



Check Out Bloomingdale Area's  
Summer Activity Guide  
on pages 6 & 7.



# The Bloomingdale Gazette

Volume XVII, Number 5

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MAY 1997

## "I love my mother"...

The Bloomingdale Gazette wishes all Mothers a "Happy Mother's Day".

The following letters are from Ms. Lacy's third grade class at Lithia Springs Elementary School. The children were asked to write "Why do you love your mother?" The following are the responses. (Unedited)

I would like to tell you why I love my mother. I love my mother because she is hardworking, cool, and helpful.

First, she is hardworking because she pay all of the bills and does a great job.

She is cool because she always takes me ever were and does everything with me!!!

She is diffently helpful because she helps me with mathe problems I dontnt understand. I conclution I love my mom a ton.

Killian Eckert

I love my mom because she's helpful, caring and sweet.

First, she is helpful. She's helpful when she's working on my new room. She's also helpful when she helps me clean when I do.

Second, she is caring. She's caring when she says her sorry if, she did something wrong. She's also caring when I's hurt, she always is there fixing me up.

Last, my mom is sweet. She is sweet when she lets me rent a video to watch. She's also sweet when she lets me go to Mc. Donalds

In conclision I think helpful, caring and sweet are good personallitys.

Nichole Nicholas

I love my mom because is is fun caring and nice.

First, she is fun. She's fun when se's in the mood like a playful mood. Pluss she is fun when she's our with my whole family.

Next, se is caring. She's caring when I am hurt. Also she is caring when I am sick.

Last my mom is nice. My mom's nice because she let me have ice cream 2 nights in a row. Pluss she lets me mak cookies. In conclusion my mom is nice, caring, and loving.

Kim Golden

See "I LOVE MY MOTHER", page 3

**Bloomingdale West  
Recreation Center  
Summer  
Schedule  
Is Out**

**Check Page 2  
For Details!**

## Flexibility and Changes Keys to Surviving Modern Motherhood

By Gwen Szafranski

My next door neighbor, Charis Wheless, and I had a good laugh the other day. We talked for an hour about children, work, and husbands, which isn't unusual for neighbors except for the fact that it was the longest conversation we've conducted in the four years since we've been neighbors.

Demanding schedules and meeting the needs of our respective families have limited our chances to build a neighborly friendship although in that one hour we managed to find plenty of thoughts to share on a range of topics.

One thing we agreed on is that you can look up and down our street during the day and encounter very few stay-at-home moms—a result, we believe, of the ever increasing number of women seeking financial rewards or personal fulfillment in jobs or volunteer work.

Like many young mothers today, Charis has had to weigh the benefits and disadvantages of working full-time or part-time, her job choices changing with each adjustment to family size and schedules. In fact, as we talked, we agreed that change and flexibility were key components in modern day mothering whether one is a young mother like Charis with a new baby, a preschooler, and middle-schooler or a middle-aged mom (like myself) with three in college

and one in junior high.

Part of our lack of connection over the past few years has been the result of our various forays into the work world while trying to meet all of our obligations to children's

activities and local volunteerism. Finding a part-time teaching job to approximate the children's school day helped me to avoid one of the biggest headaches for working moms: the daycare dilemma.

Charis began working full-time when her oldest child, Mishell, was three and continued working full-time until her second child, Kristina, was born in 1992. So she was faced with choosing daycare for her youngest.

"It's really a difficult choice. No matter how many times you visit a

day care facility, there's always the nagging fear that your children are not being cared for the way you would want them to be," commented Charis, adding, "And their health—it seems my daughter was always getting sick with whatever was going around with the other kids!"

During the same time, she was attending classes at night for licensing in therapeutic massage. Like so many other young women, Charis was looking for an occupation in which she could tailor the hours around the needs of her

See MOTHERHOOD, page 11



Charis Wheless (right) sits with children (left to right); son Joe, daughters Mishell and Kristina.

## Meeting "Illuminates" Park Lighting Issue

By Gwen Szafranski

Twelve Bloomingdale residents joined representatives of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association at a special meeting held in the Community Office on April 17 to discuss the pros and cons of the proposed lighting system for the tennis and basketball courts located in the Park East and West complexes.

Guests Lois Kessler and Larry Mitchell of the Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department answered homeowners' questions and addressed their concerns about the proposed lighting. Mitchell, who is Manager of the County Parks and Recreation Bond Program, discussed with residents the sophisticated lighting systems being considered since one objection to the project centered on the potential glare from court lights projecting onto properties surrounding the parks.

"Technology is there to direct the amount of lighting needed toward the specific activity," commented Mitchell. "We're looking at the General Electric sports lighting where we can redirect what's called 'the spill and glare' away from residents' lawns."

Fitted with devices called louvers or hoods, the court lights would provide one foot candle of light or the equivalent of one street light, with the focus of the light

directed toward the sports activity.

A second objection was expressed by one Bloomingdale East homeowner who felt the lighting would encourage non-residents to enter the neighborhoods to use the facilities at night, increasing the noise factor and safety concerns in the immediate areas.

Mitchell pointed out that the lighting systems could be manually controlled or fitted with timers to automatically shut off at nine in the evening to eliminate sports activities and noise past a designated time.

Several residents expressed their support for the court lighting, pointing out that it gives working adults a chance

to unwind with a sports activity in the evening after work.

Although the majority present at the meeting favored the lighting, it was acknowledged that a consensus of opinion is needed from all homeowners whose properties are adjacent to the East and West Parks. Consequently, a major item on the agenda for the May 13 meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association will be a continued discussion of the lighting issue. All residents who feel their properties will be impacted from the addition of the lighting system are strongly urged to express their support or their concerns at the upcoming meeting.



# BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE

## NIP Report

Would you buy a house where the next door neighbor parks on their lawn or doesn't cut their lawn? Well, sadly here in Bloomingdale there are people who do park on their lawns and don't cut their lawns. These are both some of the common deed restrictions that are violated. It's very sad when people don't respect the rules and regulations that we are all obligated to follow.

Our volunteers send out deed restriction cards for all violations that are called into the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association (BHA) office. Most of the time, probably 75% of the time, the majority of people comply; those that don't usually are sent a second notice. Unless the complaining party wants to file a lawsuit, that is as far as we can go to try to get compliance. The BHA has a special fund set up to help anyone who wants to file a lawsuit if the BHA feels the suit can be won in court. So far, we haven't had anyone file a lawsuit, but it is an option if you feel strongly about an offending neighbor. Most homeowners are conscientious and do a great job keeping up their property, which in turn keeps their property value up, and consequently yours, too.

Brandon and Bloomingdale are growing by leaps and bounds and it is a beautiful, convenient place to live and shop.

If anyone has good ideas on how we can improve our neighborhoods, please come to our monthly BHA meeting, we'll be more than glad to listen. To most of us our homes are our biggest investments we'll ever make. We want to keep Bloomingdale a place we're proud to call home. Let's not let our neighborhoods get run down, pitch in, help a neighbor who needs help fixing a fence, cutting their lawn, etc., when illness or other problems occur. Maybe someday you'll need help and there will be a neighbor there for you.

Abandoned homes can be a problem, especially in older sections of Bloomingdale. If you have one near you, call the BHA office and we'll notify the county to see what can be done, also, we'll make the sheriff's department aware of it.

If you are a new homeowner in Bloomingdale and didn't get a copy of the deed restrictions, call the BHA office at 681-2051 and we will make sure you get a copy of your area.

### From Page 1

#### BLOOMINGDALE WEST RECREATION CENTER

AGES 6 - 9

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00am	CHECK IN SET UP	CHECK IN SET UP	CHECK IN SET UP	CHECK IN SET UP	CHECK IN SET UP
9:00am	KICKBALL	BASKETBALL	KICKBALL	BASKETBALL	WIFFLE BALL
10:00am	RACQUET BALL	ARCHERY	RACQUET BALL	ARCHERY	GOLF
11:00am	DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS	DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS	DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS	DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS	DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS
11:30pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:00pm	CARTOONS	CARTOONS	CARTOONS	CERAMICS	CERAMICS
2:00pm	ARTS & CRAFTS	ARTS & CRAFTS	ARTS & CRAFTS	ARTS & CRAFTS	KIDS CHOICE
3:00pm	NEWCOMBALL	HOCKEY	NEWCOMBALL	HOCKEY	SOCCER
4:00pm	GAME ROOM	GAME ROOM	GAME ROOM	GAME ROOM	GAME ROOM
5:00pm	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME

#### BLOOMINGDALE WEST RECREATION CENTER

AGES 10 AND UP

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00am	CHECK IN SET UP	CHECK IN SET UP	CHECK IN SET UP	CHECK IN SET UP	CHECK IN SET UP
9:00am	BASKETBALL	SOFTBALL	BASKETBALL	SOFTBALL	ALASKAN BASEBALL
10:00am	ARCHERY	HOCKEY	ARCHERY	HOCKEY	STICKBALL
11:00am	GAME ROOM & DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS	GAME ROOM & DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS	GAME ROOM & DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS	GAME ROOM & DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS	GAME ROOM & DAILY SPECIAL EVENTS
12:00pm	LUNCH & SPG'S	LUNCH & SPG'S	LUNCH & SPG'S	LUNCH & SPG'S	LUNCH & SPG'S
1:00pm	GAME ROOM	GAME ROOM	GAME ROOM	GAME ROOM	GAME ROOM
2:00pm	VOLLEYBALL	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	SOCCER	MOVIE
3:00pm	ARTS & CRAFTS	ARTS & CRAFTS	ARTS & CRAFTS	ARTS & CRAFTS	MOVIE
4:00pm	GOLF	RACQUETBALL	GOLF	SPECIAL EVENT	KIDS CHOICE
5:00pm	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME	CHECK OUT SPG'S FREE TIME

### OFFICERS

**BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road  
Suite 103  
Valrico, Florida 33594  
681-2051

Randy Wolfe President 229-3321  
Rick Oros Vice President 685-0866

#### Directors

Michael Davis 684-8881  
Ted Grable 685-7193  
Walter Glenn 681-2051  
Tim Golden 681-2051  
Patricia Radel 651-0210  
Luana Russell 662-1610  
LaWayne Wyatt 685-2072  
Anne Underwood 653-4677

#### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

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Tom Mackiewicz Vice President 653-4145  
Joe Ligouri Treasurer 681-9655  
T. Saabo Corresponding Secretary 684-2547  
John Profetto Recording Secretary 684-7935  
Tom Seelling Trustee 681-9184  
Chris Hering Trustee 654-8235  
Alan Devney Administrator 684-6617

#### Bloomingdale Mobile Watch

Core Committee  
LaWayne Wyatt Coordinator/Scheduler 685-2072  
John Britton Treasurer 681-1553  
Tony Diolosa Equipment Manager 681-1146  
Members  
David Guy 681-5943  
Paul Keimer 681-9701  
Rick Borling 684-2022

#### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

P.O. Box 3132  
Brandon, Florida 33509-3132  
Bill Grace President 685-2917  
Fred Englehart Treasurer 685-3636

### The Bloomingdale Gazette

3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road • Suite 103  
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HOURS: M & F: 9:30-12:30,  
T & TH: 9:00-11:00, W: 9:30-2:30

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### MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale Community Office. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

#### Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

#### BHA Board of Directors

Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

#### Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

#### Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch

Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

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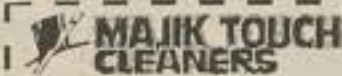


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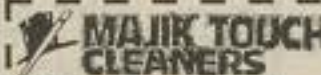
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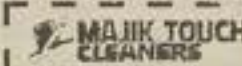
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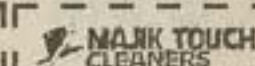


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From page 1,

# "I love my mother"...

I love my mom because she is caring helpful and hardworking.

