

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

# 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

Design/Layout: Chris Pascucci, NTZ Studios (ntzstudios.com) Staff Writers: Michelle Colesanti & Amanda Ragan Guest Writer: Tim Boone

The official publication of the BNA since 1980, delivered free to Bloomingdale residents on the first Wednesday of each month.



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## BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

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

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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: Laney Balis Kalyn Dukes Bobbi Ferraro Billy Hightower

# **BNABRIEFS**

### **BNA CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, August 9, 7:00 p.m. / BNA Board Meeting,** 3509 Bell Shoals Road / Community is welcome to attend. Call 813-252-0252 or email bl.neighbor1@ gmail.com for information.

Saturday, September 10 / Community Garage Sale

Friday, October 28 / Trunk or Treat at the Campo YMCA

Sunday, December 4 / Santa Visit

### **JOIN THE BNA!**

Just \$35 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.







## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue marks my 1 year anniversary as editor of the Bloomingdale Gazette. This position provides me a unique way to experience the Bloomingdale community. It's a privilege and I truly love it! I look forward to meeting more neighbors, sharing about our local businesses and highlighting the good in our community. I'd love you to share with me the good you see here in Bloomingdale. Send me your story ideas and pictures: inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com. There is an abundance of good in this town we call home.

Jane

## Bloomingdale Neighborhood Community Garage Sale

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Community Garage Sale (East and West neighborhoods) is on Saturday, September 10 from 8 a.m. to noon (time may vary by individual household). Items available throughout the neighborhoods include furniture, bikes, tools, video games, kids and adult clothing, toys, baby items, home wares, sporting goods and more.

For more information, email bl.neighbor1@gmail.com or call 813-681-2051.

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# **KEEP THIS PAGE** For All Your Local Fall Sports Schedules

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**WSH** 

	Tampa Bay Buccaneers 22-23 Schedule	Tampa Bay Lightning 22-23 Schedule		
		Oct. 11 @ NYR	Dec. 3 VS TOR	Feb. 26 @ PIT
	Aug. 13 VS	Oct. 14 @ CBJ	Dec. 6 VS DET	Feb. 28 <b>VS</b> FLA
	Dolphins	Oct. 15 @ PIT	Dec. 8 VS NSH	Mar. 2 VS PIT
- THAT	Aug. 20 @ Titans	Oct. 18 VS PHI	Dec. 10 <b>VS</b> FLA	Mar. 5 @ CAR
	Aug. 27 @ Colts Sept. 11 @	Oct. 21 @ FLA	Dec. 13 <b>VS</b> SEA	Mar. 6 VS PHI
	Cowboys	Oct. 22 VS NYI	Dec. 15 VS CBJ	Mar. 9 <b>VS</b> VGK
	Sept. 18 @ Saints	Oct. 25 @ LAK	Dec. 17 @ MTL	Mar. 11 <b>VS</b> CHI
	Sept. 25 VS Packers	Oct. 26 @ ANA	Dec. 20 @ TOR	Mar. 12 <b>VS</b> WPG
	Oct. 2 <b>VS</b> Chiefs	Oct. 29 @ SJS	Dec. 21 @ DET	Mar. 14 @ NJD
	Oct. 9 <b>VS</b> Falcons	Nov. 1 VS OTT	Dec. 23 @ BUF	Mar. 16 @ NJD
	Oct. 16 @ Steelers	Nov. 3 VS CAR	Dec. 28 VS MTL	Mar. 18 VS MTL
	Oct. 23 @ Panthers	Nov. 5 VS BUF	Dec. 29 VS NYR	Mar. 19 <b>VS</b> NJD
	Oct. 27 VS Ravens	Nov. 8 VS EDM	Dec. 31 <b>VS</b> ARI	Mar. 21 @ MTL
	Nov. 6 VS Rams	Nov. 11 @ WSH	Feb. 6 @ FLA	Mar. 23 @ OTT
	Nov. 13 @ Seahawks	Nov. 13 VS WSH	Feb. 7 VS SJS	Mar. 25 @ BOS
	Nov. 20 BYE	Nov. 15 <b>VS</b> DAL	Feb. 9 <b>VS</b> COL	Mar. 28 @ CAR
-	Nov. 27 @ Browns	Nov. 17 <b>VS</b> CGY	Feb. 11 @ DAL	Mar. 30 VS WSH
	Dec. 5 VS Saints	Nov. 19 @ NSH	Feb. 14 @ COL	Apr. 1 VS NYI
	Dec. 11 @ 49ers	Nov. 21 VS BOS	Feb. 15 @ ARI	Apr. 5 @ NYR
	Dec. 18 VS Bengals	Nov. 25 <b>VS</b> STL	Feb. 18 @ VGK	Apr. 6 @ NYI
1. 2. 14. 1	Dec. 25 @	Construction in the second second		
	Cardinals	Nov. 28 @ BUF	Feb. 21 <b>VS</b> ANA	Apr. 8 @ OTT
	Jan. 1 VS Panthers	Nov. 29 @ BOS	Feb. 23 VS BUF	Apr. 11 VS TOR
	Jan. 8 @ Falcons	Dec. 1 @ PHI	Feb. 25 @ DET	Apr. 13 <b>VS</b> DET

