



DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Email: editor@plantcityguide.com

(813) 610-7336

People tend to go batty about Halloween. This fall season marks the perfect time to learn more about the mysterious creature, and a day trip to the Gainesville area for the Lubee Conservancy Annual Bat Festival is the perfect place to start. In this issue, you can read more about bats and plan your own visit to Lubee.

Plant City Commons Community Garden A Great Success

Plant City's first community garden recently celebrated the first full year of harvests. St. Peter's Episcopal Church donated the lot at 302 Carey Street for the project. The church rector, the Reverend Tom Thoeni, led garden volunteers in a Rogation Day Procession. The ceremony that asks for God's blessing on the land for a successful harvest season can be traced to the fifth century church.

"Hopefully we'll have another successful year," Thoeni said before leading the group around the boundaries of the property. He spread incense and led the group in a liturgy and prayer.

Bob Abbenzeller, one of the garden's founders, reels off a list of crops that have been harvested, from black eyed peas to cabbage.

"It's been more successful than I expected," he said.

Community gardens provide an avenue for people to learn different growing methods from each other and to cultivate friendships as well as produce. There are a wide variety of participants which include community members, educators, retirees, families, church groups and school groups. Anyone age 18 or older who lives in Plant City may participate in the Program.

Anyone interested in joining the community garden can call Karen Elizabeth at (813) 435-8111.



On page 13, read about the Lubee Bat Conservancy's Annual Bat Festival

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PLANT CITY DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE IS HIRING

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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.



Just a Thought...

By: Christine Wynne Andrade, Editor

Vacations are coming to an end, school has started. The days are getting slightly shorter, if not cooler. All of this points to the end of summer. Autumn is my favorite season and it's due to the memories I have of this time of year and the numerous sensations of color. Up north, the fading warm days are sheathed in hues of brilliant yellow, red and orange. Here in Florida, the heat of summer gives way to cooler days, blue skies and gorgeous shades of pink from the failing sun.

Autumn is the perfect time to rally around family and spend some quality time together. When all is said and done, family can be one of the most rewarding components of your life - and fall is a great season to celebrate these bonds through camping trips, sporting events and fun festivals. It is within these pages you will find stories that address color as found in travel, entertainment, food and fall festivities.

You have spoken and we have listened. The feedback we get the most often is for the Guide to come out more frequently. Beginning in January, the Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide will be moving to a monthly format. Bill Histed continues to contribute witty and thought provoking community feature stories.

We will have some new writers debuting in our next edition. The Guide has a mentoring program for young writers who wish to pursue a career in journalism or writing. Our editor works with high school and college students to give them both hands on experience working for a community newspaper and a platform to showcase their writing. If you are interested in our mentoring program, please contact the editor.

I hope you enjoy this issue and remember to continue sending in your comments and suggestions. We have enjoyed hearing from you.

I'm only a few keystrokes away by email at editor@plantcityguide.com.

In the next issue, read about our editor's experience flying in an aerobatics plane in Las Vegas.

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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: 2302 Maki Road, #19, Plant City, FL 33563.

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PLANT CITY IN SHADOW OF POSSIBLE WORLD MEDIA CIRCUS ON SEPTEMBER 11

By: Bill Histed

Plant City is very close by, but it may be thanking its lucky stars the "honor" has gone to Mulberry. The world has literally thousands of cities, villages, towns and hamlets. But a controversial preacher who has stirred up the Muslim world in the past, has somehow found Mulberry to launch yet another of his attacks on Muslims.

Reverend Terry Jones has announced plans to set fire to a huge stack of Muslim holy books just outside of Mulberry on September 11, 2013. He gained similar outrage in the Gainesville area a few years ago at a church he had there. His antics are well known.

Jones' organizations include the Dove World Outreach Center, the Dove Charismatic Ministries Inc., and a political arm, Stand Up America Now.

The national and world media are expected to converge just west of Mulberry on September 11th to watch Jones light a match to nearly 3,000 Qurans, the holy book of Muslims. Jones said the number of books burned will be just shy of 3,000 to represent one book for each person who died in the U.S. in the attacks on September 11, 2001. The site is only about ten miles from Plant City.

While Jones blames Muslims for the terrorist attacks then, others feel it's not quite that simple. U.S. war policies in the Middle East for decades are part of the reason we were attacked on 9-11 notes such well-known people as former congressman Ron Paul of Texas. He has said, "They came over here because we were over there," No doubt Reverend Jones will have none of that.

A writer to the editor of the Lakeland Ledger asked if Jones is burning Qurans for Muslims who have done wrong, will he burn Bibles for the Christians who have done wrong, including our invading countries in the Middle East? One may see how a controversial figure as Reverend Jones can cause an issue to quickly escalate. Push quickly begets shove.

About three years ago, Jones, had a small church in the Gainesville area. He burned a single Quran which resulted in international riots in some Muslim nations, resulting in 21 deaths. Of those deaths, 7 were United Nations workers. Now, some in the Mulberry area say they are praying history won't repeat itself.