First, she is caring. When I get hurt she care about me. Next, she is helpful. When I need help on homework a cleaning my room.

In concluiom I love my Mom vary nuch.  
Jennifer Bentson

I love my mother. I love my mother because she is nice, cool and smart

First, she is nice because. she helps me with my homework.

second, she is cool because she puy me stuff and

Fird, my mom is smart because she lets me do my homework

Justin Lyons

I love my mother because she is nice, helpful, and generous.

First, she is nice. She's nice because she lets me do stif.

Next, she is helpful, she is helpful because she get stif down.

Last, she is generous she is generous because she takes me places

In concluseiony, I love my mother very much becasue she is nice, helpful and generous.

Tommy Savino

I love my mother because she is cool, helpful and funny.

First, shes is cool. She is cool because she gives my brother and I our own day. She is also cool because she likes cool sports.

Next, she is helpful. She is helpful by cleaning my room when I'm not home. She is also helpful when I'm cleaning my bathroom.

Last, she is funny. She is funny when she makes up jokes. She is also funny when she makes wierd noises.

In conclusion I love my mother very much. I would pick more why I love her. Here are the three because shes cool, helpful, and funny.

Miranda Morrow

I love my mother because she is caring, smart, and loveable.

First, she is caring. She cares about my health. She cares for me if I am sick.

Second, she is smart. She's so smart she known if I have a fever without a thermometer. She knows what I'm supposed to do on all the homework I've gotten.

Last, she is loveable. She is loveable because she is able to be loved. I know a few people that love her myself.

In conclusion, I love my mother very much. Because she is caring, smart, and loveable.

Bryan Pine

I love my mother because she is helpful, caring, and smart.

First, she is helpful. She helps clean the house. drives me and my brother to school.

Next she is caring. She takes me in at night. When I'm sick she stay home and takes care of me.

Last she is smart. she stays up and does her work. She nows every problem on my homework.

I conclusion I riely love my mom.

David Lichty

I love my mother because she is caring, lovable, and cool.

First, she is caring because when I get hurt she makes shure I'm ok. If I don't do my homework she'll make shure I do it. If I forget to feed my cats she'll do if for me.

Second, she is loveable because she kisses be before I go to bed. She says I love you every night. She hugs me all the time.



© Tim Golden

Third she is cool because she will tell me jokes. She will tikle me. She says funny things. Thats why I love my mother so much.

Krista Psoinos

I love my mother because she is funny, helpful, and loving.

First, my mother is funny. She's funny because she always does funny things. She's also funny because when she makes she makes everyone laugh.

Second, my mom is helpful. My mom is helpful because when I can't do somthing she always helps me. She is also helpful because when I'm sick she helps me.

Last, my mom is lovgng. She is loving because she always tucks me in at night. She is also loving because she buys stuff for me.

In conclusion, I love my mother very much. I love her because she is funny, helpful, and loving.

Morgan Smith

I love my mother because she is helpful, funny, and caring.

First, she is helpful. She helps me with my home work. She also helps me fold the laondery.

Next, she is funny. She is funny when she tickles me. She also is funny when she walks and says she is going to catch me and I run.

Third, she is caring. She is caring when I am hert. She is also caring when I am sick.

In conclushian, I love my mom cause she is helpful, and caring.

Karen Carman

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# 8th Graders Visit Washington D.C.



By Natalie McCartney

On March 15, the eighth grade class from Immanuel Lutheran School in Brandon took an exciting, yet educational five-day trip to Washington, D. C.

Shortly after the 14 students arrived, the class and their chaperones went on a night tour by trolley to see all the amazing monuments and memorials. Despite the bitter cold, the Veterans Memorial was still a very touching sight to the teenagers. The most fascinating memorial to several students was the Washington Monument. At over 555 feet of laid stones, it overlooks the nation's capital.

Another very remarkable event was visiting Arlington Cemetery where many of the war dead are buried. Afterwards, the young tourists were just in time for "The Changing of the Guard" at the tomb of the unknown soldier. The guards were very precise and truly impressed the kids. The changing of the guards will take place in

perpetuity.

Other memorable tours included the Capitol, Holocaust Museum and the White House, where the class saw President Clinton in the Red Room on T. V. only moments after they arrived.

Last, but not least, the students woke up to a beautiful snow that blanketed the grounds. This put a perfect ending to a perfect week.

