



Email: [editor@plantcityguide.com](mailto:editor@plantcityguide.com)

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

### KEEL & CURLEY WINERY

The booming business at Keel and Curley Winery located at 5210 Thonotosassa Road has raised some concerns among area residents. The winery has been selling wine and hosting special events for seven years without incident. This past fall, Keel and Curley expanded their business and began brewing their own craft beer. This seems to have put at least one neighbor in a dither. The beer brewing came to the attention of county inspectors in November, when a neighbor complained about loud music coming from the winery.

“The problem my neighbor and I had was the loud music,” said Lonnie Oswald, who resides at 4108 N. Forbes Road, which is 1 mile from the winery. “It seemed every weekend ... sitting inside watching TV, I could hear it. When I walked outside, it was like it was right there. I could even hear the words.” As reported in the Tampa Tribune on May 4, Oswald said he never noticed the noise until the winery got its license to brew beer, too.

After he complained, the music from the winery stopped, Oswald said. But he's still concerned about the winery running a “full-blown” bar in an area that is otherwise quiet and rustic. Oswald said he worries about increased crime and traffic on the narrow country roads.

The Guide set out to investigate. The live music on Friday and Saturday nights did not stop. It has been in place for the past 7 years and continues to be well received by visitors. We stood in front of Mr. Oswald's home on both a Friday and Saturday night to see if there was indeed a noise violation. The only thing we heard was a few crickets and a distant bull frog. In fact, as we walked along the street away from the winery, we could no longer hear any music once we were less than a couple of hundred yards away. Even at 100 yards away the music was quite muted. So, there is definitely no noise violation.



### Plant City's July 4th Celebration Is Back

Plant City's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration is back! Coordinated by the City of Plant City Recreation & Parks Department, the Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce and the Florida Strawberry Festival, the skies above Plant City will again fill with fireworks this July 4<sup>th</sup>. Admission to the event is free with parking costing \$5 per car.

The celebration will take place on Thursday, July 4, at Plant City Stadium, 1810 East Park Road. The parking lot gates open at 5:45 p.m. and the stadium gates will open at 6:00 p.m. Various activities will be available on the stadium turf, pending weather restrictions, including live music, inflatables, face painting, Corn Hole bean bag toss, tug-o-war and volleyball. Along with the stadium concession stands being open, various food vendors will be positioned inside the stadium along the perimeter of the field.

As far as Mr. Oswald's complaint about Keel & Curley turning into a "full-blown" bar, that is unlikely. Keel & Curley has a license for wine and beer sales only. They have no ambitions of becoming a full service bar. Sorry Plant City, it looks like you will have to stick with Applebees and O'Briens for that riff raff.

The noise complaints were sent to county Commissioner Al Higginbotham's office and he forwarded them to county code enforcement. The code inspectors saw the beer sales and cited the winery for violating the special conditions attached to its 2005 rezoning.

Last August, owner Joe Keel applied for and was granted a state license to brew beer. That, too, was reviewed and approved by the county, he said. The county disagrees, saying that when Keel obtained a rezoning of his 26.5-acre blueberry farm to "planned development," the zoning carried conditions that restricted the business to operations associated with the winery, not a micro brewery. "It specifically says wine, the sale of product of the winery," said Adam Gormly, the newly appointed director of the county's Development Services department.

The rezoning is currently on the agenda for Monday, June 23 at the County Center at 601 E. Kennedy Boulevard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. The zoning hearing master will make a recommendation to the county commission, which makes the final decision on the beer sales.

You may be asking why you should care about our winery being under siege by a couple of individuals. Wineries have become major tourist destinations. If you have friends or relatives coming in from out of town, there is a good chance you might spend time at a local winery. Keel & Curley is the only winery in Hillsborough County. It brings tourists from all over the county and state to Plant City where they spend money and boost our local economy. Many people will take day trips here, or stop off on their way from Tampa to Orlando on I-4. Keel & Curley employs 30 people. The loss of this local business would have a dire economic impact on our town. Plant City has already lost several businesses over the past few years, Smithfield being one of them. The last thing this town needs is another empty business.

Keel & Curley Winery is so much more than a chic place to unwind on the weekends. It also offers the public the chance to learn about the winemaking process. Wine growers say that more and more people are not content just drinking wine. They want to know more about it. As wine has become more socially popular and has been touted as beneficial to health, people want to learn more about it. The Mayo Clinic said red wine, in moderation, has long been thought of as heart healthy. The alcohol and certain substances in red wine called antioxidants may help prevent heart

disease by increasing levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol (the "good" cholesterol) ) and protecting against artery damage.

Keel & Curley offers tours every Saturday and Sunday at 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm. "More and more people are coming in and asking questions about the wine-making process," said Stephen, who covers the winemaking process from grape and fruit growing to bottling during his tours. After the tour, guests are invited to sample the award-winning wines, which are sure to please even the most discriminating palate.

