

Calendar of Events

December 12, 2018

Whit's Building Supply Ribbon Cutting

Whit's Building Supply

115 S Woodlawn Ave

Bartow, FL 33830

04:30 PM - 06:00 PM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

Whit's Building Supply is under new ownership and they are excited to a part of Bartow! You are invited to join the Chamber at their Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, December 12 at 4:30PM. Meet the new owners, check out their store and the Christmas tree lot and then we will cut the Ribbon and enjoy a light cocktail hour provided by Whit's! We look forward to seeing you there.

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

4:30pm (be sure to plan to stay for a light cocktail reception after the Ribbon Cutting!)

115 S. Woodlawn Ave, Bartow, FL 33830

December 13, 2018

Meeks Real Estate Ribbon Cutting

Botz's on Main

750 West Main Street

Bartow, FL 33830

11:45 AM - 01:00 PM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

Join us for a Ribbon Cutting to honor Chamber member, Meeks Real Estate, on Thursday, December 13 at 11:45am. Realtor Carla Meeks has been a Bartow staple for many years and is excited to now be a Broker and own Meeks Real Estate. We will cut the Ribbon and then enjoy a light lunch provided by Botz's on Main Street in Bartow. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thursday, December 13, 2018

11:45am (be sure to plan to stay for a light lunch provided by Botz's on Main)

750 W Main Street, Bartow, FL 33830

December 14, 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

ALWAYS THE SECOND FRIDAY IN DECEMBER! 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.

December 18, 2018

Big Brother or Big Sister 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

Join us as a defender of potential by becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister and together, we can change the world. All it takes is 4-8 hours a month, depending on the program, with a focus on being consistent and spending one-to-one quality time with your Little. Let's clear a path to a child's biggest possible future.

The first step is to attend a Big Orientation & Training session where you'll learn about our programs, commitments, expectations and our kids.

Get more details about volunteering » <https://bbbstampabay.org/be-a-big/>

January 15, 2019

- February 19, 2019

ENGAGE Serves Class III

A-C-T Environmental & Infrastructure Classroom

1875 W. Main Street

Bartow, FL 33830

Tuesdays, Jan. 15-Feb. 19, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

Join Class III of ENGAGE Serves

THIS IS A COMMITMENT - YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND EACH OF THESE TUESDAY CLASSES FOR GRADUATION.

ENGAGE Serves is open to professionals who would like to participate in effective board service training at a cost of \$50.00 or, if you are a member of ENGAGE, the course is considered an additional benefit of your ENGAGE membership and is FREE. There are a limited number of scholarships available as well.

The 6-week program will be held at A-C-T Environmental & Infrastructure on Hwy. 60 in Bartow on Tuesday evenings from 4:30-6:30 p.m. beginning January 15, 2019 and running February 19, 2019. A light meal will be provided at no additional cost. Over the span of six weeks, the fundamentals of effective board service will be taught by some of Bartow's own "seasoned" community leaders. Attendance to every class is required in order to graduate from the program. Participants will be asked to list their areas of interests in order to be added to a database available to local organizations seeking quality board members.

January 19, 2019
- January 20, 2019

PRISM CONCERT by BHS Band

**Bartow Civic Center
2250 S. Floral Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830**

See times in description
Jon Eckman, 863-534-7400
jon.eckman@polk-fl.net
What is a Prism Concert?

A Prism Concert is an interactive concert in which the different groups rotate sets throughout the night. This allows the audience to encounter each group on several different occasions and moods throughout the evening. The music is continuous and the performers are set up in different positions throughout the space during an exquisite dining experience.

*January 19th Italian Dinner show 6:30pm
January 20th Dessert Matinee 2:00pm
January 20th BBQ Dinner Show 6:30 pm
Bartow Civic Center*

FEATURING: Jazz Band, Brass Choir, Marching Band, Drum Line, Dance Solos, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Woodwind Choir, Symphonic Band . . . and more!

*For Tickets
Bartow High School Front Office (863)534-7400 Bartow
Bartow Chamber of Commerce
(863) 533-7125
BHS Band Students
Email questions to jon.eckman@polk-fl.net*

January 21, 2019

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - George Gause Memorial Parade

**Corner of Main Street and Floral Avenue
Corner of Main Street and Floral Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830**

12:00 PM - 01:30 PM EST
Carver Young, (863) 533-1207
carver.young863@gmail.com

The Bartow Deacons and Stewards Alliance, Inc. invites you to participate and/or attend the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - George Gause Memorial Parade on Monday, January 21, 2019 at noon. Types of participation: bands, walkers, decorated floats and vehicles, bicycles, etc.

Line up begins at the corner of Main Street and Floral Avenue in downtown Bartow at 10:00 a.m. The parade ends at Carver Recreation Center where parade participants will receive light refreshments.

January 26, 2019

2019 Chamber Annual Meeting

**Bartow Civic Center
2250 S. Floral Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830**

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Virginia Condello, 863-533-7125

virginia@bartowchamber.com

Don't miss the 2019 Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at the Bartow Civic Center. Sign up now to attend! BayCare Bartow Regional Medical Center is Presenting Sponsor. We'll be welcoming our new Chamber President, Philip Minden, CEO of BayCare Bartow Regional Medical Center! See you then.