Marie Powell Better Homes and Gardens

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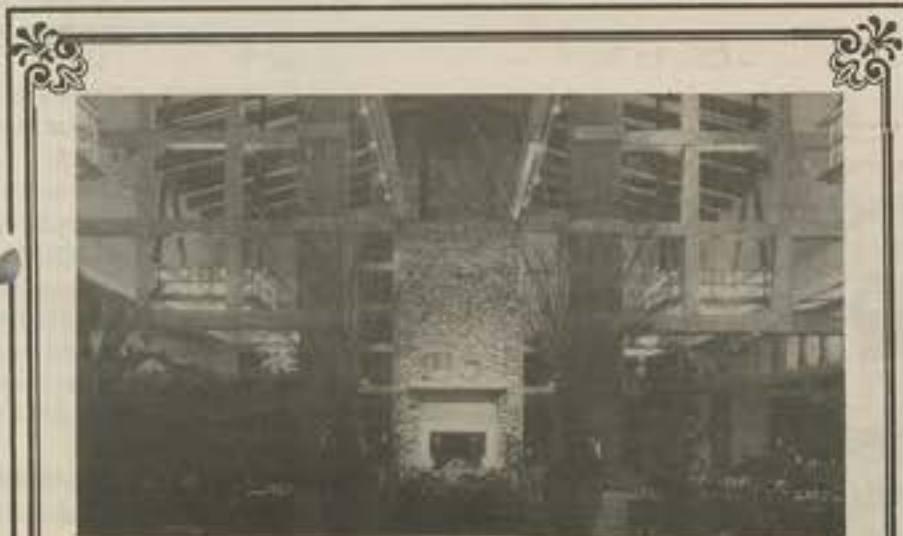
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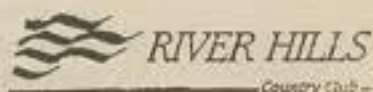
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Reservations and Information

# Resident Pastor Retires

by Brooke Van Heest

Dr. Garry A. Scheuer, Jr., founding pastor of St. Mark United Church has retired from the church after 14 years of tireless service. He has also served six previous churches over a 38 year period.

Dr. Scheuer moved to the Brandon area in January of 1983. He was called by the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries to begin a new church locally.

Services began at the old Center Place on Vonderburg Drive and by 1987 the congregation grew so much that it had to be moved to its present location at 2914 Lithia Pinecrest Road. This building has served the congregation and community for the past 10 years.

Looking forward to his retirement, knowing now he will be able to spend more time with his family-wife, children and grandchildren. There will also be a little more time to pursue his various interests and hobbies. His wife Carolyn, Director of Music at St. Mark Church, is also retiring. She has served in this position since the beginning of the church, and was the church secretary for the first 8 years. She will continue with the Brandon Youth Theater and with her voice studio, teaching three days a week.

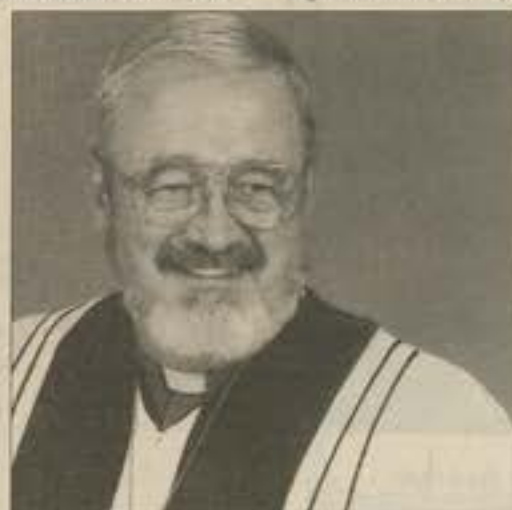
Dr. Scheuer makes the analogy between one golfer and St. Mark. "Tiger Woods won the Masters Tournament by the largest margin ever. He shattered records held by such greats as Nicklaus and Floyd. He is

the first member of his race and the youngest ever to win the Masters. He is a young champion. The future is wide open before him. He has all the skills, all the potential, the right mental attitude, a balance of rightful pride and genuine humility. Soooo!!! I make the comparison between the Tiger and the Lion (St. Mark - in case you forgot the traditional symbol - is the Lion).

"Both can roar! Both are strong, young champions. Both have the potential to own the future. Both are one-of-a-kind and bring unique factors to the arena where they reign. Of course, St. Mark has the power and help of God as well. I've always doubted God's interest in golf since I pray (a lot) and play a terrible game of golf. More than once, facing a difficult shot, I have thought I heard a 'still small voice' say, 'You're on your own'. However there is no doubt of God's concern for the church. St. Mark is NOT alone".

It is by example Dr. Scheuer has brought the members of the congregation and the church to where it is today. He has rung doorbells and made cold calls. His living room became a choir room when there was no other space available. He has picked and hulled strawberries when money was needed for missions. The list goes on and on.

Teaching, inspiring and motivating, leading, loving and sharing are words that are used to describe the retired pastor by the congregation. He will be greatly missed.



Dr. Scheuer

## Church News

### First Baptist Church of Brandon

The Women's Ministry of First Baptist Church would like to invite you to an evening that is set around the theme: Wedding Day...A Day of Commitment and Love. This celebration for mother's daughters and friends is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the church dining room. Come and enjoy an elegant wedding reception and wedding fashions, old and new. Scripture tells us "As the bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you." Come and share in an event that will touch your heart with love. Tickets may be purchased for \$10 in the church office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please call First Baptist Church of Brandon at 689-1204 ext. 235 for further information

### St. Mark United Church

This summer Saint Mark United Church, United Church of Christ will offer a class on the Old Testament, covering passages that are controversial and difficult to interpret.

The class will be taught by Kathy Stanton on Sundays following worship, from June 8 through August 17, and will be based on college Biblical study courses.

The Annual meeting and retreat will be held on June 6, 7, 8 at Stetson University in Deland. Plan to be there for this super event. Child Care available at no cost other than room and meals. Call St Mark United Church 685-0988

St. Mark United Church has maintained a schedule of visitation to local nursing homes in conjunction with the Brandon Ministerial Association.

During the coming months the ministry will continue but help is needed.

All it requires is a willingness to visit briefly with the elderly who often have no one who visit them, a voice (it need not be a good voice) to sing along with the resident's favorite hymns and a smile. The visit for less than an hour and it is time well spent.