Bloomingdale Bulls Football Schedule 22-23		
Aug. 19 VS Berkeley Prep		
Aug. 26 VS Sumner		
Sept. 2 VS Armwood		
Sept. 9 @ Durant		
Sept. 16 @ Tampa Bay Tech		
Sept. 23 VS Newsome		
Sept. 30 @ Lennard		
Oct. 7 <b>VS</b> Gaither		
Oct. 14 @ Spoto		
Oct. 21 @ Wharton		
Oct. 28 VS East Bay		





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## Tips for Holding a Successful Garage Sale

**By Michelle Colesanti** 

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association (BNA) will be holding its annual Garage Sale on Saturday, September 10. Participating may seem daunting, but there are multiple rewards to be had. You may earn anything from a few extra dollars to a few hundred, but having the opportunity to go through and clean out the closets can be the best motivator.

Where to start? Or a better question might be when to start. Give yourself as much time as possible to go through drawers, check under beds, inside cabinets, the garage and other nooks and crannies to find long forgotten items that maybe were once coveted or loved, but have outgrown their usefulness. Find an out-of-the-way spot where you can start storing these items.

Good organization is the key to keeping your sanity through the process. Sorting by type of item will be helpful. If similar, keep like items together and consider pricing them all the same. That way you don't have to make price tags for individual items, and it will be easier for you to remember the cost. For example, if you have a lot of baby clothes, you may price them all at \$1 or your costume earrings at \$2 a pair. Remember that a lot of people will try to bargain with you (it's part of the fun), so keep that in mind when pricing the items in the first place. Other homes will be participating, so you will need to be competitive with your pricing.

Work on pricing as you sort through your items. It will make it easier if you are not trying to do it all at once. Remember, just because the item meant something special to you doesn't mean it will serve the same purpose for others. If you really want it out of the house, price it to sell.

Have everything set up (preferably in your garage) ready to set out first thing in the morning. You can be sure your first customers may appear up to an hour prior to the sale start time, most likely before you are quite ready to begin. But you can make quite a few dollars early on if you allow the early birds access to your goods.

The BNA will take care of advertising the community Garage Sale, but it's important to make up signs to post in and around your neighborhood leading people to your specific sale. Don't forget to remove them when it's over.

For all of your unsold items, please consider donating them to some place such as Life's Treasures Thrift Store, 1335 West Brandon Boulevard, Suite C (Brandon Plaza) or at one of the local Goodwill locations.





The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association will hold its annual community Garage Sale on Saturday, September 10.



## YARD OF THE MONTH

### **DOLL KETCH** 2202 KENWICK DRIVE, VALRICO





ONT

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.



## BLOOMINGDALE SPECIAL DISTRICT



By Kristine Schroeder, BSD Community Relations

Kudos to our Off Duty Police Task Force that routinely patrols our Bloomingdale East and West neighborhoods.

Recently, those task force patrols, led by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Officer Mark Buswell, led officers to more serious police action in Hillsborough County that resulted in two arrests, multiple weapons being taken off the streets and intelligence related to ongoing police investigations in the county.

