

CELEBRATING 41 YEARS

# THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XLI    ISSUE 11    NOVEMBER 2021    [www.Bloomingtondale.Life](http://www.Bloomingtondale.Life)



## Saluting Our Veterans

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PLEASE  RECYCLE

### WINNER

2013, 2014, 2016,  
2018 & 2019

Hillsborough County  
Neighborhood  
Recognition Award

Best Communications  
Newsletter Category

BSHS JROTC Color Guard: Kidanya Favaro, Hunter Collins, Christine Allen, Angelo Arena, Heidi Griner, Carlos Ortega, Diana Shah & Julia Kuchta.

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THE AWARD-WINNING

# BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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**Jane Owen**  
**Editor - The Bloomingdale Gazette**  
3509 Bell Shoals Rd.  
Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

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**Staff Writers:** Michelle Colesanti and Nancy Reagor  
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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.

3509 Bell Shoals Road - Valrico, Florida 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: [Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com) Website: [www.Bloomingdale.Life](http://www.Bloomingdale.Life)

Follow on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1](http://www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1)

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

**President:**  
Suzy Watts

**Vice President:**  
Sean Donahue

**Treasurer:**  
Grace Lewis

**Directors at Large:**  
Bobbi Ferraro  
Billy Hightower  
Jane Owen

## BNA BRIEFS BNA CALENDAR

**Please Note:** The Fall Community Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, November 6 is canceled due to a scheduling issue with the county. Mark your Calendar for the Community Clean-up Day on Feb 5.

**Tuesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m. / BNA Board Meeting** Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road / Call 813-252-0252 for information. The community is welcome to attend! Email [bl.neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:bl.neighbor1@gmail.com).

**Sunday, December 5/ Santa Community Drive-through**

**Saturday, February 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m./ Community Clean-up**

### BNA Members Wanted!

No better time than the present to join the BNA! Just \$35 annually helps keeps our community programs going. Please send your membership in today and be part of making Bloomingdale a great place to live, work and call home.

### Membership can be paid through PayPal!

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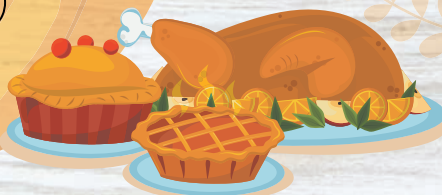
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# YARD OF THE MONTH

**NOI SMEDLEY**  
1104 BRIARPARK WAY, 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  
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**What is the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association?**

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association (BNA), formerly called the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, is a voluntary community organization. The organization covers 32 neighborhoods, 16 of which have mandated HOAs. The other 16 neighborhoods do not have an HOA. They are considered non-mandated HOA neighborhoods.

**What does the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association do for you?**

The association's purpose is to promote neighborhood cohesion and harmony while protecting property values and the quality of life for residents. This is done in various ways. The BNA organizes neighborhood activities including community clean-up events, garage sales, celebrations, and holiday events. The BNA is a liaison with local government agencies, relaying pertinent information to residents and reporting county code violations when necessary. The BNA partners with local schools by providing students community service hours and a yearly scholarship opportunity. The BNA produces our community paper- this paper- The Bloomingdale Gazette.

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association is invaluable as it assists Bloomingdale residents with concerns and issues in their neighborhoods. For neighborhoods with HOAs, the BNA connects residents with their HOA management and ensures residents know who to communicate with. For neighborhoods that do not have HOAs, the BNA works as a liaison to provide residents communication with Hillsborough County Government offices for code violation concerns and questions. The BNA assists with finding resources to help residents in all of the neighborhoods.