Please call Louise McRae, 671-3393, or contact the church office, 685-0998, if you can attend one or more of the services. If you can play the piano your help is also needed.

Vaction Bible School will take place June 21 & 28, Saturdays, from 9:00a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please see Naomi Wilson to volunteer to help or call her at 681-7285, evenings.

See CHURCH, page 11

NOTARY

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## Libraries

**Brandon**•619 Vonderburg Dr. • 4-5  
Every Wednesday from 6:00  
the above address.

Book discussion of *Sleeping*.  
Tuesday, May 13 at 2:30 p.m. Enterta  
adventures from her hometown in Ge  
of the book are available at the branch  
Information for parents on co  
Dr. Florenzio Adal from the Pediatric  
May 22 at 7:00 p.m.

**Main Library**•900 N. Ashley Drive  
Children's program-Magical  
21 at 10:00 a.m. for ages 3-5 in the Ca  
Celebrate Pet Week will be c  
sixth grade and up. Learn how to acc  
Suncoast Free-Net. On Saturday, Ma  
p.m. to 4:00 p.m. will be in the Main l  
how to care for snakes. Registration i  
register.

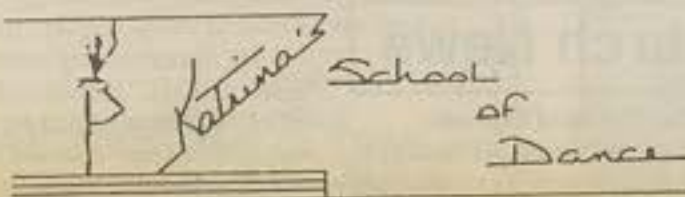
Brown Bag Concert Series,  
12:30 p.m., a classical guitar rhythms  
Don't forget your bag lunch!

Thursday, May 8 at 12:00 ne  
about the play, live theater and their l  
and co-sponsored by the Frie  
Center and the Florida Theatrica Ass  
Friday, May 23 at 1:00 join  
Suncoast Fre-Net and Pine E-Mail. F  
become registered users are invited to  
vations are required. Call 276-8701 t

**Ruskin Branch**•One Dickman Drive  
Bring the family and enjoy c  
May 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Joan Boles of Bay Area Leg  
advance directives, Thursday, May 8  
Friday, May 9 at 1:30 p.m. Y  
Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) I  
questions about Medicare, Medicaid  
Learn how to use the Tampa  
May 13 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday,

Book discussion of *Follow*.  
Wednesday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m. Ar  
her last hard winter, writes a confess  
of advice on life's most important le  
Bring your knitting and join  
11:00 a.m.



## SUMMER DANCE CAMP "ALL DAY DANCIN"

June 23-27, Ages 6-16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., w/ Sat. performance  
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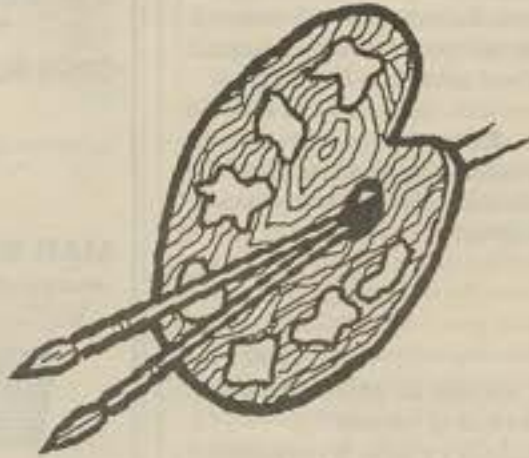
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Drawing.....	8-10
Drawing.....	11 & up
Decor. Painting.....	7-12
Cartooning.....	6-12
Cartoon Mural.....	6-12
Cartoon T-Shirt.....	6-12
Cruise the World.....	6-12
Discover Hour.....	4-6
Space Art.....	6-12
Theater Workshop.....	9-12
Theater Workshop.....	13-18

Advance registration required for all classes.  
Call for information on class dates and fees.

**685-8888**

## Notes

to 8:00 p.m. the Scrabble Club meets at

e *Starlite Motel* by Bailey White will be on g as well as endearing. White relates travel to a one-room school in Vermont. Copies

with bedwetting problems, presented by Center, will be addressed on Thursday,

pa-273-3652

ie Story Time will be on Wednesday, May 1 Manis Room.

turday, May 9 at 1:00 p.m. for children in nformation about pets and animals on the "Snakes! Snakes! Snakes!" from 2:00 ry Auditorium. Gino Sassani explains uired for groups. Call 276-8701 to

stantinos Jaferis," Wednesday, May 21 at our lunchtime enjoyment will be offered.

the cast and crew of "Carousel" will talk Hosted by Diane Roberts of WFLA-TV er the Tampa Bay Performing Arts ion.

nated Services staff as they demonstrate et registered users and those wanting to s about this free reference source. Reser- ister or for more information.

E.-671-7638

children's bedtime stories, Wednesday,

rvices will discuss living wills and other :00 a.m.

a Poirier will explain the Serving Health am and how it can assist in answering ther insurances.

borough Online Resources on Tuesday, 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Yearrt by Susanna Tamaro will be on rly Italian woman, facing what she fears is etter to her granddaughter in America, full

nitting group on Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. to



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## Gator Tales



by Phyllis Berlacher

### May Turns Up The Heat On Alafia Activities

Grab your date book and a pen because things are really heating up in May!

**Tuesday, May 6** Kindergarten round up starts at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

**May 12 through May 16** Alafia's spring book fair takes place in the media center. Here's an opportunity to purchase wonderful books for your children and benefit the school in the process.

