



THE ORACLE

Optimist Club of Plant City
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Late May, 2024

NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY MAY 20

We are starting to wind down our busy spring activities! It's time to take a brief break, wrap up spring, and focus on the future. Our next meeting is a **Steak Night on Monday May 20, with grill time at 6:15 pm and the meeting at 6:30 pm, both at the Parks & Rec admin patio.** We will debrief the Oratorical, Tri-Star Soccer, and Respect for Law events and get an update on the scholarships redemptions. Bring your own protein and we'll provide the grill, coals, potatoes, salad, and tea. It's a great time to bring a new member candidate!

SCHOLARSHIPS HANDED OUT TO EIGHT DESERVING STUDENTS

We normally distribute six \$1,000 scholarships to area seniors, but after evaluating the applications we received, the quality of applicants encouraged us to select eight recipients, all receiving a 2024 \$1,000 [High School Graduate Scholarship](#) at three schools. Check out page 2 of this Oracle for the list and photos.



RESPECT FOR LAW A HUGE SUCCESS!

Chairman Paul Woods herded all the cats into line at the [Respect for Law Dinner](#) on May 6 at the Sadye Gibbs Martin Community Center. **Detective James Cowart** and **Telecommunicator III Rebecca Prillwitz** were recognized for their service to our community in front of about 50 attendees which included their families, supervisors, and members of the Gentleman's Quest group from Marshall Middle School. Thanks to everyone that participated and also those that had a hand in the planning and execution of the event! Photos are on pages 3 and 4 of this Oracle.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ **Monday, May 20:** Steak Night meeting, 6:15 pm grill time, 6:30 pm meeting, Parks & Rec admin patio.
- ✓ **Monday, June 3:** Regular meeting, 6:30 pm, ABC Pizza.

2023-2024 OFFICERS

Robert Olszewski, President
president@plantcityoptimistclub.org
Deryl Zimmerer, 1st VP | Paul Woods, 2nd VP
Jeff Arnold, 3rd VP | Jack Holland, 4th VP
Jack Holland, Secretary/Treasurer
Walt Arnold, Sergeant at Arms



2023-2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Stottleyer, Immediate Past President
2023-2024:
Jeff Arnold - Jeb Hicks - Dave Robbins
2023-2025:
Walt Arnold - Jeb Hicks - Julie Garretson

2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT	HIGH SCHOOL	TYPE	AMOUNT
Gracie Renae Edgemon	Strawberry Crest HS	College	\$1,000
Shree Patel	Strawberry Crest HS	College	\$1,000
Peyton Faith Eatman	Plant City HS	College	\$1,000
Thalia Alexandra Gonzalez	Plant City HS	College	\$1,000
Alexa Lisette Vazquez-Cortez	Plant City HS	College	\$1,000
Axzarey Fernanda Hernandez-Marquez	Plant City HS	College	\$1,000
Gehrig Wilson Graham	Durant HS	College	\$1,000
Anai Hernandez-Hernandez	Durant HS	College	\$1,000



SCHS—GRACIE EDGEMON



SCHS—SHREE PATEL

Not provided by press time.

**PLANT CITY (L TO R): PEYTON EATMAN | THALIA GONZALEZ
ALEXA VAZQUEZ-CORTEZ | AXZAREY HERNANDEZ-MARQUEZ**

Unfortunately, no photos were taken at Durant.

RESPECT FOR LAW DINNER—MAY 6, 2024



RESPECT FOR LAW DINNER—MAY 6, 2024



**DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR REUSEABLE WINN DIXIE BAGS!
\$1 PER BAG SOLD COMES TO US! FUNDRAISER ENDS MAY 31!**



WE'RE BUGGING OUT OVER THESE BAGS!

Winn✓Dixie

205 West Alexander Street
Plant City FL

Welcome May with a reusable bag! This entire month when you purchase a \$2.99 Community Bag from our selected Winn-Dixie, it will send us a \$1 donation.

seg.2givelocal.com
Community Bag Program



PHOTO ARCHIVES ADOPTS NEW HOURS

David Moon, Executive Director of the Photo Archives and History Center, released news that the Archives has established new hours of operation to better serve the community. Previously being open Monday through Thursday, the new hours will be Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"The previous Monday usage was not in demand," Moon said, "and the Evers Street and downtown activity that has developed seems to be a much better fit to be open on Fridays."