February 2, 2019

14th Annual VISTEBall

Sun 'n Fun

**4175 Medulla Rd
Lakeland, FL 33811**

06:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST

Steve Bissonnette, 8636838458

steve@viste.org

The 14th Annual VISTEBall will be held February 2, 2019 from 6-10 p.m. at Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland. VISTEBall is an indoor golf-themed fund-raiser where attendees may play golf-related games, enjoy a buffet dinner and drinks. In addition to the meal and games, attendees may bid on silent and live auction items. Proceeds from the evening go to support VISTE (Volunteers In Service To the Elderly). VISTE's mission is to enable the frail elderly to remain safely and independently in their own homes. VISTE assists clients 70 and older in Lakeland, Bartow, Ft. Meade and Mulberry. VISTEBall is the organization's largest fundraiser each year. VISTEBall tickets may be purchased from VISTE Board members, by contacting Steve Bissonnette (at either 863.683.8458 or steve@viste.org) or via the VISTE website. To purchase tickets online, go to: www.viste.org. For questions, contact Bissonnette at 863-683-8458.

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 7, 2019

Chocolate Charms & Chamber! (Chamber Members Only)

Spath Jewelers

1360 N. Broadway Ave.

Bartow, FL 33830

05:00 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

Chocolate, Charms and Chamber is the Spath Jewelers Fun Thursday and you won't want to miss this one! Enjoy a chocolate smorgasbord and great fun and networking PLUS very, very nice doorprizes await all Chamber members. Hope to see you there at 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 7, 2019!

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.

February 23, 2019

- March 11, 2019

2019 Polk Senior Games

Venues vary throughout Polk County

Office - 515 E Boulevard Street

Bartow, FL 33830

09:00 AM - 05:00 PM EST

Deena Wilbur, 863-533-0055

polkseniorgames50@gmail.com

Polk Senior Games is a non-profit, 501(c) (3), corporation that presents an annual two-week series of Olympic-style sports and games for men and women 50 years of age and over. The Games begin on the last Saturday of February. The Games inspire an active lifestyle, combine an interest in sports and games with fun and fellowship, promote a positive image of seniors and recognize their efforts and achievements, and encourage volunteerism. The Games attract over 2,500 men and women with a variety of skills - the serious competitor, the fun at heart, the seasoned athlete, the late bloomer, and the physically challenged.

February 28, 2019

YEEHAWWWW! Bartow Chamber Barn Boogie

Peace Valley Enterprises (Leland Young's Barn)

2905 Central Ave.

Alturas, FL

05:45 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Virginia Condello, 863-533-7125

virginia@bartowchamber.com

Evening dinner and dance held at Peace Valley Enterprise Barn in Alturas (Leland and Wanda Young's Barn) that features a steak dinner provided by Texas Cattle Company, entertainment, auction items, free beer & wine.

A highlight of this event is the annual Leadership XIV Cornhole Tournament. Who will win the huge Cornhole Trophy - you? This event is so much fun, be sure to mark your calendars for a great time, a great meal, a great deejay and fun fun fun 'til the cows come home! See you there.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: (exclusive) SEMCO Construction

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY LINK BELOW

Gold Sponsors: \$1,500

Beverage Sponsor: (exclusive) - Evolve Contracting

Cornhole Tournament Sponsor: (exclusive) - Mosaic

Prize sponsor: (exclusive) - ASHLAND

Silver Sponsors: \$500

Bronze Sponsors: \$250

Contributors: \$150

March 9, 2019

Florida Poly's PIVOT
Florida Polytechnic University
4700 Research Way
Lakeland, FL 33805

06:00 PM - 11:00 PM EST

Lidia Vigil, 8638748732

lvigil@floridapoly.edu

Florida Polytechnic University's premier philanthropic event supporting student scholarships and the University's mission.

March 16, 2019

Bartow Rotary Wild Game Dinner
Peace Valley Enterprises (Leland Young's Barn)
2905 Central Ave.

Alturas, FL

06:00 PM - 09:30 PM EST

Steve Githens or Terry Hunter, 863-529-8679

thunter@phaarchitecture.com

Annual Wild Game Dinner

Good food with open bar

Ticket auction & door prizes

Music by live band

at Leland Young's Barn!

April 11, 2019

Women of Central Florida: Cocktails & Couture Fashion Show

Lake Mirror Auditorium

121 S. Lake Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33801

06:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST

Channon Eickenberg, 8636863189

ceickenberg@cfshc.org

Join us for a night full of fashion, food, and fun!

The evening will feature:

A Runway Show, Silent and Live Auction, music, heavy Hors d'oeuvres, complimentary beer, wine, and signature drink... and more!

Visit www.womenofcentralflorida.org for updates!

All proceeds benefit the patients of Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center

October 1, 2019

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

Bartow Civic Center

2250 S. Floral Avenue

Bartow, FL 33830

05:30 PM - 08:30 PM EST

Jeff Clark, 863-533-7125

jeff@bartowchamber.com

Bartow Economic Development Council's 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.

SIGN UP TO ATTEND CHAMPIONS CUP OR BECOME A SPONSOR [HERE](#).

Spirit of Bartow Awards: The evening is also a time of recognizing those who give back to the community. The Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce 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 BEDC 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.

September 29, 2020

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

Bartow Civic Center

2250 S. Floral Avenue

Bartow, FL 33830

05:30 PM - 08:30 PM EST

Jeff Clark, 863-533-7125

jeff@bartowchamber.com

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