**Time to be Thankful!**



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*Tampa Bay Times*

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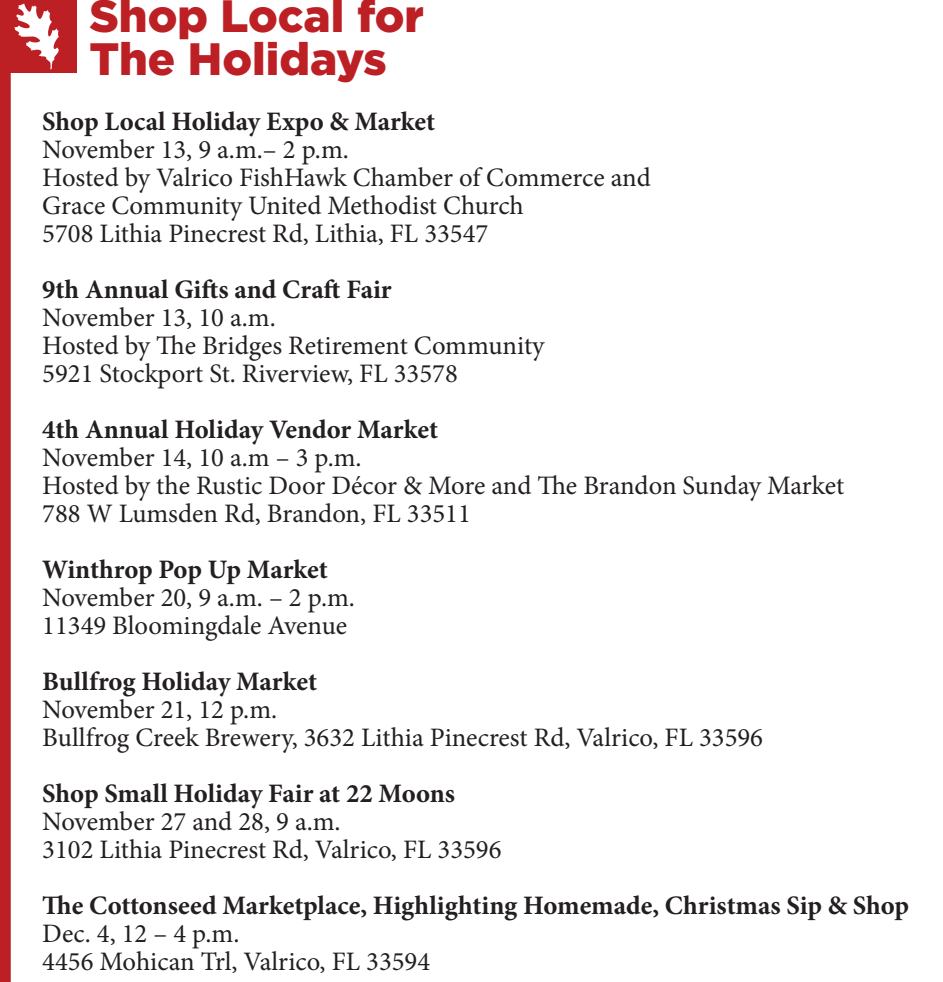
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## Shop Local for The Holidays

### Shop Local Holiday Expo & Market

November 13, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Hosted by Valrico FishHawk Chamber of Commerce and Grace Community United Methodist Church  
5708 Lithia Pinecrest Rd, Lithia, FL 33547

### 9th Annual Gifts and Craft Fair

November 13, 10 a.m.  
Hosted by The Bridges Retirement Community  
5921 Stockport St. Riverview, FL 33578

### 4th Annual Holiday Vendor Market

November 14, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Hosted by the Rustic Door Décor & More and The Brandon Sunday Market  
788 W Lumsden Rd, Brandon, FL 33511

### Winthrop Pop Up Market

November 20, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
11349 Bloomingdale Avenue

### Bullfrog Holiday Market

November 21, 12 p.m.  
Bullfrog Creek Brewery, 3632 Lithia Pinecrest Rd, Valrico, FL 33596

### Shop Small Holiday Fair at 22 Moons

November 27 and 28, 9 a.m.  
3102 Lithia Pinecrest Rd, Valrico, FL 33596

### The Cottonseed Marketplace, Highlighting Homemade, Christmas Sip & Shop

Dec. 4, 12 – 4 p.m.  
4456 Mohican Trl, Valrico, FL 33594



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## Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association

### 34th Annual Santa Visit

Dec. 5  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Your association continues its holiday tradition for children with a "Florida Santa" accompanied by his elves as they parade throughout our neighborhoods. Our elves will pass out Santa ducks and candy canes using appropriate safety measures. Parade route to be published in the Bloomingdale Gazette.

For more information about this event, email [BL.Neighbor1@gmail.com](mailto:BL.Neighbor1@gmail.com)







# Military Appreciation Night at BSHS on Friday, October 22

Pictures by Tim Boone, Avalon Communications



Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club during Bloomingdale's Military Appreciation Night.