Moon also welcomes the community to meet Tammy Surratt, the new Office Manager, and to stop in to discuss plans for the future operations of the Archives.

ALERT! ALERT! CONSTRUCTION AHEAD! DETOURS!

Reminder: construction has begun on I-4 on the westbound on and off ramps from County Line Road to McIntosh Road. The purpose of this project is to resurface the ramps. Ramp closures and accompanying detours are during weekends only and will begin on Fridays at 9:00 p.m. and end on Mondays at 5:00 a.m. The current schedule is below.

- Park Road: May 10 – May 13
- Wheeler Street/Paul S. Buchman Highway: May 17 – May 20
- Alexander Street: May 31 – June 3
- Thonotosassa Road: June 7 – June 10
- Branch Forbes Road: June 14 – June 17

After the westbound ramps are completed the current plan is for construction to then turn around and work on the eastbound side starting with the Branch Forbes Road on and off ramps and ending with the County Line Road on and off ramps. Dates may be altered due to inability to reach agreements on detours or inclement weather.

HOPE LUTHERAN WELCOMES MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

On Thursday, May 16th, Hope Lutheran Church, 2001 North Park Road, will again host their mobile food pantry in the church parking lot. This pantry, in association with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lakeland, will begin distributing food to those in need beginning at 6:00 p.m. until the supplies are distributed. Anyone in need of grocery assistance is encouraged to join the event as the church works to eliminate food insecurities in our community. Various goods are available from vegetables to meats to dairy and bakery goods. The pantry, "Moving Hope," takes place at Hope Lutheran on the 3rd Thursday of each month. No identification is required and the pantry is open to anyone in our Plant City community needing an extra hand of help.

For additional information, contact the church office at 813-752-4622.

DEMOCRATS WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY

On April 21, Plant City Democrats cleaned up and installed plants at the Imagination Garden at Burton Memorial

Library with support from Plant City Parks and Recreation.

PLANT CITY STUDENT PLACES THIRD

Plant City Optimist Club Oratorical Contest representative Marley Mueller placed third at the North Florida District Oratorical Competition held Saturday, April 27, 2024 in Bushnell. This placement secured the Plant City High School sophomore a \$1,000 college sponsorship. [photo 3 Marley]

OPTIMIST CLUB FUND RAISER



For the month of May 2024, whenever a \$2.99 reusable Community Bag is purchased at the Winn-Dixie located at 204 West Alexander Street in Plant City, \$1 will be donated to the Optimist Club of Plant City. This is a great way to broaden awareness and help their cause.

Information is available at: <https://www.plantcityoptimistclub.org/community-bag-program>

PLANT CITY OPTIMIST CLUB TRI-STAR SOCCER

Pictured Above are the Plant City Optimist Club Tri-Star award recipients who were able to attend the award ceremony. Back Row (L-R): Austin Faircloth, Elizabeth Unsworth, Sebastian Ocegueda, Landon Hughes, Adrian Avalos. Front Row (L-R): Carlos Miranda, Anderson Salas, Madiynn Espinoza, Ava Lor, Thiago Pena.

COUNTRYWOOD VETERANS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO PLANT CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Plant City's Countrywood Veterans awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to Junior ROTC students. Throughout the year the veterans group holds fund raisers like its 9-hole Memorial Day golf tournament to underwrite these scholarships.

Countrywood Veterans Committee members Lou Malagrino and Jim Lauraine presented Mikeya Nesbitt and Kylie Morgan with their scholarships.

Michael Clark and Jim Lauraine, presented Andrew Walls and Riley Wilson.



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PHYSICIAN GROUP

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With sameday appointments, individualized care, and a welcoming atmosphere, Dr. Humam Alabsi and his team at our Plant City location make booking visits for your kids easy and convenient.

Our Pediatric Doctor:



Humam Alabsi, MD
Pediatrics

“Nothing is more enriching than being part of a child’s growth journey into thriving and wellness.”

