



Week in Review

Jan. 21 - 27, 2025

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

Welcome to the new *Week in Review* via Constant Contact.

Polk County Youth Fair Week Proclaimed

The first "Polk County Youth Agricultural Show" was held in the City of Bartow in November 1947. Now referred to as the Polk County Youth Fair, the event continues to be held in Bartow.

The purpose of the Fair is to provide a means for Polk County youth who are engaged in 4-H Clubs and in chapters of FFA and FCCLA to display exhibits of their projects, and to compete as individuals with one another and against the highest standards of perfection and foster an appreciation of quality and excellence in workmanship as well as to develop personal responsibility, dependability, and a strong work ethic.

At the last meeting of the City Commission, Mayor Pfeiffer declared Jan. 24 to Feb. 1 as Polk County Youth Fair Week in the City and encouraged residents to promote youth development in personal responsibility and excellence in workmanship. The proclamation was accepted by Polk County Youth Fair President Scott Fowler.



A Warm Welcome to Angel Ruse

Angel Ruse has joined the City Manager's Office as an Administrative Assistant. She replaces Lenyx Palacios who is now a Human

Resources Coordinator. Today is her first day.

Angel is a woman of many talents and is sure to be an asset to the Bartow team. In her words: *I'm a recent M.B.A. graduate from Auburndale, Florida. My hobbies include fishing, golfing, working out, and of course keeping up with the SEC nation. I'm a big country girl so if you ever need song recommendations, I'm your go-to. I'm ecstatic to have the opportunity to be working with the City of Bartow and I cannot wait to get to know everybody!*



Fluoride Workshop Scheduled

The Bartow City Commission will hold a public Workshop regarding the pros and cons of adding fluoride to the City's water supply on Tuesday, February 18 from 6 -8pm at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 Floral Ave. Panelists will include Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Lapado and American Fluoridation Society President Dr. Johnny Johnson. More information will be forthcoming.



Bright Ideas Innovation Sessions Planned

Last year, the City launched a Bright Ideas Innovation Program. Spearheaded by City Manager Mike Herr, the program creates a framework for every member of the City staff to develop and submit ideas for review, feedback and adoption.

Ideas are reviewed monthly by an employee advisory group, who will evaluate and make recommendations to the City Manager's Leadership Team. That Team will determine whether implementation of the Bright Idea is feasible, based upon resources and alignment with the City's mission and goals.

If the idea moves forward, the employee who submitted the Idea will assist in leading the implementation. Once put into practice, he or she will receive an innovation award ranging from \$100 to \$3000, based on financial impact, productivity improvement or intangible benefit.

The City will host three Bright Ideas Innovation Sessions for City staff to share more about the program and offer assistance in submitting an idea either in writing or online. The sessions will be held on Feb. 27 from 9 - 11am or 2 - 4pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall; on March 19 from 9 - 11am or 2 - 4pm in the Gause Room at the Carver Recreation Center and on March 28 from 9 - 11am or 2 - 4pm in the PRCA Conference Room at the Civic Center.

Storyteller Helps Celebrate Black History Month at the Library



This February, in celebration of Black History Month, a special guest is coming to the Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave. Storyteller Tamara Green will share touching stories from Africa, her family and Florida beginning at 6pm on Thursday, Feb. 13.

Born in Memphis, TN, the Home of the Blues, she holds an MFA in Performing Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree in English education and has served as the Youthful Voices Director for the Florida Storytelling Association. Her love of stories comes from her father, and Library staff is excited for her to share them with the community! All ages welcome.

Community Development Block Grant Information Session Scheduled

The community is invited to Carver Recreation Center, 520 Herbert Dixon Blvd., from 6 - 7pm on Thursday, Jan. 30 to learn about grant opportunities and to share ideas and suggestions about the type of commercial and economic development you want.



This is your chance to make a difference in your community and help shape its future.



13th Annual Blarney Duathlon slated for March 15

City of Bartow Parks & Recreation once again will host the Annual Blarney Duathlon / 5K on Saturday, March 15. Now in its 13th year, the duathlon consists of a 1 mile run, an 11 mile Bike ride and a 3 mile run. A 5K race will be held at the same time.

Discounted entry fees are available on a sliding scale through March 9. Register at tinyurl.com/bartow0blarney.

Registration Open for Father - Daughter Dance

Dads, granddads and other father figures: Make plans now to attend the City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Father-Daughter Dance on Feb. 21 from 6-8 pm at the Bartow Civic Center.



You and your girl(s), ages 5-18, should dress to impress and come prepared to dance the evening away. Dinner included! \$30 for an adult and child (\$15 per additional child) Register at Bartowrec.recdesk.com.



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