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# PEOPLE OF BLOOMINGDALE

## Hometown Heroes

People of Bloomingdale is a new column for the Gazette. The goal is to capture stories of Bloomingdale residents — in their own words. It's an honor to start it with two of our hometown veterans. Our community is filled with stories — beautiful moments, heartaches, and simply gorgeous ordinary moments... Do not hesitate to let us know someone to highlight. Send an email to [inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com](mailto:inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com).  
*We cannot wait to hear your stories!*

### HOMETOWN HEROES

#### Walter Caldwell Ingram, Colonel, USA Ret.

"We served 26 years. We had 26 years... and we had a very exciting career. I always wanted to be in the Army. In high school they had a thing called NDCC, National Defense Cadet Corps. In college that's RTOC. I went to Texas Western College. It's called UTEP now- The University Texas El Paso- and that's where I met my bride. I was in ROTC and Claudia was a sponsor with a girls' drill team. I was lucky enough that she said yes.

I was always going to be in the military. From a kid, I always played Army. You know, like kids do. And watching it on television- I just always wanted to be soldier.

I was in communications, okay. I wanted to produce The Big Picture. The Big Picture was stories about the military and mostly about what they did in WWII. The Army did that. The Army produced this thing called the Big Picture. My goal was to be involved in that- the production, acting, whatever. I wanted to be part of The Big Picture. I found out that that wasn't exactly what the Signal Corps would be. I was lucky enough to enjoy ROTC and because of that I was selected for my commissioning. I could pick any branch I wanted to be because I was a distinguished military graduate. I picked the Army Signal Corps because the Signal Corps was the one that was responsible for producing The Big Picture. Okay. They no longer did that by the time I picked but I thought communications was an interesting field. Also, in ROTC in El Paso, I learned to fly through the ROTC program so I had my wings or half wings, actually. So, when I came in the Army, I wanted to fly. In 1968 we got married and we were assigned to Fort Gordon, which is the home of the Army Signal Corps. It's in Fort Gordon, Georgia. We went there and then we went to Fort Sill for advanced signal training and then we went to Fort Hood in Texas.

I no idea. I mean, ROTC treats you very well for the basics of what the military is about and the history. But, until I got to my platoon, I didn't really appreciate what an army signal officer would do. Luckily I had some good sergeants that took me under their wing and said, 'Ok, lieutenant, this is how we are going to run the platoon.' But most of the guys coming back out of Vietnam at that point and time, and in our culture at that point in time, we were pretty, uh, what do I want to say? The morale and discipline was real low because of Vietnam.

We flew some pretty classified missions back then. Now they're not classified. Anyway, I had a good time flying in Vietnam. I was young. I enjoyed flying. I enjoyed being responsible for communication. My first son was born while I was in Vietnam. Even though what we were doing in Vietnam probably could have been done a lot better... I came home and was not greeted well. I came back through Seattle to Denver and then I finally got home. Then everything was good again because I was with my family. We went back and forth between aviation assignments and signal assignments. I got back from Vietnam in 1971. I went over in 70, November of 70 and came back in November of 71, almost to the day. But, that was the start of my career."



Wally Ingram with his son Fred and grandsons, Garret, Joshua, and Mason.





LET'S HONOR BLOOMINGDALE'S HOMETOWN HEROES!

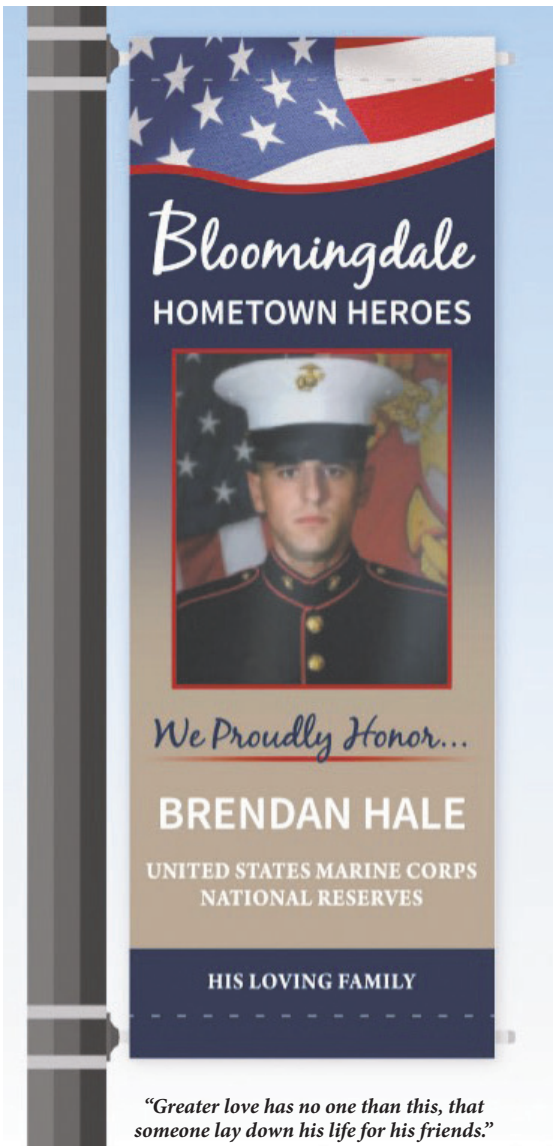
Written by Garret Ingram. Contributed to by Josh Ingram and Mason Ingram

