

## Calendar of Events

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June 4, 2018  
- June 28, 2018

**Camp READY! Ft. Meade**  
**Lewis Elementary**  
**15 S. Oak St.**

**Ft. Meade, FL 33841**

08:15 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Grace Vallier, 863-688-9477

gracev@lrcpolk.com

*The Learning Resource Center's Camp READY! summer program prepares rising and repeating kindergartners for academic success over four weeks. Through hands-on, experiential learning centers, students experience learning that is FUN! With art, music and movement, cooking, and reading readiness centers, Camp READY! builds pre-reading skills while also providing a safety net to allow children more time to continue motor, social and cognitive development. On average, LRC's Camp READY! students demonstrate growth of seven months from pre- to post-assessment.*

June 11, 2018  
- July 3, 2018

**Camp READY! Bartow**  
**Floral Avenue Elementary**  
**1530 South Floral Avenue**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

08:15 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Grace Vallier, 863-688-9477

gracev@lrcpolk.com

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June 26, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**  
**BBBS Office**

**1231 E. Orange Street**

**Lakeland, FL 33801**

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

*Please consider becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister and help change the life of a child facing adversity for the better, forever. It doesn't take a lot of time (between 4-8 hours a month, depending on the program). The real focus is on being consistent and spending one-to-one quality time with your Little. Being a Big often means just including your Little in things you already like to do — going to a ball game, or a museum, or the beach, or a bike ride.*

*The first step is to attend one of our Big Orientation & Training sessions. Get more details about volunteering » <https://bbbstampabay.org/be-a-big/>*

June 27, 2018

**Spurlow's Archery Pro Shop**

**Spurlow's Archery Pro Shop**

**1264 N. Broadway Avenue**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

09:30 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

*Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce for Bartow's new shop: Spurlow's Archery Pro Shop located near Badcock's and Spath Jewelers at 1264 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow. Hope to see you there!*

July 2, 2018

- July 27, 2018

**Camp READY! All Saints Academy**

**All Saints Academy**

**5001 FL-540**

**Winter Haven, FL 33880**

08:30 AM - 11:45 AM EST

Grace Vallier, 863-688-9477

gracev@lrcpolk.com

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July 11, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**

**Women's Resource Center**

**165 Avenue A NW**

**Winter Haven, FL**

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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July 12, 2018

**Central Florida Healthcare Job Fair**  
**Auburndale Community Center**  
**405 Bennett Street**  
**Auburndale, FL 33823**  
10:00 AM - 02:00 PM EST  
Juanita Halter, 8632487537  
juanita@centralfloridamediagroup.com  
*Looking for a career in healthcare?*

*Whether you're ready to get your career started or a seasoned professional. plan to attend the*

*Central Florida Healthcare Job Fair*

*Thursday, July 12*  
*10 am to 2 pm*

*Auburndale Community Center*  
*405 Bennett Street*  
*Auburndale, FL 33823*

July 14, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**  
**BBBS Office**  
**1231 E. Orange St**  
**Lakeland, FL**  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EST  
Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116  
angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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July 19, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**

**Family Fundamentals**

**1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd, 2nd Floor**

**Lakeland, FL**

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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July 24, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**

**BBBS Office**

**1231 E. Orange St**

**Lakeland, FL**

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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August 2, 2018

**KIWANIS CLUB CRYIN' TOWEL IS AUGUST 2nd**

**Bartow Civic Center**

**510 N. Broadway Ave.**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Frank Johnson, 863-899-9220

virginia@bartowchamber.com

*Kiwanis Club Cryin' Towel Kicks Off Football Season*

*The Bartow Kiwanis Club's event, the Cryin' Towel, Thursday, August 2, 2018, 6:00 p.m., kicks off the community football season.*

*The annual event features a "tailgate party"-like reception that includes sausage appetizers and freshly-boiled corn on the cob.*

*"Kickoff" (dinner) starts 7:00 p.m. and features a Texas Cattle Company steak with baked potato and side dish.*

*The program, in which area high school football coaches "cry" about how awful their teams are, begins at 7:30 p.m. Door prizes, a drawing, free beer as well as a cash bar are featured at this fun event. Come hear the "blubbing" coaches and cheer for your favorite teams, all for only \$50 per person (must be 21 and older).*