**Tuesday, May 13 Happy Mother's Day** Enjoy muffins with Mom in the school cafeteria from 7:15 a.m. to 8 a.m. Cost is picked up by the PTA, although donations are gladly accepted. All Alafia moms are invited to attend with their children. Those dads who would like to help serve

should call Michelle Colesanti and 681-8889.

**Thursday, May 15** The second parent information meeting on Continuous Progress will take place at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A panel of Continuous Progress teachers, principals, and other experts will be available to answer your questions.

**Friday, May 16** The Alafia annual talent show debuts. Check the flyer that will be sent home for details.

**Tuesday, May 20** This evening's PTA general membership meeting will feature Tim Lloyd, financial consultant. Sponsored by Barnett Bank, N.A., Bloomingdale office, the program will discuss how you can best invest for your child's future. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Attendees will be eligible to win a \$50 savings bond. Refreshments will be served.

**Thursday, May 29** A "tea" honoring Alafia volunteers will take place in the school cafeteria at 2:30 p.m.

And last, but not least, congratulations to Alafia principal Tanyl Cabrera. She received an award from the National Reading Association for her strong support of and emphasis on reading skills, particularly her involvement in the monthly reading challenges.

## Lithia Linx



### School Uniforms

Responses to a Lithia Springs Elementary School uniform survey indicated a preponderance of parents favor such a program, according to principal Connie Gilbert.

Reporting the results of the survey to the school's P.T.A. Board of Directors, she said her staff is studying the implementation of a uniform program for the fall of 1997. She said she favors a navy blue and khaki uniform with a collared white shirt or blouse, either woven or knitted.

Gilbert said the program will be optional, but expects about eighty percent compliance if Lithia Springs follows the experience of other schools which have already started a uniform program.

Many schools have reported a decrease of discipline problems and distractions with uniforms, Gilbert said. While economically favorable for parents' pocket books, the primary reason for uniforms is a classroom atmosphere that increases learning.

Gilbert said she will make a presentation of uniform's policies and details at the last P.T.A. meeting of the school year, May 20. This meeting will also conduct the business of the nominating committee for the next year's P.T.A. Board and will also honor school volunteers.

### Accelerated Reading Program

A program designed to interest students to read more and more books with increasingly better retention has been started at Lithia Springs Elementary with the third grade

classes.

By the fall of 1997 semester, all other classes will be added to the "accelerated reading program."

The accelerated reader is a system of computerized testing and record keeping. The student selects and reads a book from his grade level, goes to the computer, and takes an objective test about the book. The computer can take the place of book reports and evaluations and assures the teacher the student has read the book and then is graded on

comprehension. The computer keeps the student and teacher aware of how many books he/she has read and how they are scored and accumulates points for a total. Teachers use the system as both a game and motivational tool.

According to teachers and librarians, the program generates the student's enthusiasm for reading: The more books, the more scores are accumulated. The computer does the paperwork by tabulating and recording constantly.

The real benefit is measurable, with this program students gain better performance on academic achievement tests in both reading and mathematics.

## Bruin Beat



### Music Program Excels, Offers Summer Classes

Burns Middle School is offering an exciting music program for students who have finished the sixth grade.

Classes will be held June 16 through July 18 for 2 1/2 hours each day Monday through Friday. Tuition for the full class is \$144. Beginners will meet from 7:30 to 10 a.m., and intermediates will meet from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most students will need to provide their own instrument.

For further information, contact Burns Middle School at 744-8383.

Burns was the only middle school to have three bands entered at the Florida Bandmaster Association Festival held March 26 at Bloomingdale High. All three received superior ratings.

Each band performed a march and two concert selections as well as two sight-reading pieces. Their performances were evaluated by a panel of professional judges who made comments and gave a grade on their performance.

In other news... Burns Principal, Mrs. Linda Kipley is a finalist for a Hillsborough Education Foundation EDDIE Award. The awards honor Excellence, Dedication and Devotion in Education and are presented annually to educators, public citizens and businesses who have exemplified these ideals.

Mrs. Kipley is a finalist for the Perseverance Award. Winners will be announced at a Gala on May 17 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

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## Here's What's Happening . . .

**Center Place-619 Vonderburg Drive-685-8888**  
**The Gift Shop At Center Place**

Stop by and select a very special gift for Mother's Day. The new inventory includes specialty books, photo albums, Romanian hand blown bud vases and a line of beautiful gold jewelry. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Thursdays 10:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

**Children's Theater**

Stages Productions will present "The Three Little Pigs" on Friday, June 20 at 10:45 a.m. and an evening performance at 7:00 p.m. Three unique pigs each find themselves 'Home Alone' when a certain well known wolf invites himself to dinner. Will they be devoured separately or will they learn to overcome their differences and join forces to battle the hungry wolf? Stages Productions combines all the charm and comedy of the family classic with plenty of singing, dancing, and even a rapping Big Bad Wolf. With the use of creative dramatics, the children help the actors and learn a valuable lesson along the way.

Patchwork Players will present "The Frog Prince" on Wednesday, July 2 at 10:45 a.m. This story of a reluctant princess who meets an enchanted prince in the palace garden is a hilarious romp through a classic tale. The frog's only hope of breaking the enchantment is to be kissed by the beautiful princess. The setting and beautiful costumes enhance this production. The play is recommended for ages 3 and up.

**Patron Party**

Center Place in collaboration with Outback Steakhouse invites you to their Thirteenth Annual Patron Party on May 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brandon Indoor Soccer Arena. A fun-filled evening is planned with a special social hour performance by the Sarasota Sailor Circus. This dazzling group of young people will perform exciting circus acts that leave you breathless, while the hilarious antics of the clowns make you laugh and feel like a kid again!

**Kid's Summer Fun At Center Place**

Check out the center pages for a list of summer activities at Center Place.