**EVERYBODY AND HIS BROTHER
IS COMING TO MULBERRY**

Too bad Plant City was left out of all of the planned "excitement!" Why should Mulberry get all of the attention? As one resident said, how Jones found Mulberry is unbelievable. "Mulberry isn't even listed on some of the maps," he said. "There's New York, Seattle, Denver, Colorado Springs, Boston, Miami and thousands of other cities and Jones is coming to Mulberry."

The Guide was told by the head of the National Muslim Congress, based in Dallas, Texas, that his organization will be coming to Mulberry on September 11 to stage a "peaceful" protest against Jones' protest. He stated his national Muslim group in fact will move its annual day of reflection to Mulberry.

Some people attend this annual Muslim event from around the country. He invited Muslims to come to Mulberry to show most of them are peaceful and law abiding citizens.

At least two local groups in Mulberry have announced protests on the same day, including a church group and a group of area residents opposed to Jones and his burning holy books.

Mulberry City Commissioner Jim Splaine who has served on the commission for 12 years said he thinks the best policy is for just everyone to cool it and ignore Jones. "This man doesn't care whom he hurts," Splaine stated. "He has shown that."

He thinks the more people who think they have to weigh in on Jones and react to him, the bigger the circus come September 11.

Some, as Commissioner Splaine, believe this is all a publicity tool to gain world attention for himself and his little church. Splaine noted Jones' church membership is reported to be about 15 people. Reverend Jones moved his church from the Gainesville area to the Tampa Bay area, though he does not own a permanent facility. He has said he is looking for a building in the Tampa area.

The churches in the Mulberry area appear evenly divided. Some feel the best policy is to ignore Jones completely while about half of the churches want to show support for tolerance and for peace.

A group of churches has picked the flag pole in front of Mulberry City Hall for its rallying point. People from some churches in Plant City, Lakeland, Bartow and Brandon plan to attend the protest.

It could turn out to be a real circus for Mulberry, which is no stranger to controversy. It's former city manager was taken out of City Hall in handcuffs last year on forgery charges.

A former popular mayor lost his job on a charge of sex with an underage youth. The City went through 7 police chiefs in 9 years before closing down the department and going with the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

It takes a lot to rattle Mulberry, and no one in town seems to be running scared of either Jones or the Muslims. The main concern of the locals is the reputation of Mulberry. Why should all of this come down on Mulberry? Reverend Jones is not from Mulberry, never was from Mulberry, has no church in Mulberry, owns no property in Mulberry and probably never heard of Mulberry until recently.

What rubs some locals the wrong way is Jones is dropping in for a few hours to burn some holy books and then will take off again. He probably won't spend \$5 to help the local economy in Mulberry. Meanwhile, the world media will be reporting, "In Mulberry, Florida, a pastor has burned thousands of copies of the Quran." The national media is reporting as of this time, Jones is having a hard time buying up so many copies of the Quran and is hoping some people will donate them to him.

MULBERRY CONCERNED ABOUT OUTSIDE IMAGE

But even by Mulberry's standards, which are tolerance and forgiveness, the Reverend Terry Jones' publicity stunt is something to behold for such a small town that did not ask for this.

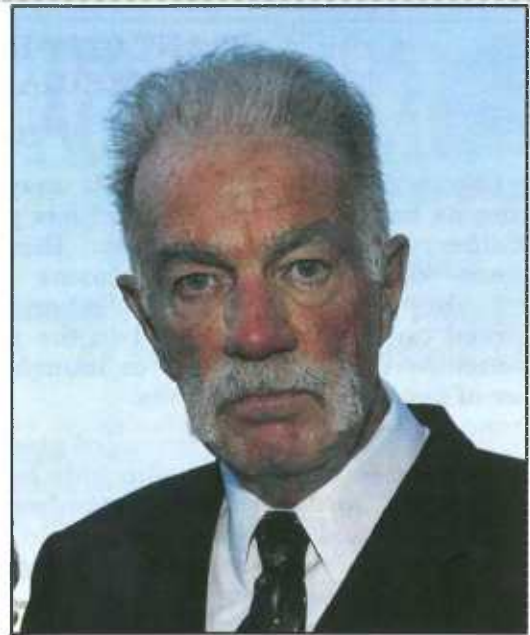
Some residents of Mulberry have passed out brochures, noting that Mulberry is a great community, is peaceful, has much to offer and Reverend Jones coming from the outside does not speak for most people in Mulberry in his anti-Muslim activities.

Some fear that while Mulberry is trying to foster a positive image of the City, Reverend Jones who has nothing to do with Mulberry any other time will hurt its image around the world. If people have not heard of Mulberry by now, millions more will hear the name in September. Some residents have told this reporter they don't want the outside world to think Mulberry is full of a lot of Muslim haters, especially when Jones has nothing to do with Mulberry any other time.