Earlier this year one of our Bloomingdale East Home Owner Association's alerted the task force officers to suspicious activity at a house in their neighborhood and asked officers to include the house on their patrols. According to Officer Buswell, during one of his on-duty shifts last month, he conducted a traffic stop near Bloomingdale Ave and Gornto Lake Rd. and recognized the vehicle from that house in Bloomingdale East. In addition to traffic charges, two of the three occupants of the vehicle were arrested on concealed weapons charges and according to Officer Buswell are believed to be persons of interest in other crimes in the county. In all, four guns were recovered from the vehicle and two of the weapons were tied to crimes in the jurisdiction of the Tampa Police Department.

The Off Duty Task Force includes three police officers from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and they have been patrolling the area for more than a year. Their primary mission is to assist the community by conducting traffic stops, doing safety patrols, helping walkers, bikers and providing a visual presence in the area. In this case, Officer Buswell says "a direct result of working in the neighborhood had far reaching repercussions for the safety of all Hillsborough County residents."

August BSD Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 8 Where: BSD Office at 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL Who: Bloomingdale residents are invited to attend. For more information, email bstd@verizon.net.

## Oak Crest Homeowners Take Action

By Bob White, an Oak Crest resident of 20 years

We are a group of Oak Crest homeowners who are joining together to form a new voluntary neighborhood group, Oak Crest United. Our purpose is to preserve property values and the quality of life that we enjoy in our neighborhood. Our main goal is to stop the further expansion of corporate investors who are buying up Oakcrest homes and turning them into rentals.



We believe that the rapid increase of rental properties has had a negative impact on our neighborhood quality of life, and may have a negative impact on future property values. Our concerns:

- Corporate investors (like Progress Residential, Invitation Homes, and American Homes 4Rent, etc.) are not good landlords and neighbors.
- Corporate investor-owned houses have a documented history of neglected maintenance. When something breaks it is very difficult to get the absentee corporate landlord to properly fix it in a timely manner.
- Corporate investors are rapidly buying up mid-range priced houses throughout Hillsborough County, thereby reducing the opportunity for many families to own homes of their own.
- Interested homebuyers might be discouraged from buying a home in an area that is thought to be a "rental neighborhood."
- Corporate investors do not care about the community they buy into. Their only loyalty is to their investors, not their tenants or neighborhood.

Our concerns are directed toward corporate landlords. We are not opposed to former residents who now rent their houses, and who keep up the maintenance and value of their property. And **no** ill-will is intended to our fine neighborly tenants who are in most cases paying too high rent to corporate landlords while being nickel-and-dimed by fees, fines, and theft of security deposits.

Already about 20 percent (at least 92 homes) in Oak Crest are rentals. Our goal is to keep this number from increasing any further. We believe that there is a way for a voluntary group of Oak Crest homeowners to legally discourage corporate investors from further taking over our neighborhood. The more homeowners join in our voluntary proposal, the more we defend our homes from becoming a "rental neighborhood." The details of how our proposal will work will be fully explained at a community meeting on Sunday, August 28, at 4 pm at the Campo Family YMCA on Culbreath Rd. In the meantime, please submit your comments, suggestions, and questions to this website: https://sites.google.com/view/oak-crest-united/home.



All Ladies and little ladies are cordially invited to the St. Vincent de Paul Annual Ladies Tea which benefits a food pantry and financial assistance program.

Denise Essex, St. Stephen Conference President said "Last year we helped 2,000 families which included over 8,000 people, distributed 86,000 lbs. of food and paid out \$96,000 in financial aid for rent & utilities with over 6,000 volunteer hours to make this possible. The majority of our funds are given to us by our generous parishioners. This tea is our only fundraiser and we are greatly indebted to the ladies and gentlemen who dedicate themselves to supporting our ministry."

Guests may also attend and meet new ladies. The Guests may host a table and set it with dishes or paper products and choose a table theme if desired. The menu includes delicious tea, traditional scones, tea sandwiches & desserts served as a buffet with each person selecting their items that will be served to them. Younger ladies may choose an optional menu of PB&J sandwiches, juice and desserts. They are invited to decorate flowered headbands and model

their creations in a parade. Entertainment provided by St. Stephen Catholic School Music Group. Raffle prizes include 58" Samsung Smart TV, gift certificates and gift baskets.

For more information or reservations please call Marty Diebold (813) 695-2145 or mdfl3303@ vahoo.com. Deadline for reservation is Wednesday, September 7.

Can't make it? Make an online donation of the price of a ticket at sydpriverviewfl.org by Sept. 7 and be eligible for the raffle prizes.