The Ingram brothers and their parents, Fred and Deanna Ingram, are giving to our community by spearheading the Hometown Heroes Project. Garret is a Senior and Joshua is a sophomore at Bloomingdale High School. Mason is a 5th grader at Cimino Elementary.

Our service members and their families sacrifice much to protect our freedom. My dad, Fred Ingram, grew up as a military kid. He shares this about his experience, "I remember school and sporting events my dad missed due to his deployments. I was sad and sometimes feared for his safety. However, I was proud of my dad. He is my hero. He served in the Army from 1968 to 1993, as a signal officer and a dual-rated aviator. He retired as a Colonel. I'm proud to be a military kid." Our pride continues with America's future soldiers, my friends. After high school, two of my friends will serve in the Army and Air Force.

Our family is leading an effort to recognize our Hometown Heroes. Our mission is to both acknowledge and honor all our heroes. This includes our first responders. Their priceless service provides local protection and aid. Community members can sponsor a banner in honor of a military member or first responder. Our hope is that these banners will bring appreciation to those who served and continue to serve our great country.

Each banner costs \$160. This fee includes the banner featuring a photo of the hero, initial installation in January and removal in September. For more information and to obtain an application, please contact us at bdaleheroes@gmail.com.



HOMETOWN HEROES

James W. Townsend, Colonel, USA Ret.

"There are two categories of 'hard' from my experience in the military. First of all, when I had to leave Linda and later the kids for deployments. In fact, there was more than one time I was sent somewhere on short notice, and I couldn't tell her where I was going or what it was about because of the nature of the unit I was in and what was going on. And then, with Vietnam, I went there in 1972 and came back in 1973 after the cease fire. If I had had children, I might have gotten out of the Army. There was extreme turbulence at that time.

The second would be a death of a soldier. I had soldiers die in training and in accidents. I had one soldier who was murdered. And the death of friends in combat. When I started off in Germany, we were working for a company commander, a captain, and there were four lieutenants. Of the four lieutenants, one had already been to Vietnam and gotten wounded. Of the other three, one was unscathed, the other one got killed in Vietnam the same year I was there and I got wounded in Vietnam. And then in another company, a very good friend was wounded the year I was there. He was shot out of a water tower by a tank and then captured and held in captivity. So, I remember all of those names. In Vietnam, my best friend in Vietnam... I got wounded on the 4th of July and he got killed on the 16th of August. So those moments were hard.

Now the physical demands. The lack of sleep. The, sometimes, hunger. I weigh 150 pounds now but after 4 meals and a night in the hospital, I weighed 114 pounds in Vietnam. I had to tape my ring or it would just fall right off. So those were just circumstances, and I wasn't bothered by it so much. I mean, if you're hungry, you're hungry. Get over it. If your tired, your tired. Work through it. When you're scared, it's just- function."







## Seeds of Hope

### FishHawk Turkey Trot Gives Hope to Our Community

Family traditions are back...and with that comes The FishHawk Turkey Trot! Thanksgiving Day will once again begin with the largest road race in the Brandon area – The FishHawk Turkey Trot. Race officials are offering both in-person and virtual options so that everyone can participate when and where they want.

The FishHawk Turkey Trot is much more than a road race. The funds raised through the event go to meeting the needs of our community by alleviating local hunger. The Turkey Trot is the largest fundraiser for Seeds of Hope, Inc. Seeds of Hope provides weekly distributions of food through a food bank, a school backpack food program and a mobile pantry.

