students? He says, “Work hard, study seriously, don’t rush, and never settle. Pursue something you are passionate about, and always make time for friends and family because true success is only found when you love what you do and the people around you.”

Congratulations to Chris and good luck. You’ve made your Bloomingdale community proud!

To apply for the $2,000 BHA Community Scholarship, visit www.bloomingdalehoa.com.

Beef ‘O’ Brady’s Bloomingdale Has Grand Opening

Article and Photos By Deidre Morgan

In one of the most anticipated opening events to happen in Bloomingdale since the new Bloomingdale Square Plaza started construction – Beef ‘O’ Brady’s is back! The restaurant held its grand opening on Feb. 24 for lots of happy customers.

In fact, one customer, Joe McKinley was the first customer standing by the doors waiting for them to open. Joe is a retired Army veteran who was the first customer at the opening of the Beef ‘O’ Brady’s on Kings Ave 34 years ago. He said that he had to keep the tradition going.

Corporate representative, Michael Smith said that the new Beef’s has a 185-person seating capacity, a full bar, daily happy hour from 4 - 7, an outdoor seating area with TV’s and daily specials and desserts. One look at the décor and speaking to the friendly staff, it’s clear to see that this will be the place to be on Football Sunday and every other day of the week.

Store manager Rachel Parks said, “We want everyone to feel at home and enjoy their dining experience to the fullest.”

To find out the specials and events happening at Beef’s, join their Facebook page at Beef ‘O’ Brady’s Bloomingdale and download the Beef ‘O’ Brady App to earn points for discounts.

“See ya at Beef’s: Where Game Time Meets Family Time!”
UrgentVet Expands With New Clinic

Open 365 days a year, the clinic offers an affordable alternative to veterinary ER

Courtesy Press Release

UrgentVet, the first dedicated urgent care clinic for pets, opened a second clinic in the Tampa Bay area. The new clinic, located in the BayCare HealthHub at 2446 Bloomingdale Ave., opened Feb. 17. The clinic fills the widening care gap that exists between traditional daytime veterinary practices and specialized 24-hour emergency hospitals, providing affordable after-hours relief on weeknights, weekends and holidays year-round.

“We’re so excited to open in Brandon to serve pets and pet parents across Hillsborough County,” said Dr. Jim Dobies, Founder, UrgentVet. “We specifically sought out Brandon because we know it’s a very family- and pet-friendly community, and the opportunity to secure space in the BayCare HealthHub just reinforced our decision to open a clinic here.”

The vision behind the UrgentVet practice model is to provide dogs and cats with trusted after-hours acute care just like an urgent care for humans. Pet parents should continue to take pets to their primary care veterinarian for wellness care and routine visits.

On average, an UrgentVet bill is about 40% less than what a pet parent might pay for comparable services at a veterinary ER. No appointments are necessary, and pet parents can check in online and request a text message when it’s time to come in.

The practice provides a stress-free experience—veterinarians and support staff are “Fear Free Certified Professionals,” which means they’re skilled in caring for the pet’s physical and emotional wellbeing. There are separate dog and cat waiting areas, exam rooms feature dimmable lighting and relaxing music, and staff members wear sprayable pheromones for a calming effect.

“For many pet parents, the trauma of watching a pet become ill or injured is devastating, so our goal is always to provide compassionate care in a way that makes both pet and parent feel comfortable,” Dr. Dobies said. “The bond between a pet and its primary care veterinarian should be deep, and we wouldn’t ever want to replace that. We just want to be there whenever a pet parent needs us.”

For information, visit UrgentVet.com. Hours are 3 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and Noon to 8 p.m. on holidays.
Join the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) at HC Parks and Recreation
1626 Natures Way behind Alafia Elementary from 9 am to 1 pm!

The event, made possible by your BHA and a partial grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and Office of Neighborhood Relations, is a service the BHA has provided to residents for over 16 years.