*The event takes place at the Bartow Civic Center. Tickets are available by contacting Frank Johnson at (863) 899-9220. This fundraiser benefits the many Kiwanis Club charitable projects.*

August 8, 2018

**2018 Professional Development Academy**  
**Polk State College Clear Springs Advanced Technolo**  
**310 Technology Dr.**  
**Bartow, FL 33830**

07:30 AM - 09:30 AM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: Leadership In The Workplace*

*AT POLK STATE COLLEGE - CLEAR SPRINGS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER*

*7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.*

*NEW CLASSES FOR 2018. More than 100 have earned a Professional Development Academy certificate since it began in 2016!*

*As a member, you and your employees are eligible to participate in a professional development series: LEADERSHIP IN THE WORKPLACE. Successful professionals continually strive to learn. Expanding skill sets and knowledge enables individuals to transcend their careers. The Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Polk State College, announces the launch of the 2018 Greater Bartow Chamber Professional Development Academy (PDA). This program provides skills for business, organization, and personal growth and improvement through a variety of educational and training opportunities. Receive your PDA certificate by attending a minimum of four of the seven classes. Cost for the academy classes are covered in your Chamber membership investment. If you are an employee of a Chamber member business, you are entitled to attend any of the classes at no cost. If you are not employed by a Chamber member business, the classes are \$29 per class.*

*Choose What's Right For You*

*PDA allows you to choose the classes that are right for you.*

*What Is The Cost For The Classes?*

*Cost for the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce Professional Development Academy classes are covered in your Chamber membership investment. If you are an employee of a Chamber member business, you are entitled to attend any of the classes at no cost. However, if you do register for a class, and cannot attend, you must notify the Chamber 24 hours prior to the class. If you fail to notify the Chamber and do not show up, your business will be charged an administration fee of \$15 for the missed class. If you are not employed by a Chamber member business, the classes are \$29.00 per class.*

*Where Are The Classes Held?*

*All classes are held at the Clear Springs Advanced Technology Center  
Polk State College Corporate College  
310 Technology Drive  
Bartow, Florida 33830*

*What Time Are Classes?*

*Classes begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m.*

*Do I Have To Attend Every Class?*

*Absolutely not. You are allowed to pick and choose the classes that are right for you.*

*Do I Need To Pre-Register?*

*Yes - pre-registration is necessary. Simply go online to [www.bartowchamber.com](http://www.bartowchamber.com) and click on the Professional Development Academy icon.*

*How Do I Earn My Certificate?*

*You can earn your Professional Development Academy Certificate by attending a minimum of four of the classes.*

August 8, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**

**Women's Resource Center**

**165 Avenue A NW**

**Winter Haven, FL 33830**

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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August 11, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**

**BBBS Office**

**1231 E. Orange St**

**Lakeland, FL**

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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August 14, 2018

**Grand Opening for Se7en Wetlands and Geocache**

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

*Trek Ten Trails Announcement*

*GRAND OPENING OF  
SE7EN WETLANDS PARK*

WHAT: SE7EN WETLANDS PARK GRAND OPENING

WHEN: SATURDAY, April 14, 2018 - 10:00AM – 12:00PM

NO PETS, NO BICYCLES

WHERE: ENTER THROUGH LOYCE HARPE PARK  
500 W. CARTER ROAD, MULBERRY, FL 33860

PARK HOURS ARE:  
MONDAY – SUNDAY  
7:00AM TILL 5:30PM

GPS COORDINATES FOR PARK ENTRANCE:

N 27° 56.08 W 081°57.891”  
Follow signs to Se7en Wetlands parking area

TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:  
N 27° 55.386 W 081° 56.466”

FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From the parking area, head to the Gopher Tortoise Gate and educational kiosk at the trailhead. Take a photo of the trail map or load it to your phone with the QR Code on the kiosk. Follow the trail signs: 2A, 2B, 2D, 1A, 1B to the Influent at 1C. You will see a large pine tree across the trail from the boardwalk. The cache is at the base of the pine tree. HIKE IS APPROXIMATELY 3.0 MILES ROUND TRIP

THINGS TO SEE:

The park was once a portion of the Bonny Lake Mine, a phosphate mining operation that began in 1947. The mine closed in 1984 and a few years later was purchased by the City of Lakeland for use as a Wetland Treatment System. Changes and upgrades to the site included changes to clay settling area berm elevations and slopes, installation of water control structures and pipes and the planting of wetland and upland vegetation. The wetland treatment system became operational in 1987. The new park is part of a 1,600-acre area comprised of marshes, swamps, and open water lakes designed to help naturally clean already treated wastewater as it meanders through the retention areas. Once completely treated in the wetlands, the water is either released to the Alafia River or used by Tampa Electric's Polk Power Station as a cooling agent. In addition to the treatment provided, the Wetland offers outstanding habitat for a diverse community of plant and animal species including birds, alligators, turtles, otters, bobcats, gopher tortoises and other animals.

BE PREPARED:

*The trails have no shade, so wear a hat, sunscreen and protective clothing. Carry plenty of water. Drinking water is only available near the Gopher Tortoise and Wood Stork gates. Maintain a safe distance from alligators and other wildlife.*

*VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT JOINING FRIENDS OF THE PARKS, MAKING A DONATION, TREK TEN TRAILS AND DIRT DAY PROGRAMS: [www.friendsoftheparks.net](http://www.friendsoftheparks.net)*

*FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Marian Ryan at 863-207-5206 or [marianryan@gmail.com](mailto:marianryan@gmail.com)*

*Copyright © 2017 Friends of the Parks Foundation, All rights reserved.*

*\* Grand Opening - Se7en Wetlands and Geocache 8/14/2018*

*10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.\**

August 16, 2018

**2018 Polk Politics Candidate Rally**

**Bartow Civic Center**

**2250 S. Floral Avenue**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

05:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST

Virginia Condello, 863-533-7125

virginia@bartowchamber.com

*Held in even numbered years at the Bartow Civic Center, this event features candidates running for local, state and national elections. The spirit of the event is that of an old-fashioned political rally, where those attending have an opportunity to get up-front and personal with each candidate. Approved political groups and organizations lobbying for and against local issues before the Legislature are also welcome to attend. The atmosphere is fun, festive and patriotic! This event is free to the public and usually features a straw ballot.*

August 16, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**

**Family Fundamentals**

**1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd, 2nd Floor**

**Lakeland, FL**

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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August 17, 2018

**ENGAGE Lunch & Learn: Shelly Wilkes**  
**Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute**  
**1855 W. Main Street**  
**Bartow, FL 33830**

11:45 AM - 01:00 PM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

*When Orlando Magic announced the formation of Lakeland Magic, they announced that Shelly Wilkes would be serving as the team's president. She became the first woman to be president of a G-League team and only woman in charge of an entire team in the League.*

*August 17, 2018, 11:45 a.m.*

*Lunch provided*

*in the Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute community room.*

*FREE EVENT, not just for ENGAGE members! Engage/Bartow Chamber Young Professionals presents an up-close and personal chat with one of the area's most accomplished community leaders. These sessions will give participants a chance to reflect on new and creative ways to achieve professional leadership goals based on the best practices from the area's most respected business professionals. After a short presentation, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions in a round-table format. Don't miss this great opportunity for professional growth.*

August 23, 2018

**Central Florida Job Fair**  
**Ramada by Wyndham Lakeland**  
**3260 US Hwy 98 N**  
**Lakeland, FL 33805**

10:00 AM - 02:00 PM EST

David Kiessling, 8636048687

david@centralfloridamediagroup.com

*Please Join Us for the Central Florida Job Fair*

*Meet with some the area's top employers looking to fill positions at the Central Florida Job Fair.*

*Date and Time: Thursday, August 23rd from 10 AM to 2 PM*

*Location: Ramada by Wyndham Lakeland, 3260 US Hwy 98 N, Lakeland, FL 33805*

*If you are a dedicated individual seeking a fulfilling career we urge you to attend this event.*

*Career opportunities:*

- *Agribusiness*
- *Tourism*
- *Logistics, Supply Chain & Distribution*
- *Medical Services*
- *Light Manufacturing*
- *Education*

*Several representatives from area technical and trade schools will also be available to discuss education and career opportunities*