Earlier this month, Lisa Goodwin, from Tampa, took the wine tour and did the tastings with her friend. It was the first time she took a wine tour. They learned about how the grapes were hand-tended and the amount of work that goes into the cultivation. After the tasting, she purchased two bottles of wine even though she is not normally a wine drinker.

Keel, who is seeking a zoning modification to allow brewing and selling beer, has his own supporters. He started a petition drive several weeks ago that has gathered more than 10,000 signatures from Hillsborough County residents. Please get involved and help us save our winery and protect the rights of this farm winery to sell their products.

Keel & Curley will be offering complimentary bus transportation from the winery to the meeting for anyone wishing to attend. For more information, call (813) 752-9100 or visit [www.keelandcurleywinery.com](http://www.keelandcurleywinery.com).

## Just a Thought...



By: Christine Wynne-Andrade, Editor

This month marks two years since I started this publication. Thank you to all of the loyal readers who have made the Guide successful.

I can't believe it is summer once again. There is something about summer that puts a smile on our faces. Maybe it is relaxed, lazy days by the pool or beach. Maybe it no school or homework for ten weeks. Or it could be that it is the most popular time of the year to travel. Many people will take a trip over the next few months. If you travel this summer, take a copy of the Guide along and snap a photo with the Guide and we will publish it in our next issue.

I believe we started something last month when we said we were happy to publish all letters and opinions sent in by our readers, even those sent in anonymously. We have another interesting submission from an anonymous reader. You will find this thought provoking opinion on pages 6 and 7.

I hope to make The Guide as interactive as possible, so don't hesitate to drop me a line.

I'm only a few keystrokes away by email at [editor@plantcityguide.com](mailto:editor@plantcityguide.com).

## Guide Attends U.S. Travel Association's Annual Travel Trade Show



Last month, more than 6,200 travel suppliers and buyers from over 70 countries, including 500 international and domestic travel media, convened in Chicago at McCormick Place for The U.S. Travel Association's IPW. The U.S. Travel Association's IPW is the travel industry's premier international marketplace and the largest generator of travel to the U.S. Over the course of three days at IPW, more than 95,000 business meetings take place for intensive deal-making that is expected to attract 8.8 additional international visitors to the U.S. over the next three years. Their visits over that period are projected to increase total spending by \$28 billion—money that supports nearly 115,000 American jobs.

IPW brings together tourism officials from every corner of the country, as well as representatives of hotels, attractions, museums, amusement parks and other travel businesses. These groups market themselves to the world's top international tour operators that sell travel to the U.S. At IPW, buyers and sellers are able to conduct business that would otherwise be generated only through an exhaustive number of around-the-world trips.

"At IPW, the entire international marketplace comes to the U.S. under one roof," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow (pictured). "Business that is conducted during these three days provides a one-of-a-kind boost to the entire U.S. economy."

In one of the press conferences, Bill Davis of Universal Orlando announced eight new venues to launch in 2014, including the recently opened Cabana Bay Beach Resort. This brand-new value and moderately-priced property is the fourth on-site hotel at Universal Orlando Resort and evokes the classic, retro-feel of iconic beach resorts from the 1950s and 60's. The new hotel is a destination within itself – featuring a stunning design with bold colors, retro-inspired architecture and sweeping vistas that transport guests back to a time of relaxation and endless family fun. In reply

to a question from the *Plant City Dining & Entertainment Guide*, he conceded that since Cabana Bay is a value hotel, it does not include the complimentary "Universal Express Pass" that allows theme park guests to skip the regular lines that the other Universal hotels offer.

Megan Allen of Citypass announced that Tampa Bay would be the latest U.S. city to get Citypass on May 21. Citypass allows purchasers to discover Tampa's best attractions with a discounted pass up to 38% off regular admission prices. The participating attractions include Busch Gardens, The Florida Aquarium, Lowry Park Zoo and Morean Arts Center or Museum of Science and Industry. The cost is \$119 for adults (value \$192.45); and \$99 for kids, 3-9. Purchase online at [CityPASS.com](http://CityPASS.com)

A promotional poster for Fred's Southern Kitchen. The background is a rustic, textured surface. At the top left is a circular logo for "FRED'S MARKET". In the center, the text "Fred's SOUTHERN KITCHEN" is written in a large, cursive font. Below this, there are several promotional signs: "WOW! Shrimp &amp; Grits, Beignets, &amp; Mimosas" with "Check out the New Weekend Brunch!" below it; "Slowdown. Relax. Enjoy. NOW SERVING BEER &amp; WINE (Select Locations)" with a beer bottle image; "SUPER SERVED! New PN3 PICK YOUR PROTEIN, THEN CHOOSE YOUR SIDES. The possibilities are endless." with a corn cob image; and "KIDS EAT FREE ON MONDAY &amp; TUESDAY (after 4pm, 10 &amp; under only, limit 2 per adult entree)" with a burger image. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, and the website "www.FredsSouthernKitchen.com". At the very bottom, it lists locations: "LOCATIONS IN PLANT CITY :: LAKELAND :: WINTER HAVEN :: BARTOW :: RIVERVIEW".



