



DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Have you ever wanted to be part of something BIG and set a record doing so? Well, now is your chance. The Florida State Fairgrounds will attempt to beat the current record in the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest Food Truck Festival. Be part of the history as they break the Guinness Book of World Records and put our area in history.

This two day event will be held at the Florida State Fairgrounds on Saturday March 29, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday March 30, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Generation Food Truck and the Florida State Fair Authority are teaming together again to create an event to assemble the most food trucks in one area at one time, and we call it the "World's Largest Food Truck Festival "EVER."

They are looking to have over 200 food trucks participate. If you have a food truck and would like to participate, contact Terri Parnell – Longphee at terri.parnell@freshfromflorida.com or call 813-627-4218. The fee is \$100 for the two day event.

For those who just want to come out and be a part of the fun, there will be live music, bounce houses for the kids and a car show sure to entertain.



First Place for Fun – The Florida State Fair Begins on February 6 Read more details on Page 3

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EARN EXTRA MONEY AND BE YOUR OWN BOSS

The Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide needs an independent sales representative to contact local businesses for advertising. Earn good commissions plus bonuses. Must be a self-motivated person. Meet new people and learn about the business community in our area. A good way to earn money without having to commute out of town. Contact the editor for more information.



"Florida's Best Family Recipe" is the theme of this year's Florida Strawberry Festival. The 79th annual festival will run February 27 to March 9 and will include 22 headline acts on the Wish Farm stage.

Just a Thought...



By: Christine Wynne, Editor

With the New Year upon us, we ponder the resolutions we might make. Statistics say around 92 million Americans will make a New Year resolution, yet only about 25% will keep that resolution. Sometimes I think people should make resolutions to do things they already do. Think about it. There is little chance of breaking the resolution. Plus, you can feel successful at keeping your resolution.

I was asked recently what my New Year's resolution was and an awkward moment of silence followed. I am a New Year's resolution-maker and I generally keep my resolutions, or make my best effort to. However, I like to keep my resolutions to myself. I will share one resolution with you and that is to focus on continuing to make the Guide grow.

It seems like it was just yesterday that I launched the Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide. We began in June 2012 as a quarterly hometown paper that featured fun and folksy, yet informative, hometown stories that were not found in larger publications. Our goal was to steer away from the hard news that can be found in daily or weekly papers. We also wanted to avoid being just another vehicle for advertising - - every town has that paper that features 100 pages of advertisements and only 20 pages of actual content. I believe we have been successful in achieving our goals.

You have spoken and we have listened. The feedback we get the most often is for the Guide to come out more frequently. I am proud to announce that this edition marks the first monthly issue of the Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide. It is within these pages you will find the usual columns on travel, entertainment, food and winter festivities, but you will also find stories that will warm your heart.

We are lucky to have two new young writers this month. Skylar Harkless is a recent graduate of Frostproof High School. She started writing at the young age of 7 and has already written five books. Skylar says "my goal is to leave a mesmerizing message in each story; whether it is about love or finding yourself, or just opening your imagination."

Our other new writer is my son, Michael Wynne. Michael is a fifth grader at Walden Lake Elementary.

Don't hesitate to drop me a line. I'm only a few keystrokes away by email at editor@plantcityguide.com.

CAN'T FIND A GIFT FOR THAT HARD-TO-BUY-FOR PERSON IN YOUR LIFE?

GIVE THE GIFT OF A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE PLANT CITY DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Have your copy reserved and delivered directly to your home or business for just \$10 per year anywhere in the U.S., plus we put you on our premium e-mail list for the latest, up to date specials, offers and "what's happening" in the Plant City region. Subscriptions make great gifts.

If you give the Guide as a gift, we will send your gift recipient a card letting them know that the gift was from you. Just complete the form below and mail to: 4303 Reynolds Oaks Place, Plant City, FL 33563.

Recipient Name: _____

Recipient Address: _____

Your Name: _____

Message: _____

"Don't Be Disappointed When They Are Gone"

The Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide is available for free at various businesses around town. You will also find copies in the Bruton Memorial Library. Copies are limited and run out quickly. Have your copy reserved and delivered directly to your home or business for just \$10 per year, plus we put you on our premium e-mail list for the latest, up to date specials, offers and "what's happening" in the Plant City region.

AREA HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

The chill of winter is in the air. As if on cue, the heat and humidity of our long summer will give way to cooler weather. This is the time of year when we share our incredible state with many tourists and snowbirds. Why let them have all of the fun?? From the Florida State Fair to The Strawberry Festival, the possibilities for winter fun are endless. These winter traditions, and others like them, can be found throughout our region. There is something for everyone, so pack up the family and enjoy. Here is a sampling of events in our area.