*Free Attendance*

*No Attendee Registration*

*Required*

*Free Parking*

August 28, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training**  
**BBBS Office**  
**1231 E. Orange St**  
**Lakeland, FL**

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

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August 30, 2018

**Emerging Leaders Awards**

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

*This evening awards the best of the best in young Leadership. Held at the Bartow Civic Center, 6:00 p.m. on August 30, 2018.*



September 12, 2018

**2018 Professional Development Academy**  
**Polk State College Clear Springs Advanced Technolo**  
**310 Technology Dr.**  
**Bartow, FL 33830**

07:30 AM - 09:30 AM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: Leadership In The Workplace*

**AT POLK STATE COLLEGE - CLEAR SPRINGS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

*NEW CLASSES FOR 2018. More than 100 have earned a Professional Development Academy certificate since it began in 2016!*

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*Choose What's Right For You*

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*What Is The Cost For The Classes?*

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*Where Are The Classes Held?*

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310 Technology Drive  
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*What Time Are Classes?*

*Classes begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m.*

*Do I Have To Attend Every Class?*

*Absolutely not. You are allowed to pick and choose the classes that are right for you.*

*Do I Need To Pre-Register?*

*Yes - pre-registration is necessary. Simply go online to [www.bartowchamber.com](http://www.bartowchamber.com) and click on the Professional Development Academy icon.*

*How Do I Earn My Certificate?*

*You can earn your Professional Development Academy Certificate by attending a minimum of four of the classes.*

September 19, 2018

**2018 Community Relations Committee's Diversity Luncheon**

**Bartow Civic Center**

**1250 S. Floral Avenue**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM EST

Gloria Washington, 863-205-1173

glo930@aol.com

*To reaffirm its commitment to racial and ethnic equality, the City of Bartow's Community Relations Committee (CRC) will hold a Diversity Luncheon on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at noon.*

*"There are daily reminders to us all of how important this issue still is in America, and that promoting racial and ethnic equality and ending racism and discrimination requires awareness, commitment, and action," said Gloria Washington, Chairman of the CRC. "This is an opportunity for Bartow to stand up and be counted in an ongoing effort to make sure our community fosters racial and ethnic equality and harmony."*

*Special speaker for the luncheon to be announced.*

*The annual Diversity Award will be presented to a business or organization and an individual at the luncheon. Nominations are being accepted for the award.*

*Tickets for the Diversity Luncheon are \$12 each and may be purchased at the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. For more information, please call the Chamber at (863) 533-7125.*

*Location: Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave., Bartow, FL 33830*

October 5, 2018

**2018 Bartow Chamber Golf Scramble**

01:00 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Jeff Clark, 863-533-7125

jeff@bartowchamber.com

*What's more fun than a golf tournament? A Chamber Scramble Golf Tournament!! The scramble, presented by BARTOW FORD, is one of the most fun events we offer, so sign up today and come spend a day out on the course with your Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce.*

*4 person scramble*

*shotgun start*

*Bartow golf course*

*1:00 p.m.*

*Awards Barbecue*

*Door prizes and Beverages*

*You'll have a blast!*

*Title Sponsor - Bartow Ford*

*Platinum Sponsor - Evolve Contracting*

*Awards Dinner Giveaway Sponsor - ASHLAND*

*On-Course Food Sponsor - CenterState Bank*

*SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (Register at link below)*

*GOLD - \$1,000*

*SILVER - \$750*

*BRONZE - \$500*

*Prize Contributor - \$200*

*Courtesy Tent - \$150*

October 10, 2018

**2018 Professional Development Academy**  
**Polk State College Clear Springs Advanced Technolo**  
**310 Technology Dr.**  
**Bartow, FL 33830**

07:30 AM - 09:30 AM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: Leadership In The Workplace*

**AT POLK STATE COLLEGE - CLEAR SPRINGS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

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*How Do I Earn My Certificate?*

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October 18, 2018

**Champions Cup - Business, Industry & Spirit of Bartow Awards**

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Jeff Clark, 863-533-7125

jeff@bartowchamber.com

*Champions Cup recognizes and honors businesses/organizations that have championed exemplary best practices and have had a positive influence on the economic well being of the Bartow area business community. CHAMPIONS CUP AND SPIRIT OF BARTOW NOMINATION FORM [HERE](#). Nominated businesses/organizations are judged by an anonymous random panel of more than 20 community leaders who review the applicants based upon strict criteria regarding community and economic impact. The prestigious awards are presented at the evening event held at the Bartow Civic Center featuring a prominent keynote speaker.*