We have a line-up of valuable services all provided free to our residents. If for no other reason, join the Association and help us continue to provide a level of service other neighborhoods just can’t match! This year’s services include:

eCycle Florida will accept electronic recyclables including Computers, Laptops, Networking Equipment, Cell Phones and flat screen TV’s (NO Old Box TVs).

Thanks to our sponsor and fellow Bloomingdale resident Grace Lewis, a free Document Shredding service provided by Shred-it is back. Note: 3 bags or bankers’ boxes is the limit!

Pharmacy representatives will collect outdated medications.

**TEN COMMERCIAL TRASH BINS WILL BE AVAILABLE**

**Hillsborough County Roll-offs accepted items:** Refrigerators, ovens, water heaters, Steel and other metals, Furniture (such as couches, chairs, tables and mattresses) and Construction debris (such as concrete, bricks, glass and roofing materials), and tires.

**Not accepted in roll-offs:** televisions, microwaves, computers or radios, yard waste, regular household trash, hazardous materials including paint, batteries, propane tanks, household chemicals and waste from commercials activities.

**NOTE:** NO old-style box televisions accepted! **Do Not** bring them, you will be turned away!

We will have a large group of student volunteers and adults to assist with car unloading but we may need your assistance!

**DONATIONS TO DEFRA Y**
**THE COSTS OF THIS EVENT ARE GLADLY ACCEPTED!**

Finally, Light-house Ministries will gladly accept serviceable donations!
When Bloomingdale High School 11th graders, Yaidilis Diaz and Tahlia Diaz (no relation) started working at Aeropostale, they had no idea how it would impact their lives by exposing them to DoSomething.org.

DoSomething.org is a nonprofit focused on helping young people through online donations and campaigns. Almost 40% of homeless people in the US are under 18 and jeans are the most requested item in shelters.

In 2008, DoSomething.org decided to help fulfill that need through a campaign called Teens for Jeans and since then, they have collected and donated over 5 million pairs of jeans. Aeropostale teamed up with nonprofit over 10 years ago to help collect gently used jeans for shelters.

Aeropostale is currently holding a contest for local schools to collect jeans. The winning school will receive a $10,000 grant and second place will be a $5,000 grant.

Store manager Adrianna Hadden approached Yaidilis and Tahlia about the contest and the girls jumped at the chance to participate. Their goal – a win for both Teens for Jeans and Bloomingdale High School.

They even decided to make their own donation box, now located in Bloomingdale High’s front office.

Tahlia said, “I felt so motivated to do this for those who are in need.” While Yaidilis added, “This is something so simple and small to us but makes a big impact on a homeless youth who has nothing.”

The jeans drive runs through March 7. To learn more about Teens for Jeans or other campaigns where you can help, visit www.dosomething.org.

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**Hey Neighbors! Here is your chance to help out!**

The BHA will have a collection box for gently used jeans for Tahlia Diaz and Yaidilis Diaz at today’s community clean-up! Let’s help the girls and Bloomingdale High School win the Teens for Jeans grant money!
Join the American Cancer Society Relay For Life to Help Achieve a World Without Cancer

ACS Press Release

The American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay For Life of the Greater Brandon Area invites the community to attend Relay For Life on Friday, April 3 from 6 p.m. to midnight at Bloomindale High School Track and Field.

During the event we will Celebrate our Survivors, Remember our Loved ones with our beautiful Luminaria Ceremony and Give HOPE to many with our fundraising. The Relay For Life movement continues to be the largest peer-to-peer fundraising event with 2.5 million participants globally uniting to save lives from cancer.

Immediately following the Opening Ceremonies, Survivors will take the first lap as we cheer them on to victory. A complimentary meal will be provided for the Survivor and Caregiver(s) immediately following the first lap. To register for the Survivor’s Reception, go to www.relayforlife.org/bloomingdalefl.

Event Lead, Kerry Heron tells us that “cancer has touched all of us in some way, and we want to stop this disease in its tracks.” On the day of the event, we honor lives lost to cancer, celebrate survivors, and support caregivers who so selflessly help others. Together, we’ll be a part of making a difference in this important cause.

