

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rotary Club of Florissant awards \$14,000 in scholarships to local students

In keeping with its mission of "Service above Self" during its weekly lunch meeting, the Rotary Club of Florissant awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to seven North County high school seniors. The money will help support the students' post-secondary academic careers at their chosen universities.

To be eligible to receive the scholarships, students had to complete an application, met the GPA requirements, share their school and community service involvement and write an essay. Upon completion, the Rotary Club Scholarship Committee reviewed all application packets to determine this year's winners. The 2018 Rotary Scholarship winners received \$2,000 each, which will be sent to the college of their choice. This year's scholarship recipients are as follows: Theodore Laesch, Lutheran High School North; Megan Pilla, Incarnate Word Academy; Dacia Slater, McCluer North High School; Collin Fiore, Hazelwood West High School; Tasnim Keddo, Hazelwood West High School; Matthew Gantner, Trinity Catholic High School and Sklyar Cribbett, Marquette Catholic High School.



Submitted photo

Shown here are the 2018 Rotary Club Scholarship winners (from left) Theodore Laesch, Lutheran High School North; Megan Pilla, Incarnate Word Academy; Dacia Slater, McCluer North High School; John Caravelli, Rotary Club of Florissant President (center), Collin Fiore, Hazelwood West High School; Tasnim Keddo, Hazelwood West High School; Matthew Gantner, Trinity Catholic High School and Sklyar Cribbett, Marquette Catholic High School (not pictured).

The event was held on April 17 at Christian Northwest Healthcare, Building A - Community Room (lower level) at

1225 Graham Road in Florissant. For more information about the Rotary Club of Florissant or membership, please visit <http://www.florissantrotary.org/>.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Eighth Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition winners crowned

On April 28, 15 metro area high school acts brought the crowd to their feet when they performed on stage at The Fabulous Fox Theatre in the St. Louis Teen Talent Competition Finals. Students competed for more than \$40,000 in college scholarships, cash awards and special prizes.

The distinguished panel of judges, performing arts professionals with careers spanning film, TV and Broadway, had the difficult job of judging the acts on interpretation, stage presence, technical ability, and originality.

First place and an \$8,000 college scholarship, underwritten by Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust, went to 16-year-old Nicaya Wiley from Kirkwood High School who performed to "This Bitter Earth."

Second place and a \$6,000 college scholarship went to Labels (Arielle Adams – 16-year-old from Hazelwood Central High School, Kelsey Carnes – 16-year-old from Francis Howell North High School, Madison Alexander – 14-year-old from Incarnate Word Academy, DessaRae Lampkins,

De'jai Walker, & Brooke Reese – 17-year-olds from Hazelwood Central High School).

Josh Royal is a 17-year-old from Pattonville High School and took the \$4,000 scholarship for third place for his performance to "She's Out of My Life." The \$1,000 cash Audience Choice Award went to Labels for their performance.

The group of 28 finalists will also have the opportunity to perform at a variety of events around the metro area. 2018 public appearances scheduled to date include the Muny, National Dance Week, Taste of Maplewood, Gateway Grizzlies, Shakespeare Festival, and Rising Stars Showcase.

The Finals were recorded by The Nine Network for a special St. Louis Teen Talent Competition program to be aired on Sunday, May 20 at 5 p.m. (with rebroadcasts on May 22 at 9 p.m., May 26 at 2 p.m., and May 27 at 11 a.m.).

The Ninth Annual St. Louis Teen Talent Competition at The Fabulous Fox has been scheduled for April 13, 2019.



TALK OF THE TOWNS

by bill beggs jr.

KIRKWOOD}}

Nicaya Wiley of Kirkwood High School danced her heart out April 28 at The Fabulous Fox to win the St. Louis Teen Talent Competition. Along with first place, she took home an \$8,000 college scholarship, underwritten by Ameren Corp. Charitable Trust. Nicaya, 16, chose jazz-pop standard “This Bitter Earth,” made famous by Dinah Washington, for her routine and was judged tops among 15 metro high school acts. Students competed for more than \$40,000 in college scholarships, cash awards and special prizes. The panel of judges—performing arts pros with careers in film, TV and Broadway—had the difficult job of evaluating performers on their interpretation, stage presence, technical ability and originality. Second place and a \$6,000 college scholarship sponsored by John Russell went to Labels, a dance group comprising Arielle Adams, 16, Hazelwood Central; Kelsey Carnes, 16, Francis Howell North; Madison Alexander, 14, Incarnate Word Academy; and DessaRae Lampkins, De’Jai Walker and Brooke Reese, all 17, from Hazelwood Central. Third place and a \$4,000 scholarship went to Pattonville student Josh Royal, 17, for his vocal performance of “She’s Out of My Life.” Last year’s first-place winner, Christina Jones, returned to sing “God Bless the Child” and “The Greatest Love of All.” Many additional special awards and prizes went to finalists and semifinalists, including the \$1,000 cash Audience Choice Award, which went to Labels for their performance. The Nine Network recorded the really big ‘shew’ for a special program to be aired at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 20—with rebroadcasts on May 22, 26, and 27 at 11 a.m. Mark your 2019 calendars (does anyone have one of those to mark up yet?) for the ninth annual competition, which is slated for April 13.

