

Week in Review

The Best of Bartow

Sept. 9 - 15, 2024

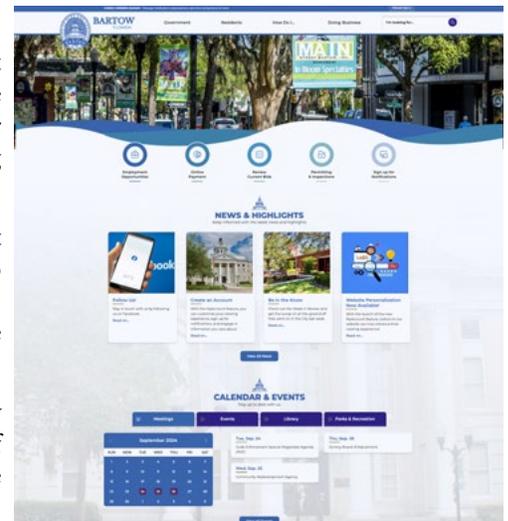
CITY LAUNCHES REDESIGNED WEBSITE

This morning, Bartow launched a newly redesigned website, CityofBartow.net, that better showcases all that the City has to offer. Envisioned as a virtual City Hall, the site will provide a more accessible, user friendly and aesthetically pleasing experience for residents, businesses and visitors. The creation was facilitated by CivicPlus, a leading government website provider.

Features of the new website include the ability for users to create an account that will allow for streamlined management of subscriptions to items of interest and auto population and saving of newly added fillable forms, including a City job application. The site also is mobile friendly, will easily translate to different languages and is more accessible for those using assistive technology.

The Project Team consisted of Laurie Hayes, communications director, Tracy Miller, assistant city manager and Frank Canovaca, IT director. In addition, staff representatives from each department received training and are working to update and maintain the pages of the site relevant to their area of expertise.

Future improvements include the addition of SeeClickFix, a 311 solution that empowers residents to report issues, identify repair needs, share feedback, and ask questions of their local government leaders via a mobile app. Bartow Now, the guide to Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts, will soon be offered as an interactive flip book on the site. More online, fillable forms also will be added in the coming months.



BARTOW BASEBALL 10U MINORS ALL-STAR PLAYERS STATE CHAMPS



The Bartow Youth Baseball 10u Minors All-Star players and coaches are the City's first ever youth baseball team to win the Cal Ripken Florida State Championship, and they did so in the first year of competition in the Babe Ruth /Cal Ripken Youth Baseball league.

This team demonstrated consistent excellence in representing Bartow and conducted themselves as positive role models for other players, teams and the community. The team went undefeated in all invitational tournaments as well as Districts. In the State Tournament, they went 20 - 1, totaling 245 runs and only allowing 28 runs, for an average score of almost 12 - 1.

At their Sept. 17 meeting, the Commissioners and Mayor Pfeiffer recognized the following players and coaches as Ambassadors of Good Will, Sportsmanship and Pride for the City of Bartow: #23 Rodrigo Arriola, #13 Adrian Beato, #51 Matthew Johns Jr., #27 RJ King, #3 Jeremiah McGhee, #8 Liam Mendiola, #6 JP Midura, #7 Luke Owens, #11 Parker Phillips, #14 Jace Price, #17 Legend Quartermaine, #9 Wyatt Vegter and Coaches John King, Pedro Beato, and Scott Vegter.

The Mayor also designated September 17 as BARTOW YOUTH BASEBALL 10U MINORS ALL-STAR DAY. Congrats to all!



CELEBRATING THE CONSTITUTION

The City and the Bartow CRA partnered with Polk County Government Florida and the Polk County History Center to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which will be celebrated on July 4, 2026.

“One Nation, Many Stories: Polk County” is located at the Bartow Civic Plaza, 200 E. Davidson St., adjacent to the History Center. The outdoor walking tour/exhibit was dedicated on Sept. 17, Constitution Day, in a ceremony that included a welcome from Myrtice Young, historic preservation manager for the Polk County History Center, speeches by Bill Braswell, chairman, Polk County Board of County Commissioners, City of Bartow Mayor Trish Pfeiffer and CRA Board Member Sandy Mendez, and presentations by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The ceremony ended with a communal bell ringing.

Learn more about the exhibit at <https://www.polk-county.net/news/polk-county-and-bartow-team-up-to-celebrate-america250/>



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September is National Hispanic Heritage Month, “Mes de Herencia Hispana,” which has been celebrated annually in the US from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 since 1988 (expanded from a Hispanic Heritage Week designated in 1968).

September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and 18, respectively.

In Bartow, this month celebrates, honors and pays tribute to the significant contributions of all Hispanic city employees, residents and leaders that help increase cultural awareness, education, enrichment and community engagement with our residents and contributes to our strong, inclusive community.

The proclamation was accepted by Bartow City Librarian Christina Hielscher, who reported on the programs planned by the Bartow Public Library in honor of the observance (including a bachata dance class this evening from 6-7pm), and Yadlih Torres, administrator for the Bartow Fire Department. Yadlih is leading the charge to foster increased engagement between Bartow’s Hispanic community and the Fire Department and City as a whole.