Last year’s Relay For Life of the Greater Brandon Area raised more than $60,000 to help ACS save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer. Learn about Relay For Life and register as a survivor and/or caregiver or as a team at www.relayforlife.org/bloomingdalefl.

Questions? Contact Event Lead Kerry Heron at 813-759-3965 or email kerry.heron2@gmail.com or contact Tammy Schoonover, American Cancer Society, at 815-590-2961 or email tammy.schoonover@cancer.org.

At last year's event, Lamb Elementary teachers are "tutu" eager to volunteer their time to a worthy cause.
Bloomingdale Resident and Author Pens Guide for Women Entrepreneurs

Local author, Shannon Carlton invites Women Entrepreneurs to Dream BIGGER in her first book, “Manifest Your Vision with Grace, Gratitude and Growth,” Women Entrepreneurs’ Guide to getting unstuck and creating the life you desire using Vision Boards. So many times, women entrepreneurs allow “surviving” to get in the way of their dreams. They can use this book as a tool to help transform their life into one that is inspired and impactful.

It is entirely possible to create a Vision Board and never find what you are looking for in the real world. A study in Psychology Today actually suggested that Vision Boards can be harmful as staring at your Vision Board won’t get you very far. You have to put your plans into action.

That is where Shannon’s new book comes in! Her book is designed to help the reader create the life she wants to live by constructing a Vision Board and then digging deep into setting goals and creating habits that will take her closer to her Vision.

This practical guide helps women identify their Vision in 4 Quadrants of life (Health and Wellness, Life’s Work, Relationships, and Time and Money Freedom) and gives them practical steps in each section to get them closer to their Vision each and every day.

Shannon Carlton is a first-time author, Vision Board trainer, accountability coach and coworking space owner. Along with owning her coworking space, she has helped women Vision their lives for the past 4 years with Vision Boards and accountability training. Her goal with this book is to encourage women small business owners everywhere to dream big and keep their vision in the forefront of their life.

Order the book on Amazon in paperback and Kindle. You can also work with Shannon one-on-one or set up your own Vision Board workshop with your group or company. Call Shannon at 813-924-4679 or email shannon@coworklandingbrandon.com.
ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY
School Website: alafia.mysdhc.org
Facebook Page: Alafia Elementary PTA

March 12 – Capital Taco’s Family Night, 4 – 9 p.m.
March 12 – Paint Night, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Cafeteria
March 12 – Nursery Rhyme Celebration, Kindergarten Only
March 13 – End of 3rd Grading Period
March 30 – Terrific Kids Ceremony, 8 a.m. **Invite Only**
April 1 – 3rd Grade FSA Reading
April 3 – Relay for Life Event, Bloomingdale High School

Alafia PTA Information
Please sign up for updates and information at: alafiapta.membershiptoolkit.com
Also download the mobile app: membership toolkit.

Alafia Gator Store
Open on Mondays for K- 2nd & Wednesdays for 3rd-5th from 7:10 - 7:35 a.m.

Gator Spirit Wear
Wear your School Spirit shirts on Friday’s and get a Gator Buck! School Spirit items can be purchased online https://alafiapta.membershiptoolkit.com/schoolstore Items purchased will be sent to your students classroom.

Media Center
Our Media Center is ALWAYS looking for Volunteers to come in and help, sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ca5ac2fa5fb6-oct.

CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL
School Website: cimino.mysdhc.org
Facebook Page: Cimino Elementary Media Center and Cimino PTA

March 3 – 9 – Spring Book Fair
March 9 – Art Show, Details to come
March 13 – Field Day
March 24 – SAC Meeting, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
March 27 – All Pro Dads, Wear Pink for Patience, 6:30 a.m.
March 29 – Top Golf Spirit Event, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Top Golf
March 31 – Cougar Cool Cats Award, Patience, 8 a.m., Multipurpose Room
April 4 – Spruce Up CIMINO & Hockey Clinic, Court Yard

Spirit Wear
Wear your Spirit Shirt every Friday! Order your Spirit Wear at http://ciminopta.com/order-spirit-items.

