



Week in Review

Feb. 24 - March 2, 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



Police Officer Recruits Celebrate Graduation

Police Officer Recruits Imani Williams and Carlos Garcia graduated from the Polk State College, Kenneth C. Thompson Institute for Public Safety's Basic Law Enforcement Academy last Monday.

The two passed the Florida CJSTC State Officer Certification Examination on Friday, and will be part of the Field Training Program this week. Please join us in congratulating Imani and Carlos on this achievement!

Pictured L to R: Capt. Bill Stevens, Capt. Luke Hauser, Police Recruit Imani Williams, Police Recruit Carlos Garcia and Chief Stephen Walker

Bartow PD Emergency Communications Center Awarded Reaccreditation

The Bartow Police Department's Emergency Communications Center was awarded their reaccreditation from the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission on Feb. 19 at the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission Conference in St. Augustine, Fl.



To obtain and retain the accredited status, the Emergency Communications Center must meet and comply with 210 Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) standards and 73 Telecommunications Accreditation Commission (TAC) standards. Our Emergency Communications Specialists are the first link in the chain to providing public safety services to the city of Bartow residents and visitors, and are the lifeline to victims, our police officers and firefighters.

We would like to recognize and congratulate Emergency Communication Section Supervisor, Jane Casselman and Accreditation Manager, Kathryn Jones for their hard work in ensuring we meet and exceed these standards on a daily basis, along with all of our hardworking Emergency Communications Specialists on this outstanding accomplishment!

In the picture, L to R - Marette Sims, TAC President; Kathryn Jones, Accreditation Manager; Jane Casselman, Emergency Communications Section Supervisor; Stephen Walker, Chief of Police; and Lisa Cahil, Executive Director of TAC



Agri-Fest Days Observed in the City

in 1988, members of the local agriculture sector, school board educators and the Polk extension office envisioned an educational program that would expand local students' knowledge of the agriculture industry. The following year, more than 600 fourth-grade students attended the first one-day Agri-Fest event, experiencing hands-on learning activities about the

economic importance of the Polk County Agriculture Industry.

Since its inception, the Agri-Fest event has incorporated educational curriculum objectives into hands-on learning experiences related to locally produced food and fiber commodities and careers in the agriculture industry. Today it serves almost 6,000 Polk fourth-grade students over a 10-day period.

Recognizing that the Polk County Agricultural Center located in the City of Bartow has been the home of the Polk County Agri-Fest event for 36 years, at their last meeting the Mayor and Commission proclaimed March 3 - 7 and March 10 - 15 as Polk Agri-Fest Days in the City. The proclamation was accepted by Polk County Farm Bureau Executive Director Carole McKenzie and Program Coordinator Sarah Waldman.



Playground Improvements

The playgrounds at Mary Holland Park are getting upgrades, including new rubber mulch around the Pirate Ship and Tot Lot. The Pirate Ship is set to sail once again, however the upgrades to the Tot Lot, which entail a new rubber surface and new swings are ongoing.

Improvements to the playground at Richland Manor Park (pictured) have finished much to the delight of the families in the area.

Achievers on

Display Friday

The Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency and Bartow's Banner Pole Steering Committee honored some of legendary Bartow residents whose names and face adorn the banners posted on light poles in various parts of the city at an event this past Friday at Carver Recreation Center.



Hosted by Commissioner Leo Longworth, the Achievers on Display program featured Folk Artist James "Lonestar" Camp, Educator Geraldine Watson, Civic Leader Charles Luster, Civic & Community Leader Robert Austin, Civic Leader Sheila Keith, Trailblazer Garth Washington and Business Owner Richard Sams.

Help Keep Bartow Beautiful at the Great American Clean-Up Event

Join Bartow's Solid Waste Department and Keep Polk County Beautiful for their annual Great American Clean-Up Event on April 26 from 8am - noon.



Volunteers who pre-register will receive a t-shirt and a ticket to Bok Tower Gardens. Youth needing community service hours for graduation can earn four hours by helping to organize the event. Lunch will be provided at Mary Holland Park after the Clean-Up.

Community and civic associations, school and youth groups, families and friends, businesses, sports teams and others are encouraged to organize their members and participate. To sign up, request a packet via email at solidwaste@cityofbartow.net or pick up a packet at 2060 E. Highway 60. Questions? Call 863.534.0181.



Bright Ideas Innovation Sessions Continue

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.

The City is hosting 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. One took place last week and two more are scheduled for 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.

13th Annual Blarney Duathlon to be held 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.



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