UNINVITED GUEST SENT PACKING

Last Friday, two uninvited guests were relocated from Mary Holland Park. The gator pictured was between 8 and 9 feet long. Our friends at City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts will continue to monitor the area.





GOLF COURSE STAFF LAUDED BY COMMISSION

The staff at the Bartow Golf Course, part of our City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts team, was recognized at the last City Commission meeting for being named #1 in *The Ledger's* Community's Choice Awards / Best of Central Florida in the category of Best Golf Course. Pictured from left: Groundskeeper Teddy Phillips, Maintenance Worker II Juan Carreon, Groundskeeper Laura Church, Golf Pro Chris Reddoch, Course Manager Tami Waring and Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Morrison.

PARK, WALK AND TALK INITIATIVE

At the beginning of this month, the Bartow Police Department began a new initiative dubbed Park, Walk and Talk. The program encourages officers to park their cruisers for 30 minutes to an hour each day and interact with residents on foot. By increasing visibility in the neighborhoods, it is hoped that officers will establish relationships with the people who live and/or do business in the areas in which they patrol.



DIVERSITY LUNCHEON

The Diversity Luncheon, sponsored by the Community Relations Committee, the City of Bartow and the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce, was held last Wednesday at the Bartow Civic Center. The event included the recognition of the Luster African American Heritage Museum and Charles Luster and Harvey Lester as well as Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Virginia Condello as the C.C. Corbett Diversity Award winners and featured speaker Dr. Kristopher Childs.



BARTOW PD TRIES NEW APPROACH TO RECRUITMENT

Recognizing the struggles that law enforcement agencies are encountering when trying to hire new officers, the Bartow Police Department is thinking outside the box to woo new recruits. Noting a desire to hire officers with real life experience, Deputy Chief Stephen Walker told the Commission last Tuesday that such knowledge is key to handling life situations. But recognizing that with life experience comes responsibilities that involve families, mortgages and other realities, the BPD has hired three individuals whom they will sponsor to attend the police academy. These cadets will join the department upon successful graduation and have made a commitment to serve Bartow for at least four years. The department also is making the hiring of minorities a priority in order to diversify the agency.

Pictured are Carlos D Garcia, Dennis L. Brown and Imani D. Williams, along with Deputy Chief Walker.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

SPORTS COMPLEX OPENING

Join the City and our Polk County partners in celebrating the opening of the newly renovated Bartow Sports Complex. At 9:30am on Friday Oct. 4, officials from the City of Bartow, Polk County and Visit Central Florida Sports will commemorate the completion of improvements that include four new fields, newly paved driveways, organized grass parking, batting cages and restrooms, as well as a new fence around the RC Track. The Bartow Chamber of Commerce will assist with the ribbon cutting after which athletes from across the region can play ball!



POLICE CHIEF CANDIDATE MEET & GREET

The public is invited to an informal Meet & Greet with candidates for the position of City of Bartow Chief of Police on Oct. 8 from 6-7PM at Mulligans Bar & Grill, located at the Bartow Golf Course, 190 S Herbert Dixon Blvd.

80TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY PARADE AND CARNIVAL

Held this year on Thursday, Oct. 24, the tradition kicks off with a parade starting at 4pm. The parade begins at Main St. and First Ave. (in front of the Chicken Shack), heads west on Main St, and then turns south on Broadway Ave, finishing near the Bartow Civic Center. A carnival will follow at Mosaic Park, 1865 S. Broadway Ave., with a moonwalk, food trucks, BINGO, and, of course, a costume contest.

HOMETOWN HEROES - A SALUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

Hosted by the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce, this luncheon will be held on Monday, Nov. 11, from 11:11AM - 1:30PM at the Bartow Civic Center. Local veterans can sign up by calling the Chamber at 863.533.7125.



HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

This one-day event will take place at Bartow High School on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 8am - noon.

Accepted Chemicals

(not a complete list - call to inquire about specific substances):

- Automotive fluids, motor oil
- Batteries (household or auto)
- Cleaners
- Cooking oil
- Fertilizers
- Fluorescent bulbs and other mercury containing devices
- Fuels (Kerosene, gasoline)
- Herbicides, fungicides, insecticides
- Paint (latex, oil)
- Paint thinner
- Paint remover
- Pesticides
- Pool Chemicals
- Propane tanks
- Solvents
- Wood preservatives

Accepted Electronics

(limit 5 per household):

- TVs, VCRs, CD, DVD or Blu-ray players
- Digital Camera, video cameras (camcorders)
- Cell phones, smart phones, MP3 players, iPods
- Computers and/or peripherals
- Fax machines
- Printers, copiers, printer or toner cartridges
- GPS, marine depth finders
- Radios, stereo equipment
- Telephones
- Video game players

Tires:

Tires will be collected at C. Wilson Equipment Co., 2301 US Highway 17 S. Limit of 24. Standard vehicle tires ONLY. NO BUSINESSES. For questions regarding tire collection, call Keep Polk County Beautiful at (863) 875-8911

For more information on the hazardous waste collection day, contact Polk County Waste & Recycling (863) 284-4319.



*The Week in Review is prepared and published by Laurie Hayes, Director of Communications, for the staff and residents of the City of Bartow, 450 N. Wilson Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830
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