**MOSI-4801 East Fowler Avenue-Tampa**  
**987-6310**

**Day Camps**

When school's out, MOSI's in! Kindergarten through fifth grade students have an opportunity for discovery and exploration.

May 23-Dinosaur Adventures, 1-5 p.m. for grades K-2 and 3-5. Fees are \$15 for members for one half-day program; \$20 for nonmembers.

June 16-Aug. 15-Summer Science Camps. Half-day classes, full-day camps and travel camps for ages 2 through eighth grade. Hands-on learning is at the heart of all classes and camps. Topics range from cooking to space, from water to sawdust, with many prehistoric programs. Call 987-6000 for a catalog.

**Educator Enrichment Workshops**

May 17-Digging into Dinosaurs, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$20 per workshop.

**Great Escapes**

May 17-Fossil Dig, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visit the playground of the primitive whales in the marine fossil bed at Vulcan Mines. Participants need to wear sturdy walking shoes and bring plastic bags for fossil collection. Also, bring a sack lunch and plenty of water.. Fees are \$35 for members and \$45 for nonmembers.B

**Kids Clubs**

May 6, 13, 20, and 27-Dinosaur Days MOSI has a club to spark an interest and invigorate the senses of future scientists. Science Quest Club is for Grades K-2 and meets from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Fees are \$30 for members for the series or \$10 per day; \$40 for nonmembers for the series or \$14 per day.

**Lectures**

June 7-"Dinosaur Origins," by MOSI paleontologist Dave Letasi. Learn where and when dinosaurs started living on the earth and what their relationship to other animals was. Find out how they adapted to survive changes.

**Science Works Theater**

May 24-Sept. 1-Daphne the Dinosaur from People's Gas.



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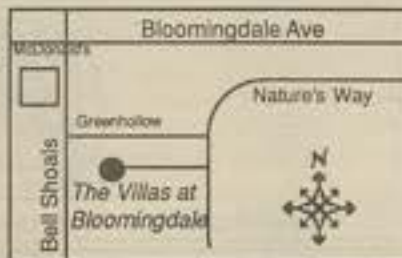
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## Business Notes



### Greater Brandon Chamber Business Expo

The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the 1997 Brandon Business Expo and Taste of Brandon will be sponsored by the Credit Union Service Centers, (Bay Gulf, Florida Central, Railroad & Industrial & Tampa Bay Federal Credit Union) and media sponsors, The Tampa Tribune and WQYK Radio.

The event, held on Tuesday, May 13 from 5 to 9 p.m., has been moved to the Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Building.

Cost for booth space is \$125 for Chamber members and \$225 for non-members. This year, auto, boat and R.V. exhibitors will be invited to participate along with over 150 area businesses.

The evening also includes the Taste of Brandon, which features over 20 areas restaurants or catering companies that provide sample items at the event. Activities also include prizes and entertainment.

Advance tickets may be purchased at the chamber for \$8 per person and includes admission, parking and one

complimentary beverage. Tickets at the event will be \$10 per person plus parking.

For more information or to reserve space or purchase tickets, contact Jeanenne Erwin at 689-1221.

### Russell Top Agent

Realtor Luanna Russell, a top East Hillsborough County home sales professional with TAM-BAY Realty, Inc., has been recognized as the Top Associate in Sales and Closings in the Bloomingdale office for March.

Russell has been in the real estate profession for more than 20 years and holds the Realtor GRI and CRS credentials. She is married to Realtor Wood Russell.

To date, she has moved more than 1,000 families through Russell's 5-Star Service Real Estate Program.

Luanna Russell can be contacted at the new Bloomingdale office location by calling 662-1610 or 685-8545.

### 3rd Annual Bloomingdale Classic

The 3rd Annual Bloomingdale Classic will be held on June 7 at Alafia Elementary School located at Culbreath and Natures Way Bloomingdale. The event will start at 8 a.m. with a 5K run, 8:30 a.m. with a 1 mile fun walk, and 9 a.m. with a 10K in-line skate. The post race party will include music from Mix 96, food, drinks and give-a-ways.

Trophies will be given to the overall male & female winners as well as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Entry fees for the classic are \$12 in advance and \$15 on race day. The first 400 applicants will receive custom designed T-shirts.

The Bloomingdale Classic is designed to raise community awareness of the YMCA activities and financially support the many worthwhile YMCA programs for children and adults. The event is run strictly on a volunteer basis.

Registration forms may be pick-up at the following locations.

Brandon YMCA - 3097 Kingsway, Brandon.  
Mail Boxes, Etc. - 813 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon.

Suarez Model Center - Culbreath & Portbello, Valrico.  
Play It Again Sports - 744 W. Lumsden Rd., Brandon.  
Reds Sporting Goods - 821 W. Lumsden Ave., Brandon.

Call Diane Flagg 644-1100 or Kathy McKnight 681-4279 for more information.

Registration and packet pick up begins at 7:00 a.m. race day.

Make checks payable to Brandon YMCA and mail to: Brandon Running Association, P.O. /Box 1564, Brandon FL 33509-1564.

## Real Estate Moves

### Important Steps To Home Selling

By Michael Davis

Selling your home is one of the most important steps in your life, and you need to be equipped with essential tips. Previous articles have provided the first seven tips in the "29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar)", a report provided free by calling 684-8881.

**Tip No. 8: Give yourself room to negotiate.**

Make sure you leave yourself enough room in which to bargain. If what you ask for is unacceptable to the buyer, and their

first offer is unacceptable to you, then you better make sure you have someplace to go that is acceptable to you.

Start with the absolute minimum price you would accept, then pick the price you'd get if the world were perfect. This gives you your range to keep in mind when working with your relator to negotiate the sale.