During the pandemic, Seeds of Hope saw numbers of people in need of food quadruple, going from 100 weekly boxes of food provided to families to over 400. In addition to providing food, Seeds of Hope also provides meaningful community service hours for students and many local students have received Bright Future scholarships based on their work through the charity.

Race director and Seeds of Hope President Leda Eaton is pleased to be offering the race once again, "People have missed it. My family missed it. It's the beginning of Thanksgiving...such a

family fun event: people taking photos with our mascot turkeys, kids making crafts and dancing the "wobble" song, families running together; it just makes you smile. After this past year and a half, we all need that."

New this year, the race will be offering the first 100 across the finish line a goody bag of race themed prizes in lieu of age group medals. It's a much easier way to distribute prizes and requires less standing around by participants. Due to the size of the race, Eaton recommends socially distancing and wearing masks for those unvaccinated.

Keep up to date on race announcements through the Seeds of Hope Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/473281026035488>.

#### 2021 FishHawk Turkey Trot

In-Person or Virtual, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25  
<https://sohopefl.org/turkey-trot-run/>  
10k/5k/Fun Run



Seeds of Hope President Leda Eaton and her husband, Kevin Eaton.



## Tampa Bay Times

# Be a Holiday Hero

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James R.

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## Seeds of Faith Community Garden is a Faithful Place for Growing Friendship and Food for Local Pantries

*Upcoming volunteer workdays: November 13 and December 11*

Grab your garden gloves and make your way over to Bay Life Church's Seeds of Faith Community Garden, located in Brandon right behind the church's property. New and seasoned gardeners will enjoy working in the garden. There are opportunities for community service hours for students. Scouting organizations and other social groups can learn about gardening while they help garden. Volunteer workdays are the second Saturday of the month through June 2022.



Bloomingdale High School Beta Club and National Honor Society Volunteers.

The Seeds of Faith Community Garden is unique because it consists of two divided sections with individual grower beds and donation beds. The individual beds can be rented out to those interested in growing their own produce, while the donation beds are run by volunteers who then grow the produce to donate. It costs \$35 to rent a bed, which requires a six-hour volunteer commitment per year. It costs \$60 per year with no volunteer commitment.

Since the garden's establishment in 2010, more than 20,000 pounds of fresh produce has been donated to local food banks such as ECHO and Hope for Her.

For more information, email [missions@baylife.org](mailto:missions@baylife.org) or visit [www.baylife.org/seeds-of-faith-community-garden/](http://www.baylife.org/seeds-of-faith-community-garden/) and [www.facebook.com/seedssoffaithgarden](https://www.facebook.com/seedssoffaithgarden).



Bloomingdale High School Student Volunteers Alyssa Talavera and Liam Swanson.

“I wouldn't be here without  
AdventHealth's ER.”

— Greg  
Stroke survivor



## Surviving an emergency is no accident.

To Greg, road trips mean freedom. But after suffering a stroke at age 43, his whole life changed. He realized how every second counts, especially when it comes to an emergency. AdventHealth's ER experts responded fast – and today, Greg is back on the road again.

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**NO RESTART FEE!**

**BEFORE**

**KIMBERLY**, actual patient,  
lost 83 pounds.<sup>†</sup>



## Community Garden Clubs

### **Riverview Garden Club**

**Monthly Meetings:** 2nd Wednesdays (Sep – Jun). Meetings start at 10 a.m.

**Location:** Riverview Civil Center, 11020 Park Drive, Riverview

First time visitors/guests can attend 2 meetings prior to deciding to join.

Annual membership dues are \$15.

For more information, contact:

Genevieve (Gwen) Graverson

Riverview Garden Club Member

813.951.6262 (cell)

e-mail: [gwen@graverson.net](mailto:gwen@graverson.net)

### **Valrico Garden Club**

**Monthly Meetings:** 3rd Thursdays. Meetings start at 10 a.m.

**Location:** Apostles Lutheran, 200 Kingsway Rd, Brandon, FL 33510

For more information, email: Club President Sharon Marie, [joelrentz@aol.com](mailto:joelrentz@aol.com) and visit the club Facebook page by searching for “Valrico Garden Club.”

