



# News Release

## For Immediate Release

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### 2026 Neighborhood Village winners announced

PLANT CITY, Fla. (February 27, 2026) – Officials at the Florida Strawberry Festival’s Neighborhood Village announced during the 11-day event the grand champion winners in its competition of homemade goods.

Divisions in the non-perishables category include quilting, home décor, wearing apparel and accessories, needlework, plastic canvas, toys, games and dolls, knitting, crocheting and tatting, jewelry, paper crafts, and woodworking. The perishables category includes food preservation, baking, gingerbread and cookie decorating and cake decorating. All entries in both categories are entered by citizens of Plant City and surrounding communities.

In the quilting division, the grand champion winners are Pamela Saylor, Linda Goodwin, Kimberly De’Shong, Karen McArthur, Carol Ethington and Shelley Murrell.

In the home decoration division, the grand champion winners are Carol Simmons, Connie Crow, Claudia Ingram, and Keith Vensel.

In the knitting, crocheting, and tatting division, the grand champion winners are Jessica Girod, Nichole Parker and Regenna Griffin.

In the wearing apparel and accessories division, the grand champion winners are Kathryn Travers, Mary Wendell, Kimberly Boothe, Gina Recio, and Darlene Buell.

In the embellished division, the grand champion winners are Judy Rich and Megan Blizzard.

In the hand embroidery needlework division, the grand champion winners are Bonnie Yauilla and Jody Buescher.

In the toys, games and dolls division, the grand champion winners are Susan Kay Smith and Mary Spence.

In the jewelry division, the grand champion winner is Doloris Areias.

In the paper crafts division, the grand champion winners are Jodi McKeithan and Julia Macek.

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In the woodworking division, the grand champion winner is Tom Rack.

In the adhesive and heat transfer vinyl crafts division, the grand champion winner is Jackie Zimmerman.

In the food preservation division, the grand champion winners are Emily Colburn, Leon Driggs, and Lorretta Kohr.

In the baking division, the grand champion winners are Michelle Reed, Jill-Anne Fowler, Rosalind Chan, and Mackenzie Allen.

In the cake decorating division, the grand champion winners are Linda Sigor, Abigail Wedin and Kelly Rae Short.

In the gingerbread and cookie division, the grand champion winners are Danielle Defelice, Aubrey Murray, and Paige Peck.

President's Choice awards went to Jim Ethington, Carol Simmons, Pam Saylor, Linda Stephens, Christine Srock, Kelly Rae Short, and Mackenzie Allen.

The Neighborhood Village competition and display, sponsored by Kitchen Craft, has a long-standing history at the Florida Strawberry Festival.

Entries in the competition will be on display all 11 days of the festival.

### **About the Florida Strawberry Festival**

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11-day community celebration of the strawberry harvest in Eastern Hillsborough County. Each year, over 650,000 visitors enjoy the festival's headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits, and, of course, its famous strawberry shortcake. The 91st Annual Florida Strawberry Festival takes place February 26 – March 8, 2026, in Plant City, Florida. For more information, visit [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok and X.

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