Date:	Saturday, September 17, 2022	
Time:	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	
Place:	Family Life Center of	
	St. Stephen Church Catholic Church	
	10118 St. Stephen Circle, Riverview, FL	
Cost:	\$25.00	

Liz McLaughlin lmclaughlin510@gmail.com 813-310-2184





## Get Out and Vote! The Primary Election Will Decide Many Local Races

By Michelle Colesanti

This Primary Election, which takes place on Tuesday, August 23, will be an important time to vote. Below is information on the races that will impact our local community. Your voting choices in the primary will be dependent on whether you are registered to a particular party or are an independent voter, but Republican candidates for both the State Senate District 20 race and the Hillsborough County Commissioner District 4 races will appear on all primary ballots as these races only have two contenders. These races will be decided in the primary election.

Visit www.votehillsborough.gov/ELECTIONS/2022-Primary-Election to view the general Hillsborough County ballots. For your specific voter information, click on 'Voter Information Lookup' on the same page or visit www.votehillsborough.gov/VOTERS/My-Registration-Status.

#### **STATE SENATE DISTRICT 20**

#### Jim Boyd (R)

Boyd will bring his leadership skills and conservative agenda that he worked fiercely to defend for eight years in the Florida House to the Florida Senate. Visit: www.boydforflorida.com/.





John Houman (R) Houman feels education is the backbone

of our society and long-range planning for agriculture, algae bloom, beach erosion, natural habitat, safe drinking water, and saltwater intrusion is needed. Visit: https://senatorjohnhouman.com

#### **HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4**



#### Noelle Licor (R)

Licor has dedicated her life as a community advocate and environmental educator. She said, "My love for our beautiful community is the driving force in my decision to run in District 4." Visit: https://noellelicor.com/.

Michael Joseph Owen (R) Owen is a home-grown small business owner with a heart for service. Visit: https://votemichaelowen.com/.



There are three ways to vote: in person on Election Day, August 23 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; early voting, which runs from August 8-21 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by mail- the ballots must be in the Supervisor of Elections Office by 7 p.m. August 23.

Florida has closed primaries, but there are nonpartisan races that all voters can vote on in the Primary Election. Voters will receive a Democratic ballot, a Republican ballot or a nonpartisan ballot, depending on their party affiliation. All ballots will include nonpartisan races for School Board and Judicial seats, and for Universal Primary Contests in which all candidates are affiliated with the same political party. The 2022 Primary Election includes Universal Primary Contests for State Senator for voters living in State House District 20 and Board of County Commissioner for voters living in District 4.

#### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 7 (AT-LARGE)

#### Chase Harrison (R)

Harrison, a retired USAF Master Sergeant and retired Tampa Police Department Master Patrol Officer, will focus on protecting freedoms, cutting taxes and spending what is raised wisely. Visit: https://votechaseharrson.com.





#### Joshua Wostal (R)

Wostal is a successful entrepreneur, decorated veteran and passionate advocate for disadvantaged children. Visit: https://joshuawostal.com/.

**Kimberly Overman (D)** – Will represent the Democratic Party in the November 8 General Election.

#### SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4 (NON-PARTISAN)

## Hun socie

Hunter Gambrell Hunter believes public education is the great equalizer in our society. Visit: www.huntergambrell.com/.

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THE BLOOMINGDALE GA

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#### Patricia "Patti" Rendon

Patti is a long-time resident of Bloomingdale. She brings leadership skills, business experience and advocacy for students and families to the table. Visit: www.votepattirendon.com.

#### **Danielle Smalley**

Smalley will act to ensure, your voice is heard, school faculty is equipped, and students are prepared to excel and succeed. Visit: www.danielle4betterschools.com.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6 (AT-LARGE)**



#### Roshaun Gendrett

Gendrett currently works as an Administrator with a Non-Profit Educational Agency focusing on educational issues and early learning childhood programs. Visit: www.gendrett4schoolboard.com.

#### Alysha "Aly Marie" Legge

With Legge's R.I.S.E. movement, she plans to Restore integrity and accountability; Improve academic excellence; Secure financial oversite and Empower families, educators and staff. Visit: https://votealymarielegge.com.