*Spirit of Bartow Awards: The evening is also a time of recognizing those who give back to the community. The Spirit of Bartow award is presented to area citizens who have contributed to the community in a significant way.*

*All awards will be judged by a blue-ribbon committee of Chamber members based upon the following criteria:*

*Business & Industry Awards*

*The mission of the Champions Cup Business & Industry Awards is to recognize businesses/organizations that have championed exemplary best practices in the areas of customer service, sustainability, employee retention and opportunity, reputation and positive influence on the economic well-being of the Bartow area business community.*

*Spirit of Bartow Awards*

*Nominees for this award should be individuals or groups that have significantly contributed to the Bartow community and their individual accomplishments/contributions made a positive impact on the area's quality of life.*

November 9, 2018

**2018 Veterans' Hometown Heroes Luncheon**

**Bartow Civic Center**

**2250 S. Floral Avenue**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

11:00 AM - 01:00 PM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

*Hometown Heroes honors Bartow area Veterans on Veterans Day. This event is a luncheon that involves the local American Legion organization. Sponsor funds are used to pay for Veterans and a guest.*

November 14, 2018

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

**Bartow Civic Center**

**2250 S. Floral Ave.**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

11:30 AM - 01:00 PM EST

*George Long gives you a chance to hear how the City of Bartow is doing. This is a free event, open to the community. If you'd like, lunch is available for \$10. You may purchase your ticket online, or pick up at the Chamber. Doors open at 11:30; program begins at noon.*

November 16, 2018

**MAGIC ON MAIN: Friday Fest Downtown Bartow**

**Main Street Bartow**

**100 W. Main Street**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Linda Holcomb,

lholcomb@mainstreetbartowfl.com

*Experience the Magic of Bartow for the holidays with these two upcoming events!*

*Magic on Main*

*Friday, Nov. 16, 2018*

*6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

*Bartow's Main Street*

*Join us as we switch on the holiday lights along Bartow's Main Street with entertainment, food and holiday festivities.*

*Bartow's Magical Illumination Christmas Parade*

*Friday, Dec. 7, 2018*

*6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

*Main Street/Broadway*

*Get in the spirit with one of Polk County's best holiday parades as it winds down Broadway Avenue and Main Street. Get there early and claim your seat! You won't want to miss a single float!*

*FOR MORE INFO, CALL 863-519-0508 OR*

*VISIT [WWW.MAINSTREETBARTOWFL.COM](http://WWW.MAINSTREETBARTOWFL.COM)*

December 7, 2018

**Main Street Bartow's Light Up Bartow Parade**

**Bartow Civic Center**

**2250 S. Floral Ave.**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Mary Jordan, 863-519-0508

mainstreetbartowfl.com

*One of the County's favorite Christmas parades! Bartow's Christmas parade features lots of floats, Bartow High School Band and . . . SANTA! Be sure to stake out your spot early and join us for one of Bartow's most popular events. See you at 6:00 p.m. The parade begins at Mosaic Park and ends at First Avenue in Bartow.*

February 2, 2019

**VISTEBall 2019**

**TBD**

06:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST

Steve Bissonnette, 863-284-0828

steve@viste.org

*Please join us for the 14th Annual VISTEBall on Saturday, February 2, 2019! VISTEBall is an indoor golf blowout where you can chip, putt, and play your way to great prizes. Attendees may participate in silent, live, and ticket auctions as well. Event tickets include a buffet dinner, open bar (stocked with beer, wine & margaritas), and dessert. It's a fun time for the hacker, or the person who has never held a club a day in their life! You'll have a blast and all proceeds help VISTE continue to serve the elderly.*

February 16, 2019

**LRC's For the Love of Learning**

**TBA**

07:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST

Pamela Craven, 863-688-9477

pamelac@lrcpolk.com

*The Learning Resource Center's spectacular annual fundraiser and benefit will be held on February 16, 2019 to raise scholarships and program aid for deserving students in the community. Please mark this date on your calendar and stay tuned for event details.*