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Bloomfield Educational Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary in 2024

Terence Mullane, Chairman of The Bloomfield Educational Foundation, (BEF) announced the Foundation will celebrate their 25th anniversary in 2024.

“The BEF was founded in 1999, by community-minded leaders, Joseph Kliminski, Robert Fetterly and Howard Friedman, with assistance from then Superintendent, Thomas Dowd. Since that time, the BEF has raised over \$2.7 million to support the District with over \$1.7 million in teacher and District-wide grants and scholarships. Many of our scholarship funds will award scholarships well into the future, as the result of many very generous supporters. We have worked very well with the Bloomfield School District to support innovative teaching programs and District-wide initiatives such as Science Fairs, and after school and Saturday programs at the Elementary level, media center upgrades and an outdoor classroom at the middle school, and the offering of free SAT prep classes and AP Tests to be paid for by the BEF at the high school. These are just a few examples of the kinds of support we have given over the past two-and-a-half decades,” informed Mullane.

The BEF mission states the main goal of the organization is to enhance the educational opportunities for all students in the Bloomfield School District. This is accomplished by teachers and administrators submitting grant requests for funding of various projects that are not covered by the District budget. Additionally, high school seniors are encouraged to fill out scholarship applications for scholarship funding to help defray the cost of a college, vo-tech or other additional learning experience after high school. The BEF is currently offering 30 scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$5000 a piece, and totaling \$65,000, which will be awarded at the June 2024 ceremony.

The BEF will kick off their 25th anniversary year with a \$50,000 gift to the high school to fund an E-Sports Arena. E-Sports is video gaming done at a professional level. Individuals or teams compete against each other through various video games; these are often in organized tournaments with substantial prize pools. Since 2018, when the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) first recognized e-sports as an official sport, more than 8,600 high schools have started video-gaming teams. E-Sports will be a Varsity lettered sport. Many colleges and universities are offering E-Sports Management degrees which could lead to careers in computer programming, and jobs in the gaming industry.

Another program that has received funds over the years is the Vocational Educational Special Training (V.E.S.T) program at Bloomfield High School. The V.E.S.T program services developmentally delayed adolescents and young adults from ages 15 to 21 with the goal of providing the means to make the students independent and employable. This falls under the umbrella of the Bloomfield Educational Foundation, a registered 501-C-3 charity, founded in 1999, to enhance the educational opportunities for all students of the Bloomfield School District. Funds raised from an annual run, the Brookdale ShopRite Tom Fleming Sunset Classic, support this vital program. This year's race will be held on Thursday June 27, 2024 at Foley Field, beginning at 6:30 with a Kids' Sprints competition. The 5 mile race kicks off at 7:30PM.

Additional events scheduled for the 2024 year include an Alumni Basketball Game on Friday, Jan 12th at BHS at 7PM, the Annual Gala, on April 24th at Nanina's in the Park, a Football Tailgate event at Town Pub, and Alumni Basketball Tip Off event at Bella Napoli, in the fall, with dates to be announced. For more information about the 2024 events, kindly visit the website www.bloomfieldeducationalfoundaiton.org

The Bloomfield Educational Foundation is a registered 501c-3 organization. For more information, or if you would like to be involved in the organization as a Board member or volunteer, kindly email us at info@bloomfieldeducationalfoundation.org

Brookdale ShopRite to Be Top Sponsor of Tom Fleming Sunset Classic for Next 5 Years

Brookdale ShopRite, located in Bloomfield, NJ, has committed to a five year Title Sponsorship of the Tom Fleming Sunset Classic, beginning in 2024 and continuing through and including 2028.

Brookdale ShopRite has been a sponsor of the Sunset Classic for over 22 years and coming on board as the Title Sponsor for this extended time frame makes this a great partnership.



“As a family owned and operated business for 3 generations, The Brookdale ShopRite, “Your Supermarket with a Heart” is extremely excited to commit our support for the next

five years as the title sponsor for this amazing event”, shared Neil Greenstein, President of the Brookdale ShopRite.

“We are proud to join forces with an organization where we align on many core values. With the help of Brookdale ShopRite we will be able to build on the needs of our educational community,” informed Paul Giuliano, Race Director.

The event proceeds benefit the Vocational Educational Special Training (V.E.S.T) program at Bloomfield High School. The V.E.S.T program services developmentally delayed adolescents and young adults from ages 15 to 21 with the goal of providing the means to make the students independent and employable. This falls under the umbrella of the Bloomfield Educational Foundation, a registered 501-C-3 charity, founded in 1999, to enhance the educational opportunities for all students of the Bloomfield School District. To date, the BEF has given over \$2.4 million to the District to support innovative teaching programs, District wide initiatives and scholarships.

The 2024 Brookdale ShopRite Tom Fleming Sunset Classic will be held on Thursday June 27, 2024. There will be fun for the whole family! Youngsters, ages 2-12, can enjoy a Kids Fun Run at 6:30PM. Open to all ages, The Rick Petersen Mile is a timed event on a USATF certified course. The ever popular 5 Mile Road Race begins at 7:30pm and will take runners through the streets of Bloomfield and Glen Ridge. Fun Run and Rick Petersen Mile runners will receive a commemorative t-shirt and Brookdale ShopRite Tom Fleming Classic runners will receive a commemorative runners' tech shirt. Adding to the festivities, Brookdale ShopRite will also be offering food, drinks and surprises will abound. This event has traditionally been a great way to kick off the 4th of July holiday.

There's still time to buy and take advantage of all 12 drawings. Get your ticket before the first drawing on January 17!

BLOOMFIELD

Educational ★ Foundation

FOURTH ANNUAL CALENDAR RAFFLE!!

Donation: \$100

Maximum of 250 tickets will be sold

Cash Prize of \$1000 monthly

Shall be awarded for 12 months of 2024.

Total cash prizes awarded
will be \$12,000

Get your ticket for the 4th Annual BEF Calendar Raffle

12 Chances to Win! \$12,000 in Prizes!

[Click here for tickets!](#)

Mark Your 2024 Calendars

Don't miss these events coming in 2024!

April 24, 2024

BEF Annual Gala, Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, NJ, 6pm

Honorees:

BHS Alumna of the Year - Lenore Imhof, Esq. '84

BEF Alumnus of the Year - James Johnston, Esq. '78

BEF Educator of the Year - Steve Jenkins, BHS AD



BEF Community Organization of the Year - Bloomfield UNICO
District Teacher of the Year - To be determined.

If you would like an invitation mailed to you, email
info@bloomfielddeducationalfoundation.org

June 27, 2024

Brookdale ShopRite Tom Fleming Sunset Classic Race

7:30PM - 5 mile race starts on Broad St and finishes in Foley Field

6:30pm – Kids' Sprints – Foley Field

7:00pm – One Mile Fun Run – Timed event! Starts on JFK Pwky. near Foley Field.

Keep watch for more BEF events coming in 2024!



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