Florida State Fair

The annual Florida State Fair is a salute to the state's best in the agriculture and equestrian industry including an abundance of shows, music, rides and food for 12 consecutive days February 6-17. Excitement is in the air all over the fairgrounds with plenty of free entertainment included with admission. Make sure to plan your day in advance to enjoy all the sights, sounds, and tastes the state fair has to offer. New this year is FMX Extreme Motorcycle Show Parking is free during the Fair and the largest portable roller coaster in North America called the Comet II.

Fairgoers can enjoy a spacious midway that provides more than 100 rides and games and there is nothing like fair food – cotton candy, ice cream, and things fried that you never thought of frying – think fried Oreo cookies or chocolate covered bacon! Exhibitors come from all over the state to continue the tradition of showing off their handiwork, children participating in 4H and FFA are eager to show their skills and animals, and a visit to the Florida State Fair isn't complete without stepping back in time in Cracker Country – a rustic turn-of-the-century village.

Gates open daily at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday, and at 9:00 a.m. Friday through Sunday. Cracker Country is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Purchase discounted advance tickets at www.floridastatefair.net or at Walgreens or AAA Motorclub.

Monday - Friday

Adults Age 12 & Over: \$9 Advance or \$11 Gate
Senior: \$7 Advance or \$9 Gate
Children Age 6-11: \$5 Advance or \$6 Gate
Ages 5 & Under: FREE

Saturday - Sunday

Adults Age 12 & Over: \$9 Advance or \$13 Gate
Senior: \$7 Advance or \$9 Gate
Children Age 6-11: \$5 Advance or \$7 Gate
Ages 5 & Under: FREE



Florida State Fair

Busch Gardens Real Music Concert Series

The Real Music Concert Series returns to Busch Gardens Tuesdays through Fridays January 14 to March 7 with incredible live music spanning the 1930s-1970s to include swing, blues, pop, jazz, disco, and rock 'n roll – a genre for everyone.

Concerts are held at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday. The concerts are free with park admission.

Herman's Hermits – January 14 – 17

Chubby Checker – January 21 – 24

The Glenn Miller Orchestra – January 28 – 31

Bay City Rollers – February 4 – 7

Paul Revere and The Raiders – February 11-14

The Osmonds – February 18 – 21

Frankie Avalon – February 25 – 28

Lee Greenwood – March 4 - 7

Florida Strawberry Festival

Each spring, the Florida Strawberry Festival rolls out the red carpet to welcome visitors from throughout the Sunshine State and the world. Guests come from near and far to enjoy exhibits of agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture, and crafts. The fabric of American life is woven into the Festival through social events, contests, youth developmental programs, top-name entertainment, and parades with glorious floats and high-stepping marching bands.

The 79th annual festival will be February 27 to March 9 and will include 24 headline acts on the Wish Farm Soundstage, an assortment of free family oriented daily shows, more than 80 carnival rides, nearly 400 vendors and of course – plenty of strawberry shortcake.

JUNIOR DEPUTY FOR THE DAY AT WALDEN LAKE ELEMENTARY

By: Michael Wynne

Walden Lake Elementary School has teamed up with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department to educate students on issues like gun safety, crime prevention and why laws are necessary. When Deputy J.D. Carlton recently visited Walden Lake Elementary, fifth grader Michael Wynne and other students became junior deputies for the day. Here is Michael's account of the day.

I became a junior deputy when Hillsborough Deputy Carlton came to my school and spoke about being an officer, laws and the events going on in my community.

As a junior deputy, I learned about some of the laws needed in a community. I also learned how to keep safe and about some things that I should not do if I want to stay out of trouble.

One of the things that I learned to keep safe is not to touch or play with guns. A rule that we learned about was called N.E.W. N means never touch a gun! E means every gun is potentially loaded. W means when in doubt, get out!! These rules mean you should never touch a gun because you could accidentally fire it. You should also treat every gun as if it is loaded, and when you think there might be a gun around, get out. Thanks to Deputy Carlton, I know what to do if I see a gun.

Deputy Carlton also told us that we should never steal. There are penalties for stealing. If someone steals something that is for sale in a store, the penalty will be \$500 or a 60-day stay in jail. If a kid steals, they can still be arrested. In fact, you can be arrested as young as the age of 9. If you get arrested a second time, the penalty will be much worse. You cannot be a police officer or work in law enforcement if you have ever been arrested. That negative mark against you will never go away. It will affect you the rest of your life. In Florida, stealing is a felony if the stolen item is worth more than \$300. Stealing creates a loss of \$45 billion a year in the United States. Everyone loses from stealing.

