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The logo features four yellow flowers with green leaves arranged around a central circular seal. The seal depicts a building with a dome and the text 'CITY OF OAKS AND PALMS' and 'BARTOW Est. 1851'. Below the seal, the words 'Week in Review' are written in a large, blue, cursive font.

Sept. 8 - 14, 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, 680 E Main St., Bartow, Florida 33830



Bartow Golf Course Once Again "The People's Choice"

Hooray for the Bartow Golf Course for once again earning the #1 spot in *The Ledger's* Community Choice Awards!



Congrats to Golf Course Manager Tami Waring, City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Director Jason Hargrove and the rest of the golf course team for striving to make this recreational amenity the best of the

best in the region!

Thanks too to all who frequent the Course (and Mulligans too!) and took the time to cast a vote in this year's poll.

City First Responders Participate in 9/11 Ceremony

Last Thursday, the Bartow Police and Fire Departments were among the area agencies that participated in Summerlin Academy's 18th Annual 9/11 Ceremony.

The solemn tribute honored all of the nearly 3000 lives - including first responders, civilians and animals in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia - which were lost in the multi-pronged terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

Among the targets were the World Trade Center Towers, both of which collapsed after being struck with two separate hijacked passenger airplanes. The Pentagon building was the target of a separate plane. A fourth plane, likely heading for Washington D.C., crashed into a field in Shanksville, PA, after passengers and crew fight back against the hijackers.



City Firefighters Pay Tribute to Heroes of 9/11

Last week, Firefighters Blake Walden, Daulton Drinkwater and Garrit Girard paid tribute to heroic efforts of the firefighters who responded to the 9/11 attacks by climbing 110 flights - the number of stories in each of the twin towers of the World Trade Center - on a stair machine at the Crunch Fitness in Lakeland.

Photo credit: Crunch Fitness

Importance of Disability Voting Rights Highlighted this Week

Today marks the start of Disability Voting Rights Week, a national, nonpartisan movement hosted by the **American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)** and the REV UP (Register, Educate, Vote – Use your Power) campaign to advocate for voting access and political power for people with disabilities.

Systemic barriers continue to prevent many people with disabilities from exercising their right to vote, including inaccessible polling places and insufficient accessible voting equipment. Vote-by-Mail, the continuation of which has recently been called into question, also is an essential option for the more than 40 million eligible disabled voters in the US, across every community and political party.

According to AAPD, disabled voters are three times more likely to face difficulties casting a ballot than nondisabled voters. People with disabilities are also less likely to vote due to the systemic barriers that make voting difficult like lack of accessible transportation, strict photo ID laws, inaccessible polling places, and more.

The turnout gap for disabled voters has shrunk, from -5.7 points in 2020 to -1.5 points in 2022, but there are still many eligible disabled voters who face barriers in the voting process or who are not registered and not casting a ballot.

It is the responsibility of governments and communities to ensure that accessible and equitable voting opportunities exist for all. Recognizing this, Mayor Tucker and the Commission proclaimed this week as Disability Voting Rights Week in the City to recognize the challenges faced by persons with disabilities and to advocate for accessible voting options for all citizens. The proclamation was accepted by resident Lisa Peterson.



All the Warm and Fuzzies - Literally

Our heroes at the Bartow Fire Department are equal opportunity first responders. Over the weekend they proved that by rescuing a kitten from a storm drain. Community residents had not been able to reach the cat, but in just minutes the firefighters had taken it from peril to purring.

But the rescue didn't end there. Firefighter Shane Evans decided to adopt the kitten. Zoey is now living her best life as part of the Evans' family.

Photo credit: Facebook page of Mayor Tucker

CRA Issues Call for Artists

The City of Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) invites qualified artists to submit proposals for the design and installation of murals on two public restroom exterior walls, as part of the CRA's ongoing efforts to promote public art and strengthen our community identity.



Artists may submit proposals for one or both projects, which will transform two ordinary spaces into vibrant landmarks for the City of Bartow and CRA Distract. Themes should reflect a diverse community, honoring the history and vibrancy of our City.

The project is open to all professional artists (individuals or teams) with a minimum of five years of experience from Polk, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Osceola and Orange Counties. [More information on the projects and how to apply is available here.](#) The deadline for applications is Oct. 31.

IT Professionals Day



Celebrated in the City

Advancements in technology continue to transform our everyday lives, providing enhanced communication, health, education, safety and economic benefits for all.

Information Technology (IT) professionals are the vital backbone behind these transformations, as they strive to keep up with the latest advancements, maintain networks and manage security to support users and keep data safe.

IT Professionals Day was established in 2015 to acknowledge the skill, dedication and hard work of IT professionals who, largely behind the scenes, ensure

that technology systems and networks function smoothly.

Celebrated on the third Tuesday in September, this year on Sept. 16, the observance was proclaimed by Mayor Tucker and the Commission at their last meeting.

The proclamation was presented to IT Director Franck Canovaca and his team.



Constitution Week starts Sept.17

National Constitution Week is week-long observance in the US, held annually from from September 17 though 23, to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

This celebration of the Constitution was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside September 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into public law on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Can you recite the preamble to the Constitution?

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the

general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

At their Sept. 3 meeting, Mayor Tucker and the Commission proclaimed Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week in the City. (September 17 is also observed as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.) The Proclamation was presented to Kellie Sage, Regent of the Bartow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Meeting Scheduled to Discuss Grant Funding for P&R projects

The Land and Recreation Grants section of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection administers awards to local governments through the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP). This competitive, reimbursement



grant program provides financial assistance for acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation.

The City of Bartow is seeking grant funding for two projects. Public meetings regarding projects being considered are required by the application process, and will be held this Thursday, Sept. 18, in the Spence Room at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S Floral Ave. The first to be discussed will be an All-Inclusive Playground at McCleod Park, which will happen at 530pm. The second project, to be presented at 6:30pm, is a Pump Track at Mary Holland Park.



Planning and Zoning Meeting

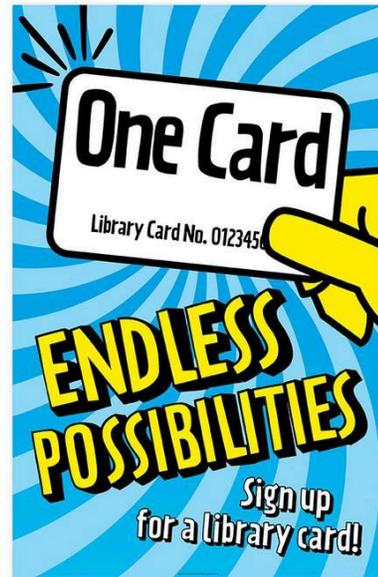
The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold its next meeting at 5:30pm on Monday, Sept. 22 at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S Floral Ave. Among the topics to be discussed and voted upon will be the annexation and rezoning requests in regards to projects known as Emilie East and West.

Library Card Sign Up Month

This month, the Bartow Public Library invites everyone to celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month and discover how a single card can open the door to endless opportunities.

With a library card, you can do more than check out books. From free classes and job resources to homework help, streaming media, and cultural events, today's libraries connect communities to information, inspiration, and each other.

This year's theme, "One Card, Endless Possibilities," is a reminder that libraries are for everyone—no matter your age, background, or goals. Whether you're diving into a new hobby, searching for your next great read, brushing up on tech skills, or helping your child succeed in school, it all starts with a library card.



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