One resident just outside City limits told Reverend Jones he could hold the Quran burning on September 11 on his property. Some people have met with the man to try to change his mind, but as of press time, he wouldn't budge.

To show you what may be coming, the other day a TV van with a big antenna rolled into the parking lot of Topper's Pizza in Mulberry.

The TV station spent more than an hour over



lunch in the restaurant asking patrons what they thought of Reverend Jones riding into town.

This is exactly what some City officials, as Commissioner Splaine, don't want to see. They feel the more that is made of this promised event, the bigger it will get by September 11.

Already, with at least four distinct groups planning protests, some fear a spark could sent it out of control. Due to various freedoms we enjoy in the United States, it appears thus far, no laws have been violated. Law enforcement in Polk County is more than aware of what is planned on September 11.

Some citizens have even asked the Polk County Sheriff's Office, which patrols the area the burning is set for, if fire regulations would not prohibit such open burning.

That is not the only question some of the locals are asking about Jones:

---What is his educational history and exactly who or what has "ordained" him into the ministry?

---Is he is own church or is he a pastor with standing in a recognized national or world denomination?

---If he hates the Quran so much, why can't he burn the 3,000 books in private, or is his aim world attention?

The 104-year old local weekly paper, The Mulberry Press, has already promised not to attend Jones Quran burning. Calling it a "publicity stunt" designed primarily to benefit Reverend Jones, it noted Quaranas, as Bibles, can be quickly replaced by a printing press. "What if Jones threw a party and nobody came?" the paper asked.



Savories

DINNER WITH A SIDE OF MURDER

Off the beaten path of Tampa in Y'bor City is a wonderful gem of a restaurant which has developed a loyal following among returning visitors and local residents for great food and engaging live theater entertainment.

It all begins the moment you step into The Spaghetti Warehouse -- The characters run the joint, and you, unsuspecting, become part of the scene, as you become witness, sleuth and potentially accomplice to the crime. The story itself is played out in scenes as you sit back and enjoy a visual feast of authentic costuming, props and music. Between each scene of the mystery, a three course dinner is served... one course at a time. This is your chance to ask them questions, assume your own character and try and solve the mystery.

Guests will experience an evening of pure comedy, audience participation and delicious dining and be in for a murderously fun surprise. This is not your typical dining experience; guests are instructed to wear name tags in order to identify the bodies. As the evening unfolds, those sitting next to you may not be who they say they are. Nobody is safe, and everybody is a suspect. You are challenged to solve the mystery.

The Spaghetti Warehouse has teamed up with MurderS She Wrote, Inc. to bring a brand new mystery dinner show every couple of months. MurderS She Wrote, Inc. is the best interactive entertainment around. Comedy, suspense, mystery, music, audience participation and fun, coupled with wonderful food, are all rolled into one hilarious murder mystery evening.

The cost for dinner, non-alcoholic beverages and the show is only \$34.95 per person. Reservations are suggested. For more information, visit www.meatballs.com or call (813) 248-1720.

The Spaghetti Warehouse also offers "Warehouse Wednesdays." Included is spaghetti with a choice of Meat Sauce, Tomato Sauce or Marinara served with a crisp Garden Salad and hot Sourdough Bread and Garlic Butter all for \$5. Served all day long from 11 am until 10 pm.



A sampling of the upcoming shows are as follows:

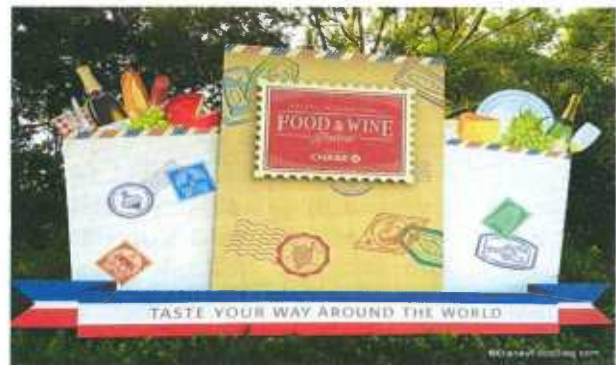
August 29 MURDER IN SPARKLEVILLE

September 26 MURDER ON THE 19TH HOLE

October 24 MY BIG FAT ITALIAN FUNERAL

November 21 MY BIG FAT ITALIAN FUNERAL

December 19 MURDER ON BUDGET CRUISE LINES



2013 Epcot Food and Wine Festival

The 2013 Epcot Food and Wine Festival is on from September 27 – November 11, 2013, in Epcot, Walt Disney World.

Epcot Food & Wine Festival offers more than 25 regional and specialized Marketplace Kiosks that represent six continents and various culinary specialties. Located around World Showcase, these Marketplaces to sample food from around the globe. Each kiosk serves tapas-sized dishes and beverages (wine, beer, and alcoholic and non-alcoholic cocktails).

Menu items generally cost between \$3 and \$8; prices subject to change.