Media Center
The Media Center needs volunteers! Fill out a District volunteer form to get started. Access the application at https://community.sdhc.k12.fl.us/wps/portal/community/.

BURNS BRUINS BANTER
School Website: burns.mysdhc.org
Facebook Page: Burns Middle School PTSA
Follow us @BurnsPTSA

March 9 – 10 – Natures Classroom, 6th Grade, 9:30 a.m.
March 11 – PE Run, All Day
March 23 – Boys’ Soccer practice starts, 3:30 p.m.
March 26 – Music Department Universal Performance, 6 a.m., Universal Studios
March 31 – Burns Flag Football vs. Randall, 6 p.m. @ Bloomingdale HS

BULL BRIEFS

Rajun’ Bull Band Trivia Night & Silent Auction
Where: O’Brien’s Irish Pub and Grill, Brandon
701 W. Lumsden Rd
When: April 4, 4 p.m. - Silent Auction, 5 p.m. 10 rounds of Trivia
What: Silent Auction starts at 4 p.m. followed by Trivia. After each round, another auction will take place. Prizes for first, second, and third place as well as best team name! Also, 50/50 drawing!
Costs: $10 per person, up to 8 players per team
Grab your friends, family, know it all cousin and support the BSHS Rajun’ Bull Band and Color Guard.
To sign up your team or make an auction donation, contact Brandye Fenn at rajunbullband@gmail.com.
Saturday Academy

Saturday Academy is an opportunity for our current Algebra 1, English 1, and Biology students to receive additional support to increase student achievement on state-wide exams, improve current academic performance and reach the proficiency in Math and/or ELA.

Additionally, members of our various honors societies will be available to provide one-on-one tutoring. Saturday Academy will be held on March 14 and March 28 from 8 to 11 a.m. Unfortunately, transportation is not be provided. If you have any questions about this amazing opportunity, please contact your child’s Assistant Principal.

BSHS Online Booster Club Shop

To get the latest and greatness Bulls Gear visit the Booster Online website at www.bshsboosters.com/shop

Red Letter Envelope Project – It’s that time again!

Attention Senior Parent, Guardians, Family and Friends:

Continuing with tradition, we are giving relatives and friends of our 2020 graduates an additional opportunity to honor and recognize our students through the Red Letter Envelope Project.

Parents or guardians, please contact grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, teachers, clergy and friends to send a special note of congratulations on his or her upcoming graduation. Send your requests as soon as possible to family and friends through email, phone, or text. This will give them plenty of time to think of what they would like to say to the graduate. We will collect all letters and cards sent to the school and keep them safe and confidential. Every senior will then receive a large RED ENVELOPE filled with these well wishes at the annual Senior Breakfast.

You can bring the cards and letters to the school office and place them in the box labeled “RED ENVELOPE” or you can mail them to the school:

- Send in cards or letters no larger than 8”x10” NO PACKAGES
- Keep cards and letters flat (NO GIFTS OR CONFETTI PLEASE)
- Do not send anything of value; we cannot be responsible for it (cash, checks, gift cards, etc.)
- If sending several envelopes inside a large envelope, please put student’s full name on all envelopes.

ALL CARDS/LETTERS MUST ARRIVE AT THE SCHOOL BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15. We cannot take anything after this date. Please send your letters as early as possible!

Let’s fill our graduates’ envelopes and show the class of 2020 that they are special and we acknowledge their achievements over the last 13 years! POC is Project Coordinator Wendy Johnson, wendy@findnewhope.com, 813-505-5184.

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5th Annual IncrediBULL Games Provide a Fantastic Experience For our Incredible Bulls, Volunteers and Extraordinary Athletes!

Article and Photos By Jane Owen

Each year for the last 5 years, Bloomingdale High School has hosted the IncrediBULL games, a special Olympic event for East Hillsborough County schools, and each year the event has grown. 400 athletes from 13 East Hillsborough County schools competed in the IncrediBULL games on Feb. 28.

