

November 2014



# DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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

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



## Hot Off The Grill - Plant City Pig Jam

Calling all chefs, cooks and backyard grillers. Do you make the best BBQ? If you think you do, or if you just like to eat great BBQ, come to the 12th Annual Plant City Pig Jam State BBQ Championship, brought to you by the Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce. The event will be on two dates this year – Friday, November 21 from 5:00pm to 10:00pm and on Saturday, November 22 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Individuals will compete in the professional and amateurs' barbecue competition Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Randy Larson Softball Four-Plex, 1500 South Park Road/1401 Gordon Food Service Drive. The general public has the opportunity to sample some of the best BBQ in the country!

Pig Jam has been sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS). For entry information and rules and regulations governing each of the two categories (professional, amateurs), contact Plant City Chamber of Commerce 813-754-3707. Prizes will be awarded in each category with professionals vying for the \$3,000 Grand Champion Award, \$2,000 for Reserve and cash prizes through 10th place in each of the four food categories (BBQ Ribs, BBQ Port, Beef Brisket and Chicken). Prizes will also be awarded in the amateurs' competitions. Proceeds of the Pig Jam will benefit chamber programs.

### Family Fun & Concert

Pig Jammers will have food and a lot more to enjoy. While grills will be busy from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., there will be a rock-climbing wall; moon walks snow cones and cookies plus a host of additional activities for children.

Parking is \$5 per vehicle and – admission is FREE!

Live music will be playing from 11:00 am-5:00 pm.

## THE PLANT CITY DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE IS HIRING

Now hiring 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 editor for more information.



Bowls Donated by Local Students for Raffle

The fourth annual Plant City Empty Bowls Project will take place on Saturday, November 8 from 11:00am – 1:30pm. For a \$10 donation, you will receive one bowl of soup (16 ounce) or two sampler bowls (8 ounce), plus bread, fruit and a bottle of water. The event will take place at the Historic Downtown Train Depot with all proceeds going to United Food Bank of Plant City. If you're hungry to make a difference in our community, please join us.

The bowls serve as a reminder of all the bowls that go unfilled every day. In 2013, 49.1 million Americans lived in food insecure households, including 33.3 million adults and 15.8 million children, according to Feeding America. Locally, the United Food Bank of Plant City serves about 50 clients daily. The numbers have tripled in the last couple of years.



## Just a Thought...



By: Christine Wynne-Andrade,  
Editor



Are you ready for eating season? Starting the last week of October and ending on New Year's Day, we Americans will eat more food in 70 days than we do the rest of the year, thanks to some great eating holidays such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Thanksgiving is the quintessential American holiday, encompassing nature, family and, of course, food. We are blessed to live in a bountiful land. I feel as if I have always been grateful and thankful for my blessings in life, but I also feel that I might not have always expressed my gratefulness or thankfulness. Because of that failure I make a purposed effort during this time of my 'thanksgiving' to express my thanks, especially to my husband, Anthony Andrade.

For a holiday so rooted in rituals, rules, and traditions, it's fascinating how Thanksgiving is celebrated differently by all of us. It's almost as if—gasp!—there isn't just one right way.

Some of us give vocal thanks to God, to the bounteous Earth, to the farmer's hard work in bringing in the harvest and to each other's hard work in paying for it. Say these things at the table if it is your tradition. If not, give them a thought. Others prefer to spend their day at a local food bank or homeless shelter helping others.

If you have a relative, neighbor or friend who will be alone, invite him or her to your table, or if that would be disagreeable, send some turkey, stuffing and gravy on a plate. Even if he or she eats alone, on this day your food will taste better than their food.

Do praise the cook. This is always a good move at dinner, and is crucial on this day. Praise the cook more than once; your first effort may be drowned out. If there are a few lumps in the gravy, overlook them.

For those who don't cook, there is no easier American holiday than this. You don't have to buy presents and worry if they were right. You don't have to buy fireworks and worry that they are the prohibited ones, or wish they were. You don't have to buy bags of candy and worry if your generosity will run out before trick-or-treaters do.

All you have to do is eat. There is no calculation in it other than allocating your capacity: how much turkey, how much stuffing, how much pie.

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

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## CANDLELIGHT PROCESSIONAL AT EPCOT

One of the most popular events of the Christmas season at Walt Disney World is the Candlelight Processional at Epcot. The highlight of the show is a celebrity narrator who reads the story of the birth of Jesus from scripture. The readings are interspersed with music that celebrates the section just read. The music is provided by a 50 piece orchestra and a 500 member choir. Disney cast members try out to be a part of the Christmas Tree (in the middle of the choir) and high school and college choirs from around the country are invited to join.