In setting your asking price, review your priorities. Do you want to maximize your profit or sell quickly? You'll price high for the former and closer to market

See REAL ESTATE, page 11

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**BHA Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowner's Association will be held on May 13. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All dues paying members and new residents are encouraged to attend. Guests may ask questions or raise issues at the top of the meeting.

**STD Meeting**

The monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be Monday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Office located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Suite 103, in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. A portion of homeowner property taxes supports the STD which maintains the common areas of Bloomingdale. All homeowners are welcomed to attend.

**Camp Volunteers Needed**

Lifeguards and counselors are needed for Camp Wannago, Florida's first camp for children both infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The camp, located in Brandon is sponsored by the Tampa AIDS Network (TAN) and volunteers must be 18 years or older.

Camp dates are June 9-14 and July 7-12 and volunteers are needed on both a daytime only and an overnight basis.

Lifeguards will be paid a stipend, and TAN will pay for and arrange for lifeguard certification training, but those interested must contact Susan Onischuk at 978-8683 before May 1.

Counselors will be accepted on a volunteer basis and will be given a background check, screening and interview. Call Debbie Torres or Susan Onischuk at 978-8683.

**Spanish Lessons**

Conversational Spanish classes will resume at the Bloomingdale Park West Community Center in January. Classes will meet every Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m.

For information call 744-5907 after 1 p.m.

**Ladies Tea & Drama**

Return to the 18th century to meet Susanna Wesley, devoted mother of John and Charles Wesley. Dramatist Peggy Miller presents this living parrait of this incredible woman of faith on Wednesday, May 14, beginning 9:30 a.m., ending at 11:30 a.m. at Center Place 619 Vonderburg Dr., Brandon.

Be our guest for an enjoyable drama that also includes a complimentary tea, breakfast and child care, all sponsored by Aglow International. Call Linda Green for more information at 677-7041.

**CHURCH, from page 5**

**Bell Shoals Baptist Church**

The Women in Focus Ministry of Bell Shoals Baptist Church, 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon, would like to invite all area women to their Tuesday morning Fruitful Hands Craft Ministry and Fellowship! Express your creativity by participating in making a different craft each week and make new friends at the same time. Projects for May include Yo Yo Day - Shirt and Tote (May 6), Floral victorian High Heel (May 13) and a Christmas Card Box (May 20).

Daytime childcare is available (at no cost) with reservations made one week in advance.

Sample crafts and supply lists are available at the church's Fruitful Hands Display Board located in the concourse near the Special Events Center. Rhonda Kloosterman at 621-4412 for class information.

**TEAM Ministries:**

Team Ministries Training Center, 1603 E. Bloomingdale Ave., in Valrico, holds Without Ceasing Prayer Concert 6-8 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; for information, page 202-2019 or call 653-2222.

**MOTHERHOOD, from 1**

family. With the addition of a third child (son Joe) in 1996, this proved to be a wise choice since she can work as a massage therapist by appointment only through Total Tan. She continues to work part-time on weekends for MacRiley Homes, leaving her three children with husband, Brain, again, to avoid having to use day care.

With the change in the size of a family and the ages of the children, we both agree that flexibility was the only way to survive the fluctuating demands of scheduling.

"Schedule? What schedule!?" Charis replied to a question I had about how she juggles her children's school activities with dance and Tae Kwon Do lessons. "What their needs are one day are not their needs the next day - forget the schedule. Oh and we dropped the Tae Kwon Do," she added with a chuckle.

We continued to commiserate about changing families and flexible schedules when Charis asked me if it gets less hectic. With three teenagers at home and a daughter about to graduate from college and proceed to graduate school, I just chuckled back (why let on that the chaos is only beginning for her?), and agreed with Charis that we'll have to trade notes more frequently in the future.

**REAL ESTATE, from page 10**

value if the latter is the case.

**Tip No. 9: Maximize your home's sales potential.**

Each year, corporate North American spends billions of dollars on product and packaging design. The lesson here is that appearance is critical - and it would be foolish to ignore this when selling your home.

You may not be able to change your home's location or its floor plan, but you can do a lot to improve its appearance. And you should. The look and "feel" of your home generates a greater emotional response than any other factor. You may price your home to sell, but a prospective buyer reacts to what they see, hear, feel and smell.

**Tip No. 10: Rely on other people's judgment as well as your own.**

The key to effective marketing is knowing your product's good and bad points. In the case of your home, accentuating the good can mean a faster sale for more money; failing to deal with the bad can mean months on the market and a lower-than-desired sales price.

The biggest mistake you can make at this point is to rely solely on your own judgment. Remember this is your home, a place of fond memories. There are bound to be emotional issues that can impair your ability to make an honest assessment of your home's strengths and weaknesses.

**Tip No. 11: Clean like you've never cleaned before... will be shared with you next month.**

**Classifieds**

**NIP(Neighborhood Improvement Program)**

Volunteers needed for BHA (Bloomingdale Homeowners Association) program. Call the community office at 681-2051 for information.

**JUDY CLEANS:**

Give yourself a break! Let Judy clean your home, office, condo, or apartment; reasonable rates, references available. Wkly/bi/wkly. Call anytime 681-5609. License #80356.

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### Home Buyers: Important Information

Buying a home is a magical time that is filled with wonderful emotions as well as many anxieties. However, making such an important decision requires a grounded, rational perspective. Michael understands what you're going through. That's why he is offering his special report, *Home Buyers: How To Avoid Paying Too Much* to prospective home buyers. In it you will find helpful tips that can literally save you thousands of dollars when you buy. Valued at \$29, Michael is offering it free for a limited time as a community service. Get yours while supplies last. And keep the dream alive.



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