Incredible hardly describes how remarkable the event is. Everyone in attendance benefits from the event. The athletes shine and volunteers and spectators enjoy the enthusiasm and excitement of the participants.

The Rajun’Bull Band Drumline welcomed the teams as they arrived at the Bloomingdale track. Just prior to the parade of athletes, the colors were presented, the national anthem was sung, and two athletes passed the symbolic Olympic torch as they ran down the track.

Bloomingdale students have an unforgettable experience giving and learning outside of the classroom. Students from clubs and sports teams volunteer to put on the event. Along with the students who man the individual activities and fields events, student volunteers (called Buddys) are paired up with an athlete. They spend the day with the athlete, making sure they get to their field events and that they have a good time.

The IncrediBULL games included track races, shotput, softball throw, long jump, soccer and fun activities like face painting, ring toss, ladderball, corn hole and getting a refreshing treat from the Kona Ice truck.

Athletes were in attendance from: Armwood, Brandon, Burns, Durant, East Bay, Guinta, Lennard, Newsome, Riverview, Spoto, Strawberry Crest, Willis Peters, and Bloomingdale. Congratulations to all of the incredible athletes!

Bulls Softball Team Honors Former Teammate Lauren Phillips

Courtesy BSHS Softball Team

On March 11 at 6:30 pm, the Bloomingdale Bulls Softball Team will honor the life of former Bull Lauren Phillips before the home game against Plant City. We will be honoring Lauren and collecting donations for the MADD walk that will be hosted in Tampa on March 27 at 5 p.m.

All donations will go to “Team Laced Up for Lauren” to honor her memory and those taken too soon by a senseless act. Please join us and wear neon green or light purple the night of the ceremony.

Lauren was a 2012 Bloomingdale High School graduate who played for the Bloomingdale Bulls as well as the South Florida State College Softball Team. She was an amazing person, friend and teammate.

Her life was cut short on the night of March 28 when a drunk driver veered over four lanes of traffic and a median finally hitting the car Lauren was in. Lauren, her two friends, and the driver were all killed instantly. This tragedy has impacted the lives of so many and continues to do so.

Donate at: https://www.walklikemadd.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1055
Student Athletes Sign National Letters of Intent

Family, Friends and Coaches watched two Bloomingdale High School Student Athletes sign their National Letters of Intent to play collegiate sports on Feb. 5. AJ Moss, l., signed to play football at The University of Tennessee at Martin and Karter Ronne will play soccer at North Greenville University. Congratulations!

Photo: Deidre Morgan

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Bloomingdale Baseball Honors Alum Richie Martin

Brief and Photos By Jane Owen

History was made on Thursday, Feb. 27 when Baltimore Orioles shortstop Richie Martin became the first Bloomingdale Bulls player to have his Bull baseball jersey number retired.

Just prior to the Bloomingdale vs. East Bay game, the Bloomingdale Baseball program honored Martin by retiring his #12 jersey number and presenting him with a framed jersey. Martin then threw the first pitch of the game.

Martin was a 4-year starter for the Bulls. He graduated from Bloomingdale in 2012 but before he did, he hit .438 and led Bloomingdale to a 22-4 record. He then played for University of Florida on a baseball scholarship. Drafted by the Oakland A’s in 2015, he was the 20th Overall Draft Pick. In December 2018, he was the 1st pick in the Rule 5 Draft to the Baltimore Orioles.

Prior to the presentation and honors for Martin, the program had an alumni reception. The alumni in attendance included East Bay’s head coach Cody Crouse, a former Bull’s teammate of Martin’s.

Bloomingdale Soccer Has Breakaway Season

By Deidre Morgan

On Feb. 4, the Bloomingdale Boys’ Soccer team became three-time consecutive District Champs. Then, they followed that feat with their first regional playoff win since 2016. The team had an overall record of 13-5-3 with 4-0 in district play. They played three playoff games with wins over Armwood, 4-0, Plant City, 2-1 and Bartow, 6-5, but came up short in the Regional Semi-Final game loss against Melbourne, 2-1.