#### Karen Perez (Incumbent)

Perez holds the administration accountable for its mistakes and works diligently to ensure limited resources make it to the classroom. Visit: https:// keepkarenperez.com/





On Monday, June 13, the Bloomingdale Special District hosted Addison Davis, Superintendent of Hillsborough County Public Schools, at their monthly meeting. Davis shared information about the proposed property tax including that the \$146 million would be used in the following manner:

- About 16% of the total revenue would be shared with charter schools proportionate to enrollment.
- Assuming a 96% collection rate and subtracting the charter share, this would provide the district with about \$116 million annually.
- 80% of the district share of funds would be used to increase compensation for instructional positions (teachers, counselors, media specialists, etc.), bus drivers and transportation assistants, classroom assistants, and other non-instructional support staff.
- This could enhance the average instructional salary by \$4,000 and the average non-instructional salary by \$2,000.
- About 20% of the district's share of funds would be used to protect and expand art, music, PE, and workforce education.

Visit www.hillsboroughschools.org/strongschools for more information and to see frequently asked questions.

#### SCHOOL BOARD REFERENDUM

This property tax would levy an additional \$1 on every \$1000 in assessed property value. The Referendum is meant to enhance teacher pay to help retain good teachers as well as help maintain art, music, PE and workforce education classes. If approved, the tax would bring \$146 million annual additional revenue to the county public schools for a four year period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on June 20, 2027.



tesserabrandon.com

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Bloomingdale's Patti Rendon Running for School Board

By Jane Owen



Patti Rendon has lived in Bloomingdale for 20 years and is dedicated to serving our community. She has been married to her husband Joe for 29 years and has 3 daughters. Patti has dedicated her life to

serving people both professionally and in volunteer roles. Patti currently works as the Executive Director of The Columbus Organization helping individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities achieve independence. Her volunteer roles include President of the Bloomingdale High School Academic Foundation, President of the Bloomingdale High School Orchestra Boosters, Bloomingdale Advisory Council member, PTSA Board members, to name a few. She was the Department of Education Outstanding School Volunteer of the Year for 2019-2020.

Patti is running for the school board because she believes she can bring her leadership skills, business experience and history of working to aid individuals to advocating for the needs of District 4. She is endorsed by outgoing school board member, Melissa Snively.

With regards to the proposed school board referendum, Patti does not believe the additional revenue will reach our students. She is not in favor of additional tax increases.

"I am not in favor of the tax because, Number one—It is a time limited tax. When it ends, how will we fund what we have been using it for? Number two—Why are teachers paying for their own raise? They will have to pay the tax to fund their raise. Additionally, look at our inflation. At the end of the day, none of us can afford to pay more in taxes," Patti said. Patti believes the school board needs:

- Leadership
- A restored public trust
- A continuation moving forward with the Financial Recover Plan with a decision to make difficult budgetary decisions, regardless if the proposed referendum passes
- No additional tax increases
- Expanded Opportunities for career and workforce programs for all students
- A focus on serious transportation issues
- An Improvement on Special Education

Patti looks forward to being on the board and helping students:

"I would like to improve our employment program for the ESE students and expand our career-based programs throughout Hillsborough county schools. These are positive things we can do for our kids," she said.

For more information about Patti's campaign, visit: www.votepattirendon.com and facebook.com/votepattirendon



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THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

### 315 Backpacks Collected for Students in Need

Cimino teacher Vanessa Hill collected over 315 backpacks for students in need. The annual backpack collection began as an effort of the heart for two Cimino teachers, Vanessa Hill and Tara Stoddard. The 7th year was the best yet!

Hill is grateful for the opportunity to help students with the collection.

"I am honored to continue this event each year. It makes my heart happy to know that together we can have such an impact on students feeling eager and ready for the new year. Without the help of the community this event wouldn't be possible. A huge thank you to everyone who brings backpacks and

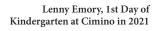


also the businesses that donate towards raffles!" Hill said.

## Back-to-School Pictures Wanted!

The Bloomingdale Gazette wants your back-to-school photos! Please email hi-res photos (as close to or larger than 1 MB) with names and school attending no later than Aug. 26 for our September issue! Email

inbloomingdalenews@gmail.com.



