



# Week in Review

June 16 - 23, 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

## Stepping into Wellness

The City's "A" Team is hosting a four-week walking challenge for City staff that began on June 2 and will end on June 29.

There are three Exercise Group Levels, which include:

- BEGINNER: Minimum steps to participate – 10,000 steps a week
- INTERMEDIATE: Minimum steps to participate – 25,000 steps a week
- ADVANCED: Minimum steps to participate – 50,000 steps a week

Walkers are competing for prizes like a Walking Pad, a 6 – in – 1 Ninja indoor grill, a Massage chair and an Apple/Android watch.

Throughout the challenge, a participant in each group with the most steps each week receive a Travel Trophy. In Week 1, the recipients were Benoit Maldonado, Library Assistant, with 90,056 steps (beginner); Tyler Douglas, Library Assistant, with 261,501 steps (intermediate), and Yeli Torres Rivera, Library Assistant, with 261,820 steps (advanced).



In Week 2, the Travel Trophy winners were Benoit Maldonado, Library Assistant, with 67,318 steps (beginner); Tyler Douglas, Library Assistant, with 183,208 steps (intermediate) and Johnny Purvis, GIS Analyst, with 185,700 steps (advanced).

Congrats to all!

## Juneteenth Celebrated

Last Thursday marked the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth, which commemorates the day freedom for all slaves was proclaimed by Union General Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas.

This decree came more than two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Because it was the first time that many slaves in Texas learned of their freedom, June 19 - or Juneteenth - became a day of celebration.

The day was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when the 117th U.S. Congress enacted and President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was adopted in 1983.

While accepting the proclamation from the City Commission that declares the celebration of Juneteenth in Bartow, Juneteenth Empowerment Committee Co-Chairpersons Zelma Harris and Jamie Gaskins did some recognizing of their own, honoring Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Director Jason Hargrove for his "invaluable assistance in providing services to our community and to the success of the Juneteenth celebrations." Jason was honored at the Juneteenth luncheon at the Bartow Civic Center.



## Community Meeting Planned for Wind Meadows / Wind Meadows South

A Community Engagement meeting planned for Wednesday, June 25 from 5 – 8 pm at Spessard Holland Elementary School, 2342 EF Griffin Rd., hosted by the City of Bartow for the residents of Wind Meadows and Wind Meadows South.



From 5 – 6 p.m., the City leadership team will showcase services, programs and amenities provided to residents by the City and answer any questions you might have. This will include representatives from Police and Fire, as well as Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts, Utilities, Customer Service, Solid Waste and more. There will be hand-outs with contacts and other useful information for future reference.

Beginning at 6 pm, City Manager Mike Herr and Mayor Tanya Tucker will offer greetings and opening remarks followed by presentations from select department heads. The meeting will then be open for public comments and questions. The gathering is part of an ongoing effort to better engage with our citizens and ensure that their needs are being met by City government.

## National Boys & Girls Club Week Recognized

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County** are at the forefront of youth development and serve as a safe-haven and opportunity hub for all young people, especially those who need it most.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County are celebrating National Boys & Girls Club Week 2025 this week along with some 5,000 other Clubs and more than 4 million young people worldwide in an effort to promote Great Futures for area youth.



At a recent Commission workshop, Mayor Tucker and the rest of the elected body proclaimed June 23-27 as Boys & Girls Club Week in Bartow. The proclamation was accepted by Jermisha McRae, Area Director for Boys & Girls Club and some of the youth from that organization.

## Golf Course, Mulligans



# Closed Thursday

The parking lots at Mulligans Bar & Grill and the Bartow Golf Course are (finally!) getting an upgrade! The Course and Mulligans will be closed on Thursday, June 26 in order to put some of the final touches on the the parking lots, to include striping and parking blocks. Both will reopen on Friday for normal business hours.

We apologize for any inconvenience as we work to improve access to this popular City amenity.

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## Summer Fun (and Learning) at the Bartow Public Library!