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Call **863.284.5000** to book with Dr. Alabsi today!

Our Location:



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NEWS



FITNESS, FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH MEN'S GROUP IS COMING TO PLANT CITY.

The official roll out is May 18 at the Walden Lake Dog park area (the old polo grounds). The group’s core principles: Free of charge. Open to All men, Always Outside. Peer Lead workouts in a rotating fashion, and it always ends in a Circle of Trust. The Fishhawk chapter will be there to celebrate the new chapter. F3 has over 4333 workout locations across the U.S. For more information email jcoreyc1@yahoo.com, and see F3nation.com.

FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR, TAMPA ELECTRIC WILL REDUCE POWER BILLS.

In January, the company reduced residential bills by nearly \$18 because of a decline in fuel prices and other factors. Today, the Public Service Commission unanimously approved a further reduction



– this time about \$7 – based on continued low natural gas prices.

In total, these reductions will save customers nearly \$25 a month for the rest of the year, or a total of \$175.

“Tampa Electric is pleased to be in a position to reduce electricity bills again this year,” said Archie Collins, president and chief executive officer of Tampa Electric. “We are happy to provide customers with some welcome relief as the summer’s heat begins.”

Utilities modify their fuel costs annually, typically in January, and can adjust them at other times if costs change significantly. Natural gas prices have declined in the past year – and stayed low.

The company will return the \$137 million savings to customers.

Beginning in June, residential customers who use 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month will see a reduction to \$136.44 a month, from the \$143.48 they pay today. Tampa Electric rates will remain among the lowest in Florida and will be significantly below the national average.

Natural gas and other fuels are used in power plants to make electricity, and their costs are passed to customers with no

markup or profit. The fuel charge makes up about one-quarter of a residential customer’s bill. Tampa Electric maximizes the use of existing low-cost, well-performing plants and power purchased from other companies to lower costs and pass the savings to customers. The company’s use of solar power has saved customers more than \$200 million since 2017.

27TH ANNUAL OPTIMIST TRI-STAR SOCCER SKILLS COMPETITION



The results are in for the 27th Annual Optimist Tri-Star Soccer Skills Competition held at the Otis M Andrews Sports Complex this past Saturday on April 27.

A massive shout out to all the nearly hundred participants who showcased their soccer skills! Your passion for the game truly made this event remarkable. Special thanks to the Plant City Optimist Club for their unwavering support in making this event possible season after season.

Here are the outstanding performers in each category... *drum roll* ...

- Girls 6-7:
 - 1st Place - Ximena Alonso (110)
 - 2nd Place - Ava Lor (85)
 - 3rd Place - Madilyn Espinoza (72.5)
- Girls 8-9:
 - 1st Place - Nevaeh Quiroz (195)
 - 2nd Place - Elizabeth Unsworth (160)
 - 3rd Place - Jeyshangelise Martinez Ramos (140)
- Girls 10-11:
 - 1st Place - Ary Leon (72.5) *Tie broken by passing score
 - 2nd Place - Eva Fulford (72.5)
 - 3rd Place - Dores Hernandez (37.5)
- Girls 12-14:
 - 1st Place - Sheryln Martinez (135) *Tie broken by dribbling score
 - 2nd Place - Anna Marie Martinez (135)
 - 3rd Place - Asiyah Khan (130)
- Boys 6-7:
 - 1st Place - Carlos Miranda (230)
 - 2nd Place - Thiago Pena (157.5)
 - 3rd Place - Anderson Salas (140)
- Boys 8-9:
 - 1st Place - Landon Hughes (210)
 - 2nd Place - Logan Farrag (200)
 - 3rd Place - Adair Martinez (192.5)
- Boys 10-11:
 - 1st Place - Adrian Avalos (197.5)
 - 2nd Place - Austin Faircloth (182.5) *Tie broken by dribbling score
 - 3rd Place - Sebastian Ocegueda (182.5)
- Boys 12-14:
 - 1st Place - Anthony Gonzalez (232.5)
 - 2nd Place - Hector Pena Jr (205)
 - 3rd Place - Alex Delgado (197.5)

Link to the 2024 Tri-Star Event Photos:
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.952003470258843&type=3>