Three performances are held per night at 5:00pm, 6:45pm and 8:15pm in the American Gardens Theater across from the American Adventure in the World Showcase.

The celebrity narrators for this year are as follows:

Jodi Benson	November 28 and 29
Neil Patrick Harris	November 30 to December 2
Jonathan Groff	December 3 and 4
Whoopi Goldberg	December 5 and 6
LeVar Burton	December 7 to December 9
Edward James Olmos	December 10 to December 11
Joe Morton	December 12 to December 14
Chita Rivera	December 15 to 17
Ana Gasteyer	December 18 to 20
Marlee Matlin	December 21 to 23
Isabella Rossellini	December 24 and 25
Blair Underwood	December 26 and 27
Steven Curtis Chapman	December 28 to 30

While the theater can seat over 1,000 guests per performance, between 50% and 75% of these seats are reserved for guests who purchase dinner packages. All of these dinner package guests are guaranteed seats in one of the three nightly Candlelight Processional performances. The remaining seats are complimentary on a first come, first served basis.

This means that the standby line for most performances can get ridiculously long, especially when a popular narrator is presenting. When Neil Patrick Harris presented last year, we saw people lining up for the 5:00 pm performance around noon!

The dinner packages include a meal consisting of an appetizer, entree, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverage (or full buffet "experience," where applicable), reserved seating at the show and access to an exclusive fireworks viewing area. For what you get, the dining package is not that expensive, and your time on vacation is definitely worth the price.

If you elect not to do the dinner package, and do not want to wait in the standby line, there is always a chance of standing in the walkway behind the theater.





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## AREA HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES



The chill of winter will soon be 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 the year when we share our incredible state with many tourists and snowbirds. Why let them have all of the fun?? From the Gaylord Palms Resort's ICE in Kissimmee, to Busch Gardens Winter Town, the possibilities for winter fun are endless. These winter traditions, and others like them, can be found throughout our region during the month of December. Here is a sampling of events in our area.

### Gaylord Palm's ICE



Grab your winter coats, hats and gloves and drive over to Orlando's coolest one of a kind Christmas attraction ICE! Celebrating its 12<sup>th</sup> year, ICE is exhibiting more than 20,000 square feet of hand-carved ice sculptures including three two-story ice slides.

This year's theme centers around the holiday classic "The Nutcracker." Though featuring this snow-colored character, ICE still promises a colorfully frozen retelling of the classic Christmas tale through more than two million pounds of hand-carved vibrant ice sculptures. As always the exhibit ends with the Reason for the Season: a traditional nativity scene in ice.

ICE is kept at a chilling nine degrees Fahrenheit, so be sure to dress appropriately: Closed-toe shoes and long pants are required. Everyone is fitted for a parka before entering to ensure your comfort and safety while inside.

ICE is open daily from November 15, 2014 to January 4, 2015, including holidays. Ticket prices start at \$22.99. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [www.ChristmasAtGaylordPalms.com](http://www.ChristmasAtGaylordPalms.com).

You and your family will love our Chill Pass, which includes Priority Access and a cup of hot cocoa.

### Busch Gardens Continues Family Tradition with Christmas Town

Christmas Town is returning to Busch Gardens this year and is now included with any annual pass, Fun Card or daily admission to the park. "When Christmas Town opened in 2012, it quickly became a unique holiday tradition for Tampa Bay area families," says Jim Dean, Busch Gardens park president. This year's event will transform the park into a nighttime holiday wonderland of wintry surprises and all things Christmas, filling guests' senses with seasonal sights, sounds and flavors. Guests can look forward to special entertainment, live music, festive treats, holiday shopping and over a million twinkling lights around every turn.

Christmas Town is open 23 select dates from Nov. 28 through Dec. 31. Guests can experience all of the Christmas celebrations throughout the day, and park closing times will range from 8pm to 9pm throughout the event. Visit [ChristmasTown.com](http://ChristmasTown.com) for dates, times and event details.

Christmas Town will also offer some magnificent new opportunities for groups looking to book a unique holiday party. For details, call the Busch Gardens Events Team at 813-987-5523.

Be the first to know about new events, special deals and future announcements by following the park's blog at [BuschGardensTampaBlog.com](http://BuschGardensTampaBlog.com), or "Like" the *Busch Gardens Facebook* page, and follow @buschgardens on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

### Plant City Pig Jam

The Pig Jam takes place at the Randy Larson Softball FourPlex Stadium (1500 South Park Road, Plant City). The festival is November 21 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and November 22 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Admission to the festival is free, though driving guests may need to pay for parking.

