



Week in Review

March 11 - 16, 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



13th Blarney in the Books

City of Bartow Parks & Recreation hosted its Annual Blarney Duathlon / 5K on Saturday. Now in its 13th year, the duathlon (a 1 mile run, 11 mile bike ride and 3 mile run) attracted approximately 100 registrants. Congrats to all the participants - especially those who placed in their age categories.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM), an annual observance first declared by President Ronald Reagan in 1987.

DDAM raises awareness about developmental disabilities, celebrates the contributions of individuals with these disabilities, and advocates for their rights and inclusion. The 2025 theme for DDAM, "We're Here All Year!" emphasizes that community, accessibility and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities should be recognized and championed every day — not just one month out of the year.



At their last regular meeting the City Commission recognized DDAM with a proclamation encouraging all citizens to actively participate in efforts to foster inclusive communities and celebrate the unique abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities that was presented to Kelly Lane, Development Director, Achievement Academy.



Cookies for Cops

The Bartow Police Department were the lucky recipients of goodies from the Word of Life Christian School and students. The baked goods were accompanied by handwritten cards. The PD appreciated the support - and the cookies!

Celebrating Government Finance Professionals Week

The Florida Government Finance Officer's Association is a professional association founded in 1937 that serves more than 3,300 professionals from state, county and city governments, school districts, colleges and universities, special districts and private firms.

FGFOA also sponsors Government Finance Professionals Week with a weeklong series of activities aimed at recognizing government finance professionals and the vital services that they provide to our state and our community.



At their last meeting, Mayor Pfeiffer and the Commissioners recognized March 17-25 as Government Finance Professionals Week and extended their appreciation to all government finance professionals throughout the state - and especially in Bartow - for their hard work, dedication and leadership. The proclamation was accepted by Peter Lear, City of Bartow Finance Director.



Commission Recognizes Procurement Month

The public procurement profession plays a significant role in the efficiency and effectiveness of both government and business. Procurement professionals perform such functions as executing, implementing and administering contracts for goods, services and construction, developing strategic procurement strategies, and cultivating working relationships with suppliers and other departments within the organization. These individuals are uniquely positioned to build public trust in our government institutions by diligently ensuring fair and open bidding opportunities to the

vending community and providing transparency in government contracting.

Recognizing their importance, the Institute for Public Procurement (NIGP) established the month of March as Procurement Month to further expand the awareness of the procurement professional's role to governmental officials, the general public, business and corporate leaders.

The observance was recognized by Mayor Pfeiffer and the Commission at their last meeting. The proclamation was accepted by Procurement Manager Danielle Rose and her staff.

Community Engagement Gathering Planned

The City of Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) will hold their monthly Community Engagement Gathering on Tuesday, March 25 from 10 - 11am at the Polk Street Community Center, 1255 Polk St.



The public is invited to attend and learn about free home repair grants as well as funding opportunities for Community Clean-Up and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Cheryl Baksh, Business & Community Engagement Coordinator with the Bartow CRA, will be the host. Representatives from Polk County's Housing & Neighborhood Development Office also will be present to answer grant questions.

Need more information? Call 863-534-0100, ext. 2771.



It's a Cycle Celebration...

Don't put those bikes away after the Blarney. Take another spin and explore commute options in Bartow while celebrating Florida Biking Month!

Join the ride on Friday, March 28 from 3 - 5pm, starting at Fort Blount Park, 343 W Davidson St. Don't forget your bike, helmet, proper clothing, closed toed shoes and your water bottle! There will be free bike helmets provided with limited availability on a first come, first served basis.

Sponsored by the City of Bartow, FDOT Southwest Florida, Commute Connector, Polk Transportation Planning Organization and Citrus Connection.

*Participants must be 18 years or older to join the guided bike ride!

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.

Reminder: This evening's City Commission meeting will be held at 6pm at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave. The Commission is expected to vote on whether or not the City will continue to add fluoride to the City's water at this meeting.

☑Happy St. Patrick's Day!☑

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