## **Plant Sale**

**Saturday, November 6**

**8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**811 Knowles Road, Brandon**

*Just off Bloomingdale Avenue, traveling  
north on Bell Shoals Road.*

### **Check out these Gardening Websites!**

**Florida Gardening:**

[www.flgardening.com/](http://www.flgardening.com/)

**University of Florida, Institute of Agriculture and Sciences:**

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

**University of Florida Gardening Solutions:**

[gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)

**Florida Native Plant Society:**

[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

<sup>†</sup>On average, Medi-Weightloss® patients lose 29 pounds in 13 weeks. Medical supervision required. Reference: Journal of Public Health © 2021 Medi IP, LLC. All Rights Reserved.



# 

On Friday, October 22 Bloomingdale High School hosted the Burns Middle School band and Dowdell Middle School band. They joined the Bloomingdale's band performing before the football game and in the stands.



Photo: Fred Ocasio

# 

The community is invited to attend the annual Florida Bandmasters Association Marching Music Performance Assessment (MPA) at Bloomingdale High School on November 6. Admittance is \$8 and attendees can come throughout the day to watch the 27 high school marching bands perform. For more information, visit: bloomingdaleband.com.



Fred Ocasio Photography

Photo: Fred Ocasio

## ★★ VETERANS DAY CONCERT AT BLOOMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL ★★

BSHS Veteran's Day Concert is November 11 at 7 pm in the Bloomingdale High School Auditorium. The public is invited to attend.



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\*BDGZDC20\*



## 20% off rugs & comforters

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First Graders Addison Solomon and Norah Finch at the Cougar Challenge Walk-a-thon.

### ***Cimino Elementary's Cougar Challenge was a Huge Success!***

Cimino Elementary hosted its school fundraiser, the Cimino Cougar Challenge Walk-a-thon on October 8th. The school raised over \$45,000 and is grateful for all of the community support!

### ***Congrats to the King and Queen!***

Congratulations from the Gazette and Bloomingdale community to Bloomingdale High School's 2021 Homecoming King and Queen, Azan Karim and Nola Stone!!

Pictured with the 2020 King and Queen, Wa'myron Howard and Raven Brunson.

### ***Car Wash November 13th*** Hosted by the Bloomingdale Wrestling Team



Location: Abdoney Orthodontics at 2220 Bloomingdale Avenue • Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.





FROM THE DESK OF

# TEDDY MORSE

CHAIRMAN/CEO, ED MORSE AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

To Our Valued Customers and Friends,

I am pleased to introduce the newest member of our team at two of our Ed Morse locations in Brandon, FL. Mr. Eddie Gomez, Tampa native and auto industry veteran, has joined us as the new General Manager at Ed Morse Cadillac Brandon and Brandon Auto Mall Alfa Romeo Fiat by Ed Morse.

Mr. Gomez has been a part of the automotive world for more than three decades. His experience and wealth of knowledge have equipped him to meet the high standards this position requires. One of the hallmarks of the Ed Morse brand is our uncompromising commitment to customer service. Mr. Gomez's extensive background has taught him the incredible value of customer satisfaction. The extremely high premium he places on the customer experience is a perfect match with all that the Ed Morse name stands for.

Being from Tampa himself, Mr. Gomez fully understands what it takes to exceed the expectations of car buyers right here in our community: a remarkable customer experience, an incredible selection of vehicles, and prices that simply can't be beat. That's why I'm excited to have him stand with us to deliver on our promise that *You're Always Backed by Morse!*

Please help me welcome Mr. Eddie Gomez to our Ed Morse family. Stop by Ed Morse Cadillac Brandon or Brandon Auto Mall Alfa Romeo Fiat by Ed Morse and say hello. You'll receive 20% OFF your next service visit as our gift to you.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Sincerely,



TEDDY MORSE  
CHAIRMAN/CEO,  
ED MORSE AUTOMOTIVE GROUP



EDDIE GOMEZ  
GENERAL MANAGER  
ED MORSE CADILLAC BRANDON  
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\$150 maximum discount. See dealer for details. Excludes prior sales, tires, accessories, over the counter parts, sales and body shop purchases. Valid only on mechanical repairs. Offer cannot be combined with any other coupon or offers. Valid only at Ed Morse Cadillac Brandon and Brandon Auto Mall Alfa Romeo Fiat by Ed Morse. Expires 12/31/21.

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*Happy Thanksgiving!*



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