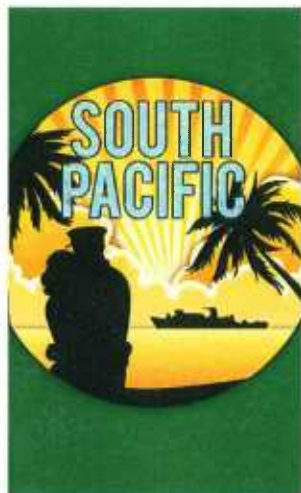
Perhaps the main event at the Pig Jam is the annual barbecue competition. Here the city encourages backyard grillers of all skill levels to compete for the title of Pig Jam State Barbecue Champion and cash prizes of up to \$3,000. The festival hosts three different competitions for professionals, amateurs and kids, in categories of ribs, pork, beef brisket and chicken. The city also welcomes spectators to the event, particularly those wishing to sample the many barbecue flavors cooked up by some of the best barbecue chefs in the nation.

Another big part of the Pig Jam festival is the live music. Bands play family-friendly music throughout the day, offering opportunities for festival-goers to get up and dance or just sit back and enjoy the tunes.





## Spotlight on Entertainment



Plant City Entertainment, Inc. is proud to announce their Fall show, "South Pacific."

Considered one of the greatest musicals of all time, this 10 Tony award-winning classic is filled with some of Broadway's most beloved songs: "Bali Ha'i," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," "Younger Than Springtime," "Some Enchanted Evening" and "I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy." Set in an island paradise during World War II, two parallel love

stories are threatened by the dangers of prejudice and war. Nellie Forbush (played by Victoria Tuzzolino), a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with a mature French planter, Emile DeBecque (played by Randy Magruder). Nellie learns that the mother of his children was an island native and, unable to turn her back on the prejudices with which she was raised, refuses Emile's proposal of marriage. Meanwhile, the strapping Lt. Joe Cable (played by Nicholas Lafauce) denies himself the fulfillment of a future with an innocent Tonkinese girl with whom he's fallen in love out of the same fears that haunt Nellie. When Emile is recruited to accompany Joe on a dangerous mission, Nellie realizes that life is too short not to seize her own chance for happiness, thus confronting and conquering her prejudices.

The cast also includes Mollie Anderson, Coy Permenter, Maurice Cecchini, Jeff Sirmans, Jasmine Philipoom, Isla Dunham, Sara Demolli, Larry J. Taylor, Lionel Wood, Stan Reynolds, Kristen Permenter, Keira Dunham and Kaitlyn Holloway. There is an additional dozen or more ensemble cast members, plus many volunteers are helping with set design, costumes and lighting.

Cast members will bring the story to life at 8:00 p.m. on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and at 2:00 p.m. on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for students and senior citizens and \$10 for members or group advance sales. Reservations are recommended and can be purchased in advance online at [PCEShows.com](http://PCEShows.com) by calling Frances Hardee at 813-754-4929.

The Plant City Entertainment Community Theater is located at 101 North Thomas Street. For more information, visit [www.plantcityentertainment.com](http://www.plantcityentertainment.com).

## RICK STEVE'S EUROPE AT STRAZ CENTER



If you haven't attended one of the lecture series at Tampa's David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, you are missing out. The Lecture Series features notable speakers from around the country and a wide variety of topics.

This month, two celebrities will take the stage. Jeff Corwin, leading conservationist, biologist and Animal Planet host will take audiences on a wild adventure with this presentation, *Tales from the Field* on November 1. Join Jeff as he introduces audiences to the endangered species and ecosystems he's experienced around the globe. Engaging, entertaining and unbending in his conviction to educate people of all ages about the importance of life on earth, Jeff's amiable guy-next-door delivery makes him a popular figure among American conservationists.

On November 12, Guidebook aficionado and travel TV host Rick Steves will bring you on a trip to Europe. Rick Steves' well-earned reputation as America's foremost "travel teacher" stems from a lifetime of living out of a suitcase and finding the delightful daily moments of interacting with nature and the world's precious cultures. In this one night lecture, Steves shares his life experiences of living out of a suitcase as a way to encourage all Americans to travel more, live curiously, and enjoy the big picture of life in the large and diverse human community of planet Earth.

Regularly priced tickets are \$25-\$45. For more information, visit [www.strazcenter.org](http://www.strazcenter.org) or call (813) 229-7827.

Also, back the popular demand is the National Geographic *Live!* speaker series created to showcase the writers, photographers, filmmakers, scientists, explorers and adventurers who bring the world home.

*On the Trail of Big Cats* with Photographer Steve Winter- January 20

*Extreme Planet* with Photographer Carsten Peter - February 17

*Islands of Obsession* with Photojournalist Jim Richardson- March 31