



# Week in Review

Aug. 19 - 26, 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

## New Chief Council for Advocacy at US SBA Visits Bartow

The City of Bartow and the Bartow Economic Development Council were honored to welcome Dr. Casey B. Mulligan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), when he visited the City on Monday. His stops included Unfiltered Coffee, Assure Infusions and the Bartow Executive Airport, before joining a roundtable discussion with City leadership including City Manager Mike Herr, and Commissioners Trish Pfeiffer and Gary Ball, as well as EDC members, business owners, executives, community partners and others at Polk State College Advanced Technology Center.



Confirmed by the U.S. Senate earlier this month, Dr. Mulligan's visit to Polk County marks his first official engagement in the role. His appointment is the first to this position in more than eight years, signaling renewed federal focus on small business advocacy and regulatory reform.

"This visit is a powerful opportunity to showcase Polk County's economic momentum and policy alignment. Dr. Mulligan's insights and advocacy are instrumental in shaping the future of small business and workforce investment across the country, and we are thrilled he chose Polk County," noted Elle Withall, President, Bartow Economic Development Council.

Dr. Mulligan has a background in economics, public policy, and regulatory analysis and is a tenured professor of economics at the University of Chicago. He previously served as Chief Economist for the White House Council of Economic Advisers. As Chief Counsel, Dr. Mulligan leads the SBA's Office of Advocacy, the independent voice for small businesses within the federal government.

# August 26 Declared Lineworker Appreciation Day

America's electric power is produced by thousands of independently owned and operated plants and distribution systems, all interconnected

through an intricate electrical grid with over 5 million miles of power lines delivering energy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week regardless of severe weather conditions. This is thanks to the dedication and expertise of 114,000 electrical line workers employed throughout the country, including 33 in Bartow.

The City has owned and operated its municipal electric system since 1903, now serving a territory of 115 square miles, representing 5.6 percent of Polk County. Delivered by approximately 250 miles of overhead lines and 75 miles of underground lines, Bartow's electric utility provides service to 14,779 customers.

To show appreciation and gratitude to these dedicated employees of Bartow Electric who routinely face dangerous conditions and risk their lives to guarantee the continuous and dependable supply of electric power to all residents within the Bartow Service Area, Mayor Tucker and the City Commission proclaimed August 26 as Bartow Lineworkers Appreciation Day.

Thanks to all who keep the lights (and other devices) on! The proclamation was accepted by Director of Electric Utilities, Michael Poucher and Lineworker Advocate Tracy Moore with many members of the team in attendance.



## CRA Hosts Community Engagement Meeting

The City's Community Redevelopment Agency hosted a Community Engagement Session at Deep Blu Pools on Tuesday. Attended by business owners, residents and representatives of community partners, the session included a

general discussion about the work of the CRA and information about a survey\* being conducted by the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) to help shape the future of the Agency. There also were introductions of CRA Police Officer Paul and Officer Vera and an overview of the department of Code Compliance and Neighborhood Services by Director Tray Towles.

Many thanks to host Pierre Lozoya of Deep Blu Pools as well as to Christy Byers from Unfiltered Coffee House for the delicious coffee, lemonade and pastries.

\*To take the CFRPC survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BartowCRA>



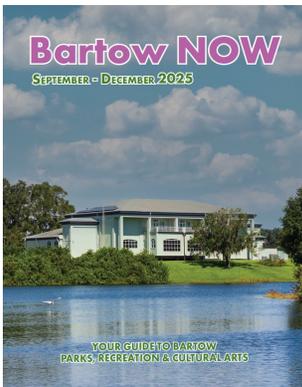
# Recognized at Commission Meeting

Last year, the City of Bartow, under the direction of City Manager Mike Herr, launched the Bright Ideas Innovation Program. This initiative allows employees to have a voice in improving City operations and encourages continuous process improvement, collaborative team

solutions, organizational effectiveness and process mapping.

Bright Ideas are reviewed by the Employee Advisory Group which makes recommendations to the City Manager's Leadership Team which chooses which Bright Ideas to move forward.

This summer, the City celebrated its first Bright Ideas Innovators, who also were recognized at last week's City Commission meeting. While Brandon Altman and Jennifer Noe are no longer with the City, their ideas will live on, along with those submitted by Wiley Pratt, Wastewater Plant Manager, and Courtney Stevenson, Wastewater Plant Operator II.



## *Bartow Now* Hot Off the Press

The latest issue of *Bartow Now* is hot off the presses and will be distributed to City facilities and posted online this week. Check out all the new programs, activities and recreational opportunities being offered by Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts in the coming months, including holiday camps for kids, new (!) indoor pickleball options, youth and adult sports leagues and more.

The issue also contains thanks to our July 4 Entertainment Sponsor, Thunder Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and information on how your business or group can sponsor PRCA activities.

## CRA to Host Clean Up

Mark your calendars and make plans to participate in the International Coastal and CRA CleanUp in Bartow on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 8 to 11:30am.

The effort is sponsored by the Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency and **Keep Polk County Beautiful, Inc.**



Volunteers will receive T-shirts, tickets to Bok Tower and lunch at Carver Recreation Center after the Cleanup. (Supplies will be provided.) Join friends and neighbors to help keep our local waterways and neighborhoods clean!

Register by calling 863.534.0100, ext. 2771 or online at [keeppolkcountybeautiful.org](http://keeppolkcountybeautiful.org).

## Labor Day Holiday on Monday

Reminder that City of Bartow offices and facilities, including the Bartow Library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 for the Labor Day holiday. (No *Week in*



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 WE WILL BE  
**CLOSED**  
 FOR LABOR DAY



Review next week!)

The City Commission meeting normally held on the first Monday of the month will take place 6pm Wednesday, Sept. 3. at City Hall.

The Solid Waste Schedule is as follows: Monday Residential pick up will be collected on Tuesday, Sept. 2 and those who normally receive service on Tuesday will have their residential trash collected on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Thursday and Friday collection will be as usual. Call Bartow Solid Waste at 863-534-0181 with any questions.

Enjoy the holiday!

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