Coach Michael Lankford said, “While they [the team] fell short of their ultimate goal of a regional championship, we were able to win our 3rd District Championship in a row.”

Lankford had nothing but praise for his team and credited Goalkeeper Adrian Montanez, who stepped up in a big way, as one of the main reasons the team won another District Championship. Cade McMillen led the team with 24 goals and first year player, Juan Vanegas from Colombia, held the defense together.

Coach Lankford has coached the soccer team for five years with Assistant Coach Mike Vazquez. This will be Coach Lankford’s last year of teaching and coaching at Bloomingdale and said he was glad to leave on a positive note. He will begin teaching and coaching at Sumner High School in August. Congratulations to the Bloomingdale Boys Soccer team and Good Luck to Coach Lankford!
Bulls Baseball Hosts Golf Tournament
Brief and Photos By Jane Owen

On Feb. 7, the Bloomingdale High School baseball team hosted a golf tournament at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club. The event began with lunch, included an auction and 50/50 raffle, and concluded with prizes and dinner. 100 golfers from the community participated, including current baseball team members and alumni. The golf tournament was a very successful part of the team’s 2019-2020 Fundraising Campaign. Donations can be still be made to Bloomingdale Baseball through the Athletic Booster Club or by contacting Kris Wilken, Bloomingdale head baseball coach, at 813-744-8018. To donate through the Booster Club, visit: bshsboosters.com.

Freshman Player Zach Cable (left)
Freshman Player Reed Wilson

Anthony Cobb (left) and Jr. Player Wyatt Stricklands

Freshman Player Trey Wilson (left) Sophomore Player Drake Harman

**Bloomingdale Flag Football vs Dixie Hollins**

Photos: Joe Mestas, Tampa Bay Sports and Events (727) 201-7253.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers Foundation hosted the largest girls flag football tournament in the nation. The Girls High School Flag Football Preseason Classic consisted of 57 teams throughout the state of Florida at the practice fields at Advent Health Training Center. To see all the photos, visit [https://www.joemestas.com/High-School/Flag-Football/Buccaneers-2020-Girls-Flag-Football/Bloomingdale-vs-Dixie-Hollins/](https://www.joemestas.com/High-School/Flag-Football/Buccaneers-2020-Girls-Flag-Football/Bloomingdale-vs-Dixie-Hollins/).

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**Wrestlers Pin the Competition**

Brief Submitted By Jane Owen

Congratulations to the Bloomingdale Wrestling team and the 11 wrestlers who qualified for the regional tournament in Kissimmee on Feb. 29. This is a huge improvement from last season when only two wrestlers made it to Regionals.

One Bull, heavyweight wrestler Patrick Crawford placed third at the Class 3A Region 2 Wrestling Tournament. He wrestles at the State Finals in Kissimmee this weekend. Crawford is pictured with Coach Kilbourn, Coach Kitko and Coach Church.
Bloomingdale High School is 1 of just 30 schools in the country selected for the JROTC-CS Demonstration Project, a new initiative led by CSforALL (Computer Science for ALL) and the Air Force JROTC. This program will increase opportunities for Air Force JROTC cadets in Computer Science and Cybersecurity. Today only 32% of JROTC high schools offer an Advanced Placement (AP) computer science course. Bloomingdale will receive school-level capacity building training, professional development for teachers and JROTC instructors, and internship, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for its students.

Principal Sue Burkett is proud and excited about Bloomingdale High being selected for this pilot program and has recently traveled with other representatives to Washington DC for more information and training.

Congratulations Principal Burkett and Bloomingdale High School!
Spring into action with The Brenda Wade Team

Brenda’s Current Bloomingdale Listings

- 1623 Shady Leaf Dr $300,000
- 1208 Letona Ln $300,000
- 4501 Compass Oaks Dr $330,000

Brenda’s 2020 Bloomingdale Listings UNDER CONTRACT

- 4503 Preston Woods Dr
- 2302 Timbergrove Dr

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