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**AUGUST 2022** 

## Regional Law Enforcement K9 Memorial Dedication Held on June 29

By Timothy "F-Stop" Boone, Bloomingdale Resident and NKMC member

On a sunny Saturday in 2018, members of the Valrico-based Westside Chapter of the Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club (NKMC) took a ride throughout Hillsborough County to visit local law enforcement agency memorials. During the ride, one detail became evident to Travis "Rodeo" Wright, Westside Chapter President. There were no memorials to fallen K9 officers at any of the agencies the bikers visited. Wright, a former US Marine and current local law enforcement K9 handler, has a special place in his heart for working the four-legged working K9 partners. From this Saturday adventure, the Westside Chapter members formed the idea of building a Regional Law Enforcement K9 Memorial in Hillsborough County. The sole intent of the memorial would be to honor the region's law enforcement dogs, especially those who had fallen in the line of duty.

Wright is known for his creative ideas and never going about them in a subtle manner. The Westside Chapter members immediately embraced the concept, despite knowing that getting the memorial started was going to incur a roughly \$40,000 price tag. The Club began getting the word out, created artist's concepts of what the finished memorial would represent, and raising the necessary funds for the memorial. An artist to cast a life-size working bronze K9 was selected, and as soon as funds were available, the 12-month process to create the dog was begun. Wright explained, "The Westside Chapter of the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club has a long history of providing assistance to Military Veterans and Law Enforcement in the Bay Area. Each time we take on a project, we hope to make a difference and have a positive impact in the community."

The Nam Knights Motorcycle Club began in the summer of 1989 as a small group of Harley-Davison riding combat Veterans of the Vietnam War, who were also Police Officers. The club was founded by Jack Quigley, now retired Undersheriff of the Bergen County Sheriff's Department in New Jersey. To quote Jack, our founder, "The club was formed to recapture the brotherhood its founding members shared while serving in Southeast Asia, and to help other veterans of all wars who are unable to physically or financially help themselves."

Since that time, the Club has grown to 78 Chapters in 18 states, Washington D.C., and one Canadian province, with hundreds of members that comprise veterans of all eras, as well as Law Enforcement personnel, plus a special dedicated number of patriot members.

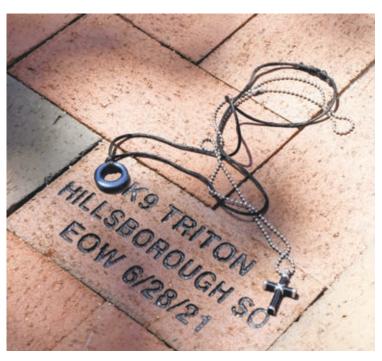
The mission of the Nam Knights is to honor the memory of American Veterans and Police Officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, to assist Veterans and Police Officers in their time of need, and to promote community awareness through sponsorship and participation in various community and fund-raising events.

Wright provided this background on the chapter. "The Westside Chapter of the Nam Knights began in 2006. Since our inception, we have stood fast to the core values of the club. Our accomplishments over the years are a testament to those values of the founder's original intentions. We have donated tens of thousands of dollars through various fundraising events to local charities to include, the Haley House, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, and the Lynn Sowers Memorial Foundation, just to name a few. We have also held multiple fundraisers for Veterans and Law Enforcement Officers who were suffering from Cancer and other ailments. Approximately six years ago, we started our 'Quarterly Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon' where we have provided hundreds of meals to Deputies and Police Officers who tirelessly protect us every day. Many of our accomplishments have no monetary value, but more sweat equity than anything else, such as helping a wounded warrior move into a new home or just providing friendship to a Veteran or Law Enforcement Officer in need."

As only befitting of Florida, on another hot, sunny day, the Regional Law EnforcementK9 Memorial dedication was held at the Temple Terrace Police Department on June 29, 2022. Speaking to the testament of the K9 Memorial that day were Temple Terrace Mayor Andy Ross, Temple Terrace Police Chief Kenneth Albano, and NKMC Westside Chapter President Travis Wright. 38 bricks honoring fallen and deceased K9 officers were unveiled that day, as well as the monument featuring the life-size bronze K9 statue. Numerous law enforcement officers, both active and retired, from agencies around the Tampa Bay, area were in attendance. During one interview, Wright said, ""This memorial will be an important place for people to come and pay respect to all Law Enforcement K9's. I am a local Law Enforcement K9 Handler so there is no doubt this memorial will hold a special place in my heart."