Another thing I learned from Deputy Carlton is that street gangs are a problem in our community. Gangs are very bad, they go around stealing, putting graffiti on walls and sometimes they even kill people. Some gang members get into fights to prove that they are tough and show the other gang members that they should be allowed to stay in the gang. They believe they will become powerful if they are a member of a gang, when in reality they will probably end up in jail, or worse.

I enjoyed being a junior deputy. It is a way that deputies and officers educate students about laws, their job, ways to be safe and current issues going on in their communities.



Deputy J.D. Carlton

I appreciate Deputy Carlton for coming to my school and sharing his time with us.



LIBRARY CORNER

Teen Programs @ Your Library during the
month of January

On Monday January 13th from 4-5 pm we will have our teen advisory board meeting. Join the Teen Advisory Board to get involved with the library's teen programs or earn community service hours for graduation, scholarships and more.

On Friday January 17th from 4-6 pm join us for board game night. We will be learning how to play *Zombicide* an exciting board game where you try to survive the zombie apocalypse.

On Friday January 24th from 4-6:30 pm join us for a free screening of *Beautiful Creatures* a supernatural romance based on the best-selling novel by author Kami Garcia

All programs are free and open to the public. The Bruton Memorial Library is located at 302 W. Mclendon St., Plant City, FL 33563. The library may be reached at (813) 757-9215. Questions about teen programs may be at extension 23.



Culinary Corner



Ok, I admit it! I confess! I love chocolate. Put any kind of chocolate in front of me and I simply cannot resist. If you feel the same way and simply cannot get enough of that rich, chocolaty goodness or are looking for something new and different, then there's a new chocolate recipe that is just for you to try.

Mexican Hot Chocolate

Welcome warmth on a chilly day, this hot chocolate with a kick is delicious.

Ingredients:

- 2 pints of skimmed milk
- 3 ounces of cocoa powder
- 3 ounces of sugar
- ½ teaspoon of ground cinnamon
- 2 pinches of cayenne pepper

Preparation:

Slowly heat skim milk until nearly boiling. In a bowl, mix cocoa powder, sugar, cinnamon and cayenne pepper. Add a little of the milk and mix until smooth. Pour into pan and stir. Pour in cup and top with whipped cream or mini marshmallows.

Banana Chocolate Chip Souffle

Ingredients:

- 3 large egg whites
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 firm ripe bananas
- 2 ½ table spoons of semisweet chocolate chips

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees and lightly butter six 3/4-cup ramekins.

In a bowl with an electric mixer beat whites until they just hold soft peaks and gradually beat in sugar until meringue holds stiff peaks. Coarsely grate bananas onto meringue and gently fold with chocolate chips into meringue.

Arrange ramekins on a baking sheet and divide mixture evenly among them, mounding it in centers. Run a knife around sides of ramekins, freeing mixture to aid rising, and bake soufflés in middle of oven until puffed and golden brown, about 15 minutes.

Serve soufflés immediately.

Festival of Chocolate at Museum of Science & Industry

January 18 – 20, 2014

Attention Chocoholics! For anyone that has wanted to be a kid in a chocolate store...you now have your chance. MOSI will host Tampa's fourth annual Festival of Chocolate. The Festival of Chocolate is Florida's largest all-chocolate themed event has been seen in Southern Living Magazine and on ABC's The Chew. The event features the area's best chocolate and confection companies selling tastes and treats of everything chocolate from truffles, cakes and cupcakes to cookies, brownies and ice creams.

Award-winning pastry chefs and chocolatiers will host interactive demonstrations, sharing techniques and tricks of the trade, and a live cake competition will give breathtaking artistic sculptures a tasty twist. Chocoholics of all ages will love making chocolate lip balm and chocolate roses, and the more adventurous can try their hand (or armpit) at creating armpit fudge. There is something for every type of chocoholic - chocolate wrapper fashion for the couture crowd, a chocolate Game Show Stage for the competition junkies and some Chocolate 101 for those looking to take home a pinch of chocolate wisdom. Other favorites at the event will include Chocolate University, taught by Chocolate Masters; Chocolate and Wine Pairings; Chocolate Brain Games; the Chocolate Check-Up; cookie stacking contests; and a complimentary chocolate raffle.

Entrance into *The Festival of Chocolate* is included with the purchase of MOSI admission (Adults: \$21.95; Children: \$17.95). Each adult ticket purchased in advance will receive two dollars in chocolate coins to spend at the festival. MOSI is located at 4801 E. Fowler Avenue in Tampa, three miles west of I-75 (exit Fowler Avenue). For more information, visit festivalofchocolate.com. *The Festival of Chocolate* is sponsored in part by Bank of Tampa. MOSI and *The Festival of Chocolate* are the current Guinness World Record holders for the world's largest cup of hot chocolate.