The Bartow Public Library's Summer Reading program is soaring to new heights! Last Wednesday, the Library held a special story time and craft presented by Jennilyn Crump of the Lakeland Aerospace Center for Excellence. After the story, the record-breaking crowd went outside to see, touch, and sit in a real Sonex airplane!



Next up in their Super Summer Show lineup is **Reactory Factory** - the duo that makes science sound good with rock'n beats, games on musical rocks, and sing-along dance moves at the Bartow Civic Center on June 25 at 10am. (Doors open 30 minutes before the performance.) All ages are welcome!

Don't miss out on any of the fun - [Check out their special Summer schedule](#). See ya at the Library this summer!

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## Local Kids are Having a Bash this Summer

Bartow Summer Camp is in full swing and the past few weeks have been packed with fun, creativity, and new adventures! Our campers stay active and engaged all week long with a variety of hands-on activities that spark imagination and built teamwork.



Campers were kicking things off in Week 3 — literally! The campers hit the fields full of energy and punted their way through some exciting kickball matches that brought out teamwork, sportsmanship, and a whole lot of laughs.

But the fun didn't stop there! From hands-on crafts to playground adventures, dance-offs, and water games to beat the heat — Week 3 was packed with unforgettable moments. Our campers also learned new cheers, bonded over group games, and got creative in our activity stations.

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Share the Love - and your



## Votes with the Golf Course

It's that time again... Last year, residents and fans of the Bartow Golf Course rallied behind this City icon, helping us cinch the #1 spot for "Best Golf Course" in The *Ledger's* Community Choice Awards. Help us retain the title by once again voting for your hometown course. [Vote here!](#)

## City to Host Independence Day Celebration

At their meeting last Monday, the Commission reviewed plans for **An Independence Day Celebration** slated for July 4 from **City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts** Director Jason Hargrove and Intern Noelia Velasquez. The Commission officially recognized the event with a proclamation. Want to know more? You can get all the details here: [www.cityofbartow.net/529/July-4-Celebration](http://www.cityofbartow.net/529/July-4-Celebration)

Hosted by the City of Bartow for the first year, the Independence Day Celebration will take place in Mosaic Park on Friday, July 4, from 2:30 - 10pm.

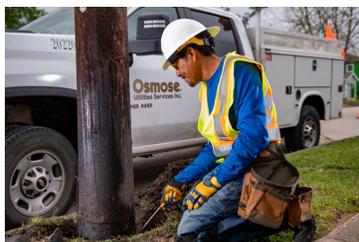
Attendees are invited to bring blankets and lawn chairs and settle in for an afternoon and evening celebrating our nation's independence.

Pack a picnic of snacks and non-alcoholic beverages or take advantage of a variety of food options available for sale. The event will stay true to the traditional celebration and feature live music, food trucks, children's activities, family games and, of course, FIREWORKS!

The Opening Ceremony will start at 2:30pm with local dignitaries including Mayor Tanya Tucker. Bartow Idol winner Natalie Suarez will then set the patriotic mood with her rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. An afternoon of family fun will include a moon bounce and inflatable games, a rock wall, a balloon artist, face painting and a roving magician.

There will be live music all day ending with headliner Eli Mosley presented by @ThunderCDJR who will lead in to the Fireworks Extravaganza at 9:10pm.

Get all the details on the City website at [cityofbartow.net/529/July-4-Celebration](http://cityofbartow.net/529/July-4-Celebration) Vendor and sponsorship opportunities still are available. For more information, email [nvelasquez@cityofbartow.net](mailto:nvelasquez@cityofbartow.net) or call 863.534.0120.



## Inspections of Utility Poles Underway

Over the next three months, Osmose Utilities Services will be inspecting approximately 3000 utility poles in the City. These inspections will help ensure reliable power for our community and safety for our workers.

As part of the inspection process, crews may use hammers or drill and dig around the bases of the poles. Crews may need to walk through private property to access some poles. The work will not interfere with electric service. Questions? Call 863-

534-0100.

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