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## **Small But Mighty Heroes Re-Grand Opening Sept 3**



September is an extremely important month for Bloomingdale's Might Heroes Nutrition. Might Heroes Nutrition is the headquarters of Small But Mighty Heroes, a childhood cancer nonprofit that benefits children battling childhood cancer and honors children lost to the disease. Small But Mighty Heroes' advocacy unites families, community members and local businesses in support of children fighting cancer and keeps the legacy of our children lost to cancer- true superheroes. One delightful drink at a time, Mighty Heroes Nutrition spreads awareness of childhood cancer with shakes, teas, coffees and lemonades.

Mighty Heroes Nutrition is completing a portal room offering a unique addition to the shop. The space is for children battling cancer. They can hang out in the room with a wifi connection. The intent is to give to them and their families with plans to ad a TV and game station. The portal room (similar to a Dr. Strange portal) will boast glow in the dark symbols,

black lights and a light projecting a galaxy theme.

The community is invited to the re-grand opening on September 3rd. Enjoy \$5 tea and \$5 shake discount. The Valrico Fishhawk Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. Local businesses and venders will be present to be part of the celebration that includes music, food and games.

Interested in sponsoring or donating to Small But Mighty Heroes, contact Tina Marie Downing at: tinadowning@smallbutmightyheroes.org.

Location: 3240 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, Valrico Hours: Mon- Fri, 7 am- 7 pm; Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun Closed Information: https://smallbutmightyheroes.org/mighty-heroes-nutrition



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### BSHS Seniors Qualifies for the 2022 AAU Junior Olympic Games

Pictures submitted by Renee Brockman and Autumn Obrien

Charlie O'Brien and Ze'Kira Snow, seniors on the BSHS track team, qualified for the 2022 AAU Junior Olympic Games. O'Brien qualified for discus and shot put. Snow qualified for the 100m, 200m, and long jump. The games are held at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, NC from July 30 through August 6.







## BSHS Teacher and former student attend the World Athletics Championships

Patrick Sheehan, a Bloomingdale High School Social Studies teacher, and Jon Owen, a 2019 Bloomingdale Grad and current senior at Seattle Pacific University, both attended the World Athletics Championships in Eugene Oregon in July and had the chance to meet up.





#### THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

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## Bloomingdale High School Receives Upgrades

Bloomingdale High will play its football games this fall on a brand-new artificial turf field. In addition, they have a new scoreboard, a rubberized track and refurbished track event areas.

"It's exciting to see all of the new upgrades and updates that are taking place at Bloomingdale High School. We look forward to celebrating with our students, staff and families at our grand opening on Friday, August 12, during our annual Meet the Bulls event." Dr. Marcos Rodriguez, Bloomingdale Senior High School Principal

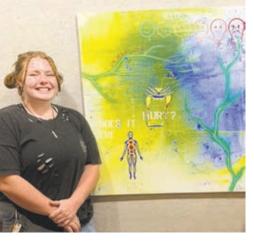


## BSHS 2022 Graduate Holds First Art Exhibition

Recent Bloomingdale graduate Emily Seltzer held her first-ever art exhibition in the Mook Gallery of the Center Place in Brandon. On exhibit in July, the gallery displayed vivid drawings, some deeply emotive, exploring surrealistic images and abstract thoughts.

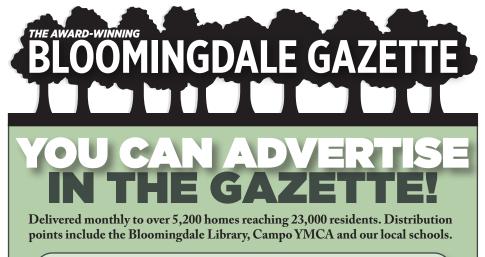
In the gallery, Emily shared her thoughts in word titled, Growth: "Within this gallery, you can see the progression of skill and expansion of styles and mediums. Throughout my art career, I have always been willing to play with different styles and techniques, creating an eclectic and wide-ranging body of work."

Emily credited her Bloomingdale art teacher, Ms. Speedy, for playing a huge role in her artistic growth and development. Ms. Speedy pushed her out of her comfort zone and helped her develop her style incorporating different techniques.





## Congratulations on your art exhibition, Emily!



## Contact: MARK SHURMAN mshurman@tampabay.com (727) 445-4144

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