## Cracker Tales

### Plant City Photo Archives & History Center to Present Third In Series of Five *America's Civil Rights Struggle* Film Screenings

The Plant City Photo Archives and History Center is pleased to announce the third of five community programs incorporating the film series *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*. The documentaries include riveting new footage illustrating the history of the civil rights movement in America.

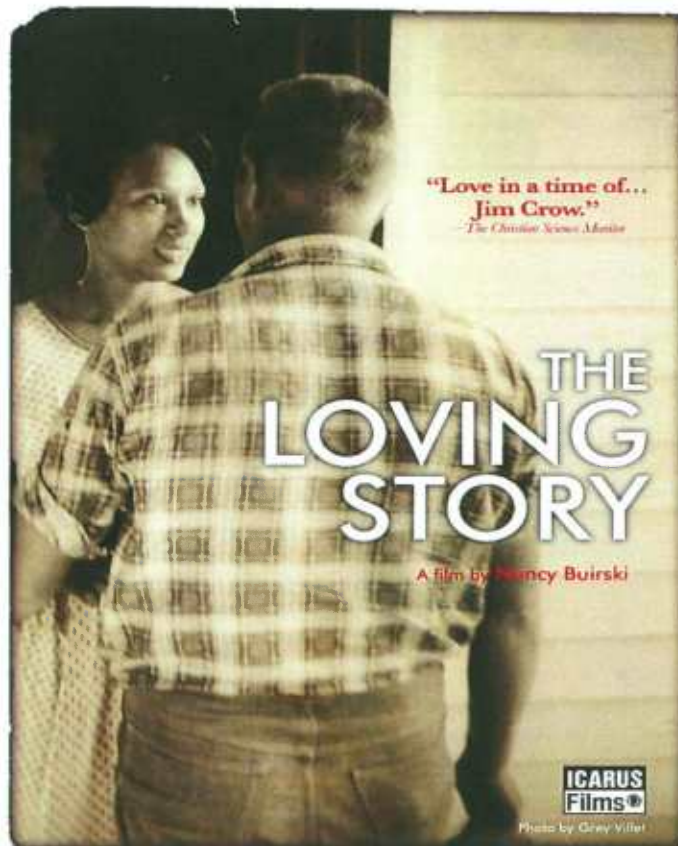
On Tuesday, June 24, at 7 p.m. at the Bruton Memorial Library at 302 W. McLendon Street in downtown Plant City, Florida, the Plant City Photo Archives will present the third public program, continuing the series with a screening of the third film *The Loving Story*.

When Mildred and Richard Loving were arrested in July 1958, in Virginia, for violating a state law that banned marriage between people of different races, they were incredulous, yet such laws had been on the books in most states since the seventeenth century. But the Lovings never expected to be woken up in their bedroom in the middle of the night and arrested. This documentary brings to life the Lovings' marriage and the legal battle that followed through little-known filmed interviews and photographs shot for *Life* magazine. The film narrates the lives of Mildred and Richard Loving and their fight for the recognition of their marriage, all the way to the Supreme Court. This landmark ruling led to the overturning of miscegenation laws in fifteen states.

The film's immediacy derives from the inclusion of little-known footage dating from the 1960s depicting the daily life of the couple and their three children while they were in hiding in a house in Virginia.

Dr. Maribeth Mobley, professor of Humanities at Hillsborough Community College, will facilitate further discussion on the film by providing an overview of the issues brought out by the film and leading the discussion following the film. She will be joined by library director Anne Haywood.

The Plant City Photo Archives is partnering with local community organizations to offer a variety of *Created Equal* public programs which include film screenings, presentations by scholars, and community discussions. Community partners include Anne Haywood, Director of the Bruton Memorial Library; Dr. Maribeth Mobley and Kara Lawson, of Hillsborough Community College – Plant City Campus; Bill Thomas, of the Improvement League of Plant City; Gwen Thomas, of Bealsville Inc.; Dr. James Michael Denham, of Florida Southern College, and Gil Gott of the Photo Archives and History Center. All *Created Equal*



Programs are offered free to the public. If you would like to view the films in their entirety prior to the programs, they are available at the Bruton Memorial Library. Individual films from the series may be checked out.

“Being 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, these films give us the opportunity to have a public discussion of race relations in our country and put America’s civil rights struggle in a new perspective,” said Director Gil Gott. “Not only will this program provide a great opportunity to highlight the history of east Hillsborough and west Polk counties, this will bring national perspective to our local experience.”

*Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle* is made possible through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of its *Bridging Cultures* initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nonprofit organization that promotes excellence in the teaching and learning of American history. For more information visit their website at [www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org